

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Crayford].

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Urban District of Crayford

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1946

BY

C. M. OCKWELL

M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.), D.P.H. (Camb.)

The Sparta Press, Crayford





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Members of Health Committee.

Chairman : Councillor (Mrs.) M. M. Hetherington, C.C.

Members :

Councillors :

H. E. Clark, J.P.
(Miss) V. M. Constant.
E. G. Costin.
J. T. Eden.
F. T. Havill.

Councillors :

C. Hetherington.
S. A. Lyle.
T. Mahoney.
(Mrs.) D. L. Pyves.
G. V. Sayer.

Co-opted Members (M. & C.W.) :

Mrs. E. J. Borrie Miss F. M. Sinclair. Mrs. L. Woolley.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health (part time) :

C. M. Ockwell, M.D. (Lond.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.),
D.P.H. (Cambs.).

Sanitary Inspectors :

R. Milligan, Cert. R. San. I., M.S.I.A.
F. C. Weston, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. S.I.B.,
R.I.P.H., (Hons.) Dip. R.I.P.H. (Hons.).

Health Visitors :

Miss I. E. Smith, S.R.N., S.C.M, Health Visitors'
Cert.
Miss A. E. Webster resigned 16th May, 1946.
Miss E. B. Kiddell (Temporary Appointed).

Day Nurseries :

Matron—Shenstone Nursery : Miss M. A. Firth,
S.R.N.
Matron—Slade Green Nursery : Miss J. Alexander,
S.F.N. (Closed 31.3.46).

Scabies Treatment :

Mrs. L. Wildish, S.R.N.

Chief Clerk : Mrs. G. Mitchell.

Clerks : Mr. E. T. Shutte. Miss E. E. Bailey.

Clinic Clerk : Miss J. Walster, Resigned 2.11.46.
Miss J. Fletcher, appointed 25.11.46.

Rodent Operator : Mr. W. McCulla.

Crayford Urban District Council.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council and Health Committee.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my 25th and last Annual Report.

Of the 'old contemptibles' only Mr. Lyle as Councillor and Mr. Goodman as Accountant remain. We together have seen many changes in the comparatively short time of 25 years.

Diphtheria. In looking back over the period the most striking change is in the incidence of Diphtheria. In 1921 the first year of these reports it was my unfortunate lot to have to report 111 cases with 12 deaths. No cases have occurred since 1942. Making the widest allowance for any other factors—i.e., housing, general improvement in hygiene it is impossible to resist the conclusion that this improvement is due to the widespread adoption of immunisation. We have always had high figures and last year the percentages were, under five years 81 per cent., and 5—15 years 94 per cent.

Housing. By 1938, overcrowding, according to the admittedly low standards of the 1936 Act, had been reduced to 24 cases. The war period of course played havoc with these figures. 184 houses were totally demolished and 568 seriously damaged.

The Council are proceeding vigourously with their programme so as to get back as quickly as possible to at least the pre-war standard.

Maternity and Child Welfare. Deep interest in this work as been a feature from the beginning and we have been fortunate in having two such excellent Health Visitors as Miss Kiddell and Miss Smith. The competence of the work is reflected in the death rate figures of infant mortality—consistently well below the figures for England and Wales and reaching the low record of 23 in 1945.

I must take the opportunity of thanking all Councillors and fellow officials, especially those of longer standing, for all the consideration and help given during my term of office.

In such a field as Public Health where the dictate of medicine is conditioned by what is allowed by Law—sound legal advice is a 'sine qua non' and I have to thank Mr. Hodgson especially for his guidance and help.

In my own department without being invidious I feel I should especially mention Mr. Milligan and Mrs. Mitchell, whose period of office covers a large part of that of my own.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

C. M. OCKWELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	2,698.71
Population (Census 1931)	15,896
Population estimated	25,780
Number of inhabited houses	7,119
Rateable Value	£156,962
Sum represented by a penny rate	£635

Live Births

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	541	294	247
Illegitimate	25	9	16
	—	—	—
	566	303	263
	—	—	—

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
22.

General birth rate for England and Wales 19.1.

Stillbirths

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	16	7	9
Illegitimate	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 27.5.

	Total	M.	F.
Deaths	249	143	106

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
9.7.

General death rate for England and Wales 11.5.

Deaths from puerperal causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	—
Other Maternal causes	...	...	...	...	—

Death rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	37
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	38.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	0
General death rate of infants under 1 year of age for England and Wales	...	...	...	43
Death from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	41
Death from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Death from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
Death from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	0

Vital Statistics during 1946 and previous years.

Year	Population	LIVE BIRTHS			DEATHS			INFANT DEATHS		
		No. C.U.D.C.	RATE C.U.D.C. Eng. & W.		No. C.U.D.C.	RATE C.U.D.C. Eng. & W.		No. C.U.D.C.	RATE C.U.D.C. Eng. & W.	
1939*	25,200	458	18.26	15	194	9.4	12.1	16	35.4	50
1940*	23,770	428	18	14.6	256	13.8	14.3	16	38.9	55
1941*	22,380	347	15.5	14.2	227	10.1	12.9	20	59.7	59
1942	22,840	441	19.3	15.8	193	8.5	11.6	20	45.3	49
1943	22,850	431	18.9	16.5	223	9.8	12.1	18	41.8	49
1944	21,910	507	23.1	17.6	243	11.1	11.6	21	41.4	46
1945	23,030	432	18.8	16.1	170	7.4	11.4	10	23.1	46
1946	25,780	566	22	19.1	249	9.7	11.5	21	37	43

* Instructions were issued by the Registrar General for these particular years, giving certain alternative figures for calculation of these statistics.

**Table showing Summary of Causes of Death registered
during the year ended 31st December, 1945.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.					Male	Female
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Cerebrospinal fever	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	—	1
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	5	5
7.	Other form of tuberculosis	...	...	...	0	0
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	2	0
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	1	2
10.	Measles	...	...	...	0	0
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	0	0
12.	Acute Infantile encaphalitis	...	...	...	0	0
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M)	...	...	...
	Uterus (F)	...	...	...	3	3
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	3	2
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	0	3
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	13	14
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	0	1
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	10	13
19.	Heart disease	...	...	...	44	28
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	3	1
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	14	1
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	6	5
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	0	0
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	5	0
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	0	0
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	3	1
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	4	3
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	1	1
29.	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	...	...	...	0	0
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	0	0
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	5	1
32.	Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infant	...	...	...
	disease	...	...	...	7	6
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	0	0
34.	Road traffic accident	...	...	...	2	2
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	2	0
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	10	13
All causes					143	106
Total						

Population

As will be seen from the summary of statistics the Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid-year 1946 to be 25,780. This is an increase of 2,750 over last year's figure.

Births.

The 566 births notified is an increase of 134 compared with last year's figure. The birth rate per 1,000 of the population is 22 as against 18.8 for last year. The birth rate for England and Wales is 19.1.

Deaths.

This year we recorded 249 Deaths out of a population of 25,780, representing a Death Rate of 9.7 as against 7.4 in 1945.

Infant Deaths.

During the year 21 infants died before reaching the age of one year.

Rate of Infant Deaths under one year, per 1,000 live births is 37 as against 23.1 last year. That of England and Wales 43.

Analyses of the causes of Death of Infants at various ages under one year.

Causes of Death as Certified	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 to 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Premature Birth	5				5	1				6
Intracranial Pressure	1				1					1
Acute Bronchitis					0			1		1
Congenital Deformities	1				1	2				3
Atelactasis of Lungs	2				2	1				3
Icterus Gravis	1				1					1
Breech Birth	1				1					1
Pneumococcal Meningitis					0	1				1
Intra-cranial haemorrhage	1				1					1
Intussusception					0	1				1
Epistaxis			1		1					1
Marasmus					0	1				1

Maternal Mortality.

No Deaths occurred during the year under this heading.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE FACILITIES.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

One session per week is held at the Council's Ante-Natal Clinic at the Town Hall. 288 women made 1106 attendances. An increase of 83 patients and 521 attendances.

X-rays.

Five Expectant Mothers were referred to the County Hospital for X-ray examination.

Obstetric Consultant.

Abnormalities in connection with Maternity Cases are recommended for examination when necessary, to the Council's Obstetric Consultant at Guy's Hospital.

Infant Welfare Clinics.

The average attendances are as follows :—

				No. of	Atten-	
Toddlers Clinics				Clinics.	dances	Average.
Crayford	...	...	24	866	36.08	
Slade Green	...	...	23	480	20.86	
Barnehurst	...	...	22	776	35.27	
Infants Clinics.						
Crayford	...	...	45	2619	58.2	
Slade Green	...	...	25	1486	59.44	
Barnehurst	...	...	46	3167	68.84	
Totals at both Clinics				185	9394	50.77

Home Helps.

The Council's Home Help Scheme provides the services of women to undertake Domestic duties for confinements cases, and also in cases of sickness where there are children under five years of age.

Confinement cases attended 29 ; Sickness 2.

In order to make full use of staff engaged for Home and Domestic Help services it has been found advantageous to combine the two sections of employees thus simplifying the working of the Home Help Service.

Staff employed at the end of the year—one full-time, seven part-time.

Maternity Cases.

The Council accept financial responsibility for patients recommended to the Kent County Council Hospitals. Admission is restricted to cases where complications are likely to occur or where home conditions are unsuitable for a confinement.

Number of cases recommended during the year 103.

Day Nurseries.

Under terms of Ministry of Health Circular 221/45 and Ministry of Education Circular 75, the Shenstone Nursery (capacity 60 children) was taken over by the Council from 1st April, 1946.

The Slade Green Nursery (capacity 40 children) was closed on the 31st March, 1946, as there were only about 18 attending. Arrangements were made to transport the children to Shenstone daily.

The Council's decision to retain the Crayford Nursery has proved popular. In October the attendance reached their peak and there was a waiting list.

Number of attendances :—

Crayford 10,612.

Number on the Register at the end of the year 67.

Slade Green (three months) 1,034.

Priority.

Priority Dockets for sheets are available for expectant mothers being confined in their own homes. 380 dockets have been issued during the year to 149 women.

Care of Premature Infants.

Daily visits are paid commencing immediately on discharge from hospital, and in the case of home confinements as soon as the Midwife has left the case, and continue until the child is one month old.

Two sets of equipment including Draught-proof Cots, Blankets, Hot Water Bottles, Cot Mattress, Pillows, and Electric Blanket, are available for use in the District.

The total number of premature babies notified who were born :—

(a) At Home 9.

(b) In Hospital 17.

(i) The number of those born at home :—

(a) Who were nursed entirely at home 9.

(b) Who died during the first 24 hours 2.

(c) Who survived at the end of one month 7.

(ii) The number of those born in Hospital :—

(a) Who died during the first 24 hours 2.

(b) Who survived at the end of one month 13.

Total from 1st January, 1946, to the 31st December, 1946, 26. This figure includes 7 outward transfers.

Care of Illegitimate Children.

Co-operation exists between the Staff of the Health Department and the Moral Welfare Officer of the Rochester Diocese. The Council have continued to make contribution toward the maintenance of unmarried mothers admitted to the Diocesan Homes. One such case was admitted.

Maternity and Nursing Homes.

Of the 566 births, 353 occurred at institutions, of these 179 at the Russell-Stoneham Memorial Hospital and 57 at the Dartford County Hospital.

Health Visiting.

Visits to children under one year	...	...	4,664
Visits to children between one and five years			4,846
Visits to Expectant Mothers	...	...	239
			<hr/>
		Total	9,749

Owing to difficulty in replacing Miss Webster, Miss E. B. Kiddell, formerly Senior Health Visitor was re-engaged from the 15th July, 1946, to the 31st October, 1946; the assistance given by her was greatly appreciated.

No alteration took place during the year under the following headings :—

Dental Treatment.

Ophthalmic Treatment.

Orthopaedic Treatment.

19 Crayford patients made 51 attendances at the Clinic held at the Dartford County Hospital.

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939.

Foster Children—Section 206—Public Health Act, 1936.

Visits to Adopted Children 171.

Number of adopted children on the register
at the end of the year 43.

Number pending adoption 8.

Visits to Foster Children 30.

Number of children on the register at the
end of year 4.

The number on the Register shows that there is an increasing desire to adopt children. The new parents welcome the interest taken by the Child Life Protection Officer, who visits each child once in three months. These visits are in addition to routine visits paid by the Health Visitor.

Not a single cause for complaint was found during the year, all the babies appear to be happy and contented and are well cared for in their new homes.

Domestic Help.

This assistance is granted to families where there is sickness or infirmity. Number of cases attended 20. Most of the patients were of a chronic type.

Nutrition and General Health Education.

Supplies of posters and leaflets on health matters have been received from the Central Council of Health Education. Posters have been displayed on the Council's hoardings and leaflets distributed at the Council's Clinics.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following specimens were sent to the County Laboratory from the District :—

Swabs	...	...	...	...	...	29
Sputa	...	...	...	...	...	87
Others	...	...	...	...	...	21
School Milk Tubercle Bacilli				...	...	3
Water, Public Supplies			...	...	...	12
						—
				Total		152
						—

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Infectious Disease.

Cases of Infectious Disease are removed to the Bow Arrow Hospital by the Ambulance in connection with that institution.

Non-Infectious Diseases.

The Council have an arrangement for the hire of an ambulance for removal of cases to hospital with the Crayford Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, Bexley Borough Council, London County Council, Dartford Public Assistance Committee, Sidcup Urban District Council.

PUBLIC MORTUARY.

The Public Mortuary maintained by the Council is situated to the left of the Town Hall Buildings. Number of times used 12.

CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation of Infants and School Children against Diphtheria continued throughout the year.

No cases of Diphtheria have occurred in the area since 1942.

The total number of children who completed the full course of immunisation during the year is as follows:

Under 5 years of age	...	...	465
Over 5 years and under 15 years	...	...	23
			<hr/>
			488
			<hr/>

Percentage of Child population considered Immunised at the end of the year :—

Under 5 years 78 per cent.

Over 5 and under 15 years 89 per cent.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	14	4	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	2	—
Pneumonia	24	3	2
Erysipelas	5	2	—
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	—	—	—
Measles	179	—	—
Whooping Cough	76	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—
Dysentery	1	1	—
Scabies	125	—	—
Poliomyelitis	1	1	—
Totals	435	14	3

Age Groups.

Ages, etc. (N.K.-age unknown)	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Whooping Cough		Measles (excluding rubella)		Ac Poliomyelitis		Ac Polioencephalitis	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Civilians—												
0 ...	—	—	—	—	3	4	2	1	—	1	—	—
1 ...	1	—	—	—	9	17	39	21	—	—	—	—
3 ...	1	3	—	—	7	9	13	26	—	—	—	—
5 ...	5	3	—	—	12	14	33	36	—	—	—	—
10 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—
15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—
25 and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Civilians ...	8	6	—	—	32	44	90	89	—	1	—	—
Non-Civilians—												
15 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over (or N.K.) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Non-Civilians ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Ages, etc. (N.K.-age unknown)	Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Paratyphoid Fevers		Ac Pneumonia		Dysentery		Cerebro Spinal Fever		Ac encephalitis lethargica	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Civilians—												
0 ...	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ...	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 ...	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Civilians ...	—	—	—	—	14	10	1	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Civilians—												
15 (or N.K.) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total Non-Civilians ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Age Groups Continued.

Ages, etc. (N.K.-age unknown)			Erysipelas		Smallpox		Civilians				M	F
			M	F	M	F						
Civilians—							Puerperal pyrexia	...	...	—	7	
0 ...			—	—	—	—	Ophthalmia neonatorum	...	...	2	1	
5 ...			—	—	—	—	Scabies	...	...	51	74	
15 ...			—	1	—	—						
45 ...			1	2	—	—						
65 and over ...			—	1	—	—						
Age unknown ...			—	—	—	—						
Total Civilians ...			1	4	—	—						
Non-Civilians—			—	—	—	—						
15 (or N.K.) ...			—	—	—	—						
45 and over ...			—	—	—	—						
Total Non-Civilians			—	—	—	—						
							Non-Civilians				M	F
							Puerperal pyrexia	...	...	—	—

Tuberculosis.

Age periods			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	6	11	1	1	—	1	—	—
25	...	...	4	1	—	1	1	1	—	—
35	...	...	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
45	...	...	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55	...	...	1	—	—	—	2	2	—	—
65 and upwards			2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals			19	16	2	3	5	5	0	0

Tuberculosis Dispensaries.

At Overy Street, Dartford and Bexley Road, Erith.

Scabies.

Two sessions are held per week at the Council's Cleansing Station at the Town Hall. Children and adults receive treatment which consists of bathing and the application of Benzyl Benzoate. Patients are instructed regarding the treatment of bedding and personal clothing.

Cases notified 125

Cases and contacts treated 212

Venereal Diseases.

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Health and Central Council for Health Education posters were displayed in the area throughout the year.

139 blood specimens for Wasserman testing were taken at the Ante-Natal Clinic, all of which proved negative.

Venereal Disease Clinic.

At the County Hospital, West Hill, Dartford.

Gifts.

55 layettes have been distributed through the Women's Voluntary Service in addition to cot quilts, woollen clothing and rubber teats.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.

The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders :—

Principle Licences :—

Pasteurised milk 4.

Supplementary Licences :—

Pasteurised milk 6.

Tuberculin tested milk 5.

Meat and Other Foods.

During the year a total of 1 ton, 14 cwts, 1 lb. of food was found to be unfit for human consumption.

Classification is shown below :—

			Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Meat	...	...		5	3	—
Fish	...	...		8	—	19
Fruit	...	...		5	—	27
Vegetables	...	...		—	2	2
Miscellaneous	...	...		14	1	9
Total	...	...	1	14	0	1

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Particulars of samples taken in the Crayford Area
during the year ended 31st December, 1946 :—

Almond Flavour	...	1	Liquorice Powder	...	1
Aspirin	...	1	Lobelline	...	1
Bacon	...	3	Lobster Paste	...	1
Baking Powder	...	1	Macaroni	...	1
Barley Powder	...	1	Magnesia Tablets	...	1
Brandy	...	1	Margarine	...	1
Brandy Flavour Essence	1		Milk	...	32
Bronchial Balsam	...	1	Mustard	...	1
Butter	...	2	Pearl Barley	...	2
Cake Flour	...	2	Pepper	...	1
Cascara Sagrada Tablets	1		Port	...	4
Castor Oil	...	1	Port Type Wine	...	1
Cheese	...	5	Potato Powder	...	1
Cocoa	...	1	Prunes	...	1
Coffee	...	3	Pudding Mixture	...	1
Cooking Fat	...	2	Raisins	...	1
Cough Mixture	...	1	Sausage Meat	...	1
Date Pudding	...	1	Sausages	...	1
Dates	...	1	Segavin	...	1
Dried Peas	...	1	Shrimps	...	1
Extract	...	1	Split Peas	...	2
Fish Balls	...	1	Sugar	...	1
Glycerine	...	1	Syrup of Figs	...	1
Gravy Browning	...	1	Table Jelly	...	2
Hors D'Oeuvre	...	1	Tea	...	3
Jam	...	5	Veal Loaf	...	1
Lard	...	1	Vinegar	...	3
			Whisky	...	2

Total number of samples 112.

All the above samples were "genuine."

The Control of Rodents and other Pests.

Concerted action under the Ministry of Food Schemes NS 11 and NS 12 for the destruction of rats and mice was carried out in addition to the normal routine procedure of the Department.

During the year the following infestations were dealt with :—

Rats. 169. Ants 6. Wasp nests destroyed 32.

HOUSING STATISTICS

(1). Inspection of Dwelling-Houses.

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health... or Housing Acts) | 1472 |
| Number of inspections made for that purpose | 3037 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... | 31 |
| Number of inspections made for that purpose | 48 |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... | 5 |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... | 1412 |

(2). Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers ...	1412
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(3). Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Statutory Notices under Housing or Public	
Health Acts	6

Total number of houses owned by the Local Authority 1093

Housing Plans.

	Council	Others
Houses in progress at 31st December	153	103
Houses approved (Inc. above)	253	158
Houses finished in 1946	12	25
Adaptations and Conversions finished in 1946	33	

(4). Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding.

Until an official survey is carried out it is difficult to assess the extent of overcrowding and so long as the present acute shortage of houses exists Section 59 must necessarily remain dormant.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The Metropolitan Water Board is the supplying Authority and I am indebted to the Director of Water Examination for the following information.

The supply to the Crayford District is a mixture of water from Wilmington, Darenth, Wansunt, Crayford, and Bexley Wells. All the water is chlorinated as it leaves the works.

Bacteriological analyses are made five times per week and consistently satisfactory results have been obtained.

All new and repaired mains are chlorinated before being restored to use, and samples of water are tested bacteriologically.

None of the supplies is plumbo-solvent.

All supplies are direct and not by means of stand-pipes.

Extension of mains have been made to serve housing sites at Thames Road and Martens Avenue.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Extensions of foul surface water sewers have been made to serve the housing site at Thames Road.

Rivers and Streams.

The normal maintenance was carried out on the main marsh dykes and main rivers during 1946 in the Crayford district. Weed growth was far in excess of the usual amount. The banks of Crayford Creek were fag-gotted to prevent erosion.

Closet Accommodation.

Approximate number of premises containing each type of sanitary convenience in the district :—

W.C's. into drainage system	...	...	8030
W.C's. into Cesspools	...	...	7
Earth Closets or privy middens	...	...	4
Pail Closets	...	...	9
Number of premises not connected to public water supplies	...	...	2

Public Cleansing.

Period of collection reduced from 10 days to 7 days during the summer but increased to 10 to 14 days in the winter due to adverse weather.

Salvage.

	Tons	1946 Income	Total Income
Salvage	204	£1,420	£11,372
Kitchen Waste	190	£285	£1,634

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

	No. in district	No. of visits in 1946	No. of faults and defects found	No. of faults and defects remedied
Bakehouses	1	5	0	0
Dairies	3	51	0	0
Other food - preparing places, which are, as such, subject to inspection	36	511	2	2
Factories (with mech. power)	29	89	14	14
Factories (without mech. power)	14	18	4	4

Nuisances and defects remedied during the year (other than those enumerated in the previous tabulation).

Overcrowding ... 13	Roofs and Rain Water
Sanitary Accommodation : Pipes ... 413	
Defective ... 307	Floors ... 59
Drainage :	Walls and Ceilings ... 167
(i) Repaired ... 14	Windows & Ventilation 43
(ii) Cleansed ... 306	Baths, Lavatory Basins
Refuse Receptacles ... 161	and Sinks ... 81
Dampness ... 75	Water Supplies ... 28

Total number of visits of all kinds paid by
Inspectors during the year 6,906

Approximate number of separate premises in
area 8,250

Notices served :—
Statutory 0
Informal 1,412

Number of houses, etc., disinfected ... 30

Swimming Pool.

Period open from the 18th May, to the 8th September. Number of bathers 32,844.

Shops Acts.

Visits made during the year 165.

Smoke Abatement.

In the case of two factories where smoke emissions were at times excessive, arrangements were made to convert to oil burning boilers in place of solid fuel. I understand others will be converted at an early date.

Eradication of the Bed Bug.

Particulars of the action taken in 1946, for the eradication of the Bed Bug are as follows :—

Number of			Infested	Disinfested
Council Houses	...	...	30	30
Other Houses	...	...	10	10