

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

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Urban District of Crayford

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# Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1949

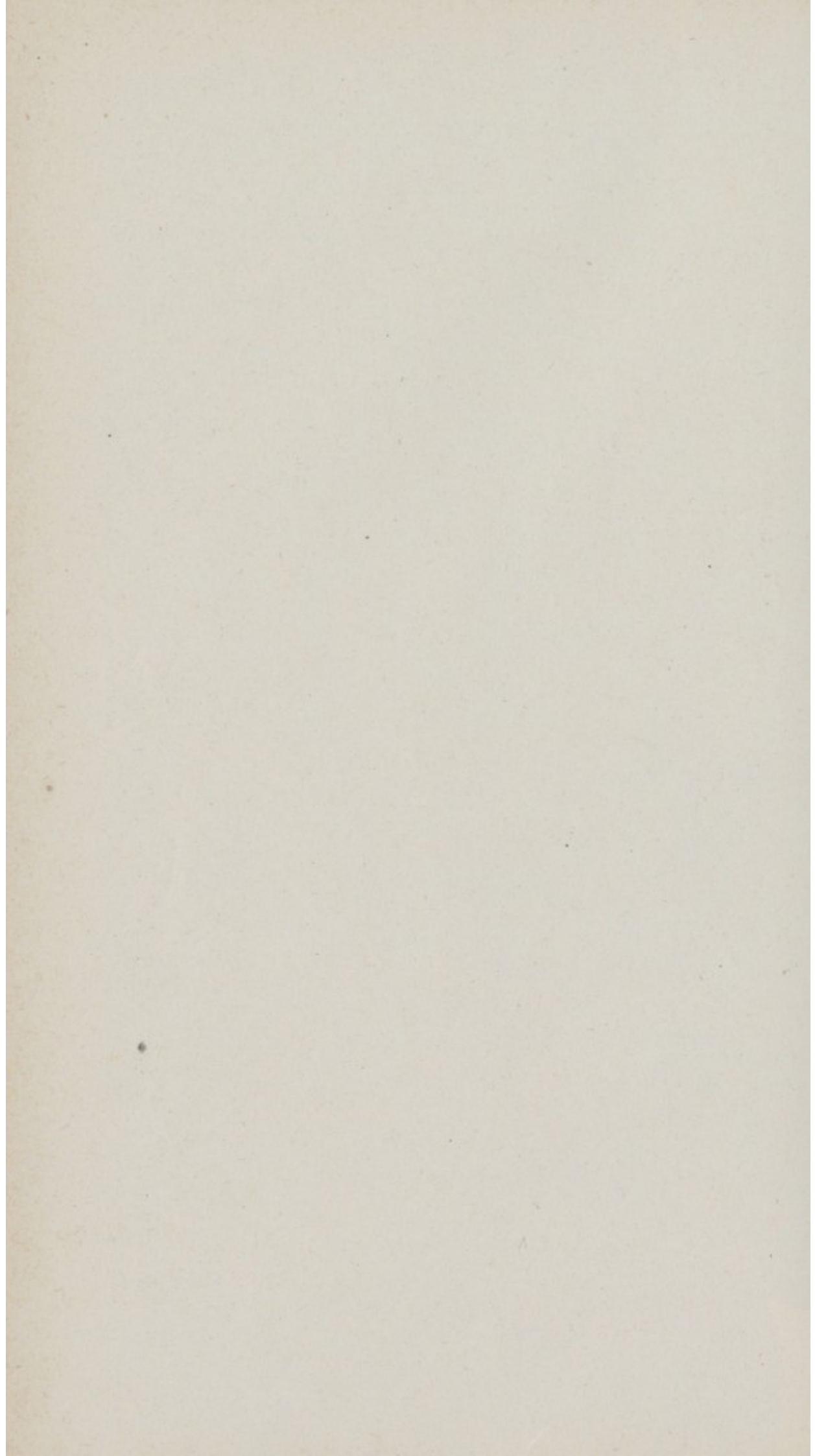
BY

JOHN LANDON

M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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*The Sparta Press, Crayford*









Urban District of Crayford

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## MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

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Chairman :

Councillor W. A. T. Ellison.

Members :

Councillors :

E. B. Clark

F. T. Havill

(Mrs.) M. M. Hetherington

C. Hetherington

Councillors :

N. E. Killick

A. H. Lucas

S. A. Lyle

E. T. Mason

H. J. G. Pearce

Co-opted Members :

Mrs. G. O. Ward Mrs. G. M. Moat Mrs. E. A. Beeching

### Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health :

M. A. G. Ward, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Resigned  
31.3.49).

John Landon, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
(Appointed 1.4.49).

Sanitary Inspectors :

R. Milligan, Cert. R. San.I., M.S.I.A.

A. W. Kent, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (Appointed  
District Sanitary Inspector 1.2.49).

Chief Clerk :

Mrs. G. Mitchell.

Clerks :

Mr. E. T. Shutte, Miss D. M. Smith.

Rodent Operator :

Mr. W. McCulla.

# Crayford Urban District Council.

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

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1949.

As a result of the transfer of the Part III services under the National Health Service Act 1946, to the Kent County Council and the consequent reduction in the field of health administration under the jurisdiction of the County District Authorities, the Urban District of Crayford and the Boroughs of Bexley and Erith decided to appoint a joint Medical Officer of Health as from the 1st April, 1949.

Arrangements were also made with the Borough of Bexley for the joint use of the Cleansing and Disinfection Station maintained by the latter.

A comprehensive Clean Food Campaign was also embarked upon jointly with the Boroughs of Bexley and Erith, not only because a joint Medical Officer of Health facilitated such an arrangement but because it was felt that the nature of the area was such that the problem transcended mere considerations of geographical boundaries. The Campaign includes the setting up of a Food Traders Guild, the formulation of Codes of Practice and the adoption of a wide programme of Health Education, included an Exhibition, public lectures, film shows, and talks to food handlers at their places of work.

In accordance with the decision of the Housing Committee to give all possible priority to families in which there was a case or cases of tuberculosis, a number of recommendations were made and a number of such families have been rehoused.



The number of new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year, 1949, is 46 as compared with 31 in 1948, and the Death Rate increased from 0.29 per 1,000 of the population in 1948 to 0.62 per 1,000 in 1949. I have no doubt that this increase is directly related to the inadequacy of hospital accommodation for chronic cases and the inability to provide for early admission to hospital of newly discovered cases. No improvement can be expected until proper isolation (inter alia) can be provided for all open cases, especially where there are small children and overcrowding is rife.

The tendency of acute anterior poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis) to assume epidemic form in the Country is a disturbing feature of present day public health administration and it is recorded that six cases occurred in Crayford during 1949; happily however, there were no deaths.

One case only of diphtheria was notified during the year, which is a matter for satisfaction when one bears in mind the severe epidemics of not so many years ago.

During the year, following a report to the Council that the result of bacteriological examinations of swimming bath water at their Martens Grove Pool were generally speaking unsatisfactory, action was taken to review the existing arrangements for sterilization. It was found that although the existing ozonization plant was adequate for a normal use of the swimming pool it became to some extent, ineffective when its use was greatly extended as it was during the hot summer months. It was accordingly decided to instal break-point chlorination as well and results, have since been eminently satisfactory.

The care of old people has exercised the Health Department considerably during the year. Although no statutory action had to be taken under section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1946, many cases occurred of old people who depended for the necessities of life on the good will of neighbours and friends. Some of these old people urgently required removal to hospital and, as is



well known, there is a shortage of beds or, more accurately, of nursing staff for this purpose. The Woolwich Group Hospital Management Committee has been very co-operative, however, and it has been possible to help a number of old people whose circumstances had become very serious.

The Vital Statistics for the year were again satisfactory, although the Birth Rate fell slightly from 18.4 in 1948 to 17.9 in 1949, and the Death Rate increased from 7.5 to 8.03.

The Infantile Mortality Rate increased from 19.9 per 1,000 live births in 1948 to 26.4 per 1,000 in 1949, but this rate is still well below that for England and Wales as a whole.

Generally speaking the health of the district has been well maintained. The occurrence of such incidents as the outbreak of Smallpox in the S.S. "Mooltan" is a proof that even to-day the price of safety is eternal vigilance.

My thanks are due to the Council for their help and encouragement at all times, and to the Senior Sanitary Inspector and all members of the staff for their devoted service on all occasions.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN LANDON,

Medical Officer of Health.

## STATISTIC AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) ... ..	2,698.71
Population (Registrar General's estimate mid-year 1949) ... ..	27,520
Number of inhabited houses ... ..	7,741
Rateable Value ... ..	£169,682
Sum represented by a penny rate ... ..	£705

### Live Births.

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate ... ..	465	228	237
Illegitimate ... ..	27	17	10
	—	—	—
	492	245	247
	—	—	—

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population  
17.9

General birth rate for England and Wales 16.7.

### Stillbirths.

	Total	M.	F.
Legitimate ... ..	8	4	4
Illegitimate ... ..	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	8	4	4
	—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 16.0.

	Total	M.	F.
<b>Deaths.</b>	221	128	93

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population  
8.03.

General death rate for England and Wales 11.7.



# Maternal Deaths :—

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—
Other Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	—
Other Maternal causes	...	...	...	...	1
Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	2

# Death rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births (Crayford)	...	26.4
General death rate of infants under 1 year of age for England and Wales	...	32
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	27.9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	0

# Deaths from various causes.

Cancer (all ages)	...	47
Measles (all ages)	...	1
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	1

### Vital Statistics during 1949 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
1947	26,610	583	22	20.5	271	10.2	12	21	36	41
1948	27,190	501	18.4	17.9	205	7.5	10.8	10	19.9	34
1949	27,520	492	17.9	16.7	221	8.03	11.7	13	26.4	32

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



# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1949.

	England and Wales	<sup>126</sup> County Boro's and Great Towns (including London)	<sup>148</sup> Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Urban District of Crayford
	Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population				
<b>BIRTHS.</b>					
Live ... *	16.7 (a)	18.7	18.0	18.5	17.9
Still ...	0.39 (a)	0.47	0.40	0.37	0.29
<b>DEATHS.</b>					
All Causes ...	11.7 (a)	12.5	11.6	12.2	8.03
Typhoid and para- typhoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ...	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.04
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis ...	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52	0.62
Influenza ...	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11	0.14
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia ...	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59	0.44
<b>NOTIFICATIONS.</b> (Corrected)					
Typhoid Fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ...	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.04
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.04
Scarlet Fever ...	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46	0.84
Whooping Cough ...	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70	6.94
Diphtheria ...	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.04
Erysipelas ...	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17	0.18
Smallpox ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles ...	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54	6.18
Pneumonia ...	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55	0.36
Acute poliomyelitis ...	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18	0.22
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.00
Food Poisoning ...	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19	0.18
	Rate per 1,000 Live Births				
<b>DEATHS.</b>					
All causes under 1 year of age ...	32 (b)	37	30	29	26.4
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7	0.04
	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births				
<b>NOTIFICATIONS.</b> (Corrected)					
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia ...	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82	8.0

(a) Rates per 1,000 total population. (b) Per 1,000 related live births.

## Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis	No. 147 Puerperal Infections	Nos. 142-6, 148-50 Other Maternal Causes
0.11	0.05	0.11	0.71

Abortion:—Mortality per million women aged 15-44 in England and Wales.

No. 140 with Sepsis	No. 141 Without Sepsis
8	4



**Table showing Summary of Causes of Death registered  
during the year ended 31st December, 1949.**

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	...	...	...	12	5
7.	Other form of tuberculosis	...	...	...	—	—
8.	Syphilitic diseases				—	—
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	2	2
10.	Measles	...	...	...	—	1
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	—	—
12.	Acute Infantile encaphalitis	...	...	...	—	—
13.	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (M)	...	...	...	—	—
	Uterus (F)	...	...	...	3	2
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	9	1
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	—	3
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	18	11
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	1
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	10	12
19.	Heart disease	...	...	...	34	32
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	3	2
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	3
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	8	4
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	3	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	1	—
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	1	—
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	1	—
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	4	—
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	—	—
29.	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	—	1
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	2	1
32.	Congenital malformation, birth injuries, infant disease	...	...	...	6	1
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	—
34.	Road traffic accident	...	...	...	1	—
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	2	1
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	2	8
All causes					Total	128
						93

### Population.

As will be seen from the summary of statistics the Registrar General has estimated the population for the mid-year 1949 to be 27,520. This is an increase of 330 over last year's figure.



## Births.

The 492 live births notified showed a decrease of 9 compared with last year's figure. The birth rate per 1,000 of the population is 17.9 as against 18.4 last year. The birth rate for England and Wales was 16.7.

## Deaths.

This year we recorded 221 deaths out of a population of 27,520, representing a death rate of 8.03 against 7.5 in 1948. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

## Infants Deaths.

During the year 13 infants died before reaching the age of one year.

Rate of Infant Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births was 26.4 as against 19.9 last year. That of England and Wales was 32.

### Analysis 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 under 1 year
Bronch Pneumonia	—	1			1	1		1	1	4
Prematurity	3				3					3
Atelactasis	2				2					2
Internal Obstruction	1				1					1
Cardiac failure due to Congenital malformation of heart							1			1
Measles									1	1
Whooping Cough									1	1
	6	1	0	0	7	1	1	1	3	13

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

Since the 5th July, 1948, these Services have been administered by the Kent County Council.



## **PUBLIC MORTUARY.**

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

During the year the Mortuary was in use on 10 occasions, and 5 post-mortem examinations were made.

## **LABORATORY FACILITIES.**

The following specimens were sent to the County Laboratory from the District during 1949 :—

### **Swabs.**

Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	9
Haemolytic Streptococci	...	...	...	...	50

### **Sputum.**

Tuberculosis Officers	...	...	...	103
Private Practitioners	...	...	...	4

<b>Others</b>	...	...	...	249
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### **Waters.**

Public Supplies (Wells)	...	...	...	8
Swimming Bath	...	...	...	74

<b>Ice Creams</b>	...	...	...	52
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<b>TOTAL</b>	...	...	...	549
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## **HEALTH EDUCATION.**

The Council, in conjunction with the Boroughs of Bexley and Erith, organised a public lecture which was given by the Medical Officer of Health on "The Present Day Scope and Functions of the Preventive Health Services," at the Town Hall, Crayford.

There was a large attendance, which included the Nursing Services, Members of the St. John Ambulance and Nursing Divisions, British Red Cross Divisions, The Women's Voluntary Service and other organisations.

## **PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND OTHER DISEASES.**

### **Scarlet Fever.**

During the year 23 cases were notified. Of these, 8 cases were isolated in hospital. The number of cases notified in 1948 was 69.

### **Diphtheria.**

One case notified, the same as in 1948. The patient was isolated in Bow Arrow Hospital. Prior to these two cases, Diphtheria had not occurred in the area since 1942.



### Enteric Fever including Paratyphoid.

One case notified during the year.

### Puerperal Pyrexia.

Four cases were notified during the year an increase of two over the previous year's figure. All the cases were from the Russell Stoneham Hospital. Two were removed to Bow Arrow Hospital and one to the Westhill Hospital, Dartford.

### Cerebrospinal Meningitis.

One case notified during the year.

### Measles.

The number of cases notified in 1949 was 170. Three of these were removed to Bow Arrow Hospital. One death occurred. The number of cases notified in 1948 was 371.

### Whooping Cough.

191 cases notified during the year. One case was removed to Bow Arrow Hospital. There was one death. Cases notified in 1948 was 120.

### Acute Poliomyelitis.

6 cases were notified. All the cases were treated in hospital. There were no deaths. No cases were notified in 1948.

### Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

One case was notified during the year. The case was treated at home.

### Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths
Small Pox ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	23	8	—
Diphtheria ... ..	1	1	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	4	3	—
Pneumonia ... ..	10	—	1
Erysipelas ... ..	5	—	—
Cerebrospinal Meningitis ... ..	1	1	—
Measles ... ..	170	3	1
Whooping Cough ... ..	191	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ... ..	1	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	—	—	—
Scabies ... ..	1	—	—
Poliomyelitis ... ..	6	6	—
Food Poisoning ... ..	5	—	—
Totals	419	24	3



## 15

[illegible]

Age Groups Continued.

Ages, etc. (N.K.-age unknown)	Erysipelas		Smallpox		Food Poisoning		Civilians	M	F
	M	F	M	F	M	F			
Civilians—							Puerperal pyrexia ... ..	—	4
0 ... ..	—	—	—	—	2	—	Ophthalmia neonatorum ... ..	1	—
5 ... ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	Scabies ... ..	1	—
15 ... ..	1	1	—	—	—	1			
45 ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—			
65 and over ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	1			
Age unknown ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	Non-Civilians	M	F
Total Civilians ... ..	4	1	—	—	3	2	Puerperal pyrexia ... ..	—	—
Non-Civilians—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
15 (or N.K.) ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—			
45 and over ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Total Non-Civilians	—	—	—	—	—	—			



### Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1949.

The following is a return from the County Medical Officer of (A) the number of children resident in the Crayford area who were immunised against Diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against Smallpox during the year ended 31st December, 1949.

#### (A) Diphtheria Immunisation.

Year of Birth	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	Total
Primary Inoculations	59	304	25	1	6	9	9	12	12	13	12	15	—	—	—	477
Reinforcing Inoculations	—	—	—	1	55	230	105	182	147	180	188	185	1	—	—	1274

#### (B) Vaccination.

Age at 31st December, 1949	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	141	91	10	15	257
Number Re-vaccinated	—	2	9	21	32

The following is a return of the number of children resident in the Crayford area under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1949 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date, (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1935).

Year of Birth	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	Total
	54	95	122	225	240	379	230	235	251	460	433	359	387	372	59	3901

## Tuberculosis.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 ... ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 ... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5 ... ..	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
15 ... ..	8	6	—	1	—	1	—	—
25 ... ..	4	6	3	—	3	4	—	—
35 ... ..	5	3	—	—	4	—	—	—
45 ... ..	6	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
55 ... ..	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and upwards	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	28	18	3	2	12	5	—	—

## Chest Clinics.

At West Hill Hospital, Dartford, and 65, Bexley Road, Erith.

## HOUSING APPLICANTS.

On a recommendation from the Health Committee that special consideration be given to cases but forward by the Medical Officer of Health involving Tuberculosis in the applicants' family, the Council agreed to consider such cases outside the normal points scheme.

## Venereal Disease Clinic.

This was held at the County Hospital, West Hill, Dartford.

## PUBLIC CLEANSING.

During the year the Council entered into a new agreement with the Borough of Bexley for the joint use of their Cleansing Station, and the existing wartime arrangement ceased from the date on which the new arrangement took effect.

Facilities were available for the disinfection of bedding following cases of Tuberculosis and Cancer, and for the disinfestation of bedding of verminous persons and those who had had scabies.



## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Food.

The following samples of food were submitted for examination and analysis during the year :—

New Zealand Spray Process Milk Powder—reported to contain 2.4 acidity as Lactic Acid: The acidity was too high and on this account likely to have been unsatisfactory in use.

Complaint was received regarding gravy cubes. The Analyst reported that they contained small white living maggots and were unfit for food. The stock was eventually withdrawn from sale.

One sample of powdered potato was submitted for analysis. The packet was old and discoloured, stained on the base and appeared to have been wet and dried out. The contents had a yellowish colour and although the contents of the packet could not be condemned, it was obviously from very old stock.

One sample of a preparation sold as salad cream was found to be unfit for food. The product was not a salad cream and should not have been so labelled. The oil in the preparation was rancid and the acid from the vinegar had acted upon the metal cover of the jar. All the stock in the district was surrendered.

One sample of Macaroni with Tomato Sauce was found to be free from poisonous metals.

Complaint was received that a cake containing cake and bun mixture had an unpleasant taste. The Analyst suggested that insufficient flour had been added thus giving too high a proportion of the cake and bun mixture which was equivalent to the use of a large excess of baking powder and as a consequence caused high alkalinity and nauseating taste.

One sample of Sandwich Spread was found to be free from arsenic and injurious metals and their compounds, and fit for food.



## Meat.

A specimen from chump end of loin of lamb submitted for confirmation of diagnosis proved Caseous Lymphadenitis.

Popliteal and Prescapular glands from two English beasts also forwarded for confirmation of diagnosis—were reported to be affected by Tuberculosis.

Complaint was received that a joint of meat appeared to be horse-flesh. The Analyst's report showed no evidence of horse-flesh.

## Milk.

Licences granted by the Council under the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936, are as follows :—

Principal Licences :—

Pasteurised milk 4.

Supplementary Licences :—

Pasteurised milk 6.

Tuberculin tested milk 6.

In accordance with the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, which came into force on the 1st October, 1949, the following Licences were issued by the Council:

Supplementary Licences :—

Pasteurised milk 1.

Sterilized milk 6.

Dealers Licences :—

Sterilized milk 6.

## Meat and Other Foods.

Given below is the total amount of meat and other foods found during the year to be unfit for human consumption :—

			tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Meat	...	...		11	2	21	14½
Bacon	...	...				27	10
Poultry	...	...			2	8	0
Fish	...	...		2	1	4	13¾
Miscellaneous	...	...		14	0	17	11¾
TOTAL	...	...	1	8	3	24	2

In addition 181 shell eggs were also found to be unfit for human consumption.



## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Details of Samples taken by the County Sampling Officer within the Urban District of Crayford during the year ended the 31st December, 1949 :—

Article	No.	Article	No.
Apple Conserve	... 1	Lemon Curd	... 1
Arrowroot	... 1	Luncheon Sausage	... 2
Baking Powder	... 1	Lung Mixture	... 1
Beans & Tomato Sauce	1	Meat Roll	... 1
Beer, Bitter	... 1	Milk	... 21
Beer, Mild	... 1	Milk of Magnesia	... 1
Bishop Benedict Balsam	1	Oatmeal, Fine	... 1
Black Pudding	... 1	Olive Oil	... 1
Bronchial Mixture	... 1	Peas, Garden (Tinned)	1
Cake Flour Mixture	... 1	Pepper, White	... 1
Castor Oil	... 1	Petroleum Jelly	... 1
Cheese, Danish Blue	... 1	Pork Meat Brawn	... 1
Choc. Ices	... 1	Pork Pies	... 1
Chocolate Spread	... 1	Potato Straws	... 1
Coffee & Chicory Essence	1	Sage & Onion Stuffing	1
Condensed Milk	... 1	Salad Dressing	... 1
Fish Paste	... 1	Sandwich Spread	... 2
Fish Paste, Prawn	... 1	Seidlitz Powders	... 1
Friar's Balsam	... 1	Semolina	... 1
Glycerine, Lemon and Honey	... 1	Semolina, Raspberry Flavoured	... 1
Glycerine, Lemon and Ipecacuana Mixture	... 1	Shredded Beef Suet	... 1
Gin	... 2	Syrup of Figs	... 1
Gravy Powder	... 1	Tea	... 1
Gripe Water	... 1	Tincture of Myrrh	... 1
Ground Cinnamon	... 1	Tincture of Myrrh Tablets	... 1
Halibut Liver Oil Capsules	... 1	Vi-Cocoa	... 1
Health and Liver Salts	1	Wafer Oats	... 1
Herbal Tablets	... 1	Whisky	... 4
Ice Cream	... 2	Total	... 85
Jam	... 1		—

All the above samples were genuine with the exception of the following :—

Salad Dressing.

Analysis—Bacterial growth on surface.

Unfit for use.

Adulterated.



The sample was taken at the request of the retailer and, as a result of the above analysis, the stocks were destroyed by the Sanitary Inspector. No further action was taken.

### **CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.**

As a result of receiving Circular MF.12/49 issued by the Ministry of Food on the 10th January, 1949, the Council agreed to approach the Boroughs of Bexley and Erith with a view to inaugurating jointly a Clean Food Campaign and the project will be put into operation in the year 1950.

### **SECTION 17, FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.**

#### **NOTIFICATION OF FOOD POISONING.**

It came to our notice that cases of suspected food poisoning had occurred over a wide area including the Urban District of Crayford as a result of eating shell fish particularly cockles, obtained at resorts on the Thames Estuary. Steps were taken to warn the public and posters to that effect were widely displayed in the district.

In addition letters were sent to all registered medical practitioners asking them to notify any such cases under the above Act, and in suitable cases specimens were collected from patients and submitted for bacteriological examination.

Five cases were notified.

### **The Control of Rodents and other Pests.**

During the year the following infestations were dealt with :—

Rats 167, Flies 71, Wasps 40, Ants 9, Woodworm 44, Miscellaneous 7.

### **HOUSING STATISTICS.**

#### **(1) Inspection of Dwelling-Houses.**

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	415
Number of inspections made for that purpose	...	...	...	1481



(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-heading (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	169
Number of inspections made for that purpose ... ..	402
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	18
(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 ...	220
 <b>(2) Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices.</b>	
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers ...	206
 <b>(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the year.</b>	
Statutory Notices under Housing or Public Health Acts ... ..	14
1 (3) Number of- dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ...	18
Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders ... ..	16
Total number of houses owned by Local Authority ... ..	1583
Number of new houses built during the year :—	
(a) by the Local Authority ... ..	76
(b) by other bodies or persons ... ..	11
Number of houses acquired by the Local Authority during the year ... ..	47



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

Whilst it is known from the particulars supplied by housing applicants that overcrowding does exist it is impossible to state the extent of such overcrowding.

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

#### **Water.**

The Metropolitan Water Board is the supplying authority.

The supply to the Crayford District is a mixture of water from Crayford, Dartford, Darenth, Wansunt and Wilmington wells. All the water was chlorinated on the works, but any chlorine remaining after a period of contact was removed completely.

Bacteriological analyses were made five times per week for all supplies both before and after chlorination and 100 per cent. first class results were obtained during the year.

All new and repaired mains were chlorinated before being restored to use and samples of water from them were tested bacteriologically.

None of the supplies was plumbo-solvent.

All the houses in the district except one were supplied direct from the mains.

There have been no new extensions during 1949.

#### **Water Sampling.**

- (a) Wells (drinking water) Bacteriological 4.  
Shallow well (Industrial supply only) Bacteriological 2 ; Chemical 1.
- (b) New Pipe Supply, Bacteriological 2.
- (c) Swimming Pool, Bacteriological 74.

As a result of the high bacterial count reported by the Analyst on samples taken from the Swimming Pool, a period of testing daily was adopted with a view to ascertaining the best methods of procuring a reduction in the bacterial count.



Following the series of samples taken, a break-point chlorinator plant was installed, and it is hoped that during the coming season better results will be obtained.

### Drainage and Sewerage.

A small foul sewer 63 yards was laid to obviate the use of a cesspool.

A scheme is at present under consideration by the Ministry for the provision of a main surface water sewer to drain 204 acres of the district.

### Rivers and Streams.

The normal annual maintenance work was carried out on the ditches, water-ways, and rivers, in the district.

### Closet Accommodation.

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

W.C's. into drainage system	...	approx.	9900
W.C's. into Cesspools	...	...	17
Number of premises not connected to public water supplies	...	...	1

### Refuse Collection.

A seven day collection of refuse was maintained under the same system as previously.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

	No. in district	No. of visits in 1949	No. of faults and defects found	No. of faults and defects remedied
Bakehouses ...	1	4	0	0
Dairies ...	2	24	0	0
Other food - preparing places, which are, as such, subject to inspection ...	45	666	10	10

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

Overcrowding	...	0	Floors	...	166
Sanitary Accommodation :			Walls and Ceilings	...	578
Defective	...	25	Windows & Ventilation		57
Drainage :			Baths, Lavatory Basins		
(i) Repaired	...	26	and Sinks	...	13
(ii) Cleansed	...	410	Water Supplies	...	7
Refuse Receptacles	...	10	Yards paved & drained		9
Dampness	...	41	Doors & other woodwork		22
Roofs and Rain Water			Other works	...	11
Pipes	...	56			

Total number of visits of all kinds paid by  
Inspectors during the year ... 7437

Approximate number of separate premises in  
area ... 8400

Notices served :—  
Statutory ... 14  
Informal ... 220

Number of houses, etc., disinfected ... 55

**Swimming Pool.**

Period open from the 21st May, to the 25th September. Number of bathers 45,232. This figure does not include schools which used the Swimming Pool outside normal hours.

**Shops Acts.**

Visits made during the year 320.

Warning was given to four shopkeepers in relation to offences within the meaning of the provisions of the Shops Acts.

**Smoke Abatement.**

No action taken.



## Eradication of the Bed Bug.

Particulars of the action taken in 1949 for the eradication of the Bed Bug are as follows :—

Number of		Infested		Disinfested	
Council Houses	...	...	17	17	
Other Houses	...	...	5	5	

## Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1. **Inspections** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prose- cuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	25	31	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	59	57	4	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	13	10	2	—
TOTAL ...	97	98	8	—

## 2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars  (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted  (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	2	2	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	6	6	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Out-work) ...	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTAL ...</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>—</b>



(Sections 110 and 111).

## OUTWORK.

### Part VIII of the Act.

Nature of Work.	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c).	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices Served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing Apparel. Making, etc.	25	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc. of buttons, etc.	2	—	—	—	—	—
Curtains and Furniture Hangings	2	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	29	—	—	—	—	—







