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Urban District of Crayford



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

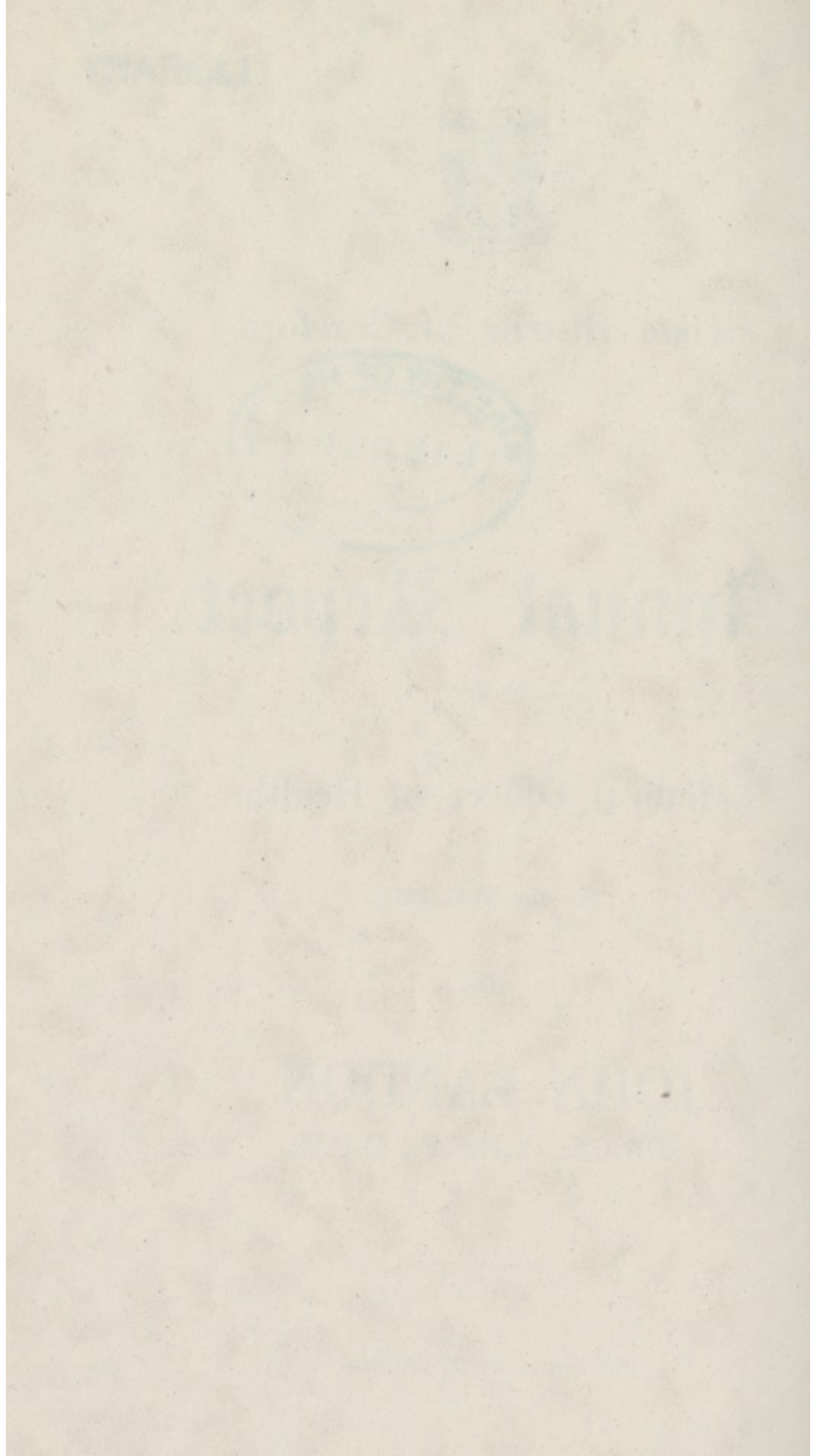
For the Year 1951

BY

JOHN LANDON

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

The Sparta Press, Crayford





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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman :

Councillor: C. Hetherington.

Members :

Councillors :

H. E. Clark

F. A. Gerrard

J. W. Howell

(Mrs.) M. M. Hetherington

Councillors :

J. Kerr

N. E. Killick, J. P.

J. W. Taylor

(Mrs.) E. Saxby

Co-opted Members :

Mrs. E. J. Borrie, Mrs. M. Jones, Mrs. L. Woolley

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health :

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

Sanitary Inspectors :

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

A. W. Kent, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Chief Clerk :

Mrs. G. Mitchell.

Clerks :

E. T. Shutte

Miss M. H. Millington

Rodent Operator :

W. McCulla

Crayford Urban District Council

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The vital statistics of the Urban District are, broadly, satisfactory and present a number of interesting features. The birth rate during 1951 was 13.9 per thousand of the home population compared with 15.6 per thousand in 1950, 17.9 in 1949, 18.4 in 1948, 22.0 in 1947, 22.0 in 1946, 18.8 in 1945 and 23.1 in 1944. It will be seen that the increase in the birth rate towards the end of the war has not been maintained and the birth rate in fact shows a continued rate of decline which, in general, follows the trend in the birth rate for the country as a whole, although the birth rate for Crayford is appreciably lower than the national rate (15.5). There is a number of possible explanations. Firstly, the housing position is a major deterrent to young married people to start a family. Added to this is the high cost of living, including the high cost of setting up a home. The birth rate for the District corrected by the use of the Registrar General's comparability factor (0.93) was 12.9.

Bearing in mind the low death rate which we enjoy nowadays and the fact that the level of the population is being maintained only by the fertility of the past, two things are obvious; firstly that the number of old people must increase and, secondly, (seeing that we are all mortal) the death rate must be expected to rise and the population stabilised at a lower level based on present day fertility factors.

The death rate for the District during 1951, was 9.56 compared with 7.89 for 1950, or, after correction by means of the comparability factors for deaths (1.21) 11.6 compared with an uncorrected death rate for the country as a whole of 12.5.

The infant mortality rate for 1951, at 20.7 per thousand live births, was considerably lower than the rate for 1950,

namely, 27.6. The number of babies who died in the first year of life per thousand live births during 1951 was 8 compared with 12 in 1950. The rate for 1951 compares favourably with a rate of 29.6 for the country as a whole. It is necessary to point out that the trend of infant mortality in a district such as this, based as it is on relatively small number of deaths, must not be judged by small annual fluctuations which may be due to fortuitous circumstances, but over a period of years and by this criterion our figures are very satisfactory.

There were no maternal deaths during the year, which reflects credit on the local midwifery services, bearing in mind the fact that there were 387 live births during the year, in addition to 9 still births.

The incident of infectious disease within the District continued to be very low. No case of diphtheria was notified during the year under review, and in fact only 2 cases of this disease have occurred in the District since 1942. Although this is eminently satisfactory, there is an implied danger in the freedom from this disease in that the young mothers of to-day have never seen a child with diphtheria or heard of a child recently dying from this cause. There is a noticeable tendency for diphtheria immunisation to be neglected in many cases. It cannot be too strongly stressed, however, that our present freedom from this disease is dependent on a continued high level of immunisation of young children as a group and parents should realise that they have both a public and a private duty to perform in this matter.

Although there were 682 cases of measles there was only one death from this cause. 134 cases of whooping cough were notified without a single death. These two diseases, with the exception of tuberculosis, are the two most important infectious diseases experienced at the present time, leaving out for the moment the unpredictable incidence of poliomyelitis.

Constant vigilance has to be exercised in regard to the prevention of smallpox. As a result of the Brighton epidemic in 1950/51, 22 contacts were traced to this area and vaccination was carried out by the Health Department in most cases and intensive supervision exercised during the danger period. On two other occasions ships arrived in nearby ports carrying a case of smallpox and contacts were traced to this area. Vac-

cination was carried out wherever necessary and the appropriate surveillance exercised.

During 1951, 37 cases of paratyphoid fever occurred in an area covering adjacent London boroughs and districts in Kent and Sussex. The cause of the outbreak was judged to be synthetic cream supplied from a food establishment in a neighbouring district. Some of the cases occurred in the Urban District, an extensive investigation developed and it is likely that the control measures which were instituted prevented a more widespread epidemic.

Generally speaking the infectious diseases which took such a heavy toll of life and health in the past have diminished in importance but continued vigilance is needed as some change in the natural history of the organisms or some lowering of individual resistance in peace or in war may precipitate a return to former conditions.

Tuberculosis remains the most important of the infectious diseases which are encountered. It is a tragedy that this disease which is preventable is not being prevented. It presents a medico-social problem of great complexity, a description of which is outside the scope of this foreward. I would emphasise one aspect, however, which demands immediate attention, namely, the discharge from sanatorium to their own homes of open, i.e. infectious, cases when their continued stay in hospital can no longer be of benefit to them. These, frequently, chronic cases are responsible for a good deal of mischief and our powers under the Public Health Act, 1936, to control this source of infection are inadequate in that such patients may only be compulsorily removed to hospital provided suitable accommodation is available for them.

In my view an anomalous position has arisen in regard to the domiciliary tuberculous patient. The presence of a tuberculous person in a household is, often, regarded by the Housing Committee, and rightly so, as grounds for the rehousing of the patient or of a second family, especially if it includes young children, who are occupying the same premises. It would, perhaps, be more efficacious and less costly to remove the source of infection to suitable hospital or other accommodation.

During the year a Tuberculosis Care Committee for Crayford was brought into being for the purpose of assisting patients and their dependents. Previously Crayford had been served by the Erith and Dartford Committees. In view of the continued growth of the District it was felt that a Committee to deal with Crayford patients was needed. The scheme which has been well supported, has made good progress.

The care of old people living alone is becoming more and more a responsibility of the Health Department. Under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, as amended by the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, it is the responsibility of the local authority to take appropriate action in the cases of persons "who are suffering from grave chronic disease or being aged and infirm or physically handicapped are living in insanitary conditions and are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention." The effects of the ageing of the population are now being felt in the increase of such cases. Old people are often discovered to be living in conditions grotesque from the point of loneliness and the absence of even the lowest standards of comfort, care and cleanliness. These old people are nearly always infirm to a greater or lesser extent and I would like to express my appreciation of the help which is so readily forthcoming from the Officers of the Woolwich Group Hospital Management Committee who do their best under difficult circumstances to find accommodation for these urgent cases.

The affiliation of the local Good Neighbours Association to the North West Kent Old People's Welfare Committee, operating under the North West Kent Council of Social Service, has now taken place and the experiment is being tried of appointing district liaison officers somewhat on the lines of the Tuberculosis After-Care Committee. The work of the new committee will be, firstly, to ascertain on a Ward basis the old people needing additional care, to co-ordinate the work of all agencies providing for the care of old people and to afford to the latter a wide range of good neighbourly services. One of the added functions will be the raising of funds from various charitable sources and the assistance of old people, in suitable cases, by small monetary grants or their equivalent in food and other requirements needed for their comfort. Although the State is now responsible for a

wide range of statutory services for old people, it is considered essential that each local community should interest itself in the deprived old people who are living in their midst.

The joint Clean Food Campaign with Erith and Bexley goes forward slowly but steadily and good progress has been made in what is essentially a long term health education project. In April, 1951, a clean food exhibition was held and was reasonably well supported by the general public. Organised parties of school children from the three areas visited the exhibition and lectures and film shows were given. Codes of Practice have now been formulated for all the main food trades and applications for membership have now been received from 98 food traders, of which 19 have been approved to date. There is still a great deal of work to be done in this sphere during the next few years to bring into membership the majority of the food traders in the area. An attractive plaque has now been prepared which, we hope, will become more and more familiar to the public as they appear in increasing numbers in the windows and on the premises of the food establishments in the Urban District.

The prevention of accidents in the home is being recognised more and more as coming within the realm of preventive medicine and therefore a legitimate field of endeavour for the public health authorities. This matter can best be dealt with by a partnership of local health authority, local authority and the local Road Safety Committees, whose functions could be enlarged to cover by means of a sub-committee this important part of the work of accident prevention in general. Preliminary steps to achieve this end have been taken locally and it is hoped that further developments will take place during 1952.

During 1951 the Bexley public mortuary was enlarged and equipped with refrigeration for six bodies. It will also be used by the Crayford and Erith authorities by arrangement with the Bexley Borough Council.

I wish to thank the members of the Health Committee for their support and encouragement and the Senior Sanitary

Inspector, the Chief Clerk and all members of the Health Department for their devotion to duty at all times during the year.

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 1951)	...	...	27,820
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	8,071
Rateable Value	...	...	£178,416
Sum represented by a penny rate			£726

Live Births.

			Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	370	194	176
Illegitimate	...	...	17	8	9
			—	—	—
			387	202	185
			—	—	—

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated home population 13.9.
 General birth rate for England and Wales 15.5.

Stillbirths.

			Total	M.	F.
Legitimate	...	...	9	5	4
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			—	—	—
			9	5	4
			—	—	—

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 22.7.

			Total	M.	F.
Deaths.	...	...	266	136	130

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 9.56
General death rate for England and Wales 12.5.

The Birth Rate and Death Rate for Crayford compares favourably with that for other parts of the Country. The Registrar General has supplied comparability factors for 1951. The standardised Birth Rate which allows for comparison with other parts of the Country is 12.9 and the standardised Death Rate is 11.6.

Maternal Deaths :—

There were no Maternal Deaths in 1951.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :—

Deaths of Infants under one year of age	...	...	Total	M.	F.
			8	5	3

Rate per 1,000 live births (Crayford) 20.7.

Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births 21.4.

General death rate of infants under 1 year of age for England and Wales 29.6.

Deaths from Various Causes.

Malignant Neoplasm (all ages)	...	...	49
Measles (all ages)	...	...	1
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	—

Vital Statistics during 1951 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
1950	27,750	434	15.6	15.8	219	7.89	11.6	12	27.6	29.8
1951	27,820	387	13.9	15.5	266	9.56	12.5	8	20.7	29.6

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

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1951.

	England and Wales	¹²⁶ County Boro's and Great Towns (including London)	¹⁴⁸ Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Urban District of Crayford
	Rate per 1,000 Home Population				
BIRTHS.					
Live	15.5	17.3	16.7	17.8	13.9
Still	0.36	0.45	0.38	0.37	0.32
DEATHS.					
All Causes	12.5	13.4	12.5	13.1	9.56
Typhoid and para- typhoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04
Tuberculosis	0.31	0.37	0.31	0.38	0.29
Influenza	0.38	0.36	0.38	0.23	0.11
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.61	0.65	0.63	0.61	0.5
NOTIFICATIONS. (Corrected)					
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.04
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.04
Scarlet Fever	1.11	1.20	1.20	1.10	1.26
Whooping Cough	3.87	3.62	4.00	3.11	4.82
Diphtheria	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.15	0.11
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	14.07	13.93	14.82	14.64	24.5
Pneumonia	0.99	1.04	0.96	0.72	0.75
Acute poliomyelitis (In- cluding polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.00
Non-paralytic... ..	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.07
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.15	0.08	0.23	0.04
	Rate per 1,000 Live Births				
DEATHS.					
All causes under 1 year of age	29.6(a)	33.9	27.6	26.4	20.7
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.4	1.6	1.0	0.7	0.00
	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births				
NOTIFICATIONS. (Corrected)					
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	10.66	13.77	8.08	14.90	5.05

(a) Per 1,000 related live births.

Maternal Mortality in England and Wales.

Intermediate List No. and cause	No. of deaths	Rate per.	
		1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births	Rate per Million Women aged 15-44
A115. Sepsis of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium ...	70	0.10	
A116. Abortion with toxæmia ...	3	0.00	0
Other toxæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium ...	167	0.24	
A117. Haemorrhage of pregnancy and childbirth ...	91	0.13	
A118. Abortion without mention of sepsis or toxæmia ...	37	0.05	4
A119. Abortion with sepsis ...	66	0.09	7
A120. Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium ...	125	0.18	

Table showing Summary of Causes of Death registered during the year ended 31st December, 1951.

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	3	2
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	2	1
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	2	—
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	1	—
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—
6.	Meningococcal Infections	...	...	—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	—	1
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	1	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	11	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	6	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	—	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	—	2
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasm	...	...	10	14
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	—	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	—	—
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	12	18
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	23	11
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	4	5
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	17	33
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	4	4
22.	Influenza	...	...	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	7	7
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	7	7
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	3	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	1	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	—	—
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	2	—
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	2	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	1	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	9	11
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	3	1
34.	All Other Accidents	...	...	4	—
35.	Suicide	...	...	—	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	—
All causes				Total	
				136	130

It will be noted that in the table showing Summary of Causes of Death registered during the year ended 31st December, 1951, is recorded a death from Diphtheria. The case refers to a male aged 17 years who when admitted to hospital in April, 1951 was reported to have had Diphtheria at the age of 7 years. Diphtheria was, therefore, only remotely associated with this death which was attributed to this cause for technical reasons only.

Births.

The 370 live births notified showed a decrease of 64 compared with last year's figure. The birth rate per 1,000 of the population is 13.9 as against 15.6 last year. The birth rate for England and Wales was 15.5.

Deaths.

This year we recorded 266 deaths out of a population of 27,820 representing a death rate of 9.56 against 7.89 in 1950. The death rate for England and Wales was 12.5.

Infants Deaths.

During the year 8 infants died before reaching the age of one year. There were 12 in 1950.

Rate of Infant Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births was 20.7 as against 27.6 last year. That of England and Wales was 29.6.

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

Causes of Death as Certified	DAYS											MONTHS *											Total under 1 Year
	0 —	1 —	2 —	3 —	4 —	5 —	6 —	7 —	14 —	21 —	28 —	2 —	3 —	4 —	5 —	6 —	7 —	8 —	9 —	10 —	11 —		
Permaternity								1														1	
Atelactasis	1			1																		2	
Congenital Heart Failure													1									1	
Bronco Pneumonia													2	1								3	
Asphyxia			1																			1	
	1		1	1				1					3	1								8	

* During 1951, 8 infants died before reaching the age of one year, of these 4, that is 50 per cent. occurred in the neonatal period (within one month of birth) the corresponding figure for 1950 was 75 per cent.

Public Cleansing.

The Council's scheme for the joint use of the Borough of Bexley's Cleansing Station has continued to work satisfactorily.

Facilities were available for the disinfection of bedding following cases of infectious diseases, tuberculosis and cancer and for the disinfestation of bedding of verminous persons.

PUBLIC MORTUARY.

During the year adaptations to the Bexley Mortuary were commenced. When completed the Mortuary, which is to be used jointly by Crayford, Erith and Bexley, will provide a full modern standard of amenities including refrigeration for six bodies.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following specimens were sent to the County Laboratory from the District during 1951.

Swabs	...	...	...	...	192
Sputa	...	...	...	...	92
Faeces	...	...	...	...	19
Food stuffs	...	...	...	...	4
Ice Creams	...	...	...	...	43
Waters	...	...	...	...	34
Swimming Bath Waters	...	...	...	...	14
Bacteriological Examinations of Milk	...	...	...	...	24
Miscellaneous examinations	...	...	...	...	408
					<hr/> 830 <hr/>

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND OTHER DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.

During the year 35 cases were notified. Of these 13 cases were isolated in hospital. The number of cases notified in 1950 was 35.

Diphtheria.

There were no cases notified in 1951.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever.

No cases were notified during the year. One case was notified in 1950.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Two cases were notified during the year, one less than the previous year's figure. All the cases were from the Russell Stoneham Hospital. One case was removed to Joyce Green Hospital.

Meningococcal Infection.

One case was notified during the year, the same as in 1950.

Food Poisoning.

One case was notified during the year, no cases were notified in 1950.

Measles.

The number of cases notified in 1951 was 682, two of these were removed to Joyce Green Hospital. The number of cases notified in 1950 was 122.

Whooping Cough.

134 cases notified during the year. One case was removed to Joyce Green Hospital. Cases notified in 1950 was 67.

Acute Poliomyelitis.

2 cases were notified during the year. Both cases were treated in hospital and were non-paralytic. There were no deaths. 6 cases were notified in 1950.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

No cases were notified during the year.

Dysentery.

Four cases were notified during the year. One case was notified in 1950.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year.

Disease				Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths
Small Pox	...	...	...	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	35	13	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	1	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	2	1	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	21	10	2
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	1	1	—
Measles	...	...	...	682	2	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	134	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	4	—	—
Scabies	...	...	...	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Non Paralytic)	...	...	...	2	2	—
Encephalitis	...	...	...	1	1	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	1	—	—
Totals				887	32	3

Age Groups.

	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Whooping Cough		Measles (excluding rubella)		Ac. Poliomyelitis			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under One Year ...	—	—	—	—	4	7	15	4	—	—	—	—
1 ...	4	—	—	—	14	13	66	57	—	—	—	—
3 ...	7	3	—	—	21	23	108	109	—	—	—	—
5 ...	12	6	—	—	25	25	142	171	—	—	1	—
10 ...	—	1	—	—	—	1	4	1	—	—	—	—
15 ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
25 and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Total (All Ages) ...	24	11	—	—	64	70	337	345	—	—	1	1

	Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Paratyphoid Fever		Ac Pneumonia		Dysentery		Meningococcal Infection		Ac encephalitis lethargica	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 Years ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
5 ...	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
15 ...	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	4	—	—	—	—
45 ...	—	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over ...	—	—	—	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (All Ages) ...	—	—	—	1	13	8	—	4	—	1	—	1

Age Groups Continued.

			Erysipelas		Smallpox		Food Poisoning				
			M	F	M	F	M	F		M	F
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	Puerperal pyrexia	—	2
5	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—
15	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	Scabies	—	—
45	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	1			
65 and over	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Age unknown	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Total (All Ages)	...	...	1	2	—	—	—	1			

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1951.

The following is a return received from the County Medical Officer of Health 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, 1951.

(A) Diphtheria Immunisation.

Year of Birth	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	Total
Primary Inoculations	36	230	23	7	2	8	9	6	5	8	2	5	13	17	24	395
Reinforcing Inoculations	—	—	—	—	66	234	25	20	19	28	18	19	52	75	123	679

(B) Vaccination.

Age at 31st December, 1951	Under 1	1 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Total
Number Vaccinated	124	105	20	15	264
Number Re-vaccinated	—	2	8	47	57

The following is a return of the number of children resident in the Crayford area under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1951, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1936).

Year of Birth	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	Total
	148	143	257	391	240	279	271	523	621	392	395	403	350	288	36	4737

Tuberculosis.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
15	1	7	1	1	1	—	1	—
25	2	3	—	1	—	—	—	—
35	—	3	—	—	1	1	1	—
45	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	15	2	2	3	2	2	1

Chest Clinics.

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

Housing Applicants.

Special consideration is given to cases put forward by the Medical Officer of Health involving tuberculosis or other physical disability in the applicants' families and such cases are considered outside the normal points scheme.

Cases investigated during the year—44.

Applicants recommended for rehousing—8

No. of families granted houses on account of Tuberculosis—6.

TUBERCULOSIS AFTER-CARE.

It was brought to my notice that the question of appointing a separate Tuberculosis Care Committee for the Crayford District had been raised. The area was then being served by the Erith and Dartford Committees.

A Meeting was convened of Organisations interested in welfare work by the Chairman of the Crayford Urban District Council, as a result of which the Crayford District Tuberculosis Care Committee was formed in Association with the

Kent Council of Social Service, to provide comforts for patients, and their dependents, suffering from tuberculosis.

In the interests of the prevention of the spread of infection, a Lending Library was opened to supply books to patients. The Council provided a room for the accommodation of the books.

Occupational Therapy is part of the service given by the Care Committee, and a variety of hand crafts have been taken up by the patients.

The Council took the initiative in the setting up of the Committee which has proved well worth while, and much good work has been done.

WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE.

Extreme difficulty was still being experienced in 1951 in getting old people admitted to hospital who were ill and in varying degrees of destitution. Local Hospital Management Committees had plans for increasing the number of beds for old people, but the position had not improved.

A Council resolution forwarded to the Dartford and Woolwich Committees stressed the serious view taken in this matter, and urged them to take all possible steps to alleviate the position. I think it can be said that the position is, at the present stage, a little better.

Many old people living alone are finding themselves in difficulties at the present time, particularly when they are ill and unable to take care of themselves.

Old people need help in many directions. This includes the provision of home nursing, domestic help and the help of the National Assistance Board in regard to extra bedding, clothing. They also need help with their shopping and in getting to and from hospital when this is necessary. The following are a few typical cases in which help was given during the year :—

Case No. 1. This was a case of an old man aged 86 years who had been living alone since the death of his wife, in very bad conditions. The home had become extremely dirty, the

man was very ill and in need of care and attention. An effort was made to install a domestic help immediately. The man appeared to be agreeable, but when the help arrived he steadfastly refused her admission. Contact was made with the Geriatric Specialist and the patient was admitted to hospital the next day, where he died shortly afterwards.

Case No. 2. Was a man aged 80 years, who was confined to bed through illness. He had no proper bed clothing, his bed being covered with old rags and dirty old coats. Contact was made with the National Assistance Board and with the Women's Voluntary Service who provided him with quilts. The man, who was in a very serious condition, was later admitted to hospital where he died the following day.

These two cases appeared to be in the last extremity of suffering, but many old people have been assisted to a better enjoyment of life, through the help they have been given in dealing with their personal problems.

Our thanks are due to the members of the Crayford Good Neighbours Association who have regularly visited these old people in their own homes, and have assisted them in many ways referred to above. To the Women's Voluntary Service, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and Nursing Division and the British Red Cross Society thanks must also be extended.

Domestic Help.

The Kent County Council's Domestic Help Scheme has rendered invaluable assistance to old people. 65 families between the ages of 70 and 90 years have received this assistance during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Meat.

A specimen of sausage meat suspected of bacterial contamination was forwarded to the County Laboratory Examination revealed no organisms of the food poisoning group and the sample was found to be free from poisonous metals and their compounds and no evidence of putrefaction.

Cheese.

A carton of Italian cheese alleged to contain foreign matter proved on examination to contain white crystals of sodium phosphate—a harmless substance.

Bread.

Complaint was received regarding a cockroach found embedded in a loaf of bread. A warning letter was sent to the baker concerned.

Jam.

A complaint was made concerning a splinter of glass found in a jar of raspberry jam. A warning letter was sent to the manufacturers concerned.

Ham.

A sample of cooked ham forwarded for examination was found to be in a state of early decomposition and unfit for food.

Fish.

A tin of Norwegian sild alleged to have caused sickness was sent for examination but no food poisoning organisms were found.

Fruit.

Complaint was made regarding maggots in an orange. These were identified as maggots of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly (*Ceratitis Capitata*).

Ice Cream.

Contravention of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Legal proceedings were instituted against an ice cream vendor for storing ice cream in premises which were not registered and which by virtue of their unsuitability could not be registered. Defendant was fined £10.

Milk.

Licences granted by the Council under the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Supplementary :—

Tuberculin Tested, 6.

Pasteurised, 7.

Sterilized, 8.

Dealers :—

Tuberculin Tested, 4.

Pasteurised, 4.

Sterilized, 14.

Meat and Other Foods.

The following articles were found during the year to be unfit for human consumption.

Beef	...	85½ lbs.	Tinned Fish	...	8 Tins
Corned Beef	...	137¼ lbs.	Bacon	...	48½ lbs.
Pork	...	39½ lbs.	Cheese	...	35½ lbs.
Tinned Pork	...	6 Tins	Luncheon Meat	...	57 Tins
Tinned Ham	...	406 lbs.	Fruit and fruit juices	...	50 Tins
Rabbits (70)	...	147 lbs.	Beans	...	18 Tins
Chickens (34)	...	82 lbs.	Peas	...	74 Tins
Turkeys (2)	...	23 lbs.	Vegetables	...	16 Tins
Offal	...	111 lbs.	Peanut Butter	...	12 Jars
Sausages	...	6 lbs.	Jams	...	15 Tins and Jars
Tinned Sausages	...	50 Tins	Milk	...	24 Tins
Jellied Veal	...	8 lbs.	Eggs	...	49
Fish	...	413 lbs.	Miscellaneous Articles	...	26

All premises where food is stored or prepared for sale were regularly inspected and it is evident that there is growing consciousness on the part of the food traders that they have a responsibility to the public in regard to the proper handling and storage of food. During the year a number of traders installed additional refrigeration facilities and others have placed orders for refrigeration plant.

Three food premises in the area were found to have unsuitable and inadequate storage facilities. Representations were made resulting in major alterations and improvements to the premises being made.

There are no Government slaughterhouses within the area but Cottagers' Pigs are regularly examined. The number of pigs slaughtered during the year was 15, all carcasses being passed as fit for human consumption.

All restaurants and canteens were inspected from time to time during the year.

The bulk of the Ice Cream sold in the area is supplied by reputable firms and results taken during the year proved that the ice cream was generally of a high standard.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Details of Samples taken by the County Sampling Officer within the Urban District of Crayford during the year ended 31st December, 1951 :—

Article	No.	Article	No.
Acid Drops ...	1	B/fd.	30
Almonds, Ground ...	1	Kilkoff ...	1
Apricots ...	1	Koray ...	1
Aspirin ...	1	Liquafruta ...	1
Balsam ...	1	Liver Salts ...	1
Batter Mixture ...	1	Macaroni ...	1
Black Pudding ...	1	Milk ...	21
Borax ...	1	Oatmeal ...	1
Cheese ...	2	Pepper ...	1
Chicken ...	1	Pressed Beef ...	1
Chicken Noodle Soup ...	1	Rennies ...	1
Cocoanut ...	1	Rice ...	2
Condensed Milk ...	1	Sago ...	1
Cough Syrup ...	1	Sausages ...	5
Cream ...	1	Sausage Rolls ...	1
Epsom Salts ...	1	Seidlitz Powder ...	1
Eucalyptus ...	1	Skim Milk Powder ...	1
Flour ...	1	Soothing Powder ...	1
Fruit Salad ...	1	Soup ...	1
Glauber Salts ...	3	Sponge Mix ...	1
Glycerine ...	1	Throat Tablets ...	1
Glycerine and Thymol ...	1	Vinegar ...	1
Golden Spread ...	1	Whiskey ...	5
Ice Cream ...	2	Yeast Vite ...	1
Inhalent ...	1	Yoghourt Milk ...	1
Jelly Crystals ...	1	Zinc and Castor Oil Cream	1
C/fd. 30		TOTAL 88	

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

Sample of	Analysis	Action taken
Pure Glauber Salts	Consisted of exsiccated Glauber Salts	Stocks destroyed
Pure Glauber Salts	"	
Pure Glauber Salts	"	

Skim Milk Powder	Moisture 5.1% Solubility 90.6% Acidity 1.75% Deterioration sufficient for condemning.	Stocks returned to the Ministry of Food
Rybarex Inhalent	Genuine. (Formulae on Bottle and outer container do not agree)	Manufacturers notified

BYELAWS UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Under this Section two traders were warned for contravening the Byelaws, but it was not found necessary to take statutory action.

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

In my report for 1950 I referred to the Clean Food Campaign being organised in conjunction with the Boroughs of Bexley and Erith. A result of the Campaign has been the formation of a Food Traders' Guild for the three areas. Codes of Practice have been formulated and completed copies of the appropriate Codes and letters inviting membership to the Guild have been sent to the food traders.

CLEAN FOOD EXHIBITION.

A Clean Food Exhibition was held in conjunction with the Boroughs of Bexley and Erith in the Town Hall, Crayford from the 21st to 25th May, 1951. Approximately 1,000 attended. Parties of school children visited the Exhibition from the three areas under the supervision of their school teachers.

Notes on the Exhibition.

The Clean Milk Stand told the story of milk from cow to consumer; its production, cooling, transport, pasteurisation and bottling; its constituent elements and food value; and the dangers of any misuse of milk bottles by the public.

The Ice Cream Stand contained a completely self-contained exhibition unit depicting the progress which has been

made by the ice cream industry during recent years, in regard to standards of cleanliness and improvements in quality.

The Stands provided by the Ministry of Health and the Central Council for Health Education showed the causes of food poisoning illustrated by bacterial cultures, charts and photographs, etc. Personal hygiene and the protection it affords being strongly emphasised.

The exhibit of the Ministry of Food directed attention to the Model Byelaws which have been adopted by the three Authorities. The centre unit of this exhibit being a model of a street with two shops—the good shop and the bad shop—selling groceries, provisions and meat.

Preservation of Food consisted of refrigerated display cabinets containing meat and provisions and a refrigerated fish slab shown in actual working order. Also an electric refrigerator and other electrical equipment relating to cleanliness in food handling was shown.

The Health Department's exhibits dealing mainly with food inspection showed the steps taken by Local Authorities to safeguard the food supplies to the public. Illustrated by specimens.

An item which proved of great interest to the younger visitors was the Infestation Control Stand showing something of the work of the Infestation Control Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, which included, among other things, a number of live exhibits of the many pests which attack food.

A Film Unit provided by the Ministry was in operation during the week, and films appropriate to the occasion were shown.

Other exhibits were Metal in Food, a working electronic Metal Detector depicting the method of detecting minute quantities of metallic impurities in food; Welfare Foods and School Meal Service.

A fine spirit of co-operation was shown by all the exhibitors and the tastefully arranged stalls were both educational and attractive.

The Control of Rodents and other Pests.

During the year the following infestations were dealt with :—

Rats 100, Mice 51, Wasps 12, Ants 19, Woodworm 21, Miscellaneous 11.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

(1) Inspection of Dwelling-Houses.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	862
Number of inspections made for that purpose	2892
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses (included under sub-heading (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	11
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 ...	8
(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 ...	310

(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 ...	375
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One motor bus body used for human habitation was closed by arrangement with the owner.

(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Statutory Notices under Housing or Public Health Acts	14
--	----

1 (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ...	8
---	---

Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	1
---	---

Total number of houses owned by local authority	1680
---	------

Number of houses built during the year :—

(a) by the Local Authority	...	...	32
(b) by other bodies or persons	...	...	9

(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 is chlorinated on the works, but, any excess remaining after a period of contact is removed completely before the water is passed into supply.

Bacteriological analyses are carried out at least five times per week of all supplies both before and after chlorination and 100 per cent. first class results were obtained during the year.

All new and repaired mains are chlorinated before being restored to use and samples of water from them are tested to see that the quality conforms with that normally supplied before the main is passed for service.

None of the supplies is plumbo-solvent.

Water Sampling.

The following samples were sent to the County Laboratory by the Council's Sanitary Inspectors.

All the samples were reported satisfactory except two, taken from domestic supplies. In one case the Count was described as high. This related to stored water. The Storage Tank was in need of cleansing and new covers. Further samples forwarded after the tank had been cleansed and new covers provided were reported satisfactory.

The other case was a complaint of unpalatable water. The water was reported by the Analyst to contain minute quantities of copper, but insufficient to be injurious to health.

(a) Wells (drinking water), Bacteriological 24.

(b) Swimming Pool, Bacteriological 14.

(c) Domestic Supplies, Bacteriological 10.

(d) Domestic Supplies, Chemical 3.

Drainage and Sewerage.

In a number of cases minor defects were discovered in sewers and drains during the course of sewer maintenance treatments for rodent infestations, and also a number of defective drains were located, steps were immediately taken to have these put right.

Rivers and Streams.

All seasonal clearance of streams had been completed in the District. In addition the Kent River Board's mechanical excavator had been engaged in the removal of mud banks from the River Cray.

Some nuisance was occasioned in June by the dumping of tortoises into the river, and hundreds of these were removed by the Board's workmen and disposed of by the Council.

The River Cray was polluted with oil during November. The source was located and necessary action taken.

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, approximately	10,000
W.C's. into Cesspools	16
Number of premises not connected to public water supplies	0

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 1951	No. of faults and defects found	No. of faults and defects remedied
Bakehouses	1	6	0	0
Milk Shops	2	30	0	0
Other food - preparing places, which are, as such, subject to inspection	53	662	13	14

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

Overcrowding	...	...	5	Floors	...	...	168
Sanitary Accommodation :				Walls and Ceilings	...	...	338
Defective	...	...	24	Baths, Lavatory Basins			
Drainage :				and Sinks	...	...	11
(i) Repaired	...	...	73	Water Supplies	...	...	15
(ii) Cleansed	...	...	229	Doors & other woodwork			21
Refuse Receptacles	...	...	30	Other works	...	...	38
Dampness	...	...	99	Windows & Ventilation			209
Roofs and Rain Water				Accumulation of Refuse			5
Pipes	...	...	77				

Total number of visits of all kinds paid by Inspectors during the year ... 6966

Approximate number of rated premises in the area 8565

Notices served :—

Statutory	...	...	...	...	14
Informal	...	...	...	...	323
Number of houses, etc., disinfected	...	...	...	...	59

Swimming Pool.

Period open from the 12th May, to the 16th September.
Number of bathers 28,741. This figure does not include School Parties and Clubs.

Shop Acts.

Visits made during the year 285.

Smoke Abatement.

No action taken.

Eradication of the Bed Bug.

Particulars of the action taken in 1951 for the eradication of the Bed Bug are as follows :—

Number of		Infested Disinfested	
Council Houses	...	20	20
Other Houses	...	2	2

**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	13	26	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	52	138	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is en- forced by Local Autho- rity (excluding out- workers' premises)	18	9	1	—
TOTAL ...	83	173	6	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
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 ...	4	2	—	1	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	2	2	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Out-work) ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	6	4	—	2	—

(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.	16	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc. of buttons, etc.	2	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	18	—	—	—	—	—

