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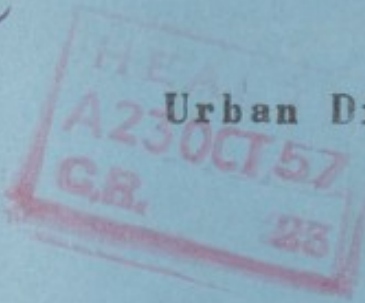
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Urban District of Crayford



## ANNUAL REPORT

of the



Medical Officer of Health

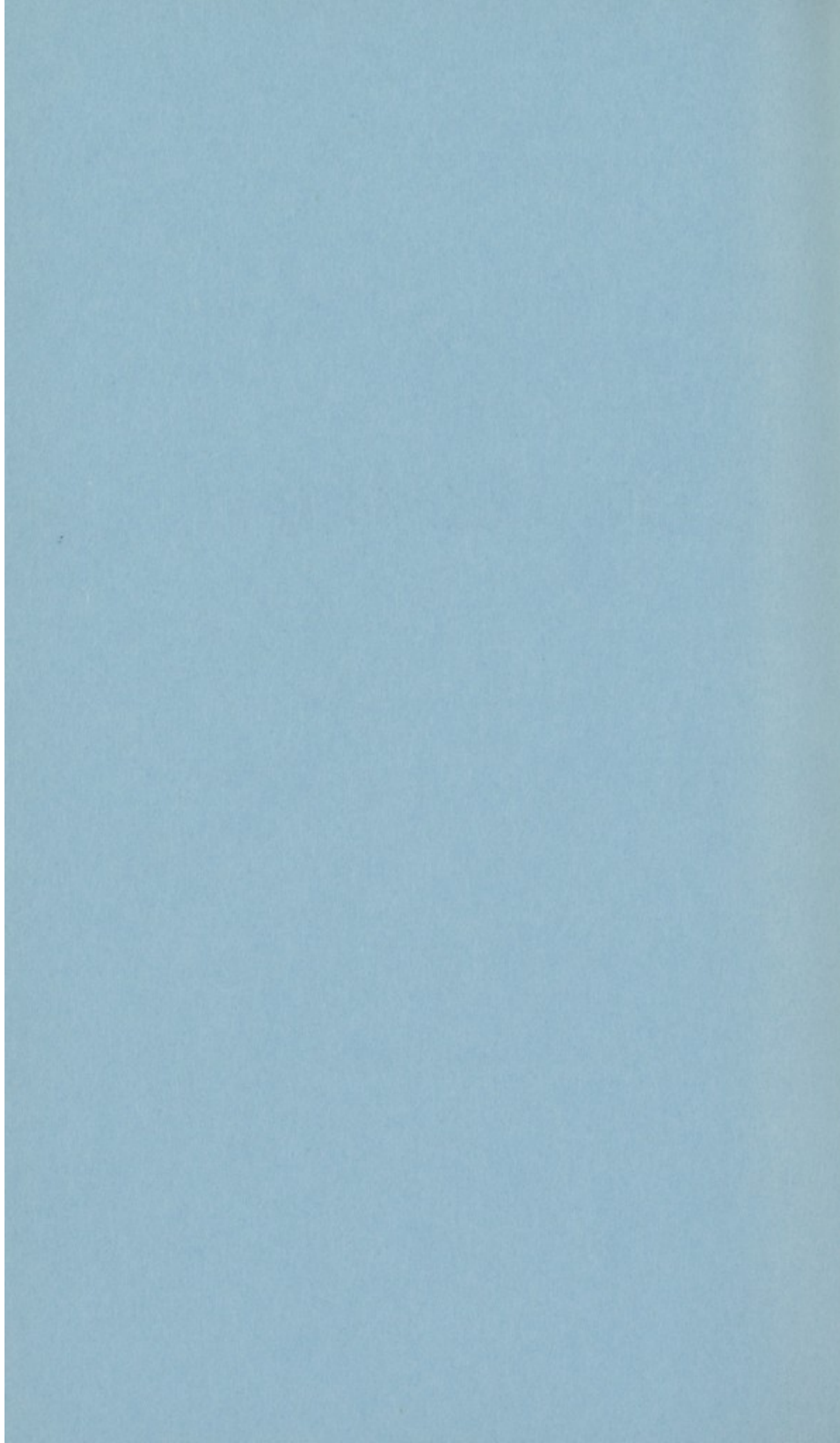
For the Year 1956

BY

JOHN LANDON

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

*Ans.*



# Urban District of Crayford



## ANNUAL REPORT

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Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1956

BY

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## MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

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Chairman: Councillor J. Kerr

### Members:

#### Councillors:

Miss M. Barrand  
N. E. Killick  
J. Nokes  
B. D. Smith

#### Councillors:

J. W. Taylor  
Mrs. I. Walker  
Mrs. E. White  
P. J. E. Boss

### Co-opted Members

Mrs. E. Fatharley

Mrs. A. E. Coston

Mr. H. Spaul

### Public Health Staff

#### Medical Officer of Health:

John Landon, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
(Joint appointment with Boroughs of Bexley and Erith)

#### Chief Public Health Inspector:

\*†\* A. W. Kent, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

#### District Public Health Inspectors:

\* R. E. Richards, Cert. R.S.I., S.I.J.B., M.A.P.H.I.,  
\* E. J. Day, A.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I. (Appointed 1.8.56)

#### Chief Clerk:

E. T. Shutte

#### Shorthand Typist/Clerk:

Mrs. E. M. Tibbles

#### Rodent Operator:

W. McCulla

\* Certificate for Inspection of Meat and other foods.

† Shops Acts Inspector.

\* Rodent Officer.

## CRAYFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Crayford.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1956.

From the standpoint of the customary vital statistics, the health of the Urban District has been well maintained. The infant mortality rate for 1956 was 23.1 per thousand live births compared with 18.3 per thousand in 1955 and an analysis of the eleven deaths shows that seven were associated with prematurity and congenital malformation, over which no significant degree of control is possible at present.

In regard to infectious disease, poliomyelitis constitutes the main challenge at the present time and little is known as to the conditions which determine whether any particular year will experience a heavy or mild incidence. In the present state of knowledge, the most direct way of eliminating cases or, alternatively, of preventing serious paralysis, is the vaccination of as many individuals as possible, and it must be borne in mind that, although children must be given priority, all age groups in the population are susceptible and vaccination may well have to be extended to adults as well. This, obviously, would introduce problems of the supply of vaccine and, also, of medical and nursing manpower to cope with the large scale of operations required. In Crayford, 91 registered children in the age group of 2 to 9 years received full inoculation during 1956 under arrangements made by the Local Health Authority. These facilities are now being extended to include children between the ages of one and two years.

Tuberculosis is a disease which from a national point of view is diminishing both in incidence and mortality and, by a combination of B.C.G., vaccination, mass radiography and modern medical and surgical treatment combined with the close supervision of infective cases within the community, it is likely that the risks from this disease could be reduced in the next



quarter of a century to a very considerable degree. In the Urban District of Crayford a study of the figures for notifications and deaths over the past 20 years shows that, while deaths have fallen considerably, notifications of new cases have not decreased but this may be due to better methods of ascertainment, e.g., by Mass Miniature Radiography. It cannot be stressed too often that tuberculosis, when associated with a serious degree of overcrowding and the presence of susceptible children, is a hazard which must constantly be borne in mind.

During 1956, a small outbreak of paratyphoid B infection was experienced in the Borough of Bexley, a small number of cases occurring, also, in the Borough of Erith and the Urban District of Crayford (3).

Cancer of the lung, which has attracted much attention in recent years because of its apparent association, inter alia, with smoking, caused two more deaths in Crayford in 1956, (12 cases) than in 1955 (10 cases), and this accords with the experience in the country as a whole in which the mortality from this disease continues to rise. In my 1955 Report I stated "In the circumstances it seems reasonable to advise young people not to take up smoking and, in the case of heavy smokers of middle age, to say that published data indicate that there may be some diminution in risk to those who give up smoking even after many years of addiction." I think this is a warning which deserves to be repeated in view of the evidence, on good authority, that smoking among late schoolagers in many parts of the country is by no means inconsiderable.

With the passing of the Clean Air Act, 1956, the prevention of atmospheric pollution received its main legislative impetus, although one should not minimise the long term nature of the project which the Act envisages and the difficult technical problems which are involved. Locally, of course, the main emphasis is on the establishment and gradual expansion of smoke control areas and the need to work in close collaboration with neighbouring authorities. Although the Urban District does not experience the worst effect of atmospheric pollution, it will be recalled that about 50 per cent of such pollution results from the domestic hearth and much foresight will be called for in the installation in new housing estates of heating appliances capable of burning smokeless fuels. The availability of these fuels is an important



aspect which is, no doubt, receiving the attention both of the Government and the various agencies concerned with their production. A comprehensive exhibition of domestic heating appliances in relation to clean air is in course of preparation by the Council at the time of writing.

The problem of health education of the public in connection with the declaration of smokeless zones is another matter which introduces the problem of staffing, and indeed, this applies to health education in general.

In my 1954 Report I stated "A good case could be made for the appointment of a Health Education Officer to serve the district or such wider area as appeared to be indicated" and I am becoming more than ever convinced that such a development may be necessary. A comprehensive policy of health education is a fairly costly matter and one of the main difficulties is the fact that health education is regarded in governmental circles as a matter for the Local Health Authority (The Kent County Council) under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, dealing with Prevention of Illness Care and After Care, and it is often forgotten that county districts also have a responsibility for this matter under Section 179 of the Public Health Act, 1936. This dichotomy of function is a real stumbling block from the point of view of instituting a full programme of health education in the Urban District. The need to disseminate accurate information on personal hygiene, on the prevention of accidents in the home and on the principles of healthy living in general, as well as on the nature and meaning of health, is becoming one of the most important aspects of health administration. This is dictated, not only by the needs of the individual but by the need also for economy in the use of the National Health Service, the cost of which is rising from year to year.

The work of the Bexley, Erith and Crayford Home Safety Committee continued with the task of spreading information in regard to causes and prevention of accidents in the home. The Rotary Club of Bexley, during the year, presented an exhibition stand to this Committee which is being used to disseminate propaganda in the form of leaflets and posters over the area. The stand was made by the Staff and boys of the Westwood County Secondary School, Welling, and our thanks are due both to the Rotary Club and the School for their help.



In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and encouragement, and the Chief Public Health Inspector, Chief Clerk and all members of the Health Department for their excellent service during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN LANDON

Medical Officer of Health

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres) . . . . .	2,698.71
Population (Registrar General's estimate mid-year 1956) ..	29,530
Number of inhabited houses . . .	9,260
Rateable Value . . . . .	£389,227
Sum represented by a penny rate.	£1,587

## Live Births

	Total	M	F
Legitimate . . . . .	465	225	240
Illegitimate . . . . .	11	6	5
	<u>476</u>	<u>231</u>	<u>245</u>

Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated home population - 16.1

General birth rate for England and Wales - 15.6

## Stillbirths

	Total	M	F
Legitimate . . . . .	6	3	3
Illegitimate . . . . .	-	-	-
	<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - 12.44

	Total	M	F
Deaths . . . . .	247	135	112

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 8.36

General death rate for England and Wales - 11.7

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 1956. The standardised Birth Rate which allows for comparison with other parts of the Country is 15.3 and the standardised Death Rate is 10.95.



# Maternal Deaths:—

There were no Maternal Deaths in 1956

## Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—

	Total	M	F
Legitimate	11	9	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>2</u>

Rate per 1,000 live births (Crayford) 23.1

Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births 23.65

General death rate of infants under 1 year of age for England and Wales 23.8

## Deaths from Various Causes.

Malignant Neoplasm (all ages)	...	46
Measles (all ages)	...	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	—

**Vital Statistics during 1956 and previous years**

Year	Population	Live Births			Deaths			Infant Deaths		
		No.	RATE		No.	RATE		No.	RATE	
		C. U. D. C.	C. U. D. C.	Eng. & W.	C. U. D. C.	C. U. D. C.	Eng. & W.	C. U. D. C.	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	21,190	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
1952	27,760	400	14.4	15.3	253	9.11	11.3	10	25.	27.6
1953	27,820	407	14.6	15.5	273	9.8	11.4	10	24.5	26.8
1954	28,150	394	13.9	15.2	227	8.06	11.3	4	10.1	25.5
1955	28,460	437	15.4	15.	220	7.7	11.7	8	18.3	24.9
1956	29,530	476	16.1	15.6	247	8.36	11.7	11	23.1	23.8

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



# SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

	England & Wales	Crayford U.D.C.
	Rates per 1,000 Home Population	
BIRTHS		
Live Births .....	15.6	16.1
Stillbirths .....	( 0.37	0.2
	( 23.0 (a)	12.4 (a)
DEATHS		
All Causes .....	11.7	8.36
Typhoid and paratyphoid .....	0.00	—
Whooping Cough .....	0.00	—
Diphtheria .....	0.00	—
Tuberculosis .....	0.12	0.1
Influenza .....	0.06	—
Smallpox .....	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (includ- ing Polioencephalitis) .....	0.00	—
Pneumonia .....	0.52	0.57
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)		
Typhoid Fever .....	0.00	—
Paratyphoid Fever .....	0.01	0.1
Meningococcal Infection ....	0.03	—
Scarlet Fever .....	0.74	1.49
Whooping Cough .....	2.07	0.85
Diphtheria .....	0.00	—
Erysipelas .....	0.10	—
Smallpox .....	—	—
Measles .....	3.59	0.24
Pneumonia .....	0.57	0.3
Acute Poliomyelitis (includ- ing Polioencephalitis) .....		
Paralytic .....	0.04	0.03
Non-paralytic .....	0.03	—
Food Poisoning .....	0.25	0.17
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	16.31 (a)	12.45 (a)

	England & Wales	Crayford U. D. C.
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births	
DEATHS		
All causes under 1 year of age .....	23.8 (b)	23.1 (b)
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age .....	.51	-

(a) Per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births

(b) Per 1,000 related Live Births

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY

	England & Wales	Crayford U. D. C.
	Rates per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	
MATERNAL MORTALITY		
Maternal causes excluding abortion	0.46	-
Due to abortion .....	0.10	-
Total maternal mortality .....	0.56	-



**Table showing Summary of Causes of Death Registered during the  
year ended 31st December, 1956**

CAUSE OF DEATH	Male	Female
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory .....	1	2
2. Tuberculosis, other .....	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease .....	1	—
4. Diphtheria .....	—	—
5. Whooping Cough .....	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections .....	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .....	—	—
8. Measles .....	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases .....	1	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach .....	5	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung & bronchus .....	10	2
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast .....	—	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus .....	—	1
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasm .....	12	11
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia .....	1	2
16. Diabetes .....	—	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system .....	16	20
18. Coronary disease, angina .....	21	14
19. Hypertension with heart disease .....	5	5
20. Other heart disease .....	11	12
21. Other circulatory disease .....	2	6
22. Influenza .....	—	—
23. Pneumonia .....	11	6
24. Bronchitis .....	15	7
25. Other diseases of respiratory system .....	2	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum .....	2	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea .....	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis .....	2	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .....	1	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .....	—	—
31. Congenital malformations .....	2	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases .....	12	7
33. Motor vehicle accidents .....	2	1
34. All other accidents .....	—	3
35. Suicide .....	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war .....	—	—
ALL CAUSES TOTAL .....	135	112

## Births

The 476 live births notified showed an increase of 39 compared with last year's figure. The birth rate per 1,000 of the population is 16.1 against 15.4 last year. The birth rate for England and Wales was 15.6.

## Deaths.

This year we recorded 247 deaths out of a population of 29,530 representing a death rate of 8.36 against 7.7 in 1955. The death rate for England and Wales was 11.7.

## Infant Deaths.

During the year 11 infants died before reaching the age of one year. There were 8 in 1955.

Rate of Infant Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births was 23.1 as against 18.3 last year. That of England and Wales was 23.8.

## PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND OTHER DISEASES

### Scarlet Fever.

During the year 44 cases were notified. Of these 2 cases were isolated in hospital. The number of cases notified in 1955 was 26.

### Diphtheria

There were no cases notified in 1956.

### Paratyphoid or Typhoid Fever

Three cases of paratyphoid B were notified during the year.

### Puerperal Pyrexia

Six cases were notified during the year.

### Neisseria meningitidis

No case was notified during the year.



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

Cause of Death as Certified	DAYS												MONTHS											Total unde 1 year
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	14	21	28	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
Broncho-pneumonia .....											1								1				2	
Prematurity .....	1	1																					2	
Atelectasis .....	1																						1	
Congenital Heart Disease .....												1											1	
Pulm. Syndrome .....							1																1	
Meningitis .....													1										1	
Basal Subarachnoid Haemorrhage .....								1															1	
Infective Septicaemia .....														1									1	
Acute Tracheo- Bronchitis .....												1											1	
TOTAL .....	2	1					1	1			1	2	1	1					1				11	

## **DISINFECTION SERVICE**

A Joint Scheme is in existence with the Bexley Borough Council for the disinfection of bedding following cases of infectious diseases, tuberculosis and cancer, and for the disinfestation of bedding of verminous persons.

In the case of tuberculosis, the service is carried out free of cost.

## **MORTUARY**

The Mortuary at Bexley is being jointly used by the Boroughs of Bexley and Erith and the Urban District of Crayford. In 1956 139 cases were dealt with, out of which 138 post mortems and 20 inquests were conducted, 17 were from Crayford and from this latter figure 17 post mortems and 1 inquest were conducted.

## **LABORATORY FACILITIES**

Pathological and bacteriological work for the area was carried out at the County Hall, Maidstone, through the Public Health Laboratory Service.

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

### **Scarlet Fever.**

During the year 44 cases were notified. Of these 2 cases were isolated in hospital. The number of cases notified in 1955 was 28.

### **Diphtheria.**

There were no cases notified in 1956.

### **Paratyphoid or Typhoid Fever.**

Three cases of paratyphoid B were notified during the year.

### **Puerperal Pyrexia.**

Six cases were notified during the year.

### **Meningococcal Infection.**

No case was notified during the year, there were none in 1955.



### **Food Poisoning**

Five cases were notified during the year.

### **Measles**

The number of cases notified in 1956 was 7. The number of cases notified in 1955 was 816.

### **Whooping Cough**

25 cases were notified during the year. The number of cases notified in 1955 was 44.

### **Acute Poliomyelitis**

One case was notified in 1956. This was a Paralytic case and was treated in hospital.

### **Ophthalmia Neonatorum**

No cases were notified during the year.

### **Dysentery**

Two cases were notified during the year.

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

Diseases	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Deaths
Smallpox .....	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever .....	44	2	—
Diphtheria .....	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever .....	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever .....	3	3	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	6	—	—
Pneumonia .....	9	7	—
Erysipelas .....	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection .....	—	—	—
Measles .....	7	—	—
Whooping Cough .....	25	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	—	—	—
Dysentery .....	2	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) .....	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis (Non-paralytic) .....	—	—	—
Encephalitis .....	—	—	—
Food Poisoning .....	5	3	—
Totals:	102	16	—

# 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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	1	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	1	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
3	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	1	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 9	14	20	-	-	10	5	-	3	-	-	-	-
10 - 14	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Total (All ages)	17	27	-	-	15	10	2	5	-	1	-	-

	Enteric or Typhoid Fevers		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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total (All ages)	-	-	-	3	4	5	2	-	-	-	-	-



Age Groups - continued

	Erysipelas		Smallpox		Food Poisoning			M	F
	M	F	M	F	M	F			
0 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	Puerperal Pyrexia .....	—	6
5 .....	—	—	—	—	1	—	Ophthalmia neonatorum	—	—
15 .....	—	—	—	—	1	2			
45 .....	—	—	—	—	—	1			
65 and over .....	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Total (All Ages)	—	—	—	—	2	3			

# **Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1956**

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, 1956.

## **(A) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION**

Year of Birth	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	Total
Primary Inoculations	42	248	44	2	10	4	5	3	4	11	1	-	-	-	-	374
Re-inforcing Inoculations	-	-	-	-	3	36	201	54	7	138	202	36	3	3	1	684

## **(B) VACCINATION**

Year of Birth	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	Before 1942	Total
Primary Vaccination	155	88	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	13	263
Re-vaccination	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	22	26

The following is a return of the number of children resident in the Crayford area under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1956, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1942).

Year of Birth	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1952-1956...	25	85	121	118	290	363	259	373	480	156	246	271	296	268	42	3393
1951 or earlier.....	266	153	185	255	243	59	57	147	74	18	—	—	—	—	—	1457



## Tuberculosis

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
25	4	1	-	1	-	1	-	-
45	8	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
65 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	14	4	1	2	1	2	-	-

### 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 - 28

Applicants recommended for rehousing - 5

No. of families granted houses on account of Tuberculosis - 5

Other reasons - 2

### CRAYFORD TUBERCULOSIS CARE COMMITTEE

The Crayford Tuberculosis Care Committee in association with the Kent Council of Social Service has continued to function during the year. The number of cases assisted was 27, including 7 new cases. Clothing, coal supplies and fares to visit relatives in Sanatoria had once again formed the bulk of the assistance given by the Committee. This number was, once again lower than last year.

Occupational therapy continues to progress satisfactorily, and it was felt that this aspect of the Committee's work was well worthwhile.



The result of the Christmas Seals Sale, after deduction of administrative expenses, as reported by the Organiser to the Annual General Meeting amounted to £87.10s.4d.

The County Organiser, Health Visitor, Chest physician and District Officer have given invaluable service to the Committee.

### WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE

This continued to provide an increasing demand on the services of the Health Department and the Crayford Old Peoples Welfare Committee. Many cases brought to the notice of the Department by the Committee Visitors and otherwise discovered, have been visited by the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Public Health Inspector. Arrangements have been made for entry into Old peoples Homes where this has been possible.

The Visiting Service carried out by the Crayford Old Peoples Welfare Committee continues to flourish. Help is given to the old folk with clothing and small home comforts, gifts of tea and sugar. Two wheelchairs, one purchased by the Committee and one donated to the Committee, both for the purpose of loaning out to old people, are used extensively.

Many services have been rendered to elderly people and much assistance is given by other Voluntary Organisations to the Old Peoples Welfare Committee. Last offices have been carried out by Visitors.

Close co-operation is maintained with the Kent County Council's District Officer, the National Assistance Board, the Women's Voluntary Service, the St. John Ambulance Brigade and Nursing Division and Red Cross.



## CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

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 1956, which gives a general summary of the work carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during the year.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The inspection of food plays an important part in the activities of the Health Department, and regular visits are paid to all food premises, particular attention being paid to those premises where food is prepared for sale. In this connection a total of 937 inspections were carried out, 278 of which were to premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The number of food premises in the area is as follows:-

Bakers 4; Butchers 16; Grocers 58; Greengrocers 19; Confectioners 26; Fishmongers 8; Cafes, canteens, etc. 34; Public Houses 19; Off Licences 3; Clubs 12; Other premises 24.

Under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, 56 premises are registered for the storage and sale of Ice Cream and 19 for the manufacture or preparation of preserved food intended for sale.

#### Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

Since the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, a most comprehensive survey of all food premises has been carried out resulting in a general raising of standards in the district. Co-operation on the part of the traders themselves greatly assisted your Public Health Inspectors, who have continued to give advice on matters relating to food and general hygiene. A total of 217 informal notices were served in connection with this work.

The following complaints were received and dealt with during the year:-

A piece of liquorice novelty together with a small piece of wire alleged to have been contained therein, formed the basis



of one complaint. The firm in question employed the use of a metal detection machine and could only assume that a temporary failure of the device was the cause.

Alleged foreign matter contained in a sliced white loaf was identified as coarse stringy fluff from a flour bag and was stated to have been introduced into the loaf by the slicing machine.

Greyish streaks in another loaf were ascertained to be caused by fragments of discoloured flour paste incorporated in the crumb; a harmless effect.

Dark coloured material in a breakfast cereal was reported as being crushed wheat from the machinery.

In all the above complaints it was deemed not necessary to take any further action, but a serious view was taken and warnings issued in respect of the following:-

Mould growth in a small sliced loaf was due to an unusually long delay between baking and delivery.

A sausage roll containing mould had been retained too long by the retailer. New stocks, it appeared, had been sold before the existing stock had been cleared, resulting in a disturbance of the normal rotation. A pork pie from a different establishment had become mouldy for the same reason.

A plastic fruit juice container had lost its contents and contained only mould. This was due to sulphur dioxide loss through the skin. The container was, however, stated by the manufacturers to have been old stock, and the remainder of the consignment had been withdrawn.

### Meat and Other Foods

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

Beef	242 lbs.	Cooked Ham	21½ lbs.
Lamb	24½ lbs.	Luncheon Meat	69½ lbs.
Offal	27½ lbs.	Corned Beef	92½ lbs.
Tinned Fish	4¼ lbs.	Jellied Veal	19 lbs.
Fish	168 lbs.	Tinned Fruit	55½ lbs.
Bacon	7 lbs.	Tinned Vegetables	14½ lbs.
Tinned Meat	2 lbs.	Jam	1½ lbs.
Cheese	5 lbs.	Miscellaneous	18 lbs.



The bulk of the food condemned was unfit for salvage and had to be destroyed, but where possible, it is the practice to use condemned food for animal feeding.

### Slaughterhouses

There are no slaughterhouses in the area, but one existing slaughterhouse building previously in use was the subject of an application for re-registration of the premises. This was refused, the applicant appealing against the Council's decision at a later date but finally withdrawing his appeal just prior to the hearing.

### Milk

Licences granted by the Council under the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949/1953.

Supplementary:-

Tuberculin Tested	8
Pasteurised	8
Sterilised	10

Dealers:-

Tuberculin Tested	7
Pasteurised	8
Sterilised	29

29 samples of milk were submitted to the County Laboratory as follows:-

Tuberculin Tested	11
Pasteurised	11
Sterilised	7

All satisfied the prescribed tests.

### ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT) REGULATIONS 1947 - 1952

There is only one manufacturer of ice cream in the area, and as a complete cold mix is used, heat treatment is not necessary.

56 samples of ice cream submitted for examination during the year were graded as follows -

Grade I	42
Grade II	11
Grade III	1
Grade IV	2

# FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Details of samples taken by the County Sampling Officers within the Urban District of Crayford during the year ended 31st December, 1956.

Article	No.	Article	No.
Adexolin Capsules ...	1	B/fd.	31
Antibiotic Lozenges ...	2	Marzipan ...	2
Beef Sausages ...	1	Milk ...	22
Blackcurrants in Syrup	1	Milk Bread ...	1
Boracic Powder ...	1	Milk Loaf ...	1
Corn for Home Popping	1	Peeled Tomatoes ...	1
Cranberry Jelly ...	1	Phenolphthalein ...	1
Cream Wafers ...	1	Pork Chipolatas ...	1
Curry Powder ...	1	Pork Sausages ...	3
Custard Powder ...	1	Proflavine Tablets ...	1
Dessert Strawberries ..	1	proflavine Emulsion ..	1
Easton's Tablets ...	1	Puff Pastry ...	1
Fancy Fruit Malt Loaf .	1	Pure Lemon Juice ...	1
Fresh Salmon Fish Cakes	3	Pure Malt Vinegar ...	1
Gin ...	2	Raspberry Jam ...	1
Grape Nuts ...	1	Rice Pudding ...	1
Green Beans, sliced ..	1	Snofrute Fruit Ices ..	1
Gruyere Cheese ...	1	Stabilised Calcium	
Ice Cream ...	3	Aspirin ...	1
Kwik Set ...	1	Sugar Puffs ...	1
Lemon Curd ...	1	Sultanas ...	1
Linctus Codeine ...	1	Tablets Phenacetin et	
Linctus Simplex ...	1	Caffein ...	1
Liquorice Rolls ...	1	Tobler-o-Rum ...	1
Marmalade ...	1	Vick Vapour Rub ...	1
		Vinegar ...	1
C/fd.	<u>31</u>	Total:	<u>78</u>

## SUMMARY

Milk ...	22
Drugs ...	13
Spirits ...	2
Other Samples ..	41
	<u>78</u>



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

Sample of	Analysis	Action taken
Pork	Fat 32%, Lean 31%, total meat	Makers
Chipolatas	63%. Sulphite none. Fat more than lean. Slightly low in meat.	warned
Fresh Salmon	The coating consisting of bread-crumbs, etc., amounted to about 30% of the whole. Of the inside the ratio of salmon to potato was approximately 2 : 3.	Makers
Fish Cakes		warned
Fresh Salmon	Fish 45%, Bread or similar filler	Makers
Fish Cakes	30%, Potato 20%. Advertisement not justified.	warned

### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

The problem of atmospheric pollution still persists, cement dust and industrial smoke being the chief offenders. Although the Council have carried out schemes to instal modern fuel burning appliances in their older properties, the modern fire still presents a problem by emitting too much smoke and unless householders are prepared to use only smokeless types of fuel, providing of course ample supplies were available, unsatisfactory conditions will no doubt prevail. Complete smokeless zones would naturally play a great part in eliminating the general pollution of the atmosphere.

### CONTROL OF RODENTS AND OTHER PESTS

During the year the following infestations were dealt with:-

Rats 101, Mice 58, Woodworm 10, Bugs 5, Miscellaneous 9.

### HOUSING STATISTICS

#### (1) Inspection of Dwelling Houses

- (1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)

Number of inspections made for that purpose

274

815

(2) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-heading (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations	-
Number of inspections made for that purpose	-
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	170
<b>(2) Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal Notices</b>	
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers	125
<b>(3) Action under Statutory Powers during the year</b>	
Statutory Notices under Housing or Public Health Acts	-
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after serving of formal notices:-	
(a) By owners	-
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	-
Proceedings under Housing Act, 1936:-	
(a) Demolition Orders made under Section II	-
(b) Parts of buildings closed under Section 12	-
(c) Houses demolished	
(i) in pursuance of Demolition Orders	8
(ii) by agreement with owner	3
<b>(4) Action under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953</b>	
Number of houses closed	-



## **(5) 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.

Total number of houses owned by local authority ... 2,450

Number of houses built during year:-

(a) by the Local Authority ... 88

(b) by other bodies or persons ... 134

## **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 for all supplies both before and after chlorination.

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 Public Health Inspectors.

Samples of water taken by the Department and forwarded to the County Laboratory for examination have all been reported satisfactory with the exception of 3 samples taken from domestic supplies. In two cases pipes were relaid after which samples proved satisfactory.

(a) Wells (drinking water), Bacteriological - 8

(b) Swimming Pool, Bacteriological - 10

(c) Domestic Supplies, Bacteriological - 12

Chemical - 1

### **Water Supply.**

Approximately 0.75 mile mains extension.

### **Drainage and Sewerage**

Normal sewerage extension to serve new housing development.

### **Housing Plans**

The building of houses is in progress at Schemes Nos. 36 & 40 and when completed will provide 297 living units. A further 98 dwellings are proposed on other schemes.

## **REPORT OF KENT RIVER BOARD**

### **Rivers and Streams**

During the Summer the River Cray was dredged by mechanical excavator over a distance of approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile upstream of Crayford Bridge. This work was followed in the later Summer by hand clearance of weeds etc. from Vitbe Mills to the Crayford boundary.

The Board's main marsh dykes on the Crayford Marsh received their annual cleansing and additional hand excavation has been necessary on a length of dyke into which the Council have constructed a surface water drainage outfall from the Slade Green housing site.

Clearance of the River Wansunt has been effected.

### **Closet Accommodation**

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

W.C.'s into drainage system, approximately	...	11,352
W.C.'s into Cesspools	... ..	20
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.



## Nuisances and defects remedied during the year

Sanitary Accommodation	Baths, Lavatory basins	
Defective ... .. 19	and sinks ... .. 6	
Drainage:	Water Supplies	42
(i) examined,	Doors and other woodwork	3
exposed etc. ... 88	Windows, lighting and	
(ii) repaired ... 30	ventilation ... 23	
(iii) unstopped, etc., 176	Offensive Accumulations	
Refuse Receptacles	removed	7
Dampness	Other defects	19
Roofs and Rain Water		
pipes ... .. 37		
Fireplaces, grates and		
stoves repaired or		
improved ... .. 6		
Floors, walls and		
ceilings repaired		
or renewed ... .. 33		
Total number of visits of all kinds paid by Inspectors		
during the year		7,916
Approximate number of rated premises in the area		9,865
Notices served:-		
Statutory		-
Informal		170
Number of houses etc. disinfected		24

## Swimming Pool

Period open from the 12th May to the 9th September.

Number of bathers 21,643. This figure does not include School Parties and Clubs.

## Shops Acts

A total of 106 visits were made during the year. It was found necessary to call upon the owner of one shop to repair and re-decorate sanitary accommodation.

## Smoke Abatement

No action taken.

## Eradication of the Bed Bug

Particulars of the action taken in 1956 for the eradication of the Bed Bug are as follows:-

Number of	Infested	Disinfested
Council Houses	4	4
Other Houses	1	1

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

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

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of _____		
		Inspection (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .....	11	23	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....	63	138	6	-
(iii) Other Premises in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) .....	12	13	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>-</b>



## 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)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred 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	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	18	4	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</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.	23	-	-	-	-	-

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. W. KENT

Chief Public Health Inspector



2. Cases in which Defects were found  
(Sections 110 and 111)

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found					Number of cases in which defects were found
	Found	Remedied	To H. M. To	Referred	By H. M. By	
Section 110	Section 110					Section 111
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S. 2)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable persons (S. 3)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	-	-	-	-	23	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 5)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)	-	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsanitary	-	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	18	4	-	-	1	-