

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

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# The Health of Ealing

in the year

1959

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health

**WILLIAM G. BOOTH, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.,**  
Medical Officer of Health.  
Town Hall,  
Ealing, W.5.  
Telephone: Ealing 3030.



STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

M. A. M. S. Chief, D.P.H. Health  
 Deputy Medical Officer of Health  
 G. T. H. Blackie, Medical Officer of Health  
 Chief Public Health Inspector  
 G. T. H. Blackie, Medical Officer of Health  
 Chief Public Health Inspector  
 C. W. Baxter  
 E. V. Budd

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## STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

William G. Booth .. ..	Medical Officer of Health M. D. , B. S. , D. P. H.
I. H. Seppelt .. ..	Deputy Medical Officer of Health M. A. , M. B. , B. Chir. , D. P. H.
G. T. H. Blackie Retired July	Chief Public Health Inspector
E. Belfield Appointed July	Chief Public Health Inspector
E. H. Evans .. ..	Public Health Inspector
C. W. Baxter .. ..	" " "
E. W. Budd .. ..	" " "
A. E. Pooley .. ..	" " "
G. O. Axon .. ..	" " "
A. C. Bamping .. ..	" " "
N. V. Saunders .. ..	" " "
L. E. Bowskill Appointed July	" " "
J. A. Crisp Appointed July	" " "
A. S. M. Pratt .. ..	Chief Administrative Assistant (Part-time) Barrister-at-Law
Miss D. E. McKenzie ..	Secretary to Medical Officer of Health
E. S. Leggatt .. ..	Clerk
D. R. A. Smith .. ..	"
Miss S. Fox .. ..	"
Mrs. D. Barker .. ..	Clerk and Typist
Mrs. M. G. Byford .. ..	Shorthand Typist
R. M. Newbury .. ..	Trainee Public Health Inspector
M. L. Aldridge Appointed July	Trainee Public Health Inspector
R. S. Cox .. ..	Assistant Rodent Officer
R. Lazzolo .. ..	Rodent Operative
F. Bedley .. ..	" "
L. B. Radford .. ..	Driver/Disinfector
E. Sheldrick .. ..	" "

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

The year 1959 has been one of consistent progress in the carrying out of the programmes laid down by the Council and I am glad to be able to report that we have had no major epidemics, nor any substantial set-backs in our work.

The Clear Food policy of the Council has been most successful in its effect on the general outlook of traders and workers in industry and there is little doubt that our continual propaganda through school leavers and food workers is having a substantial effect.

The continued drop in Tuberculosis deaths is most satisfactory and there is every reason to hope that within a very short space of time this disease will no longer be one of any considerable concern as a public health problem.

One of the major developments in Public Health throughout the whole country has been the establishment of Clean Air Zones, and since Ealing is included among the 'black areas' as far as atmospheric pollution is concerned, we have taken our full share in establishing a programme which is being implemented year by year in specified portions of the district. Every new zone is a step forward in the general picture which we must achieve as soon as possible. Details of our own schemes are included in the bulk of the Report and will, I am sure, be found of interest to members of the Council.

As previously, some outline of the general health services carried out on an area basis is given, since it is the Borough Council's duty to take cognisance of all health matters within their boundary and, since the Royal Commission on the Re-Organisation of Local Government in Greater London may well affect the health services in Ealing, it is desirable that the particulars of the present services should be kept before you.

During 1959 we lost the services of our Chief Health Inspector, Mr. G. T. H. Blackie, who has retired after forty years service, and who had been in the service of the Borough for thirty years. This was naturally a great loss to the Health Department, but you will be glad to know that Mr. Blackie is now in good health and is finding much pleasure in his retirement. It is a matter of extreme gratification that in the Local Government Service men of the calibre of George Blackie are giving such excellent service to the community and are prepared to devote their



lives to Local Authority Service. We wish him every happiness and a long life to enjoy his well earned retirement.

During the year a number of developments in connection with Old People's care have been inaugurated, particularly in the field of Old People's Workshops and Chiropody - details of these are given in the Report. The Council are always most appreciative of the voluntary work given in the organisation of these services and I have always been most fortunate in having the fullest co-operation from the bodies dealing with it. We have been hoping for some time to introduce a Rest and Treatment Centre for the elderly and we feel this might cover a need in dealing with some of the conditions which cannot at present be dealt with by General Practitioners. Through the agency of a special centre for physiotherapy and other treatments, with the backing of the Council and with the approval of the Ministry of Health, there now seems every prospect that during 1960 we may be able to make substantial progress in establishing such a Centre. It is still too early to talk of the potential that may be explored as a result of this scheme, but there would seem good grounds for attempting to try such an experiment in a Borough such as Ealing where so many experimental schemes have been tried and where so many have been successful in the past. The gaps made in the overall picture of medical services by the division of medicine into the hospital, practitioner and local authority services, need to be filled and this may well be one of the links needed to improve the present availability of treatment facilities among the elderly. The Council will, I am sure watch the progress of the experiment with great interest.

May I express my appreciation of the excellent services given by all the members of the health staff during the year. I am much indebted personally to all of them.

Your obedient servant,

W. G. BOOTH,

Medical Officer of Health.

**SECTION 1****INFECTIOUS DISEASES****CONTROL**

The diseases notifiable under the Public Health Act, 1936, are smallpox, cholera, diphtheria, membranous croup, erysipelas, scarlet fever, typhus, typhoid, enteric and relapsing fever. The Minister of Health has also made regulations under this Act whereby the following diseases are notifiable: plague, poliomyelitis, tuberculosis, puerperal pyrexia, ophthalmia neonatorum, malaria, dysentery, acute primary pneumonia, acute influenzal pneumonia, measles, whooping cough, acute encephalitis and meningococcal infection. Food Poisoning is notifiable under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act of 1955, and Gastroenteritis under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, made under this Act.

2,844 cases of Infectious Disease were notified in the Borough during the year. Of these 6 were proved not to have suffered from the disease for which they were originally notified, reducing the corrected number of cases of Infectious Disease during the year to 2,838.

**DIPHThERIA.**

There were no cases.

During the year 2,204 primary immunisations were given either at Clinics or by General Practitioners and 1,798 booster doses. 1,725 children under one year had primary immunisations which means that approximately 73% of children in their first year of life were immunised in Ealing.

**DYSENTERY.**

194 cases were notified compared with 244 in 1958.

**ERYSIPELAS.**

9 cases were notified.

**FOOD POISONING.**

37 cases were notified. The causative organism was identified in 13 cases. The higher number of notifications was due to an outbreak which occurred following a private staff party in another district but a number of the employees lived in this Borough.

**MALARIA.**

No cases.

**MEASLES.**

1,928 cases were notified compared with 985 in the previous year. Epidemics of measles usually occur every two years and 1959 was expected to be an epidemic year.

**MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION.**

Two cases were notified.

**OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.**

Three cases occurred, all cleared up, however, without impairment to vision.

**PNEUMONIA.**

154 cases were notified. This is almost the same as in the previous year. 61 males died and 62 females died.

**POLIOMYELITIS.**

No cases were notified.

Immunisation against Poliomyelitis has continued, arrangements being made for this to be done by family doctors, at clinics, or at places of work, whichever is the most satisfactory arrangement. During the year 1,974 immunisations were given at factories by the staff of the Area Health Department.

The figures for vaccination in Ealing from the beginning of the scheme until the end of the year are:-

**No. vaccinated  
with two doses**

**Group**

32,613

6 months - 15 years.

6,933

16 years - 26 years.

2,275

Expectant mothers.

420

Other, (i.e. ambulance staff,  
medical students etc.).

It is estimated that 82% of children up to 15 years of age have been immunised with two doses.

By the end of the year 35,221 third doses had been given.

**PUERPERAL PYREXIA.**

37 notifications were received compared with 67 in 1958. Two occurred in home confinements and the remainder in hospitals.

**SCARLET FEVER.**

269 cases were notified against 232 in 1958.

**SMALLPOX.**

No cases occurred but 8 persons were kept under surveillance on landing from ships in which a case had been reported.

**TUBERCULOSIS.**

There were 105 pulmonary notifications, 73 males and 32 females. There were 5 male non-pulmonary cases and 5 female non-pulmonary cases. There were 5 pulmonary deaths and 1 non-pulmonary death, in 1958 there were 10 pulmonary deaths and no non-pulmonary deaths.

**WHOOPIING COUGH.**

There were 80 notifications, practically the same as in the previous year. 1,240 infants were immunised against Whooping Cough in Ealing in 1959.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Periods	New Cases																							
	Pulmonary												Non-Pulmonary											
	1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	3	1	1	-	2	1	4	1	1	2	1	2	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	1	2	1	1	2	5	4	1	1	1	4	-	-	2	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	13	24	16	14	14	21	16	12	16	10	10	10	1	2	2	3	2	-	1	1	-	1	1	1
25 - 44	23	26	21	26	22	21	18	12	20	12	24	11	1	4	2	4	1	4	2	6	3	1	1	1
45 - 64	23	11	23	7	29	9	26	5	23	5	31	4	1	3	1	2	4	1	3	1	2	1	3	-
Over 65	3	2	6	3	4	4	12	2	4	2	3	5	-	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	3
Total	66	66	68	51	73	61	80	33	65	32	73	32	5	12	10	14	8	5	6	9	5	3	5	5

Age Periods	Deaths																							
	Pulmonary												Non-Pulmonary											
	1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959		1954		1955		1956		1957		1958		1959	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	3	2	3	1	1	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 64	5	3	5	-	11	2	6	3	2	2	1	2	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Over 65	4	2	6	1	5	2	6	2	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1
Total	12	7	4	3	17	4	13	7	5	5	2	3	-	1	3	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	1

## SECTION 2

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH

## WATER.

There are three sources of supply in the Borough. The Northolt, Greenford North, Greenford Central and Greenford South Wards, most of Perivale Ward and part of Hanger Hill Ward are supplied by the Rickmansworth and Uxbridge Valley Water Company with the exception of four roads (in part) in the Perivale Ward and one road (in part) in the Hanger Hill Ward which are served by the Colne Valley Water Company. The remainder of the Borough is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. These supplies are not subject to plumbo-solvent action and have been satisfactory both in quantity and quality. Water from public mains is supplied to 53,343 houses with an estimated population of 182,700.

12 samples were taken from wells at 5 factories in the Borough using water from deep borings ranging in depth from 300 to 600 feet. One sample was not completely satisfactory but two further samples taken from the same source proved to be satisfactory.

One sample was taken from the mains supply to a private house following the receipt of a complaint and was found to be satisfactory.

The fluoride content of Ealing water is in no part of the Borough above the level of 1 part per million. This is the level at which drinking water can be beneficial to dental caries, a fact which has been well demonstrated in the United States and Canada, which, together with eleven other countries have water fluoridation schemes.

In the United Kingdom there are at present three areas where fluorine is being added to the water supply, but no report has yet been issued. The cost in the United Kingdom has varied between approximately 3½d. and 7½d. per head, which is indeed small compared with the cost of dental services (approximately £1 per head).

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The soil sewerage from the district flows to the West Middlesex Drainage Works at Mogden. The surface water finds its way out of the district by the various water courses.

21 premises are still not connected to the Council's sewers.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.**

No. of inspections .. .. .	322
No. of samples taken:	
(1) By County Engineer .. .. .	27
(a) Satisfactory .. .. .	8
(b) Unsatisfactory .. .. .	19
(2) By Public Health Inspectors .. .. .	-
(a) Satisfactory .. .. .	-
(b) Unsatisfactory .. .. .	-
No. of drainage defects remedied:	
(a) In factories .. .. .	6
(b) In houses .. .. .	13

The sources of pollution can be analysed as follows:-

Sinks and handbasins and baths .. ..	15
W. Cs. .. .. .	-
Industrial Wastes .. .. .	2
Soil sewers and drains .. .. .	2

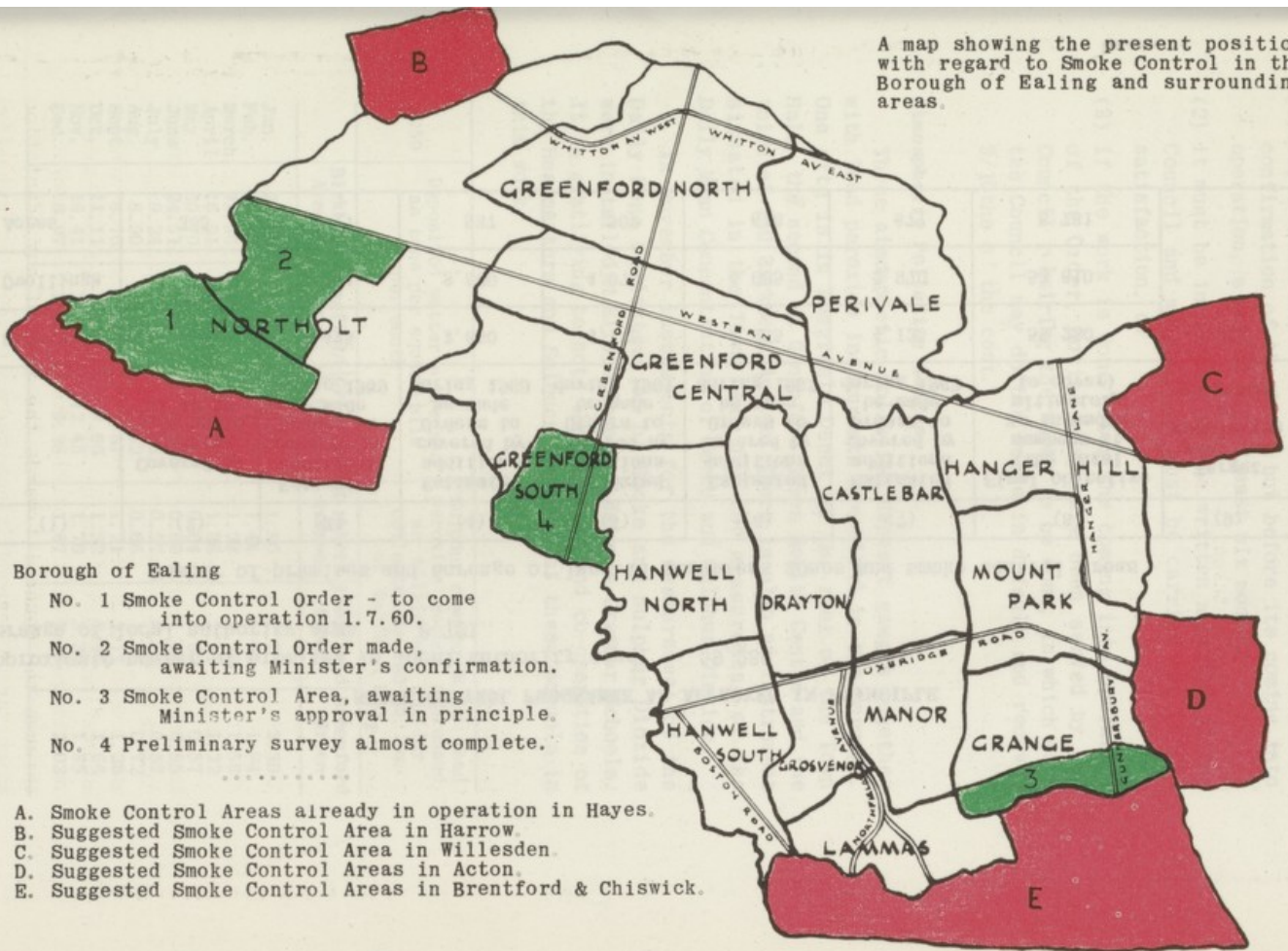
**ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.****Clean Air Act, 1956 - Smoke Control Areas.**

The Ealing (No. 1) Smoke Control Order (referred to in the 1958 Annual Report) comes into operation on 1st July, 1960. A further Smoke Control Order was made by the Council during the year and it now awaits the Minister's confirmation. It is proposed that this Order shall come into operation on 1st October, 1960. The area covered by this Order adjoins the No. 1 Area in Northolt. A survey of premises in South Ealing for a third area was also completed and the Minister's approval in principle is awaited. An area in Greenford is at present under inspection for a fourth area. (See map on page 13).

At the present rate of progress it is hoped to cover the whole of the Borough in about 15 years (See table on page 14).

When Smoke Control Orders come into operation it is an offence to permit the emission of smoke from chimneys caused by the burning of other than authorised fuels. In many cases, in order to burn these fuels replacement or adaptation of existing grates will be required. Grants amounting to 7/10ths of the expenditure are available through the Council towards the cost of any adaptation which may be reasonably necessary. It should be emphasised that in order to qualify for this grant:-

A map showing the present position with regard to Smoke Control in the Borough of Ealing and surrounding areas.



Borough of Ealing

- No. 1 Smoke Control Order - to come into operation 1.7.60.
- No. 2 Smoke Control Order made, awaiting Minister's confirmation.
- No. 3 Smoke Control Area, awaiting Minister's approval in principle.
- No. 4 Preliminary survey almost complete.

- A. Smoke Control Areas already in operation in Hayes.
- B. Suggested Smoke Control Area in Harrow.
- C. Suggested Smoke Control Area in Willesden.
- D. Suggested Smoke Control Areas in Acton.
- E. Suggested Smoke Control Areas in Brentford & Chiswick.



**SMOKE CONTROL PROGRAMME AS APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE**

Approximate number of premises in local authority area - 59,280.

Acreage of local authority area - 8,781.

Number of premises and acreage of land in smokeless zones and smoke control areas

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
	Covered by Orders made up to 31.12.58	Estimated additions covered by Orders to be made during 1959	Estimated additions covered by Orders to be made during 1960	Estimated additions covered by Orders to be made during 1961	Estimated additions covered by Orders to be made during 1962	Estimated additions covered by Orders to be made during 1963	Final objective (the total numbers it is intended ultimately to cover)	Target year for completion of programme
Premises	1,324	3,475	3,860	4,165	4,255	4,125	59,280	1974
Dwellings	1,303	3,364	3,800	4,070	4,085	3,970	53,610	
Acres	385	617	537	509	618	677	8,781	

- (1) expenditure on adaptation must be incurred after confirmation of the Order but before its coming into operation, a period of at least six months,
- (2) it must be incurred with the written approval of the Council and adaptations must be carried out to its satisfaction, or
- (3) if the work is done after the coming into operation of the Order, notice must have been served by the Council requiring the works to be done, in which case the Council may do the works in default and recover 3/10ths of the cost.

#### Atmospheric Pollution Gauges.

Three atmospheric pollution deposit gauges together with lead peroxide instruments are sited in the Borough. One site is in Longfield Depot at the rear of the Town Hall, the second at Greenford Green Health Centre and the third at 140 Birkbeck Avenue. There is also an instrument situated in the Town Hall for the measurement of the Daily Mean Concentration of Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide.

In November instruments for the measurement of the Daily Mean Concentration of Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide were installed at Eliots Green and Walpole Grammar Schools. It is gratifying to note the interest and co-operation of the Headmasters and Science Teachers of these schools in this work.

1959	Deposited matter expressed as tons per square mile per month			Sulphur compounds by lead peroxide method expressed as milligrams SO <sub>2</sub> /day collected by 100 sq. cm. of Batch A PbO <sub>2</sub>		
	Birkbeck Avenue	Longfield Depot	Greenford Green	Birkbeck Avenue	Longfield Depot	Greenford Green
Jan.	25.58	12.64	12.02	1.80	2.75	2.30
Feb.	9.40	16.21	7.85	1.44	3.03	1.94
March	42.36	17.18	11.81	1.23	2.18	1.58
April	16.91	12.57	9.23	1.36	2.11	1.22
May	60.70	13.04	7.18	0.64	1.62	0.57
June	24.51	10.58	6.91	0.69	1.04	0.55
July	9.24	8.50	7.35	0.57	0.94	0.63
Aug.	6.90	7.77	3.52	0.66	1.28	0.72
Sept.	6.70	10.61	4.87	1.21	2.17	1.28
Oct.	11.11	13.64	9.60	1.32	2.47	1.66
Nov.	16.41	18.74	12.45	1.76	3.30	1.85
Dec.	8.97	14.54	9.26	1.67	3.18	2.03

## Average Monthly Concentrations of Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide

1959	Smoke in Milligrammes per 100 cubic metres			Sulphur Dioxide in parts per hundred million		
	Town Hall	Eliots Green School	Walpole Grammar School	Town Hall	Eliots Green School	Walpole Grammar School
Jan.	30.9			11.5		
Feb.	31.17			15.3		
March	15.18			8.5		
April	11.0			7.0		
May	8.0			5.4		
June	6.0			4.9		
July	5.0			3.1		
Aug.	4.0			3.6		
Sept.	10.0			5.9		
Oct.	13.0			8.0		
Nov.	24.0	22	20	10.0	8.4	8.7
Dec.	11.0	10	20	6.3	5.3	7.6

**FOOD HYGIENE.**

The excellent co-operation between Food Handlers and the Public Health Department, as reported in previous years, continues and again no legal proceedings were necessary to enforce the Food Hygiene Regulations.

This year is the 10th anniversary of the inauguration of the Ealing Clean Food Campaign.

The campaign was introduced at a Clean Food Exhibition, when for one week exhibits by the Ministry of Food, large industrial organisations and local concerns, together with film shows, aroused much interest. Conducted parties of school children were arranged and a visit from the B.B.C. with a subsequent broadcast commentary, gave added publicity and boosted an already satisfactory attendance even higher.

Immediately following the Exhibition a Food Hygiene booklet was issued to all traders and a free course of Food Hygiene lectures offered. These lectures have been most popular and have been held continuously since. They are given by a Medical Officer and three different Public Health Inspectors. Interest is increased by the use of the film "Another case of Food Poisoning", our own film strip and a flannelgraph demonstration. They are offered at any time of the day or evening to suit the audience. The Council awards a handsome Certificate of Hygiene to owners of food establishments, including canteens, if their premises are maintained in a really first-class condition and if all the members of their staff have

attended the course of lectures. These Certificates bear the official seal of the Council, are signed by the Mayor and are presented at a meeting of the Public Health Committee. They are renewed annually, provided the standard is maintained.

Other features of the campaign include talks to the School Meals Service, to local women's organisations and to girls and boys of school leaving age at school. It has become apparent that personal contact is far more effective in putting over the scheme than letters, posters and so on, and the District Health Inspectors do invaluable work in this connection during their inspection of premises. If those engaged in the food trade have a real understanding of the reasons why strict hygienic practices should be observed, then we find that they are prepared to co-operate fully. Thus, when the 1955 Food Hygiene Regulations came into force, meetings were arranged with owners and managers in the food trade to discuss this legislation. Packed houses were the rule.

The Clean Food Policy of the Ealing Council is a long term one. Our talks have so far been given to about 8,000 school leavers and 4,000 food workers, and 61 Certificates have been presented by the Council. The campaign has already had considerable success, but this in no way allows for any relaxation, and our efforts in the future will be directed to improving still further the standard of Food Hygiene in the Borough.

During 1959, 19 lectures were given to food handlers and 97 received Certificates of Attendance upon completing the course. In addition 21 talks on Food Hygiene were given by the Public Health Inspectors to approximately 840 school-leavers at the Grammar and Secondary Modern Schools in the Borough.

The current holders of these 61 certificates are:-

**School Meals Service.**

21 school kitchens.

**Factory Canteens.**

Aladdin Industries Ltd., Western Avenue, Greenford.

Hoover Ltd., Bideford Avenue, Perivale.

Metal Box Co. Ltd., Wadsworth Road, Perivale.

Optrex Limited, Wadsworth Road, Perivale.

Sanderson A. & Sons, Horsenden Lane, Perivale.

Taylor Woodrow, Limited, Ruislip Road, Northolt.

Taylor Woodrow Services Ltd., Western Avenue, W.5.





Presentation of a Food Hygiene Certificate



this sort must be of the highest quality, both in material and presentation and we are aiming at this in our new booklet which it is hoped will be published early in 1960.

#### SLUM CLEARANCE.

##### Compulsory Purchase Orders.

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 Vine Cottages, Lower Boston Road, W. 7.	A Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of these properties was made by the Council in April, 1959. No objection was made by the owners and the Order was confirmed by the Minister in October, 1959. Three of the houses are vacant. The remaining six are still occupied pending the adoption of a scheme for redevelopment of the Area.
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##### Basement Dwellings.

43 The Avenue, W. 13.	A Closing Order was made in respect of this property in April, 1959. The premises were empty at the time and are still vacant.
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47 Grange Road, W. 5.	The condition of the basement at this property was considered in December, 1959. An Undertaking by the owner to carry out all works necessary to render the premises fit for habitation was accepted and the work is in hand.
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58b Ranelagh Road, W. 5.	A Closing Order was made on this basement in 1952. A specification of works for rendering the premises fit was accepted by the Council and the Closing Order was determined in October, 1959.
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16a Drayton Green Road, W. 13.	A Closing Order was made on this basement in December, 1955. A specification of works for rendering the premises fit was accepted by the Council and the Closing Order was determined in October, 1959.
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##### Demolition Orders.

5 & 6 Melbourne Cottages, W. 7.	The condition of these properties was considered by the Committee in May, 1959, and an Undertaking by the owner to carry out all works necessary to render the premises fit for habitation within six months was accepted. These works were completed in accordance with the Undertaking which was cancelled in December.
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**BATHS AND SWIMMING POOLS.**

The Council's baths in Longfield Avenue contain four indoor swimming pools. The water is drawn from the mains of the Metropolitan Water Board and is supplied to the pools by continuous coagulation and filtration through four high pressure filters, combined with continuous chlorination. Tests for chlorine are applied at frequent intervals throughout each day to maintain an approved level of residual chlorine. The water in all four pools is completely circulated every four hours.

There are two privately owned swimming pools in the Borough, both of which are equipped with filtration and chlorination plants. Two bacteriological tests taken during the year showed satisfactory results.

**PUBLIC MORTUARY.**

The arrangement with the Acton Council for the use of the Acton Mortuary was continued during the year. 290 bodies were taken to this Mortuary and post-mortem examinations were carried out in every case, but one.

Arrangements were also made with the Uxbridge Council for the use of their mortuary and 38 bodies were taken to this mortuary for post-mortem examination.

## SECTION 3

## SANITARY INSPECTION

## THE WORK OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS IN 1959

I append a report to the Medical Officer of Health by the Chief Public Health Inspector giving details of the work of the Public Health Inspectors during the year.

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

## Inspections.

Premises inspected on complaint .. .. .	1,993
Other nuisances observed by Inspectors .. ..	127
Premises inspected in connection with infectious disease .. .. .	905
Smoke observations .. .. .	307
Houses without water supply .. .. .	44
Inspections of moveable dwellings .. .. .	51
Other inspections .. .. .	1,854
Re-inspections .. .. .	5,752
Intimation Notices served .. .. .	949
Statutory Notices served .. .. .	146
Letters written .. .. .	1,921
Proceedings before Magistrates .. .. .	3

## Legal Proceedings.

## Public Health Act, 1936, Section 93

## Non-compliance with Statutory Notices

In 3 cases legal proceedings were taken to enforce compliance with notices requiring the abatement of nuisances. In all the cases Orders were made by the Magistrates for the necessary work to be carried out within a stated period and costs amounted to £5.5.0d.

## CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Inspections in connection with proposed Smoke Control Areas .. .. .	3,678
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## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

## Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955

## Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 to 1954

Complaints received .. .. .	134
Inspections of Milk Purveyors' Premises .. ..	91
Contravention of Regulations .. .. .	-
Inspections of Ice Cream Premises .. .. .	239

Food Inspections .. .. .	565
Inspections of Other Food Premises .. .. .	2,372
Contraventions found .. .. .	369
Notices served .. .. .	369
Proceedings before Magistrates .. .. .	3
Samples of Milk and Cream taken .. .. .	24
Samples of Ice Cream taken .. .. .	96
Samples of Synthetic Cream taken .. .. .	31
Samples of other foods taken .. .. .	26
Samples of tea taken .. .. .	263
Samples of water taken .. .. .	7

#### Legal Proceedings.

##### Food and Drugs Act, 1955

In the following 3 cases proceedings were instituted under this Act:-

1. Fly in bread roll - £15 fine, £3.3.0d. costs.
2. Wasp in bread - £5 fine, £2.2.0d. costs.
3. Wasp in bread - £5 fine, £2.2.0d. costs.

##### List of Food Premises in the Borough of Ealing

Bakehouses .. .. .	23
Bakers' shops .. .. .	54
Butchers .. .. .	124
Cafes and Restaurants .. .. .	147
Canteens - factory .. .. .	79
Canteens - school .. .. .	26
Confectioners .. .. .	249
Dairies and Milk Sellers .. .. .	75
Fish Fryers .. .. .	23
Fishmongers .. .. .	37
Greengrocers .. .. .	170
Grocers .. .. .	318
Ice Cream Manufacturers .. .. .	3
Public Houses .. .. .	64
Premises registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food .. .. .	116
Premises registered for the sale of Ice Cream .. .. .	388

#### Milk Supply.

There are 85 registered distributors of milk in the Borough.

During the year licences for the sale of milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations were granted as follows:-

	Dealer's Licences	Supplementary Licences	Total
Tuberculin Tested Milk	51	9	60
Pasteurised Milk	62	10	72
Sterilised Milk	51	10	61

Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Area) Order 1951, all milk sold by retail in the Borough must be "designated milk," i.e. Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised or Sterilised Milk.

24 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests at the Public Health Laboratory, Ealing.

The results were as follows:-

Designation	Samples	Phosphatase		Methylene Blue	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	17	17	-	14	3
T.T. Pasteurised	7	7	-	7	-

In addition 128 samples of Pasteurised Milk from processing plants in the Borough were taken by the Officers of the County Council who are the licensing authority under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations.

#### Identification of Milk Bottles.

The Public Health Committee gave consideration to a complaint concerning the dirty condition of a filled milk bottle delivered to a resident in the Borough. This appeared to be a case for action under Article 27 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959, which requires every vessel used for containing milk to be in a state of thorough cleanliness immediately before filling. The bottle was supplied by, and bore the name of a multiple Dairy Company, but there was no means of proving the actual dairy premises at which the bottle had been filled, which would be a necessary part of any legal proceedings. Representations were made to the Association of Municipal Corporations that legislation should be introduced to require dairies to provide some mark of identification on their bottles which would indicate the depot at which the bottle had been filled. The Association have considered the question and are to recommend that in the next revision of the Food & Drugs Act, it should be made an offence to sell milk in a dirty bottle. This would undoubtedly enable action to be taken in suitable cases.

**Ice Cream.**

There are 388 premises in the Borough registered for the sale of ice cream.

It was found that their ice cream is obtained from 3 registered manufacturers in the Borough or from 5 manufacturers outside the Borough. Samples from each of these manufacturers were taken once or more during the year, a total of 95 samples of ice cream and ice cream constituents being submitted for bacteriological examination.

The results were as follows:-

Commodity	Samples	Grade				Not Graded
		1	2	3	4	
Ice Cream - Local Manufacture	74	40	26	6	2	..
Ice Cream - Other Manufacturers	10	2	3	3	2	..
Ice lollies	11	..	..	..	..	11
	95	42	29	9	4	11

The two local samples placed in Grade 4 were followed up by an inspection of the factory and plant, and repeat samples proved to be satisfactory.

The two Grade 4 samples manufactured outside the Borough were reported to the Local Authority concerned and subsequent repeat samples proved satisfactory.

The 11 ice lollies, though not graded were satisfactory.

**Ice Cream Heat Treatment Regulations. 1947 - 1952.**

There are 7 premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream but only 3 of these are in regular use. All the registered ice cream manufacturers in the Borough are equipped in accordance with the conditions laid down in the Regulations.

**Synthetic Cream.**

31 samples of synthetic cream were taken from local manufacturers. 28 were found to be satisfactory, 1 was doubtful and two unsatisfactory. Repeat samples subsequently proved to be satisfactory.

**Inspection of Meat and Other Foods.**

The following foodstuffs were condemned by the Public Health Inspectors as unfit for human food in the course

of their inspections of the various food premises in the Borough:-

	lbs.
Beef .. .. .	543
Butter .. .. .	50
Cheese .. .. .	42
Chickens (11) .. .. .	55½
Cod fillets .. .. .	49
Corried beef .. .. .	800½
Dried fruit .. .. .	7
Egg powder .. .. .	26
Fish .. .. .	2,380
Ham .. .. .	17
Kidneys .. .. .	14
Lamb .. .. .	220
Lamb tongue .. .. .	24
Liver .. .. .	109¼
Ox cheek .. .. .	145
Ox kidneys .. .. .	21½
Ox tongue .. .. .	2½
Pigs cheeks .. .. .	10
Pork .. .. .	74
Prawns .. .. .	20
Rice .. .. .	42
Semolina .. .. .	30
Steak & Kidney .. .. .	65
Sugar .. .. .	13
Tea .. .. .	31,120
Turkeys .. .. .	57

Foodstuffs not calculated by weight:-

Assorted tins, packets, jars, cases and boxes .. .. .	3,299
Articles: Chickens .. .. .	19
Pig .. .. .	1
Lamb .. .. .	1

#### Tea.

On the 1st January, 1959, the responsibility for sampling imported tea for adulteration and unfitness was transferred to the Local Authority from H.M. Customs and Excise. In the Borough is a large tea-packing factory and bonded warehouse to which some 2,000 cases of tea are brought direct each week.

During the year 263 samples of tea were taken from this factory. 24 of them were sent to the Public Analyst,

who reported that 4 were unsatisfactory, and the remainder examined in the Public Health Department. As a result of these inspections it was found necessary to condemn as unfit 31,120 lbs. of tea.

#### Other Food Samples.

16 samples of English and imported fresh fruits were taken for bacteriological examination of their outer surfaces, and all proved to be satisfactory.

10 other food samples were submitted for testing after receiving complaints, and all proved to be satisfactory. These included cooked meats and meat products, smoked salmon, soda water, canned beans and canned milk.

#### MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1950, SECTION 11

Under this Section, 10 persons were registered during the year for the sale of food from carts, barrows, other vehicles etc. There were 51 persons on the Register at 31st December, 1959.

#### HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:
  - (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. .. . 1,961
  - (2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Act, 1957 .. 8
  - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. 2
  - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. . 1,105
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 the Local Authority or their officers .. .. . 965
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:
  - A - Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957
    - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. -
    - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:
      - (a) by Owners .. .. . -
      - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners .. -
  - B - Proceedings under Public Health Act:
    - (1) number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. . 121

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:	
(a) by Owners	87
(b) by Local Authority in default of owner	-
<b>C - Proceedings under Sections 16, 23 and 24 of the Housing Act, 1957</b>	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	-
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	-
(3) Number of houses concerning which action has been taken by the Local Authority under Section 16, and with respect to which Owners have given an undertaking that they will not be used for human habitation	-
<b>D - Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 27 of the Housing Act, 1957</b>	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	2

#### RENT ACT, 1957

##### Part I - Applications for Certificates of Disrepair

(1) Number of applications for certificates	40
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates	-
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates	40
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	25
(b) in respect of all defects	15
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	32
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	-
(6) Number of Certificates issued	21

##### Part II - Applications for Cancellations of Certificates

(7) Applications by landlord to Local Authority for cancellation of certificates	30
(8) Objections by tenants to cancellation of certificates	11
(9) Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenants objection	3
(10) Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	22

#### NEW DWELLINGS, 1959

Completion figures for the 12 months period ending 31st December, 1959 were:

Houses (1 bedroom)	-	-
Houses (2 bedrooms)	-	-
Houses (3 bedrooms)	-	-
Flats (Bedsitters)	-	30
Flats (1 bedroom)	-	6
Flats (2 bedrooms)	-	24
Flats (3 bedrooms)	-	-



**FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948**

**Part 1 of the Act**

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

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	130	13	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	398	335	17	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>-</b>

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	Referred		
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	9	8	1	1	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	2	2	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:					
(a) Insufficient	2	-	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	6	6	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-workers)	11	12	1	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>

## Part VIII of the Act

## Outwork

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Section 110	Section 111
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110(1)(c)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises
Wearing apparel:		
Making, etc.	290	-
Cleaning and Washing	1	-
Furniture and upholstery	3	-
Artificial flowers	6	-
Paper bags	5	-
Making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	6	-
Carding, etc. of buttons, etc.	20	-
Stuffed toys	26	-
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.	55	-
Lampshades	3	-
Brass and Brass articles	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>-</b>

During 1959, 76 inspections of Outworkers premises were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors.

**SHOPS ACT, 1950**

Improvements under Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950, relating to the health and comfort of shop workers were carried out in 126 instances:

Lighting and ventilation improved	39
Heating improved	32
Sanitary accommodation improved	34
Washing facilities provided	21

**PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949**

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Rodent Operatives acting under the supervision of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

Complaints	847
Premises inspected	1,018
Premises found to be infested with:	
1. Rats	739
2. Mice	142
Re-visits to infested premises	3,075
Fees received for treatment	£661.1.0d.

### Rodent Control in Sewers

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Infestation Control Division), maintenance treatments of the soil sewers in the Borough were carried out during April and October.

A total of 1,521 sewer manholes were dealt with and of these 365 were found to be rat infested. Poison baits were used in the infested manholes.

### RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Seven premises in the Borough were registered under the Act and in only three of these premises is work within the scope of the Act being carried on, and in all cases only materials carrying the Certificate of the British Standards Institution are used.

### PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

15 licences were renewed by the Council during the year after the premises had been inspected by the Public Health Inspector.

### DISINFECTION

Number of houses where disinfection was carried out	162
Number of houses disinfested of vermin .. ..	75
Number of articles disinfected by steam .. ..	2
Number of articles disinfected by formalin spray ..	167
Number of articles voluntarily destroyed .. ..	154

The arrangement made with the Hammersmith Metropolitan Borough Council in 1952, whereby articles to be disinfected by steam are dealt with at the Scotts Road Depot, W.12, was continued during the year.

### SUMMARY OF SANITARY DEFECTS REMEDIED AS A RESULT OF NOTICES SERVED AND LETTERS WRITTEN

Animals - nuisances abated .. .. .	9
Caravans - nuisances abated .. .. .	-
Cesspools - cleansed .. .. .	-
Damp proof courses inserted in walls .. .. .	22
Dampness - other forms remedied .. .. .	126
Drains - connected to sewer .. .. .	1
Drains - cleared and cleansed .. .. .	366
Drains reconstructed .. .. .	46
Drains - repaired .. .. .	141
Drains - new soil and ventilating pipes provided ..	32
Dustbins provided .. .. .	168
Firegrates - repaired or renewed .. .. .	56

Floors - sub-floor ventilation provided .. ..	32
Floors - repaired or renewed .. ..	99
Food cupboards ventilated .. ..	5
Rainwater eaves gutters, downpipes repaired ..	170
Refuse - accumulations removed .. ..	97
Roofs repaired .. ..	132
Sinks repaired or renewed .. ..	26
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed .. ..	51
Staircases repaired .. ..	27
Walls and ceilings repaired or cleansed .. ..	174
Water supply reinstated .. ..	44
Water supply - draw taps fixed to main supply ..	4
Water closets - repaired, reconstructed or improved	87
Windows and doors repaired .. ..	125
Yards paved or repaired .. ..	26
Other defects remedied or nuisances abated .. ..	137

**SUMMARY OF WORK DONE AND IMPROVEMENTS  
CARRIED OUT AT FOOD PREMISES**

Walls and ceilings repaired and cleansed .. ..	130
Floors repaired .. ..	27
Lighting and ventilation improved .. ..	50
Washing facilities provided .. ..	39
Hot water provided .. ..	47
Sinks provided .. ..	7
Storage accommodation improved .. ..	7
Water supply provided .. ..	1
Water closets cleansed or repaired .. ..	61
Refrigeration installed or improved .. ..	12
Shop heating facilities improved .. ..	32
Equipment improved .. ..	17
Other defects remedied .. ..	103

**SLAUGHTERHOUSES**

There are no slaughterhouses in the Borough.

Practically no slaughtering has taken place in the Borough since 1939. Only two small private slaughterhouses have had licences since then. One licence was relinquished in 1954 and the last one in June, 1958.

The Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, required local authorities to submit reports on slaughterhouse facilities to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1959, required these reports to be made between November, 1959, and November, 1960.

After consultation with neighbouring local authorities and with the various trade organisations and trade unions concerned, the Council resolved to inform the Minister that there is no actual or anticipated need for the provision of slaughterhouse facilities in the Borough.

Floors repaired  
Stairs repaired  
Walls and ceilings repaired or cleaned  
Water supply reconnected  
Water supply pipes replaced  
Windows and doors repaired or replaced  
Other defects remedied or replaced

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE AND IMPROVEMENTS  
The Council has had a number of reports from the public and from the various trade organisations and trade unions concerned, and has taken steps to remedy the defects reported. The following is a summary of the work done and the improvements effected:

Floors repaired  
Lighting and ventilation improved  
Hot water provided  
Sinks provided  
Storage accommodation improved  
Water supply provided  
Water closets cleaned or repaired  
Refrigeration installed or repaired  
Shop fittings replaced  
Equipment improved  
Other defects remedied

There is no slaughterhouse in the Borough. Practically no slaughterhouses have been reported in the Borough since 1933. Only two small private slaughterhouses have had licences since then. The licences were renewed in 1934 and the last one in 1935. The Slaughterhouses Act, 1933, required local authorities to submit reports on slaughterhouse facilities to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1933, required these reports to be made between November, 1933 and November, 1934.

## SECTION 4

## GENERAL

**MEALS ON WHEELS.**

The entire Borough is covered by a Meals on Wheels service to deliver hot meals to old people who have difficulty in providing them for themselves. Meals are cooked centrally and delivered by van in heated containers.

In the Ealing and Hanwell area this is operated by the British Red Cross Society. Meals are delivered from two to five times weekly and the number of old people served is 70. The total number of meals delivered last year was 13,533.

In the Greenford, Perivale and Northolt areas the service is operated by the Womens Voluntary Service. A paid Cook is now employed, but the rest of the work, i.e. preparing vegetables, driving the van, delivery of meals and washing up is done by voluntary workers. It is now possible to provide special meals for those on restricted diets. The number of old people being so helped at the end of the year was 72, each receiving two meals per week. The total number of meals delivered last year was 6,558.

**CHIROPODY.**

There has been a Chiropody Service for the elderly in the Borough since 1956, and it has been operated by the British Red Cross Society since February, 1958. This has been done with the assistance of a grant from the Borough Council to the British Red Cross Society under Section 31 of the National Assistance Act.

The scheme has functioned extremely satisfactorily and a large number of old people receive treatment throughout the Borough. At present Chiropody is available as follows:-

**Clinics.**

Cherington House, Cherington Road, Hanwell, W.7.

Greenford Green, Wadham Gardens, Greenford.

Islip Manor, Eastcote Lane, Northolt.

Laurel House, Windmill Road, Ealing, W.5.

Mattock Lane, 13 Mattock Lane, Ealing, W.5.

**Community Centres.**

Northolt - Manor House, Church Road, Northolt,  
Greenford.

Northfields - 71 Northcroft Road, Ealing, W. 13.

Perivale - Horsenden Lane South, Perivale,  
Greenford.

**Almshouses.**

St. Mary's Almshouses, Church Gardens, Ealing, W. 5.

**Old People's Home.**

Greater Ealing Old People's Home, Northolt House,  
Haydock Avenue, Northolt.

**Private Surgeries.**

120 Uxbridge Road, Hanwell, W. 7.

234 Northfield Avenue, West Ealing, W. 13.

25b Church Road, Hanwell, W. 7.

129a Greenford Avenue, Hanwell, W. 7.

49 Little Ealing Lane, Ealing, W. 5.

In addition, treatment is given in their homes to housebound patients. There is a considerable demand for this service but it has been possible to avoid a waiting list.

The charge to the patient is 2/6d. for attention to both feet where necessary.

The total attendances were as follows:-

Total number of individual patients	463
Total number of treatments	2,778
Number of patients receiving domiciliary treatment	180
Number of domiciliary treatments	1,080

In April of this year the Minister of Health announced that he was now prepared to approve proposals by Local Health Authorities who wished to establish, or where one already existed, to extend a Chiropody Service as part of their arrangements for the prevention of illness under Section 28 of the National Health Services Act. It was suggested that in the early stages priority should be given to the elderly, physically handicapped and expectant mothers.

While of course welcoming any extension of Chiropody for old people in Ealing it is to be hoped that this County wide provision of Chiropody will not, in practice, mean a levelling down resulting in a reduction of the service in Ealing to make it conform to a general pattern. In addition, it is particularly to be hoped that there will be no increase in the small charge that we have striven to maintain.



Ealing Chiropody Service





### OLD PEOPLE'S WORK CENTRES.

There are now 2 Work Centres in the Borough organised by the Ealing Central Aid Committee for the Employment and Recreation of Elderly Citizens.

West Ealing Centre moved to larger premises in January and by the end of the year employed 31 women and 9 men, 6 of the workers being over 80 and the average age 73. There is sufficient space for another 30 workers if enough work can be obtained. West Ealing's work has consisted of packing and mounting Greeting Cards on to showcards (one order being for 100,000), stringing labels, making quilted linings for nightdress cases and repairing Home Help overalls and bed linen from an hotel. Also many hundreds of Ball Point Pens were assembled and carded, and plastic coathangers were carded and put into polythene bags. December was a particularly busy month, the following being West Ealing's output:-

119,760 leaflets inserted into envelopes for a publicity firm.

23,040 Ball Point Pens assembled.

This Centre had a day's outing during the Summer to Bognor for which the workers saved weekly during the previous three months. Two of the old folk who met at the Centre, married in August and a party was held in their honour and a gift presented to them from the workers in the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress.

The new Greenford Centre was opened in the Bowls Pavilion at Ravenor Park in June and by the end of the year there were 29 workers with an average age of 69. The oldest is 88. This Centre is now practically full, and is run by a paid organiser assisted by voluntary helpers. They had some good pre-Christmas orders for packing Fairy Lamps and pasting labels on to shaving bowls and other work undertaken including pasting gussets and pockets on to Manilla Files.

There is no doubt of the good effect of the Work Centre Scheme on the workers, many of whom have been advised by their Doctors to come to the Centre. It is very rewarding to see how after a short time they so often lose a mood of depression and thoroughly enjoy the work.

### HOLIDAYS FOR OLD PEOPLE.

During the year holidays for old people were arranged

by the Womens Voluntary Service and the Greenford Philanthropic Society.

On May 1st, 200 old people went to Bexhill-on-Sea in the Womens Voluntary Service party, each old person contributing a nominal sum of £1 towards the cost of the holiday.

The Greenford Philanthropic Party numbered 34 old people, including some blind and infirm. They travelled in a party accompanied by trained Social Workers who remained with them to care for them while they were on holiday. At Ramsgate coach trips and theatre outings were arranged.

There is no doubt that these holidays are of the utmost benefit to the old people and it is fortunate that these two voluntary organisations between them are able to cover the entire Borough and maintain the good liaison which exists between them.

#### **PROPOSED REST AND TREATMENT CENTRE.**

We have been hoping for some time to introduce a Rest and Treatment Centre for the Elderly and during 1959 considerable progress has been made with this scheme. It may be useful therefore if an account is given of the purposes of this proposed Centre.

On the coming into being of the National Health Service thirteen years ago, the responsibility for the medical and welfare services of the country became tripartite. The Regional Boards were given control of the Hospitals, County Councils were made responsible for the welfare and personal health services and District Councils remained responsible for environmental health. It is perhaps, in the care of old people, more than in any other field that the liaison and co-operation between the various branches of the health and welfare services has been shown to be inadequate to the situation. There are of course schemes outside the rigid divisions laid down by the National Health Service Act and the National Assistance Act which endeavour to help old people who would otherwise deteriorate. Thus, at the Cowley Road Hospital, Oxford, a "Day Hospital" has been organised for cases discharged from the Geriatric Unit. They attend one to five days a week and receive occupational therapy, physiotherapy, medical supervision and a mid-day meal. Those helped in this way have been mentally confused old people needing considerable care and attention.

Another approach to the problem has been in Twickenham, where a clinic for the elderly has been started with the idea of examining apparently healthy old people in order to detect incipient defects and remedy them before they become a disability.

A further example is the Rutherglen Consultative Health Centre for Elderly People, where there is integration with hospital, local authority, general practitioner and voluntary services for old people in the local authority's premises. The Medical Officer of Health makes a social assessment of the case and examines the old person in consultation with the Geriatrician. The old people are subsequently kept under medical surveillance, and chiropody and physiotherapy services are made available to them.

As Medical Officer of Health I am continually being approached for assistance by General Practitioners with regard to their elderly patients. In my experience the sort of cases I am asked to assist are those which do not seem to be in unequivocal need either of hospital care or admission to Old People's Home and yet do not seem to be living successfully at home. Of course the Home Nursing and Home Help Services are of inestimable value in tackling this problem, and as a Borough we have done much to augment these statutory services. Thus, under Section 31 of the National Assistance Act, in partnership with voluntary organisations we provide a Meals on Wheels Service, Holidays for Old People, a Chiropody Service and Work Centres for the Elderly. Despite this, I still find that there is a certain type of old person who does not appear to be successfully helped at present by our services. This is the housebound old person who is perhaps severely crippled by arthritis, is rarely visited and whose morale is low and whose zest for living has gone. This type of old person is often living alone and even if living with relatives is uncared for during the day when they are out at work. I have given careful consideration to the needs of these old people and to possible means of meeting them and I feel that a Day Rest and Treatment Centre may well prove a solution. The idea is that these patients would be recommended by their doctor and brought by ambulance daily to the Centre. Here they would receive chiropody and physiotherapy and would be visited for treatment by their own doctor. A hot lunch would be provided by the Meals on Wheels Service. This medical and

ancillary treatment however, would play only a part. The companionship and sense of return to the community would go far to restore their morale which would in turn doubtless benefit their physical condition. We already have an example of this in the remarkable success of our Work Centres in the mental and physical rehabilitation of old people who attend them. It is envisaged that an old person would attend for one month and would then, it is hoped, be sufficiently rehabilitated to remain at home for many months. Re-admission might be necessary at a later date. The General Practitioners in the area have given support to this proposal and at a meeting in January, 1959, their representatives attended and discussed methods of implementing the scheme.

With regard to the practical measures to bring it into operation we have made considerable progress. On the financial side the Borough Council have allocated a substantial grant for 1959 and for 1960 and the Minister of Health has given his approval to this. In addition two industrial concerns in the Borough have been generous in their offers of help. We have an offer from one of a sum which I consider would be sufficient for the equipment of the premises and from another we have the loan of a suitable hut, free of charge, for the use of the experiment for five years. As to the provision of a site, there is an excellent site available in Greenford, on land belonging to the Council. The paid staff would consist of a Sister-in-Charge, a nurse, a secretary, a part-time physiotherapist and domestic help. The annual cost of this, together with services is likely to be about £3,000. The County Ambulance Service would be able, it is believed, to transport the old people from their homes to the Centre.

To summarize, the object of this Day Centre is the rehabilitation of old people who are housebound, to prevent their admission to hospital and thereby it is hoped, to make their lives happier. This work can only be done if it is directly related first to the work of the General Practitioners for their own patients who are in the Centre and secondly to other services provided by the Borough Council such as Meals on Wheels, Holidays for Old People, and Chiropody. The scheme is a pilot one for five years, by which time it should be quite clear whether this method of approach to the problem is successful.

In order to form a close link in the chain of organisation, it is suggested that practitioners from Greenford,

Hanwell and Ealing be appointed to the voluntary body needed to implement the scheme.

#### OLD PEOPLE'S LIAISON COMMITTEE.

The work of the Health Committee, has of course, during the last few years been increasingly concerned with the Care of Old People and it follows from this that there has been increasing co-operation with the voluntary organisations in the Borough, without whose assistance much of the work of this nature would not be possible. In November, 1958 it was decided that there was a need for a meeting between representatives of the Public Health Committee and those voluntary organisations who were running services which were receiving grants from the Council under Section 31 of the National Assistance Act. The Old People's Liaison Committee was therefore formed, its purpose being to ensure that the needs and difficulties of the voluntary organisations could be clearly brought to the Council's notice and at the same time the feelings of the Council on present and future plans for services for old people could be explained to the voluntary organisations. The Committee has met as and when required and has been most successful in achieving the object for which it was constituted. The representatives for 1959/60 were as follows:-

#### Public Health Committee:

Councillor D. J. Cousins (Chairman)

Aldermen: Mrs. D. Gundry

Mrs. L. Stowell

Councillors: J. T. Bartlett

B. H. Silverman

W. E. Wood

#### Womens Voluntary Services:

Miss E. Tippetts

Mrs. H. W. Corey

#### British Red Cross Society (Ealing):

Mrs. E. M. Doughty

Mrs. R. Chamberlain

#### Ealing Central Aid Society - (Ealing Central Aid Committee for the Employment and Recreation of Elderly Citizens):

Mr. L. R. Feltham

Mrs. H. Corbyn

#### Greenford Philanthropic Society:

Mr. F. W. Tomlin

Mr. L. Ward

### LAUNDRY SERVICE FOR THE INCONTINENT.

This Service has continued its useful work during 1959.

The Laundry Service in Ealing was inaugurated in 1952. It operates under Section 84 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and Section 42 of the Middlesex County Council Act, 1956. Cases are recommended to the Medical Officer of Health by general practitioners, home nurses, home helps, etc. Each case is then visited by a Public Health Inspector and the patient is given an explanatory leaflet. Collection and delivery is twice weekly, (Mondays and Thursdays) and this is done by Public Health transport. Washable aluminium bins, complete with lid and strap, are provided by the Health Department. The laundry is done in the Baths Laundry at the rear of the Town Hall. Existing buildings were converted at the beginning of the scheme. Although the Baths Laundry is used, washing from this service is done entirely separately from the normal washing of the Baths Laundry. The initial sorting, hosing and disinfection is carried out by two driver/disinfectors employed by the department and the actual washing is then carried out by employees of the Baths Laundry under the supervision of the Baths Manager. All articles are washed, dried and ironed before return. The Catholic Women's Guild very kindly arranges for a panel of helpers to repair worn garments and bed linen. This auxiliary service is essential to the Laundry Service and their help in this respect is most appreciated.

The following table shows the growth of the service since 1954.

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
No. of cases dealt with during the year	66	84	78	70	56	67
No. of cases remaining at end of year	47	44	47	39	38	39
No. of cases that died	28	39	26	48	35	31
No. of cases removed to hospital	24	39	28	14	22	41
No. of cases where other arrangements were made	8	7	5	4	2	3
Total number of articles dealt with	25,097	34,259	36,755	44,466	36,723	59,004
Total number of collections	2,500	3,347	3,086	3,333	2,766	4,822
Average number of articles per collection	10.0	10.2	11.9	13.3	13.3	12.2







The baths Manager...

Kindly arrange for a panel of helpers to repair work...



The following...

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
No. of cases dealt with during...						
No. of cases...						
No. of cases...						
No. of cases...						
Total number of collections...						
Average number of...						
Profit per...						
Total...						

*The Mayor of Ealing*  
*and Members of the Ealing Borough Council*  
*wish you a very happy birthday,*  
*long life, good health*  
*and every happiness.*

It is estimated that the cost is approximately 10/- per collection. The scheme is designed to cope with a maximum of 45 patients and the demand is such that this number is usually being catered for. Although not confined to old people, in fact, the majority requiring this service are elderly. We have found over the years that this is probably the most appreciated health service which the Borough provides, since it is impossible for relatives to cope with this type of soiled linen. It is almost impossible for any commercial laundry to undertake the work, and the value of the service to relatives is inestimable.

#### **MASSAGE AND SPECIAL TREATMENT ESTABLISHMENTS.**

One new licence was issued during the year and there were 24 establishments at the end of the year.

Four exemptions were granted to members of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists.

#### **NURSING HOMES.**

These were inspected as usual and no new homes were registered.

#### **HEALTH EDUCATION.**

During 1959 the Council inaugurated an effective health education scheme. This was the sending of Birthday Cards to children under school age. The card, which is attractively designed and different for each birthday, carries a message of greeting from the Mayor. In addition there is enclosed a letter to the children's parents from the Medical Officer of Health bringing to their notice the wide range of health services which are available in the Borough, such as the prevention of Air Pollution, The Clean Food Campaign, and the Maternity and Child Welfare Services. It then draws particular attention to the Child Welfare Clinic services available, giving their location and times, together with an invitation to bring the child for a birthday medical examination. An example of the Ealing cards is shown on page 44.

#### **NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.**

##### **Section 47.**

This section provides for the removal to a suitable hospital or other place of persons who:

- (a) are suffering from grave chronic diseases or being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated are living in insanitary conditions, and

(b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention."

It has fortunately not been necessary to use these powers this year. In all instances either the assistance of the Home Help, Home Nursing, Health Visiting and Laundry Services have proved successful in keeping the old person satisfactorily at home or persuasion has succeeded in obtaining agreement to admission to hospital or Old Persons Home when necessary.

#### Section 50 - Burial of the Dead.

Five burials were carried out for which the Council accepted financial responsibility. In three of these the total cost was recovered from the estate of the deceased, in one part of the cost and in the remaining burial it was not possible to recover any of the cost.

#### MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Candidates for permanent appointment to the Council's service are required to pass a medical examination on appointment as are manual staff for admission to the Sickness Pay Scheme of the National Joint Industrial Council for Local Authorities Non-Trading Services.

During the year the following examinations were carried out:-

Administrative, Technical and Clerical Staff	41
Sickness Pay Scheme (Servants)	139
Gunnorsbury Park Joint Committee Employees	3
Total	<u>183</u>

13 of the above were rejected for the following causes:-

Bronchitis	2
Cardiovascular disease	4
Hernia	2
Mental disorder	5

2 of the above were provisionally rejected, but will be reviewed in one year, for the following causes:-

Deformed feet	1
Gastric Ulcer	1

One case, which had been provisionally rejected during 1958, was reviewed during 1959 and rejected due to Bronchitis.

## SECTION 5

## STATISTICAL TABLES

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

Area (in Acres)	.. .. .	8,781
Population (Census, 1951)	.. .. .	187,323
Population (estimated middle of 1959)	.. .. .	182,700
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1959	.. .. .	£3,665,334
Net Product of a Penny Rate, 1959/60 (Est.)	.. .. .	£14,936
<b>Live Births:-</b>		
Legitimate Males, 1,294	Females, 1,241	Total 2,535
Illegitimate Males, 88	Females, 71	Total 159
<b>Birth-Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population</b>		14.74
<b>Still-Births:-</b>		
Males, 20	Females, 18	Total 38
<b>Rate per 1,000 total Births (Live and Still-Births)</b>		24.67
<b>Deaths:-</b>		
Males, 1,028	Females, 954	Total 1,982
<b>Death-Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population</b>		10.85
<b>Deaths of Infants under one year of age:-</b>		
Legitimate Males, 25	Females, 16	Total 41
Illegitimate Males, 2	Females, 2	Total 4
<b>Death-Rate of Infants under one year of age:-</b>		
All Infants per 1,000 Live Births		16.7
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births		16.17
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births		25.16
<b>Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Childbirth:-</b>		
From Sepsis	- None	
From other Causes	- None	

**Cases of Infectious and Other Notifiable Diseases notified in the Borough**

Disease	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	13	16	3	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	204	176	294	203	402	238	287	108	159	95	232	269
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	3	8	5	3	2	3	5	7	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	25	27	24	38	70	61	54	44	71	77	67	37
Pneumonia:												
Primary	189	163	173	162	100	157	152	135	113	72	94	97
Influenzal	6	10	6	38	28	74	52	56	48	99	57	57
Acute Poliomyelitis	10	34	42	10	21	13	5	61	46	2	2	-
Meningococcal Infection	2	14	9	2	-	-	6	3	2	2	3	2
Malaria	2	-	4	1	1	3	1	1	-	-	1	-
Dysentery	7	23	24	542	179	132	225	149	193	252	244	194
Erysipelas	32	13	24	17	26	18	18	12	12	13	19	9
Tuberculosis:												
Pulmonary	206	205	209	210	211	205	132	119	134	113	97	109
Non-Pulmonary	27	32	41	24	29	20	17	24	13	16	8	10
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	5	3	6	-	-	2	2	2	5	6	3
Measles	1,379	1,450	1,016	3,296	993	2,558	132	2,422	726	1,854	975	1,928
Whooping Cough	383	303	274	550	77	491	116	156	67	131	85	90
Food Poisoning	-	21	23	86	26	31	78	36	26	20	18	39
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,492</b>	<b>2,503</b>	<b>2,174</b>	<b>5,190</b>	<b>2,165</b>	<b>4,004</b>	<b>1,284</b>	<b>3,335</b>	<b>1,612</b>	<b>2,752</b>	<b>1,908</b>	<b>2,844</b>

The number of cases of infectious disease originally notified sometimes varies due to changes of diagnosis and the following table is therefore given to show the final numbers after correction.

Disease		Disease	
Smallpox	-	Malaria	-
Diphtheria	-	Dysentery	194
Scarlet Fever	269	Erysipelas	9
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	-	Tuberculosis:	
Puerperal Pyrexia	37	Pulmonary	105
Pneumonia:		Non-Pulmonary	10
Primary	97	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3
Influenzal	57	Measles	1,928
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	Whooping Cough	90
Food Poisoning	37		
Meningococcal Infection	2	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,838</b>

**Infectious and Other Notifiable Diseases Classified in Age Groups**

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Poliomyelitis				Measles		Diphtheria		Dysentery		Meningococcal Infection	
	M	F	M	F	Paralytic		Non-Paralytic		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
					M	F	M	F								
Numbers originally notified	142	127	49	41	-	-	-	-	981	947	-	-	75	119	-	2
FINAL numbers after correction	-	-	6	6	-	-	-	-	26	30	-	-	-	14	-	1
Under 1 year	-	-	6	6	-	-	-	-	88	86	-	-	6	3	-	-
1 -	4	2	7	3	-	-	-	-	111	106	-	-	4	7	-	-
2 -	9	12	6	7	-	-	-	-	112	102	-	-	6	5	-	-
3 -	13	6	3	3	-	-	-	-	128	138	-	-	7	5	-	-
4 -	21	8	2	-	-	-	-	-	487	452	-	-	9	14	-	-
5 - 9	80	83	18	16	-	-	-	-	21	21	-	-	10	13	-	-
10 - 14	13	10	3	6	-	-	-	-	4	10	-	-	7	16	-	-
15 - 24	1	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	26	42	-	1
25 and over	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>981</b>	<b>947</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>

	Pneumonia		Smallpox		Acute Encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Paratyphoid Fevers		Erysipelas		Food Poisoning	
					Infective		Post-Infectious									
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified	83	71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	22	17
FINAL numbers after correction																
Under 5 years	5	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
5 - 14	14	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 44	17	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	8	9	
45 - 64	33	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	9	7
65 and over	14	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	83	71	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	21	16

	Tuberculosis						Other notifiable diseases			
	Respiratory		Meninges & C. N. S.		Other		Original		Other	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified	74	35	-	-	5	5				
FINAL numbers after correction										
Under 5 years	1	2	-	-	-	-				
5 - 14	4	-	-	-	-	-				
15 - 24	10	10	-	-	1	1				
25 - 44	24	11	-	-	-	1				
45 - 64	31	4	-	-	3	-				
65 and over	3	5	-	-	1	3				
Age unknown	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Total	73	32	-	-	5	5				

Puerperal Pyrexia			
-	37	-	37

Ophth. Neonatorum			
-	3	-	3



## DEATHS

## Causes of Death, 1959

Cause of Death	Deaths, 1959			Total Deaths 1958
	Male	Female	Total	
Tuberculosis, Respiratory .. .. .	2	3	5	10
Tuberculosis, Other .. .. .	-	1	1	-
Syphilitic Disease .. .. .	-	-	-	2
Diphtheria .. .. .	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough .. .. .	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infections .. .. .	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	-	-	-	-
Measles .. .. .	-	-	-	-
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	2	2	4	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach .. .. .	32	28	60	52
"    "    Lung, Bronchus .. .. .	89	15	104	94
"    "    Breast .. .. .	-	38	38	45
"    "    Uterus .. .. .	-	10	10	20
Other Malignant Lymphatic Neoplasms ..	84	97	181	187
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .. .. .	8	6	14	7
Diabetes .. .. .	4	8	12	15
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	90	176	226	248
Coronary Disease, Angina .. .. .	213	128	341	320
Hypertension with Heart Disease .. ..	10	18	28	50
Other Heart Diseases .. .. .	90	131	221	253
Other Circulatory Disease .. .. .	47	29	76	73
Influenza .. .. .	14	15	29	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	61	62	123	87
Bronchitis .. .. .	101	40	141	140
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	17	4	21	21
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .. .. .	15	8	23	23
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	5	2	7	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis .. .. .	4	9	13	15
Hyperplasia of Prostate .. .. .	11	-	11	21
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion .. ..	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations .. .. .	13	4	17	15
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	65	80	145	134
Motor Vehicle Accidents .. .. .	22	6	28	25
All other Accidents .. .. .	12	23	35	27
Suicide .. .. .	17	10	27	17
Homicides and Operations of War .. ..	-	1	1	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,028</b>	<b>954</b>	<b>1,982</b>	<b>1,907</b>

## SECTION 6

## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The statistics relating to the School Health Service reveal no unexpected trends. The reduced attendance at Minor Ailment Clinics are accounted for partly by a change of procedure. The practice of referring all cases of verruca to a medical officer has been discontinued. Straightforward cases are now referred directly to the Chiropodist for treatment, thus reducing the attendance at Doctor's Minor Ailment Clinics.

Another factor is an increasing tendency on the part of working mothers to take children to General Practitioners' evening sessions rather than suffer a loss of income by taking time off from work to attend day-time sessions at local Authority clinics.

The increased head infestation figures do not truly represent a worsening of the condition in this respect. Apart from a few problem families, in nearly all cases, the figures relate to children moving into the district. We discover and promptly deal with the condition, but having done so, must record the fact.

## MINOR AILMENT CLINICS.

The examinations carried out at these clinics include a variety of cases in which medical opinion is required. Cases of poor school attendance, freedom from infection examinations, recommendations for recuperative treatment, etc., are among the many things dealt with. They also provide a means for a more detailed investigation into any defect observed at the school inspection.

## Attendances at Minor Ailment Clinics

1957	1958	1959
9,951	9,996	5,040

## B. C. G. VACCINATION.

Details of school children offered B. C. G. vaccination through the approved arrangements under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act, 1946, during the year ended 31st December, 1959, are as follows:-

1. Number of children whose parents were approached regarding participation in the scheme	6,230
2. Number of children whose parents consented to participate	3,935

3. Number of those who were tested and found to be	
(a) negative	3,503
(b) positive	194
4. Number of those who were given B. C. G. vaccination	3,503

#### ROUTINE MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.

Details of the three routine medical inspections carried out in schools are set out below. These are normally carried out during the first and last years at school and at the last year in primary school.

#### Numbers Examined

	1958	1959
First age group	2,050	2,375
Second age group	2,419	1,998
Third age group	1,991	2,268
Total	<u>6,460</u>	<u>6,641</u>

#### Classification of General Condition

Satisfactory	6,629
Unsatisfactory	12
	<u>6,641</u>

#### Defects requiring Treatment found at Routine Medical Inspection

	1957	1958	1959
Skin Diseases	738	846	724
Defective Vision	349	438	320
Squint	10	26	22
Defects of Hearing	53	114	31
Middle Ear Diseases	24	8	6
Nose and Throat Diseases	86	141	78
Speech Defects	12	28	25
Enlarged Glands	5	2	2
Heart - Circulation conditions	2	7	9
Lung Diseases	52	74	32
Hernia	5	-	5
Postural Defects	23	32	20
Orthopaedic Foot Defects	48	68	54
Epilepsy	-	-	4

#### ASTHMA CLINIC.

The general work of the bronchial asthma clinic continued on the revised lines provisionally started in 1958 when it was decided to start a detailed enquiry into the causation of bronchial asthma and chronic bronchitis in childhood. The enquiry was limited to those children who had been referred to the clinic for a course of remedial breathing exercises.

Some of the results obtained from the investigations are issued herewith in the form of an interim report based on the information collected between 1958 and 1959 inclusive.

109 bronchial asthmatic children (aged 3-16 years), 55 children with chronic bronchitis (aged 4-16 years), and a control group of children who suffered from neither of these illnesses (aged 5-16 years) were critically examined. In view of the small number of children in this survey the results now presented must be accepted with certain qualifications. It cannot be assumed that these results are representative of those which might have been obtained if it had been possible to examine ten or a hundred times the actual number of cases used.

Table 1

The Constitution of the Cases Attending the  
Bronchial Asthma Clinic from 1958 - 1959

	1958	1959
Bronchial Asthmatic Children	50%	64%Y
Chronic Bronchitic Children	32%	32%
Children with Chest Deformities	18%X	4%

(X) The rather high number of cases with chest deformities referred to the clinic in 1958 was probably due to the fact that the Assistant Medical Officers referred all types of "chesty children" for treatment. They had been advised that a special survey was to be started during that year. Some of the children with chest deformities did not, however, appear to have either chronic bronchitis or bronchial asthma.

(Y) The increase in the number of cases of bronchial asthma in 1959 is explained by a spill-over of the cases who started treatment in 1958.

Table 2

The Incidence of Asthma and Chronic Bronchitis in  
Males and Females and the Composition of the  
Control Group

	Males	Females
Bronchial Asthmatic Children	71.56%	28.44%
Bronchial Asthmatic Adults (Z)	66.67%	33.33%
Chronic Bronchitic Children	52.73%	47.27%
Control Group of Children	53.42%	46.58%

(Z) A small survey was carried out on adult asthmatics (16-22 years of age) who were former patients attending the clinic.

The Following Interesting Facts emerged from a preliminary Study of the Results of the Survey

- (1) Of 2,003 children who had dental gas in 1958, 20 clinic asthmatics and 17 clinic bronchitics presented no anaesthetic problems.
- (2) No adverse reactions were reported from poliomyelitis immunisations given to the bronchial asthmatics, of whom 38% had varying degrees of eczema.
- (3) The effects of tonsillectomy seemed beneficial only in cases of chronic bronchitis.
- (4) Almost 50% of the asthmatic children had a positive skin reaction to mixed pollens, yet only 19% of them had a personal history of Hay Fever. This suggests that skin tests for pollen are of no great value in the type of case normally referred to the clinic.
- (5) The majority of the bronchial asthmatics (45%) showed a tendency to have their worst attacks in winter, although 30% had attacks at any time. The main precipitating cause of the attacks of asthma were given as being due to anxiety, excitement, or head colds. Often the causation was a combination of the above factors. On the other hand the adult asthmatics (50%) stated that their worst attacks occurred at any time and only 21% stated these attacks were worse in winter. The majority claimed that head colds often triggered off their attacks although anxiety was listed as the next most common factor. Several adults also mentioned specific allergic factors such as dusts, pollens, and feathers etc., whereas few of the children were thus affected.
- (6) It was noted that 6% of the asthmatic children had attended the Child Guidance Clinic compared with 9% of the bronchitics and 2% of the control children.
- (7) Just over 4½ times as many asthmatic adults were using some form of inhaler compared with the children attending the clinic.
- (8) On a superficial examination, the results of intelligence tests on a group of asthmatic children compared with matched group of non-asthmatic children appeared to show little difference. Hitherto, it was popularly believed that asthmatic children were on average more intelligent than the non-asthmatics. It was, however, noted from the school attendance records of the above



Asthma Clinic



children that the asthmatics showed more sensitivity in a year than did the control group.  
(8) From an analysis of a special investigation into the specific condition exhibited by all the children in the series, the following information was obtained:



Asthma Clinic

At the time of the investigation, the children were in the clinic for a year. The clinical response to medical treatment was not noted, however, from post-operative. The total attendance at the clinic in 1958 was 2,127, and in 1959 1,981.





children that the asthmatics missed more schooling in a year than did the control group.

- (9) From an analysis of a special investigation into the neurotic tendencies exhibited by all the children in the survey, the following information was obtained.

For the purpose of this survey symptoms of maladjustment as listed in the Underwood Report were regarded as neurotic tendencies and the table shows how often these tendencies occurred in the three categories.

**Table 3**

**Percentage of Children with No Neurotic Tendencies, and those with Neurotic Tendencies 1-5, and 6 or Over**

	Nil	1-5	6 or over
Bronchial Asthmatic Children	0	44%	56%
Chronic Bronchitic Children	4%	53%	43%
Control Group of Children	8%	66%	26%

As previously stated a detailed mathematical assessment of the results has not yet been completed with respect to any of the above-mentioned findings. It does, however, seem that the asthmatics present a greater number of neurotic tendencies than do the controls. At the same time, however, it is noted that the bronchitic children had a much higher instance of neurotic tendencies than the control group.

- (10) An attempt was made to gauge the clinical response to breathing exercises after six months treatment. Estimations offered are the result of observation, and the opinion of both the parents concerned and the physio-therapist. They appear in Table 4.

**Table 4**

**Degree of Clinical Improvement After Six Months**

	Great Improvement	Moderate Improvement	Little Improvement
Bronchial Asthmatic Children	25%	66%	9%
Chronic Bronchitic Children	49%	44%	7%

The above figures suggest that the bronchitics normally respond quicker to treatment than do asthmatics. Asthma is, however, a capricious, often a long-term, illness to treat in view of its complicated origin. The clinical response to remedial breathing exercises so far noted has, however, been most encouraging. The total attendances at the clinic in 1958 were 2,157, and in 1959 1,951.

**REPORT ON THE SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE IN EALING.**

During the year the School Dental Service has continued under the same conditions of uncertainty as have been referred to in recent previous reports.

Increases of salary have been made to both dental officers and dental attendants and whilst these increases have apparently not materially affected recruitment of staff, nevertheless the position in this area is better than that in those adjacent. Part-time officers are very definite in their preference for working in the clinics which have the most modern equipment and the actual process of improvement must continue if we are to attract the best dental officers. The majority of part-time dental officers who are also in private practice are now using air turbine dental engines in their own practices and, convinced of the efficiency of this type of apparatus, they press for the provision of similar equipment in the clinics. We hope to start using such equipment in 1960, but it will take some time to re-equip all surgeries.

The demand for treatment does not abate and it is satisfying that the proportion of conservation treatment to extraction continues to rise steadily. This readiness on the part of parents and patients to accept the treatment proposed by the dental officers demonstrates the increasing awareness of parents of the need for dental health, and the readiness with which children accept the relatively small amount of pain and discomfort of modern dental techniques.

Unfortunately it is the experience of all dental officers that there is an increasing incidence of dental decay amongst school children. This not only affects those who have failed to seek treatment, but those who have had regular treatment as well and the rate of deterioration in some mouths and the constant vigilance that is required of the dental surgeon places a great strain on limited resources. There is no doubt at all that this higher incidence of caries and rapid progress of the disease is due to the increasing consumption of sweetmeats and "sticky carbohydrate" foods. Limited dental health propaganda directed to improving our dietetic habits does not seem to be making much impact. Still our greatest hope for reducing the onset of caries seems to be the fluoridation of domestic water supply. This is a measure of preventive medicine which has proved itself in many parts of the world in spite of intense opposition.

It is to be hoped that the experimental schemes at present being carried out in Britain will soon be followed by a much broader national scheme.

#### EAR, NOSE AND THROAT SERVICE.

Mr. R. Savege, Consulting Otologist, reports:-

With the almost total disappearance of cases of chronic middle ear suppuration, the emphasis is now upon the early diagnosis and treatment of deafness in children.

Very often, cases of minor degrees of deafness, particularly unilateral deafness, are unsuspected by the parents, until discovered at routine examination by the school doctors, and then tested by the audiometer. Early discovery is important, as good hearing is essential in the child's education and conduct, but also because, treatment can usually restore the hearing to normal, and prevent the development of chronic deafness. The rising generation can look forward to better hearing in their lives than could many of their parents.

The statistical report relating to the general work of the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic is as follows:-

	1959	(1958)
No. of new cases	151	(145)
No. of re-inspections	213	(292)
Total attendances	364	(437)
Medical Treatment advised	174	(230)
Surgical treatment advised	95	(99)

#### Audiometry Report

An additional part-time Audiometrician was appointed during the year to assist the Audiometrician. A new transistor pure tone audiometer was purchased. This machine has facilities for testing bone conduction deafness, and this proves of great help in picking out cases of nerve deafness.

The Audiometrician was given the opportunity during the year of attending a special course at the Heston School for the Deaf.

The age groups tested as a routine in schools are 6-7 years, 9-10 years, and 13-14 years.

	1958	1959
Number of schools visited	32	49
Number of children tested	5,498	7,451
Number of children with hearing loss	193	271
Number referred to E.N.T. Specialist	53	104

**FOOT HEALTH.**

11,184 children have had their feet inspected this year by the Foot Health Nurse, and 297 have been seen together with their parents by the Medical Officer in charge of the special foot clinic.

In addition the Health Visitors and Clinic Nurses have visited each school every term and carried out foot hygiene inspections. The incidence of verrucae (plantar warts) was .8% and tinea (athlete's foot) was 1.5%. Children with verrucae are asked to see their General Practitioner for treatment or to attend one of the two chiropodists employed by the School Health Service. The treatment is painless and thorough. The children are asked to keep the verrucae covered with plaster from the time that they are diagnosed and to refrain from swimming until the wart is eradicated, so as to minimise the chance of spreading the infection to other children.

The two school chiropodists treated 635 children this year.

The Medical Officer and Foot Health Nurse at the Foot Clinics are constantly asked to recommend suitable shoes for children, and it is of course, necessary to know what shoes and what standard of fitting are available in the shoe shops of the Area. A survey of all the shops selling children's shoes in Ealing was made and the results have been published in the British Medical Journal. A questionnaire was used in each of the 39 shops selling children's shoes, but because of some inaccuracies in completion, the final analysis was made on 25 shops.

All 25 shops studied were found to stock a well designed shoe, rounded toe and straight inner border in a lace-up or bar style - but only 11 shops had the necessary range of three width fittings or more, which is essential to fit the majority of children's feet. For children of 3-11 years the stocks were good, but poor for the age of 11-15 years, particularly for girls. Stocks of larger shoes, of size 7 and over, were also limited. Shoes out of stock were usually obtained in one week, which seems unnecessarily long, yet all the shops stocked the inferior girls shoe known as the "casual". The worst type of casual shoe with pointed toe, and low cut sides and front was found in 17 shops. These shoes have to be "short fitted" in length, narrow in width and use the toes as a "digital wedge" in order to stay on the foot. These shoes are very popular and sell well to the fashion conscious girl.

The standard of shoe fitting for children varied from shop to shop, but on the whole was inadequate. The Shop Assistants were usually trained by the Manager, and in only 4 shops was the training done by the firm making the shoes. None of the assistants attended a shoe fitting course as provided by a Technical College. Eight shops admitted to allowing untrained assistants to fit children's shoes at busy periods. The few shops that employed an x-ray machine found it of little value in shoe fitting.

The overlap of price ranges clearly demonstrated that all well designed children's shoes could be multifitting, and yet reasonably priced.

#### Foot Inspection - Defects

Total number examined	11,184	
Referred to Medical Officer	297	
Referred to Chiropodist	105	.9%
Verrucae	96	.8%
Defective shoes	1,840	16.4%
Everted Ankles	202	1.8%
Hallux Valgus	2,385	21.2%
Tinea	172	1.5%
Number of children treated by the two chiropodists	635	

#### ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC.

Mr. J. A. Cholmeley, the Orthopaedic Consultant, reports:-

During 1959 there has been no reduction in the attendances at the Ealing Orthopaedic Clinic either for examination or treatment, although there are no longer the number of fresh cases of poliomyelitis that used to occur only a few years ago.

Of the new cases seen during the year over a third have been concerned with the feet of school children; some, but by no means all, are related to ill fitting and bad design of shoes. There has been a recent outcry in the medical press on the type of shoes worn by the adolescent girl. Some of those attending the Orthopaedic Clinic wear shoes that are too narrow, too short and too pointed but many adolescent girls have feet adult size and can only get the adult type of shoe. Apart from this they often dress like young adults and wish to wear a corresponding type of shoe similar to their mothers, many of whom must therefore share the blame. The young man of to-day is now taking to the pointed shoe and it will be

interesting to see whether the incidence of foot trouble in the adolescent boy will now increase - I rather doubt it, providing the shoes are long enough.

#### HANDICAPPED CHILDREN.

The following table sets out in their various categories the number of handicapped pupils as at 31st December, 1959.

	In Special Day Schools		In Special Residential Schools		In main- tained Primary & Secondary Schools		Not at School		Total	
	B	G	E	G	B	G	B	G	B	G
Blind Pupils ..	-	-	3	1	-	-	1	1	4	2
Partially- Sighted Pupils..	7	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	4
Deaf Pupils ..	3	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	5	5
Partially Deaf Pupils .. ..	5	4	4	1	3	2	-	2	12	9
Educationally Sub-normal Pupils .. ..	35	30	16	8	3	5	2	3	56	46
Epileptic Pupils Maladjusted Pupils .. ..	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	2	1
Physically Han- dicapped Pupils.	9	13	4	3	6	5	3	3	22	24
Pupils with Speech Defects..	-	-	-	-	9	3	-	-	9	3
Delicate Pupils. Pupils with Multiple Defects	7	3	12	5	6	3	1	-	26	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>132</b>

#### OPHTHALMIC SERVICE.

Mr. G. Freeman-Heal, Consultant Ophthalmologist, reports:-

Report on School Children examined at Mattock Lane and Ravenor Park School Clinics for the year January to December, 1959.

The total number of cases seen was 1,483 (1958 - 1,574) of which 462 (1958 - 470) were new cases and 1,021 (1958 - 1,103) were re-inspections. The number of pairs of glasses prescribed was 961 (1958 - 927).

Abnormal Eye Conditions other than Errors of Refraction were as follows:-

Congenital Abnormalities	New Cases	Old Cases
Squint .. .. .	71	186
Congenital Nystagmus .. .. .	3	2
Nasal Duct Obstruction .. .. .	3	1
Abnormalities Extra Ocular Muscle .. .. .	1	1
Congenital Cataract .. .. .	2	2
Progressive Myopia .. .. .	3	3
Ptosis .. .. .	2	1

Abnormalities due to Infection	New Cases	Old Cases
Mucocele .. .. .	1	-
Styes .. .. .	2	-
Meibomian Cysts .. .. .	3	-
<b>Abnormalities due to Trauma</b>		
Rupture of suspensory ligament of lens	1	-
<b>Abnormalities of Unknown Etiology</b>		
Pigmentary disturbance at maculae ..	1	-
Central Retino-Choroiditis - destruction of maculae .. .. .	1	-
Optic Atrophy .. .. .	3	-

#### SPEECH THERAPY.

The past year has again been a busy one for the Speech Therapy Department.

The figures are as follows:-

Number on roll at 1st January, 1959 .. ..	216
New cases during the year .. .. .	109
Number discharged .. .. .	111
Number on roll at 31st December, 1959 .. ..	214
Number of attendances at Speech Therapy Clinics	4,071

Thus while the total number of children under treatment has remained stable, there has been a wide turnover of cases.

The frequency of the various types of speech defect has shown little variation and the percentages encountered are as shown below:-

	%
(1) Dyslalia - Missing or missing out of consonants	48.6
(2) Stammering .. .. .	15.4
(3) Developmental aphasia - Delayed or absent speech	20.5
(4) Dysarthria - Defects due to disorders of the muscles of articulation .. .. .	11.7
(5) Aphasia associated with mental deficiency ..	3.7
(6) Disorder arising from deafness .. .. .	.5

Parents generally are less critical of their children's speech than are other people and a large number of new case referrals are still received from teachers. Many of these children have never spoken well and could have at least begun treatment before reaching school age. Some defects in fact can be entirely eliminated before the child starts school thus obviating the need for regular absences in order to attend clinics.

In general any child aged three years and six months whose speech does not seem entirely normal for his age



should be seen by a Speech Therapist and treatment if indicated can be instituted from then on. It is hoped that an increasing number of parents of young children will take advantage of the expert advice available to them.

The Speech Class at Stanhope Infants School continues to prove of great value in catering for children with more severe speech defects. Accommodation is provided for about ten pupils and during the past year there have been five new admissions and three discharges.

#### **EALING CHILD GUIDANCE CENTRE.**

Dr. P. Holman, Consulting Psychiatrist, reports:-

152 Ealing patients were referred to the Centre in 1959. This figure hardly differs from that of 1958.

Fewer cases were withdrawn before investigation at the Centre. This is more satisfactory than in previous years. It is impossible to avoid some wastage when, for example, families remove from the area, parents become ill, or the child makes a spontaneous recovery.

22 children were placed in Residential Schools in the course of the year.

The frequency of different types of cases and of different symptoms changes little year by year. The average I.Q. is exactly the same this year as last; the average age has gone down by one month (not a significant change). There is little change in the ratio of primary to secondary children coming to us.

Although there is an apparent drop in the number of pre-school children referred, this is much more than balanced by the large number of young children now seen informally by the Psychiatrists and Psychiatric Social Workers in the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

Only one new case referred by the Probation Officers was seen during the year, though several old cases who had come to us in this way continued to take up a disproportionate amount of our time.

There was a further slight rise in the number of children placed in schools for maladjusted children. It is noticeable that more than two thirds of these are children of secondary school age, for whose special educational treatment there is little day school provision.

There were more changes in staff in 1959 than for several years and longer gaps between resignations and replacements. The six months' gap between Dr. Ogden's departure and Dr. Harrold's arrival meant fewer cases treated, a damaging interruption of treatment for many children and a long wait for a diagnostic interview for others.

**EDUCATION ACT, 1944.**

**Sections 57(3), 57(4) and 57(5).**

Cases dealt with under Section 57, Education Act, 1944:

Sub-Section 3	.. .. .	11
Sub-Section 4	.. .. .	-
Sub-Section 5	.. .. .	4

Cases de-notified under Section 8, Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1948 .. .. -

**MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF TEACHERS.**

Number of Teachers examined as to fitness for appointments	.. .. .	50
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**INFESTATION WITH VERMIN.**

Number Examined	.. .. .	31,268
Number Infested	.. .. .	109

## SUPPLEMENT - FOR GENERAL INFORMATION

### HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

In Middlesex the Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act is the Middlesex County Council. They have formed ten areas in the county, Ealing and Acton forming Area No. 7. In Ealing the local administration is carried out at the Town Hall, Ealing.

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.

Regular sessions for expectant mothers are held at 9 Health Clinics by doctors and midwives. Arrangements are made for blood testing, chest X-ray and for distribution of iron and vitamins. Mothers are also given the opportunity of attending ante-natal exercises and mothercraft classes. During the year 1,816 expectant mothers attended clinics in Ealing.

Advice to mothers on the care of their children is given at Health Clinics by doctors and health visitors. children are weighed at each attendance and a careful watch kept on all aspects of the children's progress. Welfare and other foods are distributed. During the year 6,481 children attended clinics in Ealing.

The following are the addresses of the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics in Ealing. There are 20 Health Visitors in Ealing. In addition to the clinic work, home visiting to advise mothers on the care of their children forms a useful link with the Clinic.

#### Ante-Natal Clinics

(Interview by Appointment)

Address	Times
Abbey Parade, North Circular Road, Ealing, W. 5.	Tues. mornings.
Brentside, Westcott Crescent, Hanwell, W. 7.	Thurs. mornings.
Cherington House, Cherington Road, Hanwell, W. 7.	Mon. Tues. mornings.
Greenford Green, Wadham Gardens, Greenford.	Tues. Fri. mornings.
Islip Manor, Eastcote Lane, Northolt.	Mon. Wed. mornings.
Laurel House, Windmill Road, Ealing, W. 5.	Wed. Thurs. mornings.
Mattock Lane, 13 Mattock Lane, Ealing, W. 5.	Mon. Wed. Fri. mornings.
Perivale, Horsenden Lane, Greenford.	Wed. mornings.
Ravenor Park, Oldfield Lane, Greenford.	Mon. Thurs. mornings.

### Child Welfare Clinics

Address	Times
Abbey Parade, North Circular Road, Ealing, W.5.	Tues. Fri. 2 - 4 p.m.
Brentside, Westcott Crescent, Hanwell, W.7.	Thurs. 2 - 4 p.m.
Cherington House, Cherington Road, Hanwell, W.7.	Mon. Tues. Thurs. 2 - 4 p.m.
Greenford Green, Wadham Gardens, Greenford.	Tues. Wed. Fri. 2 - 4 p.m.
Islip Manor, Eastcote Lane, Northolt.	Mon. Thurs. 2 - 4 p.m.
Northolt Grange Community Centre, Northolt.	Tues. 2 - 4 p.m.
Laurel House, Windmill Road, Ealing, W.5.	Mon. Thurs. 2 - 4 p.m.
Mattock Lane, 13 Mattock Lane, Ealing, W.5.	Mon. Wed. Thurs. Fri. 2 - 4 p.m.
Perivale, Horsenden Lane, Greenford.	Mon. Thurs. 2 - 4 p.m.
Ravenor Park, Oldfield Lane, Greenford.	Mon. Tues. Wed. Fri. 2 - 4 p.m.

#### DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

There is a staff of 12 midwives in Ealing.

There were 725 home confinements in Ealing in 1959 compared with 740 in 1958. This decrease of 15 on last year is the first fall in home confinements since 1955. An account of a survey of home confinements in Ealing is given at the end of this report.

All midwives are trained in the use of Trilene and gas & air Analgesia for mothers in labour, and in the use of small oxygen cylinders should any baby have respiratory difficulty. The number of pupil midwives who received district training during the year was 18.

The Rota system for midwives, which was begun in Ealing in September, 1958, continued to work satisfactorily during 1959. The long hours of duty both actual working time and "on call" time has, throughout the country, made the recruitment of midwives difficult. The rota system is designed to overcome this objection and give midwives the maximum possible time when they are completely free from responsibility. The Borough has been divided up into six areas, each of which has two midwives allocated to it, one midwife being on duty for the whole area and her opposite number being off duty. The rota works over two weeks and is as follows:-

1st Week	2nd Week
<b>On duty:</b> 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. for 6 days during the week.	<b>On duty:</b> 2 p.m. to 6 a.m. for 4 days except on opposite midwife's day off, when she will be on duty for 24 hours.
<b>Off duty:</b> One period of 24 hours during the week, i.e. from 6 a.m. one day to 6 a.m. the next day.	<b>Off duty:</b> Friday 6 a.m. to Monday 6 a.m.

This system has resulted in the working and "on call" hours being reduced from 132, before the institution of the rota, to 85½ hours weekly. The effect of this is, of course, that during her time on duty the midwife is even more fully engaged than under the previous system. It has, however, been popular with the midwives and an entirely satisfactory service can be given to the public.

Applications for the services of a midwife should be made through a Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic.

#### HOME NURSING SERVICE.

There are 23 full-time Home Nurses and 8 part-time Home Nurses in Ealing, including two male nurses. During the year a total of 73,387 visits was made to 3,561 patients. The object of the service is to enable those patients whose illness does not require hospital admission to be nursed at home. The duties carried out comprised general nursing, blanket bathing, giving of enemata and injections of antibiotics, etc. Hydraulic hoists are available for lifting of patients and orthopaedic walking aids are supplied. An increasing proportion of the work is concerned with old people.

The services of a home nurse are available at the request of the patient's medical practitioner or hospital medical officer. Application should be made to the Area Medical Officer, Town Hall, Ealing, W.5.

#### HOME HELP SERVICE.

The Home Help Service provides domestic help in time of illness. All normal household duties, including shopping, cooking, washing, cleaning, and looking after children are undertaken. There is an equivalent of 126 full-time home helps in Ealing. At the end of the year there were over 829 cases receiving help. The order of priority is acute sick, maternity cases, tuberculosis, and chronic sick and aged. Nevertheless, over 80% of those helped were old people. Payment is based on the patient's resources and ranges from no charge to 4/- per

hour. The object of the service is to supplement assistance available from relatives etc., and to tide patients over in emergency rather than supply permanent domestic help. During the year the night service was continued. Attendance is from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. and the duties of the helper consist of sitting with and giving general care to the patient. This has proved most valuable.

Applications for the services of either a day or night home help should be made, accompanied by a medical certificate, to the Area Medical Officer, Town Hall, Ealing, W.5.

#### **FAMILY HELP SCHEME.**

This service was inaugurated in May, 1959, to deal with 3 categories of cases.

- (1) The family help takes the place of the mother in her absence, assumes responsibility for the home, the children and the finances and resides at the home.
- (2) The family help takes the place of the mother in her absence, assumes responsibility for the home, the children and the finances in the day time only, but is non-resident, the father or other relative takes over at night.
- (3) The family help is employed for some part of the day to assist and advise the mother who, although resident with her family, requires to be taught how to manage her household affairs and to budget sensibly.

The total number of cases dealt with since the inception of the service is five and these have been made up as follows:-

- One in category (1)
- Three in category (2)
- One in category (3).

A charge is made on a weekly basis according to the applicant's income and expenditure. Applications for the service should be made to the Children's Officer, 4 Newburgh Road, Churchfield Road, Acton, W.3.

#### **DAY NURSERIES.**

There are two Day Nurseries in Ealing for the care of children under five years of age. One nursery is situated in Culmington Road, and has accommodation for 40 children. The other nursery is in Greenford and has accommodation for 50 children. Both the Day Nurseries are recognised

training centres and girls of sixteen are accepted for a two years' training for the National Nursery Examination Board's Diploma. Admission of children is restricted as a general rule to those whose mothers need to go out to work, although there are exceptions such as during a mother's illness, or on a doctor's recommendation for the sake of the child's health. Children under two years of age are only admitted if the mothers are the sole supporters, e.g. divorced, separated or unmarried, or if the home conditions are unsatisfactory. The nurseries are open from 7.30 a.m. to 6.0 p.m. A charge is made for this Service on a sliding scale based on the parents income.

All applications for admission to a Day Nursery should be made to the Area Medical Officer, Town Hall, Ealing, W.5.

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#### THE PATTERN OF DOMICILIARY AND INSTITUTIONAL CONFINEMENTS IN EALING, 1958

By Margaret McDonald, M.B., B.S. Assistant Medical Officer, Area No. 7., Middlesex County Council

This survey was prompted by an increase in the demand for domiciliary midwives in Ealing. The numbers of domiciliary and institutional births and the totals in the years 1952-58 inclusive are shown in Table I.

Table I

Year	Domiciliary Births	Institutional Births	Total Births
1952	488	2,006	2,494
1953	470	1,987	2,457
1954	498	1,860	2,358
1955	448	1,921	2,369
1956	546	2,026	2,572
1957	627	2,079	2,706
1958	740	1,948	2,688

The Borough of Ealing has a population of 183,000. The Area is served by the Obstetric Departments of two general hospitals, and a maternity hospital: the Central Middlesex has 79 maternity beds, the West Middlesex 80 beds, and the Perivale Maternity Hospital 52 beds.

In 1958 there were ten domiciliary midwives in Ealing, although this number has since been increased to 13.

The residential area consists mainly of private houses and flats, 46,979 in number, and there are some Council estates, containing 6,135 houses and flats, a total of 53,114 dwellings.



Domiciliary Midwifery Service





The health visitors were asked to interview and complete a questionnaire in respect of each woman in their district who had been confined in 1958, and with whom they came into contact during January to March, 1959. There were 899 women interviewed, 390 being primigravidae and 499 being multigravidae. The information obtained is analysed in Table II.

Table II

Primigravidae 390 Confined at	By choice	Not by choice
Home	20	10
Hospital	338	22
Multigravidae 499		
Home	194	63
Hospital	196	46

#### Primigravidae.

All those who had their confinement at home (although they would have preferred hospital) said they enjoyed having their babies at home (10). However, half of those who had asked to have their babies at home (22), but had been advised to go to hospital, still wished they had been confined at home.

#### Multigravidae.

Among those who both wished for, and had confinement in hospital (196), only five had had opportunity for comparison, and gave the reason for their preference as freedom from domestic worry.

Amongst the 63 women who had asked for hospital and had been unable to get a bed, 32, on reflection, preferred home because they were with the family and had more personal attention. Six women would have preferred home if they could have obtained adequate and inexpensive domestic help. Twenty-five women still preferred hospital giving their reasons as (a) more rest (6); (b) freedom from domestic worries (7); (c) more security (5); and (d) vague reasons (7).

### DISCUSSION

The statement that six people would have preferred a home confinement if they could have obtained adequate and inexpensive domestic help raises the question of the added expense to the mother of having her confinement at home. Possibly there were many more mothers to whom this question of expense was a material factor in choosing to have the confinement in hospital.

A reasonable estimate of this additional cost is:-

	£	s.	d.
Home Help (Cranbrook Report Appendix V. East Suffolk County Council Estimate, 1956)	11	10	0
Food for mother	2	10	0
Heating, lighting, etc.	1	10	0
Additional linen	2	0	0
Extras: soap, bowls, etc.		10	0
	18	0	0

Towards this expenditure the mother receives a home confinement grant of £5.

The Reading Borough Council gave their estimate (1956) for Home Help at £6.6s.7d. In Ealing the average Home Help charge made to mothers in assessed cases for the financial year ending 31st March, 1959, was £4 per case. This estimate concerns those whose income is so low that they know they will get the Home Help at a diminished rate. Those who are asked to pay the full rate of 4s. per hour either make other arrangements, or have a Home Help for a few days only.

The Cranbrook Committee state that "the home confinement grant, at present £5, was we thought unlikely to cover the cost of food (which in hospital was provided free), minor equipment and the additional home help that the mother confined at home was likely to require. We consider that with the changing value of money the amount of the home confinement grant should periodically be reviewed."

In 1946, the Population Investigation Committee and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists combined to make an inquiry into the social and economic factors of childbearing. All the women delivered in a single week were interviewed, and the Borough of Ealing was invited to participate in this inquiry. In urban areas throughout the country, 46 per cent. of confinements took place in institutions, but, in 1948, 78 per cent. of Ealing mothers were confined in institutions.

In the Cranbrook Report, some witnesses suggested that every woman who wishes to have her baby in hospital should be allowed to do so, other witnesses thought that every woman should be actively encouraged to have her baby in hospital, while a third source stressed that there were important physical and psychological advantages in the normal confinement taking place at home.

The Cranbrook Committee recommended that sufficient maternity beds should be provided for a national average of 70 per cent. of all confinements to take place in hospital. In Ealing 73 per cent. of the total births in 1958 were in hospital.

If a hospital bed had been provided for every patient who had asked for one, 76 per cent. of those interviewed would have been confined in hospital.

#### SUMMARY

(1) Eight hundred and eighty-nine women who had been confined in 1958 were interviewed and a questionnaire completed by the health visitors. 607 chose to have a hospital confinement, although 73 had to have a home confinement; 68 had a hospital confinement, but not by choice; leaving 214 confined at home by choice.

(2) All 10 of the primigravidae, and 38 out of 63 of the multigravidae who had been obliged to have their confinements at home, decided, on retrospect, that they really preferred to do so. Financial implications may well have been the deciding factor in their first choice.



