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Urban District Council of Enfield

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

(WILLIAM D. HYDE, M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H.)

FOR

1952

SOCIAL MEDICINE UNIT,
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Urban District Council of Enfield

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(WILLIAM D. HYDE, M.B. Ch.B., D.P.H.)

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ANNUAL REPORT

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1952

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

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1952.

Housing still remains a major public health matter and last year I said that further action in regard to demolitions and clearance orders would become necessary in the near future. During the year preliminary action was taken with regard to some of the more insanitary properties, and this involved a total of 44 houses, thirty of which were in a Clearance Area.

Apart from action in securing that houses not fit for habitation are not occupied, a large proportion of the work of the Department has been devoted to ensuring that premises are maintained in a reasonably good state and to take such steps as are possible under present conditions to alleviate overcrowding.

The problem of Clean and Safe Food continued to be given close attention during the year. A Clean Food Campaign was held in May. This was a less extensive campaign than that of the previous year but it did succeed in renewing the impetus given to the subject the previous year and steady progress has been maintained in effecting practical improvements in all types of establishments.

This year again the most prevalent infectious disease was Measles. Notifications became numerous in September and the incidence rose sharply in succeeding months and continued throughout the Winter. Scarlet Fever was more prevalent than during the previous year but Whooping Cough notifications remained stationary. The mild type of Dysentery which had been more widespread than usual the previous year continued until April, after which month few notifications were received, and there were few cases of food poisoning. Unfortunately there were 16 cases of Poliomyelitis of varying degrees of severity and these are referred to elsewhere in my report. It is gratifying to report for the fourth

year in succession the absence of Diphtheria, but this, in my opinion, must not be interpreted as a sign of its complete elimination, but rather as an encouragement and challenge to continue our efforts to secure that all children receive adequate and timely protection by immunisation in order to maintain this freedom from a serious disease.

In 1950 a very low number of deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis was recorded (about half the average for many preceding years) but unfortunately there was a remission in 1951. This year again, however, the low and encouraging figure of 21 deaths has been recorded.

Enfield, in common with so many other localities, suffered from a few days of thick fog in December. As was to be expected, the death returns showed a sudden rise in deaths due to pneumonia and other respiratory conditions, in the period immediately following the fog. About 3 weeks after the fog, when the deaths due to respiratory conditions had fallen considerably, the number of notifications of pneumonia reached a fairly high level and this was again followed by an immediate rise in the number of deaths caused by pneumonia and other respiratory conditions, although these deaths were not related to the notifications. A careful study of the available vital statistics and meteorological data failed to elicit any information on which new conclusions could be based.

The Birth Rate continuing its general post-war downward trend reached the lowest rate recorded this Century, namely 13.1.

The Death Rate of 9.66 was lower than last year. Almost one quarter of the deaths occurred in persons over 80 years of age, one woman at the age of 101 years, one man at the age of 100 years, and 6 women between the ages of 95 years and 98 years.

Although the total deaths were almost equally divided between males and females, only 41 per cent. of the deaths over 80 years were males. These proportions are similar to the previous year's figures.

In conclusion, I should like, once again, to record my appreciation of the efforts of the Staff of the Health Department during the past year.

WILLIAM D. HYDE,

Medical Officer of Health.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ENFIELD

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also

Mesdames Daines and Rowland, also Messrs. Boxall, Cottenham, Harris, Leesmith, Lowe and Platten.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health : Dr. W. D. Hyde.

Acting Deputy do. Dr. M. R. Gilmour.

Senior Sanitary Inspector : Mr. A. N. Smith.

Sanitary Inspectors : Mr. H. Wiggett, Mr. A. Ramsden, Mr. D. C. Turner, Mr. C. Day, Mr. G. E. A. Laney and Mr. N. Smith

Shops and Housing Inspector : Mr. M. Wilson.

Rodent Investigator : Mr. P. W. Partridge.

Chief Clerk : Mr. Sydney Coulter.

Senior Clerk : Mr. C. W. Chapman (resigned 6th September, 1952).
Mr. S. N. Dance (appointed 27th October, 1952).

General Clerks : Mr. J. W. Viggers, Mrs. F. I. Dufton and Miss J. Pinkham.

Shorthand-Typist : Miss H. E. Grout.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

POPULATION

The population as estimated by the Registrar General is 109,700.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1952, according to the Rate Books, was 29,924.

EXPLANATORY NOTE :—

Definition of " Houses "—Structurally separate dwellings including flats.

The rateable value of the District is £902,979

The net product (after allowing for cost of collection) of a penny rate is £3,651

AREA

Area (in acres) 12,400

NEW HOUSES

The number of houses erected during the course of the year was 254.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live Births :—	Total	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	1,397	680	717
Illegitimate	41	22	19

Birth-rate—13.10 per 1,000 population.

Still Births :—	Total.	Male.	Female
Legitimate	23	13	10
Illegitimate	1	—	1

Rate per 1,000 total births—16.34.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths	1,060	546	514

Death-rate— 9.66 per 1,000 population.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Total Births.
From Puerperal Sepsis ..	—	0.00
From other Puerperal causes	3	2.04
	3	2.04

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	19.47
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	19.32
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	24.39

Deaths from Cancer (all forms)	197
Deaths from Cancer (Lungs and Bronchus)	46
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	19
Deaths from Tuberculosis (Other forms)	2

BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

	Birth-rate.		Death-rate.	Mortality rate Infant
	Live	Still		
England and Wales ..	15.3	22.6	11.3	27.6
London	17.6	19.2	12.6	23.8
160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	16.9	24.6	12.1	31.2
160 Smaller Towns ..	15.5	23.0	11.2	25.8
ENFIELD	13.10	16.34	9.66	19.47

DEATHS

The number of deaths assigned to Enfield for 1952 was 1,060, a reduction of 94 on last year.

The more prevalent causes of death during the year and the previous year were :—

Cause of Death	1952	1951
ALL AGES :—		
Malignant Disease (Cancer)	197	200
Diseases of Heart	340	375
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	52	34
Pneumonia	42	50
Bronchitis	63	62
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	164	149
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	19	45
CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR :—		
Premature Birth	8	8
Congenital Malformations	3	5
Pneumonia	4	8
Gastritis	3	—
Injury at Birth	1	1
Atelectasis	6	5

The net death-rate for the District is 9.66 per 1,000 population.

Two-hundred-and-thirty-three deaths registered were of Enfield persons over 80 years of age, 95 being males and 138 females, one man dying at the advanced age of 100, three women at the age of 95 years, one at 96 years, one at 97 years, one at the age of 98, and one at the advanced age of 101 years.

TABLE I.

Causes of Death during Year 1952.

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ..	12	7	19
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	1	2
Syphilitic diseases	2	—	2
Influenza	—	2	2
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2
Ac. Polio-myelitis	—	1	1
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm of stomach ..	17	12	29
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	42	4	46
Do. of breast ..	—	17	17
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus	—	7	7
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	51	47	98
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	—	2
Diabetes	—	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	61	103	164
Coronary disease, angina	99	56	155
Hypertension with heart disease ..	13	16	29
Other Heart disease	68	88	156
Other Circulatory disease	19	33	52
Bronchitis	42	21	63
Pneumonia	22	20	42
Other diseases of Respiratory system	3	4	7
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	13	6	19
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	1	3	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis	7	4	11
Hyperplasia of prostate	8	—	8
Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion ..	—	3	3
Congenital Malformations	4	2	6
Suicide	7	2	9
Motor Vehicle accidents	9	1	10
All Other accidents	4	11	15
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	38	40	78
Homicide and operations of war ..	—	—	—
Total ..	546	514	1,060

TABLE II.

Infant Mortality

Net Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

Causes of Death.	Under 1 week.	1 to 2 weeks.	2 to 3 weeks.	3 to 4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total Deaths under One Year of Age.
All Causes—Certified ..	16	3	—	1	20	4	3	1	—	28
Uncertified ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	4
Gastritis	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
Injury at Birth	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atelectasis	6	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	6
Congenital Malformation ..	1	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	3
Premature Birth	6	2	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	8
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other Causes	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Totals	16	3	—	1	20	4	3	1	—	28

Net Births in the year :—Legitimate : Live births, 1,397 ; Still-births, 23. Illegitimate : Live births, 41 ; Still-births, 1.

Net Deaths in the year :—Legitimate Infants, 27 ; Illegitimate, 1.

It will be seen from Table II that of the 28 infants who died before attaining the age of 1 year, 20 died within the first four weeks of life, and of this number 16 deaths occurred in infants under 1 week.

The infant mortality rate for the District is 19.47 and this figure compares most favourably with the rest of the country.

BIRTHS

The corrected birth rates for both sexes, live and still births, which takes into consideration those born outside the District and those in the District not rightly recorded to the District, and also the corrected birth rates for the last five years are :—

Year.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Birth-rate per 1,000 Population.	Illegitimate Birth-rate per 1,000 Population.
1948	1,013	943	1,956	17.57	0.36
1949	951	811	1,762	15.85	0.56
1950	816	782	1,598	14.31	0.57
1951	775	813	1,588	14.45	0.38
1952	715	747	1,462	13.32	0.38

INQUESTS

Fifty-one inquests and one-hundred-and-ten Post-mortem examinations without inquests were held during the year. Of these, 115 deaths were due to natural causes, 32 to accidental causes, 8 to suicide, 4 to misadventure, and in 2 cases an open verdict was recorded.

FATAL HOME ACCIDENTS.

Last year I wrote at some length on the subject comparing Enfield figures with the National pattern. This year again in Enfield the emphasis is on fatal accidents to the aged, the youngest being 63 years old and the oldest 95 years old. The 11 fatal home accidents to Enfield residents involved 9 females and 2 males.

The causes of death in five females were falls causing fractured bones followed by lung complications. The causes in three females and one male were falls causing fractured bones followed by cardiac failure, and in the case of one male and one female the cause was coal gas poisoning.

The outstanding points in these figures are the high proportion of elderly females, 82 per cent. of the total, and the fact that no children were involved.

One hears much more about Road accidents than accidents in the Home, but this year, as last year, there were more fatal accidents to Enfield residents in the home than on the streets, 11 fatal home accidents compared with 10 fatal road accidents. In the case of road accidents, however, the proportion of males to females involved was practically the opposite to that for home accidents, and the average age was much lower.

The figures I have quoted indicate the continued need for propaganda to impress on the public the need to take every possible precaution to prevent accidents in the home, particularly where the aged are concerned, as an accident resulting in a fall can so frequently lead to fatal complications. It might not be inappropriate to mention here the occurrence of 9 cases of suicide, seven males and two females, ages ranging from 17 years to 74 years; the average age being 52 years. The method adopted in 6 cases was coal gas poisoning, in two cases hanging and in one case jumping in front of a train.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 AND 1951.

No action was necessary during the year under these Acts with regard to the removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention.

Such cases as were brought to the notice of the Health Department were dealt with by the Medical Officer of Health in co-operation with the Medical Practitioners, and the patients voluntarily agreed to go to suitable institutions.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the duty of providing an Ambulance Service devolves upon the County Council, and from the 5th July, 1948 the Middlesex County Council Fire and Ambulance Service has been responsible for the Ambulance Service previously controlled by the Health Department of the Enfield Council.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year, the following cases were admitted from Enfield to South Lodge Hospital.

Para-typhoid Fever	1
Erysipelas	6
Scarlet Fever	117
Meningococcal Infection ..	4
Poliomyelitis	13
Measles	28
Whooping Cough	7
Gastro-enteritis	4
Chicken pox	7
Chicken pox and Enteritis ..	1
German Measles	1
Mumps and Chicken pox ..	1
Mumps	1
	191

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The examination of all specimens is now carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service either at the Central Laboratory, Colindale, or the branch laboratory situated at the Town Hall Edmonton.

The following table sets out the record of examinations carried out and the results.

THROAT AND NOSE SWABS.

Diphtheria Bacilli	—	
Haemolytic Streptococci ..	239	
Vincent's Angina	4	
Negative	569	
	——	812
C/fwd		812

	B/fwd		812
FAECES.			
	Shigellae	598	
	Giardia	68	
	Salmonella	48	
	Protozoa	—	
	Negative	1,959	
			2,673
SPUTUM.			
	T.B. Smear	8	
	Other Organisms	42	
	Negative	68	
			118
PERTUSSIS.			
	Cough Plate	1	
	Postnasal Swab	—	
	Negative	14	
			15
MILK.			
	Pasteurised	25	
	Other	1	
	Ice cream	32	
			58
WATER.			
	Domestic supplies, etc. ..	26	
	Swimming pools, etc. ..	13	
			39
MISCELLANEOUS.	.. .. ..	208	
			208
			3,923

WATER SUPPLY

The District of Enfield is supplied with water by the Metropolitan Water Board, except for part of the Hadley Wood and Cockfosters area, which is supplied by the Barnet District Water Company.

Both of these Authorities take regular and frequent samples for analysis. Copies of these reports are sent to the Health Department, and have shown satisfactory results.

There was no cause to suspect any contamination during the year.

There are four dwellings in Enfield which receive their water supply other than from a public company ; these are under constant supervision.

There are no houses in the district which receive their water supplies by means of standpipes.

The question of well-water supplies, both in connection with dwelling-houses and industrial premises, throughout the district has received the careful attention of the Department during the year, and every care has been exercised to see that such supplies are not used for drinking purposes where mains water supply is available, and during the year fourteen samples of well water were examined bacteriologically and three chemically.

MEDICAL ASSESSMENT OF EMPLOYEES.

The following medical examinations or assessments of employees were carried out during the year :—

(1) Superannuation Act :	Medical examinations	120
	Assessments without medical examinations	54
(2) Sick Pay Scheme :	Medical examinations	51
	Assessments without medical examinations ..	43
(3) Other Medical Examinations		5

HOUSING

Number of new houses erected during the year by :—

(a) Local Authority	232
(b) Other Local Authorities	Nil
(c) Other bodies or persons	22

With State assistance (included in above totals) :—

(a) Local Authority	232
(b) Other Local Authorities	Nil
(c) Other bodies or persons	Nil

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses* :—

	No. of houses.	No. of inspections.
(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing-defects (under Public Health, Housing Acts) and number of inspections made	2,501	12,575
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932, and the number of inspections made	47	119
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		44
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. (The number here given is of houses where any insanitary conditions were found.)		874

2. *Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	798

3. *Action under Statutory Powers.*

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owner	Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	97

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners	52
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	6

The number of house-to-house visitations made was :—

Under Housing Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ..	121
Apart from Do. Do. ..	549

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES

There are eight slaughter-houses in Enfield, none of which is in use at present.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (RAW MILK) AND (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949.

The following Licences were in operation at the end of the year

Grade.	Dealers.	Supplementary.
RAW MILK :		
Tuberculin Tested ..	17	10
Accredited	—	—
PASTEURISED MILK ..	24	10
STERILISED MILK ..	66	12
Totals : ..	107	32

During the year 25 samples of Milk were taken and tested ; all were found to be satisfactory.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

The following table gives details of the samples procured under the above Act in Enfield by the Food and Drugs Authority during 1952 :—

Article.	Total samples procured.	Unsatisfactory.
Milk, various	360	15
Beef Suet	1	—
Cakes, various	28	—
Cake Mixture	1	1
Cherry Wine (non-alcoholic) ..	1	—
Coffee	1	—
Coffee and Chicory Essence ..	1	—
Curry Powder	1	—
Dessicated Coconut	1	—
Drugs	7	—
Fish, various	22	2
Fish Paste	2	—
Ground Almonds	1	—
Ice Cream	5	—
Jams, various	3	—
Jelly	1	—
Lemon Cheese	1	—
Marmalade	1	—
Meats, cooked	11	—
Meat Pie	3	—
Mincemeat	1	—
Non-brewed condiment	1	—
Orange Juice	2	—
Pineapple in Syrup	1	—
Sausages, various	23	—
Sausage Meat	1	1
Synthetic Cream	1	—
Tripe	1	—
Vinegar	24	8
Whisky	30	—
Totals : ..	537	27

The 15 milk samples were, with one exception, all samples of new milk from farmers and in no case did they contain added water. They were unsatisfactory generally in small degree having either less than 3.0 per cent. fat or less than 8.5 per cent. solids-not-fat. The farmer was informed and directed to advice, and the Milk Marketing Board, which is the purchaser, was also informed.

The unsatisfactory sample of cake mixture was one which was deficient in fat and an official caution was issued.

The two samples of fish which were unsatisfactory were two sales of smoked cod for smoked haddock. In this case there was a prosecution and the trader was fined £2 and ordered to pay 3 guineas costs.

The unsatisfactory sample of sausage meat was of pork sausage which was 21 per cent. deficient in meat content. A butcher's manager was prosecuted and fined £3 with £4 18s. 0d. costs.

The eight samples of vinegar were cases of the passing off of non-brewed condiment for vinegar and resulted in one prosecution (fine £2 with 2 guineas costs) and the issue of official cautions to four other traders.

CLEAN AND SAFE FOOD

In my report on the Clean and Safe Food Campaign in 1951 I expressed the view that the Campaign was only the beginning of the Health Department's special efforts to establish and maintain a high degree of food hygiene by the housewife, the trade and the public generally.

Throughout the year the staff of the Health Department have striven to ensure that the standards attained as a result of the first Campaign were maintained and, where necessary, improved.

The sanitary inspectors paid 2,156 visits to 825 food premises during the year, always taking the opportunity of emphasising the need for constant awareness that particular care in the handling of foodstuffs is essential to ensure " Clean and Safe Food."

A " Clean and Safe Food " Campaign, less extensive than the previous year's Campaign was held during the week 19th to 24th May 1952 and was directed primarily to secure the interest and co-operation of the housewives.

During the week some 15,000 leaflets " Housewives, Remember !," were distributed to shops and to each of the Public Libraries. The leaflets were displayed in attractive holders inviting the public to take one.

Suitable posters were displayed on the Council's public notice-boards and vehicles, and in many shops.

The proprietor of every food shop was given display notices signed by the Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the Council asking customers not to take dogs into food shops.

The children in the schools were invited to submit an essay or a poster for competitions in three age groups. A total of 101 essays and 112 posters were received from thirteen schools. Many of the entries, particularly the posters, were very commendable. The winning entries in the Poster Competitions were displayed in the Public Libraries.

Although this year's Campaign was not on such ambitious lines as last year there was evidence that very considerable interest was aroused. The tradesmen were of the opinion that the housewives were critical and interested. The response by the children was much better than in the previous year, and their greater appreciation of the reason behind the competitions was evidenced by the essays and posters.

Lectures on Food Hygiene were given to school-children, Women's Guilds and other organisations.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND SCHOOLS

	1952.	1951.
Number of children notified by Head Teachers to be absent from School due to :—		
(a) Infectious Disease or suspected Infectious Disease	462	229
(b) Contact with Infectious Disease ..	16	9
Number of School children notified by General Practitioners as suffering from Infectious Disease	1,226	1,592

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEARS 1951 AND 1952.

	1952			1951		
	No.	Re-moved.	Deaths.	No.	Re-moved.	Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera—Plague ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (inc. Membranous Croup) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria Carriers ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	25	6	—	22	6	—
Scarlet Fever	343	123	—	171	90	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	2	2	—	1	1	—
Relapsing Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	48	46	—	36	26	—
Meningococcal Infection	4	4	—	5	5	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic and Non-Paralytic) ..	16	16	1	1	—	—
Acute-Encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	1	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	126	—	19	113	—	45
Other forms of Tuberculosis	16	—	2	15	—	5
Food Poisoning	10	—	—	13	1	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	37	2	42	94	8	50
Dysentery	181	—	—	257	8	—
Measles	1491	30	—	2466	31	—
Whooping Cough ..	246	7	—	248	10	1
Totals ..	2546	237	64	3443	187	101

The above figures are in respect of Civilians and Non-Civilians.

The following table shows the number of houses in which cases of infectious diseases occurred during the year. In many instances, more than one family were occupying the houses.

Disease	1 case	2 cases	3 cases	4 cases	5 cases	6 cases	7 cases
Scarlet Fever ..	268	33	3	—	—	—	—
Measles	834	241	47	6	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	151	34	9	—	—	—	—
Dysentery (Sonné)	67	20	15	4	—	1	1
Food Poisoning ..	6	2	—	—	—	—	—

The following table shows the number of notifications of cases of Infectious Disease per 1,000 civilian population in Enfield as compared with England and Wales, 160 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London, 160 Smaller Towns with resident population 25,000–50,000 (1951 Census) and London Administrative County.

	ENFIELD.	England and Wales.	160 C.B.s and Great Towns including London.	160 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000-50,000 1951 Census.	London Adm. County.
Typhoid Fever ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever ..	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02
Scarlet Fever ..	3.12	1.53	1.75	1.58	1.56
Whooping Cough ..	2.24	2.61	2.74	2.57	1.66
Diphtheria	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01
Erysipelas	0.22	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.14
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	13.59	8.86	10.11	8.49	9.23
Pneumonia	0.33	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio-encephalitis) Paralytic	0.10	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Non-Paralytic ..	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Food Poisoning ..	0.09	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.18
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	32.83(a)	17.87(a)	23.94(a)	10.22(a)	30.77(a)

(a) Per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.

DIPHTHERIA

For the fourth year in succession no case of Diphtheria occurred in the District.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

1,341 children were immunised for the first time and 2,026 received subsequent reinforcing doses during the year.

These figures are lower than last year's figures. The number of parents accepting this service for their children is not yet sufficiently high to warrant any sense of security.

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

757 children were immunised against Whooping Cough during the year.

POLIOMYELITIS AND ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS.

During the course of the year sixteen cases of poliomyelitis were notified, varying in degree from slight to severe. 11 cases were males and 4 females, and 5 cases were under the age of 5 years, 6 between 5 years and 15 years and 5 over the age of 15 years.

All but one of the cases occurred in the second half of the year and in no instance was there evidence of other members of the family having associated illness.

FOOD POISONING

Ten cases of food poisoning were notified during the year, but all were isolated instances and no outbreak occurred.

SONNÉ DYSENTERY

The incidence of mild dysentery due to Shigella Sonnei, which rose to a higher level than usual the previous year, showed a reduction of 76 cases. Most of the 181 cases occurred during the early months of the year, being a continuance of the outbreak of the previous Autumn. Only 11 cases were notified from May to December inclusive. It is believed that the spread of infection was materially reduced by the steps taken to exclude contacts from Day Nurseries, Schools and certain occupations, and by the intensive search for contacts, followed by bacteriological investigation, and control of those found to be positive, but it put a considerable strain on the Department and the Laboratory.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives particulars of the ages of the new cases notified and deaths from this disease during the year.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5	2	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
5 to 10	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20	4	5	—	1	—	—	—	—
20 to 25	13	11	1	3	—	1	—	1
25 to 35	21	11	4	—	—	1	—	—
35 to 45	10	6	1	—	2	3	1	—
45 to 55	13	4	—	2	2	—	—	—
55 to 65	7	3	—	—	3	1	—	—
65 and upwards ..	6	1	1	—	5	1	—	—
Totals ..	80	46	8	8	12	7	1	1

The following table shows the incidence of Tuberculosis and death-rates from this disease in the various Wards in the District during the year.

Ward.	Estimated Population.	No. of Cases.		T.B. Case-rate.		T.B. Death-rate.	
		Pulm.	Other.	Pulm.	Other.	Pulm.	Other.
Bush Hill Park ..	10,620	8	1	0.75	0.09	0.18	0.00
Cambridge Road	10,718	11	3	1.02	0.27	0.09	0.00
Chase	7,557	10	4	1.32	0.53	0.13	0.13
Enfield Wash ..	12,608	15	2	1.19	0.15	0.15	0.07
Green Street ..	10,718	22	2	2.04	0.18	0.18	0.00
Ordnance	13,485	17	2	1.26	0.14	0.22	0.00
Ponders End ..	9,929	15	—	1.51	0.00	0.40	0.00
The Town ..	11,119	8	1	0.71	0.08	0.08	0.00
West	12,321	6	1	0.48	0.08	0.08	0.00
Willow	10,625	14	—	1.31	0.00	0.18	0.00
Total ..	109,700	126	16	1.14	0.14	0.17	0.01

MASS RADIOGRAPHY

Arrangements were made with the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board for another visit by the Mass X-Ray Unit. Previous visits had not only shown the usefulness of the work undertaken by the Unit, but also the encouraging response by Enfield residents to the facility provided.

Through co-operation between the Health Department and the Unit, arrangements were made for the Unit to commence operation at the Wesleyan Church Hall, Church Street, on 9th October, 1952. Owing to the greater mobility of the present Unit, facilities were also provided at the Wesleyan Church Hall, High Street, Ponders End, St. George's Church Hall, Hertford Road, and many industrial and other premises throughout the district. The visit continued well into 1953 and the final results of the survey are not yet known, although 16,900 persons were examined, compared with 7,789 in 1946 and 9,453 in 1949.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

During the year a Rodent Investigating Officer and four operators were engaged on control of rat infestation at dwelling-houses and other premises and of the sewers in the district.

The Council provides this service to the occupiers of all dwelling-houses free of charge ; industrial and business premises are dealt with at the request of the proprietors who pay the full cost of any disinfestation undertaken at their premises.

680 premises were inspected during the year for rat and mice infestation, and of these 609 were found to be affected.

The total number of treatments carried out by the Department (including domestic, business and factory premises, and re-infestations) was 565.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors and Rodent Investigating Staff made 7,095 visits concerning rat infestation.

All the sewers in the district have been systematically examined and the Ministry's scheme for the extermination of rats in sewers has been closely followed. Experience gained during these investigations has proved extremely useful to the Department, and it has been possible to trace any colony or heavy infestation ; such infestations as were discovered were confined to small areas far apart from one another. During the initial investigations 504 manholes were examined and 306 pre-baits and 117 poison-baits were laid. The necessary follow-up treatment continues so that the rat population of the sewers may be kept under control.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Number of Council Houses found to be infested ..	22
Number of Council houses disinfested	22
Number of other houses found to be infested ..	41
Number of other houses disinfested	41

Householders are urged to seek the assistance of the Health Department immediately they suspect the presence of bugs or similar pests.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

The following report, in condensed form, gives details of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1952.

The total number of inspections made during the year for all purposes was 29,408.

The following table shows the number of inspections carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year.

	No. of Inspections
INSPECTIONS :—	
Housing Act, 1936	121
Infectious Disease	414
Tuberculosis	116
Complaint or otherwise	11,715
Vermin	209
Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act	6
Pet Animals Act	13
Public Conveniences	291
Ice-Cream Shops	208
Schools	115
Cinemas, Halls, etc.	41
Public Houses	—
Fair-grounds	4
Hairdressers	22
Milkshops and Dairies	175
Food Preparing Premises	1,643
Food Hawkers' Stands	29
Food Hawkers (Storage)	41
Bakehouses	60
Outworkers' Premises	59
Factories	81
Smoke Observations	24
VISITS :—	
Infectious Diseases	1,618
Tuberculosis	81
Housing Act, 1936 (Sec. 62)—Permitted Numbers	549
Shops Act	3,116
Improvements Grants	261
Builder's Notices	30
Cesspool Examinations	100
Washing Facilities in Food-shops	3
C/fwd	21,145

B/fwd ..	21,145
Food Inspections	158
Gipsy Vans	73
Rats	7,095
Overcrowding	32
Sub-letting	—
Piggeries	44
Stables	25
Well Water Supplies	15
Wasps, Beetles, etc.	113
Other Visits	708
	29,408

Samples taken—Water—Wells	17
Mains, etc.	9
Subsoil Water	1
Swimming Baths	7
Parks Lakes etc.	6
Milk	25
Ice-Cream	32
Rag Flock	Nil

The following list of repairs executed during the course of the year shows that the defects found as the result of the Sanitary Inspectors' visits were varied and general in character.

Houses or parts of houses cleansed, repaired, etc. ..	393
Roofs repaired	378
Gutters and downpipes repaired	951
Downpipes disconnected from drains	—
Dampness remedied	228
Ventilation provided under floors	—
Floors repaired	70
Yards paved or made good	12
Rooms stripped, etc., after infectious disease	—
Dustbins provided or renewed	39
Food stores provided	—
Food stores cleansed, etc.	—
Drains—Examined	251
Tested—Smoke	41
Water	19
Reconstructed	12
Repaired, etc.	189
Vents provided	—
Vents repaired	9
Cesspools abolished	—
Sink wastes repaired	24

New sinks provided	9
Washing facilities provided in food-stores	—
Water-closets—New ones provided	13
New pans provided	35
Apparatus repaired or renewed	65
Water—Cistern provided	—
Cisterns cleansed, covered, etc.	1
Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.	—
Water laid on or restored	6
Nuisances—Fowls, etc., removed	3
Manure, etc., removed	9
Ditches, etc., cleaned out	—
Other nuisances abated—Stoves repaired or renewed ..	65
Windows repaired or renewed ..	230
Gipsy vans removed	40
Overcrowding abated	2
Miscellaneous	118
Wasps Nests destroyed ..	113
Houses demolished	2

NOTICES ISSUED

Statutory (Insanitary Conditions)	99
Informal (Do.)	610
Other Notices (Infectious Diseases)	4,408
	5,117

Other Letters sent	2,655
Number of Certificates issued in connection with plans ..	Nil
Number of Certificates issued in connection with disinfection	1
Number of Certificates issued in connection with unsound foods	871
Number of Requisitions for Information dealt with ..	1,812
Number of Certificates issued under Rent Restrictions Acts, 1920 to 1939	2

Result of Service of Statutory and Informal Notices :—

	Statutory.	Informal.
Number complied with	77	449
Number outstanding	22	161
	99	610

TOTAL INSPECTIONS

Two-thousand-two-hundred-and-twenty-nine visits were paid in respect of infectious diseases during the year, and the total number of inspections and visits for all purposes made by the Sanitary Inspectors was 29,408.

The Inspector appointed to carry out the requirements of Section 58 of the Housing Act, 1936, and the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, made the following number of visits during the year :—

Housing Act, 1936	549
Shop Act, 1950	3,116
Total ..	3,665

INTERVIEWS

A considerable amount of the time of the staff of the Health Department is taken up in interviewing members of the public who call at the offices for advice on matters concerning health and complaints as to the condition of their houses.

During the course of the year 548 members of the public were afforded such interviews.

DISINFECTION

Number of houses disinfected after infectious disease and verminous cases	509
Number of articles of clothing, bedding, etc., disinfected ..	3,135
Number of Library books disinfected	679
Number of articles of clothing, bedding, etc., destroyed ..	129

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

The Act controlling premises in which these materials are used came into force on 1st November, 1951. Six premises have been registered for the manufacture of new articles containing filling materials.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act, which controls the keeping of a pet shop, came into force on the 1st April, 1952.

During the course of the year 4 premises were licensed by the local authority.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

A register is kept of all the factories in the District, and during the year 141 inspections were carried out.

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

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections.	Written notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	46	30	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	357	111	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	18	—	—	—
Total ..	421	141	—	—

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 (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	1	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	7	9	—	4	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	—	—	—
Total ..	10	11	1	4	—

OUTWORKERS

Forty-seven lists containing the names and addresses of 680 out-workers were received during the year. One-hundred-and-ninety addresses of outworkers were forwarded to other districts.

The following table gives details of the work carried out :—

Outwork.

Nature of Work.	No. of Outworkers.	Prosecutions.	Notices served.
Pot Scourers	4	—	—
Curtains and Furniture Hangings	2	—	—
Making Wearing Apparel, etc. ..	125	—	—
Cardboard Boxes, etc.	9	—	—
Feather sorting and mounting	6	—	—
Carding of Buttons, etc. ..	19	—	—
Artificial Flowers	11	—	—
Brush Making and Artist's Materials	305	—	—
Electrical Accessories	74	—	—
Xmas Crackers, etc.	1	—	—
Stuffed Toys, etc.	85	—	—
Textile weaving etc.	2	—	—
Paper Bags	2	—	—
Handbags	3	—	—
Paper Folding	10	—	—
Stationery	14	—	—
Boots and Shoes	3	—	—
Goggles and Masks	1	—	—
Druggists Sundries	1	—	—
Sweet Making	3	—	—
Total ..	680	—	—

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

Number of inspections 41

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There is only one offensive trade business established in the district, and during the year no complaints were received in connection therewith.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Complaints of atmospheric pollution have been confined to a few specific areas, and have referred to smoke, grit, dust and charred wood particles. Despite the expressed desire of the works' management to prevent emission of " smoke " from the chimney shafts, the Health Department has experienced considerable difficulty, in some cases, in securing a consistent and maintained improvement. In only one instance, however, was statutory action necessary.

One firm has gone to a great deal of trouble and expense to install special plant which is efficiently eliminating the trouble previously occasioned by the burning of sawdust and wood waste.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOL

Enfield has two public swimming pools, a relatively modern open air pool, built in 1932, situated next to the Sports Stadium, and indoor baths at Enfield Lock, built in 1895.

Within the limits of their construction, both baths are maintained at a high level of efficiency and cleanliness.

Reports on the twice-daily examinations for chlorine content and alkalinity of the water are sent to the Medical Officer of Health, and Sanitary Inspectors take samples regularly for bacteriological tests.

As regards the purification of the water, the most up-to-date method of break-point chlorination with continuous filtration and aeration is installed at the open air pool and this works satisfactorily and undoubtedly gives a safe and pleasant bathing water.

The old indoor swimming bath of Enfield Lock still uses the " Fill-and-empty " system, changing the water twice a week and chlorinating with a proprietory solution twice a day. This method is of course, not nowadays installed because it cannot achieve the same clarity and purity of water which more modern methods of continuous filtration and chlorination provide, and consideration is now being given to the installation of a modern filtration and chlorination plant.

SCHOOLS

The sanitary condition of the County Schools in the District is under the constant supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors and any defects found are immediately brought to the notice of the Authorities concerned.

The sanitary conveniences at all the voluntary schools are attended to daily by an employee of the Health Department.

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924 to 1952

Total number of carcases examined	Nil
Number, or parts, found to be diseased (in Butchers' shops)	115
Weight of do. do. do.	2,695¼ lbs.
Number of Certificates issued	67

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

The number of Food Preparing and Ice-Cream premises in the District and number of inspections and visits made by the Sanitary Inspectors in regard thereto are as follows :—

Premises	No.	No. of Inspections and Visits
Food Preparing	205	1,643
Ice-Cream (Sale and/or Manufacture)	298	208

Ice-Cream

As will be seen from the tabulated statement above, frequent inspections of ice-cream premises were made during the year. During these visits 32 samples of ice-cream were taken and the reports on these samples are summarised as follows :—

Grade	No. of Samples
I	17
II	9
III	4
IV	2
Examined for Pathogenic Organisms, but not graded	Nil
Total ..	32

Examination of Foods

Number of inspections made to retail shops, stalls and food-preparing premises	1,981
Total No. of articles, etc., condemned	5,783
Total No. of Certificates issued	804

Total weight of foodstuffs (other than fresh meat) condemned as unfit for food :—
3 tons 17 cwts. 3 qrs. 4¼ lbs.

Meat and Other Foods

Although there are 8 slaughterhouses in the district, none are now in use for slaughtering purposes, and therefore no examinations or inspections of animals or carcases were carried out during the year.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COUNCIL ACT, 1950
SECTION 11

The provisions of the above require all Hawkers of Meat, Fish, Fruit and Vegetables and Storage Premises used in connection therewith to be registered by the Council; during the year 7 Hawkers were registered.

The following table shows the number of Hawkers' Premises, etc., registered and the number of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year in connection therewith.

No. of Premises, etc., on Register	No. of inspections
82	70

CARAVANS

Number of applications received for consent ..	Nil
Number of applications granted	Nil

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE
CESSPOOL EMPTYING
SEWER FLUSHING

The above services are under the control of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

PUBLIC MORTUARY

There is now no public mortuary in Enfield, but use is made at present of a Hospital Mortuary.

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF ENFIELD

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN

Housewives Remember!

YOU ALONE reign supreme in your own kitchens

Buy all your food when it is fresh,
Don't handle when you choose it,
Do store it in a nice cool spot
Until it's time to use it.

Protect it also from the dust
And animals and vermin;
Keep out the vulgar feeding flies
Who might bring some food germ in.

Wash hands as often as you can,
Especially after toilet;
Imagine what the food could do
If dirty hands did soil it.

So if you have a septic spot
On body, hands or face,
Please treat and cover right away
Lest germs do spread apace.

[P.T.O.

For if the germs from septic spots,
Or coughing, or from sneezing,
Reach food which you've
prepared to eat,
Results may not be pleasing.

'Tis best to eat a meal that's cooked
As soon as it is done,
For warmed-up meals can often be
As deadly as a gun.

Watch garbage, pigbins, dustbins, too,
Don't leave the lid awry;
Kill off the rodents and the flies
Before they multiply.

The dull routine of " washing up "
Requires you to beware;
Use lots of water, very hot,
Detergent, if you care.

Make sure that knives and forks
and spoons
As well as all the crockery,
Are not so dirty as to make
Hygienic codes a mockery.

Do not neglect the towels and cloths;
A frequent wash and boil
Will do a very great amount
The germs' attacks to foil.

The kitchen sink and draining board
Must never be neglected,
For if forgotten for a time
With germs become infected.

A most important point I make
To keep the family happy,
Don't use the bowl for " washing-up "
AND rinsing baby's nappy.

Do think of all these little points
When food you do prepare,
Then in your household you won't have
A bad food-poisoning scare.

Health Department,
Public Offices,
ENFIELD.

LONDON SCHOOL OF HYGIENE AND TROPICAL MEDICINE
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