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Contributors

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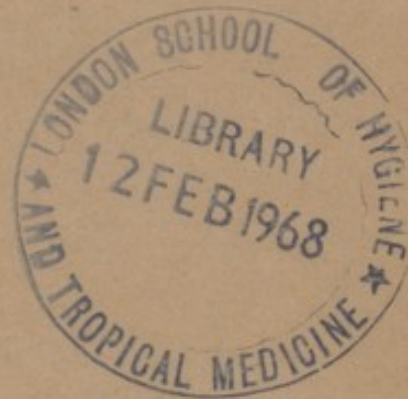
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BOROUGH OF ERITH



ANNUAL REPORT

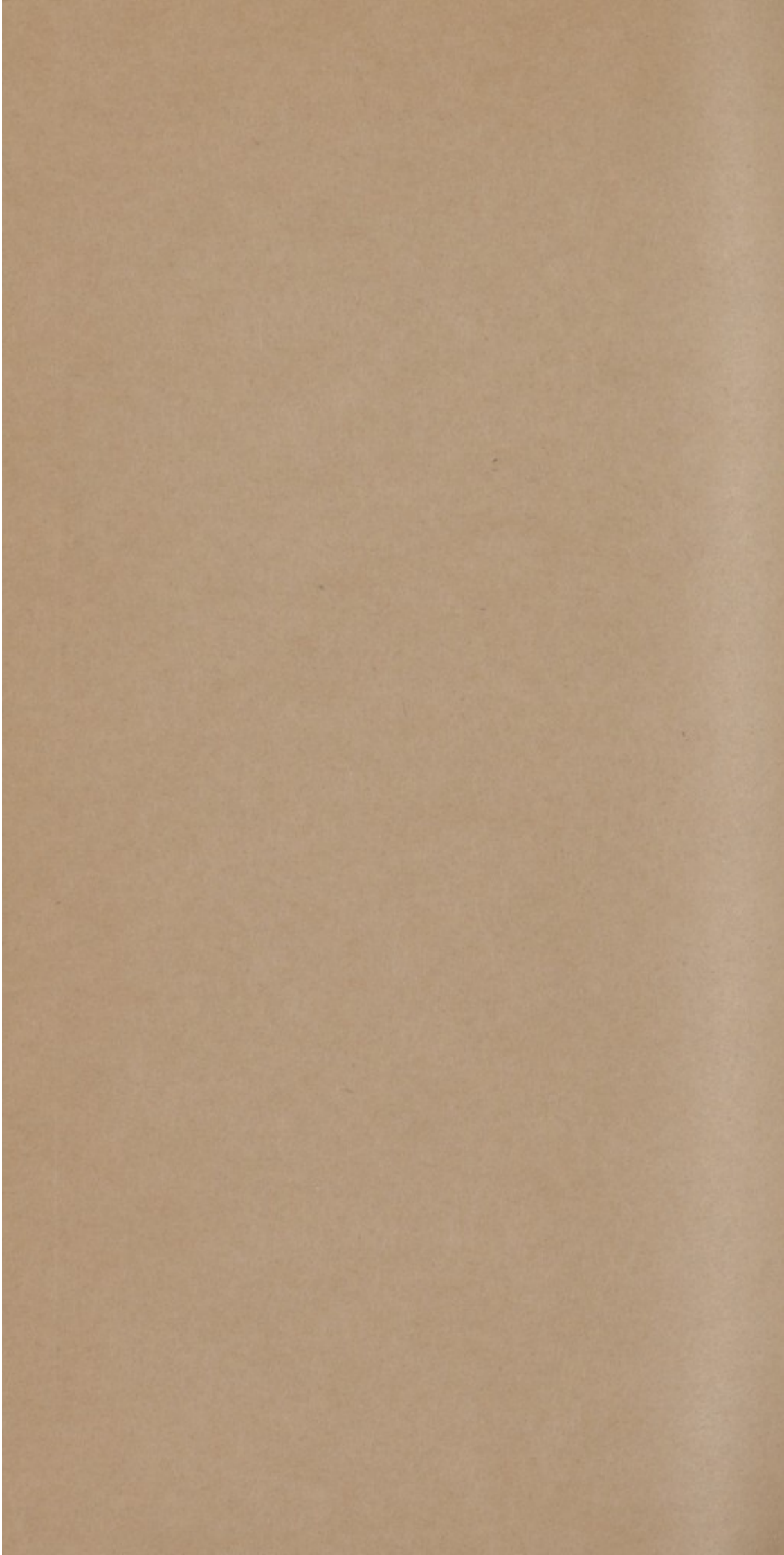
of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the year 1963

by

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



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F (1) BOROUGH OF ERITH

Mayor—Councillor Mrs. G. E. Larking, J.P. (1962-63).

Mayor—Councillor Mrs. M. E. Barron, J.P. (1963-64)

Deputy Mayor—Councillor E. E. Virrels (1962-63).

Deputy Mayor—Councillor Mrs. G. E. Larking (1963-64)

Health Committee

Chairman—Alderman E. Handy (1962-63)

Chairman—Councillor Mrs. M. M. Eccles (1963-64)

Members of Committee

May 1962—May 1963

May 1963—May 1964

Aldermen

Mrs. L. F. Rosser

Mrs. L. F. Rosser
E. Handy
E. E. Virrels

Councillors

P. E. Daynes
Mrs. M. M. Eccles
Mrs. D. M. Maclean
Mrs. J. Sidders
F. C. Prescott
Mrs. B. C. Scott

P. E. Daynes
Mrs. R. M. Irvine
Mrs. J. Sidders
Mrs. E. F. Young

Ex-Officio Members

Aldermen

G. W. H. Luck

G. W. H. Luck

Councillors

E. E. Virrels
Mrs. G. E. Larking

Mrs. M. E. Barron
Mrs. G. E. Larking

F (2) PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

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

(Acts also as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Bexley and the Urban District of Crayford).

8, Brampton Road, Bexleyheath. (Telephone: Bexleyheath 2244).

Chief Public Health Inspector

L. E. King, M.R.S.H., D.S.A.A., Certs: P.H.I.E.B., R.S.H., R.I.P.H. and H., Meat Inspector's Certificate, I.S.A.A. (Retired 6.5.63).

P. R. Hickson, Cert. P.H.I.E.B., Meat Inspector's Certificate. (Appointed 7.5.63).

Public Health Inspectors

P. R. Hickson, Cert. P.H.I.E.B., Meat Inspector's Certificate.

O. B. Dodds, Cert. P.H.I.E.B.

C. H. Ellis, Cert. P.H.I.E.B. (Resigned 19.5.63).

D. H. Smith, Cert. P.H.I.E.B., Meat Inspector's Certificate. (Appointed 17.4.63).

N. G. Philp, Cert. P.H.I.E.B. (Appointed 20.5.63).

Student Public Health Inspector

I. Anderson. (Appointed 20.5.63).

Chief Clerk

R. V. Hoad.

Clerks

Shorthand Typist— Miss D. M. Williams.

Junior Clerk— Miss L. Tucker. (Appointed 14.1.63).

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Erith**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1963, my eighteenth and probably the last to be submitted to the Authority as at present constituted in view of the creation of the London Borough of Bexley under the London Government Act, 1963.

Eighteen years is not a long time in the life of a local authority (although it does represent a substantial slice of the working life of an individual) but it is long enough to warrant a comparison of the health circumstances of the Borough at the beginning and end of this period.

The year 1946 witnessed the beginning of the transition from war to peace. The strain of bombardment of the civilian population was lifted and the re-integration of family life was assisted by the return of evacuated children and by an acceleration of the rate of demobilisation of the Armed Forces. Housing circumstances had been seriously affected by bombing and the suspension of new building, and represented the most serious of the problems facing the Borough at that time. Difficulties in the process of resettlement in civilian life inevitably occurred as a result of the enforced separation, over a number of years, of husbands and wives, children and parents; food shortages remained and in many ways the discipline of the wartime years continued.

Strangely enough, in spite of these vicissitudes the general health of the community, as evidenced by the vital statistics of the area remained good. The infant mortality rate (i.e. the number of children dying in the first year of life per 1,000 live births), a very sensitive index of social conditions, was 32.3 per 1,000 live births in 1946, a very favourable rate compared with previous years. At the outbreak of the war the rate was 44.28 per 1,000. This rate has continued to fall and in 1963, was 17.2 per 1,000 and, even allowing for the fluctuations which are expected when dealing with small numbers, it may be said with some justification that there has been a downward trend since the end of the war which is statistically significant. This has, undoubtedly, been due to improved environmental conditions including housing, an advance in child health services

including health education and the discovery of the chemotherapeutic drugs as well as penicillin and the other antibiotics which have greatly simplified the control of the childhood infections.

The maternal mortality rate (the number of deaths of mothers in childbirth per 1,000 total births) had shown a similar decline. The rate in 1921 was 4.0 per 1,000 live and still births and in 1944 the rate was 2.2 per thousand. It is pleasant to record that there have been no maternal deaths due to childbirth, in the Borough, for the past five years. This improvement can be related to improved obstetric services, better housing conditions and, again, better chemical and antibiotic control of the puerperal infections.

The birth rate in 1946 was 22.30 per 1,000 of the population (19.13 and 24.3 in the previous two years) and fell steadily until about 1955 when an upward trend became noticeable. The rate for 1963 was 17.91 compared with 13.51 per 1,000 in 1954. The Department for Education and Sciences publication "Statistics of Education", 1963 (H.M.S.O.) show that the post-war "bulge" now passing out of the secondary schools is but the forerunner of bigger bulges to come which are bound to have important social, industrial and educational implications for the future.

The death rate, on the other hand, has remained almost unchanged over the past 18 years and more. The fall in the death rate in the country as a whole began around 1875 and was due to improvements in the adverse environmental conditions which the process of urbanisation had brought to bear on the community—not merely in regard to sanitation but housing, overcrowding, nutrition, hours of work and factory conditions. The tuberculosis death rate also began to fall about the same time and has continued unabated to the present day. Improved standards of living and medical discoveries have combined to bring this about and to raise the general expectation of life of the population.

Why then has the death rate not continued to fall? The answer is twofold. Firstly with an ageing population more people may be expected to die for there is a limit to which life can be prolonged and, secondly, deaths from certain causes have increased over the past quarter of a century, notably, cancer of the lung, cardio-vascular disease, including coronary disease and accidents both on the roads and in the home. The causes of these epidemics, for this is what they really are, are so complex and interwoven in the fabric of our Society that there can be no easy way to their pre-

vention. The highly competitive nature of life today, the pursuit of ever-increasing standards of living, automation, and the advances of science and technology, good in many respects, unfortunately bring with them new hazards to human health and happiness, e.g. radio-active contamination, atmospheric pollution, noise, sophistication of our food supplies, speed and a materialistic outlook which is not conducive to the mental health of the population.

In 1950, the first year in which separate figures became available for cancer of the lung, the number of deaths from this cause was 16 compared with 26 in 1962 and 32 in 1963. The number of deaths ascribed to coronary disease similarly rose from 37 in 1950 to 105 in 1962 and 101 in 1963.

During the period 28th October to 1st November, 1963, a Smoking and Health Campaign was held in conjunction with Bexley and Erith. The spearhead of this was a five day visit to the area of the Central Council for Health Education mobile unit which visited a number of secondary schools and a Youth organisation. Films were shown at those schools not actually visited by the Unit. Ten thousand copies of a personal letter addressed to parents by the Medical Officer of Health were distributed throughout the schools and a large number of leaflets and posters were made available in the area.

The Campaign made a good impact on the public at the time but I fear that it will take much more than this to shake the public generally out of their apathy in regard to this problem. Section 32 of the Children and Young Persons Act, 1963 substantially increases the penalty for the sale of tobacco to persons under 16 years of age but it would appear that the problem of enforcement will remain.

The picture is much brighter in regard to the older epidemics. In 1946 five cases of diphtheria were notified in the Borough (22 cases with one death in 1940, 35 cases with 3 deaths in 1931). There has not been a single notified case of diphtheria in the Borough for the past 14 years. In the late summer of 1947, suddenly and unaccountably, poliomyelitis struck the country after many years of relative quiescence. Six cases occurred in the Borough with one death. Immunisation against this disease began in 1956 and it is significant that, since that time, there has been a remarkable decline in poliomyelitis. The number of cases in Erith in the six years period 1958 to 1963 was one compared with 28 the previous six years. Few would deny that this decrease is closely related to the immunisation of children and young adults in the Borough first by the Salk vaccine and now by the oral vaccine which has almost replaced the former.

Over the relatively short period under review there has been a marked improvement in food hygiene in the Borough as a result of the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations and of internal developments of the Catering trades as a whole. Refrigeration of foodstuffs is, now, almost universal and the wrapping of foodstuffs has gone to considerable lengths. The opportunities for the occurrence of food poisoning are certainly fewer nowadays (there was one notified case in 1963) but constant vigilance is still necessary as human sources of error can still defeat the most elaborate equipment. A further hazard arises from the growing tendency for people to take their holidays abroad and the importation of typhoid fever appears to be a growing risk.

In regard to housing the Council have pursued a steady slum clearance programme both by clearance orders and by the demolition of individual unfit houses. Amongst their most notable achievements during this period, has been the clearance of the old houses from the Victoria Road area and the University Place area, and their replacement by modern housing estates. The Borough now has no slums in the accepted sense of the word but there are still quite a number of individual houses which will need to be dealt with in the next five years. The obsolescence factor is, indeed, low and, with the increase in the number of owner-occupiers and the provision of new houses by the Council and private enterprise and the improvement of some of the older houses by improvement grant procedure this favourable position could be maintained. The housing needs of the elderly and of young families living in cramped conditions either in furnished accommodation or with "in-laws" present an urgent problem throughout the country and are recognised by the Council as a major obstacle to health and happiness which should be removed as soon as possible.

The Belvedere Marsh encampment, which at one census housed 971 persons in caravans, tents and miscellaneous structures, since about the beginning of the century, has been subject to Compulsory Purchase by the Council. Whilst conditions were at all times grossly unsatisfactory, the river flood which occurred on 31st January, 1953, produced indescribable conditions of destruction which necessitated a Declaration of Unfitness on 20th February, 1953.

This resulted in the rehousing of private occupiers and persons engaged in business, to prefabricated dwellings provided by the Council in Jenningtree Way.

By January 1954, the acreage of marshland so used was ultimately cleared of all moveable and permanent structures

and this ended one of the most pressing housing problems ever faced by a local authority.

Atmospheric pollution is nowadays the most important hazard to the health of the community. It is comparable in its magnitude to the pollution of public water supplies in the 19th century before the provision of water-carriage sewerage schemes and, the problems involved in its abolition are probably even more complex. The atmosphere is becoming, more and more, a new kind of public sewer into which every kind of gaseous filth is discharged—from the domestic fire, the factory chimney and of course the ever growing number of motor vehicles, both diesel and petrol, which threaten to bring chaos to our roads. The Clean Air Act of 1956 has enabled local authorities to take the first step to control black smoke emissions from the domestic hearth and factory and much has already been achieved in some of the worst "black areas" of the country. Despite its many shortcomings the Act remains one of the most important and far-reaching pieces of legislation on the Statute Book and the many frustrations arising from its operation should be seen as the teething troubles inherent in such a great task as the removal of one of the main causes of chronic bronchitis, one of the great killing diseases, and of cancer of the lung, of which it is no doubt a contributory cause.

The Child Welfare Services were transferred to the Kent County Council in 1948 under the National Health Service Act, 1946. Now, the wheel has turned full circle and, as a result of the London Government Act, 1963 the new London Borough of Bexley will, on 1st April, 1965 become responsible for the Health and Welfare and Children's services. It is difficult not to feel some regret at the passing of the old order but one cannot but welcome the great opportunities and challenge which face the new Borough and which will, surely, in years to come, bring about a fully integrated Health service, close to the people it is designed to serve and providing opportunities for the prevention of disease and the promotion of health greater than ever before particularly in the field of mental health and the welfare of the elderly and the handicapped.

During 1963 Mr. L. E. King, Chief Public Health Inspector retired after 25 years service in this capacity with the Erith Borough Council. I wish to place on record my appreciation of the help and support which I received from him during his long and distinguished term of office.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and encouragement and the Chief Public Health Inspector, Chief Clerk and all members of the Health Department for the good work which has been done during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN LANDON

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report 1963

SECTION A:—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

A (1) Physical Situation and Amenities

Erith is situated in the north-west corner of Kent and is bounded on the north-east by the River Thames to which it has a frontage of about four miles: on the west by the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich and the Borough of Bexley, and on the south by the Borough of Bexley and the Urban District of Crayford. In spite of continuous industrial expansion, the Borough still retains in many places a rural aspect, and views from the many vantage points in the district afford evidence of its undulating nature and the tree endowed areas of Belvedere and Abbey Wood. The shopping centres are advantageously situated having regard to the disposition of the six wards in the Borough and there is a copious supply of pure water which is provided and maintained by the Metropolitan Water Board. The chief industries are light engineering, edible oil refining, manufacture of chemicals, coal shipping and lighterage, and the production of building materials, i.e., stoneware drain pipes and asbestos components. The manufacture of television and radio equipment and toys are also well established industries.

As in other years, industrial expansion has continued.

A (2) Comparative Rainfall

1963			1962		
Month		Inches	Month		inches
January	...	0.77	January	...	2.47
February	...	0.57	February	...	.57
March	...	2.70	March	...	1.44
April	...	1.99	April	...	1.70
May	...	1.69	May	...	1.86
June	...	2.02	June	...	.38
July	...	1.29	July	...	2.40
August	...	2.16	August	...	1.61
September	...	2.15	September	...	2.26
October	...	1.22	October	...	1.13
November	...	3.25	November	...	2.05
December	...	0.39	December	...	2.46
Total in inches		20.20	Total in inches		20.33

A (3) Unemployment Figures and Comments

With the co-operation of Mrs. J. A. Walker, the Manager of Erith Employment Exchange, it is once again possible to give definite figures with regard to the state of unemployment in the district, as shown in the table.

I am indebted to Mrs. J. A. Walker for the following report:—

At the beginning of 1963 there was a sharp rise in unemployment, due to the appalling weather conditions, but this did not last and there was a steady fall throughout the year and the figure for 1963 was lower than at the end of 1962. The number of unemployed women, however, did not vary appreciably from month to month.

I am indebted to Miss E. Martin, Youth Employment Officer, for the following report:—

Although figures showing unemployment among boys and girls were fairly high in January (50 boys, including 22 school leavers, and 33 girls, including 17 school leavers) there was a steady decrease in numbers during the year. The figures for December show 6 boys and 13 girls unemployed. At the beginning of the year difficulty was experienced in placing Christmas school leavers and one boy and two girls had still not been placed by the middle of March. This position had improved by the end of the Easter Term and all Easter school leavers had been found work before the end of May—most of them having started work before the end of April. This position was repeated at the end of the Summer Term, all Summer leavers having entered employment before the end of September.

Erith and District
Unemployment Figures 1943-1963

Month and Year	Males		Females		Total
	18 and over	Under 18	18 and over	Under 18	
December, 1943 ..	27	1	6	5	39
December, 1944 ..	31	—	6	3	40
December, 1945 ..	91	1	133	1	226
December, 1946 ..	177	12	58	13	260
December, 1947 ..	131	4	94	5	234
December, 1948 ..	208	7	129	2	346
December, 1949 ..	111	8	153	3	275
December, 1950 ..	114	3	122	1	240
December, 1951 ..	82	1	103	3	189
December, 1952 ..	134	1	82	2	219
December, 1953 ..	101	6	91	9	207
December, 1954 ..	52	3	74	10	139
December, 1955 ..	38	—	43	—	81
December, 1956 ..	53	—	41	—	94
December, 1957 ..	113	7	52	6	178
December, 1958 ..	222	12	120	3	357
December, 1959 ..	152	4	72	1	229
December, 1960 ..	125	4	60	1	190
December, 1961 ..	96	5	46	5	152
December, 1962 ..	233	20	8	11	262
December, 1963 ..	186	6	13	13	218

A (4) STATISTICS

A (4)a General

Area (i) Including River:—4,607 acres.

Area (ii) excluding River:—3,859 acres.

Population figure supplied by Registrar General:—

Estimated mid-year Home Population—45,450.

Density of population, i.e. No. of persons per acre
(Based on (ii) above):—11.78.

No. of inhabited houses at 31st December, 1963.

(Excluding houses with shops and houses with Public

Houses assessed as single hereditaments):—13,909.

Rateable value at 31st December, 1963:—£2,696,103.

Sum produced by a penny rate, 1963.

(Product for 1963/64).—£11,459.

Rate in the £ at 31st December, 1963:—8/11d.

**EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS
FOR YEAR 1963**

		A (4)b Births		
		Male	Female	Total
Live Births	Legitimate	405	365	770
	Illegitimate	22	22	44
		427	387	814

Live Birth rate per 1,000 Home Population (Registrar General's Figure):—17.91.

Birth rate corrected for comparison with other areas:—18.81.

Comparability factor supplied by Registrar General:—1.05.

Live Birth Rate, England and Wales:—18.2.

Corresponding rate for the Borough of Erith for year 1962:—17.35.

		Male	Female	Total
Still Births	Legitimate	9	2	11
	Illegitimate	1	1	2
		10	3	13

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total births:—15.72.

Still Birth rate per 1,000 total births, England and Wales:—17.2.

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Home Population:—0.29.

Still Birth rate per 1,000 Home Population, England and Wales:—0.32.

		Male	Female	Total
Total Live and Still Births		437	390	827

A (4)c Infant Mortality

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age:—

		Male	Female	Total
Legitimate		8	6	14
Illegitimate		—	—	—
		8	6	14

Death rate of Infants under one year of age, per 1,000 live births:—17.2.

Rate per 1,000 live births, England and Wales:—21.1.

Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births:—18.18.

Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births:—Nil.

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age:—

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	8	4	12
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	8	4	12

Neo-natal Mortality Rate:—

Death rate of infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live births:—14.74.

Death rate of infants under 4 weeks of age per 1,000 live birth England and Wales—14.2.

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate:—

Death Rate of infants under 1 week of age per 1,000 live births:—12.29.

Perinatal Mortality Rate:—

Still births and deaths of infants under 1 week of age combined per 1,000 total live and still births:—27.81.

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births:—5.41.

A (4)d Deaths

Maternal Deaths.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth:—Nil.

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 total births:—Nil.

Comparative figure for England and Wales:—0.28.

Deaths all Causes.

Male, 281 Female, 243 Total, 524.

Death rate per 1,000 Home Population:—11.53.

Death rate corrected for comparison with other areas:—12.91.

Comparability Factor supplied by Registrar General:—1.12.

Corresponding Rate, 1962—10.46.

Death rate per 1,000 Home population, England and Wales:—12.2.

	1963	1962
Total number of deaths from:—		
Measles (All ages)	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—

**A (4)e Summary of Vital Statistics
for the year 1963**

	England and Wales	Borough of Erith
<i>Births:—</i>	Rates per 1,000 Home Population	
Live births	18.2	17.91
Still births	0.32	0.29
	17.2(a)	15.72(a)
<i>Deaths:—</i>		
All causes	12.2	11.53
Typhoid and Paratyphoid...	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.00	—
Diphtheria	0.00	—
Tuberculosis	0.06	0.09
Influenza	0.06	0.02
Smallpox	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (includ- ing Polio-encephalitis) ...	0.00	—
Pneumonia	0.99	0.68
<i>Notifications:—</i>		
(Corrected)		
Typhoid Fever	0.00	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	—
Meningococcal Infection ...	0.01	—
Scarlet Fever	0.37	0.37
Whooping Cough	0.74	0.13
Diphtheria	0.00	—
Erysipelas	0.04	—
Smallpox	—	—
Measles	12.78	10.63
Pneumonia	0.30	0.07
Acute Poliomyelitis (includ- ing Polio-encephalitis)		
Paralytic	0.00	—
Non-Paralytic	0.00	—
Food Poisoning	0.12	0.02
Puerperal Pyrexia	7.44(a)	6.05(a)
<i>Deaths:—</i>	Rates per 1,000 live births	
All causes under 1 year of age	21.1	17.2
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...	0.53	1.23

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

Year	Population Figure according to Registrar General	No. of Live Births according to Registrar General	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	No. of deaths according to Registrar General	Death rate per 1,000 Population	No. of Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births
1954	45,950	621	13.51 (Corrected)	455	9.9 (Corrected)	12	19.32
1955	45,950	637	13.51 13.86 (Corrected)	440	10.79 9.58 (Corrected)	13	20.41
1956	46,010	648	13.86 14.08 (Corrected)	464	10.44 10.08 (Corrected)	8	12.35
1957	46,010	665	14.08 14.45 (Corrected)	465	11.79 10.11 (Corrected)	12	18.05
1958	45,880	672	14.45 14.65 (Corrected)	506	11.73 11.03 (Corrected)	13	19.35
1959	45,700	689	14.65 15.08 (Corrected)	469	12.91 10.26 (Corrected)	9	13.06
1960	45,780	720	15.08 15.73 (Corrected)	463	11.8 10.11 (Corrected)	14	19.44
1961	45,050	697	15.73 15.47 (Corrected)	547	11.63 12.14 (Corrected)	10	14.35
1962	45,300	786	15.62 17.35 (Corrected)	474	13.48 10.46 (Corrected)	8	10.18
1963	45,450	814	17.52 17.91 (Corrected) 18.81	524	11.82 11.53 (Corrected) 12.91	14	17.2

A (4)g Table showing Summary of Causes of Death
during the year ended 31st December, 1963

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
1 Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	4	—	4
2 Tuberculosis, Other forms ...	—	—	—
3 Syphilitic diseases ...	—	—	—
4 Diphtheria ...	—	—	—
5 Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—
6 Meningococcal Infection ...	—	—	—
7 Acute Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—
8 Measles ...	—	—	—
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	1	1
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	4	3	7
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	27	5	32
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	11	11
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	4	4
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ...	25	20	45
15 Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ...	1	1	2
16 Diabetes ...	1	2	3
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	19	33	52
18 Coronary disease, angina ...	66	35	101
19 Hypertension with heart disease ...	3	16	19
20 Other heart diseases ...	33	45	78
21 Other circulatory diseases ...	11	16	27
22 Influenza ...	—	1	1
23 Pneumonia ...	13	18	31
24 Bronchitis ...	27	10	37
25 Other diseases of respiratory system ...	1	1	2
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	8	1	9
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	1	3	4
28 Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	—	—	—
29 Hyperplasia of prostate ...	4	—	4
30 Pregnancy, Childbirth and abortion ...	—	—	—
31 Congenital Malformations ...	2	2	4
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	17	9	26
33 Motor vehicle accidents ...	3	1	4
34 All other accidents ...	9	4	13
35 Suicide ...	1	1	2
36 Homicide and operations of war ...	1	—	1
Total all causes ...	281	243	524

A (4)h Infant Mortality—Causes of death and table of comparison

Cause of death as certified	Total deaths under 1 year																						
	under 1 day	1 day	2 days	3 days	4 days	5 days	6 days	7-14 days	14-21 days	21-28 days	28 days-2 months	2 months	3 months	4 months	5 months	6 months	7 months	8 months	9 months	10 months	11-12 months		
Prematurity	4					1																	5
Congenital deformity ...		1			3											1							5
Meningitis										1													1
Cerebral congestion ...				1																			1
Acute laryngo- bronchitis																1							1
Gastro enteritis										1													1
Totals	4	1		1	3	1				2						2							14

Below is given a table showing the Infant Mortality rates and actual number of infant deaths for Erith at five yearly intervals 1920-1945 and yearly from 1946-1963.

Year	Erith		England and Wales (Infant Mortality Rate)
	No. of Inf. Deaths	Infant Mortality Rate	
1920	50	60.5	83
1925	34	56.48	75
1930	32	65.6	60
1935	21	40.00	39
1940	24	37.17	55
1945	29	39.61	46
1946	31	32.3	43
1947	34	33.7	41
1948	20	22.8	34
1949	19	23.9	32
1950	14	20.0	29.8
1951	24	34.8	29.6
1952	20	29.3	27.6
1953	22	32.79	26.8
1954	12	19.32	25.5
1955	20	20.41	24.9
1956	8	12.35	23.8
1957	12	18.05	23.1
1958	13	19.35	22.6
1959	9	13.06	22.2
1960	14	19.44	21.9
1961	10	14.35	21.6
1962	8	10.18	21.6
1963	14	17.2	21.1

A (4)i Comparison of Maternal Mortality Rates

Year	Maternal Deaths	Live Births	Still Births	Maternal Mort- ality Rate per 1,000 total Births
1941	1	606	23	1.65
1942	2	734	28	2.6
1943	3	822	21	3.65
1944	2	895	18	2.2
1945	—	732	17	—
1946	—	958	23	—
1947	1	1,006	27	0.9
1948	2	877	12	2.25
1949	1	795	13	1.24
1950	—	701	15	—
1951	1	690	15	1.42
1952	1	683	15	1.43
1953	—	671	14	—
1954	—	621	19	—
1955	—	637	15	—
1956	—	648	10	—
1957	1	665	15	1.47
1958	1	672	13	1.49
1959	—	689	19	—
1960	—	720	22	—
1961	—	697	20	—
1962	—	786	12	—
1963	—	814	13	—

**SECTION B—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL
OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES**

B (1) Notifications

Disease	Total No of cases notified	Cases admitted to infectious disease Hospital	Total No. of Deaths among noti- fied cases
Acute Pneumonia	3	1	—
Dysentery ...	1	1	—
Measles	483	—	—
Whooping Cough	6	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	5	—
Scarlet Fever ...	17	—	—
Malaria	1	—	—
Food Poisoning ...	1	1	—
Total ...	517	8	—

B (1)a Age Distribution

The following table shows the age distribution of confirmed cases of Infectious Disease (other than Tuberculosis) notified during the year.

Disease	Age Groups																				Totals
	Under 1 year		1		2		3		4		5-9		10-14		15-24		25 & over		Age not known		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Acute Pneumonia...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	8	14	33	24	32	35	31	27	25	30	117	100	2	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	483
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	5
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	1	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	17
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals ...	9	14	33	24	34	35	31	31	26	31	123	108	3	1	2	6	2	4	—	—	517

B (1)b WARD DISTRIBUTION

Number of cases of Infectious Disease confirmed in each ward in the Borough.

Disease	Ward						Total
	Town	Old Church	Belvedere	N'th Heath	Abbey Wood	Bostall	
Acute Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	1	1	3
Dysentery	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Measles	85	100	102	61	52	83	483
Whooping Cough	—	—	2	—	—	4	6
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Scarlet Fever	1	—	3	3	1	9	17
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	4	2	3	4	7	3	23
Tuberculosis (Non-Respiratory)	—	—	—	1	—	2	3
Totals	95	103	111	70	61	103	543

B (2) Tuberculosis**B. (2)a New Cases notified for the first time during 1963**

Age	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Total
	M	F	M	F	
Under 5 years	1	—	—	—	1
5—14 ..	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 ..	—	5	—	1	6
25—44 ..	6	5	—	—	11
45—64 ..	1	2	1	—	4
65 & over	2	1	—	1	4
Age unknown	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	10	13	1	2	26

In addition to the above cases five males and five females suffering from respiratory tuberculosis and one female suffering from non-respiratory tuberculosis were transferred into the district from other areas and one female suffering from respiratory tuberculosis was notified as reactivated.

B (2)b Deaths

According to the figures supplied by the Registrar General there were four male deaths from respiratory Tuberculosis during the year.

B(3) Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, 1963

The following table shows the diphtheria immunisation and whooping cough immunisation figures for 1963 based on the returns submitted to the Ministry of Health by the Local Health Authority.

Year of Birth	Diphtheria Immunisation (Singly or in combination)		Whooping Cough Immunisation (Singly or in combination)
	Primary	Reinforcing	Primary
1963	265	—	262
1962	267	7	267
1961	16	155	16
1960	2	119	1
1959	2	11	—
1954-1958	5	139	2
1949-1953	1	2	1
Totals	558	433	549

B(4) Smallpox Vaccination, 1963

The following table shows the smallpox vaccination figures for 1963 based on the return submitted to the Ministry of Health by the Local Health Authority.

Primary Vaccination	Re-Vaccination
1 year	School Age but under 8 years
79	Nil

B(5) Poliomyelitis Vaccination, 1963

The following table shows the poliomyelitis vaccination figures for 1963 based on the return submitted to the Ministry of Health by the Local Health Authority.

Year	2 Injections (Salk)	3rd Dose (Salk and Oral)	4th Dose (Salk and Oral)	3 Orals (Complete Course)
School Children under 12 years of age				
1963	—	—	472	—
1962	—	—	—	81
1961	—	30	—	361
1957-1960	—	22	—	56
1943-1956	—	24	—	36
1933-1942	—	12	—	10
Others	—	12	—	10
	—	9	—	14

SECTION C—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

C (1) General Hospital Facilities

Erith and District Hospital.

This hospital is administered by the Regional Hospital Board. In addition, the services of the large General and Specialist Hospitals in London are readily accessible to residents in this area.

C (2) Infectious Disease Cases— Hospital Accommodation

Brook Hospital.

River Hospitals, Joyce Green.

Any other Infectious Disease Hospital controlled by the South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

C (3) Tuberculosis Treatment and Hospital Accommodation

The South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board is responsible for sanatorium treatment and hospital accommodation.

The dispensary held at 65, Bexley Road, Erith, by a whole time Chest Physician, was transferred to the new Out Patient's Department at the Erith and District Hospital, Park Crescent, Erith, on 6th August, 1963.

C (4) Venereal Diseases

Venereal Disease Clinics for this area are provided and administered by the South East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

C (5) Ambulance Service

This is provided by the Kent County Council, an ambulance being obtained through the Ambulance Station, Erith Road, Bexleyheath, telephone Crayford 21511.

C (6) School Clinics

Hainault, Lesney Park Road.

Minor Ailments, Refraction, Dental.

Bedonwell Hill.

Minor Ailments, Dental, Orthopaedic.

St. Augustine's Hall.

Minor Ailments.

C (7) Maternity and Child Welfare Centres

Hainault, Lesney Park Road.

Ante-Natal Sessions:—

Wednesdays 9 a.m.—11 a.m.

Child Welfare Sessions:—

Mondays 2 p.m.—4 p.m.

Thursdays 2 p.m.—4 p.m.

Relaxation and Mothercraft:—

Wednesdays 2 p.m.—4 p.m.

Midwife's Clinic (No Doctor in attendance).

Tuesdays 2 p.m.—3 p.m.

Congregational Hall, Picardy Road, Belvedere.

Child Welfare Sessions:—

Tuesdays 2.0 p.m.—4 p.m.

Thursdays 2.0 p.m.—4 p.m.

St. Augustine's School, Abbey Road.

Ante-Natal Sessions:—

Fridays 9.00 a.m.—11 a.m.

Child Welfare Sessions:—

Wednesdays, 1.30 p.m.—4 p.m.

Fridays 1.30 p.m.—4 p.m.

Relaxation and Mothercraft:—

Wednesdays 10 a.m.—11 a.m.

Midwife's Clinic (No Doctor in attendance).

Tuesdays 2.30 p.m.—4 p.m.

Bedonwell Schools, Bedonwell Road.

Ante-Natal Sessions:—

Thursdays 9.00 a.m.—11.00 a.m.

Relaxation and Mothercraft:—

Wednesdays 9.30 a.m. (by appointment).

Child Welfare Sessions:—

Tuesdays 2 p.m.—4 p.m.

Fridays 2 p.m.—4 p.m.

Midwife's Clinic (No Doctor in attendance).

Mondays, 2 p.m.—4 p.m.

Vaccination for Smallpox:—

Fridays 2 p.m.—4 p.m. (by appointment).

C (8) Maternity Home

Hainault, Lesney Park Road.

The administration of this Home is carried out by the Woolwich Group Hospital Management Committee.

C (9) Private Nursing Homes

The undermentioned Homes are registered by the Erith Borough Council.

The Eaves, 64, Picardy Road, Belvedere.

Ormande House, 68, Picardy Road, Belvedere.

C (10) Laboratory Facilities

Examination of pathologist specimens and other laboratory work for the district is undertaken by the Public Health Laboratories, Preston Hall, British Legion Village, Maidstone, Kent.

C (11) Mortuary

An up to date mortuary exists with refrigeration for 6 bodies to serve the boroughs of Erith & Bexley and the Urban District of Crayford. This building is situated at the rear of the Council Offices, Bexley.

During the year the mortuary accommodated 236 bodies and 234 post mortem examinations were carried out; 24 inquests were held. 79 bodies were from the Erith area and 78 post mortem examinations were carried out, There were 12 inquests.

C (12) Disinfection Services

Following the closing down of the Bexley Borough Council's Cleansing Station in 1961, the Councils of Erith, Bexley and Crayford have an arrangement with the Woolwich Borough Council for the use of their disinfection facilities.

C (13) Welfare of Old People

The work of the Erith Old People's Welfare Committee continued during the year and the home visiting and good neighbourly services were again one of the busiest activities of the Committee.

195 Christmas parcels were provided and distributed by the Committee.

C (14) National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50 (Burials)

The above Act places upon Local Authorities the duty of providing burial or cremation of bodies, where it appears that no other arrangements are being made.

It was not necessary for the Council to make any such arrangements during the year under review.

SECTION D—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor for the following information relating to refuse collection and disposal.

D (1) Refuse Collection and Disposal

The method of storage is by means of sanitary dustbins and some 19,600 are emptied weekly. The dustbins are provided and maintained by the owners of the properties concerned, the Council securing this by a local Act—The Erith Improvement Act 1920. The refuse is transported to a Transfer Depot where it is transferred into Contractors' bulk container vehicles, and disposal is effected by tipping at Stone.

In October a special vehicle was purchased for the collection of refuse from multiple flats—a Shelvoke & Drewry 18 cu. yds. Freighter, two way Tipper.

D (1)a Costs

	£	s.	d.
Cost per ton of collecting refuse	2	9	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Cost per ton of disposing of refuse	1	1	1 $\frac{3}{4}$
Net cost per 1,000 population per annum ...	788	13	9 $\frac{3}{4}$

The following tables show:—

- 1 Details of the refuse collection vehicles and staff.
- 2 Details of the tonnage dealt with during the year.

D (1)b Table 1

Vehicle	Capacity
1 Dennis Vehicle	12 Cubic Yards
1 S. & D. Freighter T.W. Tipper	18 " "
3 S. & D. Freighters	12 " "
2 S. & D. Freighters	10 " "
3 S. & D. Freighters	7 " "
1 Fordson Utility Van	15 Cwts.
8 Trailers	
They are operated by:—	
1 Foreman	
11 Driver Loaders	
13 Loaders and Sorters	

D (1)c Table 2

Month	Tonnage		
	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.
January	987	17	1
February	876	18	2
March	950	16	2
April	918	17	1
May	873	9	1
June	642	14	0
July	749	4	1
August	712	3	0
September	731	6	0
October	859	15	1
November	881	5	0
December	891	12	0
Total	10,075	18	1

D (2) Trade Refuse

Trade Refuse is collected from factories and shops by arrangements with the proprietors, an agreed charge being made. This section of the Refuse Service produced a revenue of £765 8s. 9d. in 1963.

D (3)a Salvage

<i>Tonnage collected:</i>				<i>Income:</i>		
T.	C.	Q.	lbs.	£	s.	d.
1,025	15	2	0	5,150	15	6

D (3)b Special Collections

During the year, 674 collections were made of additional household refuse, furniture, etc., resulting in an income of £476 18s. 0d.

D (4) Public Conveniences

Public Conveniences under the control of the Council are as under:—

<i>Site</i>	<i>Hours of opening</i>
Walnut Tree Road, Male and Female.	24 hours—day and night
*West Street, Erith, Male and Female	6.45 a.m.—10.30 p.m.
*Station Road, Belvedere, Male and Female.	24 hours—day and night
*Heron Hill, Belvedere, Male	24 hours—day and night
Woolwich Road, Belvedere, Female	24 hours—day and night
*High Street, Erith, Male and Female	6.45 a.m.—10.30 p.m.
*Colyers Lane, Male and Female.	24 hours—day and night.

* Washing facilities provided.

I am indebted to the Chief Public Health Inspector for the following information.

D (5) Sanitary Inspection of the Area**D (5)a Visits by Public Health Inspectors**

The total number of visits was	...	...	...	7,414
Notices served:				
Formal 14, Informal 108	...	...	...	122
Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	1,246

D (5)b Premises visited and Results of such visits

Premises	No. in Borough	No. of visits	No. of defects found and remedied
Milkshops	39	65	2
Dairies	3	18	—
Bakehouses	7	21	2
Butchers' Shops	36	120	3
Fish friers	11	40	4
Other fishmongers	3	10	1
Factories	153	70	6
Outworkers	45	45	—
Food factories	5	15	2
Pet shops	4	18	—
Rag flock dealers	2	4	—
Cinemas	1	5	—

D (5)c Summary of Nuisances abated and defects remedied during the year

Dampness remedied	26
Roofs repaired	18
Floors repaired	14
Eaves gutters repaired	16
New W.C. pans	9
New sinks	4
Sink wastes renewed	2
Drains repaired	9
New vent pipes	5
Doors repaired	2
Plasters renewed	16
Repairs to windows	12
Water supply restored	1
Dustbins renewed	15
W.C. cisterns repaired	3
Offensive accumulations removed	5
Walls re-pointed	3
Keeping of animals	1
Miscellaneous	48

D (5)d Drainage, Closet accommodation and Cesspools

Almost all premises in the Borough are connected to the main sewerage system, although some difficulties occur in premises on the Belvedere Marshes. Sewage is disposed of at the outfall works of the West Kent Main Sewerage Board.

14 domestic cesspools are known to exist and these are emptied, when required, by a special vehicle and the contents emptied into the Council's sewer.

During the year the use of one cesspool was discontinued.

D (5)e Atmospheric Pollution

With the large number of industrial premises involved, considerable time has had to be devoted to atmospheric pollution problems and co-operation has been maintained with factory management and where necessary, with the Alkali Inspector and the Factory Inspectorate.

The Erith Borough Council is represented on the Thames-side Advisory Committee for the Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution and in this connection a monthly deposit gauge, a lead peroxide gauge and a volumetric apparatus are maintained for the collection of the necessary data.

(A) The monthly results of analysis for the deposit gauge and lead peroxide gauge are as follows:—

Month	Deposit gauge					Lead peroxide gauge Sulphur mg/100 sq. cms/day
	Rain in inches	Insoluble deposit Tons per sq. mile	Soluble deposit Tons per sq. mile	Total Solids Tons per sq. mile	Calcium Tons per sq. mile	
January ...	1.26	6.27	15.84	22.11	3.28	3.53
February	0.65	33.60	10.87	44.47	2.34	2.47
March ...	2.19	10.57	8.99	19.56	1.49	1.31
April ...	1.93	7.78	7.38	15.16	1.31	1.20
May ...	1.71	7.03	4.26	11.29	0.55	1.11
June ...	2.33	9.79	8.12	17.91	1.21	0.59
July ...	1.38	8.80	6.81	15.61	1.30	0.59
August ...	2.82	5.42	6.31	11.73	0.91	0.51
September	2.00	5.22	8.99	14.21	1.69	0.87
October ..	1.51	5.50	6.85	12.34	1.32	1.13
November	3.33	2.99	6.71	9.70	0.97	1.03
December	0.48	8.45	8.12	16.57	1.91	2.01
Monthly Average				17.56	1.52	1.36
Monthly average for 1962				15.68	1.30	1.63

The volumetric apparatus is read each day in order to obtain figures for smoke and sulphur dioxide concentrations. A large proportion of the increase which occurs during the winter months is regarded as arising from domestic premises.

The comparison of the highest readings this year with the highest readings of 1962, expressed as microgrammes per cubic metre of air, is as follows:—

	Smoke	Sulphur dioxide
26th January, 1963 ...	1049	1742
5th December, 1962 ...	1264	2511

(B) Whereas formerly it was possible to plead, in defence of proceedings relating to the emission of dark smoke from factory premises, that the contravention was due to the inability to remedy faulty buildings or equipment, it has since 5th July, 1963, no longer been possible to do so.

D (5)f Clean Air Act 1956**Borough of Erith (No. 1) Smoke Control Order 1961**

The above Order, which covers 390 acres, in which there are 3,234 dwellings, was confirmed on the 18th April, 1962, and during 1962 several conversions had been carried out. In the course of 1963 further information was sent out to the majority of householders affected by the Order, and by the end of the year 648 applications to carry out works of conversion or adaptation of fireplaces had been received and many premises had had work carried out to comply with the Order. There remains a great deal of work to do before this Order becomes operative on the 1st October, 1964.

Although the present Order is based on the conversion of fires to improved inset open fires, the publication of the Government White Paper on Domestic Fuel Supplies and Clean Air Policy and the Circular 69/63 of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government indicate that due to technological changes in the Gas Industry it may not be possible to ensure that adequate supplies of gas coke are available for future Smoke Control areas and such areas may need to be based on heating systems other than inset open fires.

D (5)g Swimming Baths and Pools

(1) The Council's open air bath is situated in Stonewood Road, and comprises one pool of 57,000 gallons capacity which now is exclusively used by the Kent Education Committee during normal school hours and local youth clubs during the evenings and on Saturdays. Water in the pool, which originates from a well 40 feet deep, is heated to a reasonable temperature by low pressure steam heating and is sterilised by the chlorine process. There is a slipperbath establishment with accommodation for 16 males and 4 females. Adjacent to the bath is a mechanical laundry which launders on behalf of the various undertakings in the locality and which includes the Corporation Catering Dept., the Works Dept., the County Health and Education Depts., and the Royal Alfred Seaman's Home.

Due to the severe winter conditions experienced, it was necessary to close the slipper baths to the public from 14th January to 17th April, 1963. During this period work was intensified on the changeover from coke fired boilers to two Cradley "Steampacket" Oilfired Burners, which were in operation when the baths re-opened on the 17th April, 1963.

During the year, 66,665 articles were laundered.

Attendances at the Swimming Baths for 1963.

Swimming pool		Slipper baths	
Schools: During term ...	10,447		
Schools: During holidays	2,617		
Youth Clubs	7,090		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total for 1963 ...	20,154	Total for 1963	10,304
	<hr/>		<hr/>
Total for 1962 ...	17,964	Total for 1962	16,099
	<hr/>		<hr/>

Eight samples of swimming bath water were obtained and reported as satisfactory by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

(2) A childrens' paddling pool of 60,000 gallons capacity is situated within the Belvedere recreation ground at Woolwich Road, and which, as in previous years proved to be a popular rendezvous during the summer months in which season a successful model power boat regatta is sponsored by the Welling & District Model Engineers Society.

The pool is regularly emptied and cleansed during the period it is in use, and methodically dosed with chloros.

D (5)h Offensive Trades

Other than 11 fish frying establishments, there are no other scheduled offensive trades under Section 107 of the Public Health Act 1936 in the Borough. Fish frying was declared to be an offensive trade on 17th March 1939, and bye-laws were made accordingly.

All the fish frying businesses are well conducted and the frying apparatus at each is of modern and approved pattern.

D (5)i Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act 1951

There are two registered premises in the Borough in which filling materials as defined in the Act are used.

The Act is designed to secure that clean filling materials are used in the upholstery trade, and applies to manufacturers' and dealers' premises alike. The persons operating businesses are dealers, and in addition to regular inspections made at their premises, a sample of new cotton felt was

obtained and submitted to the Prescribed Analyst for the purpose of testing. The sample was reported as satisfactory, having regard to the trash content, oil content and dust index.

D (5)j Pet Animals Act 1951

There are 4 pet animals shops in the Borough at which a wide variety of domestic pets can be purchased.

All the premises were regularly visited and found to be well conducted, and no conditions contrary to the welfare provisions of the above Act have been observed.

D (5)k Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960

Under Section 3 of the above Act, there is only one conditionally licensed site existing in the Borough. The site in question consists of one half acre of land on which three caravans are stationed.

During the year it was found necessary to give attention to various sites in order that unauthorised caravanners did not become established.

D (5)l Hop pickers

There are no hop fields in the district.

D (5)m Rodent control

Two fully trained operatives are employed to deal with rodent infestations at commercial, private and Corporation premises.

The numbers of premises inspected and treated during the year are as follows:—

	Inspected	Treated
Commercial premises	314	30
Dwellings	733	50

As in other years, Corporation sewers were disinfested during the year when manholes were successfully treated with baits consisting of oatmeal, sugar, oil, warfarin, and added preservative.

The Prevention of Damage by Pests (application to Shipping) Order, 1951, applies to the many wharfs, jetties and dry slipways in the Borough, and was implemented by the following visits and inspections being made:—

Commercial barges	17
Coastwise vessels	4
Tugs	4
Oil tankers	5
Miscellaneous craft	—

No marine infestations were located during the year.

D (5)n Pest control, etc.

For many years, the Department has operated a private works scheme with considerable success as a result of which matters which are outside the scope of the statutory provisions of the Public Health Act can be dealt with promptly. This practical assistance of the Department's outdoor service is available to all residents who need such help, in particular having regard to choked waste pipes, soilpipes and drains, and the destruction of ants and wasps nests.

The income from the above service amounted to £21 10s. 6d.

D (5)o Eradication of Bed Bugs

The number of dwellings treated during the year is as follows:—

Privately owned houses	...	...	3
Corporation houses	...	...	5

Occupiers are encouraged to reveal promptly any signs of infestation so that the menace can be eradicated in its initial stages.

D (5)p Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act 1952 and Regulations 1953

For the purpose of ensuring that gas, electric and oil appliances on sale complied with the above statute, the probe test was applied to many appliances in shops, all of which were found to be satisfactory.

D (5)q Consumer Protection Act 1961 The Oil Heaters Regulations 1962

The above Regulations impose requirements in relation to domestic space heaters which burn paraffin oil and are not designed for use with a flue. Such appliances must now have warning notices attached at the time of sale, and provision is made for appliances to be purchased by the Local Authority under Paragraph 2 of the Schedule to the Consumer Protection Act 1961 with a view to performance being tested by any body authorised by the Secretary of State.

D (5)r Mosquito Control

Various breeding grounds, including ditches on the Belvedere Marshes, have been treated with insecticide with a view to controlling mosquito breeding.

**D (5)s Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions)
Act 1956**

No action was necessary at any premises in the Borough with regard to the above Act.

D (5)t Agriculture Act 1947

Complaints were received from residents that foxes were again active in the Borough and that poultry and pets had been killed. The incidence of foxes in urban areas is not uncommon and arrangements exist whereby complaints are investigated in co-operation with the Pest Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who undertakes the necessary control measures.

D (5)u Common Lodging Houses

There are no registered Common Lodging Houses in the Borough.

D (6) Shops Act 1950

The following Closing Orders are in operation in the area:—

	<i>Closing hour</i>
(1) Erith Weekly Half Holiday (No. 1) Order dated 17th February, 1913	1 p.m. Thursday
(2) Erith Hairdressers & Barbers Shops Closing Order dated 11th March, 1947	7 p.m. every evening

No partial exemption Orders with regard to Sunday trading provided for by Section 48 of the Shops Act 1950 exist.

A request by a National Association for the Council partly to rescind the Shops Act Closing Order affecting the Early Closing Day, so that the way was clear for the future introduction of five day opening for shops was deferred, as the forthcoming amalgamation of Erith and the adjoining local authorities to form London Borough 18 would indicate a complete review of the present Shops Closing Orders.

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year, but on three occasions it was found necessary to draw the attention of shopkeepers to statutory provisions regarding Sunday trading.

Attention has been given to the facilities required under Section 38 of the Shops Act, 1950, and improvements were effected as indicated at the time of inspection.

D (7) Sanitary Accommodation at Offices

In accordance with the requirements of section 46 of the Public Health Act, 1936, all new offices constructed were provided with suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation. Many improvements were effected at existing premises and close liaison exists with the Planning Section of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department.

D (8) Street Trading

There is no regular street trading in the Borough apart from an occasional fruit stall. Several mobile ice cream vans and a small number of greengrocery and similar trading vehicles operate in the area.

D (9) Flooding

No flooding incidents occurred during the year.

D (10) Council Refuse Tip

Regular visits and inspections have been made at the Refuse transit depot in Manor Road, and the necessary action taken with a view to keeping the premises free from vermin.

D (11) Noise Abatement Act 1960

The reaction of people to noise varies considerably. No serious complaints have been reported during the year but on a few occasions co-operation with factory management and shop keepers has generally proved effective when dealing with local complaints.

D (12) Factories Act 1961

Part 1 of the Act

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

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	25	10	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	120	42	3	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	8	18	3	—
	153	70	6	—

(2) Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences: (S.7.)					
(a) Insufficient ...	3	3	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
Total ..	6	6	—	—	—

Part 8 of the Act.

Outwork.
Sections 133 and 134

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of Prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel:						
Making ...	43	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades	2	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	45	—	—	—	—	—

D (13) Housing
D (13)a Houses in clearance areas and unfit houses elsewhere.
Results of action.

	in Clearance areas declared under Sec. 42 H.A. 1957	NIL			
HOUSES DEMOLISHED DURING THE YEAR	Not in Clearance areas	No. of houses demolished	As a result of procedure under Secs. 16 or 17 HA 1957. Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by MOH.	Formal Informal	6 1 0
		Persons displaced during year.	From houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under secs. 16 or 17 HA 1957 From Local Authority houses certified unfit by MOH.		31 0
		Families displaced during year.	From houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under secs. 16 or 17 HA 1957 From Local Authority houses certified unfit by MOH.		7 0
		No. of Houses	Under secs. 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act 1957 and sec. 26 Housing Act 1961. Under secs. 17(3) and 26 Housing Act 1957.		2 0
UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED DURING YEAR	Persons displaced during year.	From houses closed:— Under secs. 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act 1957 and sec. 26 Housing Act 1961. Under secs. 17(3) and 26 Housing Act 1957.		3 0	
	Families displaced during year.	From houses closed:— Under secs. 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1) Housing Act 1957 and sec. 26 Housing Act 1961. Under secs. 17(3) and 26 Housing Act 1957.		2 0	
UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED.		After informal action by Local Authority. After formal notice under Public Health Acts. After formal notice under secs. 9 and 16 Housing Act 1957. Under sec. 24 Housing Act 1957.	By owner (a) By owner (b) By L.A. (a) By owner (b) By L.A. By owner	108 14 0 0 0 0	

**Parts of Buildings closed under Section 18,
Housing Act, 1957**

Number of houses	...	...	...	...	1
Number of persons displaced	...	...	...	...	4
Number of families displaced	...	...	...	...	1

The houses demolished were as follows:—

- 5, Wheatley Terrace, Erith.
- 6, Wheatley Terrace, Erith.
- 9, Wheatley Terrace, Erith.
- 19, Colebrook Street, Erith.
- 20, Colebrook Street, Erith.
- 10, St. Francis Road, Erith.
- 137, Abbey Road, Belvedere.

D (13)b Husing Statistics

Number of permanent houses constructed in the Borough during 1963:—

	Houses	Flats & Maisonettes	
By the Council ...	0	0	
By private enterprise ...	184	57	
Total number of permanent houses in the Borough which have been built and are owned by the Council ...			1,395
Total number of flats which have been built and are owned by the Council ...			650
Total number of pre-fabricated temporary houses in the Borough ...			182

D (14) Discretionary Grants

These are available for a wide range of improvements which enable houses built before 1945 to be thoroughly modernised.

Number granted during the year: 56.

D (15) Standard Grants

These grants are available for the improvement of dwellings built before 1945 by the provision of certain amenities.

Number granted during the year: 39.

D (16) The Rent Act 1957

Action under the Act is enumerated below:—

(1) Number of Applications for Certificates of disrepair	... ..	0
(2) Number of Certificates issued	... ..	0
(3) Number of Revocations applied for	... ..	0
(4) Number of Revocations granted	... ..	0

Five applications for Certificates as to the Remediating of Defects were received from house owners. One application referred to premises where previously a Certificate of Disrepair had been applied for but not issued as an undertaking had been given, and four referred to premises where an undertaking had been given by the owner direct to the tenant. On two occasions it was necessary for additional work to be carried out before the Certificates would be issued.

No appeals, either by landlords or by tenants, against Local Authority decisions were made to the County Court during the year.

The majority of enquiries made with regard to this Act are from tenants desirous of effecting rent reductions because of items of disrepair, but considerable assistance has been given to those seeking information on matters concerning de-control, notice to quit, and tenancy agreements. Having regard to the circumstances, each case is dealt with on its merits.

SECTION E—WATER SUPPLY—MILK—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT—FOOD INSPECTION

E (1) Water supply

The Borough is served throughout by the Metropolitan Water Board, the water containing some 30.8 degrees of hardness.

Without known exception, the supply is led direct into the premises served. Twenty samples drawn from various points in the district have been forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination, with satisfactory results.

E (2)a Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960

(a) The designations applicable to milk sold in the Borough are 'Pasteurised,' 'Sterilised' and 'Tuberculin Tested.'

Pasteurised milk must be bottled at the premises at which it is heat treated. There are no pasteurising plants and bottling establishments within the Borough.

(b) Details of dealers licences to use a special designation in relation to milk which is obtained and sold pre-packed by the dealer are as follows :—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	27
Sterilised	...	...	...	16
Tuberculin tested	...	...	...	24
			—	
		Total		67
			—	

(c) The following samples of designated milk from various sources and retailed in the Borough were obtained and submitted for examination :—

Pasteurised	...	...	...	12
Sterilised	...	...	...	5
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	...			2
			—	
		Total		19
			—	

All satisfied the prescribed tests.

E (2)b Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

Number of registered distributors in Borough	12
Number of dairies	3
Number of milkshops	39
Number of producer/retailers	0

Regular inspections have been made at the above throughout the year.

E (2)c Ice-Cream

130 premises in the Borough are registered for the sale of ice cream. The majority deal in prepared products produced by the large manufacturers.

Two premises are used for the manufacture of ice cream by the heat treatment method.

Three samples of ice cream and one sample of ice cream mix were submitted to the Public Analyst and reported as satisfactory.

Nine samples were forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination and graded satisfactory as follows:—

Grade 1	6
Grade 2	3

E (3) Meat and Food Inspection**E (3)a Slaughterhouses**

There is one privately owned slaughterhouse in the Borough in which slaughtering takes place every day of the week except Friday. In order to effect 100% inspection of carcasses and offals, it has been necessary for a Public Health Inspector to be in attendance during the whole of the normal day and in the evenings of usually three days a week, and every Saturday and Sunday. At times of greater throughput it has been necessary to have two Inspectors on duty.

With the coming into force of the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, on the 1st October, 1963, it was necessary to have two Public Health Inspectors regularly in attendance at the slaughterhouse, in order to carry out the form of inspection made compulsory by the Regulations, and the marking of all carcasses passed as fit for human consumption.

Because of the resulting disruption of other duties, an additional District Public Health Inspector was appointed to commence duties early in 1964. Until legislation makes provision for regulating the hours of slaughter, it would appear that the present exacting situation with which the department has to cope is likely to continue.

The Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963, give power to the Local Authority to make charges for meat inspection and the Council have adopted the maximum charges permitted, i.e.

2/6d. per horse or bovine animal, other than a calf.

9d. per calf or pig.

6d. per sheep, lamb or goat.

The following table in prescribed form details the number of carcasses inspected and condemned:—

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	2622	5689	411	8830	30621	—
Number inspected	2622	5689	411	8830	30621	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcasses condemned</i>	—	7	—	3	57	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	290	2232	1	127	2267	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	11.1%	39.36%	0.24%	1.47%	7.59%	—
<i>Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned</i>	—	2	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	3	—	—	48	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	0.09%	—	—	0.16%	—
<i>Cysticercosis. Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned</i>	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

Total weight of meat at slaughterhouses found to be diseased and unfit and consequently destroyed:—24 tons, 14 cwts., 3 qtrs., 26 lbs.

E (3)b Tuberculosis (Area Eradication) Order 1950

For the purposes of the above Order the County of Kent reached attested area status on 1st October, 1958.

During the normal course of meat inspection by the Public Health Inspectors at the Belvedere slaughterhouse, lesions of tuberculosis were found in five bovine carcasses as a result of which the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food at Maidstone was notified and veterinary officers were enabled to identify the animals concerned, trace back to the herd of origin and impose restrictions on that herd, including the carrying out of tuberculin tests.

E (3)c Other Foods

Much time and attention has been devoted to the inspection of food in shops and stores as a result of which a total of 7 tons, 16 cwts., 0 qtrs., 10 lbs., was found to be unfit for human consumption and surrendered for removal and destruction.

E (3)d Disposal of Unsound Meat and other Food

As there are no sterilising facilities for unfit meat at the Belvedere slaughterhouse, such meat is stained with naphthaline green and transported by arrangement for sterilisation elsewhere.

All unsound food, exclusive of the above is disposed of by tipping with the town's refuse.

E (3)e Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Humane slaughtering of all animals in accordance with the above prevails in the Borough.

The instruments used are the captive bolt pistol and the electrothaler.

The number of slaughtermen's licences operative is 11.

E(4) Food and Drugs Act, 1955. Sections 2 and 91.

The following samples of food were procured during the year and submitted to the Public Analyst for the purpose of analysis with the results as follows:—

Article	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Milk	11	11	—
Ice-cream	3	3	—
Ice-cream mixes	1	1	—
Ground almonds	1	1	—
Almond marzipan	2	1	1
Cream	2	2	—
Mashed potato	1	1	—
Filled bread roll	1	—	1
Bread mixture	1	1	—
Bread sauce	1	1	—
Milk shakes	2	2	—
Tinned cream soups	2	2	—
Tinned soups	5	5	—
Milk puddings	6	6	—
Fish cakes	1	1	—
Ground nutmeg	1	1	—
Sauces and dressings	10	10	—
Colourings & flavourings	7	7	—
Corned Beef	1	1	—
Coffee	2	2	—
Soft drinks	4	3	1
Cake, etc., mixtures	5	5	—
Cashew kernals	1	1	—
Ground nut oil	1	1	—
Meat puddings, etc.	6	5	1
Fats	3	3	—
Miscellaneous meat dishes	5	5	—
Cheese spread	2	2	—
Sugar and glucose	2	2	—
Dressed crab	1	1	—
Christmas pudding	2	2	—
Cascara tablets	1	1	—
Tinned fruit & vegetables	5	5	—
Condiments	4	4	—
Mixed fruit	1	1	—
Cut mixed peel	1	1	—
Flour	1	1	—
Baking powder	1	1	—
Red currant jelly	1	1	—
Total	108	104	4

With regard to the four unsatisfactory samples, the following action was taken:—

Almond Marzipan: No further stocks were available for the taking of a formal sample.

Filled Bread Roll: Representation was made to the management of the factory canteen concerned.

Soft Drink: A cautionary letter was sent to the manufacturer regarding a slight phenolic odour.

Meat Pudding: Slightly below the recommended meat content. Information is being obtained on this matter pending the making of a Standard for meat puddings and similar products.

E(5) Food Hygiene.

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960.

Almost without exception, the sale of food is limited to shop premises, and neither street trading nor mobile vehicle trading seems to have any attraction for the average food purchaser in the Borough of Erith.

During the year considerable improvements have been carried out at foodshops, and having regard to the availability of ample food supplies it is apparent that the majority of traders are most conscious of a discriminating purchasing public, and this in itself considerably aids an all-round improvement in the display of foodstuffs in an endeavour to attract the hygienic minded purchasers.

All the 34 public houses in the Borough have been inspected as a result of which many sanitary and other improvements have been carried out, and where necessary, recommendations have been made with a view to improving food service. Liaison exists with the Licensing Justices concerning the transfer of Licences.

Number of registered food premises in Borough.

(a) Registered under Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

			No. of premises.	No. of visits
Butchers	...	...	36	120
Bakehouses	...	...	7	21
Fishfriers	...	...	11	40
Food factories	...	...	5	15
Ice-cream dealers	...	...	130	210
Ice-cream manufacturers	...	...	2	10

**(b) Premises registered under Milk and Dairies
(General) Regulations 1959.**

	No. of premises.	No. of visits.
Dairies	3	18
Pasteurising plants and bottling establishments	Nil	Nil

**F (4) National Assistance Act 1948.
Section 47.**

Sanitary circumstances and associated home conditions of the many aged persons have been kept under review, and where indicated, the necessary improvements have been effected.

During the year under review, it was necessary to arrange for the compulsory removal to hospital of an elderly lady in accordance with the provisions of the National Assistance (Amendment) Act 1951, being a person in need of care and attention which she was unable to provide for herself and was not receiving from other people.

F (5) Legislation in Force—Bye-laws, etc.

Provision of Dustbins ...	Erith Improvement Act 1920
Tents vans and sheds	28th Feb. 1928
Houses let-in-lodgings	27th Jan. 1930
Libraries and Museums	15th June 1934
Nursing homes	20th July 1934
Pleasure grounds	4th Feb. 1936
Fish frying	9th May 1939
House refuse	17th Oct. 1939
Erith Cemetery	25th Oct. 1939
Public baths	26th Oct. 1939
Prevention of nuisances	23rd April 1940
Good rule and government	1st Jan. 1941
Offensive trades	9th May 1939
Deposit of litter	9th Jan. 1950
Clean food	19th July 1950
Building bye-laws	7th Dec. 1953
Deposit of substances on highways ...	27th Oct. 1954
Slaughterhouses	29th Nov. 1956
Deposit of loose substances on highways	1st Mar. 1957
Building Bye-laws — Smoke Prevention	1st April 1959
Kent County Council Act, 1958 Sections 57, 106, 114, 116, 118, 131, 138, 142.	