

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Finchley].

Contributors

Finchley (London, England). Municipal Borough.
Turner, A. A.

Publication/Creation

[1955]

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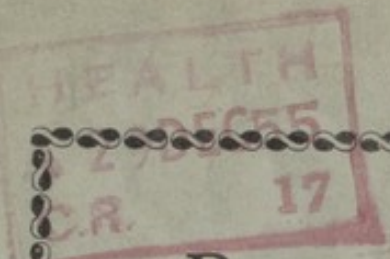
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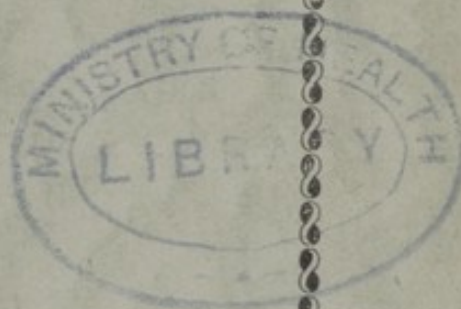
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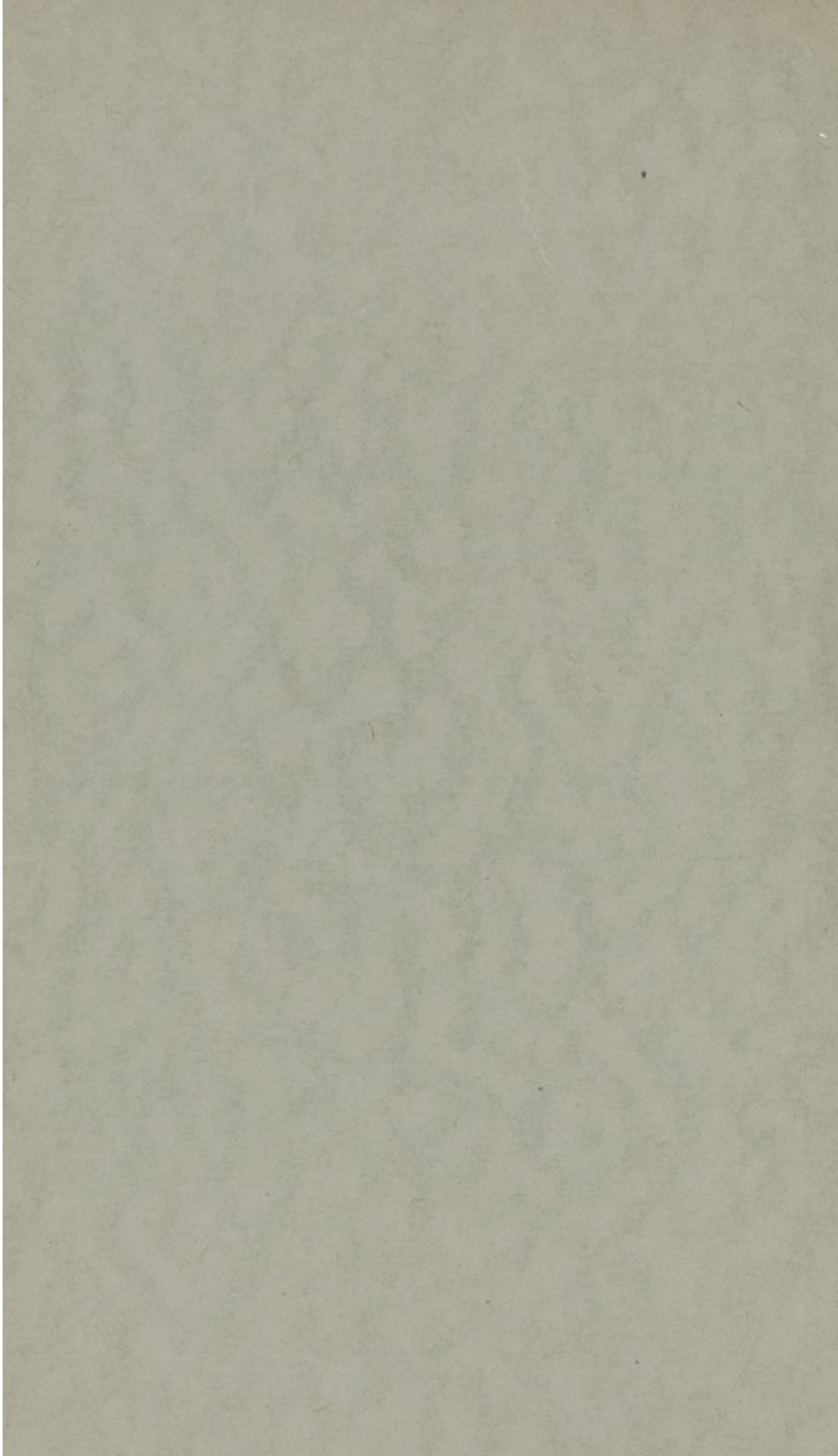
Borough of Finchley



ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
for the year 1954

A. A. TURNER, M.C., M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1954

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
as at 31st December, 1954

Chairman: Councillor L. G. SNELLING

Vice-Chairman: Councillor N. J. SAPSTED

THE MAYOR (Councillor MRS. G. I. WILSON, M.A., J.P.)

THE DEPUTY MAYOR (Councillor R. YORKE)

Alderman MRS. M. E. LEGGE, M.B.E.

Councillor C. J. HARTIGAN

„ MISS E. M. KILLIP

„ M. D. MACLEOD

„ F. L. PIKE

„ F. W. RICHES

„ G. H. T. WATSON

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

A. A. TURNER, M.C., M.D., CH.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

C. RUSSELL, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

J. GRAY, M.B.E., F.R.SAN.I., F.S.I.A.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector:

J. YATES, CERT. R.SAN.I.

District Sanitary Inspectors:

W. H. NICHOLLS, CERT.R.SAN.I.

K. J. MILLEN, CERT.R.SAN.I.

E. A. SELLAR, CERT.R.SAN.I.

J. P. DAVIES, CERT.R.SAN.I. (appointed 25.10.54)

Each of the Sanitary Inspectors holds the special diploma of the Royal Sanitary Institute for the inspection of meat and other foods

Chief Clerk:

D. J. LEGGE

Clerks:

Miss K. M. NICHOL

MRS. J. BEVENS

A. G. FORSYTH

J. P. LAWRENCE (National Service)

MISS J. ASHLEY (resigned 21.2.54)

MISS J. FLOWERDEW (appointed 22.2.54)

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF FINCHLEY.

September, 1955.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This Annual Report on the health of the Borough is a record of work carried out under the direction of Dr. A. A. Turner, M.C., D.P.H., who was Medical Officer of Health for Finchley during the year 1954. The compilation of the Report has been completed since I succeeded Dr. Turner in June 1955 and in the circumstances it is not possible to comment on the details of administration or procedure during the year.

On reviewing the statistics presented in the Report certain interesting facts are apparent. The death rate of 10.7 per thousand of the population is the lowest recorded in the Borough for many years. It is encouraging to see that the case rate for tuberculosis of 7.85 per ten thousand population and the death rate from tuberculosis of 0.86 per ten thousand population are both the lowest rates ever recorded in Finchley. Five years ago the records show that the case rate was 11.65 per ten thousand population and the death rate 3.19 per ten thousand population. It is significant to note that while the death rate has dropped quickly the case rate has not improved to anything like the same extent. Indeed in 1929 the case rate was 9.12 which is not greatly different from that of 1954.

The Housing Repairs and Rents Act which came into operation on the 30th August 1954 allows owners to increase the rent of controlled property on condition the house is in good repair and suitable for occupation. The tenant can protect himself against an increase in rent by obtaining a Certificate of Disrepair from the Council. These certificates are obtained by application to the Public Health Department and are issued only if the premises are not in good repair or are not fit for occupation having regard to the following:—

- i Stability
- ii Freedom from damp
- iii Natural lighting

- iv Ventilation
- v Water supply
- vi Drainage and sanitary conveniences
- vii Facilities for storage, preparation and cooking of food and for the disposal of water.

It is surprising to see that only eight applications were made for the issue of Certificates of Disrepair under the provisions of the Act.

The resumption of private slaughtering and the supervision of the slaughterhouses placed an obligation on the Council to carry out the inspection of meat. As mentioned in the body of the Report, whereas only one visit to slaughterhouses was made in 1953, 309 visits were made in 1954. This work was done by the Sanitary Inspectors and the appointment of an extra Inspector enabled the increased volume of work to be dealt with.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. W. HAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	3,478
Population, 1954 (Registrar-General's Estimate) ...	70,030
Number of Inhabited Houses (1954)	19,755
Rateable Value (1954)	£951,830
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£3,904
Total Live Births	877
Birth Rate per 1,000 home population	12.5
Birth Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) ...	15.2
Total Stillbirths	17
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births	19.0
Total Deaths	747
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 home population	10.7
Standardised Death Rate	9.5
Death Rate per 1,000 population (England and Wales) ...	11.3
Infant Deaths	16
Infant Mortality Rate	18.2
Infant Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	25.5
Neo-Natal Deaths	13
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate	14.8
Maternal Deaths	1
Maternal Mortality Rate	1.12
Maternal Mortality Rate (England and Wales)	0.69

Live Births :

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	468	377	845
Illegitimate	...	...	17	15	32
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			485	392	877
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth rate 12.5 per 1,000 estimated home population.

			<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Stillbirths</i>	...	...	9	8	17

Rate 19.0 per 1,000 (live and still) births.

					Males	Females	Total
Deaths	...	...	...	...	343	404	747
Rate 10.7 per 1,000 estimated home population							

Deaths from disease and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth :

From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Death Rate of infants under one year of age :

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	18.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	17.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	31.3

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	153
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...	—

POPULATION

The Registrar-General has estimated the home population to be 70,030 which is 120 less than in 1953.

BIRTHS

There were 877 registered live births in 1954 as compared with 902 in the previous year while the birth rate was 12.5 as compared with 12.9. The rate for England and Wales was 15.2.

STILLBIRTHS

There were 17 stillbirths, and all except one took place in hospital or nursing home.

The stillbirth rate for the Borough was 0.24 per 1,000 of the home population, and for England and Wales it was 0.36.

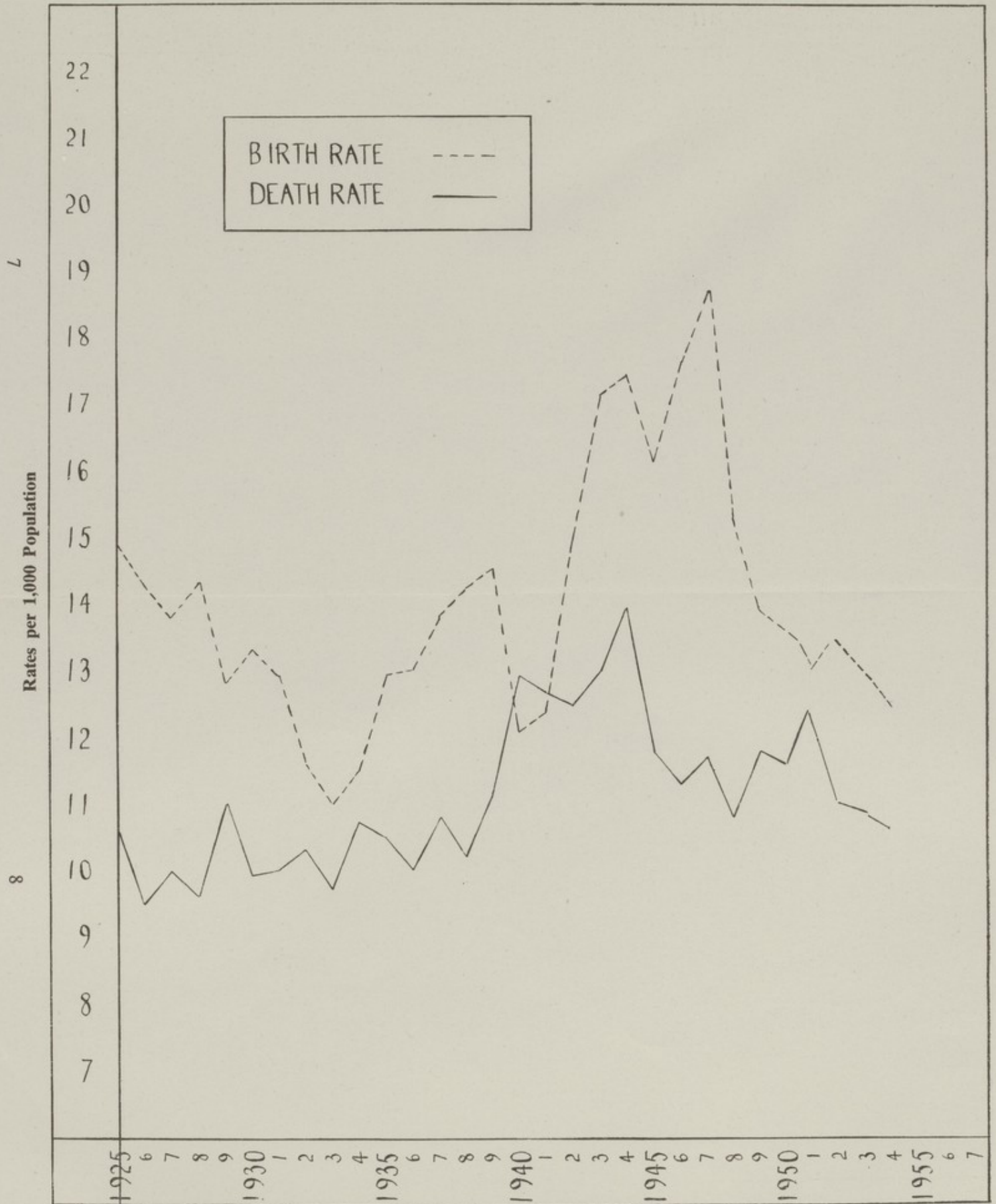
INFANTILE MORTALITY

There were sixteen deaths of infants under one year of age giving an infantile mortality rate of 18.2 per 1,000 live births. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 25.5.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There was one maternal death in 1954.

BIRTH AND DEATH RATES SINCE 1925



1022
1020
1018
1016
1014
1012
1010
1008
1006
1004
1002
1000

1000
1002
1004
1006
1008
1010
1012
1014
1016
1018
1020
1022

1000 1002 1004 1006 1008 1010 1012 1014 1016 1018 1020 1022

DEATHS

There were 747 deaths in 1954, 18 less than in 1953 and 35 less than in 1952. The standardised death rate was 9.5 and that for England and Wales was 11.3. This is the lowest death rate for the Borough for many years.

There were 32 deaths from cancer of the lung, 5 more than in the previous year.

Motor car accidents accounted for 8 deaths, other accidents for 9 deaths, and there were 8 suicides.

Of the total deaths 543 were of persons over 65 years of age.

MORTUARY

One hundred and thirty-six bodies were received in the Mortuary, and of these 19 were from Friern Barnet, and 11 from Potters Bar.

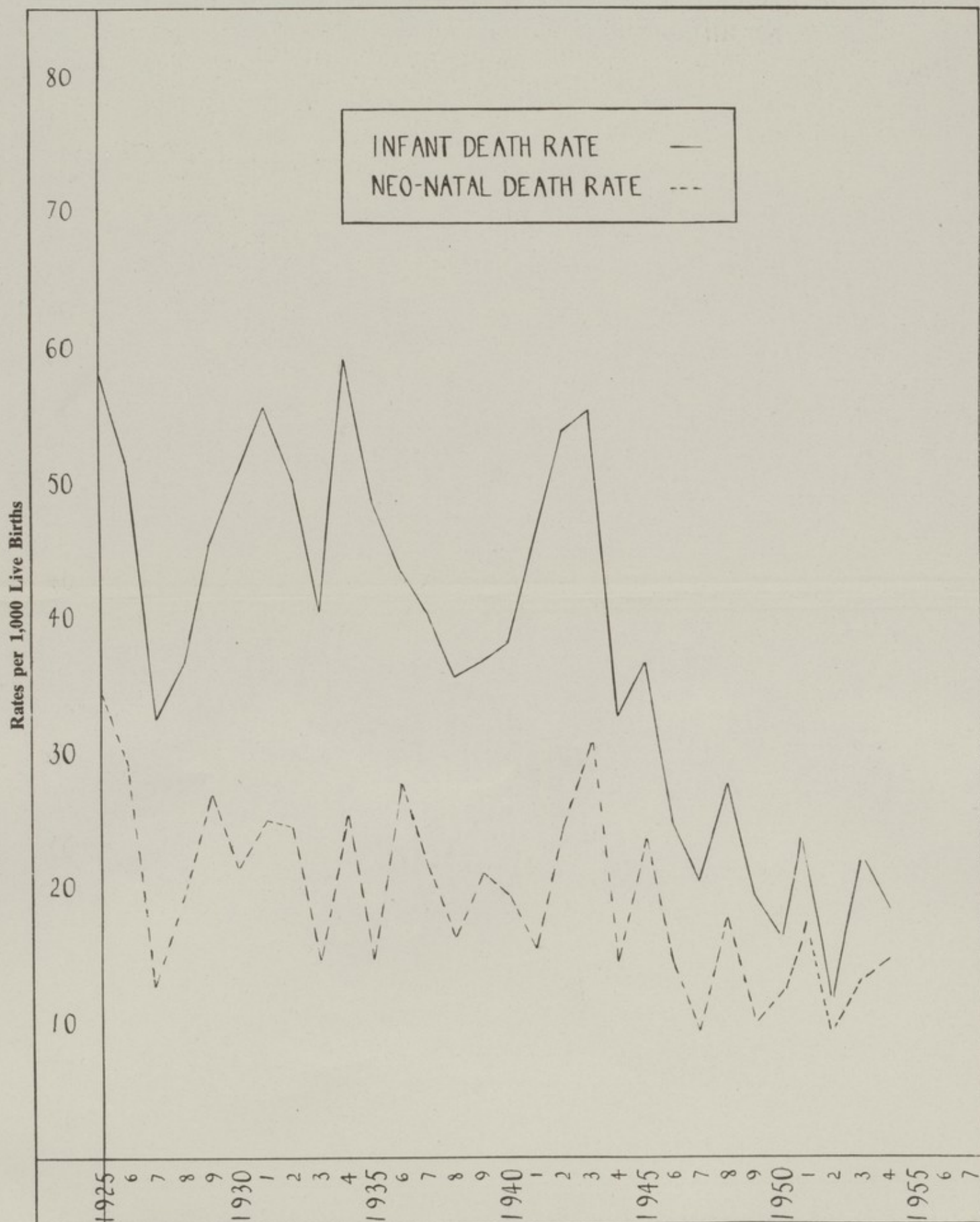
Post-mortem examinations were carried out in all cases except one.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1954

Deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year of age

CAUSE OF DEATH		Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	TOTAL
All Causes	Certified Uncertified	9 —	2 —	2 —	— —	13 —	— —	2 —	1 —	— —	16 —
Smallpox		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria & Croup		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Laryngitis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms)		—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
Diarrhoea		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation, Overlying		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at Birth		2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Atelectasis		2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital Malformations		—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Premature Birth		4	2	1	—	7	—	—	—	—	7
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes		1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
TOTALS		9	2	2	—	13	—	2	1	—	16

INFANT DEATH AND NEO-NATAL DEATH RATES SINCE 1925





NEGATIVE DEVIATION
POSITIVE DEVIATION

1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000 1000

CAUSES OF, AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1954

No.	CAUSES OF DEATH			NET DEATHS AT THE SUBJOINED AGES OF "RESIDENTS" WHETHER OCCURRING WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE DISTRICT.								
All Causes	Certified	Uncertified	All Ages	Under 4 months	4 months and under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and under 75	75 and upwards
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	6	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	1	...
2. Tuberculosis, Other
3. Syphilitic Disease	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
4. Diphtheria
5. Whooping Cough
6. Meningococcal Infections
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. Measles
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	10
11. " " Lung, Bronchus	32	...	...	...	...	...	1	19	9	3
12. " " Breast	15	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	2	4
13. " " Uterus	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	84	...	...	...	...	1	8	23	24	28
15. Leukæmia, Aleukæmia	6	...	1	1	...	...	2	1	1	...
16. Diabetes	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	92	...	...	...	...	...	1	9	28	54
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	140	...	...	...	...	...	5	23	59	53
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	23	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	9	10
20. Other Heart Disease	115	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	15	88
21. Other Circulatory Disease	26	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	7	15
22. Influenza	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
23. Pneumonia	22	...	2	...	1	...	1	3	4	11
24. Bronchitis	33	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	11	17
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	6
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
31. Congenital Malformations	3	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
32. Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	58	12	...	1	...	...	4	13	9	19
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	8	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	1	4
34. All Other Accidents	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	5
35. Suicide	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals			747	13	3	4	1	2	34	147	197	346

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS SINCE 1925

Year	Total Births	Birth Rate	Total Deaths	Death Rate	Total Infant Deaths	Infantile Mortality Rate	Deaths from Measles	Deaths from Whooping Cough	Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)
1925	724	14.9	515	10.6	42	58.0	4	3	1
1926	722	14.3	480	9.5	37	51.2	2	1	3
1927	709	13.8	515	10.0	23	32.4	—	—	—
1928	760	14.3	511	9.6	28	36.8	10	7	2
1929	704	12.8	604	11.0	32	45.5	1	6	5
1930	748	13.3	557	9.9	38	50.8	5	1	7
1931	761	12.9	588	10.0	42	55.2	1	—	6
1932	698	11.6	621	10.3	35	50.0	4	3	3
1933	671	11.0	592	9.7	27	40.2	—	3	6
1934	712	11.5	658	10.7	42	59.0	1	13	4
1935	807	12.9	656	10.5	39	48.5	—	—	17
1936	833	13.0	643	10.0	36	43.2	2	1	6
1937	895	13.8	704	10.8	36	40.2	—	1	7
1938	927	14.2	662	10.2	33	35.6	4	1	5
1939	951	14.5	705	11.1	35	36.8	—	—	3
1940	725	12.1	806	12.9	27	38.0	1	—	2
1941	721	12.4	734	12.7	15	21.8	—	3	1
1942	891	14.9	751	12.5	48	53.9	1	7	3
1943	1035	17.1	790	13.0	57	55.1	1	2	4
1944	1037	17.4	830	13.9	34	32.8	—	5	5
1945	987	16.1	725	11.8	36	36.4	1	—	1
1946	1207	17.6	774	11.3	30	24.9	1	1	5
1947	1319	18.7	830	11.7	27	20.5	—	1	4
1948	1086	15.3	763	10.8	30	27.6	—	1	2
1949	981	13.9	834	11.8	19	19.3	—	—	2
1950	962	13.6	819	11.6	16	16.6	—	—	—
1951	915	13.0	877	12.5	22	24.0	—	—	—
1952	953	13.6	782	11.1	11	11.5	—	—	—
1953	902	12.9	765	10.9	20	22.2	—	—	—
1954	877	12.5	747	10.7	16	18.2	—	—	—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases notified during the past five years :

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	132	99	93	69	68
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	2	1	2	—	—
Poliomyelitis	3	5	3	11	1
Pneumonia	48	72	48	49	38
Measles	730	647	577	857	99
Whooping Cough ...	361	240	273	165	91

DIPHTHERIA

It is now 9 years since a case of Diphtheria occurred in Finchley. This most satisfactory state can only be maintained if parents ensure that their children are immunised.

During the year 40 children were immunised by General Practitioners and 52 by Medical Officers of the Local Health Authority. In addition, 695 children were immunised with a combined diphtheria and whooping cough prophylactic.

Three hundred and seventy-six children were given "booster" doses of diphtheria prophylactic alone, and 116 children were given "booster" doses of combined diphtheria and whooping cough prophylactic.

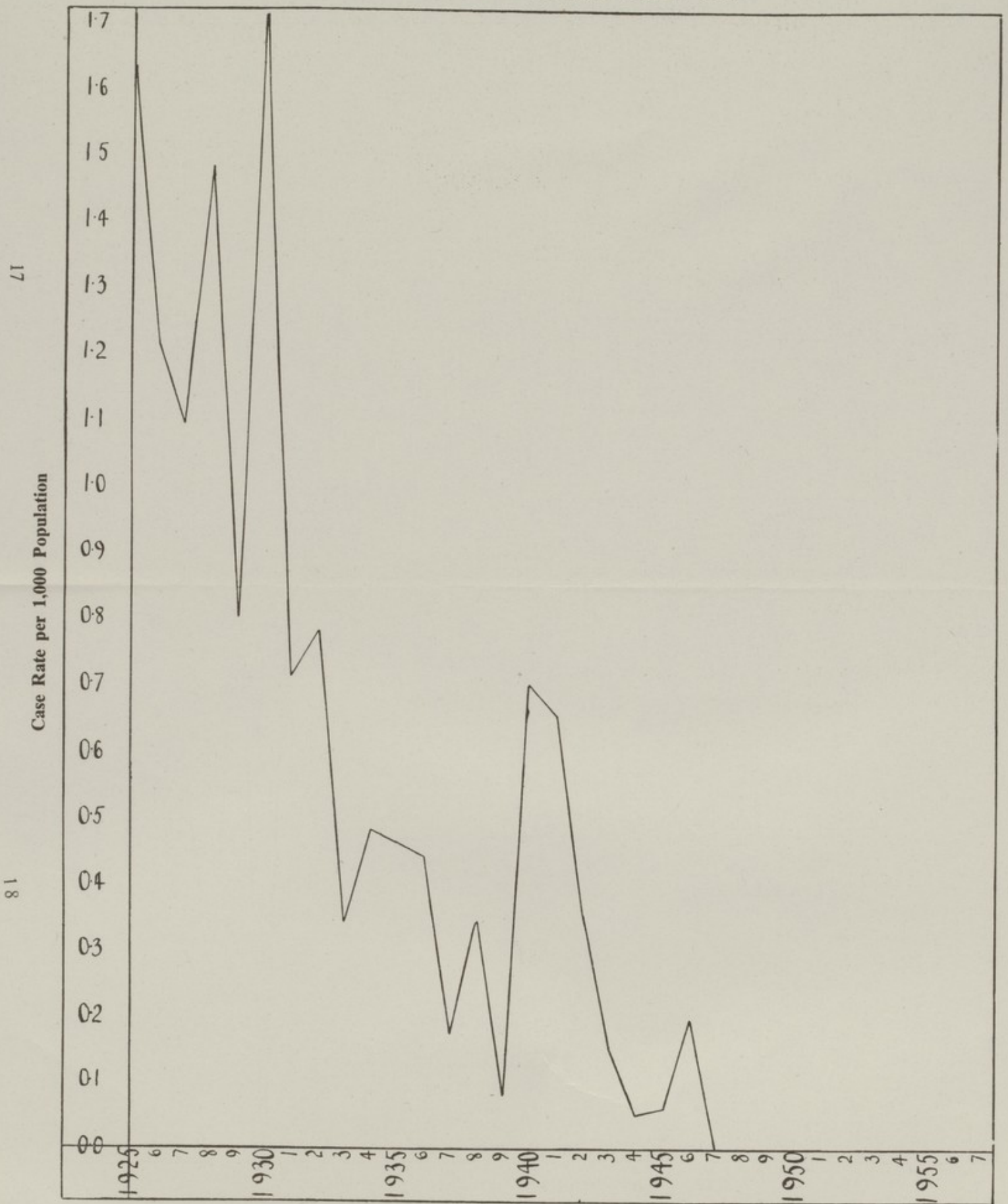
SCARLET FEVER

There were 68 cases of Scarlet Fever, one less than in the previous year. The known cases were mild in character and there is little doubt that in a number of others the illness was so slight as to escape detection altogether. There were no deaths.

POLIOMYELITIS

There was one case of Poliomyelitis which occurred in October. Acute polioencephalitis was diagnosed. The patient, a girl aged 2½ years, died before admission to hospital.

INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA SINCE 1925





Line graph for data reduction

The Council have continued to grant to the North London Branch of the Infantile Paralysis Fellowship the use of the Squires Lane Bath on alternate Sundays for "old" cases of Poliomyelitis.

The cases are collected from a wide area by ambulances and cars and they are assisted in changing and also in the water by voluntary helpers.

All cases are certified by a doctor to be free from infection.

MEASLES

The number of notifications was only 99 compared with 857 in 1953. This is the lowest number recorded in the Borough since 1944. There were no deaths.

WHOOPING COUGH

The notifications numbered 91 in 1954 which is the lowest figure for five years. There were no deaths.

During the year, 15 children were immunised by General Practitioners and Medical Officers of the Local Health Authority.

PNEUMONIA

Thirty-eight cases were notified in 1954 and there were 22 deaths, 15 of which were persons of 65 years of age and over.

MALARIA

No case of Malaria was notified in 1954.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

The total number of cases notified during the year was 31 all of which occurred at the North Middlesex Hospital Annexe in The Bishop's Avenue.

MISCELLANEOUS

The following cases were also notified:

Dysentery	...	...	...	5
Erysipelas	...	...	...	5
Paratyphoid B	...	...	...	1

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

The number of persons vaccinated for the first time by General Practitioners and Medical Officers of the Local Health Authority was five hundred and eighty-five.

Three hundred and two persons were re-vaccinated.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK

The following table shows the number and nature of the specimens examined at the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, during 1954.

			Positive	Negative
Throat/Nose Swabs:				
Diphtheria Bacilli	...	...	—	147
Haemolytic Streptococci	...	...	34	
Vincent's Angina	...	...	—
Fæces:				
Sonne Dysentery	...	...	3	93
Salmonella	...	...	6	
Protozoa	...	...	—
Sputum:				
T.B. Smear	...	...	1	59
Other Organisms	...	...	2	
Whooping Cough:				
Cough Plate	...	...	—	10
Post-nasal Swab	...	...	—
			46	309

TUBERCULOSIS

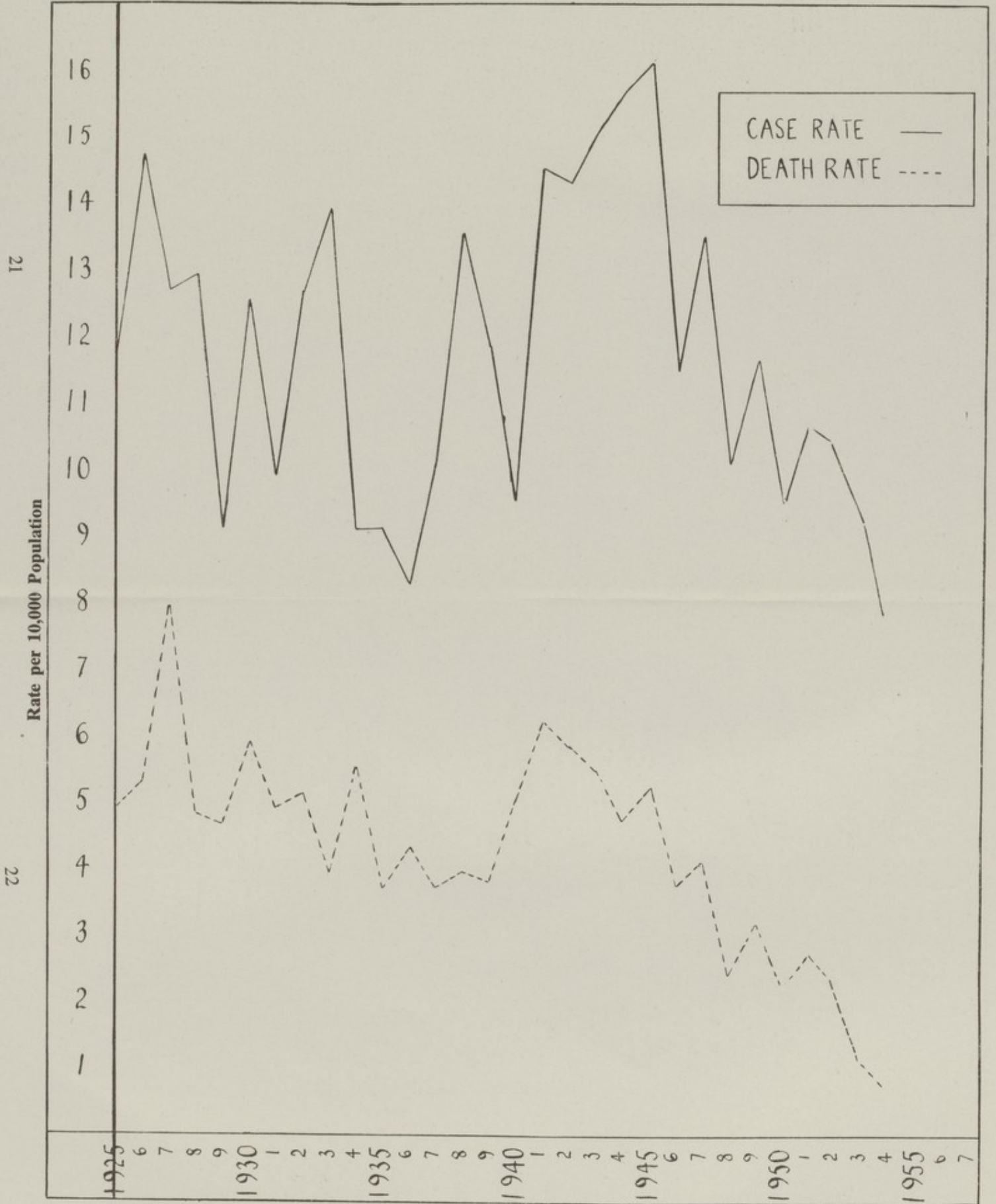
Six persons died from tuberculosis during 1954, giving a death rate of 0.086 per 1,000 population. This is the lowest rate ever recorded.

The number of new cases of the disease is the lowest recorded since 1936. The case rate per 10,000 population was 7.85, the lowest recorded.

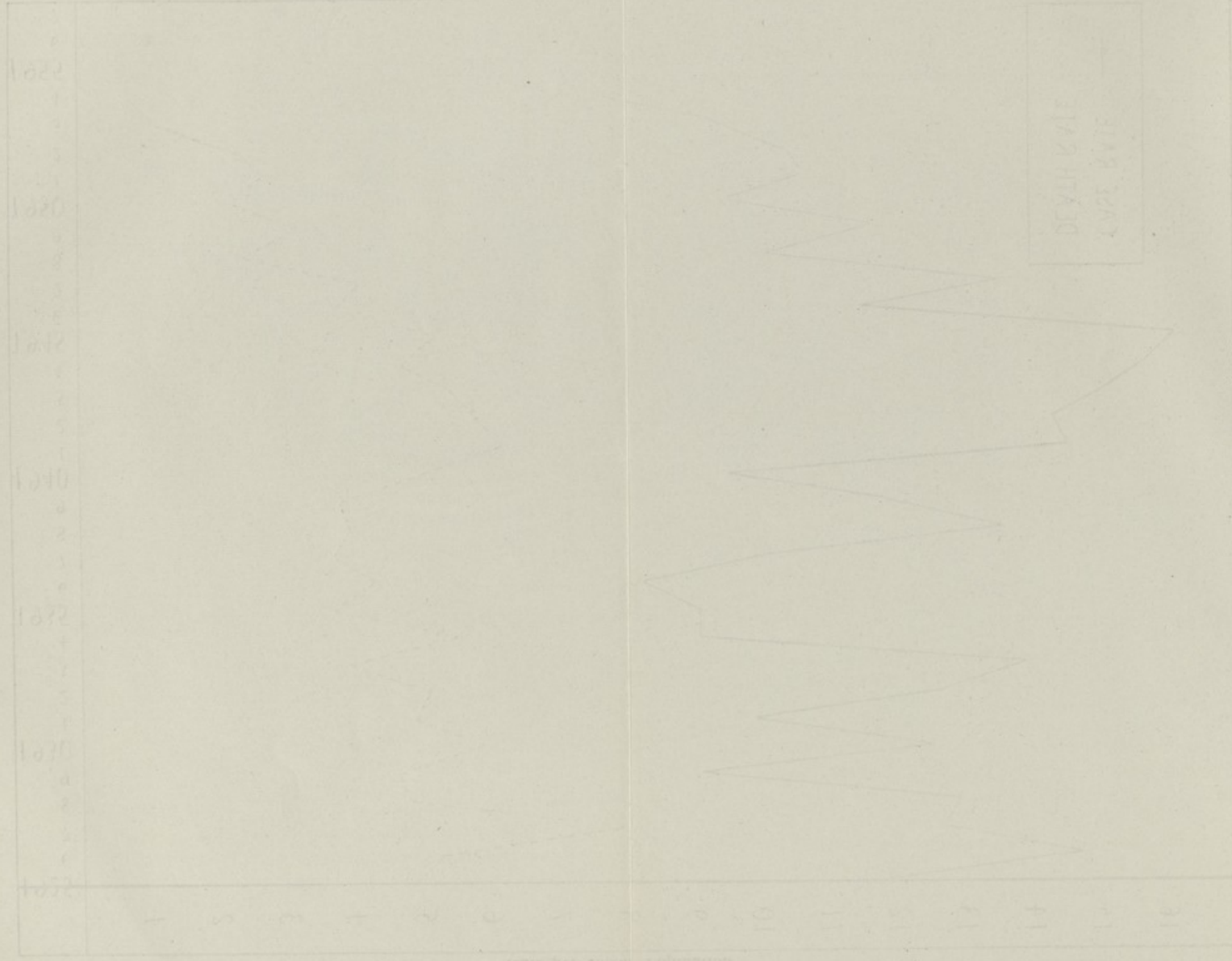
Last year 3 children of school age, and one under school age were found to be suffering from tuberculosis of the lungs—7.7% of the total cases at all ages.

Close co-operation between the Public Health Department, the Area Health Department and the Chest Clinic in the constant search for possible sources of infection in new cases of tuberculosis continues.

TUBERCULOSIS (ALL FORMS)



STATION 3207
31/2 HTA30



Station 3207

The following table shows the number of notifications and the number of deaths during the past 10 years:

Year	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1945	49	41	8	1	17	9	5	1
1946	43	26	2	8	14	9	1	2
1947	54	36	1	4	18	9	2	—
1948	37	26	4	5	5	7	3	2
1949	41	37	2	4	10	8	1	4
1950	37	21	2	7	9	5	2	—
1951	37	30	2	6	6	10	1	2
1952	43	21	4	6	15	2	—	—
1953	29	33	1	2	7	4	—	—
1954	29	23	1	2	2	4	—	—

MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

Twenty-six persons were examined on appointment to the Council's staff and 22 workmen were examined with a view to their admission to the Council's Sickness Pay Scheme.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

(a) Section 47

Several cases were brought to the notice of the Department of persons who were living in insanitary surroundings and who were not receiving proper care and attention.

In each case it was possible to make satisfactory arrangements for these persons without having to resort to compulsory removal to suitable premises under the provisions of the above section.

(b) Section 50

Three burials were carried out by the Council under the provisions of this Section.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

The following are particulars of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1954:

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses:

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,703
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	5,305
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	38
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	632

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	418
---	-----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

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	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	2

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	17
(2) Number rendered fit:		
(a) By owners	... ..	14
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	... ..	—

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ..	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	—

HOUSES UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION

10, Station Road, N.3.

An appeal by the owners against the Council's decision to make a Demolition Order was heard at the County Court, the Judge deferring his findings for three months to enable the owners and the Local Authority to discuss the possibility of the sale of the house with a view to the necessary repairs being carried out to render the house fit.

Arising thereon it was agreed that the Council themselves should purchase the property and at the end of the year negotiations were proceeding accordingly.

3, Gruneisen Road, N.3.

The owner of the above house, which had been represented to the Council the previous year as unfit and incapable of repair at reasonable cost, failed to give a satisfactory undertaking and a Closing Order was served upon him.

277, Ballards Lane, N.12.

The above house was found to be unfit and incapable of repair at reasonable cost and was represented to the Council with a view to making a Demolition Order.

SLUM CLEARANCE

At the beginning of the year a circular was received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government pointing out to Local Authorities that steps should be taken to review housing conditions in their areas and to resume as a matter of urgency the campaign of slum clearance which the war had interrupted.

In anticipation of the Housing Repairs and Rents Acts which came into operation on the 30th August 1954 and imposes a duty upon the Local Authority to make a survey of the unfit houses in their area and submit to the Minister within one year their proposals for dealing with these houses, a survey was commenced and the following Clearance Areas reported to the Council and submitted to the Minister for confirmation:

1. 411, 413 and 415, Long Lane, N.2.
2. 27, 29, 31 and 33, Market Place, N.2.
1a, Prospect Place, 1, 2, 3 and 4, Galpins Cottages,
Prospect Place and Nos. 1-17 (inclusive) Prospect Place, N.2.
3. 1118, 1120, 1122 and 1124, High Road, N.20.
4. 11, 13, 15 and 17, Swan Lane, N.20.

Total: 37 houses.

With regard to areas Nos. 2, 3 and 4, it was resolved that application be made to the Minister for Compulsory Purchase Orders and at the end of the year confirmation was being awaited.

During the year a film called "The Stockton Test", produced by the Allied Ironfounders, Ltd., was shown to members of the Council. The film dealt with the adaptation of sub-standard property to comply with modern requirements for the purposes of grant, as set out in the Housing Act, 1949.

A course of ten lectures on housing, arranged by the Sanitary Inspectors' Association, was held in London during the winter evenings, and was attended by the Sanitary Inspectors.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

Repairs Increase and Certificates of Disrepair.

The above Act, which came into force on the 30th August, 1954, imposed a duty upon local authorities to issue Certificates of

Disrepair where the landlord claimed a repairs increase in rent and the tenant felt that the house was not in good repair and was not reasonably fit for occupation. A charge of one shilling is made for a certificate, or for the revocation thereof.

Preparations were made to deal with a flood of applications when the appointed day arrived, and it is interesting to note in the following table the particulars of applications received during the four remaining months of the year covered by this report:—

Applications received	...	...	...	...	9
Certificates granted	...	...	...	...	3
Applications under consideration at end of year	...	...	...	...	3
Certificates refused	...	...	...	...	2
Applications withdrawn	...	...	...	...	1

From the foregoing figures it will be seen that few applications were received, and it is difficult to assess exactly the reason. Many owners did not comply with the conditions set out in the Act to justify an increase of rent, stating that the amount was insufficient to meet the cost of repairs. Others, however, availed themselves of the provisions to increase the rent by two-thirds of the statutory allowance where the tenant undertook to carry out internal decorative repairs.

INSPECTIONS

The total number of inspections made during the year was 13,980. At 668 of the houses and other premises visited, defects or nuisances to the number of 1,784 were discovered, and at the end of the year 1,383 including a number outstanding at the end of 1953 had been remedied or abated. The work in connection with 109 was in hand and 1,384 were outstanding. In order to ascertain that the sanitary defects were being properly remedied 941 visits were paid to the respective premises while the work was in progress.

The total number of inspections made in regard to each section of work is recorded below, together with a summary of the sanitary improvements carried out:

Inspections under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	224
Special Inspections	...	...	...	...	3,233
Reinspections	...	...	...	...	2,661

Inspections of Works in Progress	941
Inspections of Factories and Workplaces (including Bake- houses and Restaurant Kitchens)	451
Visits to Slaughterhouses	309
Inspections of Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	25
Inspections of Ice Cream Premises	102
Inspections of Meat, Fish and other Food Shops	493
Inspections of Shops (Shops Act)	327
Visits re Infectious Disease and Vermin	526
Visits re Rodent Control	3,934
Visits re Housing Act, 1936	163
Visits re Hawkers	57
Visits to Hairdressers' Premises	34
Visits to Houses Let in Lodgings	12
Visits re Pet Animals Act, 1951	7
Visits re Heating Appliances—Fireguards	31
Miscellaneous	450
	<hr/>
	13,980
	<hr/>

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT

DRAINAGE

Premises redrained	9
Repairs or amendments to existing drains	87
Drains or gullies unstopped or cleansed	252
Length in yards of stoneware drains laid	329
Length in yards of iron drains laid	59
Manholes provided	30
Manholes repaired	8
Manhole covers provided	42
Intercepting trap fixed	1
Fresh air inlets provided or repaired	17
New gully traps fixed	49
Gully curbs provided or repaired	29
New soil pipes and ventilating shafts fixed	13
Soil pipes and ventilating shafts repaired	5
Water tests applied	187

Smoke tests applied	...	...	...	...	...	64
Air tests applied	...	...	...	...	...	10

WATER CLOSETS AND SANITARY FITTINGS

New W.C. Basins fixed	...	...	...	...	60
W.Cs. unstopped, cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	43
New flushing boxes fitted to W.Cs.	...	...	...	...	29
Existing flushing boxes repaired	...	...	...	...	30
New W.C. accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	5
New W.C. apartments provided	...	...	...	...	15
W.C. apartments cleansed	...	...	...	...	4
Urinal cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Lavatory basins provided	...	...	...	...	27
Baths provided	...	...	...	...	9
New impervious sinks provided	...	...	...	...	12
New waste pipes fixed	...	...	...	...	13
Waste pipes trapped, repaired or unstopped	...	...	...	...	33

MISCELLANEOUS

New Roofs provided	...	...	...	...	4
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	87
Eaves gutters renewed, cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	63
Stack pipes provided, repaired or unstopped	...	...	...	...	33
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	101
Walls repointed, repaired or underpinned	...	...	...	...	41
Ventilation under floors provided or unstopped	...	...	...	...	8
Paving of yards repaired	...	...	...	...	8
Floors of rooms relaid	...	...	...	...	7
Floors of rooms repaired	...	...	...	...	44
Rooms cleansed, distempered or repapered	...	...	...	...	466
Plasterwork repaired	...	...	...	...	376
Windows repaired and/or made to open	...	...	...	...	94
New windows provided	...	...	...	...	2
New sash cords provided	...	...	...	...	213
Window sills repaired or provided	...	...	...	...	15
Doors provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	23
Doorsteps provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	4

Handrails to staircases provided	...	...	...	...	2
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	14
New stoves provided	...	...	...	...	12
Stoves and ranges repaired	...	...	...	...	26
Cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	2
Cisterns repaired, cleansed and covered	...	...	...	...	14
Water service pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	23
Movable sanitary dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	28
Nuisances from keeping of animals abated	...	...	...	...	5
Smoke nuisance abated	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	...	...	13
Water heaters provided	...	...	...	...	3
Various	...	...	...	...	80

NOTICES SERVED

Informal notices	...	...	...	...	...	558
Statutory notices	...	...	...	...	...	20

ENQUIRIES—OUTSTANDING SANITARY NOTICES

One thousand five hundred and seventy-five letters were received during the year from the Town Clerk enquiring whether or not there were any outstanding notices with respect to certain properties in the district. The necessary searches were made and the required information furnished.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Number of rooms disinfected after infectious disease	...	113
Number of articles disinfected	...	941
Number of verminous premises dealt with	...	11
Verminous rooms disinfested	...	42

Five hundred and twenty six visits were made by inspectors and disinfectors in connection with cases of infectious disease and verminous premises and the necessary investigations were made in order to obtain the detailed information required.

There was a decrease in the number of premises infested with bugs, 3 cases having been dealt with, compared with 14 in 1953.

The following is a summary of disinfestation work carried out during the year:

	Premises
Bugs	3
Fleas	3
Cockroaches	2
Beetles	3
Ants	1
Wasps	69
Bees	1
Moths	5
Miscellaneous	2

The number of verminous rooms which were dealt with was 42 compared with 52 in 1953.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES

There are 24 conveniences attached to public houses within the Borough. These premises are inspected periodically.

There are now 14 public conveniences in the Borough, including those in recreation grounds. Thirteen of these conveniences provide accommodation for both sexes and one for males only.

COMPLAINTS

One thousand four hundred and eighteen complaints were received with reference to the following matters, viz:

Absence of, or defective condition of, dustbins ...	15
Accumulations of refuse and manure ...	26
Blocked or defective drains ...	207
Defective roofs ...	66
Defective W.Cs. ...	47
Dirty milk bottles ...	1
Flooding ...	10
Foreign matter in food ...	4
Insanitary or defective condition of houses ...	259
Noise ...	5
Non-removal of refuse ...	7

Nuisances from dampness	...	...	...	63
Nuisances from the burning of refuse	...	...	...	7
Nuisances from the keeping of animals or poultry	...	...	...	4
Premises infested with insects	...	...	...	50
Premises infested with rats or mice	...	...	...	403
Shops Act	...	...	...	3
Smells from Public Sewers	...	...	...	8
Smoke nuisances	...	...	...	15
Unsatisfactory Housing Conditions, including				
Overcrowding	...	...	...	32
Unsound food	...	...	...	16
Verminous condition of houses	...	...	...	6
Wasps' nests	...	...	...	69
Water supply	...	...	...	16
Other complaints	...	...	...	79

The complaints were investigated promptly and in those cases in which the Council had power to intervene the necessary steps were taken to remove the cause of complaint.

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

The cinemas, dance halls and other places of public entertainment have been inspected, special attention being given to the condition and adequacy of the sanitary accommodation. The defects discovered as a result of these inspections were remedied after notice had been given to the persons responsible. Eighteen premises were inspected and a report was submitted to the Middlesex County Council which is the licensing authority.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937-1948

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health made during the year.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	124	128	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	217	224	3	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	341	352	5	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	32	32	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient ...	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	7	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	2	2	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	1	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	44	44	—	1	—

The total number of Factories and Workplaces on the Register is 341, made up as follows:

Bakehouses	23
Boot Repairers	25
Builders' Workshops	18
Cycle Makers or Repairers	6
Farriers and Blacksmiths	3
General Engineers and Motor Engineers	61

Glass Blowers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Laundry	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Monumental Masons	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Motor Accessory Manufacturer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Plastic Manufacturers	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Prepared Meat Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Printers and Printers' Accessories	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Restaurant Kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	...	69
Tailors and Dressmakers	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Timber Merchants and Sawyers	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Tyre re-treading	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Upholsterers	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Watch and Clock Repairers	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
X-Ray Apparatus	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other trades	...	...	...	...	...	...	64

These premises have been visited from time to time and, as a result of action taken by the department, the following works have been carried out:

W.C. apartments provided or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ventilated lobbies provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
Artificial lighting provided to W.C.	...	...	...	...	...	1
New W.C. pan provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
W.Cs. cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Joint between flush pipe and W.C. pan repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Flushing cisterns provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	3
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	4
New sink wastepipes provided	...	...	...	...	...	7
Smoke nuisance abated	...	...	...	...	...	1
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	5
Premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	34
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	8

OUTWORKERS

Visits have been made by the Sanitary Inspectors to the homes of persons notified as outworkers to the department from adjoining local authorities. It has been found that the home conditions are quite satisfactory.

The following table shows, by trades, the number of outworkers residing in the district:

Wearing apparel	...	...	...	...	55
Artificial Flowers	...	...	...	...	2
Brush manufacture	...	...	...	...	1
Lampshades	...	...	...	...	1
Cake Ornaments	...	...	...	...	1
Furrier	...	...	...	...	1
Fancy Goods	...	...	...	...	1
Toys	...	...	...	...	1
Coathangers	...	...	...	...	2
Feather Sorting	...	...	...	...	2
Quilts	...	...	...	...	1

FOOD

Six cases of Food poisoning were notified during the year. All were single cases, and were due to *Salmonella Typhi-Murium*.

FOOD HYGIENE

(1) The number and type of food premises in the Borough:

(a) Bakers etc,	...	...	...	29
(b) Butchers	...	...	...	46
(c) Confectioners	...	...	...	77
(d) Fishmongers	...	...	...	20
(e) Greengrocers	...	...	...	55
(f) Grocers and Provisions	...	...	...	121
(g) Restaurants, Cafés, etc,	...	...	...	77
Total				425

(2) (i) The number and type of food premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:

(a) Sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	157
(b) Manufacture of Sausages	...	...	...	35
(c) Cooking of hams	...	...	...	4
(d) Pickling of meat	...	...	...	3
(e) Preparation of pickled and preserved food	...	...	...	5
Total				204

(ii) The number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949: 9

(3) (i) Number of Inspections:

One thousand and fifty-seven visits were made to registered and various other premises, and improvements have been carried out in a number of cases, as set out below:

Closed Shop Fronts erected	...	...	3
Drains repaired	...	...	1
New Food Storage provided	...	...	3

New washing facilities provided	...	...	1
Offal Bins provided	...	...	6
Premises cleansed	...	...	17
Premises redesigned and tiled	...	...	3
Refrigerators provided	...	...	3
Sinks and draining boards provided	...	...	3
Waterheaters provided	...	...	5

(ii) Display of Dog Notices in Food Shops:

Notices for exhibition have been supplied to all food shops in the district, pointing out that the presence of dogs is a danger to the health of the public.

(4) Education Activities:

Lectures to classes of senior school children were arranged at four schools. Talks were given by the Sanitary Inspectors, after which films were shown and discussed. The lectures were attended by some 120 children.

In addition, one lecture on food hygiene was given by a Sanitary Inspector, to a class of volunteers in connection with Civil Defence Welfare Section Training.

(5) Method of Disposal of Condemned Food:

Condemned food is removed by the Public Health Department's van and is destroyed at the Council's Refuse Destructor.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND FOOD

The inspection of food and premises where food is prepared continued to receive special attention.

Two new registrations of hawkers were granted during the year. Before registration is granted the Council insist upon satisfactory storage accommodation being provided and this is checked where necessary with the Local Authority concerned. Following such an investigation, one application for registration was refused because of unsatisfactory storage accommodation, but was granted at a later date upon satisfactory storage arrangements being made.

The number of barrow boys operating in the district at the end of the year was 4.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

With the abolition of meat rationing and the decontrol of meat and livestock which took place at the end of June, the slaughter of meat for human consumption at government controlled central slaughterhouses ceased.

The Government announced its intention to bring about what is called "moderate concentration of slaughtering facilities throughout the country", but stated that "this long-term policy will take some years to apply and the immediate problem will be to ensure that sufficient slaughtering facilities will be available when the Ministry's control of slaughtering comes to an end in July next. To achieve this it will be essential that very many private slaughterhouses shall be brought into use".

So the abolition of private slaughterhouses and the building of properly constructed and controlled abbatoirs have faded once again into a dream of things to come.

As directed by the Minister of Food, a review of the slaughtering requirements for the district was carried out, and, arising therefrom, applications for licences for two slaughterhouses were received.

These were considered by the Council, and after works of repair and improvement had been carried out, licences were granted to the occupiers.

It is interesting to note that although the local butchers' organisation was approached with a view to the larger of the two slaughterhouses being used by local traders, this was not taken advantage of, and was in fact used by a firm outside the district for slaughter for the wholesale trade, chiefly at Smithfield.

The coming into use of these slaughterhouses entailed a large amount of additional work by the Sanitary Inspectors, both during the evenings and at week-ends, as will be seen from the table showing the numbers of animals slaughtered and the amount of meat condemned for that part of the year, as compared with the previous year. In 1953 one visit was made to slaughterhouses, as against 309 in the period under review.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	508	351	1,815	5,046	623
Number inspected	508	351	1,815	5,046	623
All diseases except Tuberculosis :					
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	—	2	8	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	91	103	4	482	34
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	17.91	29.34	0.33	9.71	5.46
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcasses con- demned	—	5	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	33	111	4	—	9
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	6.50	33.05	0.22	0.02	1.44

UNSOUND FOOD CONDEMNED, 1954

TUBERCULOSIS

CATTLE

Carcases	...	...	5
Forequarter	...	...	1
Heads	...	...	51
Hearts	...	...	3
Livers	...	...	22
Lungs	...	...	85 sets
Mesenteries	...	...	16
Plucks	...	...	10
Spleens	...	...	2

CALVES

Livers	2
Plucks	2

PIGS

Heads	4
Lungs	1 set
Mesenteries	4

SHEEP & LAMBS

Carcase	1
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OTHER DISEASES

CATTLE

Heads	2	(Abscess 1, Actinomycosis 1)
Hearts	2	(Pericarditis)
Kidneys	...	...	2	(Abscess 1, Nephritis 1)
Livers	...	...	165½	(Abscess 29½, Cavernous Angioma 12, Cirrhosis 13, Degenerated Cysts 2, Fatty Infiltration 1, Flukes 105, Melanosis 3)
Lungs	...	...	6 sets	(Abscess 4, Pleurisy 2)
Mesentery	...	...	1	(Abscess)
Part Forequarter	...	...	1	(Abscess in Prescapular Gland)
Spleens	...	...	3	(Inflammation)

CALVES

Carcases	...	2	(Moribund 1, Pyaemia 1)
Livers	...	3	(Abscess 1, Fatty 1, Parasitic 1)
Pluck	...	1	(Abscess)

PIGS

Hearts	...	8	(Pericarditis 7, Pleurisy 1)
Livers	...	11	(Cirrhosis 9, Fibroma 1, Hepatitis 1)
Lungs	...	22 sets	(Congestion 4, Parasitic 1, Pleurisy 2, Pneumonia 15)

SHEEP & LAMBS

Carcases	...	8	(Emaciation 2, Moribund 6)
Hearts	...	2	(Abscess 1, Pericarditis 1)
Leg	...	1	(Trauma and Abscess)
Livers	...	364	(Abscess 2, Degenerated Cysts 70, Echinococcus Cysts 1, Flukes 160, Parasitic 130, Tenuicollis Cysts 1)
Lungs	...	91 sets	(Abscess 3, Congestion 1, Degenerated Cysts 3, Parasitic 6, Pleurisy 3, Pneumonia 24, Strongylosis 51)
Omenta	...	2	(Tenuicollis Cysts)
Plucks	...	29	(Parasitic 27, Strongylosis 2)
Shoulder & Neck	1		(Trauma)

UNSOUND

CATTLE

Beef	...	...	...	2,401 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Ox Liver	...	...	...	127 lbs.
Ox Kidney	...	...	...	8 lbs.

PIGS

Pork	...	...	...	35 lbs. 3 ozs.
Pigs' Kidneys	...	...	...	8 lbs.

SHEEP & LAMB.

Lamb	...	...	...	...	...	4 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	...	...	...	5½ lbs.

TINNED ARTICLES

	Tins		Tins
Almond and Butter Crack-		Fruit Salad ...	26
nels ...	18	Gherkins ...	7
Anchovies ...	14	Golden Corn ...	3
Apple and Cranberry ...	41	Gooseberries ...	115
Apples ...	82	Grapefruit ...	89
Apricots ...	90	Grapefruit Juice ...	15
Asparagus Tips ...	3	Grapes ...	31
Bananas ...	2	Greengages ...	9
Beans ...	108	Guavas ...	21
Beef (4 lb.) ...	3	Ham ..	59
Beef and Gravy ...	2	Herrings in Tomato ..	3
Beetroot ...	1	Herring Roes ...	28
Blackberries ...	27	Irish Stew ...	12
Blackcurrants ...	218	Jam ...	139
Brisling ...	7	Jellied Veal ...	9
Carrots ...	12	Kidneys ...	3
Celery ...	2	Kipper Snacks ...	3
Cherries ...	48	Lambs' Tongues ...	3
Chicken ...	1	Liver and Bacon ...	1
Chocolate ...	17	Loganberries ...	13
Coffee ...	2	Luncheon Meat ...	64
Corned Beef ..	28	Macaroni ...	i
Crab ..	69	Malted Milk ..	11
Crab Paste ...	3	Mangoes ...	5
Cream ...	109	Marmalade ...	60
Crunchets ...	6	Meat and Gravy ...	12
Cucumber ...	1	Milk ...	564
Damsons ...	73	Minced Beef Loaf ...	55
Date Pudding ...	1	Mincemeat ...	22
Fish Paste ...	6	Mixed Vegetables ...	10
Frozen Egg ...	2	Mustard ...	1

			Tins				Tins
Mutton	...	...	2	Sandwich Spread	...	...	2
Onions	...	...	1	Sardines	...	...	438
Oranges	...	...	43	Sauerkraut	...	...	1
Orange Juice	...	...	16	Sausages	...	...	9
Ox Tongue	...	...	2	Shrimps	...	...	3
Peaches	...	...	88	Sild	...	...	66
Pears	...	...	55	Soft Roes	...	...	37
Peas	...	...	261	Soup	...	...	101
Pilchards	...	...	18	Spaghetti	...	...	9
Pineapples	...	...	179	Steak Pudding	...	...	4
Pineapple Juice	...	...	18	Stewed Mutton	...	...	5
Plums	...	...	283	Stewed Steak	...	...	54
Pork Kidneys	...	...	26	Strawberries	...	...	13
Prunes	...	...	7	Sweet Corn	...	...	1
Rabbit	...	...	2	Tomatoes	...	...	166
Raspberries	...	...	24	Tomato Juice	...	...	37
Ravioli	...	...	8	Tongue	...	...	2
Rhubarb	...	...	3	Treacle	...	...	4
Rock Lobster	...	...	1	Vegetable Salad	...	...	1
Salmon	...	...	3,912				

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES

Almonds	...	20 lbs.	Cheese Trimmings	16cwt. 89 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	
Apricots	...	28 lbs.	Chickens	...	3
Apricots	...	1 jar	Choconut	...	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Bacon	...	14 lbs.	Coconut	...	1 packet
Beef Suet	...	1 packet	Cream	...	3 cartons
Biscuits	...	63 packets	Crystallised Fruit	...	1 packet
Bloater Spread	...	1 jar	Dates	...	2 boxes
Cake	...	7 lbs.	Dressed Crab	...	1 jar
Cakes, Dundee	...	5	Figs	...	1 box
Cakes, Fancy	...	118	Fish	...	3 cases
Cakes, Madeira	...	2	Fish	...	14 stone
Cereals	...	63 packets	Flans	...	3
Cheese	...	81 boxes	Flour	...	1 bag
Cheese	...	13 $\frac{1}{8}$ lbs.	Fruit Salad	...	3 jars
Cheese (Grated)	...	1 jar	Ham	...	24 lbs.

Honey	1 jar	Prunes	5 lbs.
Horseradish		"Rainbow" Sticks	2,376
Cream	3 jars	Raisins	104 lbs.
Iced Chocolate		Rhubarb	1 jar
Layer Cake Mix	48 packets	Salad Cream ...	2 jars
Ice Cream Cones	500	Sandwich Spread	5 jars
Jam	2 jars	Sauce	21 bottles
Lemon Curd ...	4 jars	Sausages	70½ lbs.
Lemon Juice ...	2 jars	Sponges	3
Macaroni	1 packet	Sponge Mixture ...	3 packets
Margarine	16 lbs.	Sultanas	120 lbs.
Margarine	2 packets	Tea	2 packets
Marmalade	3 jars	Tea Cake Mixture	1 packet
Meat Paste	1 jar	Veal and Ham	
Meringues	96	Spread	1 jar
Mincemeat	1 jar	Walnuts	1 jar
Mustard	2 tubes	Welsh Rarebit ...	9 jars
Pickled Cabbage ..	1 jar	Welsh Rarebit ...	1 packet
Pickled Onions ...	1 jar	Yorkshire Pudding	
Pickles	7 jars	Mixture	30 packets

A cargo of tinned salmon, which had been unloaded at Liverpool Docks, was found to have suffered damage in transit. It appeared that whilst on the ship, water had reached the tins and a chemical reaction had taken place with the gum used for affixing the labels, with the result that a proportion of the tins had become perforated with minute holes.

The Ministry of Food had forbidden the sale of the salmon direct to the retail trade but had agreed to its being released for processing purposes subject to its first being examined and passed by the local Sanitary Officers.

A consignment of 1,400 cases comprising 67,200 tins had been allocated to Finchley, and all were examined by your Sanitary Inspectors. Three thousand eight hundred and ninety-three tins were found to be unsound. This figure is included in the tabulated list of tinned food above.

HUMANE SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

In accordance with the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act 1933, all animals, including sheep, slaughtered in a slaughter-

house within the district must be stunned by means of a mechanically operated instrument kept in good repair.

This method of slaughter continues to prove satisfactory.

LICENSED SLAUGHTERMEN

The Act also provides that no animal shall be slaughtered or stunned by any person who is not the holder of a licence granted by the local authority. The licences granted by the Council have to be renewed annually. Three persons were licensed during 1954.

BUTCHERS' SHOPS

There are 46 butchers' shops in the Borough.

All the shops are provided with glass fronts.

A new cold store was constructed in one shop.

All these premises have been visited and the provisions of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations which provide for the cleanliness of the premises, apparatus, utensils and vehicles, the precautions to be taken against the contamination of meat, the storage and removal of refuse, etc., have generally been well observed.

BAKEHOUSES

The number of bakehouses in the Borough is 23.

At 22 bakehouses motive power is used.

The bakehouses have been visited by the inspectors and steps have been taken to cause them to be maintained in a proper sanitary condition. The periodical cleansing of these premises, as required by statute, has generally been carried out. At one large bakehouse the floor was completely relaid with tiles and a new tray-washing machine was installed.

Two bakehouses were closed during the year.

The one underground bakehouse in the district was inspected in accordance with Section 54 of the Factories Act, 1937, and found to be satisfactory. It was reported to the Council and the necessary certificate was granted.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS

There are 9 registered premises within the district, and all have been inspected from time to time.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS

Licences were granted by the Council in respect of designated milk for the year ended 31st December, 1954, as follows:

Dealers' Licences to sell milk as Tuberculin Tested	...	18
" " " " " " Pasteurised	... ..	17
" " " " " " Sterilised	... ..	21
Supplementary Licences to sell milk as Tuberculin Tested	...	7
" " " " " " Pasteurised	... ..	8
" " " " " " Sterilised	... ..	8

Five samples of Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) milk, four samples of Pasteurised and ten samples of Sterilised were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination.

All these samples complied with the prescribed conditions.

FOOD SAMPLING

The following information has been furnished by the Middlesex County Council Public Control Department relative to samples taken in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938:

List of samples procured in the Borough during the year:

Article					Total samples procured	Unsatisfactory
Milk	...	...	...	...	17	—
Milk, new	...	...	...	...	238	20
Acetic acid	...	...	...	...	2	—
Baking powder	...	...	...	...	1	—
Butter	...	...	...	...	10	—
Cakes	...	...	...	...	33	—
Cheese	...	...	...	...	2	—
Chocolate powder	...	...	...	...	1	—
Coffee	...	...	...	...	1	—
Condensed Tomatoes	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cooked Meats	...	...	...	...	12	—
Cream	...	...	...	...	11	—
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	1	—

Article	Total samples procured	Unsatisfactory
Drugs	8	—
Fish	16	—
Fruit Drinks	2	—
Fruit Sauce	1	—
Grapes	1	—
Ground Almonds	1	—
Jam	1	—
Lemons	1	—
Liver	5	—
Margarine	5	—
Marzipan	1	—
Meat	1	—
Meat Pie	5	—
Mincemeat	1	—
Non-brewed Condiment	1	—
Oranges	3	—
Salad Cream	1	—
Sausages	28	—
Soups	3	—
Suet	1	—
Sweets	1	—
Tea	2	1
Trifle	1	—
Vinegar	24	2
Wines and Spirits	3	—
Totals	447	23

With regard to the twenty-three samples noted as unsatisfactory, the following brief comments may be of interest.

Milk, new. These twenty unsatisfactory samples were procured in all from seven farmers. Six samples from one farmer were all deficient in solids-not-fat, but the presence of added water was not confirmed. A further case of five samples proved to be deficient in fat, and two further cases, each of three samples, also

were found to be deficient in fat. The remaining three samples, from separate farmers, were also deficient in fat. In all seven cases associated and subsequent follow-up samples were found to be genuine, and apart from advising the farmers no further action was taken.

Tea. This was a packet of tea, purchased privately, and brought in for analysis. It contained a paludrine tablet. A letter of warning was sent to the packers.

Vinegar. Two samples of vinegar, from the same retailer, were found to be non-brewed condiment. Proceedings were instituted and the retailer was fined £3-0-0, and ordered to pay £3-17-0 costs.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926—Imported Food Orders.

During the year 107 premises were visited and 368 displays of meat, apples, tomatoes, poultry, dried fruit, butter and eggs were examined. No infringements of substance arose.

Labelling of Food Order, 1953.

One hundred and thirty premises were visited and 1,209 different articles examined. No infringements of substance arose.

Special Designated Milk.

For the year 1954 my Council issued licences in respect of one firm of Dealers/Sterilisers; and in the case of another firm of both Dealers/Sterilisers and Dealers/Pasteurisers. The premises were regularly inspected throughout the year and in all 121 samples of sterilised and pasteurised milk were taken and submitted to examination. All samples proved satisfactory.

Milk Samples for T.B. Examination.

In addition to the foregoing 9 samples of new milk were taken for bacteriological examination; none was adversely reported upon.

ICE CREAM PREMISES

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947, control the method by which ice cream should be manufactured.

Only one person makes ice cream within the Borough, and employs the method known as "complete cold mix" which only requires the addition of water.

Most of the ice cream sold is manufactured outside the Borough.

There are 157 premises registered for the sale of ice cream. Twenty-four samples were taken during the year.

COFFEE STALLS

At the end of the year there was only one remaining in the district, one coffee stall having been removed.

FISH FRIERS

There were eight premises in the district where the business of fish frying was carried out.

GAME LICENCES

Twenty-one applications were received under Section 27 of the Local Government Act, 1894, from tradesmen in the Borough for licences to deal in game. A licence was granted in each instance.

SHOPS ACT 1950

Inspection of shops in the Borough has been carried out and complaints and contraventions dealt with. In one instance two new W.C. apartments were built, providing accommodation for males and females.

Proceedings were taken with regard to Sunday Trading in respect of the sale of second-hand cars.

Further particulars of the case will be found under the heading "Legal Proceedings".

Particulars in regard to shops on the Register are as follows:

Number on Register at beginning of 1954	...	926
Number closed	... ..	16
New shops	... ..	30
Number on Register at end of 1954	...	940
Changes of occupancy	... ..	37

The number of persons observing the Jewish Sabbath and registered in accordance with the provisions of Section 53 of the Act was ten.

WATER SUPPLY

During the year the water supply of the Borough has been satisfactory in quality and in quantity. The bulk of the water is supplied by the Barnet District Water Company and copies of reports on 12 samples which were taken by the Company during

the year and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Counties Public Health Laboratory were forwarded to me. In all cases the results were satisfactory.

All dwelling-houses in the Borough are supplied with water from public water mains direct to the houses with the exception of 4 houses serving a population of 10 which are served by stand-pipes.

POLLUTION OF STREAMS AND WATERCOURSES

Further investigations have been carried out regarding the pollution of streams in and adjoining the district and in connection therewith, a serious case of oil pollution was traced to a factory, and satisfactory measures were taken to deal with the nuisance.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

The factory chimneys in the area have been kept under observation and generally little nuisance from smoke or grit has occurred.

Complaints were received with regard to the emission of grit from the chimney of a central heating plant of a large block of flats, and upon advice being given regarding the type of fuel to be used and the more frequent cleansing of the flues, the nuisance ceased.

Pamphlets containing the important references in the Ridley Report relating to Domestic and Industrial Smoke Prevention were distributed to various organisations and industrial users in the Borough.

A special course of lectures was held at the Northampton Polytechnic, London, for the instruction of stokers. The proprietors of the various industrial premises in the district were interviewed, and arising therefrom, a number of stokers attended the course, facilities and expenses being provided by the firms concerned.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There is only one trader whose premises come within the definition of the Act and are registered.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

There were two new registrations under the above Act during 1954, making the total number of persons registered in the district 6.

All the premises have been inspected.

HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952

Thirty-one visits have been made to premises to ascertain that the provisions of the Act were being complied with. In two shops a number of electric fires were found which did not comply with the Act. These were withdrawn from sale and warnings were issued to the proprietors.

BURIAL ACT, 1857

Licences for the removal of human remains under the above Act state, inter alia, "It is considered advisable that the Medical Officer of Health should be notified whenever such a licence is granted in order that he may be in a position to take (under his general powers) any action that may appear to him to be necessary in the interests of public health". Three copies of licences for such removals were received from the Home Office during the year.

The exhumations were carried out in the early hours of the morning and were visited when necessary by one of the sanitary inspectors, in order to ascertain that the conditions of the licences were complied with.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Legal proceedings were taken in the following instances:

(i) Proceedings were instituted against a second-hand car dealer for failure to close his premises for the serving of customers on a Sunday, in contravention of the Shops Act, 1950. The defendant was convicted of the offence and was granted an absolute discharge on the payment of £5-5-0 costs.

(ii) A firm of bakers was summoned with regard to a cigarette end found in a currant bun. A fine of £10-0-0 was imposed and an order to pay £3-3-0 costs was made.

RODENT CONTROL

COMPLAINTS AND INFESTATIONS

	Premises from which complaints have been received		Premises where infestation was confirmed		Premises where infestation was not confirmed	
	15 mths to 31.3.54	1954/55	15 mths to 31.3.54	1954/55	15 mths to 31.3.54	1954/55
Rats	345	278	258	185	87	98
Mice	173	125	160	102	13	18
Total	518	403	418	287	100	116

The number of complaints has remained about the same average as the previous twelve months but the number of confirmed infestations has decreased slightly.

Arising from these complaints, 49 additional premises were found to be infested with rats and 10 infested with mice.

Fifty-three premises, where poultry were kept, were found to be infested with rats. This figure represents 22.64% of the infestations.

SUMMARY OF WORK CARRIED OUT FROM 1.4.1954—31.3.1955

					Rats	Mice
Visits in connection with infestations	...	...	...	...	3112	822
Number of confirmed infestations	...	...	...	...	234	112
Prebait	...	...	...	...	202	—
Zinc Phosphide	...	} P O I S O N S			90	—
Arsenic	...				13	—
Red Squill	...				—	—
A.N.T.U.	...				—	—
Warfarin	...				2225	1065

There was an increase of smoke tests on rat runs which revealed defects in sewers or drains on 26 occasions. These have been remedied.

The continued use of Warfarin is still producing satisfactory results.

TREATMENT OF SEWERS

	First Treatment	Second Treatment
Total number of manholes baited	337	407
Number of poison takes ...	11	40

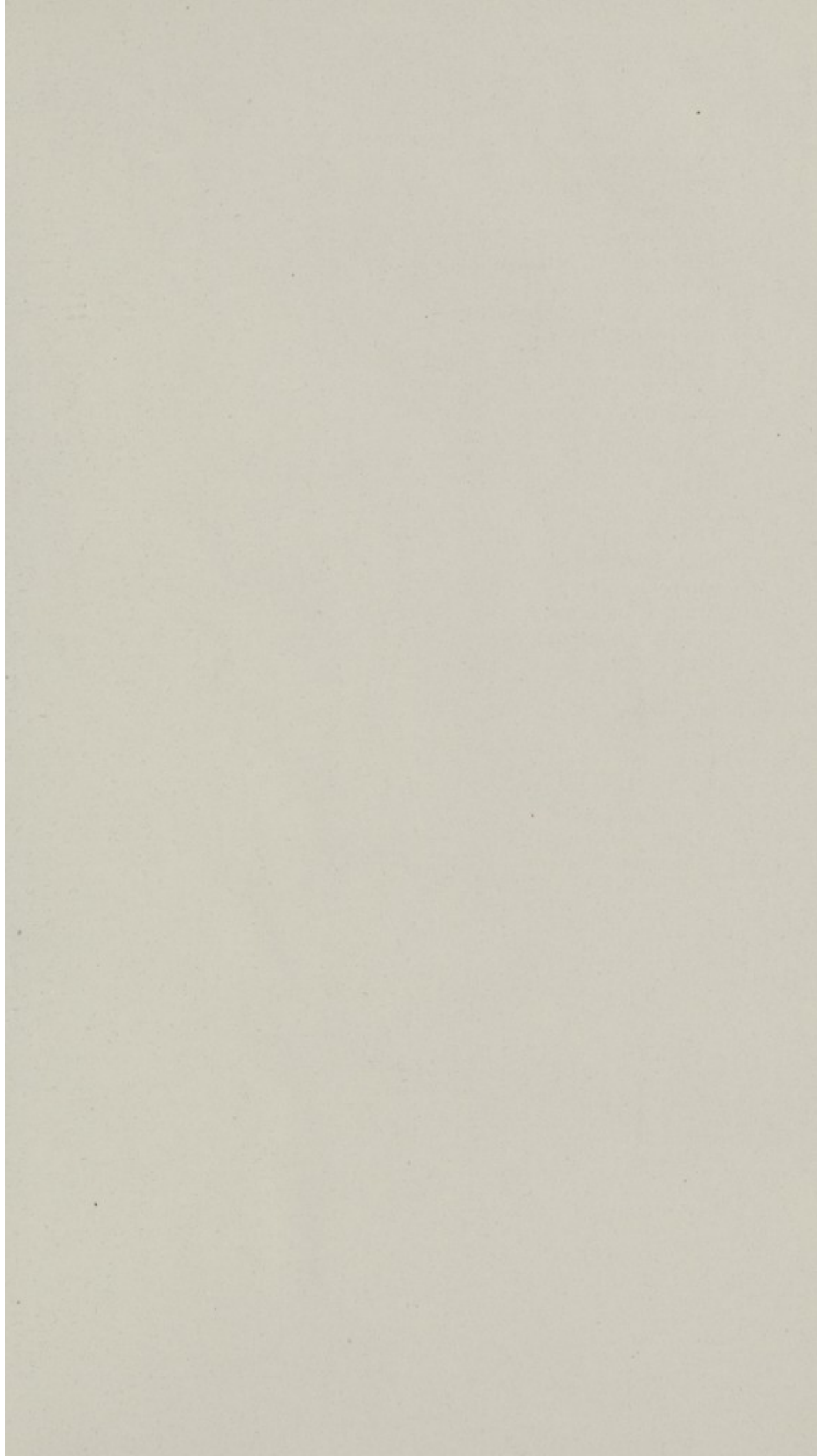
The poison takes in each treatment amounted to 3.26% and 9.82% of the number of manholes baited.

The second treatment showed increases of poison takes. This treatment was carried out in the older part of the area.

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