

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

Contributors

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PENGE URBAN DISTRICT

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

TOGETHER WITH

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Sanitary Inspector

1950



Penge Urban District Council.

Chairman : Councillor E. A. MARTIN CLARK, J.P., K.C.C.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor J. W. CROXON.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman : Councillor H. M. BOWLES.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor F. J. GOATCHER.

Councillor H. A. BURNS.

Councillor J. J. COLEMAN

Councillor A. K. COOKE

Councillor A. EMERY, J.P.

Councillor W. J. KEES

Councillor Mrs. D. L. LOCKWOOD

Councillor P. J. O'TOOLE.

Councillor O. E. PRINCE.

Councillor E. A. ROGERS.

Councillor A. SAVAGE.

Councillor P. WHITE.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

STAFF :

**Medical Officer of Health :*

B. E. HAWKINS, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.).

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

R. T. PEARCE, Cert. S.I.E.B. (Lond.).

Cert. Insp. of Food, S.I.E.B. (Lond.).

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector and Shops Act Inspector :

E. G. THOMAS, Cert. R.S.I.

Cert. Insp. of Food, R.S.I.

Sanitary Inspector :

H. J. BISHOP, Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board

Cert. Insp. of Food, R.S.I.

Clerks :

Mrs. A. L. SHEPPARD.

C. W. BRIGGS.

**Part-time Officer.*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1950.

TOWN HALL,
ANERLEY ROAD, S.E.20.

June, 1951.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PENGE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present an Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1950, which has been compiled in accordance with Circular No. 112/50 of the Ministry of Health.

The Vital Statistics for the year continue to compare favourably with other parts of the country.

Again it is noticeable that a high proportion of the deaths occurring in the district were those of persons of 65 years of age and over. This large number of elderly people has again presented many problems in providing for their care and welfare, and it is gratifying to record the large amount of help given to them by various voluntary organisations, especially in the provision of meals in their own homes. Difficulty has been found in providing institutional treatment for those who were unable to care for themselves at home.

Again, the value of diphtheria immunisation has been proved by the fact that for the third year in succession no case of diphtheria was notified in Penge.

In spite of the prevalence of Poliomyelitis in England during the year, it is gratifying to record that only four cases occurred in Penge.

During the early part of the year the Council adopted the Ministry of Food model byelaws for clean food. This department invited the co-operation of all traders in foodstuffs in applying the byelaws with satisfactory results, and it is with some pleasure that I can report that only two cases of food poisoning were notified, details of which are recorded elsewhere in this report.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	770
Population (Census, 1931)	27,771
Home Population, Mid-year 1950 (estimated by Registrar-General) ..	25,160
Rateable Value, 1st October, 1950	£199,028
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£811

The district is situated on the slope of a hill, its highest point being 370 ft. above sea level and the lowest 95 ft. above sea level.

The density of population per acre is 32.6, this being the highest in the County of Kent. The remains of the Crystal Palace and the greater part of the grounds occupying approximately 127 acres, are within the district and provide a much needed "lung."

The district is mainly residential although in recent years there has been an increase in the amount of industrial work in the district, the chief industries being engineering, button making, printing and laundry work.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Home population	.. ..	22.05
Adjusted Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Home population	.. ..	21.60
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Home population	.. ..	0.59
Still birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	.. ..	26.31
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated Home population	.. ..	11.36
Adjusted Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated Home population	.. ..	10.45
Deaths from Puerperal Causes :—Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	.. ..	Nil

Death Rate of Infants Under One Year of Age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	.. ..	25.22
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.. ..	20.91
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.. ..	103.44

Births.

The live births registered during the year numbered 555. This gives a crude live birth rate of 22.05 per 1,000 Home population, compared with 20.84 for 1949.

The area comparability factor calculated by the Registrar-General for the purpose of securing comparability between local birth rates is 0.98. This makes the Adjusted Birth Rate 21.60.

Stillbirths.

The number of stillbirths registered was 15, equal to a rate of 26.31 per 1,000 total births, compared with 22.64 for 1949.

Deaths.

The deaths registered totalled 286, equal to a crude death rate for the year of 11.36 per 1,000 Home population, compared with 11.22 for 1949.

The area comparability factor calculated by the Registrar-General for the purpose of securing comparability between local death rates is 0.92. This makes the Adjusted Death Rate 10.45, compared with 10.32 for 1949.

Deaths among the inmates of an Institution for elderly men numbered 11.

It should be noted that a large proportion of the deaths were of elderly people, and of the total deaths 206 or 72.0% were of persons 65 years of age and over, compared with 68.8% the previous year.

Those dying at 75 years of age and over accounted for 45.8% of the total deaths, compared with 42.6% in 1949.

Cancer.

The cancer death rate per 1,000 home population was 1.66, compared with 2.01 in 1949.

Tuberculosis.

The death rate per 1,000 home population was 0.43 as against 0.40 in 1949.

Maternal Mortality.

There was no maternal death during the year.

The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales was 0.86 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

Infantile Mortality.

The number of deaths under one year of age was 14, corresponding to a rate of 25.22 per 1,000 births compared with a rate of 19.30 for 1949, which is the lowest recorded in Penge. Nine of the 14 infants died under the age of one week.

Comparative Vital Statistics.

The following table shows the comparative figures for 1950 :—

	Rate per 1,000 Home Population		Death Rate per 1,000 Home Population	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live Births
	Live Births	Still Births		
Penge Urban District ..	21.6	0.59	10.4	25.2
England and Wales	15.8	0.37	11.6	29.8
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	17.6	0.45	12.3	33.8
148 Smaller Towns (resident populations, 25,000 to 50,000 at Census, 1931) ..	16.7	0.38	11.6	29.4
London Administrative County	17.8]	0.36	11.8	26.3

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

All the houses in the district are provided with a constant service of water by the Metropolitan Water Board, the water being examined bacteriologically daily by the Board. In addition, the County Pathologist reports that the samples of water submitted to him quarterly were good. The majority of the premises are directly connected to the rising main. Seven storage cisterns were renewed, cleansed or covered.

Drainage and Sewerage.

All the premises in the district are connected to the public sewers, the sewerage of Penge going through the Metropolitan Borough of Lewisham into the London County Council's sewers, and part of the surface water into a local stream which is culverted.

Rivers and Streams.

There are no rivers in the district. There is a stream forming part of the boundary between Penge and Beckenham, the whole of which is culverted.

Closet Accommodation.

The whole of the premises in the area are provided with waterclosets connected to the main drainage system.

Public Cleansing.

During the first three months of the year house refuse was collected throughout the district by a contractor once every week and removed by him in closed vehicles. In April, 1950, the Council fully took over the refuse collection service, modern vehicles being used and the refuse taken for disposal to the Beckenham destructor. There are no cesspools within the district.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

This subject is dealt with in the Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING.

During the year private builders erected 15 dwellinghouses, one block of 7 flats and converted 10 houses into 23 flats.

The erection of 132 flats in Queen Adelaide Road was completed by the Council's Contractors during the year.

Work in connection with the erection of 86 flats in Croydon Road by the Council's Contractors was continued during the year.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,003
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,083
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included in subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	18
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	18
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	960

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ..	838
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

(a) Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936	1
(b) Proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 Demolition Orders made.	2
(c) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 Closing Order made.	1
(d) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	118
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by Owners	111
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	7

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

Although progress has again been made in the erection of houses and flats and the conversion of large houses into flats, there still remains an amount of overcrowding in the district.

The Housing Manager reports that 180 families living in overcrowded and unsatisfactory conditions were rehoused during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

For the third year in succession no cases of Diphtheria occurred in the district.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following is a return of the number of children resident in the district who were immunised against diphtheria during the year :—

			<i>Children born 1946-1950</i>		<i>Children born 1936-1945</i>		<i>Totals</i>
Primary inoculations	..	..	311	..	53	..	364
Reinforcing	..	..	18	..	222	..	240

Penge children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1950, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date were as follows :—

Aged 0-4 years inclusive	..	1,607
„ 5-14 „ „	..	2,898

These figures show a continued steady increase in the number of children immunised.

Smallpox.

No case was notified. A few contacts of cases notified elsewhere were kept under observation for the requisite period.

The following shows the number of Penge residents who were vaccinated against smallpox during the year :—

<i>Age at 31/12/50.</i>	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1 to 4</i>	<i>5 to 14.</i>	<i>15 or over</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Vaccinated.. ..	151	73	7	4	235
Re-vaccinated	—	1	5	21	27

Scarlet Fever.

There were 15 cases of Scarlet Fever notified (as against 31 in 1949) and 9 were removed to hospital.

The disease generally was of a mild type. There were no deaths and no “return” cases.

Dysentery.

One case was notified, a child aged $1\frac{1}{4}$ years, whilst an inmate of a hospital in another district, where she undoubtedly contracted the disease.

Poliomyelitis.

Four cases in all were notified during the year. Three of these were paralytic and one non-paralytic. Two of the former and the latter made a speedy recovery and the third paralytic case was still in hospital at the end of the year.

Meningococcal Infection.

A girl, aged $2\frac{3}{4}$ years, was notified and removed to hospital.

Measles.

Most of the 390 cases were notified between May and August, 154 being in June.

Whooping Cough.

Cases were notified throughout the year and totalled 204, compared with 116 in 1949.

Disinfection.

Verminous rooms disinfested	..	..	..	..	..	..	124
Rooms fumigated	..	..	..	..	..	..	63
Mattresses disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	89
Blankets disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	163
Pillows disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	152
Sheets disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	155
Miscellaneous articles disinfected	..	..	..	..	..	..	48

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1950.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases notified</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospitals</i>	<i>Total Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	15	9	—
Pneumonia	6	1	16
			(all forms)
Erysipelas	9	3	—
Measles	390	2	—
Whooping Cough	204	2	—
Dysentery	1	1	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis	4	3	—

Tuberculosis.

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or Section 172, Public Health Act, 1936.

				<i>Total Primary cases notified</i>	<i>Total Cases admitted to Sanatoria and Hospitals</i>		<i>Total Deaths</i>
Pulmonary (Males)	..	..	..	27	.. 20	..	7
„ (Females)	..	..	..	13	.. 12	..	3
Totals	..	..	..	<u>40</u>	.. <u>32</u>	..	<u>10</u>
Non-Pulmonary (Males)	..	..	..	1	.. —	..	1
„ „ (Females)	..	..	..	2	.. 1	..	—
Totals	..	..	..	<u>3</u>	.. <u>1</u>	..	<u>1</u>

Two of the 11 deaths from Tuberculosis were of cases not notified, both of whom died in hospitals outside the district.

New Tuberculosis Cases and Mortality during 1950.

<i>Age Period</i>	<i>*New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>			
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>		<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	7	6	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—35	5	7	—	1	2	1	—	—
35—45	11	1	—	—	1	1	1	—
45—55	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
55—65	3	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and upwards ..	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	35	17	1	2	7	3	1	—

*Cases previously notified in other districts and transferred to Penge and those restored to the Register are included in these figures.

There were 270 cases of tuberculosis on the Register at the end of the year, compared with 248 in 1949.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary	118	113	231
Non-Pulmonary	18	21	39
	136	134	270

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Action was taken in one case under this Act. A man, aged 77 years, suffering from gangrene of both feet, had no one to look after him except his nephew who was at work all day. His basement room was dirty and the stench a nuisance to the people living in the flats above. Application had been made by his own doctor three months previously for his admission to hospital without success. His admission was urged by this department to the Group Hospital office also without success, and application was made for a Court Order for his admission. Before the case could be heard the man died.

Other cases not so pressing as this one occurred during the year but in none of them was a Court Order asked for, although in most cases death occurred before they were admitted to an institution.

FOOD.

The Council adopted byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance of Sanitary and Cleanly Conditions and Practices in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air. These byelaws came into operation on the 17th July, 1950, and copies were delivered to the occupiers of food premises, food factories, works canteens and food stalls, by the Sanitary Inspectors, who discussed the provisions thereof with the occupiers.

Deputations of local bakers and butchers were received when the requirements of the byelaws were explained and the co-operation of the deputations invited in securing compliance therewith. A special leaflet was given to the occupiers of food premises giving information as to the causes of food poisoning and advice regarding personal hygiene, the steps to take to avoid contamination of food and recommending the storage of cooked food in low temperatures.

Whilst the byelaws are a valuable addition to legislation dealing with food, the education of the food handlers is very important in the provision of a safe food supply. Your Inspectors, during their visits to food premises, make use of the opportunities presented to give instruction in hygienic food preparation and handling, and stress in particular the importance of personal hygiene, the absence of which is one of the chief causes of food poisoning outbreaks.

During the summer months there was increased activity by food traders to protect foodstuffs from fly contamination, and the destruction of flies by up-to-date scientific methods.

The films " Another Case of Food Poisoning " and " Fly about the House " were shown at local cinemas during the autumn.

During the year two cases of food poisoning were notified. One of the cases, in which the organism responsible was not found, was undoubtedly infected in another district, and in the other, infected by an organism of the Salmonella group, the source of infection could not be found. Both made a satisfactory recovery.

Arrangements were made during the year for the bacteriological examination of milk, ice-cream and other foods to be undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Park Hospital, S.E.13. free of charge.

No animals were slaughtered in the district.

My thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their cordial support during the year, and also to the staff of the Public Health Department for their ready co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B. E. HAWKINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1950.

	CASES NOTIFIED AT AGES—YEARS													Cases admitted to Isolation Hospitals
	<i>At all ages</i>	<i>Un- der 1</i>	<i>1 to 2</i>	<i>2 to 3</i>	<i>3 to 4</i>	<i>4 to 5</i>	<i>5 to 10</i>	<i>10 to 15</i>	<i>15 to 20</i>	<i>20 to 35</i>	<i>35 to 45</i>	<i>45 to 65</i>	<i>65 and upw'ds</i>	
Poliomyelitis	4	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	3
Scarlet fever ..	15	—	1	2	2	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
Pneumonia ..	6	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
Erysipelas ..	9	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	3	4
Measles ..	390	14	87	63	47	98	79	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough ..	204	16	37	57	30	36	25	2	1	—	—	—	—	2
Food Poisoning	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Meningococcal Infection ..	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS ..	632	31	127	123	79	142	112	4	1	2	4	4	3	22

Deaths of notified cases :—1 Pneumonia, aged 58 years.

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY IN THE YEAR 1950.

	Rate per 1,000 Home Population		ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000 Home Population									Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
	Live Births	Still Births	All Causes	Typhoid Fever	Small-pox	Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	Tuberculosis	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Influenza	Pneumonia	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years)	Total Deaths under one year
Penge U.D. ..	21.6	0.59	10.45	—	—	—	0.43	—	—	0.04	0.63	1.8	25.2
England and Wales	15.8	0.37	11.6	0.00	—	0.02	0.36	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.46	1.9	29.8
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	17.6	0.45	12.3	0.00	—	0.02	0.42	0.01	0.00	0.09	0.49	2.2	33.8
148 Smaller Towns (Resident Popula- tions, 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931)	16.7	0.38	11.6	0.00	—	0.02	0.33	0.01	0.00	0.10	0.45	1.6	29.4
London Administra- tive County ..	17.8	0.36	11.8	0.00	—	0.01	0.39	0.01	0.00	0.07	0.48	1.0	26.3

A (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

PART I, FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>In-spections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	33	3	—
(II) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	76	102	16	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ..	11	20	1	—
TOTAL	110	155	20	—

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

<i>Particulars.</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	12	12	—	11	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) ..					
(a) insufficient	4	4	—	3	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	13	13	—	7	—
(c) not separate for sexes ..	1	1	—	1	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork)	10	10	—	1	—
TOTAL	40	40	—	23	—

PART VIII, FACTORIES ACT, 1937—OUTWORK.

In the August list required by Section 110, six outworkers employed in making wearing apparel were notified. There were no defaults or prosecutions.

There were no instances of work in unwholesome premises (Section 111).

CAUSES OF DEATH IN PENGE URBAN DISTRICT, 1950.

Registrar-General's Figures.

CAUSES OF DEATH							MALES	FEMALES
	All Causes	..	..	..	..	..	136	150
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	7	3
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
8.	Measles	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	6	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	..	—	6
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	..	11	12
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	..	7	21
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	..	20	13
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	2	8
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	27	42
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	..	2	5
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	12	4
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	6	7
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	..	..	5	3
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	2	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	—	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	..	3	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	..	12	13
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
Deaths of Infants under 1 year								
	Total	..	..	..	..	..	11	3
	Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	9	2
	Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
Live Births								
	Total	..	..	..	..	..	304	251
	Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	291	235
	Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	13	16
Stillbirths								
	Total	..	..	..	..	..	6	9
	Legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	6	9
	Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Home population (estimated middle of 1950 R.G.)							..	25,160

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR for the year 1950.

TOWN HALL,
ANERLEY ROAD, S.E.20.

JUNE, 1951.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PENGE.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to place before you the Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Inspectors for the year ended 31st December, 1950.

There is no doubt that Rent Control and the greatly increased cost of repairs have contributed to the deterioration of house property in the district. Many landlords, owing to their low financial circumstances, are neglecting their property, and in consequence complaints are made by tenants to the sanitary inspectors for action to be taken to improve their housing conditions. This is reflected in the large number of complaints (1,224) received regarding nuisances and defects in premises.

In districts which received wide-spread war damage such as Penge, delay is occasioned in executing repairs to property owing to the prolonged negotiations between owners and the War Damage Commission regarding war damage claims, and until agreement is reached owners are very reluctant to have repairs carried out, since to do so might prejudice their claims.

As will be seen on reference to the list of work executed a large amount of repair work has, however, been done in consequence of action by your inspectors. In this connection statutory action is taken only when every informal effort has failed.

It was found necessary to institute legal proceedings against several owners in order to abate nuisances caused by housing defects and the following is a summary of these cases heard during the year :—

<i>Case No.</i>	<i>Result.</i>
1. Nuisance Order made to do work in 21 days and pay £1 9s. 6d. costs.	Council did work in default.
2. Nuisance Order made to do work in 42 days and pay £1 10s. 6d costs.	(a) Non-compliance with Nuisance Order. Fined £5 0s. 0d. (b) Continued non-compliance with Nuisance Order. Case adjourned for four months to enable work to be done.
3. Nuisance Order made to do work in 21 days and pay £1 10s. 6d. costs.	
4. Summons withdrawn on payment of 3s. 6d. costs, the work having been done before hearing of case.	
5. Nuisance Order made to do work in 56 days and pay £1 10s. 6d. costs.	(a) Non-compliance with Nuisance Order. Fined £5 0s. 0d. (b) Continued non-compliance with Nuisance Order. Case adjourned for four months to enable work to be done.

<i>Case No.</i>	<i>Result.</i>
6.	Nuisance Order made to do work in 21 days and pay £1 11s. 6d. costs.
7.	Nuisance Order made to do work in 42 days and pay 10s. 6d. costs.
8.	Nuisance Order made to reinstate water supply within 14 days and pay £1 1s. 0d. costs and Court costs.
	(a) Non-compliance with Nuisance Order. Fined £5 0s. 0d. and £1 1s. 0d. costs and Court costs.
	(b) Continued non-compliance with Nuisance Order. Water supply reinstated prior to hearing of case. Fined £2 0s. 0d.
9.	Nuisance Order made to do work within 14 days and pay £1 1s. 0d. costs and Court costs. Council did work in default.
10.	Nuisance Order made to do work within 14 days and pay £1 1s. 0d. costs and Court costs. Council did work in default.
11, 12 and 13.	Cases adjourned to enable owners to negotiate for extension of lease.
	(a) Further adjournment.
14.	Nuisance Order made to do work within 14 days and pay £1 10s. 6d. costs.
	(a) Non-compliance with Nuisance Order. Fined £5 0s. 0d.
15.	Nuisance Order made to do work within 28 days and pay £1 9s. 6d. costs.
16.	Work completed before final hearing of case. Defendant ordered to pay 5s. 0d. costs.
17.	Nuisance Order made to do work within 14 days and pay £1 9s. 6d. costs.

In addition to verbal intimation of defects in premises, 843 written informal notices and 121 statutory notices were served under the Public Health Act, 1936, and one statutory notice under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936. Seven hundred and twenty-two intimation notices and 113 statutory notices were complied with.

The Local Authority in default of the owners, had carried out the works required by one statutory notice served under Section 45, three under Section 75 and three under Section 94 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and one notice served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

The Council also did the work required by 31 notices served under Section 24 of the Public Health Act, 1936, respecting defective public sewers (previously known as combined drains) at 38 premises.

Demolition Orders were made under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, regarding two houses, one of which was demolished during the year.

A Closing Order was made under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936, respecting a basement flat of two underground rooms which could not be made fit for human habitation at a reasonable cost.

The drainage systems of 89 premises were wholly or partially relaid and 102 cleared of obstructions. In many instances drains were found to be obstructed by sanitary towels.

Under the Rent Restrictions Acts certificates were issued in respect of two houses that were not in a reasonable state of repair.

Five licences to deal in game were issued during the year.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS.

The following summary shows the number of visits and inspections made :—

Inspections through complaints received	1,224
Housing Act	35
Overcrowding and measurement of rooms	33
Infectious diseases	133
Houses-let-in-Lodgings and Common Lodging Houses	110
Bakehouses	71
Dairies	78
Meat shops	193
Fish frying shops	35
Ice cream shops	101
Cafes and restaurants	180
Food factories	197
Other food shops, stores and stalls	504
Public conveniences	32
Stables	42
Rats and Mice	151
Factories	155
Schools	11
Smoke observations	12
Drain tests	199
Marine stores	11
Keeping of animals	20
Food and water sampling	154
Movable dwellings	8
Transferable deaths	110
Revisits and inspections of work in hand	3,941
Miscellaneous visits	106
Shops Acts inspections and patrols	324

SUMMARY OF WORK EXECUTED DURING THE YEAR.

Water Supply :—

Water supply reinstated to houses	5
Water service pipes repaired	55
Cisterns cleansed, covered or covers repaired	7

Water Closets :—

New pans and traps fixed	19
Flushing apparatus renewed or repaired	40
Foul pans and traps cleansed	8
Connections of flushing pipes to pans made good	8
Seats and doors provided or repaired	18
Ventilation provided or improved	2
Walls repaired	5
Flooring or paving repaired	12
Artificial lighting provided	4
Labelled	5

Drainage :—

Drains tested with smoke, water or colour	199
Drains cleared	102
Houses redrained	5
Houses with drains partially relaid	84
Inspection chambers constructed or improved	24
Soil and ventilation pipes fixed or repaired	18
Sinks, lavatory basins and baths provided	13
Sink fillets repaired	5
Waste pipes renewed or provided	19
Waste pipes repaired or trapped	17
Waste pipes cleared	8
Fresh-air-inlets provided or repaired	3

Dampness—Houses with :—

Walls repointed or rendered	40
Dampness in ground floor rooms remedied	50
Roofs repaired	201
Gutters repaired or renewed	51
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	45
Ventilation under floors provided or improved	6
Water service pipes repaired	55
Window sills repaired	29

Cleanliness :—

Dirty rooms etc. cleansed	628
Verminous rooms disinfested	124

Miscellaneous :—

Houses with defective floors, joists, etc. repaired	111
Houses with defective plaster repaired	203
Houses with new sashlines provided to windows	41
Houses with window frames etc. repaired	47
Houses with yard or forecourts paved or repaired	6
Houses with scullery paving repaired	8
Houses with chimneys repaired	36
Houses with air bricks renewed	7
Houses with stairs repaired	16
Houses with front and back steps repaired	19
Houses with fireplace jambs and mantels repaired	23
Houses with brickwork repaired	13
Kitchen stoves repaired or renewed	17
Scullery coppers, repaired or renewed	2
Other stoves repaired or renewed	54
Hearths renewed or repaired	12
Doors and frames repaired or renewed	22
Ventilation and lighting of rooms improved	17
New dustbins provided	90
Premises with miscellaneous defects repaired etc.	31
Animals removed	8
Accumulations removed	23
Smoke nuisances abated	2

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The supervision of premises and stalls where foods are prepared, stored or exposed for sale has been regularly carried out.

Communications were sent to the occupiers of 34 food premises regarding defects found, and in each case the work was carried out without statutory action being necessary.

Proceedings were taken under Sections 9 and 10, Food & Drugs Act, 1938, against a confectionery firm for selling a meringue containing mice excreta. The Justices imposed a fine of £5 0s. 0d. and ordered the defendants to pay £5 5s. 0d. costs.

Your sanitary inspectors gave advice to occupiers of food premises on matters relating to food hygiene and found that they were willing to co-operate. In two cases written warnings were given following reports to the Public Health Committee regarding contraventions of the byelaws.

The amount of food surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption after examination by your inspectors was 24 tons, 14 cwts., 0 qtrs., 16 lbs., an increase of nearly 14 tons over that condemned in 1949.

The foods condemned were as follows :—

Bacon	45,097 lbs.	Pudding mixture ..	56 lbs.
Beef	2,735 „	Rusks	19 cwts.
Biscuits	13 „	Sauces	2 bots.
Cheese	8 „	Salad Cream	86 „
Chocolate	3 „	Salami sausages ..	3,976 lbs.
Chutney	1 jar	Sausages	1 lb.
Coffee	8 lbs.	Sugar confectionery ..	5 lbs.
Dates	14 „	Syrup	2 lbs.
Dessicated Coconut ..	88 „	Tinned Coffee	9 tins
Dried Fruit	32 „	„ Fish	275 „
Figs	157 „	„ Fruit	35 „
Fish	723 „	„ Meat	43 „
Jam	26 „	„ Meat & Vegetables	16 „
Lamb	29 „	„ Milk	314 „
Marmalade	10 „	„ Rabbit	3 „
Mutton	95 „	„ Sausages	4 „
Peanut butter	1 tin	„ Soups	21 „
Pickles	1 bot.	„ Vegetables	86 „
Pork	437 lbs.		

Condemnation certificates totalled 377, compared with 473 in 1949.

Milk Supply :—

There are no cowsheds in the district. All milk sold in the district is special designated milk in sealed containers.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

The following licences were issued :—

DEALERS' LICENCES :

Tuberculin tested milk	..	..	5
Pasteurised milk	..	..	7
Sterilised milk	..	..	9

SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCES :

Tuberculin tested milk	..	..	4
Pasteurised milk	..	..	5
Sterilised milk	..	..	4

Milk Sampling.

Informal samples of milk submitted to chemical analysis totalled 42, and all were found to be genuine.

The analyses of the 42 samples show the following averages :—

Fat—3.64 % (standard 3.0 %).

Solids not fat—8.85 % (standard 8.5 %).

Twenty-nine samples of pasteurised milk and six samples of tuberculin tested (pasteurised) milk were submitted to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase Tests and they all satisfied the tests.

Seven samples of sterilised milk satisfied the turbidity test.

Ice Cream.

There are no manufacturers in the district, but a number of premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, the shopkeepers obtaining their supplies from well-known manufacturers.

Thirty-one samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted to the Methylene Blue Test with the following results :—

Grade 1—19 ; Grade 2—7 ; Grade 3—4 ; Grade 4—1.

The dealer whose sample was in Grade 4 was given advice regarding precautions to be observed in the cleansing of equipment and subsequent samples were of Grade I.

In no case were samples found to be consistently below Grade 2 and in all cases temperatures did not exceed 28° F.

Twenty-nine samples were submitted to analysis for fat content and all were found to contain more than 2½ % fat, the results ranging from 4.0 % to 12.0 %.

Slaughterhouses.

No animals were slaughtered in the district.

Bakehouses.

The occupiers' appeal to the Court of Summary Jurisdiction against the Council's decision to withdraw the Certificate of Suitability of the last underground bakehouse in the district was withdrawn, the bakehouse having been removed to another part of the premises.

Defects found in two bakehouses were remedied after informal action.

Adulteration.

The Kent County Sampling Officers took 108 samples of various foods and drugs in this district.

Included in the total were 29 samples of milk, 20 drugs and 10 of spirits.

One sample of salad cream and one of tincture of quinine were reported to be of inferior quality, but further samples in these cases proved to be satisfactory.

Your Inspectors obtained 42 informal samples of milk, the Analyst reporting all samples to be genuine.

Factories Act, 1937.

Visits paid to factories totalled 155 and in addition to verbal intimations regarding small defects, 20 written notices were served and complied with. These dealt mainly with minor defects.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 and Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Complaints numbering 318 were received from all parts of the district and investigated. In no case was a major infestation discovered and there is no doubt that the employment of a rodent operative during recent years has resulted in a decrease in the number of rodents in the district. Rats are such prolific breeders, however, that constant action against them is necessary.

In several cases defective drains and sewers were the cause of rat infestation and the keeping of animals contributed to the number of infestations. When considered necessary the drains of premises were tested with smoke and colour and all defects found made good.

The foul-water sewers were treated during June and December, pre-bait and poisoned bait being laid in the manholes and side entrances.

In June 314 manholes were baited and pre-bait takes recorded in 108. The figures for December were 316 manholes baited and pre-bait takes recorded in 141.

One full-time rodent operative is employed and the following is a summary of the work carried out by him at premises in the district :—

Inspections and re-inspections made	..	..	2,785
Premises reported infested with rats	..	..	338
Premises treated for rats	..	..	381
Premises where rat poison bait taken	..	..	352
Premises re-treated for rats	..	..	326
Estimated number of rats poisoned	..	..	1,658
Number of rats trapped	..	..	16
Premises treated for mice	..	..	158
Premises re-treated for mice	..	..	86

It was necessary to treat some premises on three or more occasions and the total treatments for the destruction of rodents numbered 951.

Shops Act, 1950.

Mr. E. G. Thomas, Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector and Shops Act Inspector, reports as follows :—

Number of visits made	241
Number of evening patrols carried out	60
Number of Sunday patrols carried out	23
Number of shops where sanitary and washing accommodation insufficient. Notices served under provisions of Section 38 and complied with	4
Number of shops where Young Persons employed	10
Number of shops where official forms relating to staff not posted up on premises	19
Number of " mixed shops " where poster relating to Sunday trading not exhibited	1

Offences :—

Number of shops open after the evening closing hour ..	2
Number of shops open contrary to the provisions of the Act for Sunday trading	1

Letters of warning were sent to shopkeepers with reference to contravention of the Act relative to the non-exhibition of forms relating to " mixed shops " when open for Sunday trading, and for failing to post up official forms regarding employment of shop assistants.

Legal Proceedings—Sunday trading :—

One shopkeeper, who had been previously warned for selling goods contrary to the provisions of the Shops (Sunday Trading Restrictions) Act, 1936, was proceeded against. The Justices imposed a fine of twenty shillings.

I should like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their courtesy and assistance and to the Staff for their great help and efficient service during another busy year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. T. PEARCE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

