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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

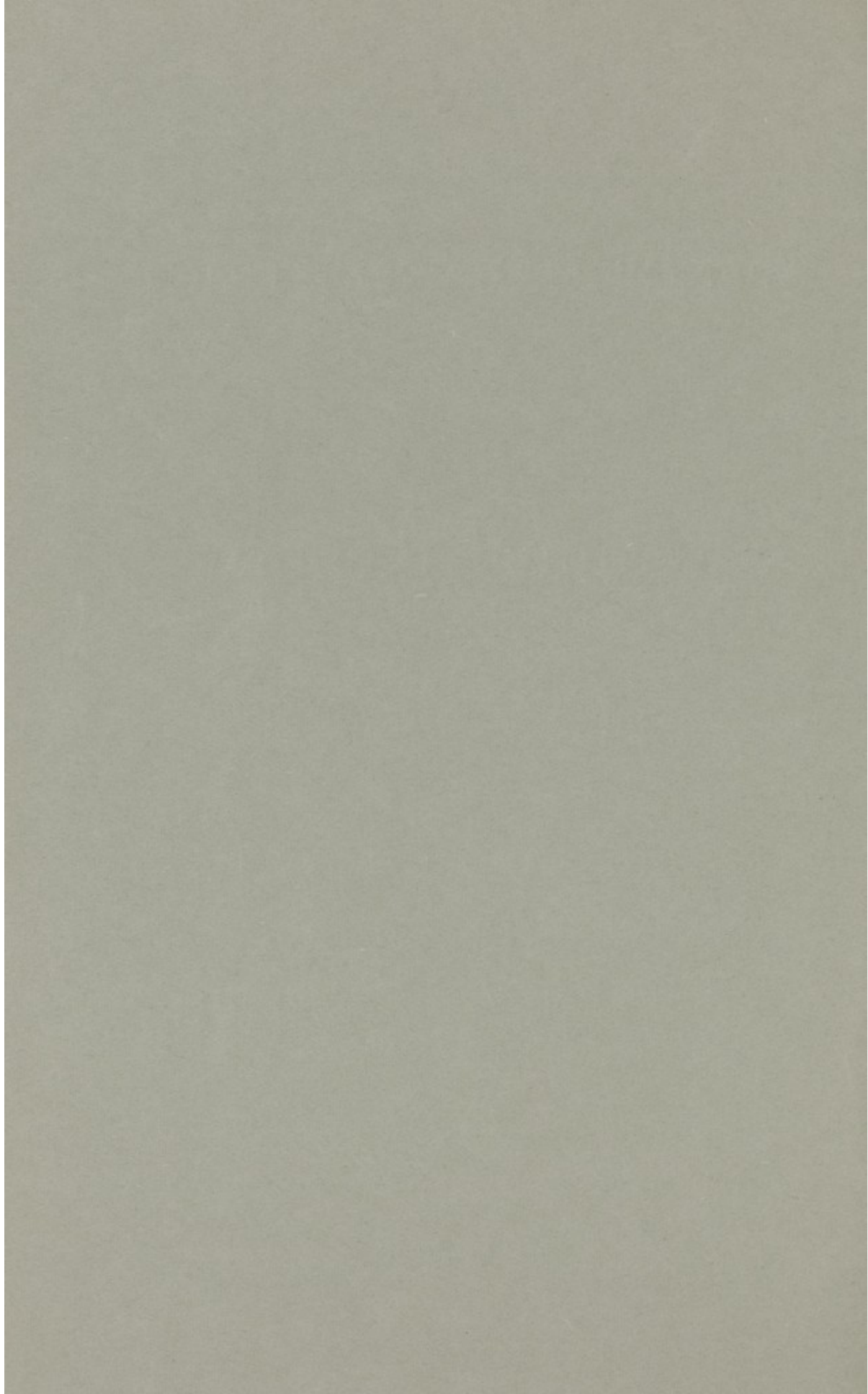
TOGETHER WITH

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector

1957



Penge Urban District Council

Chairman: Councillor W. E. WALTON, J.P., M.P.S.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor E. A. ALLEN-ROGERS

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1957-1958

Chairman: Councillor J. W. CROXON

Vice-Chairman: Councillor H. A. B. COPPARD

Councillor E. R. BATE

Councillor A. E. CARTER

Councillor C. B. BERWICK

Councillor H. CHAPMAN

Councillor Mrs. M. M. BLACKBURN

Councillor Mrs. D. L. LOCKWOOD

Councillor C. J. W. BUNN

Councillor K. M. PRICE

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

STAFF:

** Medical Officer of Health:*

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

Chief Public Health Inspector:

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

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

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

A. I. BELL, Cert. R.S.I. and S.I.E. Joint Board

District Public Health Inspector:

VACANT

Clerks:

Mrs. A. L. SHEPPARD

C. W. BRIGGS

** Part-time Officer.*

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1957**

TOWN HALL,
ANERLEY ROAD, S.E.20.
28th May, 1958.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PENGE.
MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1957 which has been prepared in accordance with Circulars 1/58 and 3/58 of the Ministry of Health.

The vital statistics for the year call for little comment. The death rates in every case are below the national ones, but the birth rate, which shows an increase, is considerably above that for the whole country.

There was very little infectious disease notified in the district during the year, the largest number being measles which was of a mild type, and whooping cough. An outbreak of influenza at the end of the year affected a large number of people particularly in the school population. This accounted for the rise in pneumonia notifications received. For ten years it is gratifying to report no case of diphtheria has occurred. During the year further progress was made under the auspices of the County Council with poliomyelitis vaccination and by the end of the year 813 children had received two injections. There were three cases notified of this disease during the year, one of which was paralytic. With the increase in the number of children vaccinated, one can hope for a considerable decline in these cases.

Further poster displays were used during the year emphasising the need for hygiene in the handling of food, both in the home and elsewhere. It is pleasing to record that no cases of food poisoning were notified although three cases in one family came to the notice of the department, which proved to be due to roast pork which had apparently been contaminated in the home.

Once again it is a pleasure to record the large amount of work done for the old people by the various voluntary organisations in the district. With the opening of the Melvin Hall a very attractive centre for their various activities has been provided.

It has been possible during the year to make further progress with housing and with slum clearance, representation having been made in respect of two further areas.

The year has been a difficult one for the department because we have had a vacancy for a public health inspector throughout the year. In a small establishment such as this it is a very serious loss. With the impact of the Rent Act this has meant a lot of work for the two senior inspectors and a certain amount of work has of necessity had to be put on one side until we have the staff and time to deal with it. That so much work has successfully been accomplished reflects great credit on all members of the department, and I should like to express my appreciation of their efforts in this report.

During the year it was hoped to have made a pilot investigation on smoke abatement but this had to be shelved for the time being until it is possible to make the necessary inspection.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (Acres)	770
Population (Census 1931)	27,771
Population (Census 1951)	25,012
Home Population, Mid-year 1957 (estimated by Registrar General)	25,610
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1957	£330,750
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£1,031

The district, situated on the north-west border of Kent, and immediately adjoining the Counties of London and Surrey, is on the slope of a hill, the highest point being 370 feet above sea level and the lowest 95 feet above sea level.

The density of population per acre is 33, this being by far the highest in the County of Kent. This results in there being very few open spaces in the district, the largest one being the grounds of the old Crystal Palace the majority of which are in this area. This density of building has caused a shortage of space for school playing fields for the schools of the district and pupils mainly have to go outside the area for games.

The Manager of the Employment Exchange for the area informs me that there were approximately 95 men and 47 women in the Penge area registered as unemployed at the end of the year.

VITAL STATISTICS

Crude Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Home Population ...	21.1
Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Home Population	19.0
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 of estimated Home Population	0.39
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)	18.1
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated Live births	11.1
Adjusted Death Rate for 1,000 of estimated Home Population ...	11.02

Death Rates of Infants under One Year of Age

All infants per 1,000 live births	22.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	20.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	1.85

Births

The live births registered during the year numbered 541 compared with 495 in 1956. This gives a crude live birth rate of 21.1 per 1,000 Home Population compared with 19.38 for 1956.

The area comparability factor calculated by the Registrar General for the purpose of securing comparability between local birth rates is 0.90. This makes the Adjusted Birth Rate 19.0 compared with 17.44 in 1956.

Stillbirths

The number of stillbirths registered was 10, equal to a rate of 18.1 of 1,000 total births, compared with 20.2 for 1956.

Deaths

The deaths registered totalled 285, equal to a crude death rate for the year of 11.1 per 1,000 Home Population compared with 11.6 in 1956.

The area comparability factor calculated by the Registrar General for the purpose of securing comparability between local death rates is 0.99. This makes the Adjusted Death Rate 11.02 compared with 11.368 for the year 1956.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was 11.5 compared with 11.7 recorded for 1956.

Deaths among the inmates of an Institution for elderly men numbered 14.

A large proportion of deaths were of elderly people, and of the total deaths, 193 or 67% were of persons 65 years of age and over, compared with 53.2% the previous year.

Those dying at 75 years of age and over accounted for 42.8% of the total deaths, compared with 43.1% in 1956.

Cancer

Deaths from cancer numbered 44 giving a death rate for 1,000 Home population of 1.7 compared with 1.8 for 1956. The rate for England and Wales was 2.104.

Tuberculosis

The death rate per 1,000 Home population was 0.07 against 0.202 for 1956. The rate for England and Wales was 0.107.

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths during the year compared with one maternal death in 1956.

The rate for England and Wales was 0.47 compared with 0.56 in 1956.

Infantile Mortality

The number of deaths under one year was 12, corresponding to a rate of 22.1 for 1,000 births, compared with a rate of 18.2 for 1956. The infantile mortality rate for England and Wales was 23.0. Ten of the 12 infants died under the age of four weeks, four from congenital malformations.

Comparative Vital Statistics

The following table shows the comparative figures for 1957:—

	<i>Rate per 1,000 Home Population</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 total births</i>	<i>Death Rate per 1,000 Home Population</i>	<i>Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live Births</i>
	<i>Live Births</i>	<i>Still Births</i>		
Penge Urban District	21.1	18.1	11.1	22.1
England and Wales	16.1	22.4	11.02	23.0

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply

The water supply of the area has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity, all the houses in the area being provided with a constant service of water by the Metropolitan Water Board. The majority of the premises are directly connected to the rising main. Two 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. Additional manholes were constructed in the Council's sewers during the year.

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

House refuse is collected throughout the district once every week by the Council's refuse collection service using modern vehicles, and the refuse taken for disposal to the Beckenham destructor. Trade refuse is also dealt with.

There are no cesspools in the district.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The subject is dealt with under the heading of Housing and in the Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

The erection of 51 flats by the local authority was completed during the year. Private builders erected 6 dwellinghouses, 54 flats and 20 maisonettes, and provided 15 flats by converting existing houses.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	702
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	748

(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included in sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found not to be reasonably suitable for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	494
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE:—							
Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority and its officers							427
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS:—							
(A) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—							
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	51
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice:—							
(a) by Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	38
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
(B) Proceedings under Housing Acts, 1957:—							
(1) Demolition Orders made under Section 11	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(2) Parts of buildings closed under Section 18	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(3) Houses demolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
(4) Houses rendered fit under Section 16	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
(C) Proceedings under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—							
(1) Closing Orders made under Section 10(1)	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

4. HOUSING ACT, 1957—OVERCROWDING:—

The Housing Manager reports that 81 families living in overcrowded or unsatisfactory conditions were rehoused during the year.

5. SLUM CLEARANCE

HOUSING ACT, 1957, SEC. 42—CLEARANCE AREAS:—

Official representation was made to the Council in respect of seven dwellings in one area comprising eleven families, and in a second area in respect of four dwellings comprising five families.

A Closing Order was made on part of a house.

A Closing Order made on one dwelling was determined during the year on the house being rendered fit for human habitation.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Diphtheria

For the tenth 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</i>		<i>Totals</i>
	<i>1953 to 1957</i>	<i>1943 to 1952</i>	
Primary inoculations	391	41	432
Reinforcing „	4	346	350

Penge children under the age of 15 years on the 31st December, 1957, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date were as follows:—

Aged 0-4 years inclusive ...	1,113
„ 5-15 „ „ ...	4,193

Smallpox

No case was notified and one Penge contact of a case occurring elsewhere was reported.

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

<i>Age at 31/12/57</i>	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1 to 4</i>	<i>5 to 14</i>	<i>15 or over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Vaccinated	204	180	24	10	418
Re-vaccinated	—	1	5	9	15

Poliomyelitis

Three cases were notified during the year, one paralytic and two non-paralytic.

The following table gives the numbers of children in the district who received a course of two injections against poliomyelitis during the year ended 31st December, 1957:—

<i>Born</i>	<i>1947</i>	<i>1948</i>	<i>1949</i>	<i>1950</i>	<i>1951</i>	<i>1952</i>	<i>1953</i>	<i>1954</i>	<i>1955</i>	<i>1956</i>	<i>1957</i>	<i>Total</i>
	202	137	134	135	47	20	26	20	43	39	—	813

Food Poisoning

An outbreak amongst three members of one family—which was not notified—was traced to roast pork, the causal agent being *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Scarlet Fever

There were 11 cases of scarlet fever notified (as against seven in 1956) and four cases were removed to hospital.

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

Sonne Dysentery

There was only one case of Sonne Dysentery during 1957.

Measles

A total of 662 cases was notified during the year compared with 11 in the previous year. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough

Cases were notified throughout the year and totalled 69 compared with 256 cases in 1956. There were no deaths.

It is hoped that with the increased use of vaccine against this disease it will decline.

Disinfection

Verminous rooms disinfested	33
Rooms fumigated	23
Mattresses disinfected	23
Blankets disinfected	47
Pillows disinfected	24
Miscellaneous articles disinfected	71

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1957

	Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	11	4	—
Pneumonia	18	4	19 (all forms)
Erysipelas	5	—	—
Measles	662	—	—
Whooping Cough	69	—	—
Dysentery	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	—
Poliomyelitis	3	2	—

Tuberculosis

No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under 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)	15	6	1
„ (Females)	4	2	1
	<u>19</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>2</u>
Non-Pulmonary (Males)	—	—	—
„ „ (Females)	1	1	—
	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>—</u>

NEW TUBERCULOSIS CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1957

<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>	
	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>F</i>
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	6	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
45—55	5	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65	4	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and up	7	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	28	14	—	1	1	1	—	—

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

There were 373 cases of tuberculosis on the Register at the end of the year compared with 385 in 1956.

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Pulmonary	175	158	333
Non-Pulmonary	16	24	40
	<u>191</u>	<u>182</u>	<u>373</u>

There were nine recoveries.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Under Section 50 of the Act, it is the duty of the local authority to arrange for the burial or cremation of the body of any person who has died in its area if it appears that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have or are being made. During the year five bodies were dealt with by the Council under these provisions.

Under Section 47 of this Act it was necessary to apply for a Magistrate's Order for the removal of a woman in need of care to a home. This application was granted.

MORTUARY

During the year 16 bodies were brought to the Mortuary where post-mortem examinations were conducted by a Home Office pathologist.

A refrigerating chamber is installed in the Mortuary.

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 at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

B. E. HAWKINS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1957

	CASES NOTIFIED AT AGES—YEARS													Cases admitted to Hospital
	At all ages	Un- der 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upw'ds	
Poliomyelitis	3	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever	11	—	—	2	1	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Pneumonia ..	18	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	1	3	3	5	2	4
Erysipelas ..	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	—
Measles ..	662	31	101	84	90	74	274	1	3	4	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	69	8	16	9	10	15	9	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Dysentery ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	1127	39	118	95	105	90	292	3	4	10	5	7	4	10

One death of a notified case.

PART I, FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number of</i>			
	<i>Number on Register</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 Authority	21	21	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	89	221	3	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	18	36	—	—
TOTALS	128	278	3	—

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</i>		
			<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	3	3	—	2	—

PART VIII, FACTORIES ACT, 1937—OUTWORKERS

In the August list required by Section 110, 21 outworkers employed in making wearing apparel were notified. There were no defaults or prosecutions.

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

CAUSES OF DEATH IN PENGE URBAN DISTRICT, 1957

Registrar-General's Figures

CAUSES OF DEATH				MALES	FEMALES	
All causes	...	...	...	157	128
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—
4. Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	...	...	...	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—
8. Measles	...	...	...	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	2	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	12	—
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	—	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	—	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	10	12
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	2	—
16. Diabetes	...	...	...	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	13	24
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	30	10
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	4	6
20. Other heart disease	...	...	...	20	29
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	5	9
22. Influenza	...	...	...	3	—
23. Pneumonia	...	...	...	11	8
24. Bronchitis	...	...	...	15	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	3	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	3	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	2	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	...	...	...	1	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	11	7
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	3	—
34. All other accidents	...	...	...	1	2
35. Suicide	...	...	...	3	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	1
Deaths of infants under one year				Total	8	4
				Legitimate	7	4
				Illegitimate	1	—
Births				Total	298	243
				Legitimate	279	227
				Illegitimate	19	16
Stillbirths				Total	6	4
				Legitimate	6	4
				Illegitimate	—	—
Home Population (estimated middle of 1957 R.G.)				25,610

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
for the year 1957**

TOWN HALL,
ANERLEY ROAD, S.E.20.
28th May, 1958

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF PENGE.
MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In presenting the Annual Report of the Public Health Inspectors for the year ended 31st December, 1957, I would at the outset have it noted that the work of the department has been handicapped by reason of being without a District Inspector. It should also be noted that the coming into operation of the Rent Act, 1957, placed considerable work on the department both as regards administrative and inspectorial work.

I am indebted to all members of the department for their co-operation and efficient service.

During the year 597 complaints (excluding those in connection with rodent infestation) were received, the great majority being concerned with housing defects and nuisances. All complaints were investigated and appropriate action taken when necessary.

In addition to verbal intimation of defects in premises, 335 written informal notices and 51 statutory notices were served under the Public Health Act, 1936. Three hundred and fourteen intimation notices and 38 statutory notices were complied with.

The Local Authority, in default of the owners, had carried out works required by four statutory notices under Section 39, Public Health Act, 1936.

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

The amount of work done following action taken by your Inspectors will be seen on reference to the summary of work executed.

Every endeavour is made informally to have notices complied with before statutory action is taken.

It was found necessary to institute legal proceedings against the owners or agents of three properties in order to abate nuisances caused by housing defects, with the following results:—

CASE NO.	RESULT
1	Summons adjourned <i>sine die</i> since contractor had commenced the work between the taking out of the summons and the date fixed for hearing.
2	Order made to do work in six weeks.

- 3 Summons for non-compliance with Court Order. Fined 6d. per day for six months—£4 10s. 0d.

A Closing Order was made under Section 18, Housing Act, 1957, respecting one basement flat which could not be made fit for human habitation at reasonable cost.

The drainage systems of 15 premises were relaid or partially relaid and 26 cleared of obstruction.

Disinfestation of 33 rooms found to be verminous was carried out.

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

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Inspections through complaints received	636
Housing Act	60
Overcrowding and measurement of rooms	6
Infectious diseases	51
Common lodging houses	36
Bakehouses	57
Dairies and milk distributors	133
Meat shops	133
Fish frying shops	29
Ice-cream shops	96
Cafes and restaurants	166
Food factories	133
Other food shops, stores and stalls	573
Public conveniences	28
Rats and mice	342
Factories	188
Outworkers	14
Schools	13
Rent Act, 1957	230
Drain tests	74
Keeping of animals	54
Food sampling	172
Movable dwellings	16
Transferable deaths	3
Revisits and inspections of works on hand	1,603
Miscellaneous visits	120
Shops Act inspections and patrols	234
Heating Appliances Act	8

SUMMARY OF WORK EXECUTED DURING THE YEAR

Water Supply:—

Water supply reinstated to houses	...	...	...	...	7
Water service pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	17
Cisterns cleansed, covered or covers repaired	...	...	...	...	1

Water Closets:—

Waterclosets cleared of obstructions	...	...	...	...	11
Flushing apparatus renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	15
New pans and traps fixed	...	...	...	...	14
Watercloset joints repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Seats and doors provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	2
Flooring or paving repaired	...	...	...	...	1

Drainage:—

Drains tested with smoke, water or colour	...	...	...	...	74
Drains cleared or repaired	...	...	...	...	30
Gullies cleared	...	...	...	...	10
Sink waste pipes cleared or repaired	...	...	...	...	13
Waste pipes repaired or trapped	...	...	...	...	7
Houses with drains relaid or partially relaid	...	...	...	...	17
Inspection chambers constructed or improved	...	...	...	...	6
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	2
Soilpipes and vent pipes cleared or repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Inspection chamber covers renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Mica flaps fitted	...	...	...	...	1

Dampness—Houses with:—

Dampness in basement houses remedied	...	...	...	...	24
Dampness in ground floor rooms remedied	...	...	...	...	32
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	74
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	12
Water service pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	17
Gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	6
Walls repointed or rendered and dampness in first-floor rooms remedied	...	...	...	...	7
Window sills repaired	...	...	...	...	2

Cleanliness:—

Verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	...	...	33
Dirty rooms, etc., cleansed	...	...	...	...	16
W.C.'s cleansed	...	...	...	...	2

Miscellaneous:—

Houses with floor joists, etc., repaired	...	...	...	...	33
Houses with skirtings repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Houses with yard or forecourt paved or repaired	...	...	...	...	37
Houses with new sinks provided	...	...	...	...	1

Houses with window frames, etc., repaired	10
Houses with miscellaneous defects remedied	17
Houses with doors and frames repaired or renewed	5
Houses with front and back steps repaired	2
Houses with stairs repaired	5
Houses with fireplace jambs and mantels repaired	4
Heating stove flues repaired	11
Heating stoves repaired or renewed	8
Hearths and surrounds repaired or renewed	2
New sashcords provided	22
Cowls to chimneys renewed or repaired	8
Dustbins provided	77
Staircase handrails repaired	2
Balustrades repaired	1
Accumulations removed	17
Under eaves soffits repaired	2
Airbricks provided or renewed	3
Wasps nests destroyed	11

HOUSING—CLEARANCE OF UNFIT HOUSES

The Medical Officer of Health made representations in respect of 11 dwellings during the year.

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, 1,323 visits being made in this connection.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

Regular inspections of food premises have been carried out.

An increasing number of food shops are fitting refrigerated display cabinets. The practice of exhibiting posters throughout the district stressing cleanliness in food handling was continued during the year.

The classification of the various food businesses by type is as follows:—

I. (a) Retail food shops (excluding cafes and restaurants and licensed premises)	151
(b) Cafes and restaurants	21
(c) Licensed premises	25
(d) Food manufactories	20
(e) Bakehouses	5
(f) Food stalls	11

II. Number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, used for:—

- (a) Sale or manufacture for purposes of sale of ice-cream, or the storage of ice-cream intended for sale 86
- (b) The preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale ... 39

III. Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 4

IV. Number of inspections of registered food premises 362

There are no ice-cream manufacturers in the district.

No animals were slaughtered in the district.

Your public health inspectors continued to give advice to occupiers of food premises on matters relating to food and general hygiene.

The amount of food surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption after examination by your inspectors was 2 tons 14 cwt. 3 qtr. 26 lb.

The food condemned was as follows:—

Bacon	2 lb.	Prunes	52 lb.
Beef	949 "	Raisins	28 "
Biscuits	24 "	Sausages	27 "
Brawn	6 "	Tinned Cream	2 tins
Cake Mixture	9 "	" Fruit	221 "
Cooked Ham	64 "	" Jam	4 "
Custard Powder	5 "	" Meat	319 "
Dried Potatoes	18 "	" Milk	8 "
Fish	154 "	" Rice	1 tin
Gherkins	300 "	" Soup	3 tins
Lamb	1,657 "	" Vegetables	110 "
Meat pies	15 "	Bottled Fruit Juice	8 botts.
Offal	49 "	" Salad Cream	23 "
Pork	597 "	Jars—Jam	4 jars
Poultry	70 "	" Pickles	7 "

Condemnation Certificates issued—75.

The condemned foods were disposed of by incineration or by use for industrial purposes.

The co-operation of the food traders in bringing to the notice of the department the existence of suspected unsound food has been maintained.

Warnings were given in two cases where traders sold articles of food to the prejudice of the purchaser.

Milk Supply

There are no cowsheds or pasteurising plants in the district. All milk sold in the district is special designated milk in sealed containers. There are four dairies on the Register and 24 persons are registered as distributors.

Milk (Special Designations) Orders**DEALERS' LICENCES:**

Tuberculin tested milk ...	5
Pasteurised milk ...	10
Sterilised milk ...	15

SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCES:

Tuberculin tested milk ...	6
Pasteurised milk ...	6
Sterilised milk ...	6

Milk Sampling

Samples of milk submitted to chemical analysis totalled 72, and all proved to be genuine. The samples gave the following averages:—

Fat—3.56% (standard 3.0%)
Solids not fat—8.79% (standard 8.5%)

Thirty-three samples of pasteurised milk and 23 samples of tuberculin tested (pasteurised) milk were submitted to the Phosphatase and Methylene Blue tests and all satisfied the tests.

Fourteen samples of sterilised milk were examined and satisfied the turbidity test.

Ice-Cream

There are no manufacturers in the district, but 86 premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, the shop-keepers obtaining their supplies from well-known manufacturers. In the great majority of cases the ice-cream is delivered to the premises and sold in cartons or wrapped.

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

Grade I—24; Grade 2—3; Grade IV—1.

In no case was ice-cream found to be stored at a temperature exceeding 28° Fahrenheit.

Slaughterhouses

There are no slaughterhouses in the district.

Adulteration

The Kent County Sampling Officers took 115 samples of various foods and drugs in this district.

Included in the total were 34 samples of milk, 18 of drugs and 10 of spirits.

All the samples were genuine with the exception of the following:—

SAMPLE OF	ANALYSIS	ACTION TAKEN
Embadren	The prominence given to Adrenaline in the labelling is not justified by the very small amount claimed.	Makers notified.
Almond Marzipan	Oil 12.4%; Protein 4.9%; Almond 21% (should be at least 25%).	Further sample genuine.

SAMPLE OF	ANALYSIS	ACTION TAKEN
Hot milk	Fat 1.9%; Solids not fat 6.9%; Freezing point Depression 0.351° C. Approximately 30% water. Sample bottle broken.	Supplier interviewed and cautioned.

Your Inspectors obtained 72 informal samples of milk, the Analyst reporting all samples to be genuine.

RENT ACT, 1957

This Act came into operation on the 6th July, 1957.

The following is a Summary of applications received under the provisions of the Act and subsequent action arising therefrom:—

Certificates of disrepair applications under the 1957 Act	...	142
Notices of proposal to issue certificates issued	... ..	140
Number of certificates of disrepair issued	... ..	43
Number of copies of undertakings to carry out repairs received		97

The Act and Regulations have considerably increased the work of the department.

One application for a certificate of disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, was received and granted during the year.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

Visits paid to factories totalled 278, and in addition to verbal intimations regarding small defects, three written notices were served and complied with. These dealt mainly with insufficient and defective sanitary conveniences and want of cleanliness.

Notices were received in respect of 34 Penge residents who were employed in certain trades in their own homes, but working for occupiers of factories in other districts. In no case was it found that work was being done in unwholesome premises.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

The Council authorised a pilot investigation of a specified area of the district, with a view to obtaining information relative to the establishment of a Clean Air Area. The investigation was commenced, but had to be suspended by reason of staff shortage, coupled with the heavy demands made on the department arising from the work found necessary upon the commencement of the Rent Act, 1957.

The Council authorised the making of a Byelaw as part of the Council's Building Byelaws, whereby developers of new property in the district (with certain exceptions) would be required to instal grates or other appliances capable of burning smokeless fuels.

No complaints were received regarding the emission of smoke from any factory premises in the district.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Complaints numbering 319 regarding rats and mice were received from all parts of the district and investigated.

In several cases it was found that defective drains and sewers were associated with rat infestations and the keeping of animals contributed to the number of infestations. When considered necessary the drainage systems of the premises were tested with smoke and colour and any defects found made good.

As in previous years, the foulwater sewers were treated on two occasions, prebait and poisoned bait being laid in the manholes and side entrances. In May 218 manholes and side entrances were baited and prebait takes recorded in 122. The figures for the October treatment were 218 manholes baited and prebait takes recorded in 123.

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	...	...	...	...	2,901
Premises treated for rats	...	...	...	...	316
Premises where rat poison bait taken	...	...	...	...	198
Premises re-treated for rats	...	...	...	...	296
Estimated number of rats poisoned	...	...	...	...	798
Premises treated for mice	...	...	...	...	149
Premises re-treated for mice	...	...	...	...	92

It was necessary to treat some premises on three or more occasions and the total treatments for the destruction of rodents numbered 853.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

The object of the Act is to secure the use of clean filling materials in upholstered articles and other articles which are stuffed or lined. Three premises are registered in connection therewith.

Samples of materials used at each of the registered premises were obtained and the prescribed Analyst under the Act reported the tests showed the samples to be satisfactory and complied with the requirements of the regulations.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

The camping and caravan site of nearly three acres in the Crystal Palace Grounds established in 1951 continues to be occupied.

Suites of waterclosets and lavatory basins and hot and cold shower baths are provided in a brick building on the site and there are suitable arrangements for the collection and disposal of refuse.

Periodic inspections were made of the camp and it was found on all visits to be satisfactory.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act came into force on the 1st April, 1952, and regulates the sale of pet animals. Licences were granted to four applicants, subject to conditions laid down by the Council, these conditions being based on those recommended by the R.S.P.C.A. No contraventions were witnessed.

SHOPS ACT, 1950**YOUNG PERSONS (EMPLOYMENT) ACT, 1938**

Number of visits	441
Number of evening patrols carried out	43
Number of Sunday patrols carried out	27
Number of premises where young persons employed	17
Number of premises where official forms relating to staff not posted up	4
Number of "Mixed" shops where posters relating to Early Closing Day and Sunday trading not exhibited	5

Letters of warning were sent with reference to contravention of the Act relative to the non-exhibition of forms in "mixed" shops when open for Sunday trading, and on the afternoon of the early closing day, and also for failing to post up official forms regarding employment of shop assistants and young persons.

HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952**and HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) REGULATIONS, 1953**

These regulations made it an offence to sell or expose for sale certain heating appliances, unless fitted with an effective fireguard as prescribed in the regulations.

As a result of this enactment and statutory instrument the tests prescribed on heating appliances exposed for sale in the district were made.

Number of premises where tests carried out	8
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All the appliances tested satisfied the requirements of the regulations.

I wish to take this opportunity to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their courtesy and assistance during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. G. THOMAS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.