

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

Contributors

Wembley (London, England). Municipal Borough.

Publication/Creation

1945.

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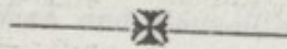
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BOROUGH OF WEMBLEY

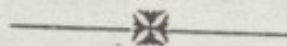


INTERIM REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1944



A. G. MORISON, M.A., M.D., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1945.

BOROUGH OF WEMBLEY



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1944



To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In accordance with Ministry of Health Circular No. 49/45, the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for 1944 is again an interim one, and, as formerly in the war years, is mainly statistical in form, the pattern being similar to the Report for 1943. Matters already presented in detail to the various Committees are mentioned again in this report only shortly.

(A). CERTAIN VITAL STATISTICS, 1944, from figures supplied by Registrar-General.

(Some comparative 1943 figures within brackets.)

Live Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.	
Legitimate	1,102	954	2,056 (1,994)	Live birth rate per 1,000 esti- mated popula- tion 18.58 (17.6)
Illegitimate	47	38	85 (77)	
Stillbirths.				
Legitimate	23	25	48 (53)	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 24.16 (26.79) Stillbirth rate per 1,000 esti- mated popula- tion 0.46.
Illegitimate	1	4	5 (4)	
Deaths	566	511	1,077	Death rate per 1,000 estimated population — Crude rate 9.34

Infantile Mortality.

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

	Male	Female	Total.	
Legitimate	46	27	73 (72)	} 76 (77)
Illegitimate	3	—	3 (5)	

• Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	35.50	(37.18)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	35.51	(36.11)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births	35.30	(65.00)
Deaths from: Cancer (all ages)	183	
Measles (all ages)	—	
Whooping cough (all ages)	2	
Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	5	

Maternal Mortality.

Deaths from puerperal sepsis	1	(3)
Other puerperal causes	1	(2)
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	0.93	(2.41)
“ “ “ 1,000 total (live and still) births	0.91	(2.35)

			Per 1,000 population.		Per 1,000 Live Births.	Per 1,000 total births (live and still)		
			Birth rate.	Still Birth rate.	Death rate.	Infantile mor- tality.	Maternal mor- tality.	Maternal mortality.
Wembley	.....	.....	18.58	0.46	9.34	35.50	0.93	0.91
England and Wales	.....	.....	17.60	0.50	11.60	46.00	—	—
London	.....	.....	15.00	0.42	15.70	61.00	—	—
126 County Boroughs, etc.			20.30	0.64	13.70	52.00	—	—
148 Smaller towns, etc.			20.90	0.61	12.40	44.00	—	—

Causes of Deaths during the Year.

1943.						
Total.	Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total		
1,016	All causes	566	511	1,077		
—	Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers.....	—	—	—		
2	Cerebro-spinal fever	1	1	2		
1	Scarlet fever	—	—	—		
—	Whooping - cough	1	1	2		
—	Diphtheria	—	1	1		
58	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	25	27	52		
7	Other forms of tuberculosis	6	7	13		
10	Syphilitic diseases	8	1	9		
28	Influenza	1	4	5		
1	Measles	—	—	—		
—	Ac: polio-myel: and polio-enceph:	—	—	—		
—	Acute infectious enceph:	—	2	2		
—	Cancer of buc: cav: and œsoph: (M)	—	—	—		
13	" uterus (F)	9	11	20		
28	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	15	14	29		
21	Cancer of breast	—	24	24		
121	Cancer of all other sites	60	58	118		
11	Diabetes	2	6	8		
100	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	33	54	87		
204	Heart disease	121	101	222		
44	Other dis: of circ: system	33	33	66		
42	Bronchitis	26	19	45		
63	Pneumonia	38	21	59		
13	Other respiratory diseases	9	7	16		
9	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	10	4	14		
14	Diarrhœa under two years	2	3	5		
4	Appendicitis	—	3	3		
22	Other digestive diseases	10	10	20		
19	Nephritis	12	8	20		
3	Puerperal and post-abortion: sepsis	—	1	1		
2	Other maternal causes	—	1	1		
21	Premature birth	12	3	15		
25	Congenital malf: birth injury and infant diseases	21	9	30		
15	Suicide	5	7	12		
10	Road traffic accidents	8	—	8		
27	Other violent causes	49	38	87		
78	All other causes	49	32	81		

Of the 1,077 deaths, 583 (that is, 54.13%) occurred elsewhere than within the Borough boundary, and 494 took place in hospital (that is, 45.87%).

The Principal Causes of Death.

Disease.	Total number of deaths.
1. Heart disease and other diseases of circulatory system	288
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	87
	375
2. Cancer	191
3. Violent deaths:—	
(a) Suicide	12
(b) Road traffic	8
(c) Other violent causes	87
	107
4. Respiratory diseases:—	
(a) Bronchitis	59
(b) Pneumonia	16
(c) Other respiratory diseases	14
	89
5. Tuberculosis:—	
(a) Respiratory system	52
(b) Other forms	13
	65
6. Premature births:—	15
Congenital malf.: birth injury and infant diseases	30
	45
7. Digestive Diseases:—	
(a) Appendicitis	3
(b) Other digestive diseases	20
(c) Ulcer	14
	37
8. Acute infectious diseases:—	
(a) Cerebro-spinal fever	2
(b) Scarlet fever	1
(c) Influenza	5
(d) Measles	2
	10

The four main causes of natural death remained in order as in the previous year, but violence as a cause of death became third in number (107). This abnormal figure, of course, was due to air raids.

			Percentage of total deaths under 1 year.	Percentage of total deaths under 50 years.	Percentage of deaths taking place in hospitals.
1940	.....	.....	7.00	33.61	35.37
1941	.....	.....	6.45	30.14	43.00
1942	.....	.....	6.40	26.55	48.71
1943	.....	.....	7.61	25.59	52.17
1944	.....	.....	7.06	29.18	45.87

**(B.) CERTAIN OTHER ESSENTIAL LOCAL
STATISTICS.**

Birth Notifications.

Notified by.	At home.	In Hospital.	In Nursing Home.	Totals.
Doctors	99	847	313	1,259
Midwives	500	233	24	757
Parents	2	—	—	2
Totals	601	1,080	337	2,018
Percentages	29.8	53.5	16.7	100

Live births — 1974. Still births — 44.

Infantile Mortality.

Deaths from stated causes at various ages under one year.

Cause of death (extracted from weekly returns of local Registrars, and from inward transfers of Registrar-General).	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	Total under one month	1—3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Prematurity	14	3	—	2	19	1	—	—	—	20
Broncho-pneumonia	—	1	2	—	3	2	7	3	—	15
Atelectasis	8	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	8
Congenital defects	4	2	—	—	6	1	—	—	1	8
Gastro-enteritis	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	2	1	5
Violent deaths	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3
Subarachnoid hæm:	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Hæmorrhagic disease	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
German measles (with broncho-pneumonia)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Icterus neonatorum	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Whooping cough	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Toxic hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Icterus grav: neon:	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Strepto: mening:	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Strangulated femoral hernia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Staphylococcal septicæmia	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Intussusception	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
	31	9	2	4	46	8	10	9	3	76

Of the 76 deaths which occurred in children who never celebrated their first birthday, 31 (i.e., 40.8%) occurred within the first week of life, while 46 (i.e., 60.53%) occurred within the first four weeks of life.

Prematurity.

Previous reports have indicated the necessity of research into the possibility of saving the premature child. On receipt of Ministry of Health Circular No. 174/44, certain services have been provided, together with equipment on loan, to assist in the medical and nursing care of such infants. The following arrangements are available:—

(1) **Equipment on Loan:** Special cots, with mattress and blankets, cot thermometer, hot-water bottles (rubber), special feeding-bottles and teats. With the kind co-operation of the District Nursing Associations, this equipment is kept available at the headquarters of the Wembley District Nursing Association and of the Kingsbury District Nursing Association.

(2) **Pædiatrician:** A pædiatrician may be called in by the medical attendant, the Borough Council paying the fee. The medical attendant may desire consultation with a consultant pædiatrician (for example, a pædiatrician on the staff of one of the London voluntary hospitals), or it may be possible, depending on the circumstances at the hospital at the time, for the Medical Director, Central Middlesex County Hospital, Acton Lane, N.W.10, to arrange for that hospital's pædiatrician to answer such a call.

(3) **A Supply of Expressed Breast Milk** may be most valuable in such cases, but in the present circumstances it has been impossible to arrange a definite scheme. There is sometimes, however, a small supply of expressed breast milk at the Middlesex County Council's Maternity Units at Redhill and Central Middlesex County Hospitals, and the Medical Directors at these hospitals are ready to assist as far as is in their power. The Medical Attendant, therefore, may apply to the Medical Directors at these hospitals.

(4) **Home Helps:** On request to the Public Health Department, endeavour is made to provide a Home Help. The Borough Council recover a proportion of the Help's wage, according to the family's economic circumstances. It is to be realised, however, that this service is very difficult to provide at the present time, especially in an urgent emergency.

(5) **While,** of course, the doctor in attendance will decide whether domiciliary or hospital supervision is appropriate, with regard to hospitalisation the Circular lays appropriate emphasis on the necessity of careful conveyance to hospital, with a nurse in attendance, particular attention being paid to the maintenance of heat on the journey (hot-water bottles for basket or other carrier). The Borough ambulances are all provided with a heating device, and written instructions for its

use are posted in the ambulances. The District Nursing Associations by arrangement provide a nurse for the journeys to hospital.

(6) A new card for the notification of births has been provided, in which may be inserted the birth weight of all infants under 5½ pounds. Figures from 18th April to 31st December:—

(i) Total number of premature babies who were reported born at home	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
(ii) Total number of these born at home who were nursed entirely at home	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
(iii) Who died during the first 24 hours	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	Nil
(iv) Who survived at the end of one month	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8

Infantile Mortality, 1940-1944.

Year.	Wembley.	England & Wales.
1940	57.86	55
1941	42.32	59
1942	34.16	49
1943	37.17	49
1944	35.50	46

Infantile mortality during last five years (9,465 live births, 384 deaths under one year): 40.57

Maternal Mortality.

One death from puerperal sepsis was recorded in 1944, and one death occurred from other puerperal causes.

Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) 1940-1944.

Year.	Wembley.	England & Wales.
1940	2.97	2.16
1941	4.30	2.23
1942	2.43	2.01
1943	2.35	2.29
1944	0.91	1.93

Maternal mortality during last five years (9,732 total births—24 maternal deaths): 2.47.

Marriages.

In churches	.....	.....	.....	739
At Registry Office	.....	.....	.....	204

(C.) HEALTH SERVICES.

Co-operation with the local medical profession continued to be thorough throughout the year, the Council's Medical Officers endeavouring always to give the fullest assistance and information to the family doctor, who is informed of any advice or service offered to anyone. Letters were addressed to the local profession early in the year with regard to influenza, and later on dysentery, malaria, post-vaccinal encephalitis, the hospitalisation or home treatment of scarlet fever cases, the provision of anti-toxins, sera, etc., the Council's scheme of service for premature infants, for Domestic Home Helps, and with regard to Civil Defence for the distribution of special anti-gas respirators for hospital bed cases, and the Council's instructions to their officers for the following-up of children returning to the Borough after having been evacuated.

Provision of Insulin.

Number of patients who received free insulin in accordance with the Borough Council's scheme:—17.

Total cost of insulin provided £68 15s. 8d.

Ambulance Service.

The two ambulances at Barham Park and one at Kingsbury Depot continued to be manned entirely by Civil Defence personnel, the Transport Superintendent being responsible for the vehicles being in running order and repair.

Removals Undertaken.

(i) Accident calls or sudden illnesses on the street are answered immediately, the patient being conveyed to the nearest hospital for treatment before being taken home.

(ii) Free removals are carried out within 15 miles of the Borough boundary, providing a medical certificate is presented that the patient is not in a fit state to travel in a vehicle other than an ambulance.

During the war the Council have made the ambulance service available for a distance up to 30 miles beyond the Borough boundary, providing that the Medical Officer of Health is satisfied that the person is being removed to hospital beyond the 15-mile limit according to arrangements already made by the doctor in charge of the person through the various emergency arrangements now existing between hospitals either voluntary or local authority.

(iii) Maternity cases: Expectant mothers are told of the ambulance services at the ante-natal clinics in cases where arrangements are made for hospital confinement. A midwife is supplied for the journey, by agreement with the District Nursing Associations. Reciprocal arrangements exist with the neighbouring Local Authorities whereby, according to circumstances, mutual aid is given or received.

Accident removals	.....	.....	619
Sick removals	.....	.....	2,430
Maternity removals	.....	.....	442
Total			<hr/> 3,491 <hr/>

Much help during the year was received from the Volunteer Car Pool, administered from the Palace of Arts. According to Home Security Circular No. 180/42 Medical Officers might call upon the Car Pool for urgent medical purposes thus:—

For conveying patients to or from hospital, or to or from any place which has to be visited for the purposes of treatment.

For conveyance of urgent medical supplies, or conveyance of medical, nursing, or other professional staff for the benefit of sick persons.

Removal of Infectious Diseases.

Ambulance stationed at Acton and Wembley Joint Isolation Hospital.

Removals carried out:—

Quarters ending			
31.3.44	30.6.44	30.9.44	31.12.44
156	115	30	58

Total — 359.

Health Clinics.

It is a very pleasant duty to acknowledge the day-to-day assistance so consistently received from the Voluntary Helpers at the Clinics.

(Some comparative 1943 figures within brackets.)

Total number of children who first attended at the Clinics during the year, and who on the date of their first attendance were under one year of age 1,894 (1,857)

Total number of children who first attended at the Clinics during the year, and who on the date of their first attendance were between the ages of 1—5 years 104 (189)

Total number of children under five years of age who attended at the Clinics during the year, and who at the end of the year were:

(1) Under one year of age	.....	1,816	
(2) Over one year of age	.....	3,957	
		<u>5,773</u>	(5,699)

Number of attendances by children under one year of age 33,226 (42,833)

Number of attendances at all the Health Clinics by children between the ages of 1—5 years 14,437 (21,194)

The percentage of notified live births represented by the number of children who first attended at the Clinics during the year and who on the first attendance were under one year of age in 1944 95.9 (93.5)

(This number is exclusive of those children who are known previously to have attended a centre in another district prior to coming to reside in Wembley.)

Number of attendances at the ante-natal Clinics 10,488 (11,328)

Total number of women who attended for the first time 1,562 (1,670)

Percentage of total notified births (live and still) represented by the total number of women who attended the Clinics for the first time during the year 77.4 (82.0)

The decrease in the number of ante-natal attendances was due to evacuation, while, in spite of air-raid conditions, 95.9 per cent. was attained for the infants under one year.

Slough Lane Clinic.

The necessary repairs after air-raid damage were not completed until October.

Attendances at the various Health Clinics.

Children under one year of age.

Clinic.	Total attendances.	Average attendance per session.
Stag Lane	7,554	50
Slough Lane	3,169	31
College Road	5,692	40
Ealing Road	3,645	35
Perrin Road	4,689	30
Monks Park	4,448	43
One Tree Hill	4,029	31

Children between the ages 1—5 years.

Clinic.	Total attendances.	Average attendance per session.
Stag Lane	2,814	19
Slough Lane	1,213	12
College Road	3,159	22
Ealing Road	1,806	17
Perrin Road	1,786	12
Monks Park	2,137	21
One Tree Hill	1,522	12

Domiciliary Nursing.

Children referred for treatment to the Wembley and Kingsbury District Nursing Associations.

Children under one year	48
Children over one year	19

Treatments given—

Seven or fewer attendances	52
Over seven attendances	15

Eye Clinic.

80 children referred to Middlesex County Council Ophthalmic Clinics.

Orthopædic Clinic.

113 children referred to Middlesex County Council Orthopædic Clinic. 28 appliances were supplied.

Clinics for Children showing Deafness, Defective Speech and Allergic Conditions.

Arrangements were made with the Metropolitan Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital for consultant advice and treatment for children showing deafness or defective speech, and for children showing allergic asthma and allied conditions.

Number of cases referred 2

Child Guidance Clinic.

One case referred to Middlesex County Council Clinic, Harrow.

Dental Clinic. See page 20.

Artificial Sunlight and Massage Treatment.

Number referred by Medical Officers: 120 (under one year, 3; over one year, 117).

Reasons for treatment:—

Rickets	.....	44
Debility, anæmia, etc.	.....	32
Delayed dentition	.....	8
Recurrent colds	.....	8
Chronic bronchitis	.....	2
Bowed legs	.....	19
Knock knees	.....	6
Dental caries	.....	1

Total 120

Convalescent Treatment.

Number of cases referred: 3.

Ante - Natal Clinics.

The months of pregnancy at which women were seen for the first time:—

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th
8	398	564	282	147	61	42	14	2

Attendances of Expectant Mothers:—

Clinic.	Total attendances.	Average attendance per session.
Stag Lane	3,229	21
Slough Lane	1,109	22
College Road	872	18
Ealing Road	1,035	20
Perrin Road	1,306	13
Monks Park	1,296	25
One Tree Hill	1,641	16

In accordance with the latest practice, a blood test is offered to all ante-natal mothers, unless they are having this test performed at hospital. The special examination is done at the laboratory of Redhill County Hospital; 385 such blood examinations were made during the year, of which 3 required further special investigation.

X-Ray Ante - Natal Examinations.

Number of ante-natal patients referred: 101.

Supply of Sheets for Expectant Mothers: Ministry of Health Circular No. 154/44.

This Circular was issued in November, giving a priority to buy sheets in the cases of expectant mothers being confined in their own homes. All State Certified Midwives practising in Wembley were informed by a letter of the scheme, and the appropriate dockets are issued at the Clinics or at the Public Health Department, Town Hall.

Number of dockets issued 1944: 38.

Hospital Confinements.

During the year 775 women were referred to various hospitals for arrangements regarding confinement:—

Medical reasons for reference to hospital:—

(a) Regarding current pregnancy —

Abnormality of maternal pelvis	59
Elderly primipara	40
Maternal ill-health	30
Cardiac abnormality	15
Toxæmia	10
Tuberculosis	10
Threatened miscarriage	11
Miscellaneous	10

185

(b) Regarding previous pregnancies —

Abnormal obstetric history	94
Abnormal medical history	20
	<hr/> 114
Home conditions unsuitable	299
	<hr/> 321
Mothers desired hospital accommodation	155
	<hr/>
Total	775
	<hr/>

Wembley births taking place in hospital.

(a) Middlesex County Council Hospitals:—

Redhill	360
Central Middlesex	243
Maternity Hospital, Bushey	211
West Middlesex	1
Chiswick Hospital (Annexe of West Middlesex)	2
North Middlesex	1
	<hr/> 818
	<hr/>

(b) London Hospitals:—

Queen Mary's (evacuated to Oxford)	51
St. Mary's	48
Queen Charlotte's	41
City of London	30
Charing Cross	21
University College	20
Middlesex Hospital	12
Hammersmith Hospital	4
Elizabeth Garrett Anderson	4
Royal Northern	3
St. Bartholomew's	3
Westminster Hospital	2

One at each of the following hospitals:—

Paddington Hospital, South London Hospital, Mothers' Hospital, King's College Hospital, Queen Mary's Hospital (Stratford), Royal Free Hospital, Sheffield Street Hospital, Mildmay Hospital and St. Olaf's Hospital	9
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---

248

(c) Other Hospitals:—

Willesden Maternity	.....	5
Wembley	.....	3
Bearstead Memorial	.....	2

One at each of the following hospitals—

Perivale, Wellhouse, Sussex and Ashwood Maternity	4
---------------------------------------------------	-------	---

14

Total 1,080

Five - Year Review.

Year.	Total No. of births notified.	No. of births at home.	No. of births in hospital	No. of births in M.C.C. hospitals (inc. preceding column)	Births in private nursing homes and at private addresses outside Wembley
1940	1,576	578	749	607	240
		37.3%	47.5%	35.5%	15.2%
1941	1,539	529	781	608	229
		34.4%	50.7%	39.5%	14.9%
1942	1,942	612	1,051	795	279
		31.5%	54.1%	40.9%	14.3%
1943	2,037	657	1,034	740	346
		32.2%	50.8%	36.3%	17.0%
1944	2,018	601	1,080	816	337
		29.8%	53.5%	40.4%	16.7%

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Number of notifications received: 11 (excluding 10 Willesden Maternity Hospital cases—Willesden residents).

Number of women removed to hospital: 7.

Obstetric Consultant Service.

Consultant called in by private medical practitioners: 7.

Stillbirths.

There were 53 cases of stillbirths allotted to Wembley by the Registrar-General. Detailed investigation was made in 44 cases.

Multipara	.....	20
Primipara	.....	24

44

Ante-natal supervision given by —

Hospital and/or Clinic	.....	27
Private medical attendant	.....	14
No supervision	.....	2
Information incomplete	.....	1

44

Attendant circumstances —

Instrumental delivery	.....	8
Long labour	.....	4
Prematurity	.....	5
Breech delivery	.....	2
Twin pregnancy	.....	2
Ante-partum hæmorrhage	.....	1
Fœtal abnormality incompatible with separate existence	.....	5
No abnormal cause or circumstance elicited	.....	17

44

Post - Natal Clinics.

Clinic.	First attendances.	Re- attendances.	Aver. att'dance per session.
Stag Lane	70	26	4
College Road	10	4	1
Perrin Road	40	11	2
One Tree Hill	55	25	3
Totals	175	66	10

Much attention was given to the importance of breast feeding. Test feeding scales issued on loan to 266 mothers.

Gynæcological Clinics.

Clinic.	First attendances.	Re-attendances.	Aver. att'dance per session.
Stag Lane	26	33	3
College Road	7	4	1
Perrin Road	23	14	2
One Tree Hill	26	27	2
Totals	82	78	—

Birth Control Sessions.

Clinic.	First attendances.	Re-attendances.	Aver. att'dance per session.
Stag Lane	55	102	13
Perrin Road	48	118	14
Total	103	220	—

Special Milk Grants.

Liquid milk: Nil supplied. Grants of dried milk and other accessory foods amounting to £31 19s. 6d., were made during the year.

Maternity Outfits.

Number of maternity outfits supplied: 536.

Home Helps.

Some extensions to this valuable service were made. Sometimes families are met with where it would be of real assistance to them to have even an hour or two's help during the day, and for such the Council pay 1s. 6d. per hour. Nowadays it is equally difficult for all families, whatever their economic circumstances, to obtain domestic assistance. The Council therefore made the service available for families beyond the 100 per cent. level of the economic scale.

Nnumber of Cases Attended.

By the Council's full-time personnel.		By personnel on the Council's approved panel.		Economic circumstances of families.						Special full cost
Full-time.	Part-time.	Full-time.	Part-time.	Free	25%	50%	75%	100%		
52	6	41	2	25	29	9	18	11		9
58		43		101						

Convalescent Home Treatment.

Number of women referred: 2.

Domiciliary Nursing.

Mothers referred for treatment to the Wembley and Kingsbury District Nursing Association: 3.

Dental Services—Women and Children.

	Expectant mothers.	Nursing mothers.	Children under 5 years
Numbers referred for treatment	512	86	278
Numbers who received treatment	416	72	236
Numbers made dentally fit	378	68	235
Numbers of treatments—			
(a) Fillings:			
(i) in temporary teeth	—	—	287
(ii) in permanent teeth	227	47	—
(b) Number of teeth			
extracted	1,041	164	180
(c) Number of administrations of general anæsthesia (nitrous oxide)			
	203	31	82
(d) Numbers of persons supplied with dentures			
	52	14	—
(e) Number of dentures			
supplied	80	21	—

The above figures may be divided as follows:—

	Consultation	Conservative treatment.	Extractions.
Children	72	294	85
Mothers	164	347	371

Total attendances at Dental Clinics last five years.

	Children.	Mothers.
1940	1,171	1,729
1941	972	1,709
1942	869	1,870
1943	643	1,303
1944	451	882

Unmarried Mothers—Arrangements with Middlesex County Council—Ministry of Health Circular No. 2866.

The Council's scheme is that where other arrangements are inappropriate or impossible application will be made to the Middlesex County Council, which Public Health Department sees to the details of admission with the British Red Cross Society —

- (a) For mother prior to confinement, Pre-Natal Home, 16, The Park, Golders Green.
- (b) For mothers and babies for 2 or 3 months after baby born, after mother's discharge from hospital, admission to British Red Cross Hospital, Maryland, Hendon.

The financial arrangement of the Middlesex County Council is for participating Authorities in the scheme to guarantee, on the basis of population, a sum equal to nine occupied beds at 35s. per week, each Authority also paying 35s. per week per admission for both above types of case from their areas.

No case was so dealt with during the year.

Domiciliary Visits by Health Visitors.

Home Visits.

(a) To children under one year	2,272 First visits
	5,937 Revisits
(b) To children between the ages of	
1—5 years	8,681 Total visits
(c) To expectant mothers	1,158 First visits
	2,040 Revisits
(d) To nursing mothers	906 First visits
	593 Revisits
(e) Other special visits	2,480

Analysis of special cases included in (e) above:—

Diphtheria immunisation	95
-------------------------	----

Infectious diseases:

Measles	252
German measles	10
Whooping-cough	580

Tuberculosis	13
Ophthalmia neonatorum (15)	
others (22)	37
Puerperal pyrexia	12
Scarlet fever	2
Pemphigus neonatorum	1
Dysentery	2
Epidemic diarrhoea	1
Scabies	320
<i>Re</i> Day Nursery children	619
Home Help supervision	167
Daily minders	9
<i>Re</i> stillbirths	48
<i>Re</i> verminous conditions	98
Impetigo, etc.	34
<i>Re</i> adoption of children	43
Evacuation	30
Defaulting <i>re</i> treatment advised	37
General—e.g., infantile deaths, premature babies, home conditions, negligent care	70

Child Life Protection.

Visits by Health Visitors—

To foster children	417
To foster parents	355

At the end of the year there were on the register—

Foster children	26
Foster parents	21

Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939.

Number of notifications received under Section 7 (3)	9
Number of visits to children proposed for adoption	41
Number of children received for proposed adoption	12

Rushcliffe Report—Nurses' Salaries, etc.

This Report was sent to Local Authorities along with Ministry of Health Circular No. 2893, stating that the Minister welcomed these new recommendations as to salaries, emoluments and conditions of service of nurses employed in certain services (including health visitors and State-registered nurses in residential and day nurseries). The Council adopted the recommendations of the Report entirely. It deals with remuneration, uniform, transport, leave—annual and sick—and post-certificate leave.

Domestic Help Scheme—Ministry of Health Circular No. 179/44.

The Government had become concerned in regard to persons sick or infirm who might be unable to obtain necessary domestic assistance, and the Minister of Labour and National Service had undertaken to assist in finding suitable persons for this work. This service is intended for a different class of case from that assisted by the Council's Home Help Scheme in connection with their Maternity and Child Welfare Services, such home helps being allocated to families during the confinement of the mother and for incapacity immediately afterwards. The types of cases to be considered with the domestic help service are, for example:

- (a) Where the housewife falls sick or must have an operation.
- (b) Where the wife is suddenly called away to see her husband in hospital, and arrangements have to be made to look after the children.
- (c) With elderly people who are infirm or one of whom suddenly falls ill.
- (d) Where several members of the family are ill at the same time—e.g., during an influenza epidemic.

The Council pay domestic helps, for full-time service, £3 per week, with approved 'bus and train fares, the hours of duty being 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., with two hours off for any personal affairs daily (47-hour week), and for women unable to give such weekly full-time service 1s. 6d. per hour, with approved 'bus and train fares. The Council recover all or a portion of these amounts, according to the economic circumstances of the families assisted, the Ministry of Health reimbursing full cost of the scheme, minus such recoveries from the families made by the Borough Council.

The supply of domestic helps has remained very definitely limited, but endeavour is made to place the available women with the most urgent families, and in these cases the scheme is of distinct value. The scheme has been functioning since February, 1945.

No. of families to whom service given.	Assessment <i>re</i> recovery of cost.					
	Full	100%	75%	50%	25%	Free
29						
Period 19.2.45—26.5.45	25	1	—	1	1	1

No. of domestic helps on Council's Panel on 26.5.45	Full-time	Part-time.
	4	5

Nursing in the Home—Wembley and Kingsbury District Nursing Associations.

The Associations have supplied the following figures relating to their work during the year:—

Wembley District Nursing Association.

	Cases.	Visits.
Medical	967	
Surgical	208	
General nursing		22,229
Maternity	149	3,329
Midwifery	167	3,344
Ante-natal	311	3,668
Children under 5	24	113
Children over 5	53	460

Kingsbury District Nursing Association.

	Cases.	Visits.
Medical	166	1,949
Surgical	49	3,014
Maternity	64	1,403
Midwifery	153	3,541
Ante-natal	250	1,709
Children under 5	81	721
Children over 5	18	80

These Associations provide a service of the greatest value to the public health of the Borough, and the Council continue to show the keenest interest in their work, contributing materially to their funds—

£1,342 3s. 10d. to the Wembley District Nursing Association.
805 6s. 3d. to the Kingsbury " "

(D.) NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE—MINISTRY OF HEALTH COMMAND PAPER 6502.

A report was submitted to the Public Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees in April. Part 1 of this statement was factual. In Part 2 some general observations were made, and in Part 3 reference was made to points which seemed to have relation to the present health services of the Council.

General Observations.

While the Paper is entitled "A National Health Service," the plan is limited to personal health (or clinical medicine). The

Paper itself states that good housing, sanitation, conditions in school and at work, diet and nutrition, economic security, and so on, are all "fundamental," but they are not dealt with in the White Paper. Industrial medicine is not dealt with, nor is environmental hygiene.

The school medical service is not dealt with, except that the Paper points to two sections of this service: (a) School medical inspection, which will remain with the education services, and (b) school medical treatment, which will in due course be given up by the education authority and taken over by the proposed new health service. Evidently there is not to be a focal co-ordination in one Ministry of the present responsibilities concerning medical health problems of other Ministries, for example.

Points which seem to have relation to the present Health Services of this Council.

Isolation hospital responsibilities will pass to the new joint Authorities. The Maternity and Child Welfare Services (excluding Maternity Hospital services but evidently including domiciliary midwifery services) will fall to be provided by the Local Authority under the Education Act. Under that Act arrangements are now being made for delegating much of the practical care of the school medical service to the Borough Council.

The White Paper's mention of the family practitioner beginning to undertake many duties at present performed by his colleagues in the public health service probably refers to the services now given at the Borough Council's Health Clinics—Ante-Natal, Post-Natal and Infant Welfare Clinics.

Consultant services are to be available from the hospitals and provided by the new Joint Health Authority.

Ambulances are dealt with only as an ancillary hospital service, and as such will be dealt with by the new Joint Authority. Whether there may be ambulance services not connected with hospitals is not dealt with in the White Paper.

A home nursing service is mentioned. Responsibility for securing it will normally be exercised by County and County Borough Councils.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN WARDS AND REMOVALS TO HOSPITAL.

[illegible]

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES ACCORDING TO SEX AND AGE.

Age group.	Scarlet fever.		Whooping cough.		Diphtheria.		Acute poliomyelitis.				Dysentery.		Acute pneumonia.		Erysipelas.		Cerebro-spinal fever.		Paratyphoid fever.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0—	1		20	25			5	2			26	35	7	17						
1—	8	11	61	89	1	1	48	46			5	5	20	10						
3—	25	21	56	69			48	37			3	18	27	23	2	12	1	1		1
5—	76	75	106	94	2		158	135			3	2	19	9	4	4				
10—	34	38	1	1			4	7	1				2	7	11	1	3			
15—	12	14	1			1	3	8												
25 and over	4	16	3	8		1	3	9			1	1	1	2	1					
All ages	160	175	248	286	3	3	269	244	1		38	63	81	72	8	19	1	1	—	1

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Winter Respiratory Diseases.

Winter period considered to begin week ending first Saturday in October, and to end week ending last Saturday in March. For the period under review the absence of an influenza epidemic is to be noted.

		Notifications of primary pneumonia and acute influenzal-pneumonia.	Death certifi- cates in which respiratory diseases mentioned.
1940-41	.....	82	107
1941-42	.....	101	135
1942-43	.....	92	105
1943-44	.....	151	170
1944-45	.....	93	92

These local figures are in accord with the general observations for the country given in the monthly bulletin of the Ministry of Health, June, 1945. Serious, moderate and mild illness rates in the winter months of 1944-45 were less than half as great as in the winter preceding. For non-catarrrhal illnesses of these grades the monthly incidence rate was between 5 and 6 per 100, compared with 11 to 16 in the previous winter. Colds and influenza, regardless of any other illness, showed an average monthly attack rate of 18 per cent. both amongst men and women, compared with 22 per cent. in the previous winter. Less than 4 per cent. of people per month were laid up as much as a day on this account, compared with about 8 per cent. in the previous winter. Non-catarrrhal minor ailment rates in the winter months were about 13 to 15 per 100 monthly, compared with 15 to 21 in the previous winter.

Dysentery.

In March there was a sharp rise in dysentery notifications. Quite often, as is usual, more than one member of the family were affected, and the acute phase of the illness generally lasted only a few days. A number of cases were in children attending one of the day nurseries, and in order to prevent spread it was considered necessary to keep the infected children from this nursery until they had become bacteriologically clear. The cases were practically all of Sonne infection. Bacillary dysentery is common and widespread throughout the country. While fatal infections may occur more especially in infants and old people, the disease is usually mild, the causal organisms being of the Sonne or Flexner types in most cases; Shiga infections are often severe, however, but their occurrence is much less frequent than is either Sonne or Flexner dysentery. Sonne dysentery is now considered endemic in this country.

The person suffering from dysentery should not be considered free without bacteriological confirmation. As a routine the following suggestion was made with regard to Sonne dysentery. After the person had shown no clinical signs of activity (no loose stools) for three days another specimen might be submitted to the bacteriologist, and this repeated at three-day intervals until three specimens in sequence had been reported negative. While special cases may require more intensive bacteriological control, this suggestion was considered sufficient as a generalisation. The opinion is given that there must be many cases of loose motions due to indiscretion in diet, etc., which are *not due* to specific infection by one of the dysentery group of organisms.

The essence of the prevention of spread of dysentery is routine detailed attention to the principles of personal hygiene, careful hand-washing after closet and after attention to a patient, hand washing immediately prior to preparing food, the exclusion of possibilities of flies or dust alighting on food, and the washing of food utensils in really hot water. An infant's napkins should be immediately dealt with after soiling by boiling, and the toddler's chamber must be considered a very potential source of spread unless thoroughly cleansed and disinfected after being used.

Bacteriological examinations made:—

1944	+ Sonne	+ Morgan No. 1	+ Typhimurium	+ Thompson	+ Gaertner	+ T.B.	Others	Negative	Urine
Jan.	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	14	1
Feb.	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—
March	63	13	—	—	—	1	—	44	—
April	57	11	—	—	—	—	1	106	—
May	23	9	—	—	—	—	—	90	1
June	17	21	1	—	—	—	2	42	—
July	5	12	1	1	—	—	—	19	—
Aug.	—	5	—	—	1	—	—	15	—
Sept.	2	11	—	—	—	—	—	24	—
Oct.	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
Nov.	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	15	—
Dec.	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	12	—
	180	94	2	1	1	1	3	404	2

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases in School Children.

Information regarding these was obtained throughout the year from the head teachers in the Borough.

Disease.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total.
Chicken-pox	17	18	75	36	11	15	2	—	—	9	8	1	192
Mumps	9	17	7	5	6	19	7	—	3	1	51	13	138
German measles	24	87	241	109	88	19	1	—	—	—	6	—	575
Infective jaundice	2	—	1	3	3	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	12

Consultations regarding infectious disease, between the Medical Officer of Health and the local medical profession: 12.

7 cases of suspicion of small-pox: diagnosis chicken-pox.

3 cases of difficult rashes: (i) a septic rash.
(ii) Rubella or German measles.
(iii) scarlet fever.

1 case of suspicion of typhoid fever: Diagnosis not confirmed.

1 case of vaccinal complication in an infant recently vaccinated.

—
12
—

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Numbers treated (five years period):—

Year.	0—5	5—10	10—15	Over 15	Totals.
1940	249	152	44	5	450
1941	2,454	2,102	998	32	5,586
1942	987	489	272	10	1,758
1943	1,722	431	254	4	2,411
1944	1,314	61	29	Nil	1,404

The percentage of the child population considered immunised on the 31st December was

Children under 5 years 50.82%
Children between 5 and 15 years 83.92%

The parents of children under two years who have received a course of immunisation injections are advised that in order that the child should remain protected against diphtheria during the susceptible years, another injection should be given just before entry to school at five years of age. Such a reinforcing dose was given to 98 children.

The various methods by which the public is kept aware of the importance of immunisation against this fatal disease were repeated throughout the year, and it is safe to say there can be no reason for any family having neglected to consider the value of diphtheria immunisation.

Vaccination against Small-pox.

Dr. Dyson, Public Vaccinator, continued to attend the Clinics to vaccinate infants. Number of infants vaccinated at Health Clinics: 410.

Small-pox at Mount Vernon Hospital, March-April.

In connection with this occurrence, 44 contacts were referred for supervision in Wembley —

Number of visits made to contacts	170
Number of inspections of contacts at Public Health Offices	20

In appropriate cases vaccination was advised, and all accepted this. In one contact case request was made to the Ministry of Health for a Specialist Medical Officer to visit, when the opinion that the case might be incubating small-pox was confirmed. The person was kept under observation, with all precautions being taken, and in a few days' time it was able to be said definitely that the case was not small-pox. In another case a patient in Wembley Hospital, a Medical Officer from the Ministry of Health confirmed the opinion that the woman was not suffering from any notifiable infectious disease, but from an acute skin condition (erythema multiforme). During the outbreak five other cases of doubt were seen by the Medical Officer of Health at the request of the Family Practitioner. None of them was considered a case of small-pox.

Tuberculosis.

		No. of Notifications.			
		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Under one year	.....	1	—	—	—
1 to 4 years	.....	1	2	—	—
5 to 14 years	.....	3	2	3	4
15 to 24 years	.....	24	19	5	2
25 to 34 years	.....	20	25	1	2
35 to 44 years	.....	24	6	—	1
45 to 54 years	.....	19	4	—	2
55 to 64 years	.....	11	4	—	—
65 and over	.....	1	—	—	—
Totals	.....	104	62	9	11

		No. of Deaths.			
		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Under one year	.....	1	—	—	—
1 to 4 years	.....	—	—	—	1
5 to 14 years	.....	—	—	—	2
15 to 24 years	.....	1	4	—	—
25 to 34 years	.....	8	11	1	2
35 to 44 years	.....	5	5	—	1
45 to 54 years	.....	5	3	1	1
55 to 64 years	.....	9	3	—	—
65 and over	.....	3	1	—	1
Totals	.....	32	27	2	8

No. admitted to hospitals
or Sanatoria:

98.

No. discharged from hospitals
or Sanatoria:

76.

During the year 195 cases were removed from the register, and at 31st December 744 names remained on the register—647 pulmonary and 97 non-pulmonary.

Of the 69 deaths from tuberculosis during the year, 12 had not been notified during life (that is, 17.39%).

Notifications and Deaths from Tuberculosis in 5-Year Period.

Notifications.			Deaths.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
1940	100	25	56	7
1941	142	19	64	3
1942	150	34	60	10
1943	133	19	64	5
1944	166	20	59	10

During 1939 and since, each death as reported has been scrutinised to ascertain if the person had been on the Tuberculosis Register, and, if so, to note the cause of death as reported on the death certificate. This investigation is continuing and producing some interesting figures. For the six years ending 31st December, 1944—

Total number of deaths	368	
Cause of death: Pulmonary tuberculosis	321	87.23%
Non-pulmonary	37	10.05%
Other causes than tuberculosis	10	2.72%
	368	

Interval between notification and death:—

Notified after death	81	22.01%	} 45.1%
Under six months	85	23.09%	
6 months to 1 year	39	10.60%	
1 year to 2 years	45	12.23%	
2 years to 5 years	64	17.40%	
5 years to 10 years	42	11.41%	
Over 10 years	12	3.26%	
	368		

It is to be noted that 45.1% of the deaths occurred within six months of notification, or actually before the person had been notified.

Number of cases on the register Dec., 1944—

Pulmonary	647	86.96%
Non-pulmonary	97	13.04%
	744	

Number of cases removed from the register
as recovered during the six-year period —

Pulmonary	79
Non-pulmonary	47
	<hr/> 126 <hr/>

The Ministry of Health Scheme providing mass miniature radiography has been operating in the Borough, mostly at the larger factory premises. Special arrangements, with the kind co-operation of the management at one factory, allowed the service to be offered to the Council's staff, and it is pleasing to record that 190 of the staff accepted the opportunity and were x-rayed.

Bacteriological Service (at Middlesex Hospital).

Examinations made	Quarter ending				Total for 12 months
	31.3.44	30.6.44	30.9.44	31.12.44	
Throat swabs—					
Diphtheria.....	69	65 (of which 2 were positive)	41	54 (of which 4 were positive)	229 (of which 6—2.61% were positive)
Hæmolytic streptococci	38 (of which 23 were positive)	32 (of which 14 were positive)	20 (of which 10 were positive)	42 (of which 13 were positive)	132 (of which 60— 45.45% were positive)
Vincent's angina	19 (of which 5 were positive)	19 (of which 1 was positive)	19 (of which 7 were positive)	23 (of which 1 was positive)	80 (of which 14 were positive)
Other swabs	3	5	1	6	15
Nasal swabs —					
Diphtheria	7	10 (of which 1 was positive)	4	7	28 (of which 1—3.57% was positive)
Hæmolytic streptococci	6	2	1	4	13
Vincent's angina	—	1	—	1	2
Sputum (tubercle bacilli)	36 (of which 4 were positive)	33 (of which 4 were positive)	16 (of which 3 were positive)	25 (of which 4 were positive)	110 (of which 15— 13.63% were positive)

Examinations made	Quarter ending				Total for 12 months
	31.3.44	30.6.44	30.9.44	31.12.44	
Fæces and urine	165	374	99	50	688 (See page 29)
Blood	6	6	1	2	15
Films and swabs for special bacteria	2	5	—	—	7
Other specimens	Nil	Nil	2	6	8

Jaundice (infective hepatitis).

The number of cases fell considerably in 1944, but the infection seemed to be smouldering still in the town.

Reported Cases in Monthly Periods.

January	6	July	6
February	—	August	2
March	11	September	—
April	6	October	2
May	8	November	1
June	5	December	1
Total — 48.			

Age Incidence.

0—5 years	1
5—10 years	18
10—15 years	12
Over 15 years	15
Age unknown	2

Scabies.

The treatment sessions at Wembley Hospital continued throughout the year.

No. of Cases of Scabies Reported.

January	77	July	63
February	40	August	56
March	89	September	85
April	26	October	78
May	81	November	56
June	39	December	54

Total — 744.

Numbers affected in Individual Families.

1 person in 205 families.	5 persons in 8 families.
2 persons in 109 families	6 persons in 4 families.
3 persons in 54 families	7 persons in 1 family.
4 persons in 18 families	8 persons in 2 families.

There were 42 recurrent cases—1 in 16 families, 2 in 4 families, 3 in 2 families, 5 in 1 family, and 7 in 1 family.

Verminous Conditions.

Thirty-nine cases of verminous heads were reported—14 referred from health clinics, 3 by factory welfare officers, 5 by private medical practitioners, 4 by school medical officer, 5 by hospital doctors, 4 by health visitors, and 4 came directly to the Town Hall for advice. Thirty-five of these cases received treatment at Kensington Medicinal Baths, and the other four were treated by the Education Authority. One case of body lice was reported by a factory welfare officer, and received treatment at Kensington Medicinal Baths.

In their Health Education talks at the Clinics and at their home visits the health visitors take the opportunity as occasion arises and appears appropriate to have a word regarding attention to the hair, etc. For the under fives, wearing the hair short is the best advice; for the adolescent girl a word is given regarding permanent waving always requiring day-to-day combing and brushing. Special Sacker combs are available at the Clinics and given on loan when required. Lethane Hair Oil preparations are advocated. The obviously clean family need not be worried on the above points, but infestation is a family condition, so that if one person be accidentally affected the chances are that someone else in the family has also become infested, however slightly, and the health visitors advise appropriately. If infestation be beyond the assistance of the health visitors, persons are referred to the Royal Borough of Kensington's Clinic, Medicinal Baths, Bletchynden Mews, North Kensington, W. 10.

With the kind co-operation of the Food Executive Officer, a letter addressed to the parents of every family was handed as they returned from evacuation, pointing out the importance of diphtheria immunisation, as it might have been that immunisation treatment had not been commenced or had been interrupted because of evacuation. In the absence of the usual home surroundings, too, it was pointed out that it may have been that families were unable to give their customary attention to personal hygiene and bathing. If, therefore, parents were in any doubt about contagious skin conditions or troubles, advice and assistance at the clinics for both adults and children was offered. This letter had the very useful result of making it possible for the health officers to assist families as they returned from evacuation.

1

Vermin (routine protection from)	97
Miscellaneous	50

	Disinfected.	Destroyed.
Bedding and bedclothing	3,610	12
Wearing apparel	69	6
Carpets, rugs, cushions	137	5
Others	51	4
Towels and gowns from Wembley Hospital <i>re</i> Scabies Scheme	66 lots	

10

Number of verbal notices given	.....	.....	244
"	"	complied with	235 *
"		written notices served	334
"	"	"	complied with
"		statutory notices served	21
"	"	"	complied with

* Includes a number of notices served in 1943 and completed in 1944.

Number of complaints received and investi- gated	1,838
General sanitation inspections (including visits to air-raid shelters)	939 22,363
Nuisances abated and improvements effected (including air-raid shelters: 8)	2,342

Visits to dwelling-houses	7,497
Nuisances abated and improvements effected	1,003
Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	2,344
Number of inspections made for the purpose	4,910
Number of dwelling-houses (included in above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925-32	Nil

Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	1,185
Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action	1,219

Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which statutory notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	18
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
(a) By owners	10 †
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	14 *

† Includes compliance in 1944 of 4 notices served in 1943.

* Includes compliance in 1944 of 7 notices served in 1943.

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

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	Nil
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----

Overcrowding.

Number of certificates issued giving the number of persons who may occupy a house	54
Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	129
Number of families dwelling therein	133
Number of persons dwelling therein.....	694
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	31
Number of overcrowded families relieved during the year	16
(1) by removal of members of family	2
(2) " of families to other known address	10
(3) " to unknown addresses	1
(4) " to Council houses (included also in (2))	2
(5) " to requisitioned premises (also included in (2))	7
(6) " of sub-tenants to requisitioned premises	1
(7) by rearrangement of rooms in house	1
(8) by removal of lodger	1
(9) Number of persons included in such relieved cases	99

Disinfestation.

Visits paid *re* vermin or suspicion of—

For bed bugs 120

For other vermin 176

— 296

Verminous premises disinfested — For bugs 47

For other vermin 33

— 80

Council houses disinfested 39

(method employed: liquid insecticides)

Verminous articles destroyed 3

Some time before D-Day it was expected that the Empire Pool might be required for war refugees, and anxiety was felt regarding the possibility of introduction of insect spread disease (typhus fever especially, perhaps). Accordingly preparations were made to provide means of disinfestation of clothing and bedding on a large scale. The demand seemed likely to be too heavy for the Council's normal disinfestation services, so a mobile field apparatus (Millbank Disinfestor) was installed near the premises, and the Council's sanitary inspectors gave intensive instruction on the problem and the working of this special apparatus. In fact, this special war demand did not materialise, but as a result of damage by flying-bombs in London and around, the building was utilised for the reception of operatives drafted to the London area to assist in war damage repairs. The sanitary inspectors instructed a team of workers in the use of the apparatus, and its routine use did much to prevent any spread of accidental infestation. At one time some 12,000 sets of bed-clothing were treated every five days, this large number being necessary because of the constant daily change of personnel.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

As from the 1st February, 1944, duties under this Act were delegated by the Middlesex County Council to the Borough Council. Information regarding infestation may be obtained from complaint to the Public Health Department, or revealed in the sanitary inspectors' visits in their districts to premises or factories or waste dumps or lands, etc. Two rodent control assistants work under the direction of the district inspectors in their areas, each inspector being responsible to the Chief Sanitary Inspector for rodent infestation work and control. A real preventive attitude in the campaign against rat and mice infestation is adopted, largely on the advice of the Infestation Department of the Ministry of Food. Mere alleviation of infestation is not considered enough, actual elimination of all rats and all mice is the aim, and is largely achieved. At the present time

(July, 1945) a systematic concentrated attack is about to be made on the sewer-rat population.

Work performed 1st February, 1944, to 31st January, 1945:—

(1)	Number of premises visited	858
(2)	" visits made by sanitary inspectors	1,098
(3)	" visits made by Rodent Control assistants	3,376
(4)	" premises found to be infested	500
(5)	" premises which have received treatment by Rodent Control assistant	232
(6)	" premises which have received treatment privately	196
(7)	" Council-owned premises included in (5)	37

Estimated number of rats and mice killed February to December 2,575

Outworkers.

Number on the register 31.12.1944	82
Number of visits paid to premises	169

Offices.

Number on the register	265	Number of visits paid	280
Defects found	Nil	Defects remedied	1*
			* from 1943.

Meat and Other Food Premises.

Number of inspections made: 3,044.

Nuisances abated and improvements effected:—

Meat shops, stalls, etc.	Premises cleansed	29
"	" Other contraventions remedied	8
Cowsheds:	Contraventions remedied	—
Dairies:	Cleansed and limewashed	10
"	Premises repaired	4
"	Other contraventions remedied	7
Bakehouses	cleansed and limewashed	12
"	sanitary conditions improved	7
"	other contraventions remedied	4
Fried fish shops	cleansed and limewashed	7
"	sanitary conditions improved	1
"	other contraventions remedied	—
Fishmongers, etc.,	contraventions remedied	23
Grocers	"	39
Greengrocers, etc.	"	39
Restaurants, cafés, etc.	"	23
Street vendors, hawkers, etc.	"	2
Other food premises	"	2

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Dairies and Milk Shops.

Number of dairies registered	28
Number of purveyors of milk registered with premises in the Borough, selling milk in properly closed and unopened receptacles	48
Number of purveyors of milk registered whose premises are outside the Borough	24
Number of dairies (included above) where milk is bottled, etc.	5

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1936 to 1942.

Designation of milk.	Licences issued.	Samples taken.	Samples not satisfactory.
Pasteurised	36	42	2
Tuberculin - tested	22	6	—
T.T. (Pasteurised)	—	15	—
T.T. (Certified)	—	2	—
Accredited	2	6	—
	60	71	2

The cleaning and sterilisation of milk bottles was the subject of a report submitted to the Ministry of Health by Drs. Betty Hobbs and G. S. Wilson, of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. The authors suggested a practical standard of bacteriological cleanliness for milk bottles, such standard being that the final mean based on 24 plate counts should not exceed 600 per bottle, reckoned as pints. On this report the Public Health Committee recommend the Council to support a resolution from Amersham pressing for legislation to be made to settle a standard of bacteriological count for all rinsing of churns, bottles, etc.

Milk in Schools Scheme.

The circumstances of children being excluded from school because of infectious diseases had, of course, been depriving the children of the opportunity of having their milk at school. This position was discussed with the Food Executive Officer (Mr. Cloote), and with his co-operation an arrangement was made whereby the Food Executive Officer is informed of school children who have been excluded from school because of infectious disease, and he allows the mother to have, on her request, additional milk from her dairyman during the time the children are so excluded. The case of children actually suffering from infectious disease is

met by the doctor in attendance giving the necessary certificate. This local arrangement has worked very well and is appreciated by the mothers.

Food Poisoning.

Two notifications were received regarding food poisoning.

Laboratory Examinations re Food, Milk and Water (at Middlesex Hospital).

Examinations made.	Quarter ending				Total for 12 months
	31.3.44	30.6.44	30.9.44	31.12.44	
Food	1	—	—	1	2
Milk	22	27	14	10	73
Water	37	26	31	16	110

Chemical tests for chlorine content of Swimming Pool water made by inspectors, 44.

The practice of fortnightly sampling of the public water supplies was continued throughout the year, and the results passed to the respective Water Companies, while also the Water Companies submitted periodically their results. The water supply remained bacteriologically satisfactory and sufficient in quantity, although there was call for economy from time to time, a call which in the circumstances was readily understood, and which was due also in part to the persistently low rainfall.

There is no inhabited premises known to be without an internal water supply.

(G) DAY NURSERIES.

Carlyon Road Day Nursery was slightly damaged by enemy action on the night of Friday-Saturday, Jan. 21st-22nd. The nursery, however, was reoccupied as usual on the following Monday morning. On the night of the 1st-2nd March the nursery was again struck, rebuilding entirely being necessary. Arrangements were made for the children to assemble at One Tree Hill Clinic each morning, where they were dispersed, in charge of nurses, by Civil Defence ambulances to the other Wembley nurseries, the children being brought back to One Tree Hill Clinic each evening in time for the mothers to call for them. This arrangement continued until 4th September.

Harrowdene Road Nursery suffered damage in the early hours of 21st July, but the nursery was open again for the reception of children on the following morning. Woodstock Road Nursery was damaged on 16th July, but the nursery was made ready to receive children the next morning.

The daily cost (pence) per child-in-attendance of all foods (as purchased uncooked) provided at the nurseries is shown in the following details (all food provided for staff reckoned as part of the cost of feeding the children):—

Period 22nd September—21st December.

Ealing Road Nursery	.....	.....	14.40d.
Neeld Crescent Nursery	.....	.....	11.85d.
Princes Avenue	.....	.....	12.28d.
Carlyon Road Nursery	.....	.....	13.49d.
Old Kenton Lane Nursery	.....	.....	12.29d.
Harrowdene Road Nursery	.....	.....	11.72d.
Woodstock Road Nursery	.....	.....	14.70d.
District Road Nursery	.....	.....	12.54d.

The children attending the nurseries have continued themselves to be the best proof of the good work done at these nurseries. The numbers of children in attendance, of course, were considerably reduced during the period of flying-bombs, but now (July, 1945) most of the nurseries actually have waiting lists again. The staffing problem, however, is acute, and it is now very difficult indeed to staff the nurseries, having regard to the constant resignations now being received.

The incidence of infectious disease amongst both the children and the staff has continued to be watched.

Infectious Diseases — Day Nurseries, 1944.

Disease.	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total.
(a) Children:—													
Scarlet fever	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	5
Dysentery—													
B.Sonne	3	—	19	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	32
B.Morgan No. 1	—	—	3	3	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	10
Chicken-pox	1	—	2	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	7
Mumps	3	9	3	4	—	4	3	—	—	—	—	—	26
German measles	—	5	9	14	23	9	9	4	—	1	—	1	75
Measles	—	—	—	2	15	3	1	6	12	4	—	29	72
Whooping-cough	5	3	—	4	2	2	—	1	5	5	8	7	42
(b) Staff:													
Dysentery—													
B.Sonne	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
German measles	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

Two outbreaks of whooping-cough—one at Princes Avenue, the other at Old Kenton Lane Nursery—provided an opportunity for further consideration of the results from immunisation treatment against whooping-cough. At Princes Avenue a case of whooping-cough occurred on the 18th September, and the last case of the outbreak occurred on the 11th November, while at Old Kenton Lane the first case occurred on the 11th October and the last on 2nd January, 1945.

Nursery.	No. of children exposed to infection (not pre- viously attacked)	No. who had vaccine course.	No. known to be attacked.	No. who had not vaccine course.	No. known to be attacked.
Princes Avenue	40	22	6 (27.3%)	18	11 (61%)
Old Kenton Lane	41	9	3 (33.3%)	32	11 (34%)

These figures, of course, are still small, and while those at Princes Avenue give an attack rate of 27% amongst the immunised children and of 61% amongst the non-immunised, there is no such difference in the figures for Old Kenton Lane—33 % amongst those immunised and 34% amongst those not immunised.

Staff.

Miss Robbins passed the examination for the diploma of the National Society of Children's Nurseries with distinction. Four other trainees also passed the examination; four other students have recently (July, 1945) been successful. Three students have left the service to commence general nursing training at London hospitals after they had obtained the diploma of the National Society.

Hendon Technical College has been giving courses of training for the student nursery nurses. In addition to a number of the Council's students attending this course, four students of the College have been attending Ealing Road and Harrowdene Road Nurseries one day a week for practical experience, while one student attended for two weeks during vacation for nursery teaching experience from Goldsmith's College University of London.

Daily Minder Scheme.

This scheme continued throughout the year to be practically unused.

Number of daily minders approved during 1944	1
" approved daily minders at the end of the year	12
" new children placed during 1944	1
" children daily minded during 1944	5
" children daily minded at the end of the year	5

(H) CIVIL DEFENCE.

Number of Circulars from Ministry of Health, Ministry of Home Security, London Region, Middlesex County Council, and miscellaneous received in Health Depart- ment	153
Number of letters sent to Doctors in charge of First Aid Posts <i>re</i> medical matters	6
Number of instructions sent to Depot Superintendents.....	111
Number of letters sent to Sisters-in-Charge of First Aid Posts	103

The constantly changing personnel of Civil Defence, together with the many circulars received, continued to mean much administrative detail. With regard to personnel, the scrutiny of wages sheets, sickness and annual leave records, personnel returns *re* nominations, resignations, transfers, etc., the provision of statistics for the Civil Defence Committee and the County Council, the employment of part-time personnel, their hours and rota of duty, the various returns required, Civil Nursing Reserve uniform replacements, reimbursing of fares to personnel for travelling expenses for their hospital and scabies clinics duties, all meant much routine organisation throughout the year. It is a pleasure to record that whatever call was put upon the Casualty Services it was answered immediately and efficiently; and the strain during the flying-bomb and rocket periods was not light. Everyone acted in the most commendable manner.

With a view to keeping first-aid training up to standard, a local first-aid refresher course, on the same lines as that run by the Group Training School, for all whole-time Civil Defence personnel who had already obtained their preliminary certificate was commenced. The instructors were nominated from the Ambulance and Rescue Service personnel who had already a Group School instructor's certificate. Each class was to be held on alternate days for two weeks, and on the conclusion of the course the County Medical Officer had agreed to set an examination through Group School instructors, and for a certificate to be issued by them to those personnel passing the examination. By this means

it was hoped to revise periodically training for all full-time Wardens, Rescue and Ambulance Service personnel. The Chief Warden and the Rescue Service Controller had kindly promised their full co-operation. Within a few days of the commencement of this course, however, we entered on the flying-bomb period, and the course had to be abandoned.

Establishment.	Ambulance Depots.
December, 1944	70 plus 2 superintendents.
January, 1945	40 plus 1 superintendent.

First Aid Posts.
December, 1944 58 plus 6 sisters-in-charge.
January, 1945 27 plus 4 sisters-in-charge.

First Aid Post No. 1 (Stag Lane) was closed on 19.11.44

"	"	No. 2 (Preston Manor)	"	15.12.44
"	"	No. 3 (Monks Park)	"	13.12.44
"	"	No. 6 (Claremont)	"	28.12.44

leaving only First Aid Post No. 5 (Imperial College Pavilion, East Lane) open after the end of the year.

Particular duties continued to be undertaken by the Sanitary Inspectors—for example, periodic visits to the Ambulance and Rescue Depots, First Aid Posts, Wardens Posts, Wardens Headquarters, etc., *re* cleanliness and ventilation. Routine disinfection of mattresses and pillows at all Civil Defence Depots was carried out monthly. Air-raid shelters were inspected, static water tanks were kept under supervision with regard to the possibility of mosquito nuisance. On all air-raid damage incidents the inspectors satisfied themselves as to any damage to sewers or drains, or to the water supply.

The Health Visitors were kept informed of all evacuee children under five years of age as they arrived in the Borough. Unaccompanied children were given the same supervision as if they had been foster children, while with regard to accompanied children the same supervision was given as is given to Wembley residents. By periodic visits to the rest centres they became acquainted with the personnel in charge, and when the centres were open worked with them, when the various services known to the Health Visitors were explained and offered as appropriate. Wembley became an official evacuation area at the time of the flying-bomb incidents.

Evacuation in Official Parties.

Unaccompanied children	695
Mothers and children	2,527

In addition, a further 6,096 persons received travel vouchers and billeting certificates, having found their own accommodation.

(I) SECTIONALISATION OF AND CO-ORDINATION IN THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

The Department is sectionalised thus:—

Section 1—Supplies, Finance, etc. (miscellaneous services).

„ 2—Infectious Diseases.

„ 3—Maternity and Child Welfare and 5 Day Nurseries.

„ 4—Environmental Hygiene (Sanitation, Housing, Factories, Food, Water, etc.).

„ 6—Civil Defence.

but these sections are not in any sense considered watertight. They overflow one into the other, and administratively are kept co-ordinated by constant exchange of information, mutual advice, discussion, etc., so that the department may always work harmoniously as a whole.

The distribution of responsibility is in accordance with practical simplicity rather than by hard-and-fast rules. For example, the Section (3), dealing mostly with Maternity and Child Welfare, deals with death statistics, etc., because it obviously deals with other vital statistics such as the notification of births, and Section (2), Infectious Diseases, deals with the provision of insulin, etc., because in the main that section deals with the local medical profession. The Section (6), Civil Defence, has dealt with the Borough civil ambulances and the Volunteer Car Pool, because it dealt with all Civil Defence ambulance matters. Further, the professional and technical officers' responsibilities extend into all these sections, some more, some less.

Section 1: Supplies, Finance, etc.—miscellaneous—ordering of equipment, goods and accounts, all financial matters.

Section 2: Infectious diseases, hospitalisation and domiciliary visiting, action *re* school exclusion, etc., tuberculosis, diphtheria immunisation, food poisoning, etc., bacteriological laboratory specimens, anti-toxins supplied, scabies and vermin, list of local medical practitioners, insulin, respirators for persons with respiratory trouble.

Section 3: Maternity and Child Welfare, notification of births, Clinic Health Services, Child Life Protection and Adoption of Children, death returns, disinfection of respirators (war gases).

Section 4: Environmental hygiene, sanitary complaints and nuisances, Land Charges, Searches, etc., Statutory Notices under Public Health and Housing Acts, sewers, closets, etc., food and milk; and premises and dairies, water, housing, factories, vermin, rats, etc.; swimming-baths, hairdressers, establishments for massage, private school premises, disinfectants, etc.

Section 5: Day Nurseries and Daily Guardian Scheme.

Section 6: All Civil Defence; general filing and more personal M.O.H. matters; Borough Civil Ambulances, Volunteer Car Pool.

The above arrangements have proved fluid enough to allow a smooth assumption of the additional duties which are being continually imposed upon Health Departments. At the time of writing, of course, the largest extension in the services so far is taking place as on the 16th July, the provision of the School Medical Services is being undertaken by the Department according to delegation under the Education Act, 1944.

The Staff (July, 1945) ((full-time).

Medical Officers	..... 4	Forward	..... 52
Health Visitors	..... 13	Day Nurseries.	
Home and Domestic Helps	..... 8	Matron & Sisters-in-Charge	8
Sanitary Inspectors	..... 6	Other nursing personnel	..... 58
Disinfectors	..... 2	Wardens	..... 6
Rodent Operatives	..... 2	Domestic personnel	..... 11
Sanitary Assistants	..... 2	Ambulance Service.	
Mortuary Attendant	..... 1	Station Officer and Drivers	9
Clerical Officers	..... 14	Attendants	..... 8
		Clerical and Telephone	
		Operators	3
		Forward	..... 155

SUMMARY.

Probably this is the last Report to be of an interim nature, and it is being compiled just at the end of hostilities in Europe. But even those short war-time Reports have given, in summary fashion, an indication of the increased health services which have fallen upon the Borough Council. Civil Defence, especially, filtered into all the sections of the Department, but the Ministry of Health has been providing through Local Authorities additional public health, and personal health and social services.

The essential statistics for the Borough have continued throughout the war years to be satisfactory. This applies to the

birth rate, the persistently low infant mortality rate, while the maternal mortality rate has also been falling. Still more attention is now being paid to premature infants. The attendances of mothers and children at the health clinics themselves indicate an appreciation of the services provided, the expectant mothers coming to the clinics very early in their pregnancies. The Home Help (Maternity and Child Welfare) Service was extended during the year, while now, in addition, the Ministry's Domestic Help Service is being provided. An agreement with the Middlesex County Council has been made for the welfare of the unmarried mother both before and after her baby's birth.

The infectious disease which showed rise in incidence was dysentery, while during last winter the relative incidence of the respiratory diseases fell. The local experience with regard to the efficacy of whooping-cough vaccine has been inconclusive, and before final opinion can be given still more observation must be made. The number of cases of scabies remained high but has lately shown a fall. The service provided at Wembley Hospital has been much appreciated, and it is considered that the fall in the numbers treated is a real indication of the numbers affected being less than in the earlier war years. Verminous conditions are scarcely a public health problem in the Borough.

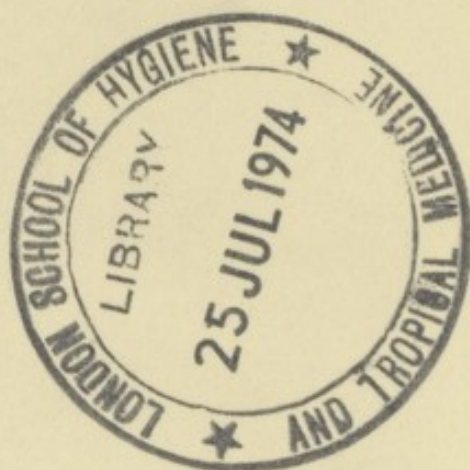
Of course, the Borough is not without its housing difficulties at this time, but the Council continue to be very sensitive about the position, and their Points Scheme—an endeavour to place applications according to essential priorities—is a model of its kind, and should assist greatly when the scarcity of housing accommodation is eased. The position of some families at the present time is most acute, especially regarding overcrowding. The service performed by the Day Nurseries is an important part of the public health. With the end of the war in Europe one may be allowed to express pride in the manner in which the personnel, full-time and part-time, of the Casualty Services responded to the trying experiences during the flying-bomb and rocket periods last year.

With the delegation under the Education Act, 1944, by the County Council, still further duties and responsibilities will fall upon the Department, but this is an opportunity for a co-ordinate and still fuller health and welfare service to be provided. It is a very pleasant duty respectfully to acknowledge the services of all the officers of the Department throughout these extraordinary war years. I would like also to thank the Council for the way in which our endeavours have always been appreciated.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. G. MORISON,
Medical Officer of Health.



R4/74

