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Contributors

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REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SHOREDITCH

IN THE COUNTY OF LONDON

FOR THE YEAR 1947

BY

B. BROADBENT, M.A., M.B., D.P.H., Medical Officer of Health

LONDON :
JAS. TRUSCOTT & SON, LTD.
BURY STREET, E.C.3



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METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SHOREDITCH

To the MAYOR, ALDERMEN and COUNCILLORS of Shoreditch.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The annual report for 1947 is still in an abridged form, though I have felt it advisable to extend the sections covering the more important parts of the services transferable under the National Health Service Act.

The vital statistics show that the Borough's resident population at mid-year was 44,610, but the daytime population for which most of the services have catered could not even be guessed, though the popularity of our foot clinics would indicate a figure approaching 500,000! It can be said, however, that the factory population is 26,770, and that warehouses, shops and offices account for at least 20,000, thus doubling the population, at a conservative estimate.

The *birth rate* was maintained at the high level of 23.18, 1,044 live babies being born without a single maternal death, although 63 births were illegitimate. The *crude death rate* rose to 14.82, but 393 of the 661 were more than 65 years of age and 480 had the benefit of institutional treatment. Between the ages of 1 and 65, cancer and heart disease, together with the 30 who died from pulmonary tuberculosis, accounted for more than half. Of the *cancer* deaths in men, the lungs and stomach exceeded all others combined as sites of election; but women showed no specially weak spot. The *infant mortality* rate was 41.19 per 1,000 live births, and was almost equally divided between pneumonia, "digestive diseases" (of which only 4 were diarrhoeal), prematurity, accidents and malformation. As a possible indication of the success of our premature babies' scheme (reported more fully in body of report) it may be remarked here that no premature baby died after the age of 1 week. Of *infectious diseases* (other than T.B.) whooping cough was by far the most fatal—a state of affairs which we hope will not continue, as we have since started immunisation sessions for this disease as well as for diphtheria. Measles and whooping cough had by far the highest incidence of all infections, but, while measles was less than in 1946, whooping cough further increased. Diphtheria incidence averaged only one per month, but there was one death (*not* immunised). The outstanding drop in incidence was of scabies notifications which were reduced from 154 in 1946 to only 62. In common with the rest of the country, Shoreditch had a great increase in the amount of *poliomyelitis*, there being 22 cases confirmed as suffering from this, as well as two cases of *polioencephalitis*. Although there was one death (a boy aged 11 years), the effects remaining after hospital treatment were almost negligible in nearly every case. The onset was between 2½ and 28 years of age, and while only 4 were under 5, and 4 between 5 and 10, there were 7 cases between 10 and 15, and another 7 were more

than 20 years old. In both Shoreditch and Islington, all cases were within easy "housefly distance" of the Regents Canal (the local children's "Lido") as mentioned in the *Medical Officer* and *Lancet* in June/July, 1948. It is hoped that, resulting from co-operation of the Food Office and Cleansing Department, our 1948 propaganda may help to reduce both flies and poliomyelitis.

Tuberculosis, and the activities of the Tuberculosis Dispensary are referred to at greater length later in the report, but perhaps one should note here that the death rate (0.74) from tuberculosis is the lowest recorded since 1938, which was, in turn, the lowest ever recorded here (0.71).

The staff of *Sanitary Inspectors* was not complete until after 1947 had ended, and the complaints of sanitary defects increased to 7,931 with more than 13,000 visits. Despite this overwhelming flow, no complaint remained unanswered for more than a day or two.

The activities of the *Maternity and Child Welfare* department are detailed later, special reference being made to the history and working of the premature infants' scheme, as this has received "higher" recognition in several directions.

Diphtheria immunisation figures have again shown that Shoreditch school entrants are rather more completely protected than the average for London, but the older age groups accounted for an undue proportion of the diphtheria patients. It is hoped that the school population will attain a higher degree of immunity as a result of the "reinforcing" injections, whose value is now being realised throughout the country.

The work of the *Borough Welfare Committee* has grown rapidly since its formation in October, 1947, especially as regards the recreation of Old People. The facilities of Effingham House at Copthorne in Surrey have been extended to allow of a country holiday for selected Old Age Pensioners; and, in addition, Clubs are held on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons at Haggerston Mission Hall, and on Monday afternoons at Hoxton Hall. These clubs are attended by 60 or more old people who not merely amuse themselves and obtain companionship, but also produce a variety of saleable articles, thus enabling them to spend occasional days at the seaside, afternoons at theatre matinées, and so forth. These activities, combined with the Home Helps Service which is also extending apace, are helping to reduce the need for "Section 224" removals, and are bringing light and activity into many otherwise lonely and useless lives.

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SHOREDITCH

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(Nov., 1947, to end of year)

Ex-officio : Alderman F. JAMES, J.P. (Mayor).

Chairman : Alderman TOUCHARD, G. J.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor SMITH, Mrs. E. E.

Alderman COYNE, W.

„ KELLETT, Miss E.

„ LINALE, R. G.

Councillor ALMEYDA, Dr. J. V.

„ BAMFORD, G. H. J.

„ BRYANT, H. T.

„ FENTON, Mrs. D.

„ HIGGINS, Mrs. M. I., M.B.E.

„ MAYHEW, A. G.

„ SAMUELS, J.

„ TALLANTIRE, Mrs. V. P.

„ THURTLIE, Mrs. D., J.P., L.C.C.

„ VARNALS, Mrs. A. E.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

(Nov., 1947, to end of year)

Chairman : Alderman KELLETT, Miss E.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor HIGGINS,
Mrs. M. I., M.B.E.

Councillor ALMEYDA, Dr. J. V.

„ BAMFORD, Mrs. E. F.

„ FENTON, Mrs. D.

„ GIRLING, Miss B.

„ GIRLING, Mrs. H., O.B.E., J.P.,
L.C.C.

„ SMITH, Mrs. E. E.

„ TALLANTIRE, Mrs. V. P.

„ VARNALS, Mrs. A. E.

(Co-opted) COLVILLE, Lady CYNTHIA,
D.C.V.O., J.P.

„ BARR, Mrs. S.

„ COSHAM, Mrs.

3 vacancies.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*Medical Officer of Health and Administrative
Tuberculosis Officer.*

J. H. D. LAWRIE, M.D., D.P.H. (commenced 1/3/47 ;
resigned 20/5/47).

B. BROADBENT, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H. (commenced 30/12/47).

Assistant Medical Officer of Health ...

*EVELYN C. MCGREGOR, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Clinical Tuberculosis Officer ...

*CARL KNIGHT CULLEN, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Medical Officers for Maternity and Child
Welfare.*

*CHARLOTTE RAY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

(part-time—sessional)

*MARY H. SNAPE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Dental Surgeons ...

*C. S. ABRAHAM, M.C., L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.).

*H. V. E. JESSOP, M.B.E., M.C., L.D.S.,
R.C.S. (Eng.)

Anæsthetist ...

*MAURICE MARCUS, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*Physician to General Medical Clinic for
Women.*

*JANET K. AITKEN, M.D., B.S.

*Gynaecologist to Birth Control and Family
Planning Clinic.*

*GLADYS HILL, M.A., M.D., B.S., M.C.O.G., F.R.C.S.

* Transferable.

<i>Medical Officer to Marriage Advisory Clinic...</i>	...	...	...	...	*P. M. BLOOM, M.B., Ch. B.
<i>Public Analyst</i>	...	...	...	...	H. AMPHLETT WILLIAMS, A.C.G.F.C., F.I.C.
<i>Public Vaccinators</i>	...	...	...	...	*N. H. CLUBWALA, M.D., B.Hy., D.P.M., D.T.M. & H.
<i>*Vaccination Officer</i>	...	...	...	...	*L. STATNIGROS, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Medical Officer of Health.
<i>Chief Sanitary Inspector</i>	...	...	...	...	DAVID GRANT.
<i>Food and Drugs Inspector</i>	...	...	...	...	F. C. SHAW.
<i>Sanitary Inspectors</i>	...	...	...	...	R. A. BISHOP. G. C. E. GIBBS. J. A. E. JONES (commenced 3/11/47). J. B. MOLLOY. F. W. REEVE (commenced 3/11/47). G. WALKER (Routine Factory Act inspections). S. I. DUNCAN (resigned 30/8/47). S. FIRSHT (resigned 3/3/47). J. MARGINSON (resigned 22/6/47). J. E. MILLWAY (resigned 28/6/47). J. H. THOMAS (retired health reasons, 21/10/47).
<i>Sanitary Inspector for Infectious Diseases</i>	...	...	...	...	Miss IVY M. HEWARD.
<i>Infectious Disease Visitor</i>	...	...	...	...	*Miss I. HARRIS.
<i>*Superintendent Health Visitor</i>	...	...	...	...	M. MORRELL.
<i>*Health Visitors</i>	...	...	...	...	K. CLEMENTS. E. F. DANCE. N. DANIELS. P. DAX. *K. E. HARVEY. M. HORNBY. D. L. MACKENZIE (resigned 19/8/47). B. L. MARYON. D. M. WALL (appointed 21/10/47).
<i>Chief Clerk and Administrative Officer</i>	...	...	...	...	§E. G. WILSHER.
<i>Clerks</i>	...	...	...	...	*E. J. HAYES (First Assistant). §G. H. PRATT (First Assistant). *W. L. JOB. *E. R. BANKS. V. H. SEWELL. *W. HARRIS (Tuberculosis Disp.). B. LEIGH. *H. FITZGERALD. *W. F. LEAVER. W. E. D. SMITH. R. BANKS. R. F. ATKINS. D. J. CROSS (commenced 29/9/47). R. J. DAVIES (commenced 10/11/47). *Mrs. I. M. RUTHERFORD (retired 27/12/47). *Miss E. LEHANE. *Miss F. AVERY (Tuberculosis Disp.).
<i>Rodent-Foreman/Clerk...</i>	...	...	...	...	H. F. BRYANT (appointed 20/5/47).
<i>Enquiry Officer</i>	...	...	...	...	*C. A. NEWSON.
<i>Tuberculosis Visitors</i>	...	...	...	...	*Miss M. K. GILROY. *Mrs. A. A. GRANGE (resigned 18/2/47). *Miss D. M. WILKINSON (commenced 2/6/47).
<i>Dispenser, Tuberculosis Dispensary</i>	...	...	...	...	*Miss J. N. HOLMES.
<i>Tuberculosis Care Committee Secretary</i>	...	...	...	...	*Miss E. B. GUEST.
<i>Dental Hospital—Nurse Clerks</i>	...	...	...	...	*Miss D. SAYERS (resigned 7/10/47). *Miss M. USHER (resigned 30/8/47). *Mrs. M. KRAFT. *Miss I. E. SMITH (commenced 8/10/47). *Miss R. MACGREGOR (commenced 29/12/47).

* Transferable.

§ Retiring 1948.

<i>Dental Technicians</i>	*T. DISS. *H. E. NEWBOLD. *J. COOPER. *B. KING (student technician). *L. COMBER (plaster boy).
<i>Chiropodists</i>	*Miss E. V. GREGORY. *Miss E. D. ATKINS. *Miss K. B. ALLEN (Temp. pt. time).
<i>Municipal Midwives</i>	*Miss A. E. LEATON. *Miss E. M. BALL.
<i>Matron, Model Welfare Centre</i>	*Miss M. D. BORROW.
<i>Social Welfare Worker</i>	Miss T. CATHCART.
<i>*Home Helps Service Organiser</i>	Mrs. J. E. ADAMS (temp. from 19/11/46).
<i>Mayfield Convalescent Home—</i>	
<i>Medical Officer</i>	*A. F. TAYLOR, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
<i>Matron</i>	§Miss E. A. SHARPEN.
<i>Effingham House, Copthorne—</i>	
<i>Medical Officer</i>	B. C. M. PALMER, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., L.M.S.S.A.
<i>Matron</i>	Mrs. E. M. LAIT.
<i>Sun Babies Nursery—Matron</i>	*Miss F. STACEY.
<i>Brunswick Day Nursery—Matron</i>	*Miss D. I. HARDEN.
<i>Paediatrician</i>	*R. H. DOBBS, B.A., M.D., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.P. M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
<i>*Obstetric Consultants</i>	HAROLD CHAPPLE, M.B., M.Ch., F.R.C.S. EARDLEY HOLLAND, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.S. W. H. MCKIM McCULLAGH, D.S.O., M.C., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S. F. W. ROQUES, M.D., B.Ch., F.R.C.S. (who with five others are common to the boroughs in Area A).

* Transferable.

§ Retiring 1948.

A great variety of industries is carried on in the Borough's 1,143 factories. Furniture-making is one of the most common of these, and one which is by tradition firmly established in the Borough. The number of home workers notified under the Factories Act was 420.

					Male	Female	Total	Birth Rate
Live births	{	Legitimate	514	467	981	23.18
		Illegitimate	38	25	63	
					552	492	1,044	

Still births	... .. 32	Rate per 1,000 total births	... .. 29·74
General death rate (crude rate)	... .. 14·82		
Percentage of total deaths occurring in public institutions	... .. 72·6		
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth—			
From sepsis	... .. Nil	From other causes	... .. Nil
Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births—			
Legitimate	... 40·78	Illegitimate	... 47·62
		Total	... 41·19
Deaths from measles (all ages)	... .. Nil		
„ „ whooping cough (all ages)	... .. 4		
„ „ diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	... .. 4		
„ „ pulmonary tuberculosis	... .. 30		
„ „ all forms of tuberculosis	... .. 33		
Death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis	... .. 0·67		
„ „ „ all forms of tuberculosis	... .. 0·74		

Comparative vital statistics of the Borough during recent years are given in the following table :—

Year	Popula- tion estimated to middle of each year	Births			Total Deaths Registered in the District		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District			
		Un- corrected Number	Nett		Number	Rate	Of Non- residents regis- tered in the District	Of residents not regis- tered in the District	Under 1 year of Age		At all Ages	
			Number	Rate					Num- ber	Rate per 1,000 nett Births	Num- ber	Rate
1936	85400	1174	1274	14.9	1224	14.3	442	312	95	75	1094	12.8
1937	82240	1138	1222	14.9	1165	14.2	389	250	66	54	1026	12.5
1938	80360	1100	1181	14.7	1105	13.7	438	248	75	64	915	11.4
*1939	77280 ^B 72910 ^D	924	1113	14.4	1137	15.3	447	252	34	31	942	12.9
1940	57090	445	916	16.0	1273	22.3	346	391	59	69	1318	23.1
1941	36360	142	634	17.4	605	16.6	163	437	32	63	879	24.2
1942	34900	255	642	18.4	447	12.8	119	283	33	50	611	17.5
1943	35460	262	671	18.9	548	15.5	283	218	31	46	556	15.7
1944	35390	241	663	18.7	599	16.9	210	195	24	36	584	16.5
1945	36760	262	697	19.0	722	19.6	156	193	27	39	603	16.4
1946	42600	486	995	23.4	624	14.6	174	164	32	32	614	14.4
1947	44610	471	1044	23.2	610	13.7	169	220	43	41	661	14.8

B. Birth rate population figure.

D. Death rate population figure.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Shoreditch is a district of irregular shape, of which the two longest diameters measure approximately one-and-a-half miles. Its boundaries are as follows :— Hackney, N. and N.E. ; Bethnal Green, E. ; Stepney, S.E. ; City, S. ; Finsbury, W. ; Islington, N. and N.W. The average height of the Borough above sea-level is 60 feet.

The subsoil of the Borough is London clay with many pockets of gravel. Some areas are covered to a depth of three feet with a good quality sandy gravel on this subsoil.

House Refuse.—The removal of house refuse is under the administrative control of the Cleansing and Transport Superintendent.

Domiciliary Relief.—I have to thank the Chief Officer of Social Welfare of the London County Council for the following figures relating to persons in receipt of domiciliary relief in Shoreditch.

Week ended	Number of persons in receipt of domi- ciliary relief (exclud- ing medical relief only)	Number of persons in receipt of medical relief only
1942 : 28th March 27th June 26th September 26th December	446 385 393 393	6 3 2 2
1943 : 27th March 26th June 25th September 28th December	414 383 341 389	4 3 — 2
1944 : 25th March 24th June 30th September 30th December	394 365 267 328	6 1 2 5
1945 : 31st March 30th June 29th September 30th December	243 351 348 356	1 4 3 4
1946 : 30th March 29th June 28th September 28th December	413 468 419 482	3 3 2 1
1947 : 29th March 28th June 27th September 27th December	522 492 448 482	3 — — 1

Hospitals.—Within the Borough :

St. Matthew's Hospital, Shepherdess Walk, N.1.

St. Leonard's Hospital, Nuttall Street, N.1.

Royal Chest Hospital, City Road, E.C.1.

Ambulance Facilities.—Ambulances are provided by the London County Council.

Venereal Diseases.—Posters and notices were displayed at the conveniences in the Borough, drawing attention to the facilities available at local hospitals.

Public Mortuary.—As a result of enemy action in 1944, the Council have no premises in the Borough, but under an arrangement with Bethnal Green Borough Council their mortuary is staffed by a mortuary keeper employed by this Council who serves both boroughs. During the year 378 bodies were deposited and 374 post mortem examinations were made.

CAUSES OF DEATH WITH AGE DISTRIBUTION

CAUSES OF DEATH	AGES														SEX		Total deaths due to each cause.
	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 to 75	75 to 85	85 and Upwards	Male	Female	
1 Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	2
3 Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 Whooping cough	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	4
5 Diphtheria	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	5	3	4	7	4	-	-	19	11	30
7 Other forms of T.B.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	3
8 Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	3	2	-	4	5	9
9 Influenza	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	3	2	-	4	5	9
10 Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11 Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
12 Acute infectious encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
13 Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus (M), uterus (F)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	-	3	3	6
14 Cancer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	5	10	2	-	11	10	21
15 Cancer of breast	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	3	-	-	9	9
16 Cancer of all other sites	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	10	17	25	9	1	44	25	69
17 Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	-	5	5	10
18 Intracranial vascular lesions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	22	21	3	26	32	58
19 Heart disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	3	7	15	47	50	19	81	67	148
20 Other diseases of the circulatory system	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	6	13	22	4	25	24	49
21 Bronchitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	5	17	18	8	42	15	57
22 Pneumonia	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	5	5	13	2	17	17	34
23 Other respiratory disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	3	1	-	-	5	4	9
24 Ulceration of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	2	1	-	7	1	8
25 Diarrhoea (under 2)	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	4
26 Appendicitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	2
27 Other digestive diseases	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	7	-	4	10	14
28 Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	-	3	2	-	6	5	11
29 Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
30 Other maternal causes...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31 Premature birth... ..	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	9
32 Congenital malformations and birth injury	11	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	8	6	14
33 Suicide	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	3	1	4
34 Road traffic accidents	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	3	1	4
35 Other violent causes	3	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	3	1	1	5	6	1	12	11	23
36 All other causes	1	-	1	1	1	-	-	2	3	4	6	7	6	6	19	19	38
Total Deaths (all causes)...	43	2	2	5	5	3	7	18	37	51	95	177	172	44	363	298	661

II.—POPULATION, BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

The Registrar-General's estimate for the mid-year 1947 population was 44,610. This shows an increase of 2,010 over the previous year. This figure is used for statistical purposes throughout this Report.

The density of the population in the Borough is 67 persons per acre.

BIRTHS

The numbers of live births registered in the Borough during the calendar year 1947 are given in the following table :—

Total Live Births (legitimate and illegitimate)	Live births registered (excluding re-registra- tions)	Inward transfers	Outward transfers	Live births allocated to the Borough
Males	254	298	—	552
Females	217	276	1	492
Totals	471	574	1	1,044
Illegitimate live births :				
Males	24	14	—	38
Females	13	12	—	25
Totals	37	26	—	63

The birth rate for the Borough was 23.18. For England and Wales the birth rate was 20.5, and for London, 22.7. The illegitimate births numbered 63, of which 38 were males. The illegitimate births therefore represented 6.03 per cent. of all the births in the Borough, as compared with 5.2 per cent. for England and Wales.

STILLBIRTHS

The number of registered stillbirths allocated to the Borough was 32, or 3 per cent. of all births.

MARRIAGES

The number of marriages during the year was 490, and the marriage rate was 21.97 per 1,000 population. The marriage rate for the Metropolis was 23.8, and for England and Wales, 18.5.

DEATHS

During 1947 the gross number of deaths registered in the Borough was 610. The transferable deaths were as follows :—

Deaths of non-residents registered in Shoreditch, 169.

Deaths of Shoreditch residents registered elsewhere, 220.

The number of deaths which must be debited to Shoreditch is accordingly 661, which gives a nett death rate of 14.82 per 1,000 population. In connection with these deaths 51 inquests were held. The death rate for England and Wales was 12.0, and for London 12.8. Altogether 480 or 72.6 per cent. of the people belonging to Shoreditch who died during the year died in public institutions.

The table on page 10 showing causes of deaths at all ages has been supplied by the Registrar-General.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

The deaths of infants under one year numbered 43, of which 23 were males and 20 females. These deaths amounted to 6.51 per cent. of the total net Shoreditch deaths from all causes as compared with 5.21 per cent. in 1946. The infantile mortality rate (death rate of infants under one year per 1,000 live births registered during the year) was 41.19. The number of deaths of illegitimate infants was 3, which gives a death rate of 47.62 per 1,000 illegitimate births. The main causes of death in infants under one year of age were premature birth, congenital malformation, etc., and pneumonia.

INFANTILE MORTALITY IN THE BOROUGH DURING 1947

CAUSE OF DEATH	AGES										SEX		Total deaths under 1 year
	Under 1 day	1 day to 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Male	Female	
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	2
Bronchitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	3	1	3	4	7
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	3	1	4
Premature birth... ..	5	4	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	3	6	9
Injury at birth	2	3	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	3	2	5
Accidental mechanical suffoca- tion	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	3	—	3
Atelectasis	4	1	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	4	1	5
Other defined diseases ...	—	1	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	3	1	6	7
Totals	11	10	1	—	—	22	6	6	5	4	22	21	43

MATERNAL MORTALITY, 1947

No maternal deaths were recorded during the year.

The maternal mortality rates in England and Wales and in Shoreditch during the past seven years are given below :—

	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births						
	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941
England and Wales	1.17	1.47	1.84	2.00	2.35	2.56	2.86
London	0.98	1.26	1.93	1.70	2.13	2.51	3.05
Shoreditch ...	Nil	2.01	1.43	3.02	2.98	3.11	1.96

CANCER

The deaths from cancer in the Borough during the year numbered 105 as compared with 97 in 1946.

III.—INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

During the year the number of notifications received (excluding tuberculosis, scabies and food poisoning) was 829. Of these cases 149 were found not to be suffering from the disease stated on the certificate, which gives a corrected number of 680 cases for the year.

SMALLPOX AND VACCINATION

No case of smallpox occurred in the Borough during the year and no vaccinations were performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917. The Medical Officer of Health acts as Vaccination Officer under the Vaccination Order.

The following particulars have been abstracted from the Vaccination Officer's Return in respect of children whose births were registered in 1946 :—

	Districts.		Total.
	N.E.	S.W.	
Number of births returned in birth list sheets ...	241	233	474
Number of successful vaccinations... ..	73	64	137
Insusceptible of vaccination	—	—	—
Certificate of conscientious objection	87	78	165
Died, unvaccinated	3	7	10
Removed to unknown address	14	11	25
Cases remaining or temporarily unaccounted for...	64	73	137
Total number of certificates of successful vaccination received during calendar year 1947...	237	264	501
Statutory Declarations of Conscientious Objection received during 1947	144	107	251

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1947
(confirmed diagnosis)

Notifiable Disease	Total number of confirmed cases	Ages							Deaths
		Under 1 year	1-5 years	5-15 years	15-25 years	25-45 years	45-65 years	65 years (plus)	
Scarlet fever	93	2	30	58	2	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria	12	—	3	7	1	1	—	—	1
Typhoid fever	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal fever	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	4	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
Acute primary and influenzal pneumonia	31	—	2	7	5	5	10	2	—
Erysipelas	18	—	—	1	1	5	9	2	—
Cerebro spinal fever	5	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	2
Ophthalmia neonatorum	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	22	—	4	12	4	2	—	—	1
Acute polioencephalitis	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
Dysentery	12	4	5	—	—	3	—	—	—
Measles	250	34	147	62	5	2	—	—	—
Whooping cough	225	36	135	54	—	—	—	—	4
Scabies	62	—	8	9	14	21	6	4	—
Totals	742	81	335	214	34	45	25	8	9
Tuberculosis—pulmonary	69	—	4	10	19	22	10	4	30
„ other forms	10	—	1	3	4	1	1	—	3
Food Poisoning	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—

NURSING IN THE HOME

The Shoreditch and Bethnal Green District Nursing Association undertakes home nursing in the Borough and has an agreement with the Borough Council under which the following types of cases are nursed under medical direction in consideration of a payment of 2s. 2d. per visit :—(i) cases referred by the Medical Officer of Health ; (ii) children under 5 years of age (the cost of these cases being chargeable to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee) ; and (iii) cases of notifiable diseases. A total of 645 visits were paid during the year.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

With the exception of those carried out at the Tuberculosis Dispensary, all the examinations made directly on behalf of the Borough Council were performed by the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene. The following examinations were carried out :—

Swabs for *b. diphtheriae*, 978 ; Sputum for tubercle bacilli, 5 ; Swab for gonococci, 1 ; Bloods for Kahn test, 481 ; Swabs for meningococci, 17 ; Ice Cream, 65 ; Dried Milk, 1 ; Well Water, 1 ; Swabs for virulence test, 1 ; Swabs for haemolytic streptococci, 23 ; Urine for complete examination, 2 ; Stools for infective organisms, 68 ; Maternity Dressings, 1 ; Ice Cream Powder, 3 ; Water, 2.

INSULIN

During the year one person, a female, was provided with insulin under authority given by Section 227, Public Health (London) Act, 1936. The cost to the Council was £9 7s. 9d.

IV.—TUBERCULOSIS

Notifications.—Sixty-nine new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 10 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1947, compared with 78 pulmonary and 10 non-pulmonary notifications in 1946. The following table gives details regarding the ages of notification of pulmonary and non-pulmonary cases, respectively :—

Age periods	FORMAL NOTIFICATIONS Number of primary notifications of new cases												Total Notifications
	0-1	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 and upwards	Total (all ages)	
Pulmonary, Males	—	2	2	1	4	6	6	6	5	3	1	36	45
„ Females	—	2	3	4	7	2	8	2	—	2	3	33	38
Non-pulmonary, Males	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	5	6
„ Females	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	5	6
Total ...	—	5	5	8	14	9	14	9	5	6	4	79	95

The supplementary table gives the age grouping of cases of tuberculosis which came to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health otherwise than by formal notifications, during the year.

Age periods	0-1	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 and upwards	Total (all ages)
Pulmonary, Males ...	—	—	(1)	—	—	(2)	(3)	(2)	1	—	1	10
„ Females ...	—	—	—	—	—	(3)	1 (4)	—	(1)	—	—	9
Non-pulmonary, Males...	—	—	—	(1)	—	(1)	—	—	—	—	—	2
„ Females	—	—	—	—	—	(1)	—	—	—	—	—	1

Figures in brackets are cases known to have been previously notified in another district.

Notification Register:—

Number of cases of tuberculosis remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1947	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Cases
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
	403	360	763	136	100	236	
Number of cases removed from Register during year by reason, <i>inter alia</i> of:—							
1. Withdrawal of notification ...	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
2. Recovery from disease ...	8	7	15	3	4	7	22
3. Death ...	19	12	31	2	1	3	34
4. Otherwise (e.g. removal from district) ...	22	18	40	3	8	11	51

The following table shows the incidence of cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from that disease for the last ten years:—

Year	Notification rate per 1,000 population			Death rate per 1,000 population		
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	All forms	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	All forms
1938 ...	1.19	0.27	1.47	0.59	0.12	0.71
1939 ...	1.00	0.25	1.25	0.93	0.15	1.08
1940 ...	1.63	0.28	1.91	1.37	0.17	1.54
1941 ...	2.67	0.36	3.03	1.98	0.19	2.17
1942 ...	1.66	0.57	2.23	1.34	0.06	1.40
1943 ...	2.31	0.39	2.71	1.30	0.17	1.47
1944 ...	2.12	0.23	2.35	0.76	0.09	0.85
1945 ...	1.74	0.38	2.12	0.95	0.14	1.09
1946 ...	1.83	0.24	2.07	0.92	0.09	1.01
1947 ...	1.55	0.22	1.77	0.67	0.07	0.74

Particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and deaths during the year are given in the following table :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0- ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- ...	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
5- ...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
10- ...	1	4	2	2	—	1	1	—
15- ...	4	7	1	2	1	1	—	—
20- ...	8	5	2	1	2	2	—	—
25- ...	9	13	—	—	2	4	—	—
35- ...	8	2	—	1	3	—	—	—
45- ...	6	1	—	—	2	1	1	—
55- ...	3	2	1	—	5	1	—	1
65 and upwards ...	2	3	—	—	4	1	—	—
Totals ...	46	42	7	6	19	11	2	1

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925

These Regulations prohibit a person suffering from tuberculosis, and who is in an infectious condition, from following any employment or occupation in connection with a dairy which would involve the milking of cows, the treatment of milk, or the handling of vessels used for containing milk. No formal action was necessary during the year.

The Mass Miniature Radiography Unit was in operation on two occasions during the year, the unit being situated at St. Bartholomew's Hospital and Bethnal Green Hospital. Twenty-one firms participated in the scheme, the results of the examinations being shown below :—

Persons examined	Referred for larger films	Did not re-attend	No abnormality	Calc'd and other lesions	Referred to Gen. Pract.		Refused further investigation
					Prob. T.B.	Cardio vasc.	
Males— 873	28	1	4	12	7	3	1
Females— 655	25	3	5	6	8	3	—
Total— 1,528	53	4	9	18	15	6	1

TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER'S REPORT

Since the last normal Report in 1938, many changes have occurred in the tuberculosis world as in other fields of medicine, and more changes are in prospect. There have been important developments in diagnosis, in treatment, and in the attention given to the social and economic welfare of the tuberculous patient and his family.

The introduction of mass miniature radiography has made possible the X-ray examination of large numbers of apparently normal people aggregated together in factories, schools and hostels, with a very great saving in time and materials. Because of the present limitations, however, the travelling mass radiography unit operated by the London County Council has only been able to visit the neighbourhood of Shoreditch twice since its inception in 1943. On each occasion the unit was stationed in a neighbouring borough for a few weeks and Shoreditch was given the opportunity to send only two thousand workers from local factories for examination, a very small proportion of the day-time working population. Attendance was, of course, voluntary. These limited facilities can hardly be regarded as being more than experimental.

Apart from mass radiography, far more use has been made of the ordinary full-size film technique. All patients referred to the dispensary for investigation are now X-rayed as a routine, periodical examinations are made of most adolescent "contacts" and serial check-up films are taken of patients under supervision to assess the progress of treatment. In 1938, the number of X-ray examinations for the dispensary was 392; in 1947 the number had risen to 1,067.

Another diagnostic test much more extensively used in recent years is the tuberculin skin test, mainly for children. The method used at the Shoreditch Dispensary is almost invariably the tuberculin jelly test, carried out as a routine on all children attending as suspects for diagnosis or for examination as contacts. Children with positive reactions are X-rayed as a routine; those with negative reactions are only X-rayed if some abnormal condition is suspected.

In the field of treatment, far more use is now made of thoracic surgery and there has also been a steady increase in the number of cases treated by artificial pneumothorax. Arrangements were made with the neighbouring Chest Hospitals to undertake this work; and though the volume of both radiographic examinations and pneumothorax treatment has very considerably increased, the restricted accommodation at the dispensary precluded the installation of X-ray apparatus or the holding of pneumothorax clinics. The arrangements with the Chest Hospitals for pneumothorax refills have therefore been continued, and 33 patients received a total of 541 refills.

Since 1936, when the County Council offered facilities for X-ray work at their own hospitals, the bulk of the radiography has been done at St. Leonard's Hospital and the radiological interpretation of the films at the dispensary. For working patients unable to attend that hospital during normal week-day hours, facilities have been available at Bethnal Green Hospital on Saturday afternoons. A few requiring

special tomographic X-rays (focusing different layers of the lung in a series of films) have been sent to the London Chest Hospital or the Royal Chest Hospital, both of them within easy reach for Shoreditch patients.

It is to be hoped that the proposed incorporation of the chest clinics in the hospitals, under the National Health Service Act, will ultimately enable the whole work of the dispensary to be carried out under a unified direction. A further advantage of this arrangement will be the greater opportunity for consultation with other specialist departments and perhaps also for consultation between chest physicians now often working in relative isolation.

Nevertheless, the institution of a borough dispensary in 1931 has had its advantages. The closer integration with the Borough Health Department and the closer relationship with the democratic machinery of local government led to the development of a more complete service and a fuller consideration of the social and environmental problems which affect the welfare of the patient, particularly in such a disease as tuberculosis. These aspects of treatment are now widely recognised in the Tuberculosis Service and though, when the chest clinic becomes a hospital out-patient department, there may be some danger of a return to a purely clinical approach, the Service as a whole is probably sufficiently conscious of the importance of these other aspects to be able not only to stand its ground but also perhaps to provoke emulation. Moreover, the chest physician will be jointly appointed by the Local Health Authorities and the Regional Hospital Board. Whilst this arrangement is intended to maintain the responsibility of the local authorities for the environmental work and to safeguard its continuation, the prospect of dual control is viewed with some misgiving by many tuberculosis workers.

It is appropriate here to refer to the new measures of social security affecting the tuberculous patient already introduced and in process of development. An important step was the introduction of the scheme for special financial allowances to certain categories of tuberculous patients under Ministry of Health Memorandum 266/T (1943). Assistance under this scheme was restricted to patients suffering from pulmonary disease giving up work to undergo treatment and certified as likely to regain capacity for re-employment. Because of its limitations, the scheme was of benefit to only a small proportion of patients. For those with no other source of income, the scales of assistance were inadequate for the maintenance of a satisfactory standard of living and in some cases were even less than the scales of public assistance already available. On the other hand a few patients benefited considerably and official recognition, even if limited, was given to a need long urged by tuberculosis workers, namely, the need of the tuberculous patient for special financial assistance if he was to undertake a long period of treatment before sheer incapacity forced him to give up work. Assurances have recently been given that under the new National Assistance Bill some of the restrictions of Memorandum 266/T will be removed; all cases of respiratory tuberculosis (other than married women) who have suffered a loss of income to undergo treatment will be eligible for a higher rate of assistance. Unfortunately, the need of the non-pulmonary cases and their families for a higher standard

of living as an aid to recovery and a protection against contracting the disease has not been conceded.

The Disabled Persons Employment Act (1944) has laid the foundations for the provision of sheltered employment for the chronic tuberculous patients unfit to resume their place in normal industry. Little progress has yet been made in developing the special measures necessary for these patients, but the general provisions of the Act have been utilised (with the co-operation of the local Rehabilitation Officer) in securing lighter employment for many patients not so seriously handicapped.

An even more serious problem which, unlike that of rehabilitation, is comparatively new is the shortage of hospital and sanatorium beds consequent upon the shortage of nursing and domestic staffs. Before the war, it was possible to get any patient into hospital or sanatorium without serious delay. Urgent admissions to hospital could usually be arranged within twenty-four hours, and to sanatorium within two or three weeks or less. In present circumstances, many dying patients have to remain at home, often under very unsuitable conditions—crowded homes, unskilled attention, serious discomfort for themselves and strain for their relatives. Curable cases needing active treatment to arrest the spread of the disease may similarly be confined to bed at home for many months before a vacancy can be found for them and may ultimately be unsuitable for the special treatment which could have been given earlier. As a result, the duration of their treatment is much prolonged, the chances of recovery are reduced, and in any case more serious damage is done before the disease is finally arrested. Apart from the tragedy for the individual, the economic loss to the nation is considerably increased. With the reduction in the number of tuberculosis wards available, it is small wonder that many infectious patients are admitted, through some emergency such as collapse in the street or sudden severe hæmorrhage, to the general wards of hospitals. To meet these problems it is a matter of extreme urgency that nursing recruitment should be intensified and that more attractive conditions of pay and service should be offered to recruits.

The other outstanding problem, which is unfortunately not new but has been aggravated by the war, is that of rehousing the crowded families. The shortage of hospital and sanatorium accommodation makes this even more urgent than before. For such new housing as is available, patients with active pulmonary disease are given preferential consideration by our local housing authorities, but there is inevitably a long delay.

Some slight alleviation of this problem is secured by the provision of boarding-out for children belonging to families in which an infectious case is at home. Boarding-out can also be arranged for children whose mothers have to go away for treatment. The cost of boarding-out is borne, in approved cases, by the County Council and the arrangements are made through the Invalid Children's Aid Association. This Association also arranges convalescence for ailing children not suffering from tuberculosis, as has our own Borough Council at its Mayfield Home in Sussex.

The difficulty of securing hospital accommodation in the past two years increased the number of sick patients requiring domiciliary visiting and medical supervision at

home. Treatment at home is, of course, mainly carried out by the patient's general practitioner but home consultations and specialist supervision of the "bed-cases" are an important aspect of the dispensary work. Visits by the medical officer to the home are also of importance in the control of the environmental factors of the disease.

In spite of the many post-war problems, it is satisfactory to be able to record that although the population figures have been steadily mounting again since the great migration compelled by the blitz, there has been some reduction in the number of new cases of tuberculosis notified in the Borough. This is the more satisfactory in that the number of suspect cases referred for investigation has steadily risen.

The following table illustrating the work of the dispensary may be of interest :—

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Estimated population ...	35,460	35,390	36,760	42,600	44,610
Suspect cases investigated ...	187	197	218	246	254
Contacts examined ...	167	206	147	173	200
New cases notified ...	96	83	78	88	79
Dispensary attendances ...	2,857	2,827	2,988	3,408	3,577
X-ray examinations ...	604	700	719	954	1,067
Specimens of sputum, etc., examined ...	380	426	412	475	551
Domiciliary visits by medical officer ...	185	170	115	155	190
Domiciliary visits by Tuber- culosis Visitors ...	3,425	3,558	3,755	3,101	4,031
Admissions to institutions ...	82	92	67	56	56

Most of the pre-war arrangements for reference of patients to other specialist departments have been continued. Increasing use has been made of the facilities at St. Leonard's Hospital. A number of surgical cases have been referred there for surgical supervision but most of those cases which have been under treatment in the County Council's surgical sanatoria attend the surgical after-care clinics at County Hall, where they are seen by the Medical Superintendents of the sanatoria concerned.

Tuberculous laryngitis appears to be less common than formerly, but a few cases have been referred to the laryngologist at the Royal Chest Hospital (Mr. Ian Robin, and later, Mr. Owen). Laryngitis is often a terminal condition and patients are sometimes too ill to be sent to an out-patient department. A few cases of non-tuberculous disease of the ear, nose or throat have also been referred either to the Royal Chest Hospital or to St. Leonard's.

Patients requiring dental treatment, unless they have their own dentist, are referred to the Borough Dental Hospital. The charge for treatment is assessed by the Tuberculosis Care Committee; in many cases it is free.

Extra nourishment (for adults, two pints of milk daily and 1 lb. of Bournvita monthly; for children half these quantities) is supplied free or at half-cost for patients eligible under the Health Committee's scale. During 1947, 105 patients received it free and 55 at half-cost.

Bedding was supplied on loan to 11 patients, and one open-air shelter, first lent to the patient concerned in 1939, remained in use.

TUBERCULOSIS CARE SUB-COMMITTEE

During 1947 there was considerable discussion on the changes likely to be made in the Tuberculosis Service under the National Health Service Act, particularly with regard to the future of Care Work. The Shoreditch Tuberculosis Care Committee was represented at the Standing Conference of Metropolitan Boroughs Tuberculosis Care Committees, at which the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee of the London County Council were present. At the Conference, Tuberculosis Care Committees were invited by the London County Council to continue their work for a trial period of three years after the inauguration of the new Health Service in July, 1948, and were informed that any monies subscribed voluntarily to their funds could be spent by the local Tuberculosis Care Committees as they wished, as heretofore. The realisation that such funds could continue to be administered by the local Committees was welcome indeed to all those interested in the future of the tuberculous patient.

In 1947 £264 was added to the fund through the Seal Sale and the following donations were also received :—

United Charities of St. Leonard	...	...	£17 10s. 0d.
Alexandra Day Fund	...	...	5 0s. 0d.
Sturt Hoxton Estate	...	...	£2 2s. 0d.

A special gift of £26 10s. 0d. was received from the Hoxton Excelsior Silver Band, which the Committee gratefully acknowledge.

A very successful dance was held on the 21st November, 1947, when the net proceeds were £122.

Some special payments may perhaps be recorded :—

An ambulance was provided to take a bed-patient from Shoreditch to Romford, where she was going to live with a sister.

Fares for two children to be taken to stay with their grandmother in Wales whilst their father (an infectious case) was obliged to remain at home awaiting a hospital vacancy.

Such charges are not met out of any Statutory Fund.

A very useful purchase made by the Committee was some mattresses, in order that some bedsteads given to the Committee by various private individuals might be utilised as gifts to families who were not eligible for beds on loan through the Borough Council.

The Hoxton Market Mission very kindly arranged that a wheel chair could be delivered to the invalid wife of a patient, for her permanent use, free of charge.

Many patients were helped through the Women's Voluntary Services and also through the Shaftesbury Society, where the Committee were enabled to purchase clothes for mothers and children at a very reduced rate.

As, up to the end of 1947, no addition had been made to the fuel allowance under the Government scheme, the Committee decided to supplement these allowances, bringing them up to 5s. instead of only the 3s. 6d. allowed under the scheme. This supplementary allowance of 1s. 6d. per week was made in about twelve cases.

The allowances mentioned above granted to certain pulmonary cases under Memorandum 266/T were continued during the year, the total cost repaid by the Treasury being £2,477 17s. 6d.

V.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

STATISTICS

Population	...	...	...	44,610
Birth Rate	...	...	...	23.18
Stillbirth Rate (per 1,000 births)				29.74
Deaths of infants under one year				
of age	...	...	...	43
Live births, legitimate	...	...		981
Live births, illegitimate	...	...		63
Stillbirths, legitimate	...	...		28
Stillbirths, illegitimate	...	...		4
Infant mortality rate	...	...		41
Maternal mortality—deaths	...			Nil
Maternal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	...	...	...	Nil

HOME VISITING

The Health Visiting Staff consists of a Superintendent Health Visitor and eight District Visitors. The number of visits paid during the year was 16,677. Of these, 1,000 were first visits, 5,101 were subsequent visits to infants under one year, and 6,293 were visits to children between 1 and 5 years of age.

ANTE-NATAL AND POST-NATAL SUPERVISION

Four ante-natal clinics in charge of part-time medical staff were held at the Model Welfare Centre, on Monday morning and afternoon and Wednesday and Friday morning. Since 1945 post-natal cases have also attended the ante-natal clinic.

Particulars of the attendances at the Council's ante-natal and post-natal clinics during the last eight years are as follows :—

Model Welfare Centre	Number of Mothers first attendances		Number of re-attendances		Total attendances	
	Ante-Natal	Post-Natal	Ante-Natal	Post-Natal	Ante-Natal	Post-Natal
1940	570	91	1,983	26	2,553	117
1941	468	40	1,543	—	2,011	40
1942	523	71	1,895	—	2,418	71
1943	451	76	1,859	—	2,310	76
1944	472	32	1,867	2	2,339	34
1945	519	40	2,058	—	2,577	40
1946	749	80	3,064	—	3,813	80
1947	566	109	2,593	—	3,159	109

There were 24 X-ray examinations carried out by St. Leonard's Hospital during the year.

MATERNITY WORK

The number of midwives practising in Shoreditch at the end of the year was 16.

The number of births attended by the midwives in patients' own homes was 466 which represents 44.4 per cent. of the total births notified during the year.

MUNICIPAL MIDWIVES

In November the Council decided to transfer the two municipal midwives to the control of the London County Council, the date for transfer being finally fixed for 16th February, 1948.

The number of cases attended by the Municipal Midwives was	...	125
„ „ „ ante-natal visits paid by „ „ „	...	665
„ „ „ ante-natal clinics attended by „ „ „	...	46
„ „ „ home nursings undertaken by „ „ „	...	2,032

CONFINEMENTS

Of the 1,049 confinements of Shoreditch women which occurred in 1947, 581, or 55.4 per cent., occurred in institutions, and 448, or 44.6 per cent., in the homes of the women concerned.

MATERNITY DRESSINGS

130 sterilised maternity outfits were issued during the year, the patients being asked to contribute what they could afford towards the cost.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES

The Council's two infant welfare centres continue to be held in the Model Welfare Centre and Maurice Hostel Club. Clinics are held daily except Saturday from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. at the Model Welfare Centre, and on Tuesday and Thursday from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. at the Maurice Hostel premises.

ARTIFICIAL SUNLIGHT CLINIC

Sessions for children only are held on Wednesday and Friday afternoons at the Model Welfare Centre.

The number of children who attended for the first time was 110 and the total attendances were 1,578. Where considered necessary the diagnosis and progress of cases referred to this clinic for rickets is confirmed by radiological examination at St. Leonard's Hospital, the number of X-ray examinations made during the year being 5.

BREAST FEEDING CLINIC

This clinic is held at the Model Welfare Centre on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. The number of first attendances was 238 and the total attendances 474.

Particulars of work done during the year are given below :—

Cases where breast feeding restored	...	...	42
Partial restoration of breast feeding	...	...	107
Impossible restorations	...	...	29
Number of test feeds	...	...	776
Breast treatments	...	...	79
Cases of overfeeding	...	...	28
Cases of underfeeding	...	...	107
Cases requiring regulation only	...	...	77
Cases weaned for medical reasons	...	...	1

TODDLERS' CLINIC

This clinic is held at the Model Welfare Centre on Tuesday mornings, and includes children seeking admission to the day nurseries. The first attendances numbered 346 and the total attendances 645.

DENTAL CLINIC

The dental treatment of mothers and children referred from the Maternity and Child Welfare clinic doctors is carried out at the Municipal Dental Hospital, the first attendances of mothers being 636 and of children 52. The total attendances were 1,432 mothers, 89 children.

Further particulars of treatment given to mothers and children is given in the table on page 33.

OTORRHOEA CASES

The number of cases visited by the Shoreditch District Nursing Associations under arrangement with the Council was 18, and the total visits 193.

NURSING IN THE HOME

The District Nursing Association undertakes the nursing of children under 5 years and of parturient women referred to them by medical practitioners and by the Maternity and Child Welfare department. The number of cases visited was 68, and the total visits paid 427.

PREMATURE INFANTS

At the end of 1947 the scheme for the care of premature infants had been in operation for three-and-half years, and it is therefore possible to consider the experience gained during that period.

It was decided by the Council that a (specially trained) health visitor, experienced in the care of the premature infant, should be responsible for the care of the premature infants, the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, Dr. McGregor, being in charge of the administrative arrangements. The choice of a health visitor rather than a midwife was made in order to achieve continuity in the feeding and care of the child for some time after the confinement.

Sound knowledge and judgment are required in this work which necessitates constant co-operation with hospitals and midwives; the confidence of the mothers and fathers must also be gained if the best results are to be achieved.

In an area where homes are frequently overcrowded and lack many necessities, the equipment (which has been lent in 95 cases since its inception) has probably been the means of saving the lives of many infants—as instanced during the cold spell in 1947 when a premature baby was returned to its home by an institution without any notice being sent to this department, and was found by the health visitor in a box in the corner of a room which had no furniture and no fire. A letter is now sent to all institutions where a premature infant is born, requesting information some days before the infant is due to come home so that the necessary arrangements for its care can be made.

Skilled medical and nursing care of the infant in its own home prevent many babies being removed to institutions, but in all cases the decision to remove the child is only made after it has been seen by the Assistant Medical Officer of Health, or if necessary by the paediatrician. The latter can be called in whenever a consultant's opinion is required. If it is considered possible the child is nursed at home. The health visitor makes frequent visits, helps the mother to establish breast feeding where necessary or to supervise artificial feeding if inevitable. When the infant is breast-fed all is usually well, though it is unfortunate that no breast milk bank is yet available; breast milk is, however, obtained from individual tested mothers and is used after boiling for certain infants.

As soon as a notification of a premature birth in a home is received, the special visitor endeavours to contact the midwife and calls at the home to find out what equipment is required. The visitor also leaves for the midwife the necessary vitamin preparations with directions as to the recommended method of administration. In many cases the visit is made at a time when the midwife is in attendance so that the care of the infant can be discussed. By co-operation with the midwives it is possible in most cases to secure the early administration of the necessary vitamins and medicaments used in the prevention of the diseases to which premature babies are prone. Much depends on the careful teaching of the mother by the midwives and premature baby visitor. The latter attends until the infant is considered fit to pass to the district health visitor.

To secure continuity in medical care as well as for research purposes, it is thought that a special premature infant clinic (to which infants could come by appointment) would be very valuable. At present they are seen regularly at the welfare centre. Some mothers are in need of rest and nourishing food as well as constant help in handling the premature infant, and a small unit to which these mothers and infants could be admitted would be most beneficial.

Much supervision of the return and care of the equipment which includes cots, clothing, blankets, hot-water bottles, screens, scales, etc., is required. The best equipment that can be obtained is used and it is difficult at times in necessitous cases to secure its return. Much help in replacing the equipment has been given by the W.V.S. and other interested persons.

Many doctors, health visitors and other interested workers have visited Shore-ditch to see the recommendations of Ministry of Health Circular 20/44 being carried out in a poor area.

CONVALESCENCE

In addition to the children and mothers who had short stays either at Effingham House or Mayfield Home, the Council made monetary grants towards the cost of convalescence of two children during the year.

DAY NURSERIES

The Council administers two day nurseries. The Sun Babies Nursery, Upwey Street, has accommodation for 25 children under 2 years and 35 toddlers aged 2 to 5 years. The Brunswick Day Nursery, Haggerston Road, has accommodation for 60 children aged 2 to 5 years.

The numbers of attendances at the Nurseries during 1947 are as follows:—

				<i>Attendances.</i>	
				<i>First.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Sun Babies Nursery	...	...	...	71	10,828
Brunswick Day Nursery	...	...	...	70	10,361

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

An agreement was entered into on 22nd January, 1930, whereby, in consideration of a payment of £150 per annum (increased since then to £200 per annum), children might be sent to the hospital for examination and report by a member of the honorary staff, for treatment at the minor ailment centre, or for admission to hospital.

The following are particulars of cases referred under this agreement since 1943 :—

Year	In-Patients		Out-Patients		Casualty	
	Number	Days	New cases	Attendances	New cases	Attendances
1943	21	205	38	102	21	79
1944	13	118	38	137	11	24
1945	7	128	43	167	19	62
1946	6	53	180	720	120	450

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION

The supervision of foster children and the homes of foster mothers is carried out by the woman sanitary inspector. During the year 72 visits were paid by her to child life protection cases.

The work for the year is shown below :—

Number of foster mothers on register on 1st January, 1947	...	...	2
" " " " " " at end of year	...	...	2
" " " children " " on 1st January, 1947	...	...	2
" " " " " " at end of year	...	...	2
" " " " received by foster parents during the year	...	...	1
" " children returned to parents during the year	...	...	1

ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

The Council continued to subscribe to the fund administered by the Metropolitan Boroughs' Standing Joint Committee whereby annual payments are made to the various Moral Welfare Associations. Close co-operation is maintained with the various associations and in particular with the Shoreditch Moral Welfare Association. The births of 63 illegitimate children were registered during 1947, and it is gratifying to note that their mortality is now scarcely any greater than that of the legitimate children.

MAYFIELD CONVALESCENT HOME

This Home for ailing children aged 2 to 5 years was opened by the Council on 2nd June, 1939. It has accommodation for 15 toddlers, whose average length of stay was 23.5 days. The number of admissions to the Home each year since 1939 is shown below :—

Year	...	...	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Admissions	...	...	119	206	147	193	170	90	140	140	132

EFFINGHAM HOUSE, COPTHORNE

Effingham House ceased to be a war-time nursery in September, 1945, and subsequently children in need of country air were sent there in a similar way to those sent to Mayfield Home. Effingham House is now available to both mothers and children in need of convalescence. It has also been possible, as an experiment, to send a few old people for a short stay. The following table shows the admissions during the year :—

	<i>Mothers.</i>	<i>Children—Ages</i>			<i>Old</i>	<i>Total.</i>
		<i>0—1</i>	<i>1—2</i>	<i>2—5</i>	<i>People.</i>	
Number admitted ...	51	35	50	92	46	274

HOME HELPS SERVICE

The Council's full-time home help organiser commenced her duties in November 1946. Home helps are provided for maternity and child welfare cases and other cases in which assistance is needed by reason of age and infirmity, chronic illness, etc. The expenditure incurred in providing home helps for aged and infirm persons is reclaimable from the Ministry.

The number of full-time home helps employed at the commencement of the year was 7 and the number of part-time helps 7. At the end of the year 13 full-time and 3 part-time home helps were employed.

The cases dealt with during the year are shown below :—

	<i>M.C.W.</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>Total.</i>
	<i>Cases.</i>	<i>Cases.</i>	
Number of persons assisted	78	94	172

DINING CENTRES

There are two dining centres in the Borough, both of which are under the control of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. Necessitous mothers and toddlers may receive dinners on the recommendation of one of the assistant medical officers. Liability is determined by the assisted services scale. In special cases, however, where the income is above the scale, expectant and nursing mothers and toddlers may have dinners at an agreed cost of 9d. per dinner for mothers and 4d. for toddlers.

Mothers who have a toddler attending for dinners may also have dinners at a cost of 9d.

Particulars of attendances are shown below :—

Number of dinners supplied :

Model Welfare Centre		108, Shepherdess Walk	
Mothers	Toddlers	Mothers	Toddlers
2,211	2,754	1,376	2,026

SCHOOL ENTRANTS

I have to thank the County Medical Officer of Health for the following information regarding the routine medical inspection of Shoreditch pupils entering school during 1947.

	Shoreditch Number examined				London Percentages	
	Boys 346		Girls 334		Boys %	Girls %
	No.	%	No.	%		
Vaccinated	91	26.3	102	30.5	53.5	53.9
Immunised against diph- theria	264	76.3	281	84.1	78.4	78.4
Classification of General Condition :						
A. Good ...	98	28.3	123	36.8	37.9	41.4
B. Fair ...	241	69.7	206	61.7	57.9	55.0
C. Poor ...	7	2.0	5	1.5	4.2	3.6
Head—Clean	341	98.6	328	98.2	99.3	98.5
Verminous	5	1.4	6	1.8	0.7	1.5
Body—Clean	344	99.4	330	98.8	99.7	99.8
Dirty	1	0.3	4	1.2	0.3	0.2
Verminous	1	0.3	—	—	0.006	0.006
Teeth—Sound	250	72.3	225	67.4	71.3	70.9
Defective	96	27.7	109	32.6	28.7	29.1

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following tables show the numbers immunised during the year and the number of children in the Borough who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.

	Age at date of Final Injection		
	Under 5 years	5 to 14 years	Total
Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation during 1947	776	68	844
Total number of children who were given a secondary or reinforcing injection during 1947	79		

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population

Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947 :—

Age at 31st December, 1947	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
Number immunised ...	141	562	409	465	472	2,030	1,869	5,948
Estimated mid-year child population ...	3,990					6,560		

One notification was received in respect of a girl aged 8 years, who had completed a full course of immunisation treatment ; the attack was not severe and the patient fully recovered. One death from diphtheria occurred during the year, a boy aged 6 years (not immunised).

The scheme in which immunisation is carried out by medical practitioners at the homes of patients continued in force during the year ; material is supplied free and a fee of 6s. per injection is paid to the practitioners.

VI.—SPECIAL CLINICS

SPECIAL CLINICS FOR WOMEN

The special women's clinics continue to be held at the Health Centre, Laburnum Street. The attendances at both clinics have been maintained during the year. The scope of the work carried out at the clinics has not altered but the functions of the Gynaecological clinic were transferred to the control of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee on 9th December and the clinic renamed " Birth Control and Family Planning Clinic." (*See below.*)

GENERAL MEDICAL CLINIC

Women suffering from any complaint of a medical nature may attend this clinic, but they are strongly advised to bring with them a report from their private practitioner or from the doctor at some other clinic. The clinic is held jointly with the Birth Control and Family Planning Clinic on Tuesdays each week at 5 p.m. and on alternate Thursdays at 5 p.m.

During the year 78 sessions were held. 195 new cases attended the clinic, and the total attendances were 889. Most of these patients were referred by clinic doctors or by health visitors. The number of patients referred to hospital for examination or treatment was 16. Fifty-six patients were referred to the Birth Control clinic.

BIRTH CONTROL AND FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC

At this clinic, birth regulation cases and gynaecological cases are dealt with at the same session. Minor conditions which are treated at the clinic include erosions, prolapse and other displacements. No single method of contraceptive technique is used. In many cases Dutch caps are recommended and fitted, and frequently these are supplemented by solubles or by lactic acid pessaries. The method employed is often dictated by the medical condition of the applicant. The clinic is held jointly with the General Medical Clinic on Tuesdays each week and on alternate Thursdays at 5 p.m.

During the year 79 sessions were held ; 351 new cases attended the clinic and the total attendances numbered 938. The number of attendances for gynaecological conditions was 764. The number of first attendances for birth control advice was 77, and the reattendances 97. The number of patients referred to hospital for admission, treatment diagnosis, etc., was 59.

MARRIAGE ADVISORY CLINIC

This clinic continued to be held at the Model Welfare Centre, 210, Kingsland Road. The Public Health Committee, at its meeting on 25th September agreed to the recommendation that the clinic should be held once a week instead of fortnightly. It is held at the same time as the special women's clinics. The number of new cases attending the 22 sessions held during the year was 22 and the revisits totalled 19.

DENTAL HOSPITAL

The staff at the Dental Hospital consists of two full-time dental surgeons, one part-time medical anaesthetist for emergency and special anaesthetics, three full time nurses, three dental technicians and two junior technicians.

The number of weekly sessions is 19. Three of these sessions are for anaesthetic cases only ; both the dental surgeons act as anaesthetists, generally reversing the functions of operator and anaesthetist in turn.

Persons resident or working in the borough may attend. Residents with a minimum residential qualification of six months, are entitled to treatment at free or reduced cost according to income. The scale of income for remission of charges was revised by the Council on 18th November. The income scale is not applicable in respect of M. & C.W. cases, who are treated free of cost (except provision of dentures) if referred for treatment by the welfare centres ; or in cases of pregnancy if referred by medical practitioners.

The undermentioned tables show the work of the dental hospital during the year under review.

INSPECTION AND TREATMENT

	Examinations	First treatments	Extractions	Surgical operations	Other treatments	Conservative work			Mechanical work			Anaesthetics			Number of visits
						Scalings	Fillings	Silver nitrate	Dentures	Repairs	Orthodontics	Local	General	Special	
<i>Children—</i>															
Under 5 years...	52	37	81	—	—	—	—	67	—	—	—	8	30	—	89
Over 5 years...	410	309	656	1	55	12	121	204	—	—	6	10	280	—	915
Total Children	462	346	737	1	55	12	121	271	—	—	6	18	310	—	1,004
<i>Adults, etc.—</i>															
Women referred from M.C.W.	636	333	743	—	182	59	214	119	57	8	—	12	245	—	1,432
Other women	1,324	753	3,087	4	1,562	100	267	10	560	182	—	40	737	—	4,427
Half-rate women	189	140	210	1	65	13	126	—	12	—	—	4	114	—	494
Half-rate men...	96	73	113	—	10	9	58	—	4	2	—	1	63	—	224
Other men ...	848	498	1,464	4	810	95	240	14	304	151	—	64	384	—	2,684
T.B. patients...	11	10	30	—	17	8	13	—	7	1	—	5	2	—	62
Adults and adolescents...	3,104	1,807	5,647	9	2,646	284	918	143	944	344	—	126	1,545	—	9,323
Totals ...	3,566	2,153	6,384	10	2,701	296	1,039	414	944	344	6	144	1,855	—	10,327

ANALYSIS OF VISITS DURING 1947

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Total
Monday	1,038	1,045	680	2,763
Tuesday	—	988	1,117	2,105
Wednesday	681	1,136	—	1,817
Thursday	—	903	1,018	1,921
Friday	1,032	689	—	1,721
Total	2,751	4,761	2,815	10,327

FOOT CLINIC

The demand for municipal chiropody continues to grow, and there is no doubt that the municipal foot clinic fulfils a useful function. The clinic, established in 1936, is situated in the Health Centre, Laburnum Street. It deals with minor abnormalities of the feet such as corns, bunions, ingrowing toenails, etc. Orthopaedic cases are referred either to the patient's own doctor or to hospital.

The staff now consists of two whole-time chiropodists and one part-time chiropodist. The two whole-time chiropodists both undertake 11 sessions weekly, and the part-time chiropodist two or three sessions weekly. Even so, the patients are not seen after their first attendance as often as the chiropodists desire, because of the pressure of work.

The total attendances during 1947 were as follows:—

Year	New cases				Re-visits	Total attendances
	Under 5 years	5 to 15 years	15 years (plus)	Total		
1947	12	19	453	484	8,366	8,850

The scale of charges at present in force is 2s. 6d. for the first visit and 1s. 6d. for each of three subsequent visits during a period of eight weeks following the first. Few people have only one foot treated and no distinction is made now in the charge for one or both feet treated. The Council have also decided that the following cases should receive treatment free of charge—

- Old Age Pensioners, on production of pension book.
- Unemployed, on production of card from Labour Exchange.
- Maternity and Child Welfare and Tuberculosis cases, on production of a card signed by the appropriate medical officer.
- Hardship cases, on production of a card signed by the M.O.H. or his assistant.

VII.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

The following tables summarize the visits of inspection and the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during 1947.

Inspections.

Housing Consolidated Regulations ...	184
Housing Act, 1936, Section 9 ...	52
Housing Act, 1936, Section 12 ...	58
Other dwellings ...	7,635
Premises not specified below ...	158
Houses let in lodgings ...	2
Factories—mechanical ...	516
„ non-mechanical ...	67
Outworkers ...	66
Bakehouses ...	100
Milkshops ...	434
Cookshops ...	544
Fried Fish shops ...	66
Ice Cream shops ...	353
Butchers' shops, stalls, stores, etc. ...	167
Rag and Bone dealers ...	11
Registered Food shops or premises ...	367
Fish Curers' premises ...	10
Fur Skin dresser's premises ...	1
Stables ...	9
Common Lodging Houses ...	3
Shops Act, 1934 ...	1,274
Smoke observations ...	66
Pharmacy & Poisons Act, 1933 ...	188
Markets ...	62
Static water tanks ...	59
Visits by Infectious Disease Visitors ...	3,631

Summary of Work Done.

Premises, cleansed throughout ...	148
Premises, partially cleansed throughout ...	1,858
Premises, total rooms ...	5,570
Verminous rooms ...	130
Verminous premises ...	30
Premises, generally repaired ...	3,598
Light and ventilation ...	93
Roofs, gutters, rainwater pipes ...	2,169
Overcrowding ...	140
Water reinstated ...	213
Drains, new ...	13
Drains, reconstructed ...	37
Drains, improved or repaired ...	246
Drains, obstructions removed ...	234
Soil, vent pipes repaired ...	42
W.C.s, new ...	55
W.C.s, improved or repaired ...	1,553
W.C.s, obstructions removed ...	171
Sinks, new ...	21
Sinks, improved ...	327
Sinks, traps provided ...	36

Outdoor premises.

Floors, paving repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	288
Cleansed or limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	344
Improved or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Dustbins, provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68
Dustbins, improved or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	146
Ashpits, abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	236
Urinals cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Animals improperly kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11

Re-inspections.

Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,478
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,219
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Milk shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Cookshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	123
Ice Cream shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Butchers shops, stores, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Food shops or premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Shops Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104
Food Inspector's calls, visits, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	374
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Non-effective visits	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,153

Notices served.**Public Health (London) Act, 1936—**

Intimation notices...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,660
Nuisance notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	636
Housing Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Factories Act, 1937	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	188
Shops Act, 1934	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,725

VERMINOUS PREMISES

It was necessary to take measures on account of the presence of vermin in respect of 30 houses, and in connection with these 130 rooms were dealt with, sanitary notices being served where necessary.

VERMINOUS PERSONS

The number of persons treated for verminous conditions at the Borough Council's Cleansing Station, Haggerston Baths, was 38. The total treatments given during the year is shown below :—

New cases		Re attendances	Total treatments
0 to 5 years	14 years (plus)		
10	28	70	108

SCABIES

The treatments of scabies cases attending the Personal Cleansing Station during the year is shown below :—

New cases			Total new cases	Re attendances	Total treatments
0 to 5 years	5 to 15 years	15 years (plus)			
85	62	174	321	805	1,126

Home visiting of scabies cases and contacts was continued during the year.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

The number of disinfections of rooms after infectious disease was 1,356. The number of articles disinfected at the Council's steam disinfector after infectious disease was 12,634.

The number of rooms sprayed for verminous condition was 729 and the number of articles treated by steam was 963.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

All the families who were rehoused in Borough Council's flats during the year had their furniture and effects disinfested. Furniture is disinfested by the hydrogen cyanide method by a firm of private contractors under the supervision of the health department. Bedding and soft goods are disinfested by steam at the disinfecting station. The removal and disinfestation is carried out on the same day. The number of families transferring in the Council's flats during the year was 83. All other cases of bug infestations are dealt with by sanitary notice. In many instances the bedding, etc., is subjected to steam and the rooms sprayed with D.D.T. Insecticide with "knockdown" by the disinfectors.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply of the borough is controlled by the Metropolitan Water Board and is relayed from public mains direct to houses. No complaint was received about the quality of the water supply during the year. No dwelling houses are supplied by means of stand pipes.

EXAMINATION OF WATER FROM WELLS

Three wells were in use in Shoreditch during the year, none of which were used for drinking or domestic purposes.

L.C.C. DRAINAGE BYELAWS

During the year, one contravention of the byelaws was reported to the Public Health Committee. A warning letter was sent to the person responsible for the work.

OFFENSIVE TRADE PREMISES

An establishment order under Section 140, Public Health (London) Act, 1936, was renewed during the year in respect of the business of a Fur Skin Dresser.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE

There is one common lodging house in the Borough situate at No. 29, Dunloe Street, which provides accommodation for 46 men. The number of inspections made during the year was three.

SHOPS ACT, 1934

The number of inspections and re-inspections made under this Act was 1,388. The number of intimation notices served under the Act was 16. Certificates of exemption under Section 10 (provision of sanitary conveniences) were issued in 25 instances.

AGED AND INFIRM PERSONS

It was not necessary to apply for a Magistrate's order for the removal of any person under Section 224 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936.

RAG AND BONE DEALERS

There are 12 premises in the Borough in which the business of Rag and Bone Dealer is carried on. Eleven visits were paid and two notices served during the year.

PLEASURE FAIR BYE-LAWS

The presence of fairs on vacant sites in the Borough led to requests from the police and from residents for the Council to control the fairs. The Council decided to make bye-laws under powers conferred by Section 68, London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1939, "For regulating the hours during which pleasure fairs may be open to the public; for securing safe and adequate means of ingress and egress from the ground upon which any pleasure fair is held; for the prevention or suppression of nuisance or nuisances; and for preserving sanitary conditions and cleanliness at any pleasure fair." These bye-laws were submitted to the Home Secretary and duly confirmed as from 1st October, 1947. That part of the bye-laws dealing with sanitary conveniences, water supply, refuse, litter and general cleanliness is administered by the sanitary inspectors.

RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST (RESTRICTIONS) ACTS

During the year 20 certificates were issued to tenants as to houses not being in a reasonable state of repair.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The number of Factories on the Register at the end of 1947 was :—

Power Factories	...	...	959
Non-Power Factories	...	...	184
<hr/>			
Total	...	...	1,143

During the year 117 Factories were added to the register and 85 deleted.

The particulars of inspections made during the year are as follows :—

Premises	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Power Factories	516	169	Nil
Non-Power Factories	67	19	Nil
Other premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total	583	188	Nil

The defects found and dealt with were as follows :—

Particulars	Number of defects			Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (Section 1) ...	95	71	—	Nil
Overcrowding (Section 2) ...	—	—	—	"
Unreasonable temperature (Section 3) ...	—	—	—	"
Inadequate ventilation (Section 4) ...	—	—	—	"
Ineffective drainage of floors (Section 6) ...	29	20	—	"
Sanitary conveniences { Insufficient ...	37	21	—	"
{ Unsuitable or defective ...	308	198	—	"
{ Not separate for sexes ...	17	12	—	"
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work) ...	305	201	6	"
Total	791	523	6	Nil

OUTWORK

Nature of work	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel, making, etc.	248	—	—	4	4	—
Artificial flowers	21	—	—	1	1	—
Paper bags	17	—	—	—	—	—
Making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	105	—	—	1	1	—
Brush making	7	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.	15	—	—	—	—	—
Stuffed toys... ..	8	—	—	—	—	—
Total	421	—	—	6	6	—

In September, 1946, Mr. G. Walker, Sanitary Inspector, was designated to carry out factory inspections in the whole of the Borough. A considerable amount of work was necessary in re-writing the factory registers and inspection sheets, and bringing them up to date ; and, as frequent changes occur in the occupation of factories, constant supervision of registers and inspection sheets is required.

During the year factory inspections had to be relaxed. Owing to the reduction in the number of district Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. Walker took over the duties of district Sanitary Inspector on No. 3 district and part of No. 2 district, and for three months he also carried out the duties of Mr. Shaw, Food Inspector, during his absence ; consequently the numbers of factory inspections were considerably reduced.

The offences under the Factories Act found to exist have been chiefly in connection with sanitary conveniences necessitating service of notices and entailing a considerable number of re-inspections.

When initial inspections of the factories in the Borough have been completed and the sanitary conveniences repaired, or altered so as to conform with the legal requirements laid down, it should be possible to carry out inspections of the whole of the factories at more frequent intervals.

RODENT INFESTATION

This report reviews the work done by the Rodent Section of the Health Department from the 1st January to 31st December, 1947. The Staff is housed at the Disinfecting Station, Cester Street, and is supervised by Mr. H. T. Bryant (Rodent Supervisor) under the general direction of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. During

part of this period, i.e., 1st January to 26th July, 1947, the Ministry of Food (Infestation Branch) Comprehensive Scheme Circular N.S.12, was in progress and the staff consisted (at the early part of the year) of the following :—

1 Supervisor, 1 Clerk, 4 Investigators, 1 Foreman, 11 Operators.

As progress was made in the survey and treatment of infested premises the staff was gradually reduced in number and on 31st December, 1947, consisted of :—

1 Supervisor and 3 Operators.

These staff reductions were made owing to the comprehensive treatment given during the year which brought about a reduction of the number of complaints received and a great lessening of infested premises as a whole.

In the main the chief complaints of occupiers of dwelling houses were found to be mice infestations.

Servicing

The servicing given was as laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Infestation Branch) and consisted of :—

4 days Pre-baiting, 1 day Poison bait laying, 1 day clearance.

For business premises two such operations as above were carried out over a period of three weeks, requiring twelve separate visits. For dwelling houses one operation was given unless for special reasons a further operation was found to be necessary. All baits laid by the operators were inspected and recordings were taken of the unpoisoned and poisoned bait "takes".

The following is a summary of work carried out between 1st January and 31st December, 1947 :—

Business Premises

Number of Premises dealt with	Number of Inspections made	Number of Pre-baits laid	Number of Poison baits laid	Estimated Rat Kill
358	5,654	63,240	15,810	11,033

Dwellings

Number of Premises dealt with	Number of Inspections made	Number of Pre-baits laid	Number of Poison baits laid	Estimated Rat Kill
870	5,934	26,432	6,608	417

NOTE.—The premises which were found to be mice-infested are included in column I. No estimate of the number of mice destroyed can be given.

Sewers

In addition to the servicing of the surface infestations, two Sewer Maintenance treatments were given in the periods 6th to 11th and 20th to 25th January, 1947, and 2nd to 10th and 16th to 23rd June, 1947, when 413 manholes were treated in each maintenance treatment in accordance with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Infestation Branch) circular.

The treatment consisted of :—

2 days Pre-baiting, 1 day Poison bait laying.

Owing to the long and dry summer experienced in 1947, careful watch was kept upon the sewers ; and after a series of complaints were investigated a quick build-up of the sewer rat population was suspected and a decision was made to bring forward the next maintenance treatment a month earlier and this third maintenance treatment was carried out in the period 1st to 9th and 15th to 23rd December, 1947.

The early tackling of this problem justified itself when recording of the poison "takes" showed that 2,380 ozs. of poison bait had been eaten by the sewer rat population.

The following is a summary of the work carried out regarding sewers during the year.

Number of Pre-baits laid in Manholes	Number of Poison baits laid in Manholes	Calculated Rat Kill
2,478	1,239	8,820

Finance

Charges made upon occupiers of business premises were on the following scale :—

1 Point shall include 5 Baits

Basic charge included 1 point or 5 Baits	... ..	£1 10s. 0d.
Each point (5 Baits) after the 1st up to 8 points (40 Baits)	... ..	£1 0s. 0d.
Each point (5 Baits) after 8 points	... ..	5s. 0d.
The Agreements (H.D.R.3 B.P.) received and charged to Business premises during the period 1st January to 31st December, 1947, amounted to		
		£1,499 0s. 0d.
No charge was made for dwellings.		

THE FOOD AND DRINK INFECTIONS

The serious risk of the spread of infection by food handlers is illustrated by the following figures taken from the Ministry of Health records and which show the

number of outbreaks of food poisoning where the assistance of the Ministry was required by Local Authorities in England and Wales :—

1933 66	1937... .. 94	1941... .. 151
1934 58	1938... .. 156	1942... .. 24
1935 137	1939... .. 83	1943... .. 247
1936 82	1940... .. 47	1944... .. 550
		1945... .. 434

About 75 per cent. of these outbreaks occurred during the summer months, pointing to the importance of temperature in determining the bacteriological content of our food.

These figures of course do not show the thousands of individual food poisoning cases investigated, neither is it possible to get any figure which must be a huge one for minor infections caused by unhygienic conditions in food premises, etc.

A scheme of special inspection of all premises in the Borough with a view to raising the standard under which food is prepared, handled and distributed was seriously curtailed owing to the acute shortage of sanitary inspectors, but it was possible to issue a food handlers' pamphlet to all occupiers of food and drink premises pointing out the dangers of unclean handling of foodstuffs. With the pamphlet was sent a set of "Now wash your hands" sticky labels requesting that they be placed in a prominent position on the W.C. door to remind the employees of the necessity of washing the hands after using the W.C. or urinal.

It can be reasonably claimed that the constant supervision of food premises in the Borough, despite the shortage of inspectorial staff, has done much to prevent any serious outbreak of food poisoning.

During the year many improvements in the standard of conditions under which food is prepared were effected and the following sanitary improvements were achieved in connection with food premises :—

No. of sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	32
No. of refrigerators provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
No. of hot water apparatus provided	...	...	...	...	...	36
Floors and walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Extra W.C.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Separate W.C.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ventilation	...	...	...	...	...	1

The Central Council for Health Education have arranged a refresher course for sanitary inspectors on food and drink infection and all the sanitary inspectors employed by the Borough Council will be allowed to take advantage of these lectures.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF FOOD SAMPLES

600 samples were submitted to the Public Analyst as follows :—

Medicines 148 ; Milk 86 ; Meat Products 71 ; Spices, etc. 48 ; Fish Products 42 ; Flour Products 40 ; Pickles and Sauces 30 ; Coffee and Coffee and Chicory 16 ; Herbs 19 ; Cocoa 20 ; Tea 10 ; Soup and Soup Powder 9 ;

Stuffing Mixtures 9 ; Soft Drinks 8 ; Cooking Fats 8 ; Condensed Milk 6 ; Margarine 5 ; Butter 5 ; Spirits 4 ; Vinegar 4 ; Arrowroot 2 ; Bread 2 ; Beer 2 ; Cheese 1 ; Baking Powder 1 ; Junket Powder 1 ; Gravy Preparation 1 ; Cake 1.

14 samples of milk were found to contain added water, 2 to the extent of 1 per cent. and 12 less than 1 per cent. One sample of milk was found to contain extraneous dirt 1.4 parts per 100,000 parts by volume of the sample. Legal proceedings were instituted and defendant was fined £10 0s. 0d. and ordered to pay £5 5s. 0d. costs.

Legal proceedings were taken in respect of a sample of exsiccated sodium sulphate. The case was dismissed (P.O. Act) on payment of £3 3s. 0d. costs.

A sample of sweet pickle was found to contain sulphur dioxide 80 parts per million and benzoic acid 250 parts per million. The presence of preservative was not disclosed on the label. Defendant was fined ten shillings in respect of the added preservative and also fined £1 0s. 0d. and ordered to pay £5 5s. 0d. costs for the labelling offence.

Bread which was found to contain parts of a mouse were produced by two complainants. Legal proceedings were instituted and defendant was fined a total of £10 and ordered to pay £5 5s. 0d. costs.

Warning letters were sent to vendors in respect of minor adulterations or irregularities of Boracic ointment, Glaubers salts, Ground nutmeg, Aspirin tablets, Sauce, Iodine solution and Vinegar.

On the request of the purchaser, a bottle of milk was examined by this department and found to contain foreign matter. A representative of the suppliers was interviewed by the Committee when it was decided that a letter of warning be sent.

UN SOUND FOOD

During the year 1947, 959 certificates were issued in respect of food unfit for human consumption which included the following :—

Bacon, 1 ton 8 cwt. 3 qtr. 24 lb. ; Fish, 1 ton 9 cwt. 3 qtr. 14 lb. ; Cereals, flour and flour products, 16 tons 18 cwt. 2 qtr. 25 lb. and 4,529 pkts. ; Beans, peas, etc., 10 cwt. 26 lb. ; Poultry, 1 ton 9 cwt. 24 lb. and 96 poussins ; Dried fruit, 3 cwt. 2 qtr. 15 lb. and 15 pkts. ; Sugar, 7 tons 4 cwt. 2 qtr. ; Meat and offal, 5 cwt. 1 qtr. 22½ lb. ; Tomatoes, 1 ton 3 cwt. 3 qtr. ; Cheese, 4 cwt. 18 lb. and 28 boxes of Camembert ; Milk powder, 3 cwt. 2 qtr. 20 lb. ; Biscuits, 10 cwt. 3 qtr. 4 lb. ; Soup Powder, 1 cwt. 1 qtr. 20 lb. ; Potatoes, 4 cwt. ; Butter, 26 lb. ; Gelatine, 3 cwt. ; Rabbits, 1 cwt. 20 lb. ; Dextrose, 6 cwt. 1 qtr. ; Chestnuts, 28 lb. ; Halibut oil, 16 gallons ; Olive oil, 5 gallons ; Cod liver oil, 7 gallons ; Lemon juice, 579 gallons ; Salad cream, 4 jars ; Lemonade powder, 3 jars ; Pickles, 67 jars ; Tomato ketchup, 2 bottles ; Dried egg, 12 pkts. ; Jelly, crystals, 18 pkts. ; Canned fruit, 3,326 c/s and 14,624 tins ; Canned milk, 167 c/s and 12,690 tins ; Canned vegetables, 103 c/s and 5,467 tins ; Canned

jam and marmalade, 86 c/s and 1,412 tins ; Canned meat and meat products, 65 c/s 4,017 tins ; Canned fish, 27 c/s and 3,183 tins ; Spices, 51 c/s and 167 tins ; Baking powder, 72 c/s and 21 pkts. ; Celery salt, 7 c/s and 35 tins ; Yeast, 2 c/s and 17 tins ; Soup, 415 tins ; Syrup, 16 tins ; Puddings, 3 tins ; Fruit juice, 54 tins ; Mustard, 20 tins ; Malted milk tablets, 9 tins ; Peanut butter, 52 tins ; Apple butter, 2,069 tins ; Biscuits, 106 c/s and 104 tins.

BAKEHOUSES

The number of bakehouses in use during the year was 22. Of these 7 were underground. 100 visits were paid during the year. Six notices were served for cleansing and other matters.

PHARMACY AND POISONS ACT, 1933

36 licences were granted during the year. 188 inspections and visits were made and general observation was kept of stalls and shops for unauthorised sellers, but no infringements were reported.

PHARMACY AND MEDICINES ACT, 1941

Throughout the year a vigilant watch was kept for contraventions of the Act but none were observed.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1936-46

During the year 29 applications were received for the sale of milk under these regulations in the Borough. The number of licences issued was as follows :—

	Pasteurised	Accredited	Tuberculin Tested
Dealers Licences	9	—	5
Supplementary Licences	6	—	9
Totals	15	—	14

RAG FLOCK

4 samples were submitted for analysis during the year, all of which complied with the prescribed standard (the soluble chlorine being 7, 9, 18 and 20 parts per 100,000 respectively).

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLES OF MILK

19 samples of pasteurised milk, 11 samples of heat-treated milk and 1 sample of "TT" pasteurised milk were submitted for phosphatase and methylene blue tests. All samples satisfied the phosphatase test and all but two pasteurised satisfied the methylene blue test. Warning letters were sent to the vendors in respect of the two latter samples.

A sample of "National" dried milk obtained from the Infant Welfare Centre was submitted for examination and showed the satisfactory result of 600 bacteria per gramme and absence of coliform bacillus in one gramme.

BACTERIOLOGICAL SAMPLING OF ICE CREAM

30 samples were submitted for plate count, one of which proved a spread colony. The remainder gave the following results of bacteria per millilitre.

1,000 to 5,000	6,000 to 10,000	11,000 to 50,000	51,000 to 100,000	101,000 to 900,000	1 million and over
9	6	8	2	3	1

53 samples were submitted to the methylene blue test with results as follows :—

Grade 1	...	...	...	8
„ 2	...	...	...	12
„ 3	...	...	...	10
„ 4	...	...	...	23

30 samples were examined for B. Coli with the following results :—

Absent in 1.0-ml.	Present in 1.0-ml.	Present in 0.1-ml.	Present in 0.01-ml.	Present in 0.001-ml.	Present in 0.0001-ml.	Present in 0.00001-ml.
10	5	5	4	4	1	1

Warning letters were sent to the makers of sub-standard samples, and subsequent inspections and tests showed greatly improved quality in the products.

The following table gives particulars of the work done under the Housing Acts in the form required by the Ministry of Health :—

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	...	...	...	7,931
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	...	...	...	13,318
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ...	...	...	...	184
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	...	...	...	184
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation...	...	...	...	1

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers (Intimation Notice) Public Health (London) Act...	4,024
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	52
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	52
(b) By local authority in default of owners	7

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	636
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	634
(b) By local authority in default of owners	2

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

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made or Undertaking accepted...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil

D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	9
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	3

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

PUBLIC HEALTH (LONDON) ACT, 1936.

Date	Nature of Offence	Fine	Costs	Remarks
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
10 Jan.	Non-compliance with Nuisance notice— 5, Sturt Street.	—	—	Summons with- drawn. Nuisance abated.
10 Jan.	Non-compliance with Nuisance notice— 31, Westland Place (water supply to tenement dwelling).	—	—	Case dismissed. Not reasonably neces- sary to provide water supply.
5 Mar.	Non-compliance with Nuisance notice— 118, Queensbridge Road.	—	2 2 0	Order to abate nuisance in 21 days.
31 Mar.	Non-compliance with Nuisance notice— 8, Stanway Street.	10 0 0	2 2 0	
21 Apr.	Non-compliance with Nuisance notice— 21, Scriven Street.	—	—	Order to execute repairs in 3 months.
21 Apr.	Non-compliance with Nuisance notice— 18, Fairbank Street.	—	—	Order to execute repairs in 14 days
25 Apr.	Non-compliance with Nuisance notice— 55, Fairbank Street.	—	—	Order to carry out work in 14 days addressed to Shoreditch Bor- ough Council.
28 Apr.	Non-compliance with Nuisance notice— 11, Stanway Street.	—	—	Order to execute work in 28 days.
16 May	Non-compliance with Nuisance notice— 8, Stanway Street.	—	2 2 0	Work carried out. Summons with- drawn on pay- ment of costs.
31 May	Non-compliance with nuisance notice <i>re</i> top floor front room—33, Britannia Walk.	—	—	Order for abate- ment of nuisance in 21 days and for prohibition of same or like nuisance.
13 June	Non-compliance with Nuisance order— 18, Fairbank Street.	2 0 0	—	
24 Sept.	Non-compliance with Nuisance notice— 30, Bridport Place.	—	—	Adjourned <i>sine die</i> Work proceeding.
28 Nov.	Non-compliance with Nuisance notice— 36, Buckland Street.	—	—	Order to execute work in 42 days.
28 Nov.	Failure to provide proper water supply to tenement house, 36, Buckland St.	—	—	Order to execute work in 42 days.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, PUBLIC HEALTH
(PRESERVATIVES IN FOOD) REGS., ETC.

Date	Nature of Offence	Fine	Costs	Remarks
7 July	Dirty milk vessel (Milk and Dairies Order)	£ s. d. 10 0 0	£ s. d. 5 5 0	
1 Aug.	Failure to keep utensils clean and to protect ice cream from contamination contrary to Ice Cream (Heat Treated) Regs. 1947 and Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (two summonses).	3 0 0 and 2 0 0	2 2 0	
22 Dec.	Sale of sweet pickle containing added preservative contrary to Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Regs. 1925-40 (two summonses).	—	—	Summons against vendor withdrawn Manufacturer fined £1 and £5 5s. costs (labelling offence) 10s. fine in respect of added preservative

**STATISTICAL REPORT OF HOUSING WORK DONE BY THE SANITARY
INSPECTORS, 1947**

Section 9, Housing Act, 1936 52

OVERCROWDING

Number of new cases reported 320
 Number of cases referred to L.C.C. 320
 Number of cases relieved 139
 Number of inspections and visits by Inspectors 839

PREFERENTIAL HOUSING ON HEALTH GROUNDS

Number of cases investigated and reported on to L.C.C. (includes those found to be not entitled to preferential treatment) 373
 Number of cases known to have been found accommodation... 32
 Other families rehoused by L.C.C. 66
 Number of inspections and visits by Inspectors 373
 Number of letters sent to County M.O.H. and Valuer, L.C.C. 408
 Number of letters sent to Shoreditch Borough Council Housing Department 177
 Number of inspections made by Inspectors at the request of the Shoreditch Borough Council Housing Department 222

UNDERGROUND ROOMS

Number reported on	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Number closed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Number where undertakings received	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number where attention of the owner has been drawn to Sec. 132 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Number made to comply with the Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Yours faithfully,

B. BROADBENT,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Town Hall, Old Street, E.C.1.