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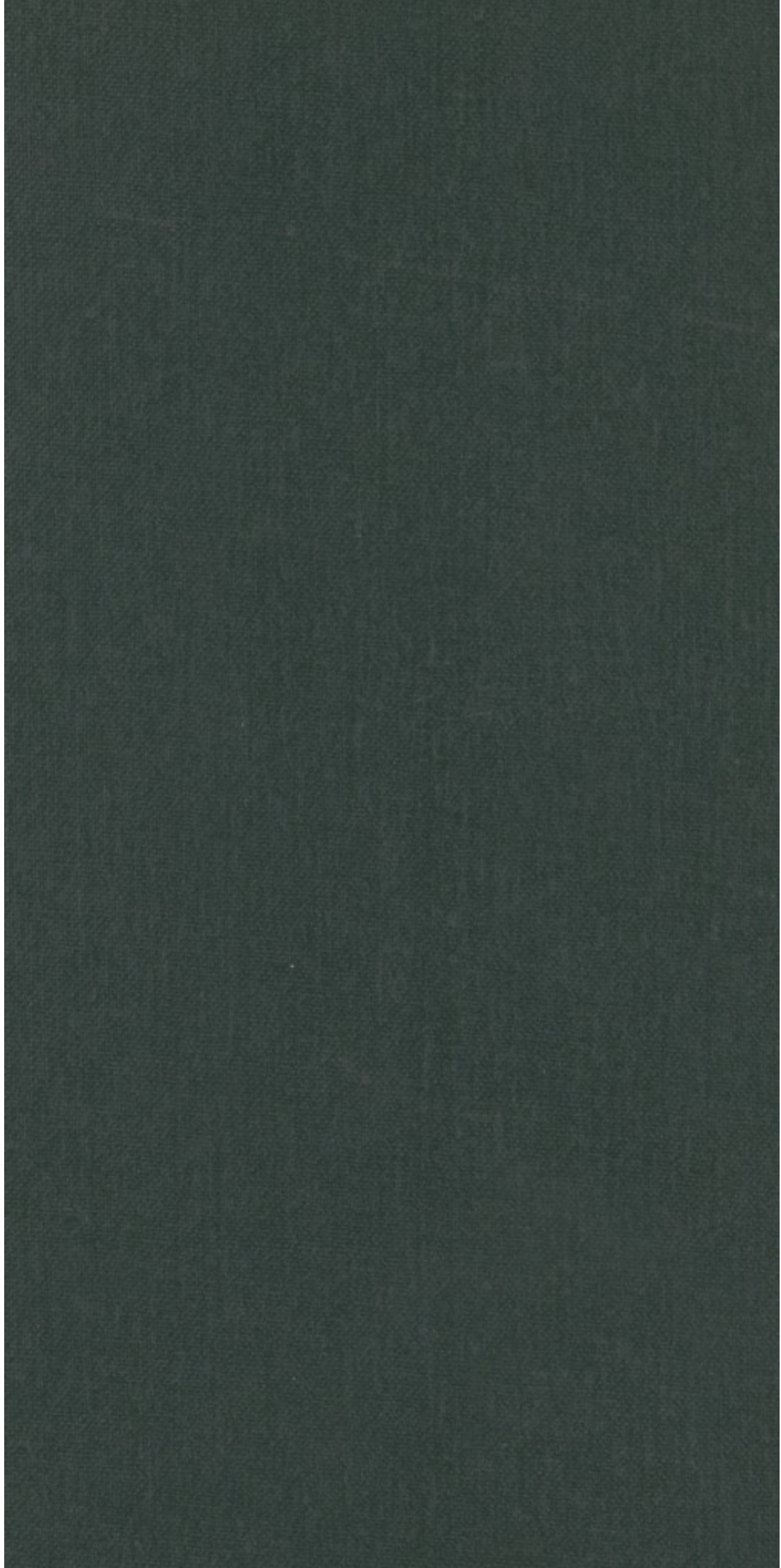
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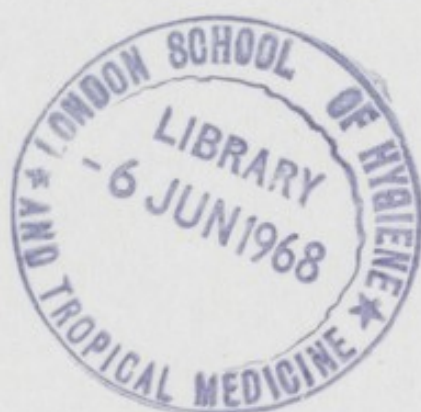
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BOROUGH OF WALTHAMSTOW

REPORT

OF THE

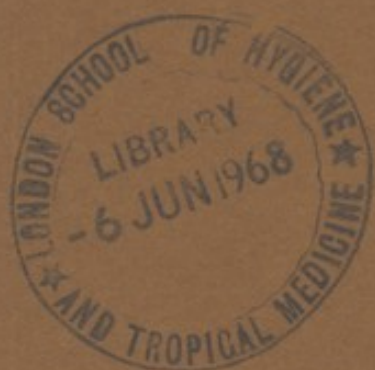
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH**

For the Year 1947

A. T. W. POWELL, M.C., M.B., B.S., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

67978





BOROUGH OF WALTHAMSTOW

REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH**

For the Year 1947

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HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman :

ALDERMAN MRS. C. McENTEE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR E. G. BAILY.

Ex-officio :

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR—ALDERMAN S. N. CHAPLIN, J.P.

THE DEPUTY MAYOR—COUNCILLOR MRS. E. A. SMITH, J.P.
(deceased).

CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE COMMITTEE—ALDERMAN ROSS WYLD,
O.B.E., J.P.

ALDERMAN T. FITZPATRICK.

„ W. GILLETT.

„ A. E. MANNING.

COUNCILLOR C. J. ALFORD.

„ MRS. CANDY.

„ MRS. CHRISTY.

„ MRS. FREWIN.

„ L. J. J. HODSON.

COUNCILLOR F. E. NICOLL.

„ M. SHARLAND.

„ W. H. SHAW.

„ R. E. SIMMONS.

„ MRS. TWEED.

Sanatorium (Hospital Management) Sub-Committee.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR E. G. BAILY.

ALDERMAN W. GILLETT. ALDERMAN MRS. C. McENTEE, J.P.

COUNCILLOR MRS. CANDY. COUNCILLOR MRS. FREWIN.

„ MRS. CHRISTY. „ MRS. E. A. SMITH, J.P.
(deceased)

Town Clerk :

G. A. BLAKELEY, ESQ.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present herewith a report on the Health Services in the Borough during the year 1947. This will be the last report for a complete year on the Health Services as now administered.

The population still continues to increase, and the latest available figure is over 124,000.

The vital statistics were again good. The birth rate was 21.8 and the death rate 10.7. The Infant Mortality rate at 29 shows a reduction of five from last year. The illegitimate rate at 13 was again excellent, and reflects the care given to such babies. There were no deaths from enteric fever, scarlet fever, diphtheria or whooping cough.

The flooding and contamination of the Lea Bridge filter beds of the Metropolitan Water Board gave rise to acute discomfort and anxiety, but was, fortunately, followed by no obvious ill-health.

The Ambulance Service was again fully used, the calls increasing by some 35 per cent. and the mileage by some 44 per cent. as compared with 1946.

The Municipal Dental Service was further extended by the provision of a full-time dental team, and the provision of a dental workshop.

The new housing provision made by the Council—particularly for old people—is very welcome. The general shortage of accommodation is so serious that there appears to be no adequate solution within the next few years.

The Sanitary Inspectorate was again below establishment, and worked well under continuing and increasing difficulties. The Chief Sanitary Inspector, in his report, stresses the need for bye-laws regulating the sale of food in the open air.

Your helpful consideration is again acknowledged, together with the good work of the staff, particularly in connection with the work done for the Health Section of the Local Government Exhibition.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. W. POWELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF

The following changes occurred in the Staff:—

Resignations

Miss S. Branigan (Clerical Assistant)	.....	12. 7.'47
Mr. F. A. Barnes (Tempy. Rodent Operative)	.....	21. 7.'47
Mr. W. Dunn (Ambulance Driver)	.....	16.10.'47
Mrs. F. Gerdes (Female Auxiliary, Skin Clinic)	.....	1. 1.'47
Mr. R. High (Ambulance Driver)	.....	31.12.'47‡
Mr. S. S. Jordan (Ambulance Driver)	.....	23. 4.'47
Miss V. M. Prime (Shorthand Typist)	.....	27. 8.'47
Miss F. Posner (Junior Clerk)	.....	8. 5.'47
Mr. G. Rowe (Male Auxiliary, Skin Clinic)	.....	1. 5.'47
Mr. R. D. Wilshire (Junior Clerk)	.....	7. 5.'47

‡ Retired.

Appointments

Mr. F. A. Barnes (Tempy. Rodent Operative)	.....	19. 2.'47
Mr. D. A. Clark (Dental Officer, M.D.S.)	.....	14. 4.'47
Mr. D. W. Flatman (Junior Clerk)	.....	4. 3.'47*
Miss S. Feldman (Junior Clerk)	.....	6.10.'47
Miss M. Game (Shorthand Typist)	.....	6.10.'47
Mr. G. H. Higgins (Dental Technician)	.....	3. 2.'47
Mrs. C. M. Hall (Clerical Assistant)	.....	24. 2.'47
Mr. L. N. Martin (Chiropodist)	.....	10. 3.'47
Mr. G. McCart (Chiropodist)	.....	17. 3.'47
Miss T. Pullen (Junior Clerk)	.....	1. 5.'47
Mr. Lewiston (Driver/Disinfector)	.....	27.10.'47

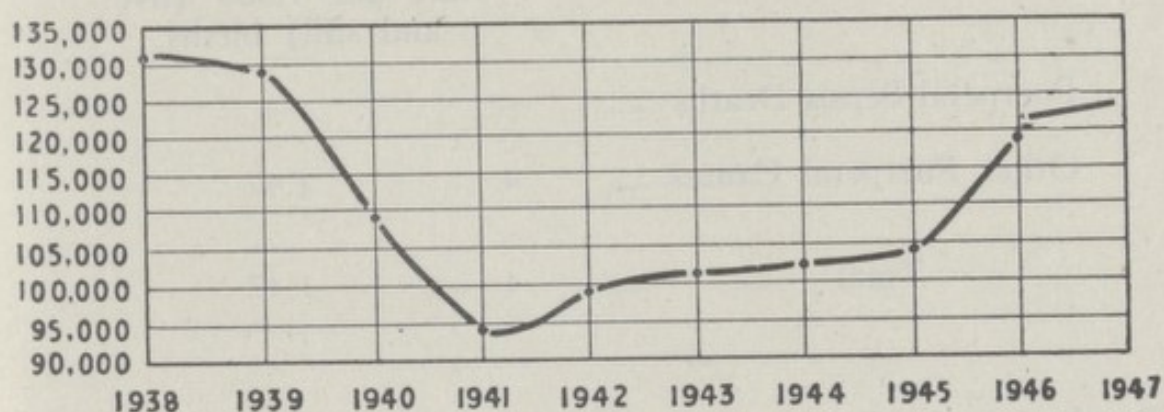
* Resumed after war service.

A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4,343
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate, mid-year 1947)							122,470
Number of Assessments, 1st April, 1947	.....	.....					35,348
Rateable Value	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£870,280
Sum represented by penny rate	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£3,520

Population.—The Registrar-General's Estimate of the population at mid-year, 1947, is 122,470, an increase of 4,420 on the previous figure.

The graph given below shows the population during the last nine years.



Unemployment.—According to information kindly supplied by Mr. Percy C. Graham, Manager of the Local Employment Exchange, approximately 900 men and 200 women were placed in employment every month during the year 1947, through the placing machinery of the Employment Exchange. The number of insured persons employed in the whole area covered by the Exchange, comprising the boroughs of Walthamstow, Leyton, Chingford, Wanstead and Woodford, was 61,000 in July, 1947. Of these, it is estimated that about 31,000 were employed in Walthamstow. During 1947, the average number of persons unemployed in the whole area was 780 men and 100 women; these included 150 disabled men and 20 disabled women. Apart from certain older men and some badly disabled persons, the majority of unemployed men and women were placed in suitable employment within a short period, and there was a steady demand for both male and female workers throughout the year.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.—The Registrar-General's mid-year, 1947, estimate of the population (viz., 122,470) has been used for the calculation of all vital statistics :—

		Total	Males	Females		
Live Births	{ Legitimate	2,597	1,332	1,265	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	21.8
	{ Illegitimate	73	36	37		
	{ Total	2,670	1,368	1,302		
Stillbirths	 59	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				21.6
Deaths	 1,315	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population				10.7

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

			Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.
Puerperal Sepsis Deaths	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Causes	4	—	1.47
Total	4	—	1.47

Death rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	29
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	29
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	13
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	6
Pulmonary Tuberculosis death rate	0.43
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis death rate	0.04

(All death rates are per 1,000 of the estimated residential population.)

The natural increase of population, i.e., excess of births over deaths was 1,355.

The usual comparison of vital statistics rates, with those for the whole country, is shown in the table on the following page.

Births.—Births are dealt with under the Maternity and Child Welfare Section of the Report.

Deaths.—The Registrar-General's classification of causes of death by sex totals is given.

The total number of deaths in 1947 (1,315) compares with 1,331 in 1946, the respective death rates per 1,000 population being 10.7 and 11.2.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1947. Provisional figures based on weekly and quarterly returns.

	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000-50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County.	Walthamstow.
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
<i>Births :—</i>					
Live	20.5*	23.3	22.2	22.7	21.8
Still	0.50*	0.62	0.54	0.49	0.48
<i>Deaths :—</i>					
All Causes	12.0	13.0	11.9	12.8	10.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	—
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Influenza	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.09
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
<i>Notifications :—</i>					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.07
Scarlet Fever	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31	1.89
Whooping Cough	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80	1.82
Diphtheria	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14	—
Erysipelas	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22	0.39
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	—
Measles	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29	8.82
Pneumonia	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64	1.23
		Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
Deaths under 1 year of age ..	41†	47	36	37	29
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ..	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8	2.2
	Rates per 1,000		Total Births (Live & Still)		
(a) <i>Notifications :—</i>					
Puerperal Fever	7.16	8.99	6.27	{ 1.21 }	10.99
Puerperal Pyrexia				{ ‡ 6.94 }	
(b) <i>Maternal Mortality :—</i>					
	No. 140. Abortion with Sepsis.	No. 141. Abortion without Sepsis.	No. 147. Puerperal Infections.	Nos. 142-6. 148-50. Other.	
England and Wales ..	0.10	0.06	0.16	0.85	
Walthamstow ..	—	—	—	1.46	

* Rates per 1,000 Total Population.

† Per 1,000 related births.

‡ Including Puerperal Fever.

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

Causes of Death as given by the Registrar-General for the year 1947

Whole District

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ..	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	1	1
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	—	—	—
6. T.B. of Respiratory System ..	26	27	53
7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis ..	2	3	5
8. Syphilitic Diseases	6	2	8
9. Influenza	8	4	12
10. Measles	2	—	2
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio- encephalitis	—	—	—
12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis ..	—	1	1
13. { Cancer of buccal cavity and oeso- phagus (Males)	11	—	11
{ Cancer of uterus (Females) ..	—	10	10
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum ..	22	17	39
15. Cancer of breast	1	28	29
16. Cancer all other sites	87	58	145
17. Diabetes	2	5	7
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions ..	56	74	130
19. Heart Disease	191	167	358
20. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	20	26	46
21. Bronchitis	61	50	111
22. Pneumonia	42	39	81
23. Other Respiratory Diseases ..	9	10	19
24. Ulceration of the Stomach or Duo- denum	15	1	16
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	4	2	6
26. Appendicitis	4	1	5
27. Other Digestive Diseases	11	15	26
28. Nephritis	12	9	21
29. Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes	—	4	4
31. Premature Birth	4	3	7
32. Congenital Malformation, Birth In- jury, Infantile Disease	28	9	37
33. Suicide	6	7	13
34. Road Traffic Accidents	3	2	5
35. Other Violent Causes	16	5	21
36. All Other Causes	37	49	86
Totals, 1947	686	629	1,315
Totals, 1946	693	638	1,331

The age distribution of Cancer deaths was as follows :—

Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yrs. & over
—	—	—	—	1	13	75	145

B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1 :—(i) **Public Health Officers of the Authority** :—Resignations and appointments during the year are given at the beginning of the Report and also in the Maternity and Child Welfare Section of the Report.

(ii) (a) **Laboratory Facilities** :—(See I. D. Section.)

(b) **Ambulance Facilities** :—

MUNICIPAL SERVICE.

	Removals.	Accidents.	Treatment.	Maternity.	Others.	Total.	Mileage.
1947	1,722	715	5,497	930	242	9,106	44,827
1946	1,522	543	3,760	739	98	6,662	31,123

The total number of calls is 2,444 more than for 1946, an increase of over 35 per cent. Mileage increased by 44 per cent.

The considerable increase in maternity removals will again be noted. This reflects the continuing pressure caused by the increased birth rate.

“Other calls” have increased on account of the transport facilities provided for District Midwives since 1st June, 1946. Transport is available at night when the public service is not available or is restricted and, of course, in emergencies.

The ambulance fleet, staff and garage arrangements remain the same.

Tenders for the supply of two new ambulances were obtained and orders placed.

It was decided to provide free ambulance facilities within the Borough and to neighbouring hospitals.

The voluntary assistance of members of the St. John Ambulance Brigade has continued and totalled 253 duties during the year. This assistance enabled extra vehicles to be available at night and at week-ends.

RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENTS.—During 1947 the position was as follows :—

Authority	Incoming calls.	Outgoing calls.
Leyton	37	41
Chingford	63	22
Woodford and Wanstead	2	4
Total	102	67

There were 35 more calls done for other areas than the total calls transferred out.

WHIPPS CROSS HOSPITAL.

Removal of patients is carried out by ambulances attached to the Hospital.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE.

Mr. V. G. Turner, Divisional Superintendent, kindly contributes the following report :—

“ Although we have not had as many members return to us from the Forces as we hoped for, active members have carried out their obligations in a very satisfactory manner. Public duties and Training Nights have been well attended. Many of our members are on ‘ shift ’ work and staggered hours, but in spite of this have given a good many hours’ service. Apart from local duties, several London duties have been undertaken, and we were able to supply 14 members for the Royal Wedding. During the Autumn we ran a home nursing class for members, with very good results. Only those who had attended all the lectures were allowed to take the examination, and we had 100 per cent. passes.”

(c) Nursing in the Home.

(i) General.—No change.

(ii) Infectious Diseases.—No change.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

FOOT CLINIC.—Total attendances were 11,524 and of these 1,323 were by new patients, 10,201 were re-attendances by old patients. The receipts were £975 10s. 8d.

Sessions are held at the Town Hall, as follows :—

Monday	.....	9 a.m. to 12 noon	1.30 to 4 p.m.	4.30 to 7 p.m.
Tuesday	.....	do. (Children only)	—	—
Wednesday	.....	do.	1.30 to 4 p.m.	—
Thursday	.....	do.	do.	4.30 to 7 p.m.
Friday	.....	do.	do.	do.
Saturday	.....	do.	—	—

Chiropody treatment only is given—by appointment.

WOMEN'S CLINIC.—This clinic is held in Thorpe Coombe Ante-Natal Block. It deals mainly with gynæcological conditions. Contraceptive advice is given when indicated on medical grounds.

Miss Helen Rodway, F.R.C.O.G., submits the following report:—

	No. of Sessions.	No. of Attendances.		Total.	Average Attendance per Session.
		New Patients.	Old Patients.		
(a) Tuesday Afternoon	52	429	1,422	1,851	35.6
(b) Saturday Morning	24	117	141	258	10.7
Totals ..	76	546	1,563	2,109	27.7
(c) Tuesday Morning	24	60*	345†	405	16.8

* These patients were transferred from the Post-natal or Gynæcological Clinics.

† A number of gynæcological patients' attendances are included in this figure.

SUMMARY OF NEW CASES :—

				Tuesday afternoon.	Saturday morning.	Total.
For diagnosis or complications of pregnancy	.....	.....	.....	159	56	215
Sterility	.....	.....	.....	31	7	38
Gynæcological	.....	.....	.....	147	43	190
Post-natal	.....	.....	.....	12	2	14
Medical	.....	.....	.....	14	4	18
Surgical	.....	.....	.....	9	—	9
Contraceptive	.....	.....	.....	55	5	60
Not classified	.....	.....	.....	2	—	—
Totals	.....	.....	.....	429	117	546

The number of patients referred to the Clinic by medical practitioners was 144.

The number of patients transferred to Hospital was 45. This figure does not include those transferred to Hospital for confinement.

Comparison of attendances with previous years :—

	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.	1942.	1941.	1940.	1939.	1938.
New Cases	546	610	616	444	524	424	299	260	329	319
Old Cases	1563	1,745	1,665	1,630	1,618	1,303	1,023	1,183	1,234	1,179
Totals	2109	2,355	2,281	2,074	2,142	1,727	1,322	1,443	1,563	1,498

MUNICIPAL DENTAL SERVICE.

Treatment is available, by appointment, for patients of all ages (except those attending grant aided schools which are dealt with through the School Dental Service) living in Walthamstow.

Mr. L. W. Elmer, L.D.S., Senior Dental Surgeon, reports as follows:—

“This service has now been in operation nearly four years, and, with the approach of the date upon which the National Health Service Act comes into operation, it would appear that the present is a suitable time to review its progress.

“The service commenced in April, 1944, with two evening sessions weekly, for which three part-time dental surgeons were employed. Later a further dental surgeon was engaged for two evening and one afternoon sessions, and a dental clerk was appointed in September, 1945.

“Until April, 1947, the prosthetic work was distributed between three outside dental mechanics, but by then it was found possible to open our own dental workshop, and a full-time technician was engaged. In May, Mr. Clark, L.D.S., commenced duty as full-time dental surgeon, with chairside and clerical assistants. Owing to the continued increase in the work it was found impossible to discontinue the employment of part-time dental surgeons, of whom three were employed up to the end of 1947.

“Later in the year it was found necessary to employ a second dental technician.

“At the time of writing, with continued expansion of the service, it has been decided to appoint a further full-time dental ‘team,’ i.e., dental surgeon, attendant and technician, and it is hoped to instal a dental X-ray machine.

“Below is given a report of the main items of work undertaken during the year, with comparative annual figures since the inception of the service:—

	1944	1945	1946	1947
Number of patients treated	143	379	585	805
Appointments made	633	2,234	3,719	5,614
Appointments kept	558	2,143	3,315	5,181
Fillings	135	1,005	786	1,065
Scalings	67	147	206	314
Dressings	71	228	207	451
Extractions	266	1,068	1,570	2,075
General anæsthetics	58	238	446	530
Local anæsthetics	54	112	182	278
Impressions	33	223	371	863
Bites	24	97	162	326
Try-ins	23	106	193	392
Dentures supplied	26	134	238	469

" This list is by no means comprehensive, and a great variety of other items of treatment have been given. These cannot be adequately classified, but it is really gratifying to note that it is now possible for patients to receive a comprehensive dental service. This includes not only treatment undertaken in the surgery, but also the provision of every type of prosthetic appliance. The only exceptions to this are the comparatively rare cases of dental and oral surgery requiring hospitalisation.

" Below is appended a list of the appliances completed in the dental laboratory during 1947 :—

			Municipal Dental Service	School Dental Service
New dentures	.....	.....	390	—
Remodels	.....	.....	15	—
Orthodontic appliances	.....	.....	—	61
Crowns	.....	.....	8	14
Repairs	.....	.....	39	6
Inlays	.....	.....	1	3

SCABIES CLINIC.

The arrangements at the special treatment Centre detailed in previous reports were continued.

Sessions are held as set out below at the Scabies Clinic premises, which are situated behind the Public Baths in High Street. Treatment is by appointment only (i.e., through a doctor or through the Health Department).

			Morning 9-12	Afternoon 2-5	Evening 5.30-8.30
Monday	.....	.....	—	—	M/F
Tuesday	.....	.....	—	F	—
Wednesday	.....	.....	F	—	—
Thursday	.....	.....	—	—	M/F
Friday	.....	.....	F	—	—
Saturday	.....	.....	M/F	—	—

M = Males. F = Females and Children.

399 cases were treated during the year, receiving 1,410 treatments.

(e) **Hospitals.**—There were no changes during 1947 in the hospital services used by the inhabitants of the Borough.

Public Assistance in Walthamstow is provided by the South-Western Area Guardians' Committee of the Essex County Council which retains a certain proportion of beds in each of the local institutions provided by the County Boroughs of East Ham and West Ham.

Mr. Pegram, Clerk to the Committee, has kindly supplied the following particulars of Walthamstow residents admitted to the various institutions during the year ended 31st December, 1947:—

Institutions	Men	Women	Children	Total
Central Home	82	78	1*	161
Whipps Cross Hospital	595	779	328	1,702
Forest Gate Hospital	—	13	—	13
Harold Wood Hospital	1	6	—	7
Forest House	5	3	—	8
Aldersbrooke Children's Homes	—	—	107	107

* This child was ultimately transferred to Aldersbrooke.

Nine infants were born to Walthamstow mothers in Forest Gate Hospital during the year.

The number of patients from Walthamstow in Mental Hospitals was 342 on the 31st December, 1947.

THE CONNAUGHT HOSPITAL.

The Secretary to the Hospital has kindly supplied the following information:—

“Of the total number of in-patients admitted during the year, 997 were residents of the Borough.

“The following figures show the progress of the Hospital during 1947 as compared with the previous year:—

	No. Admitted	In-Patients		Out-Patients	
		Average Stay	Daily Average	New Cases	Attendances
1947	2,285	16.79	104.73	19,342	95,814
1946	1,940	18.77	99.13	17,139	90,274

“Particulars as to Staff, Beds and Departmental activities:—
There are 118 beds, including 10 private wards.

“Operations and Treatments:—During 1947, 1,356 major operations and 2,565 minor operations were performed, making a nett total 3,921. 20,864 radiographs were taken. There were 19,335 massage treatments, also 24,876 electrical treatments and 2,820 artificial sunlight treatments at the Comely Bank Clinic—a total of 47,031 treatments at this Clinic.

“Facilities at Comely Bank:—The following facilities for electro-medical treatment are provided at Comely Bank: Massage, Radiant Heat, Electrical Treatment and Sun-Ray Treatment.

"Plans have been drawn up for the extension of the Hospital to a total of 300 beds, which would include the following:—

Surgical	.....	96	Children's	.....	58	Orthopædic	.....	20
Ophthalmic	.....	10	Gynæcological	.....	10	Single	.....	41

"In addition, there would be a new X-ray Department, Operating Suite, Nurses' Home and Out-Patients' Department."

Venereal Disease Treatment.

Treatment is the responsibility of the Essex County Council and all the facilities of the London County Council are available. No special clinic facilities have yet been provided in Walthamstow.

Outfits for taking specimens from patients are provided for practitioners, on request, by the Whitechapel (London County Council) Clinic, Turner Street, Whitechapel, E.1.

2. Social Welfare.

Out-relief and institutional treatment is provided by the Essex County Council. Mr. Pegram, Clerk to the Essex County Council's South-Western Area Guardians' Committee, kindly states that the amount of relief provided in Walthamstow during the two years ended 31st December, 1947, was as follows:—

	1947			1946		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total amount of out-door relief granted to Walthamstow residents during the year ended 31st December	48,012	3	9	41,915	3	7
Average weekly number of Walthamstow residents in receipt of relief during the year ended 31st December	Men	.....	223			225
	Women	.....	508			497
	Children	.....	285			261
Total			1,016			983

3. Maternity and Child Welfare.—See Section H of the Report.

4. Public Health Act, 1936.—Nursing Homes:—

	No. of Homes.	No. of Patients provided for.		
		Maternity Patients.	Others.	Totals.
Homes first registered during the year	—	—	—	—
Homes on register at the end of the year	3	12	18	30

There were no cancellations, refusals or appeals.

Twenty-two inspections were made by the medical staff,

Routine enquiries are made with regard to unregistered homes. No difficulties in regard to supervision arose.

5. **Essex County Council Act.**—No new licence to practise chiropody was granted by your Council.

C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.—The authority responsible is the Metropolitan Water Board. Routine tests are carried out by the Board, and the usual practice was continued of notifying the Board of all cases of actual or suspected enteric fever. The Board then arranges special tests at the addresses concerned. All were negative in 1947.

All dwelling houses in the area are supplied direct with water.

Flooding of the Lee Bridge Works of the Metropolitan Water Board:—At 5.30 a.m. on 15th March, 1947, the Lee Bridge Works of the Metropolitan Water Board became flooded by the overflow of the River Lea and it became evident that some polluted water had entered the distribution system. As soon as the position became known on the Saturday afternoon measures were taken to supplement the somewhat inadequate warnings issued over the week-end by the B.B.C. Some 20,000 leaflets were printed in regard to the emergency flushing of water closets and the disposal of household sewage through household manholes or by digging trenches. These were circulated through schools and by other means on 17th March, and medical practitioners were advised as to the possibility of cases of typhoid fever.

A check was made by the Sanitary Inspectors into the flushing of water closets at cinemas and factories, and ex-civil defence chemical closets were supplied to the schools.

The Metropolitan Water Board organised an excellent service of tankers, but in the early days there were no adequate arrangements to notify householders when the water carts were in the streets.

Special supplies were arranged for hospitals and Day Nurseries, etc. The supply to the Maternity Hospital was well arranged by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor by water carts supplied from the Town Hall artesian well.

The supply was not fully restored for some ten days, and it is very gratifying to report that no case of typhoid fever or other intestinal disease due to contamination of water was notified.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

During the greater part of the year the inspectorate was one below full strength owing to resignations and sickness.

Mr. F. W. Kemp, Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows :—

No. of inspections made.	No. of nuisances detected.	No. of complaints received.	No. of Informal Notices		No. of Statutory Notices.		Total Visits.
			Served.	Complied with.	Served.	Complied with.	
11,654	9,130	3,962	2,852	2,826	318	266	22,802

Of the 2,852 intimation notices served during the year, 88 were in respect of business premises, and of the 2,764 relating to the defects in houses, 2,450 were complied with without resort to statutory procedure.

Owing to the failure of owners to carry out certain Statutory Notices, served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, the Council undertook the necessary work to five houses at a cost of £65 9s. 4d.

It was found necessary to institute legal proceedings against 24 owners for non-compliance with Abatement Notices served under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Orders were made by the Magistrates in eleven cases and Penalties or Costs were inflicted. In the remaining thirteen cases the Summons were withdrawn on payment of costs, the work having been commenced before the hearing.

The nature and variety of the work executed in 1947 is shown in the following tables :—

Drains tested, 480 ; Drains reconstructed or repaired, 678 ; Drains, obstructions removed, 393 ; Drains, means of access provided, 49 ; Drains, ventilation provided or improved, 73 ; Drains, ventilation repaired, 89 ; Soil pipes repaired or renewed, 32 ; Rain water pipes renewed, 301 ; Rain water pipes disconnected from drains, 4 ; Roofs repaired or renewed, 939 ; Gutterings repaired or renewed, 554 ; W.C. pans or traps provided, 525 ; Gully traps provided, 113 ; W.C. flush cisterns repaired or renewed, 296 ; W.C. floors concreted, 52 ; W.C.s repaired and cleansed, 217 ; W.C.s light and ventilation improved, 12 ; Waste pipes repaired, renewed or trapped, 237 ; New sinks provided, 97 ; Water supply re-instated, 23 ; Water supply taken off main, 27 ; Cisterns cleansed and covered, 28 ; Sculleries paved, 35 ; Yards and forecourts paved and repaired, 83 ; Dirty houses cleansed, 12 ; Dirty floors cleansed,

267 ; Floors repaired, 410 ; Ventilations under floors provided or improved, 98 ; New damp proof courses provided, 57 ; Sites concreted, 4 ; Offensive accumulations removed, 28 ; Animals improperly kept, removed, 3 ; Stables repaired and cleansed, 8 ; Manholes repaired or re-sealed, 121 ; Other cases of dampness remedied, 438 ; Miscellaneous repairs, 1,663.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Visits to premises, 428 ; Revisits to premises, 22.

DISINFECTIONS.

Rooms disinfected, 173 ; Articles disinfected at Low Hall Lane, 686 ; Articles destroyed at Low Hall Lane, 49.

DAMPNESS IN HOUSES.

Sites concreted, 4 ; Damp proof courses provided, 57 ; Yards and forecourts paved and drained, 83 ; Roofs made watertight, 939 ; Rain water pipes made good, 301 ; Guttering repaired or renewed, 554 ; Other cases of dampness remedied, 438 ; Ventilation under floors improved, 98.

SPECIAL PREMISES.

	Number	Visits paid
Factories (a) Power	437	456
(b) Non-power	100	131
(c) Other premises	58	57
Outworkers	163	338
Slaughterhouses	—	—
Butchers	75	306
Bakehouses	31	144
Fishmongers, Fish Fryers and Curers, etc.	39	220
Cafés and Caterers	107	290
Grocers, etc.	286	599
Ice Cream Manufacturers and Vendors	127	195
Cowsheds	1	4
Dairies and Milksellers	67	72
Laundries	3	6
Rag and Bone Dealers	3	22
Piggeries	2	10
Street Stalls	Numerous	49
Greengrocers	67	121
Stables	45	76
Schools	—	11
Conveniences	—	13

As a result of the regular periodical visiting of the Special Premises the following works were carried out :—

BUTCHERS' SHOPS.

Special cleansings, 42 ; Paving repaired, 4 ; Accumulations removed, 6 ; New Galvanised Bins provided, 18 ; Drains repaired, 7 ; W.C.s repaired and cleansed, 11 ; Other improvements, 19.

BAKEHOUSES.

Special cleansings, 47 ; New ceilings fixed, 3 ; Floors repaired, 7 ; Light and Ventilation improved, 18 ; Roofs repaired, 3 ; Other repairs, 17.

FISHMONGERS.

Special cleansings, 30 ; Yards repaved, 3 ; Accumulations removed, 7 ; Drains cleared, 14 ; Other improvements, 21.

CAFES AND CATERERS.

Special cleansings, 57 ; Light and Ventilation improved, 4 ; Floors renewed, 10 ; Other improvements, 19.

ICE CREAM MANUFACTURERS AND VENDORS.

Special cleansings 23 ; Special cleansing of utensils, 2 ; Yard pavings repaired, 3 ; Other improvements, 4.

COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Special cleansings, 10 ; New fittings and other improvements, 2.

STABLE PREMISES.

Cleansings, 18 ; Accumulations removed, 12 ; Roofs repaired, 1 ; Pavings repaired, 1 ; Other improvements, 2.

LAUNDRIES.

Special cleansings, 2 ; Other improvements, 3.

RAG AND BONE DEALERS.

Cleansings, 6 ; Accumulations removed, 4.

PIGGERIES.

Cleansings, 3.

Camping Sites.

There were no sites in the area used for camping. The van dwellers in the Higham Hill area still remain.

Smoke Abatement.

There was a slight improvement on last year, although the use of unsuitable fuel gave rise to several complaints which were investigated. Remedial measures were carried out as far as practicable.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, etc.

The number of houses reported to be bug infested is satisfactorily low. Free insecticides were issued to tenants in respect of 66 premises.

Fumigations or special sprayings of rooms by the Council's Disinfecting Staff amounted to the small total of 51.

In addition to the above there would be a number of unrecorded cases where the Owners or tenants have carried out disinfections privately.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

The model bye-laws of the Ministry of Health were adopted in 1938.

(a) MUNICIPAL BATHS, HIGH STREET.—This is a covered swimming bath. Mr. W. Cantes kindly contributes the following report:—

“From January 1st to December 31st, 1947, the swimming bath was open on 304 days. The number of bathers in this time was 88,201.

“Maximum load was on June 7th, when we had 1,211 bathers.”

Four water samples were taken with satisfactory results.

(b) WHIPPS CROSS BATHING POOL.—This is a large open-air pool situated in Epping Forest, in the area of the Borough of Leyton and a few hundred yards from the Walthamstow boundary.

It is administered by a joint Committee representing the two Boroughs.

The pool is supervised by the Medical Officer of Health for Leyton, who kindly sends a copy of the analytical findings when samples are taken.

(c) SOUTH-WEST ESSEX TECHNICAL COLLEGE.—Sampling was carried out on two occasions, with satisfactory results.

(d) FOREST SCHOOL.—This is a small swimming bath with a capacity of approximately 47,000 gallons, treated with “Voxsan” with frequent changes of water. Sampling was carried out on one occasion, with satisfactory results.

(e) THE KINGFISHER POOL.—The Managing Director kindly gives the following particulars:—

“The chlorination and filtration plant has a turnover of eight hours, with a possible speeding up to six hours. 0.2 parts per million of free chlorine are aimed at for the deep end and 0.6 at the shallow end.

The plant was kept in operation all day and night over the week-ends, if found necessary.

" The approximate number of swimmers in 1947 was 34,000.

" Bacteriological and chemical analyses were carried out on five occasions, with satisfactory results.

" The following Essex championships were held at the Pool during the year :—

1. Schoolboys' Springboard Diving.
2. Schoolgirl's Springboard Diving.
3. Ladies' Springboard Diving."

(f) WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.—This is a covered bath with continuous chlorination and filtration. One sample was taken with satisfactory results.

D.—HOUSING

(a) Inspection

The following information is given in the form required by the Ministry of Health, and is supplied by the Chief Sanitary Inspector :—

I.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

- | | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4,302 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | | | | | 11,616 |
| (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 | ..... | ..... | ..... |  | Nil |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | | | | | Nil |
| (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 |
| (N.B.—These comprise individual unfit houses) | | | | | |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | ..... | ..... | ..... |  | 2,764 |

II.—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 2,453

III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

A. *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 46

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 49

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners (at a cost of £65 9s. 4d.) 5

(c) Withdrawn—premises vacated and undertaking not to allow future occupation Nil

B. *Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 272

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners 211

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 1

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 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 1

D. *Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit				Nil
--	-------	-------	-------	-----

(b) Housing Act, 1936

Unfit Houses

One Demolition Order was made during the year.

General

The following is supplied by Mr. J. E. West, your Council's Housing Manager :—

“ Some progress was made during the year but only after meeting very many difficulties largely affecting problems of labour and material.

“ The provision of prefabricated bungalows did, however, achieve some progress as will be seen from the schedule appearing hereunder, but progress on the Countess Road site, where 414 flats are being erected, was not up to the standard anticipated. Practically 90 per cent. of applications received affected young married couples and families comprising from one to three children.

“ There was little assistance forthcoming in acquiring additional properties by exercising requisitioning powers as very few properties came into the market which were suitable for requisitioning. A property under the ownership of the Council at ‘ Clock House ’ was adapted for the accommodation of those who are ‘ not so young.’ Towards the end of the year the old people's flats on the Priory Court Estate were practically complete, and nothing but praise has been heard with regard to this type of accommodation which has, undoubtedly, not only given relief to the residents but to their immediate families who were, in very many instances, concerned as to the mode of living of their parents in the eventide of life. It has been one of the very few pleasant tasks of the Housing Department to receive the thanks and appreciation of what has been done for their welfare.

“ The report of progress up to 31st December, 1947, is as follows :—

Prefabricated bungalows occupied	.....	.....	466
Housing applications received	.....	.....	11,491
Housing applications on the ‘ live register ’	.....	.....	9,553
Personal interviews	.....	.....	11,407
Families rehoused	.....	.....	400

“ The minimum amount of accommodation required to meet the housing needs as analysed from the list of Housing applications, is as follows :—

	% of Applications	
Single persons, etc. (Hostels).....	2.7	318
Young married couples (2 rooms)	38.2	4,389
Families of 3 to 5 persons	41.3	4,748
Families of 6 to 7 persons	12.4	1,430
Families of 8 to 10 persons	2.01	231
Families of 12 to 14 persons	0.43	49
Families not stated	2.9	326
Number of properties requisitioned		1,062
Number of properties still held		616
Furniture Cash Sales amount to	£1,744	18 8
Furniture on loan amounts to	£12,003	10 7
	£13,748	9 3
Local Authority Furniture Cash Sales	£1,140	7 9

“ In considering these figures, however, it should be remembered that between the close of the year and the commencement of 1948, the whole of the applications were reviewed and a new ‘ points ’ scheme formulated with the intention of putting it into operation early in the new year.”

E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply.

The following is contributed by the Chief Sanitary Inspector :—

The number of samples of milk submitted to the Counties Laboratories for bacteriological examination, including Phosphatase and Methylene Blue tests, was 144.

Samples, during the course of delivery, were taken twice monthly from the two firms holding Producers’ Licences within the Borough and from other dealers in the district.

The following table gives details of samples taken :—

Grade.	No. of Samples.	RESULTS	
		Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory in Methylene Blue test only.
Pasteurised	92	88	4
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	31	31	—
Tuberculin Tested	1	1	—
Sterilised	7	7	—
Heat Treated	13	11	2
Totals	144	138	6

The unsatisfactory samples were from a batch taken in the month of May. For the other months all were satisfactory.

There is one cowshed in the District and the average number of cows kept is four.

The number of Retail Purveyors of Milk is 67. The majority of these are the "general" shop type, and sell milk "as received" in bottles.

Seventy-two visits were paid to registered dealers during the year and a satisfactory standard of cleanliness was maintained.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

The number of Licences granted for the sale of Milk under Special Designations classified in the above Order was as follows :—

Dealers' Licences.

In respect of :—

Pasteurised Milk	15
Tuberculin Tested Milk	10

Supplementary Licences.

Pasteurised Milk	2
Tuberculin Tested Milk	2

Bottling Licences.

Pasteurised Milk	2
Tuberculin Tested Milk	2

(b) Ice Cream.

Twenty-nine applications for Registration as Manufacturers or Vendors of this commodity were received.

Licences were granted as follows :—

Vendors	19
Transfers	8
Refused	2

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.), REGULATIONS, 1947.

The attention of all manufacturers and vendors was called to the requirements of these Regulations.

Several manufacturers are taking this opportunity of bringing their plant up to date.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION—TYPHOID, ETC., CARRIERS.

A letter was addressed to the trade offering facilities for a free medical examination to those employed in the manufacture or sale of ice cream. A reasonable response was received and of those examined none was found to be a "carrier."

BACTERIOLOGICAL QUALITY AND GRADING OF ICE CREAM.

Thirty-seven samples were submitted for bacteriological examination and grading in accordance with the Provisional Test of the Ministry of Health.

The following is a comparative summary showing the results of the examination of 37 samples by the old standard test and the new (provisional) test. In the latter, Grades 1 and 2 are considered satisfactory.

Plate Count	Coliform Reaction (in 1/10 ml.)	Old Standard Test			New (Provisional) Test	
		Bacterium coli (in 1/10 ml.)	Very satisfactory	Satisfactory	Not satisfactory	Methylene Blue Test Reduction time Grade
25,000	Absent	Absent		x		4½ hours 1
1,000	"	"	x			4½ " 1
1,500	Present	"		x		4½ " 1
500	Absent	"	x			4½ " 1
40,000	"	"		x		4½ " 1
3,000	Present	"	x			4½ " 1
9,000	Absent	"	x			4½ " 1
2,500	"	"	x			4½ " 1
2,500	"	"	x			4 " 2
4,000	"	"	x			3½ " 2
1,800	"	"	x			3½ " 2
3,000	Present	"		x		3½ " 2
2,800	Absent	"	x			3½ " 2
600	"	"	x			3½ " 2
5,000	"	"	x			2½ " 2
38,000	"	"		x		3 " 2
8,000	"	"		x		2½ " 2
30,000	"	"		x		2½ " 2
7,000	Present	"		x		2 " 3
12,500	Absent	"		x		1 " 3
26,000	"	"		x		1½ " 3
50,000	Present	"		x		1 " 3
20,000	Absent	"		x		1 " 3
600,000	Present	"			x	0 " 4
270,000	Absent	"			x	0 " 4

Plate Count	Old Standard Test				New (Provisional) Test		
	Coliform Reaction (in 1/10 ml.)	Bacterium coli (in 1/10 ml.)	Very satisfactory	Satisfactory	Not satisfactory	Methylene Blue Test Reduction time	Grade
30,000	Present	Absent		x		0 hours	4
160,000	Absent	"		x		0 "	4
180,000	"	"		x		0 "	4
120,000	Present	"		x		0 "	4
18,000	"	"		x		0 "	4
140,000	"	"		x		0 "	4
75,000	"	"		x		0 "	4
80,000	"	Present			x	2 "	3
80,000	"	"			x	1 "	3
60,000	"	"			x	1 "	3
150,000	"	"			x	0 "	4
120,000	"	"			x	0 "	4

It will be noticed that by the new test eighteen only are classified as satisfactory (Grades 1 and 2), whereas by the old standard no less than 30 come under this heading. As to whether the new standard will be adopted is a matter of conjecture.

The absence of Bacterium Coli in 32 samples indicates that cleanliness and care in manufacture and handling predominates.

The practice of local manufacturers in having samples taken privately for bacteriological examination helps them considerably in maintaining a high standard of cleanliness.

(c) Meat and Other Foods.

The Live Stock (Restriction of Slaughtering) Order, 1940, continued in force and no slaughtering was carried out during the year.

The following is a list of the food condemned as unfit for human consumption. As in previous years, whenever possible, the food was salvaged either through the Ministry of Food Salvage Division or the local scheme.

4478 tins	Evaporated Milk	3 tins	Shad
195 "	Full Cream Milk	8 "	Herrings
177 "	Machine Skimmed Milk	3 "	Roe
4 "	Dried Milk	7 "	Fish Paste
301 "	Salmon	451 "	Beans
305 "	Herring Tit-Bits	349 "	Peas
172 "	Pilchards	182 "	Tomatoes
130 "	Silds	79 "	Beetroot
59 "	Herring Spread	62 "	Carrots
41 "	Shellfish (Various)	9 "	Mixed Vegetables
16 "	Whiting	8 "	Turnips
19 "	Mackerel	6 "	Macedoine
41 "	Sardines	6 "	Potatoes
22 "	Hake	4 "	Spinach
2 "	Cod	3 "	Rhubarb

3 tins	Tomato Juice	7 tins	Chopped Ham
3 "	Celery	5 "	Beef & Carrots
118 "	Grapefruit	5 "	Corned Mutton
70 "	Plums	4 "	Corned Beef
65 "	Peaches	4 "	Anchovy
15 "	Apples	1 "	Fish Roll
10 "	Apple Jelly	1 "	Galantine
10 "	Fruit Salad	37 "	Beef Loaf
37 "	Apricots	6 "	Veal Loaf
6 "	Pears	2 "	Pork Loaf
3 "	Blackberries	2 "	Ham Loaf
3 "	Prunes	585 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Beef
2 "	Pineapple	168 "	Corned Beef
2 "	Grapes	81 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Bacon
7 bott.	Fruit	26 "	Liver Sausage
23 tins	Grapefruit Juice	24 "	tinned Roast Beef
3 "	Orange Juice	24 "	tinned Tongue
125 "	Jam	45 "	Mutton
72 "	Orange Marmalade	20 "	Meat and Bones
24 "	Grapefruit Marmalade	19 "	Sausages
20 "	Pudding	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Luncheon Meat
19 "	Spaghetti	4 "	Brisket
6 "	Pate Foie	3 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	Sausage Meat
1 "	Macaroni	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Corned Beef Hash
1 Gall.	tin Tomato Ketchup	2 "	Ham
1 bott.	Sauce	1 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	Pork Brawn
72 "	Pickled Cabbage	$\frac{1}{4}$ "	Meat Roll
40 "	Pickles	145 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Prunes
13 "	Gherkins	25 "	Dried Peaches
19 tins	Mustard	12 "	Dried Peas
11 pkts.	Salt	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	tinned Peas
13 drums	Pepper	152 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	tinned Tomatoes
167 tins	Soup	2576 "	Potatoes
69 "	Irish Stew	26 "	tinned Fruit Salad
20 "	Broth	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	tinned Peaches
3 "	Proprietary Foods	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	tinned Apricots
233 "	Stewed Steak	5 "	tinned Pineapple
14 "	Casserole Steak	5 "	tinned Plums
6 "	American Steak	4 "	tinned Pears
31 "	Steak & Kidney Puddg.	4 "	tinned Apple Jelly
139 "	Sausages	146 "	Sultanas
78 "	Luncheon Meat	11 "	Figs
57 "	Meat & Veg. Ration	350 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Jam
21 "	Bacon	246 "	Orange Marmalade
14 "	Meat Roll	24 "	Grapefruit
12 "	York Ham	4 "	Syrup
10 "	Tongue	14 "	Lemon Barley
9 "	Sausage Meat	110 "	Pearl Barley
8 "	Potted Meat	43 "	Barley Flakes

24 lbs. Ground Barley	6 doz. Crumpets
102 „ Macaroni	5 pkts. Cream Crackers
63 „ Semolina	40 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Cake
119 „ Rolled Oats	1 „ Swiss Roll
101 „ Oatmeal	85 „ Finger Rolls
37 pkts. Oats	100 „ Bread Rolls
5 „ Shredded Wheat	17 boxes Chocolate Rolls
3 „ All Bran	62 pkts. Pudding & Baking
1 „ Puffed Wheat	Powders
56 lbs. Cooking Fat	2 „ Dessert Sauce Powder
114 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ Butter	28 „ Dessert Mould
112 „ Lard	108 lbs. Chocolate Mould
77 $\frac{3}{4}$ „ Margarine	38 pkts. Coldset Powder
12 $\frac{1}{2}$ doz. Meat Cubes	16 „ Custard Powder
169 pkts. Gravy Salt	6 doz. Table Jellies
3 lbs. Mincemeat	9 boxes Pate de Brie
3 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ Beef Suet	72 $\frac{3}{4}$ stone Skate
6 sacks Flour	43 „ Roker
112 lbs. Soya Flour	29 „ Haddock
1 pkt. Dried Egg	25 „ Dogfish
560 lbs. Butter Beans	10 „ Soles and Dabs
1 bott. Coffee	10 „ Cod
58 lbs. Tea	11 „ Mixed Fish
358 $\frac{1}{4}$ cwt. Sugar	12 „ Roe
14 lbs. Glucose	6 „ Halibut
3 tubes Malt Milk Tablets	5 „ Witch
6 pkts. Chocolate Wafers	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ „ Turbot
*800 gross Mars Bars & Maltesers	4 „ Ray
* 4 cwt. Lemonade Crystals	2 „ Herrings
*8247 lbs. Confectionery (various)	43 „ Kippers
24 „ Nougat	7 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Russian Salad
24 bars Chocolate (assorted)	17 „ Vegetable Salad
366 cartons Chocolate Malt	2 boxes Tomatoes
	1 tin Turkey
167 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. Cheese	9 Chickens (44 lbs.)
49 $\frac{3}{4}$ „ Biscuits	1127 Eggs
* Flood damage.	44 Fishcakes

(d) **Adulteration, etc.—Food and Drugs Act, 1938.**

During the year 107 samples of food and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst.

Seven samples were found to be in some respect unsatisfactory. Particulars are given below :—

Description of Article	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
Barley Chips (Informal)	Contained 6% of weed seeds, etc.	Returned to millers.
Sausages (Formal)	Contained 42% of meat as against 50% specified.	Interviewed and letter of warning.

Description of Article	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
Rum (Formal)	8% of added water.	Court Proceedings Pro- bation of Offenders Act. Costs £5 5s. 0d.
Milk, 3 (Formal)	1, 2 & 6% added water.	(a) Letter of warning to wholesaler con- cerned. (b) Employee discharged.
Herring Tit-Bits (In- formal)	Contents not sterile.	Stock surrendered.

(e) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Foods.

Chemical examination is carried out by the Public Analyst, Dr. Dyer, 20 Eastcheap, E.C.3, and bacteriological examination by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66 Victoria Street, S.W.1.

(f) Circular letters were sent to all street traders directing special attention to their responsibilities regarding protection of food-stuffs against contamination by flies, dust, dirt, etc.

All manufacturers and vendors of ice cream were circularised on two occasions, bringing to their notice topical matters.

Bye-laws regulating the sale of food in the open air are still urgently needed.

RENT AND MORTGAGE RESTRICTION ACTS

During the year twenty-five certificates were granted to tenants and eight clearance certificates were issued to owners. One clearance certificate was refused.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894-1938

The Sheep Scab Order, 1938.—No action necessary.

Swine Fever Order, 1938.—No action necessary.

Regulation of Movement of Swine Order, 1922.—No action necessary.

Parasitic Mange Order, 1938.—No action necessary.

Foot and Mouth Disease (Infected Areas) Special Orders, 1947.—Three licences for movement of pigs countersigned.

The following Orders were dealt with as necessary :—

Fowl Pest (Amendment) Order, 1947, No. 1 & No. 2.

Sales of Live Poultry Orders, 1947 (Three).

Live Poultry (Prohibition of Movement) Orders, 1947 (Two).

Boiling of Animal Foodstuffs Order, 1947.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919 AND INFESTATION ORDER, 1943

(a) Rat repression was actively pursued during the year.

The Sanitary Inspectors act in technical and supervisory capacity and operative treatment is carried out by the Council's trained Rat Catchers.

(b) *Local Authority Circular N.S.12—Special Inspection of District.*

The Council participated in the Ministry of Food's house-to-house scheme and received a financial grant towards the cost of the special work undertaken.

One temporary rodent operative was engaged to augment the existing staff of two trained operatives.

The following is a summary of the work carried out to meet the requirements of the Ministry :—

Eleven "suspected" areas in the district were chosen for house-to-house visitation. In addition "spot checks" were carried out in three roads chosen at random.

Statistics.

Total number of investigations	8,094
Ineffective Visits	1,200
Premises reported clear	6,386
Premises reported rat infested	199
Premises reported mouse infested	309
Premises requiring poison baiting	116
Number of premises cleared by 1st treatment	97
" " " " " 2nd "	13
" " " " " 3rd "	3
	113

The three remaining premises needed four, five and six treatments respectively before being cleared.

Estimated kill of rats	600
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RODENT OPERATIVES.

(c) The year's work of the Rodent Operatives is indicated below :—

No. of Infestations Treated	No. of Infestations Re-treated	No. of Infestations Cleared.	Number reduced Major to Minor.	Estimated Kill.
530	132	510	4	5,000

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

The following tables show the work carried out under this Act :—

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, ETC.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prose- cuted. (4)
Factories with Machine	131	6	Nil
Factories without Power	456	40	Nil
Other Premises under the Act ..	57	6	Nil
Totals	644	52	Nil

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, ETC.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect of which (5) Prosecutions were instituted.
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness	60	57	—	—
Overcrowding	2	2	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	1	1	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	6	6	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	3	3	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences {	insufficient	13	8	—
	unsuitable or defec- tive	43	42	—
	not separate for sexes	6	4	—
Other offences	17	17	6	—
Totals	151	140	6	—

NUMBER AND TRADES OF OUTWORKERS NOTIFIED DURING 1947

Wearing Apparel, making		Toys	2
of	140	Racquet & Tennis Balls	5
Boxes	6	Brush making	10
Total	163		

Outworkers were notified from the following areas :—

Bethnal Green	3	Leyton	40
City of London	8	Shoreditch	6
Chingford	3	Stepney	2
Finsbury	26	Tottenham	3
Hackney	21	Walthamstow	32
Islington	5	Westminster	4
Kensington	5	Other areas	5
Total	163		

338 visits were paid in connection with outworkers.

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

General.—The accompanying tables show the age and ward incidence of the various infectious diseases which are discussed separately in later pages of the report :—

	All ages.		Under	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 & over.
	1947	1946	1 yr.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	yrs.	
Scarlet Fever	232	178	—	47	175	5	5	—	—
Diphtheria	*	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	151	82	5	15	20	12	38	34	27
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	30	33	—	—	—	12	18	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	48	34	—	—	2	1	15	21	9
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	9	7	2	—	1	3	2	1	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis ..	24	—	1	7	8	5	3	—	—
Measles	1081	503	47	636	388	9	1	—	—
Whooping Cough	223	197	22	133	62	4	1	—	1
Dysentery	—	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	151	167	1	3	14	55	49	24	5
Totals, 1947	1,954	—	83	841	670	106	132	80	42
Totals, 1946	—	1,259	56	500	401	75	131	70	26

* There were 38 cases of Diphtheria (for observation), all of which were removed to hospital, but none were confirmed.

	St. James Street.	High Street.	Hoe Street.	Wood Street.	Hale End.	Higham Hill.	Totals.
Scarlet Fever	37	24	28	66	45	32	232
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	26	23	26	19	27	30	151
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	3	1	4	3	10	9	30
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	1	—	1	1	5
Erysipelas	8	9	6	2	9	14	48
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Polio-encephalitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	2	1	1	1	2	2	9
Anterior Poliomyelitis ..	8	2	2	2	5	5	24
Measles	184	164	161	108	188	276	1081
Whooping Cough ..	40	17	26	22	55	63	223
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	21	17	20	12	43	38	151
Totals, 1947 ..	330	259	275	235	385	470	1,954
Totals, 1946 ..	233	203	183	158	182	300	1,259

The statistics given in the foregoing tables are those for the calendar year 1947.

The Registrar-General gives the statistics for the 52 weeks ended 31st December, 1947, and these are given in the following table together with the case rates per 1,000 population both for England and Wales and for Walthamstow :—

Disease.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Enteric Fever.	Pneu- monia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Erysipelas
Number	232	—	—	151	30	48
Case rate :—						
Walthamstow	1.89	—	—	1.23	0.24	0.39
England and Wales	1.37	0.13	0.02	0.79	Not available	0.19

The rate for Puerperal Pyrexia is better expressed in relation to the number of births (i.e., live and still-births) registered than to population. When calculated on this basis the rate is :—

Walthamstow	10.99
England and Wales	7.16

Disease.	Total notified.	Removed to Hospital.	Per cent. removed to Hospital.	Deaths.	Deaths per cent. of cases notified.
Scarlet Fever	232	138	59.4	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria Observation	38	38	100.0	Nil	Nil
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Paratyphoid Fever ..	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	151	103	68.2	81	53.6*
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	30	5	16.0	Nil	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	1	20.0	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	48	9	18.7	Nil	Nil
Encephalitis Lethargica..	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Polio-encephalitis ..	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	9	8	88.8	1	11.1
Anterior Poliomyelitis ..	24	17	70.8	Nil	Nil
Measles	1081	43	3.9	2	0.18
Whooping Cough	223	20	8.9	Nil	Nil
Dysentery	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Malaria	—	—	—	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis (all Forms)	151	148†	—	58	38.4

* All cases not notified.

† This figure also includes cases notified during previous years.

Infectious Diseases Clinic.—The weekly clinic at 3.30 p.m. on Wednesdays was continued; and all children of school age who had been in contact with cases of infectious diseases were seen prior to their return to school.

As in previous years all children discharged from the Isolation Hospital or after home isolation for infectious diseases were seen, and particular care was taken to refer all cases with any suspicion of rheumatism or of cardiac defect to the next Rheumatism Clinic.

The following table shows the work done at the infectious diseases clinic, the large majority of patients being of school age :—

Number of clinics held in connection with Infectious Diseases	52
Number of attendances made	380
Average attendance per session	7.3
Number of children referred to Rheumatism Clinic.....	—
Number of children referred to Aural Clinic	3

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Immunisation is carried out at the weekly clinic on Tuesdays at 2 p.m., at Schools, and at all Welfare Centres along the lines detailed in previous reports. The following summarises the work done :—

Schick tested for the first time	15
Negative (including pseudo and negative)	9
Positive (including pseudo and positive)	6

Number of Schick tests following immunisation	67
Number negative	60
Number positive	2
Number not seen	5

Total number of immunisations completed during 1947 :—

(a) School age	810
(b) Pre-school age	1,844
(c) Over school age	4
Total	2,658

(d) Number already immunised having a reinforcing dose

3,541

The above total includes 152 children immunised at Brookcroft Child Welfare Centre and approximately 366 by Private Practitioners.

Number of special clinics held for immunisation	52
Number of attendances made	1,795
Average attendance per session	34.5

Included in the total of 2,658 were :—

(i) Number protected at Child Welfare Centres

574

(ii) Immunisation at Schools—

Number completed immunised	713
Number partly immunised	97
Number having re-inforcing dose, immunised in previous years	3,147

At the end of 1947, out of a total child population (i.e., 0 to 15 years) of 25,070, 18,122 or 72.2 per cent. had been immunised.

The figure of 18,122 represents 52.4 per cent. of children under five years and 86 per cent. of children between five and fifteen years.

The number of children (as adjusted by inward and outward transfers) immunised during 1947 was 3,141, an increase of 190 on the adjusted 1946 figure.

Diphtheria Incidence (corrected diagnoses) :—

1944	13
1945	16
1946	23
1947	Nil

General Practitioner Scheme.—This was extended in 1946 to cover all children up to the age of 15 years at a fee of 3s. per injection.

During 1947, 366 c.cs of alum precipitated toxoid were issued, a quantity sufficient to protect 366 children.

Birthday Letters.—The arrangements detailed in the 1944 Report were continued.

The following national assessment of Diphtheria Immunisation has recently been made by the Ministry of Health :—

Costs £50,000 per annum.

Saves 2,500 children from death each year and 40,000 from suffering from Diphtheria each year.

Releases 2,500 nurses for other work and saves one and a half million pounds per annum in hospital costs.

MUNICIPAL LABORATORY

Eighty-five swabs were examined at Walthamstow under the General Practitioners' Service and sent to the Epping Laboratory for further examination and report.

Owing to staffing difficulties this service was discontinued at the end of April, 1947, and daily collection is now effected by motor transport from Epping.

Other swabs sent to the Epping Laboratory during the year :—

School Medical Service	.....	.....	.....	430
Health Department	.....	.....	.....	166

VACCINATION

Mr. E. Meddings, Vaccination Officer for the area, has furnished the following return for 1947 :—

Births Registered	Successfully Vaccinated	Percentage Vaccinated	Insusceptible	Exemptions	Deaths before Vaccination	Postponed
2,542	1,466	57.7	5	1,053	40	54

During 1947, the vaccinal condition of all school children examined at Routine Medical Inspections was recorded, and a summary of the findings for the year showed that 20.4 per cent. were vaccinated.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

No action was necessary under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or the treatment of persons suffering from any disease of, or injury to, the eyes.

SMALLPOX

There were no notifications of this disease during the year.

SCARLET FEVER

A total of 232 cases of Scarlet Fever was notified during 1947 as compared with 178 in 1946.

The following tables show the incidence by months, ages and Wards. The incidence by months and Wards is given below :—

January	.....	30	July	.....	23
February	.....	30	August	.....	10
March	.....	18	September	.....	9
April	.....	13	October	.....	17
May	.....	12	November	.....	29
June	.....	10	December	.....	31
		Total	.....	232	

St. James Street	.....	37
High Street	.....	24
Hoe Street	.....	28
Wood Street	.....	66
Hale End	.....	45
Higham Hill	.....	32

Scarlet Fever is far better nursed at home unless conditions preclude this being done.

The last fatal case of Scarlet Fever occurred in 1936, since when (up to the end of 1947) there were 3,150 non-fatal cases.

SCARLET FEVER AT AN INSTITUTION

A considerable outbreak of mild Scarlet Fever occurred at a residential Home for children with an associated elementary school.

The outbreak started in November, 1946, the first 3 cases originating in school children. From November to the end of the year there were 8 cases (5 from the Home), in January 9 (5), in February 17 (13), in March 6 (4) and in April 1 (0).

The total of persons at risk were about 150 in the Home (including 36 in the Nursery Wing) and 10 staff. There were about 333 on the school roll (including approximately 100 from the Home) with an attendance on the 4th February of 237 including 98 from the Home.

Early in February the position was discussed with the Medical Branch of the Ministry of Health and it was agreed that the communities at the Home and the school (but particularly the former) were probably at this time "saturated" with streptococci and that the incidence of Scarlet Fever could be expected to diminish in the near future. In the meantime, there were to be no new admissions. The inspection of the children was arranged and all the young children in the Nursery and all others with rhinitis were swabbed—a total of 59. The results showed 12 of the persons swabbed to be infected with Group A, Streptococci, of which, 6 were type 14 (including one patient recently discharged from the I.D. Hospital).

On the same day 6 of the patients in the I.D. Hospital admitted from the Home or school were swabbed and out of 5 Group A findings, 3 were type 14, which was evidently the epidemic strain.

The Group Laboratory at Epping found the streptococci to be sulphonamide sensitive and mass medication was carried out at the Home and in the school with the help of the teaching staff.

On March 4th, (i.e., after the course of sulphonamide medication), all staff and children were swabbed—a total of 150. The total of swabs positive to Hæmolytic Streptococci was 99, of which no less than 54 were Group A, i.e., 35.9 per cent. The percentage of positives in the various dormitories of the Home varied from 22.2 to 58.3.

By the time the final reports were received there was some evidence that the epidemic was abating and, in fact, only 1 case occurred in April, and then one each in July, August, October and 2 in November.

It is of interest to compare the incidence of Scarlet Fever in the two halves of 1946/47 over the whole Borough.

		1946	1947
First Half-Year	.....	83	112
Second Half-Year	.....	88	120

Thirty-two of the cases in this outbreak occurred in the first quarter of the year, followed by only 1, 2 and 3 cases respectively in the remaining three-quarters.

Although all the cases were mild, there was naturally considerable anxiety during the outbreak. Grateful acknowledgement must be made of the help and co-operation received from Drs. Bradley and Allison of the Ministry of Health, Dr. Marsh of the Group Laboratory, Dr. O'Callaghan and the authorities concerned with the Home and the school.

DIPHTHERIA

During the year 38 cases were notified for admission to Hospital as cases of Diphtheria observation. None of these cases was confirmed as Diphtheria. 22 cases were admitted during 1946.

No suspect or case is refused admission to hospital, as home treatment of Diphtheria can rarely be adequate unless the disease is extremely mild.

Antitoxin continued to be available for free issue to medical practitioners at the Public Health Department during office hours

and at all times at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, the Fire Station, Forest Road, and at Mr. Gaze's, 10 The Avenue, Highams Park. During 1947, a total of 60 phials, each containing 8,000 units of Diphtheria antitoxin were issued.

ENTERIC FEVER

There were no cases of Typhoid or Paratyphoid Fever during the year.

STAPHYLOCOCCAL FOOD POISONING

Information was received on Sunday, 11th May, that some 35 out of 47 persons who had partaken of food at a private party and dance the previous evening had become violently ill within a few hours.

Treatment was given at the Connaught Hospital which was fortunately nearby, and three of the patients were detained about 24 hours.

Various patients, both in Hospital and at home, were seen and samples of all the remaining food were at once taken to the Epping Laboratory. By Monday morning some "liver-sausage" was found to be affected with Staphylococci. A small sample from an adjoining area was likewise affected and further implication was suggested from information received from another person also resident in the same area.

The Ministry of Health, the Manufacturers and the Medical Officers of Health of the appropriate areas were at once informed and arrangements were made to collect all the "liver-sausage" as yet unsold.

As far as is known all the patients recovered.

Subsequently it became known that a carrier at the source of production in another area had apparently infected an ingredient of the fatty outlayer.

This outbreak was apparently the most extensive yet recorded, and extended to many parts of the country.

Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regs., 1927. Typhoid Carriers.—Part compensation continues to be paid to a chronic carrier in order to prevent her from following her normal occupation as a cook and to make up her wages as a convenience attendant.

DYSENTERY

No cases were notified during 1947, as compared with 25 during 1946.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS

The total notifications during the year were 24. The incidence by months, ages and wards is shown in the following table:—

Month.	All ages.	Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 & over.
January	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
February	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
March	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
July	3	—	1	—	1	1	—	—
August	10	—	5	3	1	1	—	—
September	6	—	—	3	2	1	—	—
October	3	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
November	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
December	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	24	1	7	8	5	3	—	—

Month.	St. James Street.	High Street.	Hoe Street.	Wood Street.	Hale End.	Higham Hill.
January	—	—	—	—	—	—
February	—	—	—	—	—	—
March	—	1	—	—	—	—
April	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	—	—	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	—	—	—	—
July	3	—	—	—	—	—
August	3	1	—	1	2	3
September	—	—	2	1	2	1
October	2	—	—	—	1	—
November	—	—	—	—	—	1
December	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8	2	2	2	5	5

Each case was followed up in an investigation sponsored by the Medical Research Council. The proportion of cases in the south-west portion of the Borough was considerable.

None of the cases was fatal, but one very severe case of paralysis of all four limbs notified in September still shows little hope of recovery and still has occasional recourse to an "iron lung."

There were no cases of Encephalitis Lethargica, nor of Poliomyelitis.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Five cases were notified during the year, the details being as follows :—

Sex	Age	Ward	Removed to Hospital	Remarks
F	3 weeks	St. James Street	Yes	Recovered
F	9 days	High Street	No	„
M	9 days	Higham Hill	No	„
M	11 days	Hoe Street	No	„
M	4 days	Hale End	No	„

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

See Maternity and Child Welfare Section.

PNEUMONIA

The incidence by months and Wards is given below :—

January	.....	20	July	.....	8
February	.....	30	August	.....	3
March	.....	13	September	.....	2
April	.....	13	October	.....	12
May	.....	16	November	.....	11
June	.....	8	December	.....	15

Total 151

St. James Street	.....	26
High Street	.....	23
Hoe Street	.....	26
Wood Street	.....	19
Hale End	.....	27
Higham Hill	.....	30

Your Council decided to continue the grant to the Waltham-stow District Nursing Association, in return for which the Association was, amongst other services, required to provide home nursing facilities for cases of pneumonia.

The local practice is for the District Sanitary Inspector to visit on receipt of a notification and to make the necessary enquiries, and opportunity is taken to deal with any obvious defects in sanitation which may be found. Otherwise there is little gained by notification.

ERYSIPELAS

The incidence by months and Wards is given below :—

January	.....	6	July	.....	2
February	.....	2	August	.....	—
March	.....	6	September	.....	5
April	.....	3	October	.....	6
May	.....	8	November	.....	2
June	.....	2	December	.....	6

Total 48

St. James Street	8
High Street	9
Hoe Street	6
Wood Street	2
Hale End	9
Higham Hill	14

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS

Nine cases were notified during the year, the details being as follows :—

No.	Ward.	Age.	Date notified.	Hospital.	Remarks.
1	H.E.	41 years	4. 3.47	Yes	Recovered
2	H.H.	17 years	25. 3.47	Yes	do.
3	Hi. St.	5 months	27. 4.47	No	Died—P.M.
4	St. J. St.	17 years	18. 5.47	Yes	Recovered
5	St. J. St.	45 years	29. 5.47	Yes	do.
6	H.H.	30 years	29. 7.47	Yes	do.
7	H.E.	15 years	15. 8.47	Yes	do.
8	W. St.	9 years	13.12.47	Yes	do.
9	Ho. St.	9 months	13.12.47	Yes	do.

MALARIA

There were no cases notified during the year.

MEASLES

The incidence by months and Wards is given below :—

January	14	July	29
February	34	August	7
March	28	September	1
April	188	October	3
May	553	November	1
June	215	December	8
Total	1081		

St. James Street	184
High Street	164
Hoe Street	161
Wood Street	108
Hale End	188
Higham Hill	276

There were two deaths.

WHOOPIING COUGH

The incidence by months and Wards is given below :—

January	.....	4	July	.....	12
February	.....	8	August	.....	16
March	.....	22	September	.....	27
April	.....	18	October	.....	15
May	.....	17	November	.....	16
June	.....	10	December	.....	58
Total		.....	223		

St. James Street	.....	40
High Street	.....	17
Hoe Street	.....	26
Wood Street	.....	22
Hale End	.....	55
Higham Hill	.....	63

There were no deaths.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease in the Borough during 1947 :—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
1- 5 years ..	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5-10 " ..	1	5	3	2	—	1	—	—
10-15 " ..	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
15-20 " ..	8	12	2	3	1	2	—	—
20-25 " ..	18	10	1	1	2	4	—	1
25-35 " ..	14	11	—	1	4	4	—	1
35-45 " ..	14	7	1	1	9	10	—	—
45-55 " ..	10	2	—	1	3	1	—	—
55-65 " ..	9	2	—	—	2	2	—	—
65 and over ..	3	—	2	—	7	1	1	—
Totals	80	49	9	13	28	25	1	4
	129		22		53		5	
	151				58			

The 58 deaths represent a death rate of 0.47 per 1,000 population.

New cases in 1946 were 167 with 58 deaths—a rate of 0.5.

The returns for the past two years are compared below :—

Year.	New Cases.					Deaths.				
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1947 ..	80	49	9	13	151	28	25	1	4	58
1946 ..	82	60	14	11	167	30	16	10	2	58

The period elapsing between notification and death and the number of cases not notified were as follows :—

Under 3 months.		3 to 6 months.		6 to 9 months.		9 to 12 months.		Over 12 months.		Not notified.		Notified after death.	
Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul.
5	—	2	1	1	1	2	—	30	2	11	1	2	—

The ratio of deaths in non-notified cases (i.e., columns to the right of the double line) to total deaths from tuberculosis was 14 to 44 or 1 to 3.1.

Appropriate action was taken when necessary with regard to non-notification.

The table given below shows the number of cases on the register at the beginning and end of 1947 :—

				Pulmonary.		Total.	Non-Pulmonary.		Total.	Grand Total.
				M.	F.		M.	F.		
No. on Register	1st	..	..	1,009	887	1,896	490	397	887	2,783
January	..	..	..							
Notified during 1947	..	..	..	80	49	129	9	13	22	151
Totals	..	..	..	1,089	936	2,025	499	410	909	2,934
Removed from Register,	1946	..	..	50	50	100	8	8	16	116
No. on Register	31st	..	..	1,039	886	1,925	491	402	893	2,818
December	..	..	..							

Removals from the Register were made up as follows:—

Deaths.				Removals.			
Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
28	25	1	4	22	25	7	4
53		5		47		11	
58				58			
116							

Treatment of Tuberculosis.—Treatment is given under the Essex County Council's Scheme. The admissions to Hospital during 1947 were as follows:—

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total, 1947.	Total, 1946.
	M.	F.	M.	F.		
Adults	52	59	8	12	131	139
Children	6	4	3	4	17	20

G.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL

General.—(i) The death rate per 100 admissions was 3.2.

(ii) The following table shows the admissions, discharges and deaths during 1947:—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Other Diseases.	Tuber- culosis.	Totals.
Remaining in Hospital 1st January, 1947 ..	17	—	17	17	51
Admitted during year	241	4	257	26	528
Discharged during year	237	4	250	21	512
Died during year ..	—	—	12	5	17
Remaining in Hospital 31st December, 1947	21	—	12	17	50

DAILY AVERAGE NUMBER OF PATIENTS IN HOSPITAL (including Tuberculosis cases)

January	47.1	July	40.7
February	54.8	August	39.6
March	47.8	September	35.2
April	46.8	October	39.2
May	45.5	November	42.2
June	39.1	December	47.8
Average whole year			43.8

The question of staffing, both nursing and domestic, gave rise to continued anxiety during the year, especially in regard to the recruitment of probationers. An illustrated brochure entitled "The Story of a Nurse" was prepared with a view to stimulating the recruitment of probationers. Unfortunately the position remains as grave as ever, and no real solution of the difficulty appears possible until conditions in regard to salary and hours are made comparable with those in industry and commerce.

Training.—During 1947, four probationers passed the final examination for the Fever Nursing Certificate of the General Nursing Council.

The examination fees of probationers are paid by the Council.

CLINICAL REPORT

Dr. M. Hamilton, Resident Medical Officer, reports as follows:—

AGE AND SEX OF PATIENTS ADMITTED DURING 1947

	Under 5 years.		5-10 years.		10-15 years.		Over 15 years.		Total.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Scarlet Fever ..	30	30	41	84	16	25	8	7	96	146	241
Diphtheria ..	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	4
Measles..	26	12	10	11	—	—	1	1	37	24	61
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	2	2	4
Whooping Cough	12	8	4	2	—	—	—	—	16	10	26
Dysentery ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	2	5
Acute Polio-myelitis ..	6	4	3	3	4	—	5	4	18	11	29
Phthisis..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—	26	26
Other Diseases..	32	16	9	4	4	3	17	32	62	55	117
Staff ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	—	15	15
Totals ..	109	72	67	105	25	28	34	88	235	293	528

NUMBER AND NATURE OF OUTSIDE AUTHORITIES' CASES ADMITTED DURING THE YEAR

	Measles.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Others.	Total.
Leyton	26	4	93	12	55	190
Barking	—	—	3	—	2	5
Whipps Cross Hospital	3	—	—	—	7	10
Aldersbrooke Homes	2	—	1	—	4	7
H.M. Forces	—	—	—	—	1	1
Totals	31	4	97	12	69	213

SEX AND AGE AT DEATH

Seventeen deaths occurred, details of which are given below :—

5 Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Females, aged 24, 31, 31, 33 and 34 years.
3 Gastro-enteritis	Males, aged $4\frac{1}{2}$ months, 17 days and $2\frac{1}{2}$ years.
2 Broncho-pneumonia	Males, aged 13 months and 71 years.
1 Cerebral Hæmorrhage complicating Whooping Cough	Female, aged 5 years.
1 Broncho-pneumonia complicating Whooping Cough	Male, aged $3\frac{1}{2}$ years.
1 Broncho-pneumonia complicating Measles	Male, aged 6 months.
1 Acute Poliomyelitis	Male, aged 33 years.
1 Broncho-pneumonia complicating congenital heart disease	Male, aged 4 months.
1 Pulmonary embolism complicating congenital heart disease	Male, aged $2\frac{1}{2}$ years.
1 Pyæmia	Female, aged 37 years.

Duration of Treatment.—The average duration of treatment in hospital was as follows :—

Scarlet Fever	21.2 days
Other diseases	16.4 days
Diphtheria	58.3 days

The County Medical Officer has kindly furnished the following return of patients treated in the Tuberculosis Pavilion during 1947:—

Classification in accordance with Ministry of Health Memorandum 37.T. (Rev.)	In Hospital on 1st January, 1947.	Admitted during year.	Discharged during year.	Died during year.	In Hospital on 31st December, 1947.
Observation	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. Minus	6	12	10	1	7
T.B. Plus Group I ..	2	7	4	2	3
T.B. Plus Group II ..	9	11	11	1	8
T.B. Plus Group III	1	—	—	1	—
Totals	18	30	25	5	18

15 of the 30 admissions were Walthamstow cases.

MISCELLANEOUS

1. **Grants.**—Your Council made the following grants during the year to voluntary organisations:—

Invalid Children's Aid Association	£100
Walthamstow Association of Tuberculosis Care	
Helpers	£25

2. **Mortuary.**—A Coroner's Court, mortuary (with special provision for infectious disease cases) and a post-mortem room is provided by your Council at Queens Road Cemetery.

The Cemetery Superintendent reports that the number of inquests and post-mortems were as follows:—

Inquests only	67
Post-mortems	146
Post-mortems and Inquests (not included in above)	42
Total	255

3. **Cremation.**—Facilities for cremation are available at the Crematorium provided by the City of London at Manor Park, Little Ilford.

4. **Medical Examinations.**—During the year, 107 examinations were carried out by the Medical Staff in respect of the Superannuation and Sick Pay Schemes.

5. **Domestic Help.**—The total number of families assisted under this Scheme during 1947 was seven.

There were eight additional applications eligible for financial assistance under the Scheme, but it was not possible to assist owing to lack of domestic helpers.

Also there were nine "overscale" applications. Names and addresses of helpers were given where possible.

During the early part of the year there were a number of applicants for posts as Domestic Helpers, but in many cases they would not accept the few hours work required by householders.

In the latter part of the year the number of applications for Domestic Help far outnumbered the helpers available.

Separate particulars are given in regard to Home Helps.

6. **Supply of Insulin.**—Twelve patients were supplied with Insulin in accordance with Circular 2734/1943, at a total cost to the Council of £20 18s. 0d.

7. **Health Centres.**—At the request of the County Medical Officer the sites suggested for Health Centres were discussed with representatives of the medical, dental and pharmaceutical professions.

8. **Local Government Exhibition.**—Dr. M. Watkins has contributed the following report :—

"A Local Government Exhibition was held in the Council's Assembly Hall from 27th September to the 4th October. The Health Section of the Exhibition portrayed the work carried out by the Council's Health Department and also the medical services for which the Essex County Council were responsible. The whole occupied 48 linear feet and was divided up into four sections :—(i) Maternity and Child Welfare, (ii) School Health Services, (iii) Other Health Services and (iv) Essex County Council Medical Services.

(i) Maternity and Child Welfare.

"The work carried out at Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital was fully illustrated with charts, photographs and models. A Synchrophone livened the exhibit and was a great source of attraction.

"Domiciliary midwifery was illustrated in the form of a model of a bedroom prepared for confinement. There were also displayed a gas and air apparatus for analgesia, a midwife's bag and a layette.

"The work of the Health Visitors was shown in photographs, statistical charts, models of weaning diets and tweenie diets, and nutrition trays were on view.

"Day Nursery activities were attractively displayed in models and photographs.

"A Ministry of Food exhibit was included in this section.

"The whole was set off by a beautiful array of baby clothes which the mothers are taught to make in the mothercraft classes.

(ii) School Health Services.

"The greater part of this section was taken up by the Dental Services, whose display of ancient and modern dentures and illustrations of good and bad teeth aroused much interest.

"The remainder was devoted to depicting the special clinics run in conjunction with School Health work.

"The Eye Clinic was represented by the various instruments used for remedial ocular exercises. The Aural Clinic displayed an audiometer for testing hearing and various instruments used in the conservative treatment of ear, nose and throat defects, e.g., ionisation for chronic otorrhoea.

"The activities of the Speech Clinic was cleverly portrayed in a series of figures.

"The Child Guidance Clinic contributed a very useful pamphlet detailing the kind of work carried out. Copies of literature on the subject were on view.

"The Orthopædic Clinic had a series of X-ray films on view showing anatomical deviations from the normal of various parts of the body, and also photographs of remedial therapy.

"Attention was directed to the work of the Foot Clinic by models of the perfect foot and the ideal foot-wear.

"The Rheumatism Clinic, Minor Ailment Clinic and Skin Clinic were also illustrated.

(iii) Other Health Services.

"The biggest part of this section was taken up by the Sanitary Inspectorate with exhibits of an ideal dairy, drains rodent control, food and drugs, milk sampling outfits, sound and unsound food, etc. These were amplified by posters and photographs.

"Focus on infectious disease was attained by a live exhibit of a Nuffield artificial respirator in action with a life size model of a patient. This attracted a great deal of attention as it was topical—at the time we were in the middle of the Poliomyelitis epidemic. It served to reinforce the exhibit and the propaganda for Diphtheria immunisation (located nearby).

"Photographs and statistical charts showed the work of the Ambulance Service.

"Space was allotted to the Blood Transfusion Service in this section.

(iv) Essex County Council Services.

"The medical services operated by the Essex County Council were attractively displayed, considering the shortage of space.

Films.

"Various films covering many aspects of health were shown in one of the Committee rooms in the Town Hall throughout the week.

"The whole exhibition was a marked success, over 20,000 people having visited it during the course of the week.

"From the æsthetic point of view the Health Section left much that was to be desired owing to woefully inadequate space allocated to it as compared to some other sections. There was so much material that had to be packed into such a small space which could have been attractively displayed.

"In spite of this it was really gratifying to note the intense interest displayed by the public in our section and there always seemed to be a concentration of people around the stands eagerly asking questions.

"The co-operation of the staff of the department in assembling the exhibits and giving their time to answer questions put to them is a matter for congratulation."

SECTION H

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS. E. A. SMITH, J.P. (deceased).

Ex-officio :

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR—ALDERMAN S. N. CHAPLIN, J.P.
CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE COMMITTEE—ALDERMAN ROSS WYLD,
O.B.E., J.P.

ALDERMAN MRS. C. McENTEE, J.P.

ALDERMAN MRS. E. M. MILLER.

COUNCILLOR E. G. BAILY.

„ MRS. R. BAILY.

„ W. E. BARNES.

„ MRS. L. P. BAILEY.

„ MRS. BOTTOMLEY.

„ MRS. CANDY.

COUNCILLOR MRS. CHRISTY.

„ MRS. FREWIN.

„ MRS. FLINT.

„ E. G. RICHARDS.

„ MRS. TILLYER.

„ MRS. TWEED.

Co-opted Members :

MISS A. BOWERS.

MRS. COOPER.

DR. M. ERCOLANI.

MRS. HOLSWORTH.

MRS. M. H. JARMAN.

MRS. G. E. NICHOLLS.

MRS. RILEY.

MRS. WILLIAMS.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The work of your Maternity and Child Welfare Services during 1947 is reported in the following pages—and for the last complete year under your direct control.

It is good to be able to report that the year has been very noteworthy, i.e., new low records of 29 in infant mortality, of 21.6 in the stillbirth rate and of 13.1 in the death rate of the newly born.

These new low records were scored in a year with a very high number of births—2,781 were notified as compared with 2,564 in 1946. Of these 2,781 births, 2,670 took place in the Borough—also a new record.

The high birth rates of previous years were reflected in the welfare attendances of nearly 73,000 at all welfare centres, including “Brookcroft.”

These achievements reflect the highest credit on all concerned in Maternity and Child Welfare work in your Borough—the staff at Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital, the District Midwifery Sisters and the staff at all Welfare Centres, both Municipal and voluntary.

The table of comparative statistics on page 61 shows the very favourable rates in Walthamstow.

I would once more wish to record your help and consideration.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. W. POWELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF

Resignations

Friel, Mrs. E. C. ....	.....	Health Visitor	.....	.....	28.6.47
Mitchell, Miss I. V. ....	.....	Health Visitor	.....	.....	31.4.47
Ramsay, Miss M. C. ....	.....	Health Visitor/School Nurse	.....	.....	31.1.47

Appointments

Cunnington, Miss E. L. ....	.....	Health Visitor/School Nurse	.....	6.1.47
duRandt, Miss E. ....	.....	Health Visitor/School Nurse	.....	1.5.47

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

2,781 births (92 of which belonged to other areas) were notified during the year under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Notifications were received as follows:—Doctors and Parents, 272; Midwives, 2,509.

Included in the above are 292 births which were notified as having occurred outside the Borough.

Also included are 49 stillbirths, 48 of which were notified by Midwives. Of the total, two occurred outside the area.

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS

The Registrar-General's returns show the following registrations during the calendar year :—

(a) Live Births.

			Males.	Females.	Totals.
Legitimate	.....	.....	1,332	1,265	2,597
Illegitimate	.....	.....	36	37	73
			1,368	1,302	2,670

(b) Stillbirths.

			Males.	Females.	Totals.
Legitimate	.....	.....	31	24	55
Illegitimate	.....	.....	—	4	4
			31	28	59

The stillbirth rate per 1,000 population was 0.48.

Of the 2,489 birth registrations received in the Department between 4th January, 1947, and 27th December, 1947, a total of eighteen were not notified in this area, but some may possibly have been notified elsewhere. Appropriate action was taken when necessary.

Of the 2,489 local registrations, 163 belonging to other areas are excluded, leaving a nett total of 2,326.

	St. James Street.		High Street.		Hoe Street.		Wood Street.		Hale End.		Higham Hill.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Totals	177	176	138	147	192	196	173	150	236	225	287	229	1,203	1,123
Grand Totals ..	353		285		388		323		461		516		2,326	

The following figures show the registrations of births during the past 18 years :—

1930	1,959	Average for 10 years 1,736	1940	1,575	Average for 8 years 1,906
1931	1,947		1941	1,304	
1932	1,789		1942	1,718	
1933	1,670		1943	1,828	
1934	1,715		1944	1,915	
1935	1,670		1945	1,713	
1936	1,715		1946	2,544	
1937	1,675		1947	2,650	
1938	1,617				
1939	1,606				

During the first six months of the current year 1,163 births have been notified. This would give an approximate total for the year of 2,326.

VITAMINS

The facilities for the distribution of vitamins outlined in the 1942 Report were continued at all Welfare Centres.

The average position of Walthamstow out of a total of 95 distributing centres in the Greater London Area during the year is shown below :—

Percentage of Potential

Orange Juice	Cod Liver Oil	A. & D. Tablets
47.09	33.27	41.02

There is room for considerable improvement in these percentages and every effort is being made to increase the demand.

DAY NURSERIES

The following table shows the average attendances at the Nurseries during 1947 (Mondays to Fridays only).

Month.	Nurseries.	Over 2 yrs.	Under 2 yrs.	Total.
January ..	Higham Hill ..	31.4	10.8	42.2
	Handsworth Ave.	38.9	6.9	45.8
February ..	Higham Hill ..	29.6	6.5	36.1
	Handsworth Ave.	34.0	8.8	42.8
March ..	Higham Hill ..	36.5	9.1	45.6
	Handsworth Ave.	36.1	6.8	42.9
April ..	Higham Hill ..	36.4	11.5	47.9
	Handsworth Ave.	25.8	4.0	29.8
May ..	Higham Hill ..	23.2	7.3	30.5
	Handsworth Ave.	36.4	6.4	42.8
June ..	Higham Hill ..	41.3	10.9	52.2
	Handsworth Ave.	37.6	7.9	45.5
July ..	Higham Hill ..	39.8	10.3	50.1
	Handsworth Ave.	32.6	7.2	39.8
August ..	Higham Hill ..	40.5	12.4	52.9
	Handsworth Ave.	33.8	8.7	42.5
September ..	Higham Hill ..	45.9	12.0	57.9
	Handsworth Ave.	40.2	10.8	51.0
October ..	Higham Hill ..	43.1	11.5	54.6
	Handsworth Ave.	40.4	13.1	53.5
November ..	Higham Hill ..	42.9	12.6	55.5
	Handsworth Ave.	41.8	11.6	53.4
December ..	Higham Hill ..	42.6	12.6	55.2
	Handsworth Ave.	41.5	11.5	53.0
Whole Year	Higham Hill	37.8	10.6	48.4
	Handsworth Ave.	36.6	8.6	45.2

Training.—Six probationers obtained the Nursery Nurses Certificate. The Council agreed to pay the examination fees of probationers.

Hours of Opening.—The Nurseries were open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. throughout the year.

INFANT MORTALITY

The deaths of infants under one year were :—

			Males.	Females.	Totals.
Legitimate	.....	.....	52	24	76
Illegitimate	.....	.....	—	1	1
			—	—	—
Totals	.....	.....	52	25	77
			—	—	—

The death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births when calculated on the totals given by the Registrar-General are therefore :—

Legitimate, 29 ; Illegitimate, 13 ; Total, 29.

The total rate constitutes a new low record, which, in addition, was scored with a very much increased number of total births. The previous lowest rate was just over 29 in 1939, but in that year there were only 1,606 births as compared with 2,670 in 1947.

The Infant Mortality Rate for other areas during 1947 was as follows :—

England and Wales	.....	.....	.....	41
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	.....	.....	.....	47
148 Smaller Towns (25,000 to 50,000)				36
London	.....	.....	.....	37

Statistics.—The statistics shown on the page overleaf are quoted to compare the Infant Mortality rates in Walthamstow with those for the whole country. The Walthamstow rates are considerably lower and the rate of 29 for 1947 is particularly favourable, especially having regard to the large increase in total births during the year.

SOME STATISTICS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES AND WALTHAMSTOW

Period	Population		Per 1,000 population				Infant Mortality per 1,000 Live Births						Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births		Maternal Mortality Rate	
			Death	Rate	Birth	Rate	Under one month	One month to one yr.	Total							
	E.W.	W.	E.W.	W.	E.W.	W.	E.W.	W.	E.W.	W.	E.W.	W.	E.W.	W.	E.W.	W.
1911-20	35,682,000	127,400	14.4	11.1	21.8	21.4	38	33	62	46	100	79	—	—	3.84	3.15
1921-30	38,960,000	127,000	12.1	10.0	18.3	17.6	33	25	39	28	72	53	—	—	4.26	3.38
1931-40	40,587,000	131,000	12.3	10.6	14.9	12.9	30	23	29	22	59	45	39.6	34.7	3.78	2.75
1941-45	38,149,000	99,576	12.8	12.6	15.9	16.9	26	22	24	17	50	39	30.5	29.0	2.23	3.4
1946*	40,909,000	118,050	12.0	11.2	19.1	21.5	22	19	21	15	43	34	27.2	26.7	1.43	0.76
1947*	42,006,000	122,470	12.3	10.7	21.1	21.8	23	13	18	16	41	29	24.0	21.6	1.17	1.46

E.W. England and Wales.
W. Walthamstow.

— Not separately recorded.

* All rate for 1946 and 1947 are provisional.

Neo-Natal Mortality.

The neo-natal mortality is the number of deaths of infants under one month per 1,000 live births. During 1947, 35 infants died in the first four weeks of life, yielding a rate of 13.1.

For the last ten years in England and Wales the neo-natal deaths have been approximately half the deaths under one year of age.

INFANT DEATHS, NEO-NATAL MORTALITY AND STILLBIRTHS

Year.	Live Births.	Birth Rate.	Stillbirths.			Neo-Natal Deaths.			Infant Deaths.	
			No.	Per 1,000 live births.	Per 1,000 population.	No.	Per 1,000 live births.		No.	Per 1,000 live births.
							W'stow.	England & Wales.		
1947 ..	2,670	21.8	59	21.6	0.48	35	13.1	23.0	77	29
1946 ..	2,544	21.5	70	27.5	0.59	49	19.2	24.5	87	34
1945 ..	1,713	16.5	56	32.6	0.54	36	21.0	24.8	66	38
1944 ..	1,915	18.9	52	27.1	0.51	40	20.8	24.3	71	37
1943 ..	1,828	18.2	58	30.7	0.57	48	26.2	25.2	73	40

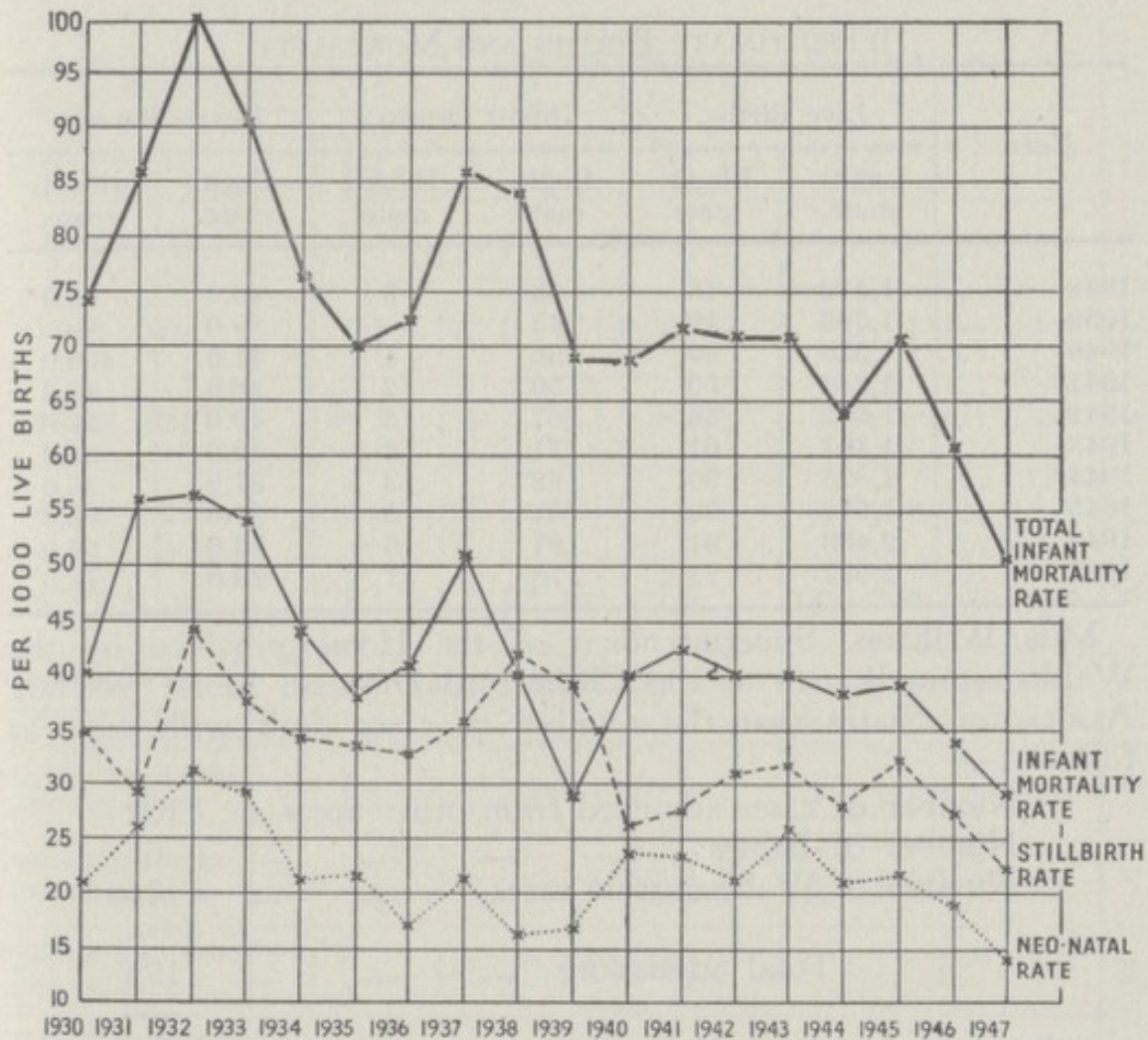
The neo-natal mortality for England and Wales is shown for comparison and is higher than the Walthamstow rates with the exception of 1943.

The death rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births was 2.2.

TOTAL INFANT MORTALITY

This is defined as the sum of the deaths that occur during child birth and during the first year of life.

The attached graph shows the position since 1930 and that the 1947 total Infant Mortality was the lowest recorded.



CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

The action taken under Circular 2866/1944 is fully set out in the report for that year. The Council has an agreement with the Walthamstow Moral Welfare Association, which provides a hostel of 19 beds staffed by three whole-time workers.

The chief difficulties in 1947 were again to secure accommodation for confinements and suitable foster mothers. The local Day Nurseries helped very considerably.

Every possible step has, as in previous years, been taken to ensure that the care of illegitimate children does not fall below that given to children who are legitimate. The figures quoted below give a comparison between illegitimate and legitimate rates.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS AND MORTALITY

Year.	Live Births.		Infant Deaths.		Death Rates.	
	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.	Legitimate.	Illegitimate.
1938 ..	1,572	45	63	3	40.0	66.0
1939 ..	1,566	40	45	—	29.0	—
1940 ..	1,535	40	56	4	41.0	100.0
1941 ..	1,254	50	50	2	40.0	40.0
1942 ..	1,662	56	67	3	40.0	53.0
1943 ..	1,767	61	71	2	40.0	32.0
1944 ..	1,825	90	68	3	37.0	33.0
1945 ..	1,614	99	61	5	37.0	50.0
1946 ..	2,453	91	81	6	33.0	66.0
1947 ..	2,597	73	76	1	29.0	13.0

Miss Williams, Superintendent of the Home provided by the Walthamstow Branch of the Chelmsford Diocesan Moral Welfare Association, states that the number of cases dealt with were as follows :—

Number of cases admitted from other areas.....	107
Number of Babies	62
Number of Walthamstow cases	26
Total admissions	195

In approximately half the Walthamstow cases the maintenance was paid by the Public Assistance Committee.

Improvements have now been effected with regard to the bathroom arrangements, and a refrigerator has been installed.

The Home was recently inspected by a Medical Inspector from the Home Office, who seemed to be entirely satisfied with the general tone of the Home and the routine of the Nursery.

The closest co-operation exists between Miss Williams and your Council's Health Visitors.

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

The action suggested in Circular 20/44 has been carried out as far as possible and the steps taken were detailed in the report for 1944. During 1947, 26 premature babies were born at home and 78 in Hospitals and Nursing Homes in the area.

Of the 26 premature babies born at home, 13 were entirely nursed at home, one died during the first 24 hours (i.e., 3.8%) and 21 survived at the end of one month (i.e., 80.8%).

Of the 78 premature babies born in Hospital, one died during the first 24 hours (i.e., 1.3%) and 73 survived at the end of one month (i.e., 93.6%).

The table "Causes of Death" which follows includes seven deaths from premature birth as compared with 22 in 1946.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total deaths under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.	St. James St.	High Street.	Hoe Street.	Wood Street.	Hale End.	Higham Hill.	Total.
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. Meningitis .. .	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other forms of T.B. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (Non-T.B.) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	3
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	—	1	—	1	2	1	1	1	2	7	—	3	1	2	1	—	7
Diarrhoea,	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	1	6	1	—	1	—	2	—	6
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inattention at birth, wilful neglect	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation (overlaying) ..	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	2	3
Injury at birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	8	—	—	—	8	1	—	—	—	9	1	2	1	3	—	2	9
Congenital malformation ..	6	2	—	—	8	1	3	—	1	13	3	1	1	—	3	5	13
Premature birth	5	—	2	—	7	—	—	—	—	7	—	1	1	2	1	2	7
Atrophy, debility, marasmus ..	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Inanition	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heart failure	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other causes	2	5	—	—	7	7	5	—	1	20	2	2	3	4	4	5	20
Totals	22	8	2	3	35	14	16	6	6	77	9	12	10	11	13	22	77

CHILD WELFARE

The equivalent of whole-time Health Visitors at the end of the year was eight, equal to one whole-time Health Visitor per 300 notified births, and one whole-time Health Visitor per 334 registered births during 1947.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

Monday	2 p.m.	Ante- & Post-Natal	Markhouse Road, E.17.
*Tuesday	9 a.m.	" " "	" " "
Wednesday	"	" " "	" " "

* New cases only.

Monday	2 to 4 p.m.	Child Welfare	St. John's Church Hall, Penrhyn Ave., E.17.
Tuesday	"	" "	The Memorial Hall, Winchester Rd., E.4.
Wednesday	"	" "	Low Hall Lane, Mark- house Road, E.17.
Wednesday	"	" "	"Brookscroft," Forest Road, E.17.
Thursday	10 to 12 noon	" "	The Memorial Hall, Winchester Rd., E.4.
Thursday	2 to 4 p.m.	" "	Low Hall Lane, Mark- house Road, E.17.
Thursday	"	" "	St. John's Church Hall, Penrhyn Ave., E.17.
Thursday	"	" "	"Brookscroft," Forest Road, E.17.
Friday	"	" "	Low Hall Lane, Mark- house Road, E.17.

In addition, the Walthamstow Child Welfare Society holds massage and sunlight sessions.

MUNICIPAL SCHEME

The detailed findings at first visits paid during 1947 are given in the following table :—

From the above table it will be seen that of 2,674 children, 2,131 or 79.7% were breast fed on first being visited, and 15 or

	How Fed.			Sleeping Arrangements.		Condition of Baby.			Accommodation.					
	Breast	Breast & Hand	Hand	With Mother	Cot or Cradle	Good	Fair	Bad	Whole house	Flat	Half house	Three rooms	Two rooms	One room
St. James Street ..	312	53	24	1	388	305	79	5	126	62	89	11	34	67
High Street ..	255	35	33	—	323	293	28	2	86	179	9	9	28	12
Hoe Street ..	317	55	53	4	421	380	44	1	114	116	89	16	39	51
Wood Street ..	260	32	55	3	344	336	11	—	63	107	60	83	18	16
Hale End ..	469	41	69	2	577	561	18	—	274	138	89	6	34	38
Higham Hill ..	518	57	36	5	606	573	26	12	403	123	34	2	28	21
Total {	1947	2,131	273	270	15	2,659	2,448	206	1,066	725	370	127	181	205
	1946	1,928	203	183	26	2,288	2,118	180	1,029	703	248	149	97	88
PRE-WAR (1938)	1,305	146	169	48	1,572	1,429	183	8	611	517	293	122	60	17
Percentages												1947	6.8	7.6
												1938	3.7	1.0

0.56% had no separate sleeping accommodation. 513 infants lived in accommodation of three rooms or less, as compared with 334 in 1946. The following table shows the number and nature of visits paid during 1947 :—

WARD.	Visits to Children under 1 year.			Visits to Children 1-5 years.	Grand Total.	Unsuccessful Visits.	Visits to Nurse Children.	Ante-Natal Visits.			Other Visits.	Total Visits.
	First.	Subsequent visits.	Total.					First Visits.	Subsequent Visits.	Total Visits.		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	—	—	8	9	Cols. 5-9
St. James St... ..	389	542	931	909	1,840	452	18	109	40	149	270	2,729
High Street	323	670	993	826	1,819	293	7	50	11	61	117	2,297
Hoe Street	425	794	1,219	986	2,205	628	32	5	—	5	249	3,119
Wood Street	347	344	691	345	1,036	160	24	36	7	43	103	1,366
Hale End	579	1,679	2,258	1,604	3,862	288	36	71	36	107	285	4,578
Higham Hill	611	1,566	2,177	2,558	4,735	299	27	66	38	104	318	5,483
Totals, 1947	2,674	5,595	8,269	7,228	15,497	2,120	144	337	132	469	1,342	19,572
Totals, 1946	2,314	4,417	6,731	6,466	13,197	2,021	112	436	134	570	1,130	17,030

INFESTATION

The steps taken to combat infestation include cleanliness inspections by School Nurses once per term, treatment at School Clinics (which includes supply of Lethane and of steel combs) and inspection and treatment for scabies and pediculosis at the Skin Clinic.

In addition educational work is carried out at all Walthamstow Schools, Day Nurseries and Welfare Centres.

CLINICS

Dr. M. Sheppard, reports as follows :—

“The Council's Welfare Clinics are held at three centres in the Borough and all three centres were well attended.

“The births in the district during 1947 were 2,670, and the number of new babies seen at the Welfares was 2,032—and as there is a voluntary welfare also functioning I think one may feel happy about the care given to the babies in Walthamstow.

“The attendances at the Post-Natal Clinic are still not good enough, being only 26% of the attendances at the Ante-Natal Clinic.

“During 1947, 574 children under five years of age were immunised at the Welfare Centres—31% of all under-fives immunised in the district.

“Again thanks are due to the voluntary workers at all the Welfare Centres.”

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Services

The following table summarises the attendances at the Clinics held :—

New Patients :—

	Ante-Natal.	Post-Natal.
Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital	1,275	902
Low Hall Lane Clinic	746	195
Totals	2,021	1,097

Total Attendances :—

	Ante-Natal.	Post-Natal.
Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital	10,511	1,397
Low Hall Lane Clinic	1,566	292
Totals	12,077	1,689

The percentage of Ante-Natal cases to notified births was 72.6.

Welfare Clinics

Attendances at the Municipal Welfare Clinics are summarised in the following table :—

SUMMARY OF ATTENDANCES AT WELFARE CLINICS

Clinic.	First Attendances of New Cases.			Re-attendances.			Grand Total.
	Under 1 yr. of age.	1-5 yrs. of age.	Total.	Under 1 yr. of age.	1-5 yrs. of age.	Total.	
Markhouse Road	939	43	982	14,512	11,070	25,582	26,564
Higham Hill ..	574	21	595	9,407	5,538	14,945	15,540
Hale End ..	519	17	536	8,586	6,394	14,980	15,516
Total { 1947..	2,032	81	2,113	32,505	23,002	55,507	57,620
{ 1946..	1,471	236	1,707	22,814	19,004	41,818	43,525

Child Life Protection.—At the end of 1947 there were 27 nurse-children on the register, compared with 30 at the end of 1946. There were no deaths among nurse-children during 1947.

Number on Register, 31.12.46 30

New Registrations 11

—
41

Deduct :

Removals from District 9

Number reaching the age of 9 years 2

Number adopted 2

Not now within meaning of the Act 1

— 14

Number on Register, 31.12.47 27

In addition there were 91 children under nine years in homes and institutions exempted from visiting.

The following is the information required by Circular 2790 of the Ministry of Health with regard to the Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939 :—

(a) Number of persons who gave notice under
Section 7 (3) during the year 16

(b) Total number of children in respect of whom
notice was given under Section 7 (3) during
the year 16

(c) No. of children notified under Section 7 (3):—			
(i) Under supervision at the end of the year			15
(ii) Who died during the year	.....	.....	Nil
(iii) On whom inquests were held during the year	.....	.....	Nil
(d) Particulars of any proceedings taken during the year			
	.....	.....	Nil

The arrangements in force with regard to Child Life Protection remain as detailed in the 1945 Report.

Adoption.—Close co-operation exists with the Education Department's Attendance Officers, and a Health Visitor's report is given in regard to each application. Similar action is taken in cases referred from adoption societies and Public Assistance Officers.

Sixteen persons gave notice under Section 7 of the Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act, 1939. All these children except one were under supervision at the end of the year and no legal proceedings were necessary.

Massage.—Six sessions per week were held at the Welfare Centres, i.e., Low Hall Lane, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; Highams Park, Tuesday; and Higham Hill, Wednesday. 201 cases attended for massage and these made 2,692 attendances.

Sale of Milk, etc., at Clinics.—The quantity and value of milk and food sold and issued free during 1947 was as follows:—

	Sales		Free Issue	
	lbs.	ozs.	lbs.	ozs.
Cow & Gate	20,934	—	238	—
Ostermilk	6,690	—	30	—
Ambrosia	1,933	—	3	—
Trufood	1,356	—	—	—
Lactogen	7,517	—	133	—
Prune and Banana Syrup	112	8	—	—
Parrishes Food	123	12	—	—
Cod Liver Oil	10	8	—	—
Cod Liver Oil and Malt	986	—	—	—
Cod Liver Oil Emulsion	488	—	—	—
Cream of Magnesia	254	—	—	—
Virol	1,071	—	—	8
Virolax	95	—	—	—
Roboleine	1,047	—	—	—
Farex	1,687	8	—	8
Ovaltine	2,177	8	—	—

	Sales		Free Issue	
	lbs.	ozs.	lbs.	ozs.
Marmite	2,270	10	—	—
Glucose	88	—	—	—
Maltoline	900	10	3	2
Adexolin	21	4	—	—
Midlothian Oat Food	2,119	—	—	—
Allergilac	42	—	—	—
Bemax	295	—	—	—
Robinson's Groats	60	—	—	—
Halibut Oil Emulsion	14	bottles	—	—
Halibut Oil Tablets	25	packets	—	—
Calfos	34	packets	—	—
Value	£5,905 2s. 7d.			

WALTHAMSTOW CHILD WELFARE SOCIETY

The organisation, staffing and accommodation provided by the Society was fully dealt with in the 1935 Report.

Clinics are held as follows :—

Tuesday & Friday, Massage and Sunlight Treatment.
2 to 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Weighing Clinic and Dispensary
2 to 4 p.m. Treatment.

Thursday, Infant Consultations.
2 to 4 p.m.

The work done during the calendar year is shown in the following table compiled from information kindly supplied by Miss D. Carter :—

CLINICS

		First Attendances of New Cases.			Re-attendances.			Grand Total.
		Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	Total.	Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	Total.	
1947	.. ..	697	64	761	11,074	3,353	14,427	15,188
1946	.. ..	690	79	769	9,631	2,988	12,619	13,388
1945	.. ..	545	55	600	7,211	2,348	9,559	10,159
1944	.. ..	421	39	460	6,140	1,903	8,043	8,503
1943	.. ..	489	51	540	8,513	2,627	11,140	11,680

HOME VISITS

	Visits to Children under 1 year.			Visits to Children 1-5 years.	Grand Total.
	First.	Subsequent.	Total.		
1947	291	507	798	505	1,303
1946	314	54	368	1,413	1,781
1945	319	632	951	686	1,637
1944	271	578	849	719	1,568
1943	443	824	1,267	909	2,176

A total of 152 children were immunised against Diphtheria during the year at "Brookcroft."

Your Council, under the Scheme approved by the Ministry of Health, makes an annual grant of £700 to the Society.

SUMMARY OF MUNICIPAL AND VOLUNTARY SCHEMES

The following tables give the total number of attendances at clinics and home visits:—

ATTENDANCES AT CLINICS

	First Attendances.			Re-attendances.			Grand Total.
	Under 1 year of age.	1-5 years of age.	Total.	Under 1 year of age.	1-5 years of age.	Total.	
Municipal Scheme	2,032	81	2,113	32,505	23,002	55,507	57,620
Brookcroft ..	697	64	761	11,074	3,353	14,427	15,188
Total { 1947..	2,729	145	2,874	43,579	26,355	69,934	72,808
{ 1946..	2,161	315	2,476	32,445	21,992	54,437	56,913

The total of 72,808 represents the highest total ever recorded.

The percentage of first attendances of children under 1 year of age at Child Welfare Centres to the number of notified live births was 100.3.

HOME VISITS

	To Children under 1 year of age.			To Children 1-5 years of age.	Total.
	First.	Subsequent.	Total.		
Municipal Scheme ..	2,674	5,595	8,269	7,228	15,497
Brookcroft	291	507	798	505	1,303
Total { 1947 ..	2,965	6,102	9,067	7,733	16,800
{ 1946 ..	2,628	4,471	7,099	7,879	14,978

TREATMENT

(a) **Orthopædic.**—The facilities provided by the Education Authority's Orthopædic Scheme are available for all children attending the Welfare Centres.

Miss Garratt has kindly furnished the following information with respect to children under five years of age :—

DEFECTS SEEN AT ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC IN CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE

Anterior Poliomyelitis	4	Talipes—(a) Equino Varus	16
Scoliosis—LordosisKyphosis	1	(b) Calcaneo	
Arthritis	1	Valgus	19
Rickets—(a) Genu Varum	32	Torticollis	9
(b) Genu Valgum	62	Achondroplasia	1
Pes Plano Valgus.....	43	Congenital defects	17
Spastic Paralysis	7	Miscellaneous	11
Progressive muscular atrophy	1	Total	224

(b) **Dental.**—The following work has been done by the Education Authority's Dental Surgeons in respect of Maternity and Child Welfare patients :—

	Mothers.	Children under 5.
Cases treated	129	188
Attendances	332	302
Fillings	87	141
Extractions	259	91
General Anæsthetics	98	66
Scalings	29	—
Dressings	145	145
Dentures	11	—

Mr. Charles Shamash, L.D.S., contributes the following report in regard to the treatment of mothers and children under five years of age :—

“During the year the improvement in attendances of children under five continued, and it is pleasant to note the increased interest of parents in the conservation of deciduous teeth and the control of habits which would otherwise cause deformity of the teeth and jaws.

“The Ante-Natal and Post-Natal treatment of mothers showed, however, disappointing results. This can be attributed to the fact that only cases of gross neglect are referred for treatment—and that conservative work is only sought by the younger mothers who have probably received treatment previously in the School Clinics.”

(c) **Tonsils and Adenoids.**—Children are treated under the arrangements made by the Education Authority with the Connaught Hospital.

(d) **Ophthalmic Defects and Minor Ailments.**—Children are given treatment either at the School Clinics or by special appointment.

(e) **Sunlight.**—64 infants were referred for sunlight treatment during 1947.

(f) **Child Guidance.**—Arrangements exist for children under five years of age to be referred to the Education Authority's Child Guidance Clinic.

(g) **Invalid Children's Aid Association.**—Miss O. M. Barnard, Secretary to the local branch of the Invalid Children's Aid Association, kindly reports that the following cases of children under five years of age were dealt with by her association :—

Referred by :—

Voluntary Hospitals and Medical Men	27
Public Authority General Hospitals	2
School Medical Services	10
Welfare Centres, Local Authority Services	16
Voluntary Agencies	6
Parents	6
	—
	67
	—

Classification of cases :—

Anæmia, debility and malnutrition	4
After effects of acute or infectious illness or operation	15
Bronchitis and pneumonia	12
Asthma	1
Heart	2
Other crippling defects (non-T.B.)	22
Nervous conditions	3
Diseases of : (a) Ear, Nose and Throat	3
(b) Eyes	1
(c) Skin	1
Accidents	1
Various	2
	—
	67
	—

Help given to old and new cases :—

Sent to Convalescent homes and Nurseries	28
Provided with surgical appliances	16
Transferred to other agencies	2
Referred for visiting and advice	10
	—
	56
	—

ASSISTED MILK SCHEME

Number of applications during 1947	.....	37
Number of families assisted	.....	30

The National Milk Scheme operated from July, 1940, and the above represents applications for special brands of dried milk not supplied under that scheme.

HOME HELPS

Applications for the provision of Home Helps, if approved, are granted financial assistance for a period of two weeks.

In addition to the 50 Home Helps approved during 1947 many mothers attending the Clinics have made their own arrangements to obtain the help of suitable women whose names were supplied by the Health Visitors. 99 applications were above scale for financial assistance.

The total demand for Home Helps has been as follows :—

1947	Granted at part cost	.....	50
	Rejected as over scale	.....	99
			149
1946	Granted free of cost	.....	2
	Granted at part cost	.....	116
	Rejected as over scale	.....	73
			191

PRIORITY SHEET DOCKETS

In March the Board of Trade withdrew Priority Sheet Dockets as such and issued certificates equivalent to four or six coupons (for single or double bed sheets respectively). Except for the wording of the certificates, however, the scheme remains precisely the same as in previous years.

During 1947, one mother was supplied with three 4-coupon certificates and 506 mothers with 1,482 6-coupon certificates.

STERILISED MATERNITY OUTFITS

A total of 744 sets were supplied and 57 outfits were issued below cost price.

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT

No children were sent to Institutions under your Committee's arrangements.

CONFINEMENTS

The following table shows the location of confinements for 1947 and the previous eight years.

CONFINEMENTS

				1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital ..				595	720	645	695	891	907	995	1,247	1,253
Other Hospitals and Maternity Homes ..				322	203	104	242	236	257	226	442	551
Total in Hospital				917	923	749	937	1,127	1,164	1,221	1,689	1,804
District	{	Municipal	299	364	155	284	293	266	157	350	399	
		W.D.N.A.	162	164	142	222	205	203	178	336	291	
		W.D.N.A. (Private)	56	80	20	49	30	43	12	31	140	
		W.D.N.A. Total	218	244	162	271	235	246	190	367	431	
Total on District				517	608	317	555	528	512	347	717	830
Grand Totals				1,434	1,531	1,066	1,492	1,655	1,676	1,568	2,406	2,634
Births Registered				1,606	1,575	1,304	1,718	1,828	1,915	1,730	2,544	2,670

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR CONFINEMENTS

The following numbers of confinements occurred at the Institutions specified (Walthamstow residents only) :—

	1947	1946
Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital	1,253	1,247
Maternity Homes in Walthamstow	259	160
Mothers' Hospital Clapton	100	108
Forest Gate Hospital	9	30
Other Maternity Hospital and Homes	183	144
Totals	1,804	1,689

EVACUATION OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Since August, 1945, cases have been charged to the Council at 15s. 0d. per day, the total cost per case amounting to over £26. Patients have been required to meet this charge subject to reduction in accordance with the Council's scale of assessment.

There was only one case in 1947.

WALTHAMSTOW DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION

(In affiliation with the Queen's Institute of District Nursing)

The Superintendent, Miss C. A. Lee, S.R.N., S.C.M., reports as follows :—

"As requested, I have pleasure in submitting a short account of the work of the Walthamstow District Nursing Association.

"This has been a very busy year all round. The increase of work reflected in all phases of the general and midwifery cases.

"Owing to the heavy calls the winter was particularly trying. It was found necessary to hire cars for some of the out-lying districts as the nurses could not use their bicycles owing to the snow. This has naturally increased our expenditure (already very heavy owing to increased salaries of nurses and domestics, cost of living and equipment). In spite of that the Committee decided to acquire a car. This has proved a great success.

"The following report of the inspection undertaken by the Inspector of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing during several days in November, 1946, was as follows :—

'Patients were visited on the district will all members of the permanent staff and one pupil-midwife. They all worked very well and were efficient and thorough in their nursing methods and most of the technique was in keeping with the "Queen's" accepted procedure.

'The Home was very comfortable and happy, and running smoothly.

'The books, records and equipment were in order and the opening of another room for use as a general district room and minor ailment centre is a great improvement.'

“Despite every effort to replace vacancies on the staff with ‘Queens’ nurses the Committee have been unsuccessful, and it can only be hoped that before long this state of affairs will have improved.

"As will have been seen from the following figures the Municipal midwifery service was heavily taxed.

"In view of this fact the Council provided a third midwife whom we were fortunate enough to be able to supply.

"The following cases were attended during the year 1947 :

		Municipal.	Voluntary.	Total.
Without Doctor	.....	261	112	373
With Doctor	.....	30	28	58
		291	140	431

MIDWIVES ACTS, 1902-1936

No. of Notices of Intention to Practise, January, 1947.....	32
" " " " during 1947	15
Total	47
No. of Midwives ceasing to practise during 1947	13
" " practising at the end of 1947	34

There was no change in the arrangements for the employment or subsidy of midwives by the Council.

Non-medical supervision of Municipal Midwives has been carried out by the Matron at the Maternity Hospital.

The following table shows the work done by Midwives (including those employed at Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital) during 1947 :—

No. of confinements attended as a Midwife	2,091
" " " " " Maternity Nurse	329
Medical Aid Notices sent	793
Notifications of Death	—
Twin Births notified	33
Stillbirths notified	5
Notifications of Liability to be a Source of Infection	2
Notifications of Laying out a Dead Body	—
Notifications of Artificial Feeding	7
Notifications of Disinfection	5

The table above includes the following numbers with regard to work done at Thorpe Coombe :—

Midwifery cases	1,125
Maternity cases	128
Medical Aid Notices	554

The percentage of Medical Aid Notices were :—

All cases	37.9
Maternity Hospital Midwives	49.2
Domiciliary Midwives	21.5

The conditions for which Medical Aid was summoned by Midwives in domiciliary practice have been summarised and are as follows :—

For complications during pregnancy :—

Miscarriage	4
Antepartum hæmorrhage	7
Other conditions	5
Total	16

For complications during labour :—

Prolonged 1st and 2nd stage	30	Post-partum hæmorrhage	6
Ruptured perineum	49	Retained placenta	8
Premature labour	—	Abnormal presentation	6
Rise of temperature.....	8	Other conditions	25
		Total	132

For complications in regard to the infant :—

Stillbirth	2	Prematurity and Feebleness	5
Jaundice	3	Asphyxia	3
Convulsions	1	Cyanosis	2
Inflamed eyes	9	Other conditions	6
		Total	31

Medical Aid Fees.—Your Committee recommended—that, as from beginning of the financial year, no recovery was to be obtained from the patient in regard to medical aid fees.

Compensation for Loss of Cases.—Compensation is made to Midwives by payment of 10s. 0d. per confinement lost by reason of the reference of the patient from the Council's Ante-Natal Clinic to hospital on account of any abnormality. No claim for compensation was made during 1947.

Gas and Air Analgesia.—The Municipal Ambulance Service provided transport facilities for gas and air apparatus.

MUNICIPAL MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICE

The table below shows the number of visits done :—

	Ante-Natal Visits.			Deliveries.		Lying-in Visits.	Total Visits.
	Patients' Homes.	Midwife's House.	Clinic.	Mid.	Mat.		
Municipal ..	876	1,671	27	355	44	5,216	7,189
W.D.N.A. ..	1,094	1,841	—	261	30	5,788	9,014
Total ..	1,970	3,512	27	616	74	11,004	16,203

FACILITIES FOR CONFINEMENT

The table below gives details of "future bookings" at the end of the month stated.

The peak months for bookings were October and November, 1946, and it will be noted that bookings have steadily declined throughout the current year.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
(a) Thorpe Coombe ..	562	571	547	529	515	511	503	499	543	562	566	556
(b) District												
Municipal ..	230	210	221	188	185	161	122	95	91	90	86	86
(c) District, W.D.N.A. ..	253	247	251	198	181	178	163	134	132	130	122	126
(d) Total (b) and (c) ..	483	457	472	386	366	339	285	229	223	220	208	212
Grand Total (a) and (d) ..	1,045	1,028	1,019	915	881	850	788	728	766	782	774	768

Public Health Act, 1936 (Nursing Homes).—See Public Health Section of the Report.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Thirty cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during 1947. The notifications were received from the following sources :—

Maternity Hospital	20
Hospitals outside the area	5
General Practitioners	5*

* All were in Hospital or admitted except one.

The Puerperal Pyrexia rate for 1947 was 10.99 per 1,000 births as compared with 12.62 in 1946, and the mortality due to puerperal sepsis was nil.

The Registrar-General has issued the following rates with regard to the notification of Puerperal Pyrexia. The Walthamstow rates are set out in comparison.

Area.	Per 1,000 live and still births.	
	Puerperal Fever.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
England and Wales		7.16
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London		8.99
148 Smaller Towns (25,000 to 50,000 population)		6.27
London Administrative County	1.21	6.94*
Walthamstow		10.99

* Including Puerperal Fever.

The notifications and rates for Walthamstow for the past five years have been as follows:—

Per 1,000 Total Births (live and still)
Puerperal Pyrexia

Year.	No.	Rate.
1947	30	10.99
1946	33	12.62
1945	32	18.08
1944	28	14.23
1943	44	23.33

The rates have been high because of the strictness of notification at the Maternity Hospital, i.e., cases are notified which in other areas would not be notified, especially in domiciliary practice.

ABORTION

Circular 1661.—The number of cases in which medical aid notices were issued during 1947 by Midwives in accordance with Rule E of the Central Midwives Board was:—

Threatened abortion and miscarriage	Nil
Abortion and miscarriage	Nil

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

The number of cases notified during the last two years were:—

Year.	Totals.	St. James Street.	High Street.	Hoe Street.	Wood Street.	Hale End.	Higham Hill.
1947 ..	5	1	1	1	—	1	1
1946 ..	4	1	—	—	1	1	1

Year.	Treated		Vision unimpaired.	Vision impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	At Home.	In Hospital.				
1947 ..	4	1	5	—	—	—
1946 ..	3	1	4	—	—	—

MATERNAL MORTALITY

During 1947 there were four deaths due to other puerperal causes.

DEATHS DUE TO PREGNANCY AND CHILD BEARING AND/OR ASSOCIATED THEREWITH DURING 1947

Case No.	Date of Death.	Certified Cause of Death and Classification.	Age.	Ward.
1	9.3.47	Acute eclampsia. (Live birth)	33	Ho.
2	11.6.47	Pulmonary embolism due to femoral phlebothrombosis accompanying pregnancy—not delivered.	34	J.
3	10.9.47	Pulmonary infarction. Morbidly adherent placenta. Premature labour. (Live birth)	22	W.
4	26.12.47	Shock following lacerations of the vagina from efforts to deliver foetus in occipito-posterior position.	26	H.H.

The following table shows the maternal mortality rates for 1947 :—

Births. Registered.	Deaths of Women due to Pregnancy and Child-Bearing.								
	WALTHAMSTOW.						England and Wales.		
	Puerperal Sepsis. (Heading 29 R.G.)	Other Puerperal Causes. (Heading 30 R.G.)	Total	Rates per 1,000 Births registered.			Rates per 1,000 Births registered.		
				Puerperal Sepsis.	Other Puerperal Causes.	Total.	Puerperal Sepsis.	Other Puerperal Causes.	Total.
Live, 2,670 ..	—	4	4	—	1.49	1.49	Not available		
Live and Stillbirths, 2,729 ..	—	4	4	—	1.46	1.46	„	„	„

The following table sets out the maternal mortality, stillbirth and neo-natal death rates for the past five years :—

Rate (per 1,000 live births).	1947.	1946.	1945.	1944.	1943.
Maternal Mortality	1.49	0.78	1.74	5.21	4.92
Stillbirths	21.6	27.5	32.6	27.1	30.7
Neo-Natal Deaths	13.1	19.2	21.0	20.8	26.2

The maternal mortality rates (per 1,000 total births) for the past five years have been as follows:—

Year.	Total Births Registered.	Deaths.			Rates per 1,000 Births. (Live and Still)		
		Puerperal Sepsis.	Other Puerperal Causes.	Total.	Puerperal Sepsis.	Other Puerperal Causes.	Total.
1947 ..	2,729	—	4	4	—	1.46	1.46
1946 ..	2,614	—	2	2	—	0.70	0.70
1945 ..	1,769	2	1	3	1.13	0.56	1.69
1944 ..	1,967	2	8	10	1.01	4.06	5.07
1943 ..	1,886	6	3	9	3.18	1.59	4.77

I. THORPE COOMBE MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

An additional medical officer was appointed during the year.

In September the Royal College of Obstetricians recognised the hospital for post graduate experience for the membership of the College.

In December, the Council decided to revert to the previous arrangement whereby patients remained in hospital for 14 days after confinement.

General.—(a) *Form M.C.W. 96A (Ministry of Health).*

1. Name and address of Institution—Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital, 714, Forest Road, Walthamstow, E.17.
2. Number of maternity beds in the Institution (exclusive of labour and isolation beds)—48.
- 2a. Number of beds, if any, included under item 2 which have been reserved for expectant mothers in need of hospital treatment.—Variable according to requirements. No special reservation.
3. Number of maternity cases admitted during the year—1,455 plus seven miscarriages (including ante-natal and post-natal admissions).
- 3a. Number of women treated during the year in the ante-natal beds shown against item 2a. (These women should also be included against item 3)—225.
- 3b. Average duration of stay of expectant mothers in the ante-natal beds shown against item 2a—3.1,

4. Average duration of stay in lying-in wards—11.8.
5. Number of cases delivered by—
(a) Midwives—1,125 ; (b) Doctors—128 ; Total—1,253.
6. Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency—554.
7. Number of cases admitted after delivery—21.
8. Number of cases notified as—
(a) Puerperal Fever—Nil ; (b) Puerperal Pyrexia—20.
9. Number of cases of pemphigus neonatorum—Nil.
10. (a) Number of infants on a supplementary or complementary feed on discharge—250.
(b) Number of infants wholly breast fed on leaving the Institution—976.
11. (a) Number of cases notified as ophthalmia neonatorum—1.
(b) Result of treatment in each case—Satisfactory.
12. Number of maternal deaths—2.
13. (a) Number of stillbirths—31.
(b) Cause of death in each case, and results of post-mortem examination (if obtainable)—See Clinical Report.
14. (a) Number of infant deaths within 10 days of birth—18.
(b) Cause of death in each case, and results of post-mortem examination (if obtainable)—See Clinical Report.

The stillbirth rate was 24.5 per 1,000 live and still births, and the neo-natal mortality within 10 days of birth was 14.0 per 1,000 live births.

(b) *Occupation of Beds.*—The average daily occupation of beds was as follows :—

January	.....	45.2	July	.....	46.9
February	.....	42.5	August	.....	39.8
March	.....	44.7	September	.....	31.6
April	.....	48.1	October	.....	41.7
May	.....	37.5	November	.....	37.2
June	.....	42.1	December	.....	41.0

The average for the whole year was equal to 83 per cent. of beds occupied (based on 50 beds).

(c) *Emergency Unit.*—The services of the emergency unit were required on four occasions in the District during the year.

(d) *Gas and Air Analgesia.*—The Maternity Hospital is approved by the Central Midwives Board for the purpose of giving special instruction in gas and air analgesia.

(e) *Training of Pupil Midwives.*—The Hospital is approved by the Central Midwives Board (jointly with the Middlesex Hospital), for the training of pupil midwives in Part I and Part II of the training.

During 1947, 44 pupils from Thorpe Coombe obtained the Part I and 34 the Part II Certificate of the Central Midwives Board. The Council agreed to pay the examination fees.

(f) *Conditions of Service*.—The Council have adopted all the recommendations of the Midwives' Salaries Committee.

The following has been compiled by Miss Helen Rodway, F.R.C.O.G., Resident Obstetrician and Medical Superintendent.

THORPE COOMBE MATERNITY HOSPITAL CLINICAL REPORT FOR 1947

It is with regret that the Medical Superintendent has to state that this is the last complete annual report of the Hospital to the Council of the Borough of Walthamstow as the hospital authority, as on July 5th, 1948, when the National Health Service Act comes into force, the Hospital will be transferred to the Regional Hospital Board.

"Thorpe Coombe" with 35 maternity beds, two labour wards and two nurseries, was opened in May, 1934. Since then there have been added to the Hospital an ante-natal clinic, eight maternity beds with two small nurseries, a post-natal or isolation block, a nurses home and medical officer's quarters.

Following the extensions of the hospital buildings which have provided wider scope for our maternity service, the amount of work carried out by the Hospital has, year by year, steadily increased.

During the eight months of 1934, there were 229 confinements in the Hospital, and for the year 1947 the number increased to 1,253, bringing the total figure for 13 years and eight months to 10,814. Of the 1,253 confinements for this year, 814 were first births, that is 64.9 per cent. of the total. Other confinements were those of women admitted on account of a medical or obstetric complication or because of unsuitable home conditions.

The number of infants born was 1,275; this includes 22 cases of twins, a percentage of 1.7 relative to the total number of confinements.

The number of admissions to the Hospital during the year was 1,462, including 65 unbooked cases, of which 21 were mothers admitted with 22 infants. There were in addition 14 infant admissions. Attendances at the ante-natal clinic were as usual good; 1,275 expectant mothers making 10,511 attendances for examination. The total number of attendances at the monthly mothercraft classes was 679.

At the post-natal clinic 902 mothers, a percentage of 71.9 of the related confinements, attended for examination and advice approximately six weeks from the date of confinement and made 495 subsequent attendances for treatment.

A summary of the work of the Hospital follows. A full statistical clinical report has been prepared as usual and is available for reference.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE HOSPITAL

Clinic Attendances—

(A) Ante-Natal Clinics :

	No. of Clinics held.	No. of attendances.	Average attendance per session.
(a) Consultant's Clinic	12	99	8.2
(b) Resident Obstetrician's Clinic	212	*1,275	5.9
do.	—	†4,180	19.7
(c) Midwives' Clinics	210	4,957	23.6
Totals	434	10,511	

* New patients. † Old patients.

The average number of attendances made by each patient was 8.2.

(B) Post-Natal Clinics :

	No. of Clinics held.	No. of attendances.	Average attendance at each session.
(a) First Visits	51	902	17.7
(b) Subsequent Visits		495	9.7
Total		1,397	27.4

Percentage of first visits relative to number of confinements was 71.9.

ADMISSIONS TO THE HOSPITAL

(a) Ante-Natal	225	(44 patients were confined before discharge.)	
(b) For Confinement	1,209		
(c) Post-Natal	21		
(d) On account of miscarriage.....	7	(e) Infants	36*
Total	1,462		

* Including 22 admitted with the mother

Indications for the Admission of Ante-Natal Patients.

	No. of Cases.
Ante-partum hæmorrhage	14
Threatened miscarriage	7
Hyperpiesis and œdema	10
Hyperemesis gravidarum	2
Albuminuria ; hyperpiesis and oedema	43
Chronic nephritis	1
Heart disease	12
Urinary infection	3
Glycosuria ; hæmaturia	3
Phlebitis	4
Neuritis	2
Prolapsed cervical polypus	1
Abdominal pain ; pyrexia. (Undiagnosed)	2
Breech for version : Successful	22
Unsuccessful	5
Refused anaesthetic	1
Other malpresentations	3
Poor general condition—for rest	6
For induction of labour because apparently due	17
	158

This represents 12.6 per cent. relative to 1,253 confinements.

For observation and discharged because not in labour	67
	225

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR CONFINEMENTS AND CLINIC ATTENDANCES

From May, 1934, until 31st December, 1947

	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934
1. No. of confinements.....	1,253	1,247	995	907	891	695	645	720	595	691	640	660	646	229
2. Total number of admissions	1,462	1,446	1,135	1,018	1,037	801	717	817	675	775	729	769	747	258
3. CLINIC ATTENDANCES:														
<i>Ante-Natal Clinics—</i>														
(a) New Patients	1,275	1,253	1,190	1,016	944	764	824	750	733	702	753	691	762	371
(b) Old Patients	9,236	10,702	8,692	7,666	7,775	6,551	5,661	6,679	5,750	6,032	5,501	5,354	4,543	1,745
Total Ante-Natal Attendances.....	10,511	11,955	9,882	8,682	8,719	7,315	6,485	7,429	6,483	6,734	6,254	6,045	5,305	2,116
<i>Post-Natal Clinics—</i>														
(a) First attendances	902	920	667	617	769	504	315	330	401	479	380	453	256	—
(b) Subsequent attendances	495	583	227	219	114	117	149	140	155	151	145	177	210	—
Total Post-Natal Attendances.....	1,397	1,503	894	836	883	621	464	470	556	630	525	630	466	—

Emergency Admissions :							No. of Cases
Ante-partum hæmorrhage	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Hyperpiesis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Albuminuria ; hyperpiesis and oedema	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Heart disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Glycosuria ; hæmaturia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Phlebitis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Poor general condition	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Complications of labour	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Arrangements for confinement failed	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Threatened miscarriage	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2

44

Post-Natal Admissions :

Post-partum hæmorrhage and retained placenta	.....	.....	5
Post-partum eclampsia	.....	.....	1
Mothers admitted with : (a) Premature infants	.....	.....	5
(b) Ill infants	.....	.....	3
Unsatisfactory—(a) Medical condition	.....	.....	2
(b) Mental condition	.....	.....	1
Mastitis	.....	.....	1
Gastro-enteritis	.....	.....	1
Unsatisfactory home conditions	.....	.....	2

21

22 infants were admitted with the mother ; this includes four cases of twins.

Infant Admissions without the Mother :

Prematurity	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	7
For treatment of eyes		*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	*****	4
Unsatisfactory condition of child				*****	*****	*****	*****	3

14

Operations Performed :

External version	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	22
Internal version	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Surgical induction of labour			.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Forceps delivery	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	85
Manual removal of placenta			.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24
Cæsarean section	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	*3
Exploration of the uterus.....			.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5

157

* The operation was performed in all three cases for contracted pelvis and disproportion. Two of these cases were emergency admissions.

							No. of Cases
<i>Medical Aid Requests :</i>							
Malpresentation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Ante-partum hæmorrhage .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Premature labour .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Premature labour ; patient with pneumonia .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Hæmaturia .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Failed foetal heart .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Foetal distress .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Eclamptic fit .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Abnormal presentation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Cardiac patient in labour .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Breech delivery .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23
Delay 2nd stage .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	56
Delay in birth of second twin .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
For forceps delivery .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24
For episiotomy .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	37
Perineal lacerations .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	272
Delay in 3rd stage and post-partum hæmorrhage .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45
Retained placenta .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Threatened miscarriage and incomplete abortion .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Obstructed Labour .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Unsatisfactory condition of patient .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Prolapse of cord .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Cæsarean section .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Emergency admission .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
							520
<i>Infants :</i>							
Asphyxia .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Collapse .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Unsatisfactory condition .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Premature infant .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Jaundice .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Hare lip and cleft palate .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Stillbirth .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Child vomiting blood .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
							34

The percentage of medical aid requests relative to the number of confinements was 41.5, and for the infant, 2.7.

INFANTS

The number of infants born in the Hospital this year was 1,275 ; this figure includes 22 cases of twins and 98 premature infants—a premature birth rate of 7.6 relative to the total number of infants. In addition, 36 infants, of which 16 were premature, were admitted from the district.

Premature Infants.—For statistical reports a premature infant is taken as one weighing $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less. This is an international standard.

	Infants born in Thorpe Coombe.	Infants born at home.
(a) $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or more than $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	48	7
(b) $4\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. „ „ „ $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	28	—
(c) $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. „ „ „ $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	13	3
(d) $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less	4	5
(e) Weight not recorded	5	1
Totals	98	16

Breast Feeding.—On discharge from Thorpe Coombe at 10 to 12 days, 79.6 per cent. of mothers were feeding their infants, 16.25 per cent. partly breast feeding, while 4.15 per cent of infants were fed on dried cows' milk.

	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940
(a) Infants completely breast fed ..	79.6	85.8	88.1	85.6	82.5	83.9	87.6	77.4
(b) Infants partly breast fed ..	16.3	10.2	9.4	11.5	12.2	12.0	9.9	18.7
(c) Infants not breast fed ..	4.1	4.0	2.5	2.9	5.3	4.1	2.5	3.9
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

FOETAL AND INFANT MORTALITY

(a) Stillbirths.

	Number of cases				Total
	$5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs or less Macer- ated Recent	$5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs or less Macer- ated Recent	Over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs Macer- ated Recent	Over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs Macer- ated Recent	
(i) Developmental defects	3	2	—	1	6
(ii) Maternal conditions :					
Toxæmia, Hyperpiesis,					
Antepartum Hæmorrhage,					
Pneumonia, following a					
fall	7	3	—	2	12
(iii) Foetal conditions :					
Erythroblastosis foetalis,					
Cord complications	—	—	1	1	2
(iv) Complications of labour	—	2	—	4	6
(v) Unknown	1	2	1	1	5
Totals	11	9	2	9	31

A postmortem examination was held in five cases.

The premature stillbirth rate for the year relative to 98 infants of birth weight $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less was 20.4 per cent.

The stillbirth rate relative to 1,177 infants of birth weight over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. was 0.93.

The total stillbirth rate was 2.4 per cent.

(b) **Infant Deaths.**

	Number of cases.		
	$5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less.	Over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Total.
(i) Developmental defects	1	2	3
(ii) Erythroblastosis : Hydrops foetalis	1	1	2
(iii) Hæmorrhagic disease	2	1	3
(iv) Broncho pneumonia	3	2	5
(v) Atelectasis	2	1	3
(vi) Circulatory failure	—	1	1
(vii) Sub-arachnoid hæmorrhage	—	1	1
	9	9	18
	—	—	—

A postmortem examination was held in 14 cases.

The premature infant death rate for the year relative to 78 infants born alive of birth weight $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less was 10.2 per cent.

The infant death rate relative to 1,116 infants born alive of birth weight over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. was 0.77.

The total infant death rate was 1.4 per cent.

There were in addition six deaths of infants admitted after birth from the District—five premature and one which weighed over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

	Number of cases.		
	$5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. or less.	Over $5\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Total.
(i) Atelectasis	2	1	3
(ii) Broncho-pneumonia	2	—	2
(iii) Prematurity	1	—	1
	5	1	6
	—	—	—

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

There were 20 cases of puerperal pyrexia notified during the year ; 17 or 1.4 per cent. occurred in 1,188 booked cases and 3 or 4.6 per cent. in 65 unbooked cases.

Apparent Causes of Pyrexia.

	No. of cases.	Percentage of cases relative to total of 20.
(i) (a) Local uterine infection	7	35.0
(b) Local uterine infection and pulmonary embolism	1	5.0
(ii) Urinary infection	—	—
(iii) Urinary infection and local infection of uterus or perineum	5	25.0
(iv) Non-suppurative mastitis or flushed breast	4	20.0
(v) Throat infection	1	5.0
(vi) Influenzal cold	1	5.0
(vii) Gastro-enteritis	1	5.0
	20	

GASTRO-ENTERITIS

During the last seven months of the year, a number of cases of diarrhoea occurred among the patients and babies, also among the Hospital staff.

The following number of cases were reported :—

	Number of cases	Percentage of cases relative to
Mothers	61	Total number of 849 admissions during the seven months period 7.1
Babies	12	Total number of 741 babies born during that period 1.6
Nursing staff	21	Total number of 105 nursing staff employed in the Hospital 20.0
Domestic staff	10	Total number of 67 domestic staff employed during that period 15.0

All patients and babies recovered.

N.B.—Mothers and babies remain in the Hospital an average of 10 to 12 days.

Nursing and domestic staff included in this list have worked in the Hospital for periods varying from three to seven months. The longer period during which the members of the staff were exposed to this infection resulted in a higher percentage of cases relative to the total number of staff. The matter has been fully investigated in conjunction with the medical staff of the Ministry of Health, the Medical Research Council and the Laboratory services.

Maternal Deaths.

There were two maternal deaths during the year.

One patient admitted with acute suppurative broncho-pneumonia died on the day she was admitted, another patient died of shock following complications of labour.

