

**[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Walthamstow].**

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**BOROUGH OF WALTHAMSTOW**

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**REPORT**

OF THE

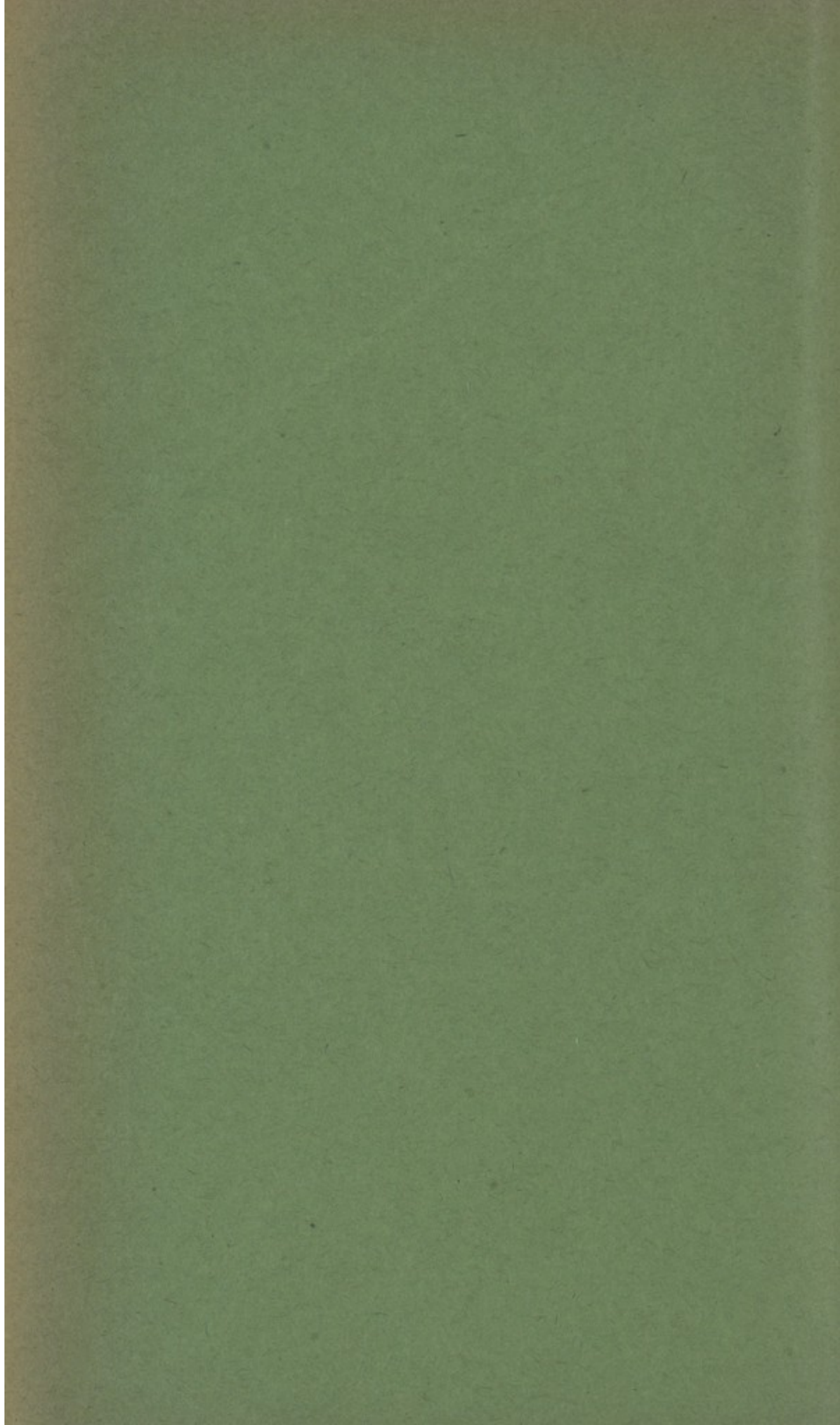
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH**

**For the Year 1948**

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

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**





**BOROUGH OF WALTHAMSTOW**

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# **REPORT**

**OF THE**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH**

**For the Year 1948**

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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—COUNCILLOR MISS D. WRIGLEY,  
B.A., J.P.

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

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

---

ALDERMAN W. B. FITT.

„ T. FITZPATRICK.

„ W. GILLETT.

„ A. E. MANNING.

„ MRS. E. M. MILLER.

COUNCILLOR W. E. BARNES.

„ MRS. CANDY.

„ H. C. FISHER.

„ G. H. GARDNER.

COUNCILLOR MRS. MARCHANT.

„ J. W. PRINGLE.

„ W. H. SHAW.

„ MRS. E. A. SMITH.  
(deceased).

---

*Sanatorium (Hospital Management) Sub-Committee.*  
(To July 5th, 1948)

*Chairman :*

COUNCILLOR E. G. BAILY.

ALDERMAN W. B. FITT.

„ T. FITZPATRICK.

„ MRS. C. McENTEE, J.P.

COUNCILLOR MRS. CANDY.

„ MRS. MARCHANT.

„ J. W. PRINGLE.

„ MRS. E. A. SMITH.  
(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 1948.

On July 5th, 1948, responsibility for all the services included under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946, became transferred to the Essex County Council as the Local Health Authority.

These included the responsibility for the provision of health centres; the care of mothers and young children; midwifery; health visiting; home nursing; vaccination and immunisation; ambulance services; prevention of illness—care and after-care, and domestic help.

Under the scheme of decentralisation of administration submitted by the County Council and approved by the Ministry of Health, the Borough of Walthamstow was constituted as a separate health area with its own Health Area Sub-Committee, the arrangement being subject to review at the expiration of two years.

In order to give a complete picture of the year 1948, I am able, through the courtesy of the County Medical Officer, and in my capacity as Acting Area Medical Officer, to include some reference to and statistics of the work carried out in regard to the services transferred to the County Council on July 5th.

On the same date your hospitals—i.e., Chingford Sanatorium (opened in 1901) and Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital (opened in 1934) were transferred to the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. Your Council has every right to be proud of the services provided at these two hospitals. Liaison still remains by the fact that some of your members are, as private individuals, members of the respective House Committees.

Again on the same date your Municipal Dental Service (one of the very few in the country) became the responsibility of the Executive Council for Essex. Arrangements have been made for continuity in administration, at least for the time being.

The relief afforded to the Department by the transfer of hospital services was comparatively slight since both hospitals had long been "decentralised" as far as possible except for administration at the Committee level. On the other hand, the work involved in connection with the development of health centres, maternal and child health, home nursing (a new duty for Local Authorities), the prevention of illness—care and after-care and the great expansion of the Domestic Help Service resulted in a considerable increase in work and responsibility, especially in view of the difficulties and frustrations inseparable from delegation.

Turning to the various sections of the report, vital statistics have again achieved new low records, especially the infant mortality rate of 20.

The social conditions and the general provision of health services in the area—although some were under “new management”—require no further comment.

With regard to sanitary circumstances, the Inspectorate again worked well under many difficulties, especially concerning the repair of dwelling houses. Excellent work was also done in the inspection and supervision of food and all the 144 milk samples were found to be satisfactory. Good work was also done in regard to the supervision of the manufacture and sale of ice cream.

In regard to housing, in spite of all the good progress which has been made locally, the position, in common with that in other comparable areas, is most depressing. Not only is there the general shortage of housing accommodation, but the need of more small dwellings for the ageing (with the consequent release of existing under-occupied property) and the housing of the infectious tuberculous or those families in contact with them, remain as health problems of the first magnitude. Linked with the latter is the very difficult problem of the control of Tuberculosis, especially of the infectious case in the early stages awaiting sanatorium treatment and the infectious late case requiring segregation.

There is little to note in the control of infectious and communicable diseases except the virtual elimination of Diphtheria (provided the required proportion of young babies can be kept protected). Protection against whooping cough continues to be given at the Day Nurseries and, during the current year, has been extended to the age group 6-18 months (in conjunction with the Medical Research Council).

I would wish to acknowledge with thanks the good work of the whole of the staff of the Department, the help of Mr. Alen Wade in the preparation of these annual reports, and the help and consideration of your Chairman and Members.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. W. POWELL,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## STAFF

*Medical Officer of Health, Borough School Medical Officer, and Acting Area Medical Officer (Essex County Council):*

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

*Deputy Medical Officer of Health, Deputy Borough School Medical Officer:*

Melville Watkins, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Assistant Medical Officers:*

\*Miss M. Sheppard, M.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,  
Barrister-at-Law.

\*Miss D. B. Hudson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Resident Medical Officer, Chingford Hospital & Sanatorium:*

‡Miss Mary Hamilton, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

‡Matron: Miss V. M. Wilson, S.R.N.

*Medical Superintendent and Obstetrician, Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital:*

‡Miss Helen Rodway, F.R.C.O.G., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

‡Matron: Miss L. Randall, S.R.N., S.C.M.

*Specialist (Part-time) Medical Officers (Local Education Authority Appointments):*

*Aural Surgeon:* F. P. M. Clarke, B.A., B.Sc., L.R.C.S. (Ed.),  
L.R.C.P., L.R.F.P.S. (Glas.).

*Orthopaedic Surgeon:* B. Whitchurch Howell, M.B., B.S.,  
F.R.C.S.

*Physician-in-Charge, Rheumatism Clinic:* Miss M. Wilmers,  
M.D., M.R.C.P.

*Psychiatrists:* Mrs. Helen Gillespie, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.  
Miss E. Whatley, B.Sc., M.B., B.S.

*Dental Surgeons:*

\*Mr. L. W. Elmer, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.) (Senior).

\*Mr. G. P. L. Taylor, L.D.S., R.C.S.

\*Mr. C. Shamash, L.D.S., R.C.S., B.Ch.D.

\*Mr. R. E. Hyman, L.D.S., R.C.S.

\*Mr. R. Tait, B.Sc., L.D.S., R.C.S. (Part-time).

†Mr. J. Timmis, L.D.S., R.C.S. } General Dental Service.

†Mr. D. Clarke, L.D.S., R.C.S. }

*School Nurses and Health Visitors (Part-time to School Medical Service):*

\*Miss A. C. Keenan, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (Superintendent)

\*Miss R. Boyd, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

**Staff—continued.**

- \*Miss M. B. Cassidy, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
- \*Miss E. L. Cunningham, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
- \*Miss C. R. Douglas, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
- \*Miss E. DuRandt, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
- \*Miss D. G. Legg, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
- \*Miss I. N. MacPherson, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
- \*Miss O. North, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
- \*Miss J. M. Palmer, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
- \*Miss A. Stuart, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., T.B.Cert.
- \*Miss A. Wright, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
- \*Miss M. A. Young, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.

*District Midwifery Sisters :*

- \*Miss M. Gahan, S.R.N., S.C.M. §
- \*Mrs. A. M. Gilbert, S.R.N., S.C.M.
- \*Miss M. Hamilton, S.R.N., S.C.M.
- \*Miss N. Hodges, S.R.N., S.C.M.
- \*Miss A. Krolfifer, S.R.N., S.C.M. §
- \*Mrs. P. Rayner, S.R.N., S.C.M.
- \*Miss O. Roberts, S.R.N., S.C.M.

§ Appointed by Walthamstow District Nursing Association.

*Day Nursery Matrons :*

- \*Handsworth Avenue : Mrs. D. Androvenda, S.R.N.
- \*Higham Hill : Mrs. M. A. Clarke, S.R.N.

*Dental Attendants :*

- |                                     |                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| *Miss J. Bradley.                   | *Miss S. Snowdon.   |
| *Miss G. M. Hutchins.               | *Mrs. E. L. Tee.    |
| *Miss D. Sanford.                   | *Mrs. M. E. Wright. |
| *Receptionist : Miss E. Weatherill. |                     |

*Dental Technicians :*

- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| *G. Higgins. | *H. J. Edmunds. |
|--------------|-----------------|

*Infectious Disease Nurse :*

- Miss I. H. Jennings, S.R.N., S.C.M.

*Skin Clinic Nurse and Auxiliary :*

- |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| *Mrs. P. Crisp, S.R.N. | *Mrs. E. Lynch. |
|------------------------|-----------------|

*Masseuses :*

- \*Miss H. E. Garratt, C.S.P.
- \*Miss K. Hill, C.S.P. (Part-time).

*Orthoptist :*

- \*Mrs. K. S. Box, S.R.N., S.C.M. (Part-time).

*Speech Therapists :*

- \*Miss V. L. Babington, L.C.S.T.
- \*Miss C. M. Gregory, L.C.S.T.

**Staff—continued.***Chiropodists :*

- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| *R. J. King, M.Ch.S. | *L. N. C. Marten, M.Ch.S. |
| *G. McCart, M.Ch.S.  | *L. R. Skinner, M.Ch.S.   |
- \*Receptionist : Miss M. Warren.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector, Petroleum Officer, and Chief Inspector Diseases of Animals Acts :*

F. W. Kemp, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (a) (b) (c).

*Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector :*

W. R. Richards, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (b) (d) (e).

*District Sanitary Inspectors :*

- E. A. Austerberry, M.S.I.A. (b) (d) (e).  
 R. C. Bland, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (b) (d).  
 V. Croft, (b) (d).  
 D. R. King, A.R.S.I. (d). From 20/9/48.  
 S. E. Muggeridge, M.R.S.I. (b) (d).  
 F. Northcote, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (b) (c).  
     (a) Cert.S.I.E.B. (London).  
     (b) Cert. Inspector Meat and Other Foods.  
     (c) S.I.Cert. of R.S.I.  
     (d) S.I.Cert. of R.S.I. and S.I.E.J.B.  
     (e) Cert. of Sanitary Science, R.S.I.

In addition, some of the Inspectors hold special certificates.

*Clerical Staff (General Health Services) :*

- |                                                |                  |
|------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| R. Rose (Chief Clerk).                         |                  |
| *F. J. Aylward.                                | L. R. W. Kemp.   |
| G. J. S. Bradley.                              | Miss N. Lewis.   |
| G. H. Eve.                                     | *Mrs. M. Manton. |
| Miss M. Game.                                  | *Miss S. Martyn. |
| B. Goode (To H.M.F. 16/9/48).                  | Miss T. Pullen.  |
| *R. A. C. Green.                               | *Mrs. Speechley. |
| *Mrs. C. M. Hall.                              | *A. T. Wade.     |
| Miss S. Horsnell.                              |                  |
| L. Joyce (Resumed after H.M. Service 4/10/48). |                  |

*Disinfecting Staff :*

H. Thompson.  
 H. Lewiston.

*Rodent Operatives :*

W. Hill.  
 H. J. Newbury.

\* Transferred to Essex County Council.

‡ Transferred to Regional Hospital Board.

† Transferred to Local Executive Council.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND ALLIED SERVICES.

**Historical.**—The records in the Health Department give the population of Walthamstow in 1851 as 4,957, living in some 900 houses. By 1881 it was 21,715, doubling itself by 1891 and again by 1901 when it had reached 91,125. The population "peak" was reached in 1933 when it was 135,600. After a large decrease due to the war it is again increasing and had reached 122,700 in mid-1948.

The earliest available Annual Report is that of a part-time Medical Officer of Health in 1883 which refers to "the requirements of this large and rapidly changing district of some 26,000 population" and the danger of "the direct connection of the drains with the interior of the house"; "the intermittent failure of the water supply" and "the abominable and insanitary condition of some of our roads."

In 1887 it was noted that the only hospital admitting cases of infectious disease had refused to admit any more. This was in a year with 52 deaths from Diphtheria, 51 from Diarrhoea, 29 from Whooping Cough and 25 from Measles, i.e., a total of 157. By contrast, in 1948 all these diseases, with a population nearly five times greater, caused the death of only 9 persons.

In 1888 there were 65 deaths from Diphtheria but in 1948 there was none—very largely because of better conditions generally and of IMMUNISATION.

In view of the transfer of responsibility for the 'personal' health services on July 5th, it is appropriate to record the development of the Health Services since the incorporation of Walthamstow in 1929 :—

1929—A new Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and School Clinic was built and brought into use at Low Hall Lane. This adjoined a new Nursery School of 150 places provided by the Education Committee.

A smallpox hospital of 40 beds in hutments was provided in order to cope with an epidemic.

1930—The infant mortality rate of 39 was the lowest yet recorded and the second lowest in the London "outer ring" towns. 116 unfit houses were scheduled for clearance.

School dental and nursing staffs were increased.

1931—A new wing was added to the Nurses' Home at the Infectious Diseases Hospital providing 24 bedrooms at a cost of some £10,000.

Chiropody and gynæcological clinics were set up—amongst the first in the Greater London area.

The Council undertook the administration of the Nursing Homes Registration Act.

The result of the census showed Walthamstow to be the most populous Municipal Borough in England and Wales with a population of 132,965.

The Education Committee provided a Rheumatism Supervisory Clinic..

- 1932—A scheme of Diphtheria Immunisation was begun—amongst the first in the London area. A Municipal Ambulance Service was commenced with 2 ambulances.

Extra Welfare Clinics were started, additional Health Visitors appointed and a panel of consultant obstetricians was set up to help general practitioners. The local District Nursing Association was subsidised in regard to midwifery services.

The health visiting and school nursing services were integrated.

- 1933—A scheme for the rehousing of tuberculous cases was inaugurated in conjunction with the Housing Department. Six clearance orders were confirmed after enquiry. A second "clearance" programme was approved.

Additional welfare sessions were begun and the Health Visiting Staff was further strengthened.

The Education Committee provided orthodontic (or regulation) treatment.

- 1934—A "Health Week" was held in conjunction with the Central Council for Health Education.

The clearance of 68 houses was confirmed by the Ministry of Health.

The Municipal Maternity Home of 40 beds was opened and was recognised by the Central Midwives' Board for the training of pupil midwives.

The School Medical Service carried out a special nutritional investigation. Nearly 70% of school children received milk at school.

- 1935—A new low record of infant mortality (37) was recorded. Draft plans were approved for the extension of the Maternity Hospital to 54 beds. A Resident Medical Officer was appointed.

The Ministry of Health carried out a survey of the Health Services of the Borough—the following is taken from the report made :—

"It appears that, so far as can be judged from a general survey, the Council are maintaining a reasonable, and for the most part, a high standard of efficiency and progress in the discharge of their functions relating to public health. In particular, the Minister is glad to learn that good work is being done under the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme both through their own officers and in co-operation with voluntary bodies. The provision of a Foot Clinic and the arrangements for immunisation against Diphtheria are also noteworthy features of the Council's health work."

The Education Committee appointed a third dental team. Dental inspection and treatment were undertaken at secondary and technical schools for the Essex County Council.

1936—Duties imposed by the Housing Act 1936 were carried out and a survey was begun of all dwelling-houses in the Borough.

The maternity hospital was fully booked and the plans for extension were passed by the Ministry of Health.

The Education Committee provided a new open-air school, appointed a physical training organiser and a speech therapist. Arrangements were made for child guidance treatment.

1937—The measures required by the Housing and Midwives' Acts 1936 were taken. Eight midwives were appointed.

The Maternity Hospital provided training in gas and air Analgesia.

Attendances at Welfare Clinics were nearly 50,000.

The Education Committee appointed a fourth dental team.

Tonics were provided at school clinics. The consultant in charge of the Rheumatism Clinic noted a decline of severe heart disease cases attending the Clinic. Good progress was made in Diphtheria Immunisation, as was the case with milk in schools and school meals. Medical inspection and treatment were provided in secondary and technical schools for the Essex County Council.

1938—Diphtheria incidence was only 1/3rd that for England and Wales and the Diphtheria death rate was only 1/7th that for England and Wales.

Welfare attendances increased to 56,000.

The Education Committee provided treatment for squint at a special clinic. A special enquiry was conducted in connection with the Rheumatism Clinic.

1939—The Civil Defence Casualty Services—first-aid parties, ambulances, and ten "ad hoc" first-aid posts were organised, built and operated.

Every effort was made **not** to curtail health services and activities.

There was a new low record in infant mortality (29).

The work done at the Maternity Hospital and Clinics was almost as much as that in previous years in spite of four months of war.

An investigation was carried out at the Maternity Hospital into daily diets and the cause of mastitis.

1940—A high standard of health was recorded despite shelter life.

1941—Vital statistics were again favourable.

Two voluntary societies opened day nurseries.

1942—Diphtheria incidence was only 1/20th of that for England and Wales, and the Diphtheria death rate was only 1/6th of that for England and Wales.

A special clinic was opened for the treatment of Scabies.

A war-time day nursery was opened at St. Mary's Convent and additional ante-natal services were provided.

The Education Committee's school meals services provided some 4,000 meals per day from six kitchens.

1943—A second day nursery was opened at Higham Hill.

Special nutritional investigations were carried out at schools in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and a special investigation (in conjunction with the Essex County Council) was carried out in regard to tuberculosis incidence at schools.

The Education Committee decided that in future all school staff should have an X-ray examination on appointment.

A full-time psychologist was appointed and a child guidance service was commenced.

1944—The domestic help and municipal dental schemes were commenced.

The infant mortality remained low at 37, while the illegitimate rate was even lower at 33—a result of the special measures for the care of infants and of premature infants. There was a new high record of confinements at the Maternity Hospital (over 1,000 admissions) in spite of 'rockets' and 'flying bombs.'

A third day nursery was opened at Handsworth Avenue. 82 per cent. of all live births attended child welfare centres. 80 per cent. of all expectant mothers attended ante-natal clinics.

Post-graduate lectures for midwives were organised and made available to the midwives of adjoining local authorities. The Municipal Ambulance Service carried 6,362 patients for over 33,000 miles.

1,000 treatments were given at the chiropody clinic and some 2,000 at the gynæcological clinic.

104 patients from other local authority areas were treated at the Council's Infectious Diseases Hospital.

- 1945—Treatments were nearly 10,000 at the Foot Clinic, over 4,000 at the Skin Clinic and over 2,000 at the Women's Clinic. There were nearly 1,000 confinements at Thorpe Coombe. The Municipal Ambulance Service was staffed by the Council in lieu of Civil Defence and three ambulances (with two in reserve) and one motor-car were provided.

Additional sessions were provided at the Child Guidance Clinic.

- 1946—Health services returned rapidly to pre-war level. Live births totalled 2,544 and 86% of the children born were taken to the various welfare centres.

The number of confinements at Thorpe Coombe reached a new high level at 1,247. Infant mortality at 34 per 1,000, remained low.

The County Council requested the Walthamstow Committee for Education to expand the Child Guidance Service so as to cope with children from the Borough of Leyton and from the Forest Division.

The Education Committee agreed to an increase of 3 dental teams and to the establishment of 3 new treatment centres.

- 1947—The population increased to over 122,000.

Another low record was achieved by an infant mortality rate of 29 per 1,000 live births, and a new high peak of 2,670 live births. There were nearly 73,000 attendances at welfare centres.

Ambulance calls increased by 35% and mileage by 44% over 1946.

The Municipal Dental Scheme was extended by the provision of a full-time dental team and by the establishment of a dental workshop.

Good progress was made in the provision of houses, especially for the aged.

1948—Yet another new low record in infant mortality was reached at the very low rate of 20 infant deaths per thousand live births on a total of 2,068 live births. This rate will probably prove to be amongst the lowest rate in towns with a comparable or greater population.

Stillbirths and deaths in the first month of life also gave new low records.

By the end of the year nearly 80% of all children under 15 years of age had been protected against Diphtheria. There was only one confirmed case of Diphtheria and no death.

### General.

The twenty years 1929/1948 afford a good opportunity to compare the achievements of the Health Services in Walthamstow over two decades. The first, i.e., 1929/1938, was a decade of peace, whereas the second, 1939/1948, was a decade including seven years of war, which was probably as dangerous for the people remaining in Walthamstow as for many who served on so-called 'active service.'

The following table makes some comparisons during this period :—

| Decade  | Average annual Infant Mortality |        | Av. Infant Deaths per annum | Av. annual Diphtheria Notifications | Average annual deaths from : |                |         |                   |
|---------|---------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|---------|-------------------|
|         | E/W                             | W'stow |                             |                                     | Diphtheria                   | Whooping Cough | Measles | Diarrhoea Under 2 |
| 1929/38 | 61.5                            | 47.2   | 84.4                        | 255.7                               | 7.9                          | 5.9            | 8.5     | 10.1              |
| 1939/48 | 47.2                            | 35.2   | 64.4                        | 15.9                                | 1.9                          | 2.1            | 1.0     | 4.3               |

On July 5th, 1948, the responsibility for most of the "personal" services was transferred to the Essex County Council as the new 'Local' Health Authority.

The position—to some extent—is eased by the fact that the services are administered by a Health Area Sub-Committee for the area comprised by the Borough.

Your Medical Officer of Health is the 'acting' Area Medical Officer.

## A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

|                                                          |          |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Area (in acres) .....                                    | 4,343    |
| Population (Registrar-General's Estimate, mid-year 1948) | 122,700  |
| Number of Assessments (1st April, 1948) .....            | 35,740   |
| Rateable Value .....                                     | £892,302 |
| Sum represented by penny rate .....                      | £3,510   |

**Population.**—The Registrar-General's Estimate of the population at mid-year, 1948, is 122,700, an increase of 230 on the previous figure.

**Unemployment.**—According to information kindly supplied by Mr. Percy C. Graham, Manager of the Local Employment Exchange, approximately 1,100 men and 550 women were placed in employment every month during the year 1948, through the placing machinery of the Exchange. The number of persons insured under the National Insurance Acts, employed in the whole area covered by the Exchange, comprising the Boroughs of Walthamstow, Leyton, Chingford, Woodford and Wanstead, was 82,000 in July, 1948. Of this number it is estimated that about 40,000 were employed in Walthamstow. During 1948, the average number of persons unemployed in the whole area was 930 men and 230 women; these included approximately 160 disabled men and 25 disabled women.

**Extracts from Vital Statistics.**—The Registrar-General's mid-year, 1948, estimate of the population (viz., 122,700) has been used for the calculation of all vital statistics :—

|             |                | Total                                                           | Males | Females |                                                           |      |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------|
| Live Births | { Legitimate   | 1,975                                                           | 1,032 | 943     | Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population | 16.8 |
|             | { Illegitimate | 93                                                              | 40    | 53      |                                                           |      |
|             | { Total .....  | 2,068                                                           | 1,072 | 996     |                                                           |      |
| Stillbirths | ..... 46       | Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births .....              |       |         |                                                           | 21.7 |
| Deaths      | ..... 1,243    | Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ..... |       |         |                                                           | 10.1 |

## Deaths from puerperal causes :—

|                               |       |     |
|-------------------------------|-------|-----|
| Puerperal Sepsis Deaths ..... | ..... | Nil |
| Other Puerperal Causes .....  | ..... | Nil |

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

|                                                               |       |       |       |      |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| All infants per 1,000 live births .....                       | ..... | ..... | ..... | 20   |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....     | ..... | ..... | ..... | 19   |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 43   |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) .....                          | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1    |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) .....                   | ..... | ..... | ..... | 6    |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) .....          | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2    |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis death rate .....                       | ..... | ..... | ..... | 0.48 |
| Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis death rate .....                   | ..... | ..... | ..... | 0.03 |

(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 825.

The usual comparison of 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 1948 (1,243) compares with 1,315 in 1947, the respective death rates per 1,000 population being 10.1 and 10.7.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1948. Provisional figures based on 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. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
|                                                             | Rate                           | per 1,000                                              | Civilian                                                             | Population.                   |              |
| <i>Births :—</i>                                            |                                |                                                        |                                                                      |                               |              |
| Live .. .. .                                                | 17.9*                          | 20.0                                                   | 19.2                                                                 | 20.1                          | 16.8         |
| Still .. .. .                                               | 0.42*                          | 0.52                                                   | 0.43                                                                 | 0.39                          | 0.37         |
| <i>Deaths :—</i>                                            |                                |                                                        |                                                                      |                               |              |
| All Causes .. .. .                                          | 10.8*                          | 11.6                                                   | 10.7                                                                 | 11.6                          | 10.1         |
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid ..                                  | 0.00                           | 0.00                                                   | 0.00                                                                 | 0.00                          | —            |
| Whooping Cough .. .. .                                      | 0.02                           | 0.02                                                   | 0.02                                                                 | 0.01                          | 0.04         |
| Diphtheria .. .. .                                          | 0.00                           | 0.00                                                   | 0.00                                                                 | 0.01                          | —            |
| Tuberculosis .. .. .                                        | 0.51                           | 0.59                                                   | 0.46                                                                 | 0.63                          | 0.52         |
| Influenza .. .. .                                           | 0.03                           | 0.03                                                   | 0.04                                                                 | 0.02                          | 0.04         |
| Smallpox .. .. .                                            | —                              | —                                                      | —                                                                    | —                             | —            |
| Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ..                | 0.01                           | 0.01                                                   | 0.01                                                                 | 0.00                          | —            |
| Pneumonia .. .. .                                           | 0.41                           | 0.38                                                   | 0.36                                                                 | 0.54                          | 0.48         |
| <i>Notifications :—</i>                                     |                                |                                                        |                                                                      |                               |              |
| Typhoid Fever .. .. .                                       | 0.01                           | 0.00                                                   | 0.01                                                                 | 0.00                          | 0.01         |
| Paratyphoid Fever .. .. .                                   | 0.01                           | 0.01                                                   | 0.01                                                                 | 0.01                          | —            |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever .. .. .                                | 0.03                           | 0.03                                                   | 0.02                                                                 | 0.03                          | 0.00         |
| Scarlet Fever .. .. .                                       | 1.73                           | 1.90                                                   | 1.82                                                                 | 1.37                          | 1.53         |
| Whooping Cough .. .. .                                      | 3.42                           | 3.51                                                   | 3.31                                                                 | 3.13                          | 4.60         |
| Diphtheria .. .. .                                          | 0.08                           | 0.10                                                   | 0.09                                                                 | 0.10                          | 0.00         |
| Erysipelas .. .. .                                          | 0.21                           | 0.23                                                   | 0.21                                                                 | 0.22                          | 0.22         |
| Smallpox .. .. .                                            | —                              | —                                                      | —                                                                    | —                             | —            |
| Measles .. .. .                                             | 9.34                           | 9.75                                                   | 8.84                                                                 | 9.17                          | 5.20         |
| Pneumonia .. .. .                                           | 0.73                           | 0.84                                                   | 0.60                                                                 | 0.57                          | 0.69         |
| Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .                                 | 0.04                           | 0.05                                                   | 0.04                                                                 | 0.04                          | 0.02         |
| Acute Polioencephalitis ..                                  | 0.00                           | 0.00                                                   | 0.00                                                                 | 0.00                          | —            |
|                                                             |                                | Rates per                                              | 1,000 Live Births.                                                   |                               |              |
| Deaths under 1 year of age ..                               | 34†                            | 39                                                     | 32                                                                   | 31                            | 20           |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age .. | 3.3                            | 4.5                                                    | 2.1                                                                  | 2.4                           | 0.9          |
|                                                             |                                | Rates per                                              | 1,000                                                                | Total Births (Live & Still)   |              |
| (a) <i>Notifications :—</i>                                 |                                |                                                        |                                                                      |                               |              |
| Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia .. .. .                         | 6.89                           | 8.90                                                   | 4.71                                                                 | ‡7.34                         | 10.4         |
| (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 ..                                        | 0.11                           | 0.05                                                   | 0.13                                                                 | 0.73                          |              |
| Walthamstow ..                                              | —                              | —                                                      | —                                                                    | —                             |              |

\* Rates per 1,000 Total Population.

† Per 1,000 related births.

‡ In London Puerperal Fever alone was 0.61

# Causes of Death as given by the Registrar-General for the year 1948

## Whole District

| Causes of Death.                                                          | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|
| 1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ..                                      | —      | —        | —      |
| 2. Cerebro-spinal Fever .. ..                                             | —      | —        | —      |
| 3. Scarlet Fever .. .. .                                                  | —      | —        | —      |
| 4. Whooping Cough .. .. .                                                 | 4      | 2        | 6      |
| 5. Diphtheria .. .. .                                                     | —      | —        | —      |
| 6. T.B. of Respiratory System ..                                          | 34     | 26       | 60     |
| 7. Other Forms of Tuberculosis ..                                         | —      | 4        | 4      |
| 8. Syphilitic Diseases .. .. .                                            | 7      | 2        | 9      |
| 9. Influenza .. .. .                                                      | 3      | 3        | 6      |
| 10. Measles .. .. .                                                       | 1      | —        | 1      |
| 11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio-<br>encephalitis .. .. .                | —      | —        | —      |
| 12. Acute Infectious Encephalitis ..                                      | 1      | 2        | 3      |
| 13. { Cancer of buccal cavity and oeso-<br>phagus (Males) .. .. .         | 5      | —        | 5      |
| Cancer of uterus (Females) ..                                             | —      | 1        | 1      |
| 14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum ..                                     | 20     | 20       | 40     |
| 15. Cancer of breast .. .. .                                              | —      | 22       | 22     |
| 16. Cancer all other sites .. .. .                                        | 88     | 67       | 155    |
| 17. Diabetes .. .. .                                                      | 3      | 6        | 9      |
| 18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions ..                                     | 53     | 87       | 140    |
| 19. Heart Disease .. .. .                                                 | 175    | 184      | 359    |
| 20. Other Diseases of the Circulatory<br>System .. .. .                   | 16     | 28       | 44     |
| 21. Bronchitis .. .. .                                                    | 46     | 22       | 68     |
| 22. Pneumonia .. .. .                                                     | 31     | 29       | 60     |
| 23. Other Respiratory Diseases ..                                         | 11     | 11       | 22     |
| 24. Ulceration of the Stomach or Duo-<br>denum .. .. .                    | 15     | 4        | 19     |
| 25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years) .. ..                                       | 1      | 1        | 2      |
| 26. Appendicitis .. .. .                                                  | 3      | —        | 3      |
| 27. Other Digestive Diseases .. ..                                        | 11     | 13       | 24     |
| 28. Nephritis .. .. .                                                     | 8      | 9        | 17     |
| 29. Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis                                    | —      | —        | —      |
| 30. Other Maternal Causes .. .. .                                         | —      | —        | —      |
| 31. Premature Birth .. .. .                                               | —      | 4        | 4      |
| 32. Congenital Malformation, Birth In-<br>jury, Infantile Disease .. .. . | 14     | 11       | 25     |
| 33. Suicide .. .. .                                                       | 8      | 5        | 13     |
| 34. Road Traffic Accidents .. .. .                                        | 6      | 4        | 10     |
| 35. Other Violent Causes .. .. .                                          | 11     | 8        | 19     |
| 36. All Other Causes .. .. .                                              | 44     | 49       | 93     |
| Totals, 1948 .. .. .                                                      | 619    | 624      | 1,243  |
| Totals, 1947 .. .. .                                                      | 686    | 629      | 1,315  |

The age distribution of Cancer deaths was as follows :—

| Under<br>1 yr. | 1-2<br>yrs. | 2-5<br>yrs. | 5-15<br>yrs. | 15-25<br>yrs. | 25-45<br>yrs. | 45-65<br>yrs. | 65 yrs.<br>& over |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-------------------|
| —              | —           | —           | 1            | 1             | 21            | 101           | 99                |

## B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1 :—(i) **Public Health Officers of the Authority** :—The names and qualifications of officers employed by your Authority are given at the beginning of the Report. All are whole-time officers unless otherwise stated.

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

(b) **Ambulance Facilities** :—

### MUNICIPAL SERVICE.

This Service was transferred to the County Council on the 5th July, 1948. The following shows the number of calls and the mileage during the period 1st January to 4th July, 1948.

| Removals. | Accidents. | Treatment. | Maternity. | Others. | Total. | Mileage. |
|-----------|------------|------------|------------|---------|--------|----------|
| 360       | 1,223      | 4,233      | 462        | 235     | 6,513  | 28,539   |

For the year ended 4th July, 1948, there were 11,562 calls involving a distance of 52,277 miles.

### 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 :—

“ Number 29 Division celebrated its Golden Jubilee this year. On January 5th, 1899, it was registered as a division in the St. John Ambulance Brigade.

“ Things have altered a great deal since then—there is now more call on our services, and during 1948 we carried out somewhere in the region of 5,000 local duties. At our local headquarters we treated 200 cases, in addition to the numerous treatments carried out at Public places, which are not recorded locally.

“ We are now starting a Cadet Division for boys aged 11 to 16 years.”

### (c) **Nursing in the Home.**

(i) **General**.—The work done by the Walthamstow District Nursing Association was taken over by the County Council on July 5th. General supervision and control became delegated to the Health Area Sub-Committee and its officers.

(ii) **Infectious Diseases**.—No change.

### (d) **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

**FOOT CLINIC**.—This Service was transferred to the County

Council on July 5th. Total attendances were 13,992 and of these 1,634 were by new patients, 12,358 were re-attendances by old patients. The receipts were £1,175 19s. 9d.

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 Service was transferred to the Regional Hospital Board on July 5th. The clinic is held in Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital 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               | 491                 | 1,644         | 2,135  | 41.05                           |
| (b) Saturday Morning  | 26               | 114                 | 216           | 330    | 12.7                            |
| Totals ..             | 78               | 605                 | 1,860         | 2,465  | 31.6                            |
| (c) Tuesday Morning   | 24               | 28*                 | 469†          | 497    | 20.7                            |

\* 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 .....                   | 130                | 53                | 183   |
| Sterility .....                   | 56                 | 6                 | 62    |
| Gynæcological .....               | 216                | 47                | 263   |
| Post-natal .....                  | 2                  | 1                 | 3     |
| Medical .....                     | 25                 | 3                 | 28    |
| Surgical .....                    | 14                 | —                 | 14    |
| Contraceptive .....               | 40                 | 4                 | 44    |
| Not classified .....              | 8                  | —                 | 8     |
| Totals .....                      | 491                | 114               | 605   |

The number of patients transferred to Hospital was 55. This figure does not include those transferred to Hospital for confinement.

Comparison of attendances with previous years :—

|           | 1948. | 1947. | 1946. | 1945. | 1944. | 1943. | 1942. | 1941. | 1940. | 1939. | 1938. |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| New Cases | 605   | 546   | 610   | 616   | 444   | 524   | 424   | 299   | 260   | 329   | 319   |
| Old Cases | 1860  | 1563  | 1745  | 1665  | 1630  | 1618  | 1303  | 1023  | 1183  | 1234  | 1179  |
| Totals    | 2465  | 2109  | 2355  | 2281  | 2074  | 2142  | 1727  | 1322  | 1443  | 1563  | 1498  |

### MUNICIPAL DENTAL SERVICE.

The responsibility for this Service was transferred to the Executive Council for Essex on July 5th but local control and administration remain unaltered.

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 :—

“ On July 5th this Service was absorbed into the National Health Services and the Clinic was designated a ‘ Health Centre.’ ”

“ Shortly before that date it was found necessary to appoint a second full-time dental officer, and Mr. Timmis, L.D.S., was appointed on May 5th, with the necessary chairside assistant.

“ An X-Ray machine has been installed during the year, and has been found very useful for both the general dental service and the priority dental service, i.e., for school children and Maternity and Child Welfare patients.

“ With the advent of the National Health Service the expectant and nursing mothers have been given priority over the general public.

“ The record of work done under the Maternity and Child Welfare service is recorded in that section of the Report.

“ 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 :—

|                                  | 1948 |      |      |      |                  |                 |
|----------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------------------|-----------------|
|                                  | 1944 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | Before<br>July 5 | After<br>July 5 |
| Number of patients treated ..... | 143  | 379  | 585  | 805  | 419              | 365             |
| Appointments made                | 633  | 2234 | 3719 | 5614 | 3422             | 4099            |
| Appointments kept                | 558  | 2143 | 3315 | 5181 | 3025             | 3833            |
| Fillings .....                   | 135  | 1005 | 786  | 1065 | 776              | 1053            |
| Scalings .....                   | 67   | 147  | 206  | 314  | 172              | 247             |
| Dressings .....                  | 71   | 228  | 207  | 451  | 228              | 302             |
| Extractions .....                | 266  | 1068 | 1570 | 2075 | 1117             | 1111            |
| General anæsthetics              | 58   | 238  | 446  | 530  | 269              | 317             |
| Local anæsthetics.....           | 54   | 112  | 182  | 278  | 186              | 268             |
| Impressions .....                | 33   | 223  | 371  | 863  | 547              | 553             |
| Bites .....                      | 24   | 97   | 162  | 326  | 180              | 200             |
| Try-ins .....                    | 23   | 106  | 193  | 392  | 215              | 259             |
| Dentures supplied                | 26   | 134  | 238  | 469  | 241              | 365             |

"In addition to the above, 1,277 other items of treatment were given. These comprise easings of dentures, the taking of X-Rays, fitting repairs, etc.

"Below is appended a list of the appliances completed in the dental laboratory during 1948:—

|                        | Municipal Dental<br>Service |          | School Dental<br>Service |          |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|--------------------------|----------|
|                        | 1.1.48                      | 5.7.48   | 1.1.48                   | 5.7.48   |
|                        | 4.7.48                      | 31.12.48 | 4.7.48                   | 31.12.48 |
| New dentures .....     | 275                         | 380      | 10                       | 14       |
| Orthodontic appliances | —                           | 2        | 62                       | 82       |
| Crowns .....           | 9                           | 7        | 15                       | 16       |
| Repairs .....          | 75                          | 104      | 11                       | 11       |
| Inlays .....           | —                           | 2        | —                        | —        |

"Certain types of appliance were supplied by outside technicians, but, with the acquisition of an electric welder during the year it should be possible to dispense with the services of other laboratories provided an adequate staff can be maintained."

#### SCABIES CLINIC.

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

Sessions are held 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).

166 cases were treated during the year, receiving 510 treatments.

(e) **Hospitals.**—There were no changes during 1948 in the hospital services used by the inhabitants of the Borough.

On July 5th the hospital facilities of the Borough were mainly those provided by the Forest Hospital Management Group of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, to which your Council's two hospitals were transferred.

### Treatment of the Chronic and Elderly Sick.

The inadequacy of hospital beds for the chronic and elderly sick is a difficult problem, and every attempt is made to help such cases at home by the provision of Home Nursing, Domestic Help and meals from the Mobile Service.

Prior to July 5th, Public Assistance was provided by the South Western Area Guardians Committee of the Essex County Council which retained a certain proportion of beds in each of the local institutions provided by the County Boroughs of East Ham and West Ham.

Mr. Pegram, County Welfare Officer, has kindly supplied the following particulars of Walthamstow residents admitted to the various institutions during the period 1st January to 5th July:—

| Institutions                        | Men | Women | Children | Total |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-------|----------|-------|
| Central Home .....                  | 48  | 29    | 3*       | 80    |
| Whipps Cross Hospital               | 330 | 472   | 202      | 1,004 |
| Forest Gate Hospital .....          | —   | 1     | —        | 1     |
| Harold Wood Hospital                | —   | 2     | —        | 2     |
| Forest House .....                  | 2   | 1     | —        | 3     |
| Aldersbrooke Children's Homes ..... | —   | —     | 44       | 44    |

\* These children were ultimately transferred to Aldersbrooke.

One stillborn infant was born to a Walthamstow mother in Forest Gate Hospital during the above-mentioned period.

The number of patients from Walthamstow in Mental Hospitals was 366 on the 4th July, 1948.

Mr. Pegram has also kindly supplied the following information in regard to admissions to accommodation under Part III of the National Health Service Act from 5th July to 31st December, 1948:—

| Establishment                          | Men | Women | Total |
|----------------------------------------|-----|-------|-------|
| Brookfield Hospital, Woodford Green    | —   | 3     | 3     |
| Langthorne Hospital, Leytonstone ..... | 7   | 7     | 14    |
| Forest House, Leytonstone .....        | 2   | —     | 2     |

In addition it has also been necessary to provide temporary accommodation for evicted or homeless families:—

| Establishment                           | No. of Cases | Men | Women | Children | Total No. of Persons |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|-----|-------|----------|----------------------|
| Langthorne Hospital                     | 6            | 5   | 6     | 8        | 19                   |
| St. George's Hospital, Hornchurch ..... | 1            | 1   | 1     | 1        | 3                    |

## THE CONNAUGHT HOSPITAL.

The Secretary has kindly supplied the following summary of the work done in 1948 :

*In-Patients—*

|                                         |       |           |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Number of patients admitted during 1948 | ..... | 2,804     |
| Average length of stay                  | ..... | 14.6 days |
| Daily average number                    | ..... | 111.89    |
| Number of patients X-rayed              | ..... | 1,010     |

*Out-Patients—*

|                             |       |         |
|-----------------------------|-------|---------|
| Number of new cases treated | ..... | 22,310  |
| Number of attendances       | ..... | 110,612 |
| Number of patients X-rayed  | ..... | 10,840  |

*Physiotherapy Department—*

|                                 |       |        |
|---------------------------------|-------|--------|
| Number of massage treatments    | ..... | 23,825 |
| Number of electrical treatments | ..... | 38,513 |
| Number of sunlight treatments   | ..... | 2,526  |

*Operations—*

|                        |       |        |
|------------------------|-------|--------|
| Major operations       | ..... | 2,137  |
| Minor operations       | ..... | 2,804  |
| Number of beds         | ..... | 118    |
| Number of new patients | ..... | 22,310 |

**Venereal Disease Treatment.**

Treatment was the responsibility of the Essex County Council and all the facilities of the London County Council were 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.**—Prior to July 5th out-relief and institutional treatment was provided by the Essex County Council. Mr. Pegram, County Welfare Officer, kindly states that the amount of relief provided in Walthamstow during the period 1st January to 4th July, 1948, was as follows :—

Total amount of outdoor relief granted to Walthamstow residents during the period 1st January to 4th July, £24,125 16 5.

Average weekly number of Walthamstow residents in receipt of relief :—

|          |       |       |
|----------|-------|-------|
| Men      | ..... | 220   |
| Women    | ..... | 513   |
| Children | ..... | 309   |
| Total    | ..... | 1,042 |

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.

Twelve inspections were made by the medical staff. No difficulties in regard to supervision arose.

Routine enquiries are made with regard to unregistered homes.

5. **Essex County Council Act.**—One 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 1948.

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

#### Sanitary Inspection of the Area

The Inspectorate was one below complement during the greater part of the year.

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. |               |
| 13,913                   | 8,525                      | 3,218                       | 2,501                   | 2,783*         | 324                       | 317*           | 23,248        |

\* Includes notices outstanding from previous year.

Of the 2,501 informal notices served, 220 were in respect of business premises and the remainder (2,281) related to defects in private houses. Of the latter figure, 1,963 were complied with without resort to statutory procedure.

In four cases the Owners failed to carry out notices served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, and the Council executed the work in default at a cost of £60 8s. 5d.

In 21 instances it was found necessary to institute proceedings consequent upon owners' default in complying with the requirements of notices served under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Orders were made by the Justices in eleven cases and in the ten remaining the summonses were withdrawn on payment of costs, the work being in progress or completed before the hearing.

The following table shows the different types of work carried out in the district during the year :—

Drains tested, 469 ; Drains reconstructed or repaired, 639 ; Drains, obstructions removed, 268 ; Drains, means of access provided, 69 ; Drains, ventilation provided or improved, 90 ; Drains, ventilation repaired, 97 ; Soil pipes repaired or renewed, 113 ; Rainwater pipes renewed, 324 ; Rainwater pipes disconnected from drains, 5 ; Roofs repaired or renewed, 1,090 ; Gutterings repaired or renewed, 450 ; W.C. pans or traps provided, 527 ; Gully traps provided, 127 ; W.C. flushing cisterns repaired or renewed, 296 ; W.C. floors concreted, 78 ; W.C.s repaired and cleansed, 246 ; W.C.'s light and ventilation improved, 20 ; Waste pipes repaired, renewed or trapped, 223 ; New sinks provided, 101 ; Stoves and firegrates repaired or renewed, 424 ; Water supply reinstated, 11 ; Water supply taken off main, 24 ; Cisterns cleansed and covered, 15 ; Sculleries paved, 55 ; Yards and forecourts paved or repaired, 91 ; Dirty houses cleansed, 42 ; Dirty rooms cleansed, 506 ; Floors repaired, 595 ; Ventilations under floors provided or improved, 248 ; New damp-proof courses provided, 63 ; Sites concreted, 10 ; Offensive accumulations removed, 23 ; Animals improperly kept, removed, 7 ; Stables repaired and cleansed, 21 ; Manholes repaired or re-sealed, 114 ; Other causes of dampness remedied, 515 ; Miscellaneous repairs, 2,450.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Visits to premises, 336 ; Re-visits to premises, 9.

#### DISINFECTIONS.

Rooms disinfected, 137 ; Articles disinfected at Low Hall Lane, 329 ; Articles destroyed at Low Hall Lane, 98.

## SPECIAL PREMISES.

|                                                | Number   | Visits paid |
|------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Factories (a) Power .....                      | 453      | 517         |
| (b) Non-power .....                            | 100      | 163         |
| (c) Other premises .....                       | 38       | 68          |
| Outworkers .....                               | 397      | 470         |
| Slaughterhouses .....                          | —        | —           |
| Butchers .....                                 | 75       | 408         |
| Bakehouses .....                               | 31       | 180         |
| Fishmongers, Fish Fryers and Curers, etc. .... | 39       | 222         |
| Cafés and Caterers .....                       | 107      | 342         |
| Grocers, etc. ....                             | 286      | 518         |
| Ice Cream Manufacturers and Vendors .....      | 138      | 153         |
| Cowsheds .....                                 | 1        | 3           |
| Dairies and Milksellers .....                  | 65       | 70          |
| Laundries .....                                | 3        | 11          |
| Hairdressers .....                             | 81       | 59          |
| Rag and Bone Dealers .....                     | 3        | 15          |
| Piggeries .....                                | 2        | 7           |
| Street Stalls .....                            | Numerous | 154         |
| Greengrocers .....                             | 67       | 153         |
| Stables .....                                  | 45       | 91          |
| Schools .....                                  |          | 7           |
| Conveniences .....                             |          | 44          |

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

## BUTCHERS.

Special cleansings, 44 ; Paving repaired, 9 ; Accumulations removed, 3 ; New galvanised bins provided, 14 ; Drains repaired, 3 ; W.C.s repaired and cleansed, 13 ; Floors repaired and ventilated, 5 ; Light and ventilation improved, 3 ; Other improvements, 17.

## BAKEHOUSES.

Special cleansings, 55 ; New ceilings fixed, 4 ; Floors repaired, 9 ; Light and ventilation improved, 1 ; Roofs repaired, 2 ; Other improvements, 17.

## FISHMONGERS.

Special cleansings, 26 ; Yards repaved, 6 ; Accumulations removed, 6 ; Drains cleared, 13 ; Other improvements, 20.

## GROCERS.

Store rooms cleansed, 31 ; Washing accommodation improved, 9 ; Other improvements, 34.

**CAFES AND CATERERS.**

Special cleansings, 68 ; Light and ventilation improved, 10 ; Floors renewed, 12 ; Other improvements, 27.

**ICE CREAM MANUFACTURERS AND VENDORS.**

Special cleansings, 13 ; Yard pavings repaired, 1 ; Other improvements, 3.

**COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.**

Special cleansings, 17 ; New fittings and other improvements, 4 ; Light improved, 2.

**HAIRDRESSERS.**

Special cleansings, 28.

**STABLE PREMISES.**

Cleansings, 18 ; Accumulations removed, 10 ; Roofs repaired, 2 ; Pavings repaired, 1 ; Manure receptacles provided, 4 ; Other improvements, 1.

**LAUNDRIES.**

Special cleansings, 3 ; Other improvements, 3.

**RAG AND BONE DEALERS.**

Cleansings, 4 ; Accumulations removed, 2.

**PIGGERIES.**

Cleansings, 2.

**Camping Sites.**

There are no authorised sites in the area. The caravan dwellers at Higham Hill still remain.

**Smoke Abatement.**

The difficulty of getting suitable boiler fuel still persists although some factory chimneys have been less troublesome during the period under review.

On investigation of two complaints it was found that the burning of factory waste was the cause of excessive smoke—this practice was discontinued.

**Eradication of Bed Bugs, etc.**

There was a slight increase in the number of houses reported to be bug infested, due no doubt to the exceptionally good summer, but the figure is still comparatively low.

Fumigations or special sprayings with DDT were carried out at 90 rooms and free insecticides were issued to tenants of 88 premises.

*Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation of Buildings) Regulations 1938 :—*

One notice of fumigation was received. This related to a series of Office-Records Rooms, the contents of which were infested with Psocids.

**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, 1948, the Swimming Bath was open on 294 days. The number of bathers during this time was 112,199.

“The maximum load was on June 12th, when there were 822 bathers.”

Sampling was carried out 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, 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, with satisfactory results.

(e) 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 1948 was 27,000.

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

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

Essex County Boys' Springboard Diving.  
Essex County Girls' Springboard Diving.  
Essex County Ladies' Springboard Diving."

## D.—HOUSING

### (a) Statistics

Reference was last made in the report for 1941 to the number of houses erected.

No houses were erected during the years 1942/45.

The Borough Engineer and Surveyor and the Borough Architect have kindly supplied the following information for the years 1946/8.

| Houses Erected by :—        |                      |                 |                        |        |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------|
|                             | (a) Local Authority. |                 | (b) Private Enterprise |        |
| 1946                        |                      |                 |                        |        |
| Hoe Street Ward .....       | 49 (T)               |                 |                        |        |
| St. James Street Ward ..... | 38 (T)               |                 |                        |        |
| Higham Hill Ward .....      | 61 (T)               | 8 (R)           | 1 (P)                  |        |
| High Street Ward .....      | 41 (T)               |                 |                        |        |
| Wood Street Ward .....      | 26 (T)               |                 |                        |        |
| Hale End Ward .....         | 34 (T)               |                 | 4 (P)                  | 2 (R)  |
| TOTALS.....                 | 249 (T)              | 8 (R)           | 5 (P)                  | 2 (R)  |
| 1947                        |                      |                 |                        |        |
| Higham Hill Ward .....      | 45 (T)               | 6 (R)           |                        |        |
|                             | 22 (P)               | 14 (Flats) (P)  |                        | 33 (R) |
| Wood Street Ward .....      | 45 (T)               |                 |                        | 20 (R) |
| Hale End Ward .....         |                      | 15 (R)          | 3 (P)                  | 30 (R) |
| TOTALS.....                 | 90 (T)               | 21 (R)          | 3 (P)                  | 83 (R) |
|                             | 22 (P)               | 14 (Flats) (P)  |                        |        |
| 1948                        |                      |                 |                        |        |
| St. James Street Ward ..... |                      |                 |                        | 4 (R)  |
| Higham Hill Ward.....       | 64 (P)               | 108 (Flats) (P) |                        | 21 (R) |
| Wood Street Ward .....      |                      |                 |                        | 18 (R) |
| Hale End Ward .....         | 196 (T)              |                 | 1 (P)                  | 45 (R) |
| TOTALS.....                 | 196 (T)              | 108 (Flats) (P) |                        |        |
|                             | 64 (P)               |                 | 1 (P)                  | 88 (R) |

Note : (T) Temporary Houses.  
(R) Rebuilding war-destroyed Houses.  
(P) Post-war permanent Houses and Flats.

The Borough Architect summarises the general position as follows :—

“ During the calendar years 1946, 1947 and 1948 the Council have erected a total of 535 temporary houses, rebuilt 29 war-destroyed Council houses and have erected 86 new houses and 122 flats ; 173 war-destroyed houses were rebuilt by private enterprise and nine new houses erected, giving a grand total of 934 dwellings.”

The official records show that there were 32,000 houses in the Borough in 1939, 30,000 of which were damaged, including 288 totally destroyed.

### (b) Inspection

The following information is supplied 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) .....                                                   | 3,554 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....                                                                                                                    | 8,494 |
| (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 .....                                      | 10    |
| (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 .....   | 2,271 |

#### 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 ..... | 1,963 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|

### 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 ..... | 37  |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—      |     |
| (a) By owners .....                                                                           | 29  |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners<br>(at a cost of £60 8s. 5d.) .....               | 4   |
| (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 ..... | 291 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—              |     |
| (a) By owners .....                                                                                          | 289 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners                                                                  | Nil |

#### 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 ..... | 3 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....    | 2 |

#### 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 .....                                                      | 2   |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..... | Nil |

**(c) Housing Act, 1936****Unfit Houses**

The following premises were dealt with as follows:—

**Demolition Orders**

7, West Avenue Road.

41, Brunner Road.

21, Courtenay Place.

**Closing Orders**

136, Wood Street.

14, Church Lane.

**Landlord and Tenant (War Damage) Acts, 1939-41.**

No applications were received from owners of houses for certificates.

**Rent and Mortgage Restriction Acts.**

During the year eleven certificates were granted to tenants. Five clearance certificates were issued to owners and five refused.

**Housing Act, 1936, Section 62.**

Applications for "permitted number" were received and certificates issued during the year respecting 257 lettings.

**General**

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

"As additional properties were made available for letting during the year by the supply of temporary bungalows, erection of new houses and flats, it could be stated that some progress has been made.

"With equal truth it has to be admitted that the housing situation still remains desperate for many families. Couples who have married during and since the war are anxious to settle down and rear families in tolerable living conditions. As a consequence, pressure is being brought to bear for a higher standard of accommodation, and the young people with their families are not content to remain indefinitely with relatives or continue to live in overcrowded conditions. Such families naturally look to the Local Authority to assist them and it will be seen that applications are received in greater number than houses become available.

"Our present building programme, which, admirable in view of the limited building sites available in the Borough,

seems to be minute in comparison with the needs of the community. In an endeavour to relieve the situation everything possible is being done to ensure that such accommodation as becomes available is used to its fullest capacity. It has, on occasion, been found possible to arrange for two, three or more tenants to transfer from present accommodation in order that, on completion of this 'switch-round,' an additional family can be re-housed, i.e., by putting a small family occupying accommodation greater than is needed into accommodation adequate for their requirements, and releasing the larger accommodation for a big family.

"Progress in the building programme consists of the balance of the prefabricated bungalows allocated to the Borough being completed, together with a number of permanent houses on the Millfield Estate, and the completion of some of the multi-storey flats on the Priory Court Estate.

"It had been hoped in the early part of the year to close down the Rest Centre accommodation. Unfortunately, quite the reverse was found to be the case, as additional rest centre accommodation had to be acquired due to the large number of eviction orders effected through the Courts.

"Experience in operating the original Points Scheme indicated that some revision was necessary. In the early part of the year, this revision was put into operation but the Scheme was under constant review by a special sub-committee, in order that the most urgent cases could be brought to light and early investigations be made. A further revised scheme was, therefore, decided upon in the latter part of the year. There is no doubt in my mind that as a result of the considerable time and thought spent by the sub-committee in keeping the Points Scheme under constant review, it has fully justified the results.

"The progress made in rehousing and the housing situation up to 31st December, 1948, is as follows:—

|                                                       | 1947   | 1948  |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------|
| Prefabricated bungalows occupied .....                | 466    | 535   |
| Priory Court flats occupied .....                     | 14     | 114   |
| New houses occupied .....                             | —      | 72    |
| War damaged Council houses rebuilt and occupied ..... | —      | 17    |
| Families rehoused .....                               | 400    | 323   |
| *Housing applications on the 'live register' .....    | 9,553  | 7,012 |
| Personal interviews .....                             | 11,407 | 9,273 |

\* Reduced on a canvass to 6,176 on 1st April, 1948.

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

|                                                                       |       |       |       |       | Applications |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------------|-------|
|                                                                       |       |       |       |       | Per cent.    | No.   |
| Pensioners—                                                           |       |       |       |       |              |       |
| 1 room                                                                | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2.05         | 144   |
| 2 rooms                                                               | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1.02         | 112   |
| Others—                                                               |       |       |       |       |              |       |
| 1 room (single persons)                                               | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 0.75         | 53    |
| 2 rooms (young married couples)                                       | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 27.35        | 1,904 |
| 3 rooms (families with one or two children)                           | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 54.30        | 3,786 |
| 4 rooms (families with three to four children or two of opposite sex) | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 12.38        | 861   |
| 5 rooms (families with five to six children)                          | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1.95         | 137   |
| 6 rooms (families with more than six children)                        | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 0.20         | 15    |
|                                                                       |       |       |       |       | 100.00       | 7,012 |
|                                                                       |       |       |       |       | 1947         | 1948  |
| No. of properties requisitioned                                       | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1,062        | 1,063 |
| No. of properties still held                                          | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 616          | 572." |

At the end of 1948 there were 5 hostels used solely for the purpose of housing elderly people, with total accommodation for 48 persons. In addition, there was one halfway house with accommodation for 14 persons, and another projected.

In the pre-war housing estates, provision had been made for 40 one-bedroomed type flats for the elderly and on the post-war Priory Court estate, provision has been made for 14 one-bedroom type flats together with a common room and sun shelter. These self-contained flats are let at an inclusive rental of 10/- per week.

## E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### (a) Milk Supply.

The following is contributed by the Chief Sanitary Inspector :—

#### *Designated Milk.*

During the year 144 samples of milk were submitted to the Counties Laboratories for bacteriological examination, including Phosphatase and Methylene Blue tests.

These samples of milk were taken from roundsmen during the course of delivery or on arrival at Schools. They include the bi-monthly sampling of the two dairymen holding Producers' Licences.

The following table gives details of samples taken :—

| Grade.                        | No. of Samples. | RESULTS       |                                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------------------------------------|
|                               |                 | Satisfactory. | Unsatisfactory in Methylene Blue test only. |
| Pasteurised .. .. .           | 101             | ALL           | NIL                                         |
| Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised | 29              |               |                                             |
| Tuberculin Tested .. .. .     | 1               |               |                                             |
| Sterilised .. .. .            | 9               |               |                                             |
| Heat Treated .. .. .          | 4               |               |                                             |
| Totals .. .. .                | 144             | 144           | —                                           |

#### *Biological Test.*

Four samples of pasteurised milk were examined, all of which were satisfactory.

#### THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936.

Licences for the sale of milk under Special Designations were granted as follows :—

##### *Dealers' Licences.*

Pasteurised Milk ..... 15  
Tuberculin Tested Milk 10

##### *Supplementary Licences.*

Pasteurised Milk ..... 3  
Tuberculin Tested Milk 3

##### *Bottling Licences.*

Pasteurised Milk ..... 2  
Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised) ..... 2

There is one Cowshed in the district and the average number of cows kept is four.

The number of Retail Purveyors of Milk is 65. All of these sell milk in bottles "as received."

Seventy visits were paid to registered dealers and a satisfactory standard of cleanliness was maintained.

#### *(b) Ice Cream.*

Thirty-eight applications for Registration as Vendors were received.

Licences were granted as follows :—

|           |       |       |       |    |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|----|
| Vendors   | ..... | ..... | ..... | 22 |
| Transfers | ..... | ..... | ..... | 11 |
| Refused   | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2  |
| Withdrawn | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3  |

#### ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.), REGULATIONS, 1947/8.

The trade was again circularised regarding the provisions of the above regulations.

Five traders found it impossible satisfactorily to comply with the new regulations and now have their ice-cream manufactured at approved factories.

#### MEDICAL EXAMINATION—TYPHOID, ETC., CARRIERS.

The voluntary scheme of attending for Blood Tests or Rectal Swabs is still operative and 67 persons presented themselves for tests during the year. No carrier was found.

#### BACTERIAL QUALITY AND GRADING OF ICE CREAM.

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

The following summary shows the comparative results of the old standard test and the new (provisional) test. Grade 1 and Grade 2 of the latter are considered satisfactory.

| Plate Count | Old Standard Test                  |                                 |                   |           | New (Provisional) Test |                                       |       |
|-------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------|
|             | Coliform Reaction<br>(in 1/10 ml.) | Bacterium coli<br>(in 1/10 ml.) | Very satisfactory | Pass-able | Not Pass-able          | Methylene Blue Test<br>Reduction time | Grade |
| 20,000      | —                                  | —                               |                   | x         |                        | Not in 4½ hours                       | 1     |
| 10,000      | —                                  | —                               |                   | x         |                        | " 4½ "                                | 1     |
| 3,000       | *3 tubes                           | —                               | x                 |           |                        | " 4½ "                                | 1     |
| 2,000       | —                                  | —                               | x                 |           |                        | " 4½ "                                | 1     |
| 400         | —                                  | —                               | x                 |           |                        | " 4½ "                                | 1     |
| 5,000       | —                                  | —                               | x                 |           |                        | " 4½ "                                | 1     |
| 7,000       | —                                  | —                               |                   | x         |                        | " 4½ "                                | 1     |
| 9,000       | —                                  | —                               | x                 |           |                        | " 4½ "                                | 1     |
| 800         | —                                  | —                               | x                 |           |                        | " 4½ "                                | 1     |
| 6,000       | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x         |                        | " 4½ "                                | 1     |
| 300         | —                                  | —                               | x                 |           |                        | " 4½ "                                | 1     |
| 3,700       | —                                  | —                               | x                 |           |                        | " 4½ "                                | 1     |
| 3,000       | —                                  | —                               |                   | x         |                        | " 4½ "                                | 1     |
| 400         | —                                  | —                               | x                 |           |                        | " 4½ "                                | 1     |
| 700         | —                                  | —                               | x                 |           |                        | " 4½ "                                | 1     |
| 11,000      | —                                  | —                               |                   | x         |                        | " 4½ "                                | 1     |
| 700         | —                                  | —                               | x                 |           |                        | " 4½ "                                | 1     |
| 11,000      | —                                  | —                               |                   | x         |                        | In 4 "                                | 2     |
| 2,100       | *2 tubes                           | —                               | x                 |           |                        | " 4 "                                 | 2     |
| 2,200       | —                                  | —                               | x                 |           |                        | " 4 "                                 | 2     |
| 30,000      | —                                  | —                               |                   | x         |                        | " 4 "                                 | 2     |

| Plate Count | Old Standard Test                  |                                 |                   | Passable | Not Passable | New (Provisional) Test |       |
|-------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------|--------------|------------------------|-------|
|             | Coliform Reaction<br>(in 1/10 ml.) | Bacterium coli<br>(in 1/10 ml.) | Very satisfactory |          |              | Reduction time         | Grade |
| 15,000      | —                                  | —                               |                   | x        |              | In 3½ hours            | 2     |
| 3,000       | —                                  | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 3½ "                 | 2     |
| 2,000       | —                                  | —                               |                   |          |              | " 3½ "                 | 2     |
| 1,000       | —                                  | —                               | x                 |          |              | " 3 "                  | 2     |
| 6,000       | —                                  | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 3 "                  | 2     |
| 40,000      | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 3 "                  | 2     |
| 8,600       | *2 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 3 "                  | 2     |
| 120,000     | —                                  | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 3 "                  | 2     |
| 60,000      | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 3 "                  | 2     |
| 20,000      | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 2½ "                 | 2     |
| 40,000      | —                                  | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 2½ "                 | 2     |
| 9,800       | —                                  | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 2½ "                 | 2     |
| 8,000       | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 2½ "                 | 2     |
| 20,000      | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 2½ "                 | 2     |
| 7,600       | *1 tube                            | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 2½ "                 | 2     |
| 5,800       | *2 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 2½ "                 | 2     |
| 50,000      | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 2½ "                 | 2     |
| 15,000      | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 2½ "                 | 2     |
| 8,000       | *1 tube                            | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 2½ "                 | 2     |
| 15,000      | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 2 "                  | 3     |
| 100,000     | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 2 "                  | 3     |
| 5,000       | *2 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 2 "                  | 3     |
| 7,500       | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 1½ "                 | 3     |
| 6,000       | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 1½ "                 | 3     |
| 26,000      | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 1½ "                 | 3     |
| 18,000      | —                                  | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 1½ "                 | 3     |
| 13,000      | *2 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 1½ "                 | 3     |
| 20,000      | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 1 "                  | 3     |
| 18,000      | *2 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 1 "                  | 3     |
| 45,000      | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " ½ "                  | 3     |
| 250,000     | —                                  | —                               |                   |          | x            | " ½ "                  | 3     |
| 59,000      | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 0 "                  | 4     |
| 240,000     | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   |          | x            | " 0 "                  | 4     |
| 2,500,000   | *3 tubes                           | —                               |                   |          | x            | " 0 "                  | 4     |
| 48,000      | *2 tubes                           | —                               |                   | x        |              | " 0 "                  | 4     |
| 180,000     | *3 tubes                           | *3 tubes                        |                   |          | x            | " 2½ "                 | 2     |
| 400,000     | *3 tubes                           | *3 tubes                        |                   |          | x            | " 0 "                  | 4     |
| 15,000      | *3 tubes                           | *3 tubes                        |                   |          | x            | " 0 "                  | 4     |
| 4,000       | *3 tubes                           | *2 tubes                        |                   |          | x            | " 0 "                  | 4     |

By the old test, of a total of 61, 54 are in a category not less than "passable," whereas by the new (Provisional) test only 41 were classified in Grades 1 and 2.

The presence of Bacterium Coli in only four samples indicates that care in manufacture and cleanliness in handling still predominates.

### (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.

It will be realised that much time has to be devoted to food inspection and the following list of meat and other food condemned as unfit for human consumption is indicative of this.

Where possible food was salvaged for processing or animal food.

|           |                      |          |                      |
|-----------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|
| 2971 tins | Evaporated Milk      | 48 tins  | Oranges              |
| 546 "     | Full Cream Milk      | 28 "     | Peaches              |
| 96 "      | Machine Skimmed Milk | 16 "     | Apricots             |
| 16 "      | Dried Egg            | 16 "     | Pineapple            |
| 1810 "    | Herring Tit-Bits     | 6 "      | Pears                |
| 294 "     | Shellfish (various)  | 6 "      | Prunes               |
| 115 "     | Salmon               | 5 "      | Damsons              |
| 100 "     | Whiting              | 5 "      | Cherries             |
| 81 "      | Herring Spread       | 3 "      | Grapes               |
| 79 "      | Pilchards            | 2 "      | Gooseberries         |
| 75 "      | Sardines             | 3 "      | Rhubarb              |
| 56 "      | Fish Paste (various) | 2 "      | Apples               |
| 17 "      | Roe                  | 2 "      | Blackcurrants        |
| 9 "       | Silver Hake          | 1 tin    | Apple Jelly          |
| 7 "       | Fish Cake            | 1 "      | Blackberries         |
| 6 "       | Snoek                | 1 "      | Golden Berries       |
| 4 "       | Anchovy              | 54 bott. | Damsons              |
| 3 "       | Haddock Liver        | 8 "      | Plums                |
| 2 "       | Fish Balls           | 1 "      | Cherries             |
| 2 "       | Fried Minced Fish    | 1 "      | Sliced Apples        |
| 1 tin     | Brisling             | 1 "      | Rhubarb              |
| 1 "       | Kipper Snacks        | 2 "      | Apples               |
| 496 tins  | Peas                 | 1 gall.  | Apple Pulp           |
| 253 "     | Beans                | 190 tins | Jam                  |
| 60 "      | Mixed Vegetables     | 54 "     | Orange Marmalade     |
| 55 "      | Tomatoes             | 25 "     | Grapefruit Marmalade |
| 49 "      | Carrots              | 8 "      | Pudding              |
| 17 "      | Beetroot             | 36 "     | Spaghetti            |
| 15 "      | Spinach              | 1 tin    | Macaroni Cream Sauce |
| 9 "       | Potatoes             | 10 tins  | Pate de Fois Gras    |
| 5 "       | Turnips              | 20 jars  | Gherkins             |
| 3 "       | Macedoine            | 20 "     | Pickles              |
| 149 "     | Plums                | 17 bott. | Tomato Ketchup       |
| 112 "     | Fruit Salad          | 10 jars  | Pickled Cabbage      |
| 79 "      | Grapefruit           | 2 bott.  | Onions               |

|           |                        |           |                                  |
|-----------|------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 148 bott. | Fruit Sauce            | 12½ lbs.  | Tinned Peaches                   |
| 23 „      | Mint Sauce             | 6½ „      | „ Plums                          |
| 9 jars    | Salad Cream            | 2210¾ „   | Tomatoes                         |
| 1 cwt.    | Salt                   | 12 „      | Tinned Peas                      |
| 25 gall.  | Vinegar                | 248 „     | Prunes                           |
| 114 pkts. | Soup                   | 124 „     | Figs                             |
| 86 tins   | Soup                   | 94 „      | Butterbeans                      |
| 4 „       | Broth                  | 28 „      | Ground Almonds                   |
| 143 „     | Stewed Steak           | 25 „      | Dried Peaches                    |
| 6 „       | Irish Steak            | 1 box     | Dates                            |
| 2 „       | Ulster Steak           | 35 lbs.   | Jam                              |
| 14 „      | Steak & Kidney Pudding | 88 „      | Grapefruit Marmalade             |
| 2 „       | Hors d'Oeuvres         | 25½ „     | Orange Marmalade                 |
| 193 „     | Luncheon Meat          | 12 „      | Grapefruit & Orange<br>Marmalade |
| 145 „     | Veal Loaf              | 3 „       | Syrup                            |
| 100 „     | Beef Loaf              | 42 „      | Piping Jelly                     |
| 32 „      | Pork Loaf              | 18 „      | Porridge Oats                    |
| 16 „      | Ham Loaf               | 145 pkts. | Scotch Oat Cakes                 |
| 91 „      | Bacon                  | 66 „      | Cereals                          |
| 82 „      | Sausages               | 47½ lbs.  | Barley                           |
| 66 „      | Meat & Veg. Ration     | 170 „     | Hazel Kernels                    |
| 18 „      | Turkey                 | 32 „      | Butter                           |
| 13 „      | Galantine              | 35 pkts.  | Sweepfat                         |
| 7 „       | Chilli Con Carne       | 423 lbs.  | Flour                            |
| 4 „       | Potted Meat            | 140 „     | Flour Improver                   |
| 4 „       | Beef and Carrots       | 112 „     | Rhye Cones                       |
| 1 tin     | Minced Beef & Cereals  | 9 bott.   | Coffee                           |
| 1 „       | Meat Hash              | 14½ lbs.  | Sugar                            |
| 1 „       | Meat Roll              | 63¼ „     | Cheese                           |
| 1 „       | Chicken                | 78 boxes  | Cheese (Camembert)               |
| 1 „       | Rabbit                 | 1 jar     | Paste                            |
| 24 tins   | Brawn                  | 88 lbs.   | Confectionery (various)          |
| 5 „       | Brisket                | 27 bars   | Mars                             |
| 902¼ lbs. | Corned Beef            | 104 stone | Dogfish                          |
| 519½ „    | Beef                   | 59 „      | Skate                            |
| 245½ „    | Mutton                 | 42¾ „     | Cod                              |
| 149 „     | Bacon                  | 21 „      | Whiting                          |
| 42 „      | Brawn (Danish)         | 19¾ „     | Flaps                            |
| 39 „      | Chilli Con Carne       | 19 „      | Herrings                         |
| 30 „      | Tongue                 | 17 „      | Haddock                          |
| 24 „      | Sweetbreads            | 15 „      | Roker                            |
| 16½ „     | Corned Beef Hash       | 15 „      | Dabs                             |
| 8 „       | Sausages               | 13 „      | Roe                              |
| 8 „       | Brisket                | 8 „       | Kippers                          |
| 7 „       | Luncheon Meat          | 3¾ „      | Lemon Soles                      |
| 2½ „      | Kidney                 | 13 lbs.   | Cod Fillets (cooked)             |
| 2 „       | Pork (Danish)          | 2 doz.    | Fish Cakes                       |
| 20 „      | Tinned Grape Fruit     |           |                                  |

|                         |     |          |
|-------------------------|-----|----------|
| 2 boxes Kippers         | 211 | Chickens |
| 62 jars Herring Fillets | 100 | Rabbits  |
| 1 jar Bismark Fillets   | 12  | Ducks    |
| 2 jars Salmon Chovy     | 551 | Eggs     |
| 1 pkt. Stuffing         |     |          |

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

One hundred and three samples of food and drugs were submitted to the Public Analysts.

Nine samples were found to be unsatisfactory. Details are given below :—

| Description of Article                | Result of Analysis                     | Action Taken                                                    |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rum (Formal) .....                    | 1½% added water.                       | Letter of warning.                                              |
| Blackcurrant Cordial (Informal) ..... | Slight fermentation.                   | No other stock—warning sent.                                    |
| Vinegar (Informal) .....              | Bacterial growth.                      | Consignment returned to Min. of Food.                           |
| Frying Oil (Informal) .....           | Mainly mineral.                        | No further supplies obtainable — warning sent.                  |
| Vinegar (Formal) .....                | Acetic Acid 2½% only.                  | Warning sent.                                                   |
| Whisky (Formal) .....                 | 4% added water.                        | Court proceedings. Licensee and Barman fined £5 and costs each. |
| Sausages (Informal) .....             | Meat 6% deficiency.                    | Warning sent.                                                   |
| Malted Milk (Informal) .....          | Out of condition.                      | Stock surrendered.                                              |
| Sausages (Formal) .....               | Preservative present and not declared. | Warning sent.                                                   |

Below is given a full list of samples taken for analysis :—

|                              | No. examined |          |       | No. unsatisfactory |          |       |
|------------------------------|--------------|----------|-------|--------------------|----------|-------|
|                              | Formal       | Informal | Total | Formal             | Informal | Total |
| Beef Cup .....               | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Beef Vegetable Extract ..... | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Ham, chopped .....           | 1            | —        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Cordial, Blackcurrant .....  | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | 1        | 1     |
| Curry Powder .....           | —            | 2        | 2     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Fish Roll .....              | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Gelatine .....               | 1            | —        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Ice Cream .....              | —            | 8        | 8     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Icing Sugar .....            | 1            | —        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Peel, mixed .....            | 1            | —        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Pepper .....                 | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Spice, mixed .....           | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Vinegar .....                | 7            | 4        | 11    | 1                  | 1        | 2     |
| Gin .....                    | 2            | —        | 2     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Rum .....                    | 1            | —        | 1     | 1                  | —        | 1     |
| Whisky .....                 | 7            | —        | 7     | 1                  | —        | 1     |
| Amara Tonic .....            | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Nursery Powder .....         | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Revitone Tonic .....         | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Milk .....                   | 15           | —        | 15    | —                  | —        | —     |
| Baking Powder .....          | —            | 2        | 2     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Black Pudding .....          | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |

|                                                    | No. examined |          |       | No. unsatisfactory |          |       |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------|-------|--------------------|----------|-------|
|                                                    | Formal       | Informal | Total | Formal             | Informal | Total |
| Coffee Chicory Essence.....                        | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Corned Beef .....                                  | —            | 2        | 2     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Lemonade Tablets .....                             | 1            | —        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Mustard .....                                      | 1            | —        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Potatoes .....                                     | —            | 2        | 2     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Sausages .....                                     | 3            | 2        | 5     | 1                  | 1        | 2     |
| Sausages, vegetable .....                          | 1            | —        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Biscuits, chocolate .....                          | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Caramel Cream .....                                | 1            | —        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Butter .....                                       | 2            | —        | 2     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Coffee .....                                       | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Corned Mutton .....                                | —            | 3        | 3     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Frying Oil .....                                   | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | 1        | 1     |
| Lemonade Crystals .....                            | 1            | —        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Lingo Fizz (Flavoured<br>Effervescent Drink) ..... | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Meat Paste, beef .....                             | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Oats, breakfast .....                              | 1            | —        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Pie .....                                          | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Sausages, luncheon .....                           | 1            | —        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Saccharin tablets .....                            | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Cocoa .....                                        | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Jam .....                                          | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Malted Milk .....                                  | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | 1        | 1     |
| Olive Oil .....                                    | 1            | —        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Onion Powder .....                                 | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Pickle .....                                       | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Sauce .....                                        | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Sausage Meat .....                                 | 1            | —        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Sausage Rolls .....                                | 1            | —        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Veal Pie .....                                     | 1            | —        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Bicarbonate of Soda .....                          | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
| Liquid Paraffin .....                              | —            | 1        | 1     | —                  | —        | —     |
|                                                    |              |          | 103   |                    |          | 9     |

### Meat Products.

The Public Analysts were called upon to examine four different samples of Canned Meat Products. These consisted of samples of Corned Mutton and one sample of Corned Beef. Extracts from their report are as follows:—

“The reason for submitting these samples for examination was that in some cases when the tins were opened the contents were found to show black discoloured spots or areas. Bacteriological examination showed that the meat was sterile and a special examination was made for the presence of harmful metallic contamination. The results of these special examinations was to show that in the surface layers of some of these meat products traces of lead were found varying between seven and twenty parts per million, whereas analysis of the inner portions of the meat showed the presence of lead amounting to only between five and six parts per million.

"Having regard to the semi-official limit of five parts per million for lead in sardines and that, for a short time, as much as twenty parts per million was tolerated in sardines, we expressed the opinion that the inner meat with five parts per million of lead could be used for edible purposes, but nevertheless we hold the view that even five parts per million of lead is rather a generous limit for this type of product and that it should be possible to prepare canned meat with less than five parts per million of lead.

"Unfortunately, knowledge of the effect of these minute quantities of lead in foodstuffs is still very limited and some official pronouncement as to the maximum permissible quantity of lead which may be allowed is undoubtedly urgently required."

**(c) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Foods.**

Chemical examination is carried out by the Public Analysts, Mr. G. Taylor, F.R.I.C., and Dr. J. H. Hammence, F.R.I.C., at 20 Eastcheap, E.C.3, and bacteriological examinations by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66 Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Certain biological examinations are undertaken by Dr. A. L. Sheather of Chorley Wood.

All Manufacturers and Vendors of Ice Cream were circularised regarding the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations and also informing them of the facilities offered to the trade re Blood Tests, etc.

The hoped-for revised model bye-laws in connection with the sale or exposure for sale in the open air of food intended for human consumption, are not yet available, but may be expected in the near future.

**DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1894-1938**

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

**Swine Fever Order, 1938.**—No action necessary.

**Regulation of Movement of Swine Order, 1922.**—One case was dealt with.

**Parasitic Mange Order, 1938.**—No action necessary.

The following Orders were dealt with as necessary :—

The Live Poultry (Regulation of Sales, Exhibitions and Movements) Order of 1948.

The Live Poultry (Regulation of Sales, Exhibitions and Movements) (No. 2) Order of 1948.

The Live Poultry (Regulation of Sales, Exhibitions and Movements) (No. 3) Order of 1948.

The Sheep Scab (Amendment) Order of 1948.

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

(a) Rat repression is actively pursued by the Council's trained Rat Catchers ; the Sanitary Inspectors act in a technical and advisory capacity.

(b) *Local Authority Circular N.S.19.*—The Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Infestation Control Division) was accepted by the Council and work is carried on to comply with the Ministry's requirements for effective rodent control of the area.

Pre-baiting and poison baiting has been carried out with continued success.

The following is a summary of the work undertaken during the year :—

### SANITARY INSPECTORS

| Types and No. of<br>Premises Inspected |       | Premises found<br>to be infested |       | Methods used at infested premises |          |         |       |
|----------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|----------|---------|-------|
| Food                                   | Other | Food                             | Other | Baiting                           | Trapping | Gassing | Other |
| 35                                     | 417   | 30                               | 313   | 295                               | 2        | 3       | 55    |

Complaints received ..... 297

Premises rat-proofed ..... 5

Re-inspections ..... 451

### RODENT OPERATIVES

| No. of Infestations<br>Treated | No. of Infestations<br>Re-treated | No. of Infestations<br>Cleared. | Estimated<br>Kill. |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| 351                            | 166                               | 335                             | 3,500              |

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

The following tables show the work carried out under these Acts :—

#### 1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, ETC.

##### INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY SANITARY INSPECTORS.

| Premises.<br><br>(1)                                                                       | No. on<br>Register<br><br>(2) | Number of           |                            |                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                                                                                            |                               | Inspections.<br>(3) | Written<br>Notices.<br>(4) | Occupiers<br>Prose-<br>cuted.<br>(5) |
| Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..... | 100                           | 163                 | 14                         | Nil                                  |
| Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....   | 453                           | 517                 | 50                         | Nil                                  |
| Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....                 | 38                            | 68                  | 1                          | Nil                                  |
| Totals .....                                                                               | 591                           | 748                 | 65                         | Nil                                  |

## 2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, ETC.

| Particulars.<br><br>(1)        | Number of Defects.            |                  |                                          |                                         | Number of cases in<br>(6) which prosecutions<br>were instituted |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                | Found.<br>(2)                 | Remedied.<br>(3) | Referred<br>to H.M.<br>Inspector.<br>(4) | Referred<br>By H.M.<br>Inspector<br>(5) |                                                                 |
| Want of cleanliness .. ..      | 59                            | 56               | —                                        | 4                                       | —                                                               |
| Overcrowding .. ..             | 1                             | 1                | —                                        | —                                       | —                                                               |
| Unreasonable temperature ..    | 2                             | 2                | —                                        | —                                       | —                                                               |
| Inadequate ventilation ..      | 18                            | 17               | —                                        | 1                                       | —                                                               |
| Ineffective drainage of floors | 5                             | 5                | —                                        | —                                       | —                                                               |
| Sanitary<br>Conveniences {     | insufficient                  | 12               | 10                                       | —                                       | —                                                               |
|                                | unsuitable or<br>defective .. | 70               | 64                                       | —                                       | —                                                               |
|                                | not separate<br>for sexes ..  | 3                | 3                                        | —                                       | —                                                               |
| Other offences.. ..            | 33                            | 31               | 1                                        | 1                                       | —                                                               |
| Totals .. ..                   | 203                           | 189              | 1                                        | 42                                      | —                                                               |

NUMBER AND TRADES OF OUTWORKERS NOTIFIED  
DURING 1948

|                          |                              |    |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|----|
| Wearing apparel, making  | Lampshades .....             | 2  |
| of .....                 | Furniture & Upholstery ..... | 1  |
| Artificial Flowers ..... | Paper bags .....             | 30 |
| Boxes .....              | Brush making .....           | 10 |
| Stuffed toys .....       | Christmas crackers .....     | 1  |
| Total .....              | 397                          |    |

*Hand-washing at Public Lavatories.*

This matter received consideration by your Council, with particular reference to persons handling foodstuffs.

It was agreed in principle, that free facilities be given not only to food handlers but to all members of the public, in an endeavour to focus attention on this very important matter.

The facilities provided at public lavatories, include the use of liquid soap and paper towels.

### *Installation of Cooking Apparatus in Rooms Containing Water Closets.*

Instances of this very undesirable practice came to light especially where the Landlord or principal tenant has had such work carried out, usually by a private contractor.

The co-operation of the Electricity and Gas Authorities was sought in the matter and a promise was obtained that no fresh installations would be carried out and that every effort would be made to remove those existing.

Such installations in private dwelling-houses contravene the local Building Bye-laws and where possible, action is taken to secure removal.

### National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 50

#### FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

Up to the end of the year, arrangements were made in regard to the burial of three persons, one a newly-born male infant found in Coppermill Lane and two elderly persons, one male and one female.

The arrangements previously used by the Essex County Council, were continued.

#### 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 &  |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                           | 1948      | 1947  | 1 yr. | yrs. | yrs. | yrs.  | yrs.  | yrs.  | over. |
| Scarlet Fever .. ..       | 188       | 232   | —     | 45   | 124  | 14    | 3     | 2     | —     |
| Diphtheria .. ..          | 1         | —     | —     | —    | 1    | —     | —     | —     | —     |
| Typhoid Fever .. ..       | 2         | —     | —     | —    | 2    | —     | —     | —     | —     |
| Paratyphoid Fever ..      | —         | —     | —     | —    | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     |
| Pneumonia .. ..           | 85        | 151   | 4     | 8    | 9    | 5     | 28    | 18    | 13    |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ..      | 22        | 30    | —     | —    | —    | 7     | 15    | —     | —     |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum     | 2         | 5     | 2     | —    | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     |
| Erysipelas .. ..          | 27        | 48    | —     | —    | 1    | —     | 7     | 9     | 10    |
| Encephalitis Lethargica   | —         | —     | —     | —    | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     |
| Polio-encephalitis ..     | —         | —     | —     | —    | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     |
| Cerebro-spinal Meningitis | 1         | 9     | —     | —    | 1    | —     | —     | —     | —     |
| Anterior Poliomyelitis .. | 3         | 24    | —     | 2    | —    | —     | 1     | —     | —     |
| Measles .. ..             | 639       | 1081  | 43    | 326  | 263  | 2     | 5     | —     | —     |
| Whooping Cough .. ..      | 565       | 223   | 71    | 335  | 153  | 1     | 3     | 2     | —     |
| Dysentery .. ..           | 2         | —     | —     | 2    | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     |
| Malaria .. ..             | —         | —     | —     | —    | —    | —     | —     | —     | —     |
| Tuberculosis .. ..        | 144       | 151   | 1     | 6    | 10   | 49    | 52    | 16    | 10    |
| Totals, 1948 .. ..        | 1,681     | —     | 121   | 724  | 564  | 78    | 114   | 47    | 33    |
| Totals, 1947 .. ..        | —         | 1,954 | 83    | 841  | 670  | 106   | 132   | 80    | 42    |

|                            | St. James<br>Street. | High<br>Street. | Hoe<br>Street. | Wood<br>Street. | Hale<br>End. | Higham<br>Hill. | Totals. |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|---------|
| Scarlet Fever .. ..        | 30                   | 23              | 31             | 27              | 38           | 39              | 188     |
| Diphtheria .. ..           | —                    | —               | —              | —               | 1            | —               | 1       |
| Typhoid Fever .. ..        | —                    | —               | —              | —               | 1            | 1               | 2       |
| Paratyphoid Fever ..       | —                    | —               | —              | —               | —            | —               | —       |
| Pneumonia .. ..            | 10                   | 14              | 13             | 10              | 19           | 19              | 85      |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ..       | 3                    | —               | 4              | 6               | 4            | 5               | 22      |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum      | —                    | —               | 1              | 1               | —            | —               | 2       |
| Erysipelas .. ..           | 2                    | 4               | 3              | 1               | 9            | 8               | 27      |
| Encephalitis Lethargica .. | —                    | —               | —              | —               | —            | —               | —       |
| Polio-encephalitis ..      | —                    | —               | —              | —               | —            | —               | —       |
| Cerebro-spinal Meningitis  | —                    | —               | —              | —               | 1            | —               | 1       |
| Anterior Poliomyelitis ..  | 1                    | —               | —              | —               | —            | 2               | 3       |
| Measles .. ..              | 97                   | 87              | 145            | 55              | 123          | 132             | 639     |
| Whooping Cough ..          | 123                  | 101             | 95             | 40              | 73           | 133             | 565     |
| Dysentery .. ..            | —                    | 1               | —              | —               | 1            | —               | 2       |
| Malaria .. ..              | —                    | —               | —              | —               | —            | —               | —       |
| Tuberculosis .. ..         | 26                   | 14              | 21             | 20              | 34           | 29              | 144     |
| Totals, 1948 ..            | 292                  | 244             | 313            | 160             | 304          | 368             | 1,681   |
| Totals, 1947 ..            | 330                  | 259             | 275            | 235             | 385          | 470             | 1,954   |

The statistics given in the foregoing tables are those for the calendar year 1948.

The Registrar-General gives the statistics for the 52 weeks ended 31st December, 1948, 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<br>Fever. | Diph-<br>theria. | Enteric<br>Fever. | Pneu-<br>monia. | Puerperal<br>Pyrexia. | Erysipelas |
|----------------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------|
| Number .....               | 188               | 1                | 2                 | 85              | 22                    | 27         |
| Case rate :—               |                   |                  |                   |                 |                       |            |
| Walthamstow                | 1.53              | 0.00             | 0.01              | 0.69            | 0.17                  | 0.22       |
| England and<br>Wales ..... | 1.73              | 0.08             | 0.02              | 0.73            | Not available         | 0.21       |

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 .....       | 10.4 |
| England and Wales ..... | 6.89 |

| Disease.                  | Total notified. | Removed to Hospital. | Per cent. removed to Hospital. | Deaths. | Deaths per cent. of cases notified. |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|
| Scarlet Fever .. ..       | 188             | 101                  | 53.7                           | —       | —                                   |
| Diphtheria .. ..          | 1               | 1                    | 100.0                          | —       | —                                   |
| Diphtheria Observation    | 33              | 33                   | 100.0                          | —       | —                                   |
| Typhoid Fever .. ..       | 2               | 2                    | 100.0                          | —       | —                                   |
| Paratyphoid Fever ..      | —               | —                    | —                              | —       | —                                   |
| Pneumonia .. ..           | 85              | 52                   | 61.1                           | 60      | 70.6                                |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ..      | 22              | 1                    | 4.5                            | —       | —                                   |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum     | 2               | 1                    | 50.0                           | —       | —                                   |
| Erysipelas .. ..          | 27              | 3                    | 11.1                           | —       | —                                   |
| Encephalitis Lethargica.. | —               | —                    | —                              | —       | —                                   |
| Polio-encephalitis ..     | —               | —                    | —                              | —       | —                                   |
| Cerebro-spinal Meningitis | 1               | 1                    | 100.0                          | —       | —                                   |
| Anterior Poliomyelitis .. | 3               | 3                    | 100.0                          | —       | —                                   |
| Measles .. ..             | 639             | 18                   | 2.8                            | 1       | 0.1                                 |
| Whooping Cough .. ..      | 565             | 32                   | 5.6                            | 6       | 1.0                                 |
| Dysentery .. ..           | 2               | 2                    | 100.0                          | —       | —                                   |
| Malaria .. ..             | —               | —                    | —                              | —       | —                                   |
| Tuberculosis (all Forms)  | 144             | 116*                 | —                              | 64      | 55.1                                |

\* This figure also includes cases notified during previous years.

**Infectious Diseases Control.**—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 .....                                       | ..... | ..... | ..... | 51  |
| Number of attendances made .....                     | ..... | ..... | ..... | 278 |
| Average attendance per session .....                 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 5.4 |

## 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 .....         | ..... | ..... | 2 |
| Negative (including pseudo and negative) ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |
| Positive (including pseudo and positive) ..... | ..... | ..... | 1 |

Total number of immunisations completed during 1948 :—

|                     |       |       |       |       |       |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| (a) School age      | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 662   |
| (b) Pre-school age  | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2,049 |
| (c) Over school age | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1     |
| Total               | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2,712 |

|                                                        |       |       |       |       |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| (d) Number already immunised having a reinforcing dose | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2,139 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

The above total includes 155 children immunised at Brookscroft and 504 by Private Practitioners.

|                                                                 |       |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Number of Schick tests following immunisation                   | ..... | 47    |
| Number positive                                                 | ..... | 3     |
| Number negative                                                 | ..... | 41    |
| Number not seen                                                 | ..... | 3     |
| Number of special clinics held for immunisation at Town Hall    | ..... | 51    |
| Number of attendances made for diphtheria immunisation          | ..... | 1,920 |
| Average attendance per session                                  | ..... | 37.6  |
| Number of attendances for whooping cough immunisation           | ..... | 323   |
| Average attendance per session                                  | ..... | 13.5  |
| Immunisation at Schools (included above) :—                     |       |       |
| Number completely immunised                                     | ..... | 454   |
| Number partly immunised                                         | ..... | 78    |
| Number having a booster dose, i.e., immunised in previous years | ..... | 1,940 |

With the transfer of responsibility for Diphtheria Immunisation from the Borough Council to the County Council on July 5th, it is appropriate to review the results since the commencement of immunisation in the year 1932, and the following table shows the progress :—

| Year commenced | Additional Facilities for Immunisation | No. of injections during 1948 at respective centres |
|----------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 1932           | Clinics                                | 1,883                                               |
| 1935           | Schools                                | 3,004                                               |
| 1938           | General Practitioners                  | 1,008                                               |
| 1942           | Welfares                               | 1,484                                               |
| 1945           | Brookscroft                            | 310                                                 |

During the three years 1936/7/8 an average of some 300 cases per annum were immunised in the age group 0—5 years and some 1,300 cases per annum in the age group 5—15 years. Owing to the outbreak of war and of the incidence of bombing and evacuation, these numbers dropped badly during 1939/40, to pick up again with the commencement of the Ministry of Health Publicity campaign. Coincident with this, the need for early immunisation, i.e., preferably during the first year of life and in any case before school entry, was stressed and immunisation facilities were made available at Welfare Centres in 1942.

As a result, the average of completed cases during the last four years, 1945/8 has been:—

|                                |       |       |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Under five years of age        | ..... | ..... | 1,733 |
| Between five and fifteen years | ..... | ..... | 729   |

or an average of 2,462 completed cases per annum under fifteen years of age.

During these years the percentages immunised in the various age groups were as follows:—

| Year | PERCENTAGE IMMUNISED |            |            |
|------|----------------------|------------|------------|
|      | Under 5 years        | 5—15 years | 0—15 years |
| 1945 | ..... 40.7           | 80.4       | 65.7       |
| 1946 | ..... 50.3           | 77.4       | 67.7       |
| 1947 | ..... 52.4           | 86.0       | 72.2       |
| 1948 | ..... 61.5           | 91.5       | 79.2       |

Excluding 1932, i.e., the first year of immunisation, there were: during the eight years 1933/40 a total of 31 deaths from Diphtheria, and during the eight years 1941/48 a total of 15 deaths from Diphtheria.

During the last two years, i.e., 1947 and 1948, there was no death, but the year 1946 was a bad year, when there were six deaths from Diphtheria in unprotected children in the reception areas.

During 1948, out of 34 patients admitted to hospital for suspected Diphtheria, only one was confirmed as such. This very favourable result was largely due to immunisation and to the fact that over 60 per cent. of children under five years of age and over 90 per cent. of children between five and fifteen years of age have so far been protected in Walthamstow. This virtual elimination of Diphtheria can only continue if the percentage of young children protected can be kept up, or better, increased, especially in regard to the under-fives.

## LABORATORY SERVICES

The following number of swabs were sent to Epping Laboratory during the year :—

|                        |       |       |       |     |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| School Medical Service | ..... | ..... | ..... | 249 |
| Health Department      | ..... | ..... | ..... | 245 |

## VACCINATION

Mr. E. Meddings, Vaccination Officer for the area until 5th July, 1948, has furnished the following return up to that date :—

| Births Registered | Successfully Vaccinated | Percentage Vaccinated | Insus-ceptible | Exemp-tions | Deaths before Vaccination | Post-poned |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------|
| 1,005             | 433                     | 43                    | —              | 351         | 15                        | 12         |

The figures for the latter half of the year from July 5th onwards, i.e., following the repeal of compulsory vaccination, are given below :—

| Births Registered | Successfully Vaccinated | Percentage Vaccinated |
|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 840               | 145                     | 17                    |

During 1948, 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 24.6 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.

**Smallpox Contacts.**—Contacts were reported for surveillance on disembarkation from several transports and were cleared after close observation.

In view of the more recent experience (in 1949) following from the "Mooltan" incident, it appears highly desirable to insist that all persons entering this country after passing through areas where smallpox is endemic should have been recently vaccinated or revaccinated.

## SCARLET FEVER

A total of 188 cases of Scarlet Fever was notified during 1948 as compared with 232 in 1947.

The incidence by months and Wards is given below :—

|          |       |       |           |       |    |
|----------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|----|
| January  | ..... | 27    | July      | ..... | 20 |
| February | ..... | 16    | August    | ..... | 12 |
| March    | ..... | 13    | September | ..... | 5  |
| April    | ..... | 13    | October   | ..... | 15 |
| May      | ..... | 18    | November  | ..... | 14 |
| June     | ..... | 20    | December  | ..... | 15 |
| Total    |       | ..... | 188       |       |    |

|                  |       |    |
|------------------|-------|----|
| St. James Street | ..... | 30 |
| High Street      | ..... | 23 |
| Hoe Street       | ..... | 31 |
| Wood Street      | ..... | 27 |
| Hale End         | ..... | 38 |
| Higham Hill      | ..... | 39 |

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 1948, there have been 3,338 non-fatal cases.

## DIPHTHERIA

During the year there were 34 cases notified for admission to Hospital as cases of Diphtheria observation. Only one of these cases was confirmed as Diphtheria.

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, and the Fire Station, Forest Road.

## ENTERIC FEVER

There were 2 cases notified during the year, only one of which was confirmed.

| Sex | Age | Ward | Removed<br>to Hospital | Remarks                           |
|-----|-----|------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| F   | 36  | H.E. | Yes                    | Carrier only. Case not confirmed. |
| M   | 8   | H.E. | Yes                    | Recovered.                        |

**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.

Another chronic carrier has remained under supervision since 1946. Compensation for prohibition in regard to the manufacture and sale of Ice Cream later became the subject of arbitration.

### DYSENTERY

Two cases were notified during 1948, details being as follows :—

| Sex | Age | Ward | Removed to Hospital | Remarks   |
|-----|-----|------|---------------------|-----------|
| M   | 2   | H.E. | No                  | Recovered |
| M   | 1½  | Hi.  | No                  | Recovered |

### ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS

The total notifications during the year was 3, details being as follows :—

| Sex | Age | Ward          | Removed to Hospital | Remarks               |
|-----|-----|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| F   | 29  | St. James St. | Yes                 | Recovered             |
| F   | 3   | Higham Hill   | Yes                 | Still under Treatment |
| M   | 1½  | Higham Hill   | Yes                 | Recovered             |

### OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

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

| Sex | Age     | Ward        | Removed to Hospital | Remarks           |
|-----|---------|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| M   | 3 weeks | Wood Street | Yes                 | Vision unimpaired |
| M   | 3 weeks | do.         | No                  | Vision unimpaired |

### PUERPERAL PYREXIA

See Maternity and Child Welfare Section.

### PNEUMONIA

The incidence by months and Wards is given below :—

|          |       |    |           |       |    |
|----------|-------|----|-----------|-------|----|
| January  | ..... | 21 | July      | ..... | 5  |
| February | ..... | 7  | August    | ..... | 2  |
| March    | ..... | 7  | September | ..... | 2  |
| April    | ..... | 8  | October   | ..... | 9  |
| May      | ..... | 6  | November  | ..... | 7  |
| June     | ..... | 1  | December  | ..... | 10 |
| Total    | ..... | 85 |           |       |    |

|                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| St. James Street ..... | 10 |
| High Street .....      | 14 |
| Hoe Street .....       | 13 |
| Wood Street .....      | 10 |
| Hale End .....         | 19 |
| Higham Hill .....      | 19 |

Up to July 5th your Council decided to continue the grant to the Walthamstow District Nursing Association, in return for which the Association was, amongst other services, required to provide home nursing facilities for cases of pneumonia.

### ERYSIPELAS

The incidence by months and Wards is given below :—

|                |    |                 |   |
|----------------|----|-----------------|---|
| January .....  | 3  | July .....      | 6 |
| February ..... | 1  | August .....    | 1 |
| March .....    | 2  | September ..... | 3 |
| April .....    | —  | October .....   | — |
| May .....      | —  | November .....  | 2 |
| June .....     | 2  | December .....  | 7 |
| Total .....    | 27 |                 |   |

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| St. James Street ..... | 2 |
| High Street .....      | 4 |
| Hoe Street .....       | 3 |
| Wood Street .....      | 1 |
| Hale End .....         | 9 |
| Higham Hill .....      | 8 |

### CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS

One case was notified during the year, details being as follows :—

| Sex | Age | Ward     | Removed<br>to Hospital | Remarks   |
|-----|-----|----------|------------------------|-----------|
| M   | 5   | Hale End | Yes                    | Recovered |

### MALARIA

There were no cases notified during the year.

## MEASLES

The incidence by months and Wards is given below :—

|          |       |       |           |       |    |
|----------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|----|
| January  | ..... | 10    | July      | ..... | 66 |
| February | ..... | 16    | August    | ..... | 55 |
| March    | ..... | 11    | September | ..... | 17 |
| April    | ..... | 98    | October   | ..... | 22 |
| May      | ..... | 149   | November  | ..... | 58 |
| June     | ..... | 78    | December  | ..... | 59 |
| Total    |       | ..... | 639       |       |    |

|                  |       |     |
|------------------|-------|-----|
| St. James Street | ..... | 97  |
| High Street      | ..... | 87  |
| Hoe Street       | ..... | 145 |
| Wood Street      | ..... | 55  |
| Hale End         | ..... | 123 |
| Higham Hill      | ..... | 132 |

## WHOOPIING COUGH

The incidence by months and Wards is as follows :—

|          |       |       |           |       |    |
|----------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|----|
| January  | ..... | 101   | July      | ..... | 17 |
| February | ..... | 131   | August    | ..... | 7  |
| March    | ..... | 128   | September | ..... | 19 |
| April    | ..... | 95    | October   | ..... | 5  |
| May      | ..... | 30    | November  | ..... | 9  |
| June     | ..... | 15    | December  | ..... | 8  |
| Total    |       | ..... | 565       |       |    |

|                  |       |     |
|------------------|-------|-----|
| St. James Street | ..... | 123 |
| High Street      | ..... | 101 |
| Hoe Street       | ..... | 95  |
| Wood Street      | ..... | 40  |
| Hale End         | ..... | 73  |
| Higham Hill      | ..... | 133 |

Whooping Cough became notifiable in 1940, and Table A gives the age incidence since that year. Table B gives death rates. At least 12 of the 18 deaths from Whooping Cough occurred in infants under 1 year of age. By contrast, during the same 10 years, deaths from Diphtheria totalled 19, i.e., there was only one more death from Diphtheria than from Whooping Cough.

During 1948, which was an epidemic year, there were no less than 6 deaths from Whooping Cough—5 of them in infants under 1 year of age. This led your Council to consider the commencement of a scheme of protection against Whooping Cough, and it was decided to participate in the field trials conducted by the Medical Research Council. Considerable administrative delay resulted, particularly in view of the transfer of services on July 5th,

TABLE "A"  
WHOOPING COUGH NOTIFICATIONS

|      | Under 1 yr. |           | 1-5 yrs. |           | 5-15 yrs. |           | 15-25 yrs. |           | 25-45 yrs. |           | 45-65 yrs. |           | Over 65 yrs. |           | Total             |
|------|-------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-------------------|
|      | No.         | Per cent. | No.      | Per cent. | No.       | Per cent. | No.        | Per cent. | No.        | Per cent. | No.        | Per cent. | No.          | Per cent. |                   |
| 1940 | 2           | 14.3      | 7        | 50.0      | 4         | 28.6      | —          | —         | 1          | 7.1       | —          | —         | —            | —         | 14<br>(Part year) |
| 1941 | 39          | 8.6       | 237      | 52.5      | 171       | 38.0      | 1          | 0.2       | 2          | 0.5       | 1          | 0.2       | —            | —         | 451               |
| 1942 | 9           | 6.0       | 92       | 61.0      | 46        | 30.4      | 1          | 0.65      | 2          | 1.3       | 1          | 0.65      | —            | —         | 151               |
| 1943 | 8           | 8.6       | 57       | 61.3      | 27        | 29.0      | —          | —         | 1          | 1.1       | —          | —         | —            | —         | 93                |
| 1944 | 25          | 12.8      | 112      | 57.4      | 56        | 28.7      | 2          | 1.0       | —          | —         | —          | —         | —            | —         | 195               |
| 1945 | 15          | 11.4      | 74       | 56.5      | 41        | 31.3      | —          | —         | —          | —         | 1          | 0.8       | —            | —         | 131               |
| 1946 | 17          | 8.6       | 132      | 67.0      | 46        | 23.4      | 1          | 0.5       | 1          | 0.5       | —          | —         | —            | —         | 197               |
| 1947 | 22          | 9.8       | 133      | 59.6      | 62        | 27.8      | 4          | 1.7       | 1          | 0.4       | —          | —         | 1            | 0.4       | 223               |
| 1948 | 71          | 12.5      | 335      | 59.2      | 153       | 27.0      | 1          | 0.1       | 3          | 0.5       | 2          | 0.3       | —            | —         | 565               |

**TABLE "B"**  
**WHOOPIING COUGH NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS**

| Year | Number<br>Notified | Number<br>of<br>Deaths | Ages                                                                        | Death Rate<br>per 1,000<br>population |
|------|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1940 | 14                 | —                      | —                                                                           | —                                     |
| 1941 | 451                | 1                      | 3 weeks                                                                     | 0.01                                  |
| 1942 | 151                | 4                      | 2 years<br>1 year 2 months<br>2 months<br>4 years                           | 0.04                                  |
| 1943 | 93                 | 1                      | 12 days                                                                     | 0.01                                  |
| 1944 | 195                | 3                      | 5 weeks<br>3 months<br>1 month                                              | 0.02                                  |
| 1945 | 131                | —                      | —                                                                           | —                                     |
| 1946 | 197                | 3                      | 1 year<br>4 months<br>1 year                                                | 0.02                                  |
| 1947 | 223                | —                      | —                                                                           | —                                     |
| 1948 | 565                | 6                      | 5 weeks<br>3 months<br>3 months<br>1 year 10 months<br>9 months<br>4 months | 0.04                                  |

1948, but eventually, protection against Whooping Cough under the M.R.C. scheme was begun in March, 1949, and at the time of writing, over 800 acceptances have been received in the age group 6-18 months, to which ages the trials are restricted.

Prior to July 5th, 1948, Whooping Cough protection had been given since October, 1947 at the Council's Day Nurseries. Every child was given protection as soon as possible after admission.

Although a considerable number of cases of Whooping Cough occurred during 1948 in the area in which the day nursery children live, there has been no case of Whooping Cough amongst children attending the day nurseries.

Apart from the fatality of Whooping Cough in the early years of life, there may result considerable damage to the lung tissue. In addition, the disease is one of the most distressing in infancy and early childhood, and there is considerable keenness amongst the parents of young children to take advantage of the arrangements to give protection.

The ultimate aim is the employment of a reliable prophylactic which will protect against both Diphtheria and Whooping Cough with the least possible number of injections.

### TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease in the Borough during 1948 :—

| Age<br>Periods. | New Cases. |    |                    |    | Deaths.    |    |                    |    |
|-----------------|------------|----|--------------------|----|------------|----|--------------------|----|
|                 | Pulmonary. |    | Non-<br>Pulmonary. |    | Pulmonary. |    | Non-<br>Pulmonary. |    |
|                 | M.         | F. | M.                 | F. | M.         | F. | M.                 | F. |
| Under 1 year .. | —          | —  | 1                  | —  | —          | —  | —                  | —  |
| 1- 5 years ..   | 2          | 1  | 1                  | 2  | —          | —  | —                  | —  |
| 5-10 " ..       | 1          | 3  | 1                  | 2  | —          | —  | —                  | 1  |
| 10-15 " ..      | —          | 2  | —                  | 1  | —          | —  | —                  | —  |
| 15-20 " ..      | 10         | 8  | 2                  | 1  | —          | 1  | 1                  | 2  |
| 20-25 " ..      | 12         | 15 | 1                  | —  | 1          | 2  | —                  | —  |
| 25-35 " ..      | 17         | 8  | 1                  | 1  | 2          | 10 | —                  | —  |
| 35-45 " ..      | 14         | 11 | —                  | —  | 12         | 8  | —                  | —  |
| 45-55 " ..      | 5          | 4  | —                  | —  | 6          | 4  | —                  | —  |
| 55-65 " ..      | 7          | —  | —                  | —  | 10         | —  | —                  | —  |
| 65 and over ..  | 4          | 6  | —                  | —  | 2          | 2  | —                  | —  |
| Totals .. ..    | 72         | 58 | 7                  | 7  | 33         | 27 | 1                  | 3  |
|                 | 130        |    | 14                 |    | 60         |    | 4                  |    |
|                 | 144        |    |                    |    | 64         |    |                    |    |

The 64 deaths represent a death rate of 0.52 per 1,000 population.

New cases in 1947 were 151 with 58 deaths—a rate of 0.47.

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

| Year.   | New Cases. |    |                |    |        | Deaths.    |    |                |    |        |
|---------|------------|----|----------------|----|--------|------------|----|----------------|----|--------|
|         | Pulmonary. |    | Non-Pulmonary. |    | Total. | Pulmonary. |    | Non-Pulmonary. |    | Total. |
|         |            |    |                |    |        |            |    |                |    |        |
| 1948 .. | M.         | F. | M.             | F. |        | M.         | F. | M.             | F. |        |
|         | 72         | 58 | 7              | 7  | 144    | 33         | 27 | 1              | 3  | 64     |
| 1947 .. | 80         | 49 | 9              | 13 | 151    | 28         | 25 | 1              | 4  | 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               | 1        | 1              | 1        | 2              | —        | 2               | 1        | 43              | —        | 7             | —        | 1                     | —        |

The ratio of deaths in non-notified cases (i.e., columns to the right of the double line) to total deaths from tuberculosis was 8 to 56 or 1 to 7.

The table given below shows the number of cases on the register at the beginning and end of 1948 :—

|                        |      |    |    | Pulmonary. |     | Total. | Non-Pulmonary. |     | Total. | Grand Total. |
|------------------------|------|----|----|------------|-----|--------|----------------|-----|--------|--------------|
|                        |      |    |    | M.         | F.  |        | M.             | F.  |        |              |
| No. on Register        | 1st  | .. | .. | 1,039      | 886 | 1,925  | 491            | 402 | 893    | 2,818        |
| Notified during 1948   | ..   | .. | .. | 72         | 58  | 130    | 7              | 7   | 14     | 144          |
| Totals                 | ..   | .. | .. | 1,111      | 944 | 2,055  | 498            | 409 | 907    | 2,962        |
| Removed from Register, | 1948 | .. | .. | 59         | 60  | 119    | 12             | 10  | 22     | 141          |
| No. on Register        | 31st | .. | .. | 1,052      | 884 | 1,936  | 486            | 399 | 885    | 2,821        |
| December               | ..   | .. | .. |            |     |        |                |     |        |              |

Removals from the Register are made up as follows :—

| Deaths.    |          |                |         | Removals.  |          |                |         |
|------------|----------|----------------|---------|------------|----------|----------------|---------|
| Pulmonary. |          | Non-Pulmonary. |         | Pulmonary. |          | Non-Pulmonary. |         |
| M.<br>33   | F.<br>27 | M.<br>1        | F.<br>3 | M.<br>26   | F.<br>33 | M.<br>11       | F.<br>7 |
| 60         |          | 4              |         | 59         |          | 18             |         |
| 64         |          |                |         | 77         |          |                |         |
| 141        |          |                |         |            |          |                |         |

Notifications of Tuberculosis since 1930 have been as follows :

|         | Pulmonary |         |       | Non-Pulmonary |         |       |
|---------|-----------|---------|-------|---------------|---------|-------|
|         | Males     | Females | Total | Males         | Females | Total |
| 1930    | 72        | 53      | 125   | 18            | 16      | 34    |
| 1931    | 97        | 53      | 150   | 23            | 17      | 40    |
| 1932    | 82        | 70      | 152   | 21            | 13      | 34    |
| 1933    | 56        | 55      | 111   | 27            | 18      | 45    |
| 1934    | 104       | 58      | 162   | 20            | 14      | 34    |
| 1935    | 64        | 58      | 122   | 25            | 16      | 41    |
| 1936    | 58        | 56      | 114   | 15            | 12      | 27    |
| 1937    | 59        | 70      | 129   | 13            | 12      | 25    |
| 1938    | 75        | 60      | 135   | 14            | 15      | 29    |
| 1939    | 71        | 56      | 127   | 10            | 4       | 14    |
| 1940    | 68        | 67      | 135   | 11            | 9       | 20    |
| 1941    | 56        | 35      | 91    | 13            | 12      | 25    |
| 1942    | 67        | 52      | 119   | 17            | 12      | 29    |
| 1943    | 70        | 71      | 141   | 8             | 10      | 18    |
| 1944    | 74        | 57      | 131   | 14            | 13      | 27    |
| 1945    | 75        | 54      | 129   | 17            | 14      | 31    |
| 1946    | 83        | 67      | 150   | 16            | 12      | 28    |
| 1947    | 80        | 49      | 129   | 9             | 13      | 22    |
| 1948    | 72        | 58      | 130   | 7             | 7       | 14    |
| Average | 73        | 58      | 131   | 15            | 13      | 28    |

**Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.**—Close co-operation has continued with the Chest Physicians and the Chest Dispensary, and this has been particularly so with regard to cases of Tuberculosis seeking rehousing on medical grounds.

Broadly, first priority is given to sputum positive cases living in overcrowded conditions (particularly having regard to the standards of the Housing Act, 1936) and who are members of families in which there are young children exposed to the risk of infection, or alternatively, young children in another family sharing the same house.

Another important work carried out at the Chest Dispensary concerns assistance in obtaining suitable employment. Dr. Ramsay states that the Chest Physicians are in constant contact with the Dispensary Resettlement Officer, and periodic "Work Clinics"

are held for consultation between the Dispensary Resettlement Officer and the Chest Physicians with the patients present at the Clinic. Questions concerning return to work or training for suitable employment can then be discussed fully from all aspects.

The continued inadequacy of hospital beds for cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis gives rise to concern.

Tuberculosis is pre-eminently a "community" disease and "a continuing" infection, especially in the case of the elderly infectious and incurable patient who is so often in intimate contact with children and under conditions of overcrowding.

Every attempt is made to ease such cases by granting priority in regard to rehousing.

Equally essential are beds for the early case in its curable stage.

### **Bye-Law as to Spitting**

During the year your Council decided to take all possible action to try to prevent the very objectionable habit of spitting in public places.

Finally, during the current year, a bye-law was approved, making it an offence to spit on the floor, side, or wall of any public carriage or of any public hall, public waiting room or place of public entertainment.

Unfortunately this bye-law does not extend to public and private highways where the offence is most common and objectionable.

### **Walthamstow Association of Tuberculosis Care Helpers.—**

Miss A. Woolgar, Secretary of the Association, has contributed a very full report on the work and activities. These include propaganda, the loan of sick-room equipment, provision of clothing prior to admission to sanatorium and replacements in long-term cases. Assistance in regard to clothing is also obtained through the Assistance Board, the British Red Cross Society and the S.S.A.F.A.

Financial assistance with extra nourishment is provided by means of vouchers for milk and/or grocery, the grocery vouchers being mainly used where there is a family of children or in the case of old age pensioners.

The Association also arranges for convalescence for "contact" children at West Mersea, and help is given in some cases with regard to fares for relatives visiting patients in sanatoria.

A considerable amount of general welfare work is undertaken and the Area Officer of the Assistance Board has, on several occasions, used the Association as a supervising agency for the spending of special grants made for clothing and furniture.

Miss Woolgar gives the following particulars of cases dealt with during 1948, since July 5th :—

|                                         |       |       |    |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|-------|----|
| No. of cases loaned sick-room equipment | ..... | ..... | 3  |
| " " provided with clothing              | ..... | ..... | 3  |
| " " assisted with milk or grocery       | ..... | ..... | 55 |
| " " assisted with fares                 | ..... | ..... | 5  |
| " " provided with bedding               | ..... | ..... | 1  |
| " children sent for convalescence       | ..... | ..... | 8  |

During the period January 1st to July 4th, the following were also dealt with :—

|                                            |       |       |    |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|-------|----|
| No. of cases provided with milk or grocery | ..... | ..... | 49 |
| " " assisted with fares                    | ..... | ..... | 5  |
| " " provided with sick-room equipment      | ..... | ..... | 3  |
| " children sent for convalescence          | ..... | ..... | 10 |

**Treatment of Tuberculosis.**—The admissions to Hospital during 1948 were as follows :—

|                | Pulmonary. |    | Non-Pulmonary. |    | Total,<br>1948. | Total,<br>1947. |
|----------------|------------|----|----------------|----|-----------------|-----------------|
|                | M.         | F. | M.             | F. |                 |                 |
| Adults .. ..   | 34         | 63 | 8              | 1  | 106             | 131             |
| Children .. .. | 1          | 2  | 3              | 4  | 10              | 17              |

### G.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL

The Hospital passed to the control of the North-East Metropolitan Hospital Board on July 5th. This would appear to be a fitting occasion to refer to the splendid work carried out at the Hospital and the completely altered "picture" of the role of the ad hoc Infectious Diseases Hospital with practically no Diphtheria to treat and little Scarlet Fever—now a trivial illness with few complications.

At all times the Hospital has been a happy one and children have repeatedly expressed their regret when the time has come for discharge.

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

|                        |       |      |           |       |      |
|------------------------|-------|------|-----------|-------|------|
| January                | ..... | 45.1 | July      | ..... | 36.0 |
| February               | ..... | 48.4 | August    | ..... | 32.8 |
| March                  | ..... | 40.9 | September | ..... | 28.7 |
| April                  | ..... | 40.5 | October   | ..... | 34.0 |
| May                    | ..... | 39.3 | November  | ..... | 36.6 |
| June                   | ..... | 38.5 | December  | ..... | 43.8 |
| Average for whole year |       |      |           |       | 38.7 |

The question of staffing, both nursing and domestic, continued to give rise to anxiety during the year, especially in regard to the recruitment of probationers.

## CLINICAL REPORT

Dr. M. Hamilton, Resident Medical Officer, reports as follows on the work of the Hospital for the period 1st January, 1948, to 5th July, 1948.

### AGE AND SEX OF PATIENTS ADMITTED DURING THE PERIOD

|                   | Under<br>5 years. |    | 5-10<br>years. |    | 10-15<br>years. |    | Over 15<br>years. |    | Total. |     | Grand<br>Total. |
|-------------------|-------------------|----|----------------|----|-----------------|----|-------------------|----|--------|-----|-----------------|
|                   | M.                | F. | M.             | F. | M.              | F. | M.                | F. | M.     | F.  |                 |
| Scarlet Fever ..  | 28                | 24 | 17             | 27 | 6               | 2  | —                 | 3  | 51     | 56  | 107             |
| Measles ..        | 9                 | 14 | —              | —  | —               | —  | —                 | —  | 9      | 14  | 23              |
| Whooping Cough    | 21                | 14 | —              | 3  | —               | —  | —                 | —  | 21     | 17  | 38              |
| Other Diseases .. | 16                | 14 | 7              | 6  | 3               | 8  | 2                 | 11 | 28     | 39  | 67              |
| Totals ..         | 74                | 66 | 24             | 36 | 9               | 10 | 2                 | 14 | 109    | 126 | 235             |

### SEX AND AGE AT DEATH

Twelve deaths occurred during the period, details being as follows :—

|                                                   |                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 Broncho-pneumonia complicating whooping cough   | Males aged 2, 3, 16 and 22 months.<br>Females aged 3 and 10 months. |
| 2 Cerebral hæmorrhage complicating whooping cough | Females aged 3 and 18 months.                                       |
| 2 Pulmonary Tuberculosis .....                    | Females aged 24 and 38 years.                                       |
| 1 Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis .....              | Female aged 18 years.                                               |
| 1 Bronchitis and Chickenpox                       | Male aged 16 months.                                                |

### MISCELLANEOUS

1. **Grants.**—Your Council made the usual grants during the year to the Invalid Children's Aid Association and to the Walthamstow Association of Tuberculosis Care Helpers.

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             | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 79              |
| Post-Mortems only         | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 158             |
| Post-mortems and Inquests | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | 49              |
| Total                     | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | ..... | <hr/> 286 <hr/> |

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, 126 examinations were carried out by the Medical Staff in respect of the Superannuation and Sick Pay Schemes.

5. **Domestic Help.**—Responsibility for this scheme was transferred to the County Council on July 5th.

The total number of families assisted under this scheme during 1948 was 66 ; 13 were assisted between January 1st and July 4th, and 53 between July 5th and December 31st.

Separate particulars are given in regard to Home Helps in cases of confinement.

6. **Supply of Insulin.**—Fourteen patients were supplied with Insulin in accordance with Circular 2734/1943, at a total cost to the Council of £20 10s. 8d.

## SECTION H

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

*Chairman :*

ALDERMAN MRS. C. McENTEE, J.P.

*Ex-officio :*THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR—COUNCILLOR MISS D. WRIGLEY,  
B.A., J.P.CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE COMMITTEE—ALDERMAN ROSS WYLD,  
O.B.E., J.P.

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ALDERMAN W. B. FITT.

ALDERMAN MRS. E. M. MILLER.

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COUNCILLOR W. E. BARNES.

COUNCILLOR MRS. FLINT

„ MRS. L. P. BAILEY.

„ A. J. D. LLEWELLYN

„ MRS. BOTTOMLEY.

„ E. G. RICHARDS.

„ MRS. CANDY.

„ MRS. MARCHANT.

„ H. J. COLE.

„ MRS. TILLYER.

„ MRS. FREWIN.

„ Mrs. E. A. SMITH,  
(deceased).

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*Co-opted Members :*

MISS A. BOWERS. MRS. COOPER.

DR. M. ERCOLANI.

MRS. HOLSWORTH. MRS. H. A. CHRISTY. MRS. G. E. NICHOLLS.

MRS. RILEY.

MRS. WILLIAMS.

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

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present a report on the work done in regard to Maternity and Child Welfare during the year 1948.

The control of these services was transferred from your Council on July 5th and further reference to this question is made at the beginning of this report.

The year has been noteworthy for further low records, i.e., one of 20 in regard to infant mortality, 11.1 in regard to deaths of infants within one month of birth, and of 0.37 in regard to stillbirths. These new records have been achieved on a total of 2,068 births.

In regard to the care of illegitimate children, it is of interest to note that in four out of the last ten years the illegitimate death rate has actually been lower than the corresponding death rate of legitimate children. In regard to premature infants, only 4 children died from this cause in 1948.

The high birth rate of recent years is reflected in the fact that 1,776 new patients attended ante-natal clinics and over 63,000 attended at welfare centres.

It is gratifying to report that there was no death classified as being due to pregnancy, childbearing, or associated therewith. All the District Midwifery Sisters engaged in the Borough are qualified to give Gas and Air Analgesia and a total of 124 patients were given gas and air during the year. There still appears to be considerable reluctance amongst patients of the older generation to seek gas and air analgesia.

Pressure on the day nurseries continued and the total on the waiting list at the end of the year at both nurseries was 344.

In spite of changes, the number of health visiting staff compared with that available in other comparable areas, remains reasonably satisfactory.

The report concludes with a summary compiled by Miss Helen Rodway, F.R.C.O.G., on the work done at Thorpe Coombe since its opening in 1934. I would like to take this opportunity of emphasising the great part which Thorpe Coombe has played in securing such consistently low infant mortality rates for the Borough in the past. I would also draw attention to Miss Rodway's outstanding work at Thorpe Coombe.

All these achievements again reflect the highest credit on the staff concerned in the Borough with maternal and child health, and to them and to your Committee I would wish to express my most grateful thanks.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. W. POWELL,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

2,224 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, 291 ; Midwives, 1,933.

Included in the above are 287 births which were notified as having occurred outside the Borough.

Also included are 47 stillbirths, 40 of which were notified by Midwives. Of the total, seven 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   | ..... | ..... | 1,032  | 943      | 1,975   |
| Illegitimate | ..... | ..... | 40     | 53       | 93      |
|              |       |       | <hr/>  | <hr/>    | <hr/>   |
|              |       |       | 1,072  | 996      | 2,068   |
|              |       |       | <hr/>  | <hr/>    | <hr/>   |

### (b) Stillbirths.

|              |       |       | Males. | Females. | Totals. |
|--------------|-------|-------|--------|----------|---------|
| Legitimate   | ..... | ..... | 28     | 17       | 45      |
| Illegitimate | ..... | ..... | 1      | —        | 1       |
|              |       |       | <hr/>  | <hr/>    | <hr/>   |
|              |       |       | 29     | 17       | 46      |
|              |       |       | <hr/>  | <hr/>    | <hr/>   |

The stillbirth rate per 1,000 population was 0.37.

Of the 1,947 birth registrations received in the Department during the year ten were not notified. Appropriate action was taken when necessary.

Of the 1,947 local registrations, 136 belonging to other areas are excluded, leaving a nett total of 1,811.

|                 | 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 .. ..    | 142               | 106 | 115          | 107 | 168         | 165 | 144          | 129 | 189       | 170 | 195          | 181 | 953    | 858 |
| Grand Totals .. | 248               |     | 222          |     | 333         |     | 273          |     | 359       |     | 376          |     | 1,811  |     |

## VITAMINS

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

Every effort is being made to increase the demand.

## DAY NURSERIES

The following table shows the average attendances at the Nurseries during 1948 (Mondays to Fridays only).

| Month.       | Nurseries.      | Over 2 yrs. | Under 2 yrs. | Total. |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|--------|
| January ..   | Higham Hill ..  | 37.7        | 14.3         | 52.0   |
|              | Handsworth Ave. | 34.9        | 11.3         | 46.2   |
| February ..  | Higham Hill ..  | 39.9        | 12.0         | 51.9   |
|              | Handsworth Ave. | 39.2        | 12.8         | 52.0   |
| March ..     | Higham Hill ..  | 45.3        | 12.1         | 57.4   |
|              | Handsworth Ave. | 39.8        | 11.6         | 51.4   |
| April ..     | Higham Hill ..  | 39.9        | 11.0         | 50.9   |
|              | Handsworth Ave. | 40.2        | 12.7         | 52.9   |
| May ..       | Higham Hill ..  | 46.4        | 10.2         | 56.6   |
|              | Handsworth Ave. | 42.8        | 10.2         | 53.0   |
| June ..      | Higham Hill ..  | 49.6        | 10.0         | 59.6   |
|              | Handsworth Ave. | 39.0        | 10.6         | 49.6   |
| July ..      | Higham Hill ..  | 45.3        | 9.0          | 54.3   |
|              | Handsworth Ave. | 35.0        | 8.5          | 43.5   |
| August ..    | Higham Hill ..  | 44.1        | 9.4          | 53.5   |
|              | Handsworth Ave. | 35.0        | 9.1          | 44.1   |
| September .. | Higham Hill ..  | 49.9        | 9.0          | 58.9   |
|              | Handsworth Ave. | 44.3        | 10.2         | 54.5   |
| October ..   | Higham Hill ..  | 49.2        | 9.4          | 58.6   |
|              | Handsworth Ave. | 48.4        | 10.0         | 58.4   |
| November ..  | Higham Hill ..  | 46.7        | 9.1          | 55.8   |
|              | Handsworth Ave. | 45.6        | 9.6          | 55.2   |
| December ..  | Higham Hill ..  | 41.4        | 8.8          | 50.2   |
|              | Handsworth Ave. | 45.8        | 10.4         | 56.2   |
| Whole Year   | Higham Hill     | 44.6        | 10.3         | 54.9   |
|              | Handsworth Ave. | 40.8        | 10.6         | 51.4   |

During the current year it has become necessary to reduce the number of names on the Register at each Nursery from 60 to 55 so as not to exceed the capacity of the Nursery (i.e., 50 places).

Pressure on the Day Nurseries remains high even in the priority classes, i.e., the children of unmarried mothers, of widows, or of wives separated from their husbands; the children of mothers whose husbands are frequently ill and cannot work full-time or are unemployed, or who are themselves ill; the children of mothers whose husbands are in the Forces; and of mothers who are working full-time on essential work.

**Training.**—Seven probationers obtained the Nursery Nurses Certificate during the year. 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.

Control of the Day Nursery Service passed to the County Council on July 5th.

### INFANT MORTALITY

The deaths of infants under one year were :—

|              |       | Males. | Females. | Totals. |
|--------------|-------|--------|----------|---------|
| Legitimate   | ..... | 18     | 21       | 39      |
| Illegitimate | ..... | 2      | 2        | 4       |
|              |       | —      | —        | —       |
| Totals       | ..... | 20     | 23       | 43      |
|              |       | —      | —        | —       |

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, 19 ; Illegitimate, 43 ; Total, 20.

The rate constitutes a new low record.

The Infant Mortality Rate for other areas during 1948 was as follows :—

|                                                           |       |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------|----|
| England and Wales                                         | ..... | 34 |
| 126 County Boroughs and Great Towns<br>(including London) | ..... | 39 |
| 148 Smaller Towns (25,000—50,000)                         | ..... | 32 |
| London                                                    | ..... | 31 |

There were 43 deaths of infants under one year of age out of 2,068 live births, i.e., at the rate of only 20 per 1,000, which constitutes a new low record for the second year in succession. In 1947 the rate was 29.

In 1915, when the Maternity and Child Welfare Act was passed, the rate was 93. If this rate had persisted in 1948, with 2,068 babies born, no less than 192 babies would have been lost instead of 43, i.e., there was a saving of 149 infant lives.

The very low Infant Mortality rate would appear to be amongst the lowest rate of all areas in England and Wales with a similar or larger population.

### Neo-Natal Mortality.

The neo-natal mortality is the number of deaths of infants under one month per 1,000 live births. During 1948, 24 infants died in the first four weeks of life, yielding a rate of 11.1.

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

### Stillbirths.

Stillbirths were reduced to 46, yielding the lowest rate ever recorded per 1,000 population, i.e., 0.37.

## 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. |                |                        |
| 1948 .. | 2,068        | 16.8        | 46           | 22.2                   | 0.37                  | 24                | 11.1                   | n/a              | 43             | 20                     |
| 1947 .. | 2,670        | 21.8        | 59           | 22.1                   | 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                     |

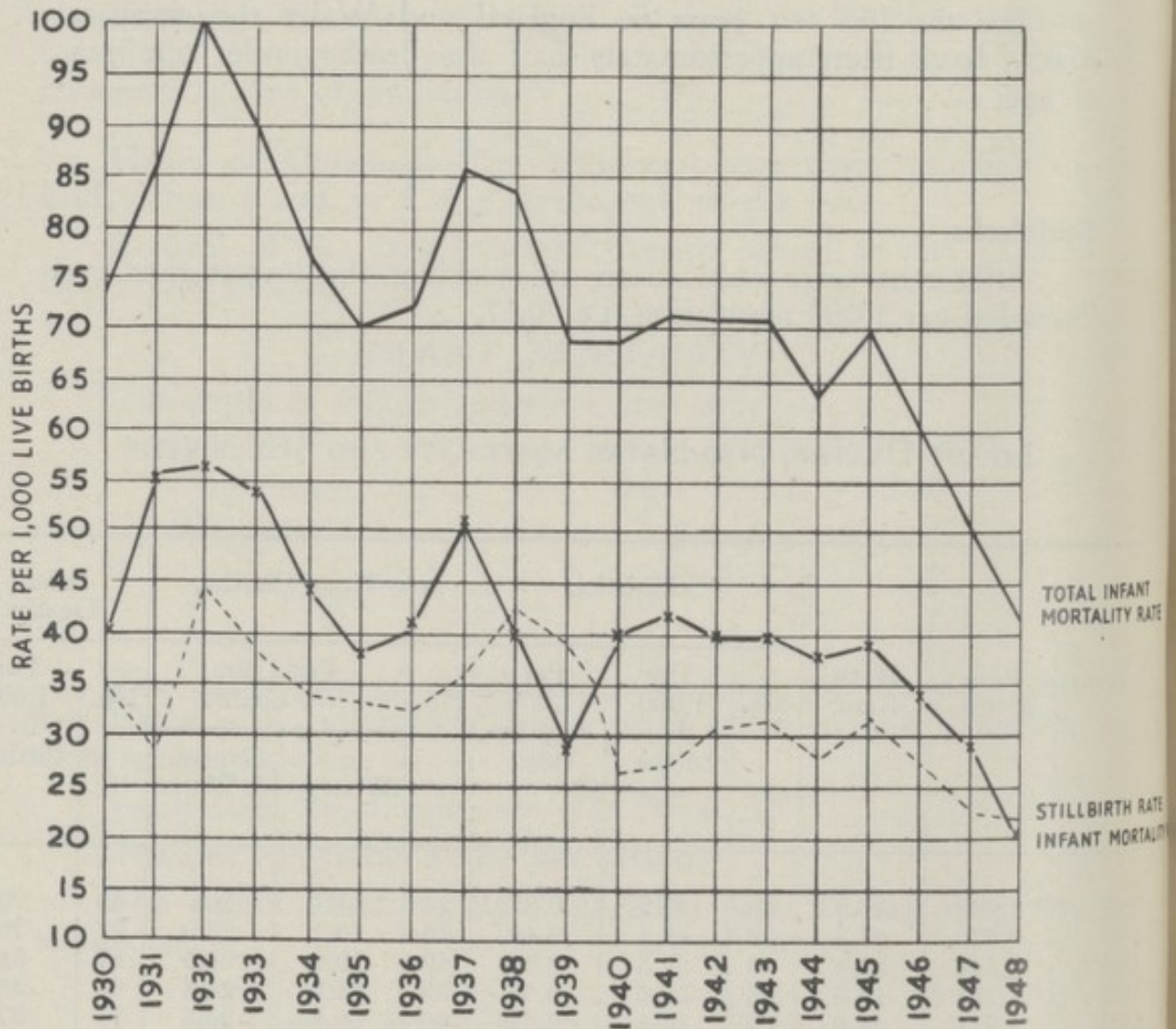
The neo-natal mortality for England and Wales is shown for comparison for the years 1944—1948 and is consistently higher than the Walthamstow rates.

The death rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births was 0.9.

## 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 the steady fall since 1945 in the Infant Mortality and the Stillbirth rates. For the third time since 1930 the Infant Mortality rate has fallen below the Stillbirth rate.



### 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 1948 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        | 42            | 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          |
| 1948 .. | 1,975        | 93            | 39             | 4             | 19.0         | 43.0          |

Miss Williams, Superintendent of the Home provided by the Walthamstow Branch of the Chelmsford Moral Welfare Association contributes the figures set out below and adds as explanation as to the larger number of cases helped from other areas that this is equalised by Walthamstow cases requesting help but naturally anxious to be cared for away from their homes. The total number of cases assisted from other areas, including advice and adoptions, amounts to 163.

At the end of the year the electrical wiring was in process of being overhauled at a cost of £100.

## Cases admitted to the Home during 1948 :—

|                                        |  |  |  |            |
|----------------------------------------|--|--|--|------------|
| <b>Adults</b> —Walthamstow cases ..... |  |  |  | 17         |
| From other areas .....                 |  |  |  | 85         |
|                                        |  |  |  | <u>102</u> |
| <b>Babies</b> —Walthamstow cases ..... |  |  |  | 16         |
| From other areas .....                 |  |  |  | 49         |
|                                        |  |  |  | <u>65</u>  |
| Total admissions .....                 |  |  |  | 167        |

## 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 1948, 18 premature babies were born at home and 53 in Hospitals and Nursing Homes in the area.

Of the 18 premature babies born at home, 10 were entirely nursed at home, 2 died during the first 24 hours (i.e., 11.1 per cent.) and 15 survived at the end of one month (i.e., 83.3 per cent.).

Of the 53 premature babies born in Hospital, 4 died during the first 24 hours (i.e., 7.5 per cent.) and 49 survived at the end of one month (i.e., 92.5 per cent.).

The table "Causes of Death" which follows includes four deaths from premature birth as compared with seven in 1947.

# CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE

|                                                 | Under 1 week. | 1-2 weeks. | 2-3 weeks. | 3-4 weeks. | Total deaths<br>under 4 weeks. | 4 weeks and<br>under 3 months. | 3 months and<br>under 6 months. | 6 months and<br>under 9 months. | 9 months and<br>under 12 months. | Total deaths<br>under 1 year. | St. James St. | High Street. | Hoe Street. | Wood Street. | Hale End. | Higham Hill. | Total. |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|--------|
| Influenza .. .. .                               | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | —                             | —             | —            | —           | —            | —         | —            | —      |
| Measles .. .. .                                 | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                              | 1                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | 1                             | —             | —            | 1           | —            | —         | —            | 1      |
| Whooping Cough .. .. .                          | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                              | 1                              | 3                               | —                               | 1                                | 5                             | 1             | —            | 4           | —            | —         | —            | 5      |
| Diphtheria .. .. .                              | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | —                             | —             | —            | —           | —            | —         | —            | —      |
| Phthisis .. .. .                                | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | —                             | —             | —            | —           | —            | —         | —            | —      |
| Other forms of T.B. .. .. .                     | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | 1                                | 1                             | —             | —            | —           | 1            | —         | —            | 1      |
| T.B. Meningitis .. .. .                         | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | —                             | —             | —            | —           | —            | —         | —            | —      |
| Meningitis (Non-T.B.) .. .. .                   | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | —                             | —             | —            | —           | —            | —         | —            | —      |
| Convulsions .. .. .                             | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | —                             | —             | —            | —           | —            | —         | —            | —      |
| Bronchitis .. .. .                              | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | —                             | —             | —            | —           | —            | —         | —            | —      |
| Pneumonia .. .. .                               | 1             | —          | 1          | —          | 2                              | 2                              | 3                               | 1                               | —                                | 8                             | 2             | 1            | 2           | 1            | —         | 2            | 8      |
| Diarrhoea, .. .. .                              | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                              | —                              | —                               | 1                               | 1                                | 2                             | 1             | —            | —           | —            | —         | 1            | 2      |
| Syphilis .. .. .                                | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | —                             | —             | —            | —           | —            | —         | —            | —      |
| Rickets .. .. .                                 | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | —                             | —             | —            | —           | —            | —         | —            | —      |
| Inattention at birth, wilful<br>neglect .. .. . | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | —                             | —             | —            | —           | —            | —         | —            | —      |
| Suffocation (overlying) .. .. .                 | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | —                             | —             | —            | —           | —            | —         | —            | —      |
| Injury at birth .. .. .                         | 2             | —          | —          | —          | 2                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | 2                             | —             | —            | —           | 2            | —         | —            | 2      |
| Atelectasis .. .. .                             | 9             | —          | —          | —          | 9                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | 9                             | —             | —            | 4           | 2            | —         | 1            | 9      |
| Congenital malformation .. .. .                 | 3             | —          | 1          | 1          | 5                              | 1                              | 1                               | —                               | 2                                | 9                             | 3             | 1            | 2           | —            | —         | 3            | 9      |
| Premature birth .. .. .                         | 2             | 1          | 1          | —          | 4                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | 4                             | 1             | 1            | 1           | —            | —         | 1            | 4      |
| Atrophy, debility, marasmus .. .. .             | 1             | —          | —          | —          | 1                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | 1                             | —             | —            | 1           | —            | —         | —            | 1      |
| Inanition .. .. .                               | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | —                             | —             | —            | —           | —            | —         | —            | —      |
| Heart failure .. .. .                           | —             | —          | —          | —          | —                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | —                             | —             | —            | —           | —            | —         | —            | —      |
| Other causes .. .. .                            | 1             | —          | —          | —          | 1                              | —                              | —                               | —                               | —                                | 1                             | —             | 1            | —           | —            | —         | —            | 1      |
| Totals .. .. .                                  | 19            | 1          | 3          | 1          | 24                             | 5                              | 7                               | 2                               | 5                                | 43                            | 8             | 4            | 15          | 6            | 2         | 8            | 43     |

## 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 261 notified births, and one whole-time Health Visitor per 258 registered births during 1948.

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

#### (a) Ante and Post Natal :

|                       |              |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Monday (once monthly) | 2 p.m.       | Silverdale Road, Highams Park. |
| Monday                | ..... 2 p.m. | Markhouse Road, E.17.          |
| *Tuesday              | ..... 9 a.m. | Markhouse Road, E.17.          |
| Wednesday             | ..... 9 a.m. | Markhouse Road, E.17.          |

\* New cases only.

#### (b) Child Welfare :

|           |               |                                               |
|-----------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Monday    | 2 to 4 p.m.   | St. John's Church Hall, Penrhyn Avenue, E.17. |
| Tuesday   | „             | The Memorial Hall, Winchester Road, E.4.      |
| Wednesday | „             | Low Hall Lane, Markhouse Road, E.17.          |
| Wednesday | „             | “Brookscroft,” Forest Road, E.17.             |
| Wednesday | „             | Silverdale Road, Highams Park, E.4.           |
| Thursday  | 10 to 12 noon | The Memorial Hall, Winchester Road, E.4.      |
| Thursday  | 2 to 4 p.m.   | Low Hall Lane, Markhouse Road, E.17.          |
| Thursday  | „             | St. John's Church Hall, Penrhyn Avenue, E.17. |
| Thursday  | „             | “Brookscroft,” Forest Road, E.17.             |
| Friday    | „             | Low Hall Lane, Markhouse Road, E.17.          |

A new centre was commenced on 22nd May, 1948, at the remodelled Civil Defence premises at Silverdale Road, Highams Park.

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

### LOCAL AUTHORITY SCHEME

This work was transferred to the County Council on July 5th.

The detailed findings at first visits paid during 1948 are given in the following tables :—

From the above table it will be seen that of 2,059 children, 1,647, or 79.9 per cent. were breast fed on first being visited, and 10 or 0.48 per cent. had no separate sleeping accommodation.

|                     | 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 .. | 224      | 49            | 20   | 5                      | 288           | 231                | 57   | 5   | 95             | 43   | 73         | 53          | 22        | 7        |
| High Street ..      | 250      | 21            | 24   | —                      | 295           | 270                | 24   | 1   | 93             | 152  | 5          | 8           | 32        | 5        |
| Hoe Street ..       | 267      | 38            | 38   | 1                      | 342           | 293                | 49   | 1   | 83             | 74   | 67         | 51          | 44        | 24       |
| Wood Street ..      | 220      | 19            | 48   | —                      | 287           | 279                | 6    | 2   | 68             | 76   | 65         | 15          | 9         | 54       |
| Hale End ..         | 334      | 42            | 37   | 1                      | 412           | 399                | 12   | 2   | 233            | 58   | 74         | 19          | 28        | 1        |
| Higham Hill ..      | 352      | 44            | 32   | 3                      | 425           | 405                | 20   | 3   | 238            | 101  | 24         | 25          | 39        | 1        |
| Total { 1948        | 1,647    | 213           | 199  | 10                     | 2,049         | 1,877              | 168  | 14  | 810            | 504  | 308        | 171         | 174       | 92       |
| { 1947              | 2,131    | 273           | 270  | 15                     | 2,659         | 2,448              | 206  | 20  | 1,066          | 725  | 370        | 127         | 181       | 205      |

437 infants lived in accommodation of three rooms or less, as compared with 513 in 1947.

The following table shows the number and nature of visits paid in 1948 :—

| 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... .. | 293                              | 525                | 818    | 1,203                         | 2,021        | 605                  | 13                        | 95                 | 55                 | 150           | 257           | 3,046         |
| High Street .. ..  | 295                              | 683                | 978    | 899                           | 1,877        | 292                  | 8                         | 28                 | 7                  | 35            | 76            | 2,288         |
| Hoe Street .. ..   | 343                              | 713                | 1,056  | 995                           | 2,051        | 494                  | 18                        | 18                 | 4                  | 22            | 241           | 2,826         |
| Wood Street .. ..  | 287                              | 342                | 629    | 403                           | 1,032        | 186                  | 20                        | 42                 | —                  | 42            | 98            | 1,378         |
| Hale End .. ..     | 413                              | 1,590              | 2,003  | 2,210                         | 4,213        | 352                  | 40                        | 56                 | 31                 | 87            | 175           | 4,867         |
| Higham Hill .. ..  | 428                              | 1,172              | 1,600  | 2,767                         | 4,367        | 247                  | 21                        | 92                 | 39                 | 131           | 332           | 5,098         |
| Totals, 1948 .. .. | 2,059                            | 5,025              | 7,084  | 8,477                         | 15,561       | 2,176                | 120                       | 331                | 136                | 467           | 1,179         | 19,503        |
| Totals, 1947 .. .. | 2,674                            | 5,595              | 8,269  | 7,228                         | 15,497       | 2,120                | 144                       | 337                | 132                | 469           | 1,342         | 19,572        |

## 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 at cost price) and inspection and treatment for scabies and pediculosis at the Skin Clinic.

All these facilities are available to children under 5 years of age.

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

## CLINICS

Dr. M. Sheppard, reports as follows :—

“ During the year routine tests were taken at the Ante-Natal Clinic for the Rhesus Factor and other investigations. Of 221 cases, 43 were Rhesus negative, a condition which may be dangerous for the newly born baby unless special precautions are taken.

“ A new Ante-Natal session was commenced at Silverdale Road Welfare Centre in May. Up to the end of the year, 48 mothers made 104 attendances. At the Markhouse Road Ante-Natal Clinic (for the whole year) 469 mothers made 904 attendances.

“ It is a matter of regret that Post-Natal attendances were less satisfactory than in 1947, the percentage being 15 against 26. This is the more disquieting since maternal morbidity is a serious menace to the health and wellbeing of the mothers. Steps are being taken to impress the importance of Post-Natal examinations on all newly delivered mothers.

“ A new welfare centre was opened at Silverdale Road, Highams Park, and this constitutes the fourth Local Authority Centre. Live births during 1948 were 2,068 and the total attendances under one year were 1,319, a satisfactory figure in view of the numbers attending the Brookscroft centre and sessions provided by general practitioners.

“ Total attendances at Council welfares during the year were 49,931, 26,875 under one year of age and 23,056 between one and five years.

“ Thanks are again due to the voluntary organisers who gave such cheerful and efficient service during 1948.”

### 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 | 1,259       | 829         |
| Low Hall Lane Clinic             | 469         | 76          |
| Silverdale Road                  | 48          | 5           |
| Totals                           | 1,776       | 910         |

Total Attendances :—

|                                  | Ante-Natal. | Post-Natal. |
|----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital | 9,851       | 1,269       |
| Low Hall Lane Clinic             | 904         | 84          |
| Silverdale Road                  | 104         | 5           |
| Totals                           | 10,859      | 1,358       |

The percentage of Ante-Natal cases to notified births was 79.8.

### Welfare Clinics

Attendances at the 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  | 592                             | 115              | 707    | 11,942              | 9,680            | 21,622 | 22,329       |
| Penrhyn Avenue  | 353                             | 71               | 424    | 6,733               | 6,637            | 13,370 | 13,794       |
| Winchester Road | 309                             | 55               | 364    | 5,927               | 5,435            | 11,362 | 11,726       |
| Silverdale Road | 65                              | 46               | 111    | 954                 | 1,017            | 1,971  | 2,082        |
| Total { 1948..  | 1,319                           | 287              | 1,606  | 25,556              | 22,769           | 48,325 | 49,931       |
| { 1947..        | 2,032                           | 81               | 2,113  | 32,505              | 23,002           | 55,507 | 57,620       |

The lower attendances under one year of age reflect the effect of the reduced birth rate.

**Child Life Protection.**—On the 5th July the Children Act came into operation and the Children's Committee of the County Council became responsible for carrying out the functions of the local authority under the Child Life Protection provisions of Part VII of the Public Health Act 1936, and also under the Adoption of Children (Regulation) Act 1939.

There were nineteen nurse-children on the register at 5th July.

|                              |       |       |    |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|----|
| Number on Register, 31.12.47 | ..... | ..... | 27 |
| New Registrations            | ..... | ..... | 6  |
| Re-registrations             | ..... | ..... | 2  |
|                              |       |       | —  |
|                              |       |       | 35 |

*Deduct :*

|                                    |       |       |    |
|------------------------------------|-------|-------|----|
| Removals from District             | ..... | ..... | 5  |
| Number reaching the age of 9 years |       |       | 6  |
| Number adopted                     | ..... | ..... | 5  |
|                                    |       |       | —  |
|                                    |       |       | 16 |
|                                    |       |       | —  |
| Number on Register 4.7.48          | ..... | ..... | 19 |
|                                    |       |       | —  |

**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.

**Massage.**—Six sessions per week were held at the Welfare Centres. 163 cases attended for massage and these made 1,794 attendances.

**Sale of Milk, etc., at Clinics.**—The quantity and value of milk and food sold and issued free during 1948 was as follows :—

|                      | Sales  |      | Free Issue |      |
|----------------------|--------|------|------------|------|
|                      | lbs.   | ozs. | lbs.       | ozs. |
| Cow & Gate           | 13,002 | —    | 21         | —    |
| Ostermilk            | 4,000  | —    | 117        | —    |
| Ambrosia             | 1,455  | —    | 1          | —    |
| Trufood              | 575    | —    | —          | —    |
| Lactogen             | 4,654  | —    | 22         | —    |
| Prune & Banana Syrup | 103    | —    | 22         | 14   |
| Parrish's Food       | 145    | 8    | 45         | —    |
| Cod Liver Oil & Malt | 870    | —    | 1          | —    |
| Emulsion             | 362    | —    | 1          | —    |
| Magnesia             | 255    | 8    | 67         | 14   |
| Virol                | 1,450  | 8    | —          | 8    |
| Virolax              | 128    | 8    | 22         | 8    |

|                            | Sales  |          | Free Issue |               |
|----------------------------|--------|----------|------------|---------------|
|                            | lbs.   | ozs.     | lbs.       | ozs.          |
| Roboleine .....            | 744    | —        | 4          | —             |
| Farex .....                | 1,891  | 4        | —          | —             |
| Ovaltine .....             | 1,522  | 8        | —          | 8             |
| Marmite .....              | 2,212  | —        | —          | 4             |
| Glucose .....              | 67     | 8        | —          | —             |
| Maltoline .....            | 903    | 2        | —          | 10            |
| Adexoline .....            | 23     | 9        | —          | $\frac{1}{4}$ |
| Midlothian Oat Food .....  | 1,288  | —        | —          | —             |
| Bemax .....                | 196    | 14       | —          | —             |
| Robinson's Groats .....    | 703    | —        | —          | —             |
| Halibut Oil Emulsion ..... | 12     | 14       | —          | —             |
| Scott's Baby Cereal .....  | 24     | —        | —          | —             |
| Value .....                | £4,367 | 10s. 2d. |            |               |

### 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 :—

|                            |                                                                  |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesdays and Fridays ..... | Massage, Remedial Exercises and Sunlight Treatment.              |
| Wednesdays .....           | Weighing Clinic and Cookery Lecture.                             |
| Thursdays .....            | Infant Welfare for old and new cases. Two Doctors in attendance. |
| Alternate Fridays .....    | Cookery Lecture.<br>Diphtheria Immunisation.                     |

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. |              |
| 1948 | .. .. | 596                             | 70       | 666    | 10,028          | 2,923    | 12,951 | 13,617       |
| 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        |

## HOME VISITS

|            | Visits to Children under 1 year. |             |        | Visits to Children 1-5 years. | Grand Total. |
|------------|----------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------------------------------|--------------|
|            | First.                           | Subsequent. | Total. |                               |              |
| 1948 .. .. | 302                              | 687         | 989    | 810                           | 1,799        |
| 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        |

A total of 155 children were immunised against Diphtheria during the year at "Brookscroft."

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

## SUMMARY OF FOREGOING TABLES

## 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. |              |
| Local Authority Scheme ... | 1,319                | 287               | 1,606  | 25,556               | 22,769            | 48,325 | 49,931       |
| Brookscroft ..             | 596                  | 70                | 666    | 10,028               | 2,923             | 12,951 | 13,617       |
| Total { 1948..             | 1,915                | 357               | 2,272  | 35,584               | 25,692            | 61,276 | 63,548       |
| { 1947..                   | 2,729                | 145               | 2,874  | 43,579               | 26,355            | 69,934 | 72,808       |

The percentage of first attendances of children under 1 year of age at Child Welfare Centres to the number of notified live births was 88.

## HOME VISITS

|                               | To Children under 1 year of age. |             |        | To Children 1-5 years of age. | Total. |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------|--------|-------------------------------|--------|
|                               | First.                           | Subsequent. | Total. |                               |        |
| Local Authority Scheme ... .. | 2,059                            | 5,025       | 7,084  | 8,477                         | 15,561 |
| Brookscroft .. ..             | 302                              | 687         | 989    | 810                           | 1,799  |
| Total { 1948 ..               | 2,361                            | 5,712       | 8,073  | 9,287                         | 17,360 |
| { 1947 ..                     | 2,965                            | 6,102       | 9,067  | 7,733                         | 16,800 |

## TREATMENT

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

Miss Garratt, C.S.P., 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 .....  | 7  | Talipes—(a) Equino Varus | 8   |
| Scoliosis, Lordosis, Kyphosis | 1  | (b) Calcaneo             |     |
| Rickets—(a) Genu Varum        | 27 | Valgus                   | 24  |
| (b) Genu Valgum               | 58 | Torticollis .....        | 6   |
| Pes Plano Valgus .....        | 47 | Achondroplasia .....     | 1   |
| Progressive muscular          |    | Digitus Varus .....      | 1   |
| atrophy                       | 1  | Congenital Defects ..... | 13  |
| Osteo Genesis Imperfecta      | 1  | Miscellaneous .....      | 15  |
| Spastic Paralysis .....       | 6  |                          |     |
| Congenital dislocation of     |    | Total .....              | 217 |
| the hip .....                 | 1  |                          |     |

(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 |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Cases treated .....            | 136      | 205      |
| Attendances .....              | 326      | 507      |
| Fillings .....                 | 145      | 200      |
| Extractions .....              | 116      | 101      |
| General Anæsthetics .....      | 45       | 73       |
| Scalings .....                 | 20       | 42       |
| Dressings .....                | 49       | 72       |
| Silver Nitrate Dressings ..... | —        | 192      |
| Dentures .....                 | 11       | —        |

(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.**—80 infants were referred for sunlight treatment during 1948.

(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.** — Mrs. Osora, Secretary to the local branch of the Association, kindly reports that the following cases of children under five years of age were dealt with by her Association :—

Referred by :—

|                                           |       |       |       |    |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|----|
| Hospitals and Medical Men                 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 31 |
| School Medical Services                   | ..... | ..... | ..... | 10 |
| Welfare Centres, Local Authority Services | ..... | ..... | ..... | 8  |
| Voluntary agencies                        | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3  |
| Parents                                   | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2  |
|                                           |       |       |       | —  |
|                                           |       |       |       | 54 |
|                                           |       |       |       | —  |

Classification of cases :—

|                                                           |       |       |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|----|
| Anæmia, debility, malnutrition                            | ..... | ..... | 4  |
| After effects of acute or infectious illness or operation | ..... | ..... | 13 |
| Bronchitis and Pneumonia                                  | ..... | ..... | 7  |
| Asthma                                                    | ..... | ..... | —  |
| Heart                                                     | ..... | ..... | 1  |
| Other crippling defects (non-T.B.)                        | ..... | ..... | 11 |
| Nervous conditions                                        | ..... | ..... | 3  |
| Diseases of ear, nose and throat                          | ..... | ..... | 2  |
| Various                                                   | ..... | ..... | 2  |
| Visits, advice                                            | ..... | ..... | 11 |
|                                                           |       |       | —  |
|                                                           |       |       | 54 |
|                                                           |       |       | —  |

Help given to old and new cases :—

|                                          |       |    |
|------------------------------------------|-------|----|
| Sent to convalescent homes and nurseries | ..... | 36 |
| Provided with surgical appliances        | ..... | 10 |
| Transferred to other agencies            | ..... | 5  |
| Visits and advice                        | ..... | 10 |
|                                          |       | —  |
|                                          |       | 61 |
|                                          |       | —  |

**ASSISTED MILK SCHEME**

|                                    |       |    |
|------------------------------------|-------|----|
| Number of applications during 1948 | ..... | 14 |
| Number of families assisted        | ..... | 11 |

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 fourteen days.

During 1948, 61 applications for Home Help were received—28 during the period 1st January to 4th July, and 33 during the period 5th July to 31st December. Up to 4th July, 18 were "overscale" and therefore not granted assistance, 9 were granted at part cost, and one free of charge.

## PRIORITY SHEET DOCKETS

During 1948, 67 mothers were supplied with 190 four-coupon certificates and 240 mothers with 595 six-coupon certificates.

The termination of clothes rationing in March, 1949, rendered the scheme obsolete. During 1949 while rationing was still in force, 42 mothers were issued with 131 four-coupon certificates.

## STERILISED MATERNITY OUTFITS

A total of <sup>546</sup>~~255~~ sets were supplied.

## INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT

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

## CONFINEMENTS

The following table shows the location of confinements for 1948 and the previous nine years.

## CONFINEMENTS

|                                                 | 1939  | 1940  | 1941  | 1942  | 1943  | 1944  | 1945  | 1946  | 1947  | 1948  |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital .....          | 595   | 720   | 645   | 695   | 891   | 907   | 995   | 1,247 | 1,253 | 1,183 |
| Other Hospitals and Maternity Homes .....       | 322   | 203   | 104   | 242   | 236   | 257   | 226   | 442   | 551   | 427   |
| Total in Hospital .....                         | 917   | 923   | 749   | 937   | 1,127 | 1,164 | 1,221 | 1,689 | 1,804 | 1,610 |
| District { Local Authority .....                | 299   | 364   | 155   | 284   | 293   | 266   | 157   | 350   | 399   | 252   |
| W.D.N.A. ....                                   | 162   | 164   | 142   | 222   | 205   | 203   | 178   | 336   | 291   | 235   |
| W.D.N.A. (Private) to 5th July, 1948 only ..... | 56    | 80    | 20    | 49    | 30    | 43    | 12    | 31    | 140   | 22    |
| W.D.N.A. Total .....                            | 218   | 244   | 162   | 271   | 235   | 246   | 190   | 367   | 431   | 257   |
| Total on District .....                         | 517   | 608   | 317   | 555   | 528   | 512   | 347   | 717   | 830   | 509   |
| Grand Totals .....                              | 1,434 | 1,531 | 1,066 | 1,492 | 1,655 | 1,676 | 1,568 | 2,406 | 2,634 | 2,119 |
| Births Registered .....                         | 1,606 | 1,575 | 1,304 | 1,718 | 1,828 | 1,915 | 1,730 | 2,544 | 2,670 | 2,068 |

## HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR CONFINEMENTS

The following numbers of confinements occurred at the Institutions specified :—

|                                           | 1948  | 1947  |
|-------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital .....    | 1,183 | 1,253 |
| Maternity Homes in Walthamstow .....      | 151   | 259   |
| Mothers' Hospital Clapton .....           | 158   | 100   |
| Other Maternity Hospitals and Homes ..... | 118   | 192   |
| Totals .....                              | 1,610 | 1,804 |

## WALTHAMSTOW DISTRICT NURSING ASSOCIATION AND HOME NURSING SERVICE

(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 :—

" I have again the pleasure of submitting an account of the work undertaken by the Association, which up to July 5th, 1948, was a voluntary body undertaking for the Council a portion of the Municipal Midwifery Service in addition to the Home Nursing Service.

" The year has been an eventful one and an interesting one.

" The change-over from a voluntary body to an official one on July 5th was quite smooth, and did not in any way interfere with the work of the nurses and midwives. They continue to give the same excellent service.

" I am fortunate in being able to get and keep a staff of nurses and midwives which up to date has coped fairly successfully with the work. The general work shows signs of increasing quite considerably.

" As circumstances permit, I hope to increase the staff to the ratio recommended by the Ministry of Health, viz., 17½ general nurses.

" The housing of extra staff will create a difficulty as 17 and 19 Carisbrooke Road are already full to capacity. The re-opening of a Home at Highams Park would relieve the tension and assist the nurses.

" The provision of at least another car (my car is already being used entirely for a nurse to enable the work to be done) would help also, as distances are very great.

" From the 1st December, 1947, to the 3rd December, 1948, 26 pupil midwives entered for their District Midwifery training.

" Staff at the end of December, 1948, was as follows :—

|                              |
|------------------------------|
| 3 Midwives.                  |
| 1 Queens Nurse.              |
| 5 full-time S.R.N.           |
| 3 part-time S.R.N.           |
| 1 part-time Assistant Nurse. |
| 7 Pupil Midwives.            |

" Midwifery and Maternity nursing undertaken for the year was as follows :—

|                                    |       |     |
|------------------------------------|-------|-----|
| Doctors' cases                     | ..... | 49  |
| Midwifery cases                    | ..... | 208 |
| Gas and Air Analgesia administered | ..... | 11  |

### MIDWIVES ACTS, 1902-1936

The County Council became the Local Supervising Authority on July 5th, 1948.

|                                                        |       |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------|----|
| No. of Notices of Intention to Practise, January, 1948 | ..... | 36 |
| " " " " during 1948                                    | ..... | 12 |
| Total                                                  | ..... | 48 |
| No. of Midwives ceasing to practise during 1948        | ..... | 13 |
| " " practising at the end of 1948                      | ..... | 35 |

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

The following table shows the work done by Midwives (including those employed at Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital) during 1948 :—

|                                                         |       |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| No. of confinements attended as a Midwife               | ..... | 1,656 |
| " " " " Maternity Nurse                                 | ..... | 217   |
| " Medical Aid Notices sent                              | ..... | 590   |
| " Notification of Death                                 | ..... | 1     |
| " Twin Births notified                                  | ..... | 18    |
| " Stillbirths notified                                  | ..... | 3     |
| " Notification of Liability to be a Source of Infection | ..... | 7     |
| " Notification of Laying out a Dead Body                | ..... | —     |
| " Notification of Artificial Feeding                    | ..... | 5     |
| " Notification of Disinfection                          | ..... | 7     |

The previous table includes the following numbers in regard to work done at Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital :—

|                     |       |       |       |       |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Midwifery cases     | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1,084 |
| Maternity cases     | ..... | ..... | ..... | 99    |
| Medical Aid Notices | ..... | ..... | ..... | 421   |

The percentage of Medical Aid Notices were :—

|                             |       |       |       |      |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| All cases                   | ..... | ..... | ..... | 35.6 |
| Maternity Hospital Midwives | ..... | ..... | ..... | 38.8 |
| Domiciliary Midwives        | ..... | ..... | ..... | 29.5 |

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           | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3  |
| Albuminuria           | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2  |
| Antepartum Hæmorrhage | ..... | ..... | ..... | 10 |
| Other conditions      | ..... | ..... | ..... | 3  |
| Total                 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 18 |

For complications during labour :—

|                                  |       |       |       |     |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|
| Prolonged first and second stage | ..... | ..... | ..... | 19  |
| Ruptured perineum                | ..... | ..... | ..... | 63  |
| Premature labour                 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2   |
| Rise of Temperature              | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4   |
| Post-partum hæmorrhage           | ..... | ..... | ..... | 6   |
| Uterine inertia                  | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4   |
| Retained placenta                | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2   |
| Abnormal presentation            | ..... | ..... | ..... | 9   |
| Other conditions                 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 24  |
| Total                            | ..... | ..... | ..... | 133 |

For complications in regard to the infant :—

|                            |       |       |       |    |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|----|
| Stillbirth                 | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1  |
| Jaundice                   | ..... | ..... | ..... | 1  |
| Inflamed eyes              | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2  |
| Prematurity and feebleness | ..... | ..... | ..... | 4  |
| Cyanosis                   | ..... | ..... | ..... | 2  |
| Other conditions           | ..... | ..... | ..... | 8  |
| Total                      | ..... | ..... | ..... | 18 |

**Medical Aid Fees.**—As from the 1st April, 1947, no recovery was made 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 was made for compensation during 1948.

**Gas and Air Analgesia.**—The 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 Examinations. |                  |           | Deliveries. |           | Lying-in Visits. | Total Visits. |
|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|------------------|---------------|
|                  | Patients' Homes.         | Midwife's House. | Clinic.   | Mid.        | Mat.      |                  |               |
| Local Authority  | 1,123                    | 1,341            | 30        | 224         | 28        | 3,337            | 6,083         |
| W.D.N.A. . .     | 1,034                    | 1,521            | —         | 184         | 51        | 5,222            | 8,012         |
| <b>Total . .</b> | <b>2,157</b>             | <b>2,862</b>     | <b>30</b> | <b>408</b>  | <b>79</b> | <b>8,559</b>     | <b>14,095</b> |

### Post-Graduate Lectures to Midwives.

A course of 5 lectures was given by Professor F. J. Browne, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G., at Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital, during March and April.

The subjects of the lectures were :—

- Toxæmias of Pregnancy.
- Contracted Pelvis and Disproportion.
- Antepartum Hæmorrhage.
- Puerperal Pyrexia.

The average attendance amounted to 57, including 11 medical practitioners.

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

## PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Twenty-two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during 1948. The notifications were received from the following sources :—

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| Maternity Hospital .....         | 19 |
| Hospitals outside the area ..... | 3  |

The Puerperal Pyrexia rate for 1948 was 10.40 per 1,000 births as compared with 10.99 in 1947. 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<br>Fever.              | Puerperal<br>Pyrexia. |
| England and Wales .....                                        |                                  | 6.89                  |
| 126 County Boroughs and Great<br>Towns, including London ..... |                                  | 8.90                  |
| 148 Smaller Towns (25,000 to<br>50,000 population) .....       |                                  | 4.71                  |
| London Administrative County .....                             | 0.61                             | 7.34*                 |
| Walthamstow .....                                              |                                  | 10.4                  |

\* Including Puerperal Fever.

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

| Year.      | Per 1,000 Total Births (live and still) |       |       |
|------------|-----------------------------------------|-------|-------|
|            | Puerperal Pyrexia                       |       | Rate. |
|            | No.                                     |       |       |
| 1948 ..... | 22                                      | ..... | 10.40 |
| 1947 ..... | 30                                      | ..... | 10.99 |
| 1946 ..... | 33                                      | ..... | 12.62 |
| 1945 ..... | 32                                      | ..... | 18.08 |
| 1944 ..... | 28                                      | ..... | 14.23 |

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 probably not be notified, especially in domiciliary practice.

## ABORTION

**Circular 1661.**—The number of cases in which medical aid notices were issued during 1948 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 was :—

| Year.   | Totals. | St. James Street. | High Street. | Hoe Street. | Wood Street. | Hale End. | Higham Hill. |
|---------|---------|-------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| 1948 .. | 2       | —                 | —            | —           | 2            | —         | —            |
| 1947 .. | 5       | 1                 | 1            | 1           | —            | 1         | 1            |

| Year.   | Treated  |              | Vision unimpaired. | Vision impaired. | Total Blindness. | Deaths. |
|---------|----------|--------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
|         | At Home. | In Hospital. |                    |                  |                  |         |
| 1948 .. | 1        | 1            | 2                  | —                | —                | —       |
| 1947 .. | 4        | 1            | 5                  | —                | —                | —       |

## MATERNAL MORTALITY, STILLBIRTHS &amp; NEO-NATAL DEATHS

During 1948 there was no death classified as being due to pregnancy, childbearing or associated therewith.

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

| Rate (per 1,000 live births). | 1948. | 1947. | 1946. | 1945. | 1944. |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Maternal Mortality .. ..      | —     | 1.49  | 0.78  | 1.74  | 5.21  |
| Stillbirths .. ..             | 22.2  | 22.1  | 27.5  | 32.6  | 27.1  |
| Neo-Natal Deaths .. ..        | 11.1  | 13.1  | 19.2  | 21.0  | 20.8  |

The continuing fall in neo-natal deaths is very gratifying.

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. |
| 1948 .. | 2,114                    | —                 | —                       | —      | —                                        | —                       | —      |
| 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   |

#### I. THORPE COOMBE MATERNITY HOSPITAL.

The Hospital was transferred to the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board on July 5th and acknowledgement must be made of the very fine work which has been done there since it was opened in April, 1934. The reputation of the Hospital, kept up by Miss Helen Rodway, F.R.C.O.G., Obstetrician in Charge, the various Matrons and the staff, is second to none both as a Maternity Hospital and as a training school for midwives for Part I and Part II.

The Hospital has contributed in no small measure to the progressive decline during the past four years in the stillbirth and the neo-natal infant death rates, and the maternal death rate.

*Emergency Unit.*—The services of an emergency unit are available on the District.

*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.

*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 1948, <sup>prior to July 5th</sup> 11 pupils from Thorpe Coombe obtained the Part I and 26 the Part II Certificate of the Central Midwives Board.

*Conditions of Service.*—Prior to July 5th, the Council had adopted all the recommendations of the Midwife's Salaries Committee.

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

|                                               | 1934   | 1935  | 1936  | 1937  | 1938  | 1939  | 1940  | 1941  | 1942  | 1943  | 1944  | 1945  | 1946   | 1947   | 1948  | Total<br>(to July 4)          |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------------------------------|
| Number of Sessions held—                      |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |       |                               |
| (a) Consultant's Clinic                       | 39     | 21    | 12    | 12    | 12    | 8     | 8     | 12    | 12    | 12    | 12    | 7     | 12     | 12     | 5     | 196                           |
| (b) Resident Obstetrician's Clinic .....      | —      | 125   | 117   | 129   | 155   | 176   | 301   | 154   | 146   | 184   | 191   | 192   | 209    | 213    | 100   | 2,392                         |
| (c) Midwives' Clinic .....                    | 126    | 225   | 352   | 349   | 294   | 234   | 133   | 283   | 284   | 244   | 227   | 246   | 238    | 223    | 100   | 3,558                         |
| TOTALS .....                                  | 165    | 371   | 481   | 490   | 461   | 418   | 442   | 449   | 442   | 440   | 430   | 445   | 459    | 448    | 205   | 6,146                         |
| No. of attendances at Ante-Natal Clinics—     |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |       |                               |
| (a) Consultant's Clinic                       | —      | —     | —     | —     | 186   | 117   | 85    | 110   | 124   | 144   | 106   | 53    | 98     | 99     | 38    | 1,160                         |
| (b) Resident Obstetrician's Clinic .....      | —      | 2,868 | 2,648 | 2,382 | 2,229 | 2,904 | 5,547 | 2,507 | 2,845 | 3,287 | 3,757 | 4,584 | 5,664  | 5,455  | 2,827 | 49,504                        |
| (c) Midwives' Clinic .....                    | —      | 2,437 | 3,397 | 3,872 | 4,319 | 3,462 | 1,797 | 3,868 | 4,346 | 5,288 | 4,819 | 5,245 | 6,193  | 4,957  | 2,030 | 56,030                        |
| TOTALS .....                                  | †2,116 | 5,305 | 6,045 | 6,254 | 6,734 | 6,483 | 7,429 | 6,485 | 7,315 | 8,719 | 8,682 | 9,882 | 11,955 | 10,511 | 4,895 | 106,694<br>† 2,116<br>108,810 |
| Average number of attendances of patients at— |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |       |                               |
| (a) Consultant's Clinic                       | —      | —     | —     | —     | 15.5  | 14.6  | 10.6  | 9.2   | 10.3  | 12.0  | 8.8   | 7.6   | 8.1    | 8.2    | 7.6   | 5.9                           |
| (b) Resident Obstetrician's Clinic .....      | 12.8   | 14.3  | 12.5  | 18.4  | 14.4  | 16.5  | 18.4  | 16.3  | 19.5  | 17.9  | 19.7  | 23.9  | 27.1   | 25.6   | 28.2  | 16.5                          |
| (c) Midwives' Clinic .....                    | —      | —     | —     | 11.0  | 14.7  | 14.8  | 13.5  | 13.7  | 15.3  | 21.8  | 21.2  | 21.3  | 26.0   | 22.2   | 20.3  | 15.7                          |
| Total attendances at Ante-Natal Clinics—      |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |       |                               |
| (a) New patients .....                        | 371    | 762   | 691   | 753   | 702   | 733   | 750   | 824   | 764   | 944   | 1,016 | 1,190 | 1,253  | 1,275  | 582   | 12,610                        |
| (b) Old patients .....                        | 1,745  | 4,543 | 5,354 | 5,501 | 6,032 | 5,750 | 6,679 | 5,661 | 6,551 | 7,775 | 7,666 | 8,692 | 10,702 | 9,236  | 4,313 | 96,200                        |
| TOTALS .....                                  | 2,116  | 5,305 | 6,045 | 6,254 | 6,734 | 6,483 | 7,429 | 6,485 | 7,315 | 8,719 | 8,682 | 9,882 | 11,955 | 10,511 | 4,895 | 108,810                       |
| Average number of attendances of each patient |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |        |       |                               |
|                                               | 5.7    | 6.9   | 8.7   | 8.3   | 9.5   | 8.8   | 9.9   | 7.8   | 9.5   | 9.2   | 8.5   | 8.3   | 9.5    | 8.2    | 8.5   | 7.6                           |

|                                                      | 1934 | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943  | 1944  | 1945  | 1946  | 1947        | 1948 | Total  |
|------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|------|--------|
|                                                      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |       | (to July 4) |      |        |
| Number of patients admitted—                         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |       |             |      |        |
| (a) During Ante-natal period .....                   | 29   | 95   | 137  | 109  | 96   | 119  | 126  | 101  | 137  | 166   | 141   | 156   | 203   | 225         | 84   | 1,924  |
| (b) For confinement .....                            | 229  | 646  | 660  | 616  | 675  | 552  | 684  | 615  | 658  | 865   | 868   | 995   | 1,222 | 1,209       | 606  | 11,100 |
| (c) On account of mis-carriage .....                 | —    | 2    | 1    | 3    | 3    | —    | 3    | —    | 2    | —     | 3     | 4     | 3     | 7           | —    | 31     |
| (d) During post-natal period .....                   | —    | 4    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 4    | 4    | 1    | 4    | 6     | 6     | 7     | 18    | 21          | 6    | 84     |
| TOTALS .....                                         | 258  | 747  | 799  | 729  | 775  | 675  | 817  | 717  | 801  | 1,037 | 1,018 | 1,162 | 1,446 | 1,462       | 696  | 13,139 |
| Ante-natal patients delivered before discharge ..... |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |       |             |      |        |
|                                                      | —    | —    | —    | 26   | 16   | 43   | 33   | 30   | 37   | 26    | 39    | 21    | 19    | 47          | 20   | 357    |
| No. of confinements .....                            | 229  | 646  | 660  | 639  | 691  | 595  | 720  | 645  | 695  | 891   | 907   | 995   | 1,247 | 1,253       | 624  | 11,437 |
| No. of patients delivered by—                        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |       |             |      |        |
| (a) Midwives .....                                   | 195  | 564  | 584  | 532  | 570  | 500  | 609  | 572  | 606  | 797   | 795   | 877   | 1,084 | 1,125       | 566  | 9,976  |
| (b) Doctors .....                                    | 34   | 82   | 76   | 107  | 121  | 95   | 111  | 73   | 89   | 94    | 112   | 118   | 163   | 128         | 58   | 1,461  |
| TOTALS .....                                         | 229  | 646  | 660  | 639  | 691  | 595  | 720  | 645  | 695  | 891   | 907   | 995   | 1,247 | 1,253       | 624  | 11,437 |
| Percentage of cases delivered by—                    |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |       |       |       |             |      |        |
| (a) Midwives .....                                   | 85.2 | 87.3 | 88.5 | 83.2 | 82.4 | 84.0 | 84.2 | 88.6 | 87.2 | 89.4  | 87.6  | 88.1  | 86.8  | 89.7        | 90.7 | 87.2   |
| (b) Doctors .....                                    | 14.8 | 12.7 | 11.5 | 16.8 | 17.6 | 16.0 | 15.8 | 11.4 | 12.8 | 10.6  | 12.4  | 11.8  | 13.1  | 10.2        | 9.3  | 12.7   |

Approximately one-fifth of cases delivered by doctors were private cases of general practitioners. The remainder were cases delivered by a medical officer because of abnormal medical or obstetrical condition.

|                                                              | 1934        | 1935 | 1936 | 1937 | 1938 | 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 | 1946 | 1947 | 1948 | Total |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
|                                                              | (to July 4) |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |
| Number of patients for whom medical assistance was required— |             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |
| (a) Antenatal .....                                          | 22          | 16   | 3    | 1    | 4    | 4    | —    | 16   | ?    | —    | —    | —    | 10   | 12   | 14   | ?     |
| (b) In labour .....                                          | 22          | 249  | 345  | 262  | 298  | 246  | 362  | 59   | ?    | 329  | 251  | 261  | 259  | 507  | 203  | ?     |
| (c) Puerperium .....                                         | 52          | 18   | —    | —    | —    | 1    | —    | —    | ?    | —    | —    | —    | 17   | 1    | —    | ?     |
| (d) For the infant .....                                     | 10          | 11   | 17   | 12   | 20   | 13   | 15   | 27   | ?    | 10   | 10   | 10   | 13   | 34   | 7    | ?     |
| TOTALS .....                                                 | 106         | 294  | 365  | 275  | 322  | 264  | 377  | 102  | 365  | 339  | 261  | 271  | 299  | 554  | 224  | 4,418 |
| Number of infants—                                           |             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |
| (a) Not breast fed at all .....                              | —           | —    | —    | —    | 36   | 31   | 27   | 16   | 28   | 45   | 26   | 24   | 50   | 51   | 32   | 366   |
| (b) Partly breast fed .....                                  | 3           | 45   | 95   | 73   | 115  | 107  | 130  | 62   | 85   | 104  | 102  | 91   | 126  | 199  | 107  | 1,444 |
| TOTALS .....                                                 | 3           | 45   | 95   | 73   | 151  | 138  | 157  | 78   | 113  | 149  | 128  | 115  | 176  | 250  | 139  | 1,810 |
| Number of—                                                   |             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |
| (a) Maternal deaths .....                                    | 1           | 2    | 1    | 3    | 2    | 2    | 1    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 1    | —    | 2    | 2    | —    | 21    |
| (b) Infant deaths .....                                      | 1           | 9    | 8    | 9    | 9    | 12   | 6    | 9    | 11   | 20   | 9    | 13   | 21   | 18   | 4    | 159   |
| (c) Stillbirths .....                                        | 6           | 22   | 22   | 16   | 32   | 19   | 23   | 23   | 22   | 33   | 24   | 38   | 46   | 31   | 14   | 371   |
| Number of cases of—                                          |             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |
| Puerperal Pyrexia .....                                      | 3           | 26   | 25   | 18   | 26   | 26   | 31   | 32   | 21   | 33   | 17   | 26   | 19   | 20   | 8    | 331   |
| Number of cases of—                                          |             |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....                                  | 1           | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | 1    | —    | 2     |

# HOSPITAL REPORT — 1948

|                                                              | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Total | Percentage |                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Number of patients admitted—                                 |      |      |      |      |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |            |                                                               |
| (a) Antenatal .....                                          | 12   | 10   | 16   | 8    | 10  | 23   | 23   | 18   | 16   | 12   | 25   | 15   | 188   | 13.95      | per cent                                                      |
| (b) For confinement .....                                    | 92   | 101  | 101  | 87   | 96  | 112  | 104  | 92   | 99   | 92   | 74   | 83   | 1,133 | 84.05      | " "                                                           |
| (c) Miscarriage .....                                        | —    | —    | —    | —    | —   | —    | 1    | 1    | —    | —    | 2    | —    | 4     | 0.29       | " "                                                           |
| (d) Post-natal .....                                         | 2    | 1    | 1    | 2    | —   | —    | 3    | 2    | 3    | 6    | 1    | 2    | 23    | 1.71       | " "                                                           |
| TOTALS .....                                                 | 106  | 112  | 118  | 97   | 106 | 135  | 131  | 113  | 118  | 110  | 102  | 100  | 1,348 |            |                                                               |
| Number of infants admitted .....                             |      |      |      |      |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |            |                                                               |
|                                                              | 6    | 2    | —    | 3    | 2   | —    | 3    | 3    | 2    | 4    | 2    | 3    | 30    |            | (Of these infants, 11 were Thorpe Coombe infants re-admitted) |
| Number of patients delivered—                                |      |      |      |      |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |            |                                                               |
| (a) By midwives .....                                        | 85   | 97   | 94   | 81   | 86  | 108  | 101  | 92   | 94   | 85   | 78   | 83   | 1,084 | 91.63      | per cent                                                      |
| (b) By doctors .....                                         | 9    | 8    | 10   | 5    | 9   | 16   | 8    | 3    | 5    | 11   | 8    | 7    | 99    | 8.37       | " "                                                           |
| TOTALS .....                                                 | 94   | 105  | 104  | 86   | 95  | 124  | 109  | 95   | 99   | 96   | 86   | 90   | 1,183 |            |                                                               |
| Number of patients for whom medical assistance was required— |      |      |      |      |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |            |                                                               |
| (a) Ante-natal .....                                         | 3    | 1    | 5    | 1    | —   | 4    | 5    | 2    | —    | —    | —    | 2    | 23    | 1.93       | per cent                                                      |
| (b) In labour .....                                          | 41   | 36   | 22   | 28   | 32  | 41   | 29   | 31   | 31   | 36   | 27   | 21   | 375   | 31.69      | " "                                                           |
| (c) During puerperium .....                                  | —    | —    | —    | —    | —   | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —     | —          | " "                                                           |
| (d) For the infant .....                                     | 2    | 1    | —    | 1    | 1   | 2    | 2    | 3    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 3    | 19    | 1.56       | " "                                                           |
| TOTALS .....                                                 | 46   | 38   | 27   | 30   | 33  | 47   | 36   | 36   | 32   | 37   | 29   | 26   | 417   |            |                                                               |

Relative to total number of admissions (1348)

Relative to total number of confinements (1183)

Relative to number of infants born plus those admitted from District

# HOSPITAL REPORT — 1948

|                                                    | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Total | Percentage |                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Number of infants—                                 |      |      |      |      |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |            |                                                                                     |
| (a) Not breast fed at all                          | 5    | 3    | 6    | 7    | 5   | 5    | 2    | 4    | 2    | 1    | —    | 5    | 45    | 82.51      | per cent entirely Breast Fed                                                        |
| (b) Partly breast fed .....                        | 15   | 25   | 20   | 21   | 9   | 13   | 14   | 11   | 8    | 6    | 7    | 11   | 160   | 3.84       | „ „ (Relative to total number of infants discharged)                                |
| TOTALS .....                                       | 20   | 28   | 26   | 28   | 14  | 18   | 16   | 15   | 10   | 7    | 7    | 16   | 205   | 13.65      | „ „                                                                                 |
| Number of—                                         |      |      |      |      |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |            |                                                                                     |
| (a) Maternal deaths .....                          | —    | —    | —    | —    | —   | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —     | Nil        |                                                                                     |
| (b) Infant deaths .....                            | —    | —    | —    | —    | 2   | 1    | 1    | 2    | —    | 1    | 2    | 1    | 10    | 0.86       | per cent (Relative to total number of births, minus still-births (1165))            |
| (c) Stillbirths .....                              | 2    | 1    | 3    | —    | 4   | 4    | 2    | 2    | 3    | 4    | 3    | 3    | 31    | 2.59       | „ „ (Relative to total number of infants born (1196) (including 13 cases of twins)) |
| (d) Deaths of Infants admitted from District ..... | —    | —    | —    | —    | 1   | —    | 1    | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | 2     |            | Percentage of Still-births for Booked Cases was 1.88                                |
| Number of cases of—                                |      |      |      |      |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |            |                                                                                     |
| Puerperal pyrexia .....                            | 1    | 1    | 1    | 4    | 1   | —    | 3    | 3    | 2    | 1    | 2    | —    | 19    | 1.60       | per cent (Relative to total number of confinements (1183))                          |
| Number of cases of—                                |      |      |      |      |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |            |                                                                                     |
| Inflammation of infants' eyes .....                | 1    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 1   | 2    | —    | 3    | 2    | 1    | 1    | 2    | 17    | 1.46       | per cent (Relative to total number of living infants (1165))                        |

# HOSPITAL REPORT — 1948

|                       | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Total | Percentage     |                                                     |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Number of cases of—   |      |      |      |      |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |                |                                                     |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | —    | —    | —    | —    | —   | —    | —    | —    | —    | —    | 1    | —    | 1     | 0.08 per cent  | (Relative to total number of living infants (1165)) |
| Ante-natal Clinics—   |      |      |      |      |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |                |                                                     |
| (a) New cases         | 106  | 102  | 71   | 114  | 96  | 82   | 91   | 114  | 148  | 132  | 96   | 107  | 1,259 |                | Each patient made an average of 7.6 attendances     |
| (b) Old cases         | 743  | 671  | 660  | 762  | 685 | 702  | 709  | 690  | 744  | 716  | 705  | 805  | 8,592 |                |                                                     |
| TOTALS                | 849  | 773  | 731  | 876  | 781 | 784  | 800  | 804  | 892  | 848  | 801  | 912  | 9,851 |                |                                                     |
| Post-natal Clinics—   |      |      |      |      |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |                |                                                     |
| (a) New cases         | 76   | 71   | 80   | 69   | 54  | 68   | 69   | 95   | 59   | 67   | 69   | 52   | 829   | 70.08 per cent | (Relative to number of patients confined (1183))    |
| (b) Old cases         | 35   | 30   | 50   | 38   | 37  | 52   | 26   | 36   | 30   | 35   | 36   | 35   | 440   |                |                                                     |
| TOTALS                | 111  | 101  | 130  | 107  | 91  | 120  | 95   | 131  | 89   | 102  | 105  | 87   | 1,269 |                |                                                     |

Miss Helen Rodway, F.R.C.O.G., Obstetrician/Superintendent, contributes the following observations in regard to the period when the Hospital was under the control of the Walthamstow Borough Council.

" This report gives a summary of the work of Thorpe Coombe from the opening date, 5th May, 1934, to 4th July, 1948, after which date the Hospital was transferred under the National Health Act from the Borough of Walthamstow to the North-East Metropolitan Regional Board.

" From the opening date in May, 1934, until July 4th, 1948, the service of Thorpe Coombe provided facilities for the confinements of 11,437 women. These were chiefly those resident in Walthamstow, although in the early years, some women living outside the Borough were admitted. As increasing demands were made on the Hospital services, it later became necessary to discontinue the practice of admitting women who were resident outside the district.

" From a small beginning with 229 confinements during the first eight months from May to December, 1934, the annual number of confinements rose to the peak figure of 1,253 in 1947. During the war period, when many expectant mothers were evacuated to safe areas, the number of confinements which took place in the Hospital fell slightly. In 1939, there were 595 confinements, which was 86 per cent. of the number for 1938, and the lowest figure for any year of the war. On the other hand, in 1944, the number of confinements was 907, which was 31 per cent. more than in 1938. Following the war, the annual number of confinements continued to increase, reaching 1,247 in 1946.

### **Ante-Natal Work.**

" During their pregnancy, the majority of expectant mothers attended the ante-natal clinic at regular intervals. In the period under review, 12,610 women made an average of 7.6 attendances.

" Many mothers showed great interest in the Mothercraft Lectures, which they attended with much enthusiasm; numbers also attended classes for instruction and practice in ante-natal exercise and preparation for childbirth.

" Among these 12,610 expectant mothers, there were 1,123 or 8.9 per cent. who were admitted during pregnancy for investigation, rest or treatment. Of these, 413 or 36.8 per cent. required rest or treatment on account of essential hypertension, cardiac nephritis or toxæmia of pregnancy; 113 or 10.0 per cent. had pre-existing cardiac disease; 125 or 11.1 per cent. had ante-partum hæmorrhage.

" The number of viable infants born from May, 1934, to 4th July, 1948, was 11,601. This includes 292 twin babies and six triplets. The number of multiple births relative to the number of

confinements was 98 or 1.37 per cent. for 7,040 first births and 64 or 1.46 per cent. for 4,397 second or later births. The total number of infants recorded as premature, according to the International Standard of  $5\frac{1}{2}$  lb. or less birth weight, was 809 or 7.1 per cent. relative to 11,437 confinements.

#### **Post-Natal Work.**

"All mothers having their confinements at Thorpe Coombe were invited to return six weeks after their confinement for an examination, and if necessary medical advice and treatment. The highest proportion of women attending the post-natal clinic was in 1943, when 86.3 per cent. attended. The lowest proportion was in 1939, when the figure was 45.8 per cent. of those women who were confined in Thorpe Coombe that year.

#### **Infant Welfare Service.**

"For the supervision and care of the health of the infant, all mothers were visited, as far as possible, within two weeks of confinement in their own homes by a Health Visitor employed by the Borough. The mothers were encouraged to take their babies to one of the Welfare Centres. In this way a follow-up of mothers and babies was continued.





