

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

Contributors

Walthamstow (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

[1955?]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/z22ks56t>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

AC 4411(1) WALTHAMSTON

WAL 39



BOROUGH OF WALTHAMSTOW

REPORT

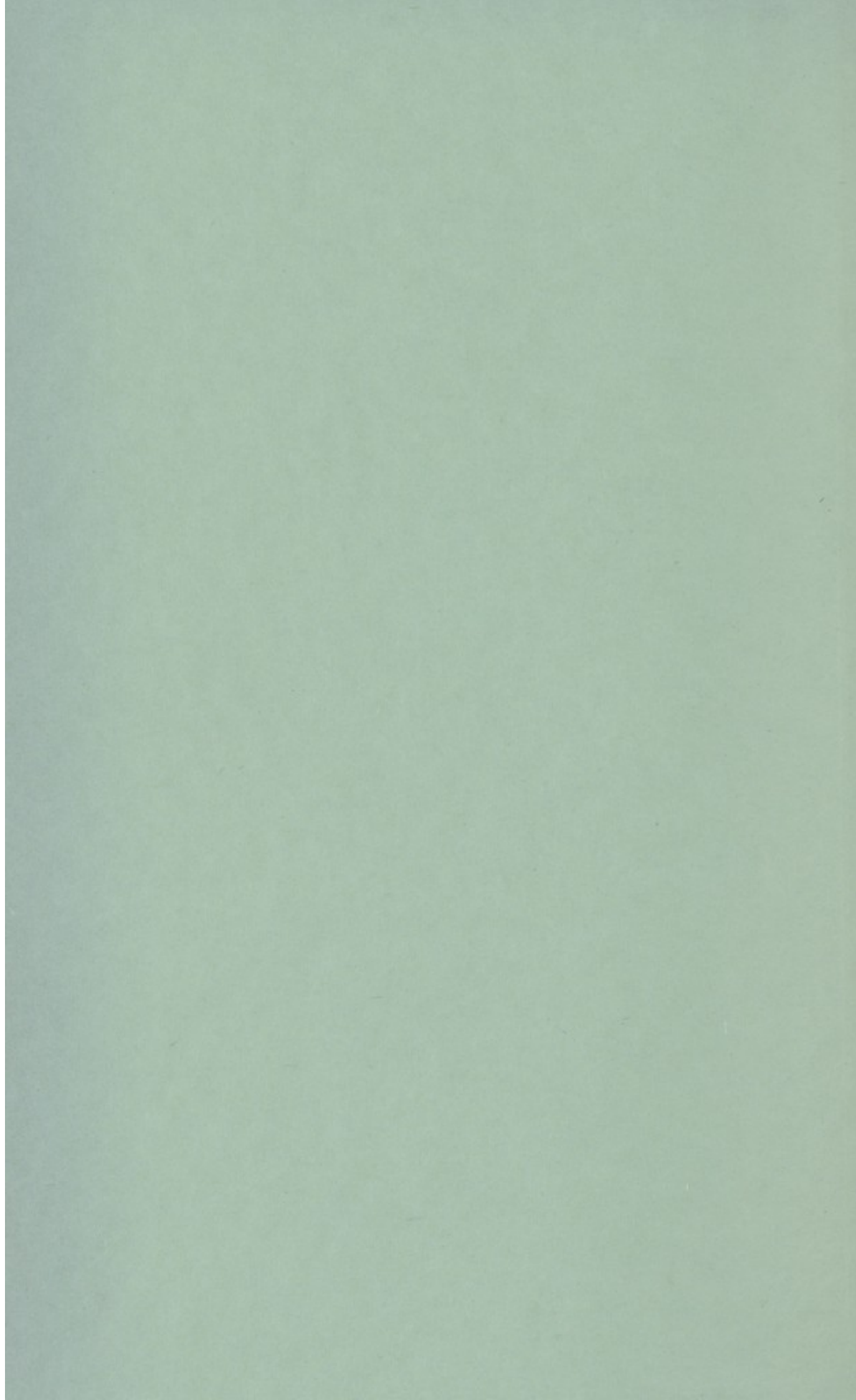
OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH**

for the Year 1954

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

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



*pe adk,
11/7/55*



BOROUGH OF WALTHAMSTOW

REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR

1954

INDEX

	PAGE
SECTION A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area	7
SECTION B.—General Provision of Health Services in the Area	14
SECTION C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	20
SECTION D.—Housing	25
SECTION E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food	32
SECTION F.—Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases	43
SECTION G.—Miscellaneous	52
SECTION H.—National Health Service Act, 1946—Part III Services	57
Health Centres	58
Care of Mothers and Young Children	60
Midwifery	78
Health Visiting	81
Home Nursing	83
Vaccination and Immunisation	85
Ambulance Facilities	90
Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care	90
Domestic Help	97

	PAGE		PAGE
Acreage	7	Death Rate	7, 8
Adulteration	37	Deaths, Causes of	9
Ambulance Facilities	16, 90	Dental Laboratory	59
Ante-Natal Clinics	60, 67	Dental Treatment	70
Assessments	7	Diphtheria	45
Bacteriological Examination	32, 34, 37	Diphtheria Immunisation	87
B.C.G. Immunisation	93	Diseases of Animals Acts	40
Birth Notifications	63	Disinfestation	24
Birth Registrations	13	District Midwifery	78
Births, Illegitimate	66	Domestic Help	97
Birth Rate	7	Dysentery	47
Cancer	9	Employment	7
Cancer Education	55	Emergency Unit	80
Caravans	23	Encephalitis	46
Care and After-Care	90	Enteric Fever	47
Care of Illegitimate Children	66	Essex County Council Act	20
Child Guidance	72	Food & Drugs Act, 1938	37
Child Welfare Clinics	67, 68	Factories Acts, 1937/48	42
Chiropody	94	Food, Clean	39
Clean Food Campaign	39	Food Inspection	32
Cleansing (Personal)	16, 78	Food Poisoning	39, 47
Clearance Areas	29	Foot Clinic	94
Committees	4, 57	Funeral Arrangements	54
Comparability Factor	8	Gas and Air Analgesia	80
Confinements	62	Gastric Influenza	46
Contact Examinations	93	General Dental Service	58
Convalescence for Adults	93	Health Centres	58
Convalescence for Pre-School Children	74	Health Education	55, 95
Conveniences, Public	55	Health Visiting	81
Cremation	55	Home Nursing	83
Daily Guardian Scheme	77	Home Visits	81
Day Nurseries	76	Hospitals	16
Deaths	7, 8, 9	Housing Act, 1936	28
Deaths, Infants	3, 10, 65	Housing, Closure and Demolition	28
		Housing, General	31

	PAGE		PAGE
Housing Inspection	26	Population	7
Housing Statistics	25	Post-Mortems	55
Hydrogen Cyanide Regula- tions, 1938	24	Post-Natal Clinics	60, 67
Ice Cream	33	Premature Infants	66
Illegitimacy	66	Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	40
Immunisation	35, 87	Prevention of Illness	90
Infant Mortality	8, 10, 12	Prevention of Tuberculosis	52
Infectious Diseases	43	Pupil Midwives	80
Infestation	78	Queens Institute of District Nursing—Training	83
Inquests	55	Rainfall	55
Integration of Health Services	14	Rateable Value	7
Invalid Children's Aid Asso- ciation	73	Redevelopment and Clearance Areas	29
Laboratory Facilities	15	Rehabilitation	93
Laundry Service for the Incontinent	54	Rehousing on Medical Grounds	31
Malaria	46	Relaxation Classes	62
Maternal Mortality	10, 11, 13	Rent and Mortgage Restric- tion Acts	30
Maternity Homes	20	Rodent Control	40
Maternity Outfits	80	Sanitary Inspection	20
Meals on Wheels Service	53	Scabies Treatment	16
Measles	8	Sickroom Equipment	94
Meat Inspection	35	Smallpox	47
Medical Aid	79	Smoke Abatement	23
Medical Examinations	55	Social Conditions	7
Medicaments	75	Staff	14, 58
Meningococcal Infection	46	Statistics	7
Midwifery	78	Still births	7, 10, 13
Milk Inspection	32	Sunlight Treatment	70
Milk Special Designations Order	33	Swimming Baths	24
Milk Supply	32	Total Infant Mortality	12
Moral Welfare	67	Tonsils and Adenoids	71
Morbidity	52	Training of Nursery Nurses	77
National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 47	17	Training of Pupil Midwives	80
Neo-Natal Mortality	10, 13, 63	Tuberculosis	49, 90
Notices, Sanitary	21	Vaccination	85
Notification of Births	63	Virus Infections During Pregnancy	62
Nursery Nursing Certificate	77	Vital Statistics	7, 62
Nurseries & Child Minders (Reg.) Acts, 1948	77	Walthamstow Association of Tuberculosis Care Helpers	91
Nutrients	75	Walthamstow Child Welfare Society	68
Old People's Welfare	16, 52	Water	20
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	46	Welfare Services	99
Ophthalmic Treatment	72	Welfare Foods	75
Orthopaedic Treatment	69	Whooping Cough Immunisa- tion	89
Outworkers	43	Women's Clinic	78
Pædiatric Clinic	72		
Poliomyelitis	46		

HEALTH COMMITTEE

1954-55

Chairman :

ALDERMAN THE LADY McENTEE, J.P.

Vice-Chairman :

ALDERMAN E. C. REDHEAD, J.P.

Ex-officio :

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR—COUNCILLOR MRS. S. CANDY, J.P.

THE DEPUTY MAYOR—ALDERMAN T. W. SMITH.

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

ALDERMAN MRS. L. P. BAILEY, J.P.

„ A. E. MANNING.

„ W. H. SHAW.

COUNCILLORS :

C. J. CROSBIE.

L. JONES.

MRS. M. E. MARCHANT.

J. E. NICHOLLS.

MRS. W. M. PALETHORPE.

COUNCILLORS :

J. W. PRINGLE.

W. F. SAVILL.

MRS. C. E. STANNARD.

A. F. WHICHER.

J. M. WIGHT.

Town Clerk :

G. A. BLAKELEY, ESQ.

*Medical Officer of Health, Borough School Medical Officer and
Area Medical Officer :*

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

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

M. WATKINS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

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

W. R. RICHARDS, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

MY LADY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

The following pages contain a report of the work of the Health Services in the Borough during 1954 and include, by courtesy of the County Medical Officer, an account of the personal Health Services administered by the Walthamstow Health Area Sub-Committee of the County Council.

Vital Statistics are again good and although the birth rate remains steady, the death rate fell as did infant mortality, still birth and the neo natal death rates.

Although the death rate fell, the table which gives the causes of death reveals that cancer deaths increased by 45 to 252 in 1954, deaths from heart and circulatory diseases remain steady, but deaths from influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis fell from 235 in 1953 to 132 in 1954. Deaths from peptic ulcer increased from 14 in 1953 to 25 in 1954, and there were 28 deaths in all due to accidents including 7 in the home.

The care of the aged and chronic sick required an increasing amount of time and the additional facilities still needed are enumerated. One of the new facilities provided was the laundry service for the incontinent.

In regard to housing, further representations were made in regard to 151 dwellings. The Council acquired many dwellings from private ownership and carried out substantial improvements to bring these dwellings up to modern standards.

As in previous years the Sanitary Inspectorate worked efficiently and well under the Chief Sanitary Inspector. A great deal of detailed work was necessary in regard to the clearance areas which were represented, and additional work ensued from the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. An innovation was the sampling of cooked meats.

In the field of infectious diseases, there was again no diphtheria, and fortunately, but surprisingly, no poliomyelitis. Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis showed a dramatic fall, which is clearly shown in the text of the report.

The personal Health Services are now the responsibility of the County Council and are administered locally by the Walthamstow Health Area Sub-Committee. The following refer to certain aspects of these services :—

The Dental Workshop undertook a considerable amount of work for the General Dental Service, the Leyton and Walthamstow Committees for Education and the Regional Hospital Board.

With regard to maternal and child welfare, there were increased attendances for post-natal examinations, and relaxation classes and toddler clinics were started. Neo natal and infant mortality were again reduced ; attendances at the Child Welfare Centres remained steady at over 30,000, and the special clinic for Child Guidance for children of pre-school years continued its preventive work. The distribution of welfare foods was taken over from the Ministry of Food in July. The domiciliary midwifery service attained nearly 90% of gas and air administration.

A meeting was arranged between family doctors practising in the Borough and the staff of the Health Department, especially the Health Visitors in order to try and increase co-operation. Progress, however, is slow.

The Home Nursing Service attained a total of over 64,000 visits. Extensive additions and alterations were made to the District Nurses' Home, which will now be adequate for many years to come.

There is still neglect of primary vaccination and reasons are given stressing the importance of primary vaccination in early infancy. Sufficient time has now elapsed to prove the efficacy of immunisation against whooping cough and parents are now apt to neglect diphtheria immunisation in favour of the former.

In the fight against tuberculosis B.C.G. vaccination for school leavers was a notable advance.

Arrangements were made to assist in the training of student nurses taking general nursing training, and finally, the Domestic Help and Chiropody Services continued under increasing pressure and strain.

Once again I have to record the good work of the staff of the whole of the Department and the consideration of the Committees concerned, and in particular of their Chairman, Alderman The Lady McEntee, J.P.

Full co-operation has also been experienced from other departments in the Town Hall, from the Chest Clinic staff and from the family doctors in the town.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. T. W. POWELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

A.—STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	4,343
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate, mid-year 1954)	119,000
Number of Assessments (31st December, 1954)	37,308
Rateable Value (31st December, 1954)	£916,554
Sum represented by penny rate	£3,700

Population.—The Registrar-General's Estimate of the home population at mid-year, 1954, is 119,000, a decrease of 400 on the previous year.

Employment.—According to information kindly supplied by Mr. Percy C. Graham, Manager of the local Employment Exchange, approximately 550 men and 250 women were placed in employment every month during the year 1954 through the placing machinery of the Employment 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 and Wanstead and Woodford, was approximately 82,000. Of this number, it is estimated that about 40,000 were employed in Walthamstow. During 1954, the average number of persons unemployed in the whole area was 690 men and 200 women, including 95 disabled men and 15 disabled women.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.—The Registrar-General's mid-year 1954 estimate of the home population (viz., 119,000) has been used for the calculation of all vital statistics.

		Total	Males	Females	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated home population
Live Births	Legitimate	1,424	733	691	
	Illegitimate	50	25	25	
	Total	1,474	758	716	12.3

Stillbirths	21	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still)			
		births .....	.....	.....	14.0

Deaths	1,141	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated			
		home population .....	.....	.....	9.5

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

Puerperal Sepsis Deaths	1
Other Puerperal Causes	

Death rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	.....	.....	.....	22.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.....	.....	.....	21.7
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.....	.....	.....	40.0
Deaths from measles (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	—
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	—
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age)	.....	.....	.....	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis death rate	.....	.....	.....	0.08
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis death rate	.....	.....	.....	0.008

The natural increase of population, i.e., excess of births over deaths was 333.

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

The total number of deaths in 1954 (1,141), compares with 1,183 in 1953, the respective death rates being 9.5 and 9.9 per 1,000 population.

Comparability Factor.—To make an approximate allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole, the crude birth and death rates for the areas should be multiplied by the appropriate area comparability factor. When local crude birth and death rates have been so adjusted, they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales or with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

The comparability factors for Walthamstow are given by the Registrar-General as follows :—

Comparability factor for births	.....	.....	0.98
Comparability factor for deaths	.....	.....	1.02

The above factors, when applied to the crude rates, produce the following adjusted rates :—

Live births	.....	.....	.....	.....	12.0
Deaths	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.6

**Causes of Death as given by the Registrar-General
for the year 1954
Whole District**

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total	1953
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	6	4	10	22
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	—	1	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	2	4	6	4
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1
8. Measles	—	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	1	2	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	29	19	48	38
11. Malignant neoplasm, Lung, bronchus	49	9	58	49
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	26	26	14
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	5	5	10
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	61	54	115	96
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	3	6	9	4
16. Diabetes	2	4	6	5
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	57	80	137	126
18. Coronary disease, angina	100	58	158	174
19. Hypertension with heart disease	5	10	15	10
20. Other heart disease	58	107	165	169
21. Other circulatory disease	20	33	53	48
22. Influenza	2	3	5	21
23. Pneumonia	32	22	54	81
24. Bronchitis	38	22	60	114
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	8	5	13	19
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	21	4	25	14
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	3	4	7	4
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	2	5	11
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	15	—	15	8
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1	2
31. Congenital malformations	5	3	8	16
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	40	55	95	95
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	5	9	4
34. All other accidents	5	9	14	11
35. Suicide	10	5	15	11
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	1	1	—
Totals, 1954	580	561	1,141	—
Totals, 1953	649	534	—	1,183

The age distribution of Cancer deaths was as follows :—

Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yrs. & over
—	—	—	—	1	13	108	139

Deaths from Accidents in the Home

Seven deaths took place in 1954 following accidents in the home. Four of the deaths were in hospital and three at home. All were in elderly persons ranging from 75 to 96 years of age, except for one, a baby of seven months who was accidentally suffocated. Of the six elderly adults, five deaths followed from falls and one from burns.

INFANT DEATHS, NEO-NATAL MORTALITY AND STILLBIRTHS

Year.	Live Births.	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population.	Stillbirths.			Neo-Natal Deaths.		Infant Deaths.	
			No.	Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.	Per 1,000 population.	No.	Per 1,000 live births.	No.	Per 1,000 live births.
1954 ..	1,474	12.3	21	14.0	0.17	25	16.9	33	22.3
1953 ..	1,454	12.2	38	25.5	0.32	27	18.6	41	28.2
1952 ..	1,512	12.6	29	18.8	0.24	23	15.2	37	24.5
1951 ..	1,637	13.5	38	22.7	0.31	23	14.0	37	22.6
1950 ..	1,598	13.0	37	22.6	0.30	33	20.6	42	26.2

The average mean annual infant mortality rate for the quinquennium 1931/35 was 49, and for the quinquennium 1946/50 it was 27. During the four years 1951/54 it fell to 24.3, i.e., less than half the rate for 1931/35.

The death rate for diarrhoea and enteritis in children under one year of age per 1,000 live births was 0.6.

The table showing the classification of infant deaths is given in the section of the report dealing with the care of mothers and young children (Section 22).

MATERNAL MORTALITY

During 1954 one death was classified as being due to pregnancy, childbearing or associated therewith. The details are included in the following table :—

Date of Death	Certified Cause of Death	Age
15.11.1954	Pulmonary embolism due to pelvic phlebotrombosis during labour.	29

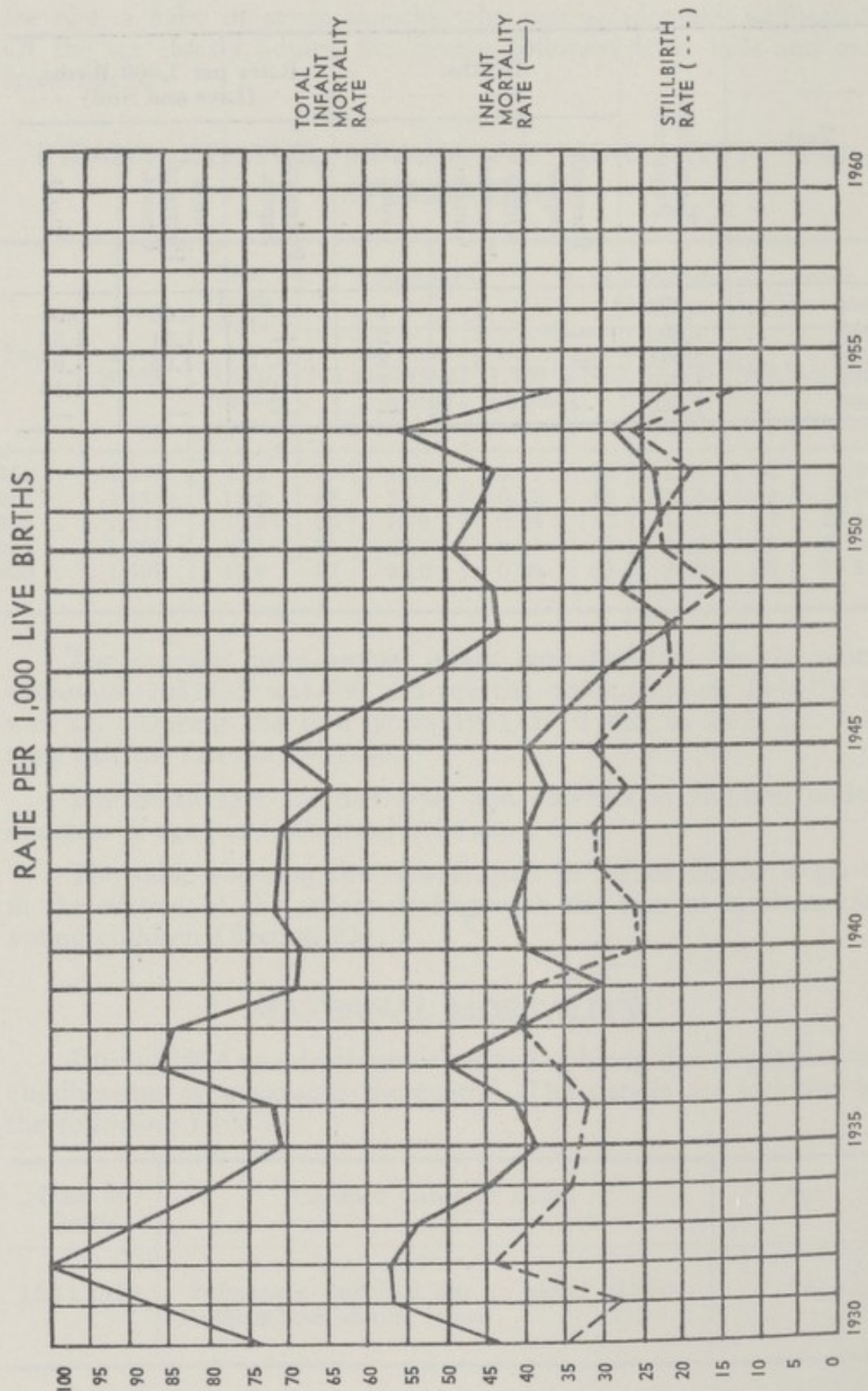
The maternal mortality rates (per 1,000 total births) for the past five years have been given as follows :—

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.
1954 ..	1,495	—	1	1	—	0.66	0.66
1953 ..	1,492	—	2	2	—	1.34	1.34
1952 ..	1,541	—	3	3	—	1.95	1.95
1951 ..	1,675	—	—	2	1.19	—	1.19
1950 ..	1,635	—	—	—	—	—	—

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 :—



MATERNAL MORTALITY, STILLBIRTHS & NEO-NATAL DEATHS

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

Rate (per 1,000 live births).	1954.	1953.	1952.	1951.	1950.
Maternal Mortality	0.67	1.37	1.98	1.22	—
Stillbirths	14.2	26.1	19.2	23.2	23.1
Neo-Natal Mortality ...	16.9	18.6	15.2	14.0	20.6

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS

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

(a) Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Legitimate	733	691	1,424
Illegitimate	25	25	50
	758	716	1,474

The stillbirth rate per 1,000 population was 0.17.

Of the 1,548 local registrations, 443 belonging to other areas are excluded, leaving a net total of 1,105. There were no non-notified births during 1954.

	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	69	67	64	52	99	84	89	73	125	130	123	130	567	538
Grand Totals ..	136		116		183		162		255		253		1,105	

B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority

The names and qualifications of the Senior Public Health officers employed by the Authority are given at the beginning of the Report.

The following changes in the officers employed by the Authority took place during the year :—

APPOINTMENTS :

- R. A. Begley, Sanitary Inspector—1.3.54.
- F. G. Parker, Clerical Staff (temporary)—26.7.54.
- E. W. Searle, Driver/Disinfector—30.7.54.
- A. J. Goffin, Sanitary Inspector—31.8.54.

RESIGNATIONS :

- H. F. Lewiston, Driver/Disinfector—3.7.54.

2. Integration of Health Services.

This matter was referred to in the Report for 1953 and the various arrangements then referred to continued during 1954.

Circular letters were addressed to General Practitioners on seven occasions and referred to fifteen items, the subject matter being as follows :—

- Bacillary Dysentery at Forest Road Junior Mixed School and suggested action ;
- B.C.G. Vaccination of Schoolchildren and co-operation of family doctors ;
- Laundry Service for the Incontinent, details of new service ;
- Annual Reports, availability of copies to family doctors ;
- Food poisoning, bacteriological diagnosis by faecal and rectal specimens ;
- Health Visitors, liaison with family doctors ;
- Deputy Medical Officer of Health, private telephone number ;
- Penicillin Reactions, advice to Home Nurses ;
- District Nurses' Home, temporary change of address and new telephone number ;
- The General Practitioner and the Health Visitor, invitation to meeting at the Town Hall ;
- Rheumatoid Arthritis, availability of handbook issued by the Empire Rheumatism Council ;

Notification and Isolation of Scarlet Fever ; details of outbreak at Sidney Burnell Infants' School ; reference to high infectivity and streptococcal carriers, criteria for home nursing and school exclusion ;

Night Attendance upon the Sick, new facilities ;

Duty arrangements, Medical Officer of Health and Deputy Medical Officer of Health, availability outside office hours ;

District Nurses' Home, transfer to Carisbrooke Road and previous telephone number.

Three members of the Borough Council served on the Group Hospital Management Committee and in addition the Medical Officer of Health served as a member of the Group Medical Advisory Committee and one of its representatives on the Hospital Management Committee.

During the year the Chairman of the Hospital Management Committee arranged for a questionnaire to be sent to all General Practitioners in the area served by the Group Hospitals and later convened a meeting of Consultants, General Practitioners and Medical Officers of Health to discuss liaison between the Hospital and General Practitioner Services.

3. Laboratory Facilities.

Laboratory investigations are done at the Public Health Laboratory, at St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping. There is a morning collection Mondays to Fridays, with a special collection on Saturdays on request. Specimens are taken by van to the Laboratory at Epping. There is a collecting box at the Town Hall for specimens from family doctors.

Dr. Frank Marsh, Pathologist in charge of the Laboratory at Epping, has kindly supplied the following information in regard to work done for Walthamstow :—

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Fæces and rectal swabs	3	92	137	84	86	23	6	5	15	6	11	2	470
Widal agglutinations	—	—	5	4	1	4	6	4	16	11	6	13	70
Rhesus, Group and Kahn	5	17	8	10	16	17	14	20	13	18	10	7	155
Urine	—	6	4	3	2	—	3	1	3	2	—	—	24
Nose and throat swabs	2	4	7	9	7	1	9	2	2	216	54	16	329
Hæmoglobin estimation	6	12	4	8	2	7	2	6	5	3	—	2	57
Food	—	5	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	7
Totals	16	136	165	118	114	53	40	38	54	256	81	41	1,112

4. Ambulance Facilities.

These are available from a local depot in Walthamstow which is administered centrally from Chelmsford, via the Control Centre at Ilford.

5. Treatment of Scabies and Verminous Conditions.

The arrangement, detailed in last year's report, with the Hackney Borough Council continued, and eight cases were referred there during 1954 receiving fourteen treatments at a total cost of £5 5s. 0d.

6. Hospital Accommodation.

(a) ACUTE CASES.—There were no major changes in 1954 in regard to the hospital accommodation available for the inhabitants of the Borough.

(b) CHRONIC CASES.—Regional Hospital Boards have asked that Medical Officers of Health shall support when necessary on "social grounds," the recommendations of medical practitioners for the admission of the chronic sick to hospital. All possible help was given when requested, and only three outstanding cases remained at the end of the year.

The following table shows the position in regard to hospital admissions considered and supported on "social" grounds.

No. of cases at end of 1953 awaiting Hospital admission	3
No. of new cases considered during 1954 for Hospital Admission	37
No. of admissions to Hospital	22
No. of cases who died before admission	5
No. of cases cancelled or deferred	10
No. of cases outstanding at end of 1954	3

It is a pleasure again to record the unfailing help and consideration experienced from Dr. DeLargy at Langthorne Hospital.

(c) MATERNITY.—The effect of the transfer of Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital to the Regional Hospital Board has, somewhat naturally, been to restrict the admission of Walthamstow patients who were expected to have a normal confinement other than the first and in favour of patients from other parts of the Hospital Group, and presumably requiring admission on obstetric and/or "social" grounds. At the same time it must be stated that no patient booking late and requiring hospital accommodation either on obstetric and/or "social" grounds has been refused admission to some other maternity hospital by arrangement made at Thorpe Coombe.

The percentage of Walthamstow residents admitted to Thorpe Coombe prior to the appointed day was of the order of 98—99. In 1949 it fell to 88.4, in 1950 to 77, in 1951 to 64.1. In 1952 it rose to 75; in 1953 it dropped again to 72%. During 1954 Walthamstow admissions were 60.8%.

(d) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Patients from Walthamstow are mainly admitted to St. Ann's Hospital, Tottenham. No difficulties have been noted.

7. Aged and Chronic Sick.

National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47).

Eight cases were under supervision during 1954 in regard to possible action under this section and the first three of those mentioned below were brought forward from 1953, i.e. :—

Case 1 (M).—Female, aged 84 years (Case 4/1953). This patient was visited on several occasions by the Medical, Health Visiting and Sanitary Staffs. Conditions remained reasonably tolerable throughout 1954.

Case 2 (C).—Male, aged 83 years (Case 5/1953). This patient was persuaded to enter hospital voluntarily in November, 1953 and was discharged after about three weeks' treatment. At the end of January, 1954, the family doctor reported that he was in a shocking condition and that he refused hospital admission. The patient was visited several times in order to try to persuade him to enter hospital voluntarily: this was consistently refused. The family doctor declined to accept part responsibility for a forcible removal in the event of a Compulsory Order being obtained and domestic help was, therefore, continued. Death occurred in hospital in August, admission being 'voluntary'.

Case 3 (Q).—Male, aged 77 years and the owner-occupier of a modern house. He was first reported by the Home Nurse in December, 1953. The patient was apt to turn on taps and to pile fuel on the fire. The family doctor had unsuccessfully tried to persuade him to enter an institution through the Social Welfare Officer. Domestic help was arranged and was continued since the Psychiatrist would not certify the patient as suitable to enter a mental hospital. The patient was cared for by a single daughter whose doctor stated she was in danger of a nervous breakdown and she threatened to leave the home, in which case the patient would be living alone. He was visited but refused to enter hospital or an institution. Later the Police were called in to an imaginary burglary. The patient was then seen and certified by the Psychiatrist and removed to a mental hospital.

Case 4 (B).—Male, aged 76 years. A letter was received from the son complaining of the father's condition and habits. The family doctor stated that he was suffering from osteo-arthritis and carditis. Hospital admission was advised but refused. On visiting the patient he was found dirty in person and clothing, and had no fire even in mid-winter. He was previously the tenant of the house but had passed the tenancy to the son who provided food only. The daughter-in-law had five young children and was expecting another and was at variance with her father-in-law. Domestic help was refused by the patient. The services of a male Home Nurse were provided, together with bed linen and night clothing through the National Assistance Board. The son later requested a Compulsory Removal Order, and the wishes of the other children were then ascertained. Subsequently a visit was paid together with the Area Welfare Officer and an application for a Compulsory Removal Order was threatened. Arrangements were made for inclusion in the incontinent laundry service, and domestic help was also commenced.

At a later visit in April, some improvement was noticed and it was thought better to defer application to the Court for compulsory removal. No further difficulty arose during the remainder of 1954. Home Nursing, Domestic Help and laundry facilities continued.

Case 5 (M).—Male, aged 80 years. The husband and wife were living in squalor in a small room behind an unused shop. Both declined hospital admission but the wife's condition worsened so much that she finally agreed to enter hospital and died shortly afterwards. The husband remained at home and was provided with domestic help and home nursing, but refused hospital admission throughout 1954.

Case 6 (H).—Female, aged 75 years. Reported by Old People's Welfare Committee since the voluntary helpers of the 'Meals on Wheels' service had refused to deliver meals owing to living conditions. Domestic help had continued for some time, but reported the bedding to be very dirty. Patient lived in one room on the first floor of a house where all four rooms were let off to elderly persons. Alternative arrangements were made to provide 'Meals on Wheels' and visits were paid from time to time by the staff of the Health Department. The patient continued to refuse admission to an institution. She insisted on locking herself in her bedroom and owing to her shuffling gait, there was considerable risk of fire. Authority was obtained in July for application for a Compulsory Removal Order, but application to the Court was deferred pending further persuasion. A visit was paid by the Consultant Geriatrician who considered patient a Part III case and that chiropody was needed. Domiciliary

chiropody was provided after a great deal of trouble, together with laundry facilities. Domestic help continued, and at last the patient agreed to enter hospital in December.

Case 7 (G).—Male, aged 79 years. This case first came to the attention of the Health Department in 1950 because the son, aged 49 years was both mentally sub-normal and epileptic. The wife and mother had recently died, and the premises generally were reported to be in a dirty condition, but this was not confirmed on inspection. Supervision continued and by 1952 the Domestic Help had refused to continue. In June, 1954 the Chief Sanitary Inspector suggested the need for compulsory removal. This was confirmed on visiting, but in view of certain local circumstances, it was not considered advisable to apply to the Court until 1955.

Case 8 (M).—Female, aged 88 years. Attention was called to this case by the family doctor in September when the doctor was called by the Home Nurse because of the patient falling about and would not let the nurse wash her. The patient was reported to be filthy and unmanageable, and the house was dirty. The patient lived with a brother, aged 84 years, who still went out to work. She refused admission to hospital, but after a visit by the District Sanitary Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health, the patient agreed to enter hospital voluntarily where she died soon after admission.

The summaries given above are taken from the appropriate files, but it is hard to convey a measure of the anxiety, time and trouble involved in dealing with these cases by all concerned, i.e., the medical, nursing and sanitary staff of the Health Department, the hospital and welfare authorities and the Old People's Welfare Committee. Not the least distressing is the decision to apply for a Compulsory Removal Order, and so long as these persons are not held to be a danger or nuisance to themselves and other people, it is felt an Order should not be sought. Obviously, there is a considerable risk in postponing a decision indefinitely. Authority for application to the Court was obtained in two cases, but the applications were not in fact exercised and both patients entered hospitals voluntarily.

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

The Medical Officer of Health is authorised by the Council to make application for the necessary orders in cases to which the Act applies.

8. 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	1	4	—	4

There were no refusals or appeals.

At the end of 1953 there were two registered nursing homes in the Borough. Owing to staffing difficulties it was found necessary to close one of the homes in June 1954.

During the year two inspections of each home were made by the medical staff. No difficulties in regard to supervision arose.

Routine enquiries are made with regard to unregistered homes.

9. Essex County Council, Act, 1933 (Establishments for massage and special treatment).

During the year the medical staff paid 12 visits to the establishments registered for massage and special treatment.

One new licence was granted under the Act during 1954.

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 actual or suspected cases of enteric fever. The Board then arranged special tests at the addresses concerned. All were negative in 1954. All dwelling houses in the area are supplied direct with piped water.

The information included in the report for 1951 in respect of Ministry of Health Circular 42/51 also applied to 1954.

Re-organisation of filing and sanitary records.

A new filing system in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's office has been installed, and all records of every property in the Borough have been brought together in separate files relating to each property.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Mr. W. Richards, Chief Sanitary Inspector, reports as follows :

No. of inspections made.	No. of nuisances detected.	No. of complaints received.	No. of Intimation Notices		No. of Statutory Notices.		Total Visits.
			Served.	Complied with.	Served.	Complied with.	
11,815	5,785	1,995	1,551	1,3 2*	195	176*	18,522

* Includes notices outstanding from previous year.

Of the 1,551 intimation notices served, 456 were in respect of business premises and the remainder (1,095) related to defects in private houses. Of the latter figure, 908 were complied with without resort to statutory procedure.

It was found necessary to institute legal proceedings against owners for non-compliance with eleven Abatement Notices served under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Orders were made by the Justices in two cases—in one instance costs of £2 2s. 0d. being awarded. In three cases the summonses were withdrawn, the work having been undertaken before the date of Hearing, and six cases were adjourned sine die.

The following table shows the nature of work executed and improvements effected during the year :—

Drains tested, 316 ; Drains reconstructed or repaired, 312 ; Drains, obstructions removed, 128 ; Drains, means of access provided, 36 ; Drains, ventilation provided or improved, 27 ; Soil pipes repaired or renewed, 73 ; Rain water pipes repaired or renewed, 112 ; Roofs repaired or renewed, 349 ; Gutterings repaired or renewed, 220 ; W.C. pans and traps provided, 270 ; Gully traps provided, 59 ; W.C's. repaired or cleansed, 240 ; W.C's. light and ventilation improved, 38 ; Waste pipes repaired or renewed, 115 ; New sinks provided, 57 ; Stoves and firegrates repaired or renewed, 166 ; Water supply reinstated, 9 ; Yard and forecourt pavings repaired, 62 ; Dirty houses cleansed, 10 ; Dirty rooms cleansed, 193 ; Floors repaired, 229 ; Ventilation under floors provided or improved, 58 ; Dampness remedied, 395 ; Offensive accumulations removed, 9 ; Animals improperly kept, removed, 1 ; Manholes repaired or re-sealed, 82 ; Miscellaneous repairs, 1,267.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Visits to premises, 564.

DISINFECTIONS.

Rooms disinfected, 54 ; Articles disinfected, 694 ; Articles destroyed, 72 ; Wasps nests destroyed, 22.

SPECIAL PREMISES.

	Number	Visits paid
Factories (a) Non-power	61	124
(b) Power	474	675
(c) Other premises	38	48
Outworkers	379	550
Butchers	84	357
Bakehouses	43	167
Fishmongers, Fryers and Curers	44	125
Cafes and Caterers	112	519
Grocers and Greengrocers	365	695
Ice Cream Manufacturers and Vendors	321	375
Dairies and Milksellers	152	222
Laundries	3	9
Hairdressers	74	57
Rag and Bone Dealers	4	25
Piggeries	1	3
Street Stalls	Numerous	436
Stables	21	35
Schools	—	72
Conveniences	—	33

As a result of the regular periodical visiting of the above premises the following works were carried out :—

BUTCHERS.

Cleansings, 46 ; Pavings repaired, 12 ; Accumulations removed, 6 ; New bins supplied, 19 ; W.C's. repaired and cleansed, 10 ; Light and ventilation improved, 3 ; Other improvements, 52.

BAKEHOUSES.

Cleansings, 39 ; New ceilings fixed, 2 ; Floors repaired, 5 ; Light and ventilation improved, 1 ; Other improvements, 19.

FISHMONGERS.

Cleansings, 20 ; Drains cleared, 3 ; Yards repaved, 1 ; Accumulations removed, 3 ; Other improvements, 14.

CAFES AND CATERERS.

Cleansings, 61 ; Light and ventilation improved, 7 ; Floors repaired, 10 ; Other improvements, 83.

GROCERS AND GREENGROCERS.

Stores cleansed, 45 ; Washing accommodation improved, 20 ; Other improvements, 34.

ICE CREAM MANUFACTURERS AND VENDORS.

Cleansings, 16 ; Paving repaired, 1 ; Other improvements, 10.

DAIRIES AND MILKSHOPS.

Cleansings, 10 ; Other improvements, 10.

LAUNDRIES.

Cleansings, 1.

HAIRDRESSERS.

Cleansings, 6 ; Other improvements, 7.

RAG AND BONE DEALERS.

Cleansings, 5 ; Paving repaired, 3 ; Accumulations removed, 1.

STREET TRADERS.

Stalls improved, 19 ; Store-rooms improved, 2.

STABLE PREMISES.

Cleansings, 13 ; Accumulations removed, 7 ; Roofs repaired, 2 ; Manure receptacles provided, 1 ; Other improvements, 8.

PUBLIC HOUSES.

Cleansings, 5 ; Hot water supply improved, 1.

Caravans.

There are no authorised sites in the Borough.

Very little trouble was experienced during the year with unauthorised campers in Folly Lane. They were removed almost immediately.

Smoke Abatement.

The final report of the Beaver Committee on Air pollution was issued in November. This report is under consideration by Parlia-

ment and it is anticipated that new legislation will be made next year, giving additional powers to local authorities.

Complaints of smoke nuisance were received and investigations carried out in respect of 57 business premises.

Verminous Premises.

The number of houses reported to be verminous still remains comparatively small.

One hundred and thirty-four rooms were disinfested and insecticides were issued free of charge to tenants of 83 premises.

No notifications were received during the year under the Hydrogen Cyanide (Fumigation of Buildings) Regulations, 1938.

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, the Baths were open on 294 days. Number of Swimming Bath bathers during this period was 124,257.

“Maximum load was on September 7th, when we had 819 bathers.

During this period we also had 123,285 Slipper Bath bathers.”

Sampling was carried out on three occasions, with satisfactory results.

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

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

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

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

(d) FOREST SCHOOL.—This is a small swimming bath with a capacity of approximately 65,000 gallons. Sampling was carried out with satisfactory results.

(e) WOODFORD COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL.—Sampling was carried out with satisfactory results.

(f) KINGFISHER POOL.—The Secretary kindly gives the following particulars:—

“A most disappointing season with very low attendances particularly at week-ends, due to very bad weather.

At no time was the pool full to capacity and it was unnecessary to run the plant all night at any time in the season.

Total attendances were down in the neighbourhood of 12,000 the corollary of which meant no ‘headaches’ in keeping the pool in perfect condition throughout the summer.”

Bacteriological and chemical analyses were carried out on one occasion with satisfactory results.

One sample of river water from the Lea was taken for examination and found to be satisfactory.

D.—HOUSING Statistics

The Borough Architect, Engineer and Surveyor, F. G. Southgate, Esq., A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., has kindly contributed the following:—

Houses erected by the Local Authority. 1954.

Hoe Street Ward	.....	.....	6 Flats	
St. James Street Ward	.....	.....	—	
Higham Hill Ward	.....	.....	13 Flats	
High Street Ward	.....	.....	12 Flats	2 Houses
Hale End Ward	.....	.....	14 Flats	22 Houses
Wood Street Ward	.....	.....	6 Flats	4 Houses
TOTAL	.....	.....	51 Flats	28 Houses

Houses erected by Private Enterprise. 1954.

Hoe Street Ward	.....	.....	—	8 Houses
St. James Street Ward	.....	.....	—	—
Higham Hill Ward	.....	.....	—	1 House
High Street Ward	.....	.....	43 Flats	—
Hale End Ward	.....	.....	—	13 Houses
Wood Street Ward	.....	.....	4 Flats	10 Houses
TOTAL	.....	.....	47 Flats	32 Houses

Note:—All were permanent houses and flats.

Houses erected during 1954

During the calendar year, 28 houses and 51 flats were erected.

32 houses and 47 flats were erected by private enterprise.

Schemes completed by the Council during the year include :—

21 Houses		Falmouth Avenue/Gordon Avenue.
12 Flats	}	Northcott House, Palmerston Road.
2 Houses		
4 Flats		Billet Road.
4 Flats		Hoe Street.
1 Bungalow	}	Chingford Lane.
8 Flats		
2 Houses		Maynard Road.
9 Flats		Millfield Avenue.
2 Houses		Vallentin Road.
6 Flats		First Avenue.

A number of properties are under construction on various sites throughout the Borough, including schemes of 60 flats and 36 flats in the First and Second Stages of The Drive and Prospect Hill redevelopment area.

In addition to the main building programme, the Council have been carrying out improvements and conversions to existing properties. Schemes included are as follows :—

Brookcroft Road	.....	10 flats—improvement.
Beaconsfield Road	.....	4 houses—improvement.
Byron Road	.....	6 houses—improvement.
Wimera Lodge, Salisbury Road	.....	Conversion into four self-contained flats.
Howard Road	.....	Conversion of house into flats.
Eldon Road	.....	2 houses—repairs and improvements
Shakespeare Road	.....	1 house—improvements.

Inspection

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

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

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	.....	1,900
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose		5,143

(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	94
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	76
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	11
(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	1,095

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	908
---	-----

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	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(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	185
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	*161
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	*8

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	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling houses where Demolition Orders withdrawn (houses made fit)	Nil

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

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

* Including those outstanding from previous year.

Housing Act, 1936

UNFIT HOUSES

The following premises were dealt with as follows:—

Demolition Orders:

29-30 Back Road.

39-45 Cambridge Road

2-4 Wraggs Cottages, Handsworth Avenue.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government (Form P.13 (HSG)/53)—Return for the year 1954.

Part B.—Houses not included in Clearance Areas.

Demolition and Closing Orders.

(1) Housing Act, 1936	Number of houses	Number of persons displaced
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	—	—
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force	—	—
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	—	—

(2) Housing Act, 1949			
(a) Closing Orders made under Section 3(1)	.....	.....	—
(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3(2)	.....	.....	—
(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953			
Closing Orders made under Section 10(1)	.....	.....	—
(4) Repairs			
Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts			908
(5) Public Health Acts			
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—			
(a) By owners	.....	.....	*161
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	.....	.....	*8
(6) Housing Act, 1936			
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices—			
(a) By owners	.....	.....	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	.....	.....	—
* Includes brought forward from preceding year.			

Clearance Areas

The survey of dwelling houses in Frederick Street, Grange Road and Lynmouth Road was completed in January. As a result of this survey, the Council considered an official representation in respect of this area in February involving a total of 119 houses.

The Council decided to make a Clearance Area in respect of these houses and details of the Order were forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for confirmation. As objections were lodged by some of the owners of the properties, the Ministry decided to hold a Public Inquiry into the scheme. This Inquiry had not been held by the end of the year.

The Census of the dwellings carried out immediately prior to the consideration of the representations by the Health Committee showed that there were (under the standard of the Housing Act, 1936) 466 equivalent adult units occupying accommodation with a Permitted Number of 847 units. In other words there was under-occupation to the extent of 381 units or 45%.

A further survey involving 32 houses in Chingford Lane, Payzes Cottages, Mill Lane, The Square and Fareys Row was carried out in the early part of the year. An official representation was considered by the Council in April in respect of these dwelling houses.

The Council decided to make two Clearance Areas in respect of these properties as follows :—

1. Walthamstow (Chingford Lane and Payzes Cottages) Clearance Area 1954 (comprising 17 dwellings).
2. Walthamstow (Mill Lane, The Square and Fareys Row) Clearance Area 1954 (comprising 15 dwellings).

Details of the Orders were forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for confirmation.

The Census of the dwellings again showed under-occupation as follows :—

1. Walthamstow (Chingford Lane and Payzes Cottages) Clearance Area 1954—42½ units occupying ; under-occupation 56%.
2. Walthamstow (Mill Lane, The Square and Fareys Row) Clearance Area 1954—45 units occupying ; under occupation 57%.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

The above Act came into operation in September repealing certain provisions in the Rent and Mortgage Restriction Acts.

Up to the end of the year, the following action was taken under this new Act :—

Certificates of Disrepair issued	.....	.....	.....	.....	93
" " " refused	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Certificates of Revocation issued	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
" " " refused	.....	.....	.....	.....	—

This Act empowered the Landlords of dwelling houses to increase rents, provided the property was in good repair. The above Certificates of Disrepair were issued where a Landlord had proposed a rent increase and the premises were found not to be in good repair. When the Landlord had carried out the works specified on these certificates, a Certificate of Revocation was issued, thus allowing an increase of rent.

In order to speed up the procedure under this Act the Council delegated the necessary powers under Section 26 of the Act to the Health Committee, i.e., to grant, revoke, or refuse Certificates of Disrepair.

Rent and Mortgage Restriction Acts

One certificate was issued under the above Act and was later revoked on completion of the works required.

General

Mr. C. W. Rayner, the Council's Housing Manager, kindly gives the following details of rehousing carried out by his Department in 1954 :—

No. of new properties made available for letting	93
Acquired	4
Normal vacancies	71
Nominations to private landlords	23
Total	191

Families rehoused :—

1-bedroom group	32
2-bedroom group	77
3-bedroom group	74
4-bedroom group	8
Total	191

Of the total number of families rehoused, in 8 instances there was a medical recommendation made in respect of tuberculosis.

Rehousing of Medical Cases

During 1954, 63 cases claiming rehousing priority for tuberculosis were investigated and reported upon. Of these 21 cases were added to the list of cases.

The position at the end of 1954 was as follows :—

	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Total
On List at end of 1953	4	10	6	20
Added to list during 1954	8	4	9	21
	12	14	15	41
Rehoused or removed from List during 1954	4	4	3	11
On List at end of 1954	8	10	12	30

In addition to the tuberculosis cases, 58 other cases were recorded as needing special consideration on medical grounds, and 67 cases on general housing grounds.

In order to assess medical and rehousing claims enquiries were made from the Chest Clinic, Housing Department and various hospitals, from all of which the closest co-operation has been received. Duplication of enquiries was thus prevented.

Grateful acknowledgement must be made of the co-operation from the Housing Manager in regard to all recommendations made on medical grounds.

The Health Department in turn advises on all claims involving a medical aspect.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 62

Applications for "permitted number" were received from landlords and certificates issued during the year respecting 51 lettings.

Local Land Charges

Enquiries relating to outstanding sanitary notices were dealt with in 1,854 cases.

E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The following is contributed by the Chief Sanitary Inspector :—

(a) Milk Supply.

Designated Milk.

During the year 150 samples of milk were submitted to the Counties Laboratories for bacteriological examination, including Phosphatase, Methylene Blue and Turbidity tests.

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

The following table gives details of samples taken :—

Grade	No. of Samples	Results	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory (Methylene Blue Test)
Pasteurised	102	102	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	43	38	5
Tuberculin Tested (Farm bottled)	3	3	—
Lactachoc	2	2	—
Totals	150	145	5

Biological Test

Thirty-seven samples of raw milk, as delivered to Pasteurisers Depots in the Borough, were submitted to the Counties Laboratories for biological examination, on behalf of the Essex County Council. All were satisfactory except for four samples—two of which gave inconclusive results and two were positive.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED & STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 & 1950.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATION, 1949.

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

Dealers' Licences.

Pasteurised	.....	.....	48
Sterilised	.....	.....	130
Tuberculin Tested	.....	.....	17

Supplementary Licences.

Pasteurised	.....	.....	9
Sterilised	.....	.....	11
Tuberculin Tested	.....	.....	9

Licences (Plant).

Pasteurisers	.....	.....	2
Tuberculin Tested (Dealers)			2

There are no Cow-keepers in the district.

The number of Retail Milk Distributors is 152.

Two hundred and twenty-two visits were paid to registered premises and a satisfactory standard of cleanliness was maintained.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) (SPECIFIED AREAS) ORDER, 1951.

The above Order came into operation on the 1st October, 1951. All milk retailed within the Borough must be either Pasteurised or Sterilised.

(b) Ice Cream.

Thirty-seven applications for Registration were received and were dealt with as follows :—

Vendors, New	.....	.....	.....	.....	24
Vendors, Transfers	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Refused	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Number on Register at end of year	.....	.....	.....	.....	321
Number of premises used for manufacturing	.....	.....	.....	.....	9

ICE CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.)—REGULATIONS, 1947-51.

The trade has continued to co-operate and a good standard has been maintained.

FOOD STANDARDS (ICE CREAM) ORDER, 1951.

Three samples were taken and submitted to the Public Analysts who reported the following satisfactory results ;—

Fat content

8.76%

7.7 %

6.5 %

MEDICAL EXAMINATION—TYPHOID, ETC., CARRIERS.

The scheme of voluntary medical examination and blood testing of employees in the ice cream trade has now reached its eighth year.

Thirty-four persons had blood specimens taken.

No " Carriers " were found during the period under review.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF ICE CREAM.

Ninety-eight samples were submitted for examination and for grading in accordance with the provisional test of the Ministry of Health, with the following results :—

Grade I = 76

„ II = 19

„ III = 2

„ IV = 1

When an unsatisfactory sample is obtained the supplies are re-sampled as soon as possible.

In the case of ice cream manufactured other than within the district, copy reports are sent to the appropriate local authority.

Lollies (Various).

Twenty-eight samples were examined for bacterial purity, four of which were unsatisfactory.

(c) Meat and Other Foods

There are no slaughterhouses operating in the Borough.

The following is a summary of food surrendered and condemned as being unfit for human consumption. Where possible, the food was salvaged for animal feeding-stuffs, etc.

1439 tins	Evaporated Milk	623 lbs.	Apricot Pulp (tinned)
187 „	Full Cream Milk	60 „	Apples
143 „	Skimmed Milk	22 „	Grapes
32 „	Cream	$\frac{1}{2}$ case	Oranges
2 „	Baby Food	$\frac{1}{2}$ bag	Chestnuts
2 „	Strained Foods	40 tins	Sandwich Spread
21 lbs.	Dried Milk	21 „	Jam
2 tins	Coffee Beverage	4 „	Marmalade
1020 „	Peas	1 tin	Syrup
193 „	Beans	1 jar	Meat Paste
94 „	Tomatoes	9 tins	Pease Pudding
15 „	Carrots	2 lbs.	Christmas Pudding
8 „	Rhubarb	6 tins	Spaghetti
4 „	Spinach	1 tin	Macaroni Cheese
4 „	Vegetable Salad	5 tins	Butter Beans
10 lbs.	Tomato Puree (tinned)	$1\frac{1}{4}$ ozs.	Spice
1 boat	Tomatoes	35 botts.	Ketchup
560 lbs.	Potatoes	1 jar	Pickles
180 „	Cabbages	1 „	Salad Cream
345 tins	Plums	232 tins	Soup
103 „	Peaches	6 „	Irish Stew
102 „	Bilberries	2 „	Broth
101 „	Oranges	1 lb.	Meal
98 „	Pineapple	8 lbs.	Tapioca
97 „	Damsons	840 „	Prunes
78 „	Pears	25 „	Dried Peaches
71 „	Fruit Salad	12 doz.	Eggs
48 „	Apples & Cranberries	48 lbs.	Flour
44 „	Apricots	34 „	Icing Sugar
36 „	Cherries	$9\frac{3}{4}$ „	Sponge Mixture
32 „	Strawberries	$\frac{1}{2}$ „	Cut Peel
27 „	Blackberries	10 „	Coconut
22 „	Raspberries	$1\frac{1}{2}$ „	Grapenuts
20 „	Loganberries	1 pkt.	Jelly
16 „	Apples	53 lbs.	Cheese
15 „	Gooseberries	55 „	Biscuits
14 „	Grapefruit	4 pkts.	Wholemeal Biscuits
12 „	Greengages	1 lb.	Tea Cakes
11 „	Prunes	1	Blackcurrant Tart
10 „	Blackcurrants	1	Fruit Pie
10 „	Figs	105 lbs.	Coconut Ice
7 „	Grapefruit Juice	1 lb.	Chocolate
3 „	Pineapple Juice	186 tins	Crab
1 tin	Orange Juice	28 „	Pilchards

6 tins Silks	1 tin Tongue
5 „ Salmon	1 „ Kidneys
4 „ Brisling	1 „ Minced Meat Loaf
2 „ Sardines	1 „ Steak Pudding
1 tin Lobster	1 „ Steak and Kidney
1 „ Crayfish	1 „ Rabbit
1 „ Herrings	693 lbs. Corned Beef
1 „ Tuna Fish	372 „ Ham (tinned)
29 stone Whiting	96 „ Jellied Veal (tinned)
17½ „ Skate	84 „ Pork (tinned)
4½ „ Plaice	20 „ Lamb's Livers (tinned)
4¼ „ Roe	10 „ Brisket (tinned)
2 „ Kippers	2362 „ Beef
10 bags Mussels	1278 „ Bacon
226 tins Luncheon Meat	294 „ Ox Cheeks
67 „ Stewed Steak	260 „ Pork
29 „ Beef Loaf	91 „ Pigs' Hearts
15 „ Sausages	15 „ Sausages
13 „ Mutton	8 „ Pigs' Kidneys
6 „ Beef	4½ „ Liver
5 „ Brawn	4½ „ Kidney Fat
4 „ Meat Pudding	4½ „ Beef Suet
3 „ Meat & Gravy	4 „ Meat Pies
2 „ Pork	11 „ Chickens
2 „ Steak & Onions	9 „ Turkeys

Shellfish, Jellied Eels and Cooked Meats.

The following samples were taken during the year for bacteriological examination :—

Mussels	.....	.....	.....	4
Jellied Eels	.....	.....	.....	13
Cooked Meats	.....	.....	.....	12

As a result of this sampling a certain improvement in the standard of these articles of food was obtained.

Sampling of Cooked Meats.

As the amounts of cooked meats exposed for sale to the public has increased very considerably recently, the Council decided that sampling of these products should be carried out. These samples were to ascertain whether the products are :—

- (1) suitable for food,
- (2) manufactured under clean conditions,
- (3) subject to contamination after manufacture,
- (4) properly stored before being sold to the public,
- (5) handled under hygienic conditions.

Sampling was commenced on 24th November, 1954, and up to the end of the year a total of 12 samples had been taken.

Reports received in respect of these samples were as follows :

2 samples—satisfactory.

8 samples—better results should have been obtained.

2 samples—very unsatisfactory.

With respect to the two unsatisfactory samples, these contained very large numbers of bacteria (24 millions and 62 millions). These figures indicated that the meat products were not produced under clean conditions, or had been kept under unsuitable conditions without refrigeration. The bacteria present indicated objectionable contamination after cooking, or reached such a degree of staleness as to be unfit for human consumption.

On receipt of these two results, immediate action was taken and instructions given to the manufacturers and retailers with respect to manufacture, handling, and storing of the products. Further samples of the same products indicated very great improvement—the samples being satisfactory.

In the case of the eight samples where better results should have been obtained, the contamination was due mainly to dirty handling, insufficient protection of the product when exposed for sale, or unsatisfactory storage. Advice and instructions have been given to the retailers on these lines.

It is my intention to continue taking these samples for a considerable period until I am satisfied that all steps are taken to ensure that these products are sold to the public in a satisfactory condition.

The samples taken include such foods as Pork Brawn, Calves Tongues, Pork Luncheon Meats, Corned Beef, Cooked Silverside, Liver Sausage, and various other products.

So far as I am aware, Walthamstow is the first authority throughout the country to institute sampling of these products, and in view of the results obtained probably other authorities in various parts of the country will be following suit.

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

During the year, ninety-five samples of food and drugs were submitted to the Public Analysts.

Six were reported as being unsatisfactory, details respecting same are given below :—

Description of Article	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
Sausages, Pork (2)	12% deficient fat	Warning given.
Oranges (2)	6% " "	
Whipping Cream	Thiourea present	" "
Vinegar	No milk fat present	" "
	Acetic Acid 4.5%.	" "
	(Non-brewed).	

The following summary gives details of food sampled and results of analyses :—

	No. examined			No. unsatisfactory		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
Milk	7	1	8	—	—	—
Baked Beans	—	1	1	—	—	—
Butter Puffs	—	1	1	—	—	—
Butter Mints	—	1	1	—	—	—
Coffee and Chicory	1	—	1	—	—	—
Coffee	2	—	2	—	—	—
Orange Squash	—	1	1	—	—	—
Fresh Orange drink	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pepper	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pepper Flavoured Compound	—	2	2	—	—	—
Sausages, Beef	3	1	4	—	—	—
Sausages, Pork	12	2	14	1	1	2
Sausages, Unclassified	2	—	2	—	—	—
Sausage Rolls	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sugared Strands	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ale	1	—	1	—	—	—
Whisky	6	—	6	—	—	—
Beer	1	—	1	—	—	—
Gin	1	—	1	—	—	—
Wine	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sherry	1	—	1	—	—	—
Cough Remedy	—	1	1	—	—	—
Medicinal Glucose	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cake Flour	—	1	1	—	—	—
Self-raising Flour	—	2	2	—	—	—
Pie-filling, Lemon Flavour	—	1	1	—	—	—
Soya Flour	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cloves, Ground	—	1	1	—	—	—
Almonds, Ground	1	2	3	—	—	—
Cinnamon, Ground	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cream	1	1	2	—	—	—
Honey	—	1	1	—	—	—
Jam	—	2	2	—	—	—
Lemon Curd	—	1	1	—	—	—
Oranges	—	5	5	—	2	2
Whipping Cream	—	1	1	—	1	1
Bread and Butter	2	—	2	—	—	—
Butter	—	4	4	—	—	—
Margarine	—	2	2	—	—	—
Custard Powder	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ice Cream	3	—	3	—	—	—
Lemonade Powder	—	1	1	—	—	—
Vinegar, Malt	4	—	4	1	—	1
Condiment, Non-brewed	1	—	1	—	—	—
Salmon Spread	—	1	1	—	—	—
	49	46	95	2	4	6

(e) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Foods.

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

(f) Clean Food Campaign.

A reasonably high standard is now being maintained in the food premises within the Borough. A large number of food stalls were entirely reconditioned and brought up-to-date. It was necessary to serve notices under the Food and Drugs Act in a few cases, most of which had been complied with by the end of the year.

The conditions laid down in the Council's Clean Food Bye-Laws are now being maintained throughout the district.

Lectures in respect of clean food continue to be given to various local organisations.

The following numbers of food premises are now established in the Borough :—

Butchers, 84 ; Bakehouses, 43 ; Fishmongers, 44 ; Cafes and Caterers, 112 ; Grocers and Greengrocers, 365 ; Dairies and Milksellers, 152 ; Ice Cream Manufacturers and Vendors, 321.

The following premises were registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 :—

150 and 152 Wood Street.

There are two dairy premises in the area registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The following inspections were carried out in respect of food premises :—

Butchers, 357 ; Bakehouses, 167 ; Fishmongers, 125 ; Cafes and Caterers, 519 ; Grocers and Greengrocers, 695 ; Ice Cream Manufacturers and Vendors, 375 ; Dairies and Milksellers, 222.

Condemned food is destroyed at the Council's Depot at Low Hall Farm. The only exception to this is where sufficient meat is condemned and is worth salvaging, it is disposed of through reliable sources, being used mainly for soap manufacture. In certain cases condemned meat was returned, on request, to the Ministry of Food.

(g) Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

Twenty-two notifications were received and investigated. Further particulars will be found on page 47.

Epidemiology

In November the Council agreed to allow the fees, travelling expenses, and appropriate subsistence allowances for those sanitary inspectors who wished to attend a course at the Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, on the "Bacteriology of Food Poisoning."

The names of six district inspectors were submitted.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS

Fowl Pest Order, 1936.

Two Orders affecting movements of poultry in the borough were issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. These Orders were in respect of poultry brought from infected areas outside the borough.

One licence was issued during the year allowing an exhibition of poultry to be held.

Swine Fever (Infected Areas) Order, 1953.

No licences were issued during the year under the above Order in respect of the movement of swine.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The agreed scheme of work has continued, and the two trained Operatives have been fully engaged under the general supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

The following is a summary of work carried out during the year 1954 :—

	Type of Property				TOTAL
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural	All other (including Business Premises)	
1. Total No. of Properties in Local Authority's District	18	33,445	4	3,658	37,125
II. No of Properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1954 as a result of:					
(a) Notification	2	261	—	78	341
(b) Survey	14	76	—	1	91
(c) A visit primarily for some other purpose	—	2	—	12	14
III. No. of Properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by rats:					
(a) Major	3	—	—	2	5
(b) Minor	—	290	—	56	346
IV. No. of Properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be seriously infested by mice	—	24	—	32	56
V. No. of Infested Properties (see Sections III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	3	314	—	90	407
VI. No. of Notices served with respect to:					
(1) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(2) Structural Works (i.e., Proofing)	—	38 verbal 10 written	—	—	38 verbal 10 written
VII. No. of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a Notice	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
IX. No. of "Block" Control Schemes carried out	1	24	—	1	26

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. (1)	No. on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections. (3)	Written Notices. (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	61	124	10	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	474	675	69	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	38	48	—	—
Totals	573	847	79	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, ETC.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness	74	53	—	4	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	12	6	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	5	4	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences {	insufficient	8	4	3	—
	unsuitable or defective ..	129	94	11	—
	not separate for sexes ..	3	4	1	—
Other offences	24	19	2	—	—
Totals	255	184	3	19	—

NUMBER AND TRADES OF OUTWORKERS NOTIFIED
DURING 1954

Wearing apparel, making	Boxes	.....	.....	.....	11
of	.....	.....	.....	300	
Curtains and furniture	Brush making	.....	.....		7
hangings	Feather sorting	.....	.....		1
File making	Cosaques, Christmas	.....	.....		
	crackers, Christmas				
Umbrellas, etc.	stockings, etc.	.....	.....		42
Artificial flowers		.....			
Paper bags	Lampshades	.....	.....		1
Total	.....	.....	.....	379	

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

General.—The following tables show the age and ward incidence of the various infectious diseases which are referred to in later pages of the report.

The total of notified cases during 1954 was much smaller than during the previous year. There were more cases of measles than in 1953, and there were two epidemic years in succession. Again there was no case of confirmed diphtheria. Cases of pneumonia were fewer but since there is no apparent usefulness in the notification of this disease, notifications were probably not complete.

There was no notified case of poliomyelitis, a most unexpected experience.

There was an increase in the incidence of bacillary dysentery. This is a disease which can only be combated by the teaching and practice of strict personal hygiene, i.e., by the washing of hands after using the toilet.

Pulmonary tuberculosis notifications after remaining comparatively steady over the previous three years at 104 cases per annum, showed a marked reduction to 60.

	All ages		0-1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 & over
	1954	1953	year	years	years	years	years	years	years
Scarlet Fever	187	289	1	46	136	3	—	1	—
Whooping Cough	372	692	27	158	180	2	3	1	1
Measles	834	974	19	326	489	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	89	121	1	—	11	10	16	32	19
Meningococcal Infection	3	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis :									
Paralytic	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute infective encephalitis	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Post infectious encephalitis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	159	84	1	22	108	6	15	4	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	71	82	—	—	—	30	41	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	22	22	4	2	3	4	6	3	—
Erysipelas	34	27	—	—	—	1	8	15	10
Malaria	2	2	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Tuberculosis :									
Respiratory	60	103	—	2	—	22	16	20	—
Non-Pulmonary	4	9	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
Central Nervous System	3	5	—	1	—	1	—	1	—
Totals, 1954	1848	—	58	557	930	83	108	79	33
Totals, 1953	—	2424	81	916	1053	96	163	73	42

	St. James Street	High Street	Hoe Street	Wood Street	Hale End	Higham Hill	Total
Scarlet Fever	18	15	24	16	78	36	187
Whooping Cough	46	55	58	30	70	113	372
Measles	139	134	176	105	79	201	834
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	20	9	16	7	12	25	89
Meningococcal Infection	—	1	—	1	—	1	3
Acute Poliomyelitis :							
Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute infective encephalitis	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Post infectious encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	14	9	77	4	11	44	159
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	2	1	2	—	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	4	4	34	11	13	71
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Food Poisoning	3	4	2	1	4	8	22
Erysipelas	4	5	4	1	12	8	34
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Tuberculosis :							
Respiratory	11	4	11	6	17	11	60
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	1	—	3	4
Central Nervous System	1	1	—	—	—	1	3
Totals, 1954	261	241	376	207	296	467	1848
Totals, 1953	334	197	314	335	546	698	2424

The following is a summary of the Quarterly Returns made to the Ministry of Health :—

	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	Total
Scarlet Fever	46	39	29	73	187
Whooping Cough	207	92	58	15	372
A.P.M.—Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—
„ Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	91	205	230	308	834
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	25	19	16	29	89
Dysentery	111	40	7	1	159
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Infective encephalitis	—	—	1	1	2
Post infectious encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	1	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	6	7	4	17	34
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	1	1	2
Food poisoning	3	4	7	8	22
Puerperal Pyrexia	18	16	19	18	71
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	2	—	—	5
Malaria	1	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis—					
Respiratory	15	22	12	11	60
Non-Pulmonary	2	1	—	1	4
Central Nervous System	1	—	1	1	3

SCARLET FEVER

Although 187 cases of scarlet fever were notified during 1954 as against 289 during 1953, an extremely troublesome outbreak occurred in the Sidney Burnell Infant School which continued to a lessening degree into 1955. The outbreak is fully noted in the Report of the Borough School Medical Officer.

DIPHTHERIA

Six cases were removed to hospital for observation but none was confirmed. One case was diagnosed as Vincents Angina, four cases as streptococcal tonsillitis and one as non-specific tonsillitis.

There has been no death from diphtheria in the Borough for eight years and the last confirmed case of diphtheria was notified in January, 1950.

Diphtheria remains a deadly disease, but unfortunately, in its absence, complacency continues. Every baby should be immunised before reaching the age of one year.

INFLUENZA

Following an enquiry in June from the Medical Staff of the Ministry of Health as to local experience in the "Great Towns" of England and Wales, an enquiry was made as to the incidence of influenza in schools during the winter of 1953/4.

During the last thirteen weeks of 1953 and the first thirteen weeks of 1954, there was an average of thirty-three cases in each of these quarters, i.e., as reported by the Education Welfare (School Attendance) Officers. At seven school departments there were five cases or more.

"GASTRIC" INFLUENZA OR EPIDEMIC NAUSEA AND VOMITING

Four schools were involved with three staff and twenty-four children affected. Visits were paid by the Medical and Sanitary Staffs and rectal swabs were taken in some cases to exclude the possibility of food poisoning. In each instance the incidence terminated in a few days.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION

Three cases were notified, the particulars being as follows:—

	Sex	Age	Ward	Hospital	Remarks
1.	F.	15 yrs.	Hi	Yes	Recovered
2.	M.	10 yrs..	HH	Yes	Recovered
3.	M.	7 yrs.	W	Yes	Recovered

MALARIA

Two cases were notified during the year. Both were ex-Ser-vice men who had resided abroad and had had previous attacks.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS AND POLIOENCEPHALITIS

Seven cases were removed to hospital for observation but no case was confirmed. The incidence was singularly light in the South West Essex County Boroughs and Boroughs. Three other Boroughs recorded no notifications.

ENCEPHALITIS—INFECTIVE AND POST INFECTIOUS

There were two cases of infective encephalitis notified.

	Sex	Age	Ward	Hospital	Remarks
1.	M.	45 yrs.	Ho	Yes	Recovered
2.	F.	10 yrs.	Ho	Yes	Died. P.M.

No case of post infectious encephalitis was notified.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Five cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified but in no case was vision impaired.

SMALLPOX

No notification of this disease was received.

ENTERIC FEVER

On case of typhoid fever—Vi-phage type A was notified from St. Ann's Hospital in August. The patient had returned from holiday in Italy. The source of infection was not definitely traced, but may have been abroad.

Bacillary Dysentery (Sonne)

A total of 159 cases of bacillary dysentery was notified. Early in February a Head Teacher reported two or three cases of diarrhoea in a junior department. The school was visited by Medical and Sanitary Staff and special facilities were made available to enable the children to wash during the severe "freeze-up". Paper towels and bowls were supplied and the caretaker received special instructions in regard to disinfection of lavatory seats, chains and door handles. Absentees were visited daily by the School Nurses and rectal swabs taken. Local doctors were circularised and asked to co-operate in the taking of rectal swabs and this was willingly done.

The outbreak lasted till the end of March when 42 cases had been notified. There were also 11 cases notified from the adjoining Infants Department and from 15 other schools, a total of 54 cases was notified during the period from February to 7th September.

Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations, 1927

Part-compensation continued to be paid in conjunction with an adjoining authority to a chronic carrier, in order to prevent her from following her occupation as a cook. The carrier is now 74 years old and for some years was employed by the other authority as a convenience attendant. After retirement, she claimed that she was still physically fit and able to work as a cook. For this reason, part-time compensation continues to be paid.

FOOD POISONING

The following information is in the form required by the Ministry of Health :—

1. **Local Authority**—Walthamstow. Year 1954.
2. **Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected) Returned to R.G.**

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
3	4	7	8	22

3. Outbreaks Due to Identified Agents.

Total Outbreaks : — Total Cases : —

4. Outbreaks of Undiscovered Cause.

Total Outbreaks : 4 Total Cases : 60
(but not all notified.)

5. Single Cases.

Agent Identified	Unknown Cause	Total
Salmonella }	17	22
Typhi Murium }		
Salmonella 1		

During September last outbreaks of gastro-enteritis occurred at 4 factory premises in the Borough. Immediate investigation was carried out by the Sanitary Inspectorate at the factory canteens concerned and details of findings are given in the following table.

A letter of advice on food hygiene was compiled in conjunction with the Chief Sanitary Inspector and was circulated by him to all factory managements in Walthamstow providing canteen facilities.

Date	Number affected	Number at risk	Suspected Food	Pathological results	Suspected cause	Degree of illness	Remarks
2.9.54	28	78	Stewed Steak	No specimens available	Contamination of plates	Slight	Canteen standards high. Suggestions made re dish washing.
2.9.54	9	30	Stewed Steak	All specimens negative	?	Slight	Left over steak used next day and badly stored. Improvement suggested.
8.9.54	18	75	Nil. (See "Remarks" Column)	All specimens negative	Carrier	Slight	A canteen worker previously had diarrhoea & sickness. Declined co-operation. Resigned.
11.11.54	5	33	Beef	No specimens available	?	Slight	Canteen standards high.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease in the Borough during 1954 :—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1- 5 years ..	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5-10 „ ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-15 „ ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 „ ..	6	6	1	1	—	—	—	—
20-25 „ ..	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 „ ..	5	4	1	—	—	1	—	—
35-45 „ ..	4	3	—	1	1	—	—	—
45-55 „ ..	9	2	—	2	3	2	—	—
55-65 „ ..	7	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over ..	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	37	23	3	4	7	3	1	—
	60		7		10		1	
	67				11			

As each new case of pulmonary tuberculosis has been notified, enquiry has been made as to the infectivity of the patient. Of 60 cases investigated, 25 were sputum positive on notification or soon after i.e. 42%.

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

Year.	New Cases.					Deaths.				
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1954 ..	37	23	3	4	67	7	3	1	—	11
1953 ..	61	42	7	7	117	19	3	—	—	22

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.
1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—

Non-Notification.

It is gratifying to report that for the first time on record there was no failure to notify any case of tuberculosis before death, although in three cases the interval between notification and death was one day, fourteen days, and four months, respectively.

The following table compares notifications, deaths and net survivals for two 12-year periods, i.e. 1931/42 and 1943/54 :—

12-year period	Notifications	Deaths	Net Survivals
1931/1942	1,911	1,016	895
1943/1954	1,624	561	1,063

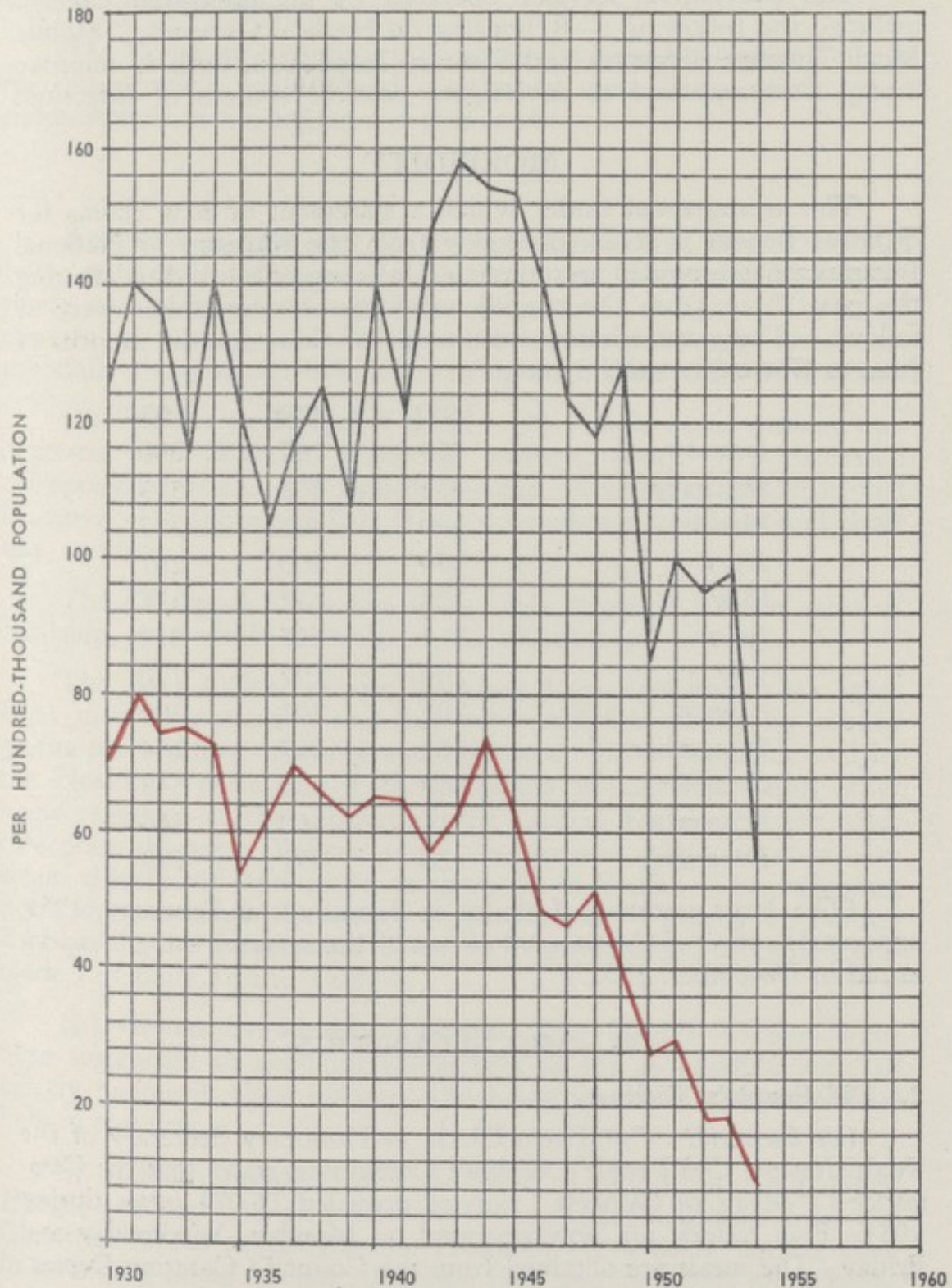
There is, of course, no strict correlation between notification and deaths in any particular year. During the second period there were 287 fewer notifications but 405 fewer deaths, i.e. there was an increase of 168 in net survivors less any who may have been discharged cured in the meantime.

Many of these survivors will be sputum positive cases and the net result is an increase in the number of infective persons in the community. It can only be hoped that such persons adhere rigidly to the routine which they have been taught, to minimise the spread of infection.

TUBERCULOSIS—NOTIFICATION AND DEATH RATES

The following graph shows the trend of notifications of tuberculosis since 1930, and of deaths from tuberculosis. The fall in the latter results in the survival (and increased longevity due to new methods of treatment) of many infective patients, i.e., an increase in the infecting pool.

Notifications of tuberculosis (all forms) in persons of all ages are shown in black, and deaths from tuberculosis (all forms) in persons of all ages are shown in red.



Prevention of Tuberculosis.

The various preventive measures detailed in the Report for 1950 continued in subsequent years and were shared between the Borough Council as Sanitary Authority, and as the Excepted District for Education, and by the Health Area Sub-Committee administering the Part III Services under the National Health Service Act.

The preventive services operated by the Borough Council included the following :—Rehousing on Medical Grounds, “ Mobile Meals ” where necessary and Sanitary Inspection, both to improve living conditions and to investigate possible sources of infection.

MORBIDITY

The arrangement under which a statement of new claims for Sickness Benefit is received weekly from the Ministry of National Insurance has provided an interesting measure of morbidity. During the past three years the weekly averages of new claims were as follows. The extraordinary consistency of those for the months of June to November will be noted.

	1952	1953	1954
January	464	747	500
February	433	832	513
March	390	401	375
April	350	300	267
May	270	232	314
June	214	237	252
July	200	197	220
August	205	201	209
September	262	257	284
October	369	370	348
November	311	360	366
December	426	291	299

(The large number of claims in January and February, 1953, apparently reflected the delayed effects of the severe “ smog ” experienced in December, 1952.)

G.—MISCELLANEOUS

1. Old People's Welfare.

(a) **General.** The Town Clerk, as Honorary Secretary of the Walthamstow Old People's Welfare Committee, states that the Committee's “ Meals on Wheels ” Service provided 16,074 meals during 1954. Five rounds are now operated on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The meals are obtained from the Council's Catering Depart-

ment and distributed by voluntary workers in cars hired by the Committee. This scheme has been in operation in this form since March 1948 and is an essential one for old people who would not otherwise be able to get a cooked meal.

The Committee also provided seven old people's clubs in different parts of the Borough and shared the expense of a club at Woodford Green with the Wanstead and Woodford Old People's Welfare Association.

The Committee continued to act as the co-ordinating committee for old people's welfare and maintained close liaison with other statutory authorities engaged in this work.

An increasing amount of time of the medical, health visiting, home nursing and domestic help services and of the sanitary inspectorate was required in regard to old people's welfare. The need appears to be for increased services in the following directions, especially those which help in assisting with domiciliary treatment :

(1) "Meals on Wheels" daily. (2) Ample home nursing and domestic help facilities, including weekend help. (3) Increased chiropody facilities. (4) Companionship, sitters-in and occupational therapy. (5) Increased Part III accommodation and long and short stay annexes.

The Glasspool Trust has again been ready to help in cases of hardship, particularly with the supply of bedding.

The Area Officer of the National Assistance Board has again been most co-operative and has been helpful in making money grants for bedding, clothing and laundry ; this is supplemented by the Health Department by the retention of mattresses and other items removed at the request of the owners for destruction after infectious disease. Where some use remains, the mattresses are steam disinfected and given to persons in need. The following items were supplied : Bedsteads 6 ; Mattresses 7 ; Bolster 1 ; Pillows 2 ; Blankets 2 ; Waterproof Sheet 1 ; Nightdresses 2 ; Night Commode 1 ; Chairs 3 ; and Table 1.

(b) **Action by Health Visitors.** The Health Visitors have been instructed to acquaint themselves as far as possible with all elderly people in their districts and bring to notice any who need help in any way.

In addition regular visits are paid to old people in Council Hostels and flats and also both before and after discharge from the Geriatric Wards at Langthorne Hospital, particularly with a view to arranging home nursing, domestic help and/or Meals on Wheels.

2. Laundry for the Incontinent.

At a Conference convened by the Borough Council in 1953 on the problems and progress of Old People's Welfare reference was made to the need for this service. Subsequently a report was made to the Council that the service could be provided under Section 84 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which gives power "to cleanse at the authority's expense upon a certificate from the Medical Officer of Health or the Sanitary Inspector any article that requires to be cleansed in order to prevent injury or danger of injury to the health of any person in the premises."

Authority was given for a pilot scheme to be put into operation and it was decided that the laundering should be done by the contractor to the hospital service after preliminary cleansing and disinfection at the disinfecting station. The articles dealt with under the scheme comprise mainly bed linen, night clothing or under-clothing, and provided the Sanitary Inspector issues a certificate, renewable quarterly, the service is free to the patient. The service can only be given if it is impossible for the washing to be done at home by the relatives or a domestic help.

The necessary equipment was installed at the Disinfecting Station and the collection, rinsing and disinfection is done by the Disinfecting Staff. The scheme was put into operation on the 1st March, 1954, and collection is made weekly, the articles being returned completely laundered within twenty-four hours.

The following figures show the number of cases dealt with and the actual cost up to the end of the year :—

Total No. of Cases	12
Average No. of Cases per week	4
Total No. of articles	1,287
Average No. of Articles per week	29
Total No. of journeys	336
Total Cost of Collection, Delivery, and Laundering (i.e. excluding equipment)	£146 approx.

The Council authorised the provision of equipment necessary to complete the Laundry installation at Low Hall Farm, i.e. an Electrolux Steam Washing Machine at a cost of £210 and an Electrolux Hydro Extractor at a cost of £155.

3. Funeral Arrangements.

Arrangements were made in regard to the burial of 3 persons.

A new contract for burials under the National Assistance Act, 1948, was negotiated with the usual firm at a slightly increased fee.

4. Medical Examinations.

During the year the medical staff carried out 269 examinations of Borough Council employees in respect of the Superannuation and Sick Pay Schemes.

5. Health Education.

Miss H. Rodway, F.R.C.O.G., Obstetrician Superintendent at Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital, arranged the usual course of mothercraft lectures. In each case the speaker was a medical or nursing specialist.

6. Cancer Education.

The leaflet of advice printed in the 1951 Report is available for distribution.

7. General.

The Borough Architect, Engineer and Surveyor contributes the following information :—

(a) Public Conveniences.

Work was commenced on the erection of a new public convenience in Larks Hall Road, and, during the year, certain existing conveniences have been modernised.

The construction of a public convenience at St. James Street Car Park will be commenced early in the new year.

During 1954 free washing facilities continued to be available by the supply of soap and paper towels at Public Conveniences.

A charge of 2d. continues for the issue of cloth towels.

No charges are made for the use of public conveniences.

(b) Cremation.

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

Negotiations continued with adjoining Local Authorities.

(c) Rainfall.

The annual rainfall at Ferry Lane Station was 24.95 ins.

(d) Inquests and Post Mortems.

	Walthamstow	Others	Total
Post Mortems only	119	228	347
Post Mortems and Inquests	23	55	78
Inquests only	6	30	36

GENERAL INFORMATION

DULY AUTHORISED OFFICERS :

Essex County Council Offices, West Avenue, E.17.

(Telephone : COPpermill 2418)

Office Hours :

Mondays to Fridays 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT :

Essex County Council Offices, 35 Wanstead Place, E.11.

(Telephone : WANstead 0031)

REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS :

Mr. P. Folkerd, 7 Chingford Road, Walthamstow, E.17.

(Telephone : LARKswood 5156)

Office Hours :

Mondays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon.

REGISTRAR OF MARRIAGES :

663 Lea Bridge Road, Leyton, E.10.

(Telephone : COPpermill 2419)

Office Hours :

Mondays to Fridays 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.

Saturdays 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE BOARD :

12 Church Hill, Walthamstow, E.17.

(Telephone : LARKswood 3347)

Office Hours :

Mondays to Thursdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Fridays 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

MINISTRY OF PENSIONS AND NATIONAL INSURANCE :

1 Wood Street, Walthamstow, E.17.

(Telephone : LARKswood 6821)

Office Hours :

Mondays to Fridays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturdays 9 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

SECTION H

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946

PART III SERVICES

WALTHAMSTOW HEALTH AREA SUB-COMMITTEE

(1954/55)

Chairman :

Alderman THE LADY MCENTEE, J.P. (Essex County Council).

Vice-Chairman :

Alderman E. C. REDHEAD, J.P. (Walthamstow Borough Council).

Members :

Nominated by—

Essex County Council	.....	Alderman Mrs. M. BALL (Chairman, Health Committee, E.C.C.).
" " "	.....	Alderman Mrs. B. K. LOWTON.
" " "	.....	Councillor C. F. H. GREEN, (Vice-Chairman, Health Committee, E.C.C.).
" " "	.....	Councillor Mrs. L. P. BAILEY, J.P.
" " "	.....	Councillor Mrs. A. M. BURRELL.
" " "	.....	Councillor H. J. E. PALETHORPE.
Walthamstow Borough Council		Alderman G. S. MACE.
" " "		Alderman A. E. MANNING.
" " "		Alderman W. H. SHAW.
" " "		Councillor Mrs. E. L. BALDWIN.
" " "		Councillor C. J. CROSBIE.
" " "		Councillor L. JONES.
" " "		Councillor Mrs. M. E. MARCHANT.
" " "		Councillor J. E. NICHOLLS.
" " "		Councillor Mrs. W. M. PALETHORPE.
" " "		Councillor J. W. PRINGLE.
" " "		Councillor W. F. SAVILL.
" " "		Councillor Mrs. C. E. STANNARD.
" " "		Councillor A. F. WHICHER.
" " "		Councillor J. M. WIGHT.

Hospital Management Committee Mrs. B. E. BOTTOMLEY.

Local Medical Committee for Essex	.....	Dr. J. L. McK. BROWN, O.B.E.
Voluntary Organisations	.....	Dr. M. COHEN (Walthamstow District Nursing Charitable Association).
„	„	 E. P. MARR, Esq. (Walthamstow Child Welfare Society).
„	„	 Mrs. M. OSORA (Invalid Children's Aid Association).
„	„	 Mrs. A. CORDELL (Walthamstow and Chingford Association of Tuberculosis Care Helpers).

STAFF

During the year, 42 whole-time members of the Health Area Staff resigned their appointments and 52 new appointments were made.

The apparent inconsistency between the numbers of resignations and appointments is accounted for by the difference between the number of vacancies at the beginning and end of the year.

HEALTH CENTRES

(Section 21)

HEALTH CENTRE SITES

The general position remains as detailed in the previous reports, i.e., six sites have been defined in the Borough on the basis of one centre per 20,000 population each to serve an area with a radius of one mile.

GENERAL DENTAL SERVICE

The Senior Dental Officer reports as follows :—

“Considerably more work could have been carried out during the year had it been possible to devote more sessions to the service but, with the exception of Monday and Friday evenings, the dental suites at the Town Hall have been fully occupied by surgeons throughout the week.

The number of dental sessions undertaken during the last three years have been—

691 in 1952, 693 in 1953 and 686 in 1954.”

Herewith is a summary of the work carried out during the years 1953 and 1954 :—

	1953	1954	
Number of patients treated	680	725	
Appointments made	4,531	4,548	
" kept	4,150	4,054	
Plastic fillings	2,066	465	} 2,125 total
Amalgam	total { 1,601	1,688	
Inlays	4	4	
Crowns	36	21	
Scalings and gum treatments	411	387	
Dressings	628	758	
No. of teeth extracted	959	755	
General anæsthetics	207	222	
Local	345	418	
X-rays	270	440	
Impressions	623	627	
Bites	163	168	
Try-ins	227	213	
Full upper dentures	91	96	} 262 total dentures
" lower	79	64	
Partial upper dentures	72	60	
" lower	38	42	
Repairs	182	195	

DENTAL LABORATORY

Herewith is a list of the appliances completed for the General Dental Service :

	1953	1954
New Dentures	291	253
Orthodontic Appliances	—	1
Crowns	8	8
Repairs	182	207
Inlays	—	2

During the year the following work was carried out for the Walthamstow and Leyton Committees for Education :—

	Walthamstow	Leyton
Orthodontic Appliances	247	25
Dentures	61	—
Crowns	18	—
Repairs	47	12

The following appliances were completed for the Regional Hospital Board. This work is now done for patients in the Connaught, Harts and King George Hospitals :—

Bite splints for correction of temporo-mandibular disorders	16
Dentures	36
Repairs	16

The following work was undertaken for the Maternity and Child Welfare Patients :—

New Dentures	23
Crowns	3
Repairs	6

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN (Section 22)

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	1,132	1,012
Low Hall Lane Clinic	131	63
Silverdale Road Clinic	27	8
West Avenue	3	2
District Nurses' Training Home and Midwives' Homes	304	—
Totals	<u>1,597</u>	<u>1,085</u>

Total Attendances—	Ante-Natal	Post-Natal
Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital	10,838	1,163
Low Hall Lane Clinic	760	80
Silverdale Road Clinic	120	11
West Avenue Clinic (part year only)	20	1
District Nurses' Training Home and Midwives' Homes	2,072	29
Totals	<u>13,810</u>	<u>1,284</u>

Blood grouping/Hæmoglobin estimation and Rhesus and Kahn tests were carried out for all patients attending Ante-Natal Clinics.

All Rhesus negative results were verified at a second laboratory and repeated at the 20th and 34th weeks of pregnancy. Facilities were also available at Thorpe Coombe on Sunday mornings (by courtesy of Miss Rodway, Consultant Obstetrician) for Rhesus tests to be carried out on the husbands of Rhesus negative women, when they were unable to attend at the ordinary weekly clinic.

All Rhesus negative expectant mothers attending ante-natal clinics were and are advised to have their confinements in hospital. Blood pressure estimations were done at every examination, in order to obtain warning of possible toxæmia.

Midwives in domiciliary practice were advised that in accordance with the ruling of the Ministry of Health, they could in extreme urgency, and when unable to obtain immediate medical aid, summon the Obstetric Flying Squad direct. Finally, they were reminded that (except in doctors' booked cases) patients with any serious abnormality should be referred to the Consultant Obstetrician at Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital.

During 1954 a letter of advice to Rhesus negative expectant mothers was prepared enclosing an explanatory booklet. The latter stressed the need for the examination of the husband's blood and the special steps necessary if a home confinement was insisted upon.

There were 18 Rhesus negatives and all Kahn tests were negative.

The total of blood tests was 218—first tests 174 mothers and 4 fathers with 18 confirmatory tests and 22 for hæmoglobin only. The groupings were 0.98, A.68, B.9 and AB.8. Hæmoglobin estimations showed the following results :—

100+ = 1	60—69 = 15
90—99 = 18	50—59 = 1
80—89 = 86	40—49 = 1
70—79 = 65	

i.e. 17 or 9.1% were under 70.

Instructions were given to midwives that where hæmoglobin estimations were found to be 65% or less, patients should be referred to their family doctors with a request that they should be sent back for a re-estimation of hæmoglobin after 4/6 weeks. Family doctors undertaking Maternity Medical Services were advised that blood specimens could be taken from their patients either at an ante-natal clinic or a weekly clinic at the Town Hall.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

An ante-natal clinic was started at West Avenue in order to reduce travelling distances for mothers resident in that area who previously attended the clinic at Markhouse Road.

It was considered necessary to commence another ante-natal session at Silverdale Road Health Services Clinic and sessions are now held there on the 1st and 3rd Monday afternoons each month.

Relaxation Classes.

During the past year relaxation classes have been started at Markhouse Road Welfare Centre on Tuesdays at 2 p.m. and at West Avenue Welfare Centre at 2 p.m. on Wednesdays.

These classes prepare the mother for her confinement and considerable benefit can be derived from them. Talks are given at the classes by specially trained Health Visitors and these talks include preparations for confinement and layette, advice on suitable clothing and footwear, personal hygiene and explanation of the mechanism of labour. The classes are held in conjunction with the Ante-Natal Clinics at the respective Welfare Centres. 83 sessions were held during the period under review involving a total of 382 attendances.

Toddlers' Clinic.

A toddlers' clinic has been started at West Avenue Welfare Centre and sessions are held fortnightly on a Friday afternoon.

VIRUS INFECTIONS DURING PREGNANCY

Ministry of Health Enquiry

New registrations have now ceased but the follow up continues.

CONFINEMENTS

The following table shows the location of confinements during 1954 :—

Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital	1,157
Other Hospitals and Maternity Homes	398
Total in Hospital, etc.	1,555
At Home	358
Total Confinements	1,913

The grounds for admission to Thorpe Coombe were :—

- (1) First Confinements.
- (2) Medical and Obstetrical.
- (3) Unsuitable home/social conditions.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Walthamstow	England & Wales
Live birth-rate per 1,000 population	12.3	15.2
Still birth-rate per 1,000 total births	14.0	24.0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live-births	22.3	25.5

Extracts from vital statistics are given more fully in Section "A" of this Report.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

1,950 births (419 of which belonged to other areas) were notified during the year under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Notifications were received as follows : Doctors 345 ; Midwives 1,583 ; others 22.

Included in the above are 387 births which were notified as having occurred outside the Borough.

Also included are 29 stillbirths, 7 of which belonged to other areas. Of the total, 3 occurred outside the Borough.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

The neo-natal mortality is the number of infants dying under one month per 1,000 live births. During 1954, 25 infants died in the first four weeks of life, a rate of 16.9.

INFANT MORTALITY

The deaths of infants under one year were :—

			Males.	Females.	Totals.
Legitimate	.....	.....	14	17	31
Illegitimate	.....	.....	2	—	2
			—	—	—
Totals	.....	.....	16	17	33
			—	—	—

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, 21.0 ; Illegitimate, 1.3 ; Total 22.3.

Twenty-five infant deaths out of thirty-three were neo-natal deaths—twenty-three dying within one week of birth.

Deaths in age groups were as follows :—

wks.	wks. mths.	mths. mths.	mths. mths.	mths. mths.
0 — 1	1 — 1	1 — 3	3 — 6	6 — 12
—	—	—	—	—
23	2	3	1	4

Classification of deaths :—

Preventable = 7. Unavoidable = 21. Inevitable = 5.

Preventable deaths were mostly respiratory infections, one due to enteritis.

Unavoidable deaths were mostly due to prematurity and atelectasis.

Inevitable deaths were mostly due to congenital malformation.

Twenty-eight deaths occurred in hospital and five deaths at home.

Most deaths are in the unavoidable category and in the present state of knowledge in regard to prematurity no further improvement can be expected in this category at present.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE—1954

	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total deaths under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.	St. James St.	High Street.	Hoe Street.	Wood Street.	Hale End.	Higham Hill.	Total.
Influenza	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other forms of T.B. ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. Meningitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (Non-T.B.) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Diarrhoea,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inattention at birth, wilful neglect	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation (overlying) ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at birth	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Atelectasis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital malformation ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	4	—	—	1	—	3	—	4
Premature birth	15	1	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	16	4	—	4	1	5	?	16
Atrophy, debility, marasmus ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inanition	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Heart failure	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	5	1	1	1	2	—	—	5
Totals	23	1	1	—	25	3	1	3	1	33	5	3	9	4	9	3	33

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

The action suggested in Circular 20/44 (as amended by Circular LHAL 1/49) has been carried out as far as possible and the steps taken were detailed in the Report for 1944. During 1954, 80 live premature infants were born to residents of the Borough, 18 at home and 62 in hospitals and nursing homes.

Of the 18 born at home, 6 were transferred to hospital. Of the remaining 12 who were nursed entirely at home, eleven survived the first twenty-eight days of life, and one died two days after birth.

The routine supervision consists of the following :—

- (1) After the 14th day infants are visited weekly by the Health Visitor if remaining at home, or on discharge from hospital and until they attain average weight.
- (2) Weekly Welfare attendances are made, if the condition of the infant allows.
- (3) The report on premature infants i.e., as to nursing and survival within 28 days is completed at the end of the first month.

CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

The action taken under Circular 2866/44 is fully set out in the Report for that year.

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 per 1,000 Live Births	
	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Legitimate	Illegitimate
1950	1,536	62	41	1	25.0	16.0
1951	1,586	51	34	3	21.0	58.8
1952	1,446	66	37	Nil	25.6	Nil
1953	1,404	50	40	1	28.5	20.0
1954	1,424	50	31	2	21.7	40.0
Totals 1950 to 1954 (5 yrs.)	7,396	279	183	7	24.7	25.0

MORAL WELFARE

The "Carville" Home at 38 The Drive, E.17, is administered by the Walthamstow Deanery Branch of the Chelmsford Diocesan Moral Welfare Association. The Home provides accommodation for a total of 16 mothers and their babies and has a high record of care and service.

Miss E. Williams, the Superintendent, submits the following statistics relating to the work carried out in 1954 :—

Admitted	Adults	Babies	Total
From Walthamstow	16	11	27
From rest of County	29	19	48
From outside the County	20	16	36
Totals	65	46	111
Outdoor work—			
Walthamstow Cases (Mother and baby placed)	44	14	58
Other Essex Cases	6	—	6

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

Capital Building Programme.

During the financial year 1954/55, Silverdale Welfare Centre was completely renovated at an estimated cost of £1,500.

Markhouse Road Welfare Centre was redecorated at an estimated cost of £304 and a new composition floor was laid at an estimated cost of £271.

The following list gives details of Clinics held at the various Centres situated in the Borough :—

(a) Ante and Post Natal Clinics :

Monday (twice monthly)	2 p.m.	Silverdale Road, Highams Park.
Monday " "	2 p.m.	West Avenue, E.17.
Monday	2 p.m.	Markhouse Road, E.17.
Wednesday	9 a.m.	Markhouse Road, E.17.

(In addition, clinics are held at the District Nurses' Homes, and a large proportion of the ante-natal work of the Borough is done at Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital.)

(b) Ante-Natal Relaxation Exercises Classes.

Tuesday	2 p.m.	Markhouse Road, E.17.
Wednesday	2 p.m.	West Avenue, E.17.

(c) Child Welfare Clinics.

Monday	2 to 4 p.m.	St. John's Church Hall, Penrhyn Avenue, E.17.
*Tuesday	"	The Memorial Hall, Winchester Road, Highams Park.
Tuesday	"	The Welfare Centre, West Avenue, E.17.
Wednesday	"	Low Hall Lane, Markhouse Road, E.17.
Wednesday	"	Silverdale Road, Highams Park, E.4.
*Thursday	10 to 12 noon	The Memorial Hall, Winchester Road, Highams Park.
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.
Thursday	"	The Welfare Centre, West Avenue, E.17.
Friday	"	Low Hall Lane, Markhouse Road, E.17.
Friday	"	The Welfare Centre, West Avenue, E.17. (Toddlers only).
Friday	"	St. John's Church Hall, Penrhyn Avenue, E.17.

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

Summary of Attendances at Child 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	369	45	414	6,099	3,957	10,056	10,470
Penrhyn Avenue	252	23	275	3,909	2,712	6,621	6,896
West Avenue	250	61	311	3,102	1,565	4,667	4,978
Winchester Road	127	36	163	1,801	2,067	3,868	4,031
Silverdale Road	98	34	132	1,917	2,448	4,365	4,497
Totals 1954..	1,096	199	1,295	16,828	12,749	29,577	30,872

Walthamstow Child Welfare Society

Clinics are held as follows at "Brookscroft," Forest Road, E.17 :—

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	Diphtheria Immunisation

* These sessions temporarily transferred to Silverdale Road Welfare Centre pending completion of alterations at the Memorial Hall.

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

Year	First Attendances of New Cases.			Re-attendances.			Grand Total.
	Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	Total.	Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	Total.	
1954	508	33	341	4,828	2,247	7,075	7,416

Ninety-nine children were immunised during the year at "Brookscroft."

Summary of Attendances at all Child Welfare 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 ...	1,096	199	1,295	16,828	12,749	29,577	30,872
"Brookscroft" ..	308	33	341	4,828	2,247	7,075	7,416
Total 1954..	1,404	232	1,636	21,656	14,996	36,652	38,288

TREATMENT

The facilities provided at the Education Authority's Clinics are available for all children attending the Welfare Centres.

(a) **Orthopaedic.**—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	2	Torticollis	2
Surgical Tuberculosis	1	Talipes—	
Scoliosis, Lordosis, Kyphosis	4	(a) Equino Varus	1
Genu Valgum	14	(b) Calcaneo Valgus	3
Genu Varum	9	(c) Pescavus	1
Pes Valgus and Valgus		Overlapping Toes	6
Ankles	31	Other Congenital Defects	3
Spastic Paralysis	1	Miscellaneous (including chest conditions)	6
			Total
			84

Number of Treatments given—904.

(b) **Sunlight.**—Sunlight treatment was given at the Hale End Clinic to 15 children under 5 years of age for 155 treatments.

(c) **Priority Dental Treatment.**—The Senior Dental Officer reports as follows :—

“Last year I suggested that the number of expectant and nursing mothers appeared to have reached its peak and it would seem that this assumption was correct as there has been a considerable drop in the number of mothers and young children referred for dental treatment.

Of those referred a higher proportion of both mothers and children needed conservative work only and fewer mothers had need of extractions and dentures. This is a pleasant contrast to the early days of this service when the attendance of an expectant or nursing mother automatically involved large numbers of extractions and the provision of artificial dentures. Now the majority of those attending for conservative work are those whose teeth were attended to in school and in the Forces.”

The number of Dental Sessions have been as follows :—

1954	.....	187
1953	.....	242
1952	.....	193

The following gives details of the work done during the year by the dental staff :—

Patients inspected and treated during the year :

	Expectant Mothers	Nursing Mothers	Children under School age
Patients examined	263	128	375
Patients found to require treatment	258	124	355
Patients who have commenced treatment	226	120	293
Patients who have completed treatment	122	89	268
Patients awaiting treatment	8	1	1
Attendances for treatment	453	339	494

Types of treatment given :

	Expectant Mothers	Nursing Mothers	Children under School age
1. Extractions :			
(a) permanent teeth	193	128	—
(b) temporary „	—	—	289
2. Fillings :			
(a) permanent teeth	204	162	—
(b) temporary „	—	—	197

Types of treatment given—continued

				Expectant Mothers	Nursing Mothers	Children under School age
3. Inlays provided	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
4. Crowns	„	.....	.....	1	2	—
5. Anæsthetics administered :						
(a) local	.....	.....	.....	21	25	6
(b) general :—						
(i) by medical officers on County Staff				19	4	17
(ii) by others	.....	.....	.....	76	38	193
6. (a) Scaling	.....	.....	.....	104	15	1
(b) Prolonged scaling and gum treatment	.....	.....	.....	19	8	6
7. Silver Nitrate Treatment	.....	.....	.....	2	8	82
8. Dressings	.....	.....	.....	60	37	53
9. X-ray examinations	.....	.....	.....	5	11	—
10. Dentures provided :						
(a) full	.....	.....	.....	—	15	—
(b) partial	.....	.....	.....	1	10	—
11. Dentures repaired	.....	.....	.....	1	1	—
12. Dentures remade :						
(a) full	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
(b) partial	.....	.....	.....	1	1	—
13. Orthodontic appliances :						
(a) fixed	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
(b) movable	.....	.....	.....	—	—	—
14. Prophylactic treatment and other operations :						
Impressions	.....	.....	.....	20	44	—
Bites	.....	.....	.....	7	12	—
Try-ins	.....	.....	.....	5	19	—
Easing	.....	.....	.....	3	20	—
Polishing	.....	.....	.....	60	7	—
Gum Treatments	.....	.....	.....	60	7	—
Syringing	.....	.....	.....	11	—	—
15. Number of treatments included above in 6 or 14, carried out by Oral Hygienist	.....	.....	.....	213	25	—

The services of the Dental Hygienist were available on two days per week. Apart from chairside work for the priority groups, talks were given at Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital.

(d) Tonsils and Adenoids.—Children are treated at various hospitals.

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

(f) **Child Guidance.**—The special session for children under school age which began at the West Avenue Welfare Centre in 1951 was continued with success. The following report is contributed by Dr. Helen Gillespie, Senior Psychiatrist at the Walthamstow Child Guidance Clinic :—

“ I am glad to report that there has been an increase in the number of children referred for treatment at this clinic. 14 cases were referred during 1954 as against 10 in 1953.

“ It is hoped that full advantage will be taken during the coming year in making use of the facilities offered at this clinic for preventive mental health work.

“ Of the cases referred, 7 were closed after a satisfactory result was achieved, 4 are still under treatment and 3 children have lapsed in their attendance. Two other children referred during the previous year are still attending for treatment.

“ The following is an analysis of cases treated :

Behaviour disturbance	8
Habit disorder	6

(g) **Pædiatric Clinic.**—The fortnightly clinic, under the charge of Dr. Elchon Hinden, Pædiatrician to Whipps Cross Hospital, continued during 1954, and 32 children under five years of age were seen.

Dr. Hinden reports as follows :—

“ The work of the clinic has continued along the same lines as in previous years. The majority of the children seen are suffering from abnormalities of growth and development, or from behaviour disorders. Organic disease is rarely encountered, but the disability and embarrassment caused by these functional derangements is very considerable.

“ Obesity is a condition which is often referred to the clinic. In many instances the child was sent by an Orthopædic surgeon, who first saw the patient because he was suffering from knock-knee. This is almost an invariable accompaniment of obesity, and it is very hard to cure while the child remains heavy. Unfortunately, the weight of the child is equally difficult to control. Rarely do we find gross glandular disturbance in these children ; in the great majority of cases, the obesity is familial. One or both of their parents are overweight, and so are other relations, too. The children are big

as well as fat, and I believe that their size is 'normal' for their genetic constitution. It follows that to reduce their weight is really to make them unnaturally thin, and this is nearly always a fruitless task, unless the children are prepared to undertake really drastic dieting. This calls for a degree of self-control that very few children (and not many adults, either) possess. Most of the girls reach puberty early, and thereafter their rate of growth slows down considerably, so that soon their age catches up with their weight, and their appearance becomes more normal. The boys take longer to mature and the delay at times causes parental anxiety about their poor genital development; but this nearly always rights itself in time.

"Parents are often very concerned about the obesity, but as a rule the children are not bothered by their excessive size, were it not that their school-mates point the finger of scorn at them. This can make them very self-conscious, and is responsible for a great deal of distress. I have known a child request a change of school in order to escape the mockery. Children can be very cruel to each other.

"I should like to thank the Assistant School Health Officers for referring the children to me, and the General Practitioners for granting them permission to do so; and my colleagues the Pathologist and Radiologist at Whipps Cross Hospital for kindly offering me the facilities of their laboratories."

	Under 5 years			
New cases				32
Total attendances				53
Physical Defects :				
Cases seen				36
Referred to Hospital				9
Discharged				13
Psychological Disorders :				
(a) Enuresis				1
(b) Other				1
Referred to Hospital				—
Discharged				1

(h) **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 :—

Children referred for convalescence by :—

	Under five years
Hospitals	2
Local Health Authority	2
General Practitioners	2
	6

Classification of Above Cases :—

	Under five years
Anæmia, Debility	3
After effects of acute or infectious illness or operation	1
Diseases of :	
Ear, Nose and Throat	1
Abscess of neck	1
	6

Children referred for visiting, advice, help or follow up :

	Under five years
Hospitals	3
Voluntary Bodies	5
General Practitioners	1
Parents	4
I.C.A.A. Branches	2
	15

(i) **Convalescence.**—During 1954, two children were sent away on medical recommendation to convalescent homes. As in previous years the arrangements were normally made through the local branch of the Invalid Children's Aid Association. In addition, a nursing mother and her baby were sent away for a period of convalescence.

PROVISION OF NUTRIENTS AND MEDICAMENTS

Details of nutrients and medicaments sold and issued free during 1954 are as follows :—

	Sales		Free Issue	
	lbs.	ozs.	lbs.	ozs.
Adexolin	—	—	29	5½
Bemax	155	5	—	—
Cow and Gate	2,517	—	—	—
Cod Liver Oil Emulsion	—	—	17	8
Cod Liver Oil and Malt	—	—	39	—
Farex	662	8	—	—
Fersolate Tablets.....	—	—	33,000	Tablets
Gentian Violet Tablets	—	—	720	Tablets
Glucodin	122	8	—	—
Lactogol	60	9	—	—
Magnesia	—	—	17	—
Maltoline with Iron	—	—	161	—
Marmite	833	—	—	—
Mist Ferri et Ammon Cit Pro Infantibus	—	—	13	4
Ostermilk	781	—	—	—
Ostocalcium Tablets	—	—	5,830	Tablets
Robinson's Groats	250	—	—	—
Scott's "Twin Pack"	431	11	—	—
Sodium Citrate Tablets.....	—	—	16,030	Tablets
Virol	934	—	—	—
Value of Cash Sales	£1,128 15s. 6d.			

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

Distribution of Welfare Foods, i.e., National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, Cod Liver Oil and A. & D. Vitamin Tablets, became the responsibility of the Local Health Authority on 28th June, 1954.

Prior to that date distribution in Walthamstow was made from the local office of the Ministry of Food, the Council's Infant Welfare Centres and the Town Hall.

Staff employed in distributing the Welfare Foods at the Council's Welfare Centres were supplied from the local office of the Ministry of Food, which also arranged for supplies to the Centres.

Distribution continued to take place from the local Food Office until its closure at the end of July, 1954, when the remaining stock was transferred to the Council's temporary Central Store at the Old Town Hall.

At the end of August a permanent Central Store was opened at Northcott House, High Street, Walthamstow in a well situated

position and a full time Clerk/Storekeeper was appointed to take charge of the premises. Bulk supplies of Welfare Foods from the Ministry of Food Depot at Edmonton are delivered to the Central Store and issues made to the various distribution centres throughout the Borough.

An additional distribution centre was opened each weekday morning at Northcott House, commencing on 30th August, 1954. These sessions were later increased to include Tuesday and Friday afternoons. By December the distribution at this centre exceeded that at any other local distribution centre.

At the end of the year, eight Distribution Centres were open for 24 sessions per week enabling beneficiaries to obtain supplies from one to four centres on any weekday.

DAY NURSERIES

The following table shows the average attendances at the Day Nurseries during 1954 (Mondays to Fridays only).

Month	Nurseries	Under 2 yrs.	Over 2 yrs.	Total
January	Higham Hill	12.4	36.4	48.8
	Handsworth Ave.	5.5	41.6	46.6
February	Higham Hill	14.6	33.9	48.5
	Handsworth Ave.	5.0	36.5	41.5
March	Higham Hill	17.4	28.7	46.1
	Handsworth Ave.	4.4	32.1	36.5
April	Higham Hill	16.8	32.5	49.3
	Handsworth Ave.	5.1	36.4	41.5
May	Higham Hill	15.6	26.6	42.2
	Handsworth Ave.	8.4	38.0	46.4
June	Higham Hill	15.0	25.0	40.0
	Handsworth Ave.	6.4	36.0	42.4
July	Higham Hill	17.3	28.7	46.0
	Handsworth Ave.	5.3	32.2	37.5
August	Higham Hill	15.2	32.0	47.2
	Handsworth Ave.	5.4	32.3	37.7
September	Higham Hill	17.4	32.8	50.2
	Handsworth Ave.	7.7	35.5	43.2
October	Higham Hill	17.5	33.3	50.8
	Handsworth Ave.	7.6	28.9	36.5
November	Higham Hill	16.5	33.3	49.8
	Handsworth Ave.	9.2	30.8	40.0
December	Higham Hill	15.5	33.5	49.0
	Handsworth Ave.	8.8	31.0	39.8
Average Whole Year	Higham Hill	16.0	31.3	47.3
	Handsworth Ave.	6.5	34.2	40.7

Both Day Nurseries are approved for training in the care of children aged 0—5 years. Both have 60 places.

Training.—During 1954, six Nursery Students gained their Certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute and none failed. Their future careers were as follows :—

- 2 continued as Staff Nursery Nurses with other authorities.
1 continued as Staff Nursery Nurse at Walthamstow.
1 entered General Nursing training.
1 continued as Staff Nursery Nurse at a Residential Nursery.
1 entered a Teachers' Training College.

NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS (REGULATION)
ACT, 1948

Registration was continued in one case for the care of up to 16 children aged 3/5 years, but the premises were not used for the reception of children during 1954.

DAILY GUARDIAN SCHEME

This Scheme was begun in May, 1951, and Guardians are paid a retaining fee of 1/- per day (6d. per half day), by the County Council, whilst they are caring for a child. Guardians are approved subject to a satisfactory Health Visitor's report.

The experience since the commencement has been as follows :—

	1951	1952	1953	1954
No. of Daily Guardians on Register at end of year	8	19	19	19
No. of applications for services of Daily Guardian	25	23	26	32
Referred to Day Nurseries	10	—	20	21
Referred to Daily Guardian but nothing further heard	6	11	5	4
Placed with Daily Guardian	9	12	1	7
Continued in care of Daily Guardian from previous year	—	2	8	3

These 10 children were in the care of a Daily Guardian for periods as follows :— (Six of the children continued to be cared for in 1955.)

[illegible]

INFESTATION

The steps taken to combat infestation include cleanliness inspections and treatment at Clinics (which includes the supply of Suleo and of steel combs at cost price).

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

This is referred to in Section F of the Report.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

This matter is referred to in Section A of the Report.

WOMEN'S CLINIC

This Clinic continued on the same lines as in previous years at Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital, under the clinical charge of Miss Helen Rodway, F.R.C.O.G., who states that the number of patients attending has been as follows :—

	New Cases.	Attendances.
1950	34	475
1951	19	444
1952	24	411
1953	28	337
1954	25	314

MIDWIFERY

(Section 23)

There were 32 practising midwives in the Borough at the end of 1954, including those at Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital.

Medical supervision was carried out by the Medical Staff and non-medical supervision by the Superintendent of the Nurses' Training Home.

The following table shows the work done by Midwives during 1954 :—

No. of confinements attended as a Midwife	1,273
„ confinements attended as a Maternity Nurse	270
„ Medical Aid Notices sent	511
„ Twin Births notified	19
„ Stillbirths Notified	6
„ Notifications of Artificial Feeding	12
„ Discharging Eyes	1
„ Deaths Notified	3

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

Midwifery cases	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,063
Maternity cases	.....	.....	.....	.....	94
Medical Aid Notices	.....	.....	.....	.....	463

The percentage of Medical Aid Notices were :—

All cases	.....	.....	.....	.....	33.1
Maternity Hospital Midwives	.....	.....	.....	.....	40.0
Other Midwives	.....	.....	.....	.....	12.4

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

For complications during pregnancy :—

Antepartum hæmorrhage	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Other conditions	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Total	.....	.....	.....	.....	6

For complications during labour :—

Prolonged first and second stage	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Ruptured perineum	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Premature labour	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Rise in temperature	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Post-partum hæmorrhage	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Abnormal presentation	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Other conditions	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Total	.....	.....	.....	.....	33

For complications in regard to the infant :—

Asphyxia	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Jaundice	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Inflamed eyes	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Prematurity and feebleness	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Cyanosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Other conditions	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Total	.....	.....	.....	.....	9

The table below shows the number of visits carried out by the District and Home Nurse/Midwives :—

	Ante-Natal Examinations			Deliveries		Lying-in Visits	Total Visits
	Patients' Homes	Midwife's House	Clinic	Mid.	Mat.		
District Midwives	1,318	364	812	180	115	3,152	5,941
Home Nurse/ Midwives	59	—	896	28	31	476	1,490
Totals	1,377	364	1,708	208	146	3,628	7,431

Two midwives in private practice undertook 2 cases as midwives, and 30 cases as maternity nurses.

Gas and Air Analgesia.—A total of 318 patients on the District received gas and air analgesia, representing a percentage of 89.8 of District confinements.

Emergency Unit.—This Unit, stationed at Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital, was called out to 2 Walthamstow cases during 1954.

Maternity Outfits.—361 outfits were issued.

Training of Pupil Midwives.—Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital is a training school for both Parts I and II, the latter in association with home confinements on the "district." A total of 27 pupils successfully underwent Part II training during 1954.

An Inspecting Officer of the Central Midwives Board carried out during the year an inspection of the district arrangements for Pupil Midwifery Training in connection with Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital. Satisfaction was expressed with the arrangements made, but there was some concern that at the time of the inspection the number of district cases was not adequate for the number of pupils requiring training. The excessive number of Pupil Midwives was due to a sudden influx and steps were taken to obtain assistance from certain Midwives in the Forest Area who were given recognition as teachers of Pupil Midwives for this purpose. The co-operation of the Central Midwives Board, the Area Medical Officer, Forest Division and the Superintendent of the Lady Rayleigh Training Home at Leyton was much appreciated in overcoming the difficulty.

It is very necessary to assist in the district training of Pupil Midwives from Thorpe Coombe because during this training they work with the home nurses at the District Nurses' Home and after completing their midwifery training, many take up temporary home nursing and some proceed to train as Queen's Nurses and to remain on the staff at the District Nurses' Home as Queen's Nurses.

HEALTH VISITING

(Section 24)

Health Visiting Staff.—The equivalent of whole-time Health Visitors at the end of the year was 9.6, and one Superintendent. This was equal to one whole-time district Health Visitor to 160 notified births.

Most of the Health Visitors also carry out duties as School Nurses.

HOME VISITS

	To Children under 1 year of age.			To Children 1-5 years of age.	Total.
	First.	Subsequent.	Total.		
1954	1,491	4,632	6,123	10,473	16,596
1953	1,447	3,719	5,166	9,445	14,611

The following table shows the number and nature of visits paid in 1954.

Ward	Visits to Children under 1 year			Visits to Children under 1 year of age	Visits to Children 2—5 years	Grand Total	Unsuccessful Visits	Ante-Natal Visits			Other Visits	Total Visits
	First Visits	Subsequent Visits	Total Visits					First Visits	Subsequent Visits	Total Visits		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	—	—	(8)	(9)	Cols. 6-9
St. James Street	243	335	578	277	649	1,504	306	84	35	119	354	2,283
High Street	175	336	511	244	584	1,339	163	37	22	59	240	1,801
Hoe Street	227	548	775	286	794	1,855	606	109	1	110	518	3,089
Wood Street	212	587	799	378	1,029	2,206	677	55	37	92	333	3,308
Hale End	320	1,627	1,947	1,188	1,550	4,685	286	93	56	149	292	5,412
Higham Hill	314	1,199	1,513	1,483	2,011	5,007	806	151	40	191	650	6,654
Totals 1954	1,491	4,632	6,123	3,856	6,617	16,596	2,844	529	191	720	2,387	22,547
Totals 1953	1,447	3,719	5,166	3,238	6,207	14,611	2,474	417	126	543	2,127	19,755

Health Visiting—Investigations.—An increasing amount of the time of health visiting staff has been given to "follow up" in connection with investigations. These have included the Medical Research Council's B.C.G. Trials, Prematurity, Virus Diseases during Pregnancy, the Population Investigation of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and Institute of Child Health (University of London), and lastly, Breast Feeding.

Liaison with Hospital Services.—Health visitors and school nurses, as well as medical staff, continued to attend ward rounds of Dr. Hinden, Pædiatrician, Whipps Cross Hospital, who holds a fortnightly session at the Town Hall Clinic.

The Health Visitor and the General Practitioner.—In June an invitation was addressed to all Medical Practitioners practising in the Borough to attend a meeting at the Town Hall in order to meet the Health Visitors and the Medical Staff of the Department. The invitation was accompanied by a list of suggestions indicating ways in which the Health Visitor might help the family doctor. An interesting meeting resulted and nineteen family doctors attended.

General.—The Superintendent Health Visitor, Mrs. J. Foulkes, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert., reports the following :—

"The year has been a busy one for the Health Visitors. The welfare of the Old People now plays an ever increasing part in their work and the number of visits is much greater this year. During 1954 the Health Visitors paid 554 visits to Aged and Chronic Sick persons compared with 224 visits in 1953.

"Considering the present scarcity of Health Visitors, we are very fortunate in Walthamstow in being only one Health Visitor short of our establishment, which reflects favourably on local conditions."

HOME NURSING

(Section 25)

Queen's Training.—Three nurses passed their Queen's examination and three more were due to sit the examination at the end of the year. Theoretical work was carried out at the Lady Rayleigh Home, Leytonstone, and practical work at "Carisbrooke."

General.—The Superintendent of the District Nurses' Home, Miss E. G. Welbrock, S.R.N., S.C.M., M.T.D., reports as follows :—

"The number of visits to patients increased.

"For seven months of the year we lived at Highams Park during the time when alterations were being carried out at "Carisbrooke", but we were all very happy to return to our own home in time for Christmas.

" The Staff on the 31st December, 1954 was as follows :—

- " 1 Superintendent ; Queen's S.R.N., S.C.M., M.T.D.
- 1 Assistant Superintendent ; Queen's S.R.N., S.C.M.
- 5 Full-time Queen's S.R.N., S.C.M.
- 1 " " S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate.
- 9 " " S.R.N., S.C.M.
- 2 " " S.R.N.
- 1 " " Queen's S.R.N.
- 1 " " Male Queen's S.R.N.
- 1 " " " S.R.N.
- 1 Part-time Queen's S.R.N., S.C.M.
- 1 " " S.R.N., S.C.M.
- 1 " " S.R.N.
- 4 " " S.E.A.N.

" The following gives details of Home Visits during the year :—

	New cases	Total visits
Medical	823	40,033
Surgical	231	10,198
Tuberculosis	23	2,053
Operations	10	17
Miscarriages	3	17
Specials	18	173
Casuals	89	195
Last Offices	18	27
Hypodermic Injections	417	11,905
Totals	1,632	64,618

In January, 1954 the Health Area Sub-Committee invited tenders for additions and alterations to the Nurses' Home at Carisbrooke Road and authorised the acceptance of the lowest tender at £4,992. This amount had to be increased subsequently owing to unforeseen additional work which was required having regard to the fact that two rather old houses were being dealt with. The total cost worked out at £5,795.

The alterations embraced the fire precautions which had been suggested by the County Fire Prevention Services and comprised the following :—

1. Alteration of two existing ground floor rooms to provide general and midwifery district rooms respectively with all necessary sanitary conveniences and sterilising equipment.

2. Ground floor extension to provide examination, patients' waiting and staff drying rooms together with sanitary accommodation for patients.
3. Corridor connections between the three floors of the two semi-detached houses.
4. Adaptation of two existing rooms to provide an enlarged dining room adjoining the kitchen and with kitchen improvements.
5. Excavation of underground heating chamber to accommodate fully automatic gas fired boilers.
6. Provision of wash basins in fifteen bedrooms.
7. Overhauling and enlargement of central heating system.
8. Redecorating throughout.
9. Erection of smoke stop doors on landings.

Work was commenced in June 1954 and completed in mid-December and during this period the staff was temporarily accommodated in a large house loaned by the Borough Council in Castle Avenue, Highams Park. Before re-occupation, considerable refurnishing was carried out at an estimated cost of £1,200.

The architectural work was carried out by the Borough Architect, Engineer and Surveyor for Walthamstow and the refurnishing by the County Supplies Officer.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

(Section 26)

During 1954 immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough continued to be available at all welfare centres and at the special clinic held weekly at the Town Hall, where vaccination was also done.

Most medical practitioners in the town also participated in the County Council's scheme for vaccination and immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough, a fee of 5/- being payable for the completion of a report.

The ideal programme is vaccination before the end of the third month, whooping cough immunisation during months 4, 5 and 6, and diphtheria immunisation during months 7 and 8, with a "booster" dose immediately before school entry and preferably another before transfer from the infants to the junior department, i.e., say about 10 years. A "booster" dose should also be given against whooping cough before school entry and re-vaccination performed.

The following were the attendances during the weekly Town Hall Clinic :—

Diphtheria Immunisation	.....	.....	366
Whooping Cough Immunisation	.....	.....	270
Vaccination	.....	.....	451
Total	.....	.....	1,087

This represented an average of 20.5 attendances per session. There are two attendances for each vaccination and diphtheria immunisation, and three for each whooping cough immunisation.

VACCINATION

The number and ages of persons vaccinated are shown below :—

	Age at date of Vaccination						Total
	Under 6 months	6-12 months	1 year	2-4 years	5-14 years	15 years and over	
Primary	362	70	17	10	15	40	514
Secondary	—	—	1	6	7	120	134
Total	362	70	18	16	22	160	648

The total for 1953 was 800.

Vaccinated by General Practitioners 419

Vaccinated by County Staff 229

There were only 432 vaccinations in children under one year in 1954 as compared with 515 in 1953. The vaccinations under one year during 1954 dropped to approximately 30% of babies surviving to the age of one year. For the purpose of comparison, similar percentages have been calculated for the past five years as follows :—

Year	Percentage
1953	36
1952	35
1951	37
1950	23
1949	18

The low proportion of babies vaccinated is a matter of grave concern in view of the risk of importation of smallpox by air and sea, and also because of the extra risk and discomfort of vaccination

for the first time during adult or adolescent years which is now required for service in the armed forces and before travelling abroad.

VACCINATION AND RE-VACCINATION OF DEPARTMENTAL STAFF

The staff of the department and ambulance drivers, especially those who would be expected to deal with smallpox in the event of cases occurring, were again offered facilities for vaccination and revaccination. The number vaccinated was 10.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

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

Total number of immunisations completed :

(a) School age	259
(b) Pre-school age	1,093
Total	1,352
(c) Number already immunised having rein- forcing dose	1,530

Details of the immunisations included in the above total are set out below :—

No. completed at schools	223
No. completed at welfare centres	468
No. completed at Town Hall Clinic	157
No. completed at "Brookscroft"	99
No. completed by general practitioners	405
Total	1,352

The total for 1953 was 1,196.

146 children included in the above figures were given combined whooping cough/diphtheria injections by General Practitioners. This prophylactic was not supplied by the County Council.

There have only been two confirmed cases of diphtheria in the last eight years and no deaths.

On the other hand, the fall in the number of children immunised, especially in the 0—1 age group, gives rise to misgiving, especially since the target of immunisation in this group is 75% of babies before reaching the age of one year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

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

Age at Immunisation											Total % Immunised to Population in Age Groups				Notified Cases		
Year	Regd. Births	0—1 year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	Total 0—5 years	School Age	Over School Age	Grand Total	% 0—1 to Total Births	% 0—5 years	% 5—15 years	% 0—15 years	Admitted to Hospital	Diagnosis Confirmed	Deaths
1950	1,598	707	288	29	31	18	1,073	261	—	1,334	44.2	60.5	96.5	81.9	11	1	—
1951	1,637	670	442	59	22	19	1,212	265	—	1,477	40.9	58.1	99.3	83.0	11	—	—
1952	1,512	723	361	48	24	18	1,174	412	—	1,586	47.8	49.4	98.3	79.6	10	—	—
1953	1,454	610	324	36	16	19	1,005	191	—	1,196	41.9	44.4	92.5	73.8	13	—	—
1954	1,474	685	300	58	29	21	1,093	259	—	1,352	46.5	42.5	96.1	75.3	6	—	—

Number of children at 31st December, 1954, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1940) :—

Under 1 (born 1954)	176
1— 4 (born 1953-1950)	4,055
5— 9 (born 1949-1945)	8,507
10—14 (born 1944-1940)	6,626
Total immunised under 15 years	19,364

Publicity Campaign.

Following the receipt of Ministry of Health Circular 5/54 on the subject of diphtheria immunisation publicity campaigns, arrangements were made for the showing of slides at local cinemas, giving details of the immunisation facilities available in Walthamstow. In addition, advertisements giving similar information were inserted in the two local newspapers.

Letters were sent to the parents of all newly born children advising them of the need to avail themselves of the facilities for diphtheria immunisation and the Medical and Health Visiting Staffs have maintained a system of personal persuasion.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

The numbers and age groups of children immunised during the year are shown in the following table :—

	Age at date of Final Injection					Total
	Under 6 mths.	6—12 mths.	1 year	2—4 years	5 and over	
Clinics, Nurseries and Welfare Centres	174	423	82	56	2	737
General Practitioner:	35	168	60	24	15	302
Total	209	591	142	80	17	1,039

The total for 1953 was 754 and parents are somewhat unfortunately becoming keener on whooping cough immunisation for the under one's than on having them protected against smallpox and diphtheria.

In addition 12 children received a booster dose.

Only three cases of whooping cough notified during the year gave a history of previous immunisation. All three cases were visited and an assessment made of the severity of the attack in accordance with the criteria of the Medical Research Council. All three cases were in category O which showed less than 5 paroxysms in 24 hours. Details are given below :—

Date of Birth and Date Immunised		Remarks	
28.9.49	Mar./May, 1950	Notified 21.5.54.	Whooping spasms only two or three per 24 hours. Medical Research Council classification O.
9.2.52	Aug./Oct., 1952	Notified 8.4.54.	No whooping spasms. M.R.C. classification O.

Date of Birth and Date Immunised	Date of Birth and Date Immunised	Remarks
9.2.54	Sept./Oct., 1954	Notified 24.12.54, i.e., too soon after notification for immunisation to be fully effective. Only 2 whooping spasms per 24 hours. M.R.C. classification O.

During 1953 there were 692 notifications of whooping cough and of these 286 were in the 0—5 age group, twenty-two had been immunised against whooping cough and of these, twelve would be classified as O, eight had mild attacks and only two had severe attacks.

During 1954 there were 372 notifications of whooping cough and of these 185 were in the 0—5 age group. The fact that only three immunised children showed symptoms and signs of mild infection, shows the measure of reliability of immunisation and the prophylactic used.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

(Section 27)

The Ambulance Service is administered centrally from Chelmsford via the Control Centre at Ilford, and (as far as information is available), it appears to be adequate for the needs of the Borough.

The Local Service has continued from the Ambulance Depot, which is situated at the Borough Council's Fulbourne Road Depot.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS—CARE AND AFTER-CARE

(Section 28)

TUBERCULOSIS

Dr. H. Ramsay, Physician in charge of the Walthamstow Chest Clinic has contributed the following :—

“ The work of the clinic has proceeded on the usual lines during 1954, including the routine use of the Odelca miniature X-ray unit. The B.C.G. scheme has also been maintained. There have been no major innovations but the amount of work has as usual considerably increased. The following figures may be of interest :—

New patients attending during 1954	.....	5,386
Total attendances	.....	16,550

“ One very encouraging feature is the continued drop in notifications and in the number of deaths from tuberculosis in the Borough. This steady improvement has been noticeable for some

years past, but last year the figures were really remarkable by comparison with pre-war figures. As regards the country as a whole the same marked drop in the number of deaths has been noted, but notifications of new cases tended to remain stable. Some improvement in this figure has however been recorded during the last two years.

"It is important to appreciate that the amount of work necessary to maintain control, and to improve the situation further, is still very considerable. The number of cases on clinic registers requiring supervision does not fall and the total amount of work necessary as regards diagnosis, treatment, prevention and general care remains high and increases. This fact should be remembered in considering what further developments might still be required. It is too early to suppose that no further effort is necessary."

Tuberculosis Case Conferences.—These Conferences started in June, 1953 at approximately monthly intervals and 9 were held during 1954. The Conferences afforded opportunities for the staff of the Chest Clinic and of the Health Department to meet and discuss new notifications, hospital admissions and discharges, the contacts register, non-notifications and medical priority in re-housing.

Other action in regard to Ascertainment and Follow-up—

- (i) A chest X-ray examination on appointment is required in regard to those persons in contact with groups of children.
- (ii) When a new case of pulmonary tuberculosis is notified, enquiry is made as to infectivity, and if sputum positive, all the records are marked accordingly, and action is taken as if it were a case of major infectious disease.
- (iii) Case finding by the tuberculin patch testing of school entrants was continued in 1954.

Walthamstow and Chingford Association of Tuberculosis Care Helpers.

Miss A. Woolgar, Honorary Secretary of the Walthamstow and Chingford Association of Tuberculosis Care Helpers, contributes the following report :—

"During the past year we have continued our policy of doing what we can to ensure that those families which are our special responsibility are adequately nourished, adding such other help as appears necessary or desirable from time to time.

"In the early part of the year we found that the wives of a number of patients were in need of clothing and substantial grants were made to enable them to be properly clad for the cold weather. The moral effect of this, both on the patients and their wives, amply justified the expenditure.

"In May several members of the Committee attended the Regional Conference of Care Workers in which the Secretary took part. The Conference, held at Southend, was organised by the National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis to enable members of the Care Committees to meet and discuss their work and mutual problems. The experience proved interesting and useful and we propose to take advantage of any further opportunities which arise to widen the knowledge of individual members.

"Talks to local organisations have been continued at intervals throughout the year and have again led to an increase in interest and understanding of our work which is reflected in the financial support received.

"The Social Committee has extended their activities, organising several successful events to raise funds, and it is anticipated that these will increase still further in the New Year.

"The following is a summary of the practical help provided, but we place an equal value on the advice and encouragement we are able to give throughout the patient's illness and during the time of his resettlement."

Assistance to Patients, etc. :—

	No. of patients assisted	Amount £
Milk	6	45
Groceries	32	435
Fuel	22	200
Fares	29	184
Clothing, furniture, etc. (inc. bedding)	82	427
Holidays	6	53
Occupational Therapy	15	20
Other Assistance *** see under	29	206

*** Hire purchase and debts.
Rent and mortgage.
House repairs.
Radio rental and licences.
Cash grants.
Homework equipment.

Removals.
Textbooks and tools.
Conference fees.
Pocket money.
Sickroom equipment.

B.C.G. Vaccination of Schoolchildren.—The most important step taken in 1954 was the commencement of B.C.G. vaccination of schoolchildren in the year preceding their fourteenth birthday. The scheme is fully described in the report of the School Medical Officer and by the end of the year 825 acceptances had been received from 1,548 children eligible, i.e. over 53%.

Details are as follows :—

Mantoux positive	.....	.....	.....	145
Mantoux negative	.....	.....	.....	635
Absent from test	.....	.....	.....	45
				825

Vaccinated 630, absent 5.

Nursing arrangements at Chest Clinic.

Three Tuberculosis Visitors provided by the County Council are employed at the Chest Clinic. They combine nursing duties for the Regional Hospital Board at the Chest Clinic and domiciliary visits to patients for the County Council. The appointment of an extra clerk by the Regional Hospital Board in order to deal with patients' records, appointments and filing, served to reduce the amount of clerical work previously done by the Tuberculosis Visitors, and thereby allowing more time for home visiting.

Library Facilities.

Nine Tuberculous patients were loaned 118 books during 1954 by the service provided by the St. John and Red Cross library service.

Contact Examinations.

First examinations of contacts in 1954 were 140 examinations to 67 total notifications. In 1953 there were 181 examinations to 117 notifications.

Rehabilitation of Tuberculosis Patients.

Financial responsibility for the rehabilitation of two cases at the Papworth Village Settlement continued until 31st March, 1954, when the patients had completed three years' colonisation.

CONVALESCENCE FOR ADULTS

The total of cases sent away for recuperative convalescence was 84. The length of convalescence was two weeks in 81 cases, three weeks in 1 case and four weeks in 1 case. One patient was discharged after 3 days as unsuitable. Recovery of cost or part-cost was made.

SICK-ROOM EQUIPMENT

There are two main depots for sick-room equipment, one at the District Nurses' Home in Carisbrooke Road and the other at the British Red Cross Society Headquarters in Forest Road.

During the year routine issues were made of items of equipment such as bed-pans, thermometers and feeding cups, etc. Special items of equipment are provided when necessary.

CHIROPODY SERVICES

A joint whole-time appointment with the Leyton Health Area Sub-Committee was agreed during the year for seven additional weekly sessions. No appointment had been made at the time of writing this report.

Mr. R. King, Chief Chiropodist, contributes the following:—

“As in past years the Chiropody Service continued with four whole-time Chiropodists, with daily services for adults and one session per week for children. Annual leave and sickness were again covered by locum tenens chiropodists.

“During the year the Clinic gave 17,432 treatments, an increase of 485 over 1953. Of 17,432, 15,047 were adults and 2,385 children, made up as follows:—

Women 11,938 ; Men 3,109 ; Children 2,385.

“The number of booked appointments has increased from 2,127 at 31st December, 1953 by 1,532 to 3,659 at 31st December, 1954. Unfortunately the average waiting time for new appointments and between normal treatments is 12 weeks ; this does not include children who attend without appointment.

“2,385 treatments were given at the special clinic for school children, an increase of 258 over 1953 made up as follows:—

Girls 1,611 ; Boys 774.

“Of the above 24 were girls and 11 boys over 15 years.

“Transport has again been provided for elderly people who were unable to travel by public conveyance and during the year 182 patients attended by this means.

Women 157 ; Men 25.

“This shows an increase of 41 such treatments over 1953.

“Demand for treatment has increased, not only by the 1,529 new patients, but by the return of old patients, who have not attended for some years.

"I should like to mention the co-operation we have received from the family doctors in the area, and also from the Superintendent Health Visitor and her staff in visiting the elderly patients."

HEALTH EDUCATION

(a) At Schools.

This is referred to in the report of the Borough School Medical Officer and included talks to Parents' Associations and lectures on good grooming to Senior Girls' Departments.

(b) Display Material.

A portable exhibit was loaned by the Crusader Insurance Company for approximately one month in the Spring. The exhibit stressed safety in the home and was displayed at several Welfare Centres.

(c) Films.

During the year attention was drawn by the Ministry of Health to a film dealing with sensitivity to antibiotics and an improved injection technique. Arrangements were made to show this and four other Health Education films to the medical and nursing staffs of the Forest, Leyton and Walthamstow Health Areas in October and approximately eighty persons attended. The antibiotic film was of particular interest to home nurses, especially as two of the staff from the Walthamstow District Nurses' Home undergoing their Queen's training at the Leytonstone Home appeared in the film.

(d) General Nursing Council—Training Syllabus.

The Superintendent Health Visitor reports as follows :—

"It was agreed and arranged in Essex that a series of lectures on the social aspects of disease be given by selected Health Visitors to 3rd year student nurses in hospitals in or near their area. The practical work for the student nurses was also discussed and it was decided that the students should have two days practical work in the Public Health field.

"I arranged with the Matron of Connaught Hospital to give the first series of four lectures in January, 1954. The subjects of these lectures were :—

'Positive Health : Social Background of Ill-health.'

'The Local Authority's contribution to the Maintenance of Positive Health.'

'Diseases with special social significance and the role of the medico-social worker in prevention and after care.'

'The Hospital in relation to the patient's home, work and responsibilities.'

"The practical work was to include one half-day home visiting with a Health Visitor and one half-day with a Home Nurse, one half-day at a Welfare Clinic during an Infant Welfare session and one half-day at a Case Conference to discuss all cases visited by the student nurses."

Ten student nurses took part and the comments of the persons concerned are given below :—

Matron, Connaught Hospital :—

"I would like to say that they have appreciated and enjoyed this Course very much indeed, and they all assure me that it has given them a much wider knowledge of the work done for the patients outside the Hospital. I feel sure that this Course will be influential in interesting some Nurses to take up Health Visiting or Queen's District Nursing after completion of their general training."

Superintendent Health Visitor :—

"The Student Nurses of Connaught Hospital enjoyed the lectures and practical work. I was impressed by the great amount of interest shown by them and the intelligent questions they asked at the Case Conferences.

"I agree that the Course should prove influential in interesting certain of the nurses to take up either health visiting or district nursing and act as a stimulus in that direction.

"Apart from this, it also makes them realise the patient is not just a bed number with an illness but an individual having a home, friends and background, which is part of their lives. To have lasting benefit from treatment in hospital, it is essential to bring all these into the picture."

Superintendent Home Nurse :—

"The Nurses came and went out with the Queen's Sisters. All enjoyed their visit and were very interested in the work of the District Nurses. I am quite sure it will be the means of encouraging them to take up either health visiting or district nursing."

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

(Section 29)

Difficulties continue in regard to the recruitment of whole and part-time workers and there was unavoidable delay during the winter months in meeting all requests for help. At the end of the year attempts were made without success to recruit more whole-time workers in order to replace the large number of part-time workers. Although the work of the latter is quite satisfactory, their numbers, which at one time rose to nearly 200, took up much administrative time and energy.

Difficulties also arose in regard to extra transport facilities to enable the Organiser to pay more frequent supervisory visits to the homes of patients.

Mrs. C. M. Hall, Domestic Help Organiser, reports as follows :—

“ During 1954 the Domestic Help Service continued to develop even further and met more requests for help than ever before. The Service continues to be administered as in previous years with more pressure from all sources. During the year 2,535 visits were made—357 more than in 1953. There were 15 full time and up to 196 part-time helps employed at any one time. Recruitment of full time helps was disappointing and more are still needed, although those at present engaged are working very well. The number of cases carried forward into 1955 is 637, i.e., 120 more than were carried forward from the previous year.

“ Below is a summary of the year's work :—

Brought forward from 1953	517
New cases during 1954	402
Cases completed during 1954	282
Number of cases carried forward to 1955	637

“ During 1954 five Domestic Helps attended a two weeks' training course at Chelmsford and all were successful in obtaining a certificate. These Domestic Helps enjoyed the Course, found it stimulating and informative and it is hoped that more such Courses will be arranged during 1955.”

“ It will be seen from the foregoing figures that the number of cases carried forward into the new year is larger than ever ; the visiting becomes a greater problem as the number of Chronic Sick increases, but the demand for this essential service goes on unabated and has been well met ; the appreciation of hundreds of people is a sound reward for the help provided.

“ The following table gives additional particulars of the work done during 1954 :—

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE, 1954

	Maternity	Acute Sick	Tuber- culosis	Chronic Sick Aged	Others	Aged not Sick	Others	Total
Requests for help from new cases during the year	80	57	12	256	39	13	3	460
Total cases helped during the year	70	41	20	616	98	66	8	919
Cases being helped at end of year who have received help for —								
Under 3 mths.	—	4	—	39	8	2	—	53
3—6 ,,	—	5	4	34	6	2	1	52
6—12 ,,	—	—	3	107	4	4	—	118
Over 12 ,,	—	—	7	315	48	44	—	414
Total C/Forward to 1955	—	9	14	495	66	52	1	637
Hours of help provided during the year	3,313	1,962½	3,243½	113,168½	21,881	11,826	879	156,273½

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ESSEX—WELFARE COMMITTEE

WELFARE SERVICES

Mr. G. E. Pegram, County Welfare Officer, kindly contributes the following :—

“The following statistics show the extent to which the main services provided by the County Welfare Committee under the National Assistance Act 1948, have been afforded to persons residing within the Borough of Walthamstow during the year 1954 :—

(1) Residential and Temporary Accommodation.

- (a) Admitted to hostels and other residential establishments : Men, 14 ; Women, 20.
- (b) Admitted to temporary accommodation : Men, 8 ; Women, 12 ; Children 23.

(2) Blind Persons.

The numbers of registered blind, partially sighted and defective sighted persons resident in the Borough during the twelve months ended 31st December, 1954, were as follows :—

(i) Registered as blind	.....	.....	.....	214
(ii) Partially sighted	.....	.....	.....	44
(iii) Defective sighted	.....	.....	.....	14

all of whom were under the supervision of Home Teachers. During the year seven blind persons participated in the Home Workers' Scheme operated through the agency of the Royal London Society for the Blind, and one blind person was employed in the Workshops for the Blind. In addition, there were twenty-four blind and ten partially sighted persons in open industry.

“The County Council's Scheme for welfare services for other handicapped persons, including the deaf and dumb and those hard of hearing, are now operating with the co-operation of voluntary organisations specialising in this field of work, although, at this early stage, it is not possible to provide detailed statistical information.”

