

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

Contributors

Walthamstow (England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

[1957?]

Persistent URL

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

License and attribution

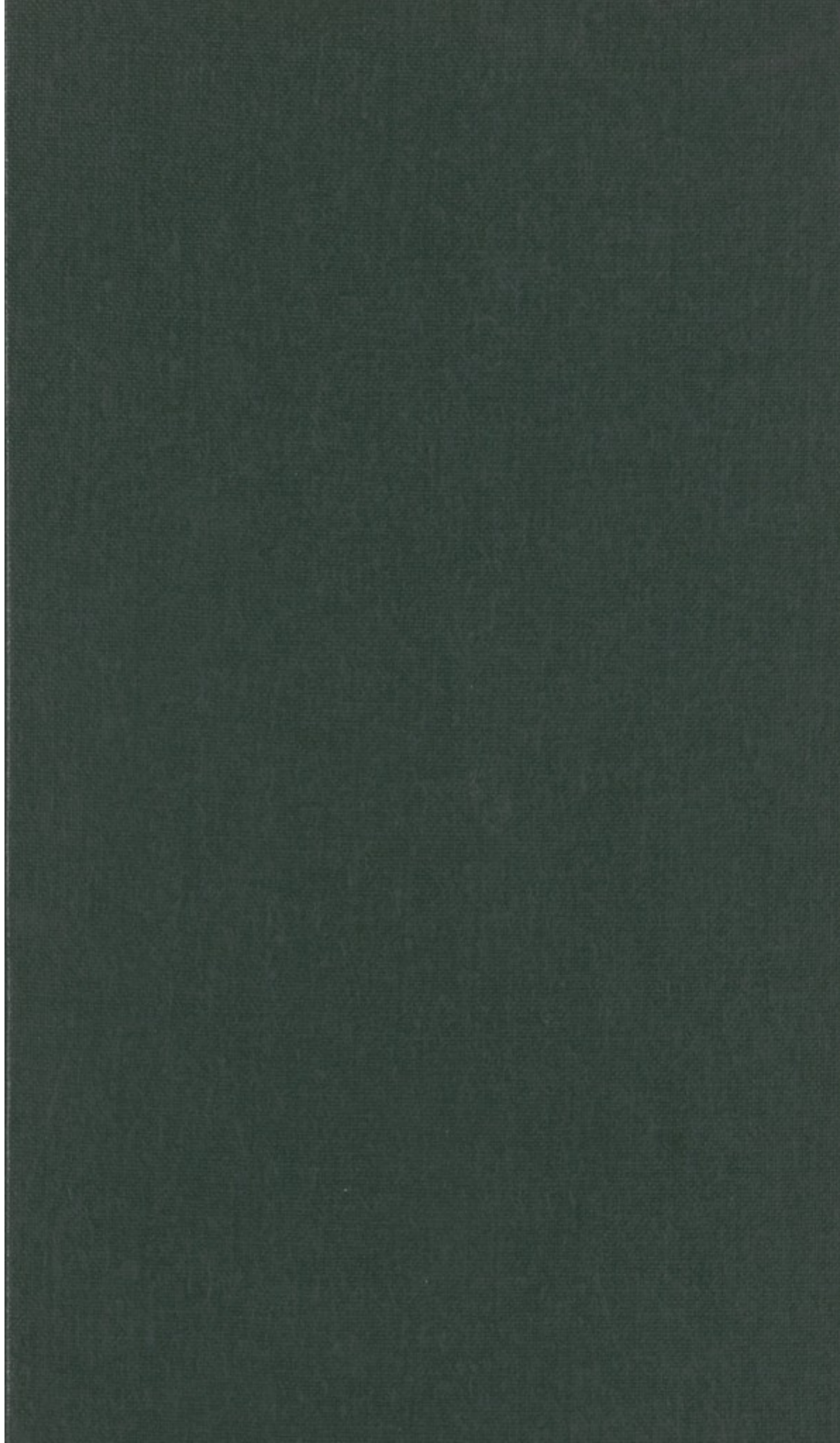
You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

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.

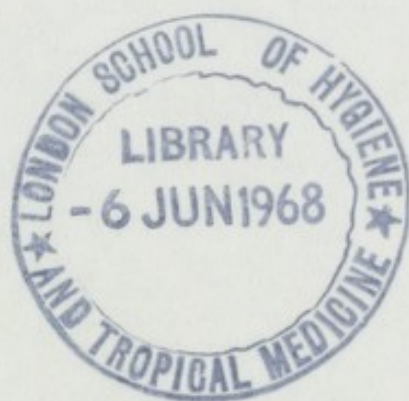
Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



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



Journal Rebind Co. Ltd.
Unit 4, Pier Wharf,
Grays, Essex.



C 4411 (1) WALTHAMSTOW *Act 4 W*
one

WAL 43



BOROUGH OF WALTHAMSTOW

REPORT

OF THE

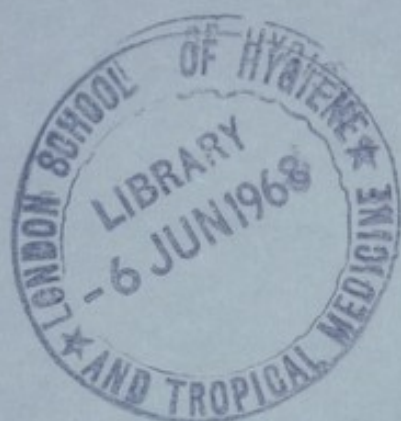
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH**

for the Year 1956

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

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

87979



*Ackd by P.C.
2.8.57
MBJ.*



BOROUGH OF WALTHAMSTOW

REPORT

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF
HEALTH**

FOR THE YEAR

1956

I N D E X

	PAGE		PAGE
SECTION A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area	8		
SECTION B.—General Provision of Health Services in the Area	16		
SECTION C.—Sanitary Circumstances of the Area	19		
SECTION D.—Housing	28		
SECTION E.—Inspection and Supervision of Food	36		
SECTION F.—Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases	46		
SECTION G.—Miscellaneous	58		
SECTION H.—National Health Service Act, 1946—Part III Services	64		
Health Centres	65		
Care of Mothers and Young Children	67		
Midwifery	84		
Health Visiting	87		
Home Nursing	89		
Vaccination and Immunisation	90		
Ambulance Facilities	97		
Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care	97		
Domestic Help	102		
	PAGE		PAGE
Accidents in the Home	12, 102	Deaths from Accidents in	
Acreage	8	the Home	12
Adulteration	40	Deaths, Infants	10, 13, 14
Aged and chronic sick	18, 58	Death Rate	9
Ambulance Facilities	17, 97	Deaths, Causes of	11, 71
Ante-Natal Clinics	67, 73	Dental Laboratory	66
Assessments	8	Dental Treatment	75
Bacteriological Examination	36, 38, 42	Diphtheria	48
B.C.G. Immunisation	99	Diphtheria Immunisation	92
Birth Notifications	69	Diseases of Animals Acts	43
Birth Registrations	15	Disinfections	21, 61
Births, Illegitimate	9, 10, 72	Disinfestation	23
Birth Rate	9	District Midwifery	84
“Brookcroft” Welfare	74	Domestic Help	102, 104
Cancer deaths	11, 12	Dysentery	53
Cancer Education	61	Employment	9
Caravans	23	Emergency Unit	86
Care and After-Care	97	Enteric Fever	49
Care of Illegitimate Children	72	Essex County Council Act,	
Census, 1951	8	1933	19
Child Guidance	77	Factories Acts, 1937/48	45
Child Welfare Clinics	73, 74, 75	Family Doctors, co-opera-	
Chiropody	60, 100	tion with	86
Clean Air Act, 1956	23	Food and Drugs Act, 1955	40
Cleansing (Personal)	17, 83	Food Hygiene Regulations,	
Clearance Areas	32	1955	42
Committees	4, 64	Flooding	62
Comparability Factor	10	Food Inspection	36
Confinements	69	Food Poisoning	43, 51
Contact Examinations	100	Foot Clinic	60, 100
Convalescence for Adults	100	Funeral Arrangements	61
Convalescence for Pre-School		Gas and Air Analgesia	86
Children	79	General Dental Service	65
Conveniences, Public	62	General Information	62
Co-operation with General		Health Centres	65
Practitioners	86	Health Education	61, 101
Cremation	62	Health Visiting	60, 87
Daily Guardian Scheme	83	Home Nursing	89
Day Nurseries	82	Home Visits	87
Deaths	9, 10, 11	Hospital Accommodation	18
		Housing Act, 1936	32

	PAGE		PAGE
Housing, Closure and Demolition	31	Poliomyelitis	49, 97
Housing, General	33	Population	8
Housing, Improvement		Post-Mortems	62
Grants	29	Post-Natal Clinics	67, 73
Housing, Inspection	29	Premature Infants	72
Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	31	Prevention of Break-up of Families	101
Housing Statistics	28	Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	43
Ice Cream	37	Prevention of Illness	97
Illegitimacy	72	Prevention of Tuberculosis	57, 100
Immunisation	90	Public Health Act, 1936	19, 44
Imported Egg Products	50	Public Health Inspection	20
Incidence of Mongolism	84	Pupil Midwives	86
Infant Mortality 10, 13, 14, 70		Queen's Institute of District Nursing—Training	89
Infectious Diseases (General)	46	Rainfall	62
Infestation	23, 83	Rateable Value	8
Inquests	62	Redevelopment and Clearance Areas	32
Integration of Health Services	16	Rehabilitation	100
Invalid Children's Aid Association	79	Rehousing on Medical Grounds	36
Laboratory Facilities	17	Relaxation Classes	68, 73
Laundry Service for the Incontinent	61	Rodent Control	43
Liaison with Hospital Services	88	Scabies Treatment	17
Mass Radiography	55	School Outbreaks	49
Maternal Mortality 13, 15, 84		Sickness Benefit	57
Maternity Homes	19	Sickroom Equipment	100
Maternity Outfits	86	Smoke Abatement	24
Meals on Wheels Service	60	Social Conditions	8
Measles	48	Special Premises	21, 22
Meat and other Foods	38	Staff	16, 45
Medical Aid	85	Statistics	9, 69
Medical Examinations	61	Stillbirths	9, 13, 15
Medicaments	80	Sunlight Treatment	75
Meningococcal Infection	53	Swimming Baths	26
Midwifery	84	Toddlers' Clinic	69
Milk Inspection	36	Total Infant Mortality	14
Milk Special Designations Order, 1951	37	Tonsils and Adenoids	77
Milk Supply	36	Training of Nursery Nurses	82
Moral Welfare	72	Training of Pupil Midwives	86
National Assistance Act, 1948, Sec. 47	18	Tuberculosis	54, 56, 97
National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951	19	Vaccination	90, 91, 97
Neo-Natal Mortality 13, 15, 69		Verminous Premises	23
Notices, Sanitary	20	Virus Infections during Pregnancy	69
Notification of Births	69	Vital Statistics	9, 69
Nursery Nursing Certificate	82	Walthamstow Corporation Act, 1956	27
Nurseries and Child Minders (Reg.) Acts, 1948	83	Walthamstow Association of Tuberculosis Care Helpers	98
Nutrients	80	Walthamstow Child Welfare Society	74
Old People's Welfare 18, 58, 105		Water	19
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	53	Welfare Services	105
Ophthalmic Treatment	77	Welfare Foods	81
Orthopaedic Treatment	75	Whooping Cough	48
Outworkers	46	„ „ Immunisation	94
Pædiatric Clinic	79	Women's Clinic	84
Pet Animals Act, 1951	43		

HEALTH COMMITTEE

1956-7

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS. W. M. PALETHORPE.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR J. E. NICHOLLS.

Ex-officio :

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR—ALDERMAN G. R. LOWTON, J.P.
THE DEPUTY MAYOR—ALDERMAN THE LADY MCENTEE, O.B.E., J.P.
CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE COMMITTEE—ALDERMAN ROSS WYLD,
O.B.E., J.P.

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

„ G. S. MACE.

„ E. C. REDHEAD, J.P., M.P.

COUNCILLORS :

MRS. E. L. BALDWIN.

J. J. BRACKEN.

MRS. S. CANDY.

MRS. G. F. G. COWELL.

F. H. EILES.

A. W. ELLIS, M.B.E.

COUNCILLORS :

J. H. HAMMOND.

O. F. J. MCCARTHY.

J. W. PRINGLE.

MRS. C. E. STANNARD.

A. F. WHICHER.

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 :

G. H. G. POOLE, M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.(OBST.)R.C.O.G.

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

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

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

MY LADY, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I present herewith a report on the health and the Health Services of the Borough during 1956, and again by courtesy of the County Medical Officer, I give details of the Personal Health Services.

A comparison is given of the changing picture of health and disease in the Borough over the past twenty-seven years.

The vital statistics are again favourable and there are new low records in regard to infant mortality, which for the first time has fallen below 20, still-births and deaths of infants in the neo-natal period.

A table is given showing the cancer deaths rate for England & Wales and Walthamstow, and also in regard to fatal accidents in the home.

Reference is made to the increase in the work in regard to institutional accommodation for the aged and chronic sick and to the cases requiring consideration for possible compulsory removal under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

In accordance with the appropriate legislation, the former Sanitary Inspectors are now designated Public Health Inspectors.

During the year consideration was given to the increase in the number of Student Public Health Inspectors. Reference is made to smoke abatement, attendance of Public Health Inspectors at special courses, and the special report of the London and Home Counties Smoke Abatement Advisory Council.

Reference is also made to the Walthamstow Corporation Act and those sections dealing with the provision of bathrooms, to the speedier repair of defective premises, sealing of drains and sewers before the demolition of property, storage for street trading purposes, the restoration of water supplies, and the regulations in regard to the premises of hairdressers and barbers.

A summary is given of the progress in the clearance of unfit houses, and it is of interest to note that over two-thirds of the properties included in the five-year programme have already been represented for demolition.

The Housing Manager contributes a report in regard to rehousing in Walthamstow and acknowledgment must be made of his helpful co-operation in regard to all cases with a medical aspect, and especially the rehousing of the tuberculous.

The Public Health Inspectorate have paid increasing attention to the inspection and supervision of food, especially in regard to cooked meats, about one-fifth of which showed considerable contamination; even so, there was a marked improvement when compared with 1955.

With regard to infectious disease, there has been no confirmed case of diphtheria since January, 1950, but the need still remains for immunisation before the first birthday and for booster doses before school entry. An average number of cases of poliomyelitis were notified and confirmed, and fortunately there was only slight residual paralysis in one case. Five cases of paratyphoid were associated with cream-filled cakes and again with imported egg products. These cases were part of a larger outbreak affecting the eastern part of Greater London.

There were two considerable epidemics of food poisoning due to *Clostridium welchii*. Dr. Betty Hobbs made a close study of one outbreak and made recommendations. The whole of the "field" investigations in regard to cases of food poisoning were made by the Public Health Inspectorate.

Reference is made to the risk attending on the use of imported egg products, especially Chinese, and the action taken.

Although 10 more cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified in 1956, the total of 71 compares very favourably with that of 159 in 1930.

Reference is made to old people's welfare, the increasing need for accommodation for the aged and chronic sick, and for domiciliary chiropody for the elderly housebound. The laundry service for the incontinent continued to serve a real need.

The year was one of excessive rainstorms with consequential flooding. The action proposed is described by the Borough Engineer.

With regard to the Personal Health Services administered by the Walthamstow Health Area Sub-Committee, the following are the matters for comment:—

Mr. L. W. Elmer, L.D.S., Senior Dental Surgeon, retired after 24 years' fine service in Walthamstow, but fortunately he remains to undertake sessions in the General Dental Service. In his report Mr. Elmer states that of some 200 expectant mothers referred for examination and treatment, only one needed complete artificial dentures and only seven needed partial dentures. A marked change from recent years when the majority referred from Welfare Centres required full dentures.

Dr. Gillespie in her report on child guidance of pre-school children stresses the need for advice and treatment at the earliest possible age.

An account is given of scarlet fever and tonsillitis at a Day Nursery and the occurrence of nephritogenic types of hæmolytic streptococci and the freedom from apparent kidney damage of the children infected.

The Superintendent Health Visitor reports on the teaching of mothercraft in all secondary schools and the training of nursing and other staff in "field" work. The Superintendent of Home Nursing and Midwifery reports that there were over 84,000 visits paid by the Home Nurses.

With regard to immunisation, vaccination against poliomyelitis was begun and although there was an increase in vaccination against smallpox, the acceptance rate is still lamentably low and would afford no general protection to the community in the event of an epidemic.

A conference was called in regard to problem families, but difficulties cropped up in regard to calling a further meeting.

The need for additional domestic help assistance recurs each winter.

I have great pleasure in commenting on the good work of the staff of the Department, the consideration of the Committees concerned, and in particular of your Chairman, Councillor Mrs. Palethorpe. Co-operation has again been received from all the organisations and agencies in the Borough which are charged with the health and well-being of the community, and not least from Family Doctors.

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 1956)	116,700
Number of Assessments (31st December, 1956)	38,649
Rateable Value (31st December, 1956)	£1,665,231
Estimated Product of a penny rate	£6,500

Population.—The Registrar-General's Estimate of the home population at mid-year, 1956, is 116,700 a decrease of 1,100 on the previous year.

The following comparison between the years 1930 and 1956 illustrates the changing picture in health and disease.

	1956	1930
Population	116,700	124,800
Rateable Value	£1,665,231	£645,572
Product of Penny Rate	£6,500	£2,670
Infant Mortality	18.7	39

	Noti- fications	Deaths	Noti- fications	Deaths
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil	509	22
Smallpox	Nil	Nil	189	Nil
Tuberculosis	77	8	159	89
Measles	498	—	Not Notifiable	28
*Cancer	Not Notifiable	264		167
*Vascular Diseases		561		308

*The classification of causes of death has been materially altered during the period.

CENSUS, 1951

Report on Usual Residence and Workplace

The publication of this Report during 1956 yielded information of interest in regard to the Borough and which briefly is as follows :—

The enumerated occupied population amounted to 39,572 Males and 21,068 Females, a total of 60,640.

A table is included summarising workplace movements and giving a comparison of the resident and day population. Out of a resident population of 121,200, 56,990 males and 64,210 females, 32,515 resident persons worked elsewhere and 16,909 persons resident elsewhere worked in Walthamstow. This produced an aggregate of 49,424 inward and outward workplace movements or 408 per 1,000 resident population. The estimated day population was 105,594.

Of the 32,515 persons resident in the Borough but working elsewhere, the workplace of 8,688 was in Essex, Leyton predominating with a total of 3,647; 19,204 persons worked in London and of these 4,916 in the City, the next highest totals being 2,516 in Hackney and 2,269 in the City of Westminster; 4,173 persons worked in Middlesex and of these 1,977 worked in Tottenham.

In regard to persons working in the Borough and resident elsewhere, the total was 16,909, i.e., 12,722 from Essex including 3,511 from Chingford, 4,528 from Leyton and 1,570 from Wanstead and Woodford. There were 1,894 from London and 1,847 from Middlesex.

Employment.—According to information kindly supplied by Mr. Percy C. Graham, Manager of the local Employment Exchange, approximately 350 men and 220 women were placed in employment every month during the year 1956 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 1956 the average numbers of persons unemployed in the whole area was 680 men and 200 women, including 110 disabled men and 15 disabled women.

Extracts from Vital Statistics.—The Registrar-General's mid-year 1956 estimate of the home population (viz., 116,700) has been used for the calculation of all vital statistics.

		Total	Males	Females		
Live Births	{ Legitimate	1,335	699	636	Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated home population	11.8
	{ Illegitimate	53	29	24		
	{ Totals	1,388	728	660		
Stillbirths	25	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births				17.6
Deaths	1,195	Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated home population				10.2

Deaths from puerperal causes :—

Puerperal Sepsis Deaths	.....	.....	—
Other Puerperal Causes	.....	.....	1

Death rate of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	.....	.....	.....	18.7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	.....	.....	.....	19.4
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	.....	.....	.....	—
Deaths from measles (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	—
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	.....	.....	.....	—
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age)	.....	.....	.....	—
Pulmonary tuberculosis death rate	.....	.....	.....	0.04
Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis death rate	.....	.....	.....	0.02

The natural increase of population, i.e., excess of births over deaths was 193.

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

The total number of deaths in 1956 (1,195) compares with 1,188 in 1955, the respective death rates being 10.2 and 10.0 per 1,000 population.

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

Comparability factor for births	.....	.....	1.00
Comparability factor for deaths	.....	.....	1.09

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

Live births	.....	.....	.....	.....	11.8
Deaths	.....	.....	.....	.....	11.1

Causes of Death as given by the Registrar-General
for the year 1956
Whole District

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total	1955
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	4	1	5	14
2. Tuberculosis, other	3	—	3	3
3. Syphilitic Disease	4	1	5	3
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—	1
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1
8. Measles	—	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	1	—	1	4
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	20	11	31	38
11. Malignant neoplasm, Lung, bronchus	54	9	63	53
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	32	32	31
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	6	6	6
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	66	59	125	138
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	4	3	7	6
16. Diabetes	4	7	11	6
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	56	88	144	129
18. Coronary disease, angina	111	71	182	167
19. Hypertension with heart disease	7	8	15	34
20. Other heart disease	61	106	167	150
21. Other circulatory disease	26	27	53	43
22. Influenza	4	5	9	9
23. Pneumonia	32	38	70	72
24. Bronchitis	64	22	86	86
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	10	1	11	15
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	13	7	20	24
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	4	4	8
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	3	6	9	9
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	6	—	6	8
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	6	—	6	9
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	38	55	93	97
33. Motor vehicle accidents	7	—	7	5
34. All other accidents	7	5	12	14
35. Suicide	3	8	11	4
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—
Totals, 1956	614	581	1,195	—
Totals, 1955	649	539	—	1,188

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
—	—	—	2	1	13	112	136

CANCER DEATHS

The following table shows deaths from Cancer (including Leukaemia and Aleukaemia) and death rates in England & Wales and Walthamstow during the years 1943 and 1956. The table has been prepared with the assistance of the Registrar General's office.

Year	Total Deaths		Rate per 1,000 population	
	Eng. & Wales	Walthamstow	Eng. & Wales	Walthamstow
1943	73,566	235	1.9	2.3
1944	73,497	220	1.9	2.2
1945	75,712	207	2.0	2.0
1946	77,516	223	1.9	1.9
1947	79,784	234	1.9	1.9
1948	81,655	223	1.9	1.8
1949	83,204	209	1.9	1.7
1950	85,270	253	1.9	2.1
1951	86,080	206	2.0	1.7
1952	87,642	241	2.0	2.0
1953	87,924	211	2.0	1.8
1954	90,095	261	2.0	1.8
1955	91,337	272	2.0	2.3
1956	92,701	264	2.0	2.2

The average rate per 1,000 population in Walthamstow would approximate very closely that to England and Wales.

DEATHS FROM ACCIDENTS IN THE HOME

Six deaths took place in 1956 from accidents in the home ; three of the deaths occurred in hospital and three at home. The ages of the persons concerned were ten months, 3, 58, 69, 74 and 78 years. The two children died from asphyxia, two of the adults from drug poisoning, one from a fall and one from burns.

This total is in marked contrast with 1955 when there were ten deaths following accidents in the home, no fewer than five being from burns and three from falls.

In order to put these deaths in proper perspective, the following comparison is made :—

Cause of death		1954	1955	1956
(a) Suicide .....	.....	15	4	11
(b) Motor Vehicle Accidents .....	.....	9	5	7
(c) All other accidents .....	.....	14	14	12
(d) Accidents in the home (included in line (c)) .....	.....	7	10	6
(e) Tuberculosis .....	.....	11	17	8
(f) Poliomyelitis .....	.....	Nil	Nil	Nil

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.
1956 ..	1,388	11.8	25	17.6	0.21	18	12.9	26	18.7
1955 ..	1,311	11.3	24	17.9	0.20	23	17.5	27	20.5
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

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 five years 1952/56 it fell to 22.8 i.e., less than half the rate for 1931/35.

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 1956 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
17.8.56	Pulmonary embolism due to pelvic phlebotrombosis (following childbirth)	39

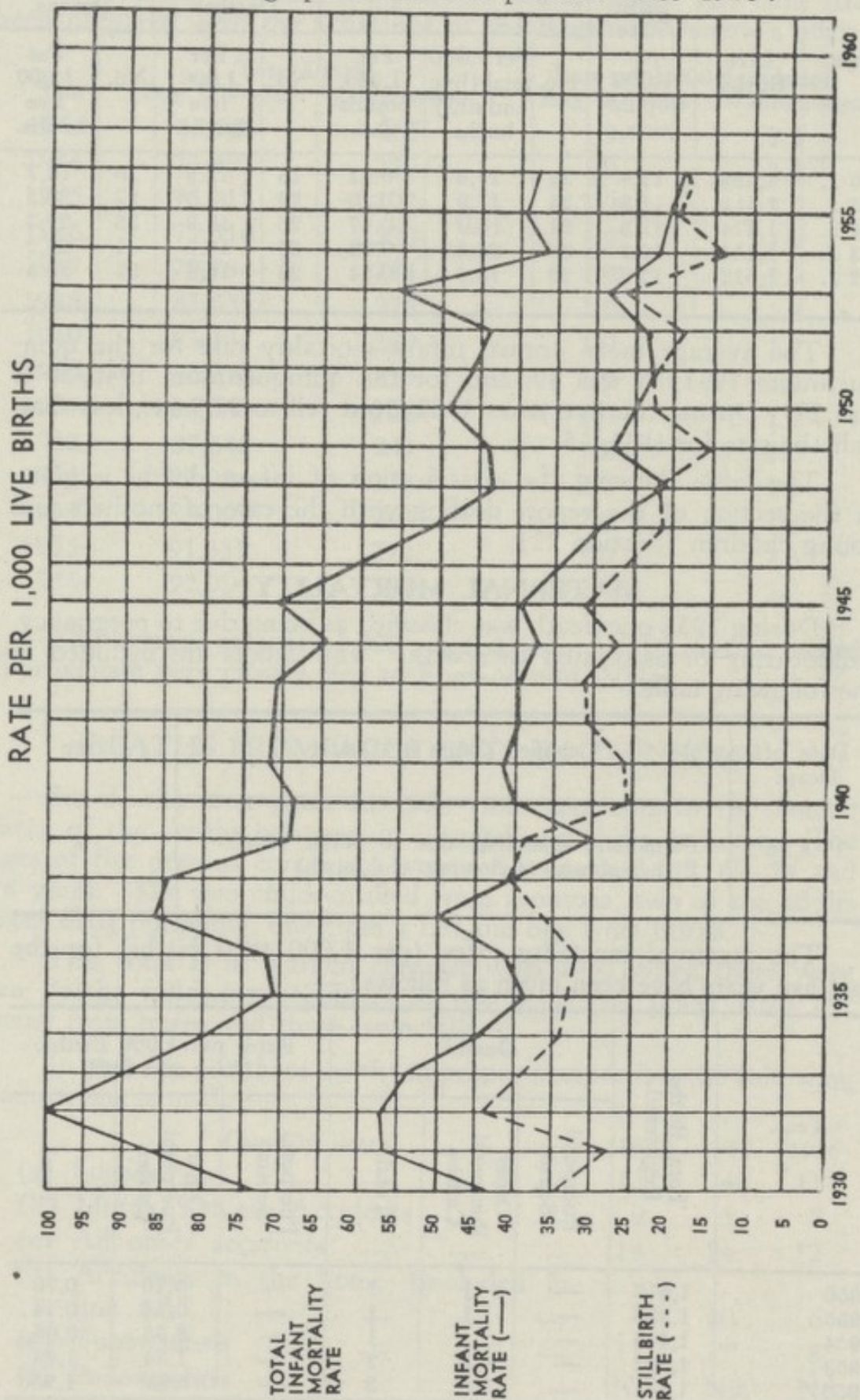
The maternal mortality rates (per 1,000 total births) for the past five years have been given as follows :—

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.
1956 ..	1,413	—	1	1	—	0.70	0.70
1955 ..	1,335	—	1	1	—	0.74	0.74
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

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 :—



If the infant mortality rate for the quinquennium 1931/35, i.e., 50, had applied to the births during the quinquennium 1951/55 there would have been approximately 369 infant deaths instead of 171. This represents a saving of 198 infant lives in the five-year period, or, say, 40 infant lives each year.

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)	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952
Maternal Mortality	0.72	0.76	0.67	1.37	1.98
Stillbirths	18.0	18.3	14.2	26.1	19.2
Neo-Natal Mortality	12.9	17.5	16.9	18.6	15.2

REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS

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

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Legitimate	699	636	1,335
Illegitimate	29	24	53
	—	—	—
Totals	728	660	1,388
	—	—	—

The stillbirth rate per 1,000 population was 0.21.

Of the 1,570 local registrations, 545 belonging to other areas are excluded, leaving a net total of 1,025. There were no non-notified births during 1956.

	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	68	54	51	40	90	92	74	75	134	141	107	99	524	501
Grand Totals ..	122		91		182		149		275		206		1,025	

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 :

Mrs. D. Puleston, part-time Laundress—2.7.56.

RESIGNATIONS :

Mr. G. Eve, Higher General Division Clerk—13.6.56.

2. Integration of Health Services.

The arrangements detailed in the Report for 1954 continued. Circular letters were addressed to General Practitioners on ten occasions and included seventeen items, of which the following is a summary :—

1. Vaccination against Poliomyelitis. Notification of Tuberculosis.
2. Vaccination against Poliomyelitis. Supply of Tetanus Anti-toxin.
3. Poliomyelitis. Supply of Gamma Globulin. Collection of Laboratory Specimens during holiday periods 1956.
4. Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.
5. Vaccination against Poliomyelitis.
6. Paratyphoid Fever.
7. Paratyphoid Fever. Poliomyelitis.
8. Poliomyelitis.
9. Medical Care of Children suffering from Epilepsy, Provision of Convalescence: Respective responsibility of Regional Hospital Boards and Local Health Authorities.
10. Collection of Laboratory Specimens during Christmas, 1956. Exclusion from School on account of Infectious Illness.

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 as one of its representatives on the Hospital Management Committee.

In May a meeting of Medical Practitioners working in the area of the Forest (Group 11) Hospital Management Committee

was convened by the Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee of the Group. The notice convening the meeting included the following :—"It has been widely felt that those working in the Hospitals and the Public Health Services and the General Practitioners should meet from time to time to discuss their common problems and see in what way they can help each other."

3. Laboratory Facilities.

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

Specimens	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Rhesus, Group and Kahn	5	6	2	3	5	5	—	1	2	—	4	7	40
Haemoglobins	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Nose and throat swabs	9	8	21	21	17	8	7	3	8	14	16	14	146
Totals	14	14	24	24	22	13	7	4	10	14	20	21	187

Arrangements continued with the Public Health Laboratory Service at Colindale and transport is provided when necessary from Mondays to Fridays, but not at weekends when any urgent examinations are carried out at the Connaught Hospital Laboratory through the courtesy of Dr. H. Caplin, Consultant Pathologist. The number of specimens examined at the Colindale laboratories during the year were as follows :—

Specimens	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Faeces and rectal swabs	31	13	43	68	83	37	43	36	12	21	28	16	431
Nose and throat swabs	12	4	9	10	17	4	2	4	77	59	11	74	283
Urine	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
Food	—	8	1	7	4	6	1	2	1	2	1	—	33
Miscellaneous.....	—	1	—	1	2	1	3	—	—	3	1	5	17
Totals	43	27	54	86	107	48	49	43	90	85	41	95	768

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 the report for 1953, with the Hackney Borough Council continued, and three cases were referred there during 1956 receiving seven treatments at a total cost of £2 12s. 6d.

6. Hospital Accommodation.

(a) ACUTE CASES.—There were no major changes in 1956 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 one outstanding case remained at the end of the year.

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

No. of cases at end of 1955 awaiting hospital admission	1
No. of new cases considered during 1956	53
No. of admissions to hospital or Part III accommodation	37
No. of cases who died before admission	3
No. of patients who refused hospital admission	3
No. of cases cancelled or deferred	9
No. of cases waiting Part III accommodation	1
No. of cases outstanding at end of 1956	1

It is a pleasure again to record the unfailing help and consideration experienced from Dr. DeLargy at Langthorne Hospital, and from Mr. R. S. J. Potter, Area Welfare Officer.

(c) MATERNITY.—The percentage of Walthamstow residents admitted to Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital prior to the appointed day was nearly 100. During 1956 Walthamstow admissions were 60 per cent. of the total.

(d) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Patients from Walthamstow are mainly admitted to St. Ann's Hospital, Tottenham. No difficulties have been noted. The Consultant Physician in Infectious Diseases has been very ready with Domiciliary Consultations, and has sent me helpful discharge reports.

7. Aged and Chronic Sick.

National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47)

Four cases were brought forward from 1955 and 14 further cases came to notice during 1956 as possibly requiring action under this Section.

The position at the end of the year may be summarised as follows :—

Died at Home	1
Admitted to hospital	12 (of these 5 died)
Admitted to Part III accommodation	3
Admitted to Nursing Home	1
Remaining under observation at the end of the year	1

Authority for application to the Court was obtained in five cases, but four were not, in fact, exercised, and the patients entered hospital 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.

During the year three inspections 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).

No new licence was granted under the Act during 1956.

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

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 1956. All dwelling houses in the area are supplied direct with piped water.

Mr. W. Richards, Chief Public Health Inspector, contributes the following :—

STAFF.

The title "Sanitary Inspector" was abolished by the Sanitary Inspectors (Change of Designation Act) 1956, the new designation being "Public Health Inspector." This new designation became operative as from August, 1956.

One pupil Public Health Inspector is at present training with the Council and this number is to be increased to three next year.

Facilities have been afforded for the post-graduate training of a student taking a course for the Diploma in Public Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' EXAMINATION.

The Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board has been reconstituted as the Public Health Inspectors' Education Board and is now the responsible body for the qualification of Public Health Inspectors.

Public Health Inspection of the Area

No. of inspections made.	No. of nuisances remedied.	No. of complaints received.	No. of Intimation Notices		No. of Statutory Notices.		Total Visits.
			Served.	Complied with.	Served.	Complied with.	
9,647	6,046	1,928	1,355	1,297*	265	248*	16,736

* Includes notices outstanding from previous year.

Of the 1,355 intimation notices served, 388 were in respect of business premises and the remainder (967) related to defects in private houses. Of the latter figure, 703 were complied with without resort to statutory procedure.

It was found necessary to institute legal proceedings against owners for non-compliance with thirty Abatement Notices served under Section 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936. Nine Orders were made by the Justices with costs amounting to £9 9s. 0d. and in three cases, Orders were made with penalties amounting to £45 and costs to £9 9s. 0d. In eleven cases, the summonses were adjourned *sine die* with costs amounting to £6 10s. 6d. and seven summonses were withdrawn with costs amounting to £3 3s. 0d.

Under Section 46 of the Public Health Act, 1936, one summons was heard at Court, resulting in £1 fine.

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

Drains tested, 386 ; Drains reconstructed or repaired, 294 ; Drains, obstructions removed, 115 ; Drains, means of access provided, 36 ; Drains, ventilation provided or improved, 41 ; Soil pipes repaired or renewed, 89 ; Rain water pipes repaired or renewed, 130 ; Roofs repaired or renewed, 420 ; Gutterings repaired or renewed, 246 ; W.C. pans and traps provided, 231 ; W.C.s repaired or cleansed, 191 ; W.C.s light and ventilation improved, 26 ; Gully traps provided, 83 ; Waste pipes repaired or renewed, 124 ; New sinks provided, 58 ; Stoves and firegrates repaired or renewed, 159 ; Water supply taken off main, 3 ; Water supply reinstated, 17 ; Yard and forecourt pavings repaired, 89 ; Dirty houses cleansed, 5 ; Dirty rooms cleansed, 189 ; Floors repaired, 203 ; Ventilation under floors provided or improved, 64 ; Dampness remedied, 504 ; Offensive accumulations removed, 29 ; Manholes repaired or resealed, 111 ; Miscellaneous repairs, 2,023.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Visits to premises, 474.

DISINFECTIONS.

Rooms disinfected, 27 ; Articles disinfected, 1,415 ; Articles destroyed, 61.

SPECIAL PREMISES.

	Number	Visits paid
Factories (a) Non-power	58	103
(b) Power	468	363
(c) Other premises	11	24
Outworkers	714	254
Butchers	85	271
Bakers and Shops	42	150
Fishmongers, Fryers and Curers	38	155
Cafés and Caterers	98	364
Grocers	268	601
Greengrocers	92	141
Ice Cream Manufacturers and Vendors	335	166
Dairies and Milksellers	158	97
Laundries	1	14
Hairdressers	78	43
Rag and Bone Dealers	3	14
Piggeries	1	—

SPECIAL PREMISES (*contd.*)

					Number	Visits
					Numerous	paid
Street Stalls	.....	.....	.....	.....		393
Stables	.....	.....	.....	.....	17	35
Schools	.....	.....	.....	.....	—	44
Public Houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	37	53

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

BUTCHERS.

Cleansings, 34 ; Floors repaired, 12 ; Accumulations removed, 6 ; New bins supplied, 23 ; W.C.s repaired and cleansed, 17 ; Light and ventilation improved, 3 ; Other improvements, 54.

BAKERS

Cleansings, 41 ; New ceilings fixed, 4 ; Floors repaired, 4 ; Light and ventilation improved, 3 ; Roofs repaired, 6 ; Other improvements, 38.

FISHMONGERS.

Cleansings, 27 ; Drains cleared, 1 ; Yards repaved, 3 ; Accumulations removed, 9 ; Other improvements, 34.

CAFES AND CATERERS.

Cleansings, 55 ; Light and ventilation improved, 9 ; Floors repaired, 6 ; Other improvements, 73.

GROCERS.

Store rooms cleansed, 42 ; Washing accommodation improved, 41 ; Other improvements, 84.

GREENGROCERS.

Store rooms cleansed, 12 ; Washing accommodation improved, 4 ; Other improvements, 11.

ICE CREAM MANUFACTURERS AND VENDORS.

Cleansings, 13 ; Special cleansings of utensils, 4 ; Paving repaired, 4 ; Other improvements, 13.

DAIRIES AND MILKSELLERS.

Cleansings, 4 ; Pavings relaid, 1 ; Other improvements, 3.

LAUNDRIES.

Special cleansing, 1 ; Other improvements, 3.

HAIRDRESSERS.

Cleansings, 4 ; Other improvements, 3.

RAG AND BONE DEALERS.

Cleansings, 5 ; Accumulations removed, 3.

STREET TRADERS.

Stalls improved, 9 ; Store rooms improved, 6.

STABLE PREMISES.

Cleansings, 10 ; Accumulations removed, 5 ; Roofs repaired, 3 ; Pavings repaired, 1 ; Other improvements, 6.

SCHOOLS.

Special cleansings, 2 ; Other improvements, 7.

PUBLIC HOUSES.

Special cleansings, 15 ; Hot water supplied, 1 ; Hot water supply improved, 5.

Verminous Premises.

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

Seventy-two rooms were disinfested and insecticides were issued free of charge to tenants of twenty-eight premises.

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

Caravans.

A special report was made in regard to the caravans in Trigg's Yard, Folly Lane. No adequate measures were advised to deal with the itinerant caravans using the grass verge of Folly Lane.

Smoke Abatement.

A new Clean Air Act has been passed by Parliament and part of this Act comes into operation on 1st January, 1957. This Act gives considerable new powers to local authorities.

A Member of the Health Committee and myself were appointed as delegates of the Council to attend the annual conference of the National Smoke Abatement Society held at Southport in October. A series of papers was given on the various aspects of smoke abatement and considerable discussion arose with respect to the proposed new Clean Air Act. This conference was very interesting and was well worth attending.

Observations on smoke nuisances in the Borough amounted to 150. Investigations were carried out in all cases, new boiler plant being installed in some cases and considerable improvements being effected to boiler plant in others.

Four District Public Health Inspectors attended a course of six lectures in regard to atmospheric pollution. These lectures were held at the Northampton Polytechnic in London. Authority was given by the Council for two District Public Health Inspectors to attend a Course arranged at the Coal Utilization Centre in regard to the design and installation of domestic heating apparatus. This latter course will be held early in the new year.

Authority was given by the Council to instal two atmospheric pollution instruments for detecting the sulphur content in the air. These instruments will be in operation from 1st January next.

Report of LONDON & HOME COUNTIES SMOKE ABATEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Town Survey Section 1
(Borough of Walthamstow)

A copy of the report prepared by Mr. H. G. Clinch, M.B.E., F.R.S.H., was sent to the Borough Council, whose observations and comments were invited by the Executive Committee of the Smoke Abatement Advisory Council.

The following extracts are taken from the Report :—

Page 1

The areas surrounding Walthamstow and particularly the industrial areas produce air pollution in Walthamstow whatever the quarter of the wind, but particularly when it blows from Leyton and Hackney.

There are nearly 40,000 persons employed in the Borough with a large exodus in the morning, possibly balanced by an equally large entry.

Page 4

There are 599 factories in the Borough employing 20 or more persons.

The annual fuel consumption is as follows :—

<u>Solid Fuel</u>		
Public Electricity Generation 12,100 tons	Industrial Premises 38,300 tons of coal 8,800 " " coke, etc.	Total coal 50,400 tons " coke 8,800 " " solid fuel 59,200 "
<u>Liquid Fuel</u>		
Fuel Oil 342 tons	General Industrial Premises Creosote-pitch Mixture 2,905 tons	Total liquid fuel 3,147 tons
Total fuel consumption by industry 62,347 tons		

No estimate of the proportion of fuel for steam raising for power is possible. There is a large coke consumption for metallurgical work.

The number of factories and employees suggests that the public electricity supply provides a large proportion of motive power, especially in the light industries.

Page 6

During inspections comparatively little visible smoke was observed from factory chimneys and nothing required a report to the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The investigator is of the opinion that there is a huge emission of oxides of sulphur from some of the industrial plants and for which there appears to be no remedy. None of the flue gases is washed.

Page 7

It is estimated that some four million pounds of sulphur dioxide per annum are emitted by industry and some 4.5 million pounds from domestic chimneys, i.e., a total of over $8\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds per annum.

Thirty-seven per cent. of the prevailing wind is from the south-west, i.e., bearing the products of combustion from London to Walthamstow.

The investigator considers that there is a real risk of a dangerous build-up of excessive oxides of sulphur if a layer of warm air overlays a cool lower layer.

The possibility of a warning system is suggested.

Page 8

It is stated that it is not possible to estimate the amount of sulphur dioxide discharged at ground level by Diesel engines and vehicles, but it is considerable and continuing.

Page 10

The investigator is of the opinion that his Committee should consider an approach to the Borough Council with a view to the measurement of atmospheric pollution for at least one year—(a) at the Town Hall, and (b) on the high ground of Highams Park.

Page 11

With regard to the two railways running through the town, the former L.M.S. line produces no serious pollution, but the former L.N.E.R. line from Liverpool Street to Chingford has old locomotives and inexperienced firemen.

There is reported to have been an excessive emission of smoke in the vicinity of Wood Street and Highams Park Stations and in this connection attention is drawn to Section 276 of the Local Government Act, 1933, which may empower proceedings.

It is also advised that an approach might be made to the Locomotive Superintendent at Stratford. Special observation is being kept to record engine numbers, etc., with a view to obtaining evidence, since locomotive smoke is very objectionable.

Page 12—Domestic Smoke and Fuel Consumption

During 1954 this was—

Coal	Coke, Coalite, Phurnacite & Briquettes	Total
65,700 tons	16,700 tons	82,400 tons

The tonnage per house was 2.48 and per household 2.12 and attention is drawn to the small consumption of solid smokeless fuel.

Attention is drawn to the fact that an application was made to the Ministry of Fuel and Power for a larger allocation of smokeless fuel to the Borough.

"All night" burning fires give rise to a far greater pollution than ever before and there is a ready sale for these fires. Gas coke is used for space heating, but probably more because of the shortage of coal than for any other reason. For burning on open fires, it should be broken or screened to the correct size, i.e., not larger than 1½ in. to 2 in.

The only remedy for the domestic smoke now being produced is a large increase in the solid smokeless fuel supply suitable for the ordinary grate and there appears to be no grounds for optimism.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

(a) MUNICIPAL BATHS, HIGH STREET.

Mr. W. Cantes, the Superintendent and Engineer, kindly contributes the following :—

"The number of slipper bathers showed a decrease of approximately 3,700 compared with the previous year, probably because of the increase in the number of houses with bathrooms.

"From January 1st to December 31st the baths were open on 295 days. The number of swimming bathers during this period was 138,533. The maximum load was on September 24th when we had 969 bathers. During this period we also had 117,477 slipper bath bathers."

During the year three samples of swimming bath water were taken for analysis and on each occasion a good report was received.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“The Season started off in May with reasonable Pool attendance figures. From June onwards attendances were extremely poor, solely due to abnormal summer weather conditions. Aggregate attendance figures were in the neighbourhood of 14,000 including school-children. Bacteriological and chemical analyses were carried out on two occasions with satisfactory results.”

WALTHAMSTOW CORPORATION ACT, 1956

This local Act received the Royal Assent on 2nd August, 1956, and amongst the sixty-nine Sections, the following have bearing on the Public Health:—

Section 19—Provision of Bathrooms.

The Council may reject plans of a house if the plans do not provide for a fixed bath or shower bath in a bathroom.

Section 20—Defective Premises.

This Section permits the Council to secure the speedier repair of a house or the roof of any building which is in such a state as to be prejudicial to health or a nuisance where there would be unreasonable delay in following the nuisance procedure of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Section 23—Drains and Sewers.

This Section gives authority to the Council as from the 1st January, 1957, to seal or take up and remove drains and sewers before the demolition of premises.

Section 34—Street Trading Licences.

This Section permits the making of bye-laws relating to the storage and sanitary provision (while at the place of intended sale, exposure or offering for sale) of articles or things intended to be sold or exposed or offered for sale under the authority of a street trading licence.

Section 50—Supply of Water.

Where the Metropolitan Water Board in the exercise of their right to cut off the water supply to any inhabited house cease to supply any such house by reason of the defective state of a supply pipe or fittings the Council may execute such works as they think expedient in the circumstances of the case to remedy the defect and the expenses reasonably incurred by the Council in executing such works shall be recoverable summarily as a civil debt.

Section 53—Hairdressers and Barbers.

As from 1st January, 1957, hairdressers and barbers and their premises are to be registered and the Council may make bye-laws for the purpose of securing—

- (a) the cleanliness of premises registered under this section and of the instruments, towels, materials, and equipment used therein; and
- (b) the cleanliness of persons employed in such premises in regard to both themselves and their clothing.

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 in regard to statistics and improvement grants :—

Houses completed by the Local Authority 1956

Hoe Street Ward	.....	.....	Nil	
St. James Street Ward	.....	.....	Nil	
Higham Hill Ward	.....	.....	6 Flats	
High Street Ward	.....	.....		2 Houses
Hale End Ward	.....	.....	40 Flats	
Wood Street Ward	.....	.....	198 Flats	
TOTAL	.....	.....	244 Flats	2 Houses

Houses erected by Private Enterprise.

Hoe Street Ward	.....	.....	Nil
St. James Street Ward	.....	.....	Nil
Higham Hill Ward	.....	.....	Nil
High Street Ward	.....	.....	Nil
Hale End Ward	.....	.....	2 houses
Wood Street Ward	.....	.....	4 houses
TOTAL	.....	.....	6 houses

Note :—All were permanent houses and flats.

In addition to the main building programme, improvements and conversions have been carried out in a number of Council owned properties.

Improvement Grants

In June, 1954, the Council adopted in principle the provisions of the Housing Act 1949 and the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954 in regard to the improvement of housing accommodation, and consideration of applications for improvement grants began forthwith.

Eighty-four applications were received in 1954, 110 in 1955 and 114 in 1956.

The Borough Architect, Engineer and Surveyor comments as follows :—

Applications received from owner/ occupiers	78	
Total number of Grants and amount approved by Council to owner/ occupiers	45	£6,323
Applications received from Warner Estate Ltd.	36	
Total number of Grants approved and amount for Warner Estate Ltd.	32	£5,983
Summary		
Total number of applications	114	
Total number of grants	77	
Total amount of grants		£12,306

Inspection

The Chief Public Health Inspector reports as follows :—

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) | 1,744 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 5,199 |
| (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 | 202 |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose | 217 |

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
(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	967

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	703
---	-----

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	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	*4
(b) By Local Authority	*1
(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	263
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	*207
(b) By Local Authority	36

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	5
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
(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
--	-----

* Including those notices outstanding from previous year.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
E. <i>Proceedings under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :—</i>	
(1) Number of dwelling houses where Closing Orders were made	3

Housing Act, 1936

UNFIT HOUSES

The following premises were dealt with as follows :—

Demolition Orders :

46 and 48, Brunner Road
1 and 2, Chapel Street
190, Wood Street

Closing Orders :

Nil.

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.

Under the provisions of this Act, Closing Orders were made in respect of the whole of the following premises :—

43 and 45, Brandon Road
29, South Grove.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954

The following certificates were issued or refused under the provisions of the above Act :—

Certificates of Disrepair issued	62
Certificates of Disrepair refused	6
Certificates of Revocation issued	56
Certificates of Revocation refused	14

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. Where the landlord had carried out the works specified on these Certificates, a Certificate of Revocation was issued, thus allowing an increase of rents.

Housing Act, 1936, Section 62

Applications for "permitted number" were received from landlords and Certificates issued during the year respecting 4 lettings.

Local Land Charges

Enquiries relating to outstanding sanitary notices were dealt with in 1,525 cases.

Clearance Areas

In the Report for 1955, the position was discussed up to and including the Chingford Lane Clearance Areas.

In December, 1955, the West Street and St. Stephen's Road area was officially represented to and agreed by the Council. The Representation covered two contiguous areas comprising 64 dwellings, and nine of these were acquired by the Council before the Inquiry.

In January, 1957, all the dwellings were confirmed as "red" property except for four dwellings coloured "grey." The census showed that there were 53 per cent. under occupation according to the permitted numbers.

In June, 1956, official Representations were made in regard to the Newman, Southcote and Tenby Road areas and comprising 102 dwellings. The census showed there were 54 per cent. under occupation according to the permitted numbers. The Inquiry in regard to these areas was held on the 5th March, 1957.

In October, 1956, official Representation was made in regard to the Parkstone/Wyatts Lane areas comprising 20 dwellings. The census showed 56 per cent. under occupation according to the permitted numbers. The Inquiry has not yet been held.

At the end of the year surveys were being done in respect of parts of Brunner Road, South Grove, and Side Road, and official Representation will be made in 1957. This area will comprise approximately 59 dwellings.

The progress made in regard to the clearance of unfit property may be summarised as follows:—

No.	Location	No. of dwellings	Date represented	Date of Inquiry	Date confirmed	Excluded from Order
1	Vallentin & Short Rds.	41	4.11.53	11.1.55	8.6.55	8*
2	Grange/Frederick/Lynmouth Rds.	119	3.2.54	8.2.55	10.6.55	68*
3	Chingford Lane :— (Payze's Cottages)	17	7.4.54	—	11.3.55	—
3a	(Mill Lane, The Square Farey's Row)	15	7.4.54	24.5.55	14.9.55	2*
4	West St./St. Stephen's Road	64	7.12.55	18.9.56	25.1.57	4
5	Tenby/Southcote Rds.	102	6.6.56	5.3.57	—	—
6	Parkstone Rd./Wyatts Lane	20	3.10.56	—	—	—

* Compulsory purchase authorised or already acquired.

The total of the dwellings already represented is 378 out of a total of 541 in the five-year programme which was approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government in January, 1956; 192 properties had then already been dealt with. Thus the Representations already made cover over two-thirds of the five-year programme.

In the clearance areas up to and including the Tenby Road areas, there were 435 families occupying 358 dwellings.

As in previous years, the experience of 1956 in the inspection of houses for possible clearance has continued to show vast improvement in the internal condition of many of the houses. When compared with pre-war conditions in the same areas, attractive decorations were commonplace, new fireplaces with tiled surrounds were frequent and occasionally the installation of baths and properly fitted bathrooms with internal water closets were observed, and all at the tenants' expense. These internal conditions were in marked contrast to gross structural defects.

The utmost help and co-operation have invariably been received from both tenants and owner-occupiers.

General

Mr. C. W. Rayner, the Council's Housing Manager, kindly gives the following details of rehousing, etc. carried out by his Department in 1956 :—

"For the twelve months to December there has been considerable concentration on the rehousing of families from the clearance areas.

"Prior to the 1st January, 1956, I arranged for the rehousing of all the families from the Vallentin Road clearance area, but during the year in question rehousing from clearance areas has been as follows :—

53 families from the Frederick Street/Grange Road area.

35 families from the Chingford Lane, etc., area.

35 families from the Back Road/Collard Road/Short Road
— area.

123
—

"There are still a number of families to be rehoused from Frederick Street/Grange Road and with the possible confirmation of orders in respect of West Street/St. Stephen's Road and the Tenby Road, area, it would seem that the emphasis on rehousing from the clearance areas will continue.

"This procedure is naturally having an adverse effect upon the rehousing of families from the Housing Register and,

although housing applicants when told of this fact feel somewhat aggrieved, they do at least appreciate the logic of the situation."

No. of new properties made available for letting	245
Acquired	72
Normal vacancies	73
Nominations to private landlords	30
Total	420

Families rehoused :—

1-bedroom group	176
2-bedroom group	138
3-bedroom group	92
4-bedroom group	14
Total	420

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

Property under management at 5.1.57 (dwellings only) :—

Pre-1939 houses and flats	1,615
New houses and flats	1,736
Prefabricated bungalows	495
12 properties converted into flats	49
Properties improved	52
Properties acquired for improvement and conversion	368
Properties acquired for General Housing purposes	101
Properties for Clearance and Demolition	98
Requisitioned dwellings (217 licences)	182
Halfway houses	5
General properties	29
Education property	1
Total	4,731

Total at the end of 1955 was 4,439.

In addition to the families rehoused in Walthamstow, transfers and exchanges of accommodation amounted to 188 cases, and no fewer than 131 families are known to the Housing Department to have been rehoused in the new towns.

The numbers of families rehoused in the New Towns have been as follows :—

1950	.....	.....	.....	8
1951	.....	.....	.....	48
1952	.....	.....	.....	153
1953	.....	.....	.....	165
1954	.....	.....	.....	181
1955	.....	.....	.....	215
1956	.....	.....	.....	131
				901

The great majority have been rehoused in Harlow (648), followed by Basildon (88), Stevenage (81), Hemel Hempstead (46), Welwyn (18), Crawley (10), Bracknell (6), Swindon (4).

The volume of work in connection with rehousing in New Towns continues to increase as applicants become convinced of the fact that New Towns are a success.

Details of the occupation of all applicants interested in the New Towns are furnished to the Ministry of Labour.

The following table will summarise the housing applications as at 31st December, 1956, the units of overcrowding and the accommodation required to meet the applications :—

Applications :		Walthamstow Borough	Outside Borough	Total
3 units overcrowding	.....	17	4	21
2½ units overcrowding	.....	12	3	15
2 units overcrowding	.....	36	7	43
1½ units overcrowding	.....	72	10	82
1 unit overcrowding	.....	112	21	133
½ unit overcrowding	.....	230	72	302
Fully occupied	.....	377	34	411
½ unit under-occupied	.....	521	89	610
1 unit under-occupied	.....	702	95	797
1½ or more units under-occupied	.....	2,865	241	3,106
Total	.....	4,944	576	5,520

Accommodation required :

1 bedroom	.....	.....	1,856	247	2,103
2 bedroom	.....	.....	1,968	196	2,164
3 bedroom	.....	.....	993	115	1,108
4 bedroom	.....	.....	127	18	145
Total			4,944	576	5,520

Rehousing of Medical Cases

During 1956, 44 cases claiming rehousing priority for tuberculosis were investigated and reported upon. Of these 16 cases were added to the list.

The position at the end of 1956 was as follows :—

	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Total
On list at end of 1955	8	9	12	29
Added to list during 1956	5	5	6	16
	13	14	18	45
Rehoused or removed from list during 1956	5	4	3	12
On list at end of 1956	8	10	15	33

Classification depends on the infectivity of the case, the number of young children/adolescents in the infected household and overcrowding.

In addition to the tuberculosis cases 31 other cases were recorded as needing special consideration on medical grounds and 66 cases on general housing grounds.

E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The following is contributed by the Chief Public Health Inspector :—

(a) Milk Supply.**Designated Milk.**

During the year 137 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 Pasteurisers' Licences.

The following table gives details of samples taken :—

		RESULTS	
Grade	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	
Pasteurised	93	93	
Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised	44	44	
Totals	137	137	

Biological Test

Seventy-one 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 one sample which gave a positive result.

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	.....	.....	53
Sterilised	.....	.....	139
Tuberculin Tested	.....	.....	24

Supplementary Licences.

Pasteurised	.....	.....	10
Sterilised	.....	.....	11
Tuberculin Tested	.....	.....	10

Licences (Plant).

Pasteurisers			2
--------------	-------	-------	---

There are no Cow-keepers in the district.

The number of Retail Milk Distributors is 158.

Ninety-seven 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.

Twenty-four applications for Registration were received and were dealt with as follows :—

Vendors, New	.....	.....	.....	10
Vendors, Transfers	.....	.....	.....	14
Number on Register at end of year	.....	.....	.....	335
Number of premises used for manufacturing	.....	.....	.....	5

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.

Four samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the Public Analysts who reported the following satisfactory results :—

Fat content

8.9

9.13

10.9

6.25

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF ICE CREAM.

Eighty-seven 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	=	74
„	II	=	9
„	III	=	3
„	IV	=	1

Where unsatisfactory samples were taken, the manufacturer was informed and further check samples taken as soon as possible.

Where samples were taken of ice cream manufactured outside the district, copies of these reports were forwarded to the appropriate local authority.

Lollies (Various).

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

Examination for Metallic Contents.

Four samples of ice lollies were sent to the Public Analysts for examination for metallic contents and found to be free of same.

(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.

1085 tins	Evaporated Milk	15 jars	Sauce
268 „	Skimmed Milk	1 jar	Mayonnaise
32 „	Full Cream Milk	100 tins	Soup
10 „	Dried Milk	4 „	Broth
63 „	Cream	59 „	Creamed Rice
2 „	Milk Beverage	33 lbs.	Pearl Barley
1 tin	Baby Food	17 „	Sago
1241 tins	Peas	3 tins	Coffee

665 tins	Tomatoes	28	Eggs
485 "	Beans	14 lbs.	Liquid Egg
80 "	Carrots	9 "	Lard
19 "	Vegetable Salad	257 "	Flour
16 "	Rhubarb	180 "	Sultanas
3 "	Beetroot	17 "	Cheese
3 "	Tomato Juice	83 tins	Pilchards
10 lbs.	Tomato Puree (tinned)	11 "	Crab
40 "	Peas	8 "	Shrimps
28 "	Haricot Beans	2 "	Tuna Fish
95 tins	Pineapple	2 "	Salmon
2 "	Pineapple Juice	2 "	Crawfish
82 "	Grapefruit	2 "	Lobster
14 "	Grapefruit Juice	2 "	Roes
80 "	Oranges	31 stone	Whiting
19 "	Orange Juice	19½ "	Skate
56 "	Cherries	6 "	Dogfish
49 "	Gooseberries	3½ "	Roker
45 "	Fruit Salad	3 "	Haddocks
41 "	Loganberries	7 lbs.	Cod
41 "	Strawberries	1216 tins	Luncheon Meat
40 "	Plums	49 "	Stewed Steak
31 "	Peaches	43 "	Meat Pudding
21 "	Apricots	26 "	Steak & Kidney Pudding
21 "	Raspberries	4 "	Steak & Kidney Pie
19 "	Prunes	13 "	Beef Loaf
18 "	Pears	5 "	Sausages
2 "	Blackcurrants	3 "	Pork
2 "	Damsons	2 "	Braised Hearts
2 "	Apples	2 "	Tongue
1 tin	Bananas	1 tin	Minced Chicken
21 lbs.	Apricot Pulp (tinned)	972 lbs.	Corned Beef
31 tins	Jam	225 "	Ham (tinned)
2 "	Marmalade	503 "	Beef
6 jars	Peanut Butter	400 "	Lamb
12 "	Meat Paste	155 "	Lambs' Livers
3 "	Salmon Spread	107 "	Pork
2 "	Fish Paste	92 "	Bacon
1 jar	Sandwich Spread	90 "	Melts
41 tins	Pease Pudding	8 "	Briskett
7 "	Spaghetti	12	Turkeys (218 lbs.)
23 jars	Ketchup		

In addition to the above, a large quantity of foodstuffs in a warehouse was contaminated by sewage due to flooding by storm on three occasions.

Shellfish and Jellied Eels.

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

Cockles .....	.....	.....	.....	1
Mussels .....	.....	.....	.....	3
Jellied Eels .....	.....	.....	.....	8

Most of the samples taken were of a reasonable standard. With respect to unsatisfactory samples, if the manufacturer was outside the Borough, a copy of the bacteriologist's report was sent to him with a request to improve conditions of manufacture. Investigations were carried out at the premises where these were within the Borough.

Further samples were taken of all unsatisfactory samples and these have shown considerable improvement.

Cooked Meats.

As the amounts of cooked meats exposed for sale to the public have increased, the Council decided that sampling of these products should continue. 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.

During the year, seventy-one samples were taken which included the following :—Faggots, Pork Brawn, Black Sausage, Tongue, Corned Beef, Jellied Veal, Luncheon Meat, Cooked Ham, Roast Pork, Meat Pie, Veal and Ham Pie, Breakfast Sausage, Boiled Bacon, Silverside, Tinned Ham and Brisket.

About one-fifth of these samples showed excessive contamination by bacteria. These bacteria indicated contamination by excessive handling, unnecessary exposure or improper storage. Advice to retailers was given in each of these cases and further sampling showed some improvement.

A very marked improvement in these products was noticeable compared with those of last year.

(d) Adulteration, etc.—Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

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

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

Description of Article	Result of Analysis	Action Taken
Sausages (Pork)	Meat content low—57%.	Warning given.
Ice Cream	Fat 6.25% but not made wholly from milk as claimed.	Warning given.
Chocolate	Infested with small insect larvae.	Prosecution. Fine £10. Costs £2 2s. 0d.
Cut Loaf	Unsatisfactory. Dirty dough.	Warning given.
Butter Mints	Unsatisfactory. Fat only 0.13%. Misdescribed as "butter".	Warning given.

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

	No. examined			No. unsatisfactory		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
Milk	13	—	13	—	—	—
Arrowroot	—	1	1	—	—	—
Butter	2	1	3	—	—	—
Buttered Bun	1	—	1	—	—	—
Buttermints	—	2	2	—	1	1
Butteroons	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sweets	—	1	1	—	—	—
Chocolate	1	—	1	1	—	1
Chocolate Coconut Ice	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cream	3	1	4	—	—	—
Cake Decorations	1	—	1	—	—	—
Marzipan	1	1	2	—	—	—
Meringues	1	—	1	—	—	—
Glacé Cherries	—	1	1	—	—	—
Peel	—	1	1	—	—	—
Nutmeg	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cinnamon	—	1	1	—	—	—
Olive Oil	—	2	2	—	—	—
Curry Powder	—	1	1	—	—	—
Soup, Desiccated	—	1	1	—	—	—
Matzo Meal	—	1	1	—	—	—
Pepper	—	1	1	—	—	—
Horseradish Sauce	—	1	1	—	—	—
Cheese Spread	1	—	1	—	—	—
Jam, Apricot	1	—	1	—	—	—
Chicken and Ham Paste	—	1	1	—	—	—
Marmalade	1	—	1	—	—	—
Steak and Kidney Pie	1	—	1	—	—	—
Cut Loaf	—	1	1	—	1	1
Ice Cream	3	1	4	1	—	1
Lollies	—	4	4	—	—	—

	No. examined			No. unsatisfactory		
	Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
Coffee	1	1	2	—	—	—
Coffee and Chicory	—	1	1	—	—	—
Tea	3	1	4	—	—	—
Orange Drink	4	—	4	—	—	—
„ Squash	—	2	2	—	—	—
Grape Juice	1	—	1	—	—	—
Wine	—	1	1	—	—	—
Whisky	8	—	8	—	—	—
Rum	2	—	2	—	—	—
Gin	1	—	1	—	—	—
Sausages, Pork	1	1	2	1	—	1
„ Beef	1	—	1	—	—	—
Tonic Tablets	1	—	1	—	—	—
Anaemia Pills	1	1	2	—	—	—
Tonic Elixir	2	—	2	—	—	—
Linctus	1	—	1	—	—	—
Laxative Tablets	1	—	1	—	—	—
Slimming Tablets	1	—	1	—	—	—
Stomach Digestive Powder	1	—	1	—	—	—
Foam Crystals	—	1	1	—	—	—
Totals	60	36	96	3	2	5

(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., Dr. J. H. Hammence, F.R.I.C., and Mr. P. S. Hall, A.R.I.C., of 20, Eastcheap, London, E.C.3, and bacteriological examinations by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1.

(f) **Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.**

These Regulations came into operation on 1st January, 1956.

A reasonably high standard continues to be maintained in the food premises within the Borough. It was found necessary to serve notices under the Regulations in a few cases, most of which had been complied with by the end of the year. Court proceedings were instituted in two cases for non-compliance with the Regulations and penalties of £35 with £5 5s. 0d. costs were imposed.

The conditions laid down in the Regulations are being maintained throughout the district.

The following food premises are established in the Borough :—

Butchers, 85 ; Bakers, 42 ; Fishmongers, 38 ; Cafés and Caterers, 98 ; Grocers, 268 ; Greengrocers, 92 ; Dairies and Milksellers, 158 ; Ice-Cream Manufacturers and Vendors, 335.

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, 271 ; Bakers, 150 ; Fishmongers, 155 ; Cafés and Caterers, 364 ; Grocers, 601 ; Greengrocers, 141 ; Dairies and Milksellers, 97 ; Ice-Cream Manufacturers and Vendors, 166.

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, and it is then disposed of through reliable sources, being used mainly for soap manufacture.

(g) Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

Forty-two notifications were received and investigated.

Diseases of Animals Acts

Swine Fever (Infected Areas) Order, 1953.

No licences were issued during the year under the above Order.

Fowl Pest Order, 1936.

No Orders were issued during the year in respect of the Borough.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

Twenty-four premises are licensed in the Borough for sale of pet animals. These premises are licensed annually.

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 Public Health Inspectors.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year 1956 :—

	Type of Property				TOTAL
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business Premises)	
1. Total No. of Properties in Local Authority's District	18	34,052	4	4,632	38,706
II. No. of Properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1956 as a result of :					
(a) Notification	6	438	—	110	554
(b) Survey	12	225	—	8	245
(c) A visit primarily for some other purpose	—	—	—	—	—
III. No. of Properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by rats :					
(a) Major	1	—	—	3	4
(b) Minor	3	420	—	92	515
IV. No. of Properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by mice	2	36	—	23	61
V. No. of Infested Properties (see Sections III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	6	456	—	118	580
VI. No. of Notices served with respect to :					
(1) Treatment	—	1	—	—	1
(2) Structural Works (i.e., Proofing)	—	1	—	—	1
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	5				

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 154

Two cases were taken to the Courts with respect to dealers exchanging toys for rags to children. Penalties of £8 with Costs of £2 2s. 0d. were imposed.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

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

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, ETC.

INCLUDING INSPECTIONS MADE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

Premises. (1)	No. on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections. (3)	Written Notices. (4)	Occupiers Prose- cuted. (5)
Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	58	103	17	—
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	468	363	13	—
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	11	24	1	—
Totals	537	490	31	—

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	66	57	—	3	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ..	4	2	—	1	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences {	insufficient	5	1	—	—
	unsuitable or defective ..	93	98	4	—
	not separate for sexes ..	3	—	—	—
Other offences	20	22	—	—	—
Totals	191	180	—	8	—

NUMBER AND TRADES OF OUTWORKERS NOTIFIED DURING 1956

Wearing apparel, making of 535	Paper bags 9
Household linen 4	Boxes 50
Lace, lace curtains and nets 9	Brush making 19
Curtains and furniture hangings 2	Carding, etc., of buttons, etc. 2
Furniture and upholstery 2	Stuffed toys 26
Umbrellas, etc. 1	C o s a q u e s , Christmas crackers, C h r i s t m a s stockings, etc. 43
Artificial flowers 8	Lampshades 4
Total 714	

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 for 1956 was considerably smaller than in 1955. There were fewer cases of measles, of scarlet fever, and poliomyelitis. Notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis were higher at 71 against 61 in 1955.

There was little more bacillary dysentery (33 against 18). Notifications of food poisoning were probably far below the true incidence. Both these diseases can largely be prevented by strict personal hygiene, especially adequate hand-washing after using the toilet.

Disease	All ages		0-1	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 years
	1956	1955	year	years	years	years	years	years	and over
Scarlet Fever	111	148	2	28	75	—	5	1	—
Whooping Cough	347	119	35	124	185	—	2	1	—
Measles	498	1,185	14	197	286	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	65	62	—	2	6	6	14	26	11
Meningococcal Infection	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis :									
Paralytic	3	7	—	2	—	—	1	—	—
Non-Paralytic	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute infective encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post infectious encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	33	18	2	4	21	—	4	2	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	81	72	—	—	—	41	40	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Typhoid Fever	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Food Poisoning	24	15	—	3	4	3	6	8	—
Erysipelas	28	26	—	—	2	—	7	11	8
Malaria	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis :									
Respiratory	71	61	—	3	1	10	31	23	3
Meninges & Central Nervous System	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other forms	5	11	—	—	2	1	1	1	—
Totals, 1956	1,274	—	58	364	582	62	113	73	22
Totals, 1955	—	1,746	43	688	757	71	106	53	28

Disease	St. James Street	High Street	Hoe Street	Wood Street	Hale End	Higham Hill	Total
Scarlet Fever	2	9	10	21	43	26	111
Whooping Cough	40	37	31	58	102	79	347
Measles	88	21	85	118	153	33	498
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	15	21	9	4	10	6	65
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Acute Poliomyelitis :							
Paralytic	—	—	1	—	1	1	3
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute infective encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Post infectious encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	1	1	10	8	12	33
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	1	1	1	1	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	1	11	44	11	10	81
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Food Poisoning	2	5	4	2	—	11	24
Erysipelas	7	6	2	1	4	8	28
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis :							
Respiratory	8	9	8	13	13	20	71
Meninges & Central Nervous System	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other forms	1	—	—	—	2	2	5
Totals, 1956	168	110	165	272	349	210	1,274
Totals, 1955	258	141	234	203	385	525	1,746

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

Disease	1st qtr.	2nd qtr.	3rd qtr.	4th qtr.	Total
Scarlet Fever	55	24	14	18	111
Whooping Cough	26	96	134	91	347
Acute Poliomyelitis :					
Paralytic	1	—	1	1	3
Non-Paralytic	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	13	160	37	288	498
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	12	8	9	4	33
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—	1	1
Acute Pneumonia	32	13	8	12	65
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis :					
Infective	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis :					
Post Infectious	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	1	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever	—	*(5) 1	—	—	1
Erysipelas	8	3	8	9	28
Food poisoning	1	6	12	5	24
Tuberculosis :					
Respiratory	20	14	14	23	71
Meninges & Central Nervous System	—	1	—	—	1
Other Forms	1	3	1	—	5
Puerperal Pyrexia	35	14	11	21	81
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	—	—	1	4
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	207	343	250	474	1,274

* 4 later withdrawn as notified in hospital outside Walthamstow.

MEASLES

1956 was an inter-epidemic year but even so 498 cases were notified.

WHOOPING COUGH

Of 347 cases notified, 35, i.e. over 10 per cent., were under one year of age. It is hoped that eventually immunisation will reduce the incidence in the first year of life.

DIPHTHERIA

Six cases were removed to hospital for observation but none was confirmed.

There has been no death from diphtheria in the Borough for 10 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, and "booster" doses should be given before entry to school and, ideally, again before transfer from the infant to the junior school.

SCHOOL "OUTBREAKS"

The year produced an average number of "Outbreaks" which are fully reported in the Report of the Borough School Medical Officer.

POLIOMYELITIS

Nine suspected cases of poliomyelitis were reported and six were admitted to hospital; of these three were confirmed as paralytic cases. There was apparently little residual paralysis except in one case where there was slight paralysis of the left leg.

In addition, an adult female, who was admitted to hospital in June with marked neck stiffness was finally diagnosed as a case of encephalomyelitis of the "Royal Free" type.

Onset in the confirmed cases occurred in February, August and November.

Poliomyelitis first became notifiable on September 1st, 1912: the highest incidence was in 1916 when the total notified was 27.

Year	AGE GROUPS						Totals	WARDS					
	Under 1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65		S. Jms' St.	High St.	Hoe St.	Wood St.	Hale End	Hi. H.
1946	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1947	1	7	8	5	3	—	24	8	2	2	2	5	5
1948	—	2	—	—	1	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	2
1949	1	6	10	—	2	—	19	2	4	2	3	4	4
1950	1	5	1	1	4	1	13	4	1	2	3	3	—
1951	—	2	4	3	—	—	9	2	1	2	1	1	2
1952	—	5	3	—	2	—	10	4	2	1	1	1	1
1953	—	3	2	1	2	—	8	1	—	1	2	3	1
1954	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1955	—	4	9	4	1	—	18	3	4	2	2	4	3
1956	—	2	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	1	—	1	1

Medical authorities are agreed that the severity of the disease and the extent of paralysis are aggravated by over exertion and undue fatigue. This applies especially to children and young adults. Rest and avoidance of fatigue are advisable when there are suspicious symptoms and signs during epidemic periods.

ENTERIC FEVER

Five cases of paratyphoid fever and one of typhoid fever occurred in Walthamstow residents, but four were notified from hospitals outside the Borough and are, therefore, excluded from the notification totals.

The five cases of paratyphoid type "B" were all associated with cream filled cakes made by two confectioners apparently using foreign egg products.

The ages and onset are as follows :—

No.	Sex	Age	Ward	Onset	Bacteriology
1	Male	7 yrs.	H.H.	26.4.56	Paratyphoid "B" "Taunton"
2	"	13 yrs.	W.	1.5.56	do.
3	Female	10 yrs.	Hi.	24.5.56	do.
4	"	1 yr.	H.H.	23.5.56	do.
5	"	31 yrs.	H.H.	10.6.56	do.

Cases 1—3 were associated with one confectioner and 4—5 with another. The mother of case 2 became a chronic carrier for some months, but was at last cleared. The mother of case 4 became infected from her baby.

In cases 1—3, the confectionery was supplied by a firm with multiple branches in East London and South-West Essex and the total number of cases in Greater London was considerable.

The probability is that the infected foreign egg products contaminated bakehouse machinery which was not properly cleansed with boiling water after use. In turn the artificial cream (which is normally sterile when received from the manufacturer) became cross-infected. Further reference is made under "Imported Egg Products."

The single case of typhoid fever was in a male, aged 44 years, who appears to have contracted the infection abroad. This was due to Vi-phage Type C.4 and this was apparently the first recorded instance of this type in the country. In spite of the closest enquiries into his itinerary, no source of infection could be suggested.

Imported Egg Products

Several cases of paratyphoid fever notified in May again focussed attention on the risk of using these products. These cases were part of a considerable outbreak (of over 40 cases) which affected East London and Metropolitan Essex and which were associated with cream filled confectionery from bakeries where imported egg products were in use.

In the Report for 1955, reference was made to the finding of *Salmonella* organisms in two out of twelve batches of Chinese dried egg supplied to the school kitchens and to the action of the Committee for Education in prohibiting the use of such products.

A circular letter was sent to all bakers and confectioners in 1955 advising them, if possible, not to use these products.

This was followed in November, 1955, by a letter setting out a statement prepared by the bakery trade as to the precautions to be taken in dealing with Chinese albumen. Amongst the advice given was the need to cleanse all utensils in boiling water, to avoid infecting other utensils and for operatives to wash hands and arms before handling other foodstuffs.

In view of the 1956 series of paratyphoid cases, the Health Committee instructed in June that bakers and confectioners were again to be circularised on the danger of using imported egg products and the precautions which were necessary if they were used. This was all the more necessary because the enquiries at Walthamstow in connection with the cases of paratyphoid clearly showed that this advice was not being followed.

A further suggestion was made that each consignment should be held pending sampling by the Health Department.

In August, 1956, a third circular was addressed to bakers and confectioners in view of several apparently isolated cases of food poisoning in the Borough. This circular stated that the risk of food poisoning would continue until ingredients are free of harmful bacteria, and until such safety is assured, the only weapon is scrupulous cleanliness and the separation of imitation cream (which is safe and pure as it arrives from the manufacturer) from other bakery products, especially imported egg products. In effect this means separate equipment and personnel to deal exclusively with imitation cream.

FOOD POISONING

"Notified" Cases.

Forty-two cases of food poisoning were notified by medical practitioners during the year. The organisms concerned in the various "incidents" were *Salmonella Typhi* Murium 9, *Salmonella Enteritidis* 5, Coagulase Positive *Staphylococci* 4, *Clostridium Welchii* 2, *Staphylococci* + *Salmonella Typhi* Murium 1. In the remainder the causal organisms were not identified.

The vehicles possibly implicated were the following:—tinned fish, tinned meat, tinned chicken, boiled ham, stewed steak (pre-cooked), meat pie, pork sausage, pork pie, peasepudding and minced meat.

One case was fatal in an adult male who died following infection from *Cl. welchii* Type A.8. Apparently at that time there was no recorded fatality of this kind in the medical literature.

"Ascertained" Cases.

(a) Three single cases and five cases in one family came to the attention of the Department other than by notification. The causal organisms were not identified.

(b) Eight cases (of which only 2 were "notified") occurred in a café used by workers from an industrial concern after the consumption of pre-cooked stewed steak which gave a growth of *Cl. welchii*. All the six café employees gave negative specimens, but four of the patients produced *Cl. welchii* type 3.

In two cases the infection was contracted abroad.

(c) In April five children were absent from one of the Special Schools. Food and faecal specimens were examined, but all were negative. The symptoms described resembled those of *Cl. welchii* food poisoning, i.e. diarrhoea and pain without vomiting.

A fuller account of the following outbreaks is given in the

report of the Borough School Medical Officer for 1956.

(d) In May an outbreak of food poisoning was reported from a secondary modern school. At least three adults and 32 children were involved. The meal comprised boiled boned mutton, vegetables and gravy, Bakewell tart and custard, the causal organism being *Cl. welchii*.

Dr. Betty Hobbs, of the Central Public Health Laboratory, Colindale, carried out a series of investigations and experiments and advised as follows :—

“ As it seems fairly certain that a proportion of meats are reaching canteens already contaminated with heat-resistant *Cl. welchii*, then measures to protect consumers against this hazard must be taken.

“ Such measures may be described as follows :—

- (1) Cook the meat in such a way that all heat-resistant spores are destroyed, i.e., by pressure cooking or by the thorough roasting of small-sized joints.
- (2) Cook, cool rapidly and maintain in the refrigerator until required.
- (3) Cook and keep hot above 60° C. either inside a hot-plate or in the steamer when the presence of gravy should make little difference.

“ The same recommendations should apply to gravies and stews.

“ The results of our experiments in the School Kitchen are of much practical use and we are most grateful for the willing help of all concerned.”

(e) In October the parent of a girl attending a High School, and as a result of a food hygiene lecture attended by the parent some two years previously, reported that her child appeared to be suffering from food poisoning. The investigation showed that 52 persons were affected on the Friday but were all back at school on the Monday except for the child referred to above. 233 persons had eaten at the first sitting, the meal consisting of cold roast pork, salad, chocolate pudding and sauce. Contrary to instructions, the meat was eaten on the day following cooking although stored in a refrigerator overnight. Bacteriological proof was obtained in two cases and all symptoms and signs pointed to *Cl. welchii* infection ; the organism was untypable. Again, contrary to instructions, the sample meal which should have been retained over the week-end, was thrown away before examination could be carried out.

In addition to the 42 “ notified ” cases there were 106 “ ascertained ” cases, i.e. a total of 148.

The following information is in the form required by the

Ministry of Health :—

1. *Local Authority*: WALTHAMSTOW. Year: 1956.2. *Food Poisoning Notifications (Corrected) Returned to R.G.*

1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
10	8	13	11	42

3. *Outbreaks due to Identified Agents.*

Total outbreaks—6.

Total cases—14.

Outbreaks due to :—

(a) Chemical Poisons : Nil.

(b) Salmonella Organisms : 3.

(c) Staphylococci (including toxin) : 2.

(d) Cl. botulinum : Nil.

(e) Other bacteria : Cl. welchii 1.

4. *Outbreaks of Undiscovered Cause.*

Total outbreaks—2.

Total cases—6.

5. *Single Cases.*

Agents identified—14. Unknown cause—8. Total—22.

Salmonella Typhi Murium : 7.

Salmonella Enteriditis : 4.

Staphylococci : 2.

Cl. welchii : 1.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTION

Two cases were notified, but one was not confirmed. The other one, F. 1½ years, was removed to hospital and recovered.

DYSENTERY

Forty-nine cases were notified, and thirty-three were confirmed.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Four cases were notified, 2 M., 2 F. Three recovered but one male died in hospital at four days old from ophthalmia neonatorum and melaena neonatorum.

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 76 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-compensation continues to be paid.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of all deaths from the disease in the Borough during 1956 :—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non- Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1- 4 years ..	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
5- 9 „ ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 „ ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-19 „ ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-24 „ ..	4	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-34 „ ..	7	11	—	1	—	—	—	—
35-44 „ ..	7	6	—	—	—	1	—	—
45-54 „ ..	10	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
55-64 „ ..	10	3	—	—	1	—	3	—
65 and over ..	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	43	28	3	3	4	1	3	—
	71		6		5		3	
	77				8			

In 32 per cent. of the 71 notified pulmonary cases there was a history of close contact with other tuberculous cases.

As each new case of pulmonary tuberculosis has been notified enquiry has been made as to the infectivity of the patient. Of 69 cases investigated 26 were sputum positive on notification or soon after, i.e. 36.6 per cent. The percentages during 1953, 1954 and 1955 were 45.6, 42.0 and 44.2 respectively.

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

Year.	New Cases.					Deaths.				
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
1956 ..	43	28	3	3	77	4	1	3	—	8
1955 ..	35	26	7	5	73	10	4	2	1	17
1954 ..	37	23	3	4	67	7	3	1	—	11

Fourteen deaths occurred amongst persons whose names were on the tuberculosis register and of these the Registrar General ascribes 8 to tuberculosis, i.e. 5 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary.

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	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—	—	—	—

Non-Notification of Tuberculosis

There were no known cases of non-notified tuberculosis during the year and no cases were notified after death.

Mass Radiography

The Mass Radiography Unit re-visited Walthamstow during the year and was based at the Old Monoux School building in High Street. Organised groups were seen and public sessions were held. In addition two factories in the Borough were visited. The detailed findings are set out below :—

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY WALTHAMSTOW, 1956

High Street (Old Monoux School)—	Male	Female	Total
ORGANISED GROUPS (including two factories):			
Number of Miniature films	2,226	1,725	3,951
Recalled for large films	65	38	103
PUBLIC SESSIONS:			
Miniature films	950	1,359	2,309
Recalled for large films	47	51	98
TOTALS:			
Miniature films	3,176	3,084	6,260
Large films	112	89	201

Pulmonary Tuberculosis :—

1. Presumed healed—requiring no further action	21	16	37
2. Occasional supervision	10	1	11
3. Close clinic supervision	1	—	1
4. Requiring immediate treatment	5	1	6

(Seven male and one female cases were notified.)

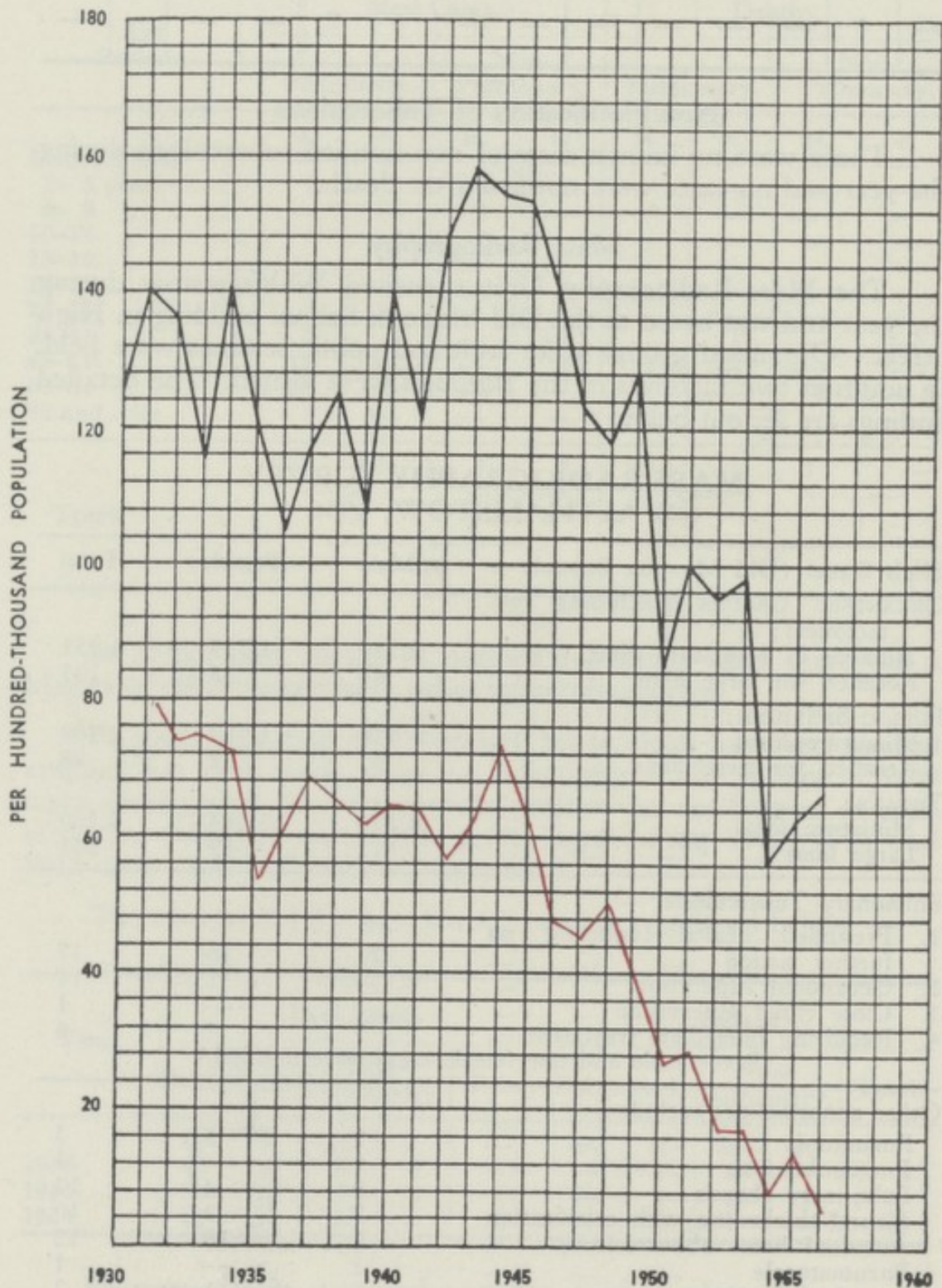
Other abnormalities include :—

Pneumonia	2	3	5
Pneumokoniosis	1	—	1
Pulmonary fibrosis	8	4	12
Pleural thickening with calcification	7	3	10
Acquired heart abnormalities	2	10	12
Pneumatocele	1	—	1
Bronchial Carcinoma	1	1	2
Sarcoidosis	1	—	1

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 include the following: Rehousing on Medical Grounds, "Mobile Meals" where necessary and Public Health Inspection, both to improve living conditions and to investigate possible sources of infection.

SICKNESS BENEFIT

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 five years the weekly averages of new claims were as follows. The extraordinary consistency of those for the months of June to October will be noted.

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
January	464	747	500	660	578
February	433	832	513	632	630
March	390	401	375	474	432
April	350	300	267	300	279
May	270	232	314	263	291
June	214	237	252	264	249
July	200	197	220	224	228
August	205	201	209	228	214
September	262	257	284	271	295
October	369	370	348	363	368
November	311	360	366	370	424
December	426	291	299	350	339
Average per week	323	363	327	360	357

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

In January, 1956, there was fog, frost, and damp followed by the very cold and frozen fortnight in mid-February. March to May was mild and sunny and better than the cold, dull rainy "summer" that followed. Weather conditions improved in the autumn reverting to damp and fog in December.

G.—MISCELLANEOUS

1. Old People's Welfare.

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 18,727 meals during 1956. Six rounds are now operated on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The meals are obtained from the Council's Catering Department and distributed by voluntary workers in cars hired by the Committee. The scheme has been in operation in this form since March, 1948, and is an essential one for 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.

Accommodation for the Aged and Chronic Sick

The cold "snap" during February, 1956 produced a large increase in the number of cases coming to the knowledge of the Health Department and requiring care and attention. The Health Committee instructed that a special report was to be made for the Finance and General Purposes Committee in March. This stated that 16 of the 24 cases reported in January and February required admission either to hospital as sick persons, or to welfare accommodation as frail ambulant persons; ages ranged between 60 and 95 years.

Not only was there difficulty in obtaining accommodation, but in some cases where it became available, there was refusal on the part of the person concerned to accept the offer made. In some cases home nursing, domestic help and "Meals on Wheels" had to be arranged over the weekend.

It is of interest to note that the effect of cold weather on general "medical" practice was commented on in the "British Medical Journal" on the 27th December, 1956. The inquiry indicated that severe cold weather brought about a marked increase in the volume of work in the practice concerned, both surgery attendances and home visiting.

The co-operation of the hospital and welfare services was always admirable, but the difficulty appears to be wholly one of insufficient accommodation. Even so, Walthamstow is fortunate in participating in the geriatric service and accommodation available at Langthorne Hospital which, however, appears to have far too large a "catchment" area.

In particular the position is eased by Dr. DeLargy's scheme at Langthorne Hospital for rehabilitating the aged and relieving their relatives. Priority of admission is decided by means of domiciliary visits, and whereas the Family Doctor often thinks in terms of permanent accommodation in hospital, many relatives have stated to Dr. DeLargy that they had no wish to shelve their responsibilities, but only wanted a rest, especially a night's unbroken sleep.

This specialised accommodation at Langthorne Hospital is for 24 women and 10 men, and admissions and discharges alternate each six weeks.

The scheme is fully described in the issue of "The Lancet" 23rd February, 1957.

Some years ago a directive was issued by the Regional Hospital Board that all hospitals should reserve 10 per cent. of their accommodation for the aged and chronic sick, but this does not appear to have been properly observed, which is quite understandable in hospitals primarily dealing with the acute sick. The only real solution is the provision of more and adequate geriatric units.

Aids for the Elderly, Disabled and Handicapped

In October the Central Council for the Care of Cripples kindly arranged for their travelling exhibition to visit Walthamstow. The exhibition is housed in a motor van designed for the purpose and contained a large variety of very simple "gadgets." Particulars were circularised to all who are concerned with this group of persons, but attendances were somewhat disappointing.

Emergency Assistance for Tenants living alone

(The following is extracted from the report of the Housing Manager to the Lettings Sub-Committee of November, 1956) :—

During the summer enquiries have been made of the occupiers of all the one-bedroom flats, bed-sitting room flats and flatlets, suggesting that the occupiers—who generally are elderly—should furnish information regarding the name and address of their doctor and of persons who might be notified in case of need.

So far, a little over 50 per cent. of the tenants have responded and arrangements are in hand for a further communication to be sent to each person who has failed to give the necessary information.

Meanwhile, each tenant of these small properties has been provided with a card bearing the letters "S.O.S." which can be exhibited in a window of their home whenever help is required.

New Accommodation for the Elderly

Dr. DeLargy met representatives of the Architect's and Housing Departments to discuss the medical requirements in this matter. Particular reference was made in regard to the advisability for baths to be as low as possible. The heights of the table,

draining board and gas cooker should always be the same, so that the old people could slide articles from one to the other as far as possible. In addition, the top of the sink should also be at the same level.

DOMICILIARY CHIROPODY

In order to assist those elderly persons unable by reason of illness or infirmity to attend the County Council's Foot Clinic, even with the aid of transport, the Walthamstow Old People's Welfare Committee have agreed to accept financial responsibility for chiropody treatment to be provided in their own homes.

During 1956 17 patients received domiciliary treatment, and the total treatments given were 21 at a cost of £11 0s. 6d. The ages of the persons concerned were :—

Males (2)	.....	.....	80 years.
Females (15)	.....	.....	80 years to 90 years.

The agreement of the family doctor as to the need for treatment and as to non-ambulancy is sought.

General.

The need appears to be for increased services in the following directions, especially those which help with domiciliary treatment :—

(1) "Meals on Wheels" daily. (2) Ample home nursing and domestic help facilities, including week-end help. (3) Increased chiropody facilities at clinics and in the home. (4) Companionship, sitters-in and occupational therapy. (5) Increased Part III accommodation and long and short stay annexes. (6) More hospital beds for the aged and chronic sick.

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 was 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, 4; Mattresses, 8; Blankets, 3; Pillows, 3; Commodes, 2; Chairs, 2; and Wheel-chair, 1.

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 Service for the Incontinent.

Experience in 1956 has conclusively shown the increasing need for this service. A part-time laundress was appointed to deal with this work.

The number of cases dealt with was as follows :—

Total number of cases	21
Average number of cases per week	7
Total number of articles	3,218
Average number of articles per week	62
Total number of journeys	701

3. Funeral Arrangements.

No burial was carried out during the year within the terms of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

4. Medical Examinations.

During the year the medical staff carried out 259 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.

Food Hygiene.—Two lectures were arranged for the school kitchen and dining staffs and were given by the Deputy Medical Officer of Health and the Chief Public Health Inspector. Full details are given in the Report of the Borough School Medical Officer for 1956.

6. Cancer Education.

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

7. Disinfection.

The Council agreed to provide facilities for steam disinfection for the Leyton Corporation on the terms applicable to the Chingford Corporation.

8. General.

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

(a) Public Conveniences.

Tenders were obtained during the year, for the erection of a Public Convenience at the Selborne Recreation Ground, Selborne Road, E.17.

During 1956, free washing facilities continued to be available by the supply of soap and paper towels at the 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 City of London Crematorium at Manor Park and also the Manor Park Crematorium, Manor Park.

Negotiations continued with adjoining Local Authorities.

(c) Rainfall.

The annual rainfall at Ferry Lane Station was 24.15 in.

(d) Inquests and Post-Mortems.

	Walthamstow	Others	Total
Post-Mortems only	85	230	315
Post-Mortems and Inquests	16	72	88
Inquests only	4	53	57

(e) Flooding.

This year, which has been abnormal in the number of excessive rainstorms, has indicated clearly the weakness of the existing sewerage system. Flooding has occurred in various parts of the Borough, details of which are given below.

Following on a report to the Council in June, 1952, it was agreed to engage technical staff to carry out the surveys and collect data for the preparation of a new main drainage scheme. One Principal Assistant Engineer and one Assistant Engineer were engaged ; it has not been possible, however, to recruit the balance of the staff.

Up to date approximately 50 per cent. of the Borough has been surveyed and the information plotted, this work has been seriously impeded by the lack of suitable Junior Assistants.

By the end of this year, it is anticipated that the survey will be completed for the southern part of the Borough, so that designs can be prepared for this area, which is the worst one.

Pending the completion of the survey and the design of the main system, it has been possible to prepare some smaller schemes on the perimeter of the area which will alleviate flooding conditions and will, in due course, form part of the major scheme. These are :—

- (1) Reconstruction of foul sewer, Hale End ;
- (2) Billet Road Relief Sewer ;
- (3) Shernhall Street Relief Sewer ;
- (4) Chingford Road Relief Sewer ;
- (5) Coppermill Lane Relief Sewer ;
- (6) Storm Tanks, Brook Road/Raglan Road.

Various small sections of sewers have been reconstructed and a new Venturi flume built at Low Hall Farm to record flow.

Designs are being prepared for the construction of new storm water tanks at Low Hall Farm, together with a new automatic pumping station.

SECTION H
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT, 1946
PART III SERVICES
WALTHAMSTOW HEALTH AREA SUB-COMMITTEE
(1956/57)

Chairman :

Councillor Mrs. W. M. PALETHORPE (Walthamstow Borough Council).

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor J. E. NICHOLLS (Walthamstow Borough Council)

Members :

Nominated by :—

Essex County Council	.....	Alderman K. E. B. GLENNY, O.B.E. (Chairman, Health Committee, E.C.C.).
" " "	.....	Councillor Mrs. S. M. BOVILL (Vice-Chairman, Health Com- mittee, E.C.C.).
" " "	.....	Councillor Mrs. E. M. BATES.
" " "	.....	Councillor Mrs. A. M. M. BURRELL
" " "	.....	Councillor H. J. E. PALETHORPE.
" " "	.....	Councillor Mrs. L. P. BAILEY.
Walthamstow Borough Council		Alderman G. S. MACE.
" " "		Alderman THE LADY McENTEE, O.B.E., J.P.
" " "		Councillor Mrs. E. L. BALDWIN.
" " "		Councillor J. J. BRACKEN.
" " "		Councillor Mrs. S. CANDY.
" " "		Councillor Mrs. G. F. G. COWELL.
" " "		Councillor A. W. ELLIS, M.B.E.
" " "		Councillor J. H. HAMMOND.
" " "		Councillor O. F. J. MCCARTHY.
" " "		Councillor J. W. PRINGLE.
" " "		Councillor Mrs. C. E. STANNARD.
" " "		Councillor A. F. WHICHER.
" " "		Councillor F. H. EILES.

Executive Council for Essex	F. A. WORTLEY, ESQ.
Hospital Management Committee'	Mrs. B. E. BOTTOMLEY, J.P.
Local Medical Committee for	
Essex	Dr. W. R. JOHN.
Voluntary Organisations	Dr. R. C. FERGUS (Walthamstow District Nursing Charitable Association).
" "	 E. P. MARR, ESQ. (Walthamstow Child Welfare Society).
" "	 Mrs. M. OSORA (Invalid Chil- dren's Aid Association).
" "	 Mrs. A. CORDELL (Walthamstow and Chingford Association of Tuberculosis Care Helpers).

STAFF

During the year 29 whole-time members of the Health Area Staff resigned their appointments and 23 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.

Mr. L. W. Elmer, L.D.S., Senior Dental Officer, retired at the end of the year after twenty-four years' service in Walthamstow.

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.

Part of the Priory Court site is to be used for the erection of a health services clinic. Working drawings are in hand. Adjoining is a community centre which is already functioning, but the scheme is held up by the "credit squeeze."

GENERAL DENTAL SERVICE

The Senior Dental Officer reports as follows :—

"My report must, I regret to say, be a repetition of that which I made last year, a story of a consistent but regrettable inability to undertake the treatment of large numbers of patients who asked for appointments.

"I can only hope that in 1957, with a few more sessions available, there will be a reduction in the numbers of disappointed applicants."

Herewith is a summary of the work undertaken during the years 1955 and 1956 :—

	1955	1956
Number of patients treated	831	941
Appointments made	4,867	5,008
" kept	4,396	4,533
Plastic fillings	381	413
Amalgam fillings	1,667	1,531
	} 2,048 total	
Inlays	9	7
Crowns	29	28
Scalings and gum treatments	441	450
Dressings	515	549
Extractions	752	756
General anaesthetics	211	138
Local anaesthetics	462	638
X-rays	509	588
Impressions	609	591
Bites	170	166
Try-ins	221	234
Full upper dentures	77	85
Full lower dentures	56	53
Partial upper dentures	51	48
Partial lower dentures	30	34
	} 214 total dentures	
Repairs	211	154

DENTAL LABORATORY

The following work was undertaken during the year :—

	Den- tures	Repairs	Re-line	Re- makes	Orthodontic Appli- ances	Crowns	Inlays	Splints	Orthodontic Study Models	Other Models
General Dental Service	231	221	4	2	4	13	1	—	—	1,265
Walthamstow Committee for Education.....	41	42	—	—	219	12	1	5	714	—
Leyton Committee for Education.....	21	6	—	—	35	—	—	—	—	—
Maternity and Child Welfare Patients	23	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Regional Hospital Board (Connaught and Harts Hospitals).....	21	14	—	4	—	—	—	10*	—	—

* Bite splints for correction of temporo mandibular disorders.

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	1,309	803
Low Hall Lane Clinic	28	10
Silverdale Road Clinic	23	25
West Avenue Clinic	11	7
District Nurses Training Home and Midwives' Homes	289	—
Totals	1,660	845

Total Attendances—	Ante-Natal	Post-Natal
Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital	11,799	1,030
Low Hall Lane Clinic	237	27
Silverdale Road Clinic	122	32
West Avenue Clinic	74	11
District Nurses' Training Home and Midwives' Homes	3,249	—
Totals	15,481	1,100

Blood grouping/hæmoglobin estimation and Rhesus and Kahn tests were carried out for all patients attending ante-natal clinics, except when interim ante-natal care is carried out on behalf of maternity hospitals.

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 Maternity Hospital on Sunday mornings (by courtesy of Miss Rodway, F.R.C.O.G., Consultant Obstetrician) for Rhesus tests to be carried out on the husbands of Rhesus negative women, i.e., 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 may in extreme urgency, and when unable to obtain immediate medical aid, summon the Obstetric Flying Squad direct. Except in doctors' booked

cases, patients with any serious abnormality can be referred to the Consultant Obstetrician at Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital.

A letter of advice was sent to every Rhesus negative expectant mother 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 7 Rhesus negatives and all Kahn tests were negative.

The total of blood tests was 49—first tests 43 mothers and 1 father, and in addition 4 confirmatory tests and 1 for hæmoglobin only.

The groupings were A.18, B.3, O.21 and AB.1. Hæmoglobin estimations showed the following results :—

100+ = nil	60—69 = 4
90—99 = 6	50—59 = nil
80—89 = 22	40—49 = nil
70—79 = 10	

i.e., 4 or 9.5% were under 70.

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

Routine chest X-ray examination is always advised and carried out if the expectant mother agrees. During the year, 906 patients were referred to the Chest Clinic from Thorpe Coombe, and 62 from other ante-natal clinics. Two were found suitable for treatment and confined at the special unit at Black Notley Sanatorium.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Details of ante-natal clinics held in Walthamstow are given on page 73 of this Report.

Relaxation Classes.

Relaxation classes have been continued at Markhouse Road Welfare Centre on Tuesdays at 2 p.m., at West Avenue Welfare Centre at 2 p.m. on Wednesdays, and at Silverdale Road Health Services Clinic on Thursdays at 2 p.m.

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. One-hundred-and-fifty sessions were held during the period under review involving a total of 855 attendances.

Toddlers' Clinic.

The toddlers' clinic continued at West Avenue Welfare Centre and sessions are held fortnightly on a Friday afternoon.

VIRUS INFECTIONS DURING PREGNANCY

Ministry of Health Enquiry

The follow-up continued.

CONFINEMENTS

The following table shows the location of confinements during 1956 :—

Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital	1,256
Other Hospitals and Maternity Homes	380
Total in Hospital, etc.	1,636
At Home	331
Total Confinements	1,967

VITAL STATISTICS

	Walthamstow	England & Wales (Provisional)
Live birth-rate per 1,000 population	11.8	15.7
Still birth-rate per 1,000 total births	17.6	23.0
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	18.7	23.8

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

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS

1,992 births (529 of which belonged to other Areas) were notified during the year under the Public Health Act, 1936.

Notifications were received as follows: Doctors, 350; Midwives, 1,623; Others, 19.

Also included are 30 still-births, five of which belonged to other areas. Of the total, 11 occurred outside the Borough.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

The number of infants dying under one month during 1956 was 18, i.e., a rate of 13 per 1,000 live births.

INFANT MORTALITY

The deaths of infants under one year were as follows :—

		Males	Females	Totals
Legitimate	.....	16	10	26
Illegitimate	.....	—	—	—
Totals	.....	16	10	26

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

Legitimate, 18.7 ; Illegitimate, nil ; Total, 18.7.

Of the 26 deaths 18 occurred in the first month of life including 12 in the first week, the age group distribution being as under :—

Hours	Day Week	Week Mth.	Mth. Mth.	Mth. Mth.	Mth. Mth.	Mth. Mth.
0—24	1—1	1—1	1—3	3—6	6—9	9—12
7	5	6	2	3	0	3

Four deaths occurred at home, one in a Day Nursery and 21 in hospital.

Two deaths, including the one at the Day Nursery, were accidental, due to inhalation of fluid, and were the subject of inquests.

Principal causes of death were : Prematurity, 13 ; Congenital abnormality, 5 ; Birth injury, 3 ; Infectious and other conditions, 3.

None of the deaths were considered to be preventable and of the 13 ascribed to prematurity the average birth weight was 2lb 12oz.

The Infant Mortality Rate for Walthamstow of 18.7 compares very favourably with that for England and Wales for 1956 (23.8) and is the lowest ever recorded in the Borough.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE—1956

	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total deaths under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 9 months.	9 months and under 12 months.	Total deaths under 1 year.	St. James St.	High Street.	Hoe Street.	Wood Street.	Hale End.	Higham Hill.	Total.
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other forms of T.B.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
T.B. Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (Non-T.B.)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Diarrhoea,	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inattention at birth, wilful neglect	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation (overlying)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at birth	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	2	1	3
Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital malformation	2	—	1	—	3	—	1	—	1	5	2	—	1	—	—	2	5
Premature birth	8	4	—	—	12	—	1	—	—	13	—	1	1	7	2	2	13
Atrophy, debility, marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Inanition	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heart failure	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other causes	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	2	4	1	—	1	—	1	1	4
Totals	12	4	1	1	18	2	3	—	3	26	3	2	3	7	5	6	26

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 1956, 77 live premature infants were born to residents of the Borough, 13 at home and 64 in hospitals and nursing homes.

Of the 13 born at home, five were transferred to hospital. Of the remaining eight who were nursed entirely at home, all survived the first twenty-eight days of life.

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
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
1955	1,262	49	25	2	19.8	40.8
1956	1,335	53	26	Nil	19.4	Nil
Totals 1952 to 1956 (5 years)	6,871	268	159	5	23.1	18.6

MORAL WELFARE

The "Carville" Home, now at 43 West Avenue Road, 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. A. Williams, Superintendent, submits the following report on the work carried out during 1956 :—

"May I once again express my indebtedness for the help and co-operation of the staff of the Health Department. Their ever ready help lightens our work, and we have had a very busy year."

Details of cases dealt with are as follows :—

Admitted	Adults	Babies	Total
From Walthamstow	14	14	28
From rest of County	51	34	85
From outside County	8	4	12
Total	73	52	125
Outdoor Work—			
Walthamstow (Mothers and babies)	30	30	60
Walthamstow (Other cases)	31	—	31
Other County cases	7	—	7
Total	68	30	98

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

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

(a) Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics :

Monday (twice monthly)	2 p.m.	Silverdale Road, Highams Park.
Monday „ „	2 p.m.	West Avenue, 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.
Thursday	2 p.m.	Silverdale Road, E.4.

(c) Child Welfare Clinics.

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

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

*These sessions transferred back from Silverdale Road Welfare Centre on 2.10.56 after completion of alterations at the Memorial Hall.

Summary of Attendances at Child Welfare Clinics

Clinic	First Attendances of New Cases				Re-Attendances				Grand Total
	Under 1 year of age	1 year old	2-5 years of age	Total	Under 1 year of age	1 year old	2-5 years of age	Total	
Markhouse Rd.	321	13	17	351	5,064	1,295	1,538	7,897	8,248
Penrhyn Ave.	234	10	14	258	3,667	1,207	1,069	5,943	6,201
West Avenue	217	16	15	248	3,506	834	766	5,106	5,354
Silverdale Rd.	208	12	9	229	3,518	1,107	2,764	7,389	7,618
Winchester Rd.	23	2	—	25	351	122	194	667	691
Totals, 1956	1,003	53	55	1,111	16,106	4,565	6,331	27,002	28,113

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 and Whooping Cough Immunisation.

The percentage of attendances at "Brookscroft" to the total of child welfare attendances in the Borough during 1956 was 18.2. The percentage of new cases at "Brookscroft" to the number of live births in the Borough was 18.3. These percentages denote that nearly one-fifth of the child welfare attendances in the Borough during 1956 were at "Brookscroft."

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				Re-Attendances				Grand Total
	Under 1 yr. of age	1 yr. old	2-5 yrs. of age	Total	Under 1 yr. of age	1 yr. old	2-5 yrs. of age	Total	
1956	254	9	19	282	4,113	999	838	5,950	6,232

Seventy-eight children were immunised against diphtheria and 73 against whooping cough during the year at "Brookscroft."

Summary of Attendances at all Child Welfare Clinics

	First Attendances				Re-Attendances				Grand Total
	Under 1 yr. of age	1 year old	2-5 years of age	Total	Under 1 yr. of age	1 yr. old	2-5 years of age	Total	
Local Authority Scheme	1,003	53	55	1,111	16,106	4,565	6,331	27,002	28,113
"Brookscroft"	254	9	19	282	4,113	999	838	5,950	6,232
Total 1956	1,257	62	74	1,393	20,219	5,564	7,169	32,952	34,345

TREATMENT

The facilities provided at the Education Authority's clinics are available for all children attending the welfare centres.

(a) **Orthopaedic.** — Miss H. 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	5	Overlapping Toes	3
Surgical Tuberculosis	1	Perthes Disease	2
Scoliosis	4	Athrogryposis Multiplex	
Genu Valgum	16	Congenitae	1
Genu Varum	4	Congenital Dislocation of Hip	1
Pes Valgus and Valgus Anklés	11	Talipes—	
Torticollis	1	(a) Calcaneo Valgus	1
Other Congenital Defects	2	(b) Metatarsus Varus.....	4
Claw Toes	1	Miscellaneous (including Chest Conditions)	16
			Total
			73

Number of Treatments given—555.

(b) **Sunlight.**—Sunlight treatment was given at the Hale End Clinic to 9 children under 5 years of age for 90 treatments.

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

“Following the trend of recent years the numbers of expectant and nursing mothers and young children who have been referred for treatment and received it has decreased. There are two possible reasons for this, either the numbers seen at the Welfare Centres by

the doctors present fewer cases of dental defects, or just possibly, the standard of what may be classed as dental fitness has varied with changes of medical staff.

"The first reason is, I hope, the correct one, but the second cannot, of course, be ruled out entirely.

"There is at least one hopeful trend. Among some 200 expectant and nursing mothers referred, it was found that one only needed a complete artificial denture and it was only found necessary to fit seven partial dentures.

"This is certainly a complete change from the times, not very long ago, when the great majority of women referred from the Welfare Centres were in such poor dental condition that they needed full dentures.

"The number of Dental Sessions has been as follows :—

1956	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	189
1955	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	174

"The total of expectant and nursing mothers who received dental treatment during 1956 expressed as a percentage of live births was 13.6.

"In May, 1956, one evening session per week was commenced for expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age.

"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	95	121	272
Patients found to require treatment	89	115	241
Patients who have commenced treatment	81	109	222
Patients who have completed treatment	52	81	168
Patients awaiting treatment	—	1	3
Attendances for treatment	202	326	382

Types of treatment given :

	Expectant Mothers	Nursing Mothers	Children under School age
1. Extractions :			
(a) permanent teeth	42	88	—
(b) temporary ,,	—	—	140
2. Fillings :			
(a) permanent teeth	94	147	—
(b) temporary ,,	—	—	222
3. Inlays provided	1	2	—
4. Crowns ,,	—	4	—

	Expectant Mothers	Nursing Mothers	Children under School age
5. Anaesthetics administered :			
(a) local	11	26	7
(b) general :—			
(i) by medical officers	7	11	27
(ii) by others	9	8	19
6. (a) Scaling	21	16	1
(b) Prolonged scaling and gum treatment	6	1	—
7. Silver Nitrate Treatment	1	5	71
8. Dressings	24	30	57
9. X-ray examinations	4	2	—
10. Dentures provided :			
(a) full	1	19	—
(b) partial	1	1	—
11. Dentures repaired	1	3	—
12. Dentures remade :			
(a) full	—	1	—
(b) partial	3	4	—
13. Orthodontic appliances :			
(a) fixed	—	—	—
(b) movable	—	—	—
14. Prophylactic treatment and other operations :			
Impressions	8	40	—
Bites	6	16	—
Try-ins	5	32	—
Easing	4	24	—
Polishing	11	4	1
Gum Treatments	15	3	5
Syringing	1	1	—
Inspections	2	6	—
15. Number of treatments included above in 6 or 14, carried out by Oral Hygienist	30	14	—

The services of the Dental Hygienist were available on two half-days per week."

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

"Only 9 new cases were referred during 1956. This com-

pares unfavourably with the already low figure of 12 children referred in the previous year. I find this extremely disappointing ; I previously stressed the view that the referral and treatment of children in pre-school years holds out the best hope of solving the problems common to all child guidance clinics of excessive pressure of work, due largely to problems which might have been prevented had appropriate guidance or treatment been provided at an earlier stage. Progressive medicine concentrates on prevention, and this principle is of particular application in the field of child psychiatry, where it is almost universally admitted that the foundations of mental health or ill health are laid down during the first five years of life.

" In child guidance clinics dealing largely with children of school age, and in schools for maladjusted pupils one is continually impressed with the magnitude of the problem and with the fact that in most cases one can see clearly that the problem originated in the very early years, long before the child is brought for advice. One's experience in handling such problems when they are, in fact, brought in the pre-school period, encourages one to believe that in many cases the later problem could have been averted had the earlier one been dealt with in good time. When one considers the expense incurred by public authorities, not merely in the running of child guidance clinics, but also the costly residential schools for maladjusted pupils, one realises how much scope there is here, not only for better medicine but also for national economy. In this way, I believe, in the long run the present excessive demand for places at schools for maladjusted pupils might be diminished, and the places there be made available for those children for whom this form of education is unavoidable.

" I would like to stress in connection with this mental health work the need for co-operation between the infant welfare services and the Child Guidance Clinic. The staff at the Child Guidance Clinic would always be happy to help the health visitors or any other persons concened in the social and medical welfare of young children, with discussions of problem families or arranging psychiatric interviews for particular parents and children at the West Avenue or Walthamstow Child Guidance Clinic. I am glad to record that in the course of the year the clinic staff were invited to give talks at " Brookscroft " Maternity and Child Welfare Centre on June 12th, and at the Nursery Association at Leyton on November 20th.

" Further to the subject of prevention, I believe that the provision of more nursery schools to which children could go who show signs of early maladjustment in their homes, would often provide a satisfactory means of solving their problems. The present housing shortage with consequent overcrowding and restriction of the child's normal activities, leads to frayed

tempers on the part of parents and children, and this is frequently at the root of disturbed relationships. This is generally described by naughtiness on the part of the child and by producing in him feelings of resentment and injustice leading to further 'naughtiness,' and thus to a vicious circle."

(g) **Pædiatric Clinic.**—The fortnightly clinic, under the charge of Dr. Elchon Hinden, Pædiatrician to Whipps Cross Hospital, continued during 1956 and 28 children under five years of age were seen.

Dr. Hinden's report on the work of this clinic is included in the Annual Report of the Borough School Medical Officer.

The following details are given in regard to the children under five years who attended the clinic during 1956 :—

	Under 5 years			
New cases				28
Total attendances				57
Physical Defects :				
Cases seen				28
Referred to Hospital				11
Discharged				8
Psychological Disorders :				
(a) Enuresis				—
(b) Other				—
Referred to Hospital				—
Discharged				5

(h) **Invalid Children's Aid Association.**—Mrs. E. Dick, 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				1
Local Health Authority				2
General Practitioners				4
				7

Classification of above cases :—

	Under five years
Anæmia, Debility	1
After effects of acute or infectious illness or operation	2
Diseases of :	
Ear, Nose and Throat	3
Other defects	1
	—
	7
	—

One child was referred by a voluntary body for visiting, advice, help and follow-up.

(i) **Convalescence.**—During 1956 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, two mothers and their babies were sent away for a period of convalescence.

PROVISION OF NUTRIENTS AND MEDICAMENTS

Details of nutrients and medicaments sold and issued free during 1956 are as follows :—

	Sales		Free Issue	
	lbs.	ozs.	lbs.	ozs.
Adexolin	—	—	40	6
Bemax	182	$\frac{1}{2}$	—	—
Cow and Gate	3,724	—	—	—
Cod Liver Oil and Malt	—	—	23	—
Farex	810	10	—	—
Ferrous Gluconate Tablets	—	—	29,000	—
Gentian Violet Tablets	—	—	1,000	—
Glucodin	121	4	—	—
Lactogal	51	$8\frac{1}{2}$	—	—
Iron Sulphate Compound Tablets	—	—	1,000	—
Maltoline with Iron	—	—	245	8
Marmite	955	4	—	—
Milk of Magnesia	—	—	11	—
Mist Ferri et Ammon Cit. Pro Infantibus	—	—	28	14

	Sales		Free Issue	
	lbs.	ozs.	lbs.	ozs.
Ostermilk	1,506	—	—	—
Ostocalcium Tablets	—	—	1,000	—
Robinson's Groats	244	—	—	—
Sodium Citrate Tablets	—	—	5,000	—
Scott's "Twin Pack"	473	2	—	—
Virol	712	8	—	—
Calcium & Vitamin D Tablets	—	—	1,000	—
Trufood	41	—	—	—

Value of Cash Sales=£1,444 15s. 2d.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

At the end of the year, eight distribution centres were open for 22 sessions per week enabling beneficiaries to obtain supplies from one to four centres on any weekday.

The following table shows the distribution of welfare foods at individual centres :—

DISTRIBUTION CENTRE	National Dried Milk (Tins)	Cod Liver Oil (Bottles)	Vitamin Tablets (Packets)	Orange Juice (Bottles)
Brookscroft Welfare Centre	4,976	1,759	595	11,481
Markhouse Road Infant Welfare Centre	4,999	1,588	659	8,457
Northcott House Distribution Centre	16,161	2,894	1,605	26,609
Penrhyn Avenue Infant Welfare Centre	4,258	1,201	402	8,838
Silverdale Road Infant Welfare Centre	3,622	1,617	548	12,724
Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital	—	62	1,477	4,851
West Avenue Infant Welfare Centre	4,612	1,621	658	8,556
Winchester Road Infant Welfare Centre	332	179	30	950
TOTAL issues at Distribution Centres	38,960	10,921	5,974	82,466
In addition, the following were issued to :—				
Hospitals (National Health Service)	466	—	—	324
Day Nurseries	—	252	—	1,080
GRAND TOTAL OF ISSUES	39,426	11,173	5,974	83,870

DAY NURSERIES

During the year the average attendances at the day nurseries (Mondays to Fridays only) were as follows :—

	Under 2 yrs.	Over 2 yrs.	Total
Higham Hill Day Nursery	11.8	30.5	42.3
Handsworth Avenue Day Nursery	7.2	35.0	42.2

Both day nurseries are approved for training in the care of children aged 0.5 years and have 60 places.

Training.—During 1956 seven nursery students gained certificates awarded by the Royal Society for the Promotion of Health. Their future careers were as follows :—

General nursing training .....	.....	.....	3
Staff nursery nurses (including 1 who obtained employment with another Authority) .....	.....	.....	3
Private children's nurse .....	.....	.....	1

Scarlet Fever and Tonsillitis, Handsworth Avenue Day Nursery.—On the 18th September a child was notified from the Day Nursery to be suffering from scarlet fever and several cases of sore throat followed. As a result all staff and children were swabbed on the 26th September and of fifty-six persons swabbed, seven yielded Haemolytic Streptococci Group A. The subsequent typings were Type 1 (5), Type 3 (1), Type 12 (1).

Daily visits were paid each morning by the medical staff until October 16th, and twenty suspects were excluded until bacteriologically cleared. The co-operation of parents was excellent.

A child with scarlet fever was released in due course from home isolation and returned to the Day Nursery on the 23rd October after five weeks. In the light of subsequent experience, it is a matter of regret that no typing of the organism was done, nor clearance swabs taken.

Between the 28th and 30th November the same child and three others were absent from the Nursery with sore throats. Subsequently of these three children a brother and sister were notified as scarlet fever and later another child.

Daily medical visits were again paid and suspects were excluded until the Nursery was cleared early in January, 1957.

All parents were circularised by letter on the 30th November and their co-operation again sought in keeping children with

suspicious symptoms and signs at home and advising consultation with their family doctor.

Selective swabbing was undertaken on the 6th December and of fourteen taken, one member of the staff yielded Group A Haemolytic Streptococci Type (12).

The brother and sister with scarlet fever yielded Type (4) and were cleared only in January, 1957. The child who had suffered from scarlet fever in September was also Type (4) and was a persistent carrier until January.

Two other children were also Type (4) carriers, but were cleared by the end of the year.

In view of the fact that two types (4) and (12) of nephritogenic haemolytic streptococci were met with in these cases, instructions were given for urine tests to be carried out and all fortunately gave negative results. In order to give an added safeguard, urine tests will, as far as possible, be done annually.

NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS (REGULATION) ACT, 1948

There were no registrations under the above Act during 1956.

DAILY GUARDIAN SCHEME

This Scheme was begun in May, 1951, and Guardians are paid a retaining fee of 1s. 0d. 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.

Details in respect of 1955 and 1956 are as follows :—

	1955	1956
No. of Guardians on Register at end of year	20	19
No. of applications for services of Daily Guardians	40	49
Referred to Day Nurseries	28	34
Referred to Daily Guardian but nothing further heard	3	8
Placed with Daily Guardian	9	7
Continued in care of Daily Guardian from previous year	4	5

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).

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
1955	.....	.....	11	261
1956	.....	.....	7	210

These patients have attended for contraceptive advice on medical grounds. This is only a part of the work done at the Clinic which is largely for gynaecological conditions.

INCIDENCE OF MONGOLISM

An enquiry was made during the year into the number of mongol children born between 1951 and 1955. Ten such children were known, of whom one had died.

MIDWIFERY

(Section 23)

There were 38 practising midwives in the Borough at the end of 1956, 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 1956 :—

No. of confinements attended as a Midwife	.....	.....	1,235
„ confinements attended as a Maternity Nurse	.....	.....	353
„ Medical Aid Notices sent	.....	.....	652
„ Twin Births notified	.....	.....	15
„ Stillbirths notified	.....	.....	19
„ Notifications of Artificial Feeding	.....	.....	14
„ „ „ Discharging Eyes	.....	.....	—
„ Deaths notified	.....	.....	1

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

Midwifery cases	1,145
Maternity cases	105
Medical Aid Notices	628

The percentage of Medical Aid Notices were :—

All cases	22.2
Maternity Hospital Midwives	51.0
Other Midwives	7.1

The conditions for which medical aid was summoned by midwives in domiciliary practice and private nursing homes have been summarised and are as follows :—

For complications during pregnancy :—

Antepartum haemorrhage	3
------------------------------	---

For complications during labour :—

Ruptured perineum	12
Premature labour	2
Rise in temperature	2
Postpartum haemorrhage	2
Other conditions	1
Total	19

For complications in regard to the infant :—

Cyanosis	1
Other conditions	1
Total	2

The table below shows the number of visits carried out by the district midwives and home nurse/midwives :—

	Ante-Natal Examinations			Deliveries		Lying-in Visits	Total Visits
	Patients' Homes	Midwife's House	Clinic	Mid.	Mat.		
District Midwives	903	602	1,219	68	145	2,481	5,418
Home Nurse/ Midwives	145	—	1,428	22	92	1,026	2,713
Totals	1,048	602	2,647	90	237	3,507	8,131

One midwife in private practice undertook 11 cases as maternity nurse.

Trilene, and Gas and Air analgesia.—A total of 278 patients on the District received trilene or gas and air analgesia, representing a percentage of 85.0 of district confinements.

Emergency Unit.—This Unit, stationed at Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital, was called out to one Walthamstow case during 1956.

Maternity Outfits.—Outfits are issued for all home confinements.

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." Twenty-four pupil midwives passed the examination of the Central Midwives' Board (Part II) during the year.

The advantages of assisting in the district training of pupil midwives from Thorpe Coombe is that during this training they work with the home nurses at the District Nurses' Home and after completing their midwifery training may choose to 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.

CO-OPERATION WITH GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

Arrangements were continued to notify all general practitioners, irrespective of whether or not they were on the obstetric list, when any person known to be on their list had made a booking with a midwife for a confinement at home.

The results of all examinations were communicated either then or later, i.e., blood grouping, hæmoglobin, Rhesus and Kahn, the purpose being to advise the general practitioner in preparation for any possible call for medical aid from the midwife.

In addition, the expectant mother was given a card recording the blood group and the Rhesus result.

The following additional arrangements existed for the close integration of the Local Authority Health Services with the work of the general practitioner.

Midwives attend joint ante-natal sessions with general practitioners, and expectant mothers can be referred to the Local Authority ante-natal clinics for the taking of blood specimens only, or for instruction in relaxation and health education. The health visitors in several cases attend joint baby welfare sessions held by

general practitioners and there is a growing contact for special visits. A recent analysis showed that in one month there were 30 contacts between 14 general practitioners and health visitors.

In the case of Home Nursing, the nurses work directly under the instructions of the family doctor.

In the School Health Service there is a two-way letter of communication between the school medical officers and the family doctors and there is frequent contact in regard to the reference of children to the five specialist clinics in the School Health Service. A copy of the report of the consultant is always sent to the general practitioner. There is also contact in regard to the use of the auxiliary services, e.g., physiotherapy, speech therapy and chiropody and reference by the general practitioner for convalescence and special schooling.

General practitioners are kept informed of the incidence of infectious and communicable disease by means of periodic circular letters and the Public Health medical officers are available at any time for domiciliary consultations, and the health visitors for taking specimens.

HEALTH VISITING

(Section 24)

The equivalent of whole-time health visitors at the end of the year was 11.15, including the Superintendent. This was equal to one whole-time district health visitor to 141 notified births.

Most of the health visitors also carry out duties as school nurses.

HOME VISITS

Children under Five Years of Age.

	To Children under 1 year of age			Children 1 year of age	Children 2-5 years of age	TOTAL
	First	Subse- quent	Total			
1956	1,381	4,331	5,712	3,201	5,888	14,801
1955	1,309	4,100	5,409	3,521	5,981	14,911

OTHER VISITS

	Ante-Natal Visits			Special Visits	Unsuccessful Visits	TOTAL
	First	Subsequent	Total			
1956	299	164	463	2,963	2,590	6,016
1955	318	182	500	2,201	2,570	5,271

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

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

“ During 1956 health visiting followed a similar pattern to that of the previous year. Visits to the aged and to problem families again took up a large part of the time. This is to be expected because of the increase in the number of aged people.

“ Health education, a very important part of the health visitor's work, demanded a lot of their energies. Mothercraft talks are now being given in all secondary modern schools in the Borough. Relaxation classes are held weekly at three of the ante-natal clinics in the Borough and instruction given in the preparation for the confinement, the mechanism of labour, and the use of gas and air apparatus. Discussions were stimulated on suitable layettes, the importance of well-balanced diets, and fresh air and exercise during pregnancy.

“ The Health Visiting Staff co-operated in the practical training of the following :—

(a) Final year nursing students from The Connaught Hospital spent two days each in the Public Health field for practical training. They spent a half day home visiting, and for the remainder of the time attended at infant welfare clinics and minor ailment clinics. This year the field widened to include medical and hygiene inspections in schools.

(b) Two health visitor students from South East Essex Technical College carried out three months of their practical training in the Borough. Again they were allocated to specific health visitors in order to preserve continuity and to correlate their practical and theoretical work.

(c) Another two health visitor students were given practical training in the tuberculosis field.

(d) During the year, seven student nursery nurses visited infant welfare, ante-natal, minor ailments and other special clinics in order to meet the requirements of their training syllabus. Certain selected home visits were paid by health visitors accompanied by student nursery nurses to permit them to observe breast feeding and artificial feeding in the home.

(e) Pupil midwives from Thorpe Coombe Maternity Hospital attended four sessions at infant welfare clinics in accordance with the rules of the Central Midwives Board.

(f) The first training course for domestic helps was held at the South West Essex Technical College in July for two weeks. The Superintendent Health Visitor gave lectures on Food Values, Prevention of Infection and Accidents, First Aid in the Home, and also the Care of Infants and Children. Selected domestic helps from Chingford, Leyton and Walthamstow attended the course.

(g) A Senior Health Visitor from Jamaica on a National Association for the Prevention of Tuberculosis scholarship spent two weeks in the Borough observing the Health Services. We were pleased to welcome Mrs. deLeon to exchange information.

(h) A health visitor from India on a special scholarship visited various clinics.

"There were no changes in the Health Visiting Staff this year and we have a full establishment despite the general shortage of health visitors."

HOME NURSING

(Section 25)

Queen's Training.—Two nurses passed their Queen's examination and at the end of the year four more nurses commenced Queen's training, although the examination will not take place until 1957. 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 year 1956 has been a very busy one and our nursing visits again show an increase.

"We have been able to supply 49 parcels to needy patients from the Nurses' own funds, mainly Beetle Drives, Jumble Sales and Raffles.

"We were again able to take some student nurses in general nursing training to see district nurses at work.

“ Staff at the 31st December, 1956, 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.
- 6 Full-time Queen's S.R.N., S.C.M.
- 1 „ „ S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Certificate.
- 8 „ „ S.R.N., S.C.M.
- 1 „ „ Queen's S.R.N.
- 4 „ „ S.R.N.
- 2 „ „ Queen's S.R.N. (Male).
- 1 Part-time S.R.N.
- 3 „ „ S.E.A.N.
- 1 „ „ R.F.N.

“ During the year 26 pupils entered for district midwifery training and all passed.

“ The following gives details of home visits during the year :—

	New cases	Total visits
Medical	709	52,912
Surgical	216	11,028
Tuberculosis	30	2,588
Operations	1	1
Miscarriages	1	10
Out-Patients—Medical	18	87
Out-Patients—Surgical	1	4
Hypodermic Injections	653	17,542
Casuals	87	194
Last Offices	25	66
Total	1,741	84,432

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

(Section 26)

During 1956 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 against smallpox and poliomyelitis.

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 on the completion of a report.

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

Diphtheria Immunisation	.....	.....	207
Whooping Cough Immunisation	.....	.....	218
Vaccination	.....	.....	290
Total	.....	.....	715

Vaccination against Smallpox

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	580	106	43	30	30	71	860
Secondary	—	—	—	6	11	197	214
Total	580	106	43	36	41	268	1,074

The total of 1,074 is a marked improvement on 742 in 1955, but even so the "Vaccination acceptance rate," i.e., the percentage of primary vaccinations under the age of one year completed in 1956 relative to the live births for the year was only 49 per cent. (The rate for England and Wales for 1955 was 36.4.)

The attention of the medical and health visiting staff was again drawn to the low acceptance rates and it was pointed out that they have excellent opportunities to convince mothers of the need for vaccination. Instructions were given that at each home visit the position in regard to all protective measures would be specifically stated on the records and pressure was to be continued to secure maximum acceptance rate.

Vaccinated by General Practitioners 637

Vaccinated by County Staff 437

Vaccination and Re-vaccination of Departmental Staff

The staff of the department and of the ambulance service, especially those who would be expected to deal with smallpox in the event of cases occurring, were again offered facilities for vaccination and re-vaccination. The number vaccinated was 18.

Vaccinal Condition of Hospital Staff

By courtesy of the Secretary of the Hospital Management Committee, information is available as to the vaccinal condition of the staffs of the two hospitals in Walthamstow. The percentage vaccinated was as follows :—

	No. successfully vaccinated within 3 years	No. vaccinated but not within 3 years	Unvaccinated
Hospital "A"	27.6	61.1	11.1
Hospital "B"	25.3	65.3	9.3

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION 1956

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

Total number of immunisations completed :

(a) School age .....	.....	.....	.....	156
(b) Pre-school age .....	.....	.....	.....	1,071
Total				1,197

(c) Number already immunised having a reinforcing dose				1,023
---	-------	-------	-------	-------

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

Number completed at Schools .....	.....	94
" " " Welfare Centres .....	.....	365
" " " Town Hall Clinic .....	.....	98
" " " Brookscroft .....	.....	78
" " by General Practitioners .....	.....	562
Total		1,197

The total for 1955 was 942, but immunisation was suspended during August, September and October on account of the prevalence of poliomyelitis.

235 children included in the above figures were given combined whooping cough/diphtheria injections and 41 children were given whooping cough/tetanus/diphtheria injections by general practitioners. These prophylactics were not supplied by the County Council.

There have been only two confirmed cases of diphtheria in the last ten years, the last being in 1950, 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, since the target of immunisation in this group is 75% of babies before reaching the age of one year. The percentage of children immunised in this age group was 53.

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

Age at Immunisation									Notified Cases		
Year	0—1 year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	Total 0—5 years	School Age	Grand Total	Admitted to Hospital	Diagnosis Confirmed	Deaths
1952	723	361	48	24	18	1,174	412	1,586	10	—	—
1953	610	324	36	16	19	1,005	191	1,196	13	—	—
1954	685	300	58	29	21	1,093	259	1,352	6	—	—
1955	560	157	36	20	13	786	156	942	6	—	—
1956	737	235	34	36	29	1,071	126	1,197	6	—	—

Number of children at 31st December, 1956, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e., at any time since 1st January, 1942) :—

Under 1 (born 1956)	.....	.....	.....	179
1—4 (born 1955-52)	.....	.....	.....	3,364
5—9 (born 1951-47)	.....	.....	.....	8,151
10—14 (born 1946-42)	.....	.....	.....	7,897
Total immunised under 15 years				<u>19,591</u>

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 years and over	
Clinics, Nurseries and Welfare Centres	98	402	69	22	2	593
General Practitioners	67	285	61	13	7	433
Total	165	687	130	35	9	1,026

The total for 1955 was 705 but immunisation was suspended during August, September and October on account of the prevalence of poliomyelitis.

In addition general practitioners gave 44 booster injections.

The percentage of children immunised during the first year of life was 61.3.

Whooping Cough Immunisations in Walthamstow 1942/1955.

The following statement shows the number of immunisations carried out in the various years, the Authority responsible being the Borough Council until the Appointed Day under the National Health Service Act, 5th July, 1948, and thereafter the Essex County Council.

	L.S.A. or L.H.A.	M.R.C.	G.P.s	Total
1947	47*	—	—	47
1948	99*	—	—	99
1949	526	738	—	1,264
1950	285	242	68	595
1951	432	—	62	494
1952	405	—	115	520
1953	502	—	252	754
1954	737	—	302	1,039
1955	428	—	277	705
	<u>3,461</u>	<u>980</u>	<u>1,076</u>	<u>5,517</u>

* At Day Nurseries only.

1942 and subsequent.—Trials were carried out at a wartime day nursery in conjunction with Dr. Maclean of St. Mary's Hospital, who supplied the vaccine. 56 were immunised and there was a limited "follow-up" and as far as is known, none of the children contracted whooping cough.

Later, immunisation was extended to other wartime day nurseries as they were opened, but ceased as supplies of vaccine became difficult to obtain.

The Medical Research Council Scheme commenced in March, 1949, and ceased in June, 1951. On the 1st April, 1953, the Local Health Authority Scheme was extended to provide whooping cough vaccine for general practitioners, but at least back to 1949 general practitioners were undertaking immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough with a combined prophylactic and the numbers given reflect only the record cards which were returned by general practitioners. A combined prophylactic is obtained by the general practitioners on Form E.C.10 through the Executive Council. Many such immunisations are probably not included in the table above.

The vaccine used in Walthamstow has been "Glaxo suspended." Whenever a case of whooping cough is notified in an immunised child, it has been the practice to complete a follow-up card and these are classified in accordance with the M.R.C. criteria as to the severity of the attack.

Statistical Investigation.

In April, 1956, Dr. Logan, Chief Medical Statistician to the General Register Office, wrote that he had been making a statistical investigation into the variation in the notification rates for whooping cough in different parts of the country over the period 1944/54.

One municipal borough was chosen at random in each administrative county and Walthamstow came within this selection. Information was requested as to the organised programme which had been instituted and in what years. In addition, an estimate was requested of the numbers immunised each year from 1944 to 1954.

On the completion of the analysis, it was found unfortunately that the results were inconclusive. The difference in the incidence of whooping cough (as recorded by notifications) between those areas which have had and those which have not had an official local immunisation scheme does not reach the level of statistical significance. This may be partly due to the fact that there is an unknown amount of immunisation being carried out by general practitioners, especially in those areas where there is no official scheme organised by local authorities.

Medical Research Council Trials.

In August, 1956, a report on the relation between protection in children and results of laboratory tests was published in the medical press.

The report was prepared by the medical officers of the Medical Research Council who were in charge of the organisation of the whooping cough trials. This report was addressed to the Whooping Cough Immunisation Committee of the Medical Research Council and to the Medical Officers of Health of the ten Local Authorities concerned, of which Walthamstow was one.

The Walthamstow trials took place between 1948 and 1951 and children were allocated to a vaccine group in succession as their names were received. After the injections had been completed, arrangements were made for each child to be visited monthly for about 24 months. Special visits were paid when it was known that a child was being exposed to pertussis or had symptoms which might be those of the early stages of the disease. Swabs were taken from vaccinated children with coughs and also so far as possible from infective cases to which vaccinated children were exposed. The doctors and nurse-investigators visiting children during the follow-up period did not know which vaccine a child had received.

Vaccines tested in Walthamstow were V.1, V.2, V.3, and 979 children completed a course of three injections. Children 6-18 months old were given three doses of vaccine intramuscularly with an interval of one month between injections. The first two doses were each 0.5 ml., the third 1 ml., and the total dose, in terms of the U.S.A. opacity standard, was approximately 70,000 million organisms. Consent forms were received from the parents of 11,093 children in all areas; 9,794 (88%) of the children completed the course of three injections.

The report concludes with the following summary :—

In two series of field trials, 14 pertussis vaccines were tested for their protective potency in 28,799 children. The vaccines used in the first series of trials were poor, but those in the second series gave substantial protection, which was maintained for at least two and a half to three years after vaccination.

At the same time as the field trials were in progress, laboratory tests were made in which the vaccines were tested for their ability to protect mice against intracerebral pertussis infection. Some of the vaccines were also tested for their ability to produce specific agglutinin in mice and children.

A comparison between the field and laboratory results showed good correlation between the potency of vaccines in protecting children and their ability to protect mice against intracerebral infection. There was also evidence of a correlation between protection in chil-

dren and ability to produce agglutinin in children.

It is concluded that in future only those pertussis vaccines which have been shown, by the intracerebral mouse-protection test, to have an adequate potency in relation to the British standard pertussis vaccine should be issued for use in children.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

The Ministry's scheme was announced in January, 1956, and registrations were invited in March in regard to children born during the years 1947 to 1954.

Registrations were 1,685 boys and 1,501 girls, a total of 3,186 representing approximately 25% of children in these age groups.

Vaccination began in May and 114 children of pre-school age, i.e. born during 1952/54 were vaccinated and 205 of school age, i.e. born 1947/51; a total of 349. In addition 15 children had one dose.

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 Dépôt, which is situated at the Borough Council's Fulbourne Road Dépôt.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS—CARE AND AFTER-CARE

(Section 28)

TUBERCULOSIS

Dr. H. Ramsay, Consultant Chest Physician at the Walthamstow Chest Clinic, has contributed the following :—

"The work of the clinic during the year has been on similar lines to previous years. There have been no particular developments though the tendency is for the overall amount of work carried out to increase still further. The miniature camera unit continues to be helpful in dealing with the larger number of new cases referred to the clinic and it is now quite an easy procedure for X-ray of the chest to be arranged in any case where the general practitioner desires it.

"After the sharp fall in the number of notifications up to 1954 there has been a slight rise over the last two years; this would appear to be no more than a normal variation, but it acts as a warning that maximum effort in the field of tuberculosis control is still necessary.

"The following are the figures of main interest. They refer, of course, to the combined attendances of Walthamstow and Chingford patients.

Total attendances	.....	.....	.....	17,540
„ new cases	.....	.....	.....	5,547
„ X-rays	.....	.....	.....	13,731
„ screening	.....	.....	.....	2,954
Miniature camera	.....	.....	.....	5,146
New notifications	.....	.....	.....	77 (Walthamstow only)

"Slightly more than two-thirds of these totals were Walthamstow cases."

Schoolchildren examined :—		Boys	Girls
Examined for the first time	.....	112	138
Referred by School Medical Officer		19	27
Referred by Private Practitioners	.....	66	69
Examined as contacts	.....	27	42

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 :—

"There have been no major changes in the work of the Association in the course of the year. We have continued to make grants for extra nourishment where this appears desirable; clothing and bedding have been issued where need has arisen; fares to visit patients in hospital have been met as in previous years and many minor grants have been made where investigation has proved that this would be helpful. These small grants include payment of radio licences, cost of shoe repairs, provision of tools to enable a man to return to employment, fees for correspondence courses—either as diversional therapy or in preparation for return to work—small debts, etc.

"In co-operation with the Health Department, we have made use of the NAPT-Spero holiday scheme for patients and their families, where necessary taking responsibility for a share of the cost as well as meeting travelling expenses.

"Our financial position has been very satisfactory and our activities have not, therefore, been hampered as they were for a time during 1955. The Christmas Seal Sale proved more difficult than usual in view of the many appeals, both local and

national, which were placed before the public at the same time as our own ; but in spite of this, the proportion of our income received from voluntary sources has this year exceeded that derived from the County Council's grants and we hope to be able to maintain this position in the future.

" During the summer, we were again able to send representatives to the study day organised by the NAPT and found this a useful means of contact with others engaged in similar work elsewhere.

" Throughout the year our work has been integrated with that of the Chest Clinic staff and there has been close liaison with those other bodies, both statutory and voluntary, which have an interest in the families with whom we are concerned. The help received from them is gratefully acknowledged.

" In work of the kind we undertake, numbers of cases and amounts of money spent are little indication of its scope nor of what we regard as its value, but the following figures may, nevertheless, be of interest."

Type of help given.	No. of cases	Cost £
Milk	4	33
Grocery	37	675
Fuel	47	80
Fares	13	87
Clothing, furniture, bedding	39	111
Holidays	4	37
Occupational therapy	5	4
Miscellaneous grants	109	179

B.C.G. Vaccination of Schoolchildren

Vaccination of schoolchildren in the year preceding their fourteenth birthday continued. The scheme was fully described in the report of the School Medical Officer for 1954. During 1956 acceptances were received from 1,268 children out of 1,591 who were eligible, i.e., 79.7%.

Details are as follows :—

Heaf positive	176
Heaf negative	1,064
Absent from test	28
Vaccinated : 1,053 ; absent or not done, 11.	

Contact Examinations.

First examinations of contacts in 1956 were 147 examinations to 77 total notifications. In 1955 there were 256 examinations to 73

notifications (and not as stated in last year's report), i.e., 3.5 examinations per case.

Rehabilitation of Tuberculous Patients.

Financial responsibility was accepted for the rehabilitation of one case at the British Legion Village commencing on 2nd July, 1956.

Prevention.

B.C.G. vaccination and contact examinations are referred to above. In addition there were Chest X-ray examinations for all persons in contact with groups of children, especially teachers, Mass X-ray examinations, special examinations by means of the Odelca apparatus at the Chest Clinic for patients referred by family doctors and the rehousing of infectious cases.

Dr. Ramsay again drew the attention of family doctors to the facilities of the Odelca Miniature X-ray apparatus at the Chest Clinic and suggested that every case where there was the slightest suspicion of a chest condition should be referred for examination, especially in the middle-aged and the elderly with persistent chest symptoms. In 1955/56 approximately one-quarter of the cases of tuberculosis were found through the Miniature Radiography Unit.

CONVALESCENCE FOR ADULTS

The total of cases sent away for recuperative convalescence was 71.

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 bedpans, thermometers and feeding cups, etc. Special items of equipment are provided when necessary.

CHIROPODY SERVICES

Mr. R. King, Chief Chiropodist, reports as follows:—

"The year 1956 has again been very busy as is shown by the increase in numbers seeking treatment.

"The waiting period between treatments for adults is three months, which in many cases is too long, and the number of treatments per person for the year has gone down from 3.2 in 1955 to three treatments in 1956. The number of appointments booked at 31st December, 1956, was 4,276; an increase of 297.

"The number of treatments given amounted to 19,614 given to 6,164 patients; the adult proportion of these was 17,023 treatments given to 5,495 patients. This was made up

as follows—13,636 women and 3,387 men ; of these 1,117 were new patients.

“Transport for the non-ambulant has again be provided and fulfils a very necessary part of the Chiropody Service. Through this means 236 treatments were given, 195 to women and 41 to men, being a decrease of nine treatments from 1955.”

PREVENTION OF BREAK-UP OF FAMILIES

As a result of the various circulars on this matter issued by the Home Office and the Ministries of Health and Education, a conference was convened in November, 1956, at which the following departments, services and organisations were represented :—

The County Council's Children's, Health and Welfare Departments.

The Borough Council's Education and Housing Departments.

The Local Medical Committee.

The Probation Department.

National Assistance Board.

The Invalid Children's Aid Association.

National Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

The Glasspool Trust.

A lengthy discussion took place concerning 15 cases which appeared the most urgent for consideration, and an exchange of information as to the action already taken and contemplated. It emerged that in the majority of the cases the general situation was appreciated and that the officers having statutory duties were taking active steps to improve the position and to prevent any break-up of the families. The chief factors emerging were illegitimacy and delinquency.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Throughout the year the Health Visiting Staff have carried out a regular series of talks at schools and welfare centres.

Weekly mothercraft talks were given during each term in all secondary modern schools in the Borough. Films and demonstration materials were used in conjunction with the lectures.

Relaxation classes were held weekly at three ante-natal clinics, and instruction given in the preparation for motherhood, ante-natal care, the mechanism of labour and child development, etc. Visual aids again proved useful.

Efforts have again been made to provide interesting and useful health education topics for display at the welfare centres.

Prevention of Accidents in the Home.

Between the 5th and 10th November a Home Safety Week was held in Greater London.

In Walthamstow an article on home accidents was prepared for publication in the local Press, talks were given by health visitors at old people's clubs and leaflets were distributed.

Because of the general demand for visual aids during Home Safety Week, it was impossible to obtain suitable films, but these were obtained later and shown to six old people's clubs during December.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

(Section 29)

Owing to the sickness of the Area Domestic Help Organiser from the end of May until mid-October, arrangements were made through the courtesy of the County Medical Officer of Health for the County Domestic Help Organiser, Miss G. Jenkins, to take over supervision of the Domestic Help Service in Walthamstow for about 10 weeks. This proved very helpful in ensuring the smooth running of the Service, due particularly to the fact that Miss Jenkins was able to use her car for the purpose of visiting patients and helps, and gave the benefit of her experience in this work.

During the remainder of Mrs. Hall's absence her duties were undertaken in an efficient manner by the Domestic Help Service Clerk, Mrs. M. Smitten, who was provided with part-time temporary clerical assistance.

Mrs. C. M. Hall, Domestic Help Organiser, reports as follows with regard to the year under review :—

"The number of applications for domestic help in the area during 1956 showed an increase on previous years and the provision of assistance to all categories of sick people continued unabated. The service continues to be administered as in previous years and the number of visits carried out was 1,832.

"For various reasons the number of full-time helps decreased from twelve to eight and the present practice is to engage more regular part-time helps rather than take on more full-time : during the year an average of 217 part-time helps were working each week. During the summer months recruiting was good which made the general situation easier, but the latter months of the year saw the usual increase in demand, but up to the end of the year all requests were met.

"The number of cases carried forward into the New Year shows that the need for domestic help is greater than ever and

that this service is essential to the welfare of the sick and aged.

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

Brought forward from 1955	.....	.....	708
New cases during 1956	.....	.....	402
Cases completed during 1956	.....	.....	397
Number of cases carried forward to 1957			713

" The number of aged chronic sick still increases and continues to absorb a large proportion of the help available. The number of applications from tuberculous patients decreased slightly over the year and all requests for help were met : maternity applications were satisfactorily dealt with.

" It will be seen from the foregoing figures that the need for domestic help is still increasing, but that much has been done during the year to ease the conditions and anxieties particularly of the aged and infirm."

Recruitment.

In view of the continuing need for an adequate " panel " of domestic helps, some 5,000 copies of a special appeal were circulated by duplicated letter to practically every tenant of a Council dwelling. This was done with the willing co-operation of the Borough Council's Housing Manager.

The appeal was in regard both to the Domestic Help Service and the scheme for Night Attendance upon the Sick, but the result was very disappointing.

Training.

The Local Nursing Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade again made available without fee to Domestic Helps their course of lectures on home nursing. Five Domestic Helps completed the course and three obtained certificates.

In July a programme of training for domestic helps was held at the South West Essex Technical College, the first course to be held in Walthamstow. This was organised by the County Health Department in conjunction with the Technical College, and the local Superintendents of Health Visiting and Home Nursing assisted in the instruction of home duties. Four helps from this area attended and obtained a certificate.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE, 1956

	Maternity	Acute Sick	Tuber- culous	Chronic Sick Aged	Others	Aged not Sick	Others	Total
Requests for help from new cases during the year	85	55	13	271	42	8	6	480
Total cases helped during the year	67	45	21	806	117	50	4	1,110
Cases being helped at end of year who have re- ceived help for:								
Under 3 mths.	4	4	2	32	3	2	1	48
3—6 "	1	—	1	31	—	1	—	34
6—12 "	—	—	8	73	10	—	1	92
Over 12 "	—	—	4	455	52	28	—	539
Total carried forward to 1957	5	4	15	591	65	31	2	713
Hours of help provided during the year	4,330½	1,899½	3,282¾	142,174½	22,833	7,275¾	226½	182,022¾

COUNTY COUNCIL OF ESSEX—WELFARE COMMITTEE WELFARE SERVICES

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

“ The statistics set out below 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 1956 :—

(1) Residential and Temporary Accommodation.

- (a) Admitted to hostels and other residential establishments : Men, 14 ; Women 25.
- (b) Admitted to temporary accommodation : Men, 2 ; Women, 10 ; Children, 20.

(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, 1956, were as follows :—

(i) Registered as blind	.....	.....	.....	255
(ii) Partially sighted	.....	.....	.....	57
(iii) Defective sighted	.....	.....	.....	18

all of whom were under the supervision of the County Council's home teachers. During the year eight blind residents participated in the Home Workers' Scheme operated through the agency of the Royal Society for the Blind, and one blind resident was employed in a workshop for the blind. In addition, there were twenty-nine blind and eighteen partially sighted residents employed in open industry.

(3) Deaf or Dumb and other Handicapped Classes.

“ During the year in question the Welfare Committee continued to develop its activities in respect of welfare services for handicapped persons (other than Blind as mentioned above) as provided for under Section 29 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, with the support of voluntary organisations acting as the Council's agents in this connection.”

