

**[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Wanstead and Woodford].**

**Contributors**

Wanstead and Woodford (London, England). Borough Council.

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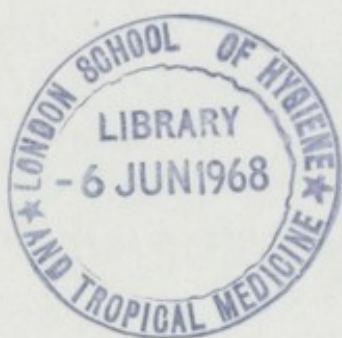
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2 ...  
WOODFORD

HEALTH  
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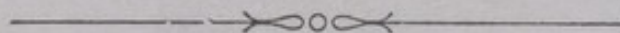
WANSTEAD

AND WOODFORD



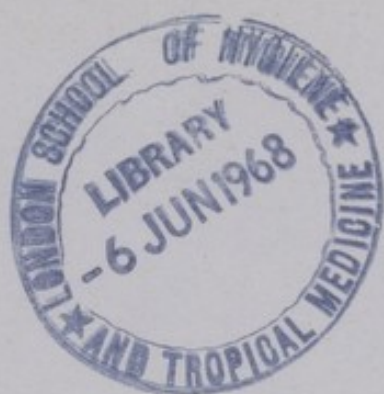
# Annual Report

of the  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH



For the Year Ending 31st December,  
1955

679 80





### *PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE*

Councillor R. A. DALTON (*Chairman*)

Councillor S. J. RELPH (*Vice-Chairman*)

Alderman R. W. DALE

Alderman H. HANN

Alderman Mrs. E. F. M. HOLLIS

Alderman V. E. STEVENS

Councillor Mrs. S. V. F. ASHTON

Councillor F. B. BAVERSTOCK

Councillor N. E. BRITTON

Councillor R. W. BROWN



## STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

*Medical Officer of Health:* F. G. BROWN, T.D., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector:*

M. G. CROOK, M.S.I.A. (a) (b) (c) (d) (g)

*Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector:*

J. T. S. TEMPLEMAN, M.S.I.A. (a) (b) (i)

*Sanitary Inspectors:*

A. J. STORER, M.S.I.A. (a)

G. F. DOWNING, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (a) (b) (d) (f) (h)  
(Resigned 19.6.55)

D. R. CHANIN, M.S.I.A. (a)

E. W. PATRICK, M.R.S.H. (a) (b) (e) (i) (Commenced 11.7.55)

*Clerks:*

A. M. ROWLATT (Resigned 5.11.55)

R. M. JAMIESON (Commenced 5.12.55)

Mrs. V. BIRKETT

- 
- (a) Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspector's Examination Joint Board Certificate.
  - (b) Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate of Meat and other Foods.
  - (c) First Class Certificate in Laboratory Technique of Meat Inspection of Smithfield Technical Institute.
  - (d) Diploma of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.
  - (e) Royal Sanitary Institute's Smoke Inspectors' Certificate.
  - (f) Diploma in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.
  - (g) General Instructors (Special) Certificate, Home Office Civil Defence School, Falfield, Glos.
  - (h) Associate Member, Institute of Sanitary Engineers.
  - (i) City and Guilds Boiler House Practice Certificate.

# Wanstead and Woodford Borough Council

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*To THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,  
BOROUGH OF WANSTEAD AND WOODFORD*

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report on the Health Services in the Borough for the year 1955. As previously, a section of the report is devoted to those personal health services under the National Health Service Act which are administered by the Essex County Council. A brief outline of the School Health Service is given.

## **Vital Statistics**

The total number of live births for the year was 694, 9 fewer than in the previous year. The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population was 11.4, a figure almost identical with that of 1954. The figure for England and Wales as a whole is 15.3.

The total number of deaths was 649, an increase of 39 over the figure for the previous year. Death Rate per 1,000 is 9.7 comparing with 11.7 for England and Wales.

Although slightly higher than last year the Infant Mortality Rate (number of deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births) reached the comparatively low figure of 17.3 contrasting with a figure of 24.9 for the whole country.

## **Causes of Death**

As formerly the main causes of death were diseases of the heart and arteries, and cancer. However, as will be seen in the table under Section A of the report, the deaths from cancer fell from 135 to 119, this figure being the lowest recorded during the past 6 years.

## **Infectious Disease**

By far the largest notifications were in respect of measles, 938 cases being recorded. Almost all were extremely mild. The incidence of whooping cough was small.



There were 12 cases of poliomyelitis, this being double the number notified in 1954. Six of the twelve cases were non-paralytic. Attention was first focussed on the disease towards the end of July when a boy attending a day school in the Borough, but living outside, developed a severe form of paralytic poliomyelitis. A number of contacts, some of whom were unwell, were kept under close observation. Activities of children attending the school were restricted and some scouts who were about to go to Switzerland had their trip postponed. Naturally many parents became very anxious and the Health Department received many queries. Fortunately no spread of the disease from this source occurred. The cases notified in the Borough were widely scattered and, apart from 2 infant children living under very poor circumstances in the Aldersbrook Camp, no direct contact was established. The incidence gradually abated, the last paralytic case being notified in early September. Five of the six paralytic cases recovered completely with no residual handicap.

During September an outbreak of paratyphoid fever occurred in a Metropolitan Borough. An employee at a bakery there who lived in Woodford, was found to be a symptomless carrier of the disease. The matter was reported to the Public Health Committee who agreed to compensate the man during the period in which he was forbidden to work. However, after 2 weeks, he obtained other employment which was not concerned with the preparation or handling of food.

### **Health Education**

On page 24 the Chief Sanitary Inspector has given an account of the Health Exhibition which was held in April in the Sir James Hawkey Hall. This was the first occasion on which an exhibition of this size, comprising various aspects of Public Health, was staged in the Borough. I was impressed by the large attendances during the 3 days on which the exhibition took place and by the interest which was shown by the public. At the conclusion of the exhibition one felt that the time and labour which were expended had been well worth while.

At its December meeting the Public Health Committee agreed to the holding of a 2-day practical course for Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors on "Visual Aids and their construction, public speaking and group leadership." The course was sponsored by the Central Council of Health Education who provided the material and the lecturer. Sanitary Inspectors from neighbouring authorities were invited to attend and the result was most successful.

My thanks are due to the Staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation throughout the year.

Appreciation is given to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued support and for the very great interest they have shown in the work of the Department.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant.

F. G. BROWN, T.D., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

29th August, 1956.



## SECTION A

### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	3,824
Population—Registrar-General's estimate mid-year 1955	61,380
Registrar-General's estimate mid-year 1954	61,550
Rateable Value	£542,000
Sum represented by penny rate	£2,593

#### Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year

##### LIVE BIRTHS

Legitimate	Males	343	Females	326	Total	669
Illegitimate	Males	10	Females	15	Total	25
Total	Males	353	Females	341	Total	694

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—11.4

##### STILLBIRTHS

Legitimate	Males	8	Females	2	Total	10
Illegitimate	Males	—	Females	1	Total	1
Total	Males	8	Females	3	Total	11

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—15.6.

##### DEATHS

Males—308      Females—341      Total—649

Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population— 9.7

Deaths from puerperal causes:—

Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	—
Other maternal causes	1
Total	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births— 1.42

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	17.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	16.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	40.0

	1955	1954
Deaths from Cancer	119	135
"    "    Measles	Nil	Nil
"    "    Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil
"    "    Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil	Nil
"    "    Road Traffic Accidents	7	1
"    "    Suicide	6	9
"    "    Other violent causes	6	7

## Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for 1955 (mid-year) was 61,380, a decrease of 170 on the figure for 1954 (mid-year).

## Extracts from vital statistics of the year

Statistical tables have been included in this Report to show the health of the community in the Borough over the past twenty years.

Deaths per 1,000 Live Births					Rate per 1,000 Live Births
1935	1945	1954	1955	1956	
11.30	12.10	14.30	14.30	15.00	Live Births
0.18				0.38	Still Births
2.75	11.80	11.80	11.80	11.30	All Causes
4.35	0.87	0.37	0.45	0.39	Malignant Neoplasms
—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Whooping Cough
—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Diphtheria
0.00	0.17	0.13	0.17	0.15	Tuberculosis
0.10	0.05	0.07	0.05	0.07	Influenza
1.24	1.97	1.85	1.85	1.85	Scarlet Fever
—	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis
4.5		0.45	0.45	0.55	Pneumonia
24.00	23.30	22.30	22.10	24.00	All causes under 1 year of age
—				0.75	Infants and Children under 2 years



**Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality,  
and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1955.**  
**England and Wales, London, 160 Great Towns and 160 Smaller Towns**  
**(Provisional Figures based on Quarterly Returns).**

	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	160 Smaller Towns (Resident populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Administrative County	Borough of WANSTEAD and WOODFORD
<b>Births:</b>	(Rates per 1,000 Home Population)				
Live	15.00	14.90	14.90	15.10	11.40
Still	0.35	*	*	*	0.18
<b>Deaths:</b>					
All Causes	11.70	11.60	11.60	11.50	9.70
Malignant Neoplasm					
Lung and Bronchus	0.39	0.45	0.37	0.57	0.39
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Tuberculosis	0.15	0.17	0.13	0.17	0.06
Influenza	0.07	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.10
Coronary Disease —Angina	1.59	1.60	1.60	1.57	1.24
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	—
Pneumonia	0.49	0.53	0.45		.48
	(Rates per 1,000 Live Births)				
All causes under 1 year of age	24.90	25.10	25.20	23.20	17.30
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years	0.75	*	*	*	—
*Figures not available.					







Notifications:	England & Wales	Borough of Wanstead & Woodford
Typhoid Fever	0.00	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	—
Meningococcal Infection	0.02	—
Scarlet Fever	.733	0.28
Whooping Cough	1.78	0.33
Diphtheria	—	—
Erysipelas	0.01	0.06
Smallpox	—	—
Measles	1.58	15.18
Pneumonia	0.67	0.21
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis):		
Paralytic	0.08	0.08
Non-Paralytic	0.06	0.11
Food Poisoning	0.28	0.47

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)

Puerperal Fever & Pyrexia	17.77	59.57
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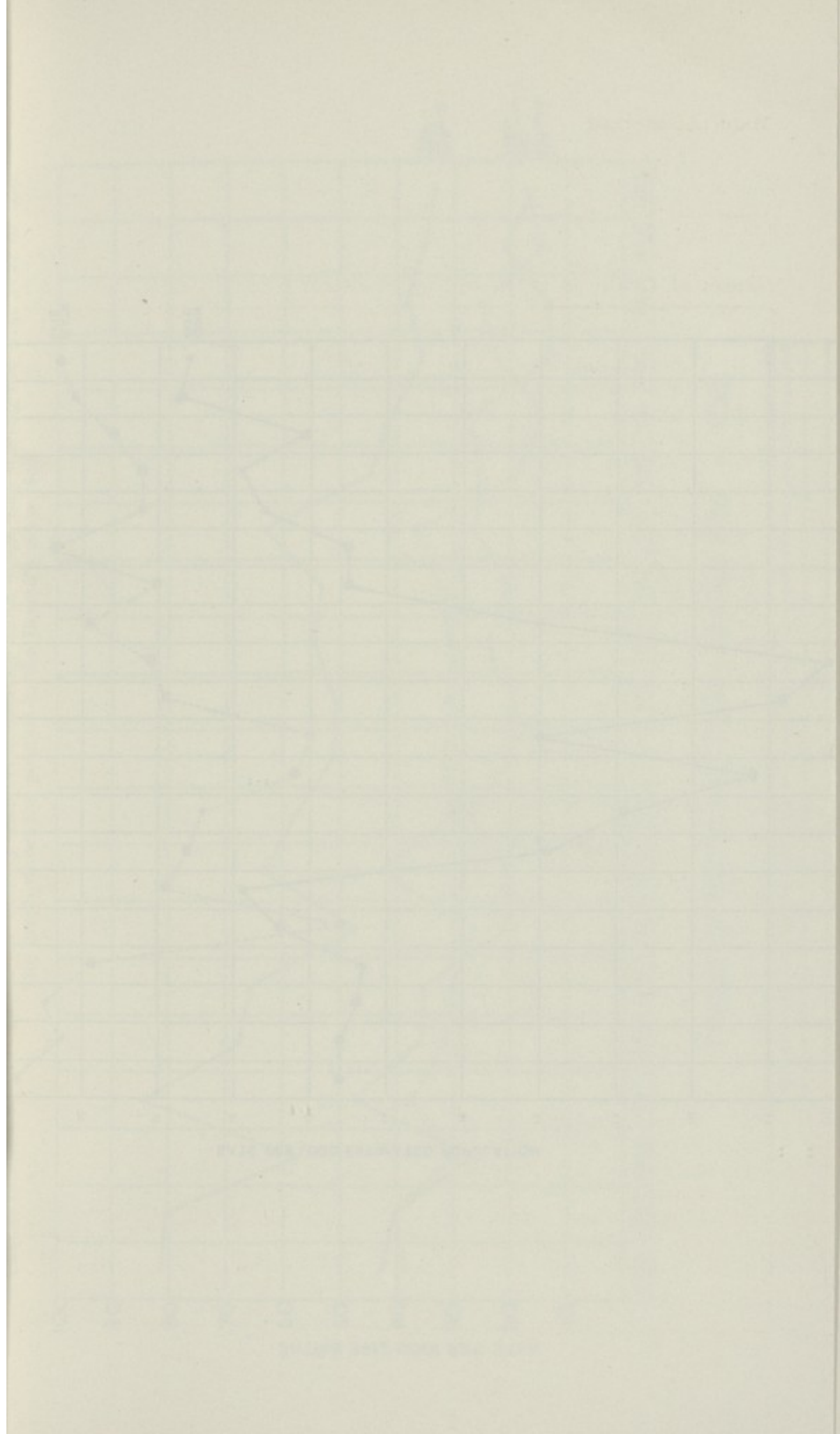
## Maternal Mortality

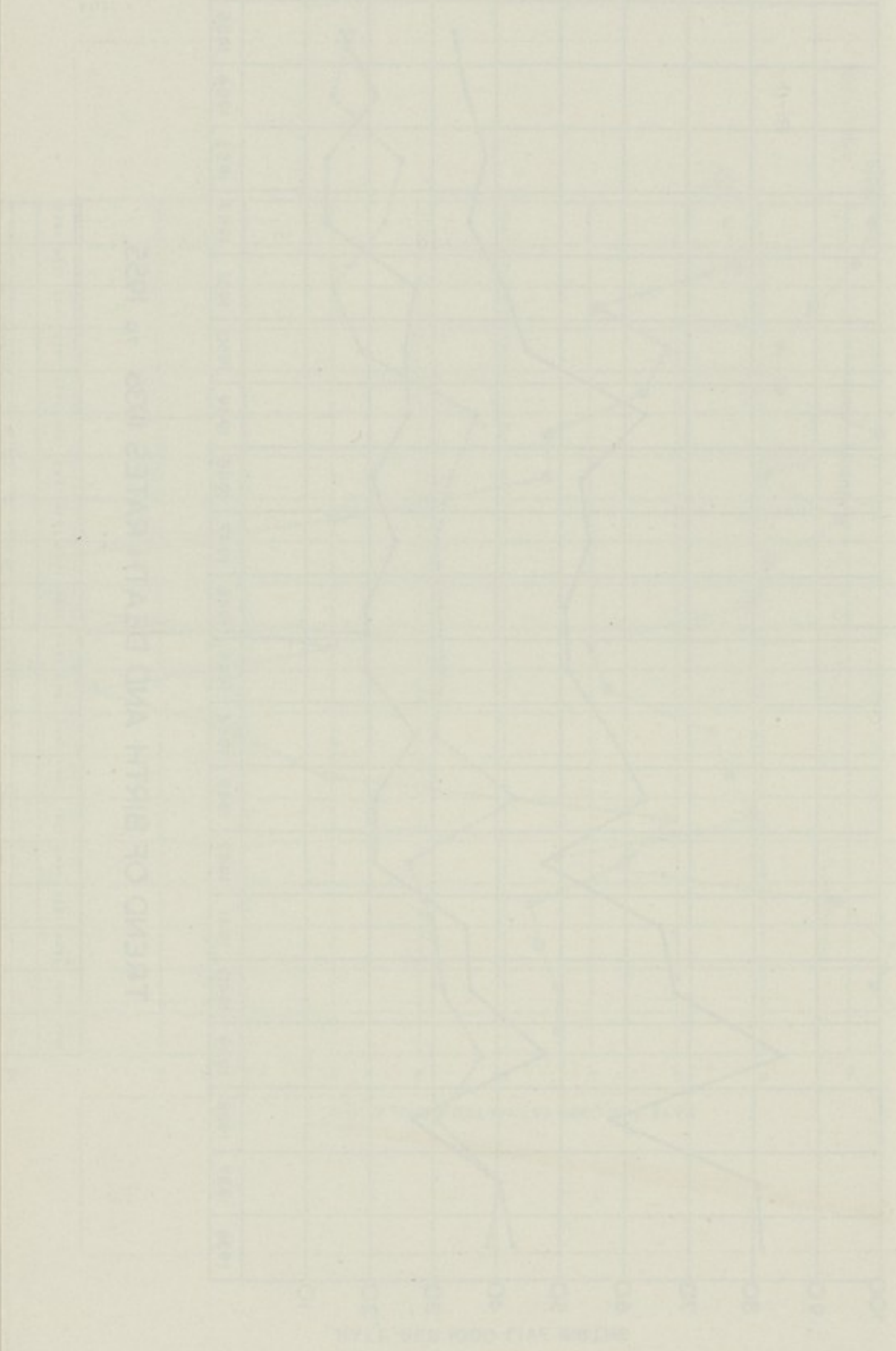
	Abortion	Other	Total
England and Wales	0.12	0.52	0.64
Wanstead and Woodford	—	1.42	1.42

## Causes of Death as given by the Registrar-General, 1955:

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	1	3
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	1	1
3. Syphilitic Disease	2	1	3
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	9	4	13
11. Malignant Neoplasm—Lung and Bronchus	21	3	24
12. Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	1	13	14
13. Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	—	1	1
14. Malignant Neoplasm—Others	31	36	67
15. Leukaemia	4	—	4
16. Diabetes	2	4	6
17. Vascular Lesions—Nervous System	31	67	98
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	53	33	86
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	10	8	18
20. Other Heart Disease	27	72	99
21. Other Circulatory Disease	16	21	37
22. Influenza	3	3	6
23. Pneumonia	11	19	30
24. Bronchitis	30	9	39
25. Other Respiratory Diseases	2	1	3
26. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	6	3	9
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	4	1	5
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	2	5
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	4	—	4
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	1	1
31. Congenital Malformations	4	3	7
32. Other Diseases	21	26	47
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	5	2	7
34. All Other Accidents	2	4	6
35. Suicide	4	2	6
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—
Totals, 1955	308	341	649
Totals, 1954	305	305	610







### Infant Deaths, Neo-Natal Mortality and Stillbirths

Year	Live Births	Birth Rate	Stillbirths		Neo-Natal Deaths		Infant Deaths	
			No.	Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Population	No.	Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Live Births
1955	694	11.4	11	15.8	0.18	9	12.9	17.3
1954	703	11.3	15	21.3	0.24	7	9.9	14.2
1953	791	12.9	11	13.9	0.18	12	15.2	25.2
1952	751	12.1	10	13.3	0.16	15	20.0	22.6
1951	768	12.4	21	27.3	0.34	6	7.8	14.2

### Maternal Mortality

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

Year	Total Births Registered	Deaths			Rates per 1,000 Births (Live and Still)		
		Puerperal Sepsis	Other Maternal Causes	Total	Puerperal Sepsis	Other Maternal Causes	Total
1955	705	—	1	1	—	1.42	1.42
1954	718	—	1	1	—	1.39	1.39
1953	802	—	—	—	—	—	—
1952	761	—	1	1	—	1.31	1.31
1951	789	1	1	2	1.27	1.27	2.54

### Maternal Mortality, Stillbirths and Neo-Natal Deaths

Rate per 1,000 Live Births	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951
Maternal Mortality	1.44	1.42	—	1.33	2.60
Stillbirths	15.80	21.3	13.9	13.3	27.3
Neo-Natal Mortality	12.90	9.9	15.2	20.0	7.8

During 1955 there was one death classified as being due to pregnancy, childbearing or associated therewith.



# Comparative Statistics of Births, Mortality, etc. 1936 to 1955

Year	Population	Live Births		Still Births		Deaths		Infant Deaths		Maternal Deaths	
		No:	Rate*	No:	Rate†	No:	Rate*	No:	Rate§	No:	Rate†
1955	61380	694	11.4	11	15.6	649	9.7	12	17.3	1	1.42
1954	61550	703	11.3	15	20.9	610	9.9	10	14.2	1	1.39
1953	61540	791	12.9	11	13.7	643	10.4	20	25.2	—	—
1952	61880	751	12.1	10	13.1	666	10.8	17	22.6	1	1.31
1951	61850	768	12.4	21	26.6	668	10.8	11	14.2	2	2.54
1950	62460	847	13.5	22	25.3	605	9.6	16	18.9	1	1.15
1949	62010	839	13.5	22	25.5	687	11.0	31	36.9	1	1.2
1948	61150	977	16.0	20	20.1	618	10.1	32	32.7	1	1.0
1947	60280	1199	19.8	29	23.6	660	10.9	37	30.8	1	0.8
1946	57570	1117	19.2	22	19.3	611	11.1	35	31.3	3	2.6
1945	48230	759	16.0	15	19.3	627	13.0	24	31.6	1	1.29
1944	46670	878	18.8	24	26.6	591	12.8	27	30.7	—	—
1943	50010	857	17.1	18	20.5	583	11.6	37	43.1	3	4.57
1942	49850	803	16.1	17	20.7	572	11.4	21	26.1	1	1.2
1941	46640	566	12.1	20	34.1	551	11.1	15	30.2	1	1.7
1940	48620	611	12.6	22	34.7	653	13.4	18	31.8	—	—
1939	55880	763	13.7	36	45.1	555	10.1	28	37.8	2	2.7
1938	54810	744	13.6	20	26.2	521	9.5	23	30.9	—	—
1937	53840	720	13.4	29	38.8	522	9.7	29	40.3	—	—
1936	52010	699	13.4	30	41.1	471	9.1	27	38.6	2	2.7

\*Per 1,000 Population    †Per 1,000 Total Births    §Per 1,000 Live Births

## SECTION B

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### 1. Public Health Officers of the Authority

See page two.

#### 2. Laboratory Facilities

Pathological and bacteriological services are provided at the Pathological Laboratory, St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping.

The analysis of water, milk and food is carried out by Dr. J. H. Hamence and Mr. George Taylor, Public Analysts for the Borough, and by the Counties Public Health Laboratories.

#### 3. Infant Welfare Centres

There are six infant welfare centres in the Borough, sessions being held as under:—

Baptist Church Hall, Aldersbrook, E.12.

Monday, 2.30—4 p.m.

Ashton Playing Fields Pavilion, Woodford Bridge.

Tuesday, 2.30—4 p.m.

St. Barnabas Church Hall, Snakes Lane, Woodford Green.

Wednesday, 2.30—4 p.m.

Fullers Road Sunday School, South Woodford, E.18.

Wednesday, 2.30—4 p.m.

Cromwell Hall, Nightingale Lane, Wanstead, E.11

Thursday 2.30—4 p.m.

Holy Trinity Church Hall, Hermon Hill, South Woodford, E.18

Friday, 2.30—4 p.m.

#### 4. Ante-Natal Clinic

118 Hermon Hill, Wanstead.

Thursday, 2.30—4 p.m.

#### 5. School Clinic, 93 High Road, Woodford

Dental—*By appointment only.*

Minor Ailments—Every Friday morning.

†Ophthalmic—Wednesday mornings, *By appointment only.*

†Orthopaedic—First Thursday afternoon in each month.

*By appointment to see Surgeon only*

All day Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.

*For after-treatment by appointment only.*

Speech Therapy—Monday and Wednesday only during school term.

*By appointment only.*

†Controlled by the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board and delegated to the Forest Group Hospital Management Committee.



**6. Chest Clinic**

Harts Hospital, Woodford Green.

Sessions: Wednesday, 9.15—11 a.m.

5.0—6.0 p.m. (appointment only)

Friday, 9.15—11 a.m.

Refill sessions: Tuesday and Thursday, 2 p.m.

B.C.G. Vaccinations—Saturday morning, once monthly.  
(by appointment only).

**7. Ambulance Facilities**

These facilities are available through the local depot at Wanstead, the service being administered centrally by the County Council from Chelmsford.

**3. National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47)**

No action became necessary to secure the removal of persons in need of care and attention to suitable premises during 1955.

**9. Funeral arrangements**

In no cases was the Local Authority required to make arrangements for the burial of a person during the year 1955.

## **SECTION C**

### **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA**

**1. Water Supply**

The water supplied throughout the Borough by the Metropolitan Water Board was satisfactory both in regard to quality and quantity.

Regular monthly bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Metropolitan Water Board, the examinations being of raw and treated water. The results obtained from treated water were satisfactory. Copies of these reports are received regularly from the Board.

**2. Refuse and Salvage Collection**

(a) *Refuse Collection* A fleet of Shelvoke and Drewry freighters is operated for the collection of refuse and disposal is by means of controlled tipping. The collection service is organised on the basis of three teams working the relay system—each team covering one third of the Borough each week.

(b) *Salvage Collection* The separate collection of waste paper for salvage has been continued.



## **Sewerage**

Many of the very old sewers in the Western Drainage area require reconstruction and some of these have been relaid. A programme for the remainder has been drawn up, phasing the work over several years.

Many lengths of sewer in the Borough have insufficient manholes and on some sections such facilities are completely lacking. A programme has, therefore, been prepared for providing manholes where considered desirable and a number are being provided each year.

### **Eastern Sewage Disposal Works.**

The top two feet of media on four of the six filter beds was renewed, to be followed by the installation of experimental recirculation of effluent.

Alternative methods of strengthening the supports of the distributor rails at the rectangular filter beds were examined and an inexpensive scheme eventually decided upon.

During the year various aspects of the operation of the sewage works were investigated with a view to further improving the standard of effluent. It was decided that certain improvements would have to be undertaken as soon as practicable. ,

### **Southern Sewage Disposal Works**

Severe limitation of technical staff prevented the commencement of work on the major scheme of extension and improvement as early as had been hoped. Meanwhile preparation of the detailed proposals proceeded as well as the above limitation allowed.

### **Western Sewage Disposal Works.**

Following negotiation with Chingford Borough Council with respect to financial arrangements for the diversion of sewage from the western drainage area to Chingford, that Council proceeded with the construction of the necessary relief sewer, of which Wanstead and Woodford Borough Council bears an appropriate portion of the cost. At western sewage works, construction of the connecting sewer, storm overflow and ancillaries commenced in readiness for the diversion of sewage to take place early in 1956.



## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

*The Chief Sanitary Inspector reports as follows:—*

### **Insanitary Dwellings—Housing Act, 1936**

Previous Annual Reports have recorded the services rendered by a Sub-Committee of the Public Health Committee in visiting sub-standard dwellings, it is therefore possible to state that this same sub-committee (Councillors Mrs. S. V. F. Ashton, R. A. Dalton and S. J. Relph) continued to serve and twenty-four visits were made by them.

It may be well to follow the lines of last year's Report and deal with properties mentioned therein.

**98 and 100 High Road, Woodford Bridge.** These two old buildings, constructed mainly of timber, were demolished in 1955.

**1, 2, 3 and 4, Waller's Cottages, Woodford Bridge.** Also demolished in 1955.

**1—10, Burlington Place.** As mentioned in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1954, an enquiry was held at the Municipal Offices at which objections to a Clearance Order by one owner and two owner occupiers were heard. It can now be recorded that the Minister supported the Council and its Officers and confirmed the Order. Allowances were made for good maintenance under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1936, concerning houses Nos. 1 and 4.

**99—125, 129—169, Chigwell Road.** In the Report for 1954 it was possible to give details up to the time of the public enquiry, consequently it is pleasing to report that the Official Representation by the Medical Officer of Health was accepted and confirmation of the Clearance Order made by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

**174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, Hermon Hill.** These dwellings, the subject of a Clearance Order were demolished during the latter part of 1955.

**9 & 10 Belgrave Terrace.** These properties, on which Closing Orders were made remained unrepaired although suggestions for reconditioning were made.

**5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Inmans Row** were represented to the Council by the Medical Officer of Health as being property suitable for making a Clearance Area.



**99, High Road, E.18.** This old partially timbered dwelling, the subject of a voluntary undertaking was still unrepaired and unoccupied.

**103, High Road, E.18.** Although it is usual for the Council to re-house occupiers of condemned houses it was decided not to do so in this case. It was necessary to evict the tenant upon a Court Order (an unpleasant task) and to obviate its re-occupation the owner immediately took steps to demolish the building. As is very often the case with very old wooden buildings, the front view of this dwelling was not unsightly, but demolition exposed the true condition of the structure which in this case was worm-eaten, perished and thoroughly dilapidated. Again it is well known that the presence of furniture conceals defects internally.

**The Bungalow, Hepworth House, Whitehall Road,** the subject of a Demolition Order was in the process of being demolished at the end of the year under review.

**53, and 55, High Road, Woodford Bridge** were demolished as were **39 and 41, Globe Road.** One house has been built on the sites of the former and two on the latter.

**1—11, Radleys Lane** were considered by the Public Health Committee and Demolition Orders made. The houses were subsequently demolished by the owners.

**7, Hall Road** was reported to the Public Health Committee as being suitable for consideration in connection with Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. The owner appeared before the Committee and offered to carry out certain works of repair and improvement and the works were subsequently carried out.

**1, 3, 5 and 7, Gainsborough Road** forming two semi-detached pairs of 3-storied houses were found to be in such a condition that action under Section 11 of the Housing Act was appropriate.

Notices were served on interested parties who made no representation to the Council indicating the future of the dwellings and Demolition Orders were duly made on all four houses.

**11, 13, 15 and 17, Voluntary Place** had been considered on many occasions as being suitable for action under the Housing Act but because of the cost involved in rebuilding the front walls and reported to have been paid for by the War Damage Commission, consideration of their future had been deferred. After further



surveys it was thought that delay in dealing with them under the Act could no longer be allowed, consequently they were reported to the Public Health Committee and in July, Demolition Orders were made.

**33, High Road, Woodford Green,** a large 3-storied house was dealt with under section 11 and a Closing Order made.

**1—27, Sultan Road.** A block of properties of which 25 were considered suitable for dealing with as a clearance area. The two exceptions, Nos. 26 and 27 were found to be in a good condition, this being accounted for by the fact that they were built many years after the others. An Official Representation was made in December covering the 25 properties to which reference has been made.

**160 and 162, High Road, Salway Hill.** These two old wooden cottages were reported upon and action taken in accordance with Section 11. Demolition indicated just how bad these cottages were.

**Aldersbrook Hutted Camp.** The Annual Report for 1954 gave a full account of this hutted camp which showed what a blot on the landscape it was. It can, therefore, be appreciated that its use for another year did not improve conditions existing there. Of the 29 huts, 21 were vacated by the end of 1955 and it is hoped that before the end of another year the remainder will be unoccupied.

**Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.** The fact that only eleven applications for certificates of disrepair were received during the year indicated one of two things; either that the tenants upon whom notices of increase in rents were served were content with the higher rents or that the houses were in good repair.

There is the possibility that many owners have failed to serve notices of rent increase because they have realised the expense to which they will be put in order to place the houses in good repair.

In connection with the eleven applications, eleven certificates of disrepair were granted, one of which was later revoked. One tenant, the holder of a certificate, purchased the house, thus transferring all responsibilities from the former owner to himself.

Two more certificates were granted in connection with two applications made in December, 1954. Both of these were revoked in 1955.



**Overcrowding.** One case of overcrowding was reported to the Public Health Committee concerning a family from India who found accommodation in one room in a house of a fellow countryman. The necessary notices were served, with the result that the owner obtained possession of the room. The family were later housed in one of the "half-way" houses under control of the Council.

Once again close co-operation existing between the Public Health and Housing Departments can be recorded; this is most helpful when dealing with rehousing of families from unfit houses.

In dealing with matters in connection with clearance areas and unfit houses it is unusual to receive letters of appreciation from families rehoused. However, in March a letter was received from a tenant whose house came within the scope of a clearance area, expressing appreciation for help given by the Council. The services of the Local Authority and their Officers are so often accepted as a matter of fact.

#### **Offence under the Public Health Act, 1936**

A complaint was received from the occupier of a house whose neighbour kept chickens in a glasshouse at the rear of his garden. The glasshouse was only a matter of some five feet away from the complainant's flank wall. Upon inspection it was found that about three dozen chickens were kept in this glass and wood structure—which measured approximately 10ft. by 8 ft. the interior of which was in a filthy condition. Appeals to the owner of the birds to reduce their number and to cleanse the interior of the structure proved to be futile, so the Council had no alternative but to take action against him in the magistrates' court. An order to abate the nuisance was granted and costs were allowed amounting to two guineas.

#### **Essex County Council Act, 1933, Section 109.**

This section makes it an offence to place or keep on land a moveable dwelling without the previous approval of the Local Authority.

One application to place and keep on land a caravan was received the application being deferred so that an inspection could be made by the Medical Officer of Health. Before further consideration could be given to the matter the applicant obtained alternative living accommodation and removed the caravan.



## **Public Health Act, 1936, Section 101.**

The residents of a block of dwellings near a small foundry complained of nuisance from smoke when smelting was taking place. No nuisance could be seen when observations were made. The proprietor was interviewed on several occasions and he explained that smoke in small quantities could be given off, if at all, only when the furnace was first started up. In spite of the observations mentioned above the proprietor changed the fuel from coke to gas, which appeared to remove the cause for complaint.

## **Meat Inspection.**

Because of the visits made by the Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector it was ascertained that carcase meat was being brought into a local wholesale meat store largely uninspected.

Meat arriving early in the morning from a town in Lincoln for local sale was found on a number of occasions to be diseased or otherwise unfit. This, in November, necessitated setting up a system of early morning inspections in which two inspectors took part.

The number of carcasses inspected from November 11th, 1955 until the end of the year is given below:—

Cows	133	Pigs	1288
Bullocks	122	Sheep	163
Calves	65	Lambs	621
Boars and Sows	17		

The amount of meat and offal found to be unfit by the inspectors and surrendered by the wholesale firm was 468 pounds.

## **Work in Default**

**Housing Act, 1936, Section 9.** In three cases only was it necessary to do work in default and in these the amounts involved were not high, being £20. 5. 0, £68. 18. 0, and £46. 11. 2.

**Public Health Act, 1936.** It was not necessary to take proceedings and do work in default upon a Court Order in regard to housing repairs under this Act.

## **Other work executed by the Local Authority.**

Work to drainage systems was carried out in three cases under Section 24 (public sewers) of the Public Health Act, 1936 and in four cases under Section 39 (drains) of that Act.



Notices were served under Sections 24 and 39 of the Public Health Act, 1936 in connection with drainage systems to seven houses and to a block of flats.

Appeals in both cases were lodged at the Court of Summary Jurisdiction against the work required, but they were withdrawn before the hearing.

### Smoke Abatement.

Reference to the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1954 shows that recordings were made of pollution in the atmosphere by the use of a daily recording instrument which made it possible to measure the amount of smoke or suspended matter and the quantity of sulphur dioxide. This work was continued throughout the year.

The table below indicates the readings made during the twelve months under review:—

Month	Smoke (mg/100m <sup>3</sup> )			Sulphur Dioxide (p.p. 100m)		
	Average	Highest	Lowest	Average	Highest	Lowest
January	47	153	15	11	38	2
February	27	72	8	7	19	3
March	13	28	4	5	10	2
April	12	31	2	6	16	1
May	7	16	1	3	4	0.8
June	4	9	1	2	3	0.7
July	2	4	1	1	2	0.5
August	5	13	1	2	3	0.4
September	7	15	2	3	7	1
October	17	51	5	5	18	2
November	44	92	17	8	33	2
December	43	130	12	10	34	3

Some further figures are given below which deal with smoke and sulphur dioxide recordings and will be found useful in connection with the above table:—

Smoke:—

Average for year	19
Average for winter months	32
Average for summer months	6
Highest daily recording	153
Lowest daily recording	1

Sulphur Dioxide:—

Average for year	5.5
Average for winter months	8
Average for summer months	3
Highest daily recording	38
Lowest daily recording	0.4

### Pollution Measurement in "Smog"

During 1955 it was agreed with the Fuel Research Station that at "Smog" periods additional readings would be taken. The Fuel Research Station receive warnings from the Meteorological Office, notify us and the readings are then taken at approximately 9.00, 12.00 14.00 and 16.00 hours.

Fog was experienced on November 30th and December 1st with the following readings:—

Date	Time	Smoke (mg/100m <sup>3</sup> )	Sulphur Dioxide (p.p.100m)
November 30th	9.30	41	11
	12.0	126	37
	14.00	126	53
	16.15	76	32
December 1st	9.00	72	21
	11.45	54	20

The Fuel Research Station notified that the "smog" period was over so no more special readings were taken, but the fog re-appeared fairly dense, at night, and the day after the reading was as follows:

December 2nd	13.45	130	34
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Another fog period occurred in January, 1956, with these results:

Date	Time	Smoke (mg/100m <sup>3</sup> )	Sulphur Dioxide (p.p.100m)
1956			
January 5th	9.00	115	36
	12.00	51	18
	14.00	77	28
	16.00	54	24
January 6th	9.00	72	18
	12.00	20	8

Fog cleared.

Although neither of these fog periods approached the density or length of the 1952 "smog", the above figures show the marked increase over the average figures in both smoke and sulphur dioxide.



## PUBLIC HEALTH EXHIBITION, APRIL, 1955

The Public Health Committee, upon the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health decided to hold a Public Health Exhibition and in January proposals were put forward by him for this to be held on April 14th, 15th and 16th in the new public hall at Woodford Green. The availability of this new hall—the Sir James Hawkey Hall—gave much scope to the setting of such an exhibition, therefore it was decided to set up as many sections as possible dealing with public health work carried out in the Borough. Sections dealing with housing, smoke abatement, food inspection and hygiene, home safety, rodent control and maternity and child welfare were finally selected.

Under the guiding hand of the Medical Officer of Health each Officer of the Sanitary Inspector's section of the Public Health Department was responsible for a section of the exhibits and all were given a reasonably free hand to obtain both working and static models, charts, graphs and photographs.

The exhibition showed what team work can produce with the result that the hall contained exhibits which interested the visitors both young and old.

A film section in the lounge was appreciated by many of the 3,000 visitors who saw films dealing with food poisoning, smoke abatement, child care, etc. To make this section such a success the Department had the valuable assistance of the Road Safety Officer who arranged the showing of various films, and success was proved by the fact that the lounge was filled to capacity at every showing.

We were fortunate in obtaining from private firms, Government Departments and societies interested in the various sections many models and items of equipment. The Department was very appreciative of the co-operation of the many organisations approached to this end.

It would be difficult and even unfair to spotlight any particular exhibit because young and old showed so much interest in everything from cabinets with living flies to model hygienic kitchens. One interested party was made up of students from a nearby hospital.

In preparing the materials for the exhibition we had in view the need to make the exhibition real and live, and in this direction we appear to have succeeded because all sections had a number of working models and apparatus. For instance there was a model which produced smoke to clothe the surrounding buildings with smog, mechanical book for Home Safety posters, etc. The Ministry of



Agriculture and Fisheries stand with live rats and mice was a great attraction to the younger folk. Great interest was taken in the models for housing and in exhibits of unsound foods, particularly in the case of tubercular meat supplied by the Chief Sanitary Inspector of Romford.

Great use was made of photographs showing the Council's activities in clearing away unfit dwellings.

The Parks Superintendent of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department produced fine floral displays which added to the attractiveness of the whole.

It was pleasing to see among the visitors familiar faces of colleagues who discussed many points with the Public Health Department Staff. Many new friends were also made, which is all to the good.

The many months of hard work put into producing such an Exhibition was compensated for by the support given by the Council—in particular the Public Health Committee and by the encouraging attendance of the public. The staff of the Public Health Department were in attendance for the whole time.

#### **CIVIC EXHIBITION, AUGUST, 1955.**

On August 20th a Civic Exhibition was held at the Municipal Offices, Woodford, to commemorate the formation of the Borough. The offices were open to the public on the Saturday afternoon and evening during which time the various Departments arranged exhibits which would be of interest to the visiting ratepayers. In spite of the lack of space, the Public Health Department produced items thought to be topical and put on small displays dealing with food hygiene, smoke abatement, rodent control and safety in the home. So as to give assistance and explanation to the public, inspectors manned the exhibition throughout its duration.



## Rodent Control

The work in connection with the destruction of rats and mice has continued, the Council still employing one full-time operative.

From the figures given below it will be noted that the number of complaints received has risen from 324 in 1954 to 410 in 1955, an increase of close on 30 per cent. Visits increased from 799 to 860, whilst inspections made by sanitary inspectors increased from 144 in 1954 to 217 in 1955; a 50 per cent increase.

Comment was made on the slight increase in the complaints received in 1954; unfortunately a greater increase is noted for 1955, from which one can safely conclude that the rodent population has still to be considered a menace.

Again if one studies the figures from 1947 onwards it is noted that the number of complaints has been creeping up steadily.

The increase in the number of visits by the sanitary inspectors confirms that the fight against rats and mice is still something to reckon with and a fight which must not be relaxed by Local Authorities.

Good relationship still exists between the Officers of the Local Authority and Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and the meetings of the Workable Area Committee held three times per year still give scope for useful discussion.

The number of complaints received in the past is as follows:

1947	139	1948	210	1949	287
1950	284	1951	290	1952	330
1953	316	1954	324	1955	410

Appreciation should be recorded of the co-operation given by the Borough Engineer and Surveyor and his Department in providing the necessary gang for the work on sewer treatment.

A quick review of the results of the treatment for 1955 shows an improvement on the years 1953 and 1954 which should indicate a lower rat population in the sewers.

The usual detailed charts are given on the following pages.

### Surface Treatment:

The following table shows the result of the year's work.

Number of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors	217
Complaints received	410
Retreatments	—
Revisits to premises	343
Visits to adjacent premises	117
Total premises visited	860
Number of baiting points	3555
Rats found dead	78

# Sewer Treatment

## FIRST TREATMENT

1 Section	2 No. of Manholes	3 No. not Baited	4 No. Baited	5 Complete	6 Average Partial	7 Pre-bait Total takes	8 NT
1.	72	3	69	25	23	48	21
2.	87	2	85	31	21	52	33
3.	73	—	73	23	25	48	25
4.	74	—	74	23	23	46	28
5.	71	—	71	17	13	30	41
6.	79	1	78	19	15	34	44
7.	76	—	76	21	16	37	39
8.	67	—	67	22	10	32	35
9.	78	2	76	23	10	33	43
10.	77	—	77	17	9	26	51
11.	69	—	69	19	15	34	35
12.	70	—	70	21	13	34	36
13.	71	—	71	28	14	42	29
14.	67	—	67	25	14	39	28
15.	75	—	75	18	14	32	43
16.	71	—	71	29	14	43	28
17.	68	—	68	21	11	32	36
18.	72	—	72	22	11	33	39
19.	71	3	68	23	12	35	33
	1388	11	1377	427	283	710	667



# Sewer Treatment

## SECOND TREATMENT

1 Section	2 No. of Manholes	3 No. not Baited	4 No. Baited	5 Complete	6 Average Pre-bait takes Partial	7 Total takes	8 NT
1.	71	—	71	14	20	34	37
2.	86	—	86	11	19	30	56
3.	71	—	71	9	14	23	48
4.	74	—	74	13	19	32	42
5.	77	—	77	8	19	27	50
6.	79	9	70	8	20	28	42
7.	77	—	77	9	18	27	50
8.	67	—	67	6	22	28	39
9.	79	5	74	12	24	36	38
10.	77	2	75	3	11	14	61
11.	69	—	69	9	16	25	44
12.	70	—	70	8	19	27	43
13.	71	1	70	7	20	27	43
14.	68	—	68	4	32	36	32
15.	75	—	75	7	14	21	54
16.	70	6	64	9	29	38	26
17.	68	10	58	5	18	23	35
18.	72	—	72	10	22	32	40
19.	71	—	71	7	15	22	49
	1392	33	1359	159	371	530	829

*Summary of Treatments*

Year		No. of Manholes	No. NOT baited	No. baited	Average Pre-bait Takes			N.T.
					Complete	Partial	Total takes	
1955	1st treatment	1388	11	1377	427	283	710	667
	2nd „	1392	33	1359	159	371	530	829
1954	1st treatment	1396	24	1372	468	161	629	743
	2nd „	1390	39	1351	404	242	646	705
1953	1st treatment	1409	3	1406	550	294	844	562
	2nd „	1408	52	1356	407	367	774	582
1952	1st treatment	1419	5	1414	604	276	880	534
	2nd „	1418	—	1418	460	337	797	621
1951	1st treatment	1419	619	800	240	115	356	444
	2nd „	1419	19	1400	284	141	425	975
1950	1st treatment	1405	12	1393	210	85	295	1098
	2nd „	1396	33	1364	280	140	423	942



### **Pet Animals Act, 1951**

There were in 1955 four registrations. Inspections were made of the premises during the year, the shops all being maintained in a satisfactory condition.

### **Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951**

No additional registrations have been made under this Act, the number of premises registered in the Borough remaining one.

### **Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936**

The number of licences renewed remained at 58, the same as that reported for 1954.

A local electrical firm increased its storage facilities from 500 to 1,000 gallons by installing another underground tank, the whole being used in connection with their business. One additional pump was also installed.

One of the large garage—cum—petrol service stations added two further tanks to their existing installation which increased the storage capacity by 3,000 gallons. Additional pumps were installed and existing ones re-arranged.

Petrol pumps were re-arranged when another service station was taken over by a new management.

84 inspections were made during the year.

### **Game Licences.**

Eleven licences to deal in Game were renewed in 1955.

### **The Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 and 1953 and Raw Milk Regulations.**

The following licences were issued:

#### **Dealers Licences.:**

Pasteurised 12	Sterilised 21	Tuberculin Tested 12
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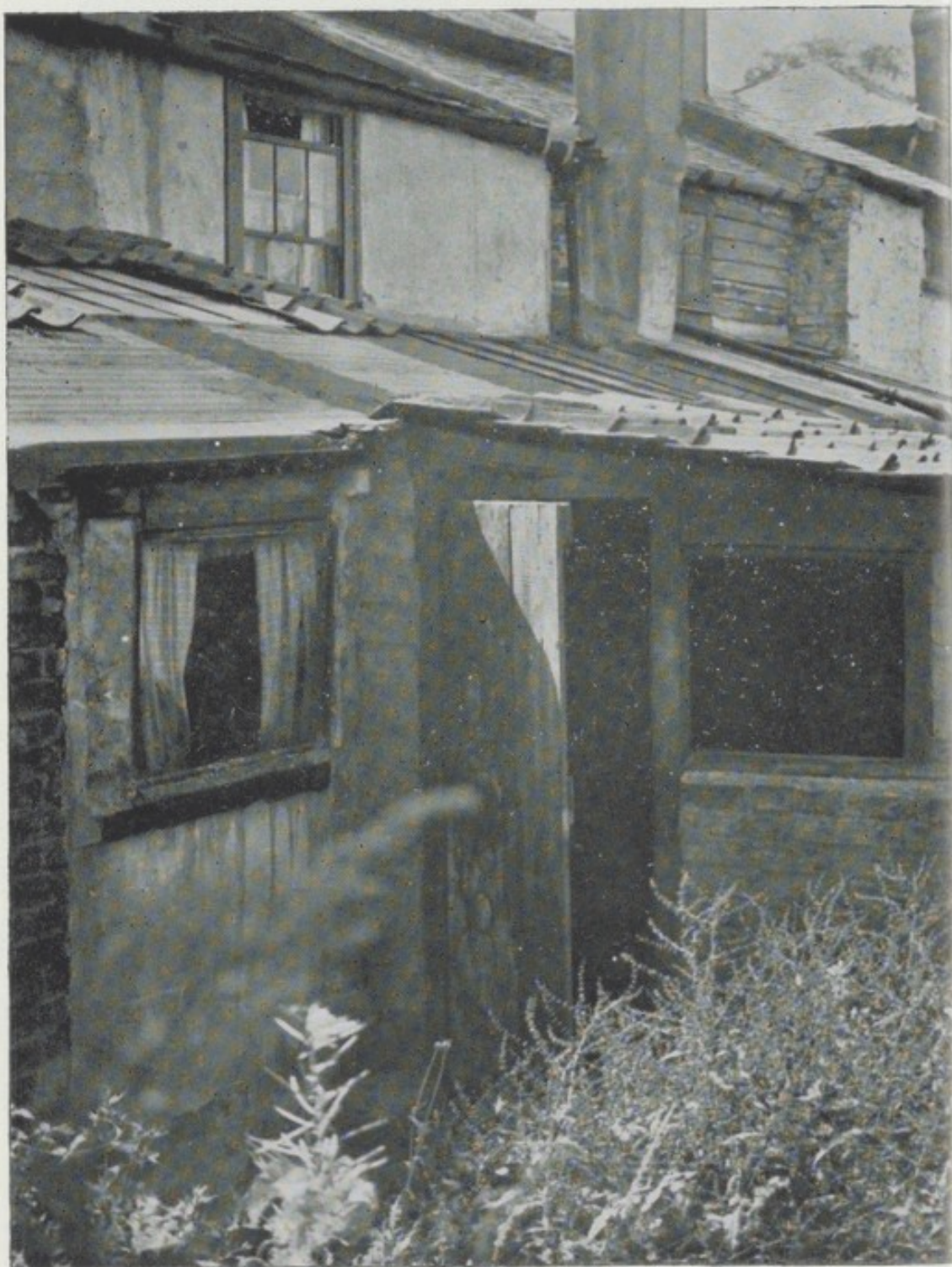
#### **Supplementary Licences:**

Pasteurised 9	Sterilised 9	Tuberculin Tested 9
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Clearance Order: 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 Inmans Row, Woodford Green. Showing a picturesque row of buildings (note buttresses on right hand side of photograph).





Clearance Order; 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, Inmans Row.  
A view of the back of the dwellings taken from house at end with  
buttresses — a contrast to the picturesque front.



Clearance Order: 1-25 Sultan Road. The two houses at the end of the road (front view) were excluded, being in better condition.





A corner of Sultan Road not visible from the view taken at the end of the road. (note defective  
condition and evidence of decay)



View of back addition to a house in Sultan Road  
showing general dilapidation.





Public Health Exhibition, April, 1955.



Public Health Exhibition, April, 1955.





Public Health Exhibition, April, 1955.

## **Shops Act, 1950**

A considerable increase in the inspection of shops should be noted (222 in 1955 as against 77 in 1954) although this does not indicate difficulties in working the Act. No difficulty has been experienced with the closing hours of shops. Office and other workers find difficulty in shopping after they leave their place of employment because of the punctual closing.

One shop was fitted with additional sanitary accommodation.

## **Essex County Council Act, 1933**

### **Massage and Special Treatment Establishments.**

As in previous years the Sanitary Inspectors carried out the usual routine inspections to these premises. They were all found to be quite satisfactory. Eleven visits were made during the year.

## **Storage of Explosives**

The Essex County Council referred to this Council details of proposals by a large manufacturing firm to store a considerable quantity of explosives, i.e., magnesium flares, and a visit was made to the site together with an Officer of the County Fire Service. Apparently after further consideration the firm decided not to proceed with the project although it is understood that they had proposals for building the store elsewhere.

## **Swimming Bath Water**

Although the Borough does not possess a public swimming bath nor is there one within its boundaries, there are three baths belonging to schools and one to a children's home. Samples were taken from each of these during the year, the Public Health Laboratories reporting favourably thereon.

Two samples of water from local ponds used for swimming were reported upon rather unfavourably, although the condition of the water was not sufficiently bad to warrant the erection of notices banning their use for swimming.

## **Inspections carried out by Sanitary Inspectors.**

Infectious Disease enquiries, including enquiries in respect of scabies	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	51
Visits in connection with contacts, disinfection, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	39
Enquiries in connection with food poisoning	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
Vermineous Premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16



## General Environmental Public Health

Drains and Sewers inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	)	
Drain tests applied	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	)	773
Stables and manure pits inspected	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		28
Public Conveniences	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		17
Overcrowding	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		11
Factories (mechanical)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		151
Factories (non-mechanical)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		15
Hairdressers' premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		23
Schools	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		44
Ditches, Streams and Ponds	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		85
Open spaces and Playing Fields	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		24
Petrol Installations	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		84
Shops Act inspections	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		222
Outworkers premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		38
Massage Establishments	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		11
Pet Animals Act	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		4
Merchandise Marks Act	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		10
Swimming Baths	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		15
Smoke observations	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		10
Workplaces	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		13
Housing Repairs and Rents Act	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		89
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		163

## Inspection of Food Premises

Meat Shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	198
Bakehouses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	55
Fishmongers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	34
Grocers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	135
Restaurants and Cafes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	65
Dairies and Milk Shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Greengrocers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	43
Ice Cream Premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	26
Street Vendors	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Fish Fryers	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Food and Drugs Sampling	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	73
Ice Cream Sampling	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40
Milk Sampling	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
Cooked Meats	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

TOTAL

2533

## SECTION D. HOUSING

No. of dwellings erected during 1955: 88 Council; 69 Private enterprise; No Cost of Works (rebuild)

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	2028
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	2215

### VISITS

(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	—
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	12
(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	142

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notices:—

	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	135
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### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a)	<i>Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:</i>	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	9
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By owners	7
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(b)	<i>Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—</i>	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	38
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By owners	32
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—



(c) *Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	17
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	11

**Nuisances Abated and Improvement Effected**

Roofs repaired .....	43
External walls and chimney stacks repaired .....	33
Walls underpinned .....	1
Gutters and spouts repaired or renewed .....	33
Damp-proof courses provided .....	6
Dampness remedied .....	59
Yards paved or repaired .....	1
Internal walls and ceilings repaired .....	57
Doors and frames repaired or renewed .....	8
Windows repaired or renewed .....	41
Roofs repaired or renewed .....	16
Sub-floor ventilation provided or improved .....	1
Rooms cleansed or redecorated .....	6
Fireplaces and flues repaired or renewed .....	15
Washbasins and sinks provided or renewed .....	7
Wastepipes repaired or renewed .....	13
Dustbins provided or renewed .....	2
Water supply improved or reinstated .....	8
Water closet pans repaired, renewed or cleansed .....	7
Water closet cisterns repaired or renewed .....	12
Water closet lighting and ventilation improved .....	1
Water closet flush pipe joints repaired .....	1
Water closet walls etc., cleansed .....	4
Water closet structures repaired .....	4
Drains cleansed from obstruction .....	166
Drains repaired or renewed .....	19
Miscellaneous .....	3

**Disinfection and Disinfestation**

Number of rooms disinfected .....	55
Premises from which bedding removed for steam disinfection .....	51

**Essex County Council Act, 1952**

During the year one person was registered under Section 103 of the above Act as a Hawker of Food.

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

### 1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Section 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities .. ..	39	15	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies ..	151	160	5	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	190	175	5	—

### 2. Defects found.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecu- tions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness .. ..	3	3	1	—
Overcrowding .. ..	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature ..	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation .. ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences:—				
1 Insufficient .. ..	—	—	—	—
2 Unsuitable or defective ..	2	2	—	—
3 Not separate for sexes ..	1	—	1	—
Other Offences .. ..	—	—	—	—
TOTAL .. ..	6	5	2	—



### 3. Outwork

#### Number of out-workers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)

Paper Bags	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Boxes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
							<hr/>
							20
							<hr/>

Four certificates of means of escape in case of fire under Section 34 were issued in 1955 and three were amended.

## SECTION E. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Three prosecutions were made during the year. These were in respect of a cigarette end in a loaf of bread and two for mould in meat pies. In each case the fine was £5.

The Public Health Committee decided to write to a dairy firm where they received a report that solid matter was found in a bottle of milk.

The meat content of the samples of pork sausages varied between 65 per cent and 80 per cent.

The sample of oranges was free from thiourea.

Seven ice lollies showed a lead content not exceeding 1 p.p.m.

A list of food samples is given below:

Brandy	2	Honey	1
Gin	3	Ice Cream	5
Rum	2	Ice Lollies	7
Whisky	9	Lard	3
Bacon	4	Lemon Juice	2
Beef Dripping	1	Milk	12
Butter	11	Mixed Peel	1
Butter Almonds	1	Mixed Spice	1
Butter Mints	1	Muscateles	1
Buttered Walnuts	1	Oranges	1
Candied Peel	1	Plum Jam	1
Coffee	3	Pork Sausages	7
Corned Beef	1	Preserved Ginger	1
Cream	1	Raisins	1
Currants	2	Spanish Black Figs	1
Curry Powder	1	Steak Pies	1
Dates	1	Stuffed Pork	1
Double Cream	1	Sultanas	1
Dried Bananas	1	Tea	6
Dried Peaches	1	Ammoniated Tincture of	
Figs	1	Quinine	1
Fish Cakes	2	Boric Ointment	1
Flour	1	Camphorated Oil	1
Fruit Salad	1	Cod Liver Oil Emulsion	2
Ground Almonds	2	Glycerine	1
Ground Nutmeg	1	Liquorice Powder	1
Ham	1	Olive Oil	1
		Cod Liver Oil	1
			120

Five samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Analysts to ascertain the fat content of the mixture. These samples contained fat to the following extent:

13.2 per cent.	12.8 per cent.	11.1 per cent.
12.9 per cent.	9.6 per cent.	



The following is a list of foods surrendered in 1955 because of unsound conditions:

### Fish, Fresh

Catfish	4 stone
Whiting	2 stone
Skate	13 stone
Melts	2 stone

### Fish, Tinned

Salmon	6 tins
Crab	58 tins
Pilchards	4 tins

### Fruit, Tinned

Apples	1 tin
Plums	9 tins
Pineapples	31 tins
Peaches	21 tins
Apricots	8 tins
Oranges	8 tins
Pears	3 tins
Gooseberries	2 tins
Strawberries	1 tin
Fruit Salad	7 tins
Grapefruit	1 tin
Blackberries	1 tin

### Fruit, Fresh

Pears	70 lbs
Raspberries	22 lbs

### Fruit, Dried

Sultanas	190 lbs
Currants	72 lbs
Prunes	30 lbs

### Vegetables, Tinned

Peas	45 tins
Beans	17 tins
Carrots	2 tins
Tomatoes	14 tins
Vegetables, Mixed	1 tin

### Meat, Tinned

Luncheon Meat	84 tins
Meat Loaf	1 tin
Corned Beef	67 tins
Ham	4 tins
Pork	4 tins
Meat Pudding	2 tins
Stewed Steak	5 tins
Ox Tongue	4 tins
Liver	1 tin

### Meat, Fresh

Pigs Heads	79 lbs
Beef	480½ lbs
Mutton	34 lbs
Lamb	40 lbs
Offal	57 lbs
Pork	22 lbs
Pork Sausages	1 lb
Liver	585 lbs
Bacon	46 lbs
Veal	267 lbs

### Miscellaneous

Milk	23 tins
Cheese	156 lbs
Cheese	4 pkts
Soup	7 tins
Cream	4 tins
Coffee	3 tins
Jam & Marmalade	3 jars
Ketchup	6 jars
Paste	9 jars
Tomato Juice	1 tin
Macaroni	8 tins
Pickles	3 jars
Porage Oats	5 pkts
Jelly	1 pkt
Creamed Rice	2 tins
Pepper	12 ozs

## **MANUFACTURE, STORAGE AND SALE OF ICE CREAM**

Eighty-three registrations of premises were in force at the beginning of the year, and a further four were added during the year.

Twenty-six visits to premises were made during the year in addition to forty visits for the purpose of obtaining ice cream samples.

### **Ice-Cream Samples (Bacteriological Examinations)**

Fourteen samples of ice-cream and ice-lollies were obtained and found to be satisfactory. The number of samples has again been reduced this year due to the fact that the bulk of such product is made by the large manufacturers whose standard is of the highest. Further, the major part of the sales are wrapped.

### **Foods and Drugs and Bacteriological Examinations**

As in former years, the Food and Drugs samples were submitted to Messrs. Bernard Dyer and Partners Ltd., (George Taylor, Esq., F.R.I.C., Dr. J. H. Hamence, F.R.I.C., and P. S. Hall, Esq., A.R.I.C.) of 20 Eastcheap, London, E.C.3 and samples for bacteriological examination to the Counties Public Health Laboratories (Roy C. Hoather, Esq., B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C., F.R.San.I.; W. A. Bullough, Esq., C.B.E., M.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., and Gordon Miles, Esq., B.Sc., F.R.I.C., M.R.San.I.) 66, Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. The Department is appreciative of the help given by these two Laboratories during the year.



## SECTION F.

### PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The following table shows the incidence of infectious disease during the year, together with the number and percentage of cases admitted to hospital and the number and percentage of deaths:—

Disease	Total Notified	Removed to Hospital	Per cent Removed to Hospital	Deaths	Deaths per cent of cases Notified
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	17	1	6	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	13	2	15.2	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	12	12	100	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	2	1	50	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	42	41†	97.6	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad)	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	938	17	1.8	—	—
Whooping Cough	20	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	29	—	—	—	—

†These cases all occurred in hospital.

These cases of infectious disease have been divided into age incidence and set out in the accompanying table:—

Disease	All Ages	Under 1 yr.	1-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-25 yrs.	25-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 & yrs.
Scarlet Fever	17	1	3	10	3	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	13	—	—	—	3	1	2	4	3
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	12	1	3	5	—	2	1	—	—
Dysentery	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	42	—	—	—	—	16	26	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Measles	938	5	352	565	11	1	4	—	—
Whooping Cough	20	3	8	8	—	—	1	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	29	—	7	3	—	3	12	—	4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1077</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>593</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>

### Poliomyelitis

During 1955, 12 confirmed cases of poliomyelitis were notified. The accompanying table shows the cases notified in previous years classified under age groups:—



# POLIOMYELITIS INCIDENCE IN WANSTEAD AND WOODFORD, 1935—1955

Year	Population	No. Notified	Notification Rate	Age Group							Over 45	Deaths	Death Rate
				Under	1	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45			
1935	50010	2	0.039	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1936	52010	2	0.038	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1937	53840	3	0.055	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1938	54810	2	0.036	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
1939	55880	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1940	48620	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1941	46640	1	0.021	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1942	49850	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1943	50010	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1944	46670	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1945	48230	4	0.082	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1946	57570	1	0.017	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1947	60280	10	0.165	2	—	1	1	2	4	—	—	—	—
1948	61150	1	0.016	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1949	62010	9	0.144	—	1	—	4	3	1	—	—	—	—
1950	62460	14	0.224	—	5	2	3	3	1	—	—	—	—
1951	61850	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1952	61880	8	0.129	—	1	1	4	—	2	—	—	—	—
1953	61540	13	0.211	—	—	4	3	3	3	—	—	—	—
1954	61550	6	0.097	—	—	3	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
1955	61380	12	0.19	1	3	5	—	2	1	—	—	—	—

## Tuberculosis

The following table shows particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the Borough during 1955:—

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 years	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
10-15 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 years	1	1	—	2	—	—	—	—
20-25 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 years	4	3	1	3	—	—	—	—
35-45 years	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 years	—	2	1	1	—	1	—	1
55-65 years	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 and over	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	16	9	4	7	2	1	—	1
		25		11		3		1
			36			4		

The 4 deaths represent a death rate of 0.05 per 1,000 of the population.

A comparative summary over the past 20 years for the Borough is set out in the following table:—



Year	Notifications					Deaths						
	No.	Pulmonary Rate	No.	Non-Pulmonary Rate	Total Notifications	Total Notification Rate	No.	Pulmonary Rate	No.	Non-Pulmonary Rate	Total Deaths	Total Death Rate
1936	33	0.63	12	0.23	45	0.86	16	0.30	3	0.05	19	0.36
1937	37	0.68	10	0.18	47	0.87	26	0.48	5	0.09	31	0.57
1938	37	0.67	22	0.40	59	1.07	24	0.43	5	0.09	29	0.52
1939	28	0.50	9	0.16	37	0.66	22	0.39	3	0.05	25	0.44
1940	24	0.49	7	0.14	31	0.63	22	0.45	3	0.06	25	0.51
1941	46	0.98	15	0.32	61	1.30	16	0.34	—	—	16	0.34
1942	42	0.84	21	0.42	63	1.26	33	0.66	4	0.08	37	0.74
1943	38	0.75	14	0.27	52	1.39	19	0.37	5	0.09	24	0.47
1944	43	0.92	13	0.27	56	1.19	16	0.34	4	0.08	20	0.43
1945	47	0.97	11	0.22	58	1.22	14	0.29	5	0.13	19	0.39
1946	50	0.86	7	0.12	57	0.99	28	0.48	4	0.06	32	0.55
1947	39	0.64	7	0.11	46	0.76	20	0.33	1	0.01	21	0.34
1948	38	0.62	5	0.08	43	0.71	16	0.26	3	0.04	19	0.34
1949	50	0.80	14	0.22	64	1.03	19	0.30	2	0.03	21	0.34
1950	41	0.65	4	0.06	45	0.72	14	0.22	1	0.02	15	0.24
1951	42	0.68	7	0.11	49	0.79	10	0.16	3	0.05	13	0.21
1952	47	0.76	4	0.06	51	0.82	10	0.16	—	—	10	0.16
1953	48	0.78	4	0.06	52	0.84	3	0.05	2	0.03	5	0.08
1954	38	0.61	6	0.10	44	0.71	2	0.03	1	0.02	3	0.05
1955	25	0.42	11	0.17	36	0.59	3	0.03	1	0.02	4	0.05

Rates per 1,000 population.

The register shows that at the end of the year:—

25 (38) Pulmonary and 11 (6) non-Pulmonary cases were notified for the first time during the year.

10 (14) cases were transferred into the district.

1 (no) cases were restored to the Register.

3 (2) Pulmonary and 1 (1) non-Pulmonary died during the year.

23 (73) other cases were removed from the register.

476 (456) cases remained on the Register at the close of the year.

*The figures in brackets are the comparable figures for the year 1954.*

## SECTION G. PART III SERVICES.

### FOREST HEALTH AREA SUB-COMMITTEE

*Chairman:* County Councillor Mrs. E. F. M. Hollis.

*Vice-Chairman:* Councillor Mrs. L. M. Scott.

#### *Membership:*

Chingford Borough Council:	Councillor W. J. Bowstead. Alderman Mrs. S. L. Oakes. Councillor Mrs. I. Titley
Wanstead and Woodford Borough:	Councillor Mrs. S. V. F. Ashton Councillor Mrs. I. C. Haseldon Councillor G. F. Hann Councillor J. Relph.
Chigwell U.D.C:	Councillor Mrs. V. L. M. Martin Councillor Mrs. L. M. Scott. Councillor Mrs. M. Smith.
Epping U.D.C:	Councillor Mrs. F. Pollitt Councillor A. G. Verrall.
Waltham Holy Cross U.D.C:	Councillor M. C. Barrett Councillor A. F. Flowers
Epping R.D.C:	Councillor Mrs. H. Howard.
Harlow U.D.C:	Councillor F. J. James, J.P.
Hospital Management Committee:	G. Gray, Esq.
Executive Council for Essex:	Alderman J. W. R. Nation.
Local Medical Committee for Essex:	Dr. H. Grylls.
Essex County Council:	Councillor Mrs. S. M. Bovill Councillor Mrs. D. D. Forster Alderman K. E. B. Glenny Councillor Mrs. E. F. M. Hollis Councillor F. J. Vaughan Councillor F. A. Wortley
British Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Organisations:	Mrs. J. Broome. Mrs. M. Tucker. Mr. G. F. Henrico
Tuberculosis After-Care Association:	Mrs. A. C. Murray.



## **STAFF**

In addition to my duties as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough, I am in administrative control of Part III Services under the National Health Service Act, 1946, sections 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 28 and 29. There are normally 2 medical officers of the Essex County Council working in the Borough and undertaking duties appertaining to Maternity and Child Welfare as well as 3 practitioners who regularly attend Child Welfare Clinics being employed on a sessional basis.

## **HEALTH CENTRES (Section 21)**

Originally 6 sites were earmarked for the erection of Health Centres—all purpose, e.g. where General Practitioner and Local Authority services would be carried out in the same building. Experience has shown that there is little or no likelihood of these centres being built in the foreseeable future and, indeed, their value, in a district such as this, might be of doubtful benefit to the Public who would probably prefer to continue attendance at their doctor's surgeries. As a result, 5 of the 6 sites have now been relinquished. The tendency to-day appears to be towards group practice in partnership rather than Health Centres, which are being built only on large Housing Estates and in New Towns.

At the same time there is a definite need in the Borough for a modern Health Service Clinic where maternity, Child Welfare and other Local Authority services could be carried out. No such clinic at present exists, and we are obliged to work in various Church halls and adapted houses. A very suitable site adjacent to the present clinic building in High Road, South Woodford, was approved in principle, but, unfortunately, it was disposed of before negotiations for its acquisition could be commenced.

## **CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN (Section 22)**

There were 565 attendances at the ante-natal clinic in 118, Hermon Hill, this figure being almost identical with that of the previous year.

At this clinic, sessions are held weekly, midwives examining their own patients and working in close co-operation with the general practitioners concerned.

One general practitioner conducts an ante-natal clinic for his own patients at his surgery, with a Local Authority midwife in attendance. The scheme works well and achieves a maximum of co-operation between doctor and midwife.

All expectant mothers have a blood specimen taken for examination and all with a rhesus negative result are advised to have their confinement in hospital.



Mothers booked for hospital confinement attend the ante-natal clinic for routine intermediate examinations. In the event of any abnormality becoming manifest, the case is referred at once to the Obstetrician at the Hospital.

About 65 per cent of the births in the Borough take place in hospital. Discharges are notified promptly and are followed up by either the Midwife or Health Visitor depending on the day following delivery on which the discharge takes place.

A very good liaison is maintained with the Maternity Department of Wanstead Hospital.

### **Relaxation Exercises**

Relaxation classes have been continued at the Hermon Hill ante-natal clinic, and are held twice weekly. Normally 6 to 8 women constitute a class. The classes also form a means whereby the Health Visitor can give short talks on preparation for the confinement and on various aspects of personal hygiene for mother and infant. By keeping classes small opportunity is afforded for individual queries and difficulties to receive attention.

### **Vital Statistics**

	Wanstead & Woodford	England & Wales
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	11.4	15
Still birth rate per 1,000 population	0.18	0.35
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	17.3	24.9

### **Neo-natal mortality**

The neo-natal mortality is the number of infants dying under one month per 1,000 live births. During 1955, 9 infants died in the first four weeks of life, a rate of 12.9.

### **Care of Premature Infants**

During 1955, 39 premature infants were born to residents in the Borough, 1 of these births taking place at home and 38 in hospital or nursing home. The one born at home was alive at the end of one month; 30 of the 38 born in hospital or private nursing home survived.

In all cases of premature birth, special supervision is given after the 14th day or after discharge from hospital.



### Child Welfare Centres

Attendances at the six Child Welfare Centres has been well maintained. Although some of the Centres are conducted in old buildings, it can be said that the Borough is well catered for, as apart from the northern area with its more scattered population, generally there is a Centre within a mile radius of every home.

Attendance figures were made up as follows:—

Baptist Church Hall, Aldersbrook	1534
Ashton Playing Fields, Woodford Bridge	2140
St. Barnabas Church Hall, Snakes Lane	3429
Fullers Road, South Woodford	3148
Cromwell Hall, Nightingale Lane, Wanstead	2456
Holy Trinity, Hermon Hill, South Woodford	3129

TOTAL	15,836
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### Welfare Foods

The distribution of Welfare Foods continued on the lines indicated in my last report, being undertaken entirely by members of the Women's Voluntary Services.

Foods are available at all the Child Welfare centres in the Borough during hours of session and also at the W.V.S. Headquarters, 79, High Street, Wanstead, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

### Day Nursery

The average daily attendance at the Day Nursery, which has accommodation for 50 children, was 30.7, slightly up on 1954.

My sincere thanks are due to the Women's Voluntary Services members for the great assistance they give by undertaking this service.

The following table shows the attendances made, together with the daily average.

Quarter Ending	Attendances					Days Open	Average Daily Attendances
	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	Over 3 years	TOTAL		
31st March	38	298	397	1096	1829	65	28.1
30th June	32	327	306	901	1566	62	25.2
30th September	152	436	557	1116	2261	64	35.2
31st December	115	504	469	1151	2239	63	35.5
TOTAL	337	1565	1729	4264	7895	254	30.7

The nursery is an approved training school for the care of children under 5.

During the year 3 students gained the certificates of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

#### **Nursery and Child Minders Regulation Act, 1948.**

Under this Act, any person who receives into her home for reward three or more children under the age of five years to be looked after for the day or a substantial part of the day, and premises, other than those wholly or mainly used as a private dwelling, are required to be registered with the Local Health Authority.

At the end of the year the number of premises and child minders in the Borough registered with the County Council were:—

	Premises	No. of Children
Premises	Nil	Nil
Child Minders	2	8

#### **Daily Guardian Scheme**

The Daily Guardian Scheme, which was in operation prior to the introduction of the National Health Service Act, has been continued in the Borough, the purpose of the scheme being to augment, if necessary, the Day Nursery Service, or to provide accommodation where there is no day nursery in the district. The Daily Guardian is subsidised by the Local Health Authority in respect of children referred to her to the extent of 1/- for each full day attended, or 6d. per half day.

During the year there were no Daily Guardians registered in the Borough, but this is to be expected inasmuch as there is a Day Nursery run by the Local Health Authority to serve the needs of the district.

#### **Womens' Welfare Clinics**

This clinic was held at 118 Hermon Hill monthly, with extra sessions as necessary. Contraceptive advice is given on medical grounds on receipt of a doctor's certificate. There were 179 attendances during the year.

#### **MIDWIFERY (Section 23)**

There are 3 domiciliary midwives practising in the Borough. Supervision is carried out by a nursing officer who is on the staff of the Area Medical Officer.



No. of confinements attended as midwife	108
No. of confinements attended as maternity nurse i.e. doctor also present	61

TOTAL	<hr/> 169 <hr/>
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### **Gas and Air Analgesia**

A total of 141 patients in the district received gas and air analgesia.

### **Training of Pupil Midwives**

During the year a request was received from the District Nurses' Home at Walthamstow for some temporary assistance to be given in the training of pupil midwives. As a result 6 pupils received training from one of our district midwives.

### **HEALTH VISITING (Section 24)**

5 Health Visitors were employed in the Borough during 1955. The Superintendent Health Visitor, Miss C. M. W. Court, A.R.R.C., S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. reports as follows:—

Throughout the year the general shortage of Health Visitors has been felt in Wanstead and Woodford. Additional duties have added to their case load, ie., B.C.G. Vaccination and Poliomyelitis Vaccination, so that visiting in the Borough has been selective.

Requests from Hospitals to visit aged persons are numerous, to ascertain on discharge the need of home helps or domiciliary nursing.

Health Education in the Borough is at present confined to Mothercraft Classes to expectant mothers combined with relaxation twice a week, and a few lectures on the Work of the Health Visitor have been given to the Townswomens Guilds.

Under the new General Nursing Council Syllabus, lectures on the "Social Aspects of Disease" are now given by a Health Visitor to Nursing Students at Wanstead Hospital, which is followed by the students being given practical training in the Public Health Field entailing Home Visiting with a Health Visitor and attendance at Infant Welfare Centres and Case Conferences.

Two Health Visitor Students from the South East Essex Technical College were allocated to Health Visitors, to correlate the practical and theoretical work of the Students.



The following table sets out statistically the work of the Health Visitors in the Borough during 1955:—

Expectant Mothers (first visits)	138
Expectant Mothers (re-visits)	42
Infants under one year (first visits)	671
Infants under one year (re-visits)	1365
Infants 1 to 5 years (first visits)	87
Infants 1 to 5 years (re-visits)	1758
Stillbirth enquiries	9
Infant Death	11
Tuberculosis Patients	855
Aged and Infirm	60
Day Nursery Applications	5
School Children	274
Other Visits	351
Ineffective Calls	720
	<hr/>
	6346
	<hr/>

#### HOME NURSING (Section 25)

The Superintendent of District Nurses, Miss A. Williams, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.I., Hv.Cert., reports as follows:—

The staff employed on general nursing in the Borough consists of the equivalent of 6½ with the addition of the part-time services of two male nurses employed in the area.

I am pleased to say that for the first time for a number of years there are sufficient staff to give a good nursing service in the Borough, and also to be able to devote more time to the care of the aged.

The work in the Borough is very mixed, the type of patient consisting of the acute sick, chronic sick, patients requiring injections, and with a number of very heavy cases, particularly in the Woodford district.

The male side of the general nursing work is undertaken by the two male nurses who are becoming very popular in the Borough.

The staffing position is such that it has been possible this year to arrange the work more satisfactorily, thereby allowing the nurses to work more comfortably, and this has proved of benefit both to the nurses and the patients concerned.

The following statistics show a comparison of the work undertaken by the District Nurses during the years 1954 and 1955:—

	1955	1954
Number of New Cases	617	767
Number of Visits	19760	22184
Last Offices performed	35	33
Advisory or Casual Visits	471	496



## VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION (Section 26)

Vaccination and immunisation is available at all Child Welfare Clinics, but in the majority of cases is carried out by the family doctor.

Intensive propaganda, both personal on the part of clinic doctors and Health Visitors, and by means of leaflets and birthday cards, is maintained to ensure that all infants are immunised against Diphtheria. During the past 10 years the incidence of this disease has fallen to a minimum with the result that never having experienced it, present day parents tend to become complacent, and to postpone immunisation. Nevertheless it is estimated that 75—80 per cent of children are being protected. It is impossible to give an accurate figure as many practitioners do not trouble to claim the small fee available to them for recording the immunisation. Primary immunisation is usually carried out during the 6th—9th month, and a "booster" dose is given at 5 years, on entry to school.

Immunisation against whooping cough is normally carried out from the 3rd to 6th month.

The number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation against diphtheria during the year is set out below:—

Under 5 years of age	526
5 to 15 years of age	31
	<hr/>
	557

The number of children who received a secondary or re-inforcing injection was 227.

The number of persons vaccinated or re-vaccinated during the year 1955 was:—

	Under 1	1—4 yrs	5—14 yrs.	15 or over	Total
Primary	346	40	35	44	465
Re-vaccination	Nil	5	12	166	183

The following information shows the total number of children under 16 years of age who have at any time received a course of immunisation against diphtheria, as at 31st December, 1955:—

Year of Birth	Number	Year of Birth	Number
1955	357	1945	857
1954	207	1944	586
1953	610	1943	485
1952	510	1942	617
1951	476	1941	729
1950	525	1940	660
1949	645		
1948	911		
1947	919		
1946	786		
		TOTAL	<hr/> 9,880 <hr/>



Number of children immunised against Whooping Cough during the year 1955 was:—

Under 6/12	6—12 months	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years and over
15	117	18	6	5	5	9

## PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

The work under this Section of the Act is mainly concerned with Tuberculosis and I am indebted to Dr. H. Duff Palmer, Physician to the Chest Clinic at Harts Hospital for the following report:—

During 1955, 43 cases of tuberculosis were diagnosed. 141 new contacts attended for clinical and radiological examinations and 1 adult and 2 children were found to have pulmonary tuberculosis. The adult case is of some interest—a boy aged three, was admitted to Wanstead Hospital suffering from ? food poisoning. On investigation this was found to be Erythema Nodosum and a primary complex was also found in the chest. Examination of the contacts revealed the father to have pulmonary tuberculosis with a positive sputum and arrangements were made for him to be admitted to Harts Hospital. This case illustrates the value of the close liaison between the Hospital, Chest Clinic services and the Medical Officer of Health; also the necessity to investigate all contacts as soon as possible.

General Practitioners are making more and more use of the services of the Clinic to investigate all types of chest disease. The total attendances amounted to 9608, a record number. 3,336 X-ray investigations were carried out. 44 children were vaccinated with B.C.G and it is hoped that parents will continue to take advantage of this very worthwhile method of prevention.

Mr. F. C. Ware, Secretary of Leyton, Wanstead & Woodford T.B. Care Association reports as follows:—

“The aim of the Association is to remove anxiety from the minds of tuberculosis patients by helping to solve some of the economic and domestic difficulties which may otherwise retard their recovery and to assist similarly those who are substantially and permanently handicapped by the disease.

The assistance given is supplementary to grants from statutory bodies, and, after consideration of the applicant's financial circumstances may take the form of extra nourishment vouchers, payment of fares, financial grants for special needs, supply of bedding and clothing and other material help as agreed to by the Executive Committee.

A review of the activities of the Association during 1955 reveals that this was a year of continued progress in both fund-raising and assistance to patients. As a result of raising more funds during the year than in any year previously the Association was able to authorise increased expenditure on assistance.



Once again the most successful activity was the Christmas Seals Campaign which established a new record for the Association. Total sales were £769 9. 11 and the net profit to the Association was £646 14. 5.

The T.B. Helping Hand Association was formed in February of this year for the purpose of organising fund-raising activities for the Case Association. As a result of these activities, which included fashion shows, whist drives, and dances, a sum of £120 was donated to the Care Association by the end of the financial year. It is gratifying to report that much of the work for the T.B. Helping Hand Association and support of its activities emanates from Wanstead and Woodford. Further evidence of the sympathetic interest in our work from within the Borough was provided when we received a donation of £200 from the funds of the disbanded Woodford District Nursing Association to be used in assisting Wanstead and Woodford patients.

In the following table will be seen the assistance given to patients during the financial year ended 31st March, 1956

	Amount	No. of patients
Extra nourishment	£1,257	94
Fares—relatives visiting and convalescence	93	22
Fares for patients attending Occupational Therapy Class	8	10
Learner Driver Course	7	1
Hire Purchase Debts	24	2
Art and Occupational Therapy materials	6	2
Wireless Licences	3	3
Christmas Grants	56	99
Dentures	4	1
Coal Bunker	5	1
Gas Bill	4	1
Removal Expenses	6	1
Financial	28	3
		"

A T.B. Health Visitor on the staff of the Area Medical Officer works from the Chest Clinic. All notified cases of tuberculosis are visited at regular intervals, arrangements are made for the examination of contacts and patients are advised regarding measures to prevent spread of infection.

### Rehabilitation of Tuberculosis Patients

During the year the Area Sub-Committee accepted financial responsibility in one case for a patient undergoing rehabilitation at Preston Hall Settlement. No charge is made to the patient.



## Recuperative Holidays

The Local Health Authority are empowered to provide recuperative holidays for persons not in need of medical or nursing attention and during the year 10 cases from the Borough have been sent away. The length of convalescence was:—

One week	3
Two weeks	4
Three weeks	Nil
Four weeks	2
Five weeks	1

## Domestic Help Service

Miss Keay, Domestic Help Organiser reports as follows:—

The year 1955 showed an increase of 30 per cent in applications for Domestic Help, the increase being absorbed mainly in help for the aged and maternity cases. The service continues to be administered as in previous years and all cases are visited as frequently as possible—a total of 884 visits being made throughout the year.

Liaison with District Nurses, Health Visitors and Hospital Almoners is good, the aged and sick benefitting from the joint effort.

There is still an acute shortage of Domestic Helps, despite efforts made to recruit through the Ministry of Labour, and advertising in the local newspapers. A total of 10 full-time and 45 part-time domestic helps is employed to attend to the varied wants of 160 patients.

When an emergency call is received this does at times necessitate a Domestic Help being transferred to meet the greater need and her normal duties are left in abeyance. Every effort is made to attend people who are completely dependent on the service, for fires and meals. In connection with the latter the W.V.S. "Meals on Wheels" scheme, providing hot meals on Wednesdays and Fridays, has been of invaluable assistance.

The Domestic Helps are to be congratulated on their unswerving efforts to comfort the sick and aged; many of them give freely of their own time over and above the duties asked of them by the service.

During the year one Help attended a Training Course at Chelmsford and was successful in obtaining a certificate. A total of 4 helps have now attended this Course, and one and all have enjoyed it, and found it has broadened their outlook on the work and given them renewed vigour to carry out the tasks allotted to them.

The requests for help for T.B. patients has continued low, and fortunately all requests were met.

The aged chronic sick continue to grow in number, and are an increasing problem with the labour situation as acute as it is. Every effort is made, however, to keep the waiting period for help as short as possible, and to provide adequate help for the essential needs.



## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

### WANSTEAD & WOODFORD 1955

The number of children attending the fifteen maintained schools in the Borough was, at the end of the year, 6,942.

#### 1. School Medical Inspections

Under Section 48 of the Education Act, 1944, it is the responsibility of the Local Education Authority, to provide for the medical inspection at appropriate intervals of all the pupils in attendance at schools maintained by them and, in accordance with these regulations, 1,912 of the pupils in attendance at maintained schools in the Borough were examined by a School Medical Officer.

The number of children inspected in each age group, were:—

Routine Inspections	No. examined	No. referred	
		for treatment	for observation
1st age group (5—7 years)	698	106	85
2nd age group (10-11 years)	824	95	83
3rd age group (14-16 years)	297	43	16
Special Inspections	93	29	27

#### 2. Minor Ailment Clinics

Fewer children attended at the minor ailment clinic which is held every Friday morning at the School Clinic at 93, High Road, E.18. 350 children made 431 attendances in 1955, compared with 490 children and 639 attendances in 1954.

Particulars of the defects noted at these examinations are given in Appendix.

#### 3. Cleanliness Surveys

The School Nurses visited the primary and secondary modern schools soon after the commencement of each school term, to undertake the cleanliness survey of all pupils in attendance. 18,555 inspections were carried out. 44 individual children were found to be suffering from head infestation, but were satisfactorily cleansed by the parents following advice given by the School Nurse.

#### **4. Diphtheria Immunisation**

The practice of asking Head Teachers to distribute propaganda leaflets to the parents of all new entrants to infant schools was continued. With each leaflet is a consent form which the parent is asked to complete and return to the Head Teacher if it is the wish that the child be immunised by a School Medical Officer. In many cases, the leaflet serves as a reminder to parents that the child should have a reinforcing injection and the general practitioner is asked to do it.

#### **5. Short Term Convalescent Treatment**

During the year 16 pupils from schools in this Borough were sent for a recuperative holiday on the recommendation of a School Medical Officer. The children usually go to these homes for a period of four weeks but extensions of two weeks are agreed to if the Medical Officer at the home so recommends.

#### **6. Dental Inspection and Treatment**

There was no change in the Dental staff at the clinic at 93, High Road, S. Woodford.

A summary of the work carried out at this clinic is shown at Appendix "A".

#### **7. Child Guidance Service**

Children requiring child guidance are referred to the Child Guidance Clinic at High Street, E.17. Unfortunately there is a long waiting list but the more urgent cases are given priority and are seen with very little delay.

#### **8. Specialist Services**

The provision of staff for the inspection and treatment of school children with ophthalmic and orthopaedic defects is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board. The ophthalmologist and physiotherapist visit the clinic at 93 High Road, E.18, each week, and, in addition a Visiting Orthopaedic Surgeon visits once a month to see selected cases and advise on their further treatment.

Orthoptics, is another of the specialist services provided by the Regional Hospital Board, which is being used to a greater extent. The nearest orthoptic clinics are at Buckhurst Hill and Chingford and children from this Borough attend at either of these centres for treatment.



## 9. B.C.G. Vaccination of Schoolchildren

In my report for last year I referred to the inauguration of this scheme, promoted by the Local Health Authority, offering B.C.G. vaccination to pupils of 13 years of age. This scheme commenced in this Borough in June, 1954, was continued throughout the year under review with the following results:—

No. of children to whom offered	363
No. given skin test after parents consent received:—	273 (75.20 per cent.)
No. vaccinated with B.C.G.	221

## 10. Anti-Tuberculosis Vaccine Clinical Trials

I have previously referred to these investigations which the Medical Research Council began in this Borough in 1950, by seeking volunteers from among school leavers. Although all the volunteers have now left school and gone their different ways some with the forces, and others who have married and now have families of their own—contact is still kept with each volunteer and the Health Visitors have made visits to several hundred homes during the past year to obtain information as to the nature of their employment and record details of any illnesses since the date of their last examination. The Physician-in-charge of these trials has expressed his appreciation of the work done on his behalf by the Health Visitors and his satisfaction with the high percentage of response shown by volunteers when called for their annual skin test and X-ray examination. The result of the investigations into the value of B.C.G. vaccine, are not expected to be known for a few years yet.

### Defects found by medical examination of school children.

The following table shows the defects found in school children as a result of examination by Medical Officers at the Clinic:—

Defect	No. found to require treatment	No. to be kept under observation
Skin	18	1
Eyes (a) Vision	26	2
(b) Squint	1	—
(c) Other	5	—
Ears (a) Hearing	3	—
(b) Otitis Media	—	—
(c) Other	—	—
Nose or Throat	3	—
Speech	15	—
Cervical Glands	—	—
Heart and Circulation	—	—
Lungs	4	—
Development (a) Hernia	—	—
(b) Other	—	—
Orthopaedic (a) Posture	—	—
(b) Flat Foot	2	—
(c) Other	3	—
Nervous system (a) Epilepsy	—	—
(b) Other	1	—
Psychological (a) Development	4	—
(b) Stability	3	—
Other	29	—



## APPENDIX "A"

### Dental Inspections and Treatment

Number of pupils inspected (Periodic and Specials)	.....	2337
Number found to require treatment:—		
(a) Periodic	.....	883
(b) Specials	.....	505
Total	————	1388
Number of individual pupils actually treated	.....	844
Attendances made by pupils for treatment	.....	3190
Fillings:		
Permanent teeth	.....	2005
Temporary	.....	441
Total	————	2446
No. of Teeth Filled:		
Permanent teeth	.....	1878
Temporary	.....	397
Total	————	2275
Extractions:		
Permanent teeth	.....	69
Temporary	.....	693
Total	————	762
Administration of anaesthetics:		
(a) Local	.....	147
(b) General	.....	309
Total	————	456
Other Operations:		
(a) Permanent teeth	.....	1162
(b) Temporary	.....	413
Total	————	1575