

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

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1 ~~Dr. N. R. Beattie~~
2 ~~P. R. O. Region~~

Q.P.

3. ~~Miss Gitting, Room 319~~ *London*
BOROUGH OF *Chesham House*

N.B. 4. ~~Miss Brown, York House~~
WANSTEAD AND WOODFORD

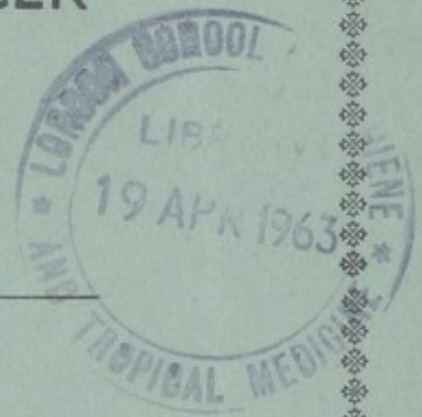
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Annual Report

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH



For the Year Ending 31st December,
1959

B



PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor S. J. Relph (Chairman) (to 3rd November, 1959)

Alderman D. L. Forbes (Vice-Chairman)

Alderman R. W. Dale

Alderman R. A. Dalton

Alderman Mrs. E. F. M. Hollis

Councillor S. T. Appleton

Councillor Mrs. E. Cooper

Councillor E. V. Gardner

Councillor Mrs. M. Owens

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health: F. G. Brown, T.D., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
Deputy Medical Officer of Health: J. T. Jones, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch.
D.P.H. (part time) (from April, 1959)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

M. G. Crook, M.A.P.H.I. (a) (b) (c) (d) (f)

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

J. T. S. Templeman, M.A.P.H.I. (a) (b) (g)

Public Health Inspectors:

A. J. Storer, M.A.P.H.I. (a)

D. R. Chanin, M.A.P.H.I. (a)

J. A. Orrell, M.A.P.H.I. (a) (b) (e)

B. M. Rom, M.A.P.H.I. (a) (b) (from 21.9.1959)

Student Public Health Inspector:

T. Matthews

Clerks:

R. M. Jamieson

Mrs. V. Birkett

-
- (a) Royal Society of Health and Public Health Inspectors' Examination Joint Board Certificate.
 - (b) Royal Society of Health 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 Society of Health's Smoke Inspector's Certificate.
 - (f) General Instructor's (Special) Certificate, Home Office Civil Defence School, Falfield, Glos.
 - (g) City and Guilds Boiler House Practice Certificate.

Wanstead and Woodford Borough Council

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN 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 1959. As in former years a section of this report is given to those services under the National Health Service Act which are administered by the Essex County Council and decentralised to the Forest Health Area Sub-Committee of the County Health Committee. An account of the work of the School Health Service is also included.

Vital Statistics

Birth Rate. The total number of births was 720 being 28 less than the figure for 1958 but greater by 11 births than the average for the past six years. The Birth Rate per 1,000 population was 11.7 as compared with a figure of 16.5 for the country as a whole.

Death Rate. The total number of deaths was 692 an almost similar figure (696) to that of the previous year. The figure per 1,000 population was 11.5 being almost identical to that for England and Wales (11.6).

Infant Mortality Rate i.e., the deaths of infants under one year per 1,000 live births. This figure, which, last year reached the record low figure of 9.6, reverted to the more usual figure of 25 which figure is less than that recorded in 1957 and 1956. When comparing these figures it must be borne in mind that the numbers dealt with are small and that one or two additional deaths will cause a substantial rise in the mortality rate.

Causes of Death

No unusual trends became manifest. Deaths from cancer fell from 127 to 121.

Infectious Disease and Food Poisoning

There were two cases of paralytic poliomyelitis in young children aged 3½ and 2 years. Both cases responded to hospital treatment and in neither was there any significant degree of residual paralysis. These two children had not been immunised previously, not because the parents had objected, but owing to apathy and postponement, despite repeated reminders by the Health Visitor.

643 cases of measles and 48 cases of scarlet fever were notified. Almost all these were mild cases. There were 35 cases of whooping cough; due to immunisation the incidence of this complaint has fallen considerably in recent years.

17 cases of food poisoning and 13 cases of dysentery were notified. All of these were either isolated cases or confined to the same household.

An outbreak of food poisoning occurred at the Junior Occupation Centre for Mental Defectives in Wanstead. Eight children and two members of the Staff were affected. The causal organism was considered to be a staphylococcus which was harboured in the nose of a member of the Staff. The person concerned was suspended from duty and received treatment following which she was rendered non-infectious.

Care of the Aged

The problem of the elderly is an ever-increasing one.

In the report of the Domestic Help Organiser mention is made of the difficulty which arises at times in maintaining an adequate service. Normally the recruitment of home helps will just enable us to do this but during holiday periods and in the first three months of the year when sickness among both the old people and the helps themselves is at its peak, the service given is less than one would wish. Every effort is made to recruit helps of whom 120 are employed in the Borough. I would pay tribute to the excellent work which these women are doing. In many cases they become friends of the recipients who look forward to their visits as a break in an otherwise lonely existence.

Visits made by Health Visitors to aged persons more than doubled during the year—332 in 1959 compared with 161 in the previous year. Many of these visits are to patients who have been discharged from Langthorne Hospital and concerning whom the hospital receives reports as to how the patient is progressing at home. An excellent liaison is thus maintained and, should any deterioration in condition be noted, the question of readmission can be reviewed.

By co-operation between family doctor, district nurse and home help many elderly chronic sick not in need of actual hospital treatment are being cared for adequately at home.

Staff

By arrangement with the Essex County Council Dr. J. T. Jones, an Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, whose work is mainly in Wanstead and Woodford, was appointed to act as my Deputy during my absence from the Borough. For these services he receives an honorarium.

In view of increased duties due to work in connection with the Clean Air Act the establishment of the Public Health Inspectors was increased by one and an appointment made, the Inspector commencing duty in September.

The Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector, Mr. J. T. S. Templeman, was designated Smoke Control Officer.

I am grateful to the Chief Public Health Inspector and all members of the Staff of the Department for the work they have carried out during the year.

My sincere thanks are due to the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for the support they have given me.

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.

26th August, 1960.

SECTION A

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	3,824
Population—Registrar-General's estimate mid-year 1959	61,620
Registrar-General's estimate mid-year 1958	61,220
Rateable Value	£1,042,948
Sum represented by penny rate	£4,251

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year

LIVE BIRTHS

Legitimate	Males	339	Females	354	Total	693
Illegitimate	Males	14	Females	13	Total	27
Total	Males	353	Females	367	Total	720

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—11.7

STILLBIRTHS

Legitimate	Males	14	Females	3	Total	17
Illegitimate	Males	—	Females	1	Total	1
Total	Males	14	Females	4	Total	18

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—24.4

DEATHS

Males 325 Females 367 Total 692

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population— 11.5

Deaths from puerperal causes:—

Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis —

Other maternal causes —

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births 25.0

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 21.6

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 111.1

1958 1959

Deaths from Cancer	127	121
„ „ Measles	Nil	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	Nil	Nil
„ „ Road 'Traffic Accidents	4	7
„ „ Suicide	9	10
„ „ Other Violent Causes	17	12

Population.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population for 1959 (mid-year) was 61,620, an increase of 400 on the figure for 1958 (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.

LIVE BIRTHS			
Legitimate	Males 339	Females 354	Total 693
Illegitimate	Males 14	Females 18	Total 32
Total	Males 353	Females 367	Total 720
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—11.7			
STILLBIRTHS			
Legitimate	Males 14	Females 3	Total 17
Illegitimate	Males —	Females 1	Total 1
Total	Males 14	Females 4	Total 18
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births—24.4			
DEATHS			
Males 325	Females 367	Total 692	
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population—11.5			
Deaths from puerperal causes—			
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis			
Other maternal causes			
Deaths of infants under one year of age—			
All infants per 1,000 live births			
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			
1958	1959		
127	121		
Nil	Nil		
Nil	Nil		
Nil	Nil		
Nil	Nil		
4	7		
8	10		
17	12		
Deaths from Cancer			
Measles			
Whooping Cough			
Diarrhoea (under 5 years of age)			
Road Traffic Accidents			
Suicide			
Other Violent Causes			

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality,
and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1959
England and Wales and London
(Provisional Figures based on Quarterly Returns).

	England and Wales	London Administrative County	Borough of WANSTEAD and WOODFORD
Births: (Rates per 1,000 Home Population)			
Live	16. 5	17. 3	11. 7
Still	0.35	0.34	0.29
Deaths:			
All causes	11. 6	11. 9	11. 5
Malignant Neoplasm			
Lung and Bronchus	0.46	0.63	0.49
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	0.08	0.10	0.08
Influenza	0.14	0.18	0.34
Coronary Disease, Angina	3.17	1.89	1.99
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polioencephalitis	0.00	0.00	—
Pneumonia	0.59	0.91	0.45
(Rates per 1,000 live births)			
All causes under 1 year of age	22.2	22.35	25. 0
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	0.46	°	—
°Figures not available.			

Notifications:

	England and Wales	Borough of Wanstead & Woodford
Typhoid Fever	0.00	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01
Meningococcal Infection	0.02	0.00
Scarlet Fever	1.05	0.78
Whooping Cough	0.73	0.72
Diphtheria	0.00	—
Erysipelas	0.07	0.05
Smallpox	0.00	—
Measles	11.88	10.51
Pneumonia	0.59	0.51
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis):		
Paralytic	0.02	0.03
Non-Paralytic	0.00	—
Food Poisoning	0.22	0.28
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)		
Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	14.0	62.33

Maternal Mortality

	Abortion	Other	Total
England and Wales	0.02	0.04	0.06
Wanstead and Woodford	—	—	—



Totals, 1958

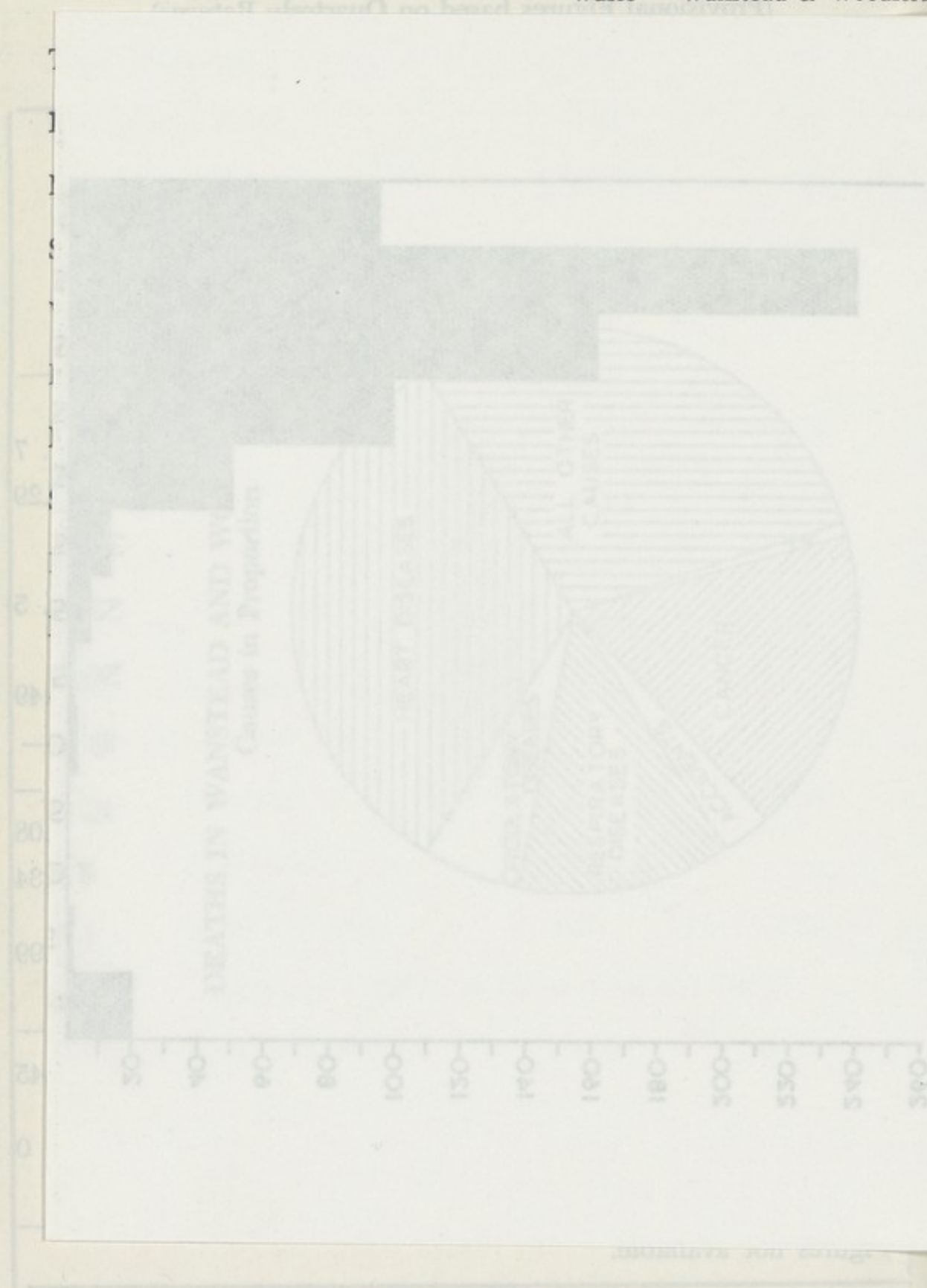
314

382

696

Notifications:

England and Wales Borough of
Wanstead & Woodford



Maternal Mortality

	Abortion	Other	Total
England and Wales	0.02	0.04	0.06
Wanstead and Woodford	—	—	—

Causes of Death as given by the Registrar-General, 1959

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	2	2	4
2. Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	1	1
3. Syphilitic Disease	2	2	4
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach	9	6	15
11. Malignant Neoplasm—Lung and Bronchus	23	7	30
12. Malignant Neoplasm—Breast	—	10	10
13. Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus	—	4	4
14. Malignant Neoplasm—Others	34	28	62
15. Leukaemia	3	1	4
16. Diabetes	1	1	2
17. Vascular Lesions—Nervous System	34	60	94
18. Coronary Disease—Angina	73	50	123
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	7	6	13
20. Other Heart Disease	26	62	88
21. Other Circulatory Disease	20	19	39
22. Influenza	6	15	21
23. Pneumonia	14	14	28
24. Bronchitis	18	15	33
25. Other Respiratory Diseases	3	—	3
26. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	6	2	8
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	5	5
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	2	2
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	5	—	5
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	2	4	6
32. Other Diseases	26	33	59
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	6	1	7
34. All Other Accidents	3	9	12
35. Suicide	2	8	10
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—
Totals, 1959	325	367	692
Totals, 1958	314	382	696

Infant Deaths, Neo-Natal Mortality and Stillbirths

Year	Live Births	Birth Rate	Stillbirths		Neo-Natal Deaths		Infant Deaths	
			No.	Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Population	No.	Per 1,000 Live Births	No.
								Per 1,000 Live Births
1959	720	11.7	18	25.0	0.29	14	19.45	18
1958	748	12.2	13	17.38	0.21	7	9.36	7
1957	713	11.69	17	23.8	0.28	12	16.83	19
1956	677	11.2	10	14.8	0.16	10	14.8	18
1955	694	11.4	11	15.8	0.18	9	12.9	12

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
1959	738	—	—	—	—	—	—
1958	761	—	—	—	—	—	—
1957	730	—	1	1	—	1.37	1.37
1956	687	—	—	—	—	—	—
1955	705	—	1	1	—	1.42	1.42

Maternal Mortality, Stillbirths and Neo-Natal Deaths

Rate per 1,000 Live Births					
	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955
Maternal Mortality	—	—	1.37	—	1.44
Stillbirths	25.0	17.38	23.8	14.8	15.80
Neo-Natal Mortality	19.45	9.36	16.8	14.8	12.90

During 1959 there were no deaths classified as being due to pregnancy, childbearing or associated therewith.

Comparative Statistics of Births, Mortality, etc., 1940 to 1959

Year	Population	Live Births		Still Births		Deaths		Infant Deaths		Maternal Deaths	
		No:	Rate*	No:	Rate†	No:	Rate*	No:	†Rate	No:	§Rate
1959	61620	720	11.7	18	24.4	692	11.5	18	24.4	—	—
1958	61220	748	12.2	13	17.4	696	10.8	7	8.9	—	—
1957	60970	713	11.7	17	23.3	660	10.8	19	26.6	1	1.37
1956	61130	677	11.2	10	14.5	725	11.8	18	26.6	—	—
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	—	—

*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, Wanstead Hospital, Wanstead.

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 seven 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.

George Lane Baptist Church Hall

Friday, 2.30—4 p.m.

All Saints Church Hall, Woodford Wells

Monday, 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.

Alternate Thursdays 4—6.15 p.m. (appointment only)

Fridays, 9.15—11 a.m.

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

Mondays 9.15—11 a.m.—X-ray only.

7. Ambulance Facilities

The service is administered centrally by the County Council from Chelmsford; facilities are available locally through the depot at Chingford.

8. National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47)

No action became necessary to secure the removal of any person in need of care and attention to suitable premises during 1959.

9. Funeral Arrangements

In six cases was the Local Authority required to make arrangements for the burial of persons during the year 1959.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Refuse and Salvage

(a) Refuse Collection and Disposal

The collection and disposal of refuse continued normally throughout the year. No special problems arose in connection with transportation and disposal at the South Ockendon tip.

(b) Salvage

Collection and sale of paper salvage continued and a commencement was made on bailing sorted paper to enable advantage to be taken of the more favourable prices for paper in this form.

(c) Accommodation

In order that all vehicles and plant connected with the cleansing service should be accommodated at one place, it was decided that a new garage building should be provided at Chigwell Road Depot and that this building should incorporate paper sorting, baling and storage facilities, as the existing provision at the transfer loading platform is inadequate. This proposed salvage accommodation will result in more economical operation, being more conveniently situated in relation to the weighbridge and it will also facilitate collection of baled salvage.

Sewerage

No major sewerage works were commenced during the year but minor improvements continued, including the provision of additional manholes where such facilities are lacking.

In order to provide a more thorough system of inspection, maintenance and repair of the sewerage systems, a regular sewer gang was established and engaged solely on all aspects of such work throughout the year.

Sewage Works

(a) **Eastern.** Stage I of the improvement and reconstruction scheme was completed in July. Subsequently, results of the work have been studied and by the end of the year it was already fairly clear that micro-straining plant would have to be provided in stage 2, to reduce the amount of suspended matter in the final effluent to the standard required by the Essex River Board.

(b) **Southern.** Work commenced on Stage 1 of the reconstruction and improvement scheme in July and was anticipated to last 18 months.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The Chief Public Health Inspector reports as follows:—

Housing Act, 1957

In clearance of unfit houses, I am pleased to say that the major part of the five-year programme, originated in 1955, has been completed, and the properties named below include most of the few remaining dwellings on which action has been taken under that programme. There are, of course, several which have come to our notice since 1955.

Properties which were considered in the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1958, but where no action was finalised will be dealt with before setting out the work done in 1959.

17, Victoria Road. This house was considered in 1958 as being suitable for demolition, but a final decision was deferred on account of the mortgagor's agent wishing to submit a specification for its reconditioning. The agents did not, however, submit a specification, and in January, 1959, the Public Health Committee made a demolition order.

63, Wynndale Road. The difficulty found in rehousing people in the borough was reflected in this case, consequently demolition was not possible during 1959.

Demolitions. The following houses were demolished during 1959:—

14, Horn Lane, Woodford Green.

19, George Lane, E.18.

6, Albert Road, E.18.

62 and 62a, Prospect Road, Woodford Green.

7 and 9, Voluntary Place, Wanstead, E.11.

17, Victoria Road, E.18.

The demolition of Nos. 7 and 9, Voluntary Place was undertaken by contractors acting on behalf of the owners. The firm failed to complete the work consequently the Borough Engineer was asked to carry out the remainder of the demolition.

Clearance Areas. Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957, provides that a local authority, upon consideration of an official representation or other information are satisfied that the houses in that area are unfit for human habitation, etc., and that the most satisfactory method of dealing with the conditions is the demolition of the buildings within that area, may make a clearance order.

During 1959, the Medical Officer of Health represented one area—Nos. 3 to 17 (odd numbers inclusive) Grove Hill, E.18. The properties form four semi-detached pairs three storeys high. Four contained basements. They came within the scope of the Housing Act because of decay and neglect over many years.

Unfit premises beyond repair at reasonable cost.

Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957, provides for property unfit for human habitation and which is not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered so fit. Unlike the section previously mentioned where a number of dwellings are dealt with as one area, this section is used where one dwelling or a small number of dwellings are involved. Under this section the owner may come before the Public Health Committee to state his proposals for the future use of the building. Should the owner not submit proposals then the Council must make a demolition or closing order.

No. 28a, High Road, Woodford Green was dealt with under this section in 1959 and a closing order made.

Section 18 of the Act provides for the treatment of part of a building in a similar way to that allowed for in Section 16 above. Basements can therefore be dealt with under this Section and in 1959 the following were dealt with and closed:

4, 6, and 10, Clarendon Road.

32 and 34, Grosvenor Road, E.11.

Further to the above the following basements were dealt with in the manner indicated:

8a, Clarendon Road, 11c and 31a, Hermon Hill. The owners appeared before the Public Health Committee and undertook to render the basements fit for human habitation within six months. The works were completed during that period.

39, Hermon Hill, E.11. Specification of works were submitted to the Public Health Committee and accepted. Works rendering the flat fit for human habitation were executed.

55 and 57, Globe Road were the subject of demolition orders made in 1958. After some delay in re-housing the tenants because of a shortage of alternative accommodation, the owners were approached to demolish the houses. Their unfulfilled promises made it necessary for the local authority to obtain tenders for the demolition.

7, 9, 11 and 11a, Victoria Road and 64-72, Prospect Road were reported upon and visited by the Sub-Standard Dwellings Sub-Committee of the Public Health Committee.

Basement at 3, Hermon Hill. An unusual request, by the local branch of Toc H, was made to the Public Health Committee for permission to use the basement rooms as a meeting place for that organisation. Permission was granted subject to works being executed to remedy the dampness. This basement was the subject of a closing order.

42 to 54, Victoria Road, E.18. At the end of the year a request was received from the Housing Committee for a report on these houses. Details will be given in the report for 1960.

Section 9—Work in default.

It was necessary to obtain tenders for work of repair to one house—126, West Grove, Woodford Green. For various reasons, i.e., illness, etc., it was not possible to do the work in 1959.

Rent Act, 1957.

The number of applications fell considerably during 1959, the number being 7; a contrast with the figure of 49 for the year 1958 and 46 for 1957.

Other figures in connection with this Act are set out in the following table—the figures for 1958 being in brackets:

Part I—Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

1. Number of applications for Certificates	7 (49)
2. Number of decisions not to issue Certificates	Nil (Nil)
3. Number of decisions to issue Certificates (Form J)	8 (46)
(a) in respect of some but not all defects	6 (37)
(b) in respect of all defects	2 (9)
4. Number of undertakings given by landlord (Form K)	4 (30)
5. Number of undertakings refused by local authority	Nil (Nil)
6. Number of Certificates issued (Form L)	4 (26)

Part II—Applications for cancellation of Certificates

7. Applications by landlords to local authority for cancellation of Certificates (Form M)	15 (17)
8. Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates	5 (10)
9. Decisions by local authority to cancel in spite of tenants' objections	2 (3)
10. Certificates cancelled by local authority	10 (12)

Housing Act Overcrowding.

There were no cases of overcrowding to report to the Public Health Committee during 1959.

Work in default.

Six dustbins were supplied to five houses under the provisions of Section 75 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Other work executed by the Local Authority.

The Council undertook to renew eight manhole covers and frames on lengths of public sewers. One house was disinfested (bugs) under Section 83 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Wasps Nests.

The work in destroying wasps nests continued during the year in which 216 nests were successfully destroyed.

Meat Inspection.

Inspections of the local wholesale meat depot have been made during the year.

There has been a marked increase in the amount of meat preparation for manufacturing purposes. In general a reasonably high standard of hygiene has been maintained.

As mentioned last year the Depot is a convenient place to check retailers' vans, and in two cases proceedings were instituted against retailers for unsatisfactory vehicles.

CLEAN AIR

I am pleased to report definite progress during 1959.

In Circular No. 5/59 the Minister asked local authorities within "black" areas to consider their domestic smoke problem as a whole and to decide the Smoke Control Orders needed, in which priority they should be made and how many years it was likely to take to complete the job. Local authorities were then asked to prepare a phased programme for establishing Smoke Control areas over the next five years.

The Minister confirmed by letter that this Authority should regard its district as being in a "black" area for the purposes of Circular 5/59.

The Council then decided to make the whole Borough smoke controlled within ten years, and the No. 1 Area should be that part of the Borough bounded by Grove Road on the north, Woodford Road and Hollybush Hill on the east and the Borough boundary on the west.

It was further decided that the next four areas (which together with No. 1 area make up the five years programme) should be situated in the southern part of the Borough linking up with the No. 1 Area.

The Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector was appointed Smoke Control Officer.

The No. 1 Area was chosen, not because it was considered that the problem of atmospheric pollution was worse in that particular area than elsewhere in the Borough but because (a) owing to the shape of the Borough and the direction of the prevailing winds the greatest benefit will accrue to the Borough as a whole and (b) the area contains a large variety of properties varying from the largest houses in the Borough to small terraced houses. Valuable information will be obtained for the use on the remainder of the Smoke Control areas.

The No. 1 Smoke Control Area covers 232 acres and has a total of 1,548 premises, as follows:—

Industrial premises	5
Commercial premises	15
Dwellings	1,524
Other premises	4
	<hr/>
	1,548

As the Minister had already given provisional clearance to the proposals in 1958, it was possible to proceed with the detailed survey, although this was held up for some time owing to shortage of staff.

The survey, carried out by the Public Health Inspectors, showed that the present annual consumption of bituminous coal amounted to 1,675 tons of which 275 tons were used on the central heating plant of a large block of flats, and 100 tons on small house boilers, etc. The remainder, i.e., 1,300 tons, was burnt on open fires.

1,184 new appliances would be required including 1,138 open fires, 37 open fires with boilers, 3 gas or electric cookers and 6 wash-boilers. In addition 1,194 gas points are required.

It is estimated that the total cost of adapting or altering fireplaces will be £14,777.

In connection with the figure of 1,300 tons of bituminous coal at present used in the area it is interesting to note the results of an investigation carried out by the British Coal Utilisation Research Association which showed that every 100 lbs. of coal burnt in an open domestic fire emits into the atmosphere from 2½ to 5 lbs. of smoke. Taking the lower figure of 2½ lbs. per 100 lbs. of coal, the weight of smoke emitted in the area is of the order of 32½ tons per year.

The Smoke Control Order was made by the Council in December, and submitted to the Minister for confirmation. It was hoped to make the date of operation 1st November, 1960, but a few objections to the Order and a subsequent Public Inquiry has meant that it will not be possible to adhere to this date.

The Council have been represented on the Joint Conference of Local Authorities in S.W. Essex by the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Medical Officer of Health and the Smoke Control Officer.

Two meetings were held during the year one at Walthamstow and the other at East Ham.

It is clear that surrounding boroughs with one exception, are taking steps to implement the Clean Air Act and declare smoke control areas.

The Chairman of the Public Health Committee and Smoke Control Officer are the Council's representatives on the Standing Conference of Co-operating Bodies of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. Two meetings were held during the year, one in London and the other at the Warren Spring Laboratories, Stevenage, at which technical lectures and discussions took place.

The measurement of Smoke and SO² by daily volumetric instruments at the Municipal Offices and Oak Hall Court, Wanstead, continued during the year.

Details of the average monthly readings are given below:—

Woodford (Municipal Offices)

1959

	Smoke (milligrams per 100 cub. metres)		Sulphur Dioxide (Parts per 100 million)	
	Average	Highest	Average	Highest
January	34	81	12.9	36.6
February	32	108	13.1	64.9
March	15	47	5.3	13.8
April	11	26	5.0	10.4
May	4	10	2.1	6.6
June	3	7	2.2	4.2
July	1	3	2.2	7.0
August	31	65	2.1	3.7
September	4	10	2.1	6.4
October	9	21	5.7	13.0
November	17	40	11.3	23.3
December	18.7	47	10.9	32.5

Wanstead (Oak Hall Court)..

1959

	Smoke (milligrams per 100 cub. metres)		Sulphur Dioxide (Parts per 100 million)	
	Average	Highest	Average	Highest
January	38	106	15.1	43.9
February	37	120	14.6	61.8
March	23	64	7.0	14.7
April	12	33	5.7	11.1
May	4	10	2.2	7.1
June	4	10	2.5	4.8
July	2	4	2.1	5.4
August	3	8	2.1	3.7
September	4	10	2.3	6.6
October	10	23	6.0	14.2
November	20	57	13.3	28.4
December	23.8	65	11.5	32.9

Average yearly figures for the two stations are given below:—

Woodford (Municipal Offices)

Smoke

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Average for year	19	18	17	19	13
Average for winter months	32	29	31	27.3	19
Average for summer months	6	7	5	6.5	4.3
Highest daily recording	153	112	205	108	108

Sulphur Dioxide

Average for year	5.5	6	6.0	7.0	6.0
Average for winter months	8	9	9.3	8.6	9.9
Average for summer months	3	3	2.1	4.7	2.5
Highest daily recording	38	40	69	39.6	64.9

Wanstead (Oakhall Court)

Smoke

	1959
Average for year	15
Average for winter months	25
Average for summer months	5
Highest daily recording	120

Sulphur Dioxide

Average for year	7.6
Average for winter months	11.0
Average for summer months	2.5
Average daily recording	45.7

Two periods of fog were recorded, one in January and the other in February, fortunately both were of fairly short duration. It was, of course, during the fogs that the highest daily reading occurred.

It will be noticed that the average figures for 1959 have fallen from previous years. It is felt that this decrease is probably due to the very fine weather which extended for considerable periods over the year, and to a lesser degree, the voluntary change to smokeless fuels as people became more clean air conscious.

I think the figures give further confirmation that the main pollutant within the Borough is domestic smoke.

Rodent Control.

Two sewer treatments were carried out during the year.

In the first treatment, using sausage rusk as bait base and zinc phosphide as poison, 1,382 manholes were baited. 462 showed complete prebait takes and 66 partial takes.

The second treatment, using the same bait base and poison, was restricted roughly to those manholes which had shown takes in the first treatment. 541 manholes were baited, 265 showed complete prebait takes and 42 partial takes.

The figures on both treatment show a slight reduction on 1958 figures, and it is hoped that this improvement will continue.

The following table gives details of surface treatments:—

Number of inspections made by Public Health Inspectors	211
Complaints received	374
Revisits to premises	226
Visits to adjacent premises	99
Total premises visited	699
Number of baiting points	3,605

In April the Town Clerk reported to the Public Health Committee the receipt of a circular from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food informing local authorities of the cessation, after 31st March, 1959, of grants towards the cost of rodent control.

On the 27th November, 1959, a one-day course for rodent operatives organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, was held in the Council Chamber. About 15 operatives from this and neighbouring authorities attended. The course included lectures on the latest methods of pest destruction interspaced with appropriate films.

Essex County Council Act, 1933, Section 109

There were no applications for permission to place or keep moveable dwellings on land situate within the borough. This section provides that no moveable dwellings shall be placed or kept on any land situate within any urban district in the County having a population of not less than twenty thousand without the prior approval of such urban council.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

The number of licences granted to persons enabling them to keep a pet shop remained at four.

Three of the licences were renewed on the existing conditions, but, following an inspection by a Veterinary Surgeon to the fourth premises, the Public Health Committee placed a restriction on the number of puppies the proprietor could keep there at any one time, bearing in mind the staff available for their welfare. The proprietor subsequently made representations against this restriction, and after interview at the next meeting of the Committee, she was granted a licence containing only the usual conditions. The Committee asked, however, that the cleanliness of the kennels be improved.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

The only premises registered in the borough since the commencement of the Act closed down owing to expiration of the lease.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.

67 licences were issued during the year, of which 56 were renewals, 8 new licences were granted to cover total storage of 873½ gallons and 3 garages increased their capacity by 10,400 gallons.

262 visits were made by the inspectors.

The Home Office recommendations with regard to the provision of flameproof fittings and limiting devices to existing pumps were considered by the Public Health Committee. It was resolved to require that such fittings and devices be fitted by the 1st January, 1960, and all the firms concerned were accordingly notified by the Town Clerk. Four firms requested and were granted an extension of time to enable them to carry out the necessary works.

A proprietor of a shop and filling station discontinued the use of his storage facilities without taking the requisite step of notifying the local authority ten days before such discontinuance. A breach of the conditions of the licence was thus created and reported to the Public Health Committee. Proceedings against the firm were authorised, the case being heard at Stratford Magistrates' Court where a conviction was obtained and a fine of £5 imposed with one guinea costs.

The Town Clerk was authorised to take action against another owner of a filling station who carried out alterations in connection with the storage of petroleum without notifying the local authority. In view of the highly inflammable and explosive nature of petroleum and its vapour, the Public Health Committee (acting for the Council) regarded the matter seriously. Developments will be recorded in the Annual Report for 1960.

Game Licences.

The number of licences to sell game was further reduced this year, there now being only four licensees.

Shops Act, 1950.

The small number of minor infringements of the Act noted during the year mainly concerned the display of statutory notices and these were dealt with informally, no formal action being necessary.

73 visits were made during the year.

Essex County Council Act, 1933.

Massage and Special Treatment Establishments.

The Public Health Inspectors were again requested by the Essex County Council to visit and report to them on the condition of the premises prior to licensing. All were satisfactory.

12 visits were paid.

Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act, 1952.

During the year a local branch of a multiple store was found to be selling electric fires with inadequate guards. The manager immediately withdrew them from sale and subsequently we were informed that the fires were to be provided with a stronger guard before again being offered for sale.

24 visits were made to various shops in the district in order to ensure compliance with the Act and Regulations.

Swimming Bath Water.

Four samples of water were obtained from swimming baths in the area, three of the pools are situated within school premises and the fourth is in the grounds of a children's home. All the samples were of a satisfactory standard and suitable for swimming purposes.

Open Spaces—Nuisances from travelling caravan dwellers (gypsy type).

It became necessary to report to the Public Health Committee that unfenced land reserved for an open space and owned by the Council was being used at frequent intervals by dwellers in horse-drawn caravans. Because the land is under the control of the Highways and Open Spaces Committee the matter was referred to them. Subsequently proper fencing and padlocked gates were provided.

NEW LEGISLATION

During the year the Public Health Committee noted, and where necessary, discussed the following:

1. Fabrics (Misdescription) Regulations, 1959.
2. Meat (Staining and Sterilising) Regulations, 1959. (These were cancelled by the appropriate Ministry soon after making).
3. Housing (Underground Rooms) Act, 1959, and Regulations made thereunder.
4. Slaughterhouses Act, 1958.
Slaughterhouse (Report) Direction, 1959.
Slaughterhouse Reports (Appointed Day) Order, 1959.

The above Order and Direction (4) made under the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, required the Council, by November, 1959, to report to the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, after consultations with such organisations as appear to represent interests in the butchery and allied trades on the following matters:

(a) The existing and probable future requirements of their district for slaughtering facilities having regard both to the needs of persons requiring the use of such facilities and other persons and

(b) The slaughtering facilities which are or are likely to become available to meet their requirements.

To enable this authority to draw up the necessary details a questionnaire with accompanying explanatory letter was sent to all interested firms or people.

39 questionnaires were despatched of which 34 were returned.

Generally speaking supplies of meat are obtained largely from the Smithfield Market and to a lesser degree from a local meat wholesaler.

Returns indicated that the butchers are satisfied with the standard of supply and with the present arrangements for obtaining it. Only one butcher stated that he would probably use a local slaughterhouse if one were available and that only at certain unspecified times.

In the questionnaire the butchers were asked for suggestions as to the possible improvement in slaughtering or other facilities. Only two comments were received on this point—one to the effect that Smithfield was out-of-date and one that the Islington slaughterhouse required improving. One reply expressed the view that central slaughtering was preferred to private slaughtering.

In response to the request from one trade union to be consulted about the requirements of the Order and Direction a Divisional Officer was interviewed who pointed out the need, if slaughtering facilities were provided, for proper arrangements in the way of welfare and hygiene for the workers and for the humane handling of animals and the hygienic preparation of carcasses, etc.

The reply to the Minister by the Town Clerk after a report was submitted to the Council was as follows:

(i) That having regard to both the needs of persons likely to require the use of slaughtering facilities, and of other persons, the Council is satisfied that the existing arrangements are satisfactory; that future requirements can be met thereby and that there is no need for slaughterhouses within its districts;

(ii) That no slaughterhouses exist within the district;

(iii) That there are no premises for which a slaughterhouse licence is in force or was in force at some date during the twelve months preceding the submission of this report.

(iv) That there are no outstanding applications for new slaughterhouse licences.

The Minister in acknowledging the receipt of the report indicated his acceptance thereof.

Inspections carried out by Public Health Inspectors

Infectious Disease enquiries, including enquiries in respect of scabies	75
Visits in connection with contacts, disinfection, etc.	8
Enquiries in connection with food poisoning	24
Verminous Premises	25

General Environmental Public Health

Drains and Sewers inspected	}	671
Drain tests applied		
Stables and manure pits inspected		10
Public Conveniences and Urinals		12
Factories (mechanical)		133
Factories (non-mechanical)		12
Hairdressers' Premises		15
Schools and School Canteens		18
Ditches, Streams and Ponds		13
Open Spaces and Playing Fields		25
Petrol Inspections		262
Shops Act Inspections		73
Outworkers' premises		61
Massage Establishments		12
Pet Animals Act		6
Fairgrounds		4
Swimming Baths		11
Smoke Observations		18
Workplaces		2
Rent Act		151
Tents, Vans and Sheds—Gypsies		27
Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act and Regulations		24
Piggeries		5
Smoke Control Area (Proposed)		2,201
Miscellaneous		162

SECTION D. HOUSING

No. of dwellings erected during 1959:

Council	46
Private Enterprise	140

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)	1,139
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2,139

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	—
(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	123

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	93
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) *Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1957:*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	11
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	9
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

(c) *Proceedings under Section 16 and 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	8

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including Inspections made by Public Health 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	38	12	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies . . .	170	133	6	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	208	145	6	—

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	3	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation . .	1	1	1	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences:				
1 Insufficient	1	1	—	—
2 Unsuitable or defective	3	3	1	—
3 Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	8	8	4	—

3. Outwork

Number of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)
Boxes 25

—
25
—

Factories Act 1937, Section 34—Means of Escape in Case of Fire

Four certificates of means of escape in case of fire were issued during the year. In one case the Public Health Committee refused to grant a certificate until work recommended by the Chief Public Health Inspector (with the support of Her Majesty's Inspector of Factories and the Fire Prevention Officer of the Essex County Council) had been executed. The proprietor objected to doing the work and asked to appear before the Public Health Committee. His request was refused because of the recommendations of the above officers. Following this refusal the proprietor carried out all the required works and a certificate was granted.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Refused by H.M. Inspector	Number of defects in respect of which processions were instituted
Want of cleanliness	3	3	3	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	1	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences:				
1 Insufficient	1	1	—	—
2 Unsuitable or defective	3	3	1	—
3 Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	8	8	4	—

SECTION E. FOOD AND DRUGS

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

The following cases were reported to the Public Health Committee with results as indicated:

1. Offences against provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations:
Proceedings against:

(a) a street trader on four occasions	Fines: £10 plus 3 gns. costs £5 plus 1 guinea costs £45 plus 20 guineas costs £20 plus 3 guineas costs
(b) the trader's employee on one occasion	Fine: £4
(c) a shop keeper and his wife	Fines: 2 guineas each.
(d) a shop keeper and his employee	Fines £1 each.
2. Offences in connection with defective condition of meat vans:
Proceedings against:

(a) Two owners	Fines: £5 plus 2 guineas costs each.
(b) One driver	Fine £2
3. Food Samples.

Rice sample containing 1 per cent whole grains, otherwise all broken grains	Resolved that no action be taken.
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4. Food complaints:
Proceedings against:

(a) Baker—loaf of bread containing screw	Fine 10 guineas plus 5 gns. costs
(b) Producer of butter—½lb. packet containing wood sliver	Fine 10 guineas plus 5 gns. costs
(c) Vendor of above	Case dismissed.
Others.	
(a) Milk bottle containing a piece of broken glass	Warning letter sent to Dairy-man.
(b) Half pound packet of butter containing glass sliver.	Warning letter sent to Dairy-man.
(c) Bottles of milk containing foreign matter	No action

The following is a list of foods surrendered in 1959 because of unsound conditions:

Fish, Fresh

508 lbs.

Meat, Fresh

Pork	98 lbs.
Ox Crops (Australian)	168 lbs.
Beef (Argentine)	125 lbs.
Beef (English)	25 lbs.
Lambs Livers	11 lbs.
Lamb (English)	68 lbs.
Lamb (New Zealand)	87 lbs.
Mutton	34 lbs.
Rabbit	55 lbs.
Beef Sausages	24 lbs.
Pork Sausages	44 lbs.
Pigs Kidneys	22 lbs.
Turkeys	40 lbs.

Miscellaneous Tinned Foods

200 tins

Fruit, Fresh

20 lbs.

Meat, Tinned

Ham	1,463 lbs.
Chicken	24 lbs.
Corned Beef	171 lbs.
Steak	44 lbs.
Luncheon Meat	37 lbs.
Pilchards	4 lbs.
Pressed Tongue Meat	96 lbs.
Ox Tongues	340 lbs.
Jellied Veal	12 lbs.
Lambs Livers	10 lbs.

The list of food sampled is given below:—

Apples	3	Lard	1
Bacon	2	Lemon Cheese	1
Beef Steak with Gravy	1	Lemon Curd	1
Browning	1	Liver Paste	1
Butter	3	Lollies—Cream	3
Cake Mixture	1	Lollies—Ice	3
Chocolate Spread	1	Malt Vinegar	1
Chutney	1	Marmalade	1
Coffee and Chicory Essence	1	Milk	13
Currants	2	Minced Beef	5
Custard Powder	1	Minced Beef with Onions	1
Dandelion Coffee	1	Mincemeat	1
Dates	1	Mint in Vinegar	1
Demerara Sugar	2	Mint Sauce	4
Desiccated Coconut	1	Mixed Fruit	1
Faggots	1	Mixed Herbs	1
Figs	1	Mixed Peel	1
Flour—Plain	2	Mixed Spice	1
Glaze Cherries	2	Oranges	4
Ground Almonds	2	Polish Sweetmeat	1
Ground Cinnamon	1	Pork Pie	1
Ground Nutmegs	1	Raisins	1
Ham	1	Rhubarb (Tinned)	1
Honey	1	Rice	2
Horseradish	1	Rice—Flaked	1
Horseradish—Grated	1	Salad Cream	1
Instant Icing	1	Salmon	1
Jellies	2	Sausage Rolls	1

Savormix	1	Tomato Sticks	1
Smoked Cheese	1	Washed Bran	1
Stem Ginger	1	White Pepper	1
Sultanas	1		
Tea	2		104
Tomato Chutney	1		

Manufacture, Storage and Sale of Ice Cream.

Nine applications for premises to be registered for the storage and sale of ice cream were received and considered by the Public Health Committee. With two exceptions all were granted.

In one case the firm's storage arrangements were considered unsatisfactory. They decided not to proceed with the application. The second application to which exception was taken came from a green-grocer. In accordance with the provisions of Section 19 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Committee served a time and place notice upon the applicant inviting him to appear before them to show cause why the local authority should not, for reasons specified in the notice, refuse the application. The applicant did not avail himself of this opportunity, consequently no further action was taken.

Ice Cream (Bacteriological Examination)

Forty-three samples of ice cream and five of lollies were obtained and the results were as follows:—

Ice Cream:

		Ministry of Health's Provisional Grading			
		Grade I	Grade II	Grade III	Grade IV
Nos.	43	38	3	1	1
per cent	100	88.4	7.0	2.3	2.3

Lollies:

The Bacteriologist reported:—

"The samples are of satisfactory bacterial purity."

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., F.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.S.H., W. A. Bullough, Esq., C.B.E., M.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Gordon Miles, Esq., B.Sc., F.R.I.C., F.R.S.H., R. F. Rackham, Esq., B.Sc., M.R.S.H., and E. English, Esq., B.Pharm., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.) 66 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1. The Department is appreciative of the help given by these two laboratories during the year.

The food premises in the District may be classified as follows:—

Confectioners (cakes, pastries)	29
Grocers	77
Greengrocers	35
Butchers	35
Confectioners and Tobacconists	72
Restaurants and cafes	34
Fishmongers	15
Dairies and Milkshops	10
Miscellaneous	33

of these

109 are registered for the storage and sale of ice cream;

55 are registered for the preparation of preserved foods.

Disposal of unsound foodstuffs

The unsound food condemned by the Public Health Inspectors is destroyed in the incinerator at Chingford.

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

The following licences were issued:

Dealers' Licences:

Pasteurised	14	Sterilised	29	Tuberculin Tested	12
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Supplementary Licences:

Pasteurised	9	Sterilised	10	Tuberculin Tested	9
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Inspection of Food Premises and Vehicles

Butchers' Shops, Stalls, etc	134
Wholesale Butchers' Depots	109
Cooked Meat Shops	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Butchers' Carriers' Vans	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Bakehouses	.....	.....	.....	.....	54
Fishmongers	.....	.....	.....	.....	34
Grocers	.....	.....	.....	.....	144
Restaurants and Cafes	.....	.....	.....	.....	55
Dairies and Milkshops	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
Greengrocers	.....	.....	.....	.....	92
Ice Cream Premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	48
Street Vendors	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Food and Drugs Sampling	.....	.....	.....	.....	81
Ice Cream Sampling	.....	.....	.....	.....	48
Milk Sampling	.....	.....	.....	.....	27
Other Premises	.....	.....	.....	.....	59
Food Hygiene Regulations	.....	.....	.....	.....	557

1,493

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 percentages 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	48	2	4.0	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	31	3	10	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	2	100	—	—
Acute Polioencephalitis	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	13	2	15	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	46	46	100°	—	—
Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—
Measles	643	4	0.6	—	—
Whooping Cough	35	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	17	—	—	—	—

°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 & Over
Scarlet Fever	48	1	16	21	8	2	—	—	—
Pneumonia	31	—	4	1	2	1	6	10	7
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	13	—	3	2	1	1	2	3	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	46	—	—	—	—	19	27	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Measles	643	15	335	284	5	2	2	—	—
Whooping Cough	35	1	21	11	1	1	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	17	—	—	4	2	5	4	2	—
TOTALS	840	18	381	324	19	31	42	16	9

Poliomyelitis

During 1959 two 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, 1939—1959

Year	Population	No. Notified	Notification Rate	Age Group							Deaths	Death Rate
				Under 1	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	Over 45		
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	—	—	—
1956	61130	1	0.016	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1957	60970	5	0.079	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—
1958	61220	1	0.016	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1959	61620	2	0.033	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The figures in brackets are the comparable figures for 1959

Tuberculosis

The following table shows particulars of new cases of tuberculosis and of deaths from the disease in the Borough during 1959.

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	—	—	—	—
10-15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25 years	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25-35 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35-45 years	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 years	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
55-65 years	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
65 and over	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	1
TOTALS	9	8	—	1	2	2	—	1
	17		1		4		1	
	18				5			

The 5 deaths represent a death rate of 0.08 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				Total Notifi- cations	Total Notifi- cation rate	Deaths				Total Deaths	Total Death Rate
	No.	Pulmonary Rate	No.	Non-Pulmonary Rate			No.	Pulmonary Rate	No.	Non-Pulmonary Rate		
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
1956	30	0.49	2	0.03	32	0.52	6	0.09	1	0.02	7	0.11
1957	26	0.42	1	0.01	27	0.43	2	0.03	1	0.01	3	0.01
1958	32	0.52	2	0.03	34	0.55	3	0.05	—	—	3	0.05
1959	18	0.29	—	—	18	0.29	4	0.06	1	0.02	5	0.08

Rates per 1,000 population.

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

17 (32) Pulmonary and 1 (2) non-Pulmonary cases were notified during the year.

34 (34) cases were transferred into the District.

1 (2) cases were restored to the register.

4 (3) Pulmonary and 1 (No) non-Pulmonary died during the year

33 (32) other cases were removed from the register.

576(556) cases remained on the register at the close of the year.

The figures in brackets are the comparable figures for 1958

SECTION G. PART III SERVICES
FOREST HEALTH AREA SUB-COMMITTEE
 Chairman: County Councillor Mrs. E. F. M. Hollis

Vice-Chairman: Councillor W. J. Bowstead, J.P.

Membership:

Chingford Borough Council	Councillor Mrs. D. King Councillor W. J. Bowstead, J.P. Councillor Mrs. D. M. E. Linfoot
Wanstead and Woodford Borough Council	Councillor Mrs. S. V. F. Ashton M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. Councillor E. V. Gardner Councillor Mrs. I. E. C. Haselden Councillor S. J. Relph B.Pharm. (Hons.), F.P.S. F.L.S., A.C.T. (Birm.)
Chigwell Urban District Council	Councillor W. J. Halford Councillor Mrs. V. L. M. Martin Councillor S. J. Palfreman. Councillor E. G. Perry Councillor A. J. Hyde Councillor Mrs. E. Druce Councillor Mrs. L. E. Davidson Councillor Mrs. J. M. Davies Councillor Mrs. H. E. Howard
Epping U.D.C.	County Councillor Mrs.
Harlow U.D.C.	S. M. Bovill J. W. Randall Nation, Esq. Dr. H. Grylls
Waltham Holy Cross U.D.C.	
Epping & Ongar R.D.C.	
Hospital Management Committee	
Executive Council for Essex	
Local Medical Committee for Essex	
Essex County Council	Alderman Mrs. M. Ball (ex-officio) Alderman A. E. Brown Councillor A. G. Cole Councillor Mrs. L. Fallaise (ex-officio) Councillor Miss D. D. Forster M.A. Councillor Mrs. E. F. M. Hollis Councillor F. A. Wortley Mrs. Vernon Walker
British Red Cross Society	
Tuberculosis Care Association	Mrs. A. C. Murray Mrs. L. M. Scott
Chigwell O.P.W. Committee	Mrs. M. E. Clinch
Women's Voluntary Services	

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 two medical officers of the Essex County Council working in the Borough and undertaking duties appertaining to Maternity and Child Welfare as well as three practitioners who regularly attend Child Welfare Clinics being employed on a sessional basis.

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN (Section 22)

There were 441 attendances at the ante-natal clinic at 118 Hermon Hill.

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 this 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

These classes have retained their popularity with expectant mothers, and many mothers have expressed their appreciation of the advice they have been given and the help they have found the instruction to be at the time of their confinement. It is interesting to note that more requests are now being received from General Practitioners for their patients to attend these classes.

Three weekly sessions are held in the Clinic at 118 Hermon Hill, the classes deliberately being kept numerically small to enable individual attention to be given. By this means the Health Visitor is enabled to maintain personal contact.

At these classes short talks are given on preparation for the confinement and on various aspects of personal hygiene for mother and infant.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Wanstead and Woodford	England and Wales
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	11.7	16.5
Still birth rate per 1,000 population	0.29	0.35
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	25.0	22.2

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY

The neo-natal mortality is the number of infants dying under one month per 1,000 live births. During 1959 14 infants died in the first four weeks of life, a rate of 19.45.

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of children under 1 year during 1959 - 18

Cause of death	Number
Anencephalic	1
Asphyxia	2
Atelectasis	3
Broncho-pneumonia	1
Congenital morbus cordis	1
Erythroblastosis foetalis	1
Intra cranial haemorrhage	3
Meningitis	1
Prematurity	3
Staphylococcal pneumonia	1

CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

During 1959, 39 premature infants were born to residents in the Borough, 8 of these births taking place at home and 31 in hospital or nursing home. 7 of the 8 born at home were alive at the end of one month; 28 of the 31 born in hospital or private nursing home survived.

CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

Attendance at the Child Welfare Clinics has shown a slight fall during 1959.

The seven centres are held in hired premises, some of them old buildings. Every attempt is being made to find a suitable site upon which to erect a modern building. Nevertheless, it can be said that the Borough is well catered for in this respect.

The number of mothers consulting the medical officers at the clinics is falling, and in some cases the doctor is now attending only alternate sessions. This follows the general trend since the introduction of the National Health Service, the function of the Child Wel-

fare Clinic changing more to one of health education. The Health Visitors devote considerable time to giving short talks to small groups of mothers, often illustrated by film strips, on child care.

Attendance figures were made up as follows:-

Baptist Church Hall, Aldersbrook	1,372
Ashton Playing Fields, Woodford Bridge	2,222
St. Barnabas' Church Hall, Snakes Lane	3,685
Fullers Road, South Woodford	2,557
Cromwell Hall, Nightingale Lane, Wanstead	1,799
Holy Trinity, Hermon Hill, South Woodford	3,076
All Saints Church Hall, Woodford Wells	1,248
	<hr/>
	15,959
	<hr/>

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, 9 Cambridge Park, Wanstead, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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

NURSERY AND CHILD MINDERS REGULATIONS 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	2	28
Child Minders	3	13

WOMEN'S WELFARE CLINIC

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 176 attendances during the year.

MIDWIFERY (Section 23)

There were only two domiciliary midwives practising in the Borough of Wanstead and Woodford during 1959, but with the help of neighbouring midwives, a good midwifery service was maintained.

Both midwives are approved midwifery teachers and continued to take pupils for their Part II Midwifery Training during 1959. A third midwife has now been appointed and will commence her duties when a new bungalow which is in process of erection is completed.

Supervision of the midwifery staff is carried out by Miss A. Williams, Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives, on the staff of the Area Medical Officer.

No. of confinements attended as midwife	146
No. of confinements attended as maternity nurse, i.e. doctor also present	64
	<hr/> 210 <hr/>

GAS AND AIR ANALGESIA

A total of 184 patients in the district received gas and air analgesia.

TRAINING OF PUPIL MIDWIVES

The two District Midwives in Wanstead and Woodford who are approved as Midwifery Teachers continued to take pupils for their Part II Midwifery Training during 1959.

HEALTH VISITING (Section 24)

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:—

The Health Visiting Staff—numbering five and one Tuberculosis Health Visitor—has remained at full establishment during the year.

In addition, a Clinic Nurse helps Health Visitors with Poliomyelitis Clinics, School Medical Inspections, Hygiene Inspections, Minor Ailment Clinics, Gas Sessions for 3½ days per week, thus relieving the Health Visitors for more educational work, i.e. Relaxation Classes, Health Education in Schools and talks to various Clubs, Townswomen's Guilds.

The Health Visitors have derived great benefit by a 2-day In-Service Training Course on Human Relations given by the Central Council for Health Education, thus keeping them up-to-date with modern trends.

Two Student Health Visitors received practical training in Tuberculosis Health Visiting and Chest Clinic experience at Harts Hospital.

One Student from the University of Southampton on a Social Studies Course also received practical training.

Twenty-four Student Nurses from Wanstead Hospital have each received two days practical training in the Public Health field during the year (May and October 1959). Relaxation and Mothercraft classes continue to be popular.

The following table sets out statistically the work of the Health Visitors in the Borough during 1959:—

Expectant Mothers (first visits)	135
Expectant Mothers (re-visits)	110
Infants under one year (first visits)	699
Infants under one year (re-visits)	1,449
Infants 1 to 5 years (first visits)	83
Infants 1 to 5 years (re-visits)	2,202
Stillbirth enquiries	24
Infant death	14
Tuberculosis Patients	895
Aged and infirm	332
Day Nursery Applications	5
School Children	280
Other visits	412
Ineffective Calls	846
	<hr/>
	7,486
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HOME NURSING (Section 25)

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

Five whole-time Nursing Sisters, two whole-time Male Nurses, one part-time Nursing Sister and one part-time Male Nurse, have been employed on General Nursing duties in the Borough of Wanstead and Woodford during the year 1959.

A good nursing service has been given throughout the year, the work undertaken has been mainly concerned with the elderly and chronic sick, although there has been an increase in the requests for domiciliary chiropody treatment, which the nursing staff have adequately dealt with. A domiciliary chiropody service to meet this need would be greatly appreciated.

	1959	1958
Number of new cases	621	596
Number of visits	22,377	20,448
Last Offices performed	19	25
Advisory or Casual Visits	368	308

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 the 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.

Immunisation against whooping cough is normally carried out from the 3rd-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	562
5 to 15 years of age	38
	<hr/>
	600
	<hr/>

The number of children who received a secondary or re-inforcing injection was 320.

The number of persons vaccinated or re-vaccinated during the year 1959 was:—

	Under 1	1-4 yrs.	5-14 yrs.	15 or over	Total
Primary	410	57	32	65	564
Re-Vaccination	—	8	27	147	182

The following information shows the total number of children under 16 years of age who have at any time received a primary course of immunisation against diphtheria, as at 31st December, 1959.

Year of Birth	Number	Year of Birth	Number
1959	132	1951	506
1958	535	1950	650
1957	587	1949	665
1956	553	1948	931
1955	880	1947	932
1954	331	1946	794
1953	666	1945	865
1952	556	1944	590
			<hr/> 1053 <hr/>

Number of children immunised against Whooping Cough during the year 1959 was:—

Under 6 months	6-12 months	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years & over
162	156	17	4	2	2	9

In my report for 1957 I referred to the scheme introduced by the Ministry of Health for the vaccination of children against Polio-myelitis. Initially the scheme provided for the vaccination of children born only in the years 1947 to 1954 inclusive, but during 1958 the scheme was extended to include children born in the years 1955 and 1956, and also recommended that a further opportunity should be given to the parents of children born in the years 1947 to 1954 to register them if they had not hitherto accepted the offer of vaccination.

In November of the same year it was announced that the scheme for vaccination could be further extended to include children born in the years 1943 to 1946 inclusive. Further extensions have been made which means that in addition to the normal priority groups of expectant mothers and certain special groups of individuals particularly exposed to the risk of infection, such as general medical practitioners, vaccination is available to all persons up to the age of 40 years. The acceptance rate in the age group 26 to 40 years could well be very much higher.

During 1959, 7,179 persons received their primary course of two injections and 7,179 received a third injection.

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, Consultant Physician to the Wanstead and Woodford Chest Clinic at Harts Hospital for the following report:—

During the year under review, twenty-nine new cases of tuberculosis were notified as compared with thirty-two in 1958. One hundred and sixty-five new contacts and seven hundred and fifty-one old contacts were examined. B.C.G. was given to ninety children, an increase of twenty-six on the previous year. Three thousand eight hundred and fifty-one X-ray examinations were carried out. It is interesting to note that sixty notified cases of tuberculosis were transferred into the area, as compared with twenty-eight notified cases transferred out.

In my previous reports, I have constantly referred to the importance of contact examinations and the following cases may be of interest in this connection:—

- (1) A child of four and a half months examined as a contact to her father, who had pulmonary tuberculosis, was found to have a primary tuberculous lung lesion. She was immediately admitted to a Children's Sanatorium and has done very well.
- (2) A girl, aged 19 years, was followed up as a contact to her father and brother, who were both notified as cases of pulmonary tuberculosis in 1954. She herself was found to have pulmonary tuberculosis in 1959 and was given hospital treatment. This case emphasises the importance of prolonged supervision in certain cases.
- (3) Another similar case is one where a child aged 2¼ years was found to have primary lung tuberculosis in 1959. Her mother was treated for pulmonary tuberculosis in 1954 and after the child was born, B.C.G. was offered but unfortunately the parents refused.
- (4) The final case to be described is one of unusual interest. A boy aged 9 years was admitted to a local hospital and was treated for pleurisy. He returned home and within a few weeks, his sister developed pleurisy. At that stage, I was then asked to see the children and examination at the Chest Clinic revealed that they both suffered from tuberculous pleurisy. Arrangements were made for them to be admitted to a Children's Sanatorium. Routine examination of the parents revealed the father to be suffering from chronic pulmonary tuberculosis of an infectious type.

These cases illustrate that, although contact examinations may appear to be tedious and dull work, it is most important to detect the early case of tuberculosis and thus help in the eradication of the disease.

In October, 1959, the Leyton, Wanstead and Woodford Care Committee divided into two new associations, one to be responsible for the Leyton area, the other to look after the interests of chest patients in Woodford and Wanstead. I am glad to report that the latter association is working very successfully and the Executive Committee contains many representatives of Voluntary Organisations in the Borough.

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 9 cases from the Borough have been sent away. The length of convalescence was two weeks in each case.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The Domestic Help Organiser reports as follows:—

The year 1959 showed a steady increase in applications for Domestic Help.

The service continues to be administered as in previous years, and all cases are visited as frequently as possible.

80 per cent of the patients receiving help are in the category Chronic Aged, and help varies for these from as little as two hours per week for the heavy cleaning to 20 hours per week, which provides a split service, covering three meals a day. Relations are encouraged to help bedridden aged patients on Sundays.

A total of 2 full-time and 118 part-time domestic helps is employed to attend to the varied wants of 370 patients.

During the holiday it was necessary to drastically cut, and in some cases leave the patients without, assistance. This, however, was kept to the minimum, and care was taken to see that no one completely dependent on the Domestic Help Service was left unattended.

3 new requests for help in T.B. households have been received and those already receiving help are closely watched and assistance given in accordance with the recommendations of the Chest Clinic.

The aged chronic sick continue to grow in numbers, and are an increasing problem. Every effort is made to provide help according to the essential needs of these people, but many would benefit from a little extra help were the labour situation not so acute.

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

The W.V.S. "Meals on Wheels" service continues to render invaluable assistance, providing meals on Wednesdays and Fridays.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES 1959

WANSTEAD AND WOODFORD

No new schools were opened in the Borough during 1959 and the number of pupils in attendance at the 18 schools, remains about the same, i.e. approximately 7,000.

1. SCHOOL MEDICAL INSPECTIONS

The new arrangement whereby the second routine medical inspection of pupils takes place soon after the child's admission to the secondary school (instead of during the last year in the primary school) has worked very smoothly. As I mentioned in my report for last year, the obvious advantage of this arrangement is that the Head Teacher and Class Teachers are themselves able to consult the Medical Officer about children who are to remain in their charge for the remainder of their school life.

The first routine medical inspection of children is carried out at five years of age, soon after admission to school for the first time, and the third or final inspection is at 14½ years. If, at the latter examination, a pupil is found to be suffering from a condition which demands that he/she should avoid certain types of employment, e.g. an epileptic who should avoid work with machinery, the Youth Employment Officer is notified accordingly.

During the year 2,243 pupils were examined at school as follows:—

	No. examined (a)	No. referred for (b) observation	
1st age group (5-6 years)	508	47	113
2nd age group (11-12 years)	749	84	94
3rd age group (14-15 years)	753	49	40
Other age groups and "specials"	33	5	3
Re-examinations	200	—	—
Total (all groups)	2,243	185	250

2. CLEANLINESS SURVEYS

In view of the considerable improvement in the standard of cleanliness among children, it was decided that an inspection of the head of every pupil at the beginning of each term, was no longer necessary. Therefore, head inspections are now carried out twice a year only at the commencement of the Spring and Autumn Terms

(d) Specialist Services

The following services are provided by arrangement between the North East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board and the Essex County Council.

(i) Ophthalmic

The ophthalmologist visits the clinic three times each month to see pupils referred by the School Medical Officer.

(ii) Orthoptic (Correction of Squint)

Two sessions a week are held.

(iii) Physiotherapy

Two sessions a week are sufficient. Once a month the Orthopaedic Consultant from Wanstead Hospital visits to examine patients and advise the physiotherapist on the course of treatment.

4. CHILD GUIDANCE SERVICE

The Child Guidance Clinic for this borough is situated at High Street, Walthamstow, and the wide area covered by this clinic puts a very heavy burden on the staff there. Representations have been made for the establishment of a new clinic in the southern half of the Forest Division which, if it materialises, will be of considerable benefit to patients referred from this Borough.

Although there is normally a long delay in getting appointments for children to see the Psychiatrist—not only at Walthamstow but at child guidance clinics generally—those who present problems requiring very urgent investigation are given priority.

5. B.C.G. VACCINATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

(Protection against Tuberculosis)

There was an increase of 5% in the number of parents who gave consent for their child to participate in this scheme which is offered to all children over 13 years of age. Of 586 pupils eligible, 372 (66.21%) accepted; this compares with a 61.17% response in 1958.

Although I should like to see a much higher rate of acceptance, the response from this Borough compares very favourably with other districts in the Forest Division.

6. TUBERCULOSIS CASE FINDING AMONG SCHOOL ENTRANTS

For the benefit of new members, this is a scheme which is, I believe, being operated only in the Forest Division of Essex and consists of inviting the parents of all infants entering school for the first time to give consent for their child to have a skin test, the purpose of which is to trace, through the child, instances of tuberculosis in an adult, e.g. parent or close relative, etc., which may not have previously been discovered. The test is carried out as part of the child's first routine medical inspection at school.

The scheme, has been carried out at schools in Wanstead and Woodford since 1954 and the response from parents is much higher than that obtained for the B.C.G. Scheme, mentioned in the preceding paragraph. In 1959, 366 (71.7%) children were tested and 8 showed a positive re-action. All these were fully investigated (including examination of parents and other close contacts) by the Chest Physician and in two cases only were abnormalities detected neither being of any significance. All the children however were to be kept under observation.

APPENDIX "A"

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	52	1
Eyes (a) Vision	15	12
(b) Squint	—	1
(c) Other	—	1
Ears (a) Hearing	7	24
(b) Otitis Media	—	—
(c) Other	2	1
Nose or Throat	2	3
Speech	32	7
Cervical Glands	—	—
Heart and Circulation	—	3
Lungs	—	4
Development (a) Hernia	—	—
(b) Other	4	—
Orthopaedic (a) Posture	—	2
(b) Flat Foot	3	5
(c) Other	12	13
Nervous System (a) Epilepsy	2	1
(b) Other	2	2
Psychological (a) Development	24	4
(b) Stability	—	3
Other	3	1

APPENDIX "B"

Dental Inspections and Treatment:

Number of pupils inspected (periodic and specials)	1959
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Number found to require treatment:

(a) Periodic	816	
(b) Specials	510	
Total				1326

Number of individual pupils actually treated	585
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Attendances made by pupils for treatment	2491
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Fillings:

Permanent teeth	1723	
Temporary	487	
Total			2210

No. of Teeth Filled:

Permanent Teeth	.....	.....	1631	
Temporary	.....	.....	430	
Total			.....	2061

Extractions:

Permanent Teeth	.....	.....	86	
Temporary	.....	.....	655	
Total			.....	741

Administration of anaesthetics:

(a) Local	.....	.....	96	
(b) General	.....	.....	309	
Total			.....	405

Other Operations:

(a) Permanent Teeth	.....	.....	628	
(b) Temporary	.....	.....	270	
Total			.....	898

APPENDIX B

Dental Inspections and Treatment

Number of pupils inspected by dental inspectors in 1930

Number found to require treatment		Number of individual pupils actually treated		Attendances made by pupils for treatment	
(a) Periodic	(b) Special	Total			
818	510	1328			
Total					
Fillings:					
No. of Teeth Filled:					
Permanent Teeth					
Temporary					
Total					
Extractions:					
Permanent Teeth					
Temporary					
Total					
Administration of anesthetics:					
(a) Local					
(b) General					
Total					
Other Operations:					
(a) Permanent Teeth					
(b) Temporary					
Total					
Skin					
Eyes (a) Vision					
(b) Other					
Ears (a) Hearing					
(b) Other					
Nose and Throat					
Speech					
Cervical Glands					
Heart and Circulation					
Lungs					
Nervous System (a) Head					
(b) Other					
Orthopaedic (a) Posture					
(b) Flat Foot					
Other					
Nervous System (a) Head					
(b) Other					
Psychological (a) Development					
(b) Stabils					
Other					

