

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

Contributors

Feltham (London, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1956.

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/apjn32tn>

License and attribution

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

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

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



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

AC439(3) 1 clw Gmra 2w 5B
2 Library FEL 18
JUL 56
17
FELTHAM

Urban District Council
of

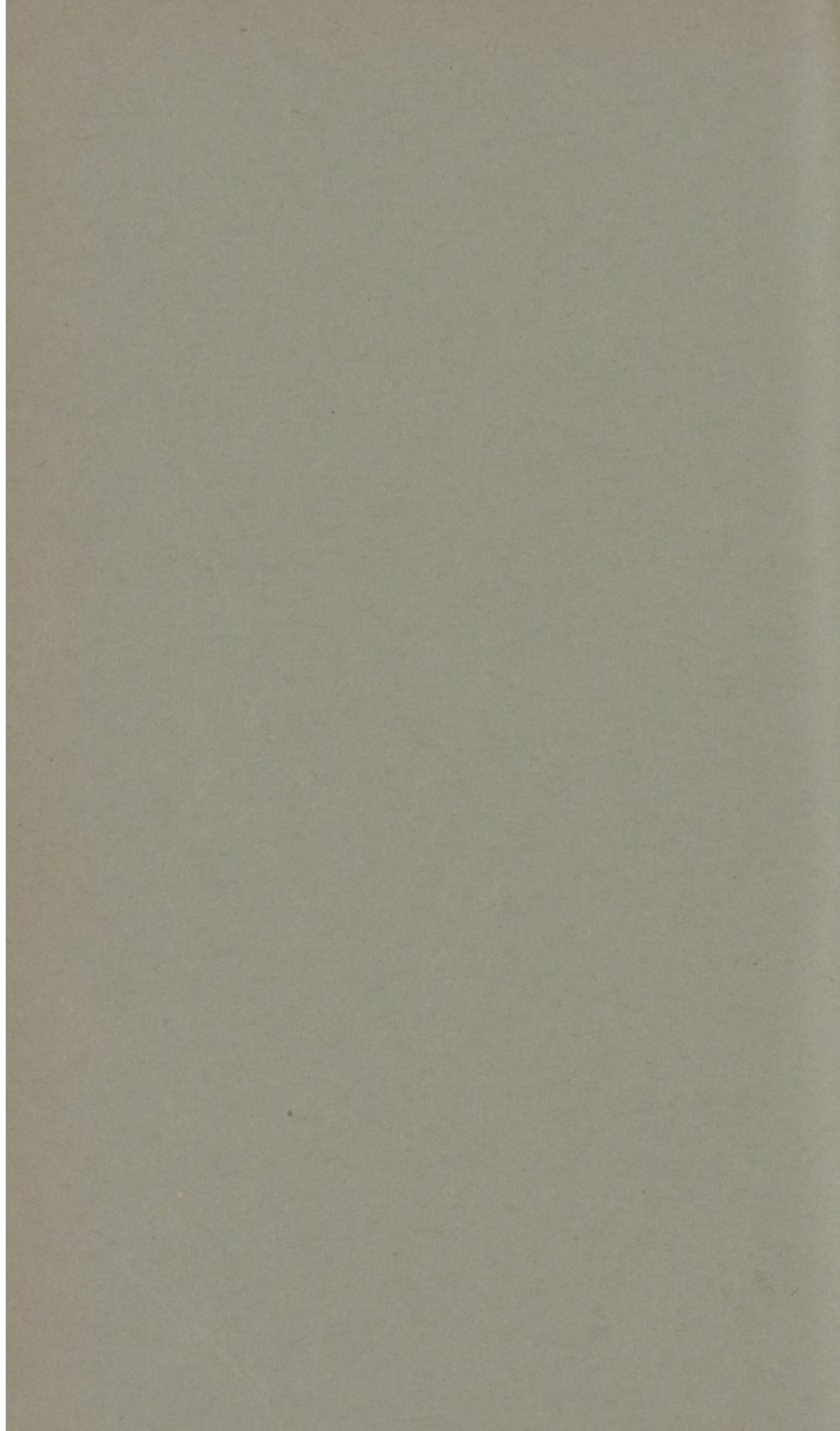
FELTHAM



Annual Report
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health

for the year ending 31st December
1955

Feltham, Middx.
July, 1956.



Urban District Council
of
Feltham
Public Health Department

Medical Officer of Health (part time):

F. H. WOODS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

F. V. BELL, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

J. SMITH, (Re-appointed 23.5.55)

F. W. GOLDSMITH, M.S.I.A. (Appointed 21.2.55)

A. J. MADDOCKS, M.S.I.A. (Resigned 2.4.55)

G. H. GREEN, M.S.I.A. (Appointed 24.10.55)

Council Offices,
Feltham,
July, 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitation of your District for the year 1955.

The District is divided into three Wards: Bedfont, Feltham and Hanworth, with a total acreage of 4,925.

The Home population (mid year) as estimated by the Registrar General was 48,870. This was an increase compared with the 1954 figure of 48,200. The day population is increased by people working at the various factories and shops, but a large number of residents work outside the district, particularly in London. Only a very small number continue to work in agriculture.

The product of a penny rate is	...	£1,580.6.3
Rateable Value	... ..	£378,923
Number of inhabited dwellings	... ..	13,158
Number of new dwellings erected	... ..	362

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

Live Births	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	759	385	374
Illegitimate	23	8	15
Total	782	393	389

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated home population—

Crude Birth Rate	16.0 (1954 15.76)
Comparability Factor	0.99 (1954 0.99)
Adjusted Birth Rate	15.84 (1954 15.60)

Still Births	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	11	7	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total	11	7	4

Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)—13.87 (1954 15.54)

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated home population—

0.22 (1954 0.24)

Deaths

Total 347 Male 187 Female 160.

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated home population—

Crude Death Rate 7.1 (1954 5.87).

Comparability Factor 1.48 (1954 1.48).

Adjusted Death Rate 10.5 (1954 8.68).

Death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis 0.102 —
(1954 0.103).

Death rate from Cancer 1.24 (1954 1.37).

Maternal Mortality

(Heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List)

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 30. Pregnancy, Childbirth		
Abortion 	—	(1954 1.29)

Infant Mortality

Death rates of Infants under one year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births (12)	15.34	(1954 17.10)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births (12) 	15.81	(1954 17.68)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegiti- mate live births (0) 	—	(1954 —)

Death rates of Infants under four weeks of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births (6)	7.67	(1954 13.15)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births (6) 	7.9	(1954 13.60)
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegiti- mate live births (0) 	—	(1954 —)

Rate per 1,000
live births

Deaths from Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.
infants under two years (1) ... 1.27 (1954 ---)

Birth and Death Rates for England and Wales, 1955:

Birth rate 	15.0
Still Birth rate (per 1,000 live and still births)	23.1
Death rate 	11.7
Deaths under one year of age 	24.9
Deaths from enteritis and diarrhoea (under two ⁴ years ^{weeks} of age) 	17.3

Maternal Mortality—England and Wales, 1955: —

Maternal causes, excluding abortion 	0.54
Due to abortion 	0.10
Total maternal mortality 	0.64

Causes of Death

					Male	Female	Total
1.	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	...	...	...	5	—	5
2.	—Other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	1	—	1
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	—	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases				—	1	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...			8	4	12
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus				11	2	13
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...			—	4	4
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...			—	3	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	16	13	29
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...		—	2	2
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	—	2	2
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system				13	33	46
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...		42	18	60
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...			5	4	9
20.	Other heart disease	...	...		10	25	35
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...		4	3	7
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	1	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	7	12	19
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	15	9	24
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system				6	—	6
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...			2	—	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...			2	1	3
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...		4	1	5
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...		3	—	3
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion				—	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...		1	1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases				16	15	31
33.	Motor Vehicles, accidents	...	...		8	1	9
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	6	3	9
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	2	3
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...			—	—	—
					187	160	347

Notifiable Diseases other than Tuberculosis.

Disease				Corrected Notifications	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	...	1023	13	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	46	3	—
Ac. Pneumonia	...	...	...	11	2	19
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	23	3	—
Ac. Encephalitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	1	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	...	...	...	4	4	—
„ (Non-paralytic)	...	...	...	3	3	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	—	—	—
Malaria	...	...	...	—	—	—
Dysentery	...	...	...	9	2	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	14	3	—
Meningococcal infection	...	...	...	—	—	—
Smallpox	...	...	...	—	—	—

Age Periods				Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis non-paralytic
Under 1 yr.	...	...	...	1	—	23	6	—
1—2 yrs.	...	...	...	—	1	180	9	—
3—4 yrs.	...	...	...	—	7	290	14	—
5—9 yrs.	...	...	...	—	15	514	16	1
10—14 yrs.	...	...	...	—	—	9	1	2
15—24 yrs.	...	...	...	—	—	7	—	—
25 and over	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	1
Age unknown	...	...	...	—	—	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	1	23	1023	46	4

Age Periods				Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia
Under 5 yrs.	...	...	...	2	3	—	3
5—14 yrs.	...	...	...	1	4	—	1
15—44 yrs.	...	...	...	5	6	1	4
45—64 yrs.	...	...	...	1	1	—	2
65 and over	...	...	...	—	—	—	1
Age unknown	...	...	...	—	—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	9	14	1	11

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified. The child was treated at home and there was no impairment of vision.

Tuberculosis

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 yrs.	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 yrs.	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 yrs.	8	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
25—44 yrs.	13	7	1	1	2	1	—	—
45—64 yrs.	8	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65 yrs.	4	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Total	35	11	2	3	4	1	—	—

Tuberculosis

Deaths from tuberculosis are lower this year but the number of new cases notified shows a small increase.

I wish to refer here to a report received from Dr. P. E. Baldry the Consultant Physician with regard to the work of the Ashford Chest Clinic during 1954 and 1955, the two years it has been in operation. Dr. Baldry refers to modern chemotherapy with its more effective methods of using certain drugs and to the greatly improved results being achieved. Such strides have been made in the treatment of tuberculosis that he is able to record that for the first time during 1955 there have been empty beds in the Tuberculosis wards at Ashford Hospital.

Reference is also made to the prevailing high rate of notification of tuberculosis which Dr. Baldry considers to be mainly due to successful case finding and he mentions particularly the miniature X-Ray examinations. He states that the amount of tuberculosis infectivity in the community is steadily declining.

Maternal Mortality

No maternal deaths occurred during the year.

Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

It became necessary for action to be taken under the National Assistance Act, 1948, section 47 (as amended) in respect of an elderly lady who was unable to care for herself.

An application was made to the Magistrates Court and an order made for her removal to accommodation provided by the Middlesex County Council under the provisions of the National Assistance Act.

Housing

Since house building recommenced in 1946 this Authority has built 1,846 dwellings and 556 private dwellings have been erected. In addition there are 150 temporary bungalows.

Despite this large programme the demand for houses is not satisfied and there are still many families, mostly young couples, who are sharing accommodation. Due to the restricted amount of building land now available the Council was forced to close its housing list in January 1954.

The programme for dealing with unfit houses makes further demands, of course, upon the available supply of accommodation. In this connection every consideration is given to the needs of the people displaced, so that the enforced move causes as little worry as possible.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Facilities for immunisation against diphtheria are provided by the Middlesex County Council at their clinics or through the local medical practitioners.

The Department has co-operated with the Area Medical Officer of the County with regard to the publicity campaigns which have been undertaken.

Water Analysis

1. The Bedfont and Feltham Wards of the District are supplied by the South West Suburban Water Co., and the Hanworth Ward by the Metropolitan Water Board. The water supplied to this area by the South West Suburban Water Co. is taken by the Company from the Metropolitan Water Board. The water is derived from the River Thames, purified in the storage reservoirs at Littleton, Staines and Walton, and is filtered and chlorinated at the Hampton Works. A contact period of over an hour is given at the works for the completion of chlorination. The water supply has been satisfactory both as regards quantity and quality.

2. Samples for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis are taken by the Metropolitan Water Board at all stages of purification at least five times each week. Ninety-eight samples have been taken by the South West Suburban Water Co. In addition four samples were taken by my department.

Average Results of Analyses of Metropolitan Water Board Supply. (Parts per million). Water filtered and chlorinated at Hampton Works:

No. of Samples	...	...	...	...	232
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.011
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.083
Oxidised Nitrogen (Nitrate)	...	...	...	...	3.9
Chlorides as Cl.	...	...	...	...	26
Oxygen abs. from Permanganate 4 hours at 27°C.	...	...	...	...	1.05
Turbidity in terms of Silica	...	...	...	...	0.3
Colour m.m. brown 2ft. tube Burgess's Tintometer	...	...	...	...	13
Hardness Total	...	...	...	...	261
Hardness (Non-Carbonate)	...	...	...	...	67
pH Value	...	...	...	...	7.8
Phosphate as PO_4^{111}	...	...	...	...	0.50
Silica as SiO_2	...	...	...	...	10
Sulphates as SO_4	...	...	...	...	49
Conductivity	...	...	...	...	450

Bacteriological Results

Colony Count on agar at 37°C (20-24 hours)	...	4.8
BACT. COLI TEST		
Percentage of samples negative per 100 ml.	...	100.0
Bact. Coli per 100 ml.	...	Nil

Typical Analysis of South West S.W. Co. Supply
(Parts per million):

Chemical

Appearance	...	...	...	...	Clear and Bright
Turbidity	...	...	...	...	Nil
Odour	...	...	...	...	Nil
Colour	...	...	...	...	4
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	...	...	...	9
Total Solids	...	...	...	...	355
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	...	...	...	...	195
pH	...	...	...	...	7.5
Electric Conductivity	...	...	...	...	530
Chlorine present as Chloride	...	...	...	...	27
Hardness: Total	...	...	...	...	250
(Carbonate 195 Non-Carbonate 55)					
Nitrate Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	3.2
Nitrite Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	less than 0.01
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.004
Albuminoid Nitrogen	...	...	...	...	0.033
Oxygen Absorbed	...	...	...	...	0.60
Residual Chlorine	...	...	...	...	absent
Metals	...	...	...	...	absent

Bacteriological

Number of Colonies developing {			
1 day at 37°C.		2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
0 per ml.		0 per ml.	3 per ml.
Present in		Absent from	Probable Number
Presumptive Coli- aerogenes reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli. (Type 1)	— ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii			
Reaction	— ml.	100 ml.	

3. The water supplied has no plumbo solvent action but samples are tested for presence of metals.

4. No action has been required in respect of contamination of the water. All water is chlorinated before distribution and all new and repaired mains are chlorinated before being restored to use.

5. With the exception of two or three outlying cottages, all the houses in the area are supplied from the public water mains. Only two houses are supplied by a common stand-pipe. These two cottages, which are now condemned, are occupied by three people.

Food Poisoning.

Fourteen unrelated cases of food poisoning have been notified during the year. Investigations were made but the sources of infection were not ascertained.

In addition to the above-mentioned cases, two small outbreaks occurred at a factory canteen involving eight and fourteen people, none of whom were actually notified. Investigations were hampered by the paucity of evidence. In the first incident food poisoning organisms (*salm typhimurium*) were isolated from one case only and in the second outbreak *Cl. Welchii* which was present in nine of the cases was thought to be the causative organism.

Establishments for Massage and Special Treatment

One establishment was licensed under Sections 355-357 of the Middlesex County Council Act, 1944.

Conclusion

In conclusion I should like to thank the members of the Committee for the support which they have given me during the year and also Mr. Bell and the staff of the department for their able and willing assistance.

F. H. WOODS,
Medical Officer of Health.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Housing—Demolition and Closure

Action in accordance with the Council's programme for dealing with unfit houses was continued and figures relating to this action are given below.

In July the Council's proposals for dealing with unfit houses were submitted to the Ministry of Housing & Local Government as required by section 1 of the Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954. The proposals were provisionally approved by the Minister. It was estimated that there were 374 unfit dwellings to be dealt with by means of Clearance or Demolition Orders.

Since 1950 a definite allocation of houses has been made for the rehousing of families from unfit dwellings and as a result the worst houses have already been dealt with. The wisdom of the decision made in 1950 became apparent as, due to various causes, not least of which was the shortage of available building land, the provision of accommodation for persons displaced became more difficult.

From 1946 until the end of 1955, 167 houses have been dealt with as follows :—

Demolition Orders made	148
Agreements entered into with owners to "close" or repair or Closing Orders made	15
Houses demolished	114
Houses demolished as a result of informal action	4
Persons who have been displaced	443

Action taken during 1955 is as follows :—

Housing Act, 1936

	No. of Houses	No. of Persons displaced
Houses reported to Public Health Committee as being unfit	30	—
Demolition orders made	20	—
Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	27	70
Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force	—	—
Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	1	5

Housing Act, 1949

Houses closed as a result of Closing
Orders made under Sections 3 (1)
and 3 (2) —

**Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions)
Act, 1953.**

Houses closed as a result of Closing
Orders made under Sections 10
(1) and 11 (2) 1 4

Housing—Repairs

Action to secure the execution of repairs continued as far as possible and is summarised below.

The standard of unfitness as prescribed in section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, is, in my opinion, a lower standard than that previously defined in the 1936 Housing Act. As a consequence one hesitates to advise the service of notices in respect of houses with comparatively few defects. When one considers more defective houses the question of 'reasonable cost' arises and with building costs at treble or more their pre-war value and rents mostly at pre-war standards, again one hesitates. In many cases action under the Public Health Act provides an answer, but often only a partial answer.

Informal Action	No. of Houses
No. of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority	82

Action under Statutory Powers	
Number of houses reported to Public Health Committee with a view to service of statutory notices	19
Number of statutory notices served	7

Public Health Acts

Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

No. of Houses	
(a) by owners	0
(b) by local authority in default of owners	0

Housing Act, 1936

Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Section 9, 10, 11 and 16) :—

(a) by owners	...	...	...	...	5
(b) by local authority in default of owners	...				1

Housing—Improvement Grants

No improvement grants were made and in fact there were very few enquiries with regard to grants.

The decision not to make grants was adopted previously after careful consideration of the whole position.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954—Disrepair Certificates

Nine applications for disrepair certificates were made by tenants following service of notices of increase of rents by their landlords. In each case a certificate was issued.

One application for the revocation of a certificate was made and this was granted.

Overcrowding

Little statutory overcrowding came to the notice of the department. Special consideration was given in the Council's housing points scheme to any applicant who was overcrowded.

Moveable Dwellings

Public Health control of moveable dwellings in the area is effected by means of Section 345 of the Middlesex County Council Act as amended by the 1950 Act and by byelaws.

The consent of the Council is required to the placing or keeping of any moveable dwelling used or intended to be used as the sole or principal means of habitation for more than three months in any year. During the year six applications for consent were received, five were refused and a limited consent given in the other case. In addition action was taken to secure the removal of three other caravans in respect of the use of which no consent had been given.

Very little trouble was experienced with the wandering gypsy. Much of the land previously camped upon by these people was no longer available to them.

Shops

All shops were regularly inspected, the department administering the whole of the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, the frequency of inspection depending upon the class of business carried on.

Licences for the keeping of pet shops were granted in two instances.

Three shops were licensed to deal in game.

The "late day" for the general closing hours of shops in the area is Friday, but shopkeepers remain free to fix their own half day closing subject to the provisions of the Shops Act. Most shops close for half day on Wednesday.

Food Premises

All types of food premises were inspected regularly and as frequently as possible, special attention being given to catering establishments, premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, bakehouses and other places where food is actually prepared.

There were some unavoidable breaks in the routine visiting due to staff shortages and this was regretted because it was considered that constant regular inspections were most effective in raising the hygienic standard of food premises. Some occupiers, of course, did not need reminders, they maintained a good standard from their own choice, but unfortunately they were in the minority. Occasionally traders were glad of the moral support which an inspection sometimes gave for dealing with their staffs, because some food-handlers and shop assistants were not as co-operative in the matter of hygienic practices as they could and should have been.

It was hoped that the new Food Hygiene Regulations which were issued just before the close of the year would be instrumental in bringing about a big step forward towards better food handling. Success in this it was realised rests in a large measure with the people who actually handle food-stuffs intended for sale.

Food premises in the district consist of the following: —

Catering establishments including factory canteens and school kitchens	...	...	...	...	115
Grocery and provision shops and "general stores"					60
Greengrocers' shops	...	...	...	...	35
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	25
Bakers' shops	...	...	...	...	12
Milk shops	...	...	...	...	8
Fishmongers' shops	...	...	...	...	15
Sweet and confectionery shops	...	...	...	...	61

Food Preparing Premises

There were no new registrations during the year.

The register contained the addresses of 31 premises which had been registered under the Act for the preservation, etc., of food as follows : —

Premises used for the manufacture of sausages,	
pies, etc	12
Premises used for the cooking of fish	9
Premises used for the cooking of bacon	9

Hawkers of Foodstuffs

Under the provisions of Section 11 of the Middlesex County Council Act, 1950, persons selling foodstuffs from any vehicle, etc., who are not the occupiers of an open shop for the sale of foodstuffs require to be registered with the local authority and the foodstores at which the foodstuffs intended for sale are stored are also required to be registered.

Attention was constantly given to traders in foodstuffs elsewhere than at shops, as often trading was commenced without registration and with little regard for the hygiene of food handling. During the year one hawker of foodstuffs was registered.

Street Traders

Persons wishing to trade from a fixed site in any public street are required to hold a licence under Sections 320 and 321 of the Middlesex County Council Act, 1944 and issued by the local authority. During the year one renewal licence was granted.

Slaughter-Houses

There was no increase in slaughtering in the district following the removal of restrictions and in fact two of the licensed slaughter houses were seldom used.

No. of slaughter-houses licensed	3
No. of slaughtermen licensed	11

Knackers Yard

There was one licensed knackers yard, but its use was limited.

New byelaws with regard to knackers yards were adopted by the Council during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Carcases and Offal inspected at slaughter-houses and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding		Sheep & Lambs		Pigs	Horses
No. killed (if known)	Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs	25	150
No. inspected ...	3	—	—	—	25	150

All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci

Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	2	30
Percentage of the number inspected infected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	—	—	—	—	8.0	20.0

Tuberculosis only :

Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Cysticercosis

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

Meat Inspected at Butchers' Shops

A number of carcases, quarters, parts of carcases and organs have been examined.

The following has been declared unfit for human consumption : —

Whole Carcases—

	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—
Other condition ...	—	—	—	—

Part Carcases and Organs—

	Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Tuberculosis ...	—	—	—	—
Other condition ...	917 lbs	12 lbs.	52 lbs.	40 lbs.

In addition, the following amounts of other foodstuffs were found to be unfit for human consumption : —

Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	210 lbs.
Sugar	...	...	...	...	...	...	112 lbs.
Chicken	...	...	...	...	...	...	96 lbs.
Rabbits	...	...	...	...	...	...	120 lbs.
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 lbs.
Bacon	...	...	...	...	...	...	51 lbs.
Cheese	...	...	...	...	...	...	45 lbs.
"	...	...	...	...	...	...	40 portions
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	...	39 lbs.
Sauce	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 bottle
Jam	...	...	...	...	...	...	9 lbs.
Tea	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 lbs.
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
Fishcakes	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 doz.

Tinned Foodstuffs :

Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	...	163 lbs.
Vegetables	...	...	...	...	...	...	24 lbs.
Soup	...	...	...	...	...	...	3 tins
Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	218 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 lbs.
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	61 tins
Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 lb.
Syrup	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 lb.

Disposal of Condemned Food

Where possible condemned foodstuffs are sent to a waste products factory where they are processed for non-edible purposes. Foodstuffs which are not suitable for such disposal are buried at the Councils refuse tip.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—Food and Drugs Authority

The Middlesex County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the district.

The Public Control Department carry out the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 operated by the County Council and I am indebted to the Chief Officer of that

Department, Mr. J. A. O'Keefe for the following details of action taken in this district : —

Samples procured : —

Article	Total samples procured	Unsatisfactory
Milk, (various)	156	21
Arrowroot	1	—
Butter	7	—
Brisling in Tomato Sauce ...	1	—
Cakes	7	—
Cereal	1	—
Cheese	11	2
Cooked Meats	5	—
Cornflour	2	—
Cream	8	—
Condensed Milk	1	—
Dressed Crab	1	—
Drugs	11	—
Flavoured Milk	1	—
Fish	9	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Fruit Juice	1	—
Glacé Cherries	1	—
Ice Cream	3	—
Lard	1	—
Liver	5	—
Meat	1	—
Minced Meat	5	—
Mint in Vinegar	1	—
Pears	1	—
Peas	1	—
Pickles	2	—
Sausages	8	—
Self Raising Flour	2	—
Sweets	1	—
Tomato Sauce	1	—
Tomato Chutney	1	—
Victoria Plums	8	—
Vinegar	7	—
Wines and Spirits	22	—
Totals	295	23

Action was taken with regard to the unsatisfactory samples including prosecution in one case and warnings or advice in the others. Regular inspections were made of the one licensed pasteurising plant and 70 samples of pasteurised milk were examined and found to be satisfactory. Sixteen samples of raw milk were obtained within the district and examined for the presence of tubercle bacilli but none was contaminated.

Forty-eight inspections of shops were made in connection with the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887-1926 but no serious infringements of these Acts or of the Labelling of Food Order, 1953, were discovered. With regard to the Labelling of Food Order, advertisements and the labels of pre-packed foods were scrutinised to detect false or misleading descriptions and corrective action was taken with regard to a number of commodities.

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

Dealers licences were granted to sell graded milks as follows : —

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	9
Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	19

Supplementary Licences : —

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	12
Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	—
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	11
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	12

30 samples of graded milks were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Epsom. All the samples were satisfactory.

Ice Cream

Premises at which ice cream was sold continued to receive attention. There were no registered manufacturers of ice cream in the area.

Six samples were procured and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service at Epsom. Four were graded Group I, and two Group II.

Two premises were registered, under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the sale of ice cream.

Rodent Control

The control of rat and mice infestations in accordance with the methods advocated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries was continued. The Council's refuse tip was kept under regular observation and any sign of rat activity dealt with immediately.

During the twelve months ended on the 31st March, 1956, the complaints received of infestations numbered 217, and these together with cases discovered by members of the staff involved the inspection of 1,480 premises. Rat infestations were found at 270 premises and mice infestations at 53 premises. Of these 307 treatments were undertaken by the department, the remaining 16 being carried out by the occupiers.

When treatments are carried out by this department on behalf of occupiers, a standard charge of five shillings is made in the case of private dwellings, and the full cost of the treatment is recovered in the case of business premises. Where the occupiers elect to carry out the treatment themselves, advice and supervision is given to ensure that the treatment is effective.

Arrangements were continued with the Middlesex County Council for this department to carry out any rodent control works necessary on the portions of the Duke of Northumberland's River and the River Crane in the area.

Rag Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1951

There are three premises registered under this Act, where filling materials are used. Four inspections were made.

Disinfestation

Six premises were found to be infested with bed bugs and were disinfested :

Council houses infested	...	...	...	...	3
Other houses infested	...	...	...	...	3

Disinfestation with contact insecticides incorporating D.D.T., was carried out by the department.

It was not found necessary to disinfest the furniture, etc., of prospective Council house tenants before removal to the Council's houses.

Disinfestation for the eradication of the following vermin was carried out at the numbers of premises stated :—

Cockroaches 8, fleas 2, carpet beetles 2, silver fish 1, midges 1.

In addition 12 wasps' nests were destroyed.

Infectious Diseases—Disinfection

The following numbers of premises have been disinfected after cases (or suspected cases) of infectious disease :

Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	30

Administration of the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948 Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Inspections Register	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	16	14	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	165	376	4
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	16	8	—
Total	197	398	4

2. Cases in which defects were found :—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1.)	14	12	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2.) ...	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3.) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4.) ...	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.) ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	29	36	—	3
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	1	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	29	25	—	—
Total	73	73	—	3

Part VIII of the Act

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

There are no outworkers employed by local manufacturers but there are 47 persons doing outwork for employers outside the area. 71 visits were made to outworkers' homes which are visited periodically.

Summary of Inspections

No. of premises inspected on complaint ...	575
No. of inspections made:—	
Housing Insp. (Housing Regulations) ...	54
Housing re-inspections ...	544
Other re-inspections ...	2,031
Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning ...	113
Council Houses ...	57
Moveable Dwellings ...	109
Bakehouses ...	40
Slaughter-houses (excl. re-Slaughtering) ...	11
Knackers Yards ...	2

Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	18
Pet Animal Shops	...	...	...	...	1
Shops (Shop Acts)	...	...	...	...	689
Hawkers of Foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	86
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	...	107
Food Preparing Premises (exc. Catering Establishments)	...	...	...	...	122
Catering Establishments	...	...	...	...	467
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	122
Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	52
Other Food Shops	...	...	...	...	388
Power Factories	...	...	...	...	376
Non-Power Factories	...	...	...	...	14
Other Factories	...	...	...	...	8
Outworkers Premises	...	...	...	...	71
Workplaces and offices	...	...	...	...	7
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	5
Licensed or Public Premises	...	...	...	...	126
Hairdressers and Barbers Establishments	...	...	...	...	32
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	2,795
Defence Regulations	...	...	...	...	277
Housing Applications	...	...	...	...	506
Measurements under Housing Act	...	...	...	...	2
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	5
Food Inspection—Meat	...	...	...	...	110
„ „ —Fish	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ —Other commodities	...	...	...	...	28
Milk and Water Sampling	...	...	...	...	21
Street Trading	...	...	...	...	72
Tipping of Refuse	...	...	...	...	21
Inspection of Food Vehicles	...	...	...	...	178
Inspection under Rag Flock Act	...	...	...	...	4
Re Disrepair Certificates	...	...	...	...	29
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	56
Total	...	...	...	...	10,336

Staff

During the period under report the work of the department suffered due to staff shortages. Of an establishment of three additional sanitary inspectors, two of the posts were vacant for several months. In a small department such vacancies inevitably break the continuity of some of the work to its detriment, but I am glad to record that at the end of the year there was a full establishment.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Woods, for the consideration shown to me, and the members of the staff for their support in carrying out the work of the department.

FRANCIS V. BELL,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

