

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

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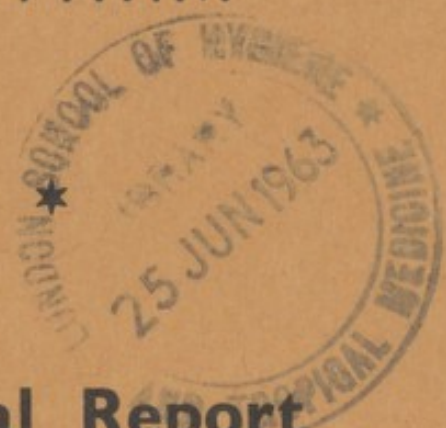


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Urban District Council
of
FELTHAM



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year ending 31st December
1959



Feltham, Middx.

July, 1960



Feltham Urban District Council

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Mr. W. R. Sands

Councillors:

Mrs. W. E. Cox, Mrs. F. M. Haines, Mrs. M. E. Nixon, Mrs. L. M. Woodall, Mr. H. Nixon, Mr. A. J. Ogden, Mr. E. J. Pauling, J.P. (Chairman of the Council), Mr. A. J. Sheppard, Mr. F. A. Watts, Mr. S. Peach

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health (Part time):

F. H. Woods, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (Retired March, 1959)
W. Cormack, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Appointed July, 1959)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

F. V. Bell, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Public Health Inspectors:

G. H. Green, M.A.P.H.I.

J. W. Paine

C. Willard, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Senior Clerk:

D. W. Tomlin

Clerical Staff:

Mrs. E. E. Hutchison

Miss P. Deuchar

Student Public Health Inspector:

Mr. K. M. Down (Appointed 24-8-59)

Rodent Operative:

T. O. Williams (Resigned 1-8-59)

A. E. Gearing (Appointed 31-8-59)

Telephone:
Feltham 2281 and 3281

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Feltham.

July 1960

To: The Chairman and Members of the Feltham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitation of your District for the year 1959.

The vital statistics for 1959 show some degree of variation when compared with the figures for 1958. With an increase both in population and number of inhabited dwellings at approximately 1,000 and 270 respectively, the Birth Rate fell by 1.1 to 15.0 per thousand of population and the Death Rate rose by 1.8 to 13.5 per thousand of population. The numbers of deaths from Coronary Disease and Cancer were practically the same as for 1958 and the chief causes for the increase were (a) deaths due to Pneumonia where the rate was about equal between the sexes and (b) deaths due to heart and circulatory diseases other than coronary diseases—in this instance the rate was higher in females.

Two hundred and twenty-four deaths registered were of people over 70 years of age, i.e., 50.3 of the total deaths registered in the district.

The infant mortality rate shows an increase of 2.8 to 24.1 per thousand live births. The majority of these deaths occurred in infants less than four weeks old and were due in the main to congenital defects and prematurity. The low Still Birth rate of 11.1 per thousand (Live and Still) Births is no doubt an indication of the value of good and careful ante-natal care resulting in more live births. Unfortunately, however, even though more babies are being born alive, many still die within the first four weeks of life (Neo-Natal Death Rate) and this fact only goes to show that still greater efforts are required to improve to an even higher degree, the Ante-Natal care of mothers and the Post-Natal care of the child.

The incidence of infectious disease in the district was slightly higher due in the main to the number of cases of measles (433). This followed the usual pattern being relatively mild—only 15 cases (3 per cent.) requiring admittance to hospital—and mainly affecting infant school children.

It is pleasing to note a drop in the numbers of cases of Food Poisoning but unfortunately this is offset by an increased incidence of Dysentery due to *Shigella Sonnei*. Although mild in character this disease spreads easily from case to case and is of great nuisance value to the public. It can be controlled by drugs but first and foremost prevention in the form of careful personal hygiene is the best way to control this disease. In other words the control of this disease is in the hands of the public themselves.

I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support and also acknowledge with thanks the friendly co-operation of my colleagues in the other departments of the Council. Finally to Mr. F. V. Bell, the Chief Public Health Inspector, and all members of the Health Department, my sincere thanks for their most willing and able assistance during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. CORMACK,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS FOR THE AREA

Area and Acreage (Bedfont, Feltham and Hanworth)	4,925 acres
Population	51,750
Number of inhabited dwellings	14,393
Number of new dwellings erected	304
The product of a penny rate is	£3,641
The rateable value is	£1,061,988

VITAL STATISTICS

<i>LIVE BIRTHS</i>					Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	778	388	390
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	27	15	12
Total	..	..	..	..	805	403	402

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated home population	15.6
Adjusted Live Birth Rate	15.0
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	3.35

<i>STILL BIRTHS</i>					Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	8	—	8
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	1	—	1
Total	..	..	..	..	9	—	9

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	11.05
Total Live and Still Births	814

INFANT DEATHS (under 1 year of age)

					Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	18	9	9
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	2	2	—
Total	..	..	..	..	20	11	9

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	24.8
Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births	23.13
Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births	74.07

NEO-NATAL DEATHS (under four weeks of age)

					Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	..	..	..	..	14	8	6
Illegitimate	..	..	..	..	2	2	—
Total	..	..	..	..	16	10	6

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	19.9
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (first week) per 1,000 live births	16.14
Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	27.02
Maternal Deaths (excluding abortion)	nil
Maternal Mortality Rate (including abortion) per 1,000 total births	nil

DEATHS

Male 232 Female 213 Total 445

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

Crude Death Rate ...	...	...	...	8.6
Comparability Factor ...	...	...	...	1.57
Adjusted Death Rate ...	...	...	...	13.5
Death Rate from pulmonary tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	0.02
Death Rate from cancer ...	...	...	...	1.37

Birth and Death Rates for England and Wales, 1959

Birth Rate	16.5
Still Birth Rate (per 1,000 live and still births) ..	..	..	..	20.7
Death Rate ..	..	..	..	11.6
Deaths under one year of age ..	..	..	..	22.6
Deaths under four weeks of age ..	..	..	..	15.8
Maternal causes, excluding abortion ..	..	..	..	0.32
Due to abortion ..	..	..	..	0.06
Total maternal mortality ..	..	..	..	0.38

Table of Birth and Death Rates for previous 10 years

Year	*		*		†	†	‡	‡
	Birth Rate		Death Rate		Still Birth Rate	Maternal Deaths	Infant Under 1 yr.	Death Rate Under 4 weeks
	Crude	Adjusted	Crude	Adjusted				
1958	16.6	16.1	7.4	11.7	10.55	nil	21.32	16.58
1957	16.3	15.81	7.0	11.13	23.95	nil	19.63	15.95
1956	16.7	16.19	6.6	10.5	14.38	nil	21.89	18.24
1955	16.0	15.84	7.1	10.5	13.87	nil	15.34	7.67
1954	15.76	15.60	5.87	8.68	15.54	1.29	17.10	13.15
1953	16.41	16.24	7.49	11.08	15.28	2.54	24.57	18.11
1952	16.98	16.47	6.22	8.77	18.61	nil	20.22	13.9
1951	15.76	15.28	7.03	9.91	15.19	nil	18.23	11.22
1950	15.52	15.05	7.11	10.02	20.20	1.43	25.03	—
1949	16.93	—	7.76	10.86	29.41	nil	28.92	—

* Rate per 1,000 estimated home population.

† Rate per 1,000 total births.

‡ Rate per 1,000 live births.

Table I Causes of Death

	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis—Respiratory ..	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis—Other ..	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease ..	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria ..	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infection ..	1	—	1
7. Acute poliomyelitis ..	1	—	1
8. Measles ..	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	—	2	2
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	1	4	5
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	17	4	21
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ..	—	6	6
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ..	—	—	—
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms ..	21	18	39

15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1	3
16. Diabetes	—	3	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ..	16	24	40
18. Coronary disease, angina	46	23	69
19. Hypertension with heart disease ..	10	10	20
20. Other heart disease	26	43	69
21. Other circulatory disease	9	13	22
22. Influenza	2	2	4
23. Pneumonia	17	20	37
24. Bronchitis	15	9	24
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	2	1	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	4	2	6
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ..	1	2	3
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	—	1
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion ..	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	3	5	8
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	19	11	30
33. Motor vehicles, accidents	2	3	5
34. All other accidents	4	6	10
35. Suicide	3	1	4
36. Homicide and operations of war ..	1	—	1
	<hr/> 229	<hr/> 213	<hr/> 442

Table II Notifiable Diseases other than Tuberculosis

Disease	Corrected Notifications	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Measles	433	15	—
Whooping Cough	38	1	—
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia	13	5	—
Scarlet Fever	70	3	—
Ac. Encephalitis	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	—	—	—
Erysipelas	1	1	—
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) ..	—	1	1
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	—	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ..	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—
Dysentery	40	6	—
Food Poisoning	7	1	—
Meningococcal infection ..	—	1	1
Smallpox	—	—	—

Table III

Age Periods	Ophth- almia Neona- torum	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whoop- ing Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis Paralytic	non- Paralytic
Under 1 year	—	1	10	3	—	—
1-2 years	—	6	87	11	—	—
3-4 years	—	11	108	13	—	—
5-9 years	—	41	222	7	—	—
10-14 years	—	10	1	3	—	—
15-24 years	—	1	1	1	—	—
25 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age unknown	—	—	4	—	—	—
Total	—	70	433	38	—	—

Age Periods	Dysentery	Food Poisoning	Menin- gococcal infection	Pneumonia	Erysipelas
Under 5 years ..	8	1	—	—	—
5-14 years ..	17	3	—	2	—
15-44 years ..	11	3	—	3	—
45-64 years ..	1	—	—	5	—
65 and over ..	1	—	—	3	1
Age unknown ..	2	—	—	—	—
Total ..	40	7	—	13	1

Table IV

Tuberculosis

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24 years	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
25-44 years	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-64 years	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Over 65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	8	10	—	1	1	—	—	—

GENERAL HEALTH MATTERS, INCLUDING INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL

Tuberculosis

There was one death from tuberculosis during the year and 19 new cases were notified. Three of these new cases occurred in the age group 15-24 years. This is a decided improvement on the figures for 1958 and follows the national pattern in the general downward trend in the number of new cases being notified each year. New and efficient drugs, Mass X-Ray and inoculation of susceptible adolescents with B.C.G. vaccine have all played their part in this fall. However, tuberculosis is still with us and complacency can be dangerous.

Diphtheria

No cases occurred in the district during the year and, as before, the Middlesex County Council at their clinics in the district, together with the local general practitioners, continued the immunising campaign against the disease.

838 children completed full courses of primary immunisation and 728 received re-inforcing injections against diphtheria. Immunity against this disease must be kept at a high level. Cases of diphtheria do still occur from time to time and in the non-immunised if not fatal can leave the child with severe and crippling defects. In this day and age not to have a child immunised is tantamount to criminal neglect.

Whooping Cough.

The number of cases notified was 38 as compared with six for the previous year. Due to the complications that can

accrue from this infection it is essential that children are protected by immunisation as early as possible in their life.

787 children received full courses of primary immunisation and 296 received re-inforcing injections against the disease.

Acute Poliomyelitis

No cases of poliomyelitis occurred during the year. Table 11 shows one death from Paralytic Poliomyelitis. This patient whose home happened to be in this district actually contracted the disease and died while working in another part of the country.

Smallpox Vaccination

Number of primary vaccinations	...	...	628
Number of re-vaccinations	...	...	51

In these days of Jet air travel when people move from one Continent to another in the matter of hours the risk of imported infection is constantly with us. Everyone should be protected against smallpox. This is best done in infancy.

Food Poisoning

Seven unrelated cases of food poisoning were notified during the year. Investigations were made in all cases but it was not possible to ascertain any specific source of infection in any of the cases.

Dysentery

Forty cases of Sonnei Dysentery occurred during the year and the majority of these cases were notified during five weeks in November and December. The outbreak was fairly well localised and followed the usual pattern. Spread was from house to house due to the intermingling of infected children with their friends. Every case notified is followed up by a member of the Health Department and every opportunity is taken to impress upon the families concerned the need for the most careful personal hygiene.

Maternal Mortality

There were no maternal deaths during the year.

National Assistance Act, 1948—Section 47

It was not found necessary to take action under the National Assistance Act in respect of persons requiring care and attention. In certain cases arrangements were made with the Area Medical Officer for the assistance of Home Helps.

Housing

Since house building recommenced in 1946 this Authority has built 2,226 dwellings and 1,463 private dwellings have been erected.

There was still a demand for houses, mostly from young couples who were sharing accommodation with parents.

Maternity and Child Welfare and School Health Services

This district forms part of Health Area 10, Middlesex County Council, who provide numerous sessions for ante-natal and post-natal care, child welfare, immunisation and school health services at the following clinics:—

Cardinal Road, Feltham
Grove Crescent, Hanworth
Imperial Road, Bedfont.

Establishments for Massage and Special Treatment

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

Water Analysis

The Bedfont and Feltham Wards of the District were supplied by the South-West Suburban Water Company and the Hanworth Ward by the Metropolitan Water Board. The water supplied to this area by the South-West Suburban Water Company was taken by the Company from the Metropolitan Water Board. The water was derived from the River Thames, purified in the storage reservoirs at Littleton, Staines, and Walton, and filtered and chlorinated at the Hampton Works. The water supply was satisfactory both as regards quantity and quality.

Samples for bacteriological and chemical examination were taken by the Metropolitan Water Board at all stages of purification at least five times each week and eighteen raw water and one hundred and twenty treated water samples were taken by the South West Suburban Water Company, including twelve in the Feltham area. In addition, four samples were taken by my department.

Average Results of Analyses of Metropolitan Water Board Supply. (Milligrammes per litre)

Chemical

Ammonia Nitrogen	0.022
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.075
Oxidised Nitrogen (Nitrate)	3.8
Chlorides as Cl	28
Oxygen abs. from Permanganate 4 hours at 27°C	1.08
Turbidity in terms of Silica	0.4
Colour m.m. brown 2 ft. Tube Burgess's Tintometer	10
Hardness (total)	250
Hardness (Non-carbonate)	56
pH Value	7.7
Phosphate as PO ₄	0.95
Silicate as SiO ₂	9
Sulphate as SO ₄	54
Fluoride as F	0.2
Magnesium as Mg	4.0
Electrical Conductivity (gemmhos)	525

Bacteriological

Agar Plate Count (per ml.)

Colonies counted at 37°C (20-24 hours) 6.7

Coliform count (percentage of samples negative in 100 ml.) 100.0

E-coli count (percentage of samples negative in 100 ml.) 100.0

**Typical Analysis of South-West Suburban Water Company's
Supply. (Parts per million)**

Appearance	..	..	..	..	..	..	Clear and bright
Turbidity	..	..	..	..	..	..	Less than 1
Colour	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Odour	..	..	..	..	..	..	Slightly chlorinous
pH	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.6
Free Carbon Dioxide	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Electric Conductivity	..	..	..	..	..	..	525
Total Solids	..	..	..	..	..	..	350
Chlorine present as Chloride	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate	..	..	..	..	..	..	215
Hardness: Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	255
(Carbonate 215; Non-Carbonate 40)							
Nitrate Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.8
Nitrite Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	absent
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.010
Albuminoid Nitrogen	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.036
Oxygen Absorbed	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.60
Residual Chlorine	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.05
Metals	..	..	..	..	..	..	absent

Bacteriological

Number of Colonies

developing on Agar 1 day at 37°C. 2 days at 37°C. 3 days at 20°C.
 0 per ml. 2 per ml. 12 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.	

The water supplied had no plumbo-solvent action but samples were tested for presence of metals.

No action was required in respect of contamination of the water. All water was chlorinated before distribution and all new and repaired mains were chlorinated before being restored to use.

With the exception of two condemned but occupied cottages, all the houses in the area were supplied from the public water mains.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S REPORT

Housing—Demolition and Closure

Action within the framework of the Council's programme for dealing with unfit houses was continued, details of which are given below. The rate of progress slowed down somewhat due to a number of causes, but the determination to deal with all the unfit houses remained and it is hoped that greater strides will be taken in 1960.

At the latter end of the year confirmation without modification was received of the Compulsory Purchase Order made in respect of the Fern Grove Clearance Area. The provision of alternative accommodation was under way and it was expected that the re housing of the occupants of the 29 houses would not be long delayed.

From 1946 until the end of 1959, 244 houses had been dealt with as follows:—

Demolition Orders made	210
Agreements entered into with owners to "close" or repair or Closing Orders made	34
Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal action	206
Persons who have been displaced	671

Action taken during 1959 is as follows:—

Houses reported to Public Health Committee as being unfit	8
Demolition Orders made	1
Closing Orders made	2
Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 17 (1) ...	2
Houses closed under Sections 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1)	5
Houses closed under Sections 17 (3) and 26 ...	—
Parts of buildings closed under Section 18 ...	—
Houses in respect of which agreements entered into with owners to repair	—
Total number of persons displaced	10

Housing Repairs

Defects in dwelling houses continued to receive attention and systematic house-to-house inspection was pursued. It was found on these house-to-house visits that quite a number of the older houses were becoming owner-occupied. This, in

many cases was the best solution and the occupiers were able to make very pleasant and comfortable houses, which a landlord could not economically do.

A number of houses which had been included in the list of possible demolitions were in fact dealt with by way of repair. Repair to Housing Act standard, however, did not completely satisfy many tenants. What they needed were improved amenities. The standard improvement grants can help to provide these amenities but landlords have not so far taken advantage of them.

Appeals were lodged against 15 notices served under the Housing Act, 1957, but had not been determined by the end of the year.

Informal Action

Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the local authority	62
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	----

Action under Statutory Powers

Number of houses reported to Public Health Committee with a view to service of formal notices	52
Number of formal notices served	28

Public Health Acts

Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
(a) by owners	2
(b) by local authority in default of owners	—

Housing Act, 1957

Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9 and 16):—	
(a) by owners	2
(b) by local authority in default of owners	—

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959—

Standard Improvement Grants

This Act came into operation on the 14th June and provided for the payment of grants of half the cost of providing standard amenities, subject to prescribed maxima, depending upon the amenities already existing.

The standard amenities are (a) a fixed bath or shower in a bathroom; (b) a wash-hand basin; (c) a hot water supply; (d) a water closet in or contiguous to the dwelling; and (e) satisfactory facilities for storing food.

The conditions for obtaining a grant are not onerous and it is to be hoped that advantage will be taken to equip many of the older but sound houses with these necessary amenities. Twenty-one applications were received and sixteen had been approved by the end of the year.

Rent Act, 1957—Certificates of Disrepair

Applications for Certificates of Disrepair and for the cancellation thereof were received and dealt with as set out below. The figures show a considerable reduction as compared with the previous year. It is rather surprising how few tenants, despite increases in rents, took advantage of the opportunities afforded them under the Act to secure repairs.

No. of applications for certificates	...	...	8
No. of decisions not to issue certificates	...	...	3
No. of certificates issued	...	...	3
No. of undertakings given by landlords to remedy defects	...	...	3
No. of undertakings refused by local authority	...	—	
No. of applications for cancellation of certificates			9
No. of certificates cancelled	...	...	11

Overcrowding

Ten cases of overcrowding were found and reported to the Public Health Committee. Most of the cases concerned housing applicants and they were referred to the Housing Committee for consideration. Thirteen known cases of overcrowding were abated during the year.

Moveable Dwellings

Public Health control of moveable dwellings in the area is effected by means of the Middlesex County Council Acts, 1944-1956 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.

It has been the Council's policy for many years to deter the use of caravans in the area as permanent dwellings.

During the year five applications for consent were received. In one case consent was given for a period of six months, in two others it was refused and in two cases decisions were deferred.

Action was taken which secured the removal of six other moveable dwellings and the cessation of use of one caravan in respect of the use of which no consent had been given. In

one instance the occupier was prosecuted under the above-mentioned Acts and the Magistrates imposed a fine of 40s. 0d. with £2 2s. 0d. costs.

Food Premises

Regular inspections of all types of food premises were made, special attention and more frequent visits being made to catering establishments, premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, bakehouses and other places where food is actually prepared.

It is considered that there was still much room for improvement in the display and handling of food for sale, but at the same time it is felt that further significant progress is only likely if either the public becomes much more conscious of food hygiene than at present or food legislation is amended. The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, gave impetus to slowly rising standards and as a result many improvements were effected, particularly with regard to washing facilities; but five years have passed, the wave has lost its strength and a little back flow is perceptible. Now is the time for a campaign for a fresh surge forward. Public awareness and demand is unlikely to provide the spur at present so amending regulations calling for better standards should do so. It is felt that the public generally would support such measures.

Health and Hygiene Exhibition

During and as part of the annual carnival week in June a health and hygiene exhibition was organised. Held in a marquee on Feltham Green the theme was clean food and clean air. In addition to the display arranged by the department, the North Thames Gas Board, Solid Smokeless Fuels Association and the Southern Electricity Board provided displays and the two former demonstration vehicles also.

The attendances on the two Saturdays was good and the visitors seemed to find the displays of interest.

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.

Two licences were renewed to keep pet shops.

The occupier of one shop renewed his licence to deal in game.

The 'late day' for the general closing hours of shops in the area was Friday, but shopkeepers remained free to fix their own half-day closing, subject to the provisions of the Shops Act. Most shops closed for the half-day on Wednesday.

There was no evidence of shops remaining open after the closing hours. A number of shops opened on Sundays and inspections were made in connection with the limited range of articles permitted to be sold on that day, but it appeared that generally the requirements of the Act were being observed.

Food premises in the district consist of the following:—

Catering establishments, including factory canteens and school kitchens	...	...	...	...	116
Grocery and provision shops and "general stores"					70
Greengrocers' shops	...	...	...	...	39
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	...	28
Bakers' shops	...	...	...	...	17
Milk shops	...	...	...	...	8
Fishmongers' shops	...	...	...	...	15
Sweet and confectionery shops	...	...	...	...	64

Food Preparing Premises

Two premises were registered during the year.

The register contained the addresses of 35 premises registered under the Act for the preservation, etc., of food as follows:—

Premises used for the manufacture of sausages, pies, etc.	...	...	...	...	14
Premises used for the cooking of fish	...	...	...	...	12
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 open shops for the sale of foodstuffs, are required to be registered with the local authority and any foodstores at which the foodstuffs intended for sale are stored are also required to be registered, but there is no requirement that hawkers shall have a food store. Public Health control over hawkers' activities is less exacting than over food shops and is more difficult of application but efforts were made to maintain a reasonable hygienic standard.

Two new hawkers of foodstuffs were registered.

Street Traders

Persons wishing to trade from fixed sites in any public street are required to hold a licence under Sections 320 and 321 of the Middlesex County Council Act, 1944. There was only one street trader in the area whose licence to sell fruit and vegetables was renewed during the year. One new application for a licence was refused.

Slaughter-Houses

Slaughtering in the area virtually ceased, two of the slaughter-houses were not used at all and the other on only one occasion.

Number of slaughter-houses licensed	...	...	3
Number of slaughtermen licensed	...	...	7

Knackers Yard

There was one licensed knackers yard, which, however, was not used.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Carcases and Offal inspected at slaughter-houses

Three pigs which had been slaughtered were inspected and found to be fit for human consumption.

Meat and other Foods Inspected

Carcase meat and offal was inspected at butchers' shops and catering establishments and the following was considered unfit for human consumption:—

			Beasts	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Tuberculosis	..	..	—	—	—	—
Other condition	..	..	1343 lbs.	194 lbs.	349 lbs.	350 lbs.

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

Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	178 lbs.
Chicken	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	517 lbs.
Sausages	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39 lbs.
Ham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10 lbs.
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	28 lbs.
Beans	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	38 lbs.
Biscuits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	62 lbs.
Rabbits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16 lbs.
Flour	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	27 lbs.
Jam	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 lbs.

Tinned Foodstuffs

Meat	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	215 lbs.
Fruit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114 lbs.
Fish	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 lb.
Vegetables	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15 lbs.
Milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 tins
Bacon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13 lbs.
Gammon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	241 lbs.
Ham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 lbs.

Disposal of Condemned Food

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

Food and Drugs Act, 1955—Food and Drugs Authority

The Middlesex County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority for the district and I am indebted to the Chief Officer of the Public Control Department, Mr. J. A. O'Keefe, for details of action taken in this district.

Samples procured:—

Article	Total samples procured	Unsatisfactory
Milk (New)	5	—
Milk (Various)	20	1
Cakes and Biscuits	6	—
Cream	5	—
Drugs	4	—
Fish and Fish products	10	—
Fruit—Fresh and Canned	4	—
Ice Cream	19	—
Liver	3	—
Meat and Meat Products	22	—
Spirits	4	—
Sweets	7	—
Vinegar and N.B.C.	15	—
Miscellaneous	11	—
Totals	135	1

The sample noted as unsatisfactory was that of a bottle of milk which contained a piece of glass. The milk bottle was found to have a damaged rim and there was no evidence that the bottle had not been damaged whilst in the custody of the purchaser. No further action was taken.

119 premises were inspected under the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887-1953 mostly in connection with the marking of certain foodstuffs with the country of origin. The majority of the infringements detected were of a minor nature and were dealt with by verbal warnings. Two official cautions were issued, one to a retailer and another to the retailer's shop manager and one successful prosecution was undertaken under the main Act against a retail greengrocer for applying false trade description of weight to carrots.

The labelling of Food Order, 1953, requires pre-packed food to be labelled with its common or usual name (if any) and, in the case of compounded food, the names of the ingredients. It also requires that the name and address or registered trade mark of the packer or labeller be given. 509 articles of pre-packed food were examined at 78 premises but no infringements were detected.

In addition, advertisements and the labels of pre-packed foods were scrutinised to detect false or misleading descriptions. No serious infringements were disclosed but corrective action was sought in one or two cases. For example, where slimming claims were made in association with lemon juice

drinks, and where some soft cheeses were described as "cream cheese". Some extravagant claims in respect of medical remedies were also challenged and the advertisements withdrawn.

One licence was issued to use the designation "pasteurised" in relation to milk processed in the area. Premises were inspected regularly and 59 samples taken. The premises and samples were satisfactory.

Nineteen samples of raw milk were tested for tubercle bacilli but none was contaminated.

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

Dealers licences were granted to sell graded milk as follows:

Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Sterilised	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Supplementary Licences:								
Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Sterilised	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14

There were 24 distributors of milk and one dairy.

Complaints were received in respect of ten milk bottles which either contained foreign matter or were not clean. Warnings were given in each case.

Ice Cream

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

Seven premises were registered, under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice cream.

As in previous years the Council received complaints with regard to the noise and disturbance caused by the various instruments used by mobile ice cream vendors. On the 1st December a byelaw made by the Middlesex County Council with regard to noisy hawking came into force. It remains to be seen whether this measure will enable an improvement in the position to be achieved.

Clean Air

The Council supported the setting up of a Clean Air Co-ordinating Committee embracing adjoining districts and in April the West Middlesex Clean Air Co-ordinating Committee was formed. The constituent authorities were the Borough of Ealing and the Urban Districts of Hayes and Harlington and Feltham. It was hoped that other districts would eventually participate.

In August the Council received the Minister's provisional approval to the proposed No. 1 Smoke Control Area and subsequently decided to proceed with the detailed survey.

The proposed area consists of the whole of the district north of the Staines Road, embracing some 2,050 houses and 120 other premises and covering 1,398 acres.

A phased programme was adopted which envisaged dealing with the whole district by 1972.

Pollution of the atmosphere by fumes and smoke from diesel engines is undoubtedly increasing. Whilst not encountered so much on the quieter residential road, on through roads, including shopping areas, they were often most apparent and quite apart from any possible effect upon health these fumes are unpleasant.

The Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations prohibit the emission of smoke, visible vapour, grit, sparks, ashes, cinders or oily substance but only if it is likely to cause damage to property or injury or danger to persons, on or likely to be on the road.

It appeared that in respect of many vehicles the regulations were not being observed.

Rodent Control

The control of rat and mice infestations in accordance with the methods advocated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was continued. The Council's refuse tip was kept under regular observation and any sign of rat activity dealt with immediately. It was not considered necessary to test bait the public sewers.

Previous reports on rodent control have covered the financial year period, this report deals with the nine months period to 31st December, 1959, and future reports will relate to calendar years.

Complaints received of infestations numbered 186 and these, together with cases discovered by members of the staff, involved the inspection of 841 premises. Rat infestations were found at 147 premises and mice infestations at 32 premises. Of these 171 treatments were undertaken by the department, the remaining eight being carried out by the occupiers.

For treatments carried out by this department on behalf of occupiers, a standard charge of five shillings was made in the case of private dwellings and the full cost of the treatment was recovered in the case of business premises. In certain cases of hardship the standard charge was waived. Where the occupiers elected to carry out the treatment themselves, advice and supervision was given to ensure that the treatment was effective.

Arrangements were continued with the Middlesex County Council for the 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

Three premises were registered under this Act, but very little filling material was used. Five inspections were made.

Disinfestation

One Council dwelling was found to be infested with bed bugs and was disinfested by the department with contact insecticides incorporating D.D.T.

It was not found necessary to disinfest for bed bugs the furniture, etc., of prospective Council house tenants before removal to the Council's houses but the Engineer and Surveyor, who is responsible for the maintenance of these houses, treated ingoing tenants' furniture for "woodworm" where necessary.

Other disinfestations for the eradication of pests were carried out as follows:—

Wasps	81
Cockroaches	1

Infectious Disease—Disinfestation

One house was disinfected at the occupier's request after a case of scarlet fever.

Administration of the Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

Part I of the Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Verbal Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	17	5	1	—	—
(ii) Factories not inspected in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	213	375	3	20	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises). ..	1	4	—	—	—
Total	231	384	4	20	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	4	4	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	1
(b) Unsuitable or defective	20	32	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	3	7	—	—
Total	27	43	—	1

Part VIII of the Act**Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).**

No notifications were received of outworkers employed by local manufacturers but there were 60 persons doing outwork for employers outside the area. 112 visits were made to outworkers' homes.

Summary of Inspections

Number of premises inspected on complaint	924
Number of inspections made:—	
Housing inspections (Housing Regulations)	61
Housing re-inspections	979
Other re-inspections	1,375
Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning	745
Council Houses	28
Moveable Dwellings	91
Bakehouses	51
Slaughter-houses (excluding reslaughtering)	3
Knackers Yards	1
Dairies and Milk Shops	20
Pet Animal Shops	6
Shops (Shops Act)	766
Hawkers of Foodstuffs	113
Ice Cream Premises	46
Food Preparing Premises (excluding Catering Establishments)	33

Catering Establishments	428
Butchers' Shops	157
Fish Shops	58
Other Food Shops	547
Power Factories	375
Non-Power Factories	5
Other Factories	4
Outworkers' Premises	112
Workplaces and Offices	111
Piggeries	6
Licensed or Public Premises	167
Hairdressers and Barbers Establishments	50
Rodent Control	2,381
Defence Regulations	222
Housing Applications	254
Measurements under Housing Act	30
Smoke Observations	105
Food Inspection—Meat	50
Food Inspection—Fish	12
Food Inspection—Other Commodities	48
Milk and Water Sampling	2
Street Trading	3
Tipping of Refuse	30
Inspection of Food Vehicles	127
Inspection under Rag Flock Act	5
Re Disrepair Certificates	70
Miscellaneous	518
Smoke Control Area	256
Total	11,395

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and Dr. Cormack, the Medical Officer of Health, for the consideration shown to me and to express my thanks to the members of the staff for their able assistance in carrying out the work of the department.

FRANCIS V. BELL,

Chief Public Health Inspector.