

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for West Ham].

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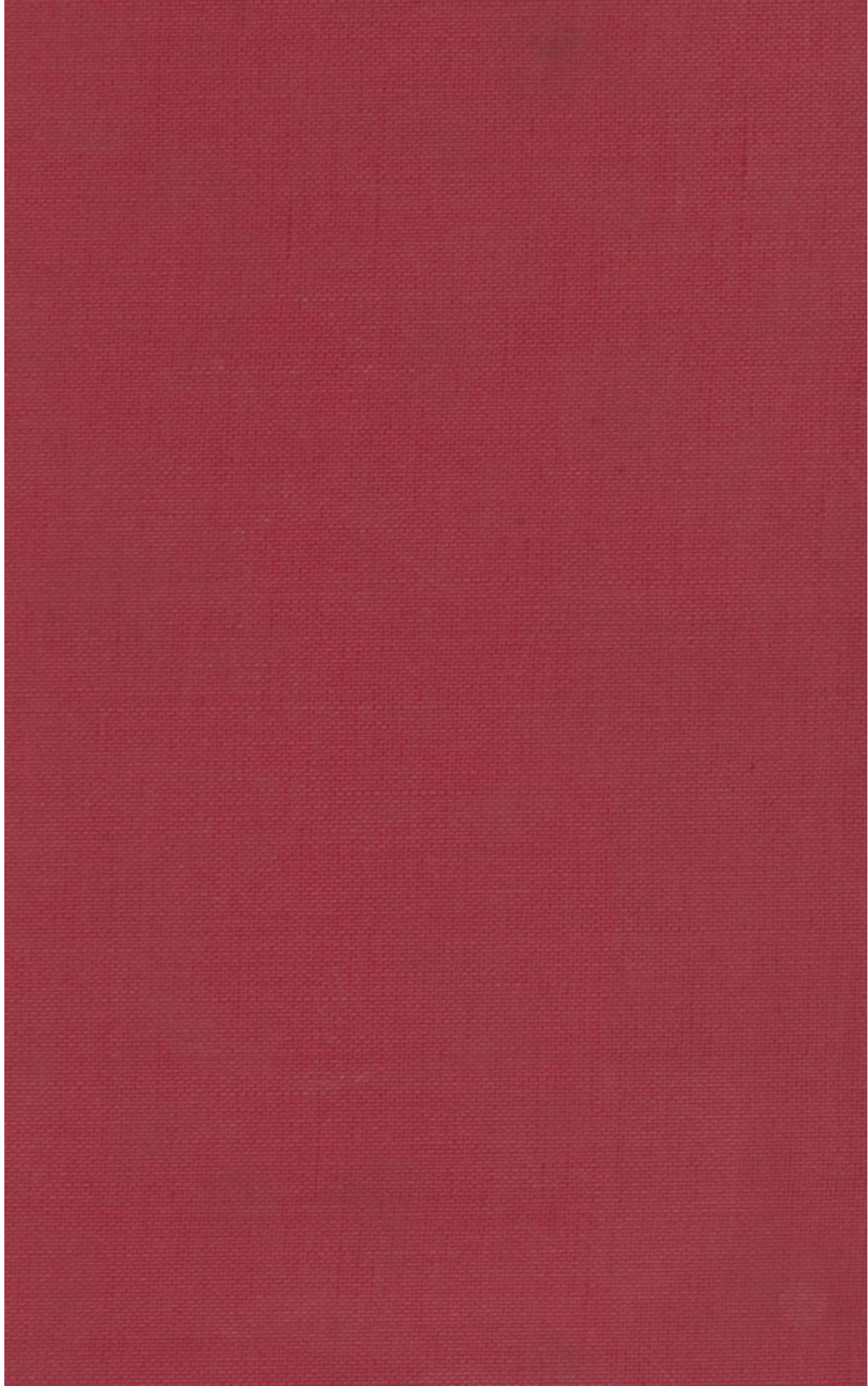
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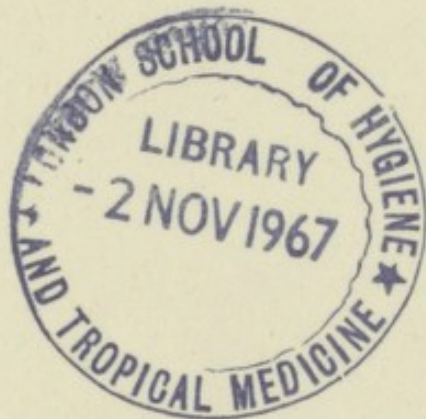
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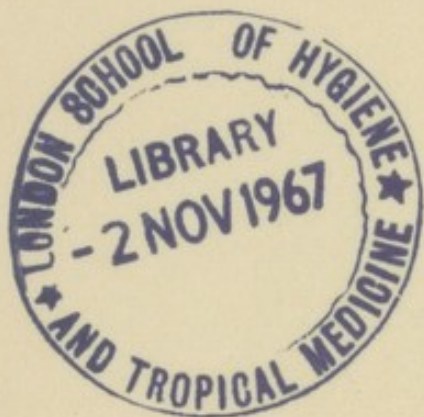
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County Borough of West Ham.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1923.

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County Borough of West Ham

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

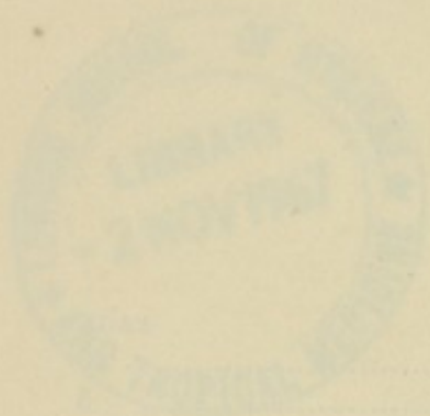
FOR THE YEAR

1953

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County Borough of West Ham

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1923.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

West Ham is situated in latitude $51^{\circ} 30'$ to $51^{\circ} 33'$ N. and longitude $0^{\circ} 1'$ to $0^{\circ} 3'$ E., in the extreme south-west of the County of Essex and on the eastern side of the administrative County of London, from which it is separated by the windings of the River Lee and Bow Creek for $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

In shape it is an irregular rhomboid, some 2 miles from east to west, and 4 miles from north to south, comprising within its boundaries 4,706 acres. The northern and eastern sides of the Borough are contiguous to the populated district of Leyton and the County Borough of East Ham respectively. The southern boundary is formed by the river Thames for $2\frac{1}{8}$ miles. In elevation it is almost flat, varying from less than 5 feet to 45 feet above ordnance datum, about half the area being not more than 10 feet above that level, and consequently protected only from serious flooding by the river banks.

Chalk may be reached at depths varying from 100 to 150 feet, overlaid by green Thanet sands and Woolwich beds, on which rests 5 to 50 feet of London clay. In the north-eastern half of the Borough 16 feet to 20 feet of river drift gravel overlays the London clay, sloping down towards the river Lee and river Thames in the marshy clay and alluvium, a large part of the surface being made ground.

Considerable excavations of the gravel have been removed in patches in connection with the erection of buildings and cellars, not approved by the Local Board, constructed which in times of storm are liable to temporary flooding.

Births.

The number of births registered in the Borough during the year was 8,173 (4,229 males and 3,944 females), but of this total 523 were children of non-residents who came to be confined in one or other of the maternity hospitals or were visiting friends, while 153 West Ham mothers were confined outside the Borough. Suitable adjustment makes the net West Ham births 7,803 (4,018 males and 3,785 females); 225 of these (120 male and 105 female) were illegitimate.

Calculated on the Registrar General's estimate of the population of the Borough at the middle of 1923, viz., 314,400, the birth-rate for the year was 24.81. This was the lowest birth-rate yet published except during the War years 1917 and 1918. 7,609 live births and 235 still births were notified within 36 hours in accordance with the Notification of Births Act.

Deaths.

The number of deaths registered during the year was 2,409, but of these 208 occurred in persons not belonging to the Borough, while the deaths of 1,130 residents of West Ham occurred in various institutions and districts elsewhere, making the total net deaths attributable to the Borough number 3,331, of which 1,803 were males and 1,528 females.

The distribution of these deaths to their various causes will be found later in this Report and in the Appendix; but the grand total of 3,331 from all causes gives an annual death-rate of 10.59 per 1,000 of the estimated population, which is the lowest death-rate recorded during the past 47 years.

Deaths in Public Institutions.

The increasing use made of the facilities for Institutional treatment is shown by the subjoined table, which also serves to some extent as an index of prevailing distress. The larger Institutions serving the Borough, such as the Whipps Cross Hospital and Central Home of the Board of Guardians, and the Borough Mental Hospital, are situate outside the Borough boundary, while in addition many West Ham residents are received into the London Hospitals and Institutions elsewhere. Similarly the Public Institutions within the Borough (Plaistow Hospital, Queen Mary's Hospital for the East End, St. Mary's

Hospital, Plaistow Maternity Charity, I.C.C.S. Children's Hospital, Royal Albert Dock Hospital and Forest Gate Sick Home) receive patients from the surrounding districts whose deaths are registered in the district, but have to be excluded from tabulation as transferable to West Ham.

It will be noted that in the former group (outside Institutions) 59 infants and 1,071 persons over the age of 1 year died during the year, and in the latter group (inside Institutions) 134 infants and 372 elders died, of which numbers 38 infants' and 170 elders' deaths were of non-residents of the Borough. The net deaths of West Ham residents in Public Institutions were 155 infants and 1,273 persons of one year and upwards, making a total of 1,428 institutional deaths as compared with 1,903 deaths in private residences. That is to say, over 42 per cent. of the deaths during the year occurred in Public Institutions. Twenty years ago the percentage was, so far as could be ascertained, not more than 25.

DEATHS IN OUTSIDE INSTITUTIONS :—

	Under 1 year.	1 year and upwards.
Whipps Cross Hospital	18	399
Central Home	—	296
Dagenham Sanatorium	—	38
Goodmayes Mental Hospital	—	58
Residents dying in London Institutions &c.	41	280

DEATHS IN INSIDE INSTITUTIONS :—

Plaistow Hospital	3	40
Queen Mary's Hospital for East End ...	54	144
St. Mary's Hospital	34	41
Plaistow Maternity Charity	13	5
Royal Albert Dock Hospital... ..	—	53
I.C.C.S. Children's Hospital... ..	7	2
Forest Gate Sick Home	20	63
Other Places, e.g., Docks	3	24
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	193	1443
Non-residents dying in Inside Institutions...	38	170
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	155	1273
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net West Ham Deaths in Institutions ...	=	1428

Vital Statistics of the Wards of the Borough during 1923.

WARDS.	Census Popu- lation adjusted to middle of 1921 by Registrar Genl.	Births.	Birth Rate.	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Infant Deaths.	Infant Mortality per 1,000 births	Natural increase Births over Deaths.	Estimated popu- lation middle of 1923.
New Town	18,963	449	23·18	220	11·35	33	73	229	19,369
Forest Gate	19,842	382	19·11	167	10·75	13	34	167	19,983
High Street	18,511	518	27·13	329	9·90	35	67	329	19,088
Broadway	15,568	359	22·80	163	12·44	27	75	163	15,745
Park	15,854	319	19·81	145	10·85	13	40	145	16,031
Upton	18,020	342	18·87	156	10·26	17	49	156	18,117
Plashet Road	16,034	355	21·77	182	10·61	18	50	182	16,298
West Ham	17,855	392	21·47	217	9·58	16	40	217	18,254
Plaistow	21,665	518	23·37	291	10·24	29	56	291	22,159
Bemersyde	14,981	296	19·35	154	9·34	17	57	154	15,193
Canning Tn. & Grange	24,450	686	27·22	426	10·31	46	67	426	25,197
Hudsons	20,607	458	21·61	263	9·20	22	48	263	21,190
Ordnance	20,403	636	30·03	398	11·24	41	64	398	21,174
Beckton Road	20,322	648	30·72	443	9·72	43	66	443	21,090
Tidal Basin	22,122	861	37·32	574	12·44	62	72	574	23,068
Custom Ho. & Silvertn	21,803	584	26·32	335	11·09	34	58	335	22,444
County Borough ..	307,000	7,803	24·81	3,331	10·59	466	59	4,472	314,400

Summary of General Statistics,

IN THE FORM ASKED FOR BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH.

Area (acres), 4,706.

Population (1923), 314,400.

Number of inhabited houses (1921), 47,995.

Number of families or separate occupiers (1921), 68,569.

Rateable value—Poor Rate, £1,410,738. General District Rate,
£1,324,685.

Sum represented by a penny rate—General District Rate, £5,340.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Births—	Total.	Male.	Female.	
Legitimate...	7,578 ...	3,898 ...	3,680 ...	Birth-rate, 24.81
Illegitimate..	225 ...	120 ...	105 ...	
Deaths	... 3,331 ...	... 1,803 ...	... 1,528 ...	Death-rate, 10.59
Number of women dying in or consequence of child-birth—				
From Sepsis	... ..	... ..	... ..	11
From other causes	... ..	... ..	... ..	13
Deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 births—				
Legitimate, 439; illegitimate, 27. Total	... ..	... ..	... ..	466
Deaths from measles (all ages)	... ..	... ..	... ..	12
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	... ..	... ..	... ..	23
Deaths from diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)...	... ..	... ..	... ..	70

Bacteriological Investigations.

In addition to the Bacteriological routine work carried out at the Plaistow Hospital and the Tuberculosis Dispensary (recorded in the Appendix), 280 diphtheria specimens and 148 tubercular sputa were examined on behalf of the Public Health Department and private practitioners. In connection with a diphtheria outbreak at one school in the Borough, prompt inspection by two Assistant School Medical Officers, accompanied by bacteriological investigation, discovered an unsuspected "carrier," whose exclusion checked further spread of the disease.

Infectious Diseases.

Below is appended a table showing the number of cases of the notifiable diseases occurring during the year, together with the number removed to hospitals and the total number of deaths in each disease.

DISEASE.	Cases Notified.	Removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	2	2	..
Diphtheria	701	671	27
Scarlet Fever	530	412	7
Enteric Fever and Paratyphoid	25	10	1
Puerperal Fever	16	14	11
Pneumonia	198	..	119
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	1	3
Acute Poliomyelitis, etc.	5	4	..
Encephalitis Lethargica	6	2	2
Erysipelas	138	..	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	31	..	..
Malaria .. .. .	..	..	..

It may be of interest to compare the incidence of some of these diseases with the figures for England and Wales supplied by the Registrar General, as set out below:—

DISEASE.	Case rate per 1,000 population.	
	West Ham.	England and Wales.
Smallpox	0.00	0.06
Scarlet Fever.. .	1.68	2.23
Diphtheria .. .	2.22	1.04
Enteric Fever.. .	0.07	0.08
Puerperal Fever .	0.05	0.06
Erysipelas .. .	0.43	0.32

In addition to the above, some other diseases need comment.

MEASLES.

At the time of writing a proposal has been made by the West Ham Branch of the National Council of Women Teachers that this disease should be made compulsorily notifiable. One can sympathise with the teachers, whose salaries, owing to the grading of the schools per attendance, may be affected adversely by a scant attendance due to measles which the Education Committee does not consider grave enough to justify special exemption from lower grading; but it is more than doubtful whether the proposal will either secure the object sought or materially benefit the public health.

Not only have towns which secured special powers in this respect subsequently found them of little value, but from the year 1915 to 1919, by general order of the Local Government Board, primary cases of measles and German measles were made notifiable throughout the country, and the experience gained led to the rescinding order of the latter year. Owing to the fact that the majority of cases of the disease are not seen by a doctor unless some complication arises, notification gives a very imperfect estimate of the incidence of the complaint, whereas by the arrangement authorized by the Education Committee whereby the School Attendance Officers report to the Medical Officer of Health absentee school children suffering from illness, a more liberal knowledge of juvenile sickness is gained by him than through the medium of notification.

During the year under review by the method referred to above, 1,066 cases of measles and 354 cases of whooping cough were brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health, of

which 519 cases of measles and 204 cases of whooping cough occurred in children under 5 years of age. The correctness of the diagnosis is, of course, liable to error in many cases, but such liability would still remain under a system of notification for the reason already stated. The number of deaths certified as due to these causes were 12 and 23 respectively, astonishingly small numbers when compared with those of a severer epidemic year, such as 1909, when in a much smaller population the deaths from measles and whooping cough were 217 and 184 respectively.

Change of type in disease may account partly for a diminished death-rate, but education also is a potent factor not to be forgotten and that the Public Health Department is an educational force which never sleeps may be exemplified in the case of these juvenile complaints. It is impossible to visit every case of illness that is not under the care of a medical practitioner, but the majority of measles, whooping cough, chicken pox and other diseases coming to the knowledge of the Department have for years been visited by the Women Sanitary Inspectors, who, by distributing special leaflets accompanied by friendly advice to those who often are woefully in need of it, must be materially aiding the conquest of disease, while of recent years the visitation of infants and children under 5 years by the Health Visitors under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme by the same means affords justification for the statement that disease is being prevented.

The visits in case of sickness which the Women Sanitary Inspectors dovetailed into their other work during the year may be seen from the accompanying table:—

DISEASE.	Number reported.	Number Visited.	DISEASE.	Number reported.	Number visited.
Chicken Pox	1,222	825	Tonsillitis, sore throat	1,335	825
Measles	1,066	1,037	Ringworm	219	145
Whooping Cough ..	318	318	Scabies	53	37
Influenza	559	364	Other Skin	871	553
Other Infections ..	687	260	Tuberculosis	108	73
Catarrh Colds	730	288	Injuries	216	124
Bronchitis	631	397	Other causes	1,073	737

Several of these cases were admitted to the Plaistow Hospital for Infectious Disease, as will be seen in Dr. MacIntyre's report on the work of the Hospitals.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table, in the form desired by the Ministry of Health, sets out the number of notified cases of Tuberculosis and the number of deaths during the year at certain age periods, distinguishing separately the pulmonary and non-pulmonary forms, males and females:—

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	1	..	4	2	..	1	3	2
1	5	3	22	19	3	..	15	9
5	63	60	30	24	..	2	4	5
10	39	55	17	19	..	7	4	4
15	41	47	13	10	12	20	3	3
20	45	57	4	8	21	32	4	3
25	70	58	5	5	33	22	4	2
35	70	38	2	1	48	21	1	3
45	49	25	1	1	22	20	..	2
55	19	13	1	..	20	6	..	..
65 and upwards ..	7	2	..	1	5	4	..	..
Total	409	358	99	90	164	135	38	33

Included in the above new cases are 17 pulmonary males, 16 pulmonary females, 15 non-pulmonary males and 17 non-pulmonary females, which were not notified but were discovered from the returns of the Registrars of Births and Deaths, showing that 17 per cent. of the deaths registered as due to Tuberculosis were not notified. Early in the year the Ministry of Health by a special circular letter called the attention of medical practitioners to the statutory duty of notification under the Regulations of 1912. Enquiries made into cases of non-notification elicited information either that the certifying doctor had reason to believe the case had been notified before the patient entered the Institution in which he died, or that he had only been called in to attend the patient a short time before death occurred.

The total number of cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year was 956, of which 767 were pulmonary cases and 189 tuberculosis of other organs. The deaths due to this disease numbered 370, which is the same number as the deaths of last year. The tubercular death-rate for the year, however, was less, being 1.17 per 1,000.

The death-rate from respiratory phthisis was 0.95, and from other forms 0.22 per 1,000.

Although still one of the diseases responsible for the greatest number of deaths, some satisfaction may be drawn from its steady, if slow, decline. 370 deaths and a tubercular death-rate of 1.17 per 1,000 during 1923 compares favourably with the mortality during the ten years 1903 to 1912, during which period the average yearly number of deaths from the disease was 496 and the average annual tubercular death-rate was 1.75 per 1,000. There is no doubt that advent of notification and the formulation of Tuberculosis schemes on the passing of the National Health Insurance Act has led to more accurate diagnosis and certification of deaths in the case of tubercle, but when every allowance for error in the earlier years is made, the fact that Tuberculosis is being slowly vanquished remains.

The detailed work carried out at the Tuberculosis Dispensary and Dagenham Sanatorium will be found in the appended reports of Dr. Garland Collins and Dr. Mayberry respectively.

CANCER.

This disease, which has caused much concern for many years past by reason of its increasing prevalence (both apparent and real), was responsible for 349 deaths (184 males and 165 females) in West Ham during the year, making a death rate of 1.11 per 1,000. This discovers a slight improvement on the previous year, when 350 deaths (175 male and 175 female) occurred, the death rate being 1.14 per 1,000. In England and Wales during that year (1922), 46,903 deaths from Cancer occurred, equivalent to the higher death rate of 1.23 per 1,000 of the population, but although West Ham's figures appear to be favourable as compared with the whole country they support, the belief generally held as to a real increase in the incidence of the disease. Twenty years ago (1903) the death-rate from malignant disease was 0.73 per 1,000, and the average death-rate from the disease during the ten years 1903 to 1912 was 0.79 per 1,000.

Among the numerous proposals made with a view to checking the incidence and mortality from Cancer, notification of the disease was suggested several years ago, but its varied forms, insidious development and multiple modes of attack are such that the Local Government Board decided notification was impracticable in view of the many administrative difficulties connected with its adoption—a view which, in my opinion,

pertains with equal force to-day. There can be little doubt, however, as to the benefit to be derived from active propaganda with a view to informing the public of the danger of delay in applying for advice in the early stages of the disease. The Central Midwives Board some years ago drafted a leaflet for distribution by midwives and others with special reference to cancer of the womb. The most recent leaflet is that prepared by the Royal Society of Medicine, a copy of which I append below:—

What ought to be known about Cancer.

1. In England and Wales 45,000 people died in the year 1921 from cancer.

2. There is every reason to believe that many of the patients could have been cured if the disease had been discovered early and the right treatment adopted.

3. Treatment by drugs, taken by the mouth, or applied externally, at present offers no prospect of cure.

4. In its earliest stages cancer is confined to one spot and rarely gives rise to pain, or a feeling of ill-health; nevertheless, there is usually evidence that there is something amiss, for example:—

(a) A lump in an unusual situation.

(b) Bleeding or discharge from unwonted parts of the body.

This early stage is the favourable one for the immediate treatment of cancer.

5. If a lump is found in the breast of a woman, medical opinion should at once be sought. Many such lumps are cancer.

6. Cancer of the womb may occur at any age over 25, but most frequently between the ages of 40 and 60. It causes bleeding and discharge, and is rarely painful in its early stages.

7. Any bleeding from the womb, however slight, after the change of life, almost always means cancer.

8. When any irregular bleeding or blood-stained discharge occurs at the change of life, a doctor should be consulted. Often it means that cancer is present.

9. For any abnormal enlargement within the abdomen, a doctor should be consulted, because such enlargement, apart from pregnancy, may be due to tumours which, though usually simple, are sometimes cancerous.

10. Any sore or wart occurring on the lip, especially in men over 40, is likely to be cancerous. Early removal means cure; neglect spells death.

11. An unhealed sore or lump on the tongue, especially in men, should be regarded with suspicion. Many of these are cancer.

12. Irritation of the tongue or inside the cheek, by broken or jagged teeth or tooth plates, must be avoided. The lower lip is often irritated by smoking a pipe with a rough or hot stem. This irritation may end in cancer.

13. Sores, cracks, ulcers or lacerations which refuse to heal, and moles which tend to spread, all demand careful medical investigation. Such troubles are often the starting points of cancerous growths, and their treatment by salves or ointment only waste of time.

14. Persistent indigestion, obstinate constipation or bleeding from the bowel commencing in middle life always demand investigation. Frequently the patient thinks bleeding from the bowel is due to piles, but too often the real cause is cancer of the rectum.

FUR DERMATOSIS.

During the year attention was directed to a number of cases of skin eruptions in London caused by dye used in the preparation of cheap furs, used for finishing fur-trimmed coats. The risk attending the workers using white arsenic and quinone in curing and mordanting furs is recognized, but the recent offender appears to have been a chemical (p-methyl-amidophenol sulphate) called by the manufacturers (The Berlin Aniline Company) ursol. Four cases were brought to my notice; two were employees of the Council and two members of the public, all being ladies, three of whom had recently purchased fur-trimmed coats. The sufferers were chiefly affected on the sides of the face, neck and forearms, where the furs impinged, the eruption commencing as small red papules and passing on to ulceration and crusting. Considerable irritation and temporary disfigurement was noticed, but the rash subsided in a short time under treatment after the objectionable garment had been discarded.

Hospital Accommodation.

(1) The Plaistow Fever Hospital (opened as two wards in 1896 and as to the computed Hospital designed by the late Edwin T. Hall in 1901) now contains 210 beds, originally allocated for the reception only of scarlet fever, diphtheria and

enteric fever cases, with 15 isolation beds for mixed or staff cases. The variable incidence of these diseases in recent years has enabled the Medical Superintendent to receive and treat many other infectious cases as well as to admit special cases for teaching purposes.

(2) Dagenham Smallpox Hospital, situate about 9 miles from the Borough, occupies a site of $6\frac{1}{2}$ acres, enclosed within the Rookery farm of 119 acres, owned and cultivated by the Council. It consists of permanent buildings, capable of accommodating 50 patients with the administrative staff required for their care, together with temporary iron buildings sufficient to treat 300 cases. The permanent buildings were opened in 1899, and the Hospital is a safeguard in epidemic periods of smallpox to the greater part of London-over-the-Border, as by agreement eleven other authorities contribute to the maintenance of the Hospital in consideration of West Ham undertaking to receive and treat all the small pox patients sent to the Hospital by those authorities, viz., Barking, East Ham, Romford Joint Hospital Board, Ilford, Wanstead, Waltham Joint Hospital Board, Brentwood, Billericay, Loughton, Epping Rural, Epping Urban.

Under the Tuberculosis Scheme formulated after the passing of the National Health Insurance Act, the Council were permitted to use Dagenham Hospital as a Temporary Sanatorium, but owing to an outbreak of smallpox at Easter, 1920, the Hospital had to be promptly cleared of consumptive patients and revert to its primary use, a costly and very inconvenient undertaking, as only 30 smallpox cases were admitted. Fortunately in 1922 the Council was enabled to enter into agreement with the Orsett Joint Hospital Board whereby the latter authority will admit sporadic cases of smallpox sent to their Hospital by West Ham, thus enabling the Council to continue using Dagenham Hospital for the reception of phthisical sufferers until, owing to the increasing pressure on the accommodation of the Orsett Hospital, the Ministry of Health called upon the Council to re-open Dagenham Hospital for smallpox cases.

(3) The Grange Convalescent Home consists of a residential mansion and 7 acres of grounds, together with 61 acres of land, situate at Harold Wood, being about 9 miles from the Borough. It was opened on 22nd February, 1909, for the reception of scarlet fever convalescents, and is capable of accommodating 60 patients. Owing to the fall in the number of scarlet fever cases the Council has recently approved of the institution being cleared of scarlet fever cases and used for the reception of diphtheria.

Ambulance Service.

The Council has two Motor Ambulances for the removal of infectious patients to hospital, and two ambulances for removing infected bedding, clothing, etc., to the disinfecting station.

There are also two motor ambulances for transference of non-infectious and accident cases to or from institutions. The latter ambulances made 607 journeys during the year. In 159 cases persons were removed from one address to another within the Borough. In 448 cases from an address within the Borough to an institution outside or *vice versa*.

During the year under review a mutual arrangement was agreed to between West Ham, the County Borough of East Ham and the District of Barking for reciprocal use of ambulances on call in case of emergency should the ambulance of one or other authority be unavailable.

Midwives' Acts, 1902 & 1918.

Number of Midwives practising for an Association or privately.	Number giving notice of intention to practise.	Number of Births attended.	Number of Records of sending for Medical Aid.
Plaistow Maternity Charity	57	3,567	591
Beechcroft Nurses' Home	31	164	33
Salvation Army Nurses	2	433	32
Tate Nurses' Institution	3	235	46
Queen Mary's Hospital Extern.	5	152	18
Private Practice:			
<i>a.</i> Hughes, F.	1	105	15
<i>b.</i> Masterson, Jane	1	50	2
<i>c.</i> Palmer, Eliza	1	39	0
<i>d.</i> Southwell, Sarah	1	2	0
<i>e.</i> Stephens, Alice	1	324	24
<i>f.</i> Price, Flora	1	45	1
<i>g.</i> Storey, Lilian	1	121	32
<i>h.</i> Ruedi, Bertha	1	180	29
<i>i.</i> Speake, Alice	1	69	5
<i>j.</i> Richards, Elizh.	1	0	0
<i>k.</i> Hall, Catherine	1	54	12
<i>l.</i> Jarvis, Cecilia	1	5	1
	110	5,545	841

Totals of cases treated by Doctors on "Records of sending for Medical Aid":—

<i>Pregnancy—</i>		<i>Lying-in—</i>	
Abortion or Threatened ...	20	Fits	0
Ante Partum Hæmorrhage	24	Unsatisfactory Condition..	51
Rash... ..	1	Temperature raised ...	43
Dangerous Veins	1	Breasts swollen	5
Albuminuria	2	Secondary P.P. Hæmorrhage	3
Excessive Sickness	3		
<i>Labour—</i>		<i>Child—</i>	
Fits	1	Injury at Birth	0
Purulent Discharge or Sores on Genitals	2	Deformity	19
Mal-presentation	28	Dangerous Feebleness ...	62
Presentation not made out	2	Inflammation of Eyes ...	34
Excessive Hæmorrhage ...	19	Skin Eruptions	6
Retained Placenta & Membranes	46	Hæmorrhage of Navel ...	3
Prolonged labour	111	Unsatisfactory Condition..	78
Ruptured Perineum ...	182	Prematurity	40
Unsatisfactory Condition..	35	Asphyxia	10

Visits paid by Health Visitors during the year 1923:—

To Expectant Mothers: First Visits, 2,020; Total Visits, 2,474
 To Infants under 1 year: First Visits, 4,649; Total Visits, 19,151
 To Children 1—5 years: Total Visits, 38,723.

Maternity Homes subsidized by Council:—

Number of Patients:

Queen Mary's Hospital for East End	302
Plaistow Maternity Charity	354

Number of Weeks spent in such Homes by Patients:

Queen Mary's Hospital	515
Plaistow Maternity Charity	708

Hospitals for Children under 5 years in Borough subsidized by Council:—

St. Mary's Hospital—Number of Patients	321
Number of Weeks spent in Hospital	1058
Settlement Hospital—Number of Patients	68
Number of Weeks spent in Hospital	467

Hospitals and Homes for Children under 5 years outside Borough:—

Number of Children	...	...	...	...	...	24
Number of Weeks spent in Homes	...	...	...	...	...	287

Number of Whole-day Attendances at Stratford Day Nursery, 6,309. No Half-days. Daily Average, 29.

Domiciliary Confinements in West Ham carried out by the Midwives attached to the Plaistow Maternity Charity during the past three years:—

	1921	1922	1923	Total.
From the Central Homes, Howards Road ..	1,998	2,109	1,831	5,938
From the Docks Branch.. .. .	1,315	1,276	1,223	3,814
From Stratford Branch	478	477	428	1,383
Totals.. .. .	3,791	3,862	3,482	11,135

Welfare Centres and Clinics.

CENTRES.	Sessions held.	Average Attendance.		Medical Supervision.
		Expectant Mothers.	Children.	
Chesterton House ..	4 weekly	42·72	82·12	Dr. Kennedy.
St. Luke's Square ..	4 „	58·44	69·09	„ Sinclair.
Martin Street	1 „	24·90	61·44	„ Kennedy.
Lees Hall	3 „	10·59	45·74	„ Lilian Hawthorne.
Trinity Mission	2 „	·96	64·23	„ Mary Alden.
Union Road	3 „	4·42	28·21	„ Dorothea Brooks.
Silvertown	1 „	—	18·80	„ Tivy.

Distribution of Milk to Nursing and Expectant Mothers and Children under 3 years of age.

Since August, 1920, Dried Milk only has been distributed under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

Eight tons of Dried Milk were used during the last five months of that year, but the amount has steadily and rapidly increased, until 104 tons were disposed of during the year 1923. The milk is handed to the applicant (after the requisite information is duly supplied on the application form approved by the Council) in cardboard packets with printed directions, and the present rate of disposal is approximately given as under:—

Average weekly number of packets supplied...	...	=	5,000
" " " " persons who apply	...	=	3,500
" " " " " supplied free, 1930		=	
" " " " " at half cost, 70		=	} 3,500
" " " " " at cost price, 1500		=		|

The quasi-relief character of the undertaking under existing economic conditions occupies an immense amount of time and labour on the part of Mr. Cheatle and the staff working under him, not only in carrying out the routine work of distribution, but also in detecting as far as possible fraudulent receipt of milk with a view to their submission to the Rota Committees chargeable with the duty of deciding upon the appropriate action in each case. Although applicants for free supply are constantly warned of their duty to notify improved changes in their financial condition, they frequently fail to do so, and merely refunding the cost of supplies wrongly obtained does not appear to check the evil.

The following leaflet was drawn up and distributed with a view to popularize its use:—

DRIED MILK.

What every Nursing Mother ought to know.

The Council are selling Full Cream Milk in a dried form suitable for infants and nursing mothers.

Dried Milk is a valuable food (not a patent manufactured food), being good cows' milk from from which the moisture has been evaporated and possesses certain special advantages. Liquid milk cannot be kept for any lengthened period without undergoing changes which render it unfit for food, but Dried Milk can undoubtedly be preserved for a considerable time with practically unimpaired food value.

Dried Milk is an excellent substitute—not for breast milk and not for really good cows' milk—but for much of the milk upon which infants are now fed. Under present conditions pure fresh cows' milk is practically unattainable in most towns, and in view of the liability to bacterial changes in fresh milk when kept in the ordinary dwelling-house, especially in hot weather, it is often desirable to use dried milk in preference.

By its use waste is preventable; the exact quantity can be made up as and when occasion requires.

The processes used in drying milk largely reduce the number of bacteria present and materially decrease the risk of conveyance of disease from tuberculous milk, a very common cause of tuberculosis in children.

Mortality figures showing comparison of death rate between children fed on Dried Milk and other hand-fed children are strikingly in favour of the use of Dried Milk.

Scurvy and Rickets are rare in infants fed on Dried Milk, and their occurrence is probably not attributable to this form of food.

Full Cream Dried Milk requires to be mixed with about seven parts by weight of water to give a mixture corresponding to ordinary milk. Therefore, 5 ozs. of Dried Milk should re-constitute to correspond to one quart of milk.

Dried Milk is cheaper than liquid milk, and it is sold by the Council at cost price for the safeguarding of the health of young children and nursing mothers.

Dried Milk can be obtained from the Town Hall, Stratford, by Nursing and Expectant Mothers for their own consumption or for the use of children under three years of age in accordance with a Scale adopted by the Council. Dried Milk can also be obtained from the Town Hall for the use of children between three and five years of age, but in such case a medical certificate must be supplied in respect of each child.

Any Nursing Mother experiencing difficulty in preparing the milk should send a post-card to the Medical Officer of Health at the Town Hall, Stratford, when a Health Visitor will call and give all the information necessary.

Venereal Diseases—Utilization of facilities at Hostels, 1923.

Particulars of the work done on behalf of the participating authorities, by the Hostels in the Scheme for the year ended 31st December, 1923. These institutions are as follows:—

Women's After Care, 22 Highbury Quadrant, N.

Southwark Diocesan, 80 Stockwell Park Road, S.W.

St. Thomas', 148 Lambeth Road, S.E.1.

Royal Free, 24 Gloucester Road, N.W.

Salvation Army, 17 Highbury Terrace, N.

Salvation Army, 4 Clapton Common, E.

West London Mission, 35 Parkhurst Road, N.

The following table shows the allocation of the patients received at these institutions to the areas in the Scheme:—

AREA.						No. of Patients.	Aggregate No. of days in residence.	Percentage (days).
London	..	..	..	..	..	148	13,550	63·0
Middlesex	..	..	..	..	..	19	2,204	10·3
Essex	..	..	..	..	..	11	1,676	7·8
Surrey	..	..	..	..	..	11	1,332	6·2
Kent	..	..	..	..	..	8	1,415	6·6
Herts	..	..	..	..	..	5	355	1·6
Bucks	..	..	..	..	..	3	447	2·1
East Ham	..	..	..	..	..	1	41	·2
West Ham	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Croydon	..	..	..	..	..	3	475	2·2
Totals	..	..	..	..	..	209	21,495	100·0

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

Venereal Diseases.

Summary of work done by the Hospitals during the year 1923.

	London.	Middle- sex.	Essex.	Surrey.	Kent.	Herts.	Bucks.	East Ham.	West Ham.	Croydon.	Total.	Other places.	Grand Total.
New Patients:—													
Syphilis	5,198	429	232	153	135	73	38	46	208	53	6,565	563	7,128
Soft Chancre	223	15	11	33	4	4	..	4	18	..	312	3	315
Gonorrhoea	8,633	732	356	246	184	82	49	135	281	64	10,762	801	11,563
Not Venereal	4,904	458	226	191	109	54	23	75	348	58	6,446	198	6,644
Total	18,958	1,634	825	623	432	213	110	260	855	175	24,085	1,565	25,650
Total attendances ..	453,856	33,534	12,228	12,133	7,556	2,443	1,336	3,727	9,744	2,816	539,373	16,136	555,509
No. of In-patient days ..	67,680	3,662	2,890	4,531	2,360	866	1,247	469	1,396	280	85,381	21,281	106,662
Salvarsan Sals. doses ..	40,732	3,534	1,545	1,425	1,011	463	190	367	1,179	406	50,852	1,140	51,992
PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.													
For or at Centre:													
Spirochaetes	616	61	10	10	3	5	..	5	17	2	729	33	762
Gonococci	22,795	1,627	857	600	329	128	56	369	727	119	27,607	420	28,027
Wasserman	24,673	1,711	837	873	470	239	131	202	729	264	30,129	808	30,937
Others	8,490	281	211	601	151	38	49	23	20	47	9,911	147	10,058
Total	56,574	3,680	1,915	2,084	953	410	236	599	1,493	432	68,376	1,408	69,784
For Practitioners:													
Spirochaetes	54	4	..	11	1	..	..	..	..	..	70	..	70
Gonococci	3,300	160	100	512	184	24	4	58	203	341	4,886	98	4,984
Wasserman	15,810	466	716	541	166	58	71	133	228	270	18,459	210	18,669
Others	531	28	22	17	15	7	2	1	1	1	625	55	680
Total	19,695	658	838	1,081	366	89	77	192	432	612	24,040	363	24,403

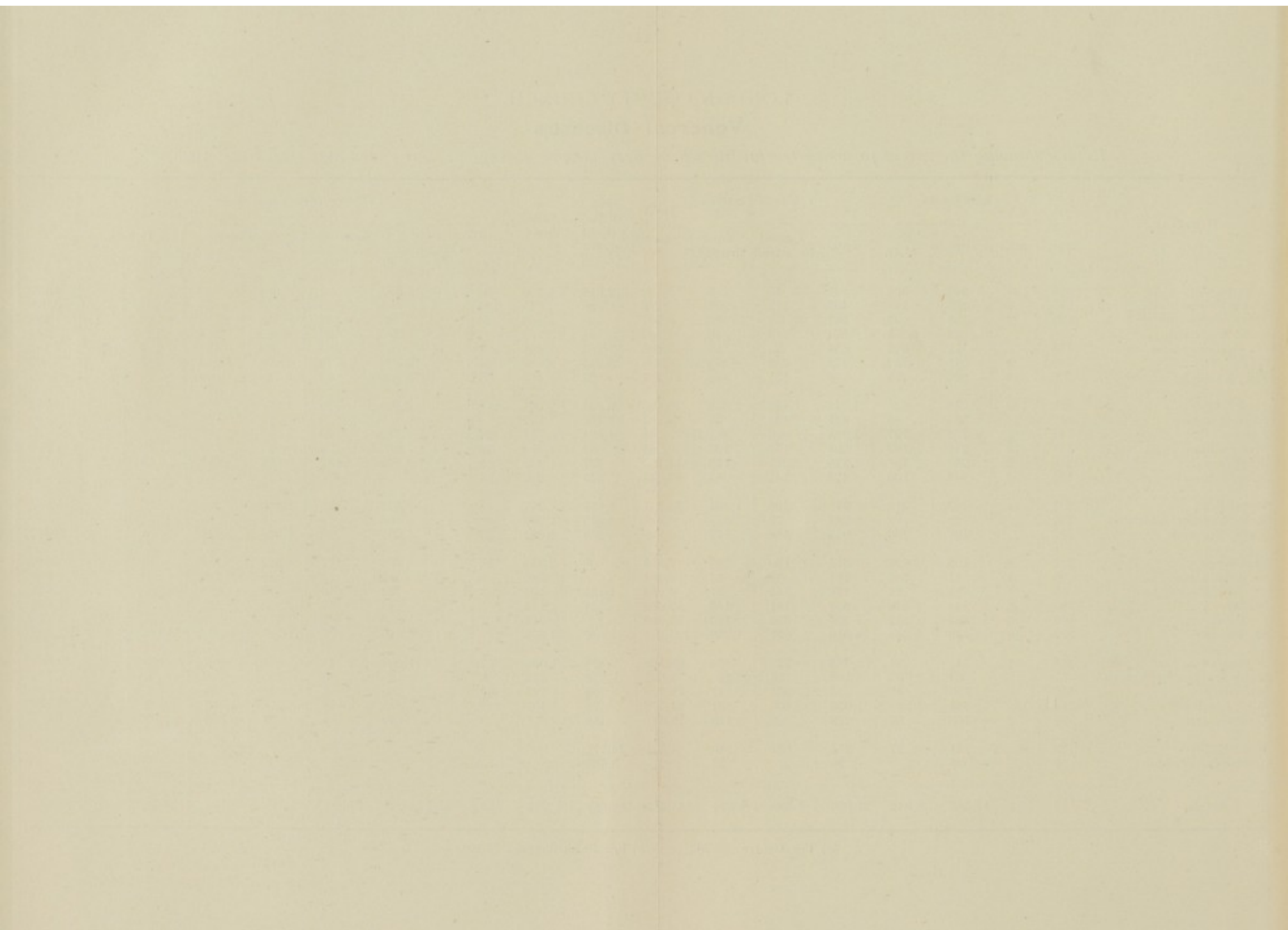
LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

Venereal Diseases.

Return showing the extent to which the facilities have been utilized during the year ended 31st December, 1923.

HOSPITAL.	New Cases.					No. of Persons.		Total attendances.	No. of In-patient days.	Sal. Subs. doses given.	Pathological Examinations.								Total.
	Syp.	S.C.	Gon.	Not V.D.	Total.	Ceased to attend	Discharged.				Spiro.		Gon.		Wass.		Others.		
											(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	(a)	(b)	
Albert Dock	213	24	303	301	841	15	195	8,792	2,618	1,193	31	..	266	1	588	136	..	..	1,022
Charing Cross	175	1	189	148	493	117	207	5,576	380	961	13	1	86	1,165	692	895	271	275	3,398
Diseases of Skin	108	1	135	43	287	58	69	8,234	..	1,408	24	..	1,227	129	485	125	4	..	1,994
E. G. Anderson	59	..	34	81	174	16	40	3,142	734	703	1	..	689	22	280	353	..	..	1,345
Gt. Ormond Street	113	..	17	505	635	23	85	2,930	1,161	1,481	..	1	347	103	840	704	153	88	2,186
Guy's	388	9	313	262	972	282	173	16,488	2,345	3,580	33	..	1,811	79	1,299	1,749	9	..	4,980
King's College	206	8	205	159	578	171	268	17,397	923	667	17	4	2,620	69	2,160	1,869	21	..	6,750
Lock (Male)	969	139	2,930	610	4,648	1,430	2,838	90,483	10,993	3,064	200	..	2,929	325	4,240	569	717	33	9,013
Lock (Female)	312	..	585	85	982	132	57	7,697	31,765	1,152	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
London	557	7	754	707	2,025	830	261	28,538	4,604	3,317	26	4	4,759	590	2,245	3,169	..	..	10,793
Metropolitan	177	13	216	189	595	167	123	6,735	52	1,239	28	1	585	22	777	583	70	..	2,066
Middlesex	210	2	262	101	575	217	126	13,689	427	1,640	3	..	1,859	231*	832	697	19	..	3,641
Miller General	123	4	248	100	475	141	83	14,443	575	880	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Royal Free	227	11	427	313	978	396	1,464	20,941	2,151	1,757	..	..	3,014	13	1,540	804	12	..	5,383
Royal London Ophthalmic	199	..	48	..	227	70	..	4,343	2,015	1,298	..	..	38	..	517	..	45	..	600
Royal Northern	285	..	400	230	915	558	177	15,948	289	1,667	37	5	1,097	48	1,055	1,595	5	..	3,842
St. George's	215	8	186	122	511	190	293	7,876	88	2,349	20	4	504	172	982	353	15	..	2,050
St. John's, Skin	89	4	81	7	181	79	24	8,461	..	908	9	21	151	17	359	412	..	..	969
St. John's, Lewisham	80	1	84	11	176	155	97	6,034	1,159	403	2	..	121	40	432	463	3	..	1,061
St. Mary's	263	3	248	140	654	181	165	9,616	121	1,111	5	3	414	107	428	937	..	..	1,894
St. Paul's	166	3	683	457	1,309	355	120	42,906	..	942	103	6	1,258	1	721	1	61	27	2,178
St. Thomas'	999	38	1,432	1,541	4,010	691	1,059	124,646	2,856	13,671	..	11	1,319	587	7,137	384	8,426	35	17,899
Seamen's	465	35	741	24	1,265	323	433	23,136	7,495	1,058	37	3	1,009	1,141	851	697	140	3	3,881
South London for Women	57	..	64	65	186	26	138	3,001	736	443	4	..	161	2	343	6	6	..	522
University	195	2	190	46	433	301	47	12,720	705	1,782	33	..	508	4	900	90	..	..	1,535
West London	214	..	529	313	1,056	400	321	34,175	174	2,421	128	5	825	114	941	1,513	5	143	3,674
Westminster	70	2	100	57	229	53	118	12,021	459	811	8	1	430	2	303	565	76	126	1,511
S.A., Mothers'	13	..	174	27	214	132	10	5,541	23,171	86	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Children's, Waddon	1	..	25	..	26	..	25	..	8,666	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals	7,128	315	11,563	6,644	25,650	7,509	9,014	555,509	106,662	51,992	762	70	28,027	4,984	30,937	18,669	10,058	680	94,187

(a) For Centre : 69,784. (b) For Practitioners : 24,403.



Housing.

The total number of houses in the Borough is 48,342, and the number unoccupied 167.

The effect of the War on Building is clearly shown by comparing the number of plans for dwelling houses sanctioned before the War and after its commencement, supplied to me by the Borough Engineer:—

Year.	North.	South.	Total.	Year.	North.	South.	Total.
1909 ..	21	19	40	1915 ..	6	9	15
1910 ..	6	61	67	1916 ..	..	10	10
1911 ..	21	112	133	1917 ..	..	9	9
1912 ..	17	20	37	1918 ..	..	..	..
1913 ..	3	104	107	1919 ..	..	2	2
1914 ..	18	267	285	1920 ..	2	15	17
				1921 ..	..	..	..
				1922 ..	2	..	2
				1923 ..	1	41	42
	86	583	669		11	86	97

The following houses have been erected by the Council in 1923: Manor Road, 120; Ladysmith Road, 18; Cumberland Road, 28.

In addition to the depletion of housing accommodation, the War involved much restriction in the service of the usual sanitary notices, which, coupled with the increase of overcrowding, left the Borough in 1918 with an accumulation of structural defects and impairment of domestic amenities which the Sanitary Inspectors have not even yet been able to overtake, but an estimate of their difficulties may be gauged by comparing the number of summonses issued for magistrates' orders to execute

repairs in normal times with the number issued since the War ended:—

HOUSING SUMMONSES ISSUED.

Before.		During.		After.	
Year.	No.	Year.	No.	Year.	No.
1910	92	1915	51	1919	221
1911	100	1916	57	1920	380
1912	97	1917	72	1921	438
1913	75	1918	40	1922	442
1914	67			1923	374
	431		220		1,855

INCREASE OF RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTION ACT, 1920.

The total number of certificates granted by the Authority under the above Act during the year was 27.

Housing particulars during 1923 in the form desired by the Ministry of Health.

Number of New Houses erected during the year—

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	42
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	28

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses: Inspection—

(1) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	11,207
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910	...	...	...	...	3,735
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	Nil
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	8,380

2. Remedy of Defects without service of formal notice—	
Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers 	Nil
3. Action under Statutory powers—	
A. Proceeding under Sec. 28 of Housing and Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919:	
(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring re- pairs 	} Nil
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) By Owners (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which closing orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close 	
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring de- fects to be remedied	8,380
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which de- fects were remedied—	
(a) By Owners 	9,069
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil
C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909:	
(1) Number of Representations made with a view to the making of closing orders ...	} Nil
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which closing orders were made	
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which closing orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit...	
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which demolition orders were made ...	
(5) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders... ...	

Action taken under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901.

1. Inspections.

	Inspections.	Notices.
Factories, including Factory Laundries ...	61 ...	10
Workshops, including Workshop Laundries	107 ...	11
Workplaces	4 ...	—
	—	—
	172 ...	21
	—	—

2. Defects found and remedied in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces under the Public Health Act.

Want of Cleanliness	57
Want of Ventilation	1
Want of Drainage of Floors	2
Other Nuisances	82
Sanitary Accommodation insufficient	—
Sanitary accommodation unsuitable or defective	10
Overcrowding	1

3. Workshops on Register 615

4. Other Matters.

Failure to affix Abstract notified to H.M. Inspector ...	5
Action taken in matters notified by H.M. Inspector—	
Notified	11
Report sent to H.M. Inspector	11
Number of Homeworkers' premises inspected...	250

Nature of Work:	Outworkers' List. Section 107.								
	Lists received from Employers.						Number of Outworkers' Ad- dresses received from other Councils.	Number of Outworkers' Ad- dresses forwarded to other Councils.	Notices served on Occupiers as to keeping or sending Lists.
	Twice in year.			Once in year.					
	Lists.	Outworkers.		Lists.	Outworkers.				
		Contractors.	Workmen.		Contractors.	Workmen.			
Wearing Apparel—									
(1) Making, etc.	80	109	467	9	7	24	..	..	..
(2) Cleaning and Washing Lace, Lace Curtains and Nets ..	2	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Furniture and Up- holstery ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Fur Pulling ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Umbrellas, etc. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paper Bags and Boxes ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brush Making ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Stuffed Toys ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tennis Balls ..	2	..	19	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tile Making ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Electro Plate ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cables and Chains ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
anchors & Grapnels ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cast Gear ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Locks, Latches and Keys ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Totals ..	84	109	490	9	7	24	710	409	104

Names of Homeworkers notified to West Ham from the undermentioned Districts.

Names of Homeworkers for West Ham Firms notified to the undermentioned Districts.

From			To		
City of London	...	277	Stepney	...	155
Finsbury	...	97	Leyton	...	105
Poplar	...	85	East Ham	...	101
East Ham...	...	61	Poplar	...	24
Bethnal Green	...	42	Bethnal Green	...	8
Stepney	...	40	Walthamstow	...	7
Hackney	...	32	Ilford	...	3
Leyton	...	30	Hackney	...	3
Shoreditch...	...	19	Barking	...	2
Westminster	...	10	Bermondsey	...	1
Marylebone	...	7			
Southwark	...	5			
Woolwich	...	2			
Holborn	...	1			
Croydon	...	1			
Islington	...	1			

Table showing the different Trades in which the Homeworkers were engaged during 1923.

Tailoring	...	247
Making of Shirts	...	230
" " Blouses	...	96
" " Underclothing	...	74
" " Brushes	...	36
" " Ties	...	35
" " Christmas Crackers	...	33
" " Millinery	...	32
" " Umbrellas	...	32
" " Boxes	...	29
" " Tennis Balls	...	20
" " Shoes	...	15
" " Dressing Gowns	...	10
" " Mantles	...	10
" " Flags	...	10
" " Furs	...	8
" " Belts	...	4
" " Artificial Flowers	...	4
" " Feathers	...	2
Washing	...	4

Abatement of Nuisances.

In the Appendix will be found a table of details showing the work of the Sanitary Inspectors, chiefly under the Public Health Act, 1875. Many of the defects found cannot be said to be injurious to health, though they are sufficiently inimical to comfort to be considered nuisances, and it is our interesting administrative paradox that the graver nuisances give the Sanitary officials less trouble than those of a slighter degree, more fuss being frequently made over trivial matters than in respect of really harmful conditions.

51,120 errors of one kind or another needing action occurred during the year, 49,326 of which were satisfactorily dealt with before the year closed. These included the service of 8,343 notices to remedy 22,360 defects in connection with dwelling houses. 53 notices were served on factory owners to abate nuisance from excessive discharge of black smoke—a nuisance which has been lessened of recent years, but which still exists to a far greater extent than is either good for the public or necessary for commerce.

SUPERVISION OF SPECIAL TRADES.—These include bakehouses, slaughter houses, common lodging houses, and the factories dealing with animal matter specifically cited as offensive trades in the Public Health Act. Of the last mentioned West Ham contains probably a larger and more varied number than any other town in the South, and all have been kept under regular inspection. They carry out work of great advantage to the community with generally a minimum degree of offence, and except during spells of sultry weather are not a source of inconvenience to residents, a fact largely due to modern machinery.

During the year new buildings were constructed with the approval of the Council in Stratford for the preparation and manufacture of Sterilized Surgical Ligatures, by the authorities of the London Hospital technically an offensive trade, but practically a most beneficent one.

COWSHEDS.

In 1901, when the Council first arranged for a quarterly examination of all cows in the Borough by the Veterinary Surgeon for the purpose of ascertaining whether any suffered from tubercular disease of the udder, there were 23 cowsheds

in use. During last year only nine were occupied, and I append below the four quarterly returns made to me by Mr. McCunn, your Veterinary Surgeon, with the number of cows examined. It is pleasing to note that no tubercular disease of the udder was found in any of the animals, although some of the cowsheds were found both by Mr. McCunn and by the Sanitary Inspectors to require the service of notice to remedy defects.

Situation of Cowshed.	No. of Cows examined each quarter.			
	1	2	3	4
Balaam Street	9	10	10	10
Vicarage Lane	47	58	48	52
Beale Street	9	9	8	9
Idmiston Road	18	18	15	16
Edwin Street	2	2	—	—
Neville Road	14	14	—	—
Blanche Street	5	5	14	13
Edward Street	3	3	3	3
Clegg Street	12	12	15	12
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	119	131	113	115
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

In this connection the Council supported Resolutions passed by other Sanitary authorities recommending the Government to bring into force the Tuberculosis Order, 1914, made by the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, the operation of which was suspended by an amending order before the date of its commencement.

Due to the extending use of modern plant during the year, considerable alteration has been made in the arrangement for dealing with offensive fumes at one large works, the efficacy of which has not yet been fully tested. The 90 bakehouses in the northern part of the Borough and 83 in the south have been found kept in a cleanly condition and without nuisance. 44 of these are underground bakehouses which were duly inspected by the Public Health Committee and licensed under Section 101 of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

The slaughter houses of the Borough number 29, of which 11 are registered and 18 are annually licensed. Only slight use is made of several of these owing to the convenient proximity of Smithfield, and the licences are probably retained more on account of the commercial value they add to the premises than for the actual requirement of the business. Constant supervision of scattered private slaughter houses without an impossible number of Inspectors is impossible, but I feel justified in saying that both in the case of registered houses and certainly in the annually licensed houses the Inspectors pay a reasonable

number of visits and are frequently communicated with by the licensee when organs exhibiting doubtful characters are found by the slaughterman. During the year 1922 a very helpful memorandum in connection with the inspection of meat, etc., was issued by the Ministry of Health. Two applications for the use and occupation of premises for the purpose of slaughtering were made to the Council, but were refused on the recommendation of the Public Health Committee.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order.

On 1st January, 1923, 196 milk shops (including dairies) were on the Register. Four of these have ceased to be used for the sale of milk, and all the others were re-registered under the Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922.

27 new premises were registered during the year, some of the applicants asking to be registered for the sale of sterilized milk only, an unnecessary application.

219 premises were on the Register at December, 1923, of which 86 were dairies where milk is the only or chief article sold.

Defects found on inspection and remedied under notice included:—Drains, 3; W.C. pan, 1; Roofs, 4; Flooring, 3; Water Fittings, 3; Guttering, 2; Yard Paving, 2; Coppers, 2; Plastering, 4; Damp Walls, 2; No Ash Pail, 2; Cleansing, 5.

Under the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1923, four licenses were granted by the Local Authority to sell Grade A Tuberculin Tested Milk, bottled at Lord Rayleigh's Farm at Hatfield Peverel, Essex.

Three licences expired automatically at the end of the year.

Summary of Work of Sanitary Inspectors during 1923.

Number of Complaints received and investigated	...	5,265
Dwelling Houses (house to house) inspected	...	12,000
Newly-infected Houses	...	8,848
Common Lodging Houses	...	58
Slaughter Houses	...	674
Bakehouses	...	320
Dairies	...	124
Cow Sheds	...	22
Milk Shops	...	170
Retail Shops	...	2,954
Offensive Trades	...	244

Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,246
Workshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	731
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,948
Laundries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47,493
Number of Notices served—								
On Offenders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
,, Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,069
,, Occupiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	208
Number of Notices complied with—								
By Offenders	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
,, Owners	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,861
,, Occupiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	93
Total Nuisances found	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51,120
,, ,, abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49,326

**Defects for the abatement of which 8,343
Notices were served during the year 1923.**

Drains and Soil Pipes—				Flushing Apparatus—			
Cleansed	...	...	501	Repaired	...	...	511
Repaired	...	...	551	Newly Provided...	...	...	294
New Provided...	...	...	4	Water Supply Provided	...	...	19
W.C. Pans or Traps—				Yard Paving—			
Cleansed	...	...	44	Repaired	...	...	655
Repaired	...	...	56	New Provided...	...	...	73
New Provided...	...	...	83	Defects remedied in—			
Surface Gullies—				Roofs	...	...	3010
Cleansed	...	...	14	Floors	...	...	1340
Repaired	...	...	20	Staircases	...	...	997
New Provided...	...	...	1	Windows	...	...	2311
Sinks and Sink Pipes—				Doors	...	...	891
Cleansed	...	...	133	Fireplaces	...	...	1203
Repaired	...	...	137	Walls and Ceilings	...	...	4420
New Provided...	...	...	1	Ditches, Urinals, etc.,			
Stack Pipes and Rain-				Cleansed	...	...	3
Water Gutters—				Animals improperly kept	...	...	9
Cleansed	...	...	678	Offensive Accumulations	...	...	105
Repaired	...	...	1049	Overcrowding	...	...	36
New Provided...	...	...	2	Smoke Nuisances	...	...	53
Water Fittings and				Dust Receptacles Provided	...	...	695
Cisterns—				Rooms Disinfected	...	...	2064
Cleansed	...	...	106	Other Nuisances	...	...	186
Repaired	...	...	205				
				Total...			22,360

Summonses Attended.

Sale of Food and Drug Acts	21
Public Health Acts	488

Unsound Food Condemned.

7½ st. Whiting.	2 Cows' Lungs.
2 bushels Winkles.	7 Cows' Plucks.
80 lbs. Beef.	3 boxes, 16 st. 6 lbs. Skate.
2 baskets, 8 st. Haddocks.	6 tins Prawns.
2 bags Greens.	11½ sieves Plums.
2 cases Herrings.	1 Cow's Liver.
1½ boxes Plaice.	24 Rabbits.
7 lbs. Pork.	10 boxes Grapes.
15 Pigs' Heads.	9 boxes Onions.
34 boxes Oranges.	10 lbs. Lamb.
31 boxes, 1½ barrels, 15 bushels apples.	2 Pigs.
19 boxes Pears.	80 boxes, 24 lbs. Tomatoes.
20 st. Catfish.	1 box White Grapes.
5 boxes Kippers.	9 Pigs' Plucks.
200 boxes Black Currants.	120 Cauliflowers.

Samples taken (Sale of Food and Drug Acts).

Milk	668	Preserved Cream	3
Milk, Condensed	20	Clotted Cream	1
Milk, Dried	31	Butter	245
Corn Flour	1	Oatmeal	1
Blanc Mange Powder	1	Bisto	1
Margarine	51	Coffee and Chicory	4
Dripping	15	Tea	1
Lard	149	Carraway Seed	3
Suet	1	Ground Ginger	7
Coffee	26	Cocoa	51
Bun Flour	1	S.R. Flour	11
Pepper	47	Curry Powder	1
Vinegar	15	Mustard	16
Egg Substitute	3	Jam	1
Baking Powder	45	Glauber Salts	1
Lemonade Powder	6		
Arrowroot	1		
Cream	3		
		Total	1,431

Various Adulterated Articles.

Milk—

Deficient Solids not Fat	... ..	6
Deficient Fat and Solids not Fat	... ..	7
Deficient in Fat	... ..	3
Skimmed Condensed Milk (unfit for human food on account of the dirt it contained)	... ..	1
Vinegar	... ..	2
Baking Powder	... ..	5
Butter	... ..	1
Margarine	... ..	1

Report of the Medical Officer of Health under the Milk and Cream Regulations 1912 and 1917 for the year 1923.

A.—Report of the Borough Analyst for the 4th quarter of 1923.

342 Samples were analysed as follows:—

Milk	... .. 183	Lemonade Powder	... .. 1
Dried Milk	... .. 8	Mustard	... .. 5
Butter	... .. 60	Pepper	... .. 7
Margarine	... .. 12	Vinegar	... .. 3
Lard	... .. 28	Ground Ginger	... .. 3
Dripping	... .. 1	Arrowroot	... .. 1
Jam	... .. 1	Cocoa	... .. 8
Coffee	... .. 9		—
Baking Powder	... .. 10	Total	... 342
Self Raising Flour	... .. 2		—

Of the Milks 176 were genuine and unadulterated, 1 deficient in Solids not Fat (No. 371) to the extent of 7.8 per cent., and 6 deficient in both Fat and Solids not Fat in the proportion stated below:—

Mark on Sample.	Deficient in Fats and Solids not Fat per cent.
194	23.5 and 27.3
215	16.0 and 32.3
302	12.2 and 15.0
303	11.1 and 14.6
329	9.1 and 3.6
353	4.7 and 13.3

All the Milks were free from preservative and foreign colouring.

The Dried Milk were all perfectly genuine.

The Butters were unadulterated, and 26 contained boric preservative in the proportions (calculated as Boric acid) stated below:—

1 contained 0.4 per cent. 8 contained 0.2 per cent.
 5 „ 0.3 „ 12 „ 0.1 „

The Margarines were all genuine, and 11 contained Boric Acid, in the form of a preservative, in the proportion of: in 6 cases 0.2 and in 5 of 0.1 per cent.

With the exception of 1 sample of Baking Powder (No. 193), which was very weak in the property essential to Baking Powder, all the remaining samples were genuine and unadulterated.

B.—Summary of action taken under the Milk and Cream Regulations on the lines indicated in the Departments Circular, Letter No. 162, dated 7.1.1921.

1. Milk: and Cream not sold as Preserved Cream:—

	(a) No. of Samples examined for the presence of a Preservative.	(b) No. in which Preservative was reputed to be present, and percentage of Preservative found in each sample.
Milk	668	Nil.
Cream	4	1 Sample No. 73 (Clotted Cream). Genuine. Contained 0.15 per cent. Boric Acid. No disclosure made. Letter of caution sent.

2. Cream sold as Preserved Cream:—

(a) Instances in which samples have been submitted for Analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as to preservatives were correct—

(i.) Correct statements made	...	...	...	3
(ii.) Statements incorrect	...	...	...	—
				3

(iii.)	Percentage of Preservative found in each sample.	Percentage stated on statutory label.
No. 72 ...	0.28% B. Acid	0.4 B. Acid
874 ...	0.25% „	„ „
881 ...	0.16% „	„ „

(b) Determinations made of Milk Fat in Cream sold as Preserved Cream—

(i.) Above 35 per cent.	...	...	...	3
(ii.) Below 35 per cent.	...	...	...	—
				3

(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of preserved cream in Article V. (1) and the proviso in Article V. (2) of the Regulations have not been observed—

Nil.

(d) Particulars of each case, in which the Regulations have not been complied with, and action taken—

Nil.

3. Nil.

4. Nil.

5. Action in connection with Paragraph 4 of the said Circular Letter 162:—

No cases occurred in which an “ appeal to the cow ” was made.

6. Action taken under Section 4 of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922:—

No cases occurred in which it was necessary to take action under this section.

Prosecutions. 1923.

	£	s.	d.
Nuisances (Public Health Act)—			
274 Summonses—Total Fines	27	10	0
Total Costs	34	11	0
169 Summonses withdrawn.			
Failure to comply with Magistrates' Orders—			
29 Summonses—Total Fines	96	2	6
Total Costs	1	1	0
6 Summonses withdrawn.			
Adulterated Milk (Food and Drugs Act)—			
9 Summonses—Total Fines	13	0	0
Total Costs	10	7	0
4 Summonses dismissed.			
Baking Powder (useless as such)—			
3 Summonses—Total Fines	2	0	0
Total Costs	3	17	6

Shops Act—

Early Closing Act, 1920:

97 Summonses—Total Fines	...	...	...	33	7	0
Total Costs	...	...	...	6	16	0

West Ham Grocers', etc., Closing Order, 1919—

38 Summonses—Total Fines	...	...	...	14	2	6
Total Costs	...	...	...	3	0	0

1 Summons dismissed.

West Ham Bakers' Half Holiday Order, 1913:

1 Summons—Total Fine	...	...	...	0	10	0
Total Costs	...	...	...	—	—	—

Shops Early Closing Act, 1920—

Amendment Act, 1921:

7 Summonses—Total Fines	...	...	...	2	10	0
Total Costs	...	...	...	0	12	0

West Ham Butchers' Closing Order, 1922—

1 Summons—Total Fine	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total Costs	...	...	...	0	4	0

West Ham Grocers', etc., Half Holiday Order, 1912—

6 Summonses—Total Fines	...	...	...	1	15	0
Total Costs	...	...	...	0	12	0

Shops Act, Sec. 2, 1912—

1 Summons—Total Fine	...	...	...	1	0	0
Total Costs	...	...	...	—	—	—

West Ham Corporation Acts, 1893 & 1898—

4 Summonses—Total Fines	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total Costs	...	...	...	0	10	0

3 Summonses withdrawn.

Vinegar, adulterated—

2 Summonses—Total Fines	...	...	...	1	0	0
Total Costs	...	...	...	1	9	0

1 Summons dismissed.

Margarine (without Wrapper)—

5 Summonses—Total Fines	...	...	...	1	7	6
Total Costs	...	...	...	3	4	6

Margarine, exposed (not labelled)—

1 Summons—Total Fine	...	...	...	—	—	—
Total Costs	...	...	...	0	14	6

**Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life in the County Borough
of West Ham during 1923.**

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Sex.	All Ages	0—	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
ALL CAUSES		M	1,803	272	55	44	62	97	252	513	293	215
		F	1,528	194	55	48	52	92	185	347	282	273
1	Enteric Fever	M	1	..	..	..	..	1				
		F										
2	Small-pox	M										
		F										
3	Measles	M	7	..	6	..	1					
		F	5	2	1	2						
4	Scarlet Fever	M	5	..	3	2						
		F	2	..	1	1						
5	Whooping Cough	M	13	6	4	3						
		F	10	1	3	6						
6	Diphtheria	M	13	..	5	4	4					
		F	14	..	2	5	7					
7	Influenza	M	25	1	..	2	..	1	8	11	1	1
		F	22	..	1	..	1	2	5	7	5	1
8	Encephalitis Lethargica	M	2	..	..	..	1	1				
		F										
9	Meningococcal Meningitis	M	1	1								
		F	2	1	..	..	1					
10	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.. .. .	M	164	..	3	..	..	33	81	42	4	1
		F	135	1	..	..	9	52	43	26	2	2
11	Other Tuberculous Diseases	M	38	3	10	5	8	7	5			
		F	33	2	7	2	9	6	5	2		
12	Cancer, Malignant Disease	M	184	..	..	1	2	..	14	96	54	17
		F	165	..	1	..	..	1	23	75	43	22
13	Rheumatic Fever	M	7	..	..	..	2	1	2	2		
		F	6	..	..	..	2	1	3			
14	Diabetes	M	9	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	3	1
		F	11	..	..	..	..	..	2	7	1	1
15	Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	M	76	..	..	..	..	..	4	24	22	26
		F	108	..	..	..	..	1	8	34	33	32
16	Heart Disease	M	182	..	..	..	6	11	24	58	52	31
		F	202	..	..	1	8	8	12	68	57	48
17	Arterio-sclerosis	M	47	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	17	15
		F	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	9	10
18	Bronchitis	M	140	14	1	..	..	..	5	48	38	34
		F	144	10	2	1	..	..	7	24	46	54
19	Pneumonia, all forms	M	210	49	13	15	7	13	31	55	18	9
		F	129	29	25	11	5	3	7	24	16	9
20	Other Respiratory Diseases	M	21	..	1	1	..	..	1	11	5	2
		F	20	..	..	1	1	..	4	3	5	6
21	Ulcer of Stomach, or Duodenum	M	19	..	..	..	..	..	5	13	..	1
		F	7	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	2	
22	Diarrhoea, &c.	M	49	36	4	3	..	..	1	2	2	1
		F	43	26	4	3	..	..	2	2	2	4
23	Appendicitis and Typhlitis	M	13	..	..	1	4	4	2	1	1	
		F	17	..	..	..	2	4	3	7	1	
24	Cirrhosis of Liver	M	6	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	1	
		F	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	
25	Acute and Chronic Nephritis.. .. .	M	54	2	..	1	1	..	7	23	13	7
		F	25	..	..	..	3	1	6	7	7	1
26	Puerperal Sepsis	M										
		F	11	..	..	..	..	1	10			
27	Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	M										
		F	13	..	..	..	..	1	12			
28	Congenital Debility, Malformation and Pre- mature Birth	M	114	111	..	1	..	1	..	1		
		F	85	84	..	1	..	..	..	..
29	Suicide	M	26	..	..	..	..	4	1	17	3	1
		F	2	..	..	..	..	2				
30	Other Deaths from Violence	M	82	13	..	2	11	7	14	26	4	5
		F	31	6	2	8	..	2	4	1	4	4
31	Other defined Diseases.. .. .	M	293	36	4	3	15	13	43	61	55	63
		F	260	32	6	6	4	7	28	51	47	79
32	Causes ill-defined or unknown.. .. .	M	2	..	1	..	..	..	1			
		F	1	..	..	..	..	..	..		1	

Summary of Notifications.

Week Ending.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Small Pox.	Typhus Fever.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Acute Polio Encephalitis.	Encephalitis Letargica.	Erysipelas.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Tuberculosis.		Pneumonia.	Malaria.	Dysentery.	Trench Fever.	Relapsing Fever.	Continued Fever.
													Respiratory.	Other.						
Jan. 6	11	15	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	15	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
" 13	7	25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	12	4	7	1	—	—	—	—
" 20	15	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 27	6	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	19	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
Feb. 3	6	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	21	5	5	—	—	—	—	—
" 10	13	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	13	1	4	1	—	—	—	—
" 17	4	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	15	5	2	—	—	—	—	—
" 24	8	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	6	2	—	—	—	—	—
Mar. 3	8	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	13	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 10	18	18	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	—	11	2	6	—	—	—	—	—
" 17	5	14	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	14	3	5	—	—	—	—	—
" 24	8	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2	18	2	8	—	—	—	—	—
" 31	13	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	14	4	8	1	—	—	—	—
April 7	8	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	8	8	3	—	—	—	—	—
" 14	4	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	14	9	6	—	—	—	—	—
" 21	9	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	27	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
" 28	5	15	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	11	7	4	—	—	—	—	—
May 5	6	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	16	13	3	—	—	—	—	—
" 12	3	11	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	15	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
" 19	4	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	21	6	3	—	—	—	—	—
" 26	5	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	8	7	2	—	—	—	—	—
June 2	10	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	11	2	6	—	—	—	—	—
" 9	2	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	22	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 16	7	15	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	9	3	4	1	—	—	—	—
" 23	13	11	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
" 30	10	5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	15	3	1	1	—	—	—	—
July 7	15	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	25	1	6	—	—	—	—	—
" 14	9	10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	15	4	9	—	—	—	—	—
" 21	11	7	1	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	22	2	11	1	—	—	—	—
" 28	16	13	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	19	1	3	1	—	—	—	—
Aug. 4	5	7	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	11	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
" 11	4	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	10	3	1	—	—	—	—	—
" 18	4	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	13	8	1	1	—	—	—	—
" 25	8	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	24	2	5	—	—	—	—	—
Sept. 1	10	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	13	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
" 8	10	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	15	10	1	—	—	—	—	—
" 15	15	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	7	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
" 22	8	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	21	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
" 29	21	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	14	2	3	—	—	—	—	—
Oct. 6	18	11	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	19	3	3	—	—	—	—	—
" 13	12	16	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	17	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
" 20	17	16	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	15	7	4	2	—	—	—	—
" 27	12	26	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	8	5	4	—	—	—	—	—
Nov. 3	21	27	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	22	4	5	—	—	—	—	—
" 10	11	17	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	8	1	24	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
" 17	16	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	8	1	10	—	—	—	—	—
" 24	16	20	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	9	1	6	—	—	—	—	—
Dec. 1	11	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	12	4	5	1	—	—	—	—
" 8	10	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	15	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
" 15	21	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	9	2	4	1	—	—	—	—
" 22	10	19	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	21	2	7	—	—	—	—	—
" 29	11	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL.	530	701	25	16	2	—	1	3	2	6	138	31	767	189	198	13	—	—	—	—

Chief Vital Statistics since 1877.

Year.	Population.	Births.	Birth Rate.	Deaths.	Death Rate.	Infant Deaths.	Infant Mortality Rate.
1877	112,541	4,149	36.8	1,817	16.1	530	128
1878	115,144	4,491	39.0	2,147	18.6	733	163
1879	120,747	4,862	40.2	2,113	17.5	688	141
1880	124,350	5,164	41.5	2,371	19.0	793	153
1881	128,953	5,488	42.5	2,409	19.4	745	136
1882	136,548	5,907	43.2	2,586	18.9	874	148
1883	144,143	6,014	41.7	2,693	18.6	897	149
1884	151,737	6,563	43.2	3,057	20.1	1,035	157
1885	159,334	6,547	41.0	3,503	21.9	1,070	163
1886	166,936	7,075	41.7	3,151	18.8	1,060	149
1887	174,523	6,865	39.1	3,286	18.7	723	105
1888	182,118	6,867	38.5	2,848	18.0	905	131
1889	189,713	6,947	38.5	2,883	18.0	907	130
1890	197,308	7,063	38.5	3,977	21.7	1,142	161
1891	206,463	7,911	38.2	3,952	19.1	1,191	150
1892	212,703	8,013	36.9	4,019	18.6	1,225	158
1893	218,942	8,026	35.3	4,565	20.0	1,387	172
1894	225,184	8,089	33.9	4,026	18.2	1,123	139
1895	231,426	8,591	35.9	4,656	20.9	1,452	169
1896	237,665	8,519	35.4	4,395	18.9	1,395	163
1897	243,908	8,761	35.8	4,486	18.3	1,535	175
1898	250,145	8,750	34.9	4,594	18.3	1,525	174
1899	256,386	8,779	34.2	5,213	20.3	1,770	201
1900	262,627	8,885	33.8	5,156	19.6	1,671	188
1901	268,868	9,434	35.0	4,910	18.2	1,589	168
1902	270,076	9,553	35.3	4,858	17.9	1,382	144
1903	272,250	9,478	34.8	4,394	16.1	1,344	142
1904	274,424	9,276	33.3	4,836	17.6	1,467	158
1905	276,598	9,018	32.5	4,574	16.5	1,341	148
1906	278,772	9,193	32.9	4,610	16.5	1,270	138
1907	280,946	8,759	31.1	4,412	15.7	1,078	123
1908	283,121	9,214	32.5	4,364	15.4	1,089	118
1909	285,471	8,730	30.6	4,435	15.1	1,087	123
1910	287,471	8,646	30.0	3,773	13.1	866	100
1911	289,646	8,642	29.8	4,561	15.7	1,223	141
1912	291,900	8,642	29.6	4,146	14.2	889	102
1913	294,223	9,125	30.5	4,312	14.4	984	107
1914	296,570	8,848	29.8	4,425	14.9	957	108
1915	294,396	8,380	28.4	4,744	16.1	940	112
1916	287,969	8,377	29.1	4,233	14.7	828	112
1917	271,934	6,701	24.6	4,203	15.4	707	105
1918	262,858	6,021	22.9	5,492	20.8	700	116
1919	287,966	7,132	24.7	3,946	13.7	619	86
1920	299,440	9,723	32.4	3,888	12.9	716	73
1921	300,903	8,242	27.3	3,712	12.3	615	74
1922	304,738	7,959	26.1	4,124	13.5	641	80
1923	314,400	7,803	24.8	3,331	10.5	466	59

Particulars of Bodies received into the Mortuaries during 1923.

MONTH.	STRATFORD MORTUARY.								CANNING TOWN MORTUARY.							
	Number received.	Over 5 yrs.	Under 5 yrs.	Sent in by Coroner.	Sent in by Police.	Sent in on Sanitary grounds.	Number of Post-mortems.	Number of Inquests.	Number received.	Over 5 yrs.	Under 5 yrs.	Sent in by Coroner.	Sent in by Police.	Sent in on Sanitary grounds.	Number of Post-mortems.	Number of Inquests.
January	29	23	6	29	..	..	21	29	2	1	1	..	1	1	1	1
February	18	9	9	18	..	..	15	18	3	2	1	..	3	..	2	3
March	18	12	6	17	1	..	12	18	7	7	..	..	6	1	4	6
April	23	15	8	19	4	..	16	23	2	2	..	..	1	1	1	1
May	12	6	6	12	..	..	8	12	1	1	..	..	1	..	1	1
June	16	10	6	14	2	..	12	16	5	4	1	..	5	..	3	5
July	20	16	4	19	..	1	12	19	5	5	..	..	5	..	3	5
August	16	14	2	14	2	..	9	16	4	4	..	..	2	2	2	2
September ..	14	10	4	12	2	..	12	14	5	5	..	..	4	1	1	4
October	15	10	5	13	1	1	11	14	3	3	..	..	3	..	1	3
November ..	21	14	7	20	1	..	14	21	2	2	..	..	2	..	2	2
December ..	18	14	4	18	..	..	14	18	5	5	..	..	5	..	4	5
Total	220	153	67	205	13	2	156	218	44	41	3	..	38	6	25	38

West Ham Mortuary was not in use during 1923.

Number of days bodies remained in Mortuaries:—

44 were 1 day in Stratford Mortuary.							
138	„	2	days	„	„	„	„
30	„	3	„	„	„	„	„
6	„	4	„	„	„	„	„
2	„	5	„	„	„	„	„
2 were 1 day in Canning Town Mortuary.							
11	„	2	days	„	„	„	„
27	„	3	„	„	„	„	„
4	„	4	„	„	„	„	„
1 Doctor performed 12 post-mortem examinations.							
2	Doctors	„	8	„	„	„	each.
3	„	„	5	„	„	„	„
5	„	„	4	„	„	„	„
17	„	„	3	„	„	„	„
28	„	„	2	„	„	„	„
11	„	„	1	„	„	examination	„

Collection of House Refuse.

37,192 loads of House Refuse were collected in the Borough during 1923, approximately equal to 55,781 tons.

This refuse was disposed of as follows:—

Mr. G. W. Abbott's shoot at Temple Mills	...	19,951	loads
Quadrant Street Wharf	... ..	17,241	„

Official Documents relating to Public Health.

The undermentioned Circulars and Memoranda were issued by the Ministry of Health during the year 1923:—

CIRCULAR 353—Explains provisions of the Local Government and other Officers' Superannuation Act, 1922.

CIRCULAR 359—Setting out the lines on which the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health should be drafted.

CIRCULAR 363—Forms for the prescribed returns from Venereal Diseases Treatment Centres.

CIRCULAR 368—Guidance to Local Authorities in connection with the administration of the Town Planning (General Interim Development) Order, 1922.

- CIRCULAR 369—Syllabus and Regulations of examination which home teachers of the Blind appointed after 1st April, 1923, will be required to pass within two years of their appointment.
- CIRCULAR 371—*Re* vocational training of ex-service men suffering from Tuberculosis at Preston Hall and Aylesford Training Colony.
- CIRCULAR 373A—Form T88 for Returns of Notifications made under Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912.
- CIRCULAR 374—Further information with regard to the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.
- MEMORANDUM 76 V.—Forwarding Form V.R.5 for Returns of Pathological examinations made at V.D. Laboratories.
- MEMORANDUM 78T.—Explaining procedure in filling up Form T52 relating to vocational training of ex-service men.
- MEMORANDUM on taking of Samples under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1922.
- CIRCULAR 415—Calling attention to the case of *Davis v. Morris*, with regard to the practice of an unqualified midwife under the direction of a medical practitioner.
- REPORT by Dr. J. R. Hutchinson on the incidence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria in Ramsbury, Wilts.
- REPORT by Dr. Hamill on the Pasteurization of Milk.
- CIRCULAR 422—Calling attention to possible danger from Small-pox in connection with Training Camps of Territorial Army and O.T.C.
- CIRCULAR 424—To Boards of Guardians Forwarding Order, No. 68631, prescribing a new form of Notice of Requirement of Vaccination.
- CIRCULAR 388A—Explaining the Provisions of the Housing Act, 1923.
- CIRCULAR 425—Drawing the attention of Medical Practitioners to their statutory duty in regard to the Notification of Cases of Tuberculosis.
- CIRCULAR 426—Containing a Memorandum describing the chief characteristic features of Cancer, the present methods of

treatment, and offering suggestions to Local Authorities on the stimulation of public opinion as to the necessity of early application for medical advice.

CIRCULAR 437—Importance of early reporting cases of suspected Plague or Cholera, with instructions as to bacteriological investigations.

CIRCULAR 446—Postponing till 1st November the operation of the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations.

THE ANNUAL REPORT of the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health for the year 1922.

REPORT by Dr. Janet Campbell on the Training of Midwives.

REPORT on the use of Hydrocyanic Acid for fumigation purposes.

REPORT on outbreak of Dysentery at Lynton spread through the agency of Milk traced to an active carrier of the disease.

CIRCULARS 356 and 356A—Explaining procedure in respect of the granting of Licences to sell Milk under special designations.

CIRCULAR 358—New Scale of Fees payable to Doctors called in by Midwives, as from 1st January, 1923.

In addition to the above, several lists of Institutions, with rates of charges for maintenance approved under the Tuberculosis Scheme and Lists of approved Salvarsan substitutes for treatment of venereal diseases were circulated by the Ministry, as well as Statutory Rules and Orders under the National Health Insurance Acts.

Plaistow Hospital.

Annual Report for 1923.

The year 1923 proved a mild one as regards the number and average severity of the cases admitted to the Hospital. The total admissions were 89 less than in the previous year, and the total deaths were 43 as compared with 63 in 1922. The fatality rate, calculated on all the cases admitted, was 3.6 per cent. The decrease in the number of admissions was due to the diminished prevalence of Scarlet Fever, the admissions from this disease being 273 less than in the previous year. Cases of

Diphtheria, on the other hand, showed a slight increase, but the type of disease was milder; the fatal cases were 17 less than in 1922.

At the beginning of the year 164 cases were in residence in the Hospital; 1,182 were admitted, making a total of 1,346 cases under treatment during the year. Of these, 1,088 were discharged, recovered, 43 died, and 215 remained under treatment at the end of the year.

The following table shows the admissions and deaths for each month of the year:—

1923.	ADMISSIONS.						DEATHS.							
	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Measles.	Chicken- pox.	Other Diseases.	Total.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid	Measles.	Chicken- pox.	Other Diseases.	Total.
January ..	30	52	..	1	1	3	87	..	3	..	..	..	1	4
February ..	18	52	..	2	1	3	76	..	1	..	..	..	1	2
March ..	39	80	..	6	..	5	130	..	1	..	..	..	3	4
April ..	23	32	..	3	..	1	59	2	2	..	..	..	1	5
May ..	16	44	2	1	1	1	65	..	2	..	..	..	1	3
June ..	29	42	2	1	3	6	83	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
July ..	30	23	1	1	1	1	57	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
August ..	27	53	1	..	..	2	83	..	3	..	..	..	..	3
September	39	34	..	3	..	1	77	1	3	..	..	..	1	5
October ..	58	79	3	3	..	8	151	4	2	..	..	..	..	6
November	61	97	1	3	1	11	174	..	4	..	..	..	4	8
December..	42	83	..	9	..	6	140	..	1	..	..	..	1	2
Totals ..	412	671	10	33	8	48	1,182	7	23	..	..	..	13	43

SCARLET FEVER.—During 1922 there had been a steady decline in the prevalence of Scarlet Fever, and the admissions in 1923 remained exceptionally low throughout the year. The total number of cases under treatment was 462, which is 273 less than for the previous year. The type of disease was mild

for the first nine months of the year, but a slight rise in prevalence occurred during October and November, and the cases became more severe. Seven cases proved fatal. Six of these were suffering from the "septic type" of the disease; the seventh died from nephritis. The fatality rate was 1.6 per cent. of the admissions.

In 24 cases the disease was complicated by the presence of other infections as follows:—

Scarlet Fever with Diphtheria	...	...	...	15 cases
" " " Measles	...	...	...	4 "
" " " Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2 "
" " " Pneumonia	...	...	...	2 "
" " " Chicken-pox	...	...	...	1 case

DIPHThERIA.—Cases of Diphtheria showed a slight increase over the number treated during the previous year. The type of the disease, however, was on the average much milder. The total number under treatment was 783, which is 71 more than in the previous year, but the total deaths were 23 as compared with 40 in the previous year.

According to the history obtained of the 23 fatal cases, the duration of illness before admission to the Hospital was as follows:—

1 case	had been ill	2 days	before admission.
10 cases	" " "	3 "	" " "
5 "	" " "	4 "	" " "
4 "	" " "	5 "	" " "
2 "	" " "	6 "	" " "

In one case the duration of illness was not known. The ages of these cases were as follows:—

14	were under	5 years	of age.
7	" "	between	5 and 10 years.
2	" "	10 "	13 "

None of the cases received antitoxin before admission. The average amount of antitoxin given to them in the Hospital was 42,000 units. The average amount given to all the cases was 19,000 units.

In 73 cases the larynx and trachea were involved. 38 of these recovered without operation. Tracheotomy was performed on 35 cases, and of these three were intubated later owing to difficulty in getting them to go without their tracheotomy tube. Eight deaths occurred among the tracheotomy cases, giving a fatality rate of 22.8 per cent. of the cases operated on. The fatality rate of all the cases admitted was 3.4 per cent.

TYPHOID FEVER.—18 cases, notified as Typhoid Fever, were admitted during the year. Eight of these proved not to be suffering from the disease. Of the ten true cases, five occurred in one family. The type of disease was, on the average, not very severe, and all the cases recovered. The eight cases which were wrongly diagnosed are shown in the Table under the column of "Other Diseases". They were found to be suffering from the following diseases:—

Enteritis	...	...	...	...	5 cases
*Ulcerative Colitis	...	...	...	...	1 case.
*Miliary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1 ,,
*Ulcerative Endocarditis	...	...	...	...	1 ,,

* These cases proved fatal.

MEASLES.—33 cases were under treatment during the year. The type of disease was mild in the majority of cases and all recovered. Towards the end of the year an epidemic of the disease set in, and the number of admissions began to rise rapidly; also the type was becoming more severe. During this period three cases admitted as scarlet fever and two as diphtheria proved to be Measles.

WHOOPIING COUGH.—This disease was not prevalent during the year, and no case, notified as Whooping Cough, was admitted. The disease, however, was present in eight cases in combination with other infections, as follows:—

With Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	2 cases
,, Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	3 ,,
,, Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	3 ,,

Whooping cough was a contributory cause of death in one case.

CHICKEN-POX.—Eight cases were under treatment during the year. All were of a mild type; there were no deaths. The disease was present in combination with diphtheria in two cases.

OTHER DISEASES.—Under this group are classed diseases which are not regularly admitted, and also cases which were found on admission to be wrongly diagnosed. The following are the diseases included in the group:—

Pneumonia, 12; Erysipelas, 10; Tonsillitis, 5; Laryngitis, 2; Mumps, 1; Urticaria, 1; Tubercular Meningitis, 1; Cerebral Hæmorrhage, 1; Puerperal Fever, 1; Hæmaturia, 1; Infantile Paralysis, 1; Nephritis, 1; Bronchitis, 1; Quinsy, 1; Vincent's Angina, 1.

Of these, nine cases proved fatal, as follows:—

Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	6 cases
Vincent's Angina	...	...	...	...	1 case
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	1 „
Tubercular Meningitis	...	...	...	...	1 „

VACANT ACCOMMODATION.—In view of the diminished prevalence of Scarlet Fever during the year, the Council decided in the autumn to use vacant accommodation in the Hospital for cases of other diseases than Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria which might benefit by Hospital treatment. This decision was taken advantage of by medical practitioners, who sent in severe cases of Pneumonia, Measles, Whooping Cough and Erysipelas. Towards the end of the year, when an epidemic of Measles was prevalent in the district, two wards were opened for complicated cases of this disease.

THE GRANGE CONVALESCENT HOME.—During the year 218 patients convalescent from Scarlet Fever were transferred to the Convalescent Home at Harold Wood. They remained under treatment at the Home for periods varying from three to seven weeks, the average duration of residence being 35 days. These patients derived much benefit from their stay at the Convalescent Home.

STAFF ILLNESS.—79 members of the nursing and domestic staffs had been warded during the year for various ailments. Two Nurses contracted Scarlet Fever, and seven contracted Diphtheria; all recovered. Sixteen nurses and maids had been warded for Influenza and nine for Tonsillitis. Forty-five had

been off duty for short periods through minor ailments; all recovered.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.—Besides the routine bacteriological work done in connection with Hospital patients, the following examinations were made for medical practitioners in the Borough:—

Throat Swabs	...	...	307
Nasal Swabs	...	...	22
			<hr/>
			329
			<hr/>

AMBULANCES AND DISINFECTING VANS.—The number of journeys made by the two motor ambulances during the year was 877; the mileage run was 4,385.

In the collection and delivery of infected clothing the two motor vans made 3,005 journeys. The number of articles disinfected for the public was 12,990. The mileage run by the vans was 9,345.

All minor repairs to the motor vehicles are carried out by the Engineer's staff.

D. MACINTYRE.

Annual Report of the Tuberculosis Officer for the year 1923.

As year succeeds year the number of people examined at the Tuberculosis Dispensary increases. This is due not to an increased incidence in the number of cases of Tuberculosis, but to other causes, the chief of which are:—

(a) The marked increase in the number of contacts examined. (The number of contacts examined in 1920 was 552, and the number examined in 1923, 887.)

(b) The large number of patients who previously sought treatment at one or other of the big London Chest Hospitals now prefer to be treated at their own Tuberculosis Dispensary: at the present time there is only a very small percentage of cases being treated elsewhere.

(c) The number of doubtful cases sent to the Tuberculosis Officer for diagnosis or advice by General Practitioners continues to rapidly increase. (The number of "Request" Cases examined in 1920 was 359, and the number examined in 1923, 600.)

It is a pleasing feature of the work and a significant fact that the Dispensary is now well recognised by the populace as a centre for obtaining any information or advice concerning Tuberculosis, and numerous interviews are given, and letters written, on questions appertaining to Tuberculosis in its various phases.

Though bad housing conditions continue to be prevalent, I cannot refrain from testifying to the very marked improvement in the general cleanliness of the interior of the dwellings of most Tuberculous patients as compared with ten years ago, and to the valiant efforts put forth by them to make the best of existing conditions and to prevent, as far as practicable, the spread of their complaint.

NOTIFIED CASES (i.e., cases notified by Medical Practitioners).—See Table A. (NOTE.—Cases notified as Tuberculosis to the Medical Officer of Health by the Tuberculosis Officer are found under Tables C and D as Positive Cases.)

The number of these cases is slightly in excess of the number for 1922, though the percentage of cases which proved not to have been actually Tuberculosis is larger. The probable reason for this is that a circular letter was sent to all General Practitioners by the Ministry of Health asking them to pay particular attention to the notification of all cases of Tuberculosis, or cases reasonably suspected to be suffering from Tuberculosis which came under their notice. This circular letter was promulgated owing to the fact that in many districts it became evident that a considerable number of deaths from Tuberculosis had never been notified in life as suffering from that disease.

Although the number of notified cases do not decrease, what is very encouraging is the much higher percentage of positive cases examined in the first stage of the disease—see Table B. (In 1920, 50% in Stage I.; in 1923 70% in Stage I.)

TABLE "A"—Notified Cases.

		Positive.	Negative.	Observation.	Total.
ADULTS—					
Males ...	...	79	11	5	95
Females...	...	54	15	2	71
CHILDREN—					
Males ...	...	62	13	3	78
Females...	...	63	13	4	80
		<u>258</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>324</u>

TABLE "B"—This includes Positive Cases in Tables A, C & D.

		Type I.	Type II.	Type III.	Surgical and Combined.	Total.
Turban Gerhardt Classification ...	...	418	89	26	60	593

CONTACT CASES are such cases has have been in contact with, or exposed to infection by a case of Tuberculosis. As mentioned in Paragraph 1, the number of contacts examined is large, and is an indication of the good sense of the adults, and of the parents of the children, examined under this heading. The percentage of contacts found to be suffering from Tuberculosis is very low and shows a big drop from previous years. This is a natural sequence of the earlier stage in which the disease is notified (the infectivity of Tuberculosis in its very early stage being slight in comparison to the advanced stage) and from the greater precautions against infection taken in the house than formerly.

TABLE "C"—Contact Cases.

		Positive.	Pre-T.B. or Indef.	Negative.	Total.
ADULTS—					
Males ...	...	3	4	72	79
Females...	...	11	22	232	265
CHILDREN—					
Males ...	...	21	48	200	269
Females...	...	16	47	211	274
		<u>51</u>	<u>121</u>	<u>715</u>	<u>887</u>

REQUEST CASES are those cases which have been sent by a Medical Practitioner, a General Hospital, or other Authority to the Tuberculosis Dispensary for diagnosis or advice. In this connection the co-operation between the Tuberculosis Officer, the Doctors, and the various Hospitals and Institutions, both within and without the Borough, is complete and cordial.

TABLE "D"—Request Cases.

ADULTS—

	Positive.	Observation.	Negative.	Total.
Males ...	134	15	110	259
Females...	97	18	77	192

CHILDREN—

Males ...	33	27	26	86
Females...	20	25	18	63
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	284	85	231	600
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

OBSERVATION CASES consist of several classes of cases, e.g., those cases in whom the diagnosis is for a time uncertain, and who are examined at frequent short intervals pending a definite diagnosis (expectant cases), as also those in whom the disease has become quiescent or arrested and who are examined at more or less long intervals (supervision cases).

PRE-TUBERCULAR CASES, so classified, are those (mostly the offspring of Tuberculous parents) in whom, though no actual sign of Tuberculosis is present, the general condition of health is one bordering on Tuberculosis.

TREATMENT.—Treatment given consists of either Dispensary, Sanatorium, Hospital or Domiciliary, according to the state of the disease and other guiding factors.

Though the number of cases treated at outside Institutions is decreasing, the retention of a small number of beds at these extraneous Institutions is advantageous, as there are a few patients whom it would, for exceptional reasons, be unwise to send to the Dagenham Sanatorium.

At the end of the year 278 people were receiving Domiciliary Treatment, and during the year 719 Domiciliary Reports were received from Practitioners concerning Tuberculous patients.

These reports are of great value to the Tuberculosis Officer in his work, and he fully appreciates the help given him by the General Practitioners in this connection. In addition to the above, 3,949 visits were paid to the patients' homes by the Staff of the Dispensary.

TABLE "E."

DISPENSARY—

Number of persons seen for the first time ...	...	...	...	...	1,811
Adults ...	...	...	...	...	961
Children...	...	...	...	...	850
					1,811
Males ...	...	...	...	...	866
Females...	...	...	...	...	945
					1,811
Notified Cases ...	...	...	...	...	324
Contact Cases ...	...	...	...	...	887
Request Cases ...	...	...	...	...	600
					1,811
Number under Dispensary Treatment at 31st Dec. ...					1,066
Number under Dispensary Observation at 31st Dec....					351
Total Attendances at Dispensary ...	...	...	...	...	13,396
		Sanatorium.		Hospital.	Total.
Number of Adult Patients who received Institutional treatment during the year ...	319	...	76	...	395
Number of Adult Patients receiving Institutional treatment at 31st December ...	99*	...	25	...	124

CHILDREN.—The Council have formulated a different method than the one at present in existence for the Residential Institutional Treatment of children, and if this method should be adopted a very real advance will be made in this vitally important matter.

* Nine of these patients were receiving Treatment combined with Vocational Training at special Institutions under the Ministry of Pensions.

A very big percentage of the children treated at the Dispensary are not actually suffering from Tuberculosis, but in that condition described above as Pre-Tuberculous, and it is imperative that these children should be adequately treated or supervised if they are to be prevented from becoming definitely Tuberculous.

AFTER-CARE. (Extra Nourishments, Visiting by Nurses, Dispensary Treatment, Periodical consultations between the Panel Doctors and the Tuberculosis Officer.)

The Extra Nourishment granted, though of advantage in a few individual cases, has not proved to be the definite asset in maintaining the patient's strength that was anticipated. Failing a more extensive "After-Care" Scheme, it would doubtless be advantageous if the Nourishment granted could be provided at one or more central dining centres which, for a small sum, could have attached a reading and rest room for the patients.

A very essential part in the treatment of Tuberculosis is efficient "After-Care", and it is in this essential that the scheme is weakest. Except in the very earliest cases, Tuberculosis is not cured in the comparatively short period of time that a patient remains in a Sanatorium, which only really builds up the resistance for further prolonged treatment, to be carried out, generally, in the patient's home.

It is abundantly evident that any scheme for dealing with the treatment or eradication of Tuberculosis should, like most other public health measures, be broad based upon healthy homes.

F. GARLAND COLLINS,

Tuberculosis Officer.

Dagenham Sanatorium.

Annual Report for the year 1923.

At the end of 1922 the number of Patients remaining under Treatment was—

Males	...	...	...	...	52	
Females	...	...	...	...	13	
					—	65

The Total Admissions during 1923 were—

Males	...	...	...	...	177	
Females	...	...	...	...	72	
					—	249

The following classes of cases were treated:—

			Early.		Intermediate.		Advanced.
Males	...	...	36.5	...	30.4	...	32.9
Females	...	...	26.3	...	22.2	...	51.3

The Number of Deaths was—

Males	...	...	...	...	26	
Females	...	...	...	...	12	
					—	38

Discharges during the year totalled—

Males	...	...	...	...	138	
Females	...	...	...	...	40	
					—	178

The disease was arrested in 40 per cent. of the cases, improved in 44, and unimproved, stationary, or worse in 16.

The following remained under Treatment at 31st December, 1923:—

Males	...	...	...	...	65	
Females	...	...	...	...	33	
					—	98*

* Includes 19 non-insured persons (males 8, females 11).

The average gain in weight was 10.01, exclusive of the unimproved cases.

Insured Persons admitted during the year totalled 199, the remaining 50 being non-insured.

Sixty-five Ex-service Men were admitted to the Sanatorium during the same period.

The Death Rate (calculated on admissions) was 15.2%.

In the case of males the percentage was 14.7.

„ „ „ females „ „ „ 16.6.

Average Duration of Residence (both sexes): 136.6 days.

The average for males was 141.7 days.

„ „ „ females „ „ „ 121.3 „

ACCOMMODATION.—On August 31st a ward containing 24 beds was declared open by the Mayor for the treatment of female patients, bringing the number of beds up to 104, as follows:—

Male, Hospital	...	...	...	14
„ Sanatorium	...	...	...	52
Female, Hospital	...	...	...	14
„ Sanatorium	...	...	...	24

The accommodation is to be further increased to provide 14 Hospital beds for male cases and 10 Sanatorium beds for female cases, making a total of 128 beds.

RECREATION.—Whist Drives and Concerts were frequently arranged during the year, and keen interest was taken in the billiard handicaps. Wireless was installed during the year, and has been much appreciated by the bed patients.

G. M. MAYBERRY,

Medical Superintendent.

The analysis of the cases, exclusive of the unapproved cases.

During the year 1905, the total number of cases was 100, the number of approved cases was 85, and the number of unapproved cases was 15.

Of the 85 approved cases, 70 were admitted to the Sanatorium during the same period.

The total number of admissions was 100, of which 85 were approved and 15 were unapproved. The percentage of approved cases was 85%.

During the year 1905, the total number of cases was 100, the number of approved cases was 85, and the number of unapproved cases was 15.

The average length of stay was 117 days.

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E. M. MARY

Medical Director