

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

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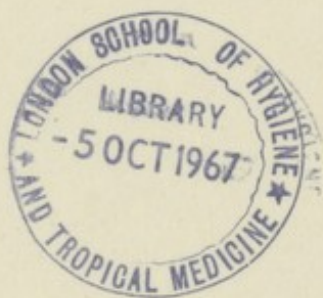
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Metropolitan Borough of Hackney

REPORT

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION

of the Metropolitan Borough of Hackney

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

BY

G. H. DART,

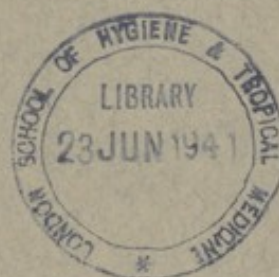
M.D., M.R.C.P., (Edin.); D.P.H., D.T.M. & H. (Camb.)
Barrister-at-Law.

Medical Officer of Health.

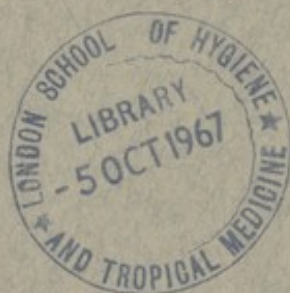
Administrative Maternity and Child Welfare Officer.

Administrative Tuberculosis Officer.

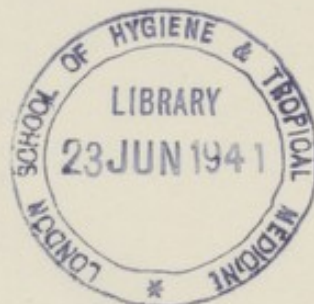
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STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Sanitary Inspectors.

W. PEVERETT (Chief Sanitary Inspector).	H. K. SMITH.
R. H. BEW.	G. T. ALEXANDER.
E. S. CROOK.	W. A. BROWN.
W. GOLDSWORTHY.	E. S. RUSHTON.
A. SADLER.	M. W. HUNT.
G. FOWLER.	W. BIGNELL.
E. A. HILLIER.	L. W. DAWSON.
C. F. LONG (Senior Sanitary Inspector for Housing).	H. E. W. ELLERY.
J. E. TRUSLOVE.	R. T. GRATWICK.
W. E. GALVIN.	E. C. J. KIPPING.
	P. G. WOODS.
	G. E. A. LANEY.
	F. J. NUTTER.

Health Visitors.

Miss A. K. ROCHE.	Miss A. RANGLES.
Miss D. F. VIDAL.	Miss E. HAZELDEN.
Miss S. E. LOVE.	Miss W. C. PEVERETT.
Miss N. V. HOBBS.	Miss E. THURGOOD.
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Miss I. L. BUCKLEDEE.	Miss D. M. HILL.
	Miss G. M. PECKETT.

Miss G. M. SERVANTÉ	} Tuberculosis cases.
Miss E. HAMILTON	

Miss M. H. BEVIS (Child Protection Visitor).

Public Vaccinators.

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A. M. BARLOW, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
N. NEWMAN, M.B., CH.B.

Deputy Public Vaccinators.

J. H. BROWNE, M.B., CH.B., B.A.O.
H. A. KING, M.B., CH.B.
FREDA M. LUCAS, M.B., CH.B.

Vaccination Officer.

H. F. BALLARD.

Medical Officers, Municipal Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

EILEEN S. P. BARLOW, M.B., CH.B.
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MADELINE E. E. KNOWLSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
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A. W. F. EDMONDS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., Anaesthetist.
H. C. MIDDLETON, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Edin.), Dental Surgeon.

Deputy Medical Officer (Infectious Diseases).

A. M. BARLOW, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Tuberculosis Dispensary Medical Officers.

F. W. HAMILTON, M.D., M.R.C.P.	Metropolitan Hospital Tuberculosis Dispensary.
H. TYLFORD HOWELL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	} London Chest Hospital Tuberculosis Dispensary.
A. F. W. ANGLIN, M.D., L.M.S.	

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic Medical Officer.

H. W. SWANN, L.M.S.S.A., M.B.

Joint Public Analysts.

LEO TAYLOR, F.I.C.

D. T. LUCKE, B.SC., F.I.C.

Disinfecting Station Superintendent and Caretakers.

G. E. HASLER.

Mrs. E. HASLER.

*Mortuary Keeper—G. E. GRAYLING.**Messenger—H. STOREY.**Clerical Staff.*

J. C. MINTER (Chief Administrative Assistant).	J. R. STRONG.
C. J. HAYNES (Principal Clerk).	D. B. DAVIES.
V. R. WELHAM (Housing Clerk).	R. G. PARKER
H. TOWLE.	L. A. WHEELER.
J. HANNEN.	F. D. ASKEW.
F. T. W. PEARCE.	L. LOWTON.
H. R. SANDFORD.	E. G. HASLER.
A. YOUNG.	G. E. SOFFE.
T. CONINGTON.	D. N. W. IRVINE.
W. SHERRIFF.	D. J. W. ROCHE.
	H. A. DRINKWATER.

Medical Officer of Health.

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Barrister-at-Law.

Metropolitan Borough of Hackney

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1939.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

TOWN HALL, HACKNEY, E.8.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors

of the Metropolitan Borough of Hackney.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

On the 19th July, 1940, the Ministry of Health issued Circular No. 2067 which stated the view of the Minister that interim reports only should be made for the year 1939, and that these reports should be confined to essential and urgent matters. The Circular also stated that suitable arrangements should be made for careful preservation of all records in order that after the termination of the war a report could be made dealing more fully with the period from the beginning of 1939 to the end of the last complete year, giving separate statistics for each year in order that the annual records may, as far as practicable, be continuous and complete. It is for this reason that my Annual Report on the health of the Borough in the year 1939 is considerably curtailed and consists largely of statistical data.

The birth rate continued its downward trend and reached the low level of 13.1, a smaller rate than was registered during any of the years of the war of 1914 to 1918. The birth rate for England and Wales was 15.0, and for the County of London 12.31.

The death rate was 11.3 (corrected rate 11.8) and was slightly higher than the corresponding rate for the two preceding years. The death rate for England and Wales was 12.1 and for the County of London 11.9. The infant mortality rate, however, dropped to the new low record of 40.9 per 1,000 births, the rates for England

and Wales and the County of London being 50 and 48 respectively. Only 56 cases of diphtheria were notified. Never before has such a small number of cases been recorded in the Borough, the previous low record being 157 cases in 1910. There were only 4 deaths from this disease. Notified cases of scarlet fever numbered 319, and this is the smallest number of cases reported in any year since 1918.

The extremely low incidence of the common infectious diseases and the failure of measles to make its biennial onslaught on the child population of the Borough were probably due to the evacuation of children which took place at the outbreak of war and to the closure of the elementary schools in London at that time. It will be interesting to see whether the arrival in reception areas of a large proportion of the child population of London had any effect upon the incidence of infectious disease in those districts. Whilst it is pleasing to be able to draw attention to the remarkably small incidence of infectious disease and the satisfactory mortality statistics, it would be too much to hope that war-time conditions will not have an adverse effect upon the public health.

Although there was some interruption of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors at the outbreak of war, it is interesting to note that the number of inspections made and the number of notices served by the Sanitary Inspectors compare favourably with the work of the previous year. The work of the Sanitary Inspectors since the commencement of heavy raiding on the Metropolis has been made extremely difficult owing to the damage to drainage systems, and so on, and every effort is being made to cope with this situation, and I will have more to say on this subject when compiling a report for the year 1940.

The Council's Maternity and Child Welfare schemes were also considerably dislocated in the early weeks of the war by the evacuation of a large number of children and the transfer of several of the health visiting staff to work in the First Aid Posts. When these had been satisfactorily established, and with the return of many mothers and children to London, the discontinued sessions at Child Welfare Clinics were restarted and have now returned almost to normal. With the completion of training of a sufficient number of temporary staff for war-time duties it was possible to re-arrange the duties of the health visiting staff so that the fullest use could be made of their special qualifications and experience.

Special duties placed upon the Public Health Department are as follows:—

Training and all administration in connection with First Aid Posts (including issue and care of equipment); training

and supervision of operations of first-aid parties at incidents (including issue and care of equipment).

Administration of medical services to Rest Centres for homeless persons.

Administration of medical services to shelters and equipment and administration of medical aid posts at shelters.

Provision and administration of temporary mortuary accommodation and mortuary vans.

First-aid training of factory personnel.

Local arrangements for evacuation of expectant mothers and children and aged and infirm persons.

Arrangements for medical inspection and local arrangements for evacuation of children suffering from effects of air-raids.

Special arrangements arising out of war conditions for disinfection.

Arrangements for administration of all medical war services as centred in Control.

Sanitary inspection of food supplies under war-time conditions.

Medical inspection of war refugees.

It is evident that a very considerable increase in duties has been placed upon the Public Health Department and this has brought to notice the special capabilities of many members of my staff who have carried out their arduous, and at times dangerous, duty in a manner worthy of the very highest approbation. I cannot speak too highly of the work of my department during these past very trying months, or of the help I have received from Dr. Barlow and Dr. Bielenky, and Dr. Brookman who has more recently been appointed. All these medical officers have cheerfully carried out many emergency duties that could not have been foreseen as arising out of the ordinary routine work of these emergency conditions. For instance, the medical inspection of nearly a thousand foreign refugees was carried out voluntarily and with no remuneration by these medical officers who had been appointed for specific A.R.P. duties, which did not cover this circumstance. The Borough has been very fortunate indeed in the choice of these medical officers.

As regards the permanent officers, it appears to me invidious to mention anyone in particular but I can state that I have very good reasons for feeling extremely grateful personally for the kindness and ungrudging assistance I have received at all times from members of my staff, many of whom have volunteered to carry out work that could not have been accomplished if attempted in other than a spirit of the greatest devotion to duty whatever the loss of personal comfort that might be involved.

The members of the Council also have increasingly shown a desire to put on one side all unnecessary criticism and to assist the department in every possible way.

The work of the Public Health Department has also been made much easier by the marvellous courage and endurance shown by the citizens of the Borough, often under very terrible circumstances.

G. H. DART,

Medical Officer of Health.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live Births:—	Total.	M.	F.			
Legitimate ..	2,635	1,347	1,288	} Birth-rate ..	..	13·1
Illegitimate ..	97	50	47			
Still Births ..	85	57	28	Rate per 1,000 total		
				births ..	..	30·1
Deaths ..	2,223	1,113	1,110	Death-rate {	Crude Rate ..	11·3
					Adjusted Rate ..	11·8

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth:—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Total Births
Puerperal Sepsis	2	0.73
Other Puerperal causes ..	2	0.73
Total	4	1.46

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births:—

Legitimate, 39.32 ..	Illegitimate, 82.47 ..	Total, 40.90
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	344	
„ „ Measles (all ages)	—	
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	6	
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	14	

POPULATION.

The Registrar-General has supplied the following estimates of the population of the Borough:—

- (a) For the calculation of birth rates, being the estimated resident population, including non-civilians, as at the middle of the year 205,100
- (b) For the calculation of death and sickness rates, being a population estimate constructed so as to allow for the exclusion of non-civilians during the last quarter and for the assignment of deaths occurring on and after 1st October, 1939 to the area of temporary residence... 195,300

MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE-RATE.

During 1939 there were 2,516 marriages solemnised in the Borough of Hackney. The rate for persons married during this period is therefore 24.5 per 1,000 of the population.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATE.

The Registrar-General has supplied two sets of figures relating to births allocated to the Borough:—

(a) *Births to Hackney mothers corrected by inward and outward transfers:—*

(i) *Live Births:—*

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1,347	1,288	2,635
Illegitimate	50	47	97
Totals	1,397	1,335	2,732

(ii) *Still Births:—*

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	51	24	75
Illegitimate	3	2	5
Totals	54	26	80

(b) *Births to Hackney women corrected by inward and outward transfers less births to Hackney mothers in the last quarter of the year who were temporarily residing in other areas as a result of the war:—*

Live Births:—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1,293	1,250	2,543
Illegitimate	50	47	97
Totals	1,343	1,297	2,640

Notification of Births.—During the year 1939, notifications were received of the birth within the Borough of 3,367 live children and 83 still-born children. Information with regard to the birth of children to Hackney mothers at addresses outside the Borough was received in respect of 751 living and 24 still-born children, whilst particulars of the birth of children within the Borough whose home addresses were situated in other areas were forwarded in the case of 1,595 living and 44 still-born children.

The following table shows the sources from which the notifications of birth (corrected and uncorrected) were received :—

	Medical Practitioners.				Midwives.				Parents and others.				Totals.			
	Live Births.		Still Births.		Live Births.		Still Births.		Live Births.		Still Births.		Live Births.		Still Births.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Corrected	86	67	3	3	1039	1012	35	10	177	142	5	7	1302	1221	43	20
Uncorrected	143	109	4	3	1540	1487	48	28	50	38	—	—	1733	1634	52	31

DEATHS.

The deaths registered during the year, adjusted for inward and outward transfers and excluding non-civilian deaths registered after the 3rd September, 1939, numbered 2,223. The crude death rate from all causes is 11.3 and the corrected death rate is 11.8. The comparable rate for England and Wales is 12.1 and that for London 11.9.

*Short List of Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life
of Residents of Hackney during 1939.*

Causes of Death.	Sex.	All Ages.	0—	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	35—	45—	55—	65—	75—
All causes	M	1113	66	3	9	9	38	39	60	106	219	305	259
	F	1110	41	5	6	7	28	48	55	82	167	279	392
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fever	M	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
	F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet fever	M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping cough	M	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	3	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Diphtheria	M	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza	M	16	1	..	..	1	1	1	1	3	2	4	2
	F	27	..	2	..	1	2	2	1	..	6	7	6
Encephalitis lethargica ..	M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Cerebro-spinal fever ..	M	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	M	73	1	1	..	..	16	16	19	5	9	6	..
	F	36	..	..	..	..	10	9	3	7	5	2	..
Other tuberculous diseases	M	10	1	..	1	..	4	1	1	..	1	1	..
	F	5	..	1	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis	M	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	4	1	..
	F	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..
General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis ..	M	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..
	F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cancer, malignant disease	M	176	..	..	2	..	1	3	3	23	48	65	31
	F	168	..	..	..	..	1	5	13	24	38	53	34
Diabetes	M	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	9	2
	F	28	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	10	6	9
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	M	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	6	10	4
	F	34	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	6	13	12
Heart disease	M	322	..	..	..	..	3	5	10	20	53	106	125
	F	391	..	..	..	1	5	2	13	14	52	107	197

Causes of Death—continued.

[illegible]

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The deaths of 108 children under the age of twelve months were allocated to Hackney by the Registrar-General during 1939. This number of deaths gives an infantile mortality rate of 40.90 per 1,000 live births, the rate for England and Wales being 50 and for London 40.

The causes of death are set out in the following table:—

Cause of Death.	Under 24 hrs.	1 day to 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total
Influenza .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Cerebro Spinal Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Whooping Cough .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	..	5
Diphtheria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Tuberculous Meningitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Meningitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Convulsions .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Bronchitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	1	..	5
Pneumonia .. ..	..	1	1	..	..	2	2	4	2	1	11
Diarrhoea .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	5	3	1	14
Suffocation (overlying) .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Injury at Birth	2	2	..	1	..	5	..	..	..	..	5
Atelectasis	1	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Congenital defects	6	2	4	1	..	13	6	1	..	..	20
Premature Birth	15	11	6	1	1	34	..	1	1	..	36
Other causes	1	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2
Totals ..	25	18	12	3	1	59	19	16	10	4	108

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

During 1939 there were 2 deaths of Hackney women resulting from Puerperal Sepsis and 2 from other causes directly connected with childbirth. These deaths represent a death rate of 1.46 per 1,000 total births as compared with a rate for England and Wales of 2.82.

The services of Consultants were used in four cases of difficult confinement during the year and there was one case in which the use of the County Council's emergency obstetric unit was necessary.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Service of the Council was curtailed at the outbreak of war when three of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres were adapted and equipped as first-aid posts for air-raid precaution purposes and several of the Health Visiting Staff were seconded from their normal duties to these posts. The Health Visitors remaining on normal duties endeavoured to visit all newly-born infants and special cases and, towards the end of the year, infant welfare and ante-natal sessions were recommenced at the Lower Clapton Road, Elsdale Street, Richmond Road and Northwold Road Centres.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics.—Particulars of attendances :—

Centre.	No. of sessions held.	No. of Mothers attending (first visits).		No. of repeated attendances at Centre.		Total attendances.		No. of examinations by Doctor.
		Ante-natal.	Post-natal.	Ante-natal.	Post-natal.	Ante-natal.	Post-natal.	
1. Brooksby's Walk ..	35	77	15	339	—	416	15	409
2. Eton Mission ..	32	63	2	164	1	227	3	227
3. Elsdale Street ..	44	102	13	317	—	419	13	383
4. Lower Clapton Road	82	170	16	565	4	735	20	718
5. Richmond Road ..	78	170	31	537	14	707	45	673
6. Northwold Road ..	35	92	8	324	2	416	10	389
Totals	306	674	85	2246	21	2920	106	2799

Infant Welfare Clinics.—Particulars of attendances :—

Centre.	No. of sessions held.	No. of children brought to the Centre for the first time.		No. of children who attended at the Centre during the year and who, at the end of the year, were :—		Total No. of attendances.		Total No. of attendances of infants and children before Doctor.
		Under 1 year.	Over 1 year.	Under 1 year.	Over 1 year.	Under 1 year.	Over 1 year.	
1. Brooksby's Walk ..	35	156	26	150	353	2033	1414	1091
2. Eton Mission ..	69	127	64	91	258	1762	1225	1485
3. Elsdale Street ..	137	334	77	211	464	3874	2583	1480
4. Lower Clapton Road	145	378	64	249	635	4226	2862	2590
5. Richmond Road ..	185	433	137	344	748	5575	3788	2777
6. Northwold Road ..	142	336	114	255	768	4805	2594	2635
7. *Hackney Mothers and Babies ..	34	47	10	39	58	734	389	532
8. *West Hackney ..	32	133	39	104	317	1865	976	1171
Totals	779	1944	531	1443	3601	24874	15831	13761

* Voluntary Centres.

Actinotherapy Clinics.—Particulars of attendances :—

Centre.	Sessions held.	New Cases.			Repeated Attendances.			Total
		Infants	Children	Mothers	Infants	Children	Mothers	
Lower Clapton Road	35	2	1	32	18	12	330	395
Richmond Road ..	100	24	163	—	258	3,742	—	4,187
Elsdale Street ..	97	12	139	8	123	2,721	190	3,193
Totals	232	38	303	40	399	6,475	520	7,775

Dental Clinics.—Particulars of attendances :—

Centre.	Sessions held	New Cases.		Repeated Attendances.		Total Attendances.
		Children	Mothers	Children	Mothers	
Lower Clapton Road ..	32	108	11	15	145	279
Richmond Road	110	196	117	190	631	1,134
Totals	142	304	128	205	776	1,413

The work done at the dental clinics during the period under review was as follows :—

No. of teeth extracted	1,256
No of teeth stopped	92
No. of scalings and dressings ..	381
No. of general anaesthetic cases ..	320
No. of local anaesthetic cases ..	63
No. of persons to whom dentures were supplied (159 dentures)	87

The cost of this scheme to the Council during the year was :—

	£	s.	d.
Payment to Dental Surgeon and Anaesthetist in respect of attendances	253	11	6
Payments to Dental Surgeon for Dentures supplied ..	213	2	9
Total payments	£466	14	3
Patients' contributions—			
For Dentures	£57	16	0
For Extractions, etc.	14	2	0
Total Contributions	71	18	0
Net Cost to Council	£394	16	3

Health Visiting :—Visits of Health Visitors during the year :—

To expectant mothers	...	first visits	...	1,257
		total visits	...	3,379
To infants under one year of age	... ..	first visits	...	2,248
		total visits	...	6,686
To children between the ages of one and five years	...	total visits	...	12,722

Maternity Hospital Accommodation.—The Council pays the sum of one guinea in respect of each necessitous person admitted from the borough for treatment at either of the under-mentioned hospitals. Expectant mothers are deemed to be eligible for assistance under this scheme if by reason of poverty or other cause they are unable to pay an amount equal to half the average cost per patient of the maintenance and administration charges of the hospital concerned for the preceding year.

The number of patients assisted under this scheme, together with the cost to the Council during the year is shown below :—

		Cost.		
	Cases.	£	s.	d.
Salvation Army Mothers' Hospital	42	44	2	0
City of London Maternity Hospital	132	138	12	0
	<hr/> 174	<hr/> £182	<hr/> 14	<hr/> 0

Midwifery Assistance.—The fees of midwives in attendance on 18 mothers were paid by the Council during the year, the payments totalling £17 8s. 0d.

Maternity Outfits.—Sterilised maternity outfits are kept at the Town Hall for issue to expectant mothers who arrange for their confinements to take place in their homes. These outfits are supplied at or below cost price or free of cost to persons who are unable to make a contribution.

Forty-five outfits were issued during the year—11 were sold at cost price, 11 at reduced price and 23 were supplied free of cost. The sum collected from the sale of outfits was £4 14s. 6d., and the net cost to the Council was £8 15s. 6d.

Consultants in Difficult Maternity Cases.—The services of obstetric specialists were required in connection with three difficult confinements.

Home Helps.—One hundred and seventy-six applications were granted for the assistance of a home help under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.

Convalescent Home Treatment.—Arrangements were made for the convalescence of 79 children. In addition, 17 nursing mothers and their babies were sent to convalescent homes during the year.

The total cost to the Council of convalescent home treatment in 1939 was £202 14s. 0d.

PROVISION OF MILK AND OTHER FOODS TO NECESSITOUS MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

During the year under review 7,201 applications were received from 1,710 families for grants of milk, free or at less than cost price, under the Council's maternity and child welfare scheme. These applications were dealt with as follows:—

Form of Assistance.	No. of Applications.		Gross cost to the Council.		
	Received.	Granted.			
Cow's Milk	6,200	6,127	£	s.	d.
Dried Milk	1,001	987	2,561	5	9
			342	3	0
Totals	7,201	7,114	2,903	8	9

Under an arrangement between the Council and the London County Council the cost of milk supplied under the Council's scheme to families in receipt of help from the Public Assistance Committee is reclaimed from the County Council. The sum repaid by the County Council to the Borough Council in respect of grants made during 1939 amounted to £227 12s. 9d.

In addition to the cow's milk and dried milk supplied free of cost or at a reduced price, dried milk is supplied at the Infant Welfare Centres at cost price, whilst other foods, medicines, etc., are supplied free of cost or at cost price. Details of the sale of dried milk and of the sale or free distribution of other foods and medicines are given below:—

Dried Milk, Foods, Medicines, etc., supplied at cost price.

Description of Article.	Value of goods supplied.
	£ s. d.
Ambrosia	5 11 0
Cod liver oil	24 12 8
Cod liver oil emulsion	94 14 6
Cod liver oil and malt	39 11 11
Cow and Gate	644 17 0
Lactagol	7 6 3
Ostermilk	359 2 6
Petroleum emulsion	3 14 3
Syrup ferri	18 8 6
Trufood	16 14 0
Virol	64 1 3
Sundries	125 18 5
Total	£1,404 12 3

Foods, Medicines, etc., supplied free of cost to necessitous mothers.

Description of Article.	Cost to the Council.
	£ s. d.
Cod liver oil	14 19 1
Cod liver oil emulsion	40 0 0
Cod liver oil and malt	51 1 9
Lactagol	1 18 9
Petroleum emulsion	1 7 0
Syrup ferri	25 16 1
Virol	122 14 9
Sundries	49 1 3
Total	£306 18 8

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION

At the commencement of the year there were 80 registered foster-mothers in the Borough who had in their care 122 foster-children. In the early days of the war many of these children were evacuated and on the 31st December there remained in the Borough only 41 registered foster-mothers, who had in their care 53 children.

There were four instances in 1939 in which persons were found to have taken charge of children for reward without giving notice to the Council. Warning letters were addressed to the persons concerned.

One foster-child died during the year and notice was given to the Coroner as required by Section 264 of the Public Health (London) Act. The cause of death was certified to be Acute Bronchitis and Bronchial Pneumonia. There was no inquest.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The arrangements made with the Camberwell Research Laboratories and the Royal Institute of Public Health for bacteriological examinations have been continued.

Particulars of the samples purchased under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and submitted to the Joint Public Analysts, Leo Taylor, Esq., F.I.C., and D. T. Lucke, Esq., B.Sc., F.I.C., are given on page 25 of this report.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

The following table shows the number of cases attended and the visits paid by the nurses of the Hackney District Nursing Association on the Council's behalf during the year.

	No. of Cases Nursed.	No. of Visits Paid.
Maternity Nursing	28	319
Measles	1	7
Do. (children under 5 years of age) ..	1	4
Pneumonia	69	1,048
Do. (children under 5 years of age) ..	3	10
Pemphigus Neonatorum	1	10
Poliomyelitis	—	—
Puerperal Fever	2	21
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	16
Ophthalmia Neonatorum or slight inflamma- tion of eyes	20	388
Tuberculosis	21	2,292
Whooping Cough	3	43
Do. (children under 5 years of age) ..	—	—
Other Ailments	—	—
Do. (children under 5 years of age) ..	14	109
Totals	166	4,267

ORTHOPÆDIC, RHEUMATISM AND X-RAY CLINIC.

Details are given in the following table of the patients treated during 1939 at the British Red Cross Society's Clinic, at No. 92, Dalston Lane :—

	Totals.	Hackney Residents.		
		Children		Adults.
		0-4 years.	5-13 years.	
Number of Patients Admitted ..	844	29	16	321
Number of Attendances	13,311	322	178	3,719
Number of Treatments given ..	23,249	458	209	7,184
Number of Radiographs taken ..	176	30	—	34

PUBLIC MORTUARY.

Details of the bodies deposited in the Public Mortuary during the year are given in the following table:—

	Persons dying in Hackney.	Persons dying elsewhere.	Total.
Number of bodies deposited in the mortuary ..	401	44	445
1. To await inquests { (a) Infectious ..	—	—	—
(b) Non-Infectious ..	137	11	148
2. To await burial	4	4	8
3. Result of death certified by Coroner ..	260	29	289
Number of post-mortem examinations made ..	365	38	403

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The following is a summary of the principal forms of inspection and of the action taken by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year:—

Houses inspected on complaint	4,458
" " after infectious disease	631
" " under Sec. 9, Housing Act	257
" made fit	282
Inspections of factories and workshops	712
" " outworkers' premises	943
" " bakehouses	97
" " dairies and milkshops	1,604
" " cowsheds	11
" " slaughterhouses	597
" " butchers' shops and stores	849
" " other food premises	1,605
Drains and sanitary fittings examined	4,856
" repaired	787
" relaid	121
Premises in which defects were found { all forms ..	4,283
" " " abated { of ..	3,957
Total number of re-inspections { inspection } ..	23,808
Intimation notices served	3,909
Statutory notices served	1,017
Summonses issued for housing defects	21
" " under Rag Flock Regulations, 1912 ..	1

CLEARANCE AND REHOUSING.

At the end of 1939 a total of 46 clearance areas, comprising 761 buildings, together with an additional 45 buildings (coloured grey) had been demolished from which 3,835 residents have been rehoused. On 30th June, 1939, I forwarded to the London County Council for investigation and observations fourteen proposed clearance schemes comprising approximately 1,200 houses and detailed inspections of these premises were in progress at the outbreak of war. Ministry of Health Circular No. 1866, dated 8th September, 1939, stated that local authorities should not take any further steps in connection with clearance orders which had not reached the stage of local enquiry and that where a clearance order had been confirmed by the Minister the steps to be taken by the local authority should stop short of actual demolition.

During the year Hindle House (197 flats), Lea View House (300 flats) and Wigan and Wren's Park Houses (280 flats) were completed and were populated very largely by persons from overcrowded dwellings in the Borough. The number of dwellings for the working classes provided by the Council now totals 2,167.

OVERCROWDING.

At the end of 1938 there remained 1,584 dwellings with a population of 8,298 persons, in which overcrowding existed. Shortly after the outbreak of war a survey was made of these overcrowded dwellings in order that the families still living under these unsatisfactory conditions could be offered accommodation in the Council's new flats. In the large majority of cases it was found that overcrowding had been abated, generally because of the evacuation of women and children from the Borough. Eighty overcrowded families were rehoused by the Borough Council, one by the London County Council, twenty-two removed to privately-owned accommodation, two could not be offered accommodation as there were no flats of sufficient size available and the remaining 179 families were not able to accept the offer of accommodation made to them by the Borough Council, in most instances because of inability to pay the rent required for the more adequate accommodation offered.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

This work proceeded normally until the outbreak of hostilities, and from that time such alterations were made in the routine work as were found necessary to meet war-time conditions. The Food and Drugs Act, 1938, came into force on 1st October, 1939. This Act consolidated legislation appertaining to food supplies, and throughout this report no mention will be made of any Act repealed thereby.

With reference to the milk supply, at the end of the year 1 cow-keeper, 113 dairies and milk shops, 195 dairymen (including those whose premises are situated outside the Borough) and 379 purveyors of milk in sealed receptacles remained on the register, 18 additions to the register having been made, and 33 alterations owing to transfer of ownership of businesses. In no case was it found necessary to refuse registration or to remove a retailer from the register under Section 22 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Six hundred and fifteen visits were made to the registered premises and in 21 instances notices were served for contraventions of the Milk and Dairies Order. There were no prosecutions ordered.

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 53 principal licences were granted—including five in respect of pasteurising establishments and two in respect of establishments at which Tuberculin Tested milk is bottled—and seven supplementary licences were granted. Two hundred and fifty-four samples were taken of milk sold under special designations, and upon examination only four of these were found not to conform to the requirements of the Order. The practice of submitting all samples of pasteurised milk to the Phosphatase test was again followed and seven samples reported “positive” by this test were subsequently examined for tubercle bacilli with negative results.

Premises required to be registered for (a) the manufacture, storage or sale of ice-cream, or (b) the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food, in accordance with Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, were regularly inspected and eleven notices were served on the occupiers in respect of unsatisfactory conditions, but in no case was it necessary to take Court proceedings. Thirty-one samples of ice-cream were obtained for chemical analysis and all were reported to be of genuine composition. Of thirty-six samples submitted for bacteriological examination, seven were adversely reported upon; the causes of the adverse reports were investigated and remedied in each case.

The numbers of premises on the register at the end of the year were :—

Manufacture, storage or sale of ice-cream	...	422
Other premises required to be registered	...	187

In no case was it necessary to refuse registration or remove any premises from the register.

Regular visits were made to the slaughterhouses, wherein were slaughtered 372 cattle, 316 pigs and 2,800 sheep and lambs. One heifer carcase and seven parts of carcasses were found to be affected with tuberculosis and were condemned, and fifty-five parts or organs were condemned in consequence of other diseased conditions. Five

hundred and ninety-seven inspections were made of butchers' shops and butchers' stalls in market streets and eighty-three visits were made to food factories. Thirty-one notices were served under the Meat Regulations and thirty-six notices were issued in respect of other food premises or articles therein. No further action was necessary.

Following the outbreak of war regular visits were made to the newly-established meat distribution depot from which is supplied all the meat, other than kosher, issued to this and three neighbouring boroughs. Licences were renewed to fifteen slaughtermen and applications were received for two new licences which were granted.

There was one prosecution in respect of the illegal occupation of an underground bakehouse and a fine of £1 was imposed.

Six tons three hundredweights of foodstuffs were condemned and surrendered for destruction, and in five instances formal seizures of food were made. Legal proceedings were taken in respect of one of the seizures resulting in the defendant being fined £5 0s. 0d. and ordered to pay five guineas costs, but in the other cases further legal action was not considered necessary.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

Nine hundred and ten formal samples of various foods, including three hundred and sixty-five of milk, were obtained for analysis, and seventeen of these were reported as adulterated, thirteen of the adulterations being of samples of milk. One hundred and thirty-four informal samples were analysed and of these, eleven were reported adulterated. Warnings were given to the vendors of the adulterated samples except in three instances in which proceedings were taken for adulterated milk samples. No fines were imposed in respect of these samples but the vendors were ordered to pay costs amounting to £5 5s. 0d.

The average composition of all the formal milk samples taken was 3.5 per cent. milk fat and 8.93 solids not fat.

Thirty formal samples of condensed milk were obtained and analysed and one of these was reported not genuine.

Samples of dried milk taken during the year complied with the regulations applicable thereto and samples of dried milk submitted for bacteriological examination were reported satisfactory.

A number of warnings were given for offences against Orders made under the Merchandise Marks Act, 1926, and proceedings were taken in respect of three offences resulting in fines and costs totalling £18 6s. 0d.

Eighteen notifications of food poisoning were received but in each case the illness was of a mild and transient nature. There were no outbreaks of food poisoning.

At the end of the year 117 names and addresses were on the Council's list of persons entitled to sell poisons under Part 2 of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933. The listed premises were inspected and samples were obtained for examination. No legal proceedings were taken in respect of offences.

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

Fewer cases of notifiable infectious disease occurred in 1939 than in the previous year. Scarlet fever cases fell from 340 to 319, diphtheria 169 to 56, enteric fever 5 to 1, acute primary pneumonia 179 to 121, and erysipelas 104 to 86. The expected biennial epidemic of measles did not occur, only 80 cases being notified during the year. This disease, together with whooping cough, became compulsorily notifiable on 1st October, 1938. Whooping cough notifications numbered 633 as compared with 200 in the last three months of 1938.

The infectious diseases attack-rates were as follows:—

	England and Wales.	London.	Hackney.
Scarlet Fever	1.89	1.53	1.63
Diphtheria	1.14	0.98	0.28
Enteric Fever	0.04	0.03	0.00
Erysipelas	0.34	0.37	0.44
Pneumonia	1.02	0.99	0.74

Table showing Notifications of Infectious Disease received in 1939, in Age Groups, Admissions to Hospitals and Deaths

Disease.	Cases Notified.													No. of cases admitted to Hospitals	No. of Deaths
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.													
		Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Scarlet Fever	319	3	11	15	36	31	131	47	23	16	5	1	..	292	..
Diphtheria	56	1	3	7	10	3	18	6	2	5	..	1	..	55	4
Enteric Fever	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
Puerperal Fever .. .	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	13	5	2	..	20	2
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	75	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	53	17	..	..	66	2
Acute Primary Pneumonia ..	121	..	4	2	2	5	4	7	15	24	20	28	10	94	28
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	25	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	3	7	3	6	3	16	9
Erysipelas	86	3	..	..	1	..	2	3	5	7	9	36	20	63	2
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	6	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	6	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	28	28	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	..
Poliomyelitis	4	1	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4	..
Dysentery	36	..	2	1	3	2	13	2	..	3	4	1	5	24	..
Encephalitis Lethargica ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Whooping Cough	633	61	84	86	108	117	165	10	2	..	..	..	..	98	6
Measles	80	4	10	12	11	13	22	4	1	2	1	..	..	17	..
Totals	1492	103	117	124	171	172	356	81	57	131	67	75	38	780	57

Cases of mistaken diagnosis are excluded from this Table.

Table showing Notifications of Infectious Disease received in 1939 in Electoral Wards.

Disease	Electoral Wards.															
	Ridley	Downs	Town Hall	Graham	Dalston	Culford	Stamford	Springfield	Maury	Southwold	Leaside	Marsh	Wick	Chatham	Park	Tudor
Scarlet Fever	42	35	17	7	15	10	23	40	27	19	14	20	17	6	13	14
Diphtheria	7	4	1	2	3	3	6	1	4	4	3	4	8	1	2	3
Enteric Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Fever	4	1	..	..	3	..	2	..	2	2	..	3	..	2	2	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	6	2	1	4	2	7	7	10	5	5	7	2	2	11	2
Acute Primary Pneumonia	4	3	8	10	7	8	6	5	4	2	8	14	8	14	13	7
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	1	4	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	2	7	1	3	1	2	..
Erysipelas	8	2	5	3	2	3	8	4	4	6	9	2	8	8	6	8
Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3	1	1	3	1	3	1	..	1	3	5	..	..	3	..
Poliomyelitis	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dysentery	2	12	1	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	5	..	2	1	1	7
Encephalitis Lethargica .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping Cough	54	46	18	40	29	18	49	59	46	55	46	64	22	33	28	26
Measles	3	6	4	3	..	2	24	16	3	7	2	3	3	..	3	1
Totals	132	122	58	68	66	50	134	135	104	104	102	124	73	68	84	68

Cases of mistaken diagnosis are excluded from this Table.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The active immunisation of persons against diphtheria has been available for Hackney residents since January, 1938. Weekly sessions are held at two clinics and the Council pays the fees of 38 local medical practitioners who administer immunising injections under the Council scheme. These practitioners referred 86 patients to the clinics for Schick testing during 1939; 18 of these patients were found to be naturally immune and the remaining 68 returned to their doctors for immunising injections.

The following table gives particulars of the work carried out under the scheme since 1928 :—

Year.	No. of New Cases.	Schick Tested.			Com-menced treatment without Schick Test.	Naturally Immune.	Immunised.			Dis-continued treatment and struck off Register.	No. under treatment at end of year.
		Pre-School Age.	School Age.	Adults.			Pre-School Age.	School Age.	Adults		
1928 to 1938	10431	1972	5286	212	2951	1526	3740	3307	48	1138	667
1939	1029	139	356	5	539	87	426	174	—	180	826

A statement by the Medical Officer of the Clinic follows :—

“The Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics had to be closed down at the commencement of the war and were not re-opened until January, 1940. The record therefore applies only to eight months of 1939. The number of new cases attending during this period, 1,029, compares favourably with the 1,481 new cases treated in 1938.

The Public Health Department continued to inform the public of the value of diphtheria immunisation by leaflets to children at schools and various other centres and by the first-birthday-wish postcards.

The panel of medical practitioners co-operating with the Clinics has now grown to 38. The Richmond Road Clinic still continues to be a useful adjunct to the main Clinic at Lower Clapton Road, being responsible for 359 of the total figure for the eight months.

During the eight months of work, four cases of suspected diphtheria in immunised children were removed to hospital, but on thorough investigation all four were proved to be not diphtheria but streptococcal tonsillitis or Vincent's angina, which again proves the efficacy of immunisation.

No local or general reaction from the injections has been reported, and I still attribute that to the smaller doses which are given to children of 8—10 years as their first injection and to the desensitising dose which is given to children over 11 years of age.

I should like to state that since 1928, when the Clinic was opened, Toxoid Antitoxin Mixture has been used throughout. It is now very interesting to report that during these 11 years, 97.7 per cent. of children were negative after three immunising injections on Schick testing them four months after the last injection.”

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of cases of tuberculosis notified for the first time during the year was 247—213 pulmonary and 34 non-pulmonary, as compared with 221 pulmonary and 45 non-pulmonary cases notified during the year 1938. The deaths from this disease totalled 124—109 pulmonary and 15 non-pulmonary.

New patients attending at the two Tuberculosis Dispensaries numbered 819, of which number 245 were found to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and 46 from non-pulmonary tuberculosis. In addition, 312 contacts of notified cases were examined and 7 were found to be suffering from tuberculosis.

Ninety-eight patients received a total of 1,121 artificial pneumothorax refills at an expense to the Council of £469 17s. 6d. Four patients received Finsen and arc light treatment for lupus, the cost to the Council of the 39 treatments being £11 8s.

Beds and bedding were loaned to 14 patients during the year. The loan of garden shelters to three patients was continued.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the disinfection staff during the year :—

(a) after the occurrence of infectious and contagious diseases :

Number of rooms disinfected	... ..	1,934
Number of articles of bedding and clothing disinfected or destroyed	... ..	30,002
Number of Public Library and other books disinfected	... ..	3,286
Number of persons accommodated in the isolation shelters	... ..	—

(b) for the destruction of vermin :

Number of rooms fumigated	... ..	1,413
Number of beds, mattresses, etc., cleansed or destroyed	... ..	12,813

In addition, 203 van-loads of furniture belonging to 420 families have been treated in the cyanide gas chambers at the Disinfecting Station. Much of this work was done at the request of the Housing Department in order to prevent the importation of vermin into the Council's dwellings.

The cyanide gas chambers have proved of utmost value in dealing speedily and effectively with the bedding of the civil defence personnel who, upon the outbreak of war, were billeted in large numbers in the various depots established in the Borough. The men's blankets have been washed and treated in the gas chambers in alternate months since the commencement of the war and this precaution has resulted in reducing to a minimum instances of the discovery of vermin in the sleeping quarters. The few cases of scabies found among the men have been effectively dealt with by treating the men at the Cleansing Station and disinfecting their bedding and clothing.

CLEANSING OF VERMINOUS PERSONS.

The following are particulars of the persons treated at the Cleansing Station :—

	Verminous persons cleansed.	Cases of Scabies treated.
Adults 	61	313
Schoolchildren 	1,389	893
Children under school age ...	—	57

