

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

Contributors

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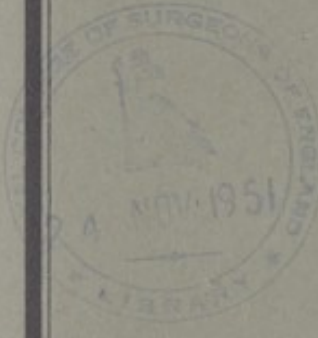


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Metropolitan Borough of Hackney



REPORT

ON THE

SANITARY CONDITION

of the Metropolitan Borough of Hackney

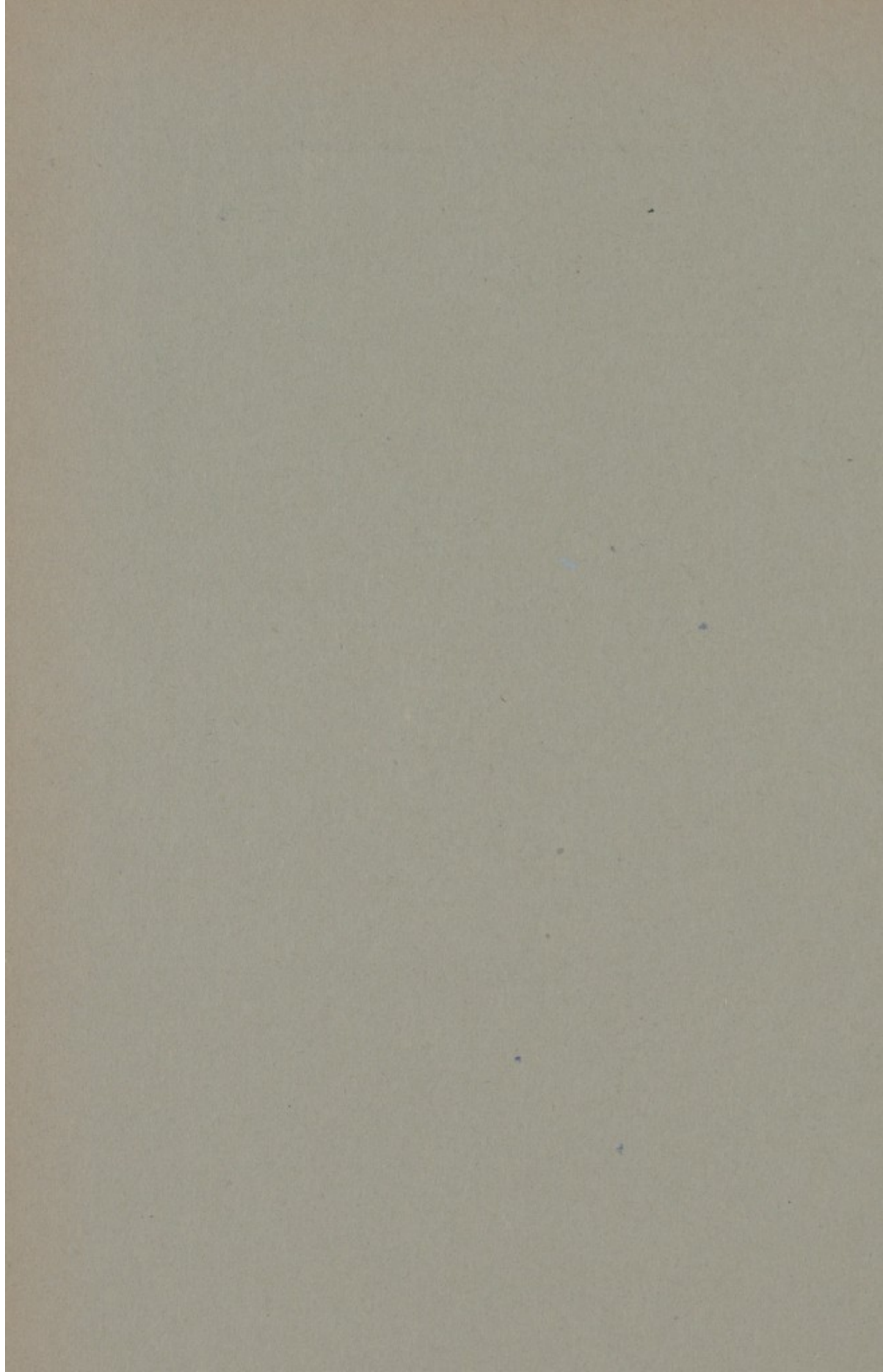
FOR THE YEAR 1950

BY

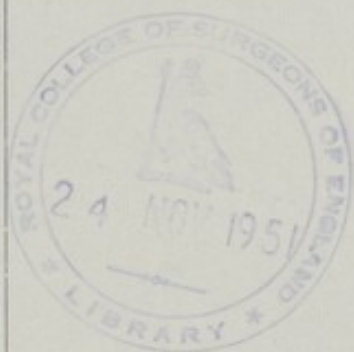
G. H. DART,

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

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



Metropolitan Borough of Hackney



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FOR THE YEAR 1950

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Public Health Committee.

Ex-Officio—Councillor Miss D. M. Finch, J.P. (*Mayor*).

Chairman—Councillor Mrs. F. H. DU VERGIER, J.P.

Vice-Chairman—Councillor J. Dunning.

Councillor R. BLACK.

Councillor Mrs. C. A. HUBBARD.

„ M. BLITZ.

„ J. KAHN.

„ B. COHEN.

„ T. A. LOVELOCK.

„ Mrs. M. K. COOK.

„ D. MCCARTHY.

Alderman Mrs. C. GOOCH, J.P.

„ Mrs. H. E. WEBB.

„ J. H. GOODRICK.

„ F. H. WHITE.

Metropolitan Borough of Hackney

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1950

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
TOWN HALL, HACKNEY, E.8.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Metropolitan Borough of Hackney.*

This Report on the health of the Borough in 1950 has again been prepared in the form requested during the war and subsequent years by the Ministry of Health but as my permanent appointment as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough terminates in May, 1951, I have taken the opportunity in presenting this, my thirtieth and last Annual Report, to include under the various headings some notes on the difficulties which have been experienced and the changes which have occurred during my term of office. I have done so in the belief that it will be of interest to members of the Council to review the progress which has been made in all sections of the work of the Public Health Department although the advance for which we all hoped was in many directions retarded by the conditions arising during and after the 1939-45 war. Lack of space has compelled me to omit much which I would have wished to include, but I think the information which has been included will give at least some indication of what has been accomplished.

The war years were anxious enough and one never knew what might be the next happening but no one, as far as I know, ever doubted the outcome; on the other hand no one ever had the slightest idea of the frightful difficulties that were to follow the war years as the result of war damage. There were, among other trials which had to be faced, licensing, which operated in such a way as to cause the maximum of difficulty to the Public Health Department and was one of the principal reasons for the loss of some of our best sanitary inspectors, who could not stand the continued frustration of their best efforts; and the shortage of materials, when we had to plead, for instance, for slates for roofs, cement and sanitary fittings so that builders could comply with notices and when it was necessary to loan Elsan closets to many tenants because the builders found it impossible to get the necessary fittings. It was not imagined that such a state of things could be possible at the close of a victorious war and it was fortunate that in these trying times the Department had men of the calibre of Mr. Alexander and Mr. Long, who have assisted me in a great majority of

my duties and at all times have been as competent and loyal servants of the Council and the Public Health Department as one could wish.

Mr. Long, whose activities in connection with housing and civil defence are too well-known to require setting out in detail, retired in January, 1951, but I feel sure that his successor, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Alexander, Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Potter, Administrative Assistant, and Mr. Spearing, Senior Housing Clerk, who is in charge of the Housing Act clerical work and compiled the particulars relating to the housing activities from past records, will be found by whoever follows me in my appointment to be as competent and helpful as any medical officer of health could desire. Indeed, in my opinion, the Council are very fortunate in having recently appointed Mr. Potter and Mr. Spearing, both of whom before coming to Hackney had a wide and thorough training in all branches of public health administration. I have found the experience obtained by these officers prior to coming to Hackney of great assistance. Mr. Haynes, who played such an outstanding part in the building-up of the Maternity and Child Welfare Services, is mentioned in the body of the Report.

The War Damage Commission has been most helpful and the difficulty experienced in enforcing repair of dwellings would have been much greater but for the co-operation the Public Health Department has received from the Commission in all cases where war damage claims have been under consideration.

During my service with the Council it has been my good fortune to have many able colleagues, some of whom are referred to in the various sections of this Report, but I would particularly mention Dr. H. Tylford Howell who, prior to his retirement in 1947, had worked in Hackney for over 30 years as Tuberculosis Officer; Dr. A. M. Barlow, Deputy Medical Officer of Health from 1923 to 1948, whose retirement from this post consequent upon his removal to Cornwall was much regretted; and Dr. D. Bielenky, who gave such magnificent service to the Borough as Deputy Medical Officer for Civil Defence during the war and succeeded Dr. Barlow as Deputy Medical Officer of Health. The assistance which I have received from these officers has been invaluable.

I would like, in this my last Annual Report, to express my appreciation of the great assistance always given by Sir Allen Daley and his Department in every difficulty in which their help has been requested. In all matters concerning the Borough there has been the most cordial and immediate assistance from the London County Council, which arises from the fact that the attitude of Sir Allen Daley is reflected throughout his administration. The fact that the change-over of the personal health services to the Division was effected with so little friction and in a spirit of co-

operation between the Division and the Public Health Department, although naturally there were considerable heartburnings about the loss of services which had been built up by the Borough, was not only due to Sir Allen Daley and County Hall staff but also to the fact that the principal officers at Division—Dr. King and Mr. Minter—had come from the Public Health Departments of Stoke Newington and Hackney respectively and were familiar with the work of the Public Health Department in both boroughs.

My thanks are also due to all members of the Council and particularly to the Chairmen and members of the Public Health Committee, without whose unfailing sympathetic consideration and ever-ready assistance many of the improvements shown over the past 30 years would not have been possible. The Chairman of the Public Health Committee, Councillor Mrs. F. H. Du Vergier, J.P., has had a particularly onerous task during the past year and during the many years she has been Chairman since the war and previously. The Public Health Department is indeed indebted to Councillor Mrs. Du Vergier for many years of sympathetic, untiring work for the department and citizens of the Borough. The residents of Hackney have, I feel, been fortunate in having had during these years Councils who, while justifiably careful in the expenditure of public monies, have never hesitated to vote money for any project which they were satisfied was necessary for the well-being of the people they represented.

I would also like to thank all past and present members of the staff of the Public Health Department with whom I have worked for the conscientious and efficient manner in which they have at all times performed their duties.

In conclusion I would like to say how pleased I am to have been associated with the public health activities in this Borough during the past 30 years; years which were truly momentous and which, I am certain, will when viewed in retrospect be said to have witnessed a real advance in the field of public health.

When one considers the difficulties which have been encountered as a result of the last war and the two post-war periods the progress made in Hackney has been remarkable. Primarily, the credit for what has been accomplished must go to the Councils who have always taken advantage of any powers given to them to improve the health and well-being of the citizens of Hackney, but in the final analysis it will be found that the staff of the Public Health Department, upon whom have fallen the responsibilities for carrying into effect the policies and wishes of the Council, have also played an essential part.

G. H. DART,

Medical Officer of Health.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live Births:—	Total.	M.	F.		
Legitimate ..	2,457	1,232	1,225	} Birth Rate ..	.. 14.96
Illegitimate ..	117	57	60		
Still Births ..	61	36	25	Rate per 1,000 total	
				births ..	.. 23.15
Deaths ..	1,900	972	928	Death Rate ..	.. 11.04

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth:—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 Total Births
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
Other Puerperal causes ..	2	0.76
Total	2	0.76

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

Legitimate, 20.98 ..	Illegitimate, 1.94 ..	Total, 22.92
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ..	..	346
„ „ Measles (all ages) ..	..	—
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ..	..	—
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	..	4

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's estimate of the civilian population of Hackney in 1950 is 172,100.

INHABITED HOUSES.

Number of inhabited houses (Census 1931) ..	34,155
Estimated number of inhabited houses (end of 1950) according to Rate Books	39,154

MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGE RATE.

During 1950 there were 1,605 marriages solemnised in the Borough of Hackney. The rate for persons married during this period is therefore 9.32 per 1,000 of the total population.

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATE.

Births to Hackney mothers corrected by inward and outward transfers:—

	Live Births.			Still Births.		
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	1,232	1,225	2,457	34	23	57
Illegitimate	57	60	117	2	2	4

The birth rates in England and Wales, London and Hackney in the past five years are shown below:—

District.	Birth Rate, 1950.	Birth rates in previous years.			
		1949.	1948.	1947.	1946.
England and Wales	15.8	16.7	17.9	20.5	19.1
London	17.8	18.5	20.1	22.7	21.5
Hackney	14.96	15.66	17.32	21.16	20.5

The 61 still births registered during the year represent a rate of 0.35 per 1,000 of the population, the comparable rate for England and Wales being 0.37 and for London 0.36.

The birth of 121 illegitimate children (117 living and 4 still-born) represents a rate of 45.92 per 1,000 total births.

DEATHS.

The deaths of civilians registered during the year, adjusted for inward and outward transfers, numbered 1,900. The crude death rate from all causes was 11.04. The rate for England and Wales was 11.6 and that for London 11.8.

The death rates in England and Wales, London and Hackney in the past five years were:—

District.	Death Rate, 1950.	Death Rates in previous years.			
		1949.	1948.	1947.	1946.
England and Wales	11.6	11.7	10.8	12.0	11.5
London	11.8	12.2	11.6	12.8	12.7
Hackney	11.04	11.32	10.46	12.1	11.8

Births and Deaths—1920, in the Borough of Hackney.

Birth Rate 26.6.

Death Rate 12.7.

*Short List of Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life
of Residents of Hackney during 1950.*

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages.	0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
Tuberculosis, respira- tory	M	38	1	..	..	1	7	21	5	3
	F	17	..	..	..	3	6	6	2	..
Tuberculosis, other ..	M	4	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	1
	F	4	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	1
Syphilitic disease ..	M	6	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	1
	F	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Diphtheria	M	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping cough ..	M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meningococcal infec- tions	M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute poliomyelitis ..	M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..
Measles	M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	M	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
	F	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	34	..	..	..	..	2	14	14	4
	F	17	..	..	..	..	1	6	6	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	M	60	..	..	..	..	5	38	16	1
	F	8	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	26	..	..	..	..	4	10	4	8
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	13	..	..	..	..	1	7	2	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	M	95	..	1	..	1	5	37	24	27
	F	93	..	1	..	1	5	35	31	20
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	M	4	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	1
	F	7	..	..	1	1	..	3	2	..
Diabetes	M	4	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..
	F	14	..	..	..	..	..	4	7	3
Vascular lesions of ner- vous system ..	M	75	..	..	..	..	1	18	32	24
	F	116	..	..	..	..	1	26	38	51
Coronary disease, an- gina	M	138	..	..	..	..	4	58	46	30
	F	85	..	..	..	..	1	18	38	28

Causes of Death—continued.

Causes of Death	Sex.	All Ages.	0—	1—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75—
Hypertension, with heart disease ..	M	38	..	..	..	..	..	11	12	15
	F	53	..	..	..	..	1	7	11	34
Other heart disease ..	M	113	..	..	..	1	7	21	25	59
	F	168	..	..	1	..	13	25	37	92
Other circulatory disease ..	M	21	..	..	..	..	..	5	9	7
	F	38	..	..	..	..	..	2	10	26
Influenza ..	M	10	..	..	1	..	1	4	3	1
	F	11	..	1	..	..	1	3	4	2
Pneumonia ..	M	51	3	1	..	..	1	14	9	23
	F	59	2	1	..	..	3	10	11	32
Bronchitis ..	M	96	..	..	..	..	2	24	27	43
	F	41	1	..	..	..	..	5	12	23
Other diseases of respiratory system ..	M	10	..	..	..	..	4	1	3	2
	F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ..	M	25	..	..	..	..	3	9	10	3
	F	6	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	1
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea ..	M	6	1	1	..	..	..	3	1	..
	F	8	3	..	..	..	..	1	3	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	M	10	..	..	1	..	1	4	1	3
	F	10	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	M	17	..	..	..	..	..	2	9	6
	F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ..	M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	4	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	..
Congenital malformations ..	M	13	6	..	..	1	1	3	1	1
	F	18	3	2	1	..	3	7	2	..
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	M	69	19	1	..	2	10	13	17	7
	F	86	19	1	1	..	7	14	15	29
Motor vehicle accidents	M	7	..	..	1	2	1	..	2	1
	F	4	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	2
All other accidents ..	M	11	..	..	2	1	3	4	1	..
	F	9	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	5
Suicide ..	M	15	..	..	..	..	6	7	1	1
	F	8	..	..	..	..	4	3	..	1
Homicide and operations of war ..	M	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total all causes ..	M	972	30	7	5	10	66	317	273	264
	F	928	29	8	5	8	57	202	246	373

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The expansion of the maternity and child welfare services, following the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918, was very striking. These services, originally commenced by voluntary associations, were taken over by the municipality by degrees, generally at the request of the voluntary associations. Health visiting and the provision of child welfare and ante-natal clinics were the original services but by 1947, the last complete year before these services were handed over to the London County Council, the borough was providing also convalescent aid to children and mothers, domestic help, sterilised maternity outfits, home nursing assistance, the calling in of consultants in difficult maternity cases and, in conjunction with the London County Council, a mobile emergency obstetric unit and at the centres sunlight and dental treatment and a gynaecological clinic for dealing with diseases peculiar to women.

A comparison of first attendances with the number of births registered shows that in 1920, 47 per cent. of the children born in that year were taken to the welfare centres but the corresponding figure for 1947 was 87 per cent. At the time of my first annual report in 1920 there were five welfare centres in the borough, all held in church halls; two of these were controlled by voluntary societies and three by the Borough Council.

When this service was first established the public were not used to health visiting and health visitors were not always welcome, whilst the welfare centres were regarded mainly as being a source of free or reduced-price milk and foods supply and as such were avoided by mothers not in want. The position in these days is very different for almost all mothers are pleased to take advantage of the maternity and child welfare services and the centres are recognised as being essential to the well-being of the community.

In 1947 there were five maternity and child welfare centres operating, all municipal, two of which were held in buildings which had been specially built and equipped for the purpose, complete with equipment for dental and sunlight treatment and other ancillary services; two in houses adapted for the purpose and one in a mission hall, whilst of the fourteen ante-natal and post-natal clinics held each week only two were held in church halls.

Mr. Haynes, the chief maternity and child welfare clerk, was associated with this development, and Mr. Percival Holt, M.Inst. C.E., M.Inst.M. and Cy.E., the former Borough Engineer and Surveyor, made such a success of the erection and decoration of the Richmond Road and Elsdale Street Maternity and Child Welfare Centres that the Ministry of Health on many occasions sent foreign visitors to see them.

In 1920, out of every 1,000 children born, 81 died before reaching the age of one year, whereas in 1947 this figure had dropped to 30, a reduction of 170 per cent. These figures assume an even greater importance when one recalls that it has been said that for every child dying in the first year of life, three survive crippled in some way by the condition that caused the mortality. In this connection it is interesting to note that during the years 1920 to 1924 the number of children dying before reaching the age of five years was 2,519. The corresponding figure for the period 1943 to 1947 was 643. Again, in 1920, three out of every 1,000 mothers confined died in childbirth, whilst in 1947 no mothers died. It is most unusual to have no deaths in childbirth and the fact that this was the case in 1947 is truly remarkable when it is remembered that over 3,700 Hackney mothers were confined in that year.

The progress achieved as a result of the maternity and child welfare services is best exemplified by comparing the health of the children of to-day with that of 50 years ago, when rickets was so very common and malnutrition, resulting generally from improper feeding, was not regarded as a happening that should not have occurred but rather as an unfortunate accident.

In these days, also, physical defects are detected at an early age in life and can be remedied before they become permanent, and the bandy-legged child, so common in the past, is now rarely, if ever, seen.

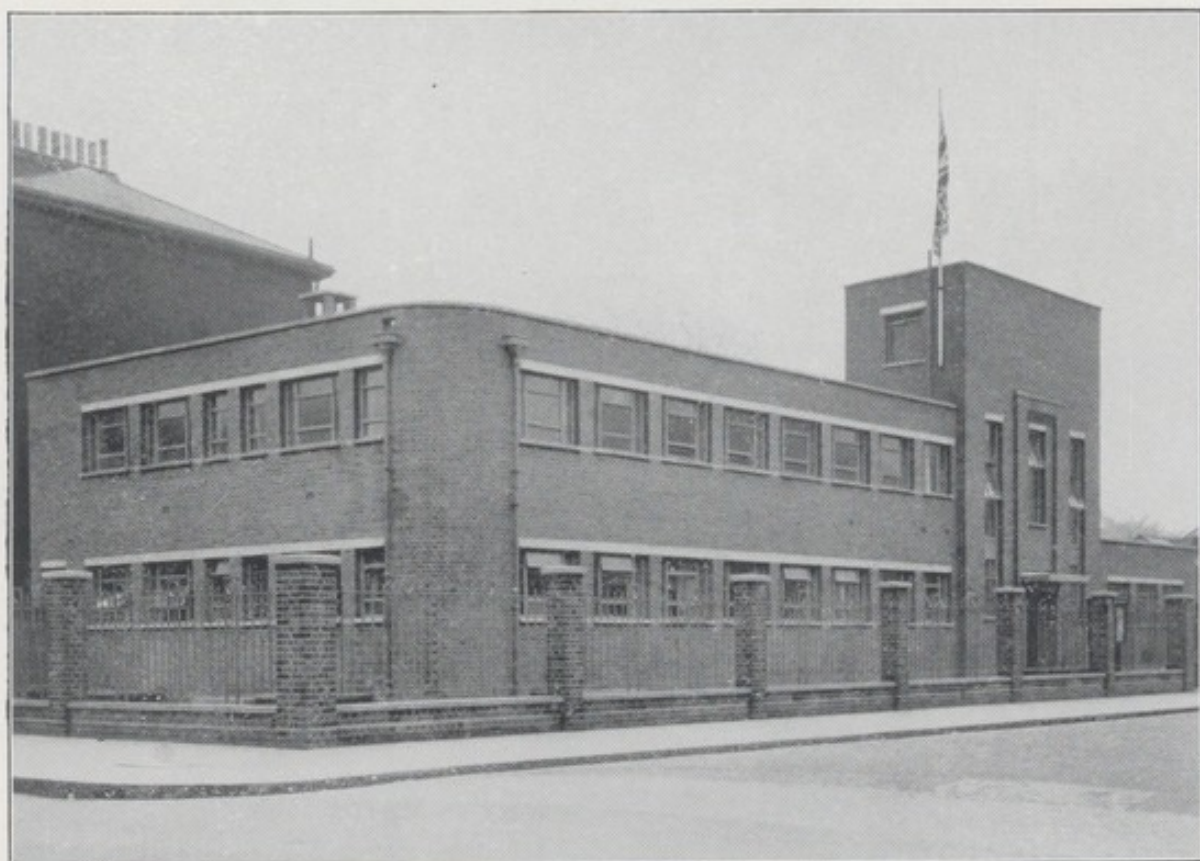
Similarly, the ante-natal treatment and advice given to expectant mothers have been the means of not only practically eliminating the former risk of childbirth but also of considerably reducing the number of difficult confinements.

Miss Howse, S.R.N., H.V.Cert., M.B.E., with the assistance of Mr. Haynes and Mr. Long, Senior Housing Inspector, was very successful in organising the eight day nurseries opened in this borough in order to enable women to go to work during the war. These day nurseries had provision for 415 children and are now a permanent part of the maternity and child welfare services. Miss Howse is now Superintendent Matron of the Day Nursery Service in the County of Hertford.

The Home Help Service, which deals with from 800 to 1,000 cases a week, was organised by Miss Burr, H.V.Cert., S.I.E.B., S.C.M., who was seconded from the duties of sanitary inspector to build up this service at the end of the war. Miss Burr wrote a very informative and useful book "The Home Help Service" which has been highly commended by many medical officers of health. Miss Burr is now Home Help Organiser for Kent County Council.



WESLEYAN CHURCH HALL, MAYFIELD ROAD—hired rooms.—One of the first welfare centres, instituted by the Borough Council.



MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE, 136, RICHMOND ROAD.—The first specially built and equipped maternity and child welfare centre for Hackney erected in 1936, to replace Mayfield Road Centre, and opened in 1937. The premises accommodated infant welfare, ante- and post-natal, gynaecological, foot, artificial sunlight, dental, diphtheria immunisation clinics, dispensary, lecture hall, isolation rooms, and perambulator store.



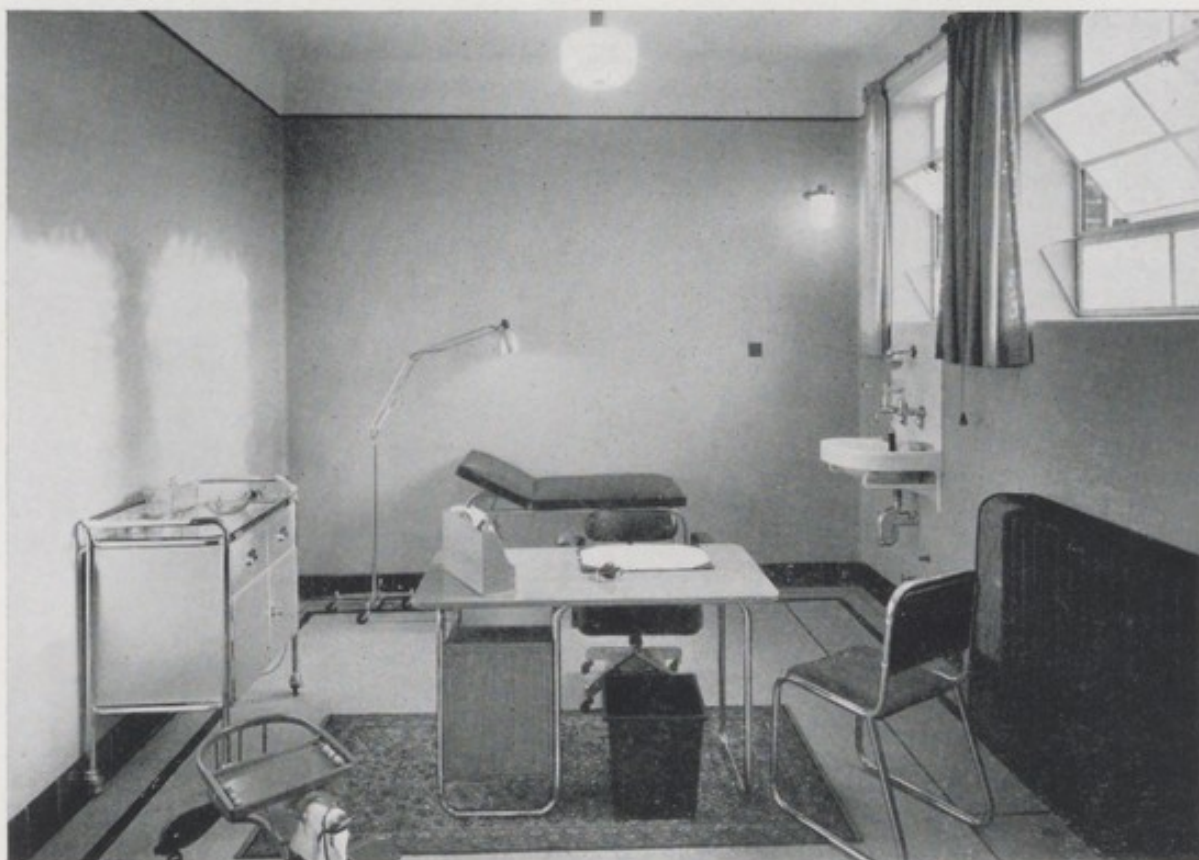
DISPENSARY AND PERAMBULATOR ROOM AT MAYFIELD ROAD.



DISPENSARY AT RICHMOND ROAD CENTRE.



INFANT WELFARE DOCTOR'S ROOM, HAMPDEN CHAPEL, LAURISTON ROAD.



INFANT WELFARE DOCTOR'S ROOM AT ELSDALE STREET CENTRE.—This specially built and equipped maternity and child welfare centre opened in 1939 replaced the centre at hired rooms at Hampden Chapel, Lauriston Road. The premises accommodated infant welfare, ante- and post-natal, artificial sunlight, massage, diphtheria immunisation clinics, dispensary, isolation room, lecture hall and perambulator store.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The deaths of 59 children under the age of twelve months were allocated to Hackney by the Registrar General during 1950. This number of deaths gives an infantile mortality rate of 22.92 per 1,000 live births, which is considerably lower than any rate recorded in the Borough previous to the year 1949. The rate for England and Wales was 29.8 and for London 26.3.

Thirty years ago 485 deaths of infants under one year of age were recorded in this borough, in respect of the 12 months ended 31st December, 1920 giving an *infantile mortality rate as high as* 81 for that year.

The infant mortality rates in England and Wales, London and Hackney in the past five years were:—

District.	Infant mortality rate, 1950	Infant mortality rates in previous years.			
		1949	1948	1947	1946
England and Wales	29	32	34	41	43
London	26	29	31	37	41
Hackney	22	22	24	30	31

The causes of the 59 infant deaths in 1950 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
Tuberculosis, respiratory .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Tuberculosis, other .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	1	..	..	1	4	..	..	..	5
Bronchitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	1	..	..	4
Congenital Malformations ..	1	3	1	1	..	6	1	..	1	1	9
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	10	1	..	1	34	1	3	..	..	38
Totals	23	13	3	1	2	42	10	5	1	1	59

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

During 1950 there were 2 deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other causes directly connected with childbirth.

The maternal mortality rates in England and Wales and in Hackney in the past five years were:—

District.	Maternal mortality rate, 1950.	Maternal mortality rates in previous years.			
		1949	1948	1947	1946
England and Wales	0.86	0.98	1.02	1.01	1.24
Hackney	0.76	Nil.	Nil.	1.06	0.56

GENERAL PROVISIONS 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.

The following is a statement of specimens submitted to the Laboratories during the year:—

Specimen	Result of Examination	Negative	Positive	Total
Throat and Nose Swabs	Diphtheria Bacilli	244	4	248
	H. Pertussis	1	—	1
	Haemolytic Streptococci	11	8	19
	Monila and Leptothrix	—	1	1
	Streptococci Viridens	—	1	1
	Vincent's Organisms	11	1	12
Sputum	Tubercle Bacilli	17	4	21
Faeces and Rectal Swabs	Amoeba	1	—	1
	B. Typhorus	12	—	12
	Dysentery Group	18	—	18
	Food Poisoning	2	—	2
	Pathogens	17	—	17
	Salmonella typhi-murium	1	—	1
	Salmonella Group	3	—	3
	Shigella Sonné	—	1	1
Blood	B. Typhorus	1	—	1
Vaginal Swabs	Gonococci	6	—	6
	Leucocythaemia	1	—	1
Urine	B. Coli	—	1	1
Serum	Virulence Test	1	—	1
	Totals	347	21	368

for crickets. In November, 1933, the destructor was closed down and arrangements made for the refuse to be taken by barge to dumps outside the borough.

Another vanished aspect of sanitary inspection is that of canal boats, many of which in earlier years stopped at Hackney, and in 1920 and later years necessitated one of the sanitary inspectors being approved as Canal Boat Inspector. This inspector visited between 30 and 40 canal boats each year, but because of the increase in road motor transport and the use of motor-driven and motor-hauled boats, instead of horse-drawn boats with their frequent halts to rest and change the horses, these boats now pass through Hackney without stopping.

One great change which will ultimately have considerable effect on the work of the sanitary inspectors is the increase as compared with earlier years in the number of houses occupied by more than one family. Owing to the housing situation, almost all the houses in the borough have been converted into tenements or houses let in lodgings and, when circumstances permit, will have to be dealt with under the byelaws applicable to such houses.

The reduction in the work arising out of the factors mentioned above has, however, been more than offset by the increase in the surveillance needed in connection with premises registered for the preparation and preservation of food, including ice-cream, and similar registration under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the new standards for so many foods, the supervision of such trades as the pasteurising and bottling of milk, and investigation arising from the routine notification of food poisoning, and the deterioration of dwelling accommodation and difficulty in securing the necessary repairs.

One of the most striking changes in the borough has been the improvement in the condition of the *River Lea* which for many years was the cause of so many complaints from persons living in the neighbourhood, from the boating clubs, and other persons who endeavoured to use the river and which also attracted so much comment in the Press. The pollution of the river was such that deputations went to the Lee Conservancy Board and conferences were held on many occasions—one such deputation to the Board being headed by Mr. Herbert Morrison, at that time Mayor of the borough.

For year after year the Medical Officer of Health's Annual Reports contained reference to the river, usually beginning with the following words: "The River Lea has remained in its usual offensive condition during the year," and in my Annual Report for 1921 I gave extracts from the Annual Reports of Dr. King Warry on the state of the Lea from 1901 onwards.

In February, 1923, the Council protested against yet another local authority—St. Albans Rural District—being permitted to discharge sewage effluents into the river, and received a reply from the Ministry of Health stating “ . . . the proposed work will result in less, not more, pollution of the River. The Ministry, however, considers that Leyton and Walthamstow sewage would be better discharged into a London County Council sewer than into the Lea.”

An inspection was made by a chemical specialist and a medical officer of the Ministry of Health on the 5th July, 1923, during the course of which the river in the Hackney district was found to be covered with sewage over a large area of its surface and, in fact, in a most disgraceful state.

In my Annual Report for 1924 I pointed out that sewage effluents from Enfield, Edmonton, Finchley, Friern Barnet, Hornsey, East Barnet and Cheshunt, as well as Leyton and Walthamstow and St. Albans Rural District, were assisting in the pollution of the River Lea. It was difficult to do justice to the condition of the Lea at that time, but the following was an attempt to do so in a long editorial which appeared in the *Hackney Gazette*, and began:—

“*Hackney's Putrid River.* The River Lea, described by satirists as Hackney's scent bottle, is again exuding foul smells. It rarely does anything else at this time of year, when the blazing orb plays upon its putrid surface and increases the pungency of its odour. The only cause for wonder is that Hackney's indignation has been bottled up so long! . . .”

Happily, a marked improvement in the condition of the river was eventually effected, and for the last 20 years the complaints which figured so largely in Annual Reports in the past have not been necessary. In addition to the nuisance arising from pollution of the river, floodings occurred with some regularity, particularly in the Middlesex Wharf area which was later the subject of a Clearance Order. The flooding was particularly serious in 1928, but from that year until 1947 there was little cause for complaint.

The serious flooding which occurred in 1947, and was referred to in my Annual Report for that year, was due to weather conditions so abnormal that the Metropolitan Water Board filter beds adjoining the Lea were also flooded. Prompt action by the Public Health Department, with the co-operation of the Police, Fire Brigade, and W.V.S., did much to alleviate the distress caused to the people living in the affected houses, and when the water had receded the filth deposited by the flooding was cleared away by the Public Health Department workmen and floor boards were taken up and disinfection carried out beneath the flooring.

As a result of the floodings which occurred that year the following arrangements to be put into operation in the event of future floodings were made between the Borough Council and the London County Council:—

GENERAL.

Temporary rest centre accommodation at Rushmore Road School will be provided by the London County Council, who have arranged for emergency supplies of equipment and provisions consisting of bedding (mattresses, pillows, pillow cases, blankets), crockery, cutlery, teapots, kettles and appropriate quantities of tea, sugar, tinned milk and biscuits to be immediately available at Southern Grove Lodge, Southern Grove, Mile End Road, E.3. Transport (available at all times) for the transfer of homeless people to the accommodation provided and for the transfer of food and equipment from Southern Grove Lodge will be supplied by the Borough Council (Public Health Department). An officer from Southern Grove Lodge will accompany stores and equipment to a point of distribution and will be responsible for giving such assistance as may be possible in the issue of bedding, making tea, etc.

The Borough Council will arrange for the direction of homeless persons to the accommodation provided and open, and, as was the case in 1947, supervise the premises whilst in use. It is not proposed to maintain a supply of provisions at the rest centre, but priority transport (Public Health Department) will be afforded for the collection of tea, sugar, milk, biscuits, kettles, etc., from Southern Grove Lodge when the need becomes clear.

Arrangements have been made for the supply of main meals should it prove necessary from the Area Officer, Restaurants and Catering Department, London County Council, Urswick Road, E.9.

Hackney Borough Council (Public Health Department) will be responsible for the general clearing and salvage arrangements in the flooded area and for any necessary cleansing and drying of beds and bedding.

The general arrangements in the event of flooding are as follows:—

Flood warning (during normal office hours):—

- (a) The Lee Conservancy Board to give warning of impending floods to the Medical Officer of Health at the Hackney Town Hall.
- (b) Should there be homeless people to be accommodated, the Medical Officer of Health to notify the Welfare Department of the London County Council and also the Warden, Southern Grove Lodge, who will on request arrange to have the equipment and provisions required to meet the situation ready for transport when called for.

Flood warning (outside normal office hours):—

- (a) The Lee Conservancy Board to give warning of impending floods to the Duty Officer of the Public Health Department at his home address.
- (b) The Duty Officer to pass it on, should there be homeless people, to the Warden, Southern Grove Lodge, and to the Schoolkeeper/Caretaker of the accommodation to be used.
- (c) Rest centre to be opened and homeless persons to be admitted. It is not thought that a working staff would be required as persons admitted should be able to care for themselves once they have settled in, but control and general supervision of the centre will be exercised by an officer of the Borough Council.

Further action in connection with the River Lea was necessary in 1948, when early in the year rats coming from the banks of the river were found to be seriously infesting an area lying between the Hackney Navigation Cut and the river. In this area there are no dwelling houses, but in Waterden Road and Eastway there are ten large factories, and also within the area are situate the Hackney Wick Stadium and two establishments belonging to the Ministry of Supply. In conjunction with the factory owners and the Ministry of Supply, each of whom operated within the boundaries of their own establishments, and the Public Health Departments of the neighbouring boroughs of Poplar and West Ham, who undertook operations on their side of the Lea, a campaign of extermination was planned. This campaign was put into operation during the week 13th to 20th January, when 200 baiting points were prepared along the river bank, and pre-baiting for six days showed a progressive improvement in the "take." This was followed by the laying of poison bait, over 8 lbs. of which was actually taken. Post-baiting showed that the rat population had been reduced to such minor proportions that only 15 baits were touched at all the baiting points.

The River Lea has now given place as a source of complaint to the bombed sites in the borough, and in each of the last few years the department has been called upon to remove rubbish and miscellaneous items which have been deposited on these sites. The depositing of rubbish upon these sites is a constantly recurring nuisance, and as a great deal of the material which is deposited is of a putrifiable nature and becomes very offensive, particularly during warm weather, removal by the staff of the Public Health Department is often necessary in order to avoid danger to the health of the public, whilst, in addition, the rubbish deposited often forms breeding grounds for rats.

It would seem that the offenders are, to a large extent, people living at some distance from the bombed sites, and that the deposits are made with complete disregard to their effect upon those unfortunate enough to be living in the immediate vicinity of the sites. Such lack of thought for others serves to illustrate the innate selfishness of the type of person upon whom all the health education which has been undertaken proves of little avail.

Throughout the review of the work of the department during the past 30 years it has been necessary to refer to the repressive effect which the two post-war periods have had upon the realisation of our hopes of progressive improvement in all branches of the work of the Public Health Department, but perhaps none of the department's activities has been so affected as the work of the sanitary inspectors which has been carried out in the face of an almost continuous struggle against adverse conditions. These conditions have been referred to each year in my Annual Reports, and so it is neither necessary nor, within the compass of this Report, possible to recount all the difficulties which have arisen, although for the purpose of this review reference will be made to some of them.

In many parts of this Report, where the work of the past 30 years has been reviewed, it has been possible to show that despite the last war, conditions have much improved as compared with the years when I first took office, but so far as the sanitary inspection of premises is concerned it is to be regretted that the difficulties remain very great. This, however, has not been due to any laxity on the part of the sanitary inspectors, but due to the economic and social conditions arising out of two world wars. It is perhaps true to say that only during the later 1930 years did the Public Health Department begin to see the results of its constant endeavours to ensure good housing accommodation for the people, but in 1939 came the war with its intensive destruction of premises and damage to houses, combined with shortage of labour and materials and the almost heartbreaking task of trying to produce order out of chaos.

Some of the difficulties encountered in putting into a reasonable state of repair the houses in the borough which had been neglected during these two periods have been referred to elsewhere in this report under the heading of "Housing," but mention should be made of the fact that in 1920, 4,662 complaints of nuisances were received by the department and that these, together with inspections of houses in connection with infectious diseases, resulted in the service of 6,781 Intimation and 982 Statutory Notices, whilst the difficulty experienced in enforcing these notices is shown by the 116 instances in which legal proceedings were necessary, 13 of which were for the purpose of securing compliance with Magistrates' Orders.

In 1920 the borough was divided for the purpose of sanitary inspection into 14 districts, but, in that year, sanction was obtained for the appointment of three additional inspectors for work under the Housing and Town Planning Act Regulations, and summing up the position in my Annual Report I wrote: "Housing difficulties in Hackney are those common to most London boroughs, and are by this time well known to the public in general. Briefly, much of the housing property is in poor condition, repairs are expensive, and in many cases owners are barely able to meet the cost, while owing to the age of many of the houses frequent repairs are essential. Alternative accommodation is scanty or lacking, so that Closing Orders cannot be put into force."

The following year saw the number of Intimation Notices served rise to 7,923, and Statutory Notices to 1,701, with legal proceedings being necessary in 115 instances, and reviewing the work of sanitary inspection in my Annual Report I stated:—

"This work throughout the year has been carefully and conscientiously carried out, and it is due to this fact that the housing conditions of the borough have not caused considerable adverse comment.

The position is, however, becoming steadily more difficult. The three additions to the inspecting staff have rendered it possible to give the additional attention that the increasing dilapidation of the housing property renders necessary in order to prevent the formation of large slum areas and maintain housing property in comparatively decent condition, but it is not possible to deal with overcrowding, apart from exceptionally bad cases, or to close a great deal of property that under other circumstances would necessarily be shut down. . . .

. . . . It is, however, not a business proposition to repair adequately a great many of the houses in the borough, and only under pressure is it possible to have any work whatever carried out on much of the property . . . with increasing dilapidation, and also as a result of war-time neglect, the amount of repairs required has increased, a fact well evidenced by the number of complaints of leaky roofs that follow any heavy downfall of rain.

Matters that should receive the careful attention of the authorities are the situation that may arise should the Increase of Rents, etc., Act, 1920, lapse, and the increasing tendency on the part of owners and agents to shelve responsibility by inducing incoming tenants to sign agreements to undertake repairs on property, that is, or is about to become ruinous."

Under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act, 1920, the tenant of a house not in a reasonable state of repair could obtain a certificate to this effect from the Sanitary Authority which entitled him to deduct the permitted increase of rent, but in order to obtain this relief action had to be taken by the tenant at the County Court, and as a result there was no eagerness to take advantage of this concession.

The new Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Act in 1923, however, amended the previous Act, so that it was no longer necessary for tenants to take proceedings at the County Court, but a copy of the certificate had to be served on the landlord who could, if the work was completed satisfactorily, obtain a certificate to this effect from the sanitary authority on payment of 1s. The control of rents by the Rents Acts was bitterly resented by some of the owners of properties as an interference with their considered right to exploit the existing housing shortage to their own advantage, and at that time an owner of property bringing in approximately £2,000 a year in small sums varying from 9s. to 12s. weekly, informed me that when the Act expired steps would be taken as regards this particular housing property, not only to raise the rent, but also to induce the tenants to sign repairing agreements.

One such agreement which an incoming tenant was required to sign contained the following clause:—

“I agree and undertake to do all necessary repairs and to keep the drains, soil and other pipes and sanitary and water apparatus in good, sufficient and tenantable repair and condition.”

I was informed that there was nothing to prevent this procedure being adopted on a large scale; in fact, this defence of non-responsibility of the owner as the result of repairing agreements was raised on several occasions.

In my report for 1923 I made reference to the difficulty of securing an adequate standard of living accommodation, and wrote

“ . . . If the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, could be amended so that the conditions described in the Ministry of Health “Manual on Unfit Houses” as being necessary for a fit house could be enforced under the nuisances sections of this Act a great step forward would be made. Section 28 of the Housing and Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919, as amended by Section 10 of the Housing, etc., Act, 1923, does not give the local authorities power to improve housing to any appreciable extent unless they are prepared to meet the cost out of the rates. It should be possible to induce owners of housing property to attend to such matters as the provision of ‘adequate facilities for preparing and cooking food,’ and the Housing

and Town Planning Act places the necessity of doing the work upon the sanitary authority while giving the owners opportunity in various directions to place the cost upon the local borough. In fact, it has been found a safer proceeding in this borough, where it has been desired to carry out work by the Council, to obtain a Magistrate's Order under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, and to work entirely under that Act. The Public Health (London) Act, 1891, however, does not go far enough, and certainly many of the conditions laid down as desirable in the Manual cannot be enforced under that Act."

The importance of the housing problem and the enormous difficulty of finding a solution resulted in the formation of a number of associations and organisations to improve matters in this respect, but the problem remained as difficult and as embarrassing as before.

One of the most trying aspects of sanitary inspectors' work was the type of owner who, having acquired property as an investment, sought to carry out only the barest minimum of repairs in order to maintain or increase his financial benefits, and even when sanitary notices were served upon him just "botched up" the houses so as to abate the immediate nuisances. In fact, the tenants found it necessary to call in the sanitary inspector whenever defects developed, and in this way much of the inspector's time was taken up in dealing with constantly recurring nuisances and in attendance at Court in order to secure their abatement.

In my Annual Report for 1928 I included a report which I had made to the Public Health Committee with regard to the difficulties experienced in inducing some of the owners of unsatisfactory housing property to carry out proper repairs which I illustrated by reference to a house which had been the subject of action during the year. In this particular case the tenant complained of the unsatisfactory state of the premises which were visited by the inspector who found the roof to be leaking and other unsatisfactory conditions, and as a result an Intimation Notice was served. The owner carried out work which was obviously of an unsatisfactory nature, for a few weeks later the tenant again complained of the conditions and, following a further inspection, a Statutory Notice was served and a Rent Restrictions Act certificate issued. Further work was put in hand by the owner who asked for a certificate that the work had been done satisfactorily. At this time, among other insanitary conditions, the roof was still leaking. The certificate was, of course, refused, and further work was carried out by the owner to whom a Completion of Work Certificate was then granted. The premises, however, had been repaired in such a fashion that a month later it was necessary to take further steps and to call in the District Surveyor regarding other defects. This delay and "botch-

ing'' went on for some time, and it was nine months after the date of the original complaint that the roof was satisfactorily repaired.

The waste of time and trouble experienced by the department is shown by the fact that in order to get these premises put into passable condition it was found necessary to serve notices under the Public Health (London) Act, and to issue a Rent Restrictions Act Certificate, whilst the District Surveyor also had to serve and enforce a Notice. 23 visits were paid by the sanitary staff, and in addition to the service of Notices there were, of course, reports to the Committees and correspondence.

It was owners such as this who were among the most clamorous in condemning the existence of the Rent Restrictions Acts, complaining that whilst they were most anxious to remove the evils of bad housing they were powerless to deal with dirty tenants and overcrowded houses so long as these Acts remained in force, "as the Courts refuse to make orders for ejectment, in spite of the prevalence of such conditions." There is no doubt that the removal of the Rent Restrictions Acts would, from some owners' point of view, have been highly desirable; not for the reasons given, but so that tenants who raised the slightest objection to the state of their premises could be given notice to quit, for with a shortage of houses such as existed at that time, new tenants willing to pay exorbitant rents in exchange for any kind of housing could be easily obtained. It is only necessary to consider what happened in this particular case to realise the difficulties with which the inspectors had to contend in order to maintain a considerable proportion of the housing property in a sanitary condition, particularly when the owners or agents were determined to do as little as could possibly be done to "comply" with a Statutory Notice or a Magistrate's Order, and were satisfied to be served with summons after summons as regards their houses.

Nevertheless, the Public Health Department persisted in its efforts to maintain a reasonable standard of housing accommodation in the borough, and in later years the position showed considerable improvement, although the difficult type of owner remained and only the zeal of the department secured the necessary repairs, but by 1938 it could justifiably be claimed that the persistent efforts of the district inspectors had begun to take effect, for although complaints in that year totalled 4,521, as a result of all forms of inspections only 3,977 Intimation and 770 Statutory Notices were necessary, whilst the number of summonses needed to enforce the Notices was 22.

The great improvement secured was, however, not to be maintained for very long, for the destruction of, and damage to, houses which followed the air attacks soon found us in far worse a position than had been experienced before and, as the bombing continued, it seemed at one time that the position had become hopeless.

Fortunately, the population of the borough had been considerably reduced from the pre-war level by evacuation and the call-up for the Armed Forces so that the demand for accommodation, great as it was, was less than might otherwise have been the case. Nevertheless, the diminution of dwelling accommodation was not the only difficulty to be overcome; there were the shortages of building labour and materials which, combined with other war-time circumstances, resulted in a general deterioration of those houses which escaped damage; reduction in the effective strength of the district inspectorial staff caused by the necessity for seconding some inspectors to civil defence duties, whilst houses had to be inspected as to their suitability for requisitioning. Bomb sites and derelict buildings became the dumping grounds for refuse and breeding grounds for rats; damaged and disused drains had to be sealed off from the sewers, whilst the static water tanks constructed for emergency use for fire-fighting purposes in the event of damage to water mains also gave rise to a considerable number of complaints.

So far as circumstances permitted, the situation was kept under control, and then in 1944, first pilotless aircraft and then long-range rockets were directed against London, and the extensive damage caused by these missiles added further to the difficulties of the already over-burdened department. The inspectors, however, renewed their efforts to deal with the rapidly deteriorating condition of housing in the borough, and in my Annual Report for that year I stated:—

“The work of the sanitary inspectors continued under ever-increasing difficulty, and much of their time was taken up in dealing with complaints by tenants of war-damaged properties. The greatest possible care has been taken to restrict the service of notices so as to call only for the repair of defects which were prejudicial to health and thus avoid adding to the acute labour difficulty in the building trades. Twenty-three summonses were issued against the owners of 22 houses in the borough in order to secure compliance with statutory notices, and further proceedings were necessary in three cases where owners had failed to comply with magistrates’ orders to abate nuisances.”

The end of the war brought no relief to the department; in fact conditions became even more difficult, as will be seen from the following attempt to describe them in my Annual Report for 1946:—

“I feel it is necessary briefly to mention and so place on record the heavy increase of work that has been carried out by that section of the staff. This increase has, of course, caused additional work for the clerical staff, but it is mainly on the sanitary inspectors that the work has fallen.

The figures set out later give an indication of the work involved, but they cannot present a picture of the incidental difficulties which beset the work. It will be appreciated that as a result of war damage and lack of ordinary maintenance during the war years, house property and living accommodation in the borough was in very bad condition and people were living in circumstances which called for urgent remedy.

While the war was on, and immediately afterwards, the public realised that repairs could not be carried out and they patiently endured all kinds of discomforts. Later they were buoyed up with the prospect of the Council repairing the war damage and still remained patiently waiting for this to be done. When, however, the Council decided not to carry out further war damage repairs and informed occupiers that it was for the owners to do such further repairs as might be necessary under licence, tenants became restive and turned to the Public Health Department to bring them some measure of relief by the service of notices under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, requiring the owners to do the necessary repair work.

Conditions were such that it was extremely difficult to secure compliance with the notices. Shortage of materials and labour, the restrictive conditions under which building licences were issued, and the complication of determining which of the defects in property were the result of war damage and which of ordinary deterioration all added enormously to the complexity of the problem.

The Ministry of Health Circular 171/46 had the effect of restricting the issue of building licences to certain urgent works, including work to comply with sanitary notices. This caused owners and builders who wished to carry out work of their own volition to approach the Department with long specifications of works required, asking for notices to be served so that building licences could be obtained. All these specifications were checked carefully, as only items which constituted nuisances could be included in the notices served.

The restrictions on building materials were such that, even to carry out minor repairs up to a cost which did not involve obtaining a building licence, it was found impossible to obtain materials until a certificate of essentiality was granted by this Department. The requirements of these certificates had to be checked on the premises in many instances.

War damage had resulted in reductions of rates and rent being made in respect of numbers of premises, and as the necessary repairs were carried out either by the Council's contractors or by builders employed by the owners and the

full rateable assessment restored, owners applied for certificates of fitness under the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant (War Damage) (Amendment) Act, 1941, in order to claim full rentals. Most of these applications involved several visits and necessitated considerable correspondence before the certificates could be granted.

In addition to these factors, the housing problem became more insistent. Members of the armed forces were returning to civilian life and newly-married couples, unable to find separate accommodation, went to live with their parents or other relations, thus creating overcrowding and its accompanying features, and giving rise to further complaints and more work for the Department.

Demolition and clearance of war-damaged property continued during the year and, in accordance with the practice of the Department, the disused drains were sealed off as the demolitions and clearances made the work possible; 218 premises were dealt with during the year in this respect.

The conditions of bombed sites in the district was a source of anxiety both as regards nuisances caused by the deposit of domestic and other refuse thereon, and in respect of potential rat infestation arising from the sites. Offensive refuse was cleared from the sites when conditions made it obvious that removal was an urgent matter, but during the time that the normal collection of house refuse within the borough was held up it was not possible to cope with the demands. Rat infestations on the sites were dealt with as they came to light and no secondary infestations arose as a result of any neglect of this matter.

The aggregation of work involved in the above matters produced an unprecedented burden on the Department at a time when, unfortunately, it was not possible to bring the staff of sanitary inspectors up to full pre-war complement."

The position of the Public Health Department in Hackney became a far from happy one, yet although inundated by complaints of sanitary defects, hemmed in by restrictions and quotas, and experiencing a general sense of frustration, the department continued doing everything possible to ameliorate the condition of the housing accommodation in the borough.

The arrangements under which building licences were issued often caused confusion between the Public Health Department, the Licensing Department, owners, and builders, and it was not until the close of 1947 that the arrangements suggested by the Ministry of Health in Circular 138/46 that a licence should accompany a statutory notice was approved in Hackney.

The Public Health Department, therefore, had every possible difficulty to meet in enforcing compliance with sanitary notices, and it is not surprising that so many sanitary inspectors obtained appointments elsewhere, and this was particularly unfortunate at a time when the complaints had reached treble the pre-war number.

Further references to difficulties of the years during and following the war have appeared in my Annual Reports for the years 1948 and 1949, in which I dealt with them at some length, and are of too recent a date to require reproduction here.

On all sides the Public Health Department experienced frustration, whilst even those owners willing to co-operate with the department found that they could not obtain builders or materials, and that the cost of executing necessary repairs was out of all proportion to the income from the properties. Unfortunately for the department some owners have taken advantage of these shortages and economic conditions, and have carried out work to their premises only when compelled to do so by the department's exercise of its powers under the various Acts.

The last two years have brought some improvement in the position with regard to the shortages of building materials and labour, although it is still far from satisfactory; also the staffing difficulties to which I referred in these Annual Reports have been overcome to a large extent, but the economic aspect of the high cost of repairs in relation to rents continues to place heavy burdens upon owners of property, and is reflected in the difficulties which continue to be experienced in securing compliance with sanitary notices. In 1949 the record number of 252 summonses had to be taken out.

In some instances owners cannot be traced, having either died or simply forsaken their property which had ceased to be an asset and had, in fact, become a heavy financial liability. The tenants are thus left with the responsibility for rates and taxes and the necessary repairs. Several such cases have come to light during the past year or so, and it has been necessary for the Council either to obtain a Magistrate's Order, carry out the work, and recover the cost by collecting the balance of rent after the usual charges have been met, or to take action under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936. With the present high cost of building repairs this latter course presents many difficulties because of the legal requirement that the cost of making a house fit shall be reasonable in relation to the value of the house after it has been made fit. This problem was referred to at some length in my Annual Report for 1949.

It would leave an entirely wrong impression if I did not point out that it is only a minority of owners and agents who cause the difficulties to which reference has been made, for, although these difficulties have increased since the war it is mainly because of

sheer inability to carry out the necessary repairs; and, indeed, in many instances it is owner/occupiers who have sub-let and are in monetary difficulties who throw back upon the Borough Council the responsibility of enforcing repairs.

A comparison of the number of Intimation Notices with Statutory Notices still shows that by far the great majority of owners and agents carry out work on the Intimation Notice, and even though many of them wait for the Statutory Notice it by no means follows that there is any real reluctance to carry out the work. So far as agents are concerned, in many cases they are unable to get authority from the owners to expend money on repairs until the Statutory Notice is served.

Under normal conditions, the number of summonses is a good index of owners attempting to evade their responsibilities, but since the war this number has risen to alarming proportions because the cost of repairs has increased so enormously and now bears no relationship to existing rents. In many instances proceedings are taken for the purpose of obtaining a Magistrate's Order preparatory to the Council carrying out the work on behalf of the owner.

It is with some bitterness that one reflects on the truth of the saying "history repeats itself," for such has been the experience during the past 30 years as far as sanitary inspection has been concerned, although the years after the 1939-1945 war have been infinitely worse than were those following the 1914-1918 war.

Serious as the present conditions are, they would be even more so but for the work of the sanitary inspectors, and the following quotation from my Annual Report of 1922 sums up the present position with perhaps even greater truth than it did then. In my report for that year I wrote:—

" . . . the work of the sanitary inspectors . . . in ameliorating the conditions arising from the housing shortage cannot be overestimated. If these services were inefficient, choked and broken drains, leaky roofs, minor sanitary defects accumulating, adulteration and the sale of unsound food remaining unchecked, immediate disinfection and other measures against infectious disease ceasing, and all the manifold activities of the Public Health Department not being promptly carried out, the full effects of the housing difficulty would then be experienced. The extent to which the careful work of the sanitary inspectors and the staff of the department neutralise the ill-effects of overcrowding is not realised."

That sanitary inspection, in spite of all difficulties, has been carried out with some success is shown by the fact that Hackney is one of the seven London boroughs who, in the opinion of the London County Council, have less than 100 houses in such a condition that they need to be demolished as slum houses during the next five-year

period. Both Mr. Long, the Senior Housing Inspector, and myself were of the opinion that the number was considerably greater than this, but it is gratifying to hear from the Sanitary Inspector to the London County Council that conditions in Hackney are so good in comparison with the other London boroughs that the County Council consider adequate slum clearance during the next five years will necessitate the demolition of only 93 houses.

It was always particularly pleasing to me at the Slum Clearance Enquiries that almost without fail the standard of housing in Hackney was stated by the Opposition to be unreasonably high, and that the Ministry of Health Inspector was asked to visit houses outside the borough in preference to those included in the list of houses to be visited by the Inspector, which was customarily submitted at Enquiries, to enable him to form an opinion as to the "general standard of housing accommodation for working classes in the district."

INSPECTIONS—1950.

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	8,178
" " after infectious disease	258
Houses inspected under Sec. 9, Housing Act, 1936 ..	482
Special inspections and visits	8,703
Builders' notices	1,257
Inspections of factories and workshops	858
" " bakehouses	165
" " dairies and milkshops	390
" " butchers' shops and stores	1,304
" " other food premises, markets, etc.	3,537
Drains and sanitary fittings examined	7,048
" repaired	824
" relaid	268
Premises in which defects were found { all forms } ..	7,043
" " " abated { of } ..	6,505
Total number of re-inspections .. { inspection } ..	35,880
Intimation notices served	6,298
Statutory notices served—	
Public Health (London) Act, 1936, and Housing Act, 1936	2,454
Byelaws and London County Council (General Powers) Act	307
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	4
Summons issued for housing defects	219

Common Lodging-House.—There is now only one common lodging-house in the Borough, situated at Nos. 23 and 25, Well Street. This lodging-house provides accommodation for 139 men only.

Water Supply.—The water supply of the Borough is under the control of the Metropolitan Water Board. All the dwelling-houses in the Borough are supplied from the Board's mains direct to the houses, and no report of any form of contamination of the water supply was received during the year.

WORK CARRIED OUT BY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

DRAINAGE WORKS.

*Private Works (rechargeable) carried out by the Public Health
Department—1st January to 31st December, 1950.*

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
33, Adley Street ..		15	0	134, Kingsland High			
5/6, Amhurst Parade ..	1	3	8	Street ..		15	0
24, Amhurst Road ..		15	0	413, Kingsland Road ..	1	7	11
50, do. ..		15	0	530, do. ..		15	0
141, do. ..	7	3	3	556, do. ..		15	0
81, Ashenden Road ..		15	0	5, Knightland Road ..	1	8	2
77, Ballance Road ..		15	0	5, do. ..		15	0
63, Bayston Road ..		15	0	18, do. ..		15	0
2/14, Belsham Street ..		15	0	1a, Landfield Street ..		15	0
116, Bethune Road ..		15	0	64/68, Lynmouth Road ..		15	0
16/28, Bradstock Road ..		15	0	273, Mare Street ..		15	0
1, Brenthouse Road ..		15	0	324 do. ..	1	5	6
50, do. ..		15	0	Pavilion Cinema, Mare			
7, Buckingham Road ..		15	0	Street ..		15	0
51/53, Cadogan Terrace	1	3	6	do. ..	1	2	1
28, Castlewood Road ..	1	4	0	90, Mildenhall Road ..		15	0
94, Cazenove Road ..		15	0	113, Mortimer Road ..		15	0
Cedra Court ..	1	13	5	23, Moundfield Road ..		15	0
4, do. ..		15	0	9/13, Mundford Road ..		15	0
4, do. ..	1	4	6	15/17, Navarino Road ..	1	16	0
73, Chardmore Road ..		15	0	31, Nightingale Road ..	1	3	8
9/13, Clapton Common ..		17	8	31, do. ..		17	7
48, do. ..		15	0	25, Overlea Road ..		15	0
151, do. ..		15	0	Regents Court ..		15	0
65, Cleveleys Road ..		15	0	35, Rectory Road ..	3	11	4
68, do. ..		15	0	165, Sandringham Road		18	4
26/28, Cranwich Road ..	1	9	8	33, Southborough Road		18	0
55, Craven Walk ..	1	3	5	98a, Southgate Road ..		18	0
34, Cricketfield Road ..	4	17	4	17, Southwold Road ..		15	0
6, Derby Road ..		15	0	Springfield Fur Works ..		15	0
51, Dunsmure Road ..		15	0	St. Mary's Home, 153,			
11, Elsdale Street ..		15	0	Stamford Hill ..	1	3	4
33, Forburg Road ..		15	0	188, Stamford Hill ..		15	0
93, do. ..		15	0	31a, Stamford Road ..	1	6	5
13, Gainsborough Square		15	0	8, Stellman Street ..		15	11
195, Graham Road ..		15	0	144, Stoke Newington			
5a, Gransden Avenue ..		15	0	Road ..	1	3	5
87, Greenwood Road ..	10	11	9	27/31, Terrace Road ..		15	0
60, Gunton Road ..		15	0	19, Thornby Road ..		15	0
9, Hassett Road ..	1	19	0	44, do. ..		15	0
92, Hertford Road ..		15	0	18/20, Urswick Road ..		15	0
143, Holmleigh Road ..		17	7	18/20, do. ..	1	16	0
143, Homerton High				16, Warwick Villas ..		15	0
Street ..		15	0	2, Westgate Street ..		17	7
167, do. ..		15	0	326/328, Wick Road ..		15	0
82, Kenworthy Road ..		15	0				
				Total ..	£99	18	0

Housing Department Drainage Works—1st January to 31st December, 1950

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
41, Forburg Road ..	10	4		26, Moresby Road ..	5	8	
7, Heyworth Road ..	6	4	6	74, Well Street ..	2	13	5
7, do. ..	11	5	5				
2, Hindle House ..	12	8		Total ..	£21	12	0

Drainage Works carried out in Default of Notices served under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, Section 40—1st January to 31st December, 1950.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
33, Adley Street ..	27	18	10	9, Gransden Avenue ..	12	16	10
2 & 4, Amhurst Park ..	49	10	10	11, do. ..	12	16	10
32, Benthall Road ..	198	3	6	13, do. ..	20	9	1
34, do. ..	158	4	6	15, do. ..	20	9	2
36, do. ..	148	3	2	287, Haggerston Road ..	47	6	0
38, do. ..	92	10	7	1a, Holmdale Terrace ..	47	4	7
16, Bradstock Road ..	60	3	11	Trinity Congregational Church, Lauriston Road ..	3	13	10
18, do. ..	46	16	0	251, Mare Street ..	41	2	2
20, do. ..	50	4	5	15, Navarino Road ..	20	18	1
22, do. ..	35	18	2	17, do. ..	20	18	0
16, Brooke Road ..	21	9	9	52, 56 & 58, Newick Road	30	17	3
18, do. ..	21	9	10	54, do. ..	1	10	11
20, do. ..	13	0	0	56, do. ..	24	16	11
22, do. ..	73	9	10	60, do. ..	1	10	11
24, do. ..	19	16	0	9, Norcott Road ..	37	2	1
11, Cawley Road ..	12	10	4	11, do. ..	74	5	2
12, do. ..	12	10	4	13, do. ..	79	17	6
13, do. ..	12	10	4	15, do. ..	79	17	7
14, do. ..	12	10	4	Royal Sovereign Public House, 64, Northwold Road ..	80	11	0
87, Cranwich Road ..	11	1	0	81, Northwold Road ..	12	8	10
89, do. ..	11	1	0	83, do. ..	24	17	7
91, do. ..	11	1	0	85, do. ..	12	8	10
93, do. ..	11	1	1	2, Oswald Street ..	18	14	6
95, do. ..	11	1	1	4 & 6, do. ..	37	9	2
36, Dunsmure Road ..	5	6	6	22, Spurstowe Road ..	33	3	3
38, do. ..	5	6	7	24, do. ..	33	3	3
115, Evering Road ..	151	9	10	26, do. ..	33	3	3
117, do. ..	190	5	0	28, do. ..	33	3	3
113, do. ..	226	15	5	30, do. ..	33	3	4
77, Farleigh Road ..	39	4	8	32, do. ..	33	3	4
79, do. ..	39	4	8	2, Vartry Road ..	17	0	6
81, do. ..	39	4	8	4, do. ..	47	16	9
83, do. ..	39	4	8	6, do. ..	54	18	7
85, do. ..	39	4	8	8, do. ..	53	19	10
87, do. ..	39	4	9	10, do. ..	17	0	6
89, do. ..	39	4	9	12, do. ..	17	0	6
91, do. ..	39	4	9	14, do. ..	53	5	8
93, do. ..	39	4	9	1, West Bank ..	6	10	0
17, Glaserton Road ..	2	12	7	2, do. ..	6	10	1
19, do. ..	2	12	7	260, Wick Road ..	171	9	9
21, do. ..	2	12	7				
37, Glenarm Road ..	7	6	2	Total ..	£3,507	14	10
39, do. ..	7	6	2				
41, do. ..	7	6	3				
43, do. ..	7	6	2				
45, do. ..	7	6	2				

Public Health (London) Act, 1936—Nuisance Orders—Works carried out in Default—1st January to 31st December, 1950.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
91, Bayston Road ..	154	10	0	175, Victoria Park Road	5	17	6
67, Maury Road ..	35	11	6	25, Wick Road	21	5	0
84, Rectory Road ..	7	7	9	27, do.	6	8	0
5, Speldhurst Road ..	68	0	0	31, do.	5	2	0
3, Templar Road ..	34	10	0				
91, Victoria Park Road	46	12	9		£575	4	6
159, do.	190	0	0				

Housing Act, 1936. Section 9—Works carried out in Default, 1st January to 31st December, 1950.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
13, Blackstone Road ..	147	19	0	26, Olinda Road ..	135	2	6
28, do. ..	134	9	2	28, do. ..	267	16	10
29, do. ..	91	16	0	30, do. ..	197	10	7
39, Graham Road ..	221	0	0	124, do. ..	27	9	3
12, Olinda Road ..	144	18	7	134, do. ..	34	16	10
14, do. ..	172	0	1				
24, do. ..	205	18	0	Total	£1,780	16	10

GRAND TOTAL £5,985 6s. 2d.

HOUSING

1920—1950

Good housing has long been recognised as an essential for good health but local authorities have been faced with many difficulties in trying to improve the housing conditions in their districts. Earlier legislation, such as the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890-1903 and the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, although giving powers of inspection and "representation" of unhealthy areas, offered no stimulation to local authorities to deal with overcrowding and slum clearance on an adequate scale; the difficulties were too enormous.

The service of notices to repair offered no way out of the problem of unfit houses, for an owner who could show that reconstruction was necessitated by a notice served under those Acts (although there was no definition of "reconstruction") could cause the premises to be closed. The effect of closing, however, was to cause the inhabitants to seek accommodation at similar rents in other parts of the borough, usually at the cost of overcrowding the premises to which they moved whilst the vacated dwellings were demolished and the sites used for industrial purposes.

It is true that there was the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, under which insanitary conditions could be dealt with either by way of nuisance or closing orders, but action under this Act was limited to individual insanitary occupied houses and there

existed no practical means of dealing with areas of properties which had outlived their usefulness for human habitation. Furthermore, the increased industrialisation of the borough brought about an influx of people from other areas to be near their place of work and so placed further strain upon the already inadequate dwelling accommodation and considerably increased the extent of overcrowding in the borough.

The effect of the foregoing difficulties is perhaps best exemplified by the fact that my predecessor, Dr. J. King Warry, "represented" an unhealthy area known as the Duncan Square Area as far back as 1900, but no further action could be taken and, in fact, it was not until after I had made a further "representation" in 1929 that the area was dealt with. Similar frustration was experienced in connection with properties situated in Queen's Court, which were first "represented" in 1905 but not cleared until further "representation" was made in September, 1932, whilst closing orders made in respect of 41 houses in Middlesex Wharf during 1918 were quashed at a Ministry of Health enquiry held on the 14th April, 1919.

Apart from those enumerated above, other factors militating against a progressive improvement in housing conditions have been the unfortunate conditions arising from two post-war periods when, because of the shortage of housing accommodation, it became necessary to preserve houses which otherwise would have been demolished.

That there is a marked similarity between the conditions prevailing after the 1914-1918 war and the 1939-1945 war is illustrated by the following extracts from the Annual Reports for 1919, 1921 and 1946 although, of course, the destruction of property in the latter war was far more extensive than in the earlier one.

My predecessor, in his Annual Report for 1919, replying to a questionnaire on housing required by the Ministry of Health, gave the following information:—

"Overcrowding Causes?"

Reduced building prior to and stoppage during war.

Difficulties in remedying unfitness?

Scarcity and high prices of both material and labour.

Poverty of certain of the owners of property."

Whilst in my Annual Report for 1921 I gave a list of the property in the borough that was the cause of constant anxiety and then stated:

"owing to the age of the houses, neglect during the War, and the cost of carrying out repairs, much of the housing property in the borough cannot recompense the owners for extensive reconstruction."

In my Annual Report for 1946 I stated:—

“The greatly increased number of complaints of housing defects, coupled with the greater difficulty of securing compliance with notices due to the shortage of labour and materials, and the building licence restrictions, is placing a continuous strain upon the reduced staff of sanitary inspectors, and an attempt to deal with these complaints can only be made at the expense of other functions such as the routine inspection of factories and shops. To cope adequately with the deteriorated condition of property in order to bring the accommodation back to a reasonable standard of fitness is a task which would take some years to accomplish with a normal staff of inspectors and without the difficulties which now handicap us. In fact, even a return to the pre-war number of inspectors would be inadequate. It can only be hoped that an easing of the shortages and the employment of an adequate staff within a reasonable space of time will enable the Department to take satisfactory steps to improve the unhappy conditions under which so many of the public are living at the present time.”

Nevertheless, despite the difficulties arising from the shortage and high price of building labour and materials, every endeavour has been made to improve the housing conditions in the borough and steady advance was made during the years following the immediate post, 1914-1918 war years and the outbreak of war in 1939.

By 1919 the national conscience had become aware of the wide-spread evils of slum areas and the fact that something more than local action was necessary to sweep the slums away. As a result the first attempt by the Government to spread over the whole community the cost of rehousing from insanitary areas was made in the Housing Act, of 1919. The assistance was, however, on a very limited scale and it was necessary for local authorities' housing schemes to show a deficit equal to the product of a penny rate before any assistance could be claimed.

The position of Councils acquiring land and buildings in an unhealthy area for the purpose of clearance and reconstruction was considerably eased by later legislation which freed them from the obligation to pay compensation for the buildings in the area, and the Councils had to pay only for the land, and then the compensation was based on value of the land when cleared and available for development in accordance with the Byelaws of the authority. Thus, if the local authority satisfied the Minister of Health that it was desirable that the land should be used for rehousing or for open spaces, the compensation was fixed, not on the full market value of the land irrespective of restrictions, as had been the case

in the past, but on the value of the land for housing purposes and in the absence of an agreement as to the compensation to be paid the amount was fixed by an independent arbitrator.

Although systematic inspections under the Housing and Town Planning Regulations were carried out in Hackney between the years 1921 and 1927 the first real attempt to deal with housing on a large scale was made in 1928 when, after the Housing Act, 1925, which gave many additional powers to the Council, became operative, a complete survey of the borough was made and a 34-paged Housing Manual containing detailed reports and maps of ten large unhealthy areas in the borough was prepared. This report was considered at joint meetings of the Public Health and Housing Committees and forwarded to the Ministry of Health and London County Council, and in 1929 particulars of the following four of the areas concerned were "represented" by me to the London County Council as unhealthy areas, in pursuance of my duties under the powers contained in the Housing Act, 1925:—

Duncan Square Area	..	88 Buildings
Northwold Road Area	..	151 ,,
Warburton Square Area	..	192 ,,
Morning Lane Area	..	117 ,,
Total ..		548 ,,

The Council were informed that the London County Council had agreed to deal with these areas by means of an Improvement Scheme, which would accommodate the population of the areas within the borough.

An official "representation" was also placed before the Council with regard to property in the neighbourhood of Banister Street. The "representations" and particulars of the inspections of the areas were referred to the Housing Committee in order that the matter might be considered from the point of view of the preparation of an Improvement Scheme.

In that year a new Housing Bill was placed before Parliament and further action was deferred until the Bill passed into law under the title of the Housing Act, 1930, often referred to as the "Slum Clearance Act." This Act gave increased financial assistance "to meet the economic difficulty of rehousing for inhabitants of slums at rents which they can afford" and also required local authorities to submit plans of their slum clearance proposals to the Minister at five-yearly intervals. Since this Act there have been progressive improvements in assistance by way of Government subsidies.

A further survey was carried out in Hackney in 1930 and formed the basis of the first five-year programme which was adopted by the Council in that year.

In my Annual Report for 1930, when referring to the problem of the slums, I pointed out that it had always been the object of the Public Health Department to oppose the lessening in any way of the housing accommodation available in the borough by way of closing orders, although, on the other hand, to "represent" an area before there was reasonable assurance that clearance or improvement schemes would follow meant that there would be considerable additional difficulty in enforcing the abatement of nuisances under the Public Health (London) Act. I went on to say:—

"Closing and demolition used to be a way out of the difficulties experienced by sanitary authorities in dealing with this class of property. Thus, in a report by Dr. King Warry, to which I have referred, he states that 36 houses to which his attention was drawn were inspected, closed and demolished that year to make room for the erection of a factory. *A considerable amount of housing property has been bought in this Borough for demolition for industrial purposes* and will be demolished just as soon as the opportunity arises. "Closing" is no longer practicable, it has become only a procedure of despair, or because of danger of accident from the condition of a dwelling. There are in various parts of the Borough blocks of houses, as in Middlesex Place and Milbourne Street, that have been bought for demolition and the erection of factories on the site."

"The Architect's Journal" of 26th October, 1933, referring in a special number dealing with London slums to the survey, quoted from my Annual Report for 1930, as follows:—

GENERAL NOTES.

"The Borough is mainly residential, less mixed than the 'immediate' East End, though the conversion of dwellings into factories and workshops is now increasingly important.

The North and West are, of course, the better parts, with Upper Clapton and Stamford Hill best.

Homerton and Hackney Wick are very bad. Nisbet Street and Oswald Street and the areas surrounding are the worst parts; the Banister Street and Duncan Square areas are a little better. 22,000 houses in the Borough are 50-100 years old.

Probably about 4,000 houses in the Borough could be described as being of very poor type, patched and worn, varying from houses that could be made fairly habitable by the expenditure of far more money than owners are likely to be induced to spend, to houses that could not be made decently habitable by any form of reconstruction."

And added

“In 1930 the Medical Officer of Health carried out the fullest official survey into housing conditions in a London Borough which has ever been made.”

In accordance with the programme adopted by the Council I “represented” the following areas:—

Area.	No. of Houses.	No. of residents rehoused.
Abbott Street	34	145
Banister Street, No. 1	51	309
Banister Street, No. 2	4	23
Clarence Terrace	12	70
East Street	3	17
Elsdale Street	10	53
Fulham Place	8	34
Middlesex Wharf	25	126
Dockway Nos. 1 & 2	7	32
Nisbet Street	72	443
Otley Terrace	14	59
Pear Tree Court	6	21
Queen's Court	13	42
Austins Buildings	10	17
Prince of Wales Terrace	8	30
Hartwell Street (Market Row)	3	20
Jackson's Buildings	3	8
Shacklewell Lane	12	94
Welshpool Street	4	20
Dunn Street	4	11
Hindle Street	82	337
Dyssel Street	42	324
High Street Homerton, No. 1	58	314
High Street Homerton, No. 2	43	214
Olinda Place	8	21
Station Buildings, No. 1	19	74
Station Buildings, No. 2	9	36
Totals	564	2,894

The actual “representations” affecting the areas included in that programme were spread over three years. This apparent delay in dealing with the areas was due to two causes. Firstly, the requirement of the Housing Act, 1930, that the Council, before declaring an unhealthy area to be a clearance area, should be satisfied that they had or could procure adequate accommodation to rehouse the residents displaced, and, secondly, to prevent the difficulties in dealing with the premises under the Public Health Act which might arise from the premature declaration of a clearance area.

The Council's hopes of an early clearance of the areas “represented,” however, soon received a severe setback. It had been the intention of the Borough Council to proceed with the clearance

of the Banister Street Areas and to provide on these sites accommodation sufficient for all the persons to be displaced from these areas and for a certain number of persons to be displaced from other areas not suitable for rebuilding but included in the Council's provisional proposals relating to slum clearance. With this end in view the Borough Council added to the areas described as Banister Street Areas Nos. 1 and 2 certain adjacent shop properties, thus securing a site suitable in the area for the erection of blocks of flats capable of housing 1,142 persons.

The Borough Council therefore submitted to the Minister of Health for confirmation three Compulsory Purchase Orders, and an enquiry into the subject matter of the Orders was held on the 21st and 22nd June, 1932. In December, 1932, the Minister informed the Council that he had decided to confirm the Compulsory Purchase Orders relating to the two clearance areas but would not confirm Compulsory Order No. 3 in view of the probable high cost of acquisition of the properties included and to the fact that he did not consider the inclusion of these properties essential to enable the Council to discharge their rehousing obligations. The action of the Minister had the effect of reducing the rehousing capacity of the sites from 1,142 to 448 persons and so defeated the object of the Council which was to clear the slums with as little delay as possible.

However, by 1934 the Council had erected 198 flats at Powell House on a site acquired by compulsory purchase and in these flats persons displaced from Banister Street and other Areas were rehoused. The building of 160 flats on the cleared Banister Street site was also commenced.

In some cases persons from the Borough Council clearance areas were rehoused by the London County Council through a system of agreements whereby the London County Council provided the accommodation and claimed the Government subsidy, the Borough Council having the right to nominate the new tenant in the event of the accommodation becoming vacant at any time during the period for which the subsidy was payable.

During 1934 the London County Council took over as the High Hill Ferry Area four small areas which I had previously "represented" separately as Harrington Hill, Little Hill, Retreat Cottages and Spring Lane and a further area, Broadway (London Fields) Area, was informally "represented" by me and in 1935 taken over by the London County Council. This latter area comprised 127 unfit houses.

By the end of 1934, the five-year programme adopted in 1930, under which the London County Council were to deal with four areas and the Borough Council with 16 areas, had been completed,

the persons living in all the Borough Council areas had been rehoused, and the houses in 15 clearance areas had been demolished. A further five-year plan was then framed, under which the London County Council were to deal with four areas and the Borough Council with 34 areas. Under this programme I "represented" the following areas:—

<i>Area.</i>	<i>No. of houses.</i>	<i>No. of residents rehoused.</i>
Amhurst Terrace	14	56
Bankstock Buildings	14	48
Bridge Street (now Ponsford Street)	14	75
Blackshaw Place	4	12
Bohemia Place	19	98
Bonby Place	6	29
Bower Road Nos. 1, 2 & 3	10	64
Conduit Street Nos. 1 & 2	4	12
Clevedon Passage	4	12
Dagmar Cottages	3	6
Essex Street	21	86
Elizabeth Buildings	24 (Flats)	69
Frederick Place	17	95
Grove Lane	11	33
Hindrey Place	13	67
Henry Place	4	16
Hackney Grove	3	14
Lyme Grove No. 1	8	24
Lyme Grove No. 2	9	36
Laburnum Cottages	2	11
Long's Cottages	6	26
Lamb Lane	8	34
Link Street	20	96
North Street (now Northiam Street)	60	300
Prout Road	30	104
Reading Lane	12	54
Selman Street	30	151
Swiss Cottages	37	138
Sanford Cottages	11	46
St. Martin's Cottages	10	35
Tower Street	17 (Flats)	52
Windus Road	6	17
Westgate Street	27 (Flats)	not confirmed by Ministry of Health. See action taken later.
Totals	478	1,916

Concurrently with the clearance of slum areas both the London County Council and the Borough Council were then carrying out extensive building schemes and for the first time large-scale transference of the inhabitants of the slum areas to alternative accommodation became possible, thus permitting the clearance of further areas.

In 1938 North Street (now Northiam Street) Area, previously "represented" in 1936, was taken over by the London County Council for industrial purposes and in addition Daley Street Area, containing 93 unfit houses, and Mead Place Area, containing 152 unfit houses, were "represented" informally to and taken over by the London County Council.

During 1938 the Borough Council erected the following blocks of flats:—

Nisbet House	..	..	311 flats
Shacklewell House	..	..	50 ,,
Morley House	..	..	120 ,,

On the 30th June, 1939, I forwarded to the London County Council for investigation and observation 14 additional proposed clearance schemes, comprising 1,200 houses, and at that time it appeared that we had at last broken the back of the distressing problem of the slums in Hackney. Detailed inspections of these premises were in progress when war broke out and the Minister of Health issued his Circular 1866 suspending all Housing Act operations because of the necessity to conserve all possible housing accommodation against the possibility of the need for rehousing persons rendered homeless by air attack.

At the end of 1940 a total of 936 buildings had been demolished, from which 4,473 persons had been rehoused, and at that time five small areas, comprising 17 houses and 27 flats, still remained to be cleared although the residents had been rehoused.

The cessation of new building, the extensive destruction of, and damage to, dwelling accommodation, and the deterioration of the properties which remained had totally disorganised our pre-war plans, and reviewing the position at the end of the war we saw that the fulfilment of our hopes of seeing all persons decently housed had been put back many years.

The problems resulting from the war were enormous, but during the past two years increases in the inspectorial staff, combined with an easing of the position with regard to building materials and labour, has enabled the Council to recommence activities under the Housing Act and in 1948 two further areas were "represented"—the Westgate Street Area, comprising 27 flats, in respect of which the Hackney Borough Council accepted undertakings from the owners that the premises would not be relet for human habitation after the Council had rehoused the tenants, and Homerton Terrace Area, comprising 15 dwellings with which the London County Council agreed to deal. Since the end of the war the five areas which remained outstanding at the end of 1940 have been cleared, thus completing the first two five-year programmes.

In 1949 the question of the general resumption of slum clearance in London was reviewed and a conference between officers of the London County Council and the Metropolitan Boroughs was held. As a result of this conference the Councils were asked to bring up-to-date their post-war slum clearance proposals and in order to comply with this request for additional information a slum clearance survey was carried out in the borough and the programme, as finally submitted, related to 26 areas, containing approximately 966 houses.

INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES.

In addition to dealing with groups of houses by way of slum clearance orders, action has also been taken in respect of individual unfit houses and parts of houses not capable of repair at a reasonable cost.

The powers of local authorities to deal with individual unfit houses have been subject to several changes during the period under review. Prior to the Housing Act, 1930, local authorities had power to order the closing of an unfit house, but could make a demolition order only if, after the closing order had been operative for three months, either no steps had been taken to render the house fit, or they were of the opinion that the continuance of the building was a nuisance or dangerous or injurious to the health of the public or the inhabitants of neighbouring houses. Closing orders could also be made in respect of underground rooms habitually used for sleeping, prohibiting their use for such purpose.

The Housing Act, 1930 empowered a Council to make a demolition order in respect of an unfit house without first making a closing order and also permitted the making of a closing order in respect of a part of a house which was unfit for human habitation.

Under the Housing Act, 1935, the powers of a Council in respect of closing parts of premises or underground rooms were further extended to enable them to make a closing order prohibiting use for any purpose other than one approved by them. There was, however, provision for appeal against a Council withholding approval in relation to the use for any purpose of premises in respect of which a closing order was in force. These powers in respect of unfit houses, parts of premises and underground rooms were all consolidated in the Housing Act, 1936.

As a result of these differences in legislation relating to unfit houses the Council have from time to time had to vary their methods of dealing with premises. Thus it will be seen from the figures quoted below that acting under earlier legislation the Council made closing orders on entire houses whilst in respect of houses dealt with at later dates demolition orders were made.

Similarly, orders prohibiting the use for sleeping purposes of unfit parts of premises have been made and under later legislation closing orders have been made prohibiting the use of parts of premises for any form of human habitation. In some instances, where the occupants were not suffering undue hardship or shortage of accommodation prevented immediate rehousing, the Council accepted undertakings from the owners of the premises that the rooms would not be used for sleeping purposes or for human habitation, as the case required, once they had been vacated.

The following is a summary of action taken during the period under review:—

Closing Orders on houses 4

Two of these houses were later made fit and the orders cancelled.

Demolition Orders 28

In two additional cases undertakings by the owners to make the premises fit were accepted and in one instance the necessary work has been completed.

Closing Orders prohibiting the use of parts of premises for sleeping purposes 28

In five instances the premises were made fit and the orders determined.

Closing Orders prohibiting the use of parts of premises for human habitation 47

In two instances the premises were subsequently made fit and orders determined.

Undertakings not to use rooms for sleeping purposes or to close them upon vacation were accepted in respect of 97 premises. In seven instances the undertakings were cancelled upon the premises being made fit.

RECONDITIONING OF HOUSES.

From 1921 to 1927 systematic inspections were carried out in order to ascertain which houses were not in all respects fit for human habitation. Many houses were found to be unfit but because of the right of the owner to close the premises where repairs necessitating reconstruction were involved, action to remedy defects found was taken under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891. During these years the following inspections were made:—

1921	..	..	..	..	..	1,622
1922	..	..	..	..	..	1,437
1923	..	..	..	..	..	1,709
1924	..	..	..	..	..	965
1925	..	..	..	..	..	1,320
1926	..	..	..	..	..	849
1927	..	..	..	..	..	845

Between 1921 and 1925 these inspections were carried out under the Housing (Inspection of Districts) Regulations, 1910, made under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, but as from the 1st September, 1925 these Regulations were superseded by the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, made under the Housing Act, 1925. This Act did not vary the procedure with regard to reconstruction repairs and therefore no change in the method of dealing with these houses was made.

The position was considerably altered after the Housing Act, 1930 came into operation as the reference to reconstruction was deleted from the repair section and it was then possible to serve a notice requiring the carrying out of any repairs which the Council considered necessary to make the house fit. However, by that time the more urgent problem of dealing with slums was receiving attention and it was not until 1937 that inspections under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1932, which revoked the 1925 Regulations, were resumed.

Between the years 1937 and 1940, 775 inspections were carried out under Section 9 of the Housing Act (reconditioning or repair of insanitary houses) as a result of which 695 houses were made fit. For a few years after the end of the war it was not possible, because of the shortages of materials and labour, to enforce the provisions of Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 but in the last few months of 1949 the position eased and inspections under this Section were recommenced. Steady progress has continued to be made and the following figures cover the period from the commencement of Section 9 work to date (19th February, 1951):—

HOUSING ACT, 1936—SECTIONS 9 & 10

5th September, 1949 to 19th February, 1951.

	1949	1950	1951	Total
<i>Inspections</i>	152	350	16	518
<i>Informal Notices</i>	152	350	16	518
Work done	Nil	156	29	185
<i>Formal Notices</i>	16	164	33	213
Work done by owner	Nil	41	13	54
Work done by Council	Nil	12	1	13

SUMMARY.

Inspections—518.

Work done—252 (Informal 185, Formal 54, Council 13).

Outstanding—266 (Formal 146, Informal 120).

ESTIMATES.

Since May, 1950, estimates have been obtained in respect of 40 houses with a view to the Council carrying out work in default, but in seven instances the owners carried out work themselves following the service of notices of the Council's intention to enter

and carry out the works. With regard to the remaining 33 estimates the position is as follows:—

Orders sent to builders—28.

Work done—13 (cost of works—£1,866 1s. 4d.).

Work in progress—8 (cost £1,368 11s. 7d.).

Total cost of work done or in progress—£3,234 12s. 11d.

Work not commenced—7.

Orders not yet sent to builders—5.

APPEALS.

Number of notices against which appeals were lodged..	10
Appeals withdrawn and Council's costs paid ..	8
Notice confirmed, time extended and costs awarded against Council	1
Notice confirmed, time extended and costs awarded to Council	1

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

PART II.

Action taken under Part II of the Housing Act, 1936, during the year 1950.

Housing Act, 1936, Sections 11 and 12.

Demolition Orders affecting 5 dwelling-houses, and Closing Orders as regards 5 flats comprised in one building and the basement rooms at 4 premises, were sanctioned by the Public Health Committee during 1950. Also, two undertakings were accepted—one for the carrying out of works and the other an undertaking not to use rooms for human habitation.

A list of the properties represented under these sections is given below.

Section 11: Demolition Orders.

No. 22, Kingshold Road.

No. 148, Middleton Road.

No. 38, Tresham Avenue.

Nos. 230 & 329, Wick Road.

Undertaking to carry out works.

No. 26, Warwick Villas.

Section 12: Closing Orders.

No. 54, Barnabas Road—Basement front and back rooms.

No. 36, Ballance Road—Basement front and back rooms.

No. 10, Redwald Road—Basement back room.

No. 333, Victoria Park Road—Basement front and back rooms.

No. 65, Dalston Lane—Flats Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5.

Undertaking not to re-let upon vacation.

No. 58, Barnabas Road—Basement front and back rooms.

*Housing Act, 1936, Section 9.**Action under Statutory Powers.*

Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served under Section 9 requiring repairs ..	164
Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit by owners under Section 9	41
Dwelling-houses rendered fit by the Council in default of owners under Section 10	12

Informal notices were served in respect of 350 dwelling-houses, as a result of inspections carried out under Section 9, Housing Act, 1936, and the work was completed at 156 of these premises during the year.

Work in Progress at end of year:

Formal Notices	81
Informal Notices	61

OVERCROWDING.

The problem of overcrowding is one which has caused considerable concern to the Council for many years, as will be seen from the fact that as long ago as 1901, Dr. King Warry prepared a long and interesting report on the serious extent of overcrowding in the borough which he attributed to the following causes:—

- (a) The accommodation has invariably been less than sufficient to house those displaced.
- (b) The closure and demolition of insanitary dwellings have always preceded the housing of displaced dwellers, with the immediate result of increasing the overcrowding of neighbouring houses or those in adjacent districts.
- (c) Owing to the conditions under which the new dwellings have been built, their rental is too high to be paid by the majority of those poor tenants displaced.
- (d) The schemes have been too local, and their execution has extended over too long a period to have had any appreciable effect in solving the housing problem.

In an endeavour to abate the overcrowding, the Borough Council in 1919 made application to the Ministry of Health to acquire sites in Dalston Lane and at the rear of Brooke House for the purpose of erecting blocks of flats, but both proposals had to be abandoned. Between 1920 and 1926, however, the Council erected 194

flats, maisonettes and houses on other sites and also converted 9 houses to provide accommodation for 20 families. A further reference to overcrowding was made in my Annual Report for 1928 in which I listed the overcrowded dwellings on the records of the Public Health Department and the following examples, selected at random, show the conditions under which some families were living.

In one instance three adults and four children were occupying one room having a cubic capacity of 980 cubic ft. whereas the cubic capacity required for a family of that size was 2,200 ft.; in another, four adults and two children were living in a scullery of which the cubic capacity was 480 ft. against the required capacity of 1,200 cubic ft.; whilst in a third, two adults and five children were living in one room for which the respective figures were 847 and 1,800 cubic ft. The cubic capacity stated to be required was the minimum considered necessary for adequate ventilation.

I also pointed out that the overcrowding in the borough had been increased by the process of industrialisation in the borough which was steadily proceeding, under very little control, and without any consideration for the amenities of any particular neighbourhood, and stated that this process was occurring in four principal directions:—

1. By demolition of dwelling houses and erection of factories and workshops on the vacant sites.
2. By conversion of parts of dwelling houses into factories or workshops.
3. By conversion of parts of dwelling houses into a factory or workshop, the remainder being retained as a dwelling.
4. By the erection of factories or workshops on the gardens or yards of dwelling houses.

In this Report I also enumerated the various districts in which this industrialisation had taken place and gave figures showing that of the 814 premises in the borough used as workshops (without mechanical power) 276 were in specially constructed premises, 103 were combined shop and business premises (in some cases being also used as private dwellings) and 435 were premises which had been built for use as private houses but were being used entirely or in part as workshops. Nevertheless, the sorry state of affairs continued and it was not until 1935 that the problem of overcrowding was tackled.

Prior to the Housing Act, 1935 there was no general legal standard for determining whether a house was overcrowded and usually it was necessary to deal with overcrowding under the Nuisance Section of the Public Health (London) Act, 1891. There were, however, provisions with regard to overcrowding in houses

let in lodgings contained in Byelaws made under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891 and Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1925. These Byelaws laid down the minimum amount of free air space to be allowed for each person occupying the rooms and required that so far as practicable no two persons over the age of 12 of opposite sexes and not living together as man and wife should occupy the same sleeping apartment.

The 1935 Housing Act, which is consolidated in the Housing Act, 1936, provided the first general standard for measuring overcrowding and fixed the maximum equivalent number of persons permitted to occupy a dwelling based on the number and floor areas of rooms contained therein. For the purpose of enumerating the occupants a person over 10 years of age is counted as a unit, a child between the age of one and ten years as half a unit and children under one year of age are disregarded.

This Act also required each local authority to carry out a survey of their district in order to ascertain the number of dwellings therein which were overcrowded on this standard and during 1935-1936 a survey was made of the borough, when of the 60,899 dwellings visited 2,651 (or approximately 4 per cent.) were found to be overcrowded.

The number of overcrowded dwellings would have been considerably higher had it not been for the low standard for measuring overcrowding which permitted rooms to be used for both living and sleeping purposes and, except in the case of a one-room letting, made no provision for separation of sexes. It was however pointed out in Memorandum B on the Housing Act, 1935 that the standard did not represent any ideal standard of housing, but the minimum which was in the view of Parliament tolerable while at the same time capable of immediate or early enforcement.

Whilst it is not possible to calculate accurately the extent of the increase which would have resulted from measuring overcrowding on a bedroom basis, a rough estimate can be obtained by taking the rehousing standard contained in Section 37 of the Housing Act, 1930 and relating it to the equivalent populations and permitted numbers revealed by the 1935 survey. On this basis it is found that if the bedroom standard had applied the number of dwellings overcrowded in 1935 would have been nearer 9,000 (or approximately 15 per cent.).

During the next four years a considerable amount of accommodation for the abatement of overcrowding was provided by both the Borough Council and London County Council and between the completion of the survey and the end of 1939 no fewer than 2,969 families were rehoused. During the same period, however,

an additional 933 cases of overcrowding were placed on the register but despite this fact by the end of 1939 the number of overcrowded dwellings in the borough had been reduced from 2,651 to 615.

Shortly after the outbreak of war a survey was made of the 615 overcrowded dwellings remaining on the register in order that the families still living under these unsatisfactory conditions could be offered accommodation on the Council's new estates. In 331 instances it had been found that the overcrowding had been temporarily abated, generally due to the evacuation of women and children from the borough and the call-up of men for military service. With regard to the remaining 284 cases, 80 were rehoused by the Borough Council, one by the London County Council, 22 removed to privately owned accommodation, two could not be offered accommodation as there were no flats of sufficient size available and the remaining 179 were unable to accept the offers of accommodation made to them by the Borough Council, in most instances because of the inability to pay the rent for the more adequate accommodation offered.

During the period of the war very little accommodation could be offered to overcrowded families as the overriding necessity was for accommodation for people rendered homeless through bombing. With the cessation of hostilities, the reuniting of families and the marriages of sons and daughters who, being unable to find their own accommodation, continued to live with their parents, many premises again became overcrowded but the post-war resumption of building permitted the rehousing of overcrowded families to be recommenced and between 1946 and 1949 1,191 families were rehoused.

It is impossible to determine the actual extent of overcrowding in the borough, but at the end of 1949 it was considered reasonable to assume that the majority if not all of the families living in overcrowded conditions had come to the knowledge of the Public Health Department through one source or another and on the basis of this assumption it was found that when those who had secured alternative accommodation had been accounted for 915 dwellings were still overcrowded.

During 1950 400 new cases of overcrowding were reported whilst 336 were abated so that at the end of the year 979 dwellings remained on the register. Between 1936 and 1950 overcrowding had been abated in 4,607 dwellings.

It will be seen that since the survey was undertaken there has been a considerable reduction in the number of statutory overcrowded dwellings. This has been brought about by the continued decrease in the size of individual family units, the pre-war building of flats and also the rebuilding which has taken place since the war,

but although statutory overcrowding has decreased there has been a considerable increase in what one might call social overcrowding in that two or more families are living communally in one flat, although if the aggregate number of persons is related to the total available accommodation there is no overcrowding on the standard laid down by the Housing Act. Moreover, whilst, as stated above, statutory overcrowding has apparently decreased, it must be borne in mind that there are a considerable and at present incalculable number of families who would be overcrowded if the bedroom standard applied.

Some of the overcrowding which has occurred since the war has been due to the migration of families from other areas but because of the shortage of housing accommodation the Council has not found it possible to rigidly enforce the overcrowding provisions of the Act as to do so would in many cases cause extreme hardship to the families concerned.

OTHER HOUSING CASES.

Rehousing has not been restricted to the Housing Act operations previously mentioned for, in addition, following recommendations made by me, 1,846 families inadequately housed on medical grounds have been rehoused by the London County Council during the past 20 years. This period, of course, includes the war years when little rehousing of this nature was possible. Of these recommendations 771 were made because of tuberculosis in the family and 1,075 for other medical reasons and many of the families concerned were accommodated on cottage estates outside the London area where they can live in the open surroundings necessary for their rehabilitation.

PROVISION OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

The provision of housing accommodation does not come within the purview of the Public Health Department, but a report on slum clearance would not be complete without some reference to the accommodation which has been erected by the County and Borough Councils on clearance area sites. Some of this accommodation has been utilised for rehousing people from slum clearance areas, some for overcrowded families and the remainder for families otherwise inadequately housed.

A number of the areas cleared have been too small to permit the sites to be utilised for rebuilding, but the following lists show the accommodation which has been built by the Borough Council

and the London County Council on clearance area sites in the borough:—

HACKNEY BOROUGH COUNCIL.

<i>Estates.</i>		<i>Clearance Area Sites.</i>
Banister House ..	160 flats	Banister Street.
Nisbet House ..	311 „	Nisbet Street.
Shacklewell House	50 „	Shacklewell Lane.
Hindle House ..	197 „	Hindle Street.
In course of erection:—		
Beecholme	—	Prout Road.
Oldhill Street	—	Long's Cottages.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

Northwold ..	575 flats	Northwold Road.
Morning Lane ..	205 „	Morning Lane.
High Hill Ferry	191 „	High Hill Ferry.
Morningside ..	151 „	Mead Place.
Duncan Square ..	101 „	Duncan Square.
Warburton ..	68 „	Warburton Square.
In course of erection:—		
Broadway House	—	Broadway.

Since 1920 the Borough Council have completed a total of 2,961 permanent dwellings, whilst the corresponding figure for the London County Council is 4,737. Both authorities have other dwellings in the course of erection.

From the foregoing resumé of housing activities in Hackney it will be seen that despite the difficulties encountered considerable progress has been made. The old slum properties have given place to modern flats and whilst perhaps flat dwellings, lacking privacy to some extent and but a poor substitute for houses with gardens, are not all that one might desire, there can be no doubt that the families concerned are now living in far more healthy surroundings than they did formerly.

What the present housing position would have been had we not suffered the 1939-1945 war and its aftermath is, of course, a matter of conjecture, but it is certain that had the rate of progress experienced between the two wars been maintained we would have been at least very close to the ideal standard aimed at by all public health administrators.

Much still remains to be done but it is extremely gratifying to me to have been the Borough's Medical Officer of Health during the period when the first really progressive steps in slum clearance were taken.

ABATEMENT OF OVERCROWDING AND APPLICATIONS FOR RE-HOUSING—1950.

Details regarding overcrowding investigations carried out by the Public Health Department staff in connection with Housing applications, and the number of families re-housed on Hackney Borough Council and London County Council Housing Estates, are set out in statistical form in the following summary:—

STATISTICAL SUMMARY.

APPLICATIONS TO LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

Investigations.			Totals.
Number investigated and found to be not overcrowded			466
Number investigated and Recommended.	Over-crowding.	Illness or Physical Disability.	398
	386	12	
Total Number Investigated			864

Applicants Re-housed.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

Applicants investigated by Public Health Department.	Over-crowding.	Tuber-culosis.	Illness or Physical Disability.	Totals.
	298	4	4	306
Other Applicants				519
Total—London County Council				825

HACKNEY BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Applicants investigated by Public Health Department.	Over-crowding.	Tuber-culosis.	Illness or Physical Disability.	Totals.
	35	1	1	37
Other Applicants				798
Total—Hackney Borough Council				835

Total Number of Families Re-housed by The London County Council and Hackney Borough Council ..	1,660
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BANISTER STREET AREA.—Represented for clearance in January, 1930. Clearance Orders made December, 1931, and demolished in 1934.



BANISTER HOUSE.—Area developed by Borough Council in 1935. Extended in 1949.



NISBET STREET AREA.—Represented for clearance in 1932 and demolished during 1935 to 1936.



NISBET HOUSE.—One of a block of flats erected by Borough Council in 1938 on the Nisbet Street Clearance Area.



FULHAM PLACE AREA.—Represented for clearance in 1932, was demolished in 1935. An adjoining area of 30 buildings was represented in 1936 and demolished in 1938.



BEECHOLME ESTATE.—Blocks of flats and maisonettes built by the Borough Council in 1951 on the Fulham Place, Prout Road and surrounding Clearance Areas.



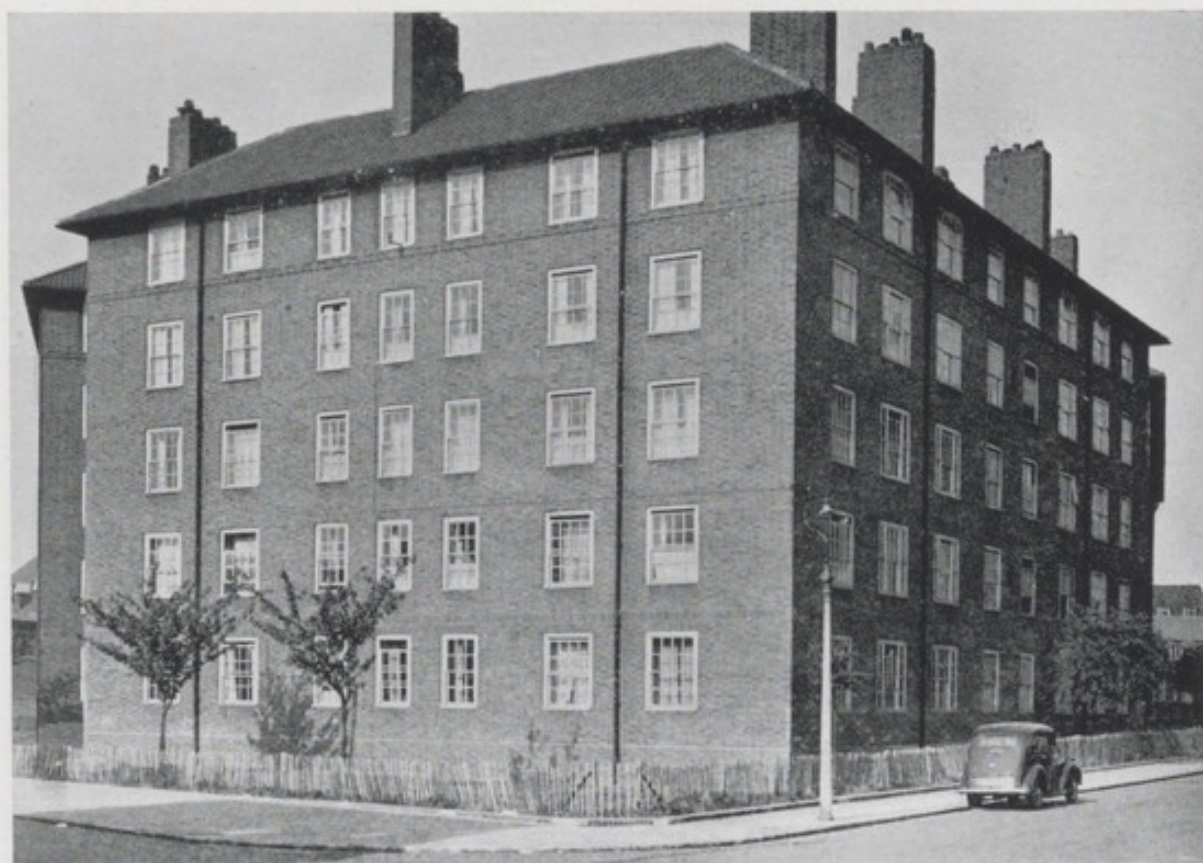
HINDLE STREET AREA.—Represented in October, 1935, and demolished during 1937 to 1938.



HINDLE HOUSE.—One of a block of flats erected by Hackney Borough Council in 1939 on the Hindle Street site.



CONDUIT STREET, NORTHWOLD ROAD AREA.—An area represented in 1929 and taken over and dealt with by the London County Council.



BOYNE HOUSE.—One of a block of flats built by the London County Council on the Northwold Road Clearance and Compulsory Purchase Areas.



RETREAT COTTAGES.—Contained in the High Hill Ferry areas represented in 1934 and taken over by the London County Council.



LEASIDE HOUSE.—One of the six blocks of flats built by the London County Council on the High Hill Ferry Clearance Areas.



DURHAM GROVE.—Included in the Morning Lane Clearance Area represented in November, 1929, and taken over by the London County Council.



SALEM HOUSE.—One of the seven blocks of flats erected by the London County Council on the Morning Lane Clearance Area Site.



OTLEY TERRACE AREA.—Represented for clearance in 1932 and demolished in 1934.



OTLEY TERRACE.—The area re-planned by Owners to comprise maisonette type property.

OVERCROWDING STATISTICS, 1950.

(a) (i)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	979
(ii)	Number of families dwelling therein	1,380
(iii)	Number of persons dwelling therein	5,127
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.. .. .	400
(c) (i)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.. .. .	336
(ii)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	1,571
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES.

Of the many public services performed by the staff of the department none is more important to health than that which endeavours to ensure a wholesome food supply. Nowadays there are many Acts, Orders and Regulations covering contamination and adulteration of food and although these powers are still in some respects inadequate the unscrupulous food dealer or manufacturer does not enjoy the latitude which he had thirty years ago when there were few legal standards for many of the foods sold for human consumption and the powers of Councils were much more limited than at present.

It is true to say that to a great extent it is the Public Health Departments, upon whom have devolved the responsibility for administering the legislation relating to food, to whom credit for the great improvements which have been brought about in the sphere of food control is due. Many of the safeguards now in existence are the results of representations made to the Central Authorities by various Councils following consideration of reports on the snags and difficulties encountered during the work of food inspection and sampling and, indeed, it is usually long after the need for legislation has become obvious to those whose duty it is to endeavour to safeguard the nation's food supply that the necessary Acts are passed by Parliament, or the Orders or Regulations are issued by the responsible Minister.

Unfortunately, the Council's difficulties do not end with the passing of the legislation, for, despite the fact that their only desire is to protect the public, they have not always had the

sympathy of the Courts in those cases where legal proceedings have been instituted for food offences and the offenders have not been able to evade conviction on a legal technicality. In fact, the decisions of the Courts in some cases where the offenders have been found guilty suggest that, if anything, the Magistrates' sympathies have been with the trader rather than the Council.

Whilst it is not possible here to give a detailed history of food inspection in Hackney over the past years, it is hoped that the following resumé will give some indication at least of some of the difficulties which have been experienced and the evolution which has taken place.

On the 1st September, 1921, the Sale of Food Order, 1921 which (among other things) imposed on meat retailers the duty of marking all imported meat exposed for sale, came into operation, but it was soon found that very few retailers knew of its existence, for the food inspectors reported many failures to comply with the Order and it was necessary to warn offenders that proceedings might follow if they did not comply with the provisions as to efficient marking of all imported meat exposed for sale. During that year a large number of stall butchers (mostly ex-service men) started in business in the market thoroughfares, and considerable time was devoted to inspecting the premises where they were storing their meat and utensils. Many of them had the idea that any yard or old shed was good enough for the purpose, and in one case the inspector found meat stored in a very dirty stable opening direct on to the street and in which two horses were kept.

At that time local authorities could only endeavour, very inadequately, to protect the public against contamination of two articles of food—meat and milk, and how limited these powers were can be gauged by the fact that it was suggested that all milk should be partially cooked or sterilised in order to kill disease germs, milk containing cooked disease germs instead of clean milk then being the highest attainable ideal, despite the fact that the percentage of tuberculous milk detected in the London supply varied from 3 to 10 per cent. of samples taken. At that time epidemics of infectious disease due to milk were far from uncommon.

The byelaws and other legal powers relating to food then in existence were directed to securing ordinary sanitation of the premises; food obviously dangerous to the public could be seized, but there were practically no powers to prevent the preparation of food in such a manner that although after treatment it appeared sound to ordinary inspection, if inspection came that way, it was really dangerous to the public health.

There was no registration except of milk dealers, and although ice-cream premises, fried fish premises, poultry slaughterers, cattle slaughterers, purveyors of milk, bakehouses, cowhouses,

coffee-houses, etc., were regulated by byelaws, not only was a great deal of food prepared under filthy conditions even as regards general sanitation but, in addition, adulteration and the disguising of deterioration had become a highly scientific proceeding, whilst the absence of standards on which proceedings could successfully be taken very materially limited the usefulness of sampling.

It seemed that some of the difficulties of local authorities would be solved when, under the Sale of Food Order, 1921, standards were fixed for the composition of jam, marmalade, and dripping, margarine and other edible fats, and Circular 225, from the Ministry of Health, accompanying the Order stated:—

“The Minister is aware that in the past local authorities have occasionally experienced difficulties in dealing with cases of excessive water in dripping, lard substitutes, etc., and it is hoped that the present Order, by specifying a definite maximum percentage, will assist in the removal of these difficulties. Similarly, the provision of the Order prescribing a standard of composition for jam and marmalade will be found useful.”

Unfortunately, our hopes were short-lived, for within a few months the parts of the Order relating to the standards for these foodstuffs were revoked and in my Report for 1922 it will be seen that although one sample of coffee, three of dripping, four of malt vinegar, and one of vinegar were, in the opinion of the Analyst, adulterated, yet because of the absence of legal standards, the difficulty of obtaining convictions in these cases was so great as to make sampling almost a useless proceeding.

In 1924 the Council requested the Ministry of Health to grant additional powers to deal with the adulteration and chemical contamination of food by the undue use of boric acid and the use of copper salts or preservatives containing arsenic or lead. The Ministry was also informed that there was considerable evidence of particles of glass being found in jam sold in glass containers.

A very welcome step was taken by the Ministry of Health in issuing the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, which dealt with the handling and transport of meat, and the screening of meat stalls, etc., and the Council published notices drawing the attention of tenants of food premises, stalls, shops, etc., to the sanitary requirements relating to their premises.

The necessity for the continuous and thorough inspection of food and premises where food was sold or stored will be evident from the following examples of unsatisfactory food storage found during the year 1925:—

Apples and Confectionery—sold outside places of entertainment, and the stock kept in a bed-living room occupied by man, wife and two children, the children suffering from chicken-pox.

Poultry—stored prior to sale in bedroom and sold in private passage-way into which two bedrooms opened.

Bananas—found hanging to ripen in shop parlour and infested with bed-bugs.

Fat—being removed from grease trap in waste pipe of sink in a meat cooking-room, rendered down and used as cooking fat for pastry making.

Fish—stored in a partitioned-off portion of a fowl-run.

Grapes—being emptied in market street on dirty asphalt road for sorting.

The additional powers for preventing ill-health through chemical contamination of food were obtained under the Public Health (Preservatives in Food) Regulations, 1925, which came into operation generally on the 1st January, 1927, and, so far as they related to butter and cream, on the 1st January, 1928. These Regulations prohibited the use of chemical preservatives except as regards a list of articles, 17 in all, mentioned in a schedule appended to the Regulations, to which certain chemicals could be added in the proportion stated in the schedule. Boric acid and metallic colouring matters containing arsenic, copper, mercury, lead, etc., gamboge and some coal tar colours were also excluded from all foods.

The Regulations were a great advance, particularly as they required foods containing permitted preservatives to be labelled so as to indicate both the preservative and its percentage, but the need for official standards still remained and many articles of food, the average composition of which was well known, could not be sampled with any useful result.

The Council later drew the attention of the Ministry of Health to the unsatisfactory conditions under which bread was often prepared, even though premises had been constructed according to the Regulations governing food premises, and the filthy premises from which it would be delivered to the consumer. The Council also made representations regarding the danger of permitting undesirable articles of food, such as apples sprayed with arsenical mixtures and cherries infested with larval parasites, to be brought wholesale into the country and then distributed to retailers; and also the need for protecting food liable to contamination and exposed for sale on street stalls or open shop fronts. With regard to the latter it was pointed out that fish, fruit, sweets and other articles of food were often exposed for sale in the open street without any protection from flies and dust in dry weather or from being bespattered with particles of mud in wet weather.

The risk of transmission of disease through the medium of the milk supply caused great concern to the Council and in 1925 they

expressed the opinion that milk churns should be sealed in transit and that it should be made compulsory to notify illness of persons engaged in the dairy trade. It is a remarkable fact that the powers of the public health authorities to prevent infection by tuberculous persons engaged in the milk trade remained purely persuasive until the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which gave local authorities powers in this direction, were issued by the Ministry of Health.

Another matter to engage the attention of the Council was the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing in the street markets. A census of the stalls taken during December, 1925, showed there were 64 meat stalls, and approximately 300 other stalls where food of all kinds was being sold. In addition to these, there were a number of itinerant vendors selling food in the borough. Food waiting to be sold was often stored in the gutter under the stall, and sometimes exposed for sale on the kerb without any protection from contamination by dogs, dust, dirt and flies.

The only sanitary accommodation available to many of the stall-holders or assistants who lived a distance from the market thoroughfares was the nearest public convenience, and there were no facilities for obtaining clean water for ablution purposes, or for the washing of fish, or of utensils on ice-cream and refreshment barrows, stalls, etc. Much of the food sold at the stalls was stored in disused stables, sheds, etc., or in the vendors' own private houses and yards.

The attraction of the markets being their reputation for cheapness, second-rate and doubtful goods often found their way there, and these in many cases were sorted at the stalls so that constant supervision was necessary to ensure that articles unfit for food were not exposed or sold.

Among summonses taken out during 1925 were two for selling tea unfit for food. This tea contained a large amount of dirt, metal and iron filings, and was exposed for sale at a low price on a stall in a market thoroughfare. The vendor was fined £3 and £2 2s. costs on one summons, and £2 and £1 1s. costs on the other. Apart from the penalties in this particular case the publicity given to it had a very salutary effect and to a large extent apparently stopped the trade in uncleaned tea sweepings.

About that time sterilised milk in bottles was being sold in large quantities by a few firms and usually delivered twice weekly, direct to customers, but a large and increasing trade was done by small shop-keepers of all kinds who acted as agents and sold the milk in unopened bottles. There was also a large increase in the use of bottles for milk delivery which were sometimes filled by the roundsmen in the streets when delivering, but in the poorer districts

metal hand cans, filled from the churn in the street, were still largely used and condensed milk, skimmed and whole, had a very large sale, probably because of its convenience in use and storage, and a mistaken idea as to its cheapness as compared with fresh milk.

Among the informal samples purchased or obtained for examination during 1926 were lemonade containing lead due to the use of lead siphon pipe for drawing off the liquid, and three samples of ice-cream which upon bacteriological examination showed distinct evidence of contamination during some period of manufacture, storage or exposure for sale; whilst part of a large consignment of flour showed some evidence of contamination, the number of bacteria being greater than that usual in a clean flour. Other unsatisfactory samples were bread containing, in one case undesirable organisms and, in another, ants; chocolate containing moths and eggs, and vinegar containing vinegar eels.

The Council from time to time drew attention to the various directions in which powers for protecting foodstuffs, particularly ice-cream, from contamination should be extended, and in 1926, when many samples of badly contaminated ice-cream were taken, recommended that ice-cream manufacturers and sellers should be compulsorily registered and inspected with the same care as vendors of milk.

On one occasion during 1931 a quantity of margarine was found in a registered butter factory in the borough. The presence of margarine in such a factory was contrary to the provisions of Section 10 of the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and legal proceedings taken against the occupier resulted in the imposition of a fine of £10 with £10 10s. costs.

Although there was an increase in the demand for "Certified" and "Grade A" milk during this year the higher cost of graded milk as compared with untreated milk restricted its sale in a borough with a large working class population. A large quantity of milk, especially that supplied by the larger firms, was pasteurised, although in many cases it was not sold under the designation "Pasteurised" and might not have conformed to the standard of purity laid down in the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923. No action could be taken, however, against a person selling milk which, upon examination, was shown to have an excessive bacterial content unless the milk was sold under one of the designations.

During 1933 further steps to prevent contamination of food were taken when the proprietors of food premises were asked to exhibit a poster in the lavatories of their establishments, drawing the attention of employees to the necessity for compliance with the requirements of the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1908, as to personal cleanliness.

The difficulty experienced in ensuring that the milk supply of the borough was in the hands of satisfactory dealers is illustrated by the following circumstances in which the Council removed one dairyman from the Register and refused registration of four applicants during the year 1934. The dairyman, having been convicted of various offences in connection with his business, was given an opportunity to appear before the Public Health Committee and his name was removed from the Register. Before the statutory period of 21 days, within which he could appeal against the Council's decision, had expired, an application for registration was received from a brother of the dairyman whose name had been removed from the Register. This applicant was informed that the Committee proposed to refuse registration in his case. He appeared before the Committee but failed to impress the Committee in his favour and his application was refused. He continued to carry on the business whilst an application for registration was made by another brother who, on being invited to appear before the Committee to show cause why his application should not be refused, did not appear and so his application was rejected. Next came an application from a man who had for some time been employed by these brothers. His application appeared to indicate that he had taken over the business, whereas investigation showed that he was merely acting as an agent for the original applicant. He also failed to attend before the Public Health Committee to support his application, which was refused. Finally, a fourth application was received from another employee of the firm, whose application was dealt with in the same way as the others had been. Thus it will be seen that for several months the firm had been carrying on the business of a dairyman in the borough despite the efforts of the Council to prevent this. Other authorities experienced a similar difficulty.

Ability to identify milk suppliers from their milk bottles has always been regarded by the Council as a matter of importance and it was for this reason that in 1934 legal action was taken against a milkman whose two milk barrows were found to contain 166 bottles, of which only four bore the name of this dairyman, the remainder bearing the names or trade marks of other dealers. Section 6 of the Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, provided that:—

“Every person who himself or by his servant in any highway or place of public resort sells milk from a vehicle or from a can or from other receptacle shall have conspicuously inscribed on the vehicle or receptacle his name and address, and in default shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two pounds.”

If, therefore, a dairyman sold milk from a vehicle or from a receptacle which was not inscribed with his name and address it was quite clear that an offence was committed, but where milk

was delivered in bottles the position was not so clear as the practice of dairymen delivering milk in bottles belonging to other dairymen did not always come within the scope of this section. No specific duty laid with local authorities to take action in a case of this sort unless it fell within the scope of Section 6 of the Act. In this case it appeared that action could only be taken under the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887, and as the Council had no power to take proceedings of this nature under that Act, one of the food inspectors was authorised to take action as a private individual. Three summonses were taken out, a fine of 40s., with £7 7s. costs being imposed in respect of one of them, and the other two summonses were withdrawn.

Particulars of this case were sent to the Ministry of Health, together with a suggestion that the law should be amended so as to allow local authorities to take action in such cases and the Ministry intimated its intention of carrying the suggestion into effect as soon as opportunity occurred.

It was found necessary to make three formal seizures of unsound food during 1934. In the first case a quantity of confectionery, dirty and fouled by mice, was found deposited for sale and being sold to children at a trifling cost. The owner was prosecuted and a fine of £20, with £2 2s. costs, was imposed. In the second case a consignment of tinned tomatoes was examined and samples sent for chemical and bacteriological examination. The Bacteriologist's reports revealed a condition which rendered the tomatoes unfit for human consumption, but suggested that they could be consumed without harmful effect if treated in any manner involving further sterilisation. As the owner of the consignment could give no guarantee of such sterilisation twelve cases of the tomatoes were submitted to a Magistrate and a condemnation order secured. Following this seizure the owner surrendered the remainder of the consignment, amounting to 200 cases, with a total weight of 6½ tons. Legal proceedings were not taken against the owner as it was impossible for him to have known that the food was unwholesome when deposited for sale. The third case concerned a quantity of biscuits in a dirty condition and found deposited for sale. The biscuits were taken before a Magistrate and a condemnation order secured. Proceedings were taken against the owner, but the case was dismissed under the Probation of Offenders Act upon payment of £1 15s. costs.

During this year I reported to the Public Health Committee that, in the opinion of the food inspectors, certain dairymen in the borough were purchasing separated or skimmed milk for the purpose of "breaking-down" fresh milk rich in fat to a weaker condition, which would still comply with the official standard as regards fat and solids not fat deemed to be present in average genuine milk.

It was also possible, where this "breaking-down" process had been carried too far, to plead a warranty, and where the dairyman was in possession of a warranty it was a matter of the utmost difficulty, if not an impossibility, to obtain a conviction, even though it was known that the dairyman had also purchased separated milk. The difficulty of obtaining direct evidence of the addition of separated milk to ordinary milk was practically insurmountable. Later legislation prohibited this practice.

In 1937 an advance was made in the protection of food from contamination when bye-laws made by the London County Council under Section 6 of the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1932 (later Section 183 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936) for promoting sanitary and cleanly conditions in the manufacture, preparation, storage, transport, or exposure for sale of any article intended to be sold for food, came into operation on the 1st January, 1937, and extracts therefrom were circulated to traders principally affected in the borough.

Although the bye-laws were not so comprehensive as might have been desired or reasonably expected, they were a useful addition in many respects to powers previously existing, in that the definition of premises to which the bye-laws related was wide and enabled local authorities to deal with yards, sheds and storages. They also applied to stalls, vehicles, barrows, trays and other receptacles from which food was sold, whereas the only stalls that came within the scope of earlier bye-laws were those used by licensed street traders. Food in the course of transportation was dealt with in the bye-laws, control being given over food on delivery vans, barrows, etc. The responsibility of occupiers of premises where food was stored or dealt with was defined as the repairing, cleansing, lighting and ventilation of the premises, also the wrapping of food in unsuitable wrappers, as compared with the less definite requirement of earlier legislation that "due cleanliness shall be observed." Similar responsibilities were imposed upon the owners of stalls generally, thus giving a control which previously did not exist, over unlicensed street traders.

Although these bye-laws marked another step towards the ideal of complete protection of the food supply, we were still short of this in many respects. For instance, despite requirements of the bye-laws that persons exposing food for sale "shall take such steps as may be reasonably necessary to prevent the risk of contamination of the food," the sale of unwrapped food from open-fronted shops and from stalls in the streets was still allowed. In my opinion articles of food such as biscuits, cheese, butter and dates, should not be sold where, in spite of all attempts at screening, the slightest breeze would result in some contamination. As another instance, the Council had frequently requested that the delivery of bread

should be made safe by wrapping previous to delivery and when these bye-laws were in course of preparation this request was again put forward, but it was decided not to provide for this compulsory wrapping on the grounds that it might be expected to raise the cost of bread to the consumer and be a hardship on poor persons. In my view such presumptions were not justified as in some cases bread wrapped previous to delivery was sold at the same price as unwrapped bread and, apart from this, the very slight increase in cost, if it did occur, would be counter-balanced by the knowledge that the bread was protected from contamination.

Another difficulty encountered resulted from the lack of adequate protection afforded to the public against the person who bought up inferior tinned foods in large quantities and then put up the defence, when dangerous tins were traced to him, that his supply had not yet been sorted and that he did not intend to sell his unsound food. References to this matter have been made in several Reports, notably my Annual Report for the year 1935.

Considerable difficulty was experienced in dealing with numerous matters such as the foregoing and it was necessary to emphasise that legislative support in the control of food supplies left much to be desired. It is only by frequent reiteration of the obvious limitations in this respect, together with representations to the appropriate quarters when new legislation is in course of preparation, that the desired powers will eventually be obtained.

The unsympathetic treatment which local authorities often received in their efforts to protect the public is perhaps best illustrated by the following extract from my Annual Report for 1938:—

“Unsatisfactory Results from Police Court Proceedings in connection with Food Inspection. On Tuesday, 25th January, 1938, five summonses against four different defendants were heard at the Police Court for the following offences:—

1. Exposing for sale two unsound turkeys.
2. Depositing for the purpose of sale ten unsound turkeys.
3. Exposing for sale 475 boxes of dates which were unsound.
4. Exposing for sale imported chilled meat, improperly marked.
5. Failure to observe due cleanliness in regard to a butcher's shop.

The first three were offences under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, the maximum penalty for a first offence of this nature being £50 or six months' imprisonment.

The first two offences, being committed by one defendant, were heard together and, although the facts were admitted that the

turkeys were unfit for food, that they were exposed for sale and that the defendant had been convicted on a previous occasion for a similar offence, and on another for marking imported meat "English," the fine imposed was £3 in respect of each summons. Penalties will probably only have a restraining influence if they make it undesirable from a business point of view to commit offences.

The summons for exposing unsound dates for sale was not heard because the Police were unable to serve the summons, the present whereabouts of the defendant being unknown. This case is typical of many that occur. Itinerant traders from other boroughs came into one of the market streets with a hired costermonger's barrow laden with unsound dates. The Inspector seized the dates and, with the aid of the Police, obtained the name and address of one of the men. The usual procedure was followed—carrying the dates before a magistrate, securing an order for their destruction, and later the issuing of the summons which, in this case, was not served. The practical difficulty of dealing with itinerant traders was mentioned when the draft Food and Drugs Bill was being reviewed.

The fourth summons for exposing imported meat improperly marked, an offence against an Order made under the Merchandise Marks Act, with a penalty of £5, was dismissed on the payment of £1 ls. costs. The evidence given in Court was that the defendant had a butcher's stall in the market and had been cautioned before for not keeping meat properly marked. On the occasion in question he had a joint of imported meat marked "This joint is English," besides having further joints of imported meat without proper marking. On the face of it, this offence does not appear to be great, but it must be remembered that imported meat not marked at all is frequently purchased as English to the prejudice of the customer, and for the butcher to mark imported meat "English" is a deliberate fraud, and should be regarded as such. For cases of this kind to be dismissed on payment of £1 ls. costs is really an inducement to unscrupulous traders to risk mismarking meat in the knowledge that the profit derived in the meantime will amply provide for the penalty, when caught.

The result obtained concerning the summons regarding the butcher's shop was most unfortunate. In evidence it was stated that the shop floor was dirty and littered with feathers; a dustbin lid full to overflowing with poultry offal was on the floor; feathers were adhering to the meat exposed for sale; benches in the shop were filthy, and dirty newspaper was resting on cooked meat. Before further evidence was given the case was adjourned *sine die* and the defendant was informed that if the premises were cleaned the case would not be re-opened. The fact that Notices had been

served on the defendant on several occasions as well as several warnings delivered could not be placed as evidence before the Magistrate. Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations a penalty up to £100 could be imposed for such an offence so the effect of the Court's decision upon the shopkeeper in question may well be imagined. No case is ever taken to Court unless the offence is wilful and deliberate."

Following the outbreak of war routine work of food, modified to meet wartime conditions and legislation, was maintained as far as possible. To do this it was found necessary to secure the release of the food inspectors who had been seconded as part-time enforcement officers under the Food Control Committee.

During 1940 there was an increase in the number of food complaints, but these complaints were mainly expressions of dissatisfaction with the kind or quality of the food available and not with its condition as to soundness. In the majority of cases the complaints were found to be outside the scope of the department.

Food inspection became increasingly difficult with the extension of restrictions on the food supply generally. All judgment of suspected food had to be made with knowledge of the vital importance of keeping the maximum amount of food available for human consumption. Consequently, many of the high standards of quality, the maintenance of which it was once regarded as essential, had to be considerably reduced, and in some cases the only criterion that could be used was whether or not consumption of the food would be free from harmful effects.

Having regard to these circumstances the number of food complaints received during the year was very low and few of these proved to be of a serious nature.

Formal seizures of food were necessary on two occasions during 1941, one in respect of diseased meat obtained from a knacker found on a butcher's premises, and the other concerned food exposed for sale in a condition which showed that it had been fouled by rodents. The offender in the former case was fined £25 with £5 5s. costs and in the latter £5 with £3 3s. costs.

The difficulties and responsibilities attached to the inspection of food continued to increase with the prolongation of the war and the consequent restriction on the food supply generally. During 1942 the margin of safety between food fit and unfit for consumption continued to remain very narrow in order on the one hand to keep the maximum amount of food available for human consumption and, on the other, to safeguard the public health. With the same objects in view a similarly narrow margin of safety was applied in the wholesale markets, and where there were transport and

other difficulties involving delay in delivery, the work of the inspectors was considerably increased, particularly as regards the more perishable foods.

Food substitutes introduced to the market to take the place of articles in short supply continued to provide an opportunity for some traders to attempt to exploit the public with worthless frauds with specious labels. Licensing of substitutes by the Ministry of Food brought a measure of control, but from a public health aspect the method of licensing was not entirely satisfactory. In some cases licensed commodities were held not to comply with the Food and Drugs Act although conforming to the conditions under which the license was granted but, as a result of prosecutions in various parts of the country, the position was clarified and the number of unsatisfactory substitutes considerably reduced.

The introduction of the Milk Rationalisation Scheme in 1943 reduced the number of retailers supplying milk from adjoining boroughs and gave rise for a time to a number of complaints, mostly unjustified, as to the quality of the milk supplied to persons who were discontented at the compulsory transfer to a different supplier.

In 1944 the quantity of food examined for the purpose of determining its fitness for human consumption and the quantity condemned showed considerable increases over any previous year's figures. These increases were largely due to three causes—delay in transport of perishable goods such as fish and fruit, the larger quantity of canned fruits being marketed, and damage to stocks of food in shops resulting from V weapon attacks from which the borough, in common with other Metropolitan boroughs, suffered so heavily during the second half of the year. No less than 130 food premises of various kinds were destroyed or extensively damaged with resultant damage in varying degrees to large quantities of foodstuffs, including many rationed commodities.

Every effort was made to salvage for human consumption food so affected, and examination was carried out sometimes under very difficult conditions and circumstances that permitted of no delay. Practically all the fats and a large part of the sugar damaged were salvaged for further refining and reconditioning for manufacturing purposes, and in those cases where no possibility of use for human needs remained the material was passed on for manufacture into animal feeding products, fertilisers, and for other commercial uses. Only a very small amount, probably less than 10 per cent. of the total, was destroyed as, for instance, in those cases where the food had been damaged by mineral oils, disinfectants or bleaching compounds.

As the war progressed the work of the food inspectors continued to show a steady increase and called for unabated labour and

vigilance in order to keep pace with new methods of production and treatment and with the ever increasing number of Orders and Regulations applying to the standards, preparation or treatment of various foodstuffs.

The first part of 1945 saw a continuance of war conditions with resultant damage to food and occasional interruption of the food distributing services. As a result help had frequently to be given to retailers and manufacturers to deal with their damaged goods and premises and, wherever possible, to enable them to restart their business with the least possible delay, the main object always being the need to salvage the maximum amounts of food for human consumption.

Transport difficulties arising from shortage of labour or disputes during the year also caused wastage of perishable food, but in most cases prompt action in dealing with the matter made it possible for the unsound food to be used for animal feeding meals or for the production of fertilisers, and only a very small quantity of unsound food was destroyed as totally unfit for any further use.

The Ministry of Food Meat Depot at No. 8, Shore Road, supplying butchers' meat and offal to six London boroughs including Hackney, required almost daily visits of inspection, and considerable quantities of home-killed cattle and imported calves had to be inspected.

To many the re-appearance of ice-cream in this year came as a welcome addition to a restricted diet, but to local authorities it was not by any means an unmixed blessing. The limitations of the supplies of suitable materials for manufacture and the fact that so many new manufacturers entered the field of production, many with little or no experience, added to the difficulties of the inspectors. Even when produced under ideal conditions, with the ingredients then available, it differed from paperhangers' paste only in that it contained a little fat, flavouring and sugar. Some anxiety was felt as regards the large quantities of this product which were reaching the public after passing through various supply channels. For instance, some manufacturers supplied ice-cream to distributing agents who in turn supplied shopkeepers and stall-holders. Each stage in these transactions might have provided an opportunity for contamination and rendered more difficult the work of the health authorities in tracing the source of cases of food poisoning which might result.

Action was taken in the Magistrates' Court in 1946, following two complaints of milk being sold in dirty bottles. The vendors were convicted of selling milk which was unfit for food and of failing to keep the milk vessels in a state of thorough cleanliness, fines totalling £32 with £10 8s. costs being imposed. The very unusual severity of the penalties in these cases was due to the fact that these vendors were persistent offenders.

As was the case after the 1914-1918 war there was an increase in the number of food stalls in the street markets following the cessation of hostilities, and the work of inspecting the stalls and the places where the food was stored added to the duties of a depleted staff who endeavoured not only to maintain but to improve the conditions under which perishable foodstuffs were stored, and to raise the standard of cleanliness and soundness of food exposed for sale by the licensed stall-holders.

Another important step forward was taken during 1947 by the introduction of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) etc. Regulations, 1947, by which it became necessary for a manufacturer of ice-cream to adopt one of two methods of manufacture. These Regulations required the thorough cleansing and sterilisation of all plant and utensils used, and for the adequate and complete protection from contamination during all processes of manufacture, storage and distribution. They also necessitated the provision of new and improved plant by the makers of ice-cream, and in nearly every case the advice of the food inspectors was sought and appreciated in arranging the most satisfactory and economical lay-out of the pasteurisers, emulsifiers, coolers, ageing tanks and freezers, and in those instances the results of bacteriological examination have been, generally speaking, satisfactory.

The law relating to the control of food was consolidated with some amendments in the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, which became operative on the 1st October, 1939, whilst the Regulations relating to milk and dairies were similarly consolidated in the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, which came into operation on the 1st October, 1949. It is interesting to note that under the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 the designation "Sterilised" is now given official recognition although sterilisation had been in use as a trade practice for some years, and that the Regulations also set out the conditions which must be complied with if this designation is used.

The scope of the branch of public health administration which relates to food control continues to extend with the issue of new Regulations and Orders, the progress of industrial research and methods resulting in the production of new varieties of preserved and tinned food and improved methods of refrigeration and storage, permitting the importation of even soft fruits from considerable distances, and the increasing food consciousness of the general public which is indicated by the growing number of enquiries and complaints made to the food inspectors. Information is frequently sought by manufacturers and dealers desiring improvements in their processes or products.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation of the work of the staff of the Public Health Department, upon whose

ceaseless vigilance depends the success of the Council's efforts to ensure the wholesomeness and purity of all food prepared, stored or sold in Hackney. This work, always of an exacting nature, is more so in these days when there is an almost continuous flow of new Acts, Orders and Regulations with which the officers concerned need to be familiar.

Inspection and Supervision of Food and Food Premises.—1950.

Milk Supply.—At the end of the year 32 dairies and milkshops, 59 dairymen (including those whose premises are situated outside the Borough) and 145 purveyors of milk in sealed receptacles remained on the register. In no case was it found necessary to refuse registration or to remove a retailer from the Register.

The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 and the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The following table shows the number of licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949:—

Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licence	..	..	3
Dealer's (Steriliser's) Licence	..	..	1

DEALERS' LICENCES.

Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	42
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	..	..	..	..	16
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	106
Sterilised	..	..	..	..	170
Accredited	..	..	..	..	2
					Total 340

DEALERS' SUPPLEMENTARY LICENCES.

Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	20
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	..	..	..	..	1
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	24
Sterilised	..	..	..	..	25
					Total 70

Samples of milk sold under special designations and submitted for bacteriological examination totalled 661, and the results of these examinations showed that 19 samples failed to conform to the requirements of the Regulations. The vendors of the samples were warned and advice was given to enable the causes of the adverse reports to be rectified. The practice of submitting all samples of pasteurised milk to the phosphatase test was again followed and 4 samples were reported positive by this test. These samples were examined for tubercle bacilli with negative results.

The total weights of food condemned or surrendered during the year were:—

Food Condemned during the Year 1950.

Commodity.	Weight.			
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Bacon and ham	—	4	2	21
Bread, cakes and pastries	—	12	2	10
Butter, lard and margarine	—	—	2	8
Cereals	—	14	3	20
Cheese	—	3	—	12
Eggs and dried egg powder	—	—	3	13
Fish	3	—	1	19
Flour	—	2	3	5
Fruit and vegetables	18	19	2	1
Jam and marmalade	—	10	1	2
Meat, poultry and game	4	11	2	25
Milk (evaporated and condensed)	2	11	2	13
Pickles and sauces	—	17	1	11
Sugar	—	17	1	8
Sweets	1	6	—	15
Tea and coffee	—	—	—	18
Miscellaneous	2	15	—	23
Total weight	37	9	1	0

Ice Cream and Preserved Food.—Samples of ice cream taken in course of manufacture and during sale have been submitted for bacterial examination and chemical analysis. The samples submitted for bacteriological examination were reported upon as follows:—

21 samples were up to Grade I standard.

14 „ „ „ „ II „

11 „ „ „ „ III „

18 „ „ „ „ IV „

Premises used for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice cream or for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food are required to be registered by Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. At the end of the year the number of premises remaining on the Register was:—

Ice cream 281

Sausages, etc. 158

Pharmacy and Poisons.—The names and addresses of 158 persons remained on the Council's list of persons entitled to sell poisons under Part II of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933, and Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941. No action was necessary in respect of any offence under the Act.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

Food sampling is carried out by two inspectors specially appointed for duties in connection with the supervision of food premises generally in the Borough. The total number of samples submitted for chemical analysis during the year compares favourably with previous years and included:—

(a) <i>Formal Samples</i> :—				<i>Genuine.</i>	<i>Adulterated.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Milk	..	..	..	172	2	174
Various Foods	..	..	..	719	9	728
(b) <i>Informal Samples</i> :—						
Milk	..	..	..	132	5	137
Various Foods	..	..	..	70	1	71

Inspections of food premises during 1950 totalled 5,396.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

There were 10 prosecutions during the year for food offences, namely:—

Offence.	Result of proceedings.
Milk sold in dirty bottle ..	Vendor convicted for failing to keep milk vessel in a state of thorough cleanliness. Fine of £2 with £2 2s. costs imposed.
„ „	Vendor convicted for failing to keep milk vessel in a state of thorough cleanliness. Fine of £5 with £1 1s. costs imposed.
„ „	Vendor discharged absolutely on payment of £5 5s. costs.
Sale of milk not of nature, substance and quality demanded, in that not less than 4.7 per cent. of the milk fat had been extracted.	Vendor fined £1 with £2 2s. costs.
Sale of meat pie unfit for human consumption.	Vendor fined £20 with £5 5s. costs.
Sale of cream bun unfit for human consumption.	Vendor fined £3 with £2 2s. costs.
Sale of bread unfit for human consumption.	Vendor fined £2 with £1 1s. costs.
Sale of bread unfit for human consumption.	Vendor discharged absolutely on payment of £5 5s. costs.
Sale of bread unfit for human consumption.	Vendor discharged absolutely on payment of £1 costs.
Sale of mint bulls eyes unfit for food, in that one contained foreign matter—a piece of glass.	Vendor discharged absolutely on payment of £8 8s. costs.

A summary of samples taken during the year, showing the results of analyses, is set out in the following table:—

Description of Article.	Formal samples.		Informal samples.	
	No. taken.	No. adulterated.	No. taken.	No. adulterated.
Acetic Acid	3	—	—	—
Almond Flavour	—	—	1	—
Baking Powder	2	—	—	—
Barley	2	—	—	—
Barley Flakes	2	1	—	—
Beef Cubes	10	—	—	—
Betax	1	—	—	—
Bicarbonate Soda	2	—	—	—
Bisto	7	—	—	—
Brisling	—	—	1	—
Browning	2	—	—	—
Butter	118	4	—	—
Caraway Seeds	1	—	—	—
Caramel Dessert	1	—	—	—
Cocoa	27	—	—	—
Coconut	1	—	—	—
Cinnamon	3	—	—	—
Coffee and Chicory Extract	43	—	1	—
Coffee and Chicory	1	—	—	—
Coffee	1	—	—	—
Cornflour	13	—	—	—
Cremola	1	—	—	—
Curry Powder	4	—	—	—
Custard Powder	6	—	—	—
Dessicated Soup	2	—	—	—
Farfats	2	—	—	—
Flour	1	—	—	—
Flour (Barley)	2	—	—	—
Flour (Batter)	6	—	—	—
Flour (Bun)	2	—	—	—
Flour (Cake)	8	—	—	—
Flour (Pea)	7	—	—	—
Flour (Scone)	2	—	—	—
Flour (Self Raising)	14	—	—	—
Frying Oil	1	—	—	—
Ginger	4	—	—	—
Glace Cherries	1	—	—	—
Gravy Powder	3	—	—	—
Gravy Salt	2	—	—	—
Herbs (Mixed)	6	—	—	—
Honey	2	—	—	—
Ice Cream	—	—	64	—
Jam	7	—	—	—
Jelly	1	—	—	—
Jelly Crystals	2	2	—	—
Carried forward	326	7	67	—

Description of Article.	Formal samples.		Informal samples.	
	No. taken.	No. adulterated.	No. taken.	No. adulterated.
Brought forward	326	7	67	—
Ketchup	4	—	—	—
Macaroni	2	—	—	—
Marmalade	1	—	—	—
Margarine	118	—	—	—
Matzo Meal	5	—	—	—
Milk	143	2	137	5
Milk (Sterilised)	31	—	—	—
Mint	2	—	—	—
Mint Sauce	3	—	—	—
Mustard	31	—	—	—
Mustard Sauce	1	—	—	—
Nescafe	1	—	—	—
Non Brewed Condiment	1	—	—	—
Noodles	1	—	—	—
Nutmeg	2	—	—	—
Oats	3	—	—	—
Olive Oil	5	—	—	—
Oxo	2	—	—	—
Parsley	2	—	—	—
Pastry Mixture	1	—	—	—
Peel	1	—	—	—
Pepper	10	—	1	—
Pie Crust Mixture	1	—	—	—
Pickling Spice	2	—	—	—
Pork Sausage	1	1	1	1
Pudding (Steam)	1	—	—	—
Pudding (Mixture)	2	—	—	—
Raising Powder	3	—	—	—
Sage	1	—	—	—
Salad Cream	4	1	—	—
Sauce	55	—	—	—
Sausages	3	—	—	—
Scone Mixture	1	—	—	—
Semolina	5	—	—	—
Soup	3	—	—	—
Spice (Mixed)	6	—	1	—
Sponge Mixture	5	—	—	—
Stuffing	5	—	—	—
Suet	12	—	—	—
Sugar	21	—	—	—
Sweets	—	—	1	—
Tapioca	2	—	—	—
Tea	10	—	—	—
Teaseed Oil	1	—	—	—
Vermicelli	1	—	—	—
Vesop	3	—	—	—
Vinegar (Malt)	57	—	—	—
Vita-Cup	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	902	11	208	6

Details are given below regarding the adulterated formal samples and the action taken by the Council in respect thereof:—

Description.	Nature and Extent of Adulteration.	Action taken.
118 W. Milk	4.7% Deficient in fat ..	Fined 20/- and £2 2s. Od. costs.
144 W. Baking Powder ..	25% Deficient in available Carbon Di-Oxide.	Vendor informed. Old stock withdrawn from sale.
145 W. Salad cream. ..	16% Deficient in Edible Oil.	Vendor informed. Covered by Danish Warranty.
205 W. Jelly Crystals ..	Contained only 81% sugar instead of 84 per cent.	Producer informed.
220 W. Butter	0.3% Excess water ..	Vendor informed of the slight excess water.
96 G. Jelly Crystals ..	78.7% Sugar 5.3% below prescribed amount (84%)	Producer informed.
33 N. Butter	0.3% Excess water.	Vendor informed of the slight excess water.
55 N. Butter	0.2% Excess water ..	do. do.
116 N. Butter	0.3% Excess water ..	do. do.
177 N. Pork Sausage ..	42% Deficient in Meat ..	Summons withdrawn on advice of Council's Solicitor. Defendant's Solicitor stated copy of Public Analyst's certificate not served with summons. Proof of service not available.
279 N. Milk	1.18% added water ..	Hospital Milk. Further samples taken and reported satisfactory.

The average composition of all formal milk samples taken was 3.5 per cent. milk fat and 8.99 per cent. solids not fat.

Milk should contain not less than 3 per cent. milk fat and 8.5 per cent. solids not fat.

Food Complaints.—I have previously commented on the increasing number of complaints being received of food which has become contaminated by the presence of foreign bodies, and the following statement gives details of the offences in this respect which were dealt with during the past year:—

- (1) Maggot in tomato soup.
- (2) Nail in cake.
- (3) Beetle in pie.
- (4) Piece of wood in chocolate.
- (5) Bee in jam.
- (6) Tack in cake.
- (7) Beetle in cream bun.

- (8) Weevil in bread.
- (9) Cigarette end in bread.
- (10) Fly in biscuit.
- (11) Foreign matter in bread.
- (12) Beetle in bread.
- (13) Piece of metal in butter.
- (14) Foreign matter in bottle of milk.
- (15) Weevil in bread.
- (16) Meal-worm in roll.
- (17) Needle in loaf.
- (18) Piece of metal in biscuit.

FOOD POISONING

The danger to the public health arising from contamination of food has long been recognised and, as far back as 1902, a London County Council General Powers Act contained provisions for protecting ice-cream from contamination, whilst a similar Act in 1908 regulated the sanitary condition of premises where food was prepared or stored.

In 1932 another London County Council General Powers Act required medical practitioners to notify cases of food poisoning coming to their knowledge, and also required the registration of ice-cream premises and certain specified food premises. Local authorities were empowered to refuse registration in cases where premises were unsuitable, although the applicants were given the right to appeal to the Court against the refusal to register. These and other enactments relating to the preparation and handling of food were consolidated in the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

How great is the need for all persons engaged in preparing or handling food to take stringent precautions against contaminating the food may be illustrated by the following report on an outbreak of food poisoning which occurred during 1936.

On the 24th July, 1936, I received a notification of a case of food poisoning from a general practitioner in the borough, and it was found that four of the five members of the household had been affected with diarrhoea and abdominal pain. The four sufferers had eaten brawn purchased from a local firm of provision dealers on the 18th July, but the fifth person in the house, who had escaped indisposition, had not eaten any of the meat. Three days later I received information from medical practitioners of a further twelve persons, members of four households, who were suffering from food poisoning and had also eaten brawn purchased from the same shop.

It was not possible to obtain specimens of the actual brawn supplied to the patients as it had all been consumed, but samples of the brawn then on sale in the shop and of each of the various

ingredients used were secured and submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination. The five persons engaged in the business were given a medical examination and specimens of the blood and faeces of five of the patients, the staff of the shop and a relative of one of the employees who was stated to have had an illness of the same nature were secured and despatched to the Council's Bacteriologist for examination. A suspicious circumstance was the fact that the man responsible for making the brawn had injured his hand with a meat hook on the 15th July and, although he had his hand bandaged and had treated the wound with hydrogen peroxide, apparently at the time the patients were infected the wound was open. The wound was healed on the 27th July when there was a considerable scar about one inch in diameter. The firm at this time discontinued the making of brawn.

On the 28th July further cases were reported to me, and upon making enquiries it was ascertained that seven cases had been reported to the Medical Officer of Health for Tottenham, but no cases had occurred in any other district. The brawn had been purchased on five different days and these five days' sales were from two different makings. From the average number of sales per day it was estimated that over four thousand customers bought brawn from these two batches during the five days, and it is possible that three times that number of persons ate some of it. As only twenty-five cases of food poisoning were reported, it appeared evident that the whole of the brawn could not have been infected and that infection of the meat had occurred subsequent to its preparation, and further enquiries were based on this assumption.

The Council's Bacteriologist reported that organisms identifiable as *Salmonella* Newport had been cultured from the faeces of two of the patients. Appropriate measures were taken as regards these persons.

Thirty-two cases of food poisoning were notified during 1937, and amongst the foods suspected as being the cause were fish, meat, rhubarb, peas, ice-cream, bread, eggs, pork-pies and shellfish. Only in five instances was the suspicion of food poisoning proved beyond reasonable doubt and these cases occurred in one family. There were three foods suspected as the cause of the poisoning—roast beef, fried fish and tinned salmon; but careful investigation of all the circumstances suggested that the beef was the contaminated food.

Upon examination of the remainder of the meat, an organism of the food poisoning group, *B. Aertrycke*, was isolated, and the same organism was isolated from the stools of each of the persons affected. These findings left no doubt as to the cause of the illness, but it was not possible to decide how the meat became infected. The five patients made a satisfactory recovery within three weeks.

One outbreak of food poisoning reported in 1938 affected ten persons, members of two related families residing in two houses in the same road. The houses were visited immediately upon receipt of the notification, information was obtained from some of the patients awaiting removal to hospital, and samples of available foods were taken and submitted to chemical and bacteriological examination. By tabulating the various foods consumed by the patients, times of eating, methods of preparation, onset of symptoms and other relevant information, it was reasonable to assume that the illness of the patients could be attributed to some chicken soup which was the only food taken in common by those affected, and support for this assumption was given by the fact that the soup was the only one of the suspected foods taken by one of these persons, an elderly woman, who was very badly affected.

The hospital authorities examined the stools of the patients, and *B. Aertrycke* was isolated in each case, with the exception of one patient. It appeared that the food was infected after cooking, as the organisms could not have survived the boiling to which the fowl had been subjected. The most likely modes of infection of food in dwelling-houses by this organism, *e.g.*, through the agency of mice, rats, etc., were investigated, but without finding evidence thereof, and the possibility of such infection in two different premises at the same time was remote.

As is so frequently found in these investigations, it was not possible to determine with certainty how the chicken broth became infected, but from all the circumstances it seemed probable that the organism was conveyed to the respective houses in the first place by means of the fowl, and that infection or re-infection of the soup occurred through the medium of the hands of those preparing the soup or of the utensils used.

Despite the fact that food poisoning is notifiable, not all cases are reported to the Public Health Department, for in many instances the symptoms are of a mild and transient nature, the persons affected being normal again within a few days so that unless the illness is a serious one or, in the case of a wage-earner necessitates staying away from work, medical advice is not sought. Similarly, unless a number of persons are affected from one particular source, such as a school or works canteen, the outbreak often does not come to the knowledge of the department.

Whilst the Public Health Department has ample powers to deal with food apparently unfit for human consumption and, obviously, food repugnant to smell or taste would not be eaten, great difficulty is experienced in preventing food which, although otherwise wholesome, has become bacterially infected from reaching the public.

In recent years the risk of bacterial food infection has been considerably increased by the growth in the number of people eating less in their homes and more in catering establishments of various descriptions, with the result that unhygienic or unsatisfactory methods of food preparation affect a far greater number of persons than would be the case in home cooking. During the war years, owing to restrictions of materials and labour and their high cost, lower standards had to be accepted in respect of the conditions under which foodstuffs were prepared, although every effort was made to maintain a standard, but the restrictions in food supplies during the war and since have resulted in a great increase in catering establishments, many of which are conducted in cramped and unsuitable premises in which the maintenance of a high standard of cleanliness is difficult if not impossible. Moreover, as communal feeding to a great extent takes place during rush hours, the efficient cleansing of utensils is usually subordinated to rapidity of service.

The work of the department is made more difficult by the fact that only in the case of premises used for the sale, manufacture or storage of ice-cream, and the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food is registration by the local authority required, so that anyone can open a catering establishment so long as the necessary permit for rationed foods is forthcoming from the Ministry of Food. It then becomes the responsibility of the department to secure any necessary improvements, but their efforts in this direction are hampered by the fact that they have no power to close the premises and can only prosecute for contravention of the sanitary and other provisions of the Food and Drugs Act relating to rooms where food is prepared, etc., for sale.

Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act contains, among other provisions, two which require (a) all persons employed in any room in which food is sold or offered, exposed or deposited for sale to observe cleanliness in regard to themselves and their clothing and in regard to the room and all articles, apparatus and utensils therein, and (b) the provision of suitable and sufficient washing facilities for the use of such persons.

Superficially, the provisions of this Section would appear to give local authorities sufficient powers to remove any risk of food becoming contaminated during its preparation, and it is not until they are considered from the legal aspect, that is to say, from the point of view of the powers of the Magistrates' Court to order the Council to register premises in cases where they have refused registration, that the difficulties of administration become evident. Experience in the Police Courts suggests that, legally, cleanliness

is deemed to be observed unless there is visible dirt, and although the meaning one would like to apply to these provisions from the public health point of view is that there should be no difficulty in keeping clean, the legal construction placed upon these words is apparently "is it possible to keep clean."

I have devoted considerable space in my last two Annual Reports to this problem of food contamination, and it is not necessary for me to again refer in detail to all the difficulties which have been encountered. Apart from bacterial infection the last few years have shown considerable increase in complaints of contamination of food by the presence of foreign bodies, a state of affairs which must be due mainly to carelessness in preparation and manufacture. There have been instances of pieces of a plastic scraper being found in a doughnut, and rivets, beetles, glass, nails, etc., in bread and cakes. Details of such complaints received during 1950 are given in the section of the Report dealing with the supervision of food.

As the danger of food poisoning lies to a considerable extent in the consumption of food which has become bacterially infected but shown no signs of its unfitness, the prevention of food contamination plays an increasingly prominent part in the work of the Public Health Department.

The Council's concern at the unsatisfactory conditions prevailing in many of the food premises in the borough was expressed in their action in 1949 when, after consideration of a report on the subject which I had submitted to them, they decided to increase the number of district sanitary inspectors and reduce the sizes of the sanitary districts in order to permit the district inspectors to give greater assistance in the supervision of food premises.

The success attending the efforts of the Public Health Department to secure the preparation and service of food under hygienic conditions will depend largely upon strict cleanliness, both personal and with regard to utensils, being observed by all persons engaged in the manipulation and preparation of food and by the public demanding the necessary improvements.

It would seem that the public are becoming a little more conscious of the need for food hygiene than they have been in the past, and it is certain that they would be more so were it not for the fact that as regards the majority of catering establishments the rooms in which food is prepared and the utensils washed, and where much of the contamination takes place are hidden from the public eye. Nevertheless, the public can co-operate with the department by refusing to eat in or shop at dirty food premises or to eat food served on or with dirty utensils.

Mr. Haynes, with the assistance of Mr. Alexander and other officers of the Council, has prepared a number of specimens and other material suitable for the purpose of arousing public interest on the subject of a safe and clean food supply and for the education of the public generally on this important matter. These include:—

Articles of foodstuffs containing foreign matter such as cigarette ends, nails, razor blades, cockroaches, weevils, moths, grubs, glass and excreta of mice:

Specimens of diseased meat showing tuberculosis, tenuicollis and echinococcus cysts, malignant growths, coccidiosis, actinomycosis and liver flukes:

Specimens showing life histories of the house fly, blow fly, gnat, mosquito and cockroach:

Magnified illustrations of bacteria and micro-organisms associated with food poisoning, etc. (B. Coli: B. Typhosus: B. Dysenteriae: B. Botulinus: B. Proteus: Streptococcus Faecalis: Staphylococcus Pyogenes Aureus), together with organisms causing pneumonia, influenza, whooping cough, diphtheria, tuberculosis, anthrax, tetanus, cholera, malaria, leprosy and infective jaundice:

Framed descriptive panels and photographs which illustrate the various bacteria and organisms:

Specially designed and constructed portable exhibit stand, fitted with fluorescent lighting—for displaying illustrations:

Film strip, "The Hygiene of Food Handling", and a 16 mm. copy of the sound film, "Another Case of Poisoning":

Set of poster panels dealing with food poisoning.

Food Poisoning Notifications, 1950.—There was no outbreak of food poisoning during the year, but 11 single cases were notified. The agent was identified in 4 of these cases.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The control of infectious disease is among the most important functions of the Public Health Department since it is the speed and effectiveness with which methods of control are applied that determine whether any particular disease will assume epidemic proportions or be confined to a relatively small area.

The effective control of contacts is particularly necessary in these days of air transport when it is easily possible for serious

infectious disease of Eastern type to be introduced by means of aircraft into this country. For instance, a person who might have contracted overseas a disease such as cholera, which has a short incubation period, could be in this country several days before displaying any symptoms, whereas previously the symptoms would have developed during the longer sea journey. This question of the transmission of infectious disease by aircraft was dealt with in 1933 by the International Sanitary Convention for Aerial Infection and in 1938 the Public Health (Aircraft) Regulations were issued with a view to preventing the introduction into this country by aircraft of smallpox, yellow fever, typhus, plague, cholera, etc. These Regulations were re-issued in an amended form in 1948 and again in 1950.

There is now close liaison between the various authorities to ensure that persons coming from infected areas, particularly those infected with asiatic smallpox, cholera, typhus and dysentery, are kept under surveillance until all risk is past. The control of smallpox in particular, at times places heavy responsibilities upon the Public Health Department, for investigations have to be made as to the source of infection, movements of patient, place of work, and contacts, whilst notifications have to be sent to medical officers of boroughs in which contacts reside. There is also increased disinfection, daily visits are necessary to contacts during the incubation period and vaccination has to be arranged. Thus it will be seen that when smallpox reaches epidemic proportions the work of the Department becomes particularly onerous.

Generally the position with regard to infectious disease has undergone great improvement in this country. This has been due to several causes, among which are improved sanitation and water supplies, which have eliminated the former widespread epidemics of cholera, typhoid fever and dysentery, the artificial immunity produced by vaccination, which has played a great part in practically extinguishing smallpox, and immunisation, which has considerably reduced the number of cases of diphtheria. The isolation of sufferers, prompt control of contacts and carrying out of disinfection have also been the means of limiting the spread of those diseases to which we are still subjected.

There has also been a great advance in medical science resulting in improved methods of treatment, thus saving many lives which in former times would have been lost and considerably reducing the invalidism which in the past was often left behind after the patient had recovered from the disease itself; this being particularly the case with measles, which often left the patient with impaired vision or other crippling weakness, and poliomyelitis, which so frequently resulted in permanent paralysis.

Some of the hitherto dreaded diseases have, as previously mentioned, been practically extinguished, whilst other diseases which remain have assumed a milder form than they had formerly. In reviewing the progress made over the past 30 years it is not possible to give accurate comparisons relating to the various diseases in all cases as in some instances diseases now notifiable were not notifiable when I took over office, whilst other diseases have been made notifiable only intermittently as a result of conditions justifying such action, so that in respect of some diseases the deaths provide the only means of comparison.

On several occasions it has been necessary to make investigations in connection with notified cases of Anthrax which had occurred elsewhere and which were thought to have resulted from materials manufactured in Hackney. It was as the result of some cases occurring in Great Britain that the Anthrax Prevention (Shaving Brushes) Order, 1920 was issued.

A method for the disinfection of horsehair and bristles was recommended in Circular 252 of the Ministry of Health of 19th October, 1921, and local authorities were asked to carry out disinfection according to these methods. Between the years 1920 and 1950 there occurred in the borough only one case of anthrax. This case, which was notified in 1921, was due to infection incurred in Bermondsey by a man engaged in transferring East Indian hides from water to the lime pits. The care taken in the examination of materials from overseas at the ports of entry, as well as the regulations for disposing of infected animals, has made this condition (sometimes called Malignant Pustule or Wool Sorters' Disease in man) very infrequent.

Four cases of Leprosy have occurred in the borough during my term of office, the last occurring this year. All of them were, of course, imported from abroad since this disease, formerly common enough in the British Isles, is now always imported from abroad when it occurs here. The Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, in his 1949 report states that the leprosy problem in this country is a small one but, nevertheless, one of some importance. Although each year sees two or three cases brought to light there is no evidence that any spread of the disease has occurred in this country from persons infected abroad. Of the four cases of leprosy in Hackney the first two cases were husband and wife, the third case occurred in 1935 and the fourth case in 1950. The only other case of which I have personal knowledge occurred in Greenwich before I came to Hackney, and I remember that the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Annis, recommended notification of the disease which, however, was for many reasons considered undesirable by the Ministry of Health.

In the years 1940 to 1941 there was an increase in the number of cases of Cerebro-Spinal Fever, 69 such cases being notified and resulting in 19 deaths. This disease exhibits high incidence at irregular intervals and a few cases were notified annually during each of the 30 years I have been Medical Officer of Health. The numbers notified in other years have varied between one and fifteen cases with an annual average of five cases.

In 1935 a sewerman employed by the Council died from Leptospiiral Jaundice (or Weil's Disease), a form of jaundice which is spread through the urine of sewer rats. This disease is not notifiable but cases come to the knowledge of the Public Health Department through either hospitals or the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, who has been asked to inform the Department when any sewer worker is absent from work because of jaundice or suspected jaundice.

As a result of this death the following instructions were included in the booklet issued to the Council's employees working in sewers:—

“Precautions against risk of Leptospiiral Jaundice.

- (a) After leaving a sewer, the hands and forearms should always be thoroughly washed with soap and warm water. This should also be done before taking any food or drink.
- (b) Particular care should be taken to wash thoroughly any cut, scratch or abrasion of the skin as soon as possible, whether the injury was sustained on the work or not. An antiseptic should be then applied to the affected part with a clean piece of cloth or cotton wool and the wound protected with a strip or gauze completely covered with adhesive plaster. The wound should be kept covered until it is quite healed.
- (c) A suitable antiseptic, gauze and adhesive plaster are supplied for use.
- (d) *Avoid rubbing nose or mouth with the hands during work.*
- (e) *This book must be carried when on duty, and whenever you go to your doctor or to a hospital on account of illness, show it, and make sure that those attending you know your occupation.”*

A further case came to the knowledge of the Department in 1936 but concerned a man employed by a firm of building contractors and in 1937 another death occurred, this patient also having been employed by a private building contractor.

In 1937, in order to ensure that any sewerman contracting this disease could receive immediate treatment, I addressed a letter to all medical practitioners in the borough asking them to bear in mind the possibility of this disease when treating

sewermen and emphasising the desirability of advantage being taken of the arrangements made by the Council for the diagnostic examination of blood and urine for which the Council were prepared to pay.

The Department has been informed of four further cases since that year, two in 1938 and two in 1950. All the patients, who recovered, had been employed by the Borough Council as sewermen.

The year 1921 saw the incidence of Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria rise to what subsequently proved to be the highest for the next 30 years. In that year 1,863 cases of scarlet fever were notified, from which 6 deaths resulted, whilst the diphtheria cases numbered 872, with 46 deaths.

During 1922 considerable anxiety as to the possibility of an outbreak of Smallpox in Hackney was experienced. Fortunately, no cases were notified but it was necessary to keep under observation 36 contacts of cases notified in other boroughs, and, as usually occurs during periods of anxiety due to smallpox, a considerable number of illnesses were suspected of being smallpox, the majority of them being severe cases of chicken pox.

The first notification of smallpox to be received while I was Medical Officer of the Borough came in 1923, when a case occurred among a family living in one of the Council's converted army huts. The infection as far as could be ascertained was incurred at a laundry where the patient had been engaged in washing bed clothing from a hotel in Central London where a case of smallpox, unrecognised at the time, was known to have paid a visit and to have infected a servant employed at that hotel. The laundry was visited, notices regarding smallpox posted, a list of the employees and their condition as regards vaccination compiled and the manager requested to give information as to any employee absent through illness. All necessary disinfection was carried out and the Ministry of Health and postal authorities were notified of the case and the medical officers of health of the boroughs concerned were notified of the contacts. All the contacts escaped infection.

In the following year, 1924, there was a great increase in the number of cases of Encephalitis Lethargica, 34 such cases being notified, from which there were 11 deaths. This obscure disease which occurred in epidemic form in the Spring of 1918, and was believed to be associated with the world-wide influenza epidemic of that year, was prevalent in many parts of the world between the years 1920 and 1926 but is now fortunately less so. The disease, which invariably proves fatal, although death sometimes occurs some years after the original infection, was made notifiable under the Public Health (Acute Encephalitis Lethargica and Acute Polio-Encephalitis) Regulations, 1918.

Smallpox again visited the borough in 1927 when three cases were notified, the first being a boy aged four years and unvaccinated, who developed the disease whilst under treatment for whooping cough in a fever hospital. The origin of the infection was not discovered. The smallpox rash appeared on the 13th May and the patient died at the Long Reach Smallpox Hospital on the 23rd May. Owing to the prompt measures taken to limit the spread of the disease no further cases occurred at the former hospital.

The second case fell ill in Hackney on the 18th May, the rash appearing on the 20th. The patient, a man aged 33, was unvaccinated at the time of infection but had been vaccinated during the incubation period on the 10th May because he was a relative of and had been in contact with a case that occurred in the Borough of Poplar. This patient, who was promptly removed to the South Wharf that evening before the rash had made its appearance, had a discreet attack of smallpox and subsequently recovered.

The third case was a tramp sent into hospital on the 14th June, 1927. He had been vaccinated in infancy and was suffering from the modified type of smallpox which had been prevalent in the Midlands. He had called at various casual wards on his journey down from Barnsley, which he left on the 11th May, 1927, to Hackney, where he was admitted on the 13th June, 1927, at 9.45 p.m. On the morning of 14th June, when I saw the case with Dr. Sturdee, of the Ministry of Health, the rash had probably been out for several days. The Medical Officers of the districts concerned, 14 in all, were informed on the same day. Endeavours were made successfully to trace the casuals who had been discharged before I saw the case, and 11 of them were brought back to Gainsborough Road. One casual, who had jumped the wall in the night and a casual who had enlisted in the Army, were also traced. Vaccination of staff and casuals was carried out in the usual way, with the exception of two casuals who refused to be vaccinated. The casuals were induced to remain at Gainsborough Road by various privileges being granted them by the Metropolitan Asylums Board authorities, and by a small payment. The total number of contacts in the borough, including staff at Gainsborough Road, was 92.

On the 21st June, 1927, 49 casuals who had been successfully vaccinated, were discharged after a bath and the disinfection of their clothing. Four others, two unvaccinated and two vaccinated, possibly too late for protection, were removed to South Wharf on the same day, and at the expiration of the incubation period were discharged and the normal cleansing and disinfection was carried out at Gainsborough Road, thus permitting the casual ward to be opened for the usual purposes from 21st June, 1927.

I have quoted in some detail the action taken in connection with the third case as it serves to illustrate the measures necessary by the Public Health Department when this dangerous disease appears. The Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health in his Annual Report for 1927, referred to all three cases and stated "credit is due to the Medical Officer of Health of Hackney for the able manner in which he dealt with these cases."

In 1928 one further case of smallpox was notified but numerous contacts from other parts of London had to be kept under observation. At this time there was a considerable number of smallpox cases in S.E. London and concern was felt regarding the possibility of the disease spreading to this district.

On the 6th January, 1928, the Council took a step which was to have far-reaching effects on the incidence of Diphtheria when they opened an Immunisation Clinic at 28, Lower Clapton Road. There was great opposition to this clinic on the part of a local Anti-Vivisection Society who were supported by another such Society and pamphlets were distributed from a so-called Animal Defenders Van which was stationed outside the clinic and outside the Town Hall. Pamphlets were also sent to members of the Council. This opposition continued while the local Society existed and in my Annual Report for 1936 I commented at some length on the character of this propaganda which was directed, ostensibly on behalf of the welfare of animals, against all medical research and the results of medical research which had involved the use of animals. For instance, both diphtheria anti-toxin, which, since its discovery, had revolutionised treatment against diphtheria and lowered the death rate to an incredible degree, and the toxoid anti-toxin used for immunisation against this disease were described as deadly and dangerous products, whilst at a later stage even insulin, used for diabetes, came under the ban on account of the use of animals in its discovery and production.

The results of immunisation have been extremely satisfactory and have played an enormous part in reducing the number of cases of this disease occurring in the borough. Previously, apart from the issue to doctors of diphtheria anti-toxin which proved very successful when used for prophylactic purposes, and the bacteriological examination of swabs taken from the throats of persons suspected to be suffering from diphtheria, the action taken by the Department had been limited to investigating the source of infection, securing the removal of patients to hospital and carrying out necessary disinfection.

In 1929 the anxiety felt in 1928 was justified, for 58 cases of Smallpox were notified in Hackney although, fortunately, there

were no deaths. This type of the disease, however, was of the very mild variety sometimes called Alastrim to differentiate it from the severe or Asiatic type.

1930 saw an increase in the number of cases of this type of smallpox, the number notified being no fewer than 493, one of which was fatal. Happily, the disease this year also was of the mild type and not in any way comparable with the Asiatic type of the disease which had been experienced in 1901, when of 396 persons notified as suffering from smallpox, 71 died. Nevertheless, the work falling upon the Department was enormous, for in addition to the 493 cases referred to, 8,361 contacts had to be kept under supervision. It is a peculiar fact, but experience has shown that the virulent type of smallpox is much more easily extinguished in this country than the milder type, since because of the publicity given to the deaths resulting from the former type the public becomes alarmed and co-operates more readily with the local authority in all measures of control. This was borne out during the recent outbreak of smallpox in Brighton when the public queued up to be vaccinated, whereas with the milder type it is often necessary to use considerable persuasion before vaccination is accepted.

In this year, as a means of identifying smallpox in the early stages of the disease, the Council made Chicken Pox notifiable and 648 cases of this latter disease were notified.

An epidemic of Measles which developed in London towards the end of 1929 but did not reach Hackney until February, 1930 placed considerable strain upon the infectious hospital accommodation which was already much in demand because of the smallpox epidemic, and in January, 1930, the Metropolitan Asylums Board, at that time the authority controlling infectious hospitals, found it necessary to reintroduce a scheme formulated in 1926 under which applications for the admission of cases of measles and scarlet fever were referred to the local medical officer of health for investigation of the facilities for isolation and treatment in the homes of the patients.

This selection of cases for removal to hospital continued until April, 1930, and proved so satisfactory an arrangement that in my Annual Report for that year I was able to state " I am pleased to report that the delay in securing the admission of cases of measles and scarlet fever was in no case of longer duration than a day or two. On the other hand the prompt removal of cases from overcrowded homes and of cases in urgent need of hospital treatment was ensured."

Although measles was not notifiable in Hackney, no fewer than 2,461 cases came to the notice of the Public Health Depart-

ment from various sources in that year, and the investigation of the home conditions of all these cases in addition to smallpox cases and contacts and other infectious disease enquiries, placed so great a burden upon the department that it was found necessary to engage a special visiting nurse.

The following year saw the number of notified cases of smallpox drop to 34, which was followed by 13 in 1933 and one, the last case, in 1934, and it is pleasing to record that no further death occurred.

In 1931 there was a considerable increase in the number of cases of Pneumonia, which had been notifiable since the influenza outbreak in 1918. Previously the number of notified cases had averaged 66 a year, the highest numbers being in 1920 when there were 97 cases and 1929 when there were 109 cases, but in this year the number of cases jumped to 187 and the next nine years was to see an annual average of 166 cases, after which the numbers began to drop off.

Among the four cases of Para-Typhoid Fever notified in 1937 was a girl of 15, one of a number of refugee children to arrive in this country from Bilbao, Spain. The children were first put in a camp at Eastleigh, Hants., and later 400 of them were transferred to the Salvation Army, Congress Hall, Clapton. On the day they arrived in Hackney the accommodation provided for them was inspected and the girl who later developed para-typhoid fever was reported to be indisposed with "a slight stomach disorder". Her condition was later diagnosed as typhoid or para-typhoid and the samples of blood sent for examination confirmed the diagnosis as para-typhoid. The girl was removed to hospital and disinfection carried out that day. Thereafter a daily inspection of the premises was made and all other cases of illness occurring from time to time among the children were investigated, bacteriological examination being carried out where necessary.

At the time of the children's arrival no arrangements for their regular medical inspection or for adequate isolation and care of any child suspected of any infectious disease had been made but, later, isolation accommodation was arranged, medical and nursing staff were provided by the Army authorities and other necessary measures to prevent the spread of infection were carried out. It is pleasing to report that no further case of infectious disease occurred among the children although they arrived in Hackney on the 26th May, and the last of them did not leave the Borough until the end of August.

The year 1938 saw the County of London (Measles and Whooping Cough) Regulations, 1938, issued, under which Measles

and Whooping Cough became notifiable from the 1st October. The number of cases of measles reported to the Department from various sources during the year numbered 2,415, of which 387 were removed to hospital and 6 proved fatal. Visits were paid by the Health Visitors to the homes of measles cases with a view to ensuring that the children were receiving proper care and attention, and nurses from the Hackney District Nursing Association, under an arrangement with the Borough Council, paid 1,622 visits to 140 cases.

With the outbreak of war in the following year many of the children in the Borough were evacuated, and during the next few years this evacuation was reflected in the reduction in the notifications of infectious diseases common among children.

The end of the war in 1945 brought about an increase in the work of the Department which continued until 1948 and was due to the necessity for keeping under observation contacts, mainly returning Service personnel and displaced persons from typhus-infected areas overseas.

It is interesting to note that in 1947 the first case of Typhus in Hackney since 1906 was notified and that one of the Council's cyanide chambers was used for the disinfestation of 13 ambulances which carried typhus cases or suspected cases to the London County Council Fever Hospital selected for this purpose.

This year also saw an increase in the number of cases of Poliomyelitis, when 39 were notified and precautionary measures taken included spraying with a germicidal solution several times daily the offices in the Town Hall frequented by the general public, and the Central and branch libraries. Static water tanks containing water were sprayed with crude oil containing D.D.T. and dried out tanks containing refuse and bomb sites throughout the Borough were sprayed with D.D.T. The action taken was directed more towards any danger from flies, and the spraying of the Town Hall and libraries was adopted with a view to allaying the fears of the public that those buildings might be a source of infection rather than from any fear that they were in fact a source of infection. There had been previous cases of poliomyelitis notified in Hackney, varying from one to seven per year, with seven in 1935 being the highest number, but in 1947 the disease assumed minor epidemic proportions and was prevalent in all parts of the country.

Between 1947 and 1948 an outbreak of Cholera in Egypt necessitated a number of contacts reaching England from that country being kept under observation but fortunately none of the contacts under surveillance in Hackney developed the disease.

In 1948 four cases of Typhoid Fever were notified, two of them being particularly interesting as it was ascertained that the

source of infection was a known carrier who had contracted the disease in Poland in 1939. Before coming to Hackney this person had lived in West Ham and during her stay there a case of typhoid had occurred in the same house but in a different family:

In 1949 12 cases of Enteric Fever were notified, seven of them being in one house and another being a contact who had several times visited the house during the incubation period. All the patients recovered.

The following are comparisons between the notifications of some of the infectious diseases over the past 30 years:—

Enteric or Typhoid Fever.—The number of cases notified between the years 1920 and 1924 was 50, of which seven proved fatal, while between 1946 and 1950 there were 21, but no deaths occurred.

Erysipelas.—This is a notifiable disease and it is interesting to compare the 120 cases and 16 deaths in 1920 with the 35 cases and no deaths in 1950. For the first and last five-year periods the comparative figures are—1920 to 1924, 396 cases with 31 deaths, and 1946 to 1950, 184 cases with no deaths.

Diphtheria.—Both the incidence of this disease and the mortality have shown a remarkable decrease. In 1901 there were 961 cases with 95 deaths and in 1920 there were 764 cases with 70 deaths. The comparative figures for the first and last five-year periods of my term of office were—1920 to 1924, 3,442 cases with 201 deaths, and 1946 to 1950, 111 cases with 11 deaths.

Dysentery.—Eleven cases of this disease were notified between the years 1920 and 1924 and during the same period deaths also totalled eleven, but three of these deaths occurred in 1922 when only one case was notified and another three in 1924 when no cases were notified. In 1944 there were 82 cases with one death, whilst during the five years 1946 to 1950 there were 111 cases but no deaths.

Encephalitis Lethargica.—In 1920 there were ten cases which resulted in five deaths and between 1920 and 1924 there were 67 cases with 23 deaths. No cases were notified and no deaths were recorded during the five years 1946 to 1950.

Measles.—This disease assumes epidemic proportions at biennial periods and has shown no marked falling off during the past 30 years. Measles was not notifiable between 1920 and 1927, but the number of cases coming to the notice of the Department through

school teachers, health visitors, parents, etc. between 1920 and 1924 has been used for comparative purposes.

1920-1924—7,032 cases with 170 deaths.

1946-1950—6,822 cases with 4 deaths.

The reduction in the number of deaths has been due to the removal to hospital of many cases where complications were expected or home conditions unsatisfactory, to improved home nursing resulting from the advice given to parents by health visitors, and to the publicity given to the dangers arising from improper treatment of measles.

Poliomyelitis.—Between 1920 and 1924 seven cases were notified, with two deaths; the corresponding figures for 1946 to 1950 being 103 cases with four deaths.

Improved nursing and physiotherapy treatment has considerably reduced the number of patients left with permanent paralysis.

Pneumonia.—From 1920 to 1924 notifications totalled 276. For the years 1946 to 1950 the corresponding figure was 277.

The earlier Annual Reports did not show separate statistics for deaths from acute primary and acute influenzal pneumonia and so no comparisons can be made.

Scarlet Fever.—This disease has also shown a great decrease in the number of cases notified as compared with earlier years. In 1920 there were 1,077 cases with six deaths, whilst during the years 1920 to 1924 there were 4,599 cases with 42 deaths. The number of cases in 1950 was 274 and for the years 1946 to 1950 there were 1,362 cases; but no patient died during these years.

Smallpox.—Notifications during the past 30 years have been as follows:—

1920-1924—1 case with no death.

1927-1931—646 cases with 2 deaths.

1946-1950—No cases.

Whooping Cough.—Whooping cough was not notifiable before 1938 and so no comparative notification figures can be given, but during the years 1920 to 1924, 164 deaths were attributed to whooping cough, whereas between 1946 and 1950 the number of deaths was seven.

During the year under review 2,181 cases of notifiable infectious disease occurred as compared with 2,965 in the previous year and 3,186 in 1948.

The following table shows the incidence of the various diseases:—

Disease.	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	9	4	3	9	5
Acute Primary Pneumonia	48	63	36	43	59
Acute Poliomyelitis, paralytic	—	2	—	3	13
Acute Poliomyelitis, non-paralytic	—	39	6	35	10
Cerebro-spinal Fever ..	1	5	4	3	—
Diphtheria	19	28	40	16	8
Dysentery	40	12	26	9	24
Enteric Fever	2	2	4	12	1
Erysipelas	47	43	35	24	35
Food Poisoning	—	—	—	9	11
Malaria	7	1	—	1	—
Measles	1,474	511	1,736	2,009	1,091
Meningococcal infection	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	26	21	15	7	7
Puerperal Fever ..	10	6	4	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	49	32	23	28	24
Scabies	924	318	208	128	61
Scarlet Fever	249	313	259	267	274
Typhus Fever	—	1	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ..	543	550	787	362	558
Totals ..	3,448	1,951	3,186	2,965	2,181

The attack rates for the principal infectious diseases in England and Wales, London and Hackney were as follows:—

Disease.	England and Wales. 1950.	London. 1950.	Hackney.	
			1950.	*1920.
Diphtheria	0.02	0.03	0.05	3.38
Erysipelas	0.17	0.17	0.20	0.5
Food Poisoning	0.17	0.25	0.06	
Measles	8.39	6.57	6.34	
Acute Poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)—Paralytic	0.13	0.08	0.08	} Nil
Non-paralytic	0.05	0.05	0.06	
Meningococcal infection ..	0.03	0.03	Nil	
Pneumonia	0.70	0.50	0.37	
Scarlet Fever	1.50	1.23	1.59	4.7
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	Nil	} 0.06
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.01	0.01	
Whooping Cough	3.60	3.21	3.24	

* Comparative rates for the year 1920, as regards this borough, are given only in respect of certain infectious diseases which were notifiable at that time.

Table showing Notifications of Infectious Disease received in 1950, 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.										65 and upwards.		
		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.
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	5	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	1	1	2	1	1	1
Acute Primary Pneumonia	59	1	..	1	3	2	8	2	3	7	5	15	35	1
Acute Poliomyelitis, paralytic	13	..	..	2	1	1	5	..	2	2	..	..	13	2
Acute Poliomyelitis, non-paralytic	10	..	..	1	1	1	3	2	..	2	..	..	9	..
Diphtheria	8	..	1	..	..	1	4	1	1	..	..	..	7	1
Dysentery	24	..	3	7	2	1	4	..	..	3	1	2	15	..
Enteric Fever	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
Erysipelas	35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	5	20	15	..
Food Poisoning	11	..	1	1	..	..	2	..	1	2	1	3	3	..
Malaria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	1,091	34	117	119	164	136	514	3	1	3	..	..	51	..
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Puerperal Pyrexia	24	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	19	3	..	3	..
Scabies	61	..	..	1	2	3	7	4	10	20	7	6	..	..
Scarlet Fever	274	..	4	16	26	43	144	32	5	3	..	..	141	..
Whooping Cough	558	61	44	61	105	77	203	3	..	3	..	1	48	..
Totals	2,181	103	170	209	304	265	894	47	26	68	24	49	342	5

Cases of mistaken diagnosis are excluded from this Table.

Table showing Notifications of Infectious Disease received in 1950 in Electoral Wards.

Disease	Electoral Wards.																Totals
	Ridley	Downs	Town Hall	Graham	Dalston	Culford	Stamford	Springfield	Maury	Southwold	Leaside	Marsh	Wick	Chatham	Park	Tudor	
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	5
Acute Primary Pneumonia ..	3	7	6	1	..	2	2	10	1	10	5	5	3	1	2	1	59
Acute Poliomyelitis, paralytic ..	..	3	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	1	..	1	3	..	1	1	13
Acute Poliomyelitis, non-paralytic ..	..	1	..	2	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	..	1	..	10
Diphtheria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	4	1	..	8
Dysentery .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	2	5	1	1	..	1	7	1	3	1	1	24
Enteric Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Erysipelas	2	1	1	2	3	..	5	6	3	3	1	1	3	1	3	..	35
Food Poisoning .. .. .	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	2	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Malaria .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Measles	49	84	68	84	58	64	61	82	84	62	100	80	47	49	90	29	1091
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	..	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	7
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	..	1	3	2	..	..	2	2	2	5	2	1	2	2	..	..	24
Scabies	1	5	3	5	1	1	3	3	4	2	7	10	8	1	4	3	61
Scarlet Fever	7	27	13	6	3	13	26	27	16	19	29	26	14	14	27	7	274
Whooping Cough	27	53	28	32	10	22	34	56	32	34	42	64	41	21	44	18	558
Totals	89	184	123	134	78	108	142	190	146	142	188	198	125	97	177	60	2181

Cases of mistaken diagnosis are excluded from this Table.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Prior to compulsory notification of tuberculosis the only official information with regard to the disease was contained in the death returns of the Registrar. The notification of pulmonary tuberculosis, at first voluntary, was afterwards made compulsory by Poor Law Medical Officers in 1909 but tuberculosis was expressly excepted from the compulsory powers relating to infectious disease generally and no restrictions could be placed upon any tuberculous person regarding himself, his employment or his residence.

Apart from disinfection, which could not be enforced, nearly all steps to combat tuberculosis were taken by voluntary associations. The tuberculosis dispensary system in London was initiated by a voluntary association called "The Central Fund for the Promotion of the Dispensary System for the Prevention of Consumption in London," the medical adviser to this Central Fund being Sir Robert Philip, the first Professor of Tuberculosis of the University of Edinburgh. The Edinburgh system for the prevention of tuberculosis, with the dispensary as the centre of the activities, comprised sanatorium, hospital for advanced cases, farm colony, open-air school, handicrafts class and care committee work in the home. The Central Fund opened the first dispensary in London in Paddington in 1909, and by 1913 Central Fund dispensaries were working in nine boroughs.

Two sets of Regulations in 1911—the Public Health (Tuberculosis in Hospital) Regulations and the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations—brought into being the system of compulsory notification of all cases of tuberculosis and arising out of these Regulations the Public Health Committee resolved to supply sputum flasks to tuberculous patients needing them. Hospital accommodation at that time was 120 beds at Hackney Union Infirmary.

The first open-air school in London was the Kensal House Open-Air School in Paddington which accommodated 100 children and was transferred in 1917 to the London County Council, the Tuberculosis Officer of the dispensary remaining in medical charge with the help of a tuberculosis nurse attached to the dispensary. After working in several Central Fund tuberculosis dispensaries I became Tuberculosis Officer at the municipal tuberculosis dispensary which was established in 1913 at Greenwich. At that time the municipalities were taking over the Central Fund dispensaries or establishing dispensaries of their own. Attempts in Hackney by the Borough Council to establish schools for tuberculous children, and also nursery schools, were not successful, with the exception of Stormont House for tuberculous children which was controlled by the London County Council and visited by Dr. Howell,

the former Tuberculosis Officer at the London Chest Hospital Tuberculosis Dispensary for Bethnal Green and part of Hackney. Stormont House was destroyed by bombing during the 1939-1945 war.

The Hackney Council's tuberculosis dispensary in connection with the Metropolitan Hospital was opened on the 28th July, 1915 and that at the London Chest Hospital on the 20th September, 1915. The Tuberculosis Officer who was appointed at the Metropolitan Hospital Tuberculosis Dispensary when the Dispensary was opened contracted pulmonary tuberculosis and died of the disease. He was followed by Dr. Hamilton, who was followed by Dr. Rees, the present Tuberculosis Officer. Dr. Howell was Tuberculosis Officer from the establishment of the London Chest Hospital Tuberculosis Dispensary until 1947 and was followed by Dr. Caplin, the present Tuberculosis Officer.

A permanent Joint Tuberculosis Care Committee for the Boroughs of Hackney and Stoke Newington was appointed in 1919 to supersede the interim committee set up in 1915, and the provision of auxiliary treatment—food, clothing, care of the family as far as funds could be raised, and a handicraft class—was introduced later but all funds administered by the care committee had to be raised from voluntary sources. The Borough Council, however, was permitted to meet the cost of extra food generally, milk and eggs, beds, blankets, sputum mugs and, of course, disinfection and to provide portable shelters for placing in gardens as an adjunct to sanatorium treatment. Six shelters were obtained in 1920.

In 1921 functions of the Insurance Committee as regards the provision of treatment for insured persons were transferred to the London County Council, so that the London County Council became entirely responsible for the provision of sanatorium treatment which was granted free of cost to the patient in 1934 and subsequently; prior to 1934 the tuberculosis care committees assessed the contribution to be made by patients. The London County Council became partly responsible for the provision of dispensary treatment, although direct responsibility for providing dispensaries and appointing Tuberculosis Officers and Tuberculosis Health Visitors was laid upon the Borough Council. A scheme for extra nourishment came into force on the 6th June, 1921 and 59 cases received assistance during the first year at a cost of £135 3s. 5d.

In 1923 a happening in Hackney resulted in steps being taken to prevent the spread of tuberculosis by infected milk. This arose as follows:—

A milk roundsman collapsed in the street in Hackney and died from pulmonary tuberculosis. This was not a notified case and was, therefore, prior to the man's death, unknown to the Public

Health Department but even if the case had been notified, beyond asking the man to relinquish his work as a milk roundsman, no steps could have been taken to protect the public, and, although in those days milk was not delivered bottled after preliminary heat treatment or pasteurisation so that the danger was greater than at present, persuasion remained the only means of dealing with such cases.

Following consideration of my report on this occurrence the Council made representations to the Minister of Health urging the necessity for protecting the public from the risk of infection through their milk supply, and Regulations issued under the title of the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 contained powers to this effect.

In 1925 the London County Council instituted a scheme for providing facilities in co-operation with the Invalid Children's Aid Association for

1. The removal of children from heavily infected and overcrowded homes during terminal stage of a dying case of pulmonary tuberculosis in the family;
2. The boarding out of children who were being discharged from sanatorium treatment and whose homes were unsuitable and inimical to maintenance of health;
3. The boarding out of "weakly" children living under conditions likely to subject them to infection, and of children in suitable instances whose parents were under treatment for tuberculosis.

The Hackney Borough Council Act of 1926 gave powers to Hackney for the removal of tuberculous persons to hospital for a period of three months on a Magistrate's Order when these persons were unable to take care of themselves and were living under conditions which menaced the health of others. This power was subsequently incorporated in the Public Health (London) Act, 1936 and later in the National Assistance Act, 1948. The power was found very useful and 55 cases, of whom there were 153 contacts, were dealt with under the Act prior to the coming into force of the powers under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936.

The Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930, consolidating previous Regulations, were next issued and the Borough Council in this year made arrangements with Brompton Hospital, City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Heart and Lungs, and University College Hospital for Hackney persons to receive artificial

pneumothorax treatment, 'Finsen' Light treatment for lupus, and artificial sunlight treatment for this and other forms of tuberculosis were provided by arrangement with the London Hospital and the City of London Hospital for Diseases of the Heart and Lungs.

In 1935 the building progress made by the Council justified the Public Health Committee referring to the Housing Committee a memorandum on the question of housing accommodation for persons infected by tuberculosis, with a suggestion that special attention should be given to the position of the infectious tuberculous persons when large housing schemes were under consideration, whilst in 1937 arrangements for dental treatment for tuberculous patients were put into operation.

The year 1943 saw the introduction of the Government's Scheme for payment of maintenance allowances to tuberculous persons undergoing treatment under which allowances were payable to patients for the maintenance of themselves and their dependents whilst they were awaiting admission to residential institutions, whilst they were in hospital or sanatoria, and after discharge to their homes in cases where they were not sufficiently restored to health to be able to work. The amount of the allowance was assessed by an officer of the County Council, who attended at the two Tuberculosis Dispensaries for that purpose, and allowances were paid by the Borough Treasurer.

Mass Miniature Radiography provided by the Government for use in detecting unsuspected pulmonary tuberculosis was made available in Hackney in 1944 and the unit remained in operation for a period of three months. Letters were issued to factories in the borough and arrangements were made through the Public Health Department for 2,265 persons to attend for X-ray examination. In 141 cases the persons were invited to re-attend for X-ray films of the usual size to be taken, and as a result of this 29 probable cases of early pulmonary disease were discovered.

In 1946 Hackney and Stoke Newington Tuberculosis Care Committee transferred their work from the offices at 26, Lower Clapton Road to the Dispensary at the Metropolitan Hospital, to serve the part of Hackney and Stoke Newington covered by the Dispensary, and a new Care Committee was constituted to be accommodated within the London Chest Hospital Tuberculosis Dispensary, to serve the remainder of Hackney and the Borough of Bethnal Green. These arrangements operated very successfully and with considerable advantage to patients and their families who could see within the same premises both Tuberculosis Officer and Care Committee Secretary.

Care Committees deal with personal, domestic and economic problems, including enquiry into home conditions, provision of extra clothing, etc., recommendation for rehousing, help in finding employment, and give advice regarding statutory entitlements and assistance from charitable funds in exceptional circumstances. The Handicraft Class formerly held at Lower Clapton Road was substituted by a class at each of the two dispensaries, both of which were well attended.

On the 5th July, 1948, consequent upon the National Health Service Act, 1946 becoming operative, tuberculosis and the staff engaged therein passed from the Borough Council to the London County Council with the exception of the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis, which went to the Regional Hospital Boards. The Public Health Department, however, still deals with notifications, statistics and disinfection.

The progressive advance in medical science which has been reflected in the earlier diagnosis of tuberculosis, and improved methods of treatment, combined with the provision of sanatoria and hospital accommodation, after-care of patients, improvement in housing conditions and the supervision of contacts did much between 1920 and 1939 to reduce the annual number of notifications of tuberculosis. In 1920 the number of cases notified was 549 but in 1940 this figure had dropped to 223. Superficially this decrease appears to be less than one might expect in view of the great changes which have been introduced but it must be borne in mind that due to the dissemination of advice by tuberculosis staff and the health education which has been undertaken, there is now less reluctance on the part of contacts to submit themselves to examination. As a result many cases which would have been "missed" in 1920 are now diagnosed, most of them at such an early stage that treatment can be given with every hope that the patient will recover. This is borne out by comparing the 249 deaths in 1920 with the 92 deaths in 1949, whilst taken over five-year periods the comparative figures are 1920-1924, 1,261 deaths and 1945-1949, 492 deaths.

Unfortunately, with tuberculosis, as with other aspects of public health, circumstances arising during and after the war tended to set back the progress made in the pre-war years, and from 1941 the number of notifications received began to show a slight upward trend, which was maintained until 1949. It is to be hoped that the peak has now been reached and that with improving conditions we shall soon see the figure dropping back to and below the figure for 1940.

During the year under review 210 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 32 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified for the first time under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1930.

From the following table it will be seen that the number of cases of tuberculosis notified in Hackney declined fairly steadily from 1920 until 1941, when war-time circumstances commenced to affect the Borough's tuberculosis case rate:—

Year.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary	Total.
1920 ..	410	139	549
1921 ..	361	105	466
1922 ..	319	85	404
1923 ..	387	89	476
1924 ..	334	115	449
1925 ..	356	109	465
1926 ..	330	88	418
1927 ..	336	80	416
1928 ..	293	80	373
1929 ..	284	79	363
1930 ..	256	70	326
1931 ..	256	43	299
1932 ..	275	50	325
1933 ..	274	42	316
1934 ..	258	41	299
1935 ..	253	49	302
1936 ..	202	47	249
1937 ..	248	56	304
1938 ..	221	45	266
1939 ..	213	34	247
1940 ..	197	26	223
1941 ..	194	32	226
1942 ..	244	35	279
1943 ..	229	28	257
1944 ..	237	41	278
1945 ..	221	29	250
1946 ..	232	17	249
1947 ..	242	23	265
1948 ..	249	15	264
1949 ..	246	21	267
1950 ..	210	32	242

The attack-rate per 1,000 of the population for all forms of tuberculosis notified for the first time in 1950 was 1.41, compared with 1.54 in 1949, and 2.44 in the year 1920.

The following is a summary of the age and sex distribution of the cases notified and the deaths from this disease during the year:—

Age Periods.	New Cases. Tuberculosis.				Deaths. Tuberculosis.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Respiratory.		Other.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1 ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
1-2 ..	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
2-5 ..	6	4	2	2	—	—	—	—
5-10 ..	8	5	1	2	—	—	—	—
10-15 ..	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 ..	12	15	3	2	—	2	1	1
20-25 ..	21	18	2	4	1	1	—	—
25-35 ..	27	27	1	3	4	5	—	—
35-45 ..	17	7	2	2	3	1	—	—
45-55 ..	10	1	1	3	3	2	—	1
55-65 ..	12	5	1	—	18	4	—	—
65-75 ..	7	1	—	—	5	2	1	—
75 and upwards	—	1	—	—	3	—	1	1
Totals ..	123	87	13	19	38	17	4	4

The following table shows the age and sex distribution of 89 cases of tuberculosis which came to notice during the year otherwise than by notification under the Regulations:—

Age Period.				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
				M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1				1	1	—	—
1-2				—	—	—	—
2-5				2	—	—	—
5-10				1	1	1	1
10-15				1	—	1	—
15-20				1	1	1	2
20-25				5	5	—	—
25-35				15	13	—	—
35-45				4	5	—	1
45-55				4	5	—	—
55-65				7	4	—	—
65-75				2	1	—	—
75 and upwards ..				2	1	—	—
Totals				45	37	3	4

The sources from which information of these cases was obtained were as follows:—

Source of Information.	No. of Cases.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.
Death Returns—From local Registrars ..	11	—
—From Registrar-General ..	6	—
Posthumous Notifications	—	—
“Transfers” from other areas (other than transferable deaths)	65	7
Other Sources	—	—
Totals	82	7

The number of deaths from tuberculosis and the death rate in each of the past five years are given below:—

Year.	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.	Death-rate.
1946 ..	91	15	106	.63
1947 ..	93	10	103	.50
1948 ..	99	4	103	.59
1949 ..	87	5	92	.53
1950 ..	55	8	63	.37

The death rates for England and Wales, and London, were 0.36 and 0.39 respectively.

In the following table the deaths from tuberculous disease in the Borough since 1916 are shown grouped in periods of three years:—

Three-Year Periods.	Annual average number of deaths from Tuberculous Disease.	Percentage decrease on the period 1916-1918.
		Per cent.
1916-1918	363	—
1919-1921	261	28.1
1922-1924	249	21.4
1925-1927	209	42.4
1928-1930	208	42.7
1931-1933	185	49.0
1934-1936	154	57.6
1937-1939	127	65.0
1940-1942	123	66.1
1943-1945	106	70.8
1946-1948	104	71.3
1949	92	74.6
1950	63	82.6

The Regulations require the Medical Officer of Health to furnish the County Medical Officer of Health at the end of each quarter with a statement compiled from the register of notifications.

The following is a summary of the quarterly returns under the Regulations during the year:—

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
No. of cases on the Register of Notifications on 1st January	942	784	115	118
No. of cases notified for the first time during the year	124	86	13	19
No. of cases brought to notice otherwise than by notification	45	37	3	4
No. of cases transferred from "Non-Pulmonary" to "Pulmonary"	—	2	—	—
No. of cases reinstated to the Register ..	5	3	—	—
No. of cases removed from the Register during the year on account of having:—				
(a) recovered	10	4	3	2
(b) removed from the district	65	48	5	6
(c) died	51	22	3	2
(d) been inaccurately diagnosed ..	4	2	1	—
No. of cases remaining on the Register on 31st December, 1950	986	836	119	131

MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY.

A Mass Radiography Unit of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board commenced operations in May, 1950, from headquarters situated at the Finsbury Health Centre. The Unit was responsible for the City of London and the Metropolitan Boroughs of Finsbury, Hackney, Shoreditch, and Stoke Newington.

The staff of three firms in Hackney were examined during the year, and details of these examination are given hereunder:—

Firm.	Number of Persons Examined.			Referred for Large Films.	Referred for further observation
	Males.	Females.	Total.		
No. 1	99	186	285	11	—
No. 2	179	187	366	19	2
No. 3	385	158	543	33	3
Totals	663	531	1,194	63	5

Mass radiography enables large groups of people to have their chests X-rayed with a minimum of inconvenience. During 1949 a Unit was installed in this Borough for several months, when a general invitation was given to factory staffs and others in the borough to attend for examination.

It is hoped that similar facilities will be available periodically in future years.



DISINFESTATION BY CYANIDE GAS.

Manual disinfestation by cyanide gas first used in Hackney in 1934.

Method.—Loaded van sealed at joints, etc., with adhesive paper; back-boarded and sealed; container of cyanide gas punctured by hand, placed in van through aperture in driving cabin, when sealing completed. This was a dangerous operation; operators were required to wear protective masks and resuscitation outfit had to be kept at hand. On opening van surrounding area dangerous to approach without mask.

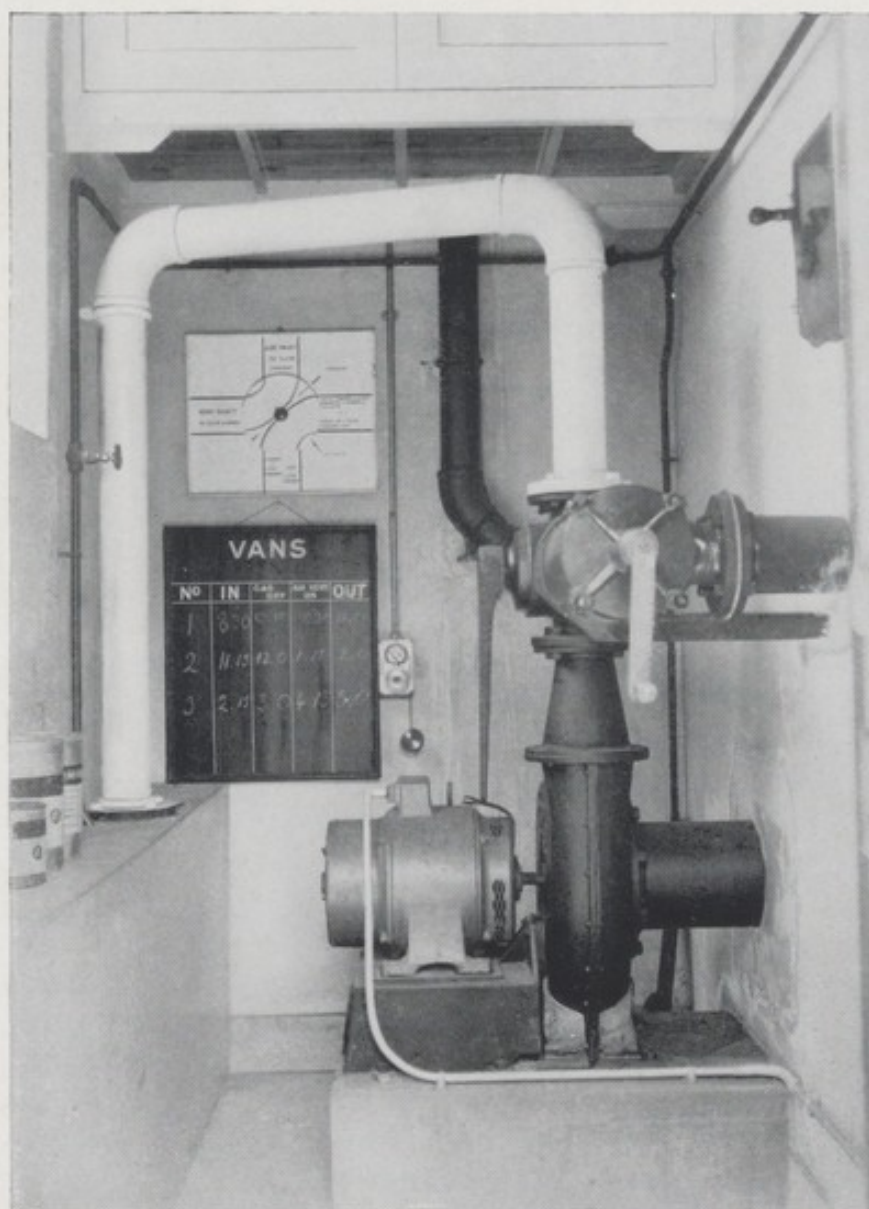


View of the three Cyanide Fumigation Chambers.

Mechanical disinfestation by cyanide gas adopted in Hackney in 1935, and extended in 1938.

Method.—On left of photograph is shown the specially designed and constructed brick-built chambers erected in 1935. These include one chamber 26 feet long, into which vans are driven. The smaller chamber (built-on) measuring 6 feet 8 inches long, is used for dealing with small quantities of goods. Chambers are locked and sealed, cyanide gas released by mechanical methods. Operators not required to wear masks.

On right of photograph is shown chamber of improved design and construction, including circulatory system for gassing and ventilation. Photograph of system shown.



Apparatus chamber in circulatory system of cyanide fumigation.

SCABIES AND VERMINOUS CONDITIONS.

Among the most striking changes which have been seen during the past 30 years have been the decrease in the verminous condition of dwellings and the great increase in the cleanliness of school children and the diminishing incidence of scabies.

Theoretically it was always possible to clear houses of bugs and for that reason evidence as to verminous condition was not admitted at clearance enquiries as being an argument for demolition, but in actual fact it was not possible to do so in slum areas owing to the condition of the premises, although every effort was made by the Council to reduce, or at least limit, the extent of infestation of houses in these areas.

So far as the decrease in the verminous conditions of dwellings is concerned, comparative figures for the years 1920 and 1950 suggest that the reverse is the case, for in the former year 577 rooms were cleansed, whereas the number in the latter year was 984; but the explanation for this apparently contradictory statement is that in 1920 the rooms found to be verminous were excessively so and usually the cleansing was the result of action taken by the sanitary inspector. By 1950, however, as a result of health education, tenants were making application to the Public Health Department for the treatment of their rooms immediately vermin was suspected and in these days it is rarely, if ever, that rooms are found in so verminous a state as were those in 1920, the few exceptions being where aged and infirm people are living alone and unable to devote proper care either to themselves or to their accommodation.

The extensive programme of slum clearance undertaken by the Council brought with it the problem of preventing the infestation of new premises to which inhabitants of the areas were transferred, and in 1934 the Council erected a cyanide chamber and arrangements were made for the furniture and effects of all families to be rehoused by the Borough Council to be treated in it, after which they were delivered direct to the new dwellings, thus eliminating the possibility of vermin being introduced into the new homes.

This arrangement proved so successful that when in 1938 the whole of the 1,390 dwellings in the possession of the Council were inspected, bug infestation of varying degrees was found in only eleven of these dwellings, in nine of which the families had been rehoused at a time before 1934 when there was no routine disinfestation of the furniture of families removing to Council dwellings. It is possible that in the two instances where infestation had occurred after cyanide treatment the vermin had been intro-

duced through the medium of old furniture or other articles which had not been subjected to treatment before being taken into the home.

Cyanide disinfestation of premises in this Borough is not practicable because of the danger to the inhabitants of adjoining houses, and in this connection the discovery of the insect killing properties of D.D.T. has been of the utmost importance, and spraying with preparations containing D.D.T. has now replaced the earlier method of treatment by sulphur dioxide.

The effectiveness of the treatment in the cyanide chamber led to the erection by the Council of two more such chambers in order to deal with the increasing amount of disinfestation necessary. It is interesting to note that the cyanide gas chamber erected in Hackney was the first to be constructed in Great Britain for the purpose of vermin destruction and that other municipalities have since followed suit, using copies of the Hackney plans and specification for the purpose. The cyanide chamber has been used not only for furniture but also for the destruction of food parasites; furniture mites, and moths; and for disinfestation of many kinds, including clothing for re-sale or export to other countries in connection with relief work.

The great increase in the cleanliness of school children is borne out by the fact that whereas in 1920 treatments to school children totalled 7,128, in 1950 the corresponding figure was 1,354, whilst scabies has similarly shown a remarkable reduction, the comparative figures for this condition being 6,521 in 1920 and 234 in 1950.

War-time conditions resulting in overcrowding, the congregation of people in shelters and difficulties in maintaining personal cleanliness led to a considerable and progressive increase in Scabies, there being 1,263 cases in 1939 and 2,924 in 1941; whilst for the years 1939 to 1941 the total was 6,805. In 1941 it became necessary for the Minister of Health to make an Order (Scabies Order, 1941) under Defence Regulation 33A, giving local authorities power to inspect premises in which persons found to be verminous were or had been accommodated, to require persons who were or had been accommodated therein to submit themselves for examination, and to secure the cleansing and treatment of such persons found on examination to be verminous and the cleansing, treatment, or destruction of verminous articles. In order to deal with the increasing number of persons requiring attention, bathing facilities provided at the Disinfecting Station were improved and extended.

The concern felt at the increase in verminous conditions resulted in scabies being made compulsorily notifiable in 1943,

when 3,761 cases were treated. The following years, however, saw a steady decrease and the Scabies Order, 1941 expired on the 31st December, 1947, although scabies continues to be notifiable.

The increase in personal cleanliness has been particularly satisfactory when one considers that there are still so many instances of two or more families occupying accommodation suitable for only one family and in many cases with no home bathing facilities.

The work done at the Council's Cleansing Station in 1950, is summarised in the following statement:—

	Scabies.		Head or body lice.		Impetigo	Hot baths.
	Cases.	Treatments	Cases.	Treatments		
Children under 5 years	9	26	51	51	—	6
Children over 5 years..	38	111	985	988	—	—
Adults	41	129	132	143	—	4
Totals ..	88	266	1,168	1,182	—	10

Preventive treatment was given to 63 persons who had been in close contact with persons suffering from Scabies.

Information was received of 4 Hackney children of school age who were treated for Scabies at London County Council bathing centres in adjoining boroughs.

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	974
Number of articles of bedding and clothing disinfected or destroyed	27,329
Number of Public Library and other books disinfected	996
Number of persons accommodated in the isolation shelters	—

(b) For the destruction of vermin:

Number of rooms disinfested	984
Number of articles destroyed	1,171

Number of beds, mattresses, blankets, etc., treated in cyanide gas chambers ..	504
Number of articles disinfested by other means	3,549
Number of van loads of furniture treated in cyanide gas chambers	248

During the year the Council undertook at the request of the Tottenham Borough Council the treatment by cyanide gas of the furniture and effects of persons removing into housing accommodation on the Council's estates. A total of 179 van loads (included in the figure of 248 mentioned above) were dealt with under this arrangement.

In addition, 66 van loads and 215 dustbins of verminous and unwholesome articles were removed to the Disinfecting Station for destruction.

The cyanide gas chambers were also used for the destruction of weevil in seed beans and maggots in cummin seed.

The following additional work was also carried out at the Disinfecting Station, namely:—

Disinfection of 498,413 items of clothing for export.

The depositing of rubbish on bombed sites has been a constantly recurring nuisance, and removal by the staff of the Public Health Department has often been necessary in order to avoid danger to the health of the public. During 1950 the staff of the Disinfecting Station removed 3 van loads, and 123 dustbins of rubbish and 108 miscellaneous items from these sites, in those cases where responsibility for the deposits could not be placed upon the owners of the land or upon any other person.

RODENT CONTROL.

When I first took office, rat and mice infestation of premises was dealt with under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, which came into operation on the 2nd January, 1920, and required the destruction of rats and mice by occupiers of land and premises. Local authorities had power in cases where they were of the opinion that an occupier had failed to take the necessary action to serve a notice requiring such steps to be taken and could, after 24 hours, take such steps as were necessary and reasonably practicable for the destruction of rats and mice and for the prevention of infestation by them.

Local authorities were also empowered to give instructions as to the most effective measures to be adopted for the destruction of rats and mice. Accordingly, notices setting out the penalties

for failure to destroy rats and mice on premises were posted in the borough and an agreement was entered into with a firm of rat catchers for the destruction of rats in cases where the Council might be held responsible for having this work carried out. I spent some interesting afternoons watching the ferrets and the incredibly quick little terriers at work killing rats at a speed which no one who had not seen them at work would have thought possible. For the convenience of occupiers of premises in the borough a scale of fees was agreed upon with the firm so that persons responsible for the destruction of rats could be referred to a reputable firm and, at the same time, informed of the scale of charges. In all cases where information of the presence of rats was received, enquiries were made into the condition of the drainage system. After premises had been cleared of rats by ferrets, etc., the rat catcher filled in any openings with cement as necessary and carried out any small repairs required for rat proofing, after which each premises dealt with was kept under observation for one month to ascertain if there should be any re-invasion by rats. Drains found to be defective were dealt with in the ordinary way by the sanitary inspectors.

In 1924 poison baits were experimentally provided and laid down under the supervision of the sanitary inspectors and by this means 120 premises were effectively cleared of rats. This method proved to be very successful and resulted in the extermination of a very large number of rats without any complaints of smells after the rats had been poisoned.

Close attention continued to be given to this problem of rats and until 1940 the position was very satisfactory, but the air raid damage to buildings, drains and sewers in this and later years led to an increase in conditions favourable to rat infestation and the policy was adopted of opening the ground and effectively sealing off outlets from sewers where premises had been demolished and sealing off unused drains and sanitary fittings in unoccupied war damaged premises, thus preventing the escape of rats from sewers into those premises which would provide harbourage and breeding places. In view of the importance of protecting the already limited food supplies it was necessary to pay particular attention to the problem of rat and mice infestation during the war and the method adopted not only considerably restricted losses due to these destructive pests but also prevented the serious infestation of any premises. In this connection it is interesting to note that in 1942 3,925 enquiries at premises in which food was manufactured, stored or sold revealed evidence of rat infestation at 103 premises (2.6 per cent.), whereas 23,548 enquiries at other premises disclosed the presence of rats in 744 cases (3.1 per cent.).

The Ministry of Food at this time carried out an intensive Press campaign and as a result there was an increase in the number

of complaints by occupiers that their premises were infested and arrangements were made for complaints to be received at the air raid wardens' posts.

On the 6th May, 1943, the Infestation Order was issued, and in accordance with Article 5, the local authority was directed to make a comprehensive report with regard to rodents in the borough. Accordingly the Council set up a special organisation for the purpose of carrying out extensive surveys of property within the borough to ascertain the extent of infestation by rats and mice, and where this proved to be heavy, to undertake "Block Control" methods of rodent repression. In addition, the Council was required to treat sewers regularly by means of poison, so as to reduce the rat population. For these services, and subject to the Council recovering from occupiers the cost of any extermination or preventive work undertaken, a grant was made to the Council by the Ministry of Food.

In the period December, 1943 to January, 1944, poison baits were laid in sewers and from the "take" it was calculated that 5,850 rats had been destroyed.

Prior to the war two workmen were employed on work connected with rat infestation, such as the examination of drains, lifting floorboards, etc., in order to trace rat runs and advising occupiers of baiting and trapping methods, but under war-time conditions it was necessary to employ six men on this work in addition to the men who were employed upon sealing off from sewers the drain outlets of houses demolished by enemy action and of sealing the drains and sanitary fittings in unoccupied war-damaged premises.

During 1948 the Council adopted the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries scheme for rodent block control treatment and in my Annual Report for that year I wrote:—

"Active measures were taken during the year to deal with rat and mice infestation in the borough, but the number of complaints of surface infestations showed no appreciable signs of abatement.

Each complaint of rat infestation is referred to the Rodent Officer, who makes a preliminary inspection and arranges for examination of the drains and also the adjoining properties if this appears desirable, for taking up floorboards, and any other steps necessary to trace the source from which rats are gaining access to the buildings.

Tracing the source of an infestation from drains, etc., often involves a great deal of work, for it might be necessary to examine the drains of several houses before the defective drain is discovered from which the rats are escaping. Then

there is the formal procedure under the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, to be followed, in order to remedy the defective conditions found as a result of the rat investigation.

It will be recalled that the Ministry of Food, and latterly the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, have issued several circulars and directives on rodent control since 1941, and certain items of expenditure incurred by local authorities in carrying out this work have been reimbursed by these Ministries. In this connection, special attention was given during the past year to the comprehensive rodent control scheme contained in Ministry Circular N.S. 12, and a systematic survey and treatment of the whole borough with regard to rodent control, involving a premises to premises enquiry and treatment as found necessary, on the lines recommended by the Ministry, was commenced on the 1st September.

There can be no doubt as to the value of this scheme, both as regards abating the annoyance caused to householders by rats and mice, and also in bringing to notice defective drains and sewers which, not forgetting the migration of rats along railways and waterways, is the only really important source of infestation in this borough."

The survey referred to above continued during 1949 and involved a visit to all dwelling-houses and business premises in the borough, the occupiers being asked either personally or by questionnaire to state whether or not their premises were infested by rodents. Co-operation was received from 20,229 occupiers, of whom 848 indicated that their premises were infested by rats, while 1,443 occupiers reported mice infestation.

The areas showing the greatest infestation were Hackney Wick; Dalston Lane/Ridley Road; the area bounded by Kingsland Road, Kingsland High Street and Stoke Newington High Street; and that bounded by Mare Street, Amhurst Road, Dalston Lane and Kingsland High Street.

Wherever it was possible to do so the drains serving the rat-infested premises were examined and in 228 instances smoke tests were applied to the drains, of which 77 were found to be defective. Test baits were laid in and around the infested premises, followed by poison baits, and post-baiting indicated that 575 premises had been cleared of rats. Periodic baiting was also continued in the area of the River Lea and Hackney Cut Navigation, and on bomb sites throughout the borough.

On the 31st March, 1950, the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, which repealed the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, came into operation. Under the provisions of this Act, it is

the duty of every local authority to take such steps as may be necessary to secure as far as practicable that their district is kept free from rats and mice, and in particular:—

- (a) From time to time to carry out such inspections as may be necessary;
- (b) To destroy rats and mice on any land of which they are occupiers;
- (c) To enforce the duties laid upon owners and occupiers under the provisions of Part I of the Act, and to carry out operations authorised by those provisions.

Local authorities are required to keep such records and to make such reports relating to their functions under the Act as may be required by the Minister.

Occupiers of land—other than agricultural land—are required to give notice in writing to the local authority of infestation of their land by rats and mice “in substantial numbers.”

Local authorities may by notice require the owners or occupiers of land to take such reasonable steps as they may specify for the destruction of, and for keeping the land free from, rats and mice. The notice may require the application of any form of treatment and the carrying out of any structural repairs specified in the notice.

In default the local authority may themselves take the steps prescribed by the notice and may recover the expenses reasonably incurred in so doing.

The department continues to give considerable attention to the problem of rat infestation and whilst we are still far from being able to say that the borough is free from rats there is every reason to hope that the continuance of the methods adopted will result in the reduction in the rodent population in the borough to almost negligible proportions.

Statistical Summary of Dwelling-houses and Business Premises treated during the Year 1950.

Rat and Mice Infestations.	Business Premises.	Dwelling-Houses.	Requisitioned Houses.	Totals.
Premises .. infested	Rats 117 Mice 47	Rats 678 Mice 413	Rats 47 Mice —	Rats 842 Mice 460
Totals ..	164	1,091	47	1,302
Premises .. cleared	Rats 115 Mice 40	Rats 668 Mice 398	Rats 48 Mice —	Rats 831 Mice 438
Totals ..	155	1,066	48	1,269

Drains Tested and Examined.

Drains Tested.	Drains Examined.	Drains Found Defective.
387	844	186

Charges made.

Premises.	Amount.
Business Premises 140	£238 9 5
Requisitioned Premises 36	£36 4 3
Totals 176	£274 13 8

FACTORIES

In addition to ensuring healthy living conditions and a wholesome food supply the Public Health Department has responsibility for securing that people engaged in work of an industrial nature, or employed in shops, shall be employed in hygienic surroundings. These duties are placed upon the department by the Factories Act, 1937, which amended and consolidated the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and other Regulations, and the Shops Act, 1950.

Previously, working conditions in factories, workshops and in the home (outworkers) were dealt with under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, but under this Act the law requiring the provision of sanitary conveniences in factories and workshops was somewhat complex.

The Sanitary Accommodation Order, 1903, made under Section 9 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, did not apply to London, and in the event of a factory or workshop being without suitable or sufficient sanitary conveniences it was the practice to serve a notice upon the owner of the premises under the Public Health (London) Act. In this way an attempt was made to put into operation the standards of the Sanitary Accommodation Order, 1903, but the requirements of such notices could not be enforced in the Courts, and in consequence difficulty was experienced in some instances. The position was, however, changed by the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, 1938, made under Section 7 of the Factories Act, 1937, which lays down a definite standard as regards this matter applicable throughout the country, but whereas it might be thought that the owner of factory premises should be responsible for providing suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences, this responsibility rests upon the occupier of the factory, except where conveniences are used in common by several tenants.

In addition to securing the provision of suitable and adequate sanitary conveniences the department's duties include the enforcement of cleanliness in the workrooms, benches, staircases and passages, etc., removal of refuse and freedom from effluvia; prevention of overcrowding; the maintenance of a reasonable temperature and effective ventilation and for rendering harmless, as far as practicable, all dust, fumes and other impurities; and securing adequate drainage of floors where processes are carried on which render floors liable to wetness.

In 1920 the number of factories in the borough totalled 162, whilst workshops numbered 1,014, and outworkers on the Register totalled 2,992, but under the Factories Act, 1937, the former distinction between factories and workshops was abolished in favour of factories with or without mechanical power, and at the end of 1950, despite war damage, the factories totalled 1,609 and outworkers 1,664.

Between the years 1920 and 1939 the unrestricted industrialisation which took place in the borough resulted in a considerable increase in the number of factories and workshops. The Council at that time possessed no powers to deal with this industrialisation which, as mentioned in the review of housing, took place at the expense of the housing accommodation in the borough, although considerable powers existed with regard to the establishment of trades scheduled as "offensive" under the Public Health (London) Acts, 1891 and 1936.

Unless the business which it was proposed to carry on was one of the few scheduled "offensive" trades, all of which deal with animal products, no indication of the character of the trade needed to be given before establishing a factory or workshop; all that was required was that a plan of drainage should be approved by the Borough Council and provisions dealing with the safe erection of the building carried out. Houses could be and were adapted for business purposes and factories and workshops were speculatively erected in back gardens, the premises then being disposed of to manufacturers. Immediately the new owner engaged his workpeople and disclosed the nature of his trade he received notices from the Public Health Department to comply with the Factory and Workshop Act and Regulations. Workshops and factories were established in this way, and unsuitable proposals put forward for permitting workpeople to use public lavatories or the conveniences of adjoining houses, and a great deal of unnecessary difficulty and expense was often caused by the necessity for enforcing sanitary requirements after the establishment of a business.

Even when the arrangements were ostensibly satisfactory, and it was, one might say, at any rate possible to carry on without

infringing any statute, difficulties arose where an unsuitable building was adapted or the neighbourhood was unsuitable, as in the case of a large private house in Amhurst Road, which had similar houses on each side. In 1928 an aerated water factory was built at the side of this house, and also a garage/stable which was placed in the garden abutting immediately on the garden of the adjoining property. The ostensible access to this stable was from a rear passage out of Downs Park Road. The establishment of this business, in itself naturally a grievance to the adjoining household, was aggravated by the fact that the owner of the factory found it convenient, owing to the arrangement of the premises, to bring his horse through the factory instead of using the rear passage. The owner was warned against continuing this practice and was not afterwards observed by the district sanitary inspector to do this, but the neighbouring owner complained that it still occurred occasionally at about 10 p.m. Factories so constructed that it was more convenient to bring horses to their stable through the factory itself than by any other route were, in my opinion, undesirable.

Apart from any statutory nuisance or danger to health which might arise from the unsatisfactory siting of industry, it is a great misfortune to a person who, having purchased a house in what he believes is likely to remain a residential neighbourhood, finds a large well-built house next door converted into a cabinet-making or aerated water factory, as in the case already mentioned. Such a happening may obviously cause a serious depreciation in the value of the property, as well as actual discomfort. Depreciation arising from such a cause did occur in Leadale Road owing to the manner in which the establishment of timber works at the back of that road was permitted. The area of the site of one of the established works was about 640 feet by 140 feet, and against the fence at the bottom of the thirty-five feet of garden that each adjoining house possessed the owners of the works placed various sheds for the purpose of their business, from the point of view of the owners of the houses the most unfortunate position possible on the site.

The annoyance, if not statutory nuisance, can be judged by the following extract from a letter received from the occupier of an adjoining house:—

“You are probably aware that within the last twelve months certain saw mills have been erected at the back of the above road, facing the river. The last to be completed is owned by, whose works adjoin the garden fences. From this building there is emitted every day thick volumes of smoke and soot, which make it impossible not only to use the garden, but even to obtain requisite ventilation for the back rooms. This same firm have a practice of lighting a

huge fire of wood shavings on the open ground a few yards from the fence, and this is kept going from 7.30 a.m. until late at night. Apart from the noise of the machinery, which we are unfortunately compelled to put up with, you will appreciate the nuisance the whole road is subjected to by this intolerable state of affairs."

A later letter complained:—

"There has been erected a dust collecting plant just at the back of my garden. There is a leakage from the funnel over the shed of this plant, and the saw-dust is collecting on this shed and is being blown all over my garden, as well as in the neighbouring gardens, making our gardens look like a refuse heap. It is impossible to allow the children to go out into the garden because of this nuisance. The saw-dust is blowing all over the place and some has even been deposited on the front lawn of the house. Under the circumstances it will be very inconvenient to enjoy the privileges of a garden in the coming season, if this trouble is allowed to be continued."

Complaints of various kinds continued as regards this work, the owners abating some nuisances, other nuisances of a different nature arose and received attention, whilst others continued because no powers for enforcing abatement existed. The Public Health Department endeavoured as far as possible to obtain amelioration of these conditions, which should never have been permitted to arise, and without examination of the records it is difficult to appreciate the trouble and waste of time which was occasioned.

Complaints which could not be dealt with by the sanitary authority may be summarised as arising from the following causes:—

Noise.—The nuisance caused to persons with children in such a quarter as Leadale Road, where wood was sawed until a late hour of night in works built thirty-five feet from the houses, may be almost intolerable.

Dust.—This gave rise to much complaint and abiding trouble to neighbours.

Smoke.—Smoke, if not black, or if only intermittent or during certain processes, gave rise to almost insurmountable difficulties.

Unpleasant Odours.—Smell from engines, or soot, or from processes of manufacture, gave very real trouble to neighbours, without coming within the scope of the Public Health Acts.

All the above difficulties arose from time to time, even as regards the timber works mentioned above, and complaints were constantly recurring of one or the other unpleasantnesses from all over the borough.

Vibration.—An example of nuisances from this cause arose in connection with factories in Well Street and Chatham Place, the occupiers of the adjoining houses complaining of the vibration caused by the machinery.

Generally, the system made it inevitable that in very many instances the sanitary authority could enforce the requirements of the Factory and Workshop Act and Regulations only after occupation, which led to considerable difficulty and waste of time and trouble in administration, and a large number of nuisances occurred which were detrimental to health but could not be abated under any powers then possessed by the sanitary authority. Apart from these factors there was the possibility that the uncontrolled erection of factories or workshops in back gardens and on waste plots might, in itself, be detrimental to health by restricting light and air.

Fortunately, the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1937 and other Acts, gave the Council powers to deal with some of these nuisances, and later the powers under the Defence Regulation 68 CA which prohibited, without the consent of the local housing authority, the use for non-residential purposes of any housing accommodation which had been used for residential purposes since 31st December, 1938, combined with the zoning of areas for residential or industrial purposes under the Town and Country Planning Act, will prevent practices of this nature occurring in the future.

The Shops Act, 1934, which came into operation on the 30th December, 1934, dealt with arrangements for the health and comfort of shop workers and placed upon the Council responsibility for ensuring that suitable and sufficient means of ventilating and maintaining a reasonable temperature shall be provided in every shop in which persons are employed about the business of the shop and that suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences are available in every such shop not being a shop exempted by the Council from this requirement of the Act. These provisions are re-enacted in the Shops Act, 1950.

Until 1939 regular and systematic inspections were made of all factories, shops, etc., in the borough, and necessary action taken in respect of unsatisfactory premises, but with the outbreak of war the more urgent demands upon the inspectors resulted in less time than under normal conditions would be considered necessary being given to this work, and it is only within the last few years that anything like regular inspection has been possible.

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS REQUIRED BY
SECTION 128 (3), FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PART I.

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):—

Premises. (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections. (3)	Written notices. (4)	Occupiers prosecuted. (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities	201	17	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	1,408	841	32	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ..	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1,609	858	34	—

2.—Cases in which *defects* were found:—

Particulars. (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted. (6)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred To H.M. Inspector. (4)	By H.M. Inspector. (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	3	3	—	6	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	—	11	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	7	7	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	4	4	—	9	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	10	—	23	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	11	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	51	51	2	6	—
TOTAL	77	77	2	66	—

PART VIII—SECTIONS 110 AND 111.—*Outwork.*

Nature of Work. (1)	Section 110.			Section 111.		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council. (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists. (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises. (5)	Notices served. (6)	Prosecutions. (7)
Wearing | Making, etc.	765	—	—	—	—	—
apparel | Cleaning and washing ..	5	—	—	—	—	—
Household linen ..	11	—	—	—	—	—
Furniture & upholstery	1	—	—	—	—	—
Curtains and furniture hangings	36	—	—	—	—	—
Artificial flowers ..	122	—	—	—	—	—
Paper bags	23	—	—	—	—	—
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	299	—	—	—	—	—
Brush making ..	15	—	—	—	—	—
Carding, etc. of buttons etc.	44	—	—	—	—	—
Stuffed toys	7	—	—	—	—	—
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc. ..	44	—	—	—	—	—
Lampshades ..	7	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ..	1,379	—	—	—	—	—

OUTWORKERS—1950.

Occupiers of factories and contractors in regard to such classes of work as may be prescribed by the Secretary of State are required to keep lists giving full particulars of the names and addresses of all outworkers employed by them, and to supply twice a year (in February and August), copies of such lists for the information of the Council. The following is a summary of the information secured from these lists during the past year:—

	Residing in the Borough.	Residing outside the Borough.	Total.
Number of outworkers employed by firms in the Borough	762	864	1,626
Number of outworkers employed by firms outside the Borough	883	—	883
Number of outworkers employed by firms in and outside the Borough	19	—	19
Total number of outworkers whose names were included in lists submitted during the year	1,664	864	2,528

The following analysis shows the trades followed by the outworkers residing within the Borough:—

Trade.	No. of Outworkers.	Trade.	No. of Outworkers.
Artificial Flowers, etc. ..	57	Fancy Goods, Small Wares, etc.	15
Belts, Bags and Leather Goods	43	Feathers	12
Blouses, Dresses, Robes, etc.	169	Fur	6
Boots and Shoes	120	Hats	3
Brassieres and Corsets ..	31	Hosiery and Knitted Goods	12
Brushes and Bristles ..	28	Household Linen Goods ..	4
Button Carding and Covering	53	Lamp Shades	3
Cardboard Boxes and Paper Bags, etc.	226	Mantles and Costumes ..	97
Chemists' Sundries	2	Millinery	41
Children's Clothing	75	Overalls	5
Christmas Crackers, Stockings, Carnival Goods, etc.	70	Pyjamas and Shirts	9
Cleaning, etc., W.A.	2	Shoe Trimmings	20
Clothing	261	Tailoring	105
Coathanger Covering	5	Ties and Neckwear	17
Collars	1	Trimmings	68
Dolls and Toys	35	Umbrellas	3
Dressing Gowns	15	Underclothing	27
Fancy Stationery	12	Miscellaneous	12
		Total	1,664

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

SECTION 50.

The duties of the Council under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, and the arrangements made to carry out the requirements of the section, were referred to in detail in my Annual Reports for 1948 and 1949.

During the year under review 81 burials were arranged, comprising 24 adults, 24 children and 33 stillborn children.

In 62 cases full reimbursement of the costs was secured either by payments received from "liable" relatives and from the estates of the deceased persons; or by claims submitted by the Council in respect of insurance policies and payments due under the Death Grant Scheme.

In 12 cases the burial fees were deemed to be irrecoverable and there were 7 cases outstanding at the end of the year.

The financial position in relation to the 81 cases dealt with is as follows:—

			£	s.	d.
Total amount recovered	..	..	316	15	4
Total amount written off	..	..	87	13	2
Amount outstanding	..	..	11	4	0
Total burial fees	..	..	£415	12	6

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

SECTION 47.

Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, repeals and re-enacts Section 224 of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936, which relates to the removal to suitable institutions of aged and infirm persons living in insanitary conditions and not receiving proper care and attention. Similar powers were given to the Council previously under the provisions of Section 28 of the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1928.

Since this legislation was first introduced there have been numerous occasions when aged persons have refused offered assistance and it has been necessary to invoke these statutory powers to secure their removal to suitable institutions. There have also been many instances in which persons not receiving adequate attention have been assisted by other means, such as arranging for medical attention or admission to hospital and, latterly, by providing home assistance through the Home Help Service.

The first reference to this problem during my 30 years' administration at Hackney is contained in my 1935 Annual Report, which records the action taken under Section 28 of the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1928, in respect of two cases in which Magistrates' Orders were obtained.

Until 1950, the highest number of cases recorded in any year was in 1942 when Magistrates' Orders were obtained in two cases and nine other persons voluntarily entered hospital following visits by officers of the Public Health Department.

During 1950 nineteen persons were found to be in need of care and attention, but the number of cases reported during the early months of 1951 indicates that the total for the year will be at least double that for the year under review.

SUMMARY OF CASES DEALT WITH DURING 1950.

Number of persons reported as being in need of care and attention.. .. .	19
Removed to hospital on Magistrate's Order	1
Removed to hospital without recourse to legal proceedings	15
Admitted to Old People's Home	1
Admitted to Metropolitan Society for the Blind Home..	1
Died at home.. .. .	1

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Legal proceedings instituted during the year under review are summarised in the table on page 137, and a brief description of each case is given on pages 124 to 136.

The total of 219 summonses applied for may be classified in categories as follows:—

Public Health Nuisances	167
Non-compliance with Magistrates' Orders ..	39
Contravention of drainage byelaws	9
Contravention of ashpit byelaws	2
Contravention of Prohibition Order	1
Verminous premises	1
	<hr/>
	219
	<hr/>

The results of these proceedings were:—

Judgments obtained	142
Adjourned <i>sine die</i>	3
Dismissed	4
*Withdrawn	70
	<hr/>
	219
	<hr/>

(*In 59 of the cases withdrawn the Council's costs were paid.)

In all three instances where the summonses were adjourned *sine die*, the adjournments were sought by the Council; in two cases because the tenants' illness prevented owners' workmen from carrying out the necessary work, and in the third case to enable the Council to take action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

It will be seen that four summonses were dismissed, in two cases with costs against the Council. The first of these cases was dismissed because the Council were unable to prove ownership. The position was extremely involved as the defendant had held the leasehold of the premises which he informed the Court he had transferred to a limited company, who continued to employ him in their business. The defendant had since become bankrupt and had arranged for the rent to be collected by his brother, pending some arrangement being made between the freeholder and leaseholder. In these circumstances the Magistrate said that he could not find that the defendant was the owner within the meaning of the Public Health (London) Act, 1936 and accordingly dismissed the summons with costs against the Council.

In the second case, the subject of the summons was a defective roof to which some work had been carried out by the defendant. The sanitary inspector was of the opinion that this work had not effectively remedied the nuisance, but the Magistrate was not satisfied that the nuisance existed and dismissed the summons with costs against the Council.

The other two dismissed summonses were two of four which were taken out for contravention of the drainage byelaws. Two summonses for carrying out drainage work without depositing plans and two for carrying out drainage work without giving notice to the local authority were taken against one defendant and concerned alteration to a combined drain serving two premises. At the time of the hearing the defendant produced a plan which satisfied the Magistrate that the part of the drain within the curtilage of one of these premises had not been interfered with. The Magistrate, therefore, dismissed the two summonses relating to these premises, but made no order as to costs.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS, 1950.

AGAINST OWNERS OR AGENTS.

Premises.	Complaint.	Magistrate's Decision.	Fine.			Costs.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
12, Ainsworth Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn. Change of ownership	—	—	—	—	—	—
19, Ainsworth Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	—	—	2	2	0
29, Ainsworth Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	—	—	2	2	0
19a, Amhurst Park	General insanitary conditions	Work done. Costs awarded ..	—	—	—	2	2	0
7, Batley Road ..	Defective roof	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	—	—	1	1	0
11, Batley Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 7 days ..	—	—	—	1	1	0
34, Benthall Road	Ceiling and frieze plaster cracked and defective in ground floor back addition kitchen	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	—	—	2	2	0
6, Benthall Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	—	—	1	1	0
16, Benthall Road	General insanitary conditions	Not proceeded with. Incorrect service. See below	—	—	—	—	—	—
16, Benthall Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 7 days ..	—	—	—	1	1	0
26, Benthall Road	General insanitary conditions	Work done. Costs awarded ..	—	—	—	1	1	0
126-128, Blurton Road	Defective flues to chimneys	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	—	—	2	2	0
52, Brenthouse Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	—	—	2	2	0
62, Brenthouse Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	—	—	2	2	0
64, Brenthouse Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 42 days ..	—	—	—	1	1	0
28, Broadway, London Fields	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 21 days ..	—	—	—	1	1	0
28, Broadway, London Fields	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	5	0	0	2	2	0

Legal Proceedings, 1950.—Cont.

Premises.	Complaint.	Magistrate's Decision.	Fine.			Costs.		
			£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
48, Brooke Road ..	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—			2	2	0
102, Brooke Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 8 weeks ..	—			1	1	0
102, Brooke Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	10	0	0	2	2	0
128, Brooke Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—			2	2	0
173, Brooke Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—			2	2	0
70, Buckingham Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—			2	2	0
5, Cadogan Terrace	Basement back addition room. No site concrete	Work done. Costs awarded ..	—			2	2	0
19, Castlewood Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 7 days ..	—			2	2	0
19, Castlewood Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—			1	1	0
52, Castlewood Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—			1	1	0
36, Chapman Road	General insanitary conditions	Work done. No costs awarded	—			—		
36, Chapman Road	Dustbin defective	Work done. No costs awarded	—			—		
36, Chapman Road	Ventilation pipe defective	Work done. No costs awarded	—			—		
37, Chapman Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—			2	2	0
45, Chapman Road	Verminous condition of first floor front and back rooms	Work done. No costs awarded	—			—		
45, Chapman Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 21 days ..	—			2	2	0
7, Church Crescent	Ceiling damp in ground floor front lobby	Abatement Order. 21 days. No costs awarded	—			—		
4, Churchill Walk	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 21 days ..	—			1	1	0
4, Churchill Walk	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	12	12	0	2	2	0

Legal Proceedings, 1950.—Cont.

Premises.	Complaint.	Magistrate's Decision.	Fine.	Costs.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
4, Churchill Walk	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Withdrawn. Change of ownership ..	—	—
48, Churchill Walk	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	1 1 0
87, Clapton Way ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	1 1 0
1, Conrad Street ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	1 0 0
70, Cranwich Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	3 0 0	2 2 0
70, Cranwich Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	1 1 0
37, Craven Walk ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	10 6
37, Craven Walk ..	General insanitary conditions	Not proceeded with. Defendant in case above admitted ownership	—	—
37, Craven Walk ..	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	10 0 0	2 2 0
68, Cricketfield Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 21 days ..	—	1 1 0
71, Cricketfield Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
47, Darnley Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	2 0 0
36, De Beauvoir Crescent	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	5 5 0
57, De Beauvoir Crescent	Defective W.C. pan and flushing apparatus	Work done. Costs awarded ..	—	2 2 0
87, De Beauvoir Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days. No costs awarded	—	—
6, Derby Road ..	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	30 0 0	10 10 0
98, Dunlace Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn. Work completed before service of summons	—	—
40, Dunsmure Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	1 1 0

Legal Proceedings, 1950.—Cont.

Premises.	Complaint.	Magistrate's Decision.	Fine.	Costs.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
40, Dunsmure Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	5 0 0	2 2 0
82, Dunsmure Road	General insanitary conditions	Dismissed. Insufficient proof of ownership. £3 3s. 0d. costs awarded to the defendant ..		
85, Dunsmure Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	5 0 0	1 1 0
24, Durley Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	10 6
24, Durley Road ..	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	5 0 0	5 5 0
24, Durley Road ..	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	5 0 0	2 2 0
44, Durley Road ..	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	2 0 0	1 1 0
44, Durley Road ..	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
84, Durley Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Adjourned <i>sine die</i> . Action to be taken under Sec. 11 of Housing Act	—	—
7, Durrington Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 12 6
21, Durrington Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 12 6
23, Durrington Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 12 6
16, East Bank ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 21 days ..	—	1 1 0
42, East Bank ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 7 days ..	—	1 1 0
10, Edenbridge Road	General insanitary conditions	Work done. Costs awarded ..	—	3 3 0
7, Elrington Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 21 days ..	—	1 1 0

Legal Proceedings, 1950.—Cont.

Premises.	Complaint.	Magistrate's Decision.	Fine.	Costs.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1, Evering Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 7 days ..	—	1 1 0
95, Evering Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	1 1 0
43, Farleigh Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 21 days ..	—	1 1 0
25, Fassett Square	Main and scullery roofs leaky	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	1 1 0
14, Foulden Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	1 1 0
15, Foulden Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
73, Foulden Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	1 1 0
8, Gainsborough Square	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	5 0 0	2 2 0
9, Gainsborough Square	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	5 0 0	2 2 0
5, Gilpin Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	1 1 0
15, Gilpin Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	1 1 0
59, Glenarm Road	Defective and leaky main roof	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
193, Glyn Road ..	Damp wall in ground floor front room	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	1 1 0
15, Gore Road ..	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	10 0 0	2 2 0
50, Gore Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 42 days ..	—	5 5 0
107, Gore Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	2 2 0
107, Gore Road ..	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
95, Graham Road ..	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	10 0 0	2 2 0
95, Graham Road ..	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Summons not served. Defendant deceased	—	—

Legal Proceedings, 1950.—Cont.

Premises.	Complaint.	Magistrate's Decision.	Fine.	Costs.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
136, Graham Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 21 days ..	—	1 1 0
12, Greenwood Road	Defective sink waste pipe	Abatement Order. 2 days ..	—	1 1 0
18, Greenwood Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	1 1 0
6, Handley Road	General insanitary conditions	Work done. Costs awarded ..	—	2 2 0
9, Handley Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
10, Handley Road	Contravention of Prohibition Order	Fine and costs imposed	1 0 0	1 1 0
23, Hassett Road..	Defective rain-water and sink waste pipes	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
23, Hassett Road..	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
45, Hassett Road..	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 12 6
49, Hassett Road..	Yard paving and back addition gutter defective	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
78, Hassett Road..	Carrying out drainage work without giving notice to the Council	Fine and costs imposed	1 0 0	1 1 0
12, Heyworth Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 36 days ..	—	2 2 0
21, Heyworth Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
17, Hilsea Street ..	Defective roofs	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
10, Holcroft Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn. Work completed before service of summons	—	—
24, Holcroft Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn. Work completed before service of summons	—	—
28, Holcroft Road	General insanitary conditions	Work done. Costs awarded ..	—	2 2 0

Legal Proceedings, 1950.—Cont.

Premises.	Complaint.	Magistrate's Decision.	Fine.	Costs.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
30, Holcroft Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
12, Hollar Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	1 1 0
160, Holmleigh Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	1 1 0
17, Horton Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 21 days ..	—	1 1 0
22, Hurstdene Gardens	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 2 months. No costs awarded	—	—
11, Ickburgh Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
19, Ickburgh Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
11, Jenner Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
18, Jenner Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
43, Jenner Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Service cancelled. Work completed before service of summons	—	—
43, Jenner Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
4, Kenninghall Road	Floorboards and skirting effected with dry rot	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	1 1 0
4, King Edward's Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	2 2 0
4, King Edward's Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and Costs imposed	5 0 0	1 1 0
4, King Edward's Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	3 3 0
4, King Edward's Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	20 0 0	3 3 0
326, Kingsland Road	Carrying out drainage work without depositing plans with Council	Fine and costs imposed	2 0 0	2 12 6

Legal Proceedings, 1950.—Cont.

Premises.	Complaint.	Magistrate's Decision.	Fine.	Costs.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
326, Kingsland Road	Carrying out drainage work without giving notice to the Council	Fine and costs imposed	2 0 0	2 12 6
328, Kingsland Road	Carrying out drainage work without depositing plans with Council	Summons dismissed. Insufficient evidence that the drainage work had commenced prior to the information being laid before the Court		
328, Kingsland Road	Carrying out drainage work without giving notice to the Council			
Lammas House, Lammas Road	General insanitary conditions	Work done. Withdrawn on payment of costs..	—	4 10 0
10, Lauriston Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	2 2 0
11, Lauriston Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
13, Lauriston Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
40, Lauriston Road	Walls damp in basement front room	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
96, Lavender Grove	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	2 2 0
16, Leswin Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	1 1 0
40, Leswin Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
60, Linthorpe Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 30 days ..	—	10 6
56, Mabley Street ..	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 12 6
24, Malvern Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days. No costs	—	—
26, Maury Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
67, Maury Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 7 days ..	—	1 1 0

Legal Proceedings, 1950.—Cont.

Premises.	Complaint.	Magistrate's Decision.	Fine.	Costs.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
67, Median Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Adjourned <i>sine die</i> Tenant away ill. Builders unable to obtain access	—	—
3, Mehetabel Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	1 1 0
3, Mehetabel Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	2 0 0	10 6
3, Mehetabel Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	10 0 0	1 1 0
17, Mehetabel Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	1 1 0
17, Mehetabel Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	2 0 0	10 6
17, Mehetabel Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	10 0 0	1 1 0
21, Mehetabel Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	1 1 0
23, Mehetabel Road	Roof leaky and sashes defective	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	10 6
23, Mehetabel Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine imposed. No costs	5 0 0	—
25, Mehetabel Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	1 1 0
25, Mehetabel Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	2 0 0	10 6
25, Mehetabel Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	10 0 0	1 1 0
4, Meynell Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
30, Meynell Road	Walls and ceilings damp in second floor back addition rooms	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	2 2 0
42, Morpeth Road	Roofs defective and leaky	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
4, Mortimer Road ..	Main roof defective and leaky	Withdrawn. Work completed before service of summons	—	—

Legal Proceedings, 1950.—Cont.

Premises.	Complaint.	Magistrate's Decision.	Fine.	Costs.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
34, Navarino Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 21 days ..	—	1 1 0
35, Navarino Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 7 days ..	—	1 1 0
73, Navarino Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	1 1 0
73, Navarino Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	3 0 0	1 1 0
73, Navarino Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	5 0 0	5 5 0
37, Northfield Road	General insanitary conditions	Work done. Costs awarded ..	—	10 6
50, Northfield Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	2 0 0	1 1 0
71, Oriel Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	3 3 0
75, Oriel Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 12 6
111, Oriel Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
119, Oriel Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
39, Osborne Road	Defective sink waste pipe	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
39, Osborne Road..	Carrying out work not in conformity with Drainage Byelaws	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
16, Oswald Street	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
60, Parkholme Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	5 0 0	1 1 0
7, Penshurst Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
16, Penshurst Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	2 2 0

Legal Proceedings, 1950.—Cont.

Premises.	Complaint.	Magistrate's Decision.	Fine.	Costs.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
16, Penshurst Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Penalty imposed. No costs	5 0 0	—
51, Percy Terrace..	Defective fireplace	Abatement Order. 7 days ..	—	3 3 0
52, Percy Terrace..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	5 5 0
47, Ravensdale Road	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed ..	7 0 0	1 1 0
43, Reighton Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days	—	1 1 0
48, Reighton Road	Dampness in wall. Bay gutter overflowing	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
53, Reighton Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	1 1 0
100, Reighton Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
12, Rendlesham Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	1 1 0
4, Richmond Road	Roof defective and leaky	Withdrawn. Work completed before service of summons ..	—	—
8, Rookwood Court	Paint peeling from ceiling and walls	Abatement Order. 14 days. No costs	—	—
30, Rookwood Road	Defective roofs and sashcords	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
4, Rowhill Mansions	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
38, Rutland Road	General insanitary conditions	Work done. Costs awarded ..	—	2 2 0
1, St. Andrew's Mansions	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	1 1 0
3, St. Andrew's Mansions	Defective firegrate in kitchen	Work done. Costs awarded ..	—	1 1 0
4, St. Andrew's Mansions	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 7 days ..	—	1 1 0
5, St. Andrew's Mansions	Defective roof	Dismissed with 10s. 6d. costs to defendant. Magistrate not satisfied that nuisance existed ..	—	—

Legal Proceedings, 1950.—Cont.

Premises.	Complaint.	Magistrate's Decision.	Fine.	Costs.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
9, St. Andrew's Mansions	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	1 1 0
9, St. Andrew's Mansions	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Adjourned <i>sine die</i> Tenant away ill. Builders unable to obtain access	—	—
15, Sanford Lane ..	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
19, Shepherd's Lane	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 7 days ..	—	10 6
21, Shepherd's Lane	Walls and ceilings damp and dirty	Abatement Order. 7 days ..	—	10 6
23, Shepherd's Lane	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 7 days ..	—	10 6
5, Southborough Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 7 days ..	—	2 2 0
51, Southborough Road	Defective front bay	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	3 3 0
54, Southborough Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	2 2 0
57, Southborough Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 42 days ..	—	3 3 0
62, Southborough Road	Ceiling defective. Distemper flaking	Abatement Order. 21 days ..	—	2 2 0
10, Speldhurst Road	General insanitary conditions	Work done. Costs awarded ..	—	2 2 0
20, Speldhurst Road	External wall damp	Abatement Order. 21 days ..	—	1 1 0
23, Stoke Newington Common	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	1 1 0
3, Templar Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 7 days ..	—	1 1 0
5, Templar Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 7 days ..	—	2 2 0
22, Trederwen Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn on payment of costs. Work done ..	—	2 2 0
14, Tresham Avenue	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 7 days ..	—	2 2 0
2, Trowbridge Road	General insanitary conditions	Withdrawn. Work done. No costs awarded	—	—
4, Trowbridge Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 21 days ..	—	2 2 0
26, Warwick Villas	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 21 days ..	—	1 1 0

Legal Proceedings, 1950.—Cont.

Premises.	Complaint.	Magistrate's Decision.	Fine.	Costs.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
26, Warwick Villas	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed	5 0 0	1 1 0
26, West Bank ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 21 days ..	—	10 6
26, West Bank ...	Non-compliance with Magistrate's Order	Fine and costs imposed ..	3 0 0	2 2 0
15, West Side ..	Defective dustbin	Dustbin supplied. Withdrawn ..	—	2 2 0
47, Wetherell Road	Defective and leaky front eaves gutter	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	3 3 0
72, Wick Road ..	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 14 days ..	—	1 1 0
6, Wilderton Road	General insanitary conditions	Abatement Order. 28 days ..	—	2 2 0

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS, 1950—SUMMARY.

JUDGMENTS OBTAINED.				OTHERWISE DISPOSED OF.			
NUISANCES (GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH):							
Abatement Order with costs	..	..	84	Work carried out. Withdrawn on payment of costs	..	52	
Abatement Order without costs	..	..	5	Withdrawn, without costs:			
Work carried out, costs awarded	..	..	11	Work completed before service of Summons	..	6	
Work carried out, without costs	..	..	2	Incorrect Service	..	1	
Adjourned <i>sine die</i>	..	..	2	Change of ownership	..	1	
Dismissed, costs against Council	..	..	2	Defendant in another case admitted ownership	..	1	
			106	Total	..	167	61
NON-COMPLIANCE WITH MAGISTRATES' ORDERS:							
Penalties and costs	..	..	30	Work carried out. Withdrawn on payment of costs	..	4	
Penalty without costs	..	..	2	Withdrawn, without costs:			
Adjourned <i>sine die</i>	..	..	1	Change of ownership	..	1	
			33	Summons not served, defendant deceased	..	1	
				Total	..	39	6
CONTRAVENTION OF PROHIBITION ORDER:							
Penalty and costs	..	..	1	Nil	..		
				Total	..	1	
CONTRAVENTION OF DRAINAGE BYE-LAWS:							
Penalty and costs	..	..	3	Withdrawn on payment of costs	..	3	
Work carried out, without costs	..	..	1				
Dismissed, without costs	..	..	2				
			6	Total	..	9	3
CONTRAVENTION OF ASHPIT BYE-LAWS:							
Work carried out, without costs	..	..	1	Dustbin supplied. Withdrawn on payment of costs	..	1	
				Total	..	2	
VERMINOUS PREMISES:							
Work carried out, without costs	..	..	1	Nil	..		
				Total	..	1	
TOTAL JUDGMENTS OBTAINED..	..	..	148	TOTAL OTHERWISE DISPOSED OF	..	71	
GRAND TOTAL	..	..		..	..	219	

CIVIL DEFENCE.

The work undertaken in connection with Civil Defence merits special mention in this review of the Department's activities during the past 30 years. The Public Health Department was responsible for the organisation of light rescue depots, first-aid posts including gas cleansing, mobile first-aid units, medical aid points in the larger public shelters and to rest centres for persons displaced by bombs; training in first-aid for civil defence purposes; mortuaries, removal of the dead from incidents and burial of the dead; isolation shelter unit for infectious diseases in the Martello Street Club and, in connection with these services, the training of nearly 3,000 whole and part-time personnel.

Some idea of the magnitude of the task which these services had to face can be gauged from the fact that there were 891 incidents in the Borough of which 471 were due to high explosive bombs, 39 to flying bombs, 26 to parachute mines and bombs and 9 to long range rockets; as a result of these incidents 3,960 houses were totally destroyed or damaged beyond repair and, in all, 26,897 houses received damage to varying degrees.

One of the most impressive facts of the war, in view of the extensive damage which was caused, was the incredibly small total of casualties and deaths—the casualties treated at first-aid posts numbered 2,303 whilst 736 persons were killed, of whom 109 were buried by the Council at East London Cemetery, Plaistow. These low figures were due, of course, to the evacuation scheme of the London County Council and the public and house shelters of various types.

There were many occasions on which the Public Health Department and the public had reason to be grateful to Mr. Holt, the former Borough Engineer and Surveyor, and Mr. Downing, the present Borough Engineer and Surveyor, whose fine work in adapting the buildings used as first-aid posts and other civil defence establishments; and building the public shelters, prevented so much death and suffering.

The staff of the Public Health Department, of course, generally took a share in this work but those principally concerned were Dr. Barlow and Dr. Bielenky and three sanitary inspectors—the Light Rescue Organiser, Mr. Gratwick, who received the B.E.M., Mr. Dawson, the First Aid Post Organiser, who received the M.B.E., and Mr. Long, who was in charge of Mortuary organisation and conveyance of dead bodies and burials on behalf of the Council.

Finally, tribute must be paid to the courage and unfailing devotion to duty displayed by all members of the casualty services, whose efficiency played no small part in maintaining the morale of the citizens of the Borough during the most exacting years of the war.