

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

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Surbiton (Surrey, England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

[1953]

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BOROUGH OF SURBITON

ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
for the year 1952



BOROUGH OF SURBITON

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor A.C. Healey, Ph.D., M.Sc. (Chairman)
Councillor C.G.L. Du Cann (Vice-Chairman)

Aldermen S.E.F. Gooding, M.D., J.P.	Councillor A.A. Jenner
" Mrs. Woodgate.	" P.G. Kimble
Councillor Mrs. Desforges	" P.F. Page
" C.F.H. Goss	" R.E. Polden
" J.A. Hay.	" D.G. Reynolds.

With the Mayor (Aldermen K. Bidmead, B.A., J.P.) and the
Chairmen of the Finance Committee (Alderman A.G. Leach) ex officio.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - PERSONNEL.

Medical Officer of Health (part-time)

- NEVILLE H. LINZEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

8 / - H.J. ELDRIDGE, M.R.Sen.I., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector.

x * / - R.E. HAINES, M.R.Sen.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors.

x * / - W.H. GRAY, M.R. Sen.I., M.S.I.A.

x - J.M. STAMP, M.R.Sen.I. (Appointed 3.3.52)

Public Analyst (part-time)

D.D. MOIR, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Senior Clerk.

E.D. ELMS

Rodent Officer.

E.C. REEVE

Clerks.

Miss V. CRYER.
F.A. WHITE.
Mrs. J.F. DEAKINS.
J.C. BOOTH (Transferred to Housing Department 21.7.52)
Miss J. DUNNELL (Temporary) (Resigned 5.4.52)
A.G. BABBAGE (Appointed 18.8.52)

Disinfecter and Mortuary Attendant.

A.C. BALL.

- Contributions made to salary by County Council.
8 Sanitary Inspector's Certificate (Royal Sanitary Institute)
x Sanitary Inspector's Certificate (R.S.I. & S.I.E.J. Board)
/ Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods (R.S.I.)
* Smoke Inspector's Certificate (R.S.I.)
/ Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and
Public Works (R.S.I.)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR 1952.

Public Health Department,
2, Shalston Villas,
Surbiton.

July 1953.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Surbiton,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The thirtyfirst Annual Report dealing with health matters of Surbiton is being presented.

The usual procedure laid down by the Ministry is adopted and vital statistics are based on the figures given by the Registrar General.

The population of Surbiton has risen to 61,590.

During the winter of 1952 Surbiton, in common with other localities round London, was blanketed by a very dense yellow fog causing an increase in deaths of respiratory and cardiac cases vide page four.

The infantile mortality rate was reduced from 20.21 to 18.42, and when compared with that for England and Wales is very satisfactory. The births amounted to eight hundred and fourteen and the number of deaths occurring was six hundred and five giving a natural increase of two hundred and nine.

During the year in question twentyfour pads for the analysis and examination of the Hogsmill Stream were taken and unfortunately eight showed the presence of Salmonella Paratyphoid which caused considerable concern. Notice boards were erected stating "Unfit for bathing and paddling". The effluent (one) showed presence of Salmonella Paratyphoid and it is high time that the Sewage Disposal Works of the districts in the Hogsmill catchment area were improved as, in my opinion, the stream is potentially dangerous, although no outbreaks of Paratyphoid or Enteric Fever have been recorded, at any rate, in Surbiton.

STATISTICS.

Area (in acres)	4,709
Population (June 1952) Registrar General's Estimate	61,590
Resident Population (Census 1951)	60,675
Estimated number of separate habitable dwellings (houses and flats) in the Borough at the end of the year.	17,617

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(a) By local authority	124 houses.
(b) By other local authorities	102 flats.
(c) By private enterprise	40 houses.
(d) Rebuilt following destruction by enemy action	65 houses.
	2 flats (over shops)
	1 house.
(e) Self-contained flats provided by conversion (private enterprise)	11
(f) Units of accommodation provided by adaptation (by local authority)	2 flats.

Rateable value at 1st April, 1952.	£681,294
Sum represented by a penny rate	£2,810

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Based on Registrar General's population figure of 61,590 and on adjusted statistics supplied by the Registrar General.

LIVE BIRTHS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	401 (388)	377 (422)	778 (810)
Illegitimate	21 (17)	15 (14)	36 (31)
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.		13.21	(13.76)
Adjusted birth rate (comparability factor 0.92)		12.15	(12.65)
England and Wales		15.3	(15.5)

STILL BIRTHS:

Legitimate	6 (8)	9 (6)	15 (14)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.		18.94	(16.64)

DEATHS:

Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	303 (313)	302 (344)	605 (657)
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.01)		9.82	(10.75)
England and Wales (all causes)		9.91	(10.85)
		11.3	(12.5)

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE:

All infants per 1,000 live births.	18.42	(20.21)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	17.99	(19.75)
England and Wales	27.6	(29.6)

NOTE: The corresponding figures for 1951 are shown in brackets.

POPULATION.

The following table shows the population figure for the last ten years:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Registrar General.</u>	<u>National Registration Office.</u>
1943	51,150	
1944	49,330	49,000
1945	50,660	54,624
1946	56,420	58,619
1947	58,110	59,452
1948	58,870	60,635
1949	60,110	-
1950	61,230	-
1951	61,090	-
1952	61,590	-

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1952.

	Male.	Female.
All Causes.	303	302
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	6	1
2. Syphilitic disease	2	1
3. Whooping cough	1	-
4. Meningococcal infection	-	1
5. Acute poliomyelitis	1	-
6. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	5
7. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	17	2
8. Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	15
9. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	5
10. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	33	36
11. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	2
12. Diabetes.	3	1
13. Vascular lesions of nervous system	29	50
14. Coronary disease, angina	40	29
15. Hypertension with heart disease	4	5
16. Other heart disease	37	66
17. Other circulatory disease	17	13
18. Influenza	1	-
19. Pneumonia	17	10
20. Bronchitis	20	12
21. Other diseases of respiratory system	5	1
22. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	8	1
23. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	3
24. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	4
25. Hyperplasia of prostate.	7	-
26. Congenital malformations	3	6
27. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	30	22
28. Motor vehicle accidents	2	-
29. All other accidents	5	10
30. Suicide	4	1

It is noted that sixtyfive deaths due to respiratory disease occurred in 1952 against eightytwo in 1951. Out of this number fifteen occurred in the foggy period during December.

The same condition applied to cardiological deaths which were two hundred and ninety in 1952 against three hundred and eight in 1951. Out of this number seventeen occurred in the foggy period during December.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were fifteen deaths of children under one year of age. One was illegitimate.

Of the infant deaths thirteen occurred in hospitals or public institutions outside the district of Surbiton. The causes and ages at death were as follows:-

Multiple congenital abnormalities.	45 minutes.
Atelectasis	2 hours.
Inanition	3 hours.
Prematurity	5 hours.
Prematurity	12 hours.
Atelectasis	1 day.
Transposition of great vessels of heart	1 day.
Prematurity	2 days.
Prematurity	3 days.
Alresia of duodenum short circuit operation	4 days.
Inanition	1 week
Spina bifida	1 week
Spina bifida	1 week
Broncho pneumonia	1 month
Carbon monoxide poisoning	5 months.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE.

The following table shows the death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births.

YEAR.	SURBITON.	ENGLAND AND WALES (Smaller towns)
1943	32.56	46.0
1944	29.65	44.0
1945	34.28	46.0
1946	19.75	37.0
1947	24.41	36.0
1948	17.48	32.0
1949	23.54	30.0
1950	26.31	29.4
1951	20.21	27.6
1952	18.42	27.6

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The Kingston Group Hospital Management Committee (South West Metropolitan Region) has supplied me with the following figures for 1952:-

ANALYSIS OF PATIENTS ADMITTED TO THE TOLWORTH
HOSPITAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER,
1952.

	<u>Chronic</u> <u>sick.</u>	<u>Diphtheria.</u>	<u>Scarlet</u> <u>fever.</u>	<u>Other</u> <u>diseases.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Surbiton	-	-	31	57	88
Malden	-	-	23	25	48
Esher	-	-	17	42	59
Totals:	-	-	71	124	195

The fiftyseven "other diseases" admitted to the hospital are follows:-

Respiratory Tuberculosis	15
Whooping Cough	2
Gastro Enteritis	3
Anterior Poliomyelitis	1
? Poliomyelitis	4
Measles	8
Erysipelas	2
Tonsillitis	4
Chicken Pox	4
Measles and Broncho Pneumonia	1
Tubercular Meningitis	1
Meningitis	2
Whooping Cough and Measles	1
Infective Hepatitis	1
Congenital Syphilis	1
T.B. Endometritis (Uterus)	1
Impetigo	2
Miliary and Respiratory Tuberculosis	1
Whooping Cough, Broncho-Pneumonia and Measles	2
T.B. Meningitis and Miliary Tuberculosis	1
	<u>57</u>

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE YEARS
ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1943 to 1952.

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Diphtheria	2	1	7	15	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	299	149	45	38	31	39	95	87	53	76
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	2	2	6	-	2	-	1	4	4
Pneumonia	34	25	23	17	16	16	15	11	19	12
Erysipelas	6	4	1	5	4	5	2	5	2	5
Polio-myelitis	-	1	1	-	19	2	5	8	2	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	1	6	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	2	-	4	4	-	1	-	140	62	-
Malaria	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	9	11	11
Measles	323	212	775	429	170	591	601	342	1069	538
Whooping Cough	176	52	90	48	108	157	102	176	163	204
Totals	846	449	949	565	354	815	829	780	1392	856

No case of Diphtheria occurred during the year.

No case of dysentery occurred and cases of Food Poisoning remained the same.

Measles and Whooping Cough were up, no doubt the increase is due to more careful notification.

	Total Cases Notified At ages.										TOTAL	Total Deaths At ages.									
	Under 1	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over	Age unknown		Under 1	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over.	
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Scarlet Fever	-	2	8	59	6	-	1	-	-	-	76	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6	1	1	12	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	3	20	
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Measles	3	94	146	270	10	3	6	-	-	6	538	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Whooping Cough	7	30	60	98	6	-	3	-	-	-	204	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Polio-encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Food Poisoning	-	1	2	2	-	-	4	-	2	-	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	

NOTE: Total deaths include Transferable Deaths occurring outside the district which are not included in the total cases notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of the year four hundred and thirty four persons were shown to be suffering from Tuberculosis and living within the district:

		<u>Pul.</u>	<u>Non-Pul.</u>
	Males.	230	19
	Females	150	35

	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	1	-	-	4	-	-	1	1
5 - 14	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	13	10	2	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	11	8	1	2	2	-	-	-
35 - 44	12	9	1	-	1	2	-	-
45 - 54	4	1	1	1	-	1	-	-
55 - 64	6	-	1	-	5	-	-	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals:	50	30	6	8	9	3	1	1

Of the ninetyfour cases tabulated above twentysix are cases transferred from other districts.

At the commencement of the year there were three hundred and ninetyeight cases of tuberculosis on the register and at the end of the year this figure had increased to four hundred and thirtyfour.

During the year fourteen were notified as recovered from the disease, thirty left the district and there were fourteen deaths.

Cases added to Register.

WARD	Primary Notifications.			Transfers, etc.			Cases on Register 31st Dec. 1952.
	1950	1951	1952	1950	1951	1952	
Berrylands	10	10	10	4	3	3	43
Chessington	4	5	13	10	4	7	74
Hook & Southborough	21	9	13	5	-	7	95
Seething Wells	1	6	3	2	4	-	23
St. Mark's.	8	9	11	4	8	3	46
Surbiton Hill	6	6	-	5	3	2	29
Tolworth East	4	10	6	2	5	3	48
Tolworth West	4	5	7	6	5	-	35
Tolworth South	5	7	4	7	4	2	41
Totals	63	67	67	45	36	27	434

The table below shows the number of cases on the register at the end of the year for the past ten years:-

WARD	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
Berrylands	43	51	58	61	60	53	47	51	37	43
Chessington	50	56	64	57	52	54	62	59	56	74
Hook & Southborough	45	54	49	52	59	65	68	80	74	95
Seething Wells	22	26	30	38	44	38	34	24	26	23
St. Mark's.	36	38	37	39	33	38	38	34	41	46
Surbiton Hill	30	29	33	28	41	43	42	26	39	29
Tolworth East	53	52	56	53	51	52	56	39	42	48
Tolworth West	31	30	36	40	38	38	27	36	37	35
Tolworth South	52	54	53	47	42	44	50	49	46	41
Totals	362	390	416	415	420	425	424	388	398	434

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis)
Regulations, 1925.

It was not necessary to take any action under these regulations during the year.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.

No action was taken under this Section.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

	<u>Children treated at Clinics.</u>	<u>Children treated by General Practitioners.</u>
Primary immunisations	246	367
Re-inforcement doses	203	122

The division into children of school age and those under is:-

	<u>Children of School age.</u>	<u>Children under School age.</u>
Primary immunisations	46	567
Re-inforcement doses	305	20

The following table shows the number of immunisations carried out during the years 1943 to 1952.

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Immunisations.</u>	<u>Re-inforcements</u>
1943	709	-
1944	196	-
1945	326	-
1946	696	-
1947	482	104
1948	812	148
1949	740	449
1950	709	407
1951	763	816
1952	613	325

VACCINATION.

The numbers of vaccinations carried out in the Borough by the General Practitioners and doctors at the clinics are as follows:-

	<u>Vaccinations.</u>	<u>Re-vaccinations.</u>
Clinic doctors.	250	1
General Practitioners	380	184

FOOD POISONING.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The water throughout the district is furnished by the Metropolitan Water Board, and is a constant supply of excellent quality. Monthly reports by the Board are supplied giving details of their chemical and bacteriological examination.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse and Salvage Collection.

The rate of the collection of refuse and salvage, except when Bank Holidays interfered with collection, was maintained at once in every seven days.

Cesspool Emptying.

On request cesspools are emptied by the Council and others are done by private contract.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Hogsmill Stream.

Analyses of the stream are still being taken as previously stated in this report, and notice boards are still displayed.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

Publicly owned baths.

Surbiton Lagoon, situated in Reeburn Avenue, Surbiton, is an open air pool 165 feet long and 90 feet wide, with a depth of three to nine feet.

The water is treated by continuous pressure sand filtration, sterilization by breakpoint chlorination and oxygenation over an ornamental cascade.

Periodical samples of water are taken by the Borough Engineer and the plant adjusted accordingly. In addition three samples were taken by the Public Health Department for both chemical and bacteriological examination which proved to be satisfactory.

Privately owned bath open to the public.

Ace of Spades Swimming Pool, Kingston by Pass Road, is an open air pool 40 feet by 20 feet with a depth of 4 feet to 7 feet 6 inches.

The water is treated by continuous pressure sand filtration, sterilization by injection of chlorine and oxygenation over an ornamental cascade.

Four sets of samples were taken by the Department during 1952.

School Bath.

One private school has a small swimming bath which is used only by scholars and staff. Sterilization is by hand dosing with chlorine coupled with frequent changes of the water. Seven sets of samples were taken by the Department during 1952.

FOOD POISONING.

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning and no deaths from this cause.

Eleven sporadic cases were notified but in only one case was the causative organism traced viz Salmonella Enteritidis. The food involved was not discovered.

MILK.

One hundred and fortythree samples of milk were taken, full details of which are shown on page 28.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

It has not been necessary to take action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, although several cases have been brought to the notice of the Public Health Department.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the
Factories Act, 1937.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	34	11	3	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	215	381	16	-
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding outworkers' premises.)	4	-	-	-
Totals	253	392	19	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	1	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	4	4	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	21	21	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to Outwork.)	10	10	3	1	-
Totals	36	36	3	2	-

3. Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).

	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	No of cases of default in sending lists to Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel. (Making, etc. cleaning and washing).	32	-	-	-	-	-
Household linen.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brass and Brass articles.	13	-	-	-	-	-
Stuffed toys.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Cosques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings etc.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Lampshades.	36	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	83	-	-	-	-	-

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

June 1953.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Surbiton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year ended 31st December, 1952, in which I have endeavoured to show under various headings the nature of the duties performed and results achieved.

COMPLAINTS. (Excluding Council Houses),

During the year 1,093 complaints were received with regard to the undermentioned matters, were duly investigated and any necessary action taken.

Choked and defective drains	...	...	...	...	244
Insanitary or dilapidated condition of houses	...	...	...	...	100
or premises	...	...	...	...	36
Dampness	...	...	...	...	15
Defective or insufficient W.C. accommodation	...	...	...	...	14
Defective water pipes or fittings	...	...	...	...	9
Insufficient or defective refuse bins	...	...	...	...	7
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	32
Offensive smells from various causes	...	...	...	...	13
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisance from animals improperly kept	...	...	...	...	70
Unwholesome food	...	...	...	...	7
Infestation with bugs or fleas	...	...	...	...	44
Infestation with other insect pests	...	...	...	...	455
Infestation with rats and mice	...	...	...	...	1
Smoke nuisances	...	...	...	...	16
Flooding	...	...	...	...	3
Complaints re milk	...	...	...	...	4
Pollution of water courses	...	...	...	...	21
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...
Total :-					1,093

The number of complaints received in the Department during the past ten years was :-

1951	...	...	1059	1946	...	...	831
1950	...	...	1083	1945	...	...	550
1949	...	...	1007	1944	...	...	450
1948	...	...	986	1943	...	...	475
1947	...	...	926	1942	...	...	347

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	355
Number of dwelling houses visited for other than housing defects	1384
Number of visits to premises other than houses	2977
Premises re-inspected	2199
Visits to works in progress	830
Visits re. building licences	11
X Visits re. rats and mice	7262
Miscellaneous visits	816

Total:- 15,834

X Including visits made by Rodent Staff.

Including in the above are the following classified visits :-

To food premises	1268
" cowsheds	19
" dairies and milkshops	21
" milk vehicles	64
" ice cream premises and vehicles	252
" bakehouses	55
" fishfriers' premises	31
" factories	337
" workplaces	15
" outworkers' premises	70
" schools	160
" caravans	139
" houses-let-in-lodgings	33
" council house applicants	61
" public conveniences	44
Re. cases of infectious disease (including dysentery, tuberculosis and food poisoning)	387
" overcrowding or possible overcrowding	34
" Shops Act	236
" Rag Flock Act	3
" Pet Animals Act	21
Smoke observations made	12
Interviews with owners, tradesmen, etc.	382
Samples of drinking water taken	18
" " river water taken (6 occasions)	26
" " swimming bath water taken (sets)... ..	14
" " effluent from Sewage Works (2 occasions)	5

TESTING OF DRAINS AND SANITARY FITTINGS.

Drains tested with water	62
Drains tested by other methods	24

<u>NOTICES SERVED.</u>	
Informal and verbal notices	657
Statutory notices under Section 75 Public Health Act, 1936, to provide sufficient dust receptacles	2
Statutory notices under Section 93 Public Health Act, 1936, to abate nuisances	8
Statutory notices under Section 157 of the Housing Act, 1936, to enter premises	111
Statutory notices under Section 277 of the Public Health Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises	6
Statutory notices under Section 287 Public Health Act, 1936, to enter premises	1
Licences to station and use moveable dwellings (Section 269 Public Health Act, 1936)	38
Statutory notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936, to make premises reasonably fit for human habitation	2
Statutory notices under Section 168 of the Housing Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises	5
Statutory notices under Section 10 (2) of the Housing Act, 1936, of intention to do works in default	1
Statutory notices under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 - Notice to Show Cause why Registration of premises should not be Refused or Cancelled	1
Statutory notices under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 - Order for Demolition of a House.	4
Licences granted under The Pet Animals Act, 1951 - Licence to keep a Pet Shop	6
	<hr/> 842 <hr/>

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :-	
(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	355
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	355

INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

1.	(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	112
		(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	112
	(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	N11
	(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit.	300
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices :-			
			Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	284
3.	Action under Statutory Powers during the year :-			
	A.	Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-		
	(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.		1
	(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-		
		(a)	by owners	N11
		(b)	by Local Authority in default of owner (from previous year)	2
	B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-		
	(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied		3
	(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-		
		(a)	by owners	3
		(b)	by Local Authority in default of owners	N11

3. C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 4
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil
- (3) Number of dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders remained suspended (Circular 1866) (three now unoccupied but not demolished) 4

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

DETAILS OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS, ETC.
EFFECTED DURING THE YEAR.

Drainage.

Choked drains and sewers cleared	...	...	...	265
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	67
Drainage systems partly re-laid	...	...	...	8
Drainage systems completely re-laid	...	...	...	1
Additional drains provided	...	...	...	10
Sewage disposal plant re-conditioned	...	...	...	1
Overflowing cesspools emptied	...	...	...	5

Water Closets, etc.

Additional provided	...	...	...	...	13
Cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	...	74
New pans fixed	...	...	...	...	12
Lighted, ventilated or screened	43
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	21

Sinks, Baths, etc.

New fixed	26
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Waste Pipes, etc.

Repaired	16
New provided	9
Disconnected or trapped	2

Water Supply.

Water re-instated	6
Service pipes and cisterns repaired, etc.	...	...	...	...	7
Draw-off taps disconnected from cisterns	...	...	...	...	1

Paving.

Yards newly paved	...	...	...	...	1
Yard paving repaired or relaid	9

Dust Receptacles.

New dustbins provided	44
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Dampness.

Roofs repaired	108
Gutters and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	104
Damp courses inserted	...	...	...	...	...	11
Ventilation provided under floors	...	...	...	...	...	1
External walls pointed or rendered	...	...	...	...	...	44
Walls treated with damp resisting material	...	...	...	...	...	88
Open area provided	...	...	...	...	...	1

General

Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	220
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	18
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	59
Stoves and coppers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	31
Internal walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	253
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	241
Rooms ventilated	...	...	...	...	...	9
Staircases repaired or provided with handrails	...	...	...	...	...	16
Chimney stacks and pots repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	37
Flue repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Statutory entries made in rent books	...	...	...	...	...	58
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	5
Accumulations removed or covered	...	...	...	...	...	24
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	6
Electric light provided to staircase in house- let-in-lodgings.	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dangerous structures repaired or taken down	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pet Animals Act requirement	...	...	...	...	...	1
Caravans removed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	40

See further details under headings "Food premises",
"Factories and Bakehouses" etc.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The Housing Act, 1949, introduced a scheme to encourage property owners to modernise existing houses "which though soundly constructed and in good general repair, lack the amenities and conveniences which have come to be regarded as essential to a decent and healthy life", by providing financial assistance for works of improvement.

The Council continued to operate this scheme in cases where new housing accommodation would be provided by the conversion of an existing building, where additional bedroom accommodation was to be provided, and where it was intended to improve the sanitary arrangements and/or the system of water heating.

Five applications for such grants were received during the year. Three grants were recommended by the Council and the other two were not approved by them.

In one recommended case the Ministry of Housing and Local Government rejected the application, and in another case amended the amount approved by the Council.

Grants actually made were as follows:-

£85. 5. 0.	To provide hot water system, bath, internal W.C. and larder.
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£81. 7. 6. ... To provide hot water system, bath, internal W.C. and larder.

Rather surprisingly the number of enquiries about this scheme has been very small indeed, and at the end of 1952 only eight grants had been made.

I should like to re-iterate the comment which I made in my 1950 Report that it is an unhappy fact that despite the splendid achievements of the past 30 years in slum-clearance and re-conditioning of houses, the time has not been found opportune to make compulsory the provision of a fixed bath and hot water supply before a house can be regarded as in all respects fit for habitation. Even today there are hundred of houses in this Borough lacking such facilities.

FOOD PREMISES.

Thirty-nine premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

1,439 visits were made to these premises and to shops, canteens, restaurants, public-houses, and food-handling businesses and vehicles of all descriptions to ensure the maintenance of a proper standard of hygiene and to examine foodstuffs of all kinds.

The following works were carried out to meet the requirements of the Council under the Food & Drugs Act, byelaws and other legislation.

Hot water supply provided	...	...	...	...	20
New washbasins provided	...	...	...	...	2
Soap and towel provided	...	...	...	...	1
Internal walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	4
W.Cs. cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	1
Food storage improved	...	...	...	...	3
Delivery vans repaired, cleansed, etc.	...	...	...	...	4
Yards cleansed	...	...	...	...	2
Prevention of food from contamination	...	...	...	...	8
Food premises reconstructed	...	...	...	...	1
Food premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	94
Cold stores repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Floor covering renewed	...	...	...	...	2
Name and address inscribed on vehicle	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	3

FOOD INSPECTION

The following foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption were surrendered by the owners, and either salvaged for animal feeding or destroyed :-

<u>Article</u>	<u>No. of Containers</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>	<u>Reason for Condemnation</u>
Tinned Milk	63	70	11½	Blown, decomposed or damaged.
" Fruit (various)	717	784	7	"
" Fruit Juices	49	49	3	"
" Vegetables (various)	176	229	9	"
" Soup	17	16	11½	"
" Rabbit	8	4	8	Blown
Ham	11	92	4	Blown, decomposed, or damaged.

<u>Article</u>	<u>No. of Containers</u>	<u>lbs</u>	<u>ozs.</u>	<u>Reason for Condemnation.</u>
Jams and Marmalade	10	13	14½	Blown, decomposed or glass contaminated.
Luncheon Meat	26	71	1½	Blown, decomposed damaged, or metallic contaminated.
Rice	3	2	8	Mice contaminated
Almond Paste	1		8	Vermin "
Noodles	1		8	" "
Miscellaneous groceries	1261	778	4½	Damaged by fire.
Sausages	11	56	12	Blown, decomposed.
Flour	34	58	-	Vermin contamination.
Cereal	3	2	12	" "
Rusks	1		7	Mould growth
Pudding Mixture	1		8	" "
Butter	6	6	0	" "
Cake Mixture	1	1	4	Mice contaminated
Chocolates and sweets	15	1	13	" "
Coconut Ice	30	210	0	Deteriorated
Cheeses	13	3	14	Decomposed or animal contamination.
Meat Paste	3	7	0	Blown, decomposed or damaged.
Fish Paste	2	-	4	Blown
Ox Tongue	1	6	0	Damaged
Essence of Anchovies	2	1	0	Decomposed
Macaroni	1	-	8	Blown
Ham & Veal loaf	1	-	12	Perforated
Pickling Spice	1	-	8	Mould growth
Minced Meat Loaf	3	2	4	Blown
Cooked Gammon	2	3	12	"
Quaker Oats	9	11	0	Mould growth
Meal (Matzo)	1	-	14	Moth contaminated
Tea		19	12	Vermin contamination or smoke contaminated.
Raisins		1	0	Mice contaminated.
Margarine		1	0	Fire damage
Butter			12	" "
Sugar		1	8	" "
Eggs (1 dozen)		1	8	" "
Tinned meats	127	369	6½	Decomposed, blown or damaged.
Beef		908	8	Decomposed
" Kidney		2	0	Nephritis
Lamb		41	12	Decomposed
Lambs liver		15	8	Freezer burn
Mutton		9	-	Decomposed
Pork		5	-	"
"		-	13	Bruised
Chicken	1	2	10	Blown
Turkey	1	9	8	Decomposed
Pigs Trotters	24	30	-	"
Rabbits	249	585	-	"
Bacon		40	12	"
Jellied Veal		6	-	"
Dabs		140	-	"
Hake		63	-	"
Cod Fillets		310	-	"
Coley		197	-	"
Hake fillets		112	-	"

<u>Article</u>	<u>No. of Containers</u>	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs.</u>	<u>Reason for Condemnation</u>
Dog fish		620	-	Decomposed
Skate Wing		84	-	"
Lobster	1		6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Blown
Fish pieces		84	-	Decomposed
Mackerel		84	-	"
Whiting		105	-	"
Salmon	3	7	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	Blown
Kippers		62	-	Decomposed
Cod Roes		28	-	"
Herring Roes		68	-	"
" "	4	1	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Damaged
Tinned fish	23	33	6 $\frac{3}{4}$	Blown or damaged
Peeled Shrimps	1	-	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	Damaged
Sardines	2	-	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Blown or damaged.

Total :- 2 tons 18 cwts. 1 qr. 17 lbs. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs.

Pig Carcasses inspected and condemned.

Number killed	18
Number inspected	18

All diseases except Tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	Nil

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	Nil

There is now no slaughterhouse in use in the Borough consequently no cattle, calves, sheep or lambs were inspected except in butchers' shops.

The number of persons holding licences granted by the Council under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, to act as slaughtermen was two.

FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following is a summary of samples taken during the year for analysis by the Public Analyst :-

Sample Nos.	Articles	Analysed			Contraventions		
		Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total.
183 184/5 187 193/4 203/4 219/21 248 250 263/4 280 286/8 285	Margarine(special)	1	-	1			
	Milk	18		18			
	Hot Milk	1		1	1		1
	Cd. fwd.	20	-	20	1		1

Sample Nos.	Articles	Analysed			Contraventions.		
		Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
	Bt. forward	20	-	20	1		1
1186	National Butter	1		1			
1292	Butter	1		1			
1188	Compound Cooking Fat	1		1			
1189	Jam						
1229			10	10			
1239							
1253/8							
1260	Sauce		1	1			
1191			1	1			
1192			1	1			
1190			1	1			
1195	Coffee flavoured beverage						
1201/2	Pork sausages	8		8	1		1
1206							
1208							
1236							
1246	Beef sausages	10		10			
1299							
1196/7							
1223							
1238	Beef sausage meat	1		1			
1247							
1262							
1281/2							
1295	Mixed rock		1	1			
1235	Sweet Birds Eggs		1	1			
1198	English honey		1	1			
1199	Bitter Beer	4		4			
1200							
1207							
1209							
1283/4	Ice Cream	5	2	7	1		1
1210/11							
1222							
1233/4							
1249	Ham & tongue meat-paste		1	1			
1251			1	1			
1214			1	1			
1212			1	1			
1213	Baking Powder		1	1			
1215	Sardine and tomato fish paste		1	1			
1216	Cider		2	2			
1262							
1217			1	1			
1218 & 1240		1	1	2			
1224	Malt vinegar		1	1			
1225	Salad cream		1	1			
1226	Sugar Kist (Rice)		1	1			
1227	Table Jelly		1	1			
1228	Ointment		1	1			
1230	Chicken Spread		1	1			
1242/5	"Koola Fruta"		1	1			
1231	Synthetic Cream		4	4			
1232			1	1			
1237		1		1			
1241							
1252	Meringue Powder		1	1		1	1
1259	Braised Pork Kidneys (chopped)		1	1			
	Fish cakes						
	Coffee Chicory Essence		1	1			
	Siftings of Tea	1		1			
	Lemon Squash		1	1			
C/d fwd.		54	39	93	3	1	4

Sample Nos.	Articles.	Analysed			Contraventions.		
		Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
	Bt.fwd.	54	39	93	3	1	4
1261	Fish paste		1	1			
1265	Stewed steak		1	1			
1266	Adrenaline cream		1	1			
1267	'Algipan' Balm		1	1			
1268	French coffee		1	1			
1269	Cake mixture sweetened		1	1			
1270)						
1274	) Jelly crystals		3	3		2	2
1286)						
1271	Seidlitz powder		1	1			
1272	Soft drink tablets		1	1			
1273	Methol BP & Eucal- yptol BP Pastilles		1	1			
1275	Mixed Peel		1	1			
1276	Ground rice		1	1			
1277	Herbal Tablets		1	1			
1278	Non-brewed condiment		1	1			
1279	Tea time tablets		1	1			
1285	Deodorant tablets		1	1			
1287)						
1291	) Self-raising flour		2	2			
1288	Fruit mincemeat		1	1			
1289	Sunny Spread		1	1			
1290	Orange curd		1	1			
1293	Dried fruit (currants) 1		1	1			
1294	" " (sultanas) 1		1	1			
Total :-		56	62	118	3	3	6

Action taken on contravening samples was as follows :-

1195 (formal)
Pork Sausages.

Contained sulphur dioxide, an added preservative, to the extent of 100 parts per million by weight.

No disclosure that the sausages contained preservative had been made on sale. It was ascertained that the butcher from whom the sample was procured had purchased the sausages from a wholesaler in London and the wholesaler had failed to indicate the presence of preservatives. A warning was given to the wholesaler in this case.

1205 (formal)
Milk, hot.

Contained 19% added water. Proceedings taken under section 3 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938. A fine of £15. was imposed and the Council awarded £3.3.0. costs.

1231 (informal)
Meringue Powder

The ingredients specified on the label included "wheat amylum" and "processed farina" which do not constitute appropriate designations for the purpose of the Labelling of Food Order, 1950.

It was ascertained that a neighbouring Authority was already in communication with the Ministry of Food with regard to this incorrect labelling and the matter was therefore left in their hands.

1234 (formal)
Ice Cream.

Contained only 5½% of milk solids other than fat instead of a minimum of 7½%. Warning letter sent to manufacturers.

1270 (informal)
Jelly Crystals

Contained only 80.8 per cent of sugar instead of a minimum of 84 per cent. After consultation with the Public Analyst it was decided to take a further informal sample.

1274 (informal)
Jelly Crystals

Contained only 82.0 per cent of sugar instead of a minimum of 84 per cent as required by the Food Standards (Table Jellies) Order, 1949.

This was a follow-up of sample No.1270.

The matter was taken up with the manufacturers who withdrew existing stock from sale. A subsequent sample was satisfactory.

There were in addition two prosecutions as follows :-

- (1) For selling to the prejudice of the purchaser a cake containing a screw. A fine of £2. was imposed and the Council awarded £2.2.0. costs.
- (11) For selling to the prejudice of the purchaser a cake containing a portion of wire nail. A fine of £5. was imposed and the Council awarded £5. costs.

ICE CREAM.

Premises have been registered by the Corporation under Section 14, Food & Drugs Act, 1938, as under :-

For manufacture, storage and sale	10
For manufacture, storage and sale but manufacture to be limited to iced lollies	16
For storage and sale, but not manufacture	102

During the year 252 visits were made to premises and vehicles and 174 samples of ice-cream were taken for laboratory examination for bacterial cleanliness, details being as follows:-

Ice Cream.

Grade I	Coliforms absent	90	} 61%	} 77%
"	Coliforms present	11		
"	II Coliforms absent	15	}	
"	Coliforms present	10		
"	III Coliforms absent	9	} 12%	
"	Coliforms present	11		
"	IV Coliforms absent	5	} 11%	
"	Coliforms present	13		

Iced Lollies

Grade I	Coliforms absent	10
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Total:- 174

In no case was Faecal Coli found.

The Public Health Laboratory Service advises that it is unwise to pay too much attention to the result of any one sample. Judgment should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that it would be reasonable to expect about 50 per cent of samples throughout the year to fall into Grade I, 80 per cent into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 per cent into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4.

The eighteen Grade IV reports which spoil our record were from two sources of supply which, being unsatisfactory, were repeatedly sampled with varying results. One of these supplies was eventually discontinued.

Very little ice cream is now made in this district and of the 174 samples only 14 (6 being lollies) were of local manufacture.

Each retailer from whom a sample was taken was supplied with a copy of the laboratory report, and a Sanitary Inspector visited the premises and gave advice where reports were not up to the standard expected.

Where manufacture took place outside the Borough copies of reports whether good or otherwise were also sent to the Sanitary Inspector for the district concerned for his information.

The Food Standards (Ice Cream) (Amendment) Order, 1952, came into operation on 7th July, 1952, and reduced the minimum fat content of ordinary ice cream from 5% to 4% and the minimum non-fat milk solids from 7½% to 5%. Sugar remained unchanged at 10%. There were similar alterations for ice-cream containing fruit and for Kosher ice.

Seven samples were taken to see that the proper standard was reached and six were found in order. The seventh was deficient in non-fatty solids and a warning letter was sent to the manufacturers.

MILK SUPPLY.

- (i) At the end of the year there were twenty-nine entries on the register as follows :-

Distributors of milk residing in the Borough	14
Distributors of milk residing outside the Borough but retailing in the Borough	6
Premises registered (used as Dairies)	9

- (ii) Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.
Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

Dealers' licences to sell designated milk were granted as follows :-

Pasteurised milk	12
Pasteurised milk (supplementary)	8
Tuberculin tested milk	10
Tuberculin tested milk (supplementary)	8
Sterilised milk	9
Sterilised milk (supplementary)	8

(iii) 143 samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted to the following tests :-

	<u>Phosphatase</u> <u>Test</u>	<u>Methylene</u> <u>Blue Test</u>	<u>Turbidity</u> <u>Test</u>	<u>T.B. Biological</u> <u>Test</u>
Pasteurised	92	92	-	-
T.T.Pasteurised	20	20	-	-
T.T.(Farm Bottled)	-	2	-	-
Sterilised	-	-	8	-
Ungraded	-	2	-	6
Accredited	-	-	-	13

The phosphatase test indicates that pasteurisation has been properly carried out; the methylene blue test is used to determine cleanliness and keeping quality, the turbidity test is a check on sterilisation and the T.B. test is for the purpose of detecting tubercle bacilli.

Only five samples failed to pass the prescribed test.

(a) T.T.Pasteurised.

One sample failed the methylene blue test probably on account of the prevailing hot weather.

(b) T.T(Farm Bottled).

One sample failed the methylene blue test. It was taken during hot weather and part of its journey took place in an uncovered vehicle. The matter was taken up with the firm concerned who stated that they were replacing their fleet with covered vehicles and the change-over was to be completed by the Summer of 1953.

(c) Pasteurised.

Three samples taken on the same day failed the phosphatase test. These were the first failures ever recorded here against the Dairy Company involved. No satisfactory explanation of the failure was found. Subsequent samples were satisfactory.

DYSENTERY AND FOOD POISONING.

The number of specimens collected and taken to the Laboratory for bacteriological examination in the course of investigating these illnesses was as follows :-

	<u>Faeces</u>	<u>Suspected food</u>
1950	1202	13
1951	694	2
1952	183	15

DUSTBINS.

Forty-four dustbins were provided as a result of notices served, two such notices being statutory and the remainder informal.

The Council's scheme for the sale of new dustbins was continued, sixty-four bins being sold during the year.

FACTORIES AND BAKEHOUSES.

The total number of factories on the register at the end of the year was 253 (215 mechanical, 34 non-mechanical and 4 works of building construction).

Three hundred and ninety-two visits were made to these premises, and works were carried out to remedy contraventions found as under :-

Want of cleanliness	1 factory
Insufficient sanitary conveniences	4 factories
Defective, dirty or inadequately lighted sanitary conveniences	21 factories
Means of escape in case of fire not in order	3 factories
Other offences	7 factories

Five certificates were issued under section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, that the factories to which they related were provided with such means of escape in case of fire for the persons employed therein as may be reasonably required in the circumstances.

There were 83 outworkers on the register at the end of the year. Seventy visits were made but no contraventions found.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Thirty-eight licences to station and use moveable dwellings (caravans) were granted during the year. Twenty-four of the caravans are standing on the Riverhill Estate which has been leased to a local Sports Club. The remainder are stationed on odd sites throughout the Borough.

Difficulty was experienced with three caravans which were brought on to land within an area covered by a Prohibitory Order made under the Surrey County Council Acts.

Eventually one of the caravans was removed and the use of the other two for human habitation was discontinued.

Two other infringing caravans were removed.

There is one other site in the Borough on which some unlicensed caravans are parked which is receiving consideration.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

This Act which is designed "to regulate the sale of pet animals" came into force on 1st April, 1952.

The Council after careful consideration drew up a set of conditions to be imposed in licences authorising persons to keep pet shops.

Licences in respect of three such premises were issued during the year.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Two hundred and thirty six visits were made in the administration of this Act, and twenty-three infringements were corrected.

Despite its consolidation into one Act the law relating to shops is a complicated piece of legislation not altogether in keeping with the times.

The proposals of the government for amending legislation following the report of the Gowers Committee are awaited with interest.

DISINFECTION.

(a) During the year disinfection was carried out at sixty premises in which the following diseases occurred :-

Anterior Poliomyelitis (or suspected)	11
Suspected Diphtheria	1
Meningo-coccal infection	2
Measles	1
Scarlet Fever	28
Tuberculosis	16
Miscellaneous	1

Disinfection was also carried out at thirty-five other premises on request, the occupier in each case paying the cost.

(b) The total number of articles disinfected by steam at the Tolworth Hospital, or destroyed was :-

	<u>Disinfected</u>	<u>Destroyed.</u>
Blankets	62	3
Bolsters	9	5
Counterpanes	9	2
Curtains	3	-
Cushions	9	-
Featherbeds	7	-
Mattresses	26	4
Mattress covers	5	-
Pillows	74	5
Pillow cases	37	-
Rugs	4	-
Sheets	23	1
Towels	6	-
Wearing apparel	13	-
Bedspreads	5	-
Miscellaneous	11	5
	<hr/> 303	<hr/> 25

(c) No. of rooms disinfected 106
No. of library books disinfected 224

1000 sacks to hold fertilizer for export were disinfected with formalin at the Sewage Disposal Works.

DISINFESTATION.

(a) Bed Bugs.

Council Houses		Other Houses.	
Found to be infested	Disinfested	Found to be infested	Disinfested
1	1	7	7

Methods employed for disinfestation :-

Spraying with insecticide	7
Use of D.D.T. Powder	1

(b) School Canteens.

At the request of the County Council seven school canteens were sprayed with insecticide to prevent insect pests, the County Council paying the cost of the work.

(c) General.

Advice is frequently sought from the Department in the identification and measures for eradication of insect pests of various kinds.

For the convenience of the public a stock of insecticides and sprayers is held in the Department, and these articles are sold at cost price when required. This service seems to be much appreciated.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

One burial was effected in accordance with Section 50 of the Act where it appeared that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body were being made otherwise than by the Council.

PUBLIC MORTUARY.

During the year seventy-two bodies were received into the mortuary for post-mortem examination.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION. 505

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries continued its grant-aid of 50 per cent of the irrecoverable expenditure incurred by the Council in carrying out its functions under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Grant-aid is not available in respect of expenditure incurred on treatment at commercial and industrial premises, and the full cost of the work has therefore to be recovered from the occupiers or, in certain circumstances, the owners.

58 business or industrial premises, schools, etc. were treated by the Council's staff on payment of the cost involved by the occupiers or owners concerned.

Whilst it is the duty of occupiers of houses to keep their premises free from rats and mice, the Council continued to carry out treatment of infestations at private dwellings without charge provided the occupiers took such steps as might from time to time be necessary and reasonably practicable for preventing their premises from becoming infested.

This decision has considerably facilitated the work at private houses as treatment is able to proceed almost immediately an infestation is found.

The figures which follow indicate the extent of the work carried out during the year, and suggest that we are keeping the rodent population to a very low level.

[illegible]

In February the seventh maintenance treatment of the Corporation's sewer system was carried out, followed by the eighth maintenance treatment in July, the results of the two treatments being as follows:-

7th Maintenance treatment				8th Maintenance treatment.		
Area X	No. of manholes pre-baited	No. of manholes showing takes of pre-bait and subsequently poison baited	No. of manholes showing takes of poison bait.	No. of manholes pre-baited.	No. of manholes showing takes of pre-bait and subsequently poison baited.	No. of manholes showing takes of poison bait.
1	4	Nil	-	Nil	-	-
2	19	8	1	19	8	1
3	6	2	1	6	Nil	-
4	9	1	1	3	Nil	-
5	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
6	18	17	6	25	6	3
7	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
8	13	8	6	5	Nil	-
9	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
	69	36	15	58	14	4

In December an annual test baiting of the Corporation's sewers was carried out the results being as follows :-

Area X	No. of manholes test baited.	No of manholes showing partial takes of test bait.	No. of manholes showing complete takes of test bait.	No. of manholes showing no take of test bait.
1	15	Nil	Nil	15
2	13	Nil	2	11
3	19	Nil	Nil	19
4	31	1	Nil	30
5	10	Nil	Nil	10
6	30	Nil	2	28
7	6	Nil	Nil	6
8	43	Nil	Nil	43
9	34	Nil	2	32
	201	1	6	194

The following is a summary of the several treatments carried out since disinfection of sewers commenced in 1948 :-

Date	Description	No. of manholes pre-baited	Takes of pre-bait	Takes of poison bait
April, 1948	1st Initial treatment	218	77	31
July, 1948	2nd " "	77	14	8
February, 1949	1st Maintenance treatment	80	49	18
July, 1949	2nd " "	71	20	7
March, 1950	3rd " "	58	41	21
July, 1950	4th " "	41	20	13
February, 1951	5th " "	57	17	15
August, 1951	6th " "	35	14	6
February, 1952	7th " "	69	36	15
July, 1952	8th " "	58	14	4

Results of Initial and Annual Test Baiting :-

	No. of manholes baited	Takes of bait.	% of takes.
Initial 1947/8	384	64	16.666
Second 1948	160	13	8.125
Third 1949	229	8	3.493
Fourth 1950	250	9	3.600
Fifth 1951	200	11	5.500
Sixth 1952	201	7	5.473

* These "Areas" are just a convenient geographical division of the Borough for the purposes of this work.

CONCLUSION.

This report shews another year of steady progress in the many branches of our duties with no spectacular items calling for special mention.

In my last two reports I have referred to the difficulties of landlords in maintaining their houses in a good state of repair in the prevailing economic circumstances.

These conditions have unfortunately worsened with the continued rise in the cost of building works, and the duty of administering the law by compelling owners to carry out necessary repairs is becoming more and more difficult.

We have done our utmost to ease the burden by only asking for absolutely essential repairs and by allowing the longest reasonable time for execution of works. This has involved a good deal of negotiation with owners who have, on the whole, responded well to our requests. Statutory action was not resorted to till persuasive methods completely failed. In only two instances was it necessary for the Council to carry out works in default whilst in another two cases works of repair were not executed until a Nuisance Order had been made by the Magistrates.

If building costs continue to rise and the Rent Restrictions Acts remain unchanged it seems obvious that the time will come when the repairs section of the Housing Act will become inoperable because it will often be impossible to make houses fit for habitation at "reasonable cost".

I earnestly hope that such a situation will not be allowed to develop because it would inevitably mean that many properties with a potential life of some years would be allowed to deteriorate so that they would soon qualify for demolition and be lost as housing units.

It is a great pity that the improvement grant scheme introduced in the Housing Act, 1949, has proved so unattractive to private property owners. Had the scheme proved successful not only would it have prolonged the life of many "middle-aged" houses but it would have made them more comfortable and convenient for the occupiers.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

H.J. ELDRIDGE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

I have to thank the Chief Officers of the Corporation for their co-operation, also Mr Eldridge and the staff of my Department for their help and assistance throughout the year.

NEVILLE H. LINZEE,

Medical Officer of Health.