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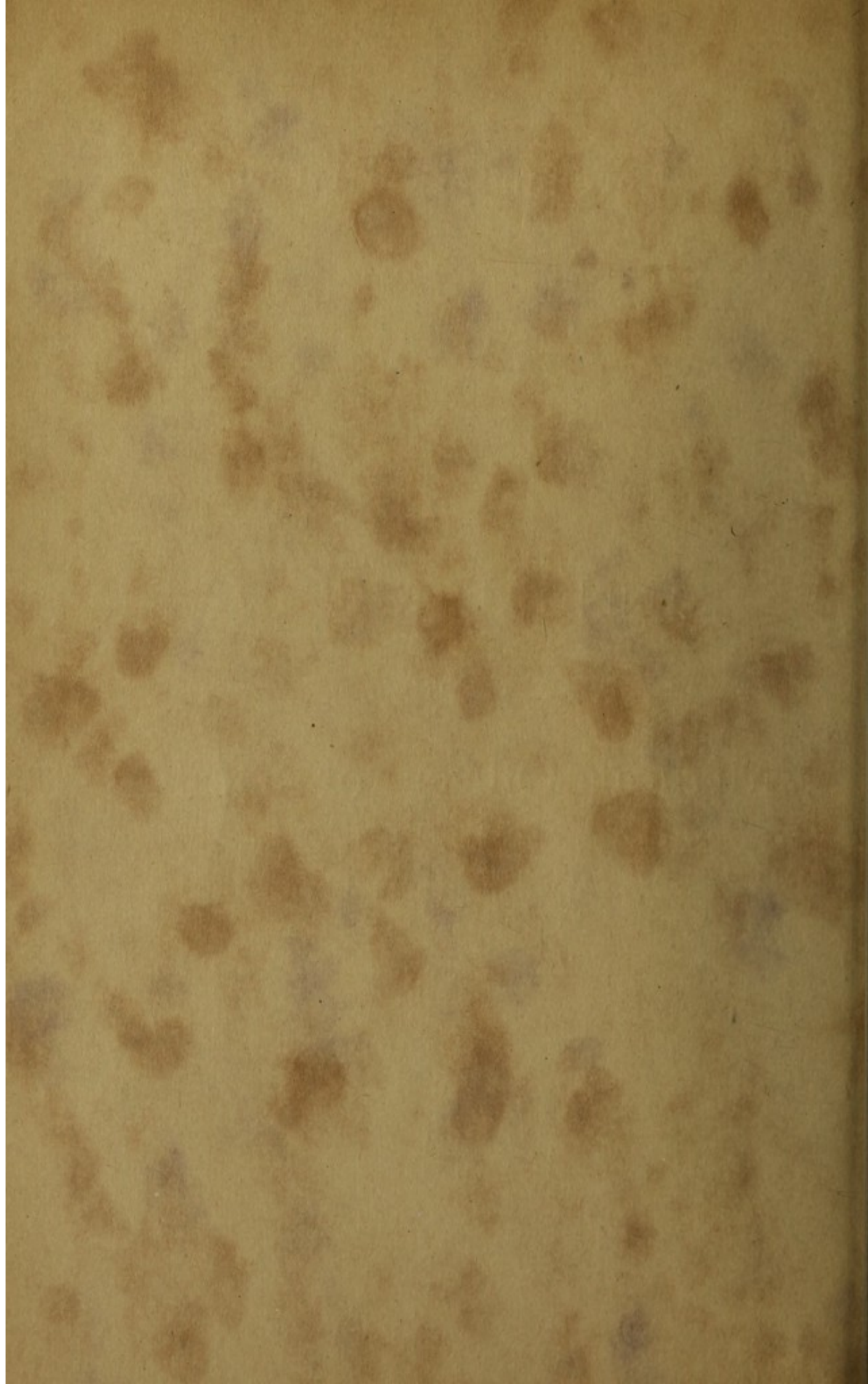
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Borough of Dartford



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health
FOR THE YEAR 1947.

T. FARTHING,
Medical Officer of Health.



BOROUGH OF DARTFORD

Annual Report for 1947 of the Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
DARTFORD,

28th July, 1948.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1947.

The Report is arranged in accordance with the instructions of the Minister of Health.

I should like to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their cordial support during the year and also to the Staff of the Public Health Department for their co-operation.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS FARTHING,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF.

*DR. T. FARTHING, M.B. (Edin).—Medical Officer of Health (part time); also Medical Officer, Dartford Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital, Dartford.

*DR. B. HEWLETT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Clinic Medical Officer.

*W. E. BALCHIN, A.R.S.I., F.S.I.A.—Chief Sanitary Inspector (Certified as Meat and Other Food Inspector); also Inspector under the Shops, Petroleum, and Hackney Carriage Acts.

*T. H. IDDISON, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.—Additional Sanitary Inspector (certified as Meat and Other Food Inspector).

*A. GARTSIDE, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,—Additional Sanitary Inspector.

*MISS B. HOATHER.—Health Visitor (R.S.I.), S.R.N., S.C.M.

*MRS. A. M. WALTON.—Health Visitor (R.S.I.), S.R.N., S.C.M.

MISS E. SORRELL.—Chief Clerk.

MISS P. E. BROWN.—Clerk.

* Contribution to salary by Exchequer Grant.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres)	4,234
Population (Registrar-General's estimated figure Mid-1947) ...	38,020
Population (Census, 1931)	28,928
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1947), according to Rate Books	10,249
Rateable Value	£308,029
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£1,192

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The Borough of Dartford is situate in the lower portion of the Darent Valley, and the rising ground to the East and West of the river. The area of the district is 4,234 statute acres, land and water.

The district is chiefly an industrial one. The residential area at the west end of the town, in the neighbourhood of The Heath, however, continues to develop, and there is a growing number of residents whose business is outside the Borough.

There is, in addition to the ordinary population, a large institutional population as the following institutions are situate in the District:—

London County Council Hospitals, Joyce Green, Orchard and Long Reach.
 London County Mental Hospital.
 Kent County Council, The County Hospital.
 St. Vincent's Industrial School.

STAPLE INDUSTRIES.

The principal industries of the district are:—

Engineering.	Manufacture of Drugs and Chemicals.
Paper Making.	Flour Milling.

There are no industries in the district which have a prejudicial effect on health.

OPEN SPACES.

The District is provided with open spaces for pleasure and recreation which include:—

Dartford Heath	... ..	340 acres.
Central Park	... ..	27 acres.
Hesketh Park	... ..	10 acres.

Facilities for outdoor sports are provided at all these open spaces.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR 1947

						Males.	Females.	Total.
Live Births.—	Legitimate	... ..	...	...	...	378	405	783
	Illegitimate	... ..	...	...	...	19	14	33
						<hr/> 397	<hr/> 419	<hr/> 816
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of population						...	...	21.45
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales for the same period						...	...	20.5

Still Births. —Number of still births during the year	15
Rate per 1,000 total births	18.38

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths	213	179	392
Death Rate per 1,000 of population			10.31
Death Rate for England and Wales for the year			12.0
Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth:—			
From Sepsis			1
Other Causes			None

Infantile Mortality.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate	16	8	24
Illegitimate	3	1	4
	19	9	28

Death Rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births ...	34.31
Infantile Death Rate for England and Wales for 1947	41

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes Certified	8	1	4	5	18	7	...	2	1	28
Uncertified	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping-cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningitis(not tuberculous)	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Convulsions ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Bronchitis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	1	1	2	...	4	...	...	1	...	5
Enteritis ... ..	...	...	1	2	3	3	...	1	...	7
Congenital malformation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Birth	2	...	...	3	5	1	...	...	...	6
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Other Causes	4	...	1	...	5	1	...	...	1	7
Totals	8	1	4	5	18	7	...	2	1	28

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1947.

Causes of Death.										Male.	Female.
1.	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
3.	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	5
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	4
8.	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	—
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
11.	Ac. polio-myel. and polio enceph.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
12.	Ac. inf. enceph.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
13.	Cancer of buc. cav. oesoph and uterus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	7
15.	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	5
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	14
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
18.	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	21
19.	Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67	61
20.	Other diseases of circ. system	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	2
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	8
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	8
23.	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	3
29.	Puerperal and post-abort. sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
32.	Congenital mal.; birth inj.; Infant dis.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	3
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
34.	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	7
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	13
										213	179

SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL STATISTICS FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS, 1943—1947.

	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Population (Registrar General's estimated figure).	34,570	33,910	34,280	37,030	38,020
Births	599	651	581	729	816
Birth Rate	17.33	19.19	16.9	19.68	21.45
Still-births	15	18	18	19	15
Birth Rate (England & Wales).	16.5	17.6	16.1	19.1	20.5
Deaths	344	367	354	369	392
Death Rate	9.95	10.82	10.3	9.94	10.31
Death Rate (England & Wales)	12.1	11.6	11.4	11.5	12.0
Deaths of infants under 1 year	33	26	17	18	28
Infantile Death Rate	55.09	39.94	29.08	24.68	34.31
Infantile Death Rate (England & Wales).	49	46	46	43	41

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

(A) HOME NURSING.

The Dartford District Nursing Association, supported by voluntary contributions, maintains three District Nurses.

The Corporation make a grant to this Association and in return the services of the Nurses are available for the home nursing of cases of Measles, Whooping Cough and cases referred by the Medical Officer of Health.

(B) HOME HELP SCHEME.

The Corporation have a scheme for the provision of home helps for maternity cases.

Two home helps were employed full time during the year for this purpose and a register is kept of women who are willing to assist when more than two are required.

(C) MIDWIVES.

Three County Midwives are appointed to attend cases in the Borough and in addition one other Midwife practises in the area.

(D) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The following are the Clinics and treatment centres in the town: —

Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, Market Street	Maintained by the Council.
School Clinic, King Edward Avenue	} Maintained by the Kent County Council.
Tuberculosis Clinic, Overy Street	
Venereal Clinic, The County Hospital	

In connection with the County Hospital there are Ophthalmic, Orthopædic, Neurological, X-Ray, Electrical, Urological, and Dental Clinics available for residents in the area of the Dartford Public Assistance Committee as out-patients.

Also at the Livingstone Hospital there are X-Ray and Electrical Clinics.

(E) HOSPITAL SERVICES.

The following hospitals are situated in the district and are available for the residents. In addition to these, the facilities offered by the London hospitals, which are within a reasonable distance, are used by the inhabitants.

1. The County Hospital, West Hill, for General Purposes and Maternity, under the management of Kent County Council, available for persons resident in the area.

2. Livingstone Hospital, East Hill, for General Purposes and Maternity, supported by Voluntary Contributions under the management of a voluntary committee, available for persons resident in the Dartford Borough and Dartford Rural Districts.

3. Bow Arrow Isolation Hospital, Bow Arrow Lane (for Infectious Diseases), under the management of the Joint Hospital Committee, available for persons resident in Dartford Borough, Dartford Rural District, Bexley Borough, Crayford Urban District, and Swanscombe Urban District.

Cases of Small Pox are admitted into the London County Council Small Pox Hospital, Joyce Green.

(F) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(i) INFECTIOUS CASES.—The Dartford Joint Hospital Committee maintain two ambulances for the removal of cases of infectious disease from their homes to the hospital.

(ii) **GENERAL CASES.**—The local division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade continues to do very useful work. They maintain a motor ambulance which is available for accidents day and night and the removal of sick persons to local or London hospitals.

The ambulances of the Kent County Council are also available for the removal of patients within and outside the District.

LABORATORY WORK.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

The work is carried out at the Kent County Council Laboratory, Sessions House, Maidstone.

BYE-LAWS.

The Corporation have Bye-laws relating to the following:—

- Common Lodging Houses.
- Good Rule and Government.
- Houses Let in Lodgings (Housing Act, 1925).
- Means of Escape from Fire (Factories and Workshops).
- Nuisances.
- Offensive Trades.
- Removal of Offensive Matter.
- Slaughterhouses.
- Tents, Vans and Sheds.
- Fish Frying.

The Bye-laws relating to Offensive Trades and Fish Frying were, with the approval of the Minister of Health, revised and brought up to date during the year.

During the year the Council by resolution applied section 16 (2) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, to the sale of all articles of food within the Borough. This requires the name and address of the vendor to be legibly and conspicuously displayed on all stalls, vehicles, etc., from which food is sold.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

The Borough is supplied with water by the Metropolitan Water Board. The supply is from deep chalk wells and is satisfactory in both quality and quantity. The water is chlorine treated, and has no plumbo-solvent action.

Frequent tests are carried out by the Board and in addition periodical samples are taken by the Sanitary Inspector and submitted to the County Laboratory for bacteriological examination. All samples taken during the year were satisfactory.

With the exception of nine houses, all houses in the Borough are supplied from the Board's mains. Of the nine houses not on the Board's mains eight are supplied from deep artesian wells.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The district is main sewered, and the water carriage system is general. The sewage is dealt with by the West Kent Main Sewerage Board (of which the Dartford Corporation is a constituent Authority) at their works at Long Reach, Dartford. Their system of treatment is very satisfactory, and no complaints have been received regarding the outfall works during the year.

There are only 102 houses, situated in the more rural areas, which are not connected to the sewers. Over 99% of the houses in the district are connected to the sewers.

Rivers and Streams.

No cases of river pollution were dealt with during the year.

Closet Accommodation.

The system is a water carriage one. In the portions of the area where main sewers are not available, there are the following houses with conveniences of the type mentioned:—

W.C.'s connected to cesspools	...	...	...	76 and 8 flats
Pail Closets	...	...	...	18

The cleansing of cesspools and pail closets is not carried out by the Local Authority but by the owners or occupiers of the premises.

Scavenging.

House refuse is dealt with by controlled tipping at the Corporation's Heath Lane Tip.

Routine treatment of the tip with a proprietary dressing containing D.D.T. has been carried out during the year. Apart from occasional complaints regarding flies during the very warm weather there has been no nuisance.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AND BATHS.

The Corporation have provided and maintain the following:—

Public conveniences with wash and brush up facilities and slipper baths for both sexes at Spital Street.

Public Conveniences for both sexes at the Central and Hesketh Parks.

Public Conveniences for both sexes on The Brent.

Public Conveniences for men near the Cattle Market.

Open air Swimming Baths in Burnham Road.

The number of persons using the Slipper Baths is given below, together with comparative figures for 1946:—

	1946	1947
Men	13,817	13,266
Boys	799	648
Women	6,472	5,941
Girls	379	430
TOTAL	21,467	20,245

The open-air Swimming Bath in Burnham Road has a continuous heating and chlorination plant. Samples of the water are taken from time to time and show that the water is maintained in a very satisfactory state.

ERADICATION OF VERMIN AND CLEANSING.

During the year disinfestation was carried out at 50 houses by spraying with suitable vermicides by the Corporation's disinfectors. Where necessary the owners were requested to strip the rooms and loosen the skirting boards, etc.

The treatment of scabies is carried out at the Cleansing Station, King Edward Avenue.

During the year 62 males and 95 females were treated.

The cases were notified by the medical practitioners or referred to the department by the School Medical Service. As far as possible, the whole of the family are treated when a case is notified.

The Health Visitors and the staff of the Day Nursery keep observation with regard to head lice and general cleanliness and provision is made for treatment of cases found.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

This is dealt with in the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspectors which is appended hereto.

HOUSING.

Good progress has been made during the year in the provision of houses in the Borough. The number of houses completed during the year is 276, made up as follows:—

By Corporation.

PRINCES ROAD ESTATE.

(a) By Contract	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
(b) By Apprentice Master Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

TEMPLE HILL ESTATE.

(a) Traditional Type Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b) Permanent Non-Traditional:							
B.I.S.F.	...	...	...	...	...	...	60
Easiform	...	...	...	...	...	...	32

By Private Builders

...	...	...	...	...	...	...	96
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	276

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Shortages of building materials and labour and limitations upon permissible expenditure upon repairs are still causing rapid deterioration of properties, and unless the position shows some improvement, houses which could at present be made fit, will become totally unfit for human habitation.

During 1947 official representation was made in accordance with Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936, with respect to 125 houses in the Heath Street, South Street, West Street, Manor Place and Lowfield Street area.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 year	1 to 3	3 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 25	25 and over	Age unknown
Diphtheria	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Scarlet Fever	69	...	2	9	34	18	4	2	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	40	3	...	...	6	...	11	20	...
Erysipelas	10	...	...	...	...	...	2	8	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	48	2	1	2	30	6	4	3	...
Small-pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	137	4	25	40	63	3	2	...	...
Whooping Cough	27	2	6	7	9	1	...	2	...
Dysentery	38	1	...	...	2	...	12	23	...

SMALLPOX.

No cases of Small Pox were notified during the year.

DIPHThERIA.

Three cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, compared with nine in 1946.

On admittance to hospital 2 cases notified were found to be bacteriologically negative.

Contacts with cases notified, and also children referred to the Department by the school teachers, are swabbed with a view to the elimination of carriers.

Anti-toxin is supplied free to Medical Practitioners for use in cases of Diphtheria.

An Immunisation Clinic is held weekly at the M. & C. W. Clinic, and in addition there is a scheme for immunisation by the medical practitioners in the district.

During the year 545 children were immunised and 113 children given a secondary or reinforcing injection.

SCARLET FEVER.

The number of Scarlet Fever cases notified (exclusive of institutional cases) was 69 as compared with 36 in 1946.

Of these cases 44 were nursed at home and 25 removed to hospital.

There were no return cases during the year.

ENTERIC FEVER.

One case was notified during the year from residents in the Borough.

MEASLES.

There were 137 cases of Measles during the year.

Home visitation of cases of measles is carried out by the nurses of the District Nursing Association when thought desirable.

Arrangements are in force whereby if the conditions are unsuitable for home nursing, cases are admitted into the Bow Arrow Hospital.

INFLUENZA.

The incidence of influenza was again of a mild type and calls for no special mention.

FOOD POISONING.

No case of Food Poisoning was notified during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following table gives details of the cases notified and deaths occurring during the year:—

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1—5	3	3	2	1	....	....	....	1
5—10	....	....	1	1	....	....	....	....
10—15	1	1	....	1	....	....	....	....
15—20	3	1	....	....	....	1	....	....
20—25	1	5	1	....	....	....	....	1
25—35	6	3	....	....	3	1	....	....
35—45	4	4	....	....	2	1	....	....
45—55	6	1	....	....	1	....	....	....
55—65	5	2	....	....	2	....	....	2
65 and upwards	1	1	....	....	1	2	....	....
Totals	30	21	4	3	9	5	....	4

16 of the 57 cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, and 3 cases notified previous to 1947 were removed to Sanatoria for treatment during the year.

Previous notification of the disease was not received with regard to five of the deaths occurring during the year.

Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1924, returns have to be made quarterly to the County Medical Officer, giving a summary of the Tuberculosis Register for the District. The following is a statement of the number of cases on the Register at the beginning and end of the year: —

	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Number on Register at commencement of Year	207	109	35	47	398
Number on Register at end of Year	223	121	36	41	421

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Particulars of Attendances at the Child Welfare Clinic.

Number of new entrants during the year	596
Total number of children who attended during the year ...	1,240

Ante-Natal Clinic.

Total number of cases on register during the year	319
Number of new cases	260
Number of clinics held	53
Total number of attendances	1,453
Average attendance per clinic	27.4

Birth Control Clinic.

This clinic was held twice monthly during the year. 145 new cases received advice and 484 attendances were made. Every care is taken to see that the objects of the Clinic are fulfilled.

Maternity Service.

A scheme is in force whereby expectant mothers can be admitted to either the County Hospital or the Livingstone Hospital for their confinements. Financial assistance is given according to the income of the applicants.

206 cases were admitted under the scheme during the year.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Five cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year from the County Hospital.

Other Services.

In connection with the ancillary services of the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics 41 children received orthopædic treatment.

MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDERS, 1919 and 1921.

During the year 1947 the amount of milk supplied under these Orders was as follows: —

141 lbs. dried milk free.

The distribution of Liquid Milk free, or at a reduced price, is undertaken by the Food Office.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The two Health Visitors are appointed as Infant Life Protection Officers.

Number of visits paid to foster children during the year ...	61
Number of foster mothers on register at end of year ...	7
Number of foster children on register at end of year ...	7

HOME VISITATION.

VISITS OF HEALTH VISITORS.

The following visits were paid by your Health Visitors during the year:—

Number of new-born infants visited ...	640
Number of visits to infants under one year ...	2,429
Number of visits to children over one year ...	3,883
Total visits made by Health Visitors during year ...	6,312

In addition to these visits the following have been paid:—

Ante-Natal visits ...	136
Death enquiries ...	14

DAY NURSERIES.

The Day Nursery established at 21, West Hill, has been carried on during the year and the attendances well maintained.

Appended hereto are the following:

- (1) Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.
- (2) Report on the Inspection of Factories, Workshops, etc., in the District.

I am,

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS FARTHING,

Medical Officer of Health.

Annual Report of Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my twenty-seventh annual report which, in view of my impending retirement, will be my last report.

In these twenty-seven years the department has expanded and its work and responsibilities have greatly increased, due to the growth of the town and its population, the additional legislation relating to Public Health and Housing and to the increased responsibilities with regard to the inspection of food and of the premises where food is stored and prepared. Also, in 1938 the Corporation were constituted a Food and Drug Authority and took over from the Kent County Council the duties of sampling, etc., under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1947:—

HOUSING ACT, 1936.

Routine inspections under this Act are still held up owing to the lack of alternative accommodation in cases where the houses would be dealt with by closing and subsequent demolition, and in the case of repair, by the shortage of building materials and labour.

The Heath Street area has been reviewed during the year and after an interview between representatives of the Corporation and the Ministry of Health the idea of dealing with it as a "Re-Development Area" was abandoned and the Medical Officer of Health represented the area as a "Clearance Area" in December, 1947, and it is hoped that the area will now be dealt with without undue delay.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Cases investigated and re-visits	...	...	...	...	97
Premises disinfected (Tuberculosis)	...	...	...	...	12
" " (other infectious diseases)	...	...	...	...	62
In addition 50 disinfestations of verminous houses were carried out					
Sets of bedding disinfected, 120 articles	...	...	...	...	388
Library books disinfected	...	...	...	...	81

COMPLAINTS.

1,527 complaints of Nuisances, etc., have been received during the year and duly investigated and dealt with, including 437 which related to requests for Builders' Permits

DRAINAGE WORK.

Number of Drains tested by water—New Buildings	...	...	250
" " " " " " Existing Buildings and Works	...	...	101
" " " " " " smoke—New Buildings	...	...	41
" " " " " " Existing Buildings and Works	...	...	10
Total number of drains tested during year	...	...	402

NOTICES SERVED.

Preliminary Notices served, 1,136; complied with 1,071; in hand,	...	...	...	...	202
December 31st	...	...	...	...
Statutory Notices served, 66; complied with 43; in hand,	...	...	...	...	35
December 31st	...	...	...	...

INSPECTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH FOOD SUPPLIES.

Slaughterhouse inspections	...	...	...	...	...	51
Meat and other food inspections	...	...	...	...	...	138
Market and Hawkers inspections	...	...	...	...	...	136
Food preparation premises inspections	...	...	...	...	...	345
Bakehouse inspections	...	...	...	...	...	53
Fried Fish Shop inspections	...	...	...	...	...	76

MILK.

The following licences have been granted by the Corporation under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders:—

TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK.

Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	1
Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	...	2

PASTEURISED MILK.

Dealers' Licences	...	...	...	...	...	2
Supplementary Licences	...	...	...	...	...	9

During the year ten samples of Graded Milk were taken (Pasteurised, 8; Tuberculin Tested, 2), all of which complied with the prescribed conditions.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order.

Registered Purveyors (Wholesale)	...	...	...	...	...	7
" (Retail)	...	...	...	...	...	15
(Including 2 dealers registered for the sale of sterilised milk in unopened bottles)						

The premises of 8 of the Registered Purveyors are situated outside the Borough.

Number of Cowsheds	...	2	...	Inspections	...	...	23
Number of Dairies	...	6	...	Inspections	...	...	50
Number of Milkshops	...	5	...	Inspections	...	...	19
Number of contraventions of the Order dealt with	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

RESTAURANT KITCHENS AND OTHER PREMISES WHERE FOOD IS PREPARED.

Until this year the extended powers given by the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, with regard to premises where food is prepared have, to some extent, been held in abeyance owing to the war.

During the year conditions at the whole of the restaurant kitchens and coffee shops, etc., in the Borough were reviewed.

Excluding industrial and school canteens there are thirty five premises at which meals are served, including six licensed houses, twenty three restaurants and seven coffee stalls or snack bars.

A very high standard of hygiene is maintained at 14 of the premises. This number included the licensed houses and premises which were either built specifically for use as restaurants or which were structurally suitable for satisfactory conversions to be made.

Fourteen contraventions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, involving eight premises, have resulted from the building of unauthorised extensions at the rear of premises, some of which were never suitable for use as restaurant kitchens. These extensions have resulted in most inadequate ventilation, and the enclosure of sink waste gullies and W.C. compartments in rooms used for the preparation of food.

The defects found at these premises have been, or are being, dealt with.

ICE CREAM.

During the year particular attention has been given to the premises where ice cream is manufactured or sold and as a result the hygiene standard of these premises has been improved.

As a result of the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, manufacturers of Ice Cream have had to decide whether they should manufacture by

the new "Cold Mix" method or whether their circumstances and volume of trade justified the provision of the increased accommodation and plant required to comply with the provisions of the Order for the "Hot Mix" method of manufacture.

Number of Dealers in Ice Cream registered ...	...	...	48
Number of Manufacturers of Ice Cream registered ...	...	...	19
Number of Inspections of Ice Cream premises ...	...	...	128
Number of Samples taken for bacteriological examination ...	...	...	25

Although 19 premises are registered for manufacture, ice cream was made at only 11 premises during the year owing to restriction of supplies.

FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING.

During the year 111 samples were obtained (69 formal and 42 informal) and were submitted to the Public Analyst. The following table shows the results of the analysis of these samples:—

	Formal.	Informal.	Genuine.	Not Genuine.	Remarks.
Milk ...	31	—	*30	—	*One sample of milk stolen in transit to Laboratory.
Arrowroot ...	1	—	1	—	
Butter ...	4	—	4	—	
Cake Mixture ...	1	—	1	—	
Caraway Seeds ...	—	1	1	—	
Cinnamon ...	—	1	1	—	
Cocoa ...	3	—	3	—	
Coffee ...	2	1	3	—	
Coffee Essence ...	—	1	1	—	
Condensed Milk ...	—	1	1	—	
Cooking Fat ...	4	—	4	—	
Curry Powder ...	1	1	2	—	
Dessert Mould ...	—	1	1	—	
Dried Fruits ...	1	—	1	—	
Dried Milk ...	—	1	*1	—	*Genuine but of inferior quality. Stocks withdrawn.
Drugs ...	—	13	13	—	
Fish Paste ...	—	1	1	—	
Flour ...	3	1	4	—	
Gelatine ...	1	1	2	—	
Gin ...	1	—	1	—	
Ground Ginger ...	1	1	2	—	
Horseflesh ...	—	1	1	—	
Ice Cream ...	—	1	1	—	
Lard ...	1	—	1	—	
Lemon Cheese ...	1	—	1	—	
Lemonade Powder ..	1	2	3	—	
Margarine ...	3	—	3	—	
Mustard ...	1	—	1	—	
Mustard Sauce ...	—	1	1	—	
Pea Flour ...	1	—	1	—	
Pepper ...	—	3	3	—	
Raising Powder ...	—	2	2	—	
Semolina ...	1	—	1	—	
Spice (Mixed) ...	—	1	1	—	
Sugar ...	—	1	—	*1	*Unofficial sample taken at request of Food Executive Officer.
Sweets ...	—	1	1	—	
Tinned Salmon ...	—	1	1	—	
Tinned Soup ...	—	2	2	—	
Vinegar (Malt) ...	1	1	2	—	
Vinegar (Non Brewed) ...	3	—	2	*1	*Proceedings taken. Fine of £6 and £2 2s. 0d. costs imposed.
Whisky ...	2	—	2	—	
TOTALS ...	69	42	108	2	

UN SOUND FOOD.

The total quantity of unsound food destroyed or salvaged during the year was 4 tons 11 cwt. 0 qrs. 8 lbs., as follows:—

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Beef:				
Tuberculosis and emaciation (3 carcasses and offal)	19	0	0	
Bone taint, decomposition, etc.	11	1	21	
Bacon				21
Fish	1	9	0	16
Poultry:				
1 case of turkeys			3	3
Fruit:				
Apples			1	2
Dates	2	0	2	
Pineapples			1	2
Tomatoes	3	1	4	
Vegetables:				
Parsnips	1	0	0	
Tinned Goods:				
Meat 259 tins, Fish 183 tins, Milk 798 tins, Vegetables 237 tins, Fruit 82 tins, Jam 147 tins and jars, Soup 21 tins, Meat and Fish Paste 30 tins, Golden Syrup 8 tins	17	0	3	
Cereals:				
Semolina			3	6
Barley Flakes	2	0	0	
Wafer Oats				22
Cake, etc., Mixtures			2	22
Biscuits			1	12
Fish Cakes			3	1
Butter	1	1	4	
Cheese				14
Miscellaneous Foods			1	21
TOTAL	4	11	0	8

LODGING HOUSES, ETC.

Number of Common Lodging Houses on Register	1
Number of Houses let in lodging on Register	1
Inspections	32
Contraventions of Byelaws dealt with	3

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Number of inspections made	21
Contraventions dealt with	3

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number of Rag and Bone Dealers	2
Number of Knackers' Yards	1
Number of Inspections	58

SMOKE NUISANCES.

Number of observations taken	3
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OTHER INSPECTIONS.

Visits re Complaints	916
Stableyards, Piggeries, etc., Inspected	171
Inspections re Tents, Vans and Sheds Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Inspections of Cinemas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Re-inspections and visits to work in progress	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,377

BUILDING MATERIALS PRIORITY SCHEME.

Under the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Works scheme, priority certificates have again been necessary to obtain materials for urgent sanitary work. During the year 601 of these certificates have been issued after inspection of the premises in question.

PROPAGANDA.

In conjunction with the Dartford Rural District Public Health Department a stand was arranged at the Dartford Civic Week Exhibition showing the various activities of the department and arrangements made for at least one Sanitary Inspector to be in attendance during the hours that the exhibition was open to the public.

Talks on various phases of Public Health work have been given during the year at the Secondary Schools and to other organisations in the town.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

During the year a further survey of the district with regard to rodent infestation was carried out, with good results.

Two maintenance treatments of the sewers in the Borough were undertaken and the results show that the number of rats in the sewers has been considerably reduced by these various treatments.

A small joint operation was carried out in conjunction with the Bexley Borough and the Dartford Rural District Councils in the Joydens Wood district.

During the year the following work has been carried out:—

Number of complaints received and dealt with:								
Rats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	102
Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Number of premises treated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	149
Total estimated killed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,134
Number of block control treatments carried out	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Number of drains tested in connection with rodent infestation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

OTHER DUTIES.

The Sanitary Inspectors also carry out the duties required under the Petroleum Acts and Orders and those connected with the inspection and licensing of Hackney Carriages.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

During the year it was necessary to take legal proceedings in three instances with the following results:—

SECTION 13. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938. Failure to keep restaurant kitchen in a cleanly state. Fine £20 and costs.

SECTION 10. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938. Seizure of three carcasses of beef affected with tuberculosis and emaciation. Fine £20 and costs.

SECTION 3. FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938. Vinegar containing 15.5% excess water. Fine £6 and costs.

NUISANCES REMEDIED AND WORK CARRIED OUT UNDER THE VARIOUS NOTICES DURING THE YEAR.

Roofs repaired	191
Eaves, gutters and rainwater pipes repaired and renewed ...	55
External brickwork repaired, re-pointed or rendered ...	55
Damp walls remedied	98
House or part of house cleansed	38
Interior walls and ceilings repaired	150
Lighting or Ventilation improved	6
Defective floors and other woodwork repaired or renewed ...	93
Defects in connection with water supply remedied ...	109
Cooking apparatus repaired or renewed	12
Washing coppers repaired or renewed	8
Sink, etc., waste pipes repaired or renewed	29
New sinks provided	48
Yard paving repaired or renewed	5
Gulley fenders repaired or renewed	11
Nuisance from cesspool	10
Drains Reconstructed	7
Defective drains repaired	15
Drains cleared	194
Defective vent shafts or fresh air inlets repaired or renewed ...	9
New manholes provided	10
W.C.'s repaired	482
Defective ashbins renewed	94
Nuisances from the keeping of animals remedied	3
Accumulations of manure or offensive refuse removed ...	10
Other nuisances abated	158

I am,

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient servant,

WALTER E. BALCHIN,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

(1) INSPECTIONS.

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspections	Number of Notices	Prosecutions
(1) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	37	122	12	Nil.
(2) Factories not included in (1) to which Sec. 7 applies.				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
(b) Others	92	131	5	Nil.
(3) Other Premises under the Act (excluding Out-workers Premises)	16	73	Nil.	Nil.
TOTAL	145	326	17	Nil.

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	No. of cases in which defects were found.				Prosecutions
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness (S1) ...	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S4) ..	1	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S7):					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	10	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	—	—	—
Other Offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	3	1	3	—	—
TOTAL	19	16	3	3	—

OUTWORK.

SECTIONS 110 and 111.

Nature of Work.	No. of Outworkers in Aug. List required by Sec. 110(1).	No. of Cases of Default in sending Lists to Council.	No. of Instances of Work in Unwhole- some Premises.	Notices Served.	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel: Making, etc.	8	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Lamp Shades	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
TOTAL	8	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.