[Report 1953] / Medical Officer of Health, Dartford R.D.C.

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Borough of Dartford

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1953

DARTFORD CORPORATION. I. 55.

BOROUGH OF DARTFORD

Annual Report for 1953 of the Medical Officer of Health

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

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Here is my annual attempt to report on a year's health of the people of Dartford. Writing this report is a statutory duty, reading it is not: so material in previous reports will not be repeated except where necessary to display trends and changes.

What I will repeat however is that we are only informed on a fragment of the health affairs of Dartford: the health of forty thousand souls passing through 1953, a story worth discovering, is beyond our reach.

POPULATION. The decline in the population and the decline in the excess of births over deaths which has been going on for several years appears to be ending -

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Population	40,580	40,440	40,050	40,020	40,430
Excess of births over deaths	287	204	190	112	136

BIRTHS. Births were up by 58 on the previous year and the adjusted rate was thereby increased from 12.8 to 14.0, the first increase for six years -

	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Births	816	722	656	594	562	533	591
Birth Rate Dartford	21.5	18.1	16.2	14.0	13.4	12.8	14.0
Birth Rate England and Wales	20.5	17.9	16.7	15.8	15.5	15.3	15.5

Of the 591 births 556 were registered with Local Registrars here who have kindly supplied us with the following classifications -

Born in West Hill Hospital	288
Born in Livingstone Hospital	181
Born at Risely Hospital	12
Total born in hospital	481
Born at home	75
	556

		1951	1952	1953
Born at Home		17%	17%	14%
Born in hospital		83%	83%	86%

Social class of father

	1953			
Class I	17	3%	1%	3%
Class II	83	12%	11%	15%
Class III	262	63%	59%	49%
Class IV	146	15%	20%	27%
Class V	35	7%	9%	6%
	543	100%	100%	100%
Unclassified (Illegitimate)	13			
	556			

DEATHS. In former years the only deaths in Bexley Mental Hospital allotted to Dartford were those whose home addresses were either in Dartford or were unknown. In 1952 there were 17 so allotted. For the year 1953 a change in practice was begun and all deaths of patients there were attributed to Dartford, the allocations increasing from 17 to 128. This large increase, which is not allowed for in the comparability factor will have to be separated from our total if we are to follow the trend of deaths in the town population. Where possible, therefore, the deaths in the Mental Hospital will be treated separately and the town's deaths will be taken as the total deaths less those of the Mental Hospital plus 17. Thus:-

	Quarters 1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	Year
Total Dartford deaths	208	119	104	135	566
Less Mental Hospital deaths	40	31	22	35	128
∴ Town Deaths	168	88	82	100	438
Add	5	4	4	4	17
Dartford Deaths by former methods	173	92	86	104	455

Hence the annual and quarterly town deaths and death rates are:-

Annual Deaths:-

	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
Deaths	346	369	390	372	421	455
Death rate - Borough	8.7	9.1	9.9	9.5	10.7	11.3
Death rate - England & Wales	10.8	11.7	11.6	12.5	11.3	11.4

Quarterly Deaths:-

	1st.	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	Year
1950	122	81	89	98	390
1951	134	80	64	94	372
1952	115	88	88	130	421
1953	173	92	86	104	455

Quarterly Death Rates:-

Borough					
1950	12.3	8.2	9.0	9.9	9.9
1951	13.6	8.2	6.5	9.6	9.5
1952	11.7	9.0	9.0	13.2	10.7
1953	17.1	9.1	8.5	10.3	11.3

England and Wales	1st	2nd.	3rd.	4th.	Year
1950	14.0	11.1	9.3	12.3	11.6
1951	19.1	11.1	9.1	11.0	12.5
1952	13.4	10.6	8.9	12.4	11.3
1953	15.8	10.5	8.9	10.7	11.4

Town Deaths by Social Class:-

	Males	Females	Total	% 1953	% 1952	% 1951
Class I	3	7	10	2	2	5
Class II	33	36	69	16	18	13
Class III	100	116	216	50	44	46
Class IV	22	33	55	13	13	15
Class V	45	35	80	17	21	18
Unclassified	8	0	8	2	2	3
			438			

Excluding Bexley Mental Hospital the deaths in hospital and at home were:-

	All ages		75 and over	
	Hospital	Home	Hospital	Home
1951	174	199	51	87
1952	220	201	72	92
1953	227	211	80	123

In 1953 the number of deaths and the death rate were the highest recorded and this was due to the record number occurring in the first three months. That winter was severe with gales, snow, frost and flood. Following the flood came the flue epidemic and sickness was trebled.

The age group which suffered was the "75 and over" group of which 203 died compared with 164 and 138 in the previous years. Respiratory disease in the first quarter was the main cause of their increased death.

Bronchitis increased from 25 to 50 for reasons outlined above and almost the entire increase occurred in those of 75 years of age and over.

Cancer deaths in the town decreased from 74 in 1952 to 54 in 1953. Cancer of the lung decreased from 15 to 11 giving a death rate of 0.27 compared with 0.34 for England and Wales and 0.51 for London.

Of the 7 deaths from motor vehicle accidents 4 were under 45 years of age and of these 2 were children.

DEATHS RELATING TO WELFARE OF MOTHERS AND INFANTS. For the fourth year in succession no death due to pregnancy or childbirth occurred. Still births numbered 15, 3 at home and 12 in hospital and the still birth rate was 25 compared with 22.4 for England and Wales and 21.0 for London.

Deaths under four weeks of age numbered 10 and of these 6 were within the first week and due to prematurity. All these 10 deaths occurred in hospital.

Deaths between ages four weeks and a year numbered 4 of which 2 were due to pneumonia, and both of these were sudden.

LOSS OF WORKING YEARS BY DEATH. An estimate of the economic damage done by each disease can be obtained by calculating the working years lost by the town deaths from each disease between the ages of 15 and 65 years. From this crude valuation the loss of the towns deaths in 1953 was as follows:-

	Loss of Working Years
Cancer	385
Respiratory diseases	225
Other defined and ill defined diseases	200
Coronary disease	175
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	125
Other heart disease	100
Motor vehicle accidents	80
Tuberculosis - respiratory	70
Other circulatory disease	50
Suicide	20
Gastritis, enteritis, diarrhoea	15
All other accidents	10
Diabetes	5
Infections, hypertension with heart disease, ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, nephritis, hyperplasia of the prostate, child birth, congenital malformation and homicide.	0
All causes	1460

The fact that respiratory diseases, i.e. influenza, pneumonia and bronchitis, are second highest in the list of causes of loss of working years and that respiratory diseases are largely preventable suggests that more attention could profitably be paid to these conditions. Furthermore in addition to death these diseases are responsible for a large amount of chronic invalidism.

The absence of death from infectious conditions other than respiratory tuberculosis is a consequence of safe water, milk and food, improved housing, infectious disease control, effective treatment and good luck. The absence of death from the ulcers of the stomach and duodenum which afflict large numbers of the population is due to medical care and the promptness of the surgeons in pouncing on the ulcers as soon as they bleed or perforate.

DEATHS AGED 75 YEARS AND OVER. Our '75 and Over' table shows we had 18 deaths over 90 years of age in 1953.

"If you can avoid cancer and severe high blood pressure, you have a very good chance of living to ninety. If in addition you can avoid all disease of the heart and blood vessels, there seems no particular reason why you should die at all."

"Why do living creatures die? Part of the answer is clearly that they are constantly exposed to the fatal hazards of injury and infection. Wild animals rarely survive for long the naked cruelties of Nature. Only when shielded in captivity do they live on to show senescence. Man follows the general pattern. What would happen if all external hazards could be eliminated? Would the organism be immortal, or is there an inevitable limit to its life span determined by inherent factors?"

INFLUENZA. The hope of a protective measure against influenza lies in the use of a vaccine prepared for the same type and strain of virus as that which, at the time, threatens the community. There are three types of virus and numerous strains within each type. These strains are undergoing a continuous evolutionary change and so the virus laboratories cannot know what strain to prepare for until an epidemic is at hand and the invading strain is known. The Ministry, therefore, have asked for early information of the appearance of an epidemic so that virus and strain can receive early identification also Hospital Boards can be warned to clear beds in readiness for the reception of selected cases whose mortality can thereby be reduced.

The three types of virus are A, B and C. It is Virus 'A' which produces epidemics and these tend to occur approximately at two yearly intervals. There was a Virus 'A' epidemic here in the 1950-51 winter and this followed the appearance of Virus 'A' in June 1950 in South Africa. In June 1952, Virus 'A' appeared again in South Africa; this and the end of the two-yearly cycle made a Virus 'A' epidemic likely in the 1952-53 winter. This likelihood was made more probable on December 9th by a death which

occurred here of a middle-aged man due to acute influenzal pneumonia. Virus 'A' was cultured from his lung tissue but the report was not available until January 14th.

Here in Dartford, the need to keep the Ministry informed of the existence and nature of any epidemic that might occur was accentuated by the fact that influenza vaccine trials were being arranged at various places in the country and that amongst the volunteers were a number of the staff of Joyce Green Hospital. Early in December, therefore, Dr. H. G. Close (Consultant Pathologist) and I made arrangements to ask for the following co-operation:-

(a) Medical Superintendents of all hospitals in Dartford Borough and Rural District to make available to us any evidence of the occurrence of influenza-like illness amongst their patients or staff and for throat washings (for virus isolation) and blood specimens (for complement fixation tests) to be submitted from such patients.

(b) General practitioners in Dartford Borough and Rural District to let us know of the appearance of influenza-like illness amongst their patients and to allow one of us to collect throat washings and blood specimens from typical cases.

Results of the Survey. The anticipated epidemic did occur but before giving the results it is necessary to explain that after sending ten throat-washings to the virus laboratory, they asked us to refrain from sending more. London and the Home Counties were all experiencing the same epidemic and the pressure on the laboratory for virus isolation was greater than the supply of fertile eggs would allow.

Throat washings require to be taken in the first 36 hours of illness whereas it was tactically impossible to get to some home cases until the second or third day. This difficulty may be met in future by the general practitioner taking the throat washings and by our following up with blood sampling.

In regard to blood specimens, of which two from each patient at a fortnight's interval were required, we could not fit in time, on top of routine work, to take them from all the available home cases. The number of specimens taken are, therefore, only a sample of what was available - but that was all that was wanted.

The results can be summarised:-

	Blood Complement fixation tests Influenza Sol. A			Throat Washings - Virus 'A' Isolation	
	Positive	Negative	Doubtful	Yes	No
Dartford Borough Homes	3	1	1	1	-
Dartford Rural District Homes	10	2	1	2	3
Stone Mental Hospital	14	3	-	-	1
Bexley Mental Hospital	5	-	1	-	-
Darenth Park M.D. Hospital	3	3	-	-	-
Joyce Green General Hospital	-	3	1	-	4
	35	12	4	3	8

Clinical Picture: There are available the comments of general practitioners busy at the time, the clinical notes on the cases from Stone Mental Hospital and notes taken on the home cases. All very sketchy. With one exception all the highly fevered cases were those at home - perhaps because the patients at Stone Mental Hospital were mostly aged and had less power of reaction. This might be worth more observation on future occasions in view of the increased death rate of the aged from all causes during the influenza epidemics without influenza appearing on their death certificates.

With two exceptions, those seen at home were males and none of the home cases were

above middle age. Perhaps the best way of summarising the clinical picture of those seen at home is to give the notes of one of us who incurred the illness during the survey:-

> Influenza in 1918 pandemic. 1953 Rhinorrhoea January 22nd and 23rd which stopped abruptly. Taken ill on January 28th with tracheitis and sinusitis. Blood taken 70 hours after first symptom showed complement fixation at less than 1/4. February 2nd temperature 102°F with bronchiolitis. Aureomycin started and continued for four days. Temperature down to normal within 12 hours of taking first dose. Uninterrupted recovery. Blood on February 16th showed complement fixation at 1/32.

Two general practitioners mentioned 'gastric types' of the illness; another two referred to 'cyanotic pneumonia types'. Two general practitioners made the observation that they saw their worst cases when the epidemic was waning. One general practitioner considered most of his cases best described as 'feverish colds'.

Two home cases who were severely ill showed negative results to complement fixation tests. I presume they were bacterial pneumonias. One specimen taken from a patient in the Southern Hospital (not included in the above figures) gave a complement fixation result positive for psittacosis.

Epidemiology. The new claims to sickness benefit received by the Dartford Office of the Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance showed that during the peak of the epidemic sickness was trebled:-

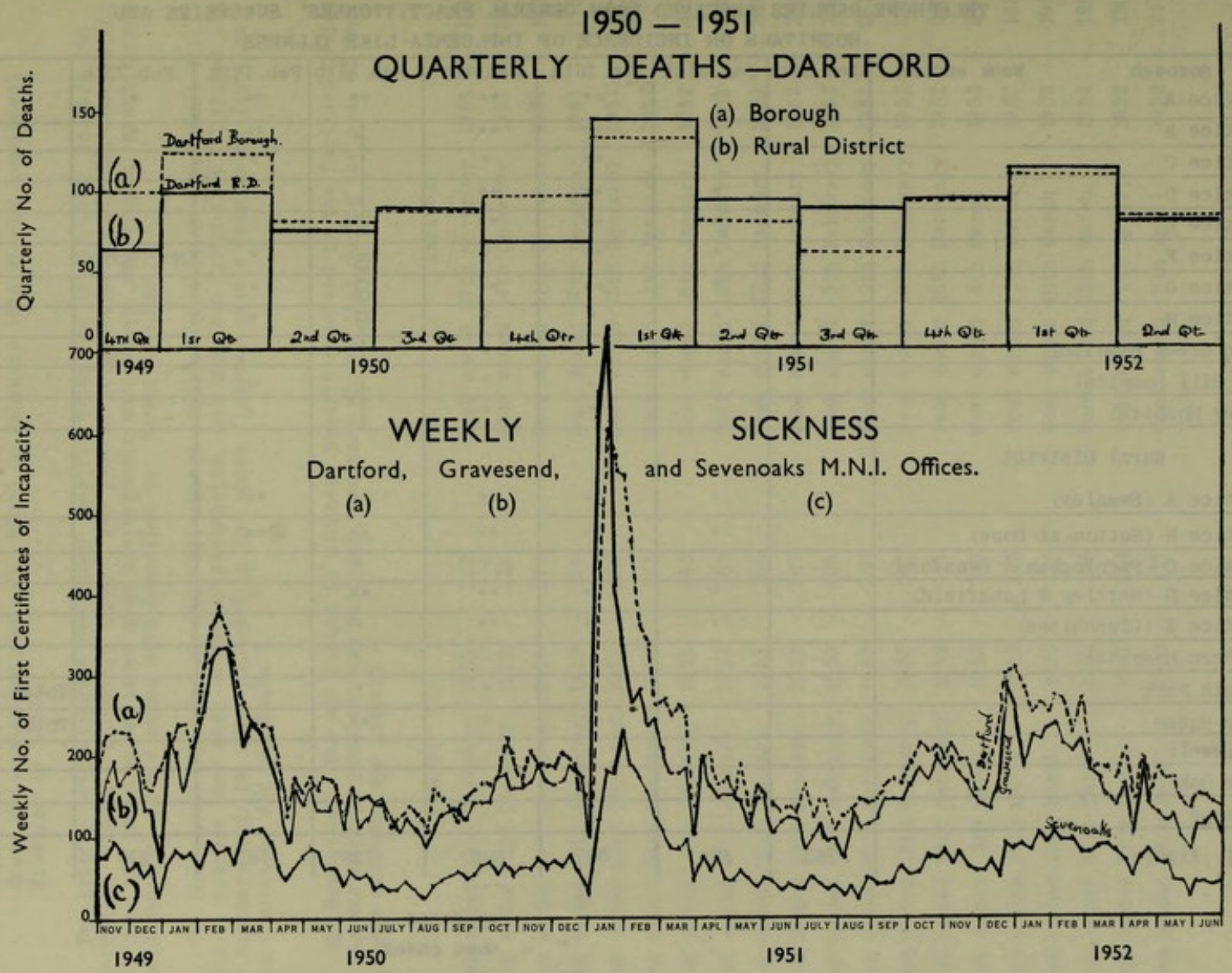
1952-53		1951-52	
Week ended 25th November, 1952	222	Week ended 27th November, 1951	160
Week ended 2nd December, 1952	228	Week ended 4th December, 1951	162
Week ended 9th December, 1952	273	Week ended 11th December, 1951	189
Week ended 16th December, 1952	286	Week ended 18th December, 1951	178
Week ended 23rd December, 1952	222	Week ended 25th December, 1951)	307
Week ended 30th December, 1952	171	Week ended 1st January, 1952)	
Week ended 6th January, 1953	385	Week ended 8th January, 1952	310
Week ended 13th January, 1953	363	Week ended 15th January, 1952	291
Week ended 20th January, 1953	384	Week ended 22nd January, 1952	260
Week ended 27th January, 1953	567	Week ended 29th January, 1952	268
Week ended 3rd February, 1953	809	Week ended 5th February, 1952	259
Week ended 10th February, 1953	739	Week ended 12th February, 1952	281
Week ended 17th February, 1953	562	Week ended 19th February, 1952	276
Week ended 24th February, 1953	417	Week ended 26th February, 1952	233
Week ended 3rd March, 1953	310	Week ended 4th March, 1952	274
Week ended 10th March, 1953	243	Week ended 11th March, 1952	188
Week ended 17th March, 1953	236	Week ended 18th March, 1952	193
Week ended 24th March, 1953	258	Week ended 25th March, 1952	188
Week ended 31st March, 1953	244	Week ended 1st April, 1952	180
Week ended 7th April, 1953	117	Week ended 8th April, 1952	214

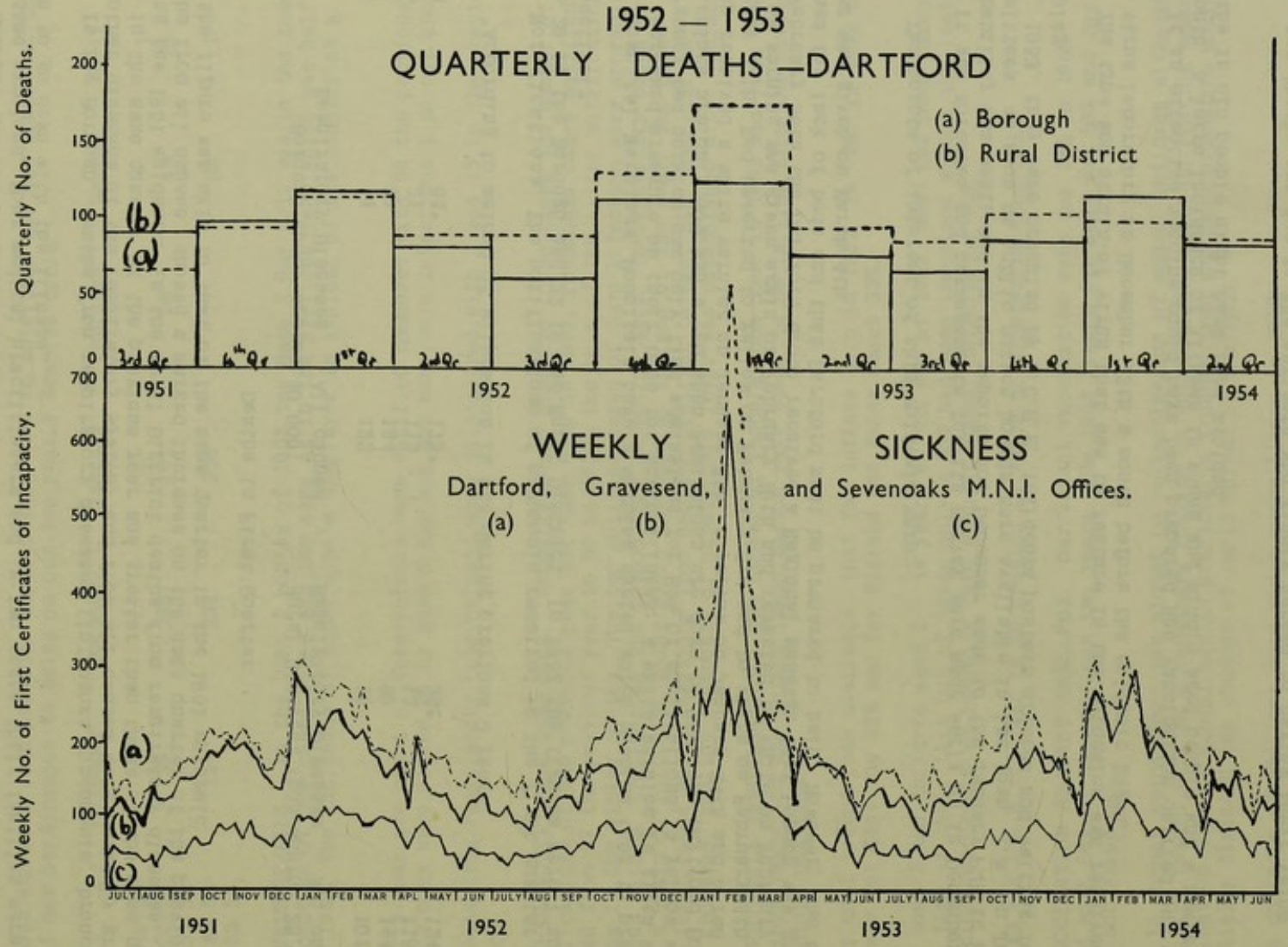
The surgery of each general practice and the office of each hospital was 'phoned in the middle of each week to get an idea of the position and the results are summarised in the following table:-

TELEPHONE REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GENERAL PRACTITIONERS' SURGERIES AND HOSPITALS ON INCIDENCE OF INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS

Borough / Week ending	Jan. 14th	Jan. 21st	Jan. 28th	Feb. 4th	Feb. 11th	Feb. 18th	Feb. 25th	Remarks
Practice A	–	*	**	**	**	**	*	
Practice B	–	*	**	**		**	*	
Practice C	–	*	**	*		*	–	
Practice D	–	*	**	**		–	–	
Practice E	–	*	**	**	NO RECORD	–	–	
Practice F	–	*	**	*		*	No record	
Practice G	–	*	**	**		*	*	
Practice H	–	*	*	*		*	–	
Joyce Green Hospital	–	–	*	*		*	–	
West Hill Hospital	–	–	–	*		–	–	
Bexley Hospital	–	–	*	*		*	–	
Rural District								
Practice A (Swanley)	*	*	**	**	**	**	**	
Practice B (Sutton-at-Hone)	–	*	**	**	**	**	**	
Practice C (Farningham & Eynsford)	–	–	–	*	*	–	–	
Practice D (Hartley & Longfield)	–	*	**	**	**	*	–	
Practice E (Greenhithe)	–	*	**	**	*	–	*	
Southern Hospital	–	–	–	–	*	–	–	
Darenth Park	–	–	*	*	*	*	–	Total 40 persons ill
Stone House	–	–	*	*	**	*	–	Total 38 persons ill
Kettlewell	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
White Oak	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
Parkwood	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	
M.N.I. figure	363	384	567	809	739	562	310	

– = no cases
* = some cases
** = many cases


1950 — 1951
QUARTERLY DEATHS —DARTFORD
(a) Borough
(b) Rural District
Quarterly No. of Deaths.
Dartford Borough.
Dartford R.D.
(a)
(b)
150
100
50
0
4th Qtr
1st Qtr
2nd Qtr
3rd Qtr
4th Qtr
1st Qtr
2nd Qtr
3rd Qtr
4th Qtr
1st Qtr
2nd Qtr
1949
1950
1951
1952
WEEKLY SICKNESS
Dartford, Gravesend, and Sevenoaks M.N.I. Offices.
(a) (b) (c)
Weekly No. of First Certificates of Incapacity.
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
(a)
(b)
(c)
Dartford
Gravesend
Sevenoaks
NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JULY AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APL MAY JUN JULY AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN
1949
1950
1951
1952


1952 — 1953
QUARTERLY DEATHS —DARTFORD
(a) Borough
(b) Rural District
Quarterly No. of Deaths.
200
150
100
50
0
(b)
(a)
3rd Qr
4th Qr
1st Qr
2nd Qr
3rd Qr
4th Qr
1st Qr
2nd Qr
3rd Qr
4th Qr
1st Qr
2nd Qr
1951
1952
1953
1954
WEEKLY SICKNESS
Dartford, Gravesend, and Sevenoaks M.N.I. Offices.
(a) (b) (c)
Weekly No. of First Certificates of Incapacity.
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
(a)
(b)
(c)
JULY AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APL MAY JUN JULY AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APRI MAY JUN JULY AUG SEP OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN
1951
1952
1953
1954

As will be seen from the table the Southern end of the Rural District, i.e. the rural part, was only lightly touched by the epidemic. Similarly, the long-stay hospitals - Kettlewell, White Oak and Parkwood - were quite free from infection. The case of Parkwood was surprising as it's parent hospital in London, with whom there was normally interchange of staff, had 60 nurses down with influenza.

Amongst the cases seen at home, many of their families were, or had been, ill with the same symptoms. Four medical practitioners and in two cases their families were known to go down with the illness.

In the Borough, deaths from respiratory diseases (influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other diseases of the respiratory system) and from all causes were markedly greater than in the same quarter of the previous year and greater than those of the same quarter during the 1951 epidemic. In the Rural District deaths from respiratory diseases, but not deaths from all causes, showed a marked increase on the same quarter of the previous year and the figure was akin to that of the same quarter in the 1951 epidemic.-

Deaths in First Quarter

	Borough (pop. approx. 40,000)		Rural District (pop. approx. 38,000)	
	Respiratory Diseases	All causes	Respiratory Diseases	All causes
1950	14	122	16	101
1951	30	134	30	144
1952	21	115	13	118
1953	64*	173*	36*	124*

*According to method of allocation in use during previous 3 years.

Notifications. The notifications of pneumonia received in the first quarter of 1953 were 29 in the Borough and 32 in the Rural District. In 1952 the figures were 7 and 4 respectively.

Hospital Warnings. Hospitals have a warning system which enables them to prepare for increased pressure on their beds for acute illness. A white warning is given when the emergency bed service can only find admissions for 85% of applications, a yellow when admissions are only 80% and a red when admissions are down to 75%. The Dartford Hospital Group received a white warning on January 6th. a yellow on January 24th and a red on January 27th. Red reverted to yellow on February 3rd and to white on February 4th. A yellow warning was given again on February 10th and reverted to white on February 19th. On February 26th the Dartford Group received a Regional message that London was getting jammed for lack of beds and that Dartford must be prepared to help. However, the all clear was given on March 4th.

The points of interest of this epidemic were:-

(a) It was foreseen and arrangements for its survey were made early on in December, its probability was mentioned in the reports for December made to the January Public Health Committees; as soon as public notice boards were available in the town, i.e. on January 1st, 1953, they were occupied by C.C.H.E. influenza posters ordered and waiting for display.

(b) The type and strain of virus that was to feature in the epidemics was received by the virus laboratory on December 13th a month before the epidemic began.

(c) If an effective vaccine could have been prepared and vaccination carried out within a month, a large incidence of illness in young and middle aged people and a number of deaths in old people might have been avoided.

Our thanks are due to the patients who kindly agreed to having their veins punctured for the purpose of this inquiry and to colleagues in general and hospital practice for their ready co operation.

The report to the Medical Research Council on the clinical trial of the influenza vaccine for the whole country shows that those volunteers who were given the trial

vaccine experienced 40% fewer cases of influenza than those who were given control vaccine. In England and Wales 1,244 patients provided material for laboratory examination and of these 51 were from homes and hospitals in Dartford Borough and Rural District.

MEASLES. We forecast in our report for 1952 that influenza and measles were not likely to trouble us in the Winter of 1953-54. This was born out by the facts.

Those who have read previous reports know that to entertain the new comers at this stage of our performance we bring on our two yearly measles cycle:-

	November	December	January	February	March	April
1949-50	..	..	..	..	..	1
1950-51	138	288	161	58	44	20
1951-52	..	..	..	..	..	..
1952-53	154	238	256	77	88	17
1953-54	..	..	..	..	..	..

TUBERCULOSIS. In the last 3 months of 1953 the Mass X-Ray unit was in the town. The percentage of new cases found was the same as in the previous year which was half that of 1950. The incidence of tuberculosis displayed is typical of the country as a whole.

Forty-four new cases of tuberculosis were notified compared with 68 the previous year. How many were picked up by Mass X-Ray and how many were infectious I do not know.

Deaths from respiratory tuberculosis were 14 compared with 7 and 15 in the previous two years.

OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES. Whooping cough produced three times the number of of notifications of the previous year but less than in 1951. Pneumonia cases notified increased from 37 the previous year to 56 in 1953, the bulk of the latter notifications occurring in the winter months. The two notified cases of food infection were sporadic infections with S. typhimurium the common food infection germ. The dysentery cases were part of a chain of infection going round the town at the end of the year. The paratyphoid fever cases were admissions from another district to West Hill Hospital as "acute abdomens" and the diagnosis of paratyphoid fever was established after admission.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. The number of inoculations done in 1953 was less than in previous years and the infant immunisation rate seems to be falling from the previous satisfactory position.

The most recent rate available, that for infants born in 1952 is 73%. In 1952 the percentage for Kent was 63% and for England and Wales about 35%.

Of some 5,400 children aged 5 - 14 years at the end of 1953, 4947 had been immunised at some time of their life but of these only 3,335 had been immunised within the last 5 years which represents an immunity rate amongst school children of 62%.

1953 was the sixth year in succession in which no diphtheria occurred.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX. Our infant vaccination rate was 55% in 1953 compared with 66% in the previous two years. The 1953 figure for Kent was 58% and for England and Wales 34%.

As in former years there was almost no re-vaccination of school children although the Ministry regard this as a necessary routine on entering and again on leaving school. Re-vaccination done at school age is practically trouble free and this procedure would substantially diminish the chances of rapid spread of smallpox.

Two contacts of smallpox were under surveillance in 1953

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. Several statements in this report owe their origin to official and unofficial publications and these are available for consultations.

My thanks are due to a number of colleagues in providing information and in particular to the local Deputy Superintendent Registrar and Local Registrars of Births and Deaths.

I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest and support and the Staff of this Department for their willing co operation.

I am, Madam, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN H. HUDSON,

Medical Officer of Health.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (acres)	4,234
Population (Registrar-General's estimated mid-year home population) 1953	40,430
Population (Census 1931)	28,928
Population (Census 1951)	40,544
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953, according to Rate Books)	11,396
Rateable Value	£346,550
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£1,400

The 1953 comparability factor for births, governed by the proportion of women aged 18 to 44 years is 0.96. The factor for deaths, governed by the proportion of all age groups, is 0.98. These factors suggest that the age and sex distribution of the population is similar to that of England and Wales, a fact which has been mentioned in previous reports. However the fact that all deaths occurring at Bexley Mental Hospital, which has a population of 2,270 patients all in the older age groups, are now allotted to Dartford Borough and that in consequence the factor has only been lowered from 1.02 to 0.98 suggests that insufficient regard has been paid to this feature with the result that our adjusted death rate is higher than reality.

The crude birth or death rate of any local area multiplied by its comparability factor is said to make it comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales and with any other local area which has been adjusted by its own comparability factor.

No change has occurred in the social conditions since an attempt was made to describe them in the report for 1950. The following figures may act as indicators for 1953:-

Cases dealt with by N.S.P.C.C.

Neglect	23
Ill treatment	6
Moral danger	3
Children affected	75

Unemployed on December 31st, 1953 (Dartford Borough and Dartford Rural)	241

Illegitimate birth rate 1953	51 per 1000 live births
Illegitimate birth rate 1953 (England and Wales)	46 per 1000 live births

Social class distribution of occupied and retired males aged 15 and over (Census 1951 County Report).

Social Class	Dartford Borough	Per 1000 Dartford Borough	Per 1000 Kent
I	385	27	46
II	1866	132	165
III	7925	560	523
IV	1772	125	142
V	2213	156	124
Total	14,161	1000	1000

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1953.

LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	286	275	561
Illegitimate	20	10	30
	306	285	591

Crude Live birth rate per 1,000 home population	14.6
Birth Rate adjusted for age and sex by comparability factor	14.0
Crude birth rate, England and Wales	15.5

STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	6	7	13
Illegitimate	1	1	2

Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	25.0
Still birth rate, England and Wales per 1,000 total (live and still) births	22.4

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES

	Males	Females	Total
Dartford Town	228	210	438
Bexley Mental Hospital	54	74	128
	282	284	566

Crude death rate per 1,000 home population -

Dartford Town - population 38,160	11.4
Bexley Mental Hospital - population 2,270	56.2
Dartford Borough - population 40,430	14.0

Death rate Dartford Borough "adjusted for age and sex by comparability factor"	13.7
DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES	0
Death rate from puerperal causes England and Wales per 1,000 live and still births	0.76

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

Age	Males	Females	Total
Under 4 weeks	8	2	10
4 weeks to 1 year	-	4	4
Under 1 year	8	6	14

All infants dying under 1 year, with the exception of 1 female over 4 weeks of age, were legitimate.

Death rate per 1,000 live births, Dartford Borough	23.6
Death rate per 1,000 live births, London South-Eastern Region	22.5
Death rate per 1,000 live births, England and Wales	26.8
Death rate per 1,000 live births, Harrow Urban District	16.9

CAUSES OF DEATH	TOTAL	AGE AT DEATH				
		Under one day	1 - 7 days	7 days to one month	1 - 2 months	2 months to 1 year
Prematurity	6	3	3	-	-	-
Broncho Pneumonia or bronchitis	4	-	1	1	1	1
"Tumour"	2	-	-	1	-	1
Brain haemorrhage or clotting	2	1	-	1	-	-
	14	4	4	3	1	2

CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SEX

Registrar General's Return

	Male.	Female.	Persons.	
All causes	282	284	566	
Tuberculosis, respiratory	10	4	14	
Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0	
Syphilitic disease	5	0	5	
Diphtheria	0	0	0	
Whooping Cough	0	0	0	
Meningococcal infections	0	0	0	
Acute poliomyelitis	0	1	1	
Measles	0	0	0	
Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	1	1	
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	5	12)	
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	2	11)	
Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	4	4)	72
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	6	6)	
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	18	18	36)	
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	2	3)	
Diabetes	2	1	3	
Vascular lesions of nervous system	34	36	70	70
Coronary disease, angina	42	35	77)	
Hypertension with heart disease	2	9	11)	214
Other heart disease	48	50	98)	
Other circulatory disease	12	16	28)	
Influenza	2	4	6)	
Pneumonia	18	31	49)	113
Bronchitis	35	20	55)	
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	2	3)	
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	0	2	
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0	3	3	
Nephritis, nephrosis	2	4	6	
Hyperplasia of prostate	0	0	0	
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0	
Congenital malformations	1	1	2	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	24	46	
Motor vehicle accidents	6	1	7	
All other accidents	1	3	4	
Suicide	2	1	3	
Homicide and operations of war	0	0	0	

CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO AGE

Compiled Locally

	All Ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks to 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 5	5 - 15	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 55	55 - 65	65 - 75	75 +
All causes	566	11	3	1	1	4	3	8	15	40	82	143	255
Tuberculosis respiratory	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	4	4	-
Tuberculosis other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm stomach	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	6
Malignant neoplasm lung bronchus	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	4	4	1
Malignant neoplasm breast	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
Malignant neoplasm uterus	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	32	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	4	4	8	11
Leukaemia aleukaemia	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	70	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	11	19	34
Coronary disease angina	76	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	7	11	24	33
Hypertension with heart disease	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	4
Other heart disease	95	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	11	21	59
Other circulatory disease	35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	12	19
Influenza	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	4
Pneumonia	51	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	4	11	30
Bronchitis	52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	9	8	29
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Gastritis enteritis and diarrhoea	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2
Nephritis nephrosis	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pregnancy childbirth abortion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformation	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	51	11	-	1	-	1	1	2	2	3	7	11	12
Motor vehicle accidents	7	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	1	-	2	1	-
All other accidents	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	2
Suicide	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

BEXLEY HOSPITAL DEATHS - ACCORDING TO AGE

	Total	Under 15 years	15 - 25	25 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 55	55 - 65	65 - 75	75+
All causes	128	-	1	1	2	8	18	46	52
Tuberculosis, respiratory	6	-	-	-	1	-	3	2	-
Syphilitic disease	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	3	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2
Diabetes	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-
Coronary Disease	12	-	-	-	-	1	1	7	3
Hypertension with heart disease ..	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1
Other heart disease	36	-	-	-	-	-	5	10	21
Other circulatory disease	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	6
Pneumonia	27	-	-	-	1	1	2	10	13
Bronchitis	2	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Nephritis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Congenital malformations	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	1
All other accidents	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-

CAUSES OF DEATH AT AGES 75 YEARS AND OVER
including Bexley Mental Hospital

	Total Persons	MALE					FEMALE				
		75 - 79	80 - 84	85 - 89	90 - 94	95 +	75 - 79	80 - 84	85 - 89	90 - 94	95 +
All causes	254	48	26	22	7	2	58	52	30	7	2
Syphilitic disease	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	6	3	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	1	1	-	1	-	5	1	2	-	-
Diabetes	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	34	4	6	2	2	1	9	6	4	-	-
Coronary disease, angina	33	9	2	1	-	1	9	7	4	-	-
Hypertension with heart disease	4	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Other heart disease	59	10	6	12	1	-	11	12	6	1	-
Other circulatory disease	19	5	-	1	-	-	6	4	3	-	-
Influenza	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	-
Pneumonia	30	4	2	2	1	-	4	9	5	2	1
Bronchitis	29	4	7	2	1	-	5	6	2	2	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Nephritis, nephrosis	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Other defined and ill defined diseases	12	4	-	1	-	-	3	3	1	-	-
All other accidents	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-

CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SOCIAL CLASS
including Bexley Mental Hospital

MALES	Total	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIId	IIIe	IVa	IVb	Va	Vb	X
All Causes	283	3	37	2	8	3	4	129	6	24	4	53	10
Tuberculosis, respiratory	8	-	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	1	1	-	-
Syphilitic disease	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	-	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	9	-	2	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	3	-
Other Malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	15	-	4	-	-	-	-	5	-	2	-	4	-
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	33	1	4	1	1	-	-	16	-	4	1	5	-
Coronary disease, angina	41	-	3	-	1	-	1	21	-	3	-	9	3
Hypertensions with heart disease	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Other heart disease	45	-	3	-	1	1	1	22	2	2	-	10	3
Other circulatory disease	15	1	5	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	1	2	-
Influenza	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	19	-	3	-	-	-	-	7	-	1	1	6	1
Bronchitis	32	-	4	-	-	2	-	12	2	3	-	7	2
Other disease of respiratory system	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis, nephrosis	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-
Congenital malformation	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	29	-	5	-	3	-	-	11	2	4	-	3	1
Motor vehicle accidents	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-
All other accidents	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Suicide	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-

FEMALES	Total	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIId	IIIe	IVa	IVb	Va	Vb	X
All Causes	283	10	44	2	8	6	4	111	7	37	1	44	9
Tuberculosis, respiratory	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1
Acute poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-
Malignant neoplasm, breast	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	6	1	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	2	-
Other Malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms	17	-	2	1	1	-	-	8	-	2	-	3	-
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	37	1	4	-	2	-	-	18	2	3	1	6	-
Coronary disease, angina	35	-	11	1	-	1	-	12	-	5	-	5	-
Hypertensions with heart disease	7	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	2	1
Other heart disease	50	-	9	-	-	1	2	21	-	10	-	4	3
Other circulatory disease	20	1	2	-	-	-	-	13	-	2	-	1	1
Influenza	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	32	1	5	-	1	-	-	7	1	6	-	8	3
Bronchitis	20	3	2	-	1	1	-	8	-	3	-	2	-
Other disease of respiratory system	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Nephritis nephrosis	3	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformation	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	22	-	2	-	2	1	1	10	1	2	-	3	-
Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
All other accidents	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-

CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO SOCIAL CLASS
– Bexley Mental Hospital

MALES

	Total	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIId	IIIe	IVa	IVb	Va	Vb	X
All causes	56	-	4	-	1	1	2	27	2	6	9	3	1
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic disease	5	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	2	1	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Diabetes	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-
Coronary disease	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	1	-	-
Hypertensions with heart disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other heart disease	20	-	2	-	-	1	-	10	1	3	2	-	1
Other circulatory disease	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	9	-	1	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	3	2	-
Bronchitis	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Nephritis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformation	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

FEMALES

	Total	I	II	IIIa	IIIb	IIIc	IIId	IIIe	IVa	IVb	Va	Vb	X
All causes	72	3	8	-	2	4	1	23	-	11	10	-	10
Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Syphilitic disease	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, lung	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	3	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-
Diabetes	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Coronary Disease	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	3
Hypertensions with heart disease	4	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1
Other heart disease	16	-	2	-	1	1	-	5	-	3	2	-	2
Other circulatory disease	9	1	-	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	1	-	-
Pneumonia	18	-	2	-	-	1	-	5	-	7	1	-	2
Bronchitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nephritis	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Congenital malformation	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND CASE-RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1953.

	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London)	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1951 Census)	London Administrative County	Dartford Rural District	Dartford Borough
BIRTHS			Rates per 1,000 Home Population			
Live births	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5	14.0	14.0
Still births	0.35 / 22.4 (a)	0.43 / 24.8 (a)	0.34 / 21.4 (a)	0.38 / 21.0 (a)	0.2 / 16.4 (a)	0.4 / 24.8 (a)
DEATHS						
All causes	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5	10.1	13.7
Typhoid and paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	-	-	-	-
Whooping cough	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	-	-
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24	0.3	0.4
Influenza	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.3	0.2
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.0	0.0
Pneumonia	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64	0.5	1.2
NOTIFICATIONS (CORRECTED)						
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	-	-
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.0	0.1
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.1	0.0
Scarlet fever	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02	0.9	1.0
Whooping cough	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30	4.0	2.9
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	-	-
Erysipelas	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.1	0.1
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	-	-	-
Measles	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09	20.9	11.4
Pneumonia	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73	1.4	1.4
Acute poliomyelitis (including polioencephalitis)						
Paralytic	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.0	0.0
Non-paralytic	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.1	0.1
Food poisoning	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38	0.1	0.1
Puerperal pyrexia	18.23 (a)	24.33 (a)	12.46 (a)	28.61 (a)	- (a)	16.9 (a)
			Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
DEATHS						
All causes under 1 year of age	26.8 (b)	30.8	24.3	24.8	13.0	23.6
Enteritis and diarrhoea under 2 years of age	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1	-	-

(a) Per 1,000 Total (live and still) Births
(b) Per 1,000 related live births

LABORATORY SERVICES

The laboratory examinations were carried out at the Public Health and County Analyst's Laboratories at Maidstone and also at the Pathological Laboratories of the Dartford Group of Hospitals. The following specimens were submitted for examination:-

Public Health and County Analyst's Laboratories:

Water (Bacteriological)	30
Water (Chemical)	3
Milk (Bacteriological)	34
Food and Drug samples	136
Ice Cream	38

Laboratory of Dartford Group of Hospitals:

Food for infection	1
Faeces	27

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water - No change has occurred since our last annual report in the water supply to the dwellings in the Borough, which is excellent in bacteriological quality. The four quarterly bacteriological samples taken on consumers' premises by the Council's Sanitary Inspector gave good results.

From the wells supplying either industry or institutional populations, 24 bacteriological and 3 chemical samples were satisfactory. Two bacteriological samples from a mill were unsatisfactory.

NITRATES - Five chemical samples from the Maternity Ward at West Hill Hospital showed the nitrate content to average 9 parts nitrate nitrogen per million. Ten parts per million has been suggested as a maximum if risks of methaemoglobinaemia in infants are to be avoided, but this standard is rigorous.

HOUSING

There has been no complete survey of the housing accommodation in the Borough and the number of dwellings unfit for human habitation in various degrees has not been assessed. The last overcrowding survey was completed in 1936 and is now out of date. As is well known, the shortage of fit houses is grave and overcrowding is common.

An account of the action taken to obtain the repair or demolition of existing dwellings will be found in the report of the Council's Chief Sanitary Inspector.

The following dwellings have been completed in the last five years:-

	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
By Corporation:					
Traditional (including flats)	58	201	155	250	289
Non-Traditional	0	0	0	0	0
By Private Enterprise:					
New houses	19	28	19	43	49
Bomb damaged houses re-built	4	1	0	0	0
	81	230	174	293	338

The dwellings built by the Corporation in 1953 were as follows:-

Two bedroom houses	120
Three bedroom houses	76
One Bedroom flats	52
Two bedroom flats	32
Old peoples bungalows	9
	289

Number of applicants on the waiting list at the end of December 1952 - 1806
Number of applicants on the waiting list at the end of December 1953 - 1819

No Improvement Grants were made.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1953.

Disease	Total	0-1	1-3	3-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-45	45+
Measles	454	6	83	148	204	8	1	3	1
Whooping Cough	115	11	28	27	43	3	1	2	-
Pneumonia	56	8	6	2	13	2	-	2	23
Scarlet Fever	41	-	2	9	26	2	2	-	-
Poliomyelitis - Paralytic	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	5	-	-	-	2	-	3	-	-
Erysipelas	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
Scabies	4	-	-	1	-	-	3	-	-
Dysentery	4	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-
Acute Encephalitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-

In addition to the above the following cases were notified from Institutions:

Dysentery	2
Paratyphoid Fever	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	10

The following non-notifiable diseases were reported from the Schools:-

Rubella	9
Conjunctivitis	8
Chicken Pox	9
Ringworm	1
Mumps	1

DISTRIBUTION OF MEASLES, SCARLET FEVER, WHOOPING COUGH AND PNEUMONIA, 1953

MEASLES

	St. Alban's	Town	Brent	Highfield	Priory	Heath	Total Borough
January	8	45	31	54	95	22	255
February	2	5	9	17	26	18	77
March	1	5	4	9	40	29	88
April	3	2	2	1	7	2	17
May	1	2	1	1	2	5	12
June	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
July	-	-	2	-	-	-	2
August	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
September	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
October	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
November	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
December	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total for year	15	59	50	82	172	78	454

SCARLET FEVER.

	St. Alban's	Town	Brent	Highfield	Priory	Heath	Total Borough
January	1	-	-	1	3	2	7
February	-	-	1	-	1	1	3
March	-	-	2	-	1	2	5
April	1	1	-	-	-	-	2
May	-	-	-	2	-	-	2
June	-	-	1	-	1	1	3
July	1	-	-	1	1	2	5
August	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
September	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
October	2	-	-	2	3	1	8
November	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
December	-	-	-	1	1	-	2
Total for year	5	1	6	7	12	10	41

WHOOPING COUGH.

	St. Alban's	Town	Brent	Highfield	Priory	Heath	Total Borough
January	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
February	-	-	1	-	2	3	6
March	-	2	-	-	1	-	3
April	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
May	1	-	1	6	5	-	13
June	-	4	7	8	2	1	22
July	1	2	-	11	-	1	15
August	1	2	-	2	5	4	14
September	-	-	3	1	5	-	9
October	2	-	1	4	3	-	10
November	2	-	1	2	2	-	7
December	-	-	-	-	11	-	11
Total for year	7	10	14	30	38	11	115

PNEUMONIA.

	St. Alban's	Town	Brent	Highfield	Priory	Heath	Total Borough
January	-	1	-	3	6	5	15
February	1	1	4	2	3	-	11
March	-	-	1	-	-	2	3
April	1	-	1	-	3	-	5
May	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
June	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
July	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
August	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
September	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
October	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
November	-	-	-	-	3	-	3
December	2	1	1	3	4	-	11
Total for year	6	4	7	8	23	6	56

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table gives details of the cases notified and deaths occuring during the year:-

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	3	2	-	2	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	9	5	1	-	-	1	-	-
35 - 45	5	3	-	-	-	1	-	-
45 - 55	5	1	-	1	2	-	-	-
55 - 65	3	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
65 and upwards	2	1	-	-	4	-	-	-
Totals	28	16	1	4	8	4	-	-

Seventeen of the 49 cases of tuberculosis notified during 1953, and 30 cases notified previous to that year were removed to Sanatoria for treatment.

Previous notification of the disease was not received with regard to one of the deaths occurring during the year but the disease was only revealed by post-mortem examination.

There are two other pulmonary deaths recorded in the Registrar General's classification.

The following is a statement of the number of cases on the Register at the beginning and end of the year.-

	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Number on Register at commencement of year ..	266	197	33	36	532
Number on Register at end of year	278	207	30	38	553

MASS X-RAY

	Total Radiographed	New Cases	%
1953			
Factories etc.			
Men	2,796	15	0.5
Women	1,127	2	0.2
General Public			
Men	2,199	11	0.5
Women	3,193	16	0.5
	9,315	44	0.47
1952			
Factories etc.			
Men	2,522	8	0.3
Women	1,184	2	0.2
County Grammar School			
Girls	339	1	0.3
Teachers	14	0	0.0
General Public			
Men	2,755	24	0.9
Women	3,798	15	0.4
	10,612	50	0.47

	Total Radiographed	New Cases	%
1950			
Factories etc			
Men	1,268	11	0.9
Women	2,712	27	1.0
School Children			
Boys	380	1	0.3
Girls	282	1	0.4
General Public			
Men	3,409	35	1.0
Women	1,708	18	1.1
	9,759	93	0.95

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

From figures kindly supplied by the County Medical Officer the following are derived -

Age at 31st December	Primary Inoculations done in the year	Re-inforcing Inoculations done in the year	Children * immunised at any time in their life.
1953			
0 - 4 years	397	63	1906
5 - 14 years	46	346	4947#
1952			
0 - 4 years	542	82	2075
5 - 14 years	64	493	5571
1951			
0 - 4 years	454	70	2206
5 - 14 years	106	545	5320
1950			
0 - 4 years	523	30	2284
5 - 14 years	77	230	5038

* Population 1951 Census

0 - 4 years - 3,414

5 - 14 years - 5,416

Immunised 1949 or later - 3,335

Immunised 1945 or earlier - 1,612

Infant immunisation rate -

Year of birth	Number of live births	Year immunised	Number immunised	%	Total	%
1953	591	1953	53	9	?	?
		1954	?	?		
1952	533	1952	84	16	388	73
		1953	304	57		
1951	562	1951	49	9	424	75
		1952	375	66		
1950	594	1950	66	11	423	71
		1951	357	60		

SMALLPOX VACCINATION

	Age at December 31st		
	Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 14
1953			
Vaccinated	229	110	4
Re-vaccinated	-	3	10
1952			
Vaccinated	250	125	12
Re-vaccinated	-	3	12
1951			
Vaccinated	255	140	46
Re-vaccinated	-	3	21
1950			
Vaccinated	231	143	22
Re-vaccinated	-	2	11

Infant vaccination rate.

Year of Birth	Number of live births	Vaccinated during year	Number vaccinated	%	Total	%
1953	591	1953	229	39.0	?	?
		1954	?	?		
1952	533	1952	250	47.0	350	66
		1954	100	19.0		
1951	562	1951	255	45.4	370	66
		1952	115	20.5		

Vaccinations in 1953 by age at date of vaccination:-

	Age at date of vaccination			
	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 4	5 - 14
Number vaccinated	326	5	10	1
Number re-vaccinated		1	3	10

326 vaccinations related to 591 births give a rate of 55%.

The detailed analysis of 1953 vaccinations is as follows:-

Age Group	Private Doctors		Clinics		Total	
	Prim. V.	Re-vacc.	Prim. V.	Re-vacc.	Prim. V.	Re-vacc.
Under 1	133	-	193	-	326	-
1 - 2	-	1	5	-	5	1
2 - 5	6	2	4	1	10	3
5 - 15	1	10	-	-	1	10
Total under 15 ..	140	13	202	1	342	14

ANNUAL REPORT OF CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

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

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report which includes a summary of the work carried out by the Sanitary Inspectors during 1953.

INSPECTIONS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Complaints and Routine Visits in connection with Nuisances.

703 complaints relating to nuisances or nuisances discovered by routine inspection were investigated during the year. The figure includes 230 complaints relating to choked sewers which were cleared by the Public Health Department. Of the remaining complaints, 58 related to defective dustbins, 29 were in connection with bed bugs and fleas and 23 in connection with wasps and other insects.

Numerous complaints were received at one period in connection with nuisance arising from the deposit of flue dust. The flue dust is brought into the area from a large electricity generating station in South East London and tipped into holes caused by sand and gravel excavations within approximately 300 yards of dwelling houses.

A Court Order was obtained requiring all flue dust to be well damped before being deposited and all deposits suitably covered with innocuous material at the end of the working day.

This particular type of dust is very light and requires most careful handling if nuisance is to be prevented.

Dustbins.

The policy of providing dustbins and recovering a charge of 5/- d. per annum with the rates on the 1st April, which was instituted in 1952, was continued. 64 bins were provided during the year and no administrative difficulties were experienced.

By the operation of this policy, it is possible to provide a new dustbin within eighteen days of the receipt of complaint regarding the defective condition of the bin. This should be contrasted with the period of three or four months which may well elapse when the policy of serving Notices upon either the owner or occupier is followed.

Eradication of Vermin.

During the year disinfestation was carried out at thirty four premises for bed bugs and two premises for fleas. In the case of the former, a liquid spray containing D.D.T. and pyrethrum was used and in the case of the latter, a similar spray was used, supplemented by treatment with naphthalene. Wasps nests were treated with Magnesium Cyanide.

TABLE OF NUISANCES REMEDIED AND REPAIRS EFFECTED

Accumulations of refuse removed		7
Accumulations of manure removed		2
Animals - Nuisances abated		8
Brickwork	(a) repaired	19
	(b) repointed or rendered	15
Ceilings	(a) cleansed	4
	(b) repaired	67
Cesspools	(a) emptied	0
	(b) repaired	0
Cooking apparatus repaired or renewed		6
Coppers repaired or renewed		2
Doors - frames or fittings repaired or renewed		26
Drains	(a) cleared by service of notice	13
	(b) cleared by Department	230
	(c) reconstructed	0
	(d) repaired	8
	(e) gully fenders repaired	11
	(f) inspection chambers provided	1
	(g) inspection chambers repaired	6
	(h) vent shafts or fresh air inlets repaired	2
Fireplaces	(a) grates provided	7
	(b) other repairs	29
Floors	(a) floorboards repaired	19
	(b) floor joists repaired	5
	(c) sub floor ventilation improved	6
	(d) solid floors repaired	1
Roofs	(a) repaired	110
	(b) stripped and re-roofed	0
	(c) eaves gutters repaired	48
	(d) down pipes repaired	15
Sinks	(a) sinks renewed	4
	(b) sink waste pipes renewed	12
Stairs	(a) new treads or risers	1
	(b) handrails provided	1
Walls	(a) cleansed and re-decorated	7
	(b) plaster repaired	103
	(c) dampness abated	97
Water Supply	(a) taps, pipes, etc. repaired	7
	(b) water storage tanks repaired or renewed	18
Windows	(a) frames, sashes or casements repaired	59
	(b) glazing	2
	(c) sashcords, etc. repaired	34
W.C.'s	(a) flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	37
	(b) W.C. pans renewed	9
	(c) W.C. seats repaired or renewed	16

Table of Nuisances continued:-

Woodwork removed for disinfestation	0
Yard Paving (a) repaired	2
(b) re-drained	4
Miscellaneous defects not included above	64

Drainage Work.

Number of drains tested by water - new buildings and extensions	441
Number of drains tested by water - old drainage re-laid	25
Drains tested by smoke, chemical etc.	3
	469

Infectious Diseases.

Visits and investigations by Sanitary Inspectors	140
Premises disinfected (Tuberculosis)	20
Premises disinfected (all other infections)	4
Library books disinfected	61

Atmospheric Pollution.

80 thirty minute observations of factory chimneys were made during the year and of this number, the model bye-law standard of two minutes black smoke in any continuous period of thirty minutes was exceeded on 12 occasions.

Protracted negotiations which commenced in February, 1952 finally culminated in the Minister of Housing and Local Government approving bye-laws made in pursuance of Section 104(1) of the Public Health Act, 1936, in connection with the emission of black smoke.

These bye-laws follow the pattern of the model bye-laws and provide that the emission of black smoke from a chimney of any building, other than a private house for more than two minutes in any period of thirty minutes, shall, until the contrary is proved, be deemed to be a statutory nuisance and a smoke nuisance.

Whilst it has not been necessary to institute any proceedings in accordance with the bye-laws, visits to factory premises in connection with the emission of black smoke are now made with a feeling that rather more attention is likely to be paid to one's advice in connection with the regulation of the emission of smoke than has been paid hitherto.

The activities of the Thames side Advisory Committee for the Abatement of Atmospheric Pollution have resulted in one further standard deposit gauge and two lead peroxide gauges for the measurement of sulphur dioxide being provided in the Council's area. The provision of these additional gauges is a part of a plan designed to provide data in connection with the contamination of the atmosphere in the area covered by the Committee, and whilst this report refers specifically to conditions in the Dartford Borough Council's area, mention is made of the deposit gauges in other local authorities' areas, in order that the whole picture of the measures being taken and not just a part of it may be seen.

Standard deposit gauges have now been provided at Bexley, Erith, North Cray, Crayford, Dartford Borough (2), Darenth, Stone, Swanscombe and Northfleet, South of the river and Thurrock (2), North of the river.

The results of the analyses of deposits collected in the Council's standard deposit gauges at Bow Arrow Hospital and Lowfield Street, Dartford, are tabulate below, and the appended graph shows the total deposit collected during the months of 1953 compared with the deposit of 1952.

In studying the monthly deposit gauge figures, it will be seen that there are quite wide variations in the figures recorded for successive months. These variations do not necessarily imply a variation in the total amount of air contaminants emitted during the months concerned, as the deposit actually collected is influenced by rain fall, wind direction, wind velocity, atmospheric pressure and other factors. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in its five year reports gives the figures for deposit gauges as average figures for the six summer months April to September and the six winter months October to March.

The following table provides average figures for winter and summer months, the units in all columns being grammes per 100 sq. metres per month. It is too early to draw definite conclusions from these figures, but there appears to be a tendency for the pollution in the winter months to be increasing.

WIND DIRECTION

	January	February	March	April	May	June
N. - E.	7.7%	Out of action owing to flood damage	30.6% *	36.0%	36.8%	23.0%
E. - S.	1.6%		4.4%	7.1%	11.6%	4.6%
S. - W.	43.7%		14.38%	42.5%	25.1%	24.1%
W. - N.	32.4%		9.67%	10.5%	19.2%	32.8%
Calm	14.6%		21.5%	3.9%	7.3%	15.5%

	July	August	September	October	November	December
N. - E.	7.0%	6.3%	10.0%	11.9%	1.1%	15.3%
E. - S.	3.4%	13.0%	16.6%	22.2%	19.8%	19.1%
S. - W.	75.3%	56.0%	45.7%	15.0%	61.1%	28.8%
W. - N.	11.3%	17.0%	16.2%	29.3%	8.3%	22.9%
Calm	2.9%	7.5%	11.4%	21.8%	9.7%	13.8%

* 144 hrs. defective

ATMOSPHERIC DEPOSIT GAUGES

BOW ARROW HOSPITAL SITE

MONTHLY DEPOSIT IN TONS PER SQUARE MILE

	January	February	March	April	May	June
Total water-insoluble	8.52	-	16.97	-	-	14.98
Soluble in $C.S._2$	0.17	-	0.10	-	-	0.10
Ash	7.00	-	14.39	-	-	11.44
Other combustible	1.36	-	2.48	-	-	3.44
Total water-soluble	8.26	-	23.60	-	-	11.58
Calcium	1.42	-	5.44	-	-	2.40
Chlorine	0.81	-	1.57	-	-	0.72
Sulphates	3.41	-	11.46	-	-	3.67
Total Solids	16.77	-	40.58	-	-	26.56
Rainfall - inches	0.76	-	0.33	-	-	1.18

	July	August	September	October	November	December
Total water-insoluble	7.62	7.72	9.20	24.97	6.95	26.43
Soluble in $C.S._2$	0.15	0.10	0.20	.03	0.05	.13
Ash	5.80	6.23	7.45	21.16	5.76	21.44
Other combustible	1.66	1.39	1.54	3.78	1.14	4.85
Total water-soluble	7.72	6.55	14.26	24.16	6.63	23.91
Calcium	0.96	1.44	2.75	5.37	1.24	5.44
Chlorine	0.47	0.48	1.17	1.95	0.57	1.38
Sulphates	2.00	2.35	3.86	8.90	2.99	10.88
Total Solids	15.34	14.27	23.46	49.13	13.58	50.34
Rainfall - inches	2.93	1.26	2.74	3.6	0.20	0.67

SUMMARY OF DEPOSIT GAUGE READINGS - BOW ARROW HOSPITAL

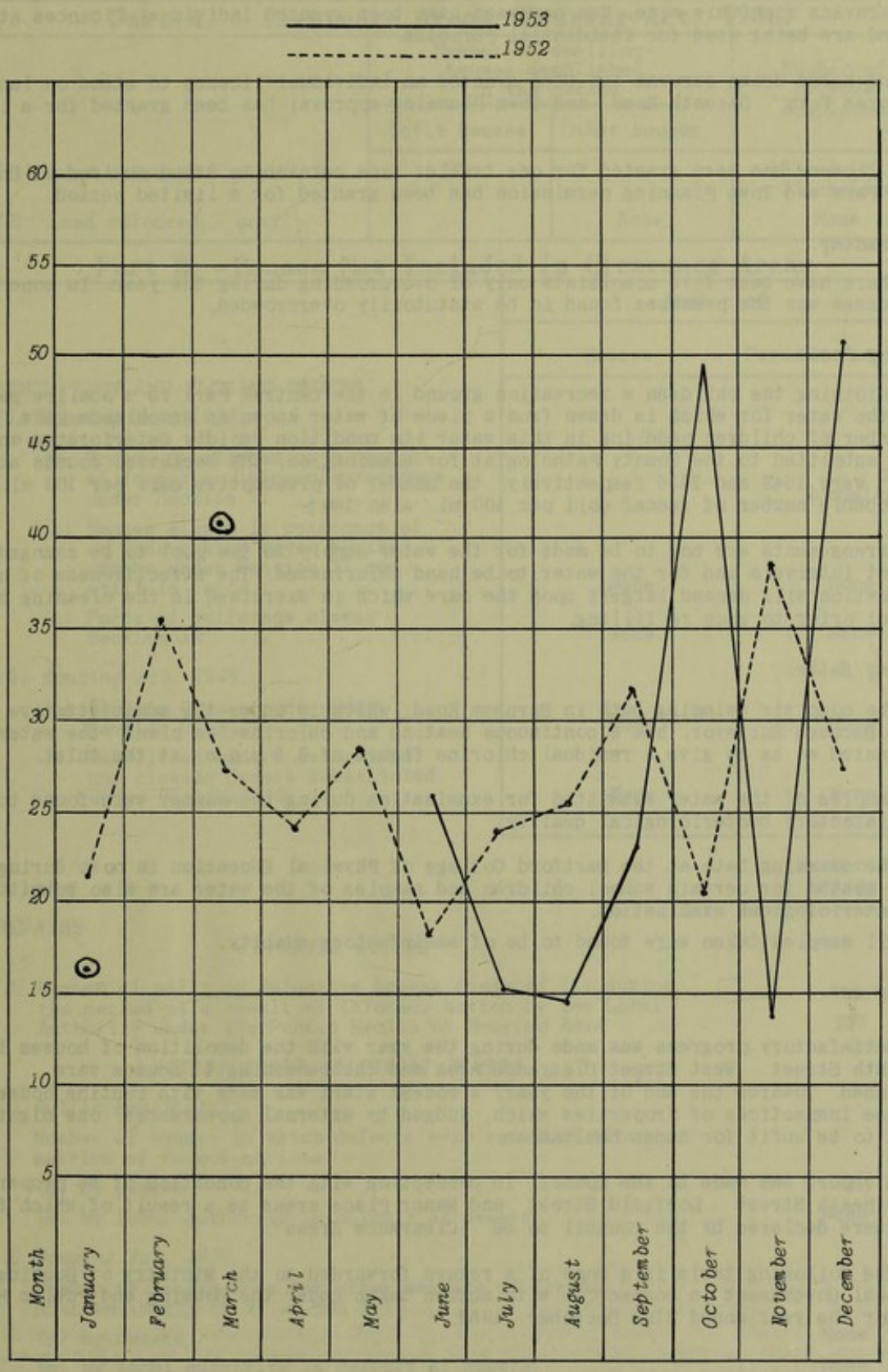
Rain	P.H. Value	Calcium	Chlorine	Sulphates	Total Dissolved	Soluble in $C.S._2$	Other Combustible matter	Ash	Total Insoluble matter	Total Deposit	Period
69.6	7.1	132	55	204	575	5	144	362	512	1,088	1950/51 (excluding January) Winter 5.
54.4	7.2	92	29	150	436	4	104	348	458	894	1951. Summer 6.
41	6.9	100	37	236	534	4	113	361	478	1,012	1951/52. Winter 6.
35	7.4	111	26	163	462	5	116	414	535	996	1952. Summer 6.
43	6.9	136	47	278	635	5	89	392	486	1,121	1952/53. (excluding February) Winter 5.
51	6.6	74	28	116	393	5	79	303	387	780	1953 (excluding April and May). Summer 4.
35	6.7	142	53	239	643	4	116	558	528	1,321	1953/54. Winter 6.

SUMMARY OF DEPOSIT GAUGE READINGS - CENTRAL

50	6.0	91	34	134	490	4	76	326	406	897	1953. Summer 2. (August and September).
37	6.7	120	49	244	597	8	124	471	602	1,199	1953/54. Winter 6.

TOTAL MONTHLY DEPOSIT OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

(TONS PER SQUARE MILE)



For various reasons figures are not available for the months of February, April and May, 1953.

Moveable Dwellings.

The overall position in the Council's area with regard to moveable dwellings has undergone little change. There is still only one licensed site in use, namely the site at Stonehill Woods Joydens Wood. This site is licensed for twenty four chalet type bungalows and Town Planning approval has also been given for the siting of ten trailer type caravans upon this site. Ten caravans have been granted individual licences at this site and are being used for residential purposes.

One horse-drawn caravan has been granted an individual licence to stand on land at "Bignores Farm" Darenth Road, and Town Planning approval has been granted for a limited period.

A licence has been granted for one trailer type caravan to stand on land at Upper Ruxley Farm and Town Planning permission has been granted for a limited period.

Overcrowding.

There have been five complaints only of overcrowding during the year. In none of these cases was the premises found to be statutorily overcrowded.

Paddling Pool.

Adjoining the children's recreation ground in the Central Park is a shallow paddling pool, the water for which is drawn from a piece of water known as Brooklands Lake. Due to the number of children paddling in this water its condition rapidly deteriorates and in a sample submitted to the County Pathologist for examination, the bacterial counts at 37^{0} and 22^{0} were 1648 and 2536 respectively the number of presumptive coli per 100 ml. 180+ and probable number of faecal coli per 100 ml also 180+

Arrangements are now to be made for the water supply to the pool to be changed at frequent intervals and for the water to be hand chlorinated. The effectiveness of hand chlorination will depend largely upon the care which is exercised in the cleaning out of the pool prior to each re filling.

Swimming Baths.

The open air swimming bath in Burnham Road, which is under the administrative control of the Borough Surveyor has a continuous heating and chlorination plant; the water being chlorinated so as to give a residual chlorine figure of 0.5 p.p.m. at the inlet.

Samples of the water submitted for examination during the summer were found to be of satisfactory bacteriological quality.

The swimming bath at the Dartford College of Physical Education is open during the summer months for certain school children and samples of the water are also submitted for bacteriological examination.

All samples taken were found to be of satisfactory quality.

Housing Act.

Satisfactory progress was made during the year with the demolition of houses in the South Street - West Street Clearance Area and the remaining 41 houses were demolished. Towards the end of the year, a modest start was made with routine house to house inspections of properties which, judged by external appearances, one might expect to be unfit for human habitation.

A report was made to the Council in connection with the condition of 66 properties in the Heath Street - Lowfield Street and Manor Place areas as a result of which four areas were declared by the Council to oe "Clearance Areas".

The following table is a copy of a return forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in connection with action taken under the Housing and Public Health Acts for the year ended 31st December, 1953 -

CLEARANCE AREAS AND INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES

ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Return for the Year Ended 31st December, 1953.

Part A. - Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936)

	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in the period		Number of persons displaced
	Unfit houses	Other houses	
(1) Land coloured "pink"	50	-	132 adult 33 children
(2) Land coloured "grey"	-	None	None

Part B. -Houses Not Included in Clearance Areas

	Number of	
	Houses	Persons displaced
DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS		
(1) Housing Act, 1936.		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	1	2 adults
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11 and still in force	None	None
(c) Parts of buildings closed Section 12	None	None
(2) Housing Act, 1949.		
(a) Closing Orders made under Section 3(1)	None	None
(b) Demolition orders determined and closing Orders substituted under Section 3(2)	None	None

	Number of Houses
REPAIRS	
INFORMAL ACTION	
(3) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit during the period as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Public Health or Housing Acts ..	237
ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS	
(4) Public Health Acts	
Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	
(a) by owners	42
(b) by local authority in default of owners	None
(5) Housing Act, 1936	
Number of houses made fit after service of formal notices (Sections 9, 10 and 16)	
(a) by owners	None
(b) by local authority in default of owners	None

Ice Cream.

Premises used for the sale of Ice Cream

Number of Dealers registered	78
Number of Manufacturers registered	10
Number of samples taken for bacteriological examination ..	20

Although ten manufacturers still figure in the Council's register, manufacture has taken place at only one of these premises during the last year. The "Hot Mix" method is used predominantly at this premises and the "Cold Mix" method is used at one restaurant and one industrial canteen.

Results of examinations are set out below:

	Manufactured in District	Manufactured outside District
Grade I	5	5
Grade II	2	0
Grade III	5	0
Grade IV	3	0

Twelve samples of ice cream manufactured in the district by the "Hot Mix" method, one sample of ice cream manufactured inside the district by the "Cold Mix" method and three samples of ice cream from manufacturers outside the district were submitted to the County Analyst for examination. The average fat content and total solids content of these three categories were 5.5% and 24.0%. 8.7% and 31.25%. 11.4% and 36.1% respectively.

In so far as this area is concerned, the concentration of ice cream manufacture into the hands of a few large manufacturers has resulted in the sale of a product of a more uniformly high quality. The ice cream manufactured within the district, the quality of which is reflected in the figures for analyses quoted above, constitutes a very small proportion of the ice cream consumed in the area.

Milk - Licences etc.

The following are details in connection with licences issued and premises in use in the area:

Number of Dairies (excluding dairy farms)	2
Number of registered distributors with premises in the Borough (including 18 distributors selling sterilized milk only)	20
Number of registered distributors with premises outside the Borough (including 2 selling sterilized milk only)	8
Tuberculin Tested Milk Dealers' Licences issued	10
Tuberculin Tested Milk Supplementary licences issued	12
Accredited Milk Supplementary Licences issued	0
Pasteurised Milk Dealer's Licences issued	10
Pasteurised Milk Supplementary Licences issued	12
Sterilized Milk Dealers' Licences issued	26
Sterilized Milk Supplementary Licences issued	11

Samples.

During the year 17 samples of Pasteurised milk, 12 samples of Tuberculin Tested milk (Pasteurised) and 5 samples of Channel Island milk (Pasteurised) were submitted to either the County Pathologist or the County Analyst for routine examination. Of this number of samples, one sample of Tuberculin Tested milk (Pasteurised) and one sample of Pasteurised milk failed to satisfy the methylene blue test.

It is well known that any organisms which are introduced into milk at any stage during the processing of the milk multiply more rapidly in warm weather and milk becomes sour much more rapidly in warm weather. It is unfortunate that the methylene blue test for Pasteurised Milk is void if at any time the atmospheric shade temperature in the laboratory in the immediate vicinity of the samples exceed 65°F. The atmospheric shade temperature during the summer months would, in most laboratories, be well above this figure and the sampling of Pasteurised Milk during the summer months therefore appears to be quite pointless in so far as the methylene blue test is concerned.

Slaughterhouses.

There is no licensed slaughterhouse in the Borough, but the following figures are given in respect of inspections of animals at a large hospital within the Council's area:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed	–	12	25	–	59
Number inspected	–	12	25	–	59
All diseases, except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcase condemned	None	None	None	None	None
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	None	1	None	None	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	None	8.3%	None	None	8.4%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcase condemned	None	None	None	None	None
Carcases of which some organ was condemned	None	None	None	None	None
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	None	None	None	None	4.2%

Other Inspections.

Apart from the figures included in the foregoing section of the report, the following visits were made during the year:-

Visits regarding Food Poisoning	14
Visits to:-	
Fruit Pickers Huts	3
Offensive Trades	8
Public Conveniences at Inns	208
Other Public Conveniences	125
Slipper Baths	21
Stables, Piggeries, etc.	86
Tents, Vans and Sheds	100
Re-inspections and visits to Works in Progress	2,142
Miscellaneous Visits	513

In all, a total of 10,033 visits or inspections were made during the year.

Public Baths

Public Conveniences and Slipper Baths.

The Corporation have provided and maintain the following, which are under the administrative control of the Chief Sanitary Inspector:-

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

Public Conveniences for both sexes on The Brent.

Public Conveniences for both sexes in Market Street.

The number of persons using the Slipper Baths is given below, together with comparative figures for 1952:-

	1952	1953
Men	11,999	13,029
Boys	429	615
Women	3,766	4,317
Girls	267	283
Total	16,461	18,244

Food and Drugs Act, Etc.

Food Preparation Premises.

The following table shows the number of food premises of various types in the Council's area and the number of visits of inspection or re-inspection paid to such premises during the year. All premises in which food is prepared or stored for sale for human consumption are inspected at least twice in every year. Some are inspected as a routine measure three times a year and some quarterly. The frequency of inspection varies according to the type of business carried on and the manner in which the particular business is conducted.

Where more than one trade or business is carried on in a particular shop, e.g. grocers who also sell ice cream, or grocers who also sell a small amount of greengrocery, the premises are classified according to the predominant trade and one inspection entry only is made in connection with visits to such multi-purpose shops.

	No. of premises	No. of Inspections.
Bakehouses	8	63
Butchers	27	231
Cafes and Restaurants	64	440
*Dairies	2	2
Fish Friers	13	100
Fish Mongers (not friers)	4	37
Greengrocers	35	245
Grocers	82	476
Ice Cream Premises (including manufacturers)	88	252
Licensed Premises (non-catering)	37	176
Other Food Premises	2	12
Knackers Yards	1	23
Slaughterhouses	1	26

Registered Premises.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the following premises have been registered:-

Sausage Making and Cooked Meats	33
Curing and Preservation of Fish	6
Ice Cream Manufacturers	10
Ice Cream Dealers	78

Visits to these premises are included in the figures tabulated above.

* Although two premises are registered as dairies, one only is used as such and this only on rare occasions.

As a result of the foregoing inspections, 129 Notices were served during the year and 127 Notices were complied with. The following table sets out the defects which were found:-

Sanitary Conveniences in Food Preparation Premises	1
Defective condition of walls and ceilings	13
Dirty condition of walls and ceilings	55
Dirty condition of doors	4
Defective condition of floors	15
Dirty condition of floors	21
Dirty condition of windows	7
Dirty equipment, personnel or clothing	18
Inadequate hot water supply	15
Inadequate supply of soap or towels	7
Absence of notices re hand-washing	10
Inadequate protection of food from source of contamination	15
Inadequate ventilation	4
Animals likely to contaminate food in preparation rooms	5
Inadequate marking of vehicles used for sale of food	10
Miscellaneous defects	86

During the year a number of requests have been received from various organisations in the town for an address to be given by the Chief Sanitary Inspector in connection with Food Hygiene, Clean Food Campaigns etc.

In every case the request has been acceded to and it is considered that talks of this type, i.e. where the organisation has made a specific request for the talk to be given to its members, are more likely to be effective than propaganda which is rather thrust upon one's audience.

Arrangements were made during the year for some very well produced food hygiene posters, obtainable at two monthly intervals, from well known wholesale provision merchants, to be displayed in factory canteen kitchens, school canteen kitchens and the kitchens of the larger catering establishments in the town. These posters refer particularly to the washing of hands and the handling of food and are thought to be superior to anything that has so far originated from official sources.

Food and Drug Sampling.

During the year 136 samples were obtained (17 Formal and 119 Informal). The following table shows the results of the analyses of these samples:-

Article	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Inferior	Adulterated
Apples, tinned	-	2	-	-	2
Bread	-	1	-	-	1
Butter	1	-	1	-	-
Cakes					
Cream doughnut	-	1	1	-	-
Cream Slice	-	1	1	-	-
Cheese, Processed	-	1	-	1	-
Coffee and Chicory Essence	-	2	2	-	-
	1	8	5	1	3

Article	Formal	Informal	Genuine	Inferior	Adulterated
Carried forward	1	8	5	1	3
Cornish Pasty	–	1	–	1	–
Cream					
Single	–	2	2	–	–
Double	–	1	1	–	–
Cream of Tartar	–	2	2	–	–
Currants	–	1	1	–	–
Curry Powder	–	2	1	1	–
Cutlet Chicken	–	1	1	–	–
Cutlet Turkey	–	1	1	–	–
Dried Milk (spray process)	–	1	1	–	–
Dripping	–	1	1	–	–
Drugs and Medicines					
Balsam Chest and Lung	–	1	1	–	–
Balsam Cherry Cough	–	1	1	–	–
Cod Liver Oil	–	1	1	–	–
Glycerine	–	1	1	–	–
Linctus Gees	–	1	1	–	–
Salts, Glauber	–	1	1	–	–
Fish Cakes	1	–	1	–	–
Fish Paste	–	2	2	–	–
Flour, Self Raising	1	2	3	–	–
Gelatine, edible	–	1	1	–	–
Ground Almonds	–	1	1	–	–
Ground Cinnamon	–	1	1	–	–
Ground Ginger	–	1	1	–	–
Ground Rice	–	1	1	–	–
Ice Cream	1	17	17	1	–
Ice Lolly	–	4	2	2	–
Jams	1	6	6	1	–
Jelly	–	2	2	–	–
Lard	1	–	1	–	–
Meat Paste	–	1	1	–	–
Milk	–	12	12	–	–
Milk, Channel Island, pasteurised	–	5	5	–	–
Milk, Tuberculin Tested, pasteurised	–	4	4	–	–
Milk, Pasteurised	–	9	9	–	–
Mineral Waters etc.					
Lime Juice Cordial	–	1	1	–	–
Pineapple Juice	–	1	1	–	–
Pineapple Squash	–	1	1	–	–
Oatmeal	–	1	1	–	–
Olive Oil	–	1	1	–	–
Peel, mixed preserved	–	2	2	–	–
Pepper, white	–	1	1	–	–
Rape Seed Oil	–	1	1	–	–
Saccharin tablets	–	2	2	–	–
Sausage, Beef	1	–	1	–	–
Sausage, Pork	8	1	8	1	–
Sausage, Liver	1	–	1	–	–
Soup, Meat	–	1	1	–	–
Suet, Shredded	–	2	2	–	–
Steak Pudding	–	1	–	–	1
Sugar, demerara	–	1	1	–	–
Sultanas	–	1	1	–	–
Tapioca	–	1	1	–	–
Tomato Ketchup	–	1	1	–	–
Tomato Sauce	–	1	1	–	–
Vinegar, spirit	1	–	1	–	–
Sweets etc.					
Buttered Almonds	–	1	–	1	–
Butter Toffee	–	1	1	–	–
	17	119	123	9	4

The following are details in connection with the samples in the foregoing table which were reported as either "inferior" or "adulterated".

Bread: The sample of bread was part of a loaf which had been delivered to a customer in the Council's area and the Public Analyst reported that the dark foreign matter present consisted of dirty mineral oil, probably lubricating oil.

Proceedings were instituted in accordance with Section 3 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and a fine of £10 was imposed together with the payment of £5 5s. 0d. costs.

Curry Powder: This informal sample of curry powder was found to contain 30 p.p.m. lead. The permissible limit being 10 p.p.m. A subsequent formal sample from the same source was found to be "genuine".

Pork Sausages: Sulphite was found to be present in 57 p.p.m. and preservatives were not declared. A warning was issued in this case.

Ice Cream: This sample contained 3.6% fat and 6.3% sucrose. A warning was issued to the manufacturer and subsequent samples were found to be satisfactory.

Tinned Apples: Excess iron and tin was found in each of two informal samples. The whole stock of this particular commodity was surrendered from branches in Dartford and other neighbouring Local Authority areas.

Meat Pudding: This meat pudding was the subject of a complaint, the purchaser having found what she believed to be part of a rodent's skin in the pudding. Subsequent examination showed the offending substance to be skin with adherent hair, probably from a calf's head.

Cornish Pasty: The Cornish Pasty was the subject of a complaint by the purchaser, who alleged that the pasty contained blow-fly eggs and had caused enteritis in a member of the family. The examination confirmed the presence of blow-fly eggs, but the fact that the blow-fly eggs were found to be viable suggested that they were not there before the pie was cooked. As the crusts of the pies of this type were firmly sealed, it moreover suggested that the pie had become fly-blown after sale.

Processed Cheese: This sample was found to contain 57.1% moisture and 18.3% fat. It was reported to the Ministry of Food Standards and Labelling Division by the Public Analyst.

Buttered Almonds: An informal sample was found to contain 1.35% butter fat. The Public Analyst expressed the view that it should contain 4%. Due to the absence of further stocks, it was not possible to take any subsequent formal sample.

Ice Lolly: (2 samples) Two informal samples were found to contain 5.5% total solids and 3.1% sucrose and 6.4% total solids and 4% sucrose. The matter of composition was taken up with the manufacturers concerned.

Sixteen complaints in connection with the condition of food or the handling, wrapping or delivery of food were received during the course of the year. As in some cases the weather or time of year has some bearing upon the matter, the date of the complaint is given in each case. These were as follows:-

12.1.53	Bread - grease in loaf. See details of report upon food analyses.
24.3.53	Complaint by purchaser of condition of meat. The meat was not unfit for human consumption but the vendor exchanged the meat to the satisfaction of the customer.

6.3.53 Groceries delivered found to be contaminated by mice excreta.

The groceries were exchanged and the mice infestation was treated, upon repayment, by the Council's Rodent Operator.

16.3.53 Portion of surgical rubber found in Dundee Cake.

Enquiries were made at the bakery concerned, where it was found that an employee had lost part of a rubber finger stall used to cover a cut finger.

1.4.53 Tinned apples. Apples analysed and stocks withdrawn.

11.4.53 Complaint in connection with condition of fish.

Fish found to be sound and edible but portion small for price paid. (The root cause of the complaint).

15.4.53 Hair in meat pudding. See report in results of analyses.

25.4.53 Hot Cross Bun Poppins. These pre-packed Hot Cross Buns were reported to be stale and were in fact found to have been in stock for some weeks. The vendor was warned.

26.5.53 Maggot found in loaf of wrapped sliced bread.

The entomologist reported that this was the larva of a Tortrix Moth which had most likely crawled in from adjoining vegetables or flowers.

15.6.53 Cyst in Liver delivered to customer.

Warning issued to branch manager.

9.6.53 Pressed Pork alleged to be fly blown when delivered to customer.

Other pork in grocer's shop examined. . none found to be fly blown.

30.7.53 Cornish Pasty alleged to be fly blown.

See report in results of analyses.

4.8.53 Complaint of fly blown condition of bacon.

The grocer's shop concerned was visited and arrangements made for more satisfactory covering of the bacon in the bacon store.

17.8.53 Complaint in connection with lumps of hard dough in, and sour taste of, a loaf of bread.

This matter was taken up with the manufacturers, who reported that it was due to some stale dough having become caught up in part of the bakery plant.

9.6.53 Complaint in connection with 2½" long brass price ticket holder in rock cake sold to customer.

This matter was taken up with the confectioner concerned, who discontinued the use of this type of price ticket holder in favour of a plastic type of price ticket.

23.10.53 Complaint of maggots in fish supplied to customer.

Visits paid immediately to fish monger and all stock examined and found to be satisfactory.

One hundred and sixty-six visits were made in connection with unsound food.

Unsound Food.

The total quantity of unsound food dealt with during the year was 1 ton, 17 cwts. 0 qrs. 6 lbs. 9¾ ozs.

Details of the foods surrendered are tabulated below:-

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
FISH					
Catfish (Rock Salmon)	-	-	-	42	-
Cod	-	-	-	58	-
Dogfish (Rock Eel)	-	-	-	42	-
MEAT, POULTRY ETC.					
Beef (English)	-	-	-	592	8
Beef (Imported)	-	-	-	264	8
Lamb (New Zealand)	-	-	-	15	-
Mutton (English) and offal	-	-	-	161	-
Pork and offals	-	-	-	51	-
Poultry - Ducks - 6	-	-	-	32	-
Sausages - Beef	-	-	-	198	-
Sausages - Pork	-	-	-	12	-
Sweetbreads (Ox)	-	-	-	10	-
MISCELLANEOUS GROCERIES AND CONFECTIONERY					
Bacon	-	-	-	-	6
Biscuits	-	-	-	-	8
Butter	-	-	-	2	14
Cake Mixture (8 packets)	-	-	-	8	0
Cheese	-	-	-	5	2
Chocolates	-	-	-	16	14
Christmas Puddings - 3	-	-	-	12	0
Chutney - 2 jars	-	-	-	1	0
Cocoanut Ice	-	-	-	103	8
Cooking Fat	-	-	-	-	11
Currants	-	-	-	100	8
Dates - 6 packets	-	-	-	3	0
Jelly - 284 packets	-	-	-	88	12
Macaroni	-	-	-	7	0
Pickles - 13 jars	-	-	-	8	2
Sandwich Spread - 15 jars	-	-	-	3	4½
Soyetti	-	-	-	9	0
Sweets (Fruit Pastilles) - 5 boxes	-	-	-	33	12
Swiss Rolls - 8 dozen	-	-	-	12	0
Tomato Paste	-	-	-	5	0
TINNED GOODS					
Fish 108 tins, Fruit 857 tins, Jam 44 tins, Meat 188 tins, Milk 222 tins, Soup 43 tins, Vegetables 281 tins	1	0	1	5	4¼
TOTAL WEIGHT	1	17	0	6	9¾

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

The following is a summary of inspections carried out in accordance with the provisions of the above Act:

(1) INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Notices	Prosecutions
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	15	116	2	None
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	134	478	40	1
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises)	18	41	3	None
TOTAL	167	635	45	1

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	Referred By H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1)	1	2	Nil	None	Nil
Overcrowding (S. 2)	None	None	None	Nil	Nil
Unreasonable Temperature (S. 3)	3	4	Nil	Nil	1
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4)	None	None	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S. 6)	None	None	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Unsuitable or defective	42	53	Nil	1	Nil
(c) Not separate for sexes	None	None	Nil	None	Nil
Other offences against Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	14	19	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	63	81	Nil	1	1

Outwork.

At the present time there are no persons carrying on business in the district who employ outworkers and are required to submit lists in accordance with the provisions of Section 110 of the Factories Act, 1937.

Temperature.

During the year, proceedings were instituted for a contravention of the provisions of Section 3 of the Factories Act, 1937. The temperature in a work room in which radio and television repairs were being carried out being 50°F at 11.12 a.m., the working day having commenced at 8.30 a.m.

A fine of £10 0s. 0d was imposed together with the payment of £5 5s. 0d. costs.

Water Supply.

Sixteen samples of water from factory water supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year and three samples were submitted for chemical examination. Two of the samples submitted for bacteriological examination were unsatisfactory. As the samples were taken shortly after the river Thames banks were broken and as part of the factory concerned was below flood water level, it was assumed that the unsatisfactory samples were due to this cause.

Subsequent samples from the same source of supply were found to be satisfactory.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Rats and Mice.

Due to the pressure of other duties it was only possible to carry out a very limited amount of survey of domestic premises during the year. There was, however, very little variation in the number of complaints received or premises treated. Details are set out below, together with figures for the preceeding year:-

	1952	1953
Number of complaints received and dealt with	171	195
Number of premises treated	224	213
Notices served	1	5
Notices complied with	1	5

Of the 213 premises treated, 16 were found not to be infested and 55 were infested by mice.

Having regard to the extremely rare occasions upon which any infestation in the area has been found to be associated with defective drains or sewers, arrangements were made with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the treatment of sewers in this area to be temporarily suspended. This arrangement has so far had no noticeable effect upon the number of surface infestations found or reported.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Set out below are details of the number of inspections made and Notices served and complied with during the year:-

Number of inspections made	370
Notices served	43
Notices complied with	40

Analysis of Notices Complied with in 1953

Abstracts and notices	20
Sanitary accommodation defective	2
Sanitary accommodation insufficient	1
Inadequate temperature	7
Half-day or Sunday closing offences	4
Offences relating to intervals for meals etc.	1
Inadequate washing facilities	2

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

The following are details in connection with proceedings instituted during the year:-

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - Section 3.

A loaf of bread was sold and found to contain dirty mineral oil. Proceedings were

instituted for the sale of a loaf of bread which was not of the substance and not of the quality demanded by the purchaser.

A fine of £10 0s. 0d. was imposed together with the payment of £5 5s. 0d. costs.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938 - Section 16.

Proceedings were instituted in connection with the sale of oranges and tomatoes from a barrow upon which the name and address of the vendor was not legibly and conspicuously displayed.

A fine of 40/- was imposed together with the payment of £2 2s. 0d. costs.

Factory Act, 1937 - Section 3.

Proceedings were instituted in respect of an offence against Section 3 of the Factory Act, 1937. The temperature in a work room used for the repair of radio and television sets being 50°F.

A fine of £10 0s. 0d. was imposed together with the payment of £5 5s. 0d. costs.

I am, Madam, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. H. IDDISON

Chief Sanitary Inspector.