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BOROUGH OF WATFORD

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# Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1947

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R. C. M. PEARSON  
M.D., M.R.C.P. (Ed.), D.P.H.  
Medical Officer of Health

R. V. JACOB  
M.S.I.A. (CERT. SAN. INST.)  
Senior Sanitary Inspector







COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP.

1. Members of the Health Committee,  
1946-7

Chairman:	Councillor L. C. Johnson
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor J. Davis
His Worship the Mayor:	Councillor R. W. North
The Deputy Mayor:	Councillor J. Wright:

Alderman L. H. Andrews	Councillor H. J. F. Brown
Alderman H. Coates	Councillor J. K. Carpenter
Alderman Mrs. M. A. Ward	Councillor R. N. E. Hinton
Councillor A. Abbott	Councillor H. Horwood
Councillor Mrs. M. E. Bridger	Councillor C. W. Tyrwhitt
Councillor Mrs. E. Brooks	Councillor F. H. Vince

2. Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee,  
1946-7

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Vice-Chairman:	Councillor Mrs. M. E. Bridger
His Worship the Mayor:	Councillor R. W. North
The Deputy Mayor:	Councillor J. Wright

Alderman Mrs. L. E. Armitage	Councillor R. Samms
Alderman H. J. Bridger	Councillor Mrs. B. Williams
Councillor A. Abbott	Mrs. Dickens
Councillor H. J. F. Brown	Mrs. Harris
Councillor Mrs. E. Brooks	Mrs. Horwood
Councillor J. Davis	Mrs. Johnson
Councillor A. G. Dillingham	Mrs. Last
Councillor H. Eccles	Mrs. Lovell
Councillor L. C. Johnson	Mrs. Wiggs
Councillor Mrs. A. Primett	Mrs. Wright

3. Members of the Watford Joint Isolation Hospital Board,  
1946-7

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Vice-Chairman:	W. A. Adams, Esq.

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Mrs. L. E. Armitage	L. G. Fowler, Esq.
E. J. Baxter, Esq.	Mrs. M. H. Kent
Mrs. E. G. Beall	R. W. North, Esq.
Mrs. E. W. Bevan	T. W. Royle, Esq.
A. L. G. Chevassé, Esq.	J. G. Shaw, Esq.
W. T. Ellam, Esq.	Mrs. M. A. Ward

Mrs. B. Williams



STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health and Medical Superintendent of the Joint Isolation Hospital:

R. C. M. Pearson, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.P.(Ed), D.P.H.

Senior Assistant Medical Officer:

Margaret Ward, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

± Assistant Medical Officers:

Phyllis I. Kay, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S.(Ed)

A. H. Williams, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

G. M. Greig, B.A., M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.P.(Ed)

T. A. Hale-Monro, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.

S. A. Scorer, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G.

± Dental Officers:

Sidney W. Fisk, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S.

William J. Pitt Ford, B.D.S.(Lond), L.D.S.

+Senior Sanitary Inspector:

R. V. Jacob, M.S.I.A.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector:

xs=φ K. H. Marsden, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., A.M.I.S.E.

District Sanitary Inspectors:

s=φ G. F. Willcox, M.S.I.A.

s=φ E. Ellerington, M.S.I.A.

s=φ J. L. Willoughby, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.

s=φ T. Rosamond, A.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A. (From 1.3.47)

Inspector under Shops Act:

A. Corke

Senior Health Visitor and Infant Life Protection Visitor:

" Miss A. Clifford, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Health Visitors:

" Miss E. Potter, S.R.N., S.C.M.

" Miss M. Robertson, S.R.N., S.C.M.

" Miss G. K. Marsden, S.R.N., S.C.M.

" Miss H. Davy, S.R.N., S.C.M. (To 3.7.47)

" Miss McFadden, S.R.N., S.C.M.

" Miss I. Horsman, S.R.N., S.C.M. (From 1.9.47)

" Miss A. Francis, S.R.N., S.C.M. (From 6.11.47)

Welfare Officer:

Miss M. Rann

Clerical Staff:

R. A. Smith

Miss M. Sherlock

Miss K. Eames

Miss E. Maxfield

Mrs. G. MacDougall (From 20.10.47)

Miss I. Burgess (From 2.6.47)

± Part-time Officers.

+ Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

= Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.

φ Meat Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

" Health Visitors' Diploma of Royal Sanitary Institute.

s Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

x Diploma of Sanitary Inspectors' Examination in Sanitary Science and Administration.



BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
WATFORD.

July, 1949.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my fifth Annual Report and the twenty-sixth of its kind for the Borough. I apologise for the fact that many of the details included therein are now out of date but I would remind the Members of the Public Health Committee that an interim report was submitted in February, 1948.

If it is necessary to find an excuse for the fact that this Report has been put on one side on several occasions it can be found in the decision of the County Council to form Divisional areas for Health Services administration and with this end in view the County Medical Officer took considerable trouble to fit into the County's proposals for the administration of the various sections of Part III of the National Health Service Act the existing services which had been developed by the small but progressive Borough of Watford as a Welfare Authority. Much time has been spent on these deliberations but with goodwill and understanding an up-to-date and integrated Health Service should be the result.

When great changes are taking place in all spheres of medical practice and administration it is worth a moment's pause to look at the duties and responsibilities of a Medical Officer of Health as defined by the Sanitary Officers Regulations, 1935. Included in these duties are:-

"That the Medical Officer of Health shall inform himself as far as practicable, respecting all matters affecting or likely to affect the public health in the district and be prepared to advise the Local Authority on any such matter."

I regard this duty of paramount importance but to carry it out adequately and efficiently within the Health Services of to-day research and investigation are required together with suitable staff to clarify and relate the facts thus obtained to the state of the people's health. If such a duty is vital then some of the detailed administrative responsibilities must be delegated so that the considerable knowledge of local conditions and factors influencing them can be used to advantage and advice offered when called for. With an enthusiastic staff and a keen Public Health Committee it is never difficult to find an opening for any suggestions or experiments which might, in the light of experience, prove beneficial to the health of the Community.

During the year the detailed work of the Department included the investigation of several small outbreaks of food poisoning, one household attacked by Typhoid Fever and then during the summer and autumn the epidemic of poliomyelitis during which, although there were only 13 confirmed cases with one death, many came under suspicion and required investigation. Looking back it is noteworthy that several patients were admitted to both the isolation



and general hospitals for a month or more before the epidemic started with the findings of a cerebral irritation resembling a virus encephalitis and two of them (from outside the Borough) died. Judging from information given me from many sources but without statistical confirmation it would seem that non paralytic attacks were numerous and probably in this way the herd immunity developed.

Whilst the Infant Mortality Rate was not quite so low as last year it is still far below the national figure and compares very favourably with other urban areas in the country.

It is safe to record that although the Medical and Health Visiting Staff were working with some apprehension about their future this fact was not allowed to reflect itself in the able manner in which they carried out their many duties.

Once again stress must be laid on the responsible duties of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and his well qualified staff who have made considerable progress towards the production of clean food and the improvement of catering facilities in the town. Due to shortage of equipment many of their recommendations are only just beginning to come into operation.

The need for additional staff had, for some time, become apparent if many of the schemes for improving the service were to materialise and accordingly a District Sanitary Inspector and a Health Visitor were appointed during the year.

Finally the help and encouragement given by members of the Council to all the staff of the Department has been of great assistance and much appreciated.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

R. C. M. PEARSON  
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION "A".

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	5,275
Estimated civilian population to mid year 1947					73,330
Number of inhabited houses (estimated)			...		19,091
Rateable value at 1. 10. 47		...		...	£644,128
Sum represented by a penny rate		...		...	£2,630

Number of Live Births -

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	701	651	1,352
Illegitimate	<u>38</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>82</u>
Total	<u>739</u>	<u>695</u>	<u>1,434</u>

Number of Still Births -

Legitimate	8	11	19
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>8</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>21</u>

Total number of Births (Live and still)	...	...	...	1,455
Total number of Deaths	...	...	...	795

Deaths from -

Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	-
Other Puerperal Causes		...	1
All Puerperal Causes	...	...	1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	...		-
Measles	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever...	...	...	-
Whooping Cough		...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	-
Cerebrospinal fever	...	...	3
Influenza	...	...	4

(Continued)



Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1
Violence	...	...	...	30
Cancer	...	...	...	143

Infantile Deaths (under 1 year) -

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	28	10	38
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
Total	<u>30</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>41</u>

Birth Rate and Death Rate, 1947.

	<u>Watford</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>London Administrative County</u>	<u>126 County Boroughs and Great Towns</u>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) -				
Live Births	19.6	20.5	22.7	23.3
Still Births	0.29	0.50	0.49	0.62
Death Rate (per 1,000 population) -				
All causes	10.8	12.0	12.8	13.0
Measles	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.05	0.09	0.08	0.09
Typhoid etc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) (per 1,000 live births)	0.69	5.8	4.8	8.0
Maternal Mortality Rate - (per 1,000 total births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.16		
Other puerperal causes	0.69	1.01		
All puerperal causes	0.69	1.17		

Infant Mortality Rate -

All infants, per 1,000 live births ... ..	28.6
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	28.1
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	36.5

COMPARATIVE RATES.

	<u>Watford,</u> <u>1946</u>	<u>Watford,</u> <u>1947</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales, 1946</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales, 1947</u>
Birth Rate (live births) ...	18.6	19.6	19.1	20.5
Death Rate ... ..	10.1	10.8	11.5	12.0
Infant Mortality Rate ...	23.3	28.6	43.0	41.0
Maternal Mortality Rate ...	1.51	0.69	1.24	1.17

Comments -

(1) Infectious Diseases.

A measles epidemic resulted in one death, one child died as a result of whooping cough, three (aged 51, 14 years and an infant of 1 week) from cerebrospinal fever, and an adult suffering from poliomyelitis.

(2) Violence.

Compared with last year the total remained the same but the street accidents rose to 10 and the home accidents fell to 6.

(3) Birth Rate.

There was a rise in the rate, almost reaching the 1944 figure of 19.7.

(4) Still Birth Rate.

Fluctuation of this figure seems to take place from year to year without a reasonable explanation for its wide variation.

Expressed in another way the figures mean that for every 1,000 live and still births 14.4 were stillborn compared with 26.4 in 1946.

(5) Deaths in Infancy.

The 1946 figure (23.3) was the lowest ever recorded and it was, therefore, unlikely that it would be reached and improved upon every year.

The 1947 rate of 28.6 is still low but reveals a rise in deaths from respiratory infections, accidents and prematurity.



It has been remarked upon in previous Annual Reports that a good year from the still birth point of view usually means some rise in the prematurity rate and a rise in infant mortality.

The object of the Premature Baby unit set up at King Street Maternity Home is to deal with this problem and it caters both for institutional and home confinements.

Of these 41 infant deaths 10 died within 24 hours, a further 12 less than a week old and another 4 whilst still under one month old, leaving 13 during the next eleven months. (2 remaining untraced).

The neonatal mortality was thus 18.3.

From figures kindly given me by Dr. S. A. Scorer, Medical Officer in charge of King Street Maternity Home, it would appear that amongst 20 still births (not all of them resident within the Borough) post mortem examination revealed the following causes of death:-

Prematurity	1
Malformation	5
Birth Injuries	7
Collapse of lungs	2
Placental Infarction	3
Haemorrhagic disease	2
	<u>20</u>

Post mortem figures (see below) for infant deaths at the Maternity Home, however, when compared with the total figures for the Borough revealed the need for closer investigation into the exact cause of death if the services are to be improved by finding and correcting faults in the administration and technique.

Prematurity	3
Malformation	4
Birth Injuries	-
Collapse of lungs	3
Respiratory Diseases	-
Other diseases of infancy (haemorrhagic)	4
	<u>14</u>

(6) Death Rate.

The rate of 10.8 is reasonably low.

The maternal death was due to eclampsia.

(7) Sex of Infants.

The sex ratio dropped from 1,081 to 1,054 boys to every 1,000 girl infants.

This is the average figure.

(8) Illegitimate Births (1,000 total births).

	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>Watford</u>
1939	42	50
1944	68	72
1945	94	95
1946	66	66
1947	unknown	58

The figures continue to fall steadily.

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SECTION "B"

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. GENERAL

(a) Ambulance Facilities.

The number of calls for removals and accidents totalled 3,571 compared with 3,343 during 1946.



Full co-operation with the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the British Red Cross Society has been the feature of yet another year's successful ambulance work. The evening, night, weekend and holiday duties of these volunteers has been a great assistance to the smooth working of the service and the help given with staff training by the Officers of the St. John Ambulance Brigade has materially helped to maintain the high standard of first aid work.

(b) Clinic Services.

It was felt that early deformities could be detected at the Toddlers' Clinic and more easily corrected, especially with the full co-operation of the parents if a Physiotherapy Clinic with an educational bias could be set up. Very soon this service revealed how interested most mothers are in preventing postural deformities, especially when given a detailed explanation of the condition and how to deal with it in the early stages.

At this Clinic ante and post natal conditions are also given care on re-education lines with good results.

209 attendances were made in the 3 months during which the clinic was open.

It was decided that post natal care could be given more satisfactorily at a clinic solely for this purpose and with this in view Dr. Scorer opened a clinic at the beginning of the year at the Central Clinic. Advice on sub-fertility problems was also given with full investigation of both male and female partners.

(c) Domiciliary Nursing.

The Watford and District Nursing Association has its Headquarters in Alexandra Road. An annual grant to the Association is made by the Watford Corporation.

The following information gives the facts but hardly indicates the appreciation felt by those who require this service.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Lobar Pneumonia	11	207
Pemphigus Neonatorum	3	55
Measles	2	21
Whooping Cough	1	4
Other diseases occurring in children under 5 years	209	1,448
Influenza	13	95
Complications of Pregnancy	29	189
Complications of Childbirth	23	250
Midwifery uncomplicated	1	17
Total	<u>292</u>	<u>2,286</u>

(d) Adoptive Acts.

Eyelaws and Local Regulations relating to the Public Health in force in the district. No change.



(e) Laboratory Facilities.

Additional investigations are now possible still at the Peace Memorial Hospital Laboratory particularly into cases of food poisoning, ice cream samples, etc.

(f) Health Education.

28 lectures were given by members of the Department staff on a wide variety of subjects to students, Youth Clubs and other societies.

2. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(a) Maternity Homes.

There was no change in the maternity beds available - namely 51 at King Street Maternity Home and 36 in Private nursing homes.

(b) Domiciliary Midwifery.

As a responsibility of the Hertfordshire County Council this service has carried on satisfactorily and not been unduly upset by shortage of staff.

Table showing Distribution of Notified Births as between Institutional and Domiciliary Confinement

Year	Institutional				Domiciliary			GRAND TOTAL
	King St.	Shrodells	Private Nursing Homes	Total	Midwives	Doctors and Parents	Total	
1944	461	464	381	1,306	548	41	589	1,895
1945	614	239	366	1,219	403	34	437	1,656
1946	1031	29	525	1,585	467	20	487	2,072
1947	988	18	630	1,636	486	30	516	2,152

(c) Clinic Services.

The work carried out at the various clinics may be seen from Tables 1, 2, 3 and 4.

A. MATERNITY SERVICES.

TABLE 1. - Number of Attendances at Clinics during the year 1947.

Month	CENTRAL CLINIC		STANBOROUGHES		TOTAL	POST NATAL		TOTAL
	First Attends	Sub-Attends	First Attends	Sub-Attends		First Attends	Sub-Attends	
Jan.	49	241	12	77	379	33	2	35
Feb.	41	208	10	68	327	34	9	43
Mar.	37	180	14	50	281	57	11	68
Apl.	39	159	6	56	260	35	9	44
May	39	196	8	55	298	20	18	38
June	35	170	8	40	253	42	16	58
July	34	169	8	50	261	25	18	43
Aug.	36	168	4	34	242	25	20	45
Sept.	36	169	15	31	251	30	21	51
Oct.	40	157	12	49	258	19	22	41
Nov.	40	186	7	40	273	21	30	51
Dec.	23	132	7	30	192	14	40	54
TOTAL	449	2,135	111	580	3,275	355	216	571



TABLE 2. - Attendances at Ante-Natal Clinics, 1940 - 47.

Year	First Attendances	Subsequent Attendances	Total Attendances
Average 1940/44	525	1,259	1,807
1945	463	1,539	2,002
1946	664	2,861	3,525
1947	560	2,715	3,275

B. CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

TABLE 3. - Number of Consultations, Weighings, etc. at Infant Welfare Centres during the years 1940 - 1947.

Year	First Attendances		No. on Register at end of year	Consultations	Infants Weighed
	Under 1 year	1-5 years			
Average 1940/44	1,135	432	2,380	4,870	24,543
1945	961	561	2,935	6,098	25,603
1946	1,112	543	2,892	7,716	26,745
1947	1,213	505	3,112	8,587	31,246

During 1947 on 1,306 occasions infants were weighed who live outside the Borough.

TABLE 4. - Number of Consultations, weighings, etc. at various Welfare Centres during 1947.

Welfare Centre	First Attendances	No. on Register	Consultations	Infants Weighed
Central Clinic	428	813	2,361	10,978
Harebreaks	304	575	1,590	6,661
Stanboroughs	203	424	791	5,275
Leggatts Way	149	333	820	4,286
Wiggenhall	144	274	968	3,111
Toddlers	490	693	2,057	935
	1,718	3,112	8,587	31,246

Toddlers Clinic.

	1944	1945	1946	1947
New cases...	330	425	495	490
Revisits ...	481	729	1,377	1,567
Consultations ...	811	1,154	1,823	2,057
Total Attendances ...	1,441	1,830	2,713	2,992

Cases requiring special treatment -

Dental ...	42	Child guidance ...	4
Orthopaedic ...	66	Artificial sunlight...	106
Ophthalmic ...	43	Physiotherapy ...	11



### Dental Clinic.

A Dental Clinic is held for nursing and expectant mothers and for children under five years of age. 585 cases received treatment during the past year in the 60 sessions that were held. 15 mothers were provided with new dentures, either whole or partial sets.

These figures reveal a rise from 39 to 60 sessions with a corresponding rise in the number of cases treated.

### Artificial Sunlight Clinic.

Number of sessions	63
Number of cases treated	944
Number of treatments given	4,168

### Orthopaedic Treatment.

119 children under five were referred to the Red Cross Clinic in Grosvenor Road for advice and treatment, as compared with 104 cases in 1946.

<u>Congenital Defects</u>		<u>Other Defects</u>	
Adduction of thumbs	1	Atonia	2
Asymmetry of chest	2	Faulty gait	4
Bowing of forearm	1	Faulty posture	1
Depression of sternum	1	Flat chest	1
Dislocated hips	1	Flat feet	43
Erb's paralysis	1	Genu valgum	43
Facial paralysis	1	Genu varum	12
Malformation of hand	1	Intoeing	4
Rotation of toes	2	Metatarsus varus	6
Spastic hemiplegia	1	Semi-membranosus	
Talipes calcaneo-valgus	10	bursa	1
" equina -varus	1		117
" valgus	1		
Webbed toes	1		
	<u>25</u>		

Total number of cases treated:- 119.

A number of children showed more than one defect.

### Conclusions on the Clinic Services.

1. In spite of difficulties in finding accommodation in the Maternity Home and other Nursing Homes, 66% of confinements were institutional.
2. Although the Birth Rate rose the number of ante-natal attendances fell slightly as a total (a fact which when seen month by month indicated the the fall in the Birth Rate which might be expected in 1948).
3. It is especially gratifying to note the post-natal examinations which were more than doubled, i.e., they rose from 228 in 1946 to 571 in 1947, of which 355 were first attendances. This increase relates to the 486 mothers confined by midwives at home and works out at approximately 66%. The mothers confined in King Street Maternity Home attended the Post-natal Clinic attached to the Home.



Dr. Scorer reports as follows:-

No. of patients attending the Clinic ... ..	275
No. of patients found to be in need of NO treatment	100
No. of patients requiring minor surgical treatment, e.g., cervical erosion, retroversion, etc. ...	133
No. of patients requiring medical treatment ...	29
No. of patients requiring major surgical intervention	6
No. of patients requiring remedial exercises ...	17

4. Attendances at the Sub-fertility Clinic numbered 47 and 41 had a complete investigation of husband and wife in an attempt to find the reason. 10 women have become pregnant and amongst the remainder 7 husbands were found to be at fault. 3 major operations were required and a hormone deficiency existed in 8 cases. These investigations, which required a great deal of time and close co-operation with other investigators, are well worth while since even more pregnancies may be expected amongst the "failures" up to date. A careful follow up will be kept of each case for several years.

The consultations increase year by year indicating that mothers made use of the full clinic team and how important it is that it should be fully staffed and equipped for all purposes.

5. The Toddlers Clinic service as a definite entity has come to stay as the only reliable method of noting the proper development in the interval before school age and correcting early departures therefrom.

6. Infant Welfare Clinic attendances show that over 84% of the children born or coming to live in the Borough attend during their first year of life.

TABLE 5. - Home Visits by Health Visitors.

Year	Children under 1 year		Children 1-5	Expectant Mothers First Visits	Re-Visits	Special Visits Infectious Diseases	Infant Life Protection	Tuber-culo-sis	TOTAL
	First Visits	Re-Visits							
Average 1940/44	4212	4243	5,107	128	78	987	158	456	12,127
1945	4,409	4,469	5,904	124	96	884	199	526	13,611
1946	4,289	5,948	6,186	306	151	358	145	244	14,628
1947	4,424	5,179	5,831	545	165	1,235	99	154	14,632

Although the total visits paid remains much the same, a considerable number of special visits were carried out during the measles epidemic. It must be emphasised again that the visits to expectant mothers, especially during their first pregnancies, are of very great value and in most cases much appreciated by the mothers concerned.

Infant Life Protection.

The Infant Life Protection Visitor reports as follows:-

Number of persons on register who were receiving children for reward at the end of the year ... ..	12
--	----



Foster Children.

Number on books at the end of the year	...	...	14
Number who died during the year...	...	...	-
Number of inquests	...	...	-
Number of Child Protection Visitors	...	...	1
Total number of visits paid	...	...	99

Adoption of Children.

During 1947, 46 people applied for adoption. Of these, 28 were successful and received babies, completing legal adoption, 5 through the County Court, 3 privately, 9 through Adoption Societies and 11 through Miss Dalby, the Diocesan Moral Welfare Worker.

72 visits were paid and reports made concerning these cases.

Premature Births.

139 premature births were notified during the year 1947, 97 of which were Watford babies, the remaining 42 being born in Watford but resident outside the district. 44 were born at home and 53 in private and County maternity homes.

WATFORD BABIES.

Birth Weight lbs.	Died during first 24 hours		Died before end of month		Survived to end of month		Total
	Dom.	Inst.	Dom.	Inst.	Dom.	Inst.	
1 - 2	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
2 - 3	-	2	1	2	-	1	6
3 - 4	1	1	1	2	7	5	17
4 - 5	-	-	1	3	5	12	21
5 - 5½	1	-	1	-	25	25	52
	2	3	4	7	37	44	97

OUT OF DISTRICT BABIES - (All born in Institutions).

Birth Weight lbs.	Died during first 24 hours	Died before end of month	Survived to end of month	Total
1 - 2	-	-	-	-
2 - 3	-	-	-	-
3 - 4	2	-	7	9
4 - 5	1	-	10	11
5 - 5½	-	-	22	22
	3	-	39	42

It should be noted that of the 139 immature births, although 19 deaths occurred, 12 of these were amongst the group of 33 babies weighing less than 4 lbs. Of the remaining 106 weighing 4 lbs. or more at birth, all but 7 survived to the end of the first month.

Six out of 43 immature babies born at home were lost and whilst this reflects credit on the Midwifery Services every endeavour must be made to reduce these figures and investigation into the reasons for these deaths are required.



## Day Nurseries.

### Monthly range of attendances for the year 1947.

	<u>Under 2</u>	<u>Over 2</u>
Beulah Hall ...	-	16 - 43
Cassiobury Park ...	9 - 22	33 - 60
Harebreaks ...	13 - 22	36 - 61

In the 1946 Annual Report it was emphasised how necessary Day Nurseries are to meet the social need of families where the mothers must go out to work for one reason or another and an indication was given that this need might rise rather than disappear. Throughout the current year the waiting lists have lengthened so that various urgent cases have had to receive priority.

Furthermore the Church Authorities naturally desired the full use of Beulah Hall for their own activities but as no other suitable building could be found the requisition on the premises had to remain. Negotiations for a site on which a new 60 or 80 unit could be erected were opened but not concluded.

Throughout the year Dr. Ward carried out the most careful supervision of all children in attendance both at Day Nurseries and Nursery Schools. At the latter, 87 entrants were examined, 86 re-inspections carried out and 63 treatments arranged. It should be noted that even during an exceptionally hot summer no outbreak of infantile diarrhoea and no cases of poliomyelitis occurred amongst the children and in spite of the prevalence of Whooping Cough during the spring and summer quarters very few "nursery children" became infected - almost all of them having received immunising injections.

## Residential Nursery.

30 children were admitted from the Borough to the County Short Stay Residential Nursery at St. Margaretsbury. These children were accommodated for varying periods during their mothers' illness or confinement. This type of accommodation is being provided on the West side of the County.

## Domestic Help Service.

During the year 1947 the number of applicants helped through periods of sickness, etc. was 107. 4 domestic helps were employed full time, and 5 half time.

## Home Help Service.

During the year 26 cases were given help for confinement although 50 mothers actually enquired about the service.

These services are interchangeable for staffing purposes.

## The Care of Mothers and their Illegitimate Children.

The part time Almoner who is responsible for this work reports that during the year 1947, 29 new cases from the Borough of Watford have been referred to her for help and advice from various sources. Of this number, 12 have required hostel accommodation both as Ante Natal and Post



Natal cases. 12 girls have decided to keep their babies and have returned to relatives or friends. In 2 cases she has arranged employment for the Mother with her baby.

Adoptions have been arranged in 9 cases, either through a Society or through the Diocesan Worker or Almoner.

At the beginning of the year "Russells" the County Hostel at Welwyn Garden City was opened and has proved to be a valuable addition to the hard pressed accommodation in Diocesan Hostels. Altogether, it has been possible to arrange for 13 girls to be admitted to this Hostel during the course of the year. The girls in most cases choose to enter the Hostel about 4 weeks before confinement which usually takes place at Brocket Hall, they then return until plans for the future of mother and baby are completed.

Every effort is made to persuade the mother to remain with her child until it is at least 6 weeks old by which time it is hoped that each mother will have had ample opportunity to make her decision regarding the future.

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#### SECTIONS "C", "D" AND "E".

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA, ETC.

##### Water.

The Water Engineer reports that:-

1. (a) There has been no further trouble with bacterial infiltration into the untreated water except on one or two occasions a small number of non-faecal coli have been found. On all occasions the chlorinated supply has reached a high standard of purity.  
(b) The quantity of water has been satisfactory.
2. Bacteriological examinations were made of rain and treated water at monthly intervals.
3. There is no plumbo solvency.
4. Super-chlorination and de-chlorination is carried out at Watford Fields but only simple chlorination is at present possible at The Grove Pumping Station.
5. A careful survey of the water supply to the few permanent dwellings which still have no separate supply and those temporary dwellings now used by "squatters" revealed the following position:-



(a) Temporary dwellings at:-

Langley Road Camp.	Eight families living here use common inside supply. (Population 40).
Langley Way Camp.	Some huts are sub-divided and four families occupy parts of huts without an inside tap to themselves. The huts concerned are No. 3 (both portions), part of No. 7 and No. 30A. There are however separate standpipes for each of these families. (Population 20).
Gammons Lane Gun-Site (junction of North Western Avenue).	Three families living in two huts with an inside tap in each. (Population 12).
Ganders Ash, Leavesden. Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7.	One standpipe for four dwellings. (Population 11).
108, Leavesden High Road.	Four caravan dwellers use standpipe in yard. (Population 4).

The remaining temporary dwellings have a separate inside main supply.

(b) Permanent dwellings at:-

Puxley House, North Orbital Road.	Supply from shallow well, plumbing has been installed but is not in use. (Population 2).
Canal Cottage, Grove Mill Lane.	Shallow well, supply is very doubtful and failing. The Docks and Inland Waterways Executive have the matter in hand however, and are endeavouring to arrange for a main supply to be provided. (Population 5).
112-118 (even Nos.) Leavesden High Road.	One standpipe for four dwellings. (Population 13).
120-124B (5 houses) Leavesden High Road.	One standpipe for five dwellings. (Population 16).
Munden Drive Cottage.	Standpipe outside. (Population 3).
Forge Cottages, Leavesden. Nos. 4, 5 and 6.	Three dwellings have outside taps. (Population 7).

Sanitary Inspection.

The following table is a record of the visits and inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1947.

<u>Houses -</u>		
Public Health Act ...	...	690
Housing Act ...	...	353
Overcrowding ...	...	130
<u>Factories -</u>		158
<u>Rats and Mice Infestation -</u>		
Premises inspected ...	...	249
Other visits ...	...	81
<u>General -</u>		
Refuse accommodation..	...	319
Tents, vans and sheds	...	43
Keeping of animals ...	...	31
Theatres, cinemas, etc.	...	18
Public houses	...	30
Schools	...	1
Smoke observations ...	...	151
Vacant land and dumps	...	113
Verminous premises ...	...	63
Other insect pests ...	...	52
Drainage inspections and tests	...	354
Cesspools	...	35
Infectious diseases ...	...	199
Common yards and passages	...	10
Fly prevention ...	...	137
Petroleum Acts ...	...	57
Shop Acts	...	17
Interviews with Owners	...	430
Miscellaneous visits...	...	818
<u>Revisits to Premises Under Notice -</u>		
Public Health Act - Houses	...	1,195
Public Health Act - Others	...	212
Housing Act ...	...	1,985
Other re-visits ...	...	129
<u>Meat and Foods -</u>		
Slaughterhouses ...	...	1,649
Visits re food inspection	...	736
Visits re food poisoning	...	11
Butchers shops ...	...	32
Fishmongers andpoulterers	...	35
Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	17
Grocers and other food shops	...	12
Fried fish shops ...	...	4
Dairies, milk shops and cowsheds...	...	44
Ice Cream premises ...	...	206
Restaurants and dining rooms	...	135
Preserved food rooms...	...	67
Milk samples	...	33
Food (adulteration) samples	...	127
Food samples - suspected food poisoning	...	6
Public market ...	...	198
Ice cream samples ...	...	68
Bakehouses	...	37
Other food premises ...	...	14
		<u>11,491</u>
		<u><u>11,491</u></u>
Number of complaints received and investigated ...		1,490



Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied.

<u>Houses</u>			
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	241
Walls repointed, rendered or repaired	...	...	208
Dangerous walls rebuilt	...	...	7
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	356
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	134
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	...	142
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	454
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	...	...	97
Cooking ranges repaired or renewed...	...	...	24
Coppers provided or repaired	...	...	24
Sinks provided or renewed	...	...	34
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	63
Interior water supplies provided	...	...	3
Repairs to water supplies	...	...	54
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	...	...	195
Eaves guttering repaired or renewed	...	...	247
Food stores provided or repaired	...	...	12
Stairs repaired or renewed	...	...	15
Doors repaired or renewed	...	...	147
Coalhouses provided or repaired	...	...	3
Chimneys and stacks repaired	...	...	81
Yards, etc. paved or repaired	...	...	37
Damp proof courses provided	...	...	60
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	210
Handrails fixed in staircases	...	...	2
Additional lighting provided	...	...	4
Additional ventilation provided	...	...	20
<u>Drainage</u>			
Drains or sewers cleared of obstructions	...	...	117
Drains or sewers repaired or reconstructed	...	...	60
Cesspools repaired or renewed	...	...	1
Inspection chambers provided	...	...	7
Soil pipes, vent shafts, etc. repaired or renewed	...	...	23
<u>Water Closets</u>			
New w.c.'s provided	...	...	5
W.C. compartments repaired	...	...	78
W.C. pedestals renewed	...	...	130
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	101
Flushpipes repaired or renewed	...	...	37
<u>Dustbins</u>			
New provided	...	...	149
<u>Miscellaneous</u>			
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	15
Animals - nuisances abated	...	...	2
Verminous rooms disinfested	...	...	116
<u>Contraventions remedied in -</u>			
Food premises	...	...	10
Factories	...	...	9
Shops	...	...	3
			<hr/>
			3,737
			<hr/>



Administration - Notices.

	Served	Complied with	Outstanding at 31st December, 1947
Public Health Act, 1936:			
Informal	340	378	144
Statutory	70	60	35
Housing Act, 1936:			
Informal	283	199	177
Statutory	40	35	40
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	43	23	36
Shops Act (Informal)	2	2	-
Factories Act, 1937:			
Informal	17	9	8
Milk and Dairies Order	1	1	-
	796	707	440

Housing.

One of the legacies of six years of total war inevitably has been disrepair in the majority of dwelling-houses, often bordering on dilapidation in the case of many working-class cottage properties.

During 1947, the sanitary inspectors have made every effort to maintain the existing housing accommodation in a reasonably habitable condition. 623 informal notices have been served under the Public Health and Housing Acts, requiring the owners of dwelling-houses to execute essential repairs. The Council has authorised the service of statutory notices on 110 occasions, and it is gratifying to note that in only 7 cases has it been necessary to enforce these notices by the Council executing the necessary works in default of the owners.

Scarcities of building labour and materials often cause a long delay before notices are completely complied with and this in turn necessitates many re-visits by the sanitary inspectors. Despite the many difficulties, no less than 672 houses have been rendered fit during the year, which represents a 35% increase over the year 1946.

Common Lodging House.

There is no registered Common Lodging House within the Borough and in July it was necessary to take proceedings against a cafe proprietress who permitted men to sleep in a shed at the rear of her premises. She was convicted for keeping a common lodging house not being registered the Keeper thereof. Legal proceedings were taken only after repeated warnings had been ignored.

New Houses.

Mr. F. C. Sage, Borough Engineer, has kindly supplied the under-mentioned information regarding new houses erected during 1947.



(a) By the Local Authority	...	156	including 2 War Damage
(b) By private individuals	...	91	" 10 " "

Smoke Abatement.

During the year the factory chimneys within the Borough have been kept under close observation. Excessive smoke emission from six chimneys has been recorded, and on each occasion investigations have been made into the boiler-house practice, etc. with a view to abating the nuisance. The most common cause of smoke emission is the use of fuel unsuitable for the boilers concerned and on such occasions the sanitary inspectors have advised the factory management on the most effective methods of firing to prevent the emission of smoke.

The boilers at one large factory have been converted from coal to oil fuel thus abating a serious nuisance and obviating the necessity for formal action by the Council. Another factory is in the process of a similar conversion.

Watford Electricity Generating Station.

Many complaints have been received during the year of a serious nuisance due to grit emission from the chimneys of the Electricity Generating Station. These complaints have been investigated, grit deposit plates were laid, and a number of specimens of the grit concerned were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination; a joint report was submitted to the Special Committee appointed by the Council to investigate these complaints.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

During 1947, the following meat and other foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

<u>HOME KILLED MEAT AND OFFAL</u>	Lbs.
Beef (including 121 carcasses) ...	81,639
Mutton and lamb (including 6 carcasses) ...	531
Pork (including 10 carcasses)...	1,477
Veal (including 24 carcasses)...	1,242
<u>Offal from Cattle -</u>	
885 heads ...	26,505
892 tongues ...	4,470
2,007 lungs ...	19,528
213 hearts ...	968
2,074 livers and 856 part livers ...	36,480
197 spleens ...	387
248 skirts ...	508
233 tripes ...	6,819
589 udders ...	12,962
224 intestines ...	7,815
375 mesenteries... ..	3,330
116 tails ...	235
92 sets feet ...	2,023
Blood ...	3,890
Carried forward ...	210,809



				lbs.
	Brought forward	...	...	210,809
<u>Offal from Pigs -</u>				
49	plucks	...	...	375
122	lungs	...	...	369
19	livers	...	...	100
69	heads and tongues	...	...	2,006
34	other organs...	...	...	144
<u>Offal from Sheep and Lambs -</u>				
56	plucks	...	...	241
241	lungs	...	...	443
747	livers	...	...	1,732
6	heads and tongues	...	...	26
16	other organs...	...	...	51
<u>Offal from Calves -</u>				
25	plucks	...	...	120
1	set lungs	...	...	3
5	livers	...	...	13
24	heads and tongues	...	...	141
48	other organs...	...	...	264
<u>IMPORTED MEAT</u>				
	Beef	...	...	10,679
	Mutton	...	...	28
<u>OTHER FOODS</u>				
	Cooked meats	...	...	276
	Brawn	...	...	19
	Bacon and ham	...	...	95
	Sausages	...	...	66
	Rabbits	...	...	1,474
	Poultry	...	...	148
	Wet fish	...	...	10,124
	Cured fish	...	...	2,413
	Shellfish	...	...	297
	Cooked fish	...	...	68
	Sweets	...	...	274
	Cereals	...	...	554
	Sugar	...	...	25
	Cakes	...	...	20
	Vegetables	...	...	740
	Dried beans and peas	...	...	116
	Fruit	...	...	190
	Dried fruit	...	...	831
	Dried milk	...	...	49
	Dried eggs	...	...	56
	Liquid eggs	...	...	60
	Cheese	...	...	100
	Butter, margarine and fats	...	...	51
	Tea	...	...	88
	Coffee essence	...	...	23
	Biscuits	...	...	22
	Confectionery cream	...	...	40
	Pickles	...	...	210
	1,512 fish cakes	...	...	294
	1,125 cans fish...	...	...	921
	206 cans sardines	...	...	56
	2,577 cans fish paste and snacks	...	...	346
	190 cans luncheon meat	...	...	209
	Carried forward	...	...	247,799



	Brought forward	lbs. 247,799
748 cans corned meats ...	...	2,205
1,325 cans other meats ...	...	1,425
441 cans sausages ...	...	458
24 cans bacon ...	...	25
180 cans soups ...	...	166
4,516 cans milk...	...	4,111
3,280 cans vegetables ...	...	4,811
579 cans fruit ...	...	1,093
160 cans fruit pudding ...	...	159
80 cans fruit juices ...	...	194
323 cans and jars marmalade and jams ...	...	446
168 cans cereals ...	...	174
Miscellaneous ...	...	17
	TOTAL ...	<u>263,083</u>

Total weight of meat and other foods condemned during the year 1947 - 117 tons, 8 cwts, 3 qtrs, 23 lbs.

This is approximately 15 tons more than was condemned during the year 1946, and comprises other foods, particularly fish and rabbits; the hot summer weather undoubtedly accounts for these increased condemnations.

Of the above unsound foods, 82.5% comprised diseased meat and of-fal condemned at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses within the Borough.

The following table indicates the extent of tuberculosis and other diseases found on post-mortem examination of the animals killed in the Government Slaughterhouses during the year 1947.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	4,192	1,953	4,731	10,690	916
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	-	8	21	6	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1,617	690	17	929	147
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	38.6	35.8	0.8	8.7	16.8
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcass condemned ...	20	93	3	-	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	496	858	-	-	24
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	12.3	48.7	.07	-	3.1



The high percentage of tubercular infection of cattle, particularly cows, has continued to cause the Borough Council serious concern and further representations have been made to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries urging the immediate institution of effective control measures on the farms.

#### Ice Cream.

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations came into operation on the 1st May, 1947. All the manufacturers within the Borough were invited to attend a joint meeting, when provisions of these regulations were explained to them. The necessity for enforcing these regulations as rigidly as possible, bearing in mind present day difficulties due to shortage of equipment, was made plain and the active co-operation of the manufacturers was requested.

68 samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and 4 samples were submitted for analytical examination. The bacteriologist graded the ice cream in accordance with the provisional standards laid down for the Methylene Blue Reduction Test, and the 68 samples were graded as follows:-

Grade 1	...	30	(includes 14 samples from one manufacturer)
Grade 2	...	10	
Grade 3	...	10	
Grade 4	...	18	(includes 11 samples from the same manufacturer)
TOTAL	...	68	

Whenever a sample fell below Grade 2, very careful examination was made into the methods of production with a view to removing all possible sources of contamination; it will be noted from the above Table that in one instance it was necessary to take 25 samples from one manufacturer before the source of contamination was discovered. Most of the ice cream manufacturers have ordered new equipment and it is hoped that this will be installed before Spring 1948.

#### Food Preparing Premises.

The hygienic handling of food in restaurants, cafes and snack-bars has been carefully supervised during the year. The standard of these food premises was raised considerably during 1946 and the department therefore concentrated during 1947 more on personal hygiene, particularly with regard to cleanliness of cutlery, crockery, equipment and persons.

Six food premises have been reconstructed during the year and one preserved food room has been closed.

#### Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following licences have been granted by the Council, under the provisions of this Order:-



Tuberculin Tested

Licence to bottle the milk	...	1
Vendors licence	...	4
Supplementary vendors licence	...	1

Accredited

Supplementary vendors licence	...	1
-------------------------------	-----	---

Pasteurised

Licence in respect of process- ing plant	...	1
Vendors licence	...	9

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The Report of the Public Analyst on samples submitted for examination during the year 1947 is as follows:-

"The number of samples examined under the Food and Drugs Act during the period under review, amounted to 127, of which 55 were Formal and 72 Informal.

Of the Formal samples, 50 consisted of Milk and the following table shows their average composition as compared with those examined during the previous year -

		<u>Fat</u>	<u>Solids not Fat</u>
1946	...	3.64%	8.70%
1947		3.62%	8.70%

It will be seen that the figures for the two years are in close agreement and may, I think, be regarded as quite satisfactory.

The Milks were, generally, of quite good quality and only two samples failed to comply with the Milk Regulations in respect of their composition.

In one case the Milk had a fat deficiency of 5% and this, on subsequent investigation, was found to be due to the inadequate feeding of the cows and not to deliberate fat extraction.

In the second case, the Milk contained 11.8% of added water.

A further sample, taken from the same source, in course of delivery, was found to be satisfactory and I was informed that legal proceedings were, in consequence, taken against the Vendor concerned.

All the Milks were found to conform with the requirements of the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations in respect of their freedom from preservatives.



Your Chief Inspector, Mr. R. V. Jacob, has also submitted to me, for examination during the year a selection of different articles, the chief of which I will refer to under the following headings -

<u>Foods</u>	Butter and margarine Cooking fats Sausage and sausage meat Meat and fish pastes Self raising flour Coffee Essences Cocoa Pudding mixtures Orange juice and orange squash Cake mixtures Gelatine crystals, etc.
<u>Condiments</u>	Vinegar Carroway seeds Coriander Horse radish cream Salad dressing Various fruit flavourings Mustard Mixed spice
<u>Drugs</u>	Glauber salts Tincture of Iodine Castor oil Honey and cough mixture Glycerine and lemon Tartaric acid Camphorated oil Borax Seidlitz powders Epsom salts etc.

The great majority of the food products and condiments examined were found, generally, to be of good quality and were moreover, in a sound and edible condition. There were, however, one or two irregularities which I found in certain of the samples submitted, but in no circumstances did I find evidence of adulteration such as to justify me in advising your Chief Inspector, Mr. Jacob, to institute legal proceedings.

I give below particulars of these samples.

A sample of salad dressing was found to contain only 1.54% of Oil and to be preserved with Benzoic Acid. In my opinion, this product failed to comply with the standards laid down in Statutory Rules and Orders No. 1177, which requires salad dressings to contain not less than 25% of edible oil. The presence of the Benzoic Acid preservative was, moreover, an infringement of this Order and the product should more correctly have been described as a sauce or condiment.

A certain bread roll was submitted to me taken from a canteen and concerning which I was informed you had received a complaint in respect of the presence of some foreign black matter in the centre of the roll.



A chemical examination of the roll was made and it was found that the black matter was composed of lubricating grease and this contamination had probably been contracted from a machine in the bakery during the making of the bread.

All the samples of drugs submitted, with one exception, complied with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia. This consisted of glycerine lemon and honey cough mixture, in which there was a deficiency in its glycerine content. I understand that in all these cases, your Chief Inspector has communicated with the Vendors concerned.

I was requested during the year to examine and report upon the general quality of some of the ice cream made in the Watford district. Analyses of these samples were made and I was satisfied that the ice cream had the general composition as disclosed by the manufacturers in their respective formulae. Several of them were of quite good quality, having high sugar and fat contents, but in other cases the products were of inferior quality, the amounts of fat present being very small.

Having regard to the great variation in the food value of the ice cream now on the market it is, I think, rather unfortunate that the Ministry of Food have not yet been able to see their way to lay down some specific standards in respect of their composition.

Five samples of ice cream were also examined at your request in respect of their biological purity by the Methylene Blue Test, as recently recommended in a report of a special committee of the Ministry of Health. As a result of these tests, these five ice creams were graded as follows:-

<u>Sample</u>	<u>Grade</u>
No. 1.	1
No. 2.	2
No. 3.	3
No. 4.	4
No. 5.	4

The No. 4 grade samples were very unsatisfactory and the vendors of these particular samples were, I understand, warned by your Inspector to improve the biological content of their ice cream.

I was requested last September, to undertake for your Health Committee, an investigation into the nature and origin of certain atmospheric pollution occurring in the vicinity of the Watford Electricity Generating Station.

The detailed report giving the results of this investigation were fully dealt with by me in a report to your Chief Inspector dated the 24th November last. I need not, therefore, refer to this further here.

This, I think, completes my summary relating to the various samples taken in the Borough of Watford during the past year, and



in submitting my Report, I would like, at the same time, to acknowledge the valuable help and assistance that I have received from your Chief Inspector, Mr. R. V. Jacob and his colleagues.

(Signed) C. W. McHugo,

Public Analyst for the  
Borough of Watford."

Inspections under Shops Acts, 1912 - 1934.

Routine visits to shops and inspection of records	...	...	927
Visits to shops regarding early closing day	...	...	135
Evening visits to shops and observations after legal hours	...	...	31
Visits to shops under Shops (Sunday Trading Restrictions) Act, 1936	...	...	116
Visits to cinemas under Young Persons Act	...	...	2
Number of infringements investigated and appropriate action taken to remedy matters complained of	...	...	115
New shops added to records	...	...	26
Shops closed down	...	...	2

Accumulations of Refuse on Unfenced Land.

The Council has given serious consideration to numerous complaints regarding the dumping of refuse on vacant plots of land. Byelaws to give the Council greater control over such dumping have now been prepared and have been submitted to the Minister of Health for confirmation.

Eradication of Inspect Pests.

Number of premises dealt with for bugs by the Department -

Council houses	...	...	...	...	4
Other houses	...	...	...	...	29
Number of Council houses dealt with for bugs by the Housing Department	...	...	...	...	2
Number of premises at which fly control treatments were carried out by the Department	...	...	...	...	13
Number of premises at which fly control treatments were carried out by commercial contractors on the advice of the Department	...	...	...	...	19
					<hr/>
			Carried forward	...	67



				Brought forward	...	67
Number of premises and other places at which mosquito control treatments were carried out by the Department						
Day-time resting places	...	...	...	...	...	12
Breeding places	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of verminous persons cleansed by the Department (Lice)...						2
Number of premises dealt with for other insect pests by the Department	...	...	...	...	...	13
				Total	...	104

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Part 1 - Health Provisions.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	73	14	1	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	300	117	7	-
Other Premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
Total	373	131	8	-



Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Sections 1 - 6	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	-	-	1	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	15	9	-	2	-
(c) not separate for sexes	1	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-</b>

Part II - Safety. Section 34 - Means of Escape in case of Fire.

27 visits were made to certain factories in connection with the provisions of the above mentioned Section of the Factories Act by the Chief Sanitary Inspector acting as the Corporation's Authorised Officer.

Part VIII - Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110.</u> <u>(1) (c)</u>
Wearing apparel - making etc. ...	8
Artificial flowers ...	2

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

The Ministry of Food Special Scheme providing financial aid to the Council for free treatments on domestic premises was terminated in June, 1947. The number of rat operatives was reduced from 3 to 2 and the Council decided to continue the free treatment of domestic premises for a further period of twelve months.

The following table sets out the work done during 1947 in connection with the administration of the above Act -



Number of complaints received	345
Number of infestations treated -	
(a) Corporation and commercial premises ... ..	62
(b) Domestic dwellings ... ..	359
Total estimated kill (based on Ministry of Food formula)	7,968
Number of premises rat-proofed ... ..	16

SECTION "F".

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases.

The total number of notifications received during the year was 1,206 compared with 480 during the year 1946. 1,188 of these infections were confirmed.

	Notific- ations	Con- firmed	Non-civilian included in Notifications	Confirmed
Scarlet Fever	39	36	-	-
Diphtheria	2	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	16	13	-	-
Acute Polioencephalitis	-	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	4	-	-
Cerebrospinal Fever	12	9	-	-
Pneumonia	20	20	-	-
Erysipelas	6	6	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	27	27	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	8	8	1	1
Catarrhal Jaundice	8	8	-	-
Whooping Cough	172	172	-	-
Measles	886	882	-	-
Typhoid Fever	3	3	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	3	2	-	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-
	1207	1191	1	1

Diphtheria.

For the first time on record no case of diphtheria occurred although two came under suspicion.



### Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year 837 children under 5 and 368 school children received a full course of prophylactic treatment. In addition, 962 school children were given a reinforcing dose to maintain their immunity.

	Completed Cases			Re-Schick Test		
	0 - 5	5 - 15	Total	Tested	Pos.	Neg.
Central Clinic	514	29	543	618	6	612
Harebreaks	322	27	349	-	-	-
Schools	1	312	313	-	-	-
	837	368	1205	618	6	612

Children immunised at the Day Nurseries are included in the Central Clinic total.

This table is almost identical with the one for the previous year and illustrates how the total of the children immunised at school for the first time and those done in infancy closely follows the number of babies born in a well immunised community.

There is no doubt that this service, which not only saves lives and prevents illhealth, also saves the heavy maintenance costs of hospital treatment.

### Whooping Cough.

The notifications are greatest during the early part of the year but appear to follow no definite pattern.

### Whooping Cough Immunisation.

588 children received injections to give protection against whooping cough compared with 421 given in 1946.

### Polio-myelitis.

The 1947 summer, a very hot one, will be long remembered for its sudden outbreak of infantile paralysis. In May and early June several cases were admitted to hospital for diagnostic purposes with a high temperature and signs of cerebral irritation, nothing very definite was found but weakness during convalescence was noted.

The first confirmed notification indicating the real problem came on July 11th, the series (confirmed cases in brackets) can be seen at a glance:-



7th week	-	1	(-)	36th week	-	2	(1)
27th "	-	1	(1)	37th "	-	1	(1)
28th "	-	1	(1)	39th "	-	3	(3)
30th "	-	1	(-)	40th "	-	1	(1)
34th "	-	2	(2) +	42nd "	-	1	(1)
35th "	-	1	(1)	43rd "	-	2	(2)

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14

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+ includes one case Polioencephalitis.

After 3 - 4 weeks in the Isolation Hospital those patients still requiring in-patient orthopaedic treatment were transferred to either the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital at Stanmore or Hill End Hospital at St. Albans. Others, who were ambulant or could be satisfactorily looked after at home received further treatment as out-patients at the Red Cross Clinic in Grosvenor Road, Watford. Many very satisfactory recoveries were made, the full co-operation of the patient being an essential factor and materially contributing to recovery. A careful follow-up of all school children has been kept through the Handicapped Register and the infants through the Child Welfare Services.

#### Cerebrospinal Fever.

The total number of confirmed cases is a slight rise on recent years and there were three deaths.

#### Smallpox Contacts.

During the year 6 smallpox contacts were kept under close supervision.

#### Measles.

Although an epidemic year the cases were mild - 1 death occurred. Careful supervision is exercised and cases where home conditions are unsatisfactory can be admitted to hospital. Of a total of 886 notifications, 818 were received during the first two quarters.

#### Scabies.

302 cases of Scabies were treated at the Clinic compared with 606 in 1946.

#### Tuberculosis.

84 cases were notified during the year, as compared with 91 in 1946. These figures have fallen during the past two years.



	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
5	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	3	2	1	2	-	-	-	-
15	4	9	-	1	1	3	-	-
20	8	3	2	-	-	1	-	-
25	6	8	1	-	-	-	-	-
35	5	2	3	-	4	1	-	-
45	4	1	1	-	1	-	-	-
55	10	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
65 and upwards	3	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
	45	28	8	3	9	8	-	-

#### Mass Radiography.

The County Tuberculosis Officer reports on the Mass Radiography combined surveys at Watford. The Unit moved to the Watford area on September 1st, 1947 and completed the survey on 31st December, 1947. During that period the Unit worked from five different centres:-

<u>Place of Centre.</u>	<u>Duration of Stay.</u>	<u>No. of examinees.</u>
Sun Printers Ltd.	1.9.47 - 1.10.47	3,717
M. of Labour (Reeds School).	2.10.47 - 12.11.47	3,235
L.M.S.Rly. Co. The Grove.	13.11.47 - 27.11.47	1,201
Odhams Press Ltd.	29.11.47 - 5.12.47	1,115
Government Training Centre, Southwold Rd.	8.12.47 - 31.12.47	<u>1,918</u>
	Total ...	<u>11,186</u>

The total number of cases referred for interview with the Medical Officer of the Unit was 212:-

Nil or No Action ...	38
Referred to own Doctor ...	42
Referred to out-county T.B. Clinics ...	2
Referred to Hertfordshire Chest Clinics ...	<u>130</u>
	<u>212</u>

These investigated cases numbered 1.96% of the total number of examinees and the total number of cases referred to Hertfordshire chest clinics was 1.2% of total number of examinees.

Details of the disposal of cases referred to Hertfordshire chest clinics:-



No Action	...	...	...	51
Retained under Dispensary observation	...	...	...	61
Recommended Sanatorium treatment	...	...	...	9
Recommended Hospital treatment	...	...	...	1
Failed to attend at the Clinic	...	...	...	4
Referred to Chest Clinic but subsequently left the County:-				
Recommended Sanatorium treatment	...	...	...	3
Dispensary observation	...	...	...	1
				<u>130</u>

General.

In Watford the Unit worked from centres in different areas of the town so that employers were not asked to send their employees a prohibitive distance. The response on the whole was quite good. The Printing trade gave the scheme their full support and in all cases they attended in good numbers. The two largest firms - Sun Printers and Odhams Press - both had a response of over 92%. The L.M.S. Headquarters Staff at The Grove, where a short survey was carried out, had a response of 83%. In all over one hundred firms co-operated with the Unit in permitting their employees to attend.

Venereal Diseases.

The treatment of Venereal Diseases is the responsibility of the Hertfordshire County Council and Out-patients' Clinics were held at Shrodells Hospital, Watford, as in former years.

Cancer.

There were 143 deaths from Cancer in the Borough during 1947, the corresponding figure for 1946 being 120.

Watford Joint Isolation Hospital.

The following tables give details of admission and discharges during the year 1947:-

Patients in Hospital on January 1st, 1947.

Scarlet Fever	6
Measles	4
Other Diseases	1
	<u>11</u>

Carried forward ...11

Patients admitted to Hospital during 1947.

Scarlet Fever	67	Mumps	1	
Diphtheria	13	Ringworm	5	
Cerebrospinal		Chicken Pox	1	
Meningitis	13	Enteric Fever	5	
Measles	35	Rubella	1	
Whooping Cough	22	Gastro-enteritis	2	
Erysipelas	4	Paratyphoid Fever	5	
Poliomyelitis	34	Other Diseases	17	
Ophthalmia			<u>227</u>	
Neonatorum	2			
		Patients treated during 1947	...	<u>227</u>
				<u>238</u>

Patients in Hospital on 31st December, 1947.

Scarlet Fever	12	Erysipelas	1	
Poliomyelitis	3	Cerebrospinal		
Whooping Cough	1	Meningitis	1	
		Paratyphoid Fever	2	20

The following deaths occurred in Hospital.

Polioencephalitis	2		
Poliomyelitis	1		
Whooping Cough	1		4

Patients Discharged from Hospital.

Scarlet Fever	57	Mumps	1	
Diphtheria	7	Rubella	2	
Cerebrospinal		Chicken Pox	1	
Meningitis	6	Poliomyelitis	19	
Measles	40	Gastro-enteritis	2	
Whooping Cough	21	Ringworm	5	
Erysipelas	3	Paratyphoid Fever	1	
Enteric Fever	5	Other Causes	44	
			<u>214</u>	214
		Total	...	<u>238</u>

44 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted and 35 discharged, with 5 deaths.

The Medical Superintendent reports as follows:-

It is interesting to divide "the admissions" into the various Local Authority areas concerned.



	Watford Borough	Watford Rural	Bushey Urban	Rickmansworth Urban	Chorleywood Urban	Other Districts
Scarlet Fever	27	23	9	6	-	2
Diphtheria	4	4	3	1	1	-
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	11	2	-	-	-	-
Measles	31	1	1	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	14	3	3	1	-	1
Erysipelas	2	1	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis	21	2	6	4	-	1
Mumps	1	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	4	-	-	-	-	1
Chicken Pox	1	-	-	-	-	-
Rubella	-	1	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	5	-	-	-	-	-
Ringworm	5	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	-	-	-	-	-
Gastro-enteritis	1	-	-	1	-	-
Other Causes	10	2	1	4	-	-
	139 (123)	39 (19)	23 (54)	19 (22)	1 (-)	6 (33)

Although there was only a slight drop in the number of cases admitted during 1947 in comparison with 1946, there has been a fall of 150 in the last two years. The type of case now being admitted is very varied and only requires the two new blocks for this purpose with the result that Ward 5 has been set aside for Tuberculosis cases, Wards 2 & 3 for special classes for educationally subnormal children, Ward 1 for recreation with Ward 4 held in reserve for emergencies.

Several items of interest occurred during the year. A small family outbreak of Enteric Fever from which all the cases recovered was followed in the summer by an unusually heavy increase in admissions suffering from Poliomyelitis. Although the orthopaedic service co-operated in every way possible for the benefit of these cases, several of them had to remain in the Isolation Hospital beyond their period of infectivity. Unfortunately, two small children were admitted suffering from severe Polioencephalitis from which they died shortly afterwards. One other case became progressive and died, but due to Matron's previous experience of treating cases in an iron lung, another case was saved which would undoubtedly have died.

In recent years it has never been easy to provide a sufficient number of Nursing Staff throughout the year and considerable credit must be given to the part-time staff who kept up their duties in spite of home ties, thus assisting the full-time staff to cover the difficult periods which are always found from time to time in Isolation Hospitals. It can be truthfully said that from Matron downwards all the staff worked with a will and gave of their best to help in the patients' recovery, especially those who had to remain in hospital for many months. The work of both the Nursing and Domestic staff has to be seen to be really appreciated.



Towards the end of the year it was possible to re-open the Tuberculosis Block and thus provide accommodation on the Western side of the County for male patients.

The Consultant Engineer reported during the year that the plant in the hospital was in remarkably good running order and gave credit to the Male Staff for maintaining it at such a high standard.

The County Council proposed to the Minister of Health that ambulance services for Isolation Hospitals should be amalgamated with the normal ambulance service, but after representations had been made it was agreed to leave the Isolation Hospital ambulances where they are at present.

I should like to thank the Members of the Hospital Board for their encouragement and interest during the year, but I do feel a very natural regret that the amalgamation of Hospitals is bound to result in small hospitals which have been identified with an Area for many years losing their identity, although I recognize that such a change will be economical and provide a satisfactory service for cases of infectious disease. I think it does no harm to emphasize that the Regional Hospital Board will find, when it takes over, a hospital capable of dealing with all calls made upon it from its own area, and facilities which might well be offered to surrounding Districts in addition.

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