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BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1948

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,
1947-8.

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

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

2. Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee,
1947-8 (To July, 1948).

Chairman:	Alderman Mrs. M. A. Ward
Vice-Chairman:	Councillor Mrs. M. E. Bridger
His Worship the Mayor:	Alderman H. Coates
The Deputy Mayor:	Councillor R. W. North

Alderman Mrs. L. E. Armitage	Councillor L. C. Johnson
Alderman H. J. Bridger	Councillor E. T. Warren
Councillor Mrs. E. G. Beall	Councillor Mrs. B. Williams
Councillor Mrs. E. Brooks	Mrs. Dickens
Councillor H. J. F. Brown	Mrs. Harris
Councillor J. S. P. Davey	Mrs. Horwood
Councillor J. Davis	Mrs. Johnson
Councillor A. G. Dillingham	Mrs. Last
Councillor E. H. Harrowell	Mrs. Wiggs

Mrs. Wright

3. Members of the Watford Joint Isolation Hospital Board,
1947-8.

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

Mrs. E. D. Allen	G. Follett, Esq.
Mrs. L. E. Armitage	R. W. North, Esq.
E. J. Baxter, Esq.	Dr. L. R. Pears
Mrs. E. G. Beall	T. W. Royle, Esq.
Mrs. Q. M. M. Dix	J. G. Shaw, Esq.
F. East, Esq.	Mrs. M. A. Ward
W. T. Ellam, Esq.	Mrs. B. Williams

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health, Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital
and Divisional Medical Officer for South-West Hertfordshire:-

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

Senior Assistant Medical Officer:-

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

≠ Assistant Medical Officers:-

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

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

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

T 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:-

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

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector:-

ESxs=b K. H. Marsden, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E.

District Sanitary Inspectors:-

xs=b G. F. Willcox, M.S.I.A.

s=b E. Ellerington, M.I.S.A.

Ss=b J. L. Willoughby, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

s=b T. B. Rosamond, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Inspector under Shops Act:-

A. Corke

Senior Health Visitor and Infant Life Protection Visitor:-

Tⁿ Miss A. Clifford, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Health Visitors:-

Tⁿ Miss E. Potter, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tⁿ Miss M. Robertson, S.R.N., S.C.M. (to 30. 11. 48)

Tⁿ Miss G. K. Marsden, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tⁿ Miss S. McFadden, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tⁿ Miss I. Horsman, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tⁿ Miss A. L. Francis S.R.N., S.C.M.

Tⁿ Miss A. Mayger, S.R.N., S.C.M. (from 16. 8. 48)

Welfare Officer:-

T Miss M. Rann

Clerical Staff:-

R. A. Smith

Miss M. Sherlock

T Miss E. Maxfield

T Miss I. Burgess

T Mrs. H. Russell-Snook (from 22. 3. 48)

Mrs. G. MacDougall (to 29. 5. 48)

T Mrs. C. Godman (from 18. 5. 48)

Miss M. Johnson (from 5. 7. 48)

T Transferred to staff of Hertfordshire County Council on 5. 7. 48

≠ Part-time Officers.

+ Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

= Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination

Joint Board.

o Meat Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

n 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 Adminis-

S Smoke Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

tration.

E Associate Membership Examination, Institute of Sanitary Engineers.

BOROUGH OF WATFORD.

Health Department,

Town Hall,

WATFORD.

September, 1949,

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my sixth Annual Report and the twenty-seventh of its kind for the Borough. As in recent years so in 1949 an interim report was submitted in February and it is hoped that as the Health Services reach their normal equilibrium once again my Reports will be published nearer the year to which they relate.

This report will be the last of its line, although it is hoped that future reports may, by the courtesy of the County Medical Officer, give particulars of the services for which the Local Health Authority is now responsible, but which are still intimately related to the environmental services of the District Health Authority. Local interest and the appointment of the Medical Officer of Health as Divisional Medical Officer help to maintain this link.

A divisional report will be available for the year 1949 and, therefore, so that continuity should not be lost after more than a quarter of a century the full year's figures for Maternity and Child Welfare are recorded in this report.

It is pleasing to be able to report a fall in both the infant mortality and still birth rates so that the combined figures are the lowest yet recorded.

The investigations carried out during the year into the spread of infectious disease are recorded in the report but do not reveal the detailed study which was given to the small outbreak of paratyphoid and several food poisoning incidents. Many enquiries were received regarding poliomyelitis contacts, etc. and these were all dealt with.

It is worthy of note that the usual "biennial" measles epidemic occurred in both 1947 and 1948 with almost equal incidence but fortunately no great severity. National statistics reveal how localised some of these epidemics are even within a county and by splitting up the returns into wards it has been possible to see the epidemic spread from one part of the town to another over a period of months.

Once again not a single case of diphtheria was reported and the immunisation figures have kept pace with the birth rate.

The broadening scope of the Sanitary side of Public Health and the enthusiasm with which the new problems are attacked and overcome is revealed in the results of ice cream investigation and the educational work carried out amongst the Catering Trade most of whom are most anxious to co-operate. It is a pleasure to see the growing consciousness amongst members of the general public because in this way the demand for food hygienically prepared and served is most likely to bring quick results.

To mark the transfer of the Borough Council's Infant Welfare and Ambulance services an informal gathering took place in the Small Town Hall in June at which Alderman Mrs. Ward was presented with a silver tea service, suitably inscribed, as a token of the high regard in which her work between 1923 and 1948 on behalf of all children in the Borough, is held, firstly as a member and then for many years as Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee. It only remains for me to say that it has been a privilege to work with Alderman Mrs. Ward and to know that I can still seek her advice as Chairman of the Watford Health Services Advisory Committee.

Although changes are inevitable I trust that when they come due consideration will be given to the nucleus of the future services which have been so carefully built up by the Borough Council and that tidy administration will not replace the personal touch which has been the foundation of the transferred services.

The title of "Medical Superintendent of Maternity and Child Welfare" ceases to exist but, having confidence in the future, I feel sure that the Divisional Health Services can be built up as a worthy successor to the Welfare Service of the "Minor" Authority.

It is a pleasure to record the unstinted help given me by all the staff of the Health Department, who, too numerous to be mentioned individually, have nevertheless each carried out their individual responsibilities and also worked together as a team.

I should also like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their interest in the work of the Department.

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	...		...	73,420
Number of inhabited houses (estimated)			...	19,476
Rateable value at 1. 4. 48	...		...	£647,539
Sum represented by a penny rate	...		...	£2,570

Number of Live Births -

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	570	523	1,093
Illegitimate	<u>33</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>59</u>
Total	<u>603</u>	<u>549</u>	<u>1,152</u>

Number of Still Births -

Legitimate	15	14	29
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Total	<u>16</u>	<u>15*</u>	<u>31</u>

Total number of Births (Live and Still)	1,183
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Total number of Deaths	755
------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Deaths from -

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

(Continued)

Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	-
Violence	...	...	...	27
Cancer	...	...	...	133

Infantile Deaths (under 1 year) -

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	15	12	27
Illegitimate	<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>16</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>28</u>

Birth Rate and Death Rate, 1948.

	<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	15.7	17.9	20.1	20.0
Still Births	0.42	0.42	0.39	0.52
Death Rate (per 1,000 population) -				
All causes	10.3	10.8	11.6	11.6
Measles	0.00	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.02
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Influenza	0.04	0.03	0.02	0.03
Typhoid etc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) (per 1,000 live births)	0.00	3.3	2.4	4.5
Maternal Mortality Rate - (per 1,000 total births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.24		
Other puerperal causes	0.00	0.78		
All puerperal causes	0.00	1.02		

Infant Mortality Rate -

All infants, per 1,000 live births	24.2
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	24.7
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	16.9

COMPARATIVE RATES.

	<u>Watford</u> <u>1947</u>	<u>Watford</u> <u>1948</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales, 1947</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales, 1948</u>
Birth Rate (live births)	19.6	15.7	20.5	17.9
Death Rate	10.8	10.3	12.0	10.8
Infant Mortality Rate	28.6	24.2	41.0	34.0
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.69	0.00	1.17	1.02

Comments -

(1) Infectious Diseases.

One death from Poliomyelitis had bulbar involvement and possibly an infant dying as a result of virus encephalitis should also be included here. One whooping cough death in a small infant was due to chest complications.

Again it can be recorded that no deaths from diphtheria occurred and in fact no cases were confirmed.

It is very unusual to report that there was a spring measles epidemic of almost equal severity two years in succession. Apparently from national statistics recently published, this occurs in localities widely scattered throughout the country.

(2) Violence.

Three persons lost their lives in street accidents in Watford (10 last year) and one resident was killed outside the Borough. There were 11 fatal home accidents compared with six last year.

(3) Birth Rate.

For the second year in succession the birth rate has fallen and now stands one per thousand above the average for the decade (1930-39) having fallen sharply since last year.

(4) Still Birth Rate.

There was a general fall in still births which, taken in conjunction with the fall in neo natal deaths, is very satisfactory.

Miss Marsden, District Health Visitor, undertook an investigation into the cause of each still birth largely to find out whether the rate could be reduced by improvement in the Health Services. The following results indicate that here is a field which is well worth exploring carefully as information is often not easy to obtain and conclusions when drawn must be tentative.

Possible causes of death -

Abnormalities of child	-	developmental	...	...	3
		prematurity	...	...	4
Abnormalities of	-	placenta	...	...	4
		cord	...	...	3
Abnormalities of pregnancy	-	toxaemia	...	...	5
		ante partum hemorrhage			2
Abnormalities of labour	-	delayed	...	...	4
		version	...	...	1
		forceps	...	...	1
Accident to mother	...	...	...	...	1
No information available	...	...	...	...	3
					<u>31</u>

In the 4 still births attributed to prematurity 2 had Rh negative mothers and in one toxaemia death the mother had no ante natal care, being first heard of in labour and suffering from eclampsia.

This was in the nature of a pilot survey which it is hoped to extend in future years.

(5) Deaths in Infancy.

The rate of 24.2 is an improvement on last year (28.6) and nearly down to the 1946 figure of 23.3, the lowest ever recorded.

The following causes of death amongst infants under 1 year old during the last 5 years is interesting.

			<u>1944</u>	<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>
Prematurity	...	...	6	12	11	15	5
Malformation	...	...	6	5	4	5	2
Birth injuries	...	...	4	3	2	-	3
Collapse of lung	...	...	5	2	7	3	4
Respiratory diseases	...	...	10	7	2	8	1
Other diseases of infancy			7	4	3	6	4
Infectious diseases	...	...	-	-	-	-	4
Accidents	...	...	2	-	-	2	2
Not traced	...	...	2	-	-	2	3
Total	...	...	<u>42</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>28</u>

It is pleasing to note the smallest number of infant deaths ever registered in the Borough but some of the figures reveal that there is still room for improvement and persistent vigilance. Deaths from Tuberculous Meningitis, pneumococcal meningitis, whooping cough, pneumonia and virus encephalitis due all in a sense within the realms of prevention. Suffocation deaths definitely should not occur and some day deaths due to blood incompatibilities will be things of the past.

Of the 28 infant deaths occurring in 1948, 6 died within 24 hours, a further 9 less than a week old and another 5 whilst still under one month old, leaving only 5 during the next eleven months with 3 not accounted for.

The neonatal death rate was, therefore, 17.4 compared with 18.3 in 1947.

It is a pleasure to report once again that no death from Infantile Diarrhoea was recorded.

(6) Death Rate.

The rate of 10.3 is about the usual level. It is ten years since the maternal death rate was nil.

(7) Sex of Infants.

The sex ratio has risen from 1,054 to 1,120 boys to every 1,000 girl infants. This is an unusually high proportion of boys.

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

	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>Watford</u>
1939	42	50
1944	68	72
1945	94	95
1946	67	66
1947	52	58
1948	not known	52

The pre-war figures have now been reached but it is difficult to say whether they indicate a real return to the moral standards of ten years ago.

SECTION "B"

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. GENERAL

It is still the duty of the Medical Officer of Health to ascertain and report on the Health Services in his area. Although some of the Services were transferred to the County Council on July 5th and have become part of a Health Division twice the size of the Borough where they may, in time, lose their identity, it seemed right that, rather than leave a break between July and December the full year should be recorded in this report, and then in 1949 the Divisional Health Service will have a report of its own. This view has the approval of the County Medical Officer and is an indication of the co-operation which should continue between environmental and personal health services in spite of the separation brought about by the National Health Service Act, 1946.

(a) Ambulance Facilities.

The County Scheme for this Service placed the Borough Ambulance Service under the control of the County Fire Brigade and this change over was made in June without any real difficulty. The scheme made provision for medical advice within the Divisional areas by the Divisional Medical Officer. It was also decided that the Isolation Hospital ambulances should remain at the hospital, be driven by a member of hospital staff and serviced by the Fire Brigade staff.

During the first six months when a charge was made for journeys both by ambulance and sitting case cars there were 2,223 calls but after July 5th the calls rose steeply so that the total reached 3,522 for the second six months of the year.

The voluntary drivers and attendants from the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the female attendants from both the British Red Cross Society and St. John have been absorbed into the new scheme and continue to give most valuable and devoted service.

(b) Clinic Services.

No change took place in the number and siting of clinics, but an initial fall in attendances was noted in the third quarter with some recovery towards the end of the year.

With the transfer of all these services except the Scabies Clinic to the County Council it was felt that local interest might be difficult to sustain, and that, as these services had been built up and had prospered with the aid of much voluntary help, an Advisory Committee to assist the Divisional Medical Officer and to keep him in touch with interested bodies and individuals was set up. General agreement was reached and a committee with representatives from the Borough Council, the Maternity Home, the Infant Welfare Clinics and the British Red Cross Society now meets quarterly and has power to co-opt.

(c) Domiciliary Nursing.

This service was also transferred to the County Council in July but still maintained under its own committee many of its former responsibilities whilst acting as agent of the County Council.

Some of the nursing duties rendered may be seen from the following table which indicates too the number of cases of tuberculosis which now have to receive home treatment whilst waiting for a sanatorium bed.

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Visits</u>
Erysipelas	2	21
Lobar Pneumonia	16	298
Measles with complications	1	8
Measles	1	3
Tuberculosis	30	1,244
Whooping Cough	1	3
Influenza	9	61
Other diseases occurring in children under 5 years	156	1,199
Midwifery uncomplicated	6	783
Complications of Pregnancy	17	136
Complications of Childbirth	26	227
Total	265	3,983

The total nursing visits during the year were 33,663.

(d) Adoptive Acts.

No change.

(e) Laboratory Facilities.

No change.

(f) Health Education.

Twenty-one lectures were given by the staff of the Department on a variety of subjects and, in addition, the Sanitary Inspectors gave 24 lectures to the staff of 37 catering establishments on food hygiene.

(g) National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 47 - No action was required.

Section 50 - The responsibility for burials falling within this section was placed on the Public Health Department and appropriate arrangements were made on six occasions. This meant careful co-operation with other Departments of the Corporation and much additional work but the decision that the Hospital Management Committee should take responsibility for persons dying in hospital and the County Council for its Homes for Aged persons relieved the position considerably.

(h) Swimming Baths.

Great care has been taken by the Baths Superintendent to maintain the high standard of cleanliness and bacterial purity in the pool and, in spite of difficulties, the results have been very satisfactory. A strict check is kept on the filtration and chlorinating plants which are in operation continuously during the bathing period (the latter has been maintained between 0.3 and 0.5 parts per million of free chlorine in spite of the increased number of bathers).

2. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The statistics in this section are complete for the year through the courtesy of the County Medical Officer.

(a) Maternity Homes.

The position at the beginning of the year:-

King Street Maternity Home	...	51
Private Nursing Homes	...	20
Stanborough Hydro	...	<u>16</u>
		<u>87</u> beds

The above became more and more acute as the population on the London County Council estate at Oxhey increased, particularly as a more than usually high number of these mothers, in spite of good housing conditions, really required admission to King Street Maternity Home.

The Home has been full to capacity but quite a number of mothers, from the northern part of the town especially, had to go to St. Paul's Hospital, Hemel Hempstead for their confinements.

(b) Domiciliary Midwifery.

It was decided that this service could be more efficiently operated as part of the training school at King Street Maternity Home and consequently after the Appointed Day the Hospital Management Committee assumed responsibility as an agent of the County Council.

The number of domiciliary confinements fell but the demand for an institutional confinement is still higher than the available number of beds.

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	1,031	29	525	1,585	467	20	487	2,072
1947	988	18	630	1,636	486	30	516	2,152
1948	1,001	8	424	1,433	351	22	373	1,806

(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 1948.

Month	CENTRAL CLINIC		STANBOROUGH		TOTAL	POST NATAL		TOTAL
	First Attends	Sub-Attends	First Attends	Sub-Attends		First Attends	Sub-Attends	
Jan.	57	301	10	49	417	27	32	59
Feb.	31	163	2	33	229	24	38	62
Mar.	28	138	17	29	212	27	27	54
Apl.	50	210	7	45	312	20	40	60
May	30	186	2	31	249	24	30	54
June	18	165	7	24	214	15	23	38
July	32	174	12	37	255	21	26	47
Aug.	24	130	5	34	193	28	31	59
Sept.	42	149	19	38	248	30	29	59
Oct.	28	136	5	41	210	25	33	58
Nov.	39	126	5	38	208	21	42	63
Dec.	18	165	7	41	231	11	28	39
TOTAL	397	2,043	98	440	2,978	273	379	652

TABLE 2. - Attendances at Ante-Natal Clinics, 1940-48.

Year	First Attendances	Subsequent Attendances	Total Attendances
Average 1940/44	525	1,260	1,785
1945	463	1,539	2,002
1946	664	2,861	3,525
1947	560	2,715	3,275
1948	495	2,483	3,088

B. CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.

TABLE 3. - Number of Consultations, Weighings, etc., at Infant Welfare Centres during the Years 1940-48.

Year	First Attendances		No. on Register at end of year	Con- sulta- tions	Infants Weighed
	Under 1 year	1-5 years			
Average 1940/44	1,135	432	2,381	4,890	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
1948	1,015	739	3,302	9,038	32,688

TABLE 4. - Number of Consultations, Weighings, etc., at various Welfare Centres during 1948.

Welfare Centre	First Attendances	No. on Register	Con- sulta- tions	Infants Weighed
Central Clinic	398	884	2,202	10,251
Harebreaks	224	621	1,362	6,617
Stanboroughs	162	440	730	4,740
Leggatts Way	140	391	810	4,309
Wiggenhall	108	284	1,066	2,962
Toddlers	722	682	2,868	3,809
	1,754	3,302	9,038	32,688

Toddlers Clinic.

The figures for this service are worthy of note and show the result of an additional Clinic.

	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
New cases ...	330	425	495	490	722
Revisits ...	481	729	1,377	1,567	2,146
Consultations ...	811	1,154	1,823	2,057	2,868
Total Attendances ...	1,441	1,830	2,713	2,992	3,829

Cases requiring special treatment -

Dental ...	59
Orthopaedic ...	52
Ophthalmic ...	59
Child Guidance ...	2
Artificial Sunlight ...	124

Dental Clinic.

A Dental Clinic is held for nursing and expectant mothers and for children under five years of age. 616 cases received treatment during the year in the 39 sessions that were held.

Physiotherapy Clinic.

<u>Children:</u>	Cases - 64	Treatments - 427
<u>Adults:</u> (Ante and post natal)	" - 13	" - 48

Artificial Sunlight Clinic.

Number of sessions	...	110
Number of cases treated	...	1,481
Number of treatments given		7,284

Orthopaedic Treatment.

92 children under five were referred to the Red Cross Clinic in Grosvenor Road for advice and treatment, as compared with 119 cases in 1947.

<u>Congenital Defects</u>		<u>Other Conditions</u>	
Depressed sternum	2	Flat feet	31
Dislocation of hips	1	Genu valgum	40
Facial paralysis	1	Genu varum	13
Overlapping toes	1	Metatarsus varus	3
Spastic equinus	1	Observation only	8
Spastic hemiplegia	1	Ornithognathosis	1
Talipes calcaneo-valgus	9	Scoliosis	1
Talipes valgus	11		
Talipes varus	1	Total	128
Torticollis	1		
Trigger thumb	1		
Webbed toes	1		

Total number of cases treated:- 92

A number of children showed more than one defect.

Conclusions on the Clinic Services.

1. It could be seen from the ante natal attendances at the end of 1947 that a fall in the birth rate was to be expected. This fall, apparent at the beginning of the year, steadied so that the total attendances were only slightly below the 1947 figure. It must be remembered that the General Practitioner Obstretrical Service is available also to the mother and provides ante natal supervision, attendance at the confinement if required and a post natal examination by the Doctor of her choice if undertaking this type of service. It must be emphasized that these two parts of the whole midwifery service must run side by side and not in opposition.

2. As expected there is a slight fall in attendances at the Ante Natal Clinics.

3. Although the total attendances rose at the Post Natal Clinic a slightly

smaller number of mothers took advantage of this service - a point which will need particular watching.

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	Tuberculosis	TOTAL
	First Visits	Re-Visits							
Average 1940/44	1,212	4,243	5,107	128	78	967	158	456	12,369
1945	1,409	4,469	5,904	124	96	884	199	526	13,611
1946	1,289	5,948	6,186	306	151	358	145	244	14,628
1947	1,424	5,179	5,831	545	165	1,235	99	154	14,632
1948	1,198	6,647	7,893	349	102	1,021	150	48	17,468

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 15

Foster Children.

Number on books at the end of the year 15
 Number who died during the year... .. -
 Number of inquests -
 Number of Child Protection Visitors 1
 Total number of visits paid 138

Adoption of Children.

During 1948, 30 people applied for adoption. Of these, 23 were successful and received babies, completing legal adoption, 5 privately, 11 through Adoption Societies and 7 through Miss Dalby, the Diocesan Moral Welfare Worker. 6 cases were not completed at the end of the year.

67 visits were paid and reports made concerning these cases.

Premature Births.

111 premature births were notified during the year 1948, 77 of which were Watford babies, the remaining 34 being born in Watford but resident outside the district. 22 were born at home and 55 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	-	-	1	-	-	1	2
3 - 4	-	1	1	-	-	1	3
4 - 5	2	-	1	1	9	16	29
5 - 5½	-	-	-	2	8	32	42
	2	1	3	4	17	50	77

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

Birth Weight	Died during first 24 hours	Died before end of month	Survived to end of month	Total
lbs.				
1 - 2	-	-	-	-
2 - 3	-	2	3	5
3 - 4	1	-	1	2
4 - 5	1	1	7	9
5 - 5½	1	-	17	18
	3	3	28	34

It should be noted that of the 111 immature births, although 16 deaths occurred, 7 of these were in respect of 13 babies weighing less than 4 lbs. Of the remaining 98 weighing 4 lbs. or more at birth, all but 9 survived to the end of the first month.

One baby born at home was moved by ambulance to the Unit at King Street Maternity Home.

Day Nurseries.

Although the Act transferred the Nurseries to the County Council and certain administrative changes were necessary the Medical and Nursing care of the children has remained the same. It is in no small measure this personal interest which has kept up the high standard of child care in these Nurseries a fact which has been reported on by more than one group of Inspectors from the Ministries of Health and Education.

Some progress was made with the selection of a site in North Watford to replace Beulah Hall - but being incomplete on July 5th the matter was handed over to the County Council.

It was possible throughout the year by careful selection to keep the priority waiting list quite short but many other mothers would have liked Day Nursery facilities for their children.

Residential Nursery.

46 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.

In December a residential nursery to take both temporary and permanent residents was opened at Sparrow Herne Hall, Bushey, and should be very useful for Watford children.

Home Help Service.

During the year 1948 assistance was given to 166 cases of illness and either part-time or full-time help sent to 49 confinements. Help was also given to 17 cases of tuberculosis.

At the end of this period there were 11 full-time Home Helps and 18 half-time Home Helps. There were also 13 casual Home Helps all working on tuberculosis cases.

This service was also transferred to the County Council in July and has become part of the divisional health service. Expansion has been rapid and there is no doubt that the staff are keen and realize their part in the social and health services of today.

The Care of Mothers and their Illegitimate Children.

The County Almoner reports that during 1948 22 single girls and 6 married women living in the Borough of Watford were referred to the County Almoner for advice. A further 10 cases living outside the Borough but in the S.W. Division of the County were referred between July 5th and December 31st. Of this total number, 9 girls were admitted to the County Hostel Ante-natally and Post-natally, while 4 were admitted post-natally. Two women were admitted to the Institution, being considered unsuitable for ordinary hostel accommodation. Six girls were admitted to voluntary hostels through the Diocesan Worker, 17 girls remaining at home were supervised in order to ensure that their plans were secure.

Of the cases dealt with by the Almoner 10 girls are known to have returned home with their babies either straight from the County Hostel or from hospital. Adoption was arranged in nine cases, including the adoption of twin boys. Two girls returned to employment with their babies.

In June 1948 the County Mother and Baby hostel, "Champions", near Shenley, was opened. It has been of great value in accommodating the girl or woman who is unable to remain at home and is in need of help in re-establishing herself and in making plans for her child's future care.

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

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA, ETC.

Water.

The Water Engineer reports that:-

1. Both the quantity and quality of the water have been satisfactory throughout.
2. Bacteriological examinations were made on both the raw water and the chlorinated supply at regular intervals and were satisfactory apart from a very occasional positive presumptive B.coli test for a nominal number of non-faecal organisms in the raw water usually after heavy rain. Chemical analyses carried out monthly were all satisfactory.
3. There is no plumbo solvency.
4. No particular action to overcome contamination apart from routine chlorination of the supply was required.
5. The position of permanent and temporary dwellings without a piped water supply was fully reported on in 1947 and is unchanged. The population numbered 46 permanent and 87 temporary, making a total of 133.

Sanitary Inspection.

The following table is a record of the visits and inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1948.

<u>Houses -</u>	
Public Health Act	422
Housing Act	239
Overcrowding	171
<u>Factories -</u>	332
<u>Rats and Mice Infestation -</u>	
Premises inspected	97
Other visits	22
<u>General -</u>	
Refuse accommodation	438
Tents, vans and sheds	31
Keeping of animals	62
Theatres, cinemas, etc.	24
Public houses	5
Smoke observations	95
Vacant land and dumps	92
Verminous premises - initial inspections	37
Drainage inspections and tests	392
Cesspools	6
Infectious diseases	204
Common yards and passages	7
Fly prevention	19
Petroleum Acts	68
Shop Acts	12
Other insect pests	53
Lectures to food handlers	27
Water courses	5
Fetes, galas, etc.	4
Interviews with owners	565
Miscellaneous visits	743
<u>Revisits to Premises under Notice -</u>	
Public Health Act - Houses	724
Public Health Act - Others	287
Housing Act	1,969
Other re-visits	83
<u>Meat and Foods -</u>	
Slaughterhouses	1,937
Visits re food inspection	605
Butchers shops	65
Greengrocers and fruiterers	8
Grocers and other food shops	31
Fried fish shops and fishmongers	56
Dairies, milk shops and cowsheds	53
Ice cream premises	353
Restaurants and dining rooms	389
Preserved food rooms	66
Food poisoning	29
Milk samples	25
Milk bottles (bacteriological examination)	6
Ice cream samples	74
Samples of ice cream server rinse water & utensils	33
Food (adulteration) samples	124
Public market	197
Bakehouses	97
Other food premises	14
	<u>11,397</u>
Number of compliants received and investigated -	1,391

Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied.

Houses -

Roofs repaired or renewed ...	281
Walls repointed, rendered or repaired ...	251
Dangerous walls rebuilt ...	18
Wall plaster repaired ...	429
Floors repaired or renewed ...	146
Ceilings repaired or renewed...	154
Windows repaired or renewed ...	544
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	102
Cooking ranges repaired or renewed	14
Coppers provided or repaired...	34
Sinks provided or renewed ...	63
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	85
Interior water supplies provided	1
Repairs to water supplies ...	36
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	231
Eaves guttering repaired or renewed	258
Food stores provided or repaired	4
Stairs repaired or renewed ...	14
Doors repaired or renewed ...	217
Coalhouses provided or repaired	10
Chimneys and stacks repaired...	112
Yards, etc. paved or repaired	40
Damp-proof courses provided ...	121
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	200
Handrails fixed in staircases	3
Additional lighting provided...	1
Additional ventilation provided	35

Drainage -

Drains or sewers cleared of obstruction ...	104
Drains or sewers repaired or reconstructed	69
Cesspools repaired or renewed ...	1
Inspection chambers provided...	6
Soil-pipes, vent-shafts, etc. repaired or renewed	24

Water Closets -

New w.c.'s provided ...	10
W.C. compartments repaired ...	132
W.C.'s cleansed ...	20
W.C. pedestals renewed ...	111
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed	100
Flushpipes repaired or renewed	43

Dustbins -

New provided ...	321
------------------	-----

Miscellaneous -

Offensive accumulations removed	7
Animals - nuisances abated ...	3
Verminous rooms disinfested ...	57
Dirty premises cleansed ...	4

Contraventions remedied in -

Dairies and milkshops	1
Cowsheds ...	1
Bakehouses ...	2
Preserved food rooms	8
Other food premises	7
Factories ...	32
Tents, vans and sheds	1

4,468

Administration - Notices.

	Served	Complied with	Outstanding at 31st December, 1948
Public Health Act, 1936:			
Informal ...	294	340	92
Statutory ...	65	96	4
Housing Act, 1936:			
Informal ...	164	273	108
Statutory ...	12	50	10
Factories Act, 1937			
Informal ...	32	30	36
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	58	50	40
Milk & Dairies Order, 1926:	2	2	-
	627	841	290

Housing.

The sanitary inspectors have continued their efforts to maintain the existing housing accommodation in a reasonably habitable condition. 458 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 77 occasions, and in only 11 cases has it been necessary for the Local Authority to enforce these notices by executing the necessary works in default of the owners.

Although the sanitary inspectors are limiting their requirements to the minimum repairs necessary to maintain the houses within the Borough in a habitable condition, they are meeting increasing difficulties in judging the reasonableness of the cost of repairs where these are extensive. Costs of repairs continue to increase yet the rents remain static, and in view of the increasing cost of repairs, the monetary value of the occupied houses, if anything, is decreasing. It is foreseeable that if this trend continues, it will be necessary to represent to the Council for demolition, low-rented houses which are structurally sound but in such a state of disrepair that the costs of reconditioning cannot be justified as an economic proposition.

The Borough Council has already encountered this problem and because it is so essential that as many houses as possible be maintained in a habitable condition, the Council will be impelled to consider the purchase of individual houses whenever the aforesaid conditions arise. This is a National problem which cannot easily be resolved; it does therefore appear that extensive housing repair work will present serious difficulties for some time.

New Houses.

Mr. F. C. Sage, Borough Engineer, has kindly supplied the under-mentioned information regarding new houses erected during 1948.

(a)	By the Local Authority	...	...	302
	War damage rebuilding	...	...	2
(b)	By private individuals	...	...	30
	War damage rebuilding	...	...	7

Smoke Abatement.

During the year the factory chimneys within the Borough have been kept under close observation. Excessive smoke emission from eleven 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 cause of the smoke emission has on nearly all occasions been due to the use of unsuitable fuel or carelessness on the part of the stokers. The sanitary inspectors have advised managements of the factories concerned of the remedial action which should be taken. In two cases coal-fired boilers have been converted to oil, thus abating a recurrent nuisance. At the end of the year there were five factory boiler plants which were intermittently causing a nuisance.

Electricity Generating Station.

The emission of grit from the Electricity Generating Station has caused a serious nuisance on a number of occasions throughout the year. The Council have requested the Eastern Electricity Board to investigate this nuisance with a view to immediate remedial measures being instituted.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

During 1948, the following meat and other foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

HOME KILLED MEAT AND OFFAL

Beef (including 120 carcasses)		85,322
Pork (including 31 carcasses)		3,392
Lamb (including 9 carcasses)		593
Veal (including 32 carcasses)		1,688
<u>Offal from Bovines -</u>		
935 heads	...	28,005
948 tongues	...	4,762
2,362 sets lungs	...	22,985
226 hearts	...	1,048
1,902 livers and 1,068 part livers	...	33,986
202 spleens	...	407
247 skirts	...	508
264 tripes and 84 manifolds	...	10,613
644 udders	...	10,952
177 sets of intestines	...	5,555
122 tails	...	243
507 mesenteries	...	6,082
130 sets of feet	...	3,433
Blood	...	5,998
Other organs	...	69
<u>Offal from Pigs -</u>		
507 plucks	...	852
35 livers	...	138
119 sets lungs	...	427
57 heads and tongues	...	1,261
215 other organs	...	622
<u>Offal from Sheep and Lambs -</u>		
53 plucks	...	220
447 livers	...	993
223 lungs	...	394
27 other organs	...	81

<u>Offal from Calves -</u>		lbs.
36 heads	...	202
40 plucks	...	187
75 other organs	...	394
<u>IMPORTED MEAT</u>		
Beef and Mutton	...	1,971
Offal	...	3,186
<u>OTHER FOODS</u>		
Horseflesh	...	167
Bacon	...	69½
Wet fish	...	1,402
Cured fish	...	1,519
Fried fish	...	32½
Shellfish	...	231
Sausages and sausage meat	...	167
Cheese	...	72
Pulses	...	422
Poultry	...	70
Sweets and chocolates	...	111
Fruit	...	85
1,615 jars pickles and sauces	....	1,512
Melba sauce	...	14
Butter and other fats	...	18
Cereals	...	611
Cooked meats	...	55
Bread	...	400
Vegetables	...	41
Sugar	...	154
Vinegar	...	120
Ice Cream	...	170
Shell eggs and dried eggs	...	25
Rabbits	...	790
Sweet fat	...	98
Beef extract	...	10
Dried fruit	...	71
1,040 cans and bottles of fruit	...	1,729
187 cans fruit and tomato juices	...	256
1,472 cans milk	...	1,358
538 cans various meats	...	780
796 cans corned beef	...	4,043
1,879 cans vegetables	...	2,766
687 cans fish	...	630
372 cans soups	...	345
235 cans jam and marmalade	...	390
123 cans bacon	...	138
276 cans fish pastes	...	86
71 cans cereals	...	60
432 cans sausages	...	432
245 cans fruit pulp	...	1,510
54 cans Danish pork brawn	...	206
Miscellaneous	...	62
		<u>259,847</u> lbs.
	Total	

Total weight of meat and other foods condemned during the year 1948 - 116 tons, 7 lbs.

Of the above unsound foods 89% comprised diseased meat and offal condemned at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse 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 1948.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	4,514	1,867	5,084	12,431	798
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</u>					
Whole carcase condemned	1	5	20	9	13
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	1,774	687	25	634	210
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	39.3	37.0	0.9	5.2	27.9
<u>Tuberculosis Only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	22	92	12	-	18
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	541	740	4	-	45
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	12.4	44.5	0.5	-	7.9

Livestock sent to a collecting centre for slaughter are examined by a grading panel. It is regrettable that many animals graded by the panel and consequently purchased by the Ministry of Food are found upon post-mortem examination to be in an advanced stage of disease necessitating the condemnation of the entire carcase and viscera.

The high percentage of tubercular infection of cattle, particularly cows, continues to cause the Borough Council serious concern and representations have been made to the Hertfordshire Agricultural Committee urging the institution of even more effective control measures on the farms.

Cysticercus Bovis.

One of the aftermaths of war has been a widespread infection of our herds with cysticercus bovis, which is an intermediate stage of the tapeworm, taenia saginata, in man. Tapeworm infection is by no means uncommon in Europe and it is believed that infected German and Polish troops, who were encamped or employed on our farms during the war years are responsible for the sudden rise in the incidence of this parasite in home killed beef. During the last three months of 1948, 12 cases of cysticercus bovis were detected, which represents 0.81% infection of the cattle inspected; all the infestations were very light.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

Twelve outbreaks of food poisoning have been carefully investigated during the year. Altogether 135 persons were involved in these outbreaks but the illnesses were generally of a mild nature and none resulted in death. Three of the outbreaks were individual cases of paratyphoid fever, but despite the

most exhaustive investigations including serological tests of both family contacts and the employees of more than one food establishment, no common source of infection was found. Of the remaining nine outbreaks the enquiries and bacteriological examinations failed to detect the infected foods. In three of the outbreaks no common source of infection was found, and in three other outbreaks it was impossible to obtain samples of the suspected foods. Of the remaining three outbreaks, ten samples of suspected foods and five faeces specimens were submitted to the Bacteriologist, who was unable to isolate any food-poisoning bacteria.

A summary of the twelve outbreaks is set out in the following table:-

Total number of outbreaks	Number of cases	Number of deaths	Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each	Foods suspected with number of outbreaks of each
9	132	Nil	Toxins or causative organisms not identified	Cream cakes - 2 Cake containing dried egg) - 1 Meat Stew - 1 Meat pudding - 1 Cooked poultry - 1
3	3	Nil	B. Paratyphosus	Unknown

Ice Cream.

Purity.

Throughout the year energetic action has been taken to safeguard purity of all ice cream sold and manufactured within the Borough. The methods employed by both manufacturers and retailers have been carefully investigated with a view to eradicating all possible sources of contamination. It is gratifying to report that the Trade is conscious of its public health obligations and has given full co-operation to the Inspectors.

The premises of thirteen manufacturers of ice cream were found after inspection not to comply with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947. The proprietors were interviewed and stated that they were not prepared to incur the expenses of rebuilding and re-equipping the premises in order to comply with the Regulations; the registrations of these premises were, therefore, cancelled. At the end of the year, fifteen premises within the Borough were registered for the manufacture of ice cream, and seventy-two were registered for the sale of ice cream.

74 samples of ice cream from twelve manufacturers were submitted for bacteriological examination during the summer months, the results of which are set out below:-

Bacteriological Grade	Samples submitted			Total
	April and May	June and July	August and September	
I	12	12	9	33
II	6	3	7	16
III	6	4	1	11
IV	9	3	2	14
	33	22	19	74
Percentage satisfactory (Grades I & II)	55%	68%	84%	(Average) 63%

It will be noted that the purity of the ice cream improved as the season progressed and various faults were rectified. Furthermore, 18 of the 25 unsatisfactory samples (Grades III and IV) came from two manufacturers whose cooling equipment was inadequate and who were unable to obtain delivery of the necessary plant. Because of the shortage of cooling equipment, the Ministry of Food postponed the enforcement of the cooling requirements of the Heat Treatment Regulations until May, 1949.

The hygienic aspects of the sale of ice cream from shops, stalls, vans and barrows have also received careful attention; in particular, numerous experiments have been made, in conjunction with the Bacteriologist, to find an efficient yet simple method of maintaining the purity of rinsing water for ice cream servers. As a result of these experiments two satisfactory methods have been adopted.

Composition.

Fifteen samples of ice cream were submitted for chemical examination by the Public Analyst, whose reports are summarised in the following Table:-

Sample No.	Fat Content	Total solids including Fat
1.	10.40%	33.83%
2.	5.00%	24.97%
3.	0.60%	28.03%
4.	1.31%	27.90%
5.	6.10%	34.42%
6.	9.26%	31.80%
7.	4.11%	18.27%
8.	6.08%	28.75%
9.	4.44%	29.12%
10.	6.06%	25.45%
11.	10.54%	33.86%
12.	2.13%	21.10%
13.	7.81%	31.48%
14.	7.36%	32.90%
15.	7.00%	31.82%

It will be seen that the fat contents vary from 0.60% to 10.54% and the total solids content (including fat) from 18.27% to 34.42%. The inferior ice creams were made by small scale manufacturers who are not entitled to an allocation of ingredients. It would be wrong to condemn the Ice Cream Trade on the strength of these unsatisfactory ice creams: the average composition of not less than 99% of the ice cream sold in the Borough was 7.7% fat and 30.95% total solids (including fat).

During the year the Borough Council has represented to the Ministry of Food that a standard for ice cream should be made to prohibit the sale of grossly inferior products.

Food Preparing Premises.

Considerable attention has again been devoted to food preparing premises.

During 1946 and 1947 the Department secured many improvements in the structure and equipment of these premises and took every opportunity to advise managements and operatives on the hygienic aspects of food preparation and food handling.

It was realized however that special efforts would have to be made to educate food handlers to a greater appreciation of the dangers arising from the contamination of food. To this end, a course of three lectures was given by Dr. Sutherland of the Central Council for Health Education. These lectures were fairly well attended, but it was apparent that many food handlers found it inconvenient to attend evening meetings away from their place of employment.

A summary of Dr. Sutherland's lectures, in booklet form, was sent to the managements of all food preparing premises in the Borough, and this was followed-up by the Sanitary Inspectors who offered to lecture to food handling staffs in their places of employment at any time convenient to them. In this way, the educational campaign has been carried into the food establishments and the Inspectors have given 24 lectures to the staffs of 37 establishments.

Progressive managements have welcomed the Department's efforts and have assisted whole-heartedly, but co-operation has been absent in some cases, especially where ignorance of the fundamental principles of hygiene has led to apathy and resistance to change. It is proposed to continue the campaign and if necessary to adopt new methods of securing the co-operation of the food trade, and also of the public generally.

During the year no less than 808 inspections have been made of the food preparing premises within the Borough, and it will be seen from the following table that 247 defects have been remedied in these premises as a result of action taken by the Department. This includes six rooms which have been entirely or partly reconstructed. In addition one cafe and three other rooms have been closed as being unfit for use for the preparation of food.

Defects remedied	Registered Rooms	Other Rooms
Food premises entirely or partly reconstructed ...	2	4
Walls and ceilings repaired or renewed ...	22	16
Floors, doors and windows repaired or renewed ...	8	13
Sanitary conveniences disconnected from food rooms	-	4
Ventilation improved... ..	5	11
Lighting improved	2	4
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	20	67
Apparatus, fitments or utensils cleansed, repaired or renewed ...	8	8
Accumulations of refuse removed	1	4
New refuse accommodation provided	1	2
Sinks repaired or renewed	4	12
Washing basins provided or renewed	2	3
Constant hot water provided	3	9
Soap and towels provided	3	7
New food stores provided	-	2
	81	166
Total ...	247	

Milk (Special Designations) Regulations 1936 & 1946.

The following licences have been granted by the Council under the provisions of the above regulations:-

<u>Tuberculin Tested</u>				
Licence to bottle the milk	...	...		1
Vendors licence	...	...	...	4
Supplementary vendors licence	...	...		1
<u>Accredited</u>				
Supplementary vendors licence	...	...		1
<u>Pasteurised</u>				
Licence in respect of processing plant	...	...		1
Vendors licence	...	...	...	9

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The Report of the Public Analyst on samples submitted for examination during the year 1948 is as follows:-

"The number of samples examined under the Food and Drugs Act during the period under review, amounted to 122, of which 45 were Formal and 77 Informal.

Of the Formal samples, 41 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>
1947	...	3.62%	8.70%
1948	...	3.55%	8.83%

These average figures may, I think, be regarded as quite satisfactory.

The milks, generally, were of good quality and all of them complied with the Milk Regulations in respect of their composition. These milk samples, moreover, all conformed 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 types of Food, Drugs, etc., the chief of which I will refer to under the following headings.

FOODS

Butter and Margarine
Cooking fat
Sponge mixtures
Self raising flour
Barley flour
Table jelly
Fish paste

FOODS
(Continued)

Coffee Essence
Lemon Squash
Plum Jam
Gooseberry Jam
Sausages
Sausage meat
Horseflesh, etc.

CONDIMENTS

White pepper
Mixed spice
Tomato sauce
Teaseed oil
Salad cream
Ginger
Curry powder
Vinegar
Mustard
Sage and onion stuffing
Sweet pickles
Edible colouring, etc.

DRUGS

Tartaric acid
Tincture of iodine
Glauber salts
Seidlitz powders
Powdered borax
Castor oil
Glycerine, lemon and honey cough mixture
Epsom salts

The great majority of the Food Products and Condiments examined were found, generally, to be of good quality and in a sound, edible condition.

There were, however, a number of samples submitted which I found to be either adulterated or showing certain deficiencies, so that they failed to comply with the Statutory Rule and Order dealing with these respective products.

I give below particulars of these samples.

Salad Cream.

Five samples of Salad Cream were examined during the year, out of which four were found to be deficient in Egg Yolk Solids. Statutory Rule and Order 1945, No. 1177, lays down that Salad Cream and Dressings must contain not less than 1.35% by weight of Egg Yolk Solids. One of the samples received by me contained as little as 0.25%.

These Salad Creams were chiefly of Dutch origin and I am informed that the manufacturers are being requested to look into this matter with a view to making their products conform to the English standards.

Gelatine.

One sample of Powdered Gelatine was found to contain an excessive amount of zinc, but in other respect was satisfactory.

Jam.

A sample was submitted labelled "Cherry Jam" which, on analysis, was found to be made substantially from plums with a relatively small proportion of cherries.

The manufacturers concerned were requested to look into this matter and to label their jam correctly in accordance with the Preserves Order No. 1515, 1947.

Certain samples were submitted concerning which I was informed that you had received complaints that their consumption had given rise to illness.

The first consisted of a specimen of Jamaica Rum which on analysis was found to be quite free from any adulteration, although it possessed an unusually strong flavour and aroma.

In another case, the consumption of a cup of Oxo was stated to have given rise to violent sickness, which the Doctor diagnosed as some form of food poison. A specimen of the Oxo, taken from the same jar, was submitted to a searching bacteriological examination, but no evidence of the presence of any bacteria associated with food poisoning was obtained.

Similar complaints of illness were received by your Chief Inspector following the consumption of a certain fruit tart and also a home-made cake. A portion of the suspected tart was examined and, in the case of the cake, specimens of the cocoa and icing sugar used in its preparation.

A bacteriological examination, however, of these samples showed no evidence of the presence of any pathogenic bacteria or toxic bodies. I, therefore, came to the conclusion that the consumption of these foods could not have been responsible for the illnesses complained of.

Your Inspector also submitted to me certain samples of meat taken from a butcher's shop, which he suspected to be horseflesh, and also specimens of sausages made on the same premises.

A biological examination using the "Precipitin Test" confirmed that the meat was, in fact, horseflesh and by means of the same Test I was also able to detect the presence of horseflesh in the sausages.

Three further samples of sausage meat were examined in respect of their general composition, one of which was found to be deficient in meat and failed to comply with the Meat Products and Canned Meat (Control and Maximum Prices) Order, 1948, No. 1509, in that respect.

All the samples of drugs complied with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia.

I was again requested, during the year, to examine and report upon the general quality of specimens of ice cream made in the Watford District.

The analysis of fifteen samples was carried out and the Table on Page 25 shows the large variations in their fat content.

Six of the ice creams, it will be seen, have high fat contents in the order of 8 to 10%, but in some other cases the amount is very small and these particular products must be regarded as of inferior quality.

In this connection I might mention that up to the present the Ministry of Food have not seen their way to lay down any definite standard for the composition of ice cream, but it is to be hoped that before very long the Ministry will fix at least a minimum limit for their fat content.

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.

Inspection under Shops Acts, 1912 - 1934.

Routine visits to shops and inspection of records	...	...	800
Visits to shops regarding early closing day	...	...	153
Evening visits to shops and observations after legal closing hours			56
Visits to shops under Shops (Sunday Trading Restrictions) Act, 1936	...		96
Number of infringements investigated and appropriate action taken to remedy matters complained of	...	...	129
New shops added to records	...	...	29
Shops closed down	...	...	10
Shops re-opened	...	...	7

Eradication of Insect Pests.

Number of premises dealt with for bugs by the Department -			
	Council houses...	...	1
	Other houses	...	23
Number of Council houses dealt with for bugs by the Housing Department			3
Number of premises at which fly control treatments were carried out by the Department	...		6
Number of premises and other places at which mosquito control treatments were carried out by the Department -			
	Day-time resting places...		3
	Breeding places	...	6
Number of premises dealt with for other insect pests by the Department			20
	Total	...	62

Factories Acts, 1937 & 1948.

Part I - 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	61	59	4	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	298	345	25	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
Total ...	359	404	29	-

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.	
Want of cleanliness (Sec. 1)	6	3	1	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec. 2) ...	2	1	1	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (Sec. 3)	-	-	-	1	-
Inadequate ventilation (Sec. 4)	4	1	1	-	-
Ineffective draining of floors (Sec. 6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec. 7)					
(a) insufficient ...	3	2	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective ...	33	22	-	3	-
(c) not separate for sexes ...	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act	-	-	-	-	-
Total ...	49	30	3	4	-

NOTE: The number of defects shown as not remedied may appear high, but this is due to the fact that it was not possible to carry out re-inspections in every case by the end of the year.

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

Twelve 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>Number of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)</u>
Wearing apparel - making etc. ...	2
Umbrellas, etc.	1
Artificial flowers	3
Brush making	1
Total ...	7

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Two rodent operatives are employed by the Public Health Department, and the following table sets out the work done during 1948 in connection with the administration of the above Act:-

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	301
Number of premises inspected	...	...	...	769
Number of infestations treated	...	...	...	334
Estimated kill ...	...	...	...	7,266
Number of premises rat-proofed	...	...	...	19

The Council have continued to provide a free treatment of domestic premises; the cost of treating business and similar premises is borne by the occupiers.

Throughout the year rodent destruction work has been carried out in the sewers within the Borough under the supervision of the Borough Engineer.

SECTION "F".

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIONS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total number of notifications received during the year was 998 compared with 1,206 during the year 1947. 991 of these infections were confirmed. There were no cases of diphtheria but scarlet fever notifications rose from 36 to 60 which can be partly explained by a small outbreak in an infant school in the spring. This outbreak, despite all efforts to trace the source, eventually faded out during the Easter holidays. It is very unusual to note that two measles epidemics of almost equal magnitude occurred in following years and this accounts for the small drop in the total number of infections, whooping cough throughout the two years having remained fairly constant.

	<u>Notifications</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Scarlet Fever	62	60
Diphtheria	2	-
Poliomyelitis	6	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	10	10
Cerebrospinal Fever	2	2
Pneumonia	29	28
Dysentery	6	5
Erysipelas	15	15
Puerperal Pyrexia	20	20
Infective Hepatitis	6	6
Catarrhal Jaundice	3	3
Whooping Cough	205	205
Measles	630	631
Typhoid Fever	1	1
Malaria (relapse)	1	1
	<u>998</u>	<u>991</u>

Diphtheria.

In the second year in succession no cases of diphtheria occurred.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

By continued effort on the part of the Health Visitors and the fact that this service is brought to the notice of mothers attending Infant Welfare Clinics as well as in their own homes, a high level of immunity has been maintained. As a precaution the results of immunisation are checked and boosting doses, too, are available at the age of 5 and 10, but this part of the service is not yet well enough known.

In future it should be possible to keep more accurate information on the immune state of the population as since July records have been received from the General Practitioners.

<u>Completed Course</u>	Schick Tests ...	700
Under 5 ...	Negative ...	698
Over 5 ...	Positive ...	2
Total ...		
<u>Reinforcing Doses</u> -		1,304

Whooping Cough.

As in past years the course of notifications followed a normal pattern; the number being almost the same.

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

By agreement with the County Medical Officer this service which has for many years been available for children in Watford was continued after July, but where the choice lay with combined injections for both diphtheria and whooping cough the Family Doctor was asked to carry it out.

1st Cases ...	744
Total injections given...	2,069

Cerebrospinal Meningitis.

A very satisfactory year with only two cases and no deaths.

Poliomyelitis.

The summer was by no means so hot or dry as 1947 but whether these facts influenced the number of cases is not known. The first patient, who died, was undoubtedly infected whilst travelling abroad, the second case, a school-girl, living in the same road but unconnected, went down 33 days later and then there was a possible indirect contact with the third case, an adult, through a younger member of the same family who attended the same class at school as the second case. The fourth case was quite unconnected.

The importance of this story lies in whether any action would have broken the chain of infection at any point. It is so extremely difficult to forecast which, if any, of probably more than a hundred contacts, many of them only slight contacts, the infection will strike. School closure for one case will only probably distribute further afield possible secondary cases, unless, which is impossible in most cases, all the children thus allowed to play and run about freely could be kept strictly and individually isolated.

It would seem that strict isolation and medical attention to contacts who become feverish, complain of headache, pain in the neck and back, etc., even if this feverish "cold" or "influenza" quickly passes off, would be a wise precaution. Moreover it is known that strenuous exercise at the beginning of this disease usually results in the attack being a severe one. The diagnosis of these abortive attacks is very difficult but their notification would help with the tracing of the source of infection and provide clues for some of the more detailed research which is, at present, being carried out.

Paratyphoid Fever.

At the end of 1947 and beginning of 1948 three cases of Paratyphoid B. Fever were notified (dates of onset - Dec. 24th, Dec. 27th and Jan. 24th). All lived within a mile of each other at the northern end of the town, but despite meticulous care in investigating the possible common sources such as a carrier in the food distributing and catering trades, nothing was found. Phage typing of these salmonellae revealed that the first two cases belonged to the same strain, but the third was different and thus unconnected with them.

Small Pox.

During the year 3 smallpox contacts were kept under close supervision, great care being taken in each case in view of the virulent type of infection imported.

Scarlet Fever.

During the Spring term a persistent source of infection was present in an Infant and Junior School occupying the same building.

In spite of much careful investigation by Medical, Teaching and Health Visiting Staffs, the isolation and attention to several carriers, special cleansing and disinfecting of the premises, it must be admitted that it was really only during the Easter holidays that this persistent epidemic finally subsided.

Measles.

It is very unusual for epidemics of equal severity (630 notifications) to appear in one area at almost a year's interval.

Scabies.

184 cases and 74 contacts were treated at the Clinic, the only treatment service not taken over by the County Council or the Regional Hospital Board. As the numbers began to dwindle it was found possible to maintain the service with four clinics a week instead of seven from April onwards.

Tuberculosis.

89 cases were notified during the year, as compared with 84 in 1947.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15	6	5	-	1	-	1	-	-
20	8	7	1	1	1	1	-	-
25	14	10	1	1	4	4	-	-
35	5	2	-	-	1	-	-	-
45	9	3	-	-	3	1	-	-
55	6	-	-	1	4	-	-	-
65 and upwards	2	-	-	-	3	-	-	1
Untraced	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
TOTALS	52	29	2	6	16	9	-	2

The Sanatorium, Hospital and Clinic care of patients infected with tuberculosis passed in July to the Regional Hospital Board but the Domiciliary care, the investigation and follow up of contacts and other methods of prevention remained the responsibility of the County Council.

Venereal Disease.

This service, too, passed in July to the Regional Hospital Board but its Almoner, as in the case of tuberculosis, remained with the County Council.

The Almoner's duties in the Special Clinics continued during the year. In addition to helping and advising patients where necessary, the follow-up and visiting of defaulters formed an important part of her duties.

Cancer.

133 deaths took place in 1948 compared with 143 in 1947.

Watford Joint Isolation Hospital.

The following tables give details of admission and discharges during the year 1948:-

Patients in Hospital on January 1st, 1948 (excluding Tuberculosis).

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

Patients admitted to Hospital during 1948.

Scarlet Fever ...	80	Poliomyelitis ...	16
Diphtheria ...	15	Para-typhoid ...	3
Cerebrospinal		Streptococcal	
Meningitis ...	11	Carriers ...	15
Measles ...	30	Enteric Fever ...	1
Whooping Cough ...	28	Other causes ...	35
Erysipelas ...	3		237
		Patients treated during 1948 ...	257

Patients in Hospital on 31st December, 1948.

Scarlet Fever ...	5	Streptococcal Carriers ...	13	
Cerebrospinal Meningitis ...	1	Other causes...	1	20

The following deaths occurred in Hospital.

Whooping Cough ...	2	Poliomyelitis	1	3
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Patients Discharged from Hospital.

Scarlet Fever ...	81	Para-typhoid	3	
Diphtheria ...	3	Enteric Fever	1	
Cerebrospinal Meningitis ...	7	Streptococcal Carriers ...	2	
Measles ...	29	Poliomyelitis	14	
Whooping Cough ...	26	Other causes...	63	
Erysipelas ...	5		234	234
		Total ...		257

58 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted and 35 discharged. 5 deaths occurred.

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	41	10	8	16	-	5
Diphtheria	9	1	2	2	-	1
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	7	1	1	2	-	-
Measles	18	5	3	3	-	1
Whooping Cough	11	7	-	3	1	6
Erysipelas	1	1	1	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	4	2	2	-	-	2
Para-typhoid	2	1	-	-	-	-
Typhoid	1	-	-	-	-	-
Streptococcal Carriers	-	-	-	-	-	15
Other causes	23	2	8	4	1	3
	117 (139)	30 (39)	25 (23)	30 (19)	2 (1)	33 (6)

For the first time since the peak year in 1943 the admissions rose slightly in number and so also did the cases of scarlet fever. In other respects the numbers were little changed. It has been possible, except during small outbreaks of a single disease, to treat all patients in the cubicle block.

Although the number of cases of poliomyelitis fell in 1948 there was one bulbar case which ended fatally. In addition, one patient with respiratory paralysis as a complication was nursed in the respirator and made quite a good, but incomplete, recovery.

The male tuberculosis ward has been open throughout the year and has made visiting for relatives much easier.

The nursing staff position throughout the year has never been easy but due to the willing co-operation of all concerned crises have been overcome. Credit must be given to the Matron and all the nursing staff both resident and non-resident who have undoubtedly done their best. One of the benefits which should come from the change-over of hospitals is the integration of the nursing staff of both General and Special Hospitals so that the peak periods in the Special Hospitals may be met without keeping a large staff to deal with sudden increases in admissions. An Isolation Hospital, however, as a single unit, unless very large, cannot be compared on the financial side with a General Hospital able to keep its beds full throughout the year.

There seems to be every reason why the Hospital should continue to provide excellent facilities for nursing cases of infectious diseases from the whole of the West Hertfordshire Area but at some future date extra cubicle accommodation will be required. A scheme has already been put forward for an Ear, Nose and Throat Unit making use of the theatre facilities for tonsillectomy cases. Such scheme depends on integration of nursing staffs.

