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BOROUGH OF WATFORD

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# Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

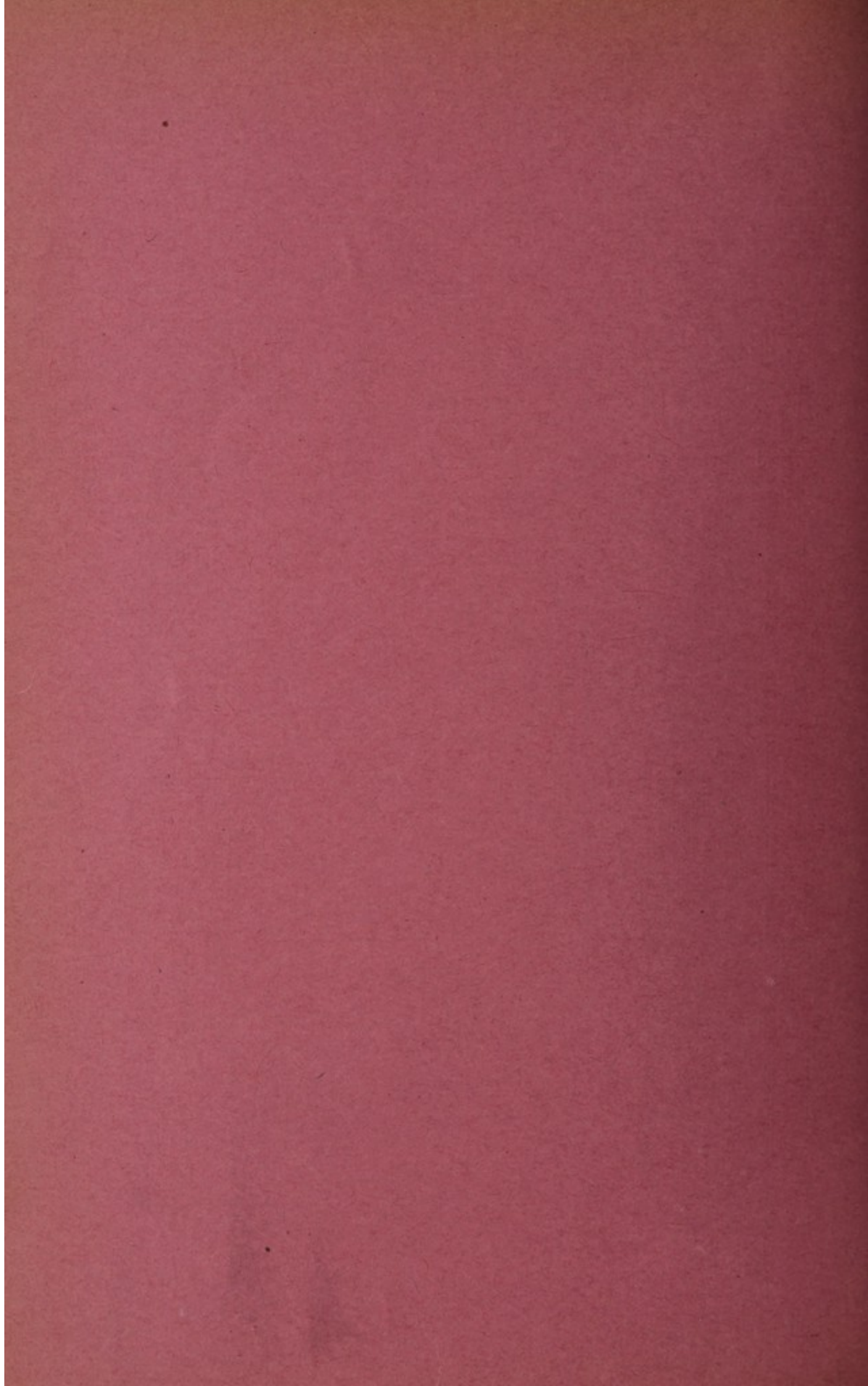
for the year

1952

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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

The Members of the Health Committee

1951 - 52.

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Chairman:  
Vice-Chairman:  
The Worshipful The Mayor:  
The Deputy Mayor:

Alderman L.C. Johnson  
Councillor L.D. White  
Councillor L.E. Haines  
Alderman Mrs. M.E. Bridger

Alderman J. Davis  
Alderman Mrs. M.A. Ward  
Alderman J. Wright  
Councillor R.G.H. Beckley  
Councillor Mrs. E. Brooks  
Councillor E.H. Harrowell

Councillor W. Heath  
Councillor Mrs. M. Higgins  
Councillor H.A.E. Mounter  
Councillor J. Sutton Curtis  
Councillor C.W. Tyrwhitt  
Councillor A. Welsh

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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. (left 20.10.52.)  
Miss M. Ward, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Acting Medical Officer of Health  
from 20.10.52.).

Senior Sanitary Inspector:-

+Ø R. V. Jacob, M.S.I.A.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector:-

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

District Sanitary Inspectors:-

xs=Ø G. F. Willcox, M.S.I.A.  
s=Ø E. Ellerington, F.S.I.A.  
Ss=Ø J. L. Willoughby, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.  
s=Ø T. B. Rosamond, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Inspector under Shops Act:-

A. Corke

Clerical Staff:-

\* R. A. Smith (left 31.5.52.)  
Miss M. Sherlock  
Miss M. Johnson  
Miss M. Kemp (commenced 11.8.52.)

- \* Part-time Officer.
- + Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.
- = Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors'  
Examination Joint Board.
- Ø Meat Inspectors' Certificate 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.
- S Smoke Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.
- E Associate Membership Examination, Institute of Sanitary Engineers.



BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
WATFORD.

December, 1953.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the annual report for the year 1952. For the greater part of the year my predecessor, Dr. Pearson, was in charge and I should like to take this opportunity of paying a tribute to the valuable services which he rendered to the Borough during his ten years of office - difficult and momentous years during which many changes have occurred. Notwithstanding these, the department has stood the impact remarkably well. The high regard in which it is held by the public and the cordial relationship it enjoys with other services, the general practitioners, hospitals and adjoining authorities are due, I am sure in no small measure to Dr. Pearson.

Referring to the statistical section of the report it will be seen that the infantile mortality rate and the general death rate are both lower than the comparable figures for England and Wales and substantially so in the case of the death rate for tuberculosis. There were no deaths attributable to child-birth and the incidence of infectious disease was low. No case of diphtheria occurred and in fact there has been only one case (in 1951) during the past six years. These are matters for gratification. There were, however, eight cases of poliomyelitis and it would appear that we have now to face the prospect of an annual visitation of this disease of which so little is still known as to its precise mode of spread. We unfortunately have, as yet, no sure prophylactic of the kind which has led to the dramatic fall in the incidence of diphtheria, but one outstanding feature of the disease does indicate a means by which the severity of the attack might be considerably mitigated if indeed it cannot be prevented. In the routine investigation of cases it is frequently found that in the period preceding the onset of paralysis, the victims have been subjected to excessive physical strain and the conclusion is irresistible that muscular fatigue and physical exhaustion are potent factors in provoking the development of paralysis; moreover, it is now recognised that where patients have been recently subjected to the operation of removal of tonsils and adenoids they are more liable to develop poliomyelitis in those centres of the brain adjacent to the nose and throat leading to the so-called "bulbar" form of paralysis with its serious complication, respiratory paralysis.

If therefore young people would refrain from violent and prolonged physical exercise when poliomyelitis is prevalent, the baneful effects of the disease might be markedly abated or its onset even prevented. But perhaps this is asking too much, especially as the peak of incidence of this disease is in the summer months when the longer days, with the extra hour of summertime are strong inducement to the pursuit of sport.

I have referred to the relatively low death rate of tuberculosis, but the discovery of 84 new cases during the year affords no grounds for thinking that the conquest of this scourge is within reach. In some aspects tuberculosis bears comparison with poliomyelitis in that in both diseases some factor additional to the acquisition of the infecting organism appears to be necessary,



some debilitating agent which renders the soil more favourable to the propagation of the invading germ. To the majority of individuals the tubercle bacillus is of no importance. They acquire and harbour the infection without ever becoming aware of the fact. It is only when adverse factors operate, such as bad housing, overcrowding, inadequate diet, physical exhaustion, due to overwork or the unwise use of leisure that tuberculous infection manifests itself as tuberculous disease with all the misery, chronic invalidity and loss in productive man-power which this entails. Poor housing and all that goes with it is probably the greatest single factor contributing to breakdown and there can be no question that the tuberculous family should rank for high priority in the matter of re-housing.

In the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector there are a number of items to which I should like to draw your attention. Under the item of inspection and supervision of food the considerable amount and variety of meat and other foods condemned as unfit for human consumption will be noted. This is an aspect of the work of the department concerning which the general public have little knowledge but to the Public Health Committee who are acquainted with the work of the inspectors month by month it must give grounds for considerable satisfaction. The practice of dining out which increased so much during the War now seems to have become an established feature of our social life and the great increase in the numbers of cafeterias and snack bars provide eloquent testimony of this. It is gratifying, however, to know that the desire of this Council to foster a high standard of food hygiene is being met by a generous measure of co-operation, agreed codes of practice for a number of food trades have been put into operation.

I feel sure that Dr. Pearson would wish me to thank Mr. Jacob, his deputy, Mr. Marsden, and the staff of District Sanitary Inspectors, for the ready co-operation and team work which they have shown during the year and I may say that it is a matter for considerable gratification to me to find such a happy spirit of co-operation operating in the department. Sincere thanks are also due to Dr. Ward who, in Dr. Pearson's absence, during the latter part of the year acted as Medical Officer of Health with that quiet efficiency which I have come to associate with all her work. To the clerical staff of the department I particularly wish to express thanks for their unfailing loyalty and willing co-operation during the difficult period of re-adjustment and shortage of staff during the latter half of the year.

I have the honour to be  
Your obedient Servant,

W. ALCOCK,

Medical Officer of Health.



## SECTION "A"

## STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres) ...	5,275
Estimated civilian population to mid-year 1952 ...	73,200
Number of inhabited houses (estimated) ...	20,621
Rateable value at 1.4.52. ...	678,758
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£2,755

Number of Live Births -	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	503	479	982
Illegitimate	29	22	51
	<u>532</u>	<u>501</u>	<u>1,033</u>

Number of Still Births -			
Legitimate	14	11	25
Illegitimate	-	1	1
	<u>14</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>26</u>

Total number of Births (Live and Still)	...	1,059
Total number of Deaths	...	819

Causes of Death:-		<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	14	9
Tuberculosis, other	...	2	2
Syphilitic disease	...	1	1
Diphtheria	...	-	-
Whooping Cough	...	-	-
Meningococcal Infections	...	-	2
Acute poliomyelitis	...	-	-
Measles	...	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	2	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	20	26
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	20	27
Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	9	10
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	5	5
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	65	71
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	4	6
Diabetes	...	5	5
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	112	97
Coronary disease, angina	...	89	107
Hypertension with heart disease	...	27	12
Other heart disease	...	123	153
Other circulatory disease	...	35	39
Influenza	...	23	1
Pneumonia	...	56	46
Bronchitis	...	62	44
Other diseases of respiratory system	...	12	5
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	13	9
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	1	5
	C/ Fwd	<u>700</u>	<u>683</u>



		B/Fwd	...	700	683
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	4	4
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	13	3
Congenital malformations	...	...	...	6	6
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	70	74
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	5	6
All other accidents	...	...	...	20	32
Suicide	...	...	...	9	10
Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	-	1
All causes	...	...	...	<u>827</u>	<u>819</u>

Infantile Deaths (under 1 year) -

		<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	...	13		12	25
Illegitimate	...	1		-	1
		<u>14</u>		<u>12</u>	<u>26</u>

Birth Rate and Death Rate, 1952.

	<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	14.1	15.9	17.6	16.9
Still Births	0.36	0.35	0.34	0.43
Death Rate (per 1,000 population) -				
All causes	11.1	11.3	12.6	12.1
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Influenza	0.01	0.04	0.05	0.04
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.15	0.24	0.31	0.28
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polio- encephalitis)	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia	0.63	0.47	0.58	0.52
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years per 1,000 live births)	N.K.	1.1	0.7	1.3
Maternal Mortality Rate - (per 1,000 total births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.09		
Other puerperal causes	0.00	0.63		
All puerperal causes	0.00	0.72		

Infant Mortality Rate -

				<u>Watford</u>
All infants, per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	25.2
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	25.8
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	19.6

COMPARATIVE RATES

	<u>Watford</u> 1952	<u>Watford</u> 1951	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales 1952.</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales 1951.</u>
Birth Rate (live births)	14.1	14.0	15.9	15.5
Death Rate ... ..	11.1	11.4	11.3	12.5
Infant Mortality Rate ...	25.2	18.7	27.6	29.6
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.79

Comments -

(1) Infectious Diseases.

In general the incidence of infectious disease was low, there were however eight cases of poliomyelitis - six paralytic and two non-paralytic, with no deaths.

Towards the end of the year the incidence of measles began to rise, indicating the beginning of an epidemic in 1953.

Eight outbreaks of food poisoning involving twenty-nine persons occurred during 1952. Included in these was one outbreak of paratyphoid B fever involving ten confirmed cases. A detailed report of this outbreak is given under the heading "Food Poisoning".

(2) Violence.

Six persons lost their lives in motor vehicle accidents in Watford (five last year). There were six fatal home accidents compared with seven last year; five were over the age of seventy and the other was a child of four. The rise in deaths from accidents is due to the Harrow train disaster in which twenty-six Watford residents lost their lives.

(3) Birth Rate.

The birth rate remained almost the same at 14.1 (14.0 last year). This figure has remained for a number of years considerably below the national figure.

Giving consideration to the incidence of premature births, (i.e. 5½ lbs. and under in weight), the figures are 5.8% in 1952 and 6.1% in 1951. Putting these premature births into their weight groups they can be tabulated as follows:-

2 lbs. and under	...	...	2
2 lbs. to 3 lbs.	...	...	4
3 lbs. to 4 lbs.	...	...	5
4 lbs. to 5 lbs.	...	...	23
5 lbs. to 5½ lbs.	...	...	26

Eleven deaths took place amongst these children (males 7, females 4). Eight during the first 24 hours and the remaining three whilst under one week old. No premature babies died within the first month after discharge from hospital.

(4) Still Birth Rate.

The rate of 24.6 is a decrease on last year.

Classifying the reason for the various still-births where it could be as-



certained with a fair degree of certainty, the South-West Herts figures are as set out below:-

	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Prematurity and Toxaemia ...	4	3	5	1
Prematurity and other causes ...	1	1	2	4
Toxaemia ... ..	5	4	3	14
Malformation ... ..	7	7	8	10
Birth injury ... ..	9	14	14	16
Placental Disease ... ..	3	2	4	2
Erythroblastosis ... ..	2	2	7	6
Maternal Disease ... ..	5	3	5	5
Abnormality of Cord ... ..	1	4	10	10
Cause unknown ... ..	4	6	3	4
	<u>41</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>72</u>

Once again 1952 shows a higher rate.

(5) Deaths in Infancy.

The figure of 25.2 is well above last year (18.7) but still below the national figure of 27.6.

The following causes of death amongst infants under one were recorded:-

	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>
Prematurity ... ..	15	5	3	5	5	6
Malformation ... ..	5	2	1	5	3	6
Birth injuries ... ..	-	3	3	4	4	2
Collapse of lung ... ..	3	4	3	2	2	3
Respiratory diseases ... ..	8	1	3	2	1	4
Other diseases of infancy	6	4	5	3	2	1
Infectious diseases ... ..	-	4	2	3	-	1
Accidents ... ..	2	2	-	-	2	3
Not traced ... ..	2	3	-	-	-	-
	<u>41</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>26</u>

Of the twenty six infant deaths occurring in 1952, twelve died within 24 hours, a further six less than a week old and another two whilst still under one month old, leaving six during the next eleven months.

The neo-natal death rate was therefore 19.4 compared with 15.7 in 1951.

(6) Death Rate.

The rate of 11.1 was slightly lower than last year. No maternal deaths occurred.

(7) Sex of Infants.

The sex ratio of 1,062 boys to every 1,000 girl infants is a little higher than last year.

(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	51	52
1949	50	56
1950	51	36
1951	51	49
1952	46	49



SECTION "B"

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

(a) Clinic Services.

Set out below are the Infant Welfare, Toddlers, Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinic figures for 1952:-

(i) Care of Mothers and Young Children.

Birth Notifications

1 9 5 2

	Live Births		Still Births	
	Notified by Doctors	Notified by Midwives	Notified by Doctors	Notified by Midwives
Maternity Hospital	63	986	14	29
General Hospitals	2	1	-	-
Private Nursing Homes	102	47	1	-
Domiciliary	43	328	1	2
Isolation Hospital	-	-	-	-
	210	1362	16	31

Total Live Births 1951 ... 1581    Still Births 1951 ... 40  
 " " " 1952 ... 1572    " " 1952 ... 47

(ii) Infant Welfare Clinic Attendances.

1 9 5 2

Infants	Sess-ions	1st Att. under 1	Re-visits	1st Att. over 1	Re-visits	Total.	Consul-tations	Food only
Central Clinic	106	387	6066	-	1945	8398	2067	788
Harebreaks	99	223	3458	4	910	4595	1857	1046
Scouts Hall	53	113	1626	-	546	2285	475	317
Stanborough	53	155	2481	2	508	3146	577	226
Wiggenhall	51	88	1499	1	467	2055	728	225

(iii) Toddlers Clinic Attendances

1 9 5 2

Toddlers	Number of Sessions	First visits	Re-visits	Consul-tations	Weighings only	Total Attendances
Central	96	329	892	1215	761	1982
Leavesden	51	81	578	648	120	779

(iv) Attendances at Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics

	Ante-Natal		Post-Natal		Consultations Ante-Natal & Post-Natal
	First Visits	Revisits	First Visits	Revisits	
Central Clinic 1952	313	1557	193	267	1242
Stanborough 1952	50	191	25	-	266

(v) Day Nurseries.

Throughout the year the system of checking all admissions and re-viewing those in attendance has been carried out periodically.

(vi) Health Visiting.

During 1952, 11,867 visits were made (12,992 in 1951).

(vii) Home Nursing.

Visits made during 1952 were 44,309 compared with 50,034 visits in 1951.

(b) Laboratory Services.

Provision is available for investigation of all outbreaks of infectious disease and as will be seen from the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report help was willingly given when it was necessary to investigate small outbreaks of food poisoning.

(c) Health Education.

The work of consolidating the gains brought about by the introduction of bye-laws under the Food and Drugs Act has again been the main feature of the work during the year.

(d) National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 47. (Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention).

Several cases were investigated but no legal action was taken.

Section 50. (Burials)

Arrangements were made on two occasions (two in 1951).

(e) Swimming Baths.

Samples of the water were taken monthly during the year, during or immediately after groups of school children had been swimming in the pool. On all occasions the samples were very satisfactory, very few organisms being found and none at all of a faecal type.



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

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA, ETC.

WATER

Mr. L. C. Kimberlin, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., Water Engineer and Manager, has kindly supplied the following information:-

(i) The supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality throughout the year 1952. Of the 1,083,000,000 gallons of water supplied to the Borough approximately one-third was softened. No progress has been made in obtaining Government sanction to install a softening plant at the Grove Pumping Station which would enable the whole supply to be softened.

(ii) Bacteriological examinations of the supply were made regularly, as follows:-

1. Watford Fields Supply:-

Raw Water	Monthly
Treated Water	Weekly
High Level Reservoir )	Monthly, staggered fortnightly.
Low Level Reservoir )	

Chlorine residual tests of the water leaving the Pumping Station were taken hourly, and the supplies from the High Level and Low Level Reservoirs were similarly tested, at 4-hourly intervals.

2. The Grove Pumping Station Supply.

Raw Water	Fortnightly
Treated Water )	Monthly, staggered fortnightly.
Reservoir )	

Chlorine residual tests of the water leaving the Pumping Station were taken at hourly intervals.

With the exception of a slight abnormality in one sample from the Grove Pumping Station supply, which was caused by bacteria of a non-faecal type and which was eliminated almost immediately, all the analyses showed the supply to be of a high standard of bacterial purity.

Bacterial analyses of samples taken quarterly from the area of the Borough served by the Colne Valley Water Company have also proved satisfactory.

Chemical analyses of the raw water at Watford Fields and The Grove have shown that the water from both these sources is hard in character but of the highest standard of organic purity.

3. There is no plumbo solvency.

4. A survey of water supplies to temporary dwellings, and also to the few permanent dwellings which have no main supply within the premises, revealed the following position:-

(a) Temporary dwellings at:-

106, Leavesden High Road.	Caravan dwellers have a standpipe in yard (population 3.)
---------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------

Temporary Dwellings (Continued).

Rear of 82, Leavesden High Road. One caravan dweller uses a standpipe supply.

275, Sheepcot Lane. 6 persons occupying 2 caravans share one standpipe.

(b) Permanent Dwellings at:-

Puxley House, North Orbital Road. Premises supplied by outside standpipe only, Plumbing installed in the house, but not connected to the service pipe. (Population 3).

Leavesden High Road. (112-118 even numbers). 4 families share one standpipe supply (Population 13).

Leavesden High Road. 120-124B (5 houses). 5 families share one standpipe supply (Population 28).

Munden Drive Cottage One family uses standpipe supply. (Population 3).

Forge Cottages, Leavesden Nos. 5 and 6. 2 families use 2 standpipe supplies. (Population 4).

Waterdell Farm Cottage. One family uses standpipe supply (Population 5).



SANITARY INSPECTION.

The following table is a record of the visits and inspections made by the sanitary inspectors during the year 1952.

<u>Houses -</u>				
Public Health Act	...	...	...	367
Housing Act	...	...	...	179
Overcrowding	...	...	...	91
<u>Factories -</u>				
Factories with Mechanical Power (including Bakehouses, Food Factories etc.)				397
Factories without Mechanical Power	...	...	...	60
Workplaces	...	...	...	29
Outworkers	...	...	...	40
<u>Rats and Mice Infestation -</u>				
Premises Inspected	...	...	...	171
Other Visits	...	...	...	70
Sewer Baiting	...	...	...	15
<u>General -</u>				
Refuse Accommodation	...	...	...	548
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	130
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	69
Theatres, Cinemas, Etc.	...	...	...	32
Public Houses, Off Licences Etc.	...	...	...	111
Schools	...	...	...	7
Smoke Observations and Industrial Nuisances	...	...	...	319
Vacant Land and Dumps	...	...	...	125
Verminous Premises - initial inspections ..	...	...	...	28
Other Insect Pests	...	...	...	43
Drainage Inspections and Tests	...	...	...	482
Cesspools	...	...	...	16
Infectious Diseases and Food Poisoning	...	...	...	301
Common Yards and Passages	...	...	...	8
Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	151
Shops Acts	...	...	...	23
Interviews with Owners	...	...	...	478
Miscellaneous Visits	...	...	...	670
Petty Sessions	...	...	...	5
Pet Animals Act, 1951	...	...	...	20
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	7
<u>Revisits to Premises Under Notice -</u>				
Public Health Act - Houses	...	...	...	823
Public Health Act - Others	...	...	...	155
Housing Act	...	...	...	997
Other Revisits	...	...	...	28
<u>Meat and Foods -</u>				
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	2,950
Visits re Food Inspection	...	...	...	486
Butchers Shops	...	...	...	110
Fishmongers and Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	24
Grocers, Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	33
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	35
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	154
		C/ Fwd	...	10,787



Restaurants and Dining Rooms	E/ Fwd	...	10,787
Preserved Food Rooms	...	...	334
Milk Samples	...	...	73
Ice Cream Samples	...	...	69
Food (Adulteration) Samples	...	...	92
Food (Bacteriological) Samples	...	...	108
Public Market	...	...	20
Bakehouses	...	...	251
Other Food Premises	...	...	111
Food Hygiene Lectures	...	...	11
			9
			11,865
Number of complaints received and investigated			...
			1,106

### HOUSING

126 Housing Act and 153 Public Health Act informal notices were served during 1952 requiring the repair of dwelling houses and in only 44 cases was it necessary for the Council to serve statutory notices. Seven of these had to be enforced by the Council executing the 76 repairs in default of the owners. Altogether during the post-war years 1,009 notices have been served requiring the remedy of serious housing defects. It is considered that the repair work which has thus been enforced has prevented serious structural deterioration in many of the low-rented properties within the Borough which otherwise might now have been beyond repair. Nevertheless, it must again be mentioned that the combination of increasing costs of repairs and comparatively low controlled rents is a deterrent to landlords voluntarily undertaking many items of routine property maintenance such as painting of woodwork, repointing of walls etc. These are matters which demand attention to preserve the very fabric of the structures but which do not become matters of public health importance until walls and woodwork are so perished that the houses cease to be weatherproof.

During the year eight cottages at Ganders Ash, Leavesden were represented to the Council as being unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable cost. The Council, as the owner of the properties, decided that they must be demolished. By the end of the year five families had been rehoused and the remaining three families are being rehoused early in 1953. Two years ago the owner of two flats, numbers 5 and 7 Devon Road, gave an undertaking to the Council under Section 11 of the Housing Act to demolish and to rebuild them. This work was completed in March 1952.

No. 40, Bedford Street was represented to the Council for action under Section 11 of the Housing Act. The owner submitted a scheme for the reconstruction of the dwelling and this was accepted by the Council.

The housing defects remedied and nuisances abated during the year are set out below.



<u>Houses -</u>			
Roofs repaired or renewed	...	...	111
Walls Repointed, Rendered or Repaired	...	...	63
Dangerous Walls Rebuilt	...	...	3
Wallplaster Repaired	...	...	161
Floors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	44
Ceilings Repaired or Renewed	...	...	47
Windows Repaired or Renewed	...	...	191
Fireplaces Repaired or Renewed	...	...	28
Cooking Ranges Repaired or Renewed	...	...	3
Sinks Provided or Renewed	...	...	6
Waste Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	16
Interior Water Supplies Provided	...	...	1
Repairs to Water Supplies	...	...	12
Rainwater Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	87
Eaves Guttering Repaired or Renewed	...	...	133
Food Stores Provided or Repaired	...	...	1
Stairs Repaired or Renewed	...	...	3
Doors Repaired or Renewed	...	...	32
Coalhouses Provided or Repaired	...	...	1
Chimneys and Stacks Repaired or Abolished	...	...	44
Yards, etc., Paved or Repaired	...	...	9
Damp Proof Courses Provided	...	...	47
Rooms Cleansed and Redecorated	...	...	11
Additional Ventilation Provided	...	...	1
Sub-floor Ventilation Improved	...	...	1
<u>Drainage -</u>			
Drains or Sewers Cleared of Obstruction	...	...	67
Drains or Sewers Repaired or Reconstructed	...	...	28
Inspection Chambers Provided	...	...	8
Soil Pipes, Vent Shafts, Etc., Repaired or Renewed	...	...	14
<u>Water Closets -</u>			
Compartments Repaired	...	...	27
Pedestals Renewed	...	...	26
Cisterns Repaired or Renewed	...	...	37
Flushpipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...	14
<u>Miscellaneous -</u>			
Dustbins Provided	...	...	229
Offensive Accumulations Removed	...	...	5
Dirty Premises Cleansed	...	...	2
Obstructing Trees Lopped and Felled ..	...	...	1
			1,514



ADMINISTRATION - NOTICES

	Served	Complied with	Outstanding at 31st Dec. 1952
Public Health Act, 1936:			
Informal ...	273	288	49
Statutory ...	74	82	3
Housing Act, 1936:			
Informal ...	126	91	124
Statutory ...	36	31	17
Factories Act, 1937:			
Informal ...	10	31	22
Food and Drugs Act, 1938:	27	58	35
Pests (Destruction) Act...	1	2	-
	547	583	250

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

The unauthorised placing of caravans on various sites within the Borough is a longstanding problem. Many of these are occupied by persons of nomadic gipsy type who can be induced to move on by informal and persistent action on the part of the sanitary inspectors. Unfortunately no sooner is one caravan moved than another takes its place, each of the occupiers adding to the general fouling of the site.

The more serious problem is provided by homeless families who try to settle their caravans permanently in the district. Legal proceedings have been instituted under the provisions of the Hertfordshire County Council Act against three such occupiers. One of these moved before the date of Hearing and another moved within the two month period granted by the Court to enable him to find another site. No success can be recorded with the third case: this was a man with a wife and three children who appeared before the Court on three occasions. By the end of the year he had incurred a heavy daily penalty and impending imprisonment but the caravan had not been moved.

NEW HOUSES

The Borough Engineer has kindly supplied the undermentioned information regarding new houses erected during 1952.

- (a) Number of new houses erected by the Local Authority ... 388
- (b) Number of new houses erected by private enterprise ... 51

Total number of houses built since 1945:-

- (a) By the Local Authority ... .. 1,906
- (b) By private enterprise ... .. 379

The Borough Treasurer has kindly supplied the following information:-

- (a) Number of Council houses occupied on 31st December, 1952 .. 3,660
- (b) Number of requisitioned premises ... .. 68
- (c) Number of families housed in requisitioned premises ... 146



### DUSTBINS

In accordance with the policy adopted by the Council 66 statutory notices were served during 1952 on the owners or the occupiers of premises requiring the provision of dustbins. In 20 cases the notices were enforced by the supply of dustbins in default.

### ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

No less than 319 observations were made by the sanitary inspectors in connection with emissions of smoke or obnoxious fumes from industrial premises. Smoke nuisances were recorded from seven factory chimneys within the Borough and on each occasion representations were made immediately to the factory managements.

Legal proceedings were instituted against a laundryman who failed to comply with an abatement notice requiring him to rectify a serious smoke nuisance from his oil burning plant; the Magistrates adjourned the Hearing for two months to permit the installation of photo-electric cell equipment and for improvements to be made to the boiler plant.

The smoke from the chimneys of one factory in the area of a neighbouring Authority is causing annoyance to residents in the Leavesden area of the Borough. Joint action was instituted with the Sanitary Inspector of the neighbouring Authority and it is hoped that the representations which have been made will lead to the abatement of this nuisance.

Intermittently throughout the year a nuisance has been caused by the emission of acid fumes from a glass factory. The Chief Inspector of Alkali Works has advised the Council and the factory manager of improvements to the scrubbing tower which should mitigate the nuisance. Most of this work has now been done but it appears that although the nuisance has been reduced it has not been completely abated. The investigations are proceeding.

### RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951.

Eight premises in Watford have been registered for upholstery work and two premises have been licensed for the storage of rag flock.

It has not been necessary during the year to report any infringements of the Act to the Council.

### PETROLEUM (REGULATION) ACTS, 1928 AND 1936.

134 premises are licensed for the storage of inflammable liquids of various kinds which in view of their "flash point" come within the provisions of the above acts.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

During 1952 the following meat and other foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption.



<u>HOME KILLED MEAT AND OFFAL</u>				<u>lbs.</u>
Beef (including 47 carcasses)	...	...	...	40,847
Pork (including 51 carcasses)	...	...	...	8,724
Veal (including 35 carcasses)	...	...	...	1,368
Mutton (including 7 carcasses)	...	...	...	844
<u>Offal from Bovines -</u>				
704 Heads ...	...	...	...	21,169
629 Tongues	...	...	...	3,145
3,051 Sets Lungs	...	...	...	30,510
125 Hearts	...	...	...	625
1,543 Livers and 1,218 Part Livers	...	...	...	32,663
284 Spleens	...	...	...	568
131 Skirts	...	...	...	262
124 Tripes and 40 Manifolds	...	...	...	4,452
75 Udders	...	...	...	1,007
1,715 Sets Intestines	...	...	...	35,507
51 Tails	...	...	...	102
333 Mesenteries and Other Fat	...	...	...	4,661
37 Sets Feet	...	...	...	834
Blood	...	...	...	3,065
Other Organs	...	...	...	63
<u>Offal from Pigs -</u>				
177 Plucks	...	...	...	1,463
95 Livers	...	...	...	381
689 Sets Lungs	...	...	...	2,399
274 Heads and Tongues	...	...	...	5,678
343 Other Organs	...	...	...	1,519
<u>Offal from Sheep and Lambs -</u>				
241 Plucks	...	...	...	1,042
936 Livers	...	...	...	2,073
390 Lungs	...	...	...	798
Other Organs	...	...	...	2,633
<u>Offal from Calves -</u>				
28 Heads	...	...	...	153
39 Plucks	...	...	...	163
43 Other Organs	...	...	...	172
<u>MEAT AND OFFAL CONDEMNED IN RETAIL AND FACTORY PREMISES -</u>				
Pork	...	...	...	2,191
Beef	...	...	...	2,452
Lamb	...	...	...	50
Offal from Bovines	...	...	...	155
Offal from Sheep	...	...	...	39
<u>IMPORTED MEAT -</u>				
Beef	...	...	...	106
Veal	...	...	...	70
Mutton	...	...	...	44
Poultry	...	...	...	8
	C/ Fwd	...	...	214,005



	E/ Fwd	...	lbs. 214,005
<b>OTHER FOODS -</b>			
Venison	...	...	32
Bacon	...	...	3
Wet Fish	...	...	1,400
Shell Fish	...	...	84
Smoked and Cured Fish	...	...	581
Rabbits	...	...	309
129 cans Ham	...	...	1,308
4,845 can Fruit	...	...	22,100
123 cans Fruit and Tomato Juices	...	...	103
1,058 cans Milk	...	...	1,017
1,220 cans Various Meats	...	...	2,215
880 cans Vegetables	...	...	883
167 cans Fish	...	...	89
68 cans Soup	...	...	63
348 cans Jam and Marmalade	...	...	482
97 cans Meat and Fish Pastes	...	...	21
94 cans Cereals	...	...	86
44 cans Sardines	...	...	12
797 cans Tomatoes	...	...	829
26 cans Sausages and Sausage Meat	...	...	130
Cheese	...	...	89
Poultry	...	...	26
Sweets and Chocolates	...	...	379
58 Pickles and Sauces, jars	...	...	34
5 cans Fruit Puddings	...	...	9
Biscuits	...	...	24
Cereals	...	...	883
Cooked Meats	...	...	30
184 Shell Eggs and Dried Eggs	...	...	23
20 Packets Coconut	...	...	5
Milk Powder	...	...	112
118 Blancmange packets	...	...	123
13 packets Cocoa	...	...	4
62 Jellies	...	...	17
7 bottles Fruit Squash	...	...	9
48 cans Rabbits	...	...	24
52 cans Baby Foods	...	...	14
Pork and Beef Sausages	...	...	237
Prunes	...	...	380
Coffee Extract	...	...	30
430 Cakes	...	...	128
Sugar	...	...	24
Miscellaneous	...	...	25
			248,381

Total weight of meat and other foods condemned - 110 tons, 17 cwt. 2 qrs. 21 lbs., an increase over 1951 of 7.5%.

Of the above unsound foods 84.1%, compared with 80.4% in 1951, comprised diseased and unsound meat and offal condemned in the Ministry of Food slaughterhouses.



The following table indicates the extent of tuberculosis and other diseases found on post-mortem examination of the animals slaughtered during the year 1952:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	6,208	1,459	3,886	17,675	5,571
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	5	3	32	7	44
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	2,561	625	14	1,173	817
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	41.3	43.0	1.2	6.2	15.4
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	11	28	3	-	7
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	458	363	4	-	199
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	7.6	26.8	0.2	-	3.7

For comparison purposes, the percentages of the animals found to be diseased during the post-war years are set out in the following table.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis:					
1947 ...	38.6	35.8	0.8	8.7	16.8
1948 ...	39.3	37.0	0.9	5.2	27.9
1949 ...	42.4	37.5	0.8	4.5	20.6
1950 ...	42.5	39.8	0.9	7.3	14.3
1951 ...	40.9	40.4	0.9	4.5	14.5
1952 ...	41.3	43.0	1.2	6.7	15.4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis:					
1947 ...	12.3	48.7	0.07	-	3.1
1948 ...	12.4	44.5	0.5	-	7.9
1949 ...	10.0	38.6	0.2	-	5.1
1950 ...	10.5	36.5	0.4	-	5.5
1951 ...	8.0	29.3	0.3	-	3.0
1952 ...	7.6	26.8	0.2	-	3.7



The considerable fall in the incidence of bovine tuberculosis, as revealed by post-mortem examinations in the slaughterhouse, indicates that the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is having considerable success in its campaign against this disease. One noteworthy outcome of this campaign is the marked decrease in the weight of carcase beef condemned, i.e. from 36½ tons in 1947 to 18½ tons in 1952.

#### DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS

During the year three cases of suspected Swine Fever were found during routine inspection and these were duly notified to the Police under the provisions of the Acts.

#### CONGENITAL TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 4 calves, compared with 8 during 1951 and 20 during 1950, were found to be infected with tuberculosis of congenital origin. Only one of these calves could be correctly identified and this was notified to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Animal Health Division for investigation at the farm concerned.

There has been no improvement in the method of labelling calves in the collecting centres; the gummed labels that are used frequently become detached during transit of the calves to the slaughterhouses.

#### CYSTICERCUS BOVIS

278 cases of Cysticercus Bovis were discovered in the 7,667 cattle slaughtered in Watford during 1952. This gives an incidence rate of 3.6% compared with 4.7% for the year 1951, 6.0% for 1950, and 4.2% for 1949.

The infected carcasses were received from many collecting centres in the South of England extending over a wide area.

One carcase was found to be heavily infected with viable cysticerci and was condemned.

The following table shows the sites of the cysts in the lightly infected carcasses. These carcasses were used only for manufacturing purposes after they had been frozen to sterilize any unidentified cysts.

	External Masseter Muscle	Internal Masseter Muscle	Tongue	Heart	Diaphragm	Other Sites
Viable Cysts	66	13	2	4	2	1
Degenerate Cysts	104	19	1	92	15	2

The cysts in 81 cases (29%) were viable indicating that the infections were of recent origin. This compared with 26% for 1951 and 31% for 1950.

#### SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS

20 Licenses have been issued by the Council authorising persons to slaughter animals. It has not been necessary to report to the Council any infringements of the provisions of these Acts.



## FOOD HYGIENE

The various types of food premises within the Borough are classified below:-

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	24
Bakery and Confectionery Shops	...	...	...	...	44
Butchers	...	...	...	...	55
Fishmongers and Fried Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	28
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	48
Grocers	...	...	...	...	111
General shops where food is sold	...	...	...	...	61
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	87
Industrial and Commercial Canteens	...	...	...	...	53
School Canteens	...	...	...	...	34
Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	2
Hotels and Public Houses	...	...	...	...	64
Public Market	...	...	...	...	1
Unclassified Food Factories	...	...	...	...	11

### Food Premises Registered by the Council.

#### 1. Under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Ice Cream Manufacturers	...	...	7
Ice Cream Dealers	...	...	115
Preserved Food Manufacturers	...	...	28

#### 2. Act 8 of Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Dairies	...	...	...	3
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The Council's policy of fostering a high standard of food hygiene in the Borough demands the full co-operation of all the food traders and ceaseless effort by the sanitary inspectors. Altogether 1,247 inspections were made during the year and, as a result of informal representations, 147 improvements to food premises were carried out. One noteworthy development in the relationship between the food traders and the sanitary inspectors is that advantage is now being taken of the inspectors' experience by food traders contemplating the alteration or re-equipment of premises.

Since the clean Food Byelaws came into force the Council has adopted Codes of Hygiene which set a minimum standard for the following food trades:-

Bakers and Confectioners.  
Butchers and Prepared Meat Manufacturers.  
Ice Cream Manufacturers and Dealers.  
Grocers, and  
Cafes and Restaurants.

Early in the year a complete survey was made of the licensed hotels, clubs and public houses in the Borough to assess the standard of hygiene of the premises and of the methods of handling beer and spirits.

Seventy four premises were inspected, nine of these were clubs, one was an off-license and the remainder were owned by various brewers.



With the exception of inadequate sanitary accommodation at some of the older public houses the general standard of hygiene of the premises was good.

Glasses were usually found to be visibly clean but few licensees were regularly using a sterilising agent in the washing-up water.

The practice which caused the greatest concern was the return to the barrel for resale of drip and overspill beer. It was considered that this practice demanded tighter control to safeguard the public health.

The findings of the survey were discussed with the brewers concerned and a large measure of agreement was reached on a programme of improvements; many of these have already been implemented.

A Code of Hygiene for Licensed Premises was approved by Council in November.

#### MEAT HYGIENE

Representations were again made by the Council to the Ministry of Food regarding various nuisances arising from the two slaughterhouses which are situated in the centre of the town. These are working to full capacity and they are in close proximity to residential and commercial premises the occupiers of which from time to time suffer a nuisance from smell, noise, smoke or flies. The Council is also concerned about the driving of livestock through the town.

The replacement of these slaughterhouses by a modern abattoir and cattle market on the outskirts of the Borough is the only effective and permanent answer to the problem; the Council has earmarked a site at Holywell for this purpose. In the meantime the Ministry propose to carry out a number of improvements to the New Street slaughterhouse (Fishers) early in 1953 but these are designed not so much to improve hygiene as to improve the efficiency of slaughtering and handling of the meat. It is time the Ministry paid more attention to general hygiene in the slaughterhouses and in the transport of meat.

#### EDUCATION ON FOOD HYGIENE

Nine lectures were given to food handlers during the year. These were arranged to suit the convenience of the managements and staff and were given at the place of work. Unfortunately this side of the campaign for safe food is progressing very slowly - one of the main reasons being the apathy of many responsible members of the food trade.

#### FOOD POISONING

Eight outbreaks of Food Poisoning involving 29 persons were notified during 1952.

In three of the outbreaks detailed investigations failed to reveal either the infecting organism or the foodstuff responsible.

Salmonella typhi-murium was identified as the causative organism in four of the outbreaks but in each case the foodstuff conveying the infection was not conclusively established although prepared meats were suspected in two of them.

One outbreak of Paratyphoid B. Fever merits a more complete report:-



In the spring of the year a 12 year old girl was admitted to Holywell Hospital suffering from Paratyphoid B.

Thirteen days later the Medical Officer of Health was informed of a family of six, five of whom were ill with sickness and diarrhoea. One girl of 10 years was admitted to hospital with a diagnosis of dysentery. Sickness and diarrhoea was reported from a third family two days later and a four year old girl admitted to hospital with a clinical diagnosis of Paratyphoid B.

Upon receipt of each of these reports the Medical and Sanitary Officers immediately visited the homes and carried out investigations into the sources of food supply and secured specimens from all the members of the affected families. Apart from pasteurised milk obtained from the same dairy (which could be discounted) the only common source of food supply was a bakery in the Borough which had supplied, through different branch shops, cream cakes or buns to each family. If these cakes were carrying the infection it was obvious that the source was in the bakehouse itself. The management co-operated fully with the Health Department by voluntarily withdrawing all cakes with synthetic cream from sale and the bakehouse staff all submitted to blood tests and furnished specimens for examination. From these it was found that a youth who was engaged in decorating the cakes with synthetic cream was carrying germs of Paratyphoid B - phage type 1 in his bowel - the same organism as was found in each of the patients. When this had been established the Medical Officer advised the carrier and his parents of the risks attendant on the young man's remaining in the food trade and he voluntarily found other employment.

In all, twelve persons, including the ambulant carrier, were found to be infected. All recovered after treatment.

The outbreak, happily a small one, may be described as a "classic" case. Synthetic cream notoriously provides an ideal medium for the multiplication of pathogenic bacteria and the fact that the employee transferred the organisms to the cakes emphasises the great importance of personal cleanliness and especially of scrupulous handwashing, in particular after using the toilet.

It is appropriate to record sincere thanks which are due to the Ministry of Health, the Public Health Laboratory Service, the Management and employees of the bakehouse and the local medical practitioners and press for their ready co-operation with the Health Department in the steps necessary to check the outbreak without arousing public alarm. In particular, Dr. B. Cadness Graves of the Watford Pathological Laboratory (who directed the pathological investigations) and her colleagues at the Watford and Colindale Laboratories carried out examinations of over 300 specimens, willingly sacrificing their Easter holidays as, of course, did the Council's Medical and Sanitary staffs. In addition to specimens of blood and excreta samples of synthetic cream, sewage from the bakehouse drains and even droppings of pigeons kept by the "carrier" were examined. Quite apart from the suffering of the infected families, the amount of work involved in tracing the source and checking an outbreak of this kind emphasises the truth that prevention is, indeed, better than cure. No matter how vigilant the sanitary inspectors, the public's real safeguard lies in the education of food-handlers and public alike in the risks of careless food handling.

A summary of the eight outbreaks is set out in tabular form below:-



Total Number of Out-breaks	Number of Cases	Number of Deaths	Organisms responsible with number of out-breaks of each	Foods Suspected	Remarks
8	29	1  (Other Compli-cations)	Paratyphoid B - 1	Cream Buns.	Carrier Isolated
			Salmonella Typhi-murium - 4	1. Unknown 2. Ham and/or Minced Beef Suspected. 3. Unknown 4. Unknown	Not Confirmed
			Suspected Entertoxin - 1	Canned Ham	Not Confirmed
			Unknown - 2	1. Prawns 2. Unknown	Not Confirmed

#### MILK SUPPLY

(a) Milk and Daries Regulations, 1949.

Registrations in respect of three dairies and twenty-three distributors of milk have been authorised by the Council under the above Regulations.

(b) Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949.

The Council has granted two Dealers Licences to pasteurise milk and one Dealers Licence to sterilise milk at dairies within the Borough. Licences for the sale of milk under the above Regulations were granted during the year as follows:-

Designated Milk	Dealers Licenses	Supplementary Licenses	Total
Tuberculin Tested Milk	10	1	11
Pasteurised Milk	13	3	16
Sterilised Milk	18	1	19

Close supervision has been maintained on the purity of milk sold within the Borough and the following samples have been submitted to the Bacteriologist at the Public Health Laboratory, Watford:-

Sterilised Milk	...	22
T.T. Pasteurised Milk	...	15
Pasteurised Milk	...	32

All these samples of milk complied with the statutory standards although on six occasions the methylene blue tests on pasteurised milks were declared void by reason of high atmospheric temperature.



## ICE CREAM

### Purity.

There are seven premises within the Borough in which ice cream is manufactured. The producers are well aware of the importance of maintaining a high standard of hygiene throughout their processing and their co-operation with the sanitary inspectors has been good.

Samples of ice cream are frequently submitted for bacteriological examination and the following table shows the results of the 91 samples which were taken during 1952.

Grade I	51	) 80% of total
Grade II	22	) satisfactory.
Grade III	9	
Grade IV	9	

9 premises were registered during the year for the sale of ice cream bringing the total number of premises registered within the Borough to 115. On the great majority of these premises wrapped ice cream only is sold.

### Composition.

By an Amendment Order which came into force on the 7th July, 1952, the Ministry of Food prescribed that the statutory minimum fat content of ice cream be reduced from 5% to 4%; the milk solids other than fat from 7.5% to 5%; and the sugar content to remain at 10.0%.

Twelve samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical examination. The reports are summarised in the following table:-

Sample Number	Fat Content	Sugar Content	Milk Solids	Water etc.
1.	6.10	15.50	12.20	66.20
2.	7.80	15.30	10.40	66.50
3.	8.50	11.00	11.20	69.30
4.	11.90	14.10	9.70	64.30
5.	11.40	13.20	8.00	67.40
6.	11.80	13.10	9.70	65.40
7.	6.66	11.10	9.65	72.59
8.	10.82	12.20	8.33	68.65
9.	11.84	11.54	9.75	66.87
10.	10.82	12.88	9.66	66.64
11.	8.40	10.34	8.62	72.64
12.	11.80	12.71	9.79	65.70

The above analyses indicate that the quality of ice cream being sold in Watford is well above the minimum standard.

## ADULTERATION OF FOOD AND DRUGS

The Report of the Public Analyst on samples submitted for examination during the year 1952 is as follows:-

"The number of samples examined under the Food and Drugs Act during the period under review amounted to 108, of which 30 were Formal and 78 Informal.



Of the formal samples, 24 consisted of Milk and the following table shows their average composition, as compared with those examined during the previous years:-

		<u>Fat</u>	<u>Solids, not Fat</u>
1951	...	3.54%	8.79%
1952	...	3.67%	8.89%

It will be seen that both the average Fat content and the percentage of Solids, non fat constituents are a little higher than for 1951.

The Milks, generally, were of good quality and all of them complied with the Milk Regulations in respect of their composition. They conformed, moreover, 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 varieties of Foods, Drugs, etc., the chief of which I will refer to under the following headings.

FOODS. Pork Sausage Meat, Pork and Beef Sausages, Fish and Meat Paste, Mince-meat, Self Raising Flour, Condensed Milk, Table Jellies, Custard Powder, Coffee and Coffee Essence, Various Varieties of Jam, Various Fruit Cordials, Sardines, Cereal Products, Sweet-meats, Flavouring Essences, etc.

CONDIMENTS. Salad Cream, Curry Powder, Horseradish Cream, Tomato Ketchup, Sweet Pickle, Olive Oil, Thyme, etc.

DRUGS. Seidlitz Powder, Cough Mixtures, Saccharin, etc.

The great majority of the Food products and Condiments, on examination, were found to be of good quality and in a sound, edible condition.

I found it necessary, however, to report against two samples of Pork Sausages, which were deficient in their Meat content and failed to comply with the Meat Products and Canned Meat (Amendment) Order, 1950. One sample contained 60.0% of Meat and the other only 53.0%, whereas the Order prescribes a minimum content of 65.0%.

Both these irregularities were brought to the notice of your Chief Inspector, who I understand communicated with the firms concerned.

All the samples of Drugs, on analysis, were found to conform with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia in respect of their strength and general composition.

I was again requested this year to examine and report on the general quality of the Ice cream sold in the Watford District.

The analysis of twelve samples was carried out and in the table on page 27 I give you the Fat content of these samples.

It is to be hoped that when better supplies of Fat and Dried Milk are available the standards for Ice cream will be raised again.

Your Chief Inspector has also submitted to me during the year under review a number of special samples, the majority of which were connected with



complaints in respect of their separate headings.

#### NORWEGIAN CRAB PASTE.

A tin of this Paste was submitted, taken from a consignment which, on inspection, showed evidence of being 'blown'.

The tin appeared to be bulging and under internal pressure, and when opened there was a distinct escape of gas. A bacteriological examination, however, failed to reveal the presence of living bacteria, but in view of the unsatisfactory condition of the Paste I advised that the consignment should be condemned.

#### LUNCHEON MEAT.

This Luncheon Meat was alleged to be unpalatable, but a careful examination showed it was in a quite good condition, and possessed a normal flavour and odour. My examination, therefore, did not confirm the complaint in question and I accordingly advised Mr. Jacob that this Luncheon Meat was satisfactory.

#### TINNED DAMSONS.

These tinned Damsons were alleged to be in a 'blown' condition and when the tins were opened there was, in fact, some evidence of internal pressure due to gas production.

On the other hand, the flavour and general condition of the Damsons was quite satisfactory and the bacteriological examination failed to reveal the presence of any living organisms. The tins, moreover, were well lacquered and there was no indication that they had been acted on by the acid of the fruit.

It seemed probable, therefore, that the slight gas production had been due to a little yeast development which had subsequently died out, and I expressed the opinion that these Damsons were quite fit for human consumption.

#### JERSEY MILK.

An informal sample of this Milk was submitted with a complaint that it was not as rich as it should be for Channel Islands Milk. On analysis, however, it was found to contain 4.3% of Fat and 9.36% of Solids, non fat.

Channel Islands Milk is defined in Article 1 of the Milk (Control and Maximum Prices) (Great Britain) Order, 1947, as Milk which is produced from cows of the Channel Islands breeds and which shows on analysis a butter fat content of not less than 4.0%.

I advised your Chief Inspector, therefore, that this Milk complied with this Order.

#### MILK.

A one pint bottle of Milk was submitted to me with the complaint that it contained a large lump of some foreign matter at the bottom of the bottle.

This foreign matter was removed and submitted to a microscopical examination. This failed to reveal the presence of any vegetable tissues, mould fungi or living micro-organisms.

The material possessed a tough texture and contained a good deal of yellow fat. From its general character I was of the opinion that it consisted of



some form of animal tissue, the exact nature and origin of which I was not able to determine.

I, therefore, suggested to your Chief Inspector that it should be submitted to a Pathological Laboratory for complete identification.

I subsequently received a copy of the report of Dr. Pike, Pathologist at the Peace Memorial Hospital, Watford, in which he confirmed my findings that the foreign matter was of animal tissue and stated that it was derived from some amphibian or reptile, but owing to its state of decomposition he was unable to say precisely.

#### WATER.

I was asked to examine a sample of Water taken from the Deep Bore Well at the premises of the Hertfordshire Ice and Cold Storage Co. Ltd., Watford.

A full chemical and bacteriological examination of this Water was made, the results of which indicated that it represented a pure supply and one quite suitable to be used for drinking purposes.

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, your Deputy Chief Inspector, Mr. K.H. Marsden, and their colleagues in the Public Health Office at Watford.

(Signed) C.W. McHugo,

Public Analyst for the  
Borough of Watford."

#### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

##### 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.	55	52	-	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	357	397	7	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	23	8	1	-
Total	435	457	8	-



Cases in which defects were found.

	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)	-	3	-	1	-
Overcrowding (Sec.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperatures (Sec.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (Sec.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec.7)					
(a) insufficient	3	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	10	18	-	1	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act.	-	2	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>

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

18 factories were surveyed during the year in connection with the requirements of the above-mentioned Section of the Factories Act, 1937, and as a result nine new certificates were issued. The Chief Sanitary Inspector is the Corporation's Authorised Officer for this work.

With the co-operation of the Borough Engineer plans of proposed factories or alterations to existing premises are submitted to this department for observation. This procedure has proved most beneficial and has justified the time spent on such examination.

Part VIII - Outwork (Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	Number of out-workers as required by Sec. 110 (1) (c).
Artificial flowers - making etc. ...	35
Brushmaking ...	24
Carpet making ...	1
Cardboard making for fireworks ...	1
Lampshades - painting ...	1
Leather and plastic work ...	17
Wearing apparel making ...	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>



SHOPS ACT, 1950.

During the year the Council decided that it was no longer necessary to make an order under the Defence Regulations for the early closing of shops during the winter months. The general closing hours of shops as prescribed by the Shops Act, 1950 now applies throughout the whole year.

A summary of the work carried out under Shops legislation is set out in the following table:-

Routine visits to shops and inspection of records	...	1,090
Visits to shops regarding early closing Day	...	157
Evening visits to shops and observations after legal closing hours	...	6
Visits to shops in respect of Sunday trading	...	70
Number of infringements investigated and appropriate action taken to remedy matters complained of	...	93
New shops added to records	...	22
Shops closed down	...	9

ERADICATION OF INSECT PESTS

Number of premises dealt with for bugs by the Department		
Council houses	...	2
Other houses	...	10
Number of Council houses dealt with for bugs by the Housing Department	...	-
Number of premises dealt with for other insect pests by the Health Department	...	10
Total		22

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Towards the end of the year it became apparent that the two rodent operatives employed by the Council could not carry out all the rodent destruction work that was necessary. A third employee in the Department, who was relieved of some of his other duties, was trained in this work and now spends about half his time as a rodent operative.

With the co-operation of the Borough Engineer the public sewers were subjected to two rat destruction campaigns in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

The Council has continued its policy of providing a free service for domestic dwellings.

The following statistics, as required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, show the work carried out by the rodent destruction section during 1952:-



	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District. (Notes 1 & 2)	79	21,328	4	1,851	23,262
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result of (a) notification (b) survey or otherwise (Notes 1, 2 & 3).	(a) -	747	-	38	785
	(b) 79	911	2	1,667	2,659
III. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be infested by rats (Notes 1, 2 & 3).	Major-	-	-	-	-
	Minor 13	283	-	10	306
IV. Number of properties inspected (see Section II) which were found to be seriously infested by mice. (Notes 1, 2 & 3)	-	-	-	-	-
V. Number of infested properties (see Sections III & IV) treated by the Local Authority (Notes 1, 2 & 3).	13	283	-	10	306
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4.	-	-	-	-	-
1. Treatment	-	-	-	-	-
2. Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	-	-	-	-	-
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by the Local Authority following the issue of a notice under Section 4.	-	-	-	-	-
VIII. Legal Proceedings	-	-	-	-	-
IX. Number of "block" control schemes carried out	112				



NOTES

- Note 1 (a) With the exception of agricultural properties, a property means one which is entered separately in the Valuation Roll for the area.  
 (b) Only properties devoted to agricultural or horticultural production, in respect of which returns are made under the Agriculture Act, 1947, should be entered as agricultural properties.
- Note 2 (a) Council houses should be entered in Column (2).  
 (b) Premises used by the Local Authority for the purposes of trade should be entered in Column (4).  
 (c) Sewers should not be included.  
 (d) Combined dwelling and business premises, where occupied by the same person, should be regarded as business premises and should be entered in Column (4). Where the dwelling and business parts of the premises are in separate occupation, separate entries should be made in Columns (2) and (4).
- Note 3 For the purpose of completing Sections II, III, IV and V, each property should be entered once only in respect of inspections, infestations or treatments.

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The total number of notifications received during the year was 476 compared with 1,787 in 1951. After correction the total was reduced to 473. The reduction in notifications is accounted for by the drop in measles.

	Notifications	Confirmed
Scarlet Fever ...	107	106
Diphtheria ...	-	-
Poliomyelitis - paralytic ...	5	6
"    - non-paralytic	2	2
Meningococcal Infections ...	8	6
Pneumonia ...	15	15
Erysipelas ...	6	6
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	-	-
Infective Hepatitis and Catarrhal Jaundice	26	26
Whooping Cough ...	39	38
Measles ...	239	239
Acute Encephalitis (Post Infectious)	-	-
Food Poisoning ...	15	17
Dysentery ...	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever ...	12	10
	476	473

Scarlet Fever.

There were nearly twice as many notifications as in 1951, over half of them



being in the first quarter of the year. Cases were sporadic throughout the Borough.

Diphtheria.

No cases were notified during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

It will be seen that by comparison with the 1951 figures, which are inserted in parenthesis, the number of children immunised in 1952 is slightly fewer than in the previous year. It cannot be stressed too highly that although diphtheria has virtually disappeared from this area, in order to maintain this freedom an adequate level of immunity is essential. Consistent publicity is the only really effective method of keeping immunisation constantly in the minds of parents of young children, and in this work, local authority staff have a most important part to play.

Immunisation figures, 1952.

	Under 5.	5 - 14.	Total.	Reinforcing
(a) By County Staff:				
In Watford Borough	525 (595)	138 (94)	663 (689)	1387 (1152)
In remaining areas of South-West Herts.	557 (697)	140 (184)	697 (881)	1169 (1519)
(b) By General Practitioners, South-West Herts.	656 (549)	43 (61)	699 (610)	179 (96)
Total	1738 (1841)	321 (339)	2059 (2180)	2735 (2767)

Poliomyelitis.

Eight cases were recorded in 1952 (six of them paralytic and two non-paralytic). No deaths occurred.

Age Groupings

3 - 8 years    Five cases.                      15 - 24 years    Three cases.

All the cases were admitted to Holywell Hospital and then transferred for orthopaedic treatment according to their requirements.

Whooping Cough

There were only 39 notifications compared with 160 in 1951, over half occurring during the first quarter of the year.

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

The figures for 1952 were as follows:-

1st Visits	...	344
Revisits	...	622
Total injections given		966



#### Meningococcal Infection.

Eight cases were notified, six being confirmed.

There were two deaths, one a baby of four months, the other a girl of fifteen, who was not notified as a case.

#### Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.

During the year one outbreak of paratyphoid B fever occurred involving ten cases. The outbreak is referred to earlier in the report under the heading of "Food Poisoning".

#### Infective Hepatitis and Catarrhal Jaundice.

There were only 26 notifications compared with 66 in 1951, the cases were scattered throughout the town and were spread fairly evenly over the year.

#### Smallpox.

Four smallpox contacts, none of them very intimate and all of them vaccinated were kept under close supervision. All remained well.

#### Vaccination against Smallpox.

1229 children under five years were vaccinated in South-West Hertfordshire, with the probability that approximately half of them lived in the Borough. This represents a slight increase over the figures for 1951 (1206).

#### Measles.

There were only 239 notifications in 1952 compared with 1410 in 1951. No deaths occurred.

#### Acute Encephalitis.

No cases occurred.

#### Food Poisoning.

29 cases of food poisoning occurred during the year as compared with 16 cases in 1951. They are referred to earlier in the report.

#### Dysentery.

No cases occurred.

#### Scabies.

14 cases were treated in their own homes. It was not necessary to use hospital facilities.

#### Tuberculosis.

There were 84 notifications compared with 106 in 1951, 78 in 1950, 61 in 1949 and 89 in 1948.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	-
5	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15	4	3	1	-	1	-	1	-
20	10	5	-	1	1	1	-	-
25	9	7	1	1	-	-	-	-
35	7	6	1	2	2	1	-	-
45	6	2	-	-	2	-	-	-
55	7	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
65 and upwards	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-
Untraced	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	46	27	5	6	7	2	2	-

It is difficult to draw firm conclusions from these figures. As will be seen they fluctuate from year to year. During the past few years, however, the campaign against tuberculosis has been intensified in several directions. Not only through the medium of mass radiography, but by systematic x-ray examination of selected groups of the population, search for the open (infective) case of tuberculosis has continued with increasing vigour. Moreover, treatment of this disease has been greatly aided by the introduction of certain new drugs (streptomycin, para-amino-salicylic acid and others) which, in combination with other and more orthodox forms of treatment are bringing a considerably greater number of patients within the scope of cure. It is against the background of the above factors that the overall reduction in mortality from tuberculosis of over 50% in the past five years must be viewed.

#### Mass Radiography Unit.

This unit visited Watford during the latter part of the year. No report is so far available.

#### Venereal Diseases.

These cases are treated at Shrodells Hospital Special Clinic.

#### Cancer.

145 deaths took place in 1952 compared with 121 in 1951, 120 in 1950, 151 in 1949 and 133 in 1948.



Case No.	Age	Sex	Occupation	Onset	Duration	Course	Remarks
1	45	M	Farmer	1952	6 months	Chronic	...
2	52	F	Teacher	1953	3 months	Acute	...
3	38	M	Engineer	1954	1 year	Chronic	...
4	60	F	Homemaker	1955	2 years	Chronic	...
5	41	M	Businessman	1956	9 months	Chronic	...
6	55	F	Retailer	1957	4 months	Acute	...
7	35	M	Scientist	1958	1 year	Chronic	...
8	65	F	Retired	1959	3 years	Chronic	...
9	48	M	Writer	1960	7 months	Chronic	...
10	58	F	Nurse	1961	5 months	Acute	...

It is difficult to draw firm conclusions from these figures as well as to compare them with the results of other studies. The present study is limited by the small number of cases and the retrospective design. The results of this study are in agreement with those of other studies which have shown that the overall incidence of this disease is increasing in the United States. It is suggested that further studies be conducted to determine the exact nature and extent of this disease.

This study was conducted at the National Hospital for the Deaf and Blind in Washington, D.C. The results of this study are in agreement with those of other studies which have shown that the overall incidence of this disease is increasing in the United States. It is suggested that further studies be conducted to determine the exact nature and extent of this disease.

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