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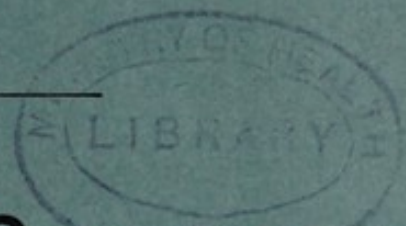
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BOROUGH OF WATFORD



Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

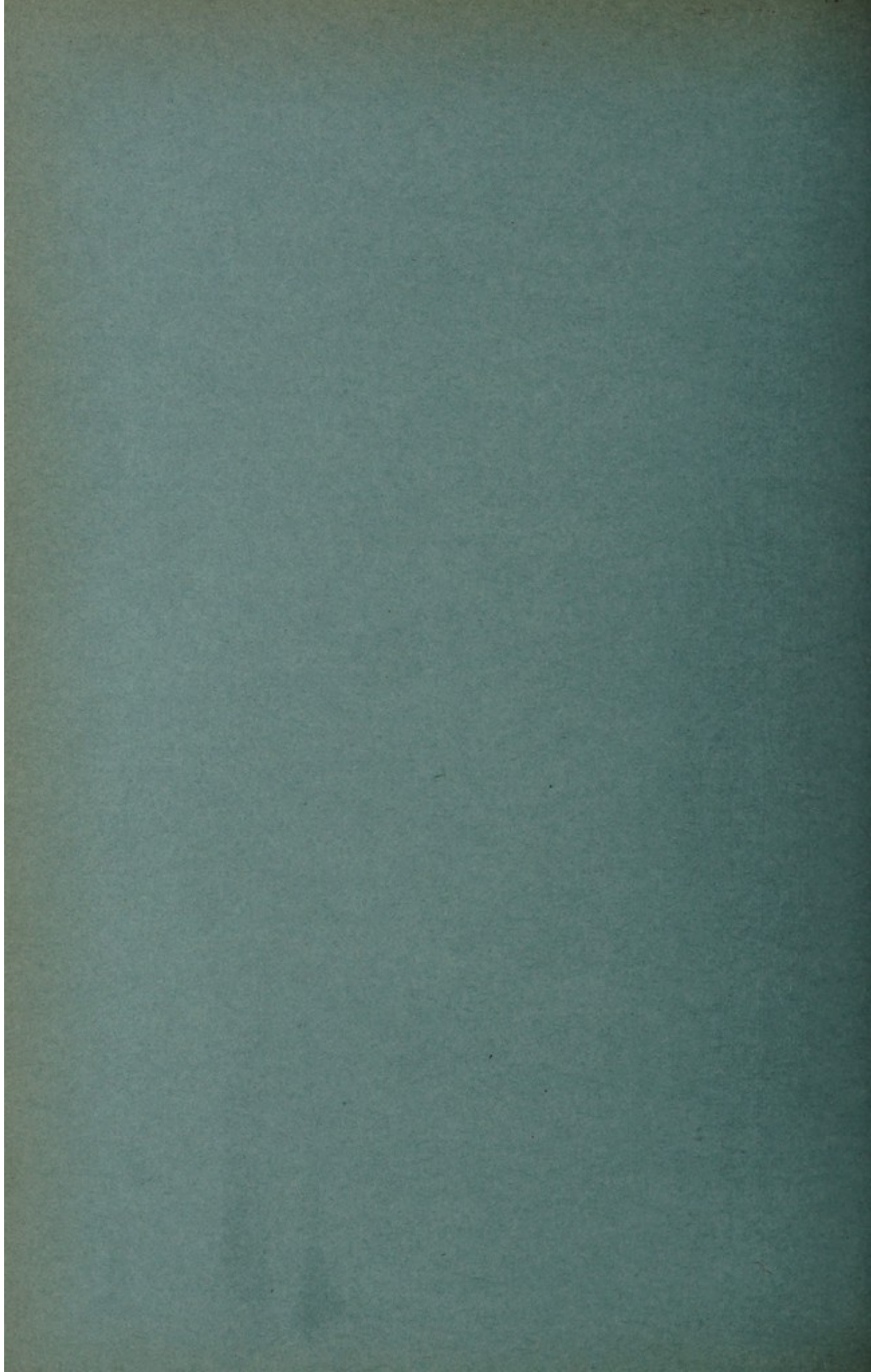
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1953

W. ALCOCK
M.B., Ch.B., B. Hy., 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

1952 - 1953

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

Councillor H.A.E. Mounter
Councillor Mrs. M. Higgins
Alderman L.C. Johnson
Alderman L.E. Haines

Alderman J. Davis
Alderman T.H. Simmons,
resigned 20.2.53.
Alderman F.H. Vince
Alderman J. Wright
Councillor Mrs. E. Brooks
Councillor L.W. Edwards
Councillor W. Heath

Councillor G.W. Knox,
from January, 1953.
Councillor F. Mackenzie,
from January, 1953.
Councillor H.G.B. Marlow
Councillor G.A. Musk
Councillor A.W. Reynolds
Councillor Miss D.M. Scawen
Councillor C.W. Tyrwhitt,
died 3.11.52.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health, and Divisional Medical Officer for South-West Hertfordshire:-

W. Alcock, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Miss M. Ward, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Acting Medical Officer of Health to 1.2.53.)

Senior Sanitary Inspector:-

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

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector:-

ESxs=D K.H. Marsden, F.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

District Sanitary Inspectors:-

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

Inspector under Shops Act:-

A. Corke.

Clerical Staff:-

‡ Miss M. Sherlock.
Miss M. Johnson
Miss M. Kemp (left 13.9.53).
Miss M. Coughlan (commenced 21.9.53.)

- ‡ Part-time Officer.
+ Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.
= Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
D 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, 1954.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1953. A review of the statistics presented shows that although certain trends indicate a satisfactory position so far as the health of the borough as a whole is concerned, there are indications that in some directions, the position is less satisfactory.

The infantile mortality rate (25.9) is lower than that for England and Wales (26.8) and most of the other indices of health for the borough compare favourably with national standards, being only slightly above or below them in most cases.

There was, however, a sharp rise in the incidence of infectious diseases, but this was almost entirely due to a heavy incidence of measles and whooping cough. So far as the latter disease is concerned this is to be regretted, for a prophylactic of proved reliability is now available against it. Fortunately modern drug treatment has greatly mitigated the serious nature of this disease and there were, in fact, no deaths among the 435 confirmed cases.

The outbreak of measles was noteworthy in that the number of cases recorded (1535) was the highest since the disease became notifiable. We have unfortunately no method of immunising children against measles (except by a method which gives such brief protection that its use on a large scale is not practicable) and biennial visitations of this disease are the rule. Only one death occurred.

There were nine cases of poliomyelitis, six of the paralytic form and three of the non-paralytic. Three patients died. Every case was fully investigated but no association between cases was found. Such action as was possible was, however, taken to limit the movements of contacts.

During the year 81 new cases of tuberculosis were discovered. This is a large number when it is remembered that tuberculosis is an essentially preventable disease and we should be constantly asking ourselves if we are doing all we can by way of prevention. Notwithstanding the spectacular decline in mortality this disease claimed nearly 9,000 victims in England and Wales during 1953.

I should like to draw attention to certain aspects of the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report. A considerable amount of work has been carried out by the Inspectors in connection with atmospheric pollution and thanks to a large measure of co-operation from industrial concerns their efforts in this direction have met with considerable success. It must, however, be emphasised that this problem is not confined to industry, for, in the aggregate, domestic smoke contributes an equally high degree of atmospheric pollution. It is to this aspect

that we must turn if our efforts to secure clean air are to be further intensified.

Your Inspectors are active in the prosecution of a clean food campaign and it is gratifying to record that a large measure of collaboration is being obtained from the food trades in the Borough. Most members of the Council will recall the anxiety felt a few years ago at the high incidence of bovine tuberculosis found in slaughtered animals. It would appear from the marked decrease of recent years that the Government's policy aimed at the eradication of tuberculosis in cattle is now becoming effective.

Finally, I wish to place on record my gratitude to the Council as a whole for the warmth of their greeting to me as a newcomer and for the support they have given me during my first year of office. I am also greatly indebted to all the members of my staff for their loyal co-operation and for the hard work which they undoubtedly put in during the period under review.

I should also like to thank my Chief Officer colleagues and members of their staffs for all the help they have given me during 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 1953 ...	...	...	72,610
Number of inhabited houses (estimated) ...	...	...	20,850
Rateable value at 1.4.53. ...	...	...	687,797
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	...	...	£2,810

Number of Live Births -	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	487	438	925
Illegitimate	25	16	41
	<u>512</u>	<u>454</u>	<u>966</u>

Number of Still Births -

Legitimate	9	8	17
Illegitimate	-	1	1
	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>18</u>

Total number of Births (Live and Still)	...	984
Total number of Deaths	...	864

Causes of Death:-

	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	9	12
Tuberculosis, other ...	2	-
Syphilitic disease ...	1	-
Diphtheria ...	-	-
Whooping Cough ...	-	-
Meningococcal Infections ...	2	1
Acute poliomyelitis ...	-	3
Measles ...	-	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	26	17
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	27	26
Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	10	23
Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	5	8
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	71	61
Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	6	3
Diabetes ...	5	8
Vascular lesions of nervous system	97	106
Coronary disease, angina ...	107	124
Hypertension with heart disease ..	12	12
Other heart disease ...	153	134
Other circulatory disease ...	39	38
Influenza ...	1	10
Pneumonia ...	46	62
Bronchitis ...	44	62
Other diseases of respiratory system	5	7
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	9	8
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	5	2
	<u>683</u>	<u>732</u>

C/ Fwd

	B/Fwd	683	732
Nephritis and nephrosis	...	4	7
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	3	7
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	-	3
Congenital malformations	...	6	6
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	74	68
Motor vehicle accidents	...	6	14
All other accidents	...	32	17
Suicide	...	10	9
Homicide and operations of war	...	1	1
All causes	...	<u>819</u>	<u>864</u>

Infantile Deaths (under 1 year) -	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	12	11	23
Illegitimate	2	-	2
	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>25</u>

Birth Rate and Death Rate, 1953.

	Watford	England and Wales	London Administrative County	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) -				
Live Births	13.3	15.5	17.5	17.0
Still Births	0.25	0.35	0.38	0.43
Death Rate (per 1,000 population) -				
All causes	11.9	11.4	12.5	12.2
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Influenza	0.14	0.16	0.15	0.15
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.17	0.20	0.24	0.24
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Acute Poliomyelitis (including Polioencephalitis)	0.03	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia	0.85	0.55	0.64	0.59
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years per 1,000 live births)	N.K.	1.1	1.1	1.3
Maternal Mortality Rate - (per 1,000 total births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.00	0.10		
Other puerperal causes	3.05	0.66		
All puerperal causes	3.05	0.76		

Infant Mortality Rate -

	Watford
All infants, per 1,000 live births	25.9
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births	24.9
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births	48.8

COMPARATIVE RATES

	<u>Watford</u> <u>1953</u>	<u>Watford</u> <u>1952</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales 1953.</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales 1952.</u>
Birth Rate (live births)	13.3	14.1	15.5	15.9
Death Rate ...	11.9	11.1	11.4	11.3
Infant Mortality Rate	25.9	25.2	26.8	27.6
Maternal Mortality Rate	3.05	0.00	0.76	0.72

Comments -

(1) Infectious Diseases.

There was a considerable increase in the incidence of infectious disease during the year, due almost entirely to a heavy incidence of measles and whooping cough. The measles epidemic started in December, 1952 and lasted until the end of June, 1953. There was one death during the year.

Nine cases of poliomyelitis occurred, six of the paralytic form and three of the non-paralytic.

Seven outbreaks of food poisoning involving ten persons were notified during 1953. Further details are given under the heading of "Food Poisoning".

(2) Violence.

Fourteen persons lost their lives in motor vehicle accidents in Watford (six last year). There were six fatal home accidents compared with six last year; five were over the age of seventy and the other was a child of under one.

(3) Birth Rate.

The birth rate fell slightly to 13.3 (14.1 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. infants weighing 5½ lbs. or under at birth, the figures are 6.1% in 1953 and 5.8% in 1952. Putting these premature births into their weight group they can be tabulated as follows:-

2 lbs. and under	...	4
2 lbs. to 3 lbs.	...	3
3 lbs. to 4 lbs.	...	5
4 lbs. to 5 lbs.	...	28
5 lbs. to 5½ lbs.	...	19

Fifteen deaths took place amongst these children (males 8, females 7). Eight during the first 24 hours, six whilst under one week old and one at two weeks old. No premature babies died within the first month after discharge from hospital.

(4) Still Birth Rate.

The rate of 18.6 is a decrease on last year.

Classifying the reason for the various still-births where it could be ascertained 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>	<u>1953</u>
Prematurity and Toxaemia	4	3	5	1	2
Prematurity and other causes	1	1	2	4	4
Toxaemia	5	4	3	14	19
Malformation	7	7	8	10	8
Birth injury	9	14	14	16	9
Placental Disease ...	3	2	4	2	2
Erythroblastosis ...	2	2	7	6	4
Maternal Disease ...	5	3	5	5	-
Abnormality of Cord ...	1	4	10	10	6
Cause unknown ...	4	6	3	4	-
	<u>41</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>54</u>

(5) Deaths in Infancy.

The infantile mortality rate (the number of deaths of infants under one year per thousand live births).

The figure of 25.9 is slightly above last year (25.2) but is still below the national figure of 26.8.

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>	<u>1953</u>
Prematurity ...	15	5	3	5	5	6	3
Malformation ...	5	2	1	5	3	6	5
Birth Injuries ...	-	3	3	4	4	2	4
Collapse of lung ..	3	4	3	2	2	3	6
Respiratory diseases	8	1	3	2	1	4	6
Other diseases of infancy	6	4	5	3	2	1	-
Infectious diseases	-	4	2	3	-	1	-
Accidents ...	2	2	-	-	2	3	1
Not traced ...	2	3	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>41</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>25</u>

Of the twenty five infant deaths occurring in 1953, eight died within 24 hours, a further six less than a week old and another three whilst still under one month old, leaving eight during the next eleven months.

The neo-natal death rate was therefore 17.6 compared with 19.4 in 1952.

(6) Death Rate.

The rate of 11.9 was slightly higher than last year. Three maternal deaths occurred.

(7) Sex of Infants.

The sex ratio of 1,128 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
1953	46	43

(9) 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.

(10) 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.

(11) 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 one occasion (two in 1952).

SECTION "B"

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

The total number of notifications received during the year was 2123 compared with 476 in 1952. After correction the total was 2122. The increase in notifications is accounted for by the high incidence of measles.

	Notifications	Confirmed
Scarlet Fever	82	82
Diphtheria	-	-
Poliomyelitis - paralytic	7	6
" - Non-paralytic	2	3
Meningococcal Infections	2	2
Pneumonia	24	24
Erysipelas	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-
Infective Hepatitis and Catarrhal Jaundice	14	14
Whooping Cough	435	435
Measles	1535	1535
Acute Encephalitis (Post Infectious)	1	-
Food Poisoning	10	10
Dysentery	8	8
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-
	2123	2122

Scarlet Fever.

There were fewer notifications in 1953, 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 1952 figures, which are inserted in parenthesis, the number of children immunised in 1953 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, 1953

	Under 5.	5 - 14.	Total	Reinforcing
(a) By County Staff:				
In Watford Borough	508 (525)	141 (138)	649 (663)	999 (1387)
In remaining areas of S. West Herts.	531 (557)	205 (140)	736 (697)	1295 (1169)
(b) By General Practitioners, South-West Herts,	532 (656)	50 (43)	582 (699)	114 (179)
Total	1571 (1738)	396 (321)	1967 (2059)	2408 (2735)

Poliomyelitis.

Nine cases were recorded in 1953 (six of them paralytic and three non-paralytic). There were three deaths, two adults and a child of twelve years.

Age Groupings

5 - 12 years six cases. 28 - 37 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 435 notifications compared with 39 in 1952.

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

The figures for 1953 were as follows:-

1st Visits	...	532
Revisits	...	840
Total injections given		1372

Meningococcal Infection.

Two cases were notified, one of whom died.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.

No cases.

Infective Hepatitis and Catarrhal Jaundice.

There were only fourteen notifications compared with twenty six in 1952, the cases were scattered throughout the town and were spread fairly evenly over the year.

Smallpox.

No smallpox contacts were investigated.

Vaccination against Smallpox.

1258 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 1952 (1229).

Measles.

There were 1535 notifications in 1953 compared with 239 in 1952. There was one death.

Acute Encephalitis.

One case was notified but the diagnosis was not confirmed.

Food Poisoning.

10 cases of food poisoning occurred during the year as compared with 29 cases in 1952. They are referred to later in the report.

Dysentery.

Eight cases were notified.

Scabies.

No cases of scabies were treated during the year.

Tuberculosis.

There were 81 notifications compared with 84 in 1952, 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	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	3	7	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	5	9	-	-	2	-	-	-
25	9	11	-	2	-	-	-	-
35	9	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	4	1	-	-	5	-	-	-
55	6	1	-	-	2	-	-	-
65 and upwards	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-
Untraced	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	41	38	-	2	12	-	-	-

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.

No visit was paid by the unit during the year.

Venereal Diseases.

These cases are treated at Shrodells Hospital Special Clinic.

Cancer.

138 deaths took place in 1953 compared with 145 in 1952, 121 in 1951, 120 in 1950, 151 in 1949 and 133 in 1948.

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:-

1. The supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality throughout the year 1953. Of the 1,043,000,000 gallons of water supplied to the Borough approximately one third was softened at the Watford Fields Pumping Station. No progress has been made in obtaining government sanction to install softening plant at the Grove Pumping Station which would enable the whole supply throughout the Statutory Area to be softened.

2. Bacteriological examinations of the supply were made regularly, as follows:-

Watford Fields Supply:-

Raw Water	Monthly
Treated Water	Weekly
High Level Reservoir	Monthly
Low Level Reservoir	Fortnightly

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.

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 two samples from the Watford Fields Pumping Station supply which was caused by bacteria of a non-faecal type but which eliminated before going into supply, all the analyses showed the supply to be of a high standard of bacterial purity.

Bacterial analyses of samples taken quarterly from the Oxhey 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 positions:-

4. (a) Temporary Dwellings at:-

106, Leavesden High Road.	Caravan dwellers have a standpipe in yard (population 3).
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).
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).
"Elmcott", North Orbital Road, (bungalow)	One family uses standpipe supply (in place of disused well, population 3).

SANITARY INSPECTION.

The following table is a record of the visits and inspections made by the sanitary inspectors during the year 1953.

<u>Houses -</u>				
Public Health Act	...	...	...	349
Housing Act	...	...	...	219
Overcrowding	...	...	...	48
<u>Factories -</u>				
Factories with Mechanical Power (including Bakehouses, Food Factories, etc.)				362
Factories without Mechanical Power				43
Workplaces	...	...	...	67
Outworkers	...	...	...	51
<u>Rats and Mice Infestation -</u>				
Premises Inspected	...	...	...	149
Other Visits	...	...	...	89
Sewer Baiting	...	...	...	12
<u>General -</u>				
Refuse Accommodation	...	...	...	304
Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	310
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	70
Theatres, Cinemas, etc.	...	...	...	31
Public Houses	...	...	...	66
Schools	...	...	...	6
Smoke Observations and Industrial Nuisances				371
Vacant Land and Dumps				112
Verminous Premises - initial inspections ..				34
Fly Prevention ..				5
Other Insect Pests				35
Drainage Inspections and Tests				612
Cesspools				8
Infectious Diseases				185
Common Yards and Passages				24
Petroleum Acts ..				171
Shops Acts				118
Interviews with Owners				526
Miscellaneous Visits				707
Petty Sessions				27
Office Survey ...				24
Housing Survey ..				84
<u>Revisits to Premises Under Notice.</u>				
Public Health Act - Houses				326
Public Health Act - Others				200
Housing Act ..				1,799
Other Revisits .				7
			C/Fwd	7,551

	B/Fwd	7,551
<u>Meat and Foods -</u>		
Slaughterhouses	2,841
Visits re Food Inspection	443
Butchers Shops	51
Fishmongers and Poulterers	62
Fried Fish Shops	47
Grocers, Greengrocers and Fruiterers	19
Dairies and Milk Shops	37
Ice Cream Premises	51
Restaurants and Dining Rooms	296
Preserved Food Rooms	44
Milk Samples	68
Ice Cream Samples	58
Food (Adulteration) Samples	109
Food (Bacteriological) Samples	146
Public Market	329
Bakehouses	125
Other Food Premises	18
Food Hygiene Lectures	4
		12,299
Number of complaints received and investigated		1,049

HOUSING

Watford is a modern town. Most of its development has taken place during the last hundred years and the standard of housing is a comparatively high one.

Nearly all the slum properties were demolished in a vigorous slum clearance campaign before the war, and it can be said that apart from the housing shortage, the problem in the Borough today is not so much slums as obsolescent houses and cottages in disrepair.

The high cost of repairs in low-rented properties, of which I have made mention in previous annual reports, has made the enforcement of housing repair work more difficult, but it has not provided an insuperable obstacle in Watford to the operation of Part II of the Housing Act, 1936.

During 1953, 135 Housing Act and 60 Public Health Act notices were served requiring the repair of dwelling houses, and in only 29 cases was it necessary for the Council to serve statutory notices. Eleven of these had to be enforced by the Council executing the repairs in default of the owners.

Altogether during the post-war years 1018 Housing Act and 186 Public Health Act notices have been served requiring the remedy of serious housing defects.

Eight cottages at Ganders Ash, Leavesden, and one in Munden Drive - all owned by the Corporation - were demolished during the year because they were incapable of repair at reasonable cost.

A cottage, number 79b St. Albans Road, Watford, was voluntarily closed by the owner following representations by the Council as to its unfitness for human habitation.

Altogether, since the end of the war, 16 unfit houses within the Borough have been demolished and 2 have been closed.

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

<u>Houses -</u>				
Roofs Repaired or Renewed	...	...		130
Walls Repointed, Rendered or Repaired	...	...		44
Wallplaster Repaired	...	...		155
Floors Repaired or Renewed	...	...		27
Ceilings Repaired or Renewed	...	...		38
Windows Repaired or Renewed	...	...		143
Fireplaces Repaired or Renewed	...	...		17
Cooking Ranges Repaired or Renewed	...	...		1
Sinks Provided or Renewed	...	...		4
Waste Pipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...		19
Repairs to Water Supplies	...	...		11
Rainwater Pipes Repaired or Renewed	..	...		85
Eaves Guttering Repaired or Renewed	..	...		123
Food Stores Provided or Renewed	...	...		1
Stairs Repaired or Renewed	...	...		2
Doors Repaired or Renewed	...	...		37
Coalhouses Provided or Repaired	...	...		1
Chimneys and Stacks Repaired or Abolished	...	...		46
Yards, etc., Paved or Repaired	...	...		3
Damp Proof Courses Provided	...	...		35
Rooms Cleansed and Redecorated	...	...		7
Additional Lighting Provided	...	...		2
Additional Ventilation Provided	...	...		1
Sub-Floor Ventilation Improved	...	...		2
<u>Drainage -</u>				
Drains or Sewers Cleared of Obstruction	...	...		80
Drains or Sewers Repaired or Reconstructed	...	...		35
Inspection Chambers Provided	...	...		1
Soil Pipes, Vent Shafts, etc., Repaired or Renewed	...	...		6
<u>Water Closets -</u>				
Additional Provided	...	...		1
Compartments Repaired	...	...		32
Pedestals Renewed	...	...		23
Cisterns Repaired or Renewed	...	...		26
Flushpipes Repaired or Renewed	...	...		19
<u>Miscellaneous -</u>				
Dustbins Provided	...	...		165
Offensive Accumulations Removed	...	...		5
Animals - Nuisances Abated	...	...		1
Verminous Rooms Disinfested	...	...		22
				1,350

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

Throughout the year it has been necessary to report to the Health Committee the unauthorised placing of caravans on several unlicensed sites and, in particular, on vacant land adjoining Tolpits Lane and the Watford By-Pass.

Many of the offenders are nomadic gipsies who can be induced to move-on by informal action on the part of the sanitary inspectors but, unfortunately, some of them just move from one site to another within the Borough each one adding to the general fouling of the sites.

The time which elapses between the placing of a caravan and eventual court proceedings has enabled many offenders to move before the Case can be heard. To reduce this delay to the minimum the Council has now appointed a Public Health Sub-Committee with power to act.

During the year legal proceedings have been instituted on five occasions under the provisions of the Hertfordshire County Council Act.

NEW HOUSES

The Borough Engineer has kindly supplied the under-mentioned information regarding new houses erected during 1953.

(a) Number of new houses erected by the Local Authority	369
(b) Number of new houses erected by private enterprise	122

Total number of houses built since 1945:-

(a) By the Local Authority	...	...	2,275
(b) By private enterprise	...	...	501

The Borough Treasurer has kindly supplied the following information:-

(a) Number of Council houses occupied on 31st December, 1953	- 4,036	
(b) Number of requisitioned premises ..	...	55
(c) Number of families housed in requisitioned premises		110

ADMINISTRATION - NOTICES

	Served	Complied with	Outstanding at 31st Dec. 1953
Public Health Act, 1936:			
Informal ...	154	108	95
Statutory ...	59	47	15
Housing Act, 1936:			
Informal ...	135	221	38
Statutory ...	25	36	6
Factories Act, 1937:			
Informal ...	14	16	20
Food and Drugs Act, 1938:	30	46	19
	417	474	193

DUSTBINS

In accordance with the policy adopted by the Council 55 statutory notices were served during 1953 on the owners or the occupiers of premises requiring the provision of dustbins. In 7 cases the notices were enforced by the supply of dustbins in default.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

During the year 371 observations were made by the sanitary inspectors in connection with emissions of smoke and obnoxious fumes from industrial premises.

A considerable amount of work was incurred by the emission of hydro-fluoric acid fumes from a glass factory within the Borough. The assistance of the Public Analyst was obtained to assess the importance of these emissions, in particular, by estimating the fluorine content of samples of soil and vegetation from gardens adjoining the factory and by the fluorine content of air samples. The report of the Public Analyst revealed that a serious nuisance existed in the area.

The Factory Manager has now agreed to increase the height of the fume stack and to carry out improvements to the "scrubbing box". Further observations will be made when these works are completed.

A smoke nuisance from the oil-fired boiler plant at a local laundry was abated by the execution of certain improvements to the plant and the installation of photo-electric cell warning equipment. Unfortunately, it was necessary to institute legal proceedings before this nuisance was abated.

Intermittent smoke nuisances from two other laundries ceased when the premises were taken over by other industries.

As a result of joint action with the Sanitary Inspector of a neighbouring authority a smoke nuisance from a factory in the Leavesden area was abated.

Although we have been able to reduce the amount of atmospheric pollution by visible smoke emissions from industrial chimneys, the more important public health problems of sulphur acids in flue gases and smoke emissions from domestic chimneys remain unchanged.

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

129 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.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

The sanitary inspectors and the shops inspector have been appointed by the Council as officers under Section 4 of the Act. Twelve persons were licensed to keep pet shops within the Borough. It has not been necessary to report to the Council any offences under the provisions of this Act.

THE HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952

The sanitary inspectors have been appointed by the Council, as authorised officers under Section 2 of the Act, to inspect and test appliances required to be fitted with guards. The Regulations made under the Act came into operation on 1st October, 1953, but appliances manufactured before that date may be sold until 1st October, 1954.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

During 1953 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 49 carcasses)	38,097
Pork (including 70 carcasses)	10,561
Lamb (including 10 carcasses)	850
Veal (including 38 carcasses)	1,619
 <u>Offal from Bovines -</u>	
596 Heads	17,884
546 Tongues	2,676
2215 Sets Lungs	24,150
130 Hearts	648
1220 Livers and 987 Part Livers	25,648
241 Spleens	482
153 Skirts	218
91 Tripes and 50 Manifolds	3,730
109 Udders	1,893
97 Sets Intestines	2,910
48 Tails	97
230 Mesenteries and Other Fat	4,033
46 Sets Feet	1,104
Blood	2,352
 <u>Offal from Pigs -</u>	
304 Plucks	2,397
159 Livers	600
1346 Sets Lungs	4,517
330 Heads and Tongues	5,489
310 Other Organs	1,456
 <u>Offal from Sheep and Lambs -</u>	
194 Plucks	874
1541 Livers	3,502
802 Lungs	1,646
38 Other Organs	1,650
115 Heads and Tongues	629
C/ Fwd.	161,712

						lbs.
					E/ Fwd. ...	161,712
<u>Offal from Calves -</u>						
70	Heads	...	...	...		381
85	Plucks	...	...	...		350
79	Other Organs	...	...	...		277
<u>MEAT AND OFFAL CONDEMNED IN RETAIL AND MANUFACTURING PREMISES.</u>						
	Beef	...	...	...		2,123
	Pork	...	...	...		421
	Lamb	...	...	...		62
	Poultry	...	...	...		4
	Beef Offal	...	...	...		124
<u>IMPORTED MEAT -</u>						
	Beef	...	...	...		1,326
	Mutton	...	...	...		29
	Pork	...	...	...		12
	Corned Beef	...	...	...		64
<u>OTHER FOODS -</u>						
	Wet Fish	...	...	...		1,429
	Smoked Fish	...	...	...		294
	Cured Fish	...	...	...		28
	45 Cans Ham	...	...	...		521
	29 Cans Corned Meats	...	...	...		35
	3,750 Cans Fruit	...	...	...		5,109
	69 Cans Fruit and Tomato Juices	...	...	...		228
	1,294 Cans Milk	...	...	...		1,253
	527 Cans Various Meats	...	...	...		1,170
	1,073 Cans Vegetables	...	...	...		1,120
	183 Cans Fish	...	...	...		107
	86 Cans Soup...	...	...	...		73
	137 Cans Jam and Marmalade	...	...	...		193
	16 Cans Cereals	...	...	...		12
	Pork and Beef Sausages	...	...	...		318
	429 Cans Tomatoes	...	...	...		475
	140 Jars and Cans Meat and Fish Pastes	...	...	...		17
	Sweets and Chocolates	...	...	...		32
	Cereals	...	...	...		182
	Cooked Meats	...	...	...		155
	1 Can Poultry	...	...	...		3
	Ice Cream	...	...	...		40
	Dried Fruit	...	...	...		121
	Dried Peaches	...	...	...		115
	Fruit Puddings	...	...	...		1
	26 Cans Baby Foods	...	...	...		8
	43 Table Jellies	...	...	...		5
	14 Bottles Pickles and Sauces	...	...	...		9
	Cheese	...	...	...		183
	Ground Rice	...	...	...		112
	3 Cans Beans in Tomato	...	...	...		28
	Shrimps	...	...	...		7
	Dried Peas and Beans	...	...	...		114
	Cakes etc.	...	...	...		158
	Confectionery	...	...	...		310
	66 Jars Sandwich Spread	...	...	...		10
					C/ Fwd.	180,860

		B/ Fwd.	lbs.
86 Cans Hors D'oeuvre	180,860
4 Jars Salad Cream	12
Biscuits	2
14 Cartons Chocolate Spread	14
Peanuts	14
Miscellaneous	8
			180,924

Total weight of meat and other foods condemned - 80 tons, 15 cwt. 1 qr. 16 lbs.

Of the above unsound foods 89.9% compared with 84.1% in 1952, comprised diseased and unsound meat and offal condemned in the Ministry of Food slaughterhouses.

FOOD HYGIENE

Since the "Clean Food" Byelaws came into force the Council has adopted Codes of Hygiene which set minimum standards for the following food trades:-

- Bakers and Confectioners.
- Butchers and Prepared Meat Manufacturers.
- Cafes and Restaurants.
- Grocers.
- Ice Cream Manufacturers and Dealers.
- Licensed Premises.

During the year a detailed investigation was made into the hygiene of fish handling at fishmongers and fried fish premises within the Borough. The findings of this investigation and a draft Code of Hygiene were discussed with members of the Trade at a special meeting which was held in the Avenue Clinic. A Code of Hygiene was agreed and was adopted by the Council in July.

There has been a slow but nevertheless steady improvement in hygiene in the various food trades as the Codes are being implemented. Much work remains to be done before we can say that there is complete compliance with the Codes by all food traders. The new Food and Drugs Bill provides for the making of Regulations controlling hygiene in the different food trades and as each Regulation comes into force the Code will be replaced by a stronger instrument for the advancement of hygiene. More important, perhaps, than stronger legislation is an increased awareness on the part of all food handlers of the dangers of dirty and careless practices - the new Regulations must therefore go hand in hand with a policy of health education.

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

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	22
Bakery and Confectionery Shops	...	...	...	...	43
Butchers	...	...	...	...	56
Fishmongers and Fried Fish	...	...	...	...	27
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	...	...	...	...	49
Grocers	...	...	...	...	113
General shops where food is sold	...	...	...	...	63
Cafes and Restaurants	...	...	...	...	88
Industrial and Commercial Canteens	...	...	...	...	49
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	...	...	6
Ice Cream Dealers	...	...	126
Preserved Food Manufacturers	30

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

Dairies	3
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FOOD POISONING

Seven outbreaks of food poisoning involving 10 persons were notified during 1953.

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

Staphylococcus aureus was indentified as the causative organism in one case, and Salmonella in three others. Duck eggs were suspected to be the vehicle of infection in two of the Salmonella cases.

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

Total Number of Outbreaks	Number of Cases	Number of Deaths	Organisms responsible with number of outbreaks of each.	Foods suspected
7	10	Nil	Staphylococcus aureus - 1	Unknown
			Salmonella typhi-murium 2	Duck eggs - both cases
			Salmonella - 1	Unknown
			Unknown - 3	Unknown

The Public Health Laboratory Service has rendered invaluable assistance in these investigations.

MEAT HYGIENE

Since 1940 Watford has developed as an important centre for the distribution of both imported and home-produced meat. There are two slaughterhouses in the centre of the town which have been requisitioned by the Ministry of Food and some 40,000 head of livestock were slaughtered in these during 1953. The premises were worked to full capacity on many occasions and the greatest care was demanded to prevent a nuisance to the occupiers of adjoining residential and commercial premises.

A constant source of complaint has been the driving of livestock through the town; the Council has again represented to the Ministry that road transport should be provided to prevent cruelty to the animals and disorganisation of the traffic in the High Street.

During the year the Ministry decided to dispose of all condemned and inedible meat and offals by sale by public auction. There appeared to be inadequate safeguards for the public health and the Council viewed the new scheme with considerable alarm. Along with several other local authorities and professional organisations the Watford Corporation made strong representations to the Minister for the imposition of tighter controls. In the light of these representations the Minister revised the conditions of sale to prevent danger to the public health from condemned meat.

The Health Department has co-operated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries' Veterinary Laboratory in research work into parasitic infections of sheep lungs. 184 diseased lungs have been submitted to the Laboratory and some valuable information has been collated. This work is proceeding but it will be completed before the derationing of meat which, it is anticipated, will be in mid-summer 1954.

The following table indicates the extent of tuberculosis and other diseases found on post-mortem examination of the animals slaughtered during the year 1953.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected	5,461	1,576	3,273	21,756	8,789
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	2	34	10	62
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,983	553	28	2,082	1,762
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	34.5	35.2	1.9	9.6	20.8
<u>Tuberculosis Only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	17	29	4	-	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	426	331	-	-	313
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	8.1	22.8	0.1	-	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
1953 ...	34.5	35.2	1.9	9.6	20.8
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
1953 ...	8.1	22.8	0.1	-	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 17 tons in 1953.

CONGENITAL TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 4 calves 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. The cow concerned was slaughtered under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order.

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

270 cases of Cysticercus Bovis were discovered in the 7,037 cattle slaughtered in Watford during 1953. This gives an incidence rate of 3.8% compared with 3.6% for the year 1952 and 4.7% for 1951.

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

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

	External Masseter Muscle	Internal Masseter Muscle	Tongue	Heart	Diaphragm	Other Sites
Viable Cysts	108	33	33	8	2	1
Degenerate Cysts	92	32	-	91	16	-

The cysts in 89 cases (33%) were viable indicating that the infections were of recent origin. This compared with 29% for 1952 and 26% for 1951.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS

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

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS.

24 Licences 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.

MILK SUPPLY.

(a) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

Registrations in respect of three dairies and twenty-four 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 Licences	Supplementary Licences	Total
Tuberculin Tested Milk	9	2	11
Pasteurised Milk	14	3	17
Sterilised Milk	19	1	20

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	...	16
T.T. Pasteurised Milk	...	17
Pasteurised Milk	...	37

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

A large dairy within the Borough has been completely reconstructed during the year. Work is proceeding on the installation of new equipment - particularly the replacement of "holder" by "High Temperature Short Time" pasteurisation plant, and the installation of new milk sterilisation plant.

FOOD AND DRUGS (MILK, DAIRIES AND ARTIFICIAL CREAM) ACT, 1950.

Specification of Areas.

The Council has been notified by the Minister of Food that it is his intention to lay before Parliament a draft order specifying (inter alia) Watford and District as a specified area in which from an appointed day, not earlier than 1st January, 1954, milk of a special designation only may be sold.

ICE CREAM

There are six premises within the Borough in which ice cream is manufactured. The producers are very well aware of the importance of maintaining a high standard of hygiene throughout their processing, storage and distribution.

Samples of ice cream are frequently submitted for bacteriological examination and the following table shows the results of the 57 samples which were taken during 1953.

Grade I	36)	
" II	17	)	93% of total
" III	1	)	satisfactory.
" IV	3)	

Composition

On 1st June, 1953, the Minister of Food restored the standard for ice cream which had been reduced the previous year. The statutory minimum content for ice cream thus became 5 per cent fat; 10 per cent sugar and 7½ per cent milk solids other than fat.

Eight 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 &c.
1.	10.7	13.6	9.3	66.4
2.	10.4	11.4	9.2	69.0
3.	11.1	12.8	9.8	66.3
4.	9.7	10.6	8.6	71.1
5.	9.9	13.8	9.9	66.4
6.	10.3	14.8	9.6	65.3
7.	7.2	14.5	11.9	66.4
8.	10.5	14.1	9.5	65.9

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 1953 is as follows:-

"The number of samples examined under the Food and Drugs Act during the period under review amounted to 102, of which 28 were Formal and 74 Informal.

Of the Formal samples, 25 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>
1952	...	3.67%	8.89%
1953	...	3.58%	8.86%

It will be seen that there has been little change in the percentage of Solids, non Fat, but the average Fat content is slightly lower than in 1952.

The Milks, generally, were of good quality and all of them complied with the Regulations in respect of their composition. They conformed, moreover, to 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 and Beef Sausages, Pork Luncheon Meat, Meat and Fish Paste, Beef Suet, Sponge Mixture, Self Raising Flour, White Flour, Mince-meat, Lemon Curd, Table Jellies, Strawberry and Apricot Jam, Coffee, Gelatine, Baking Powder, Boiled Sweets, Butterscotch.

CONDIMENTS. Salad Cream, Olive Oil, Tomato Ketchup, Curry Powder, Malt Vinegar, Prepared Mustard, White Pepper, Sauce.

DRUGS. Seidlitz Powder, Saccharin, Teething Powder, Blackcurrant Cough Mixture.

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

Since my last Annual Report, the Ministry of Food have replaced the Meat Products (No.3) Order, 1952, by the Canned Corned Meat (Prices) Order, 1953, (S.I. 1953. No.249).

This new Order, which came into operation on the 1st March, discontinues the control of the minimum meat content of Pork and Beef Sausages.

During the past year I have examined eleven samples of Sausages and I am pleased to be able to report that their average Meat Content has been, in most cases, well up to the standard previously in force.

In this connection it is interesting to record that in a recent prosecution the Justices upheld the opinion of the Public Analyst that the minimum acceptable standard for a genuine good quality sausage should be not less than the limits laid down for their Meat Content as set out in the Meat Products Order No. 2257, which is now rescinded.

I found it necessary to report against a sample of Butterscotch which contained only 0.5% of Butter Fat and, therefore, did not comply with the terms of the Code of Practice agreed between the Ministry of Food and the Chocolate and Sugar Confectionery Trade, which prescribed that Butterscotch should contain not less than 4.0% of Fat.

I advised your Chief Inspector that this matter should be brought to the notice of the Manufacturers concerned.

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

Eight samples of Ice Cream were submitted to me for analysis during the year and my findings are set out on page 28 of this report.

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 condition, etc., and I will now refer to these under their separate headings.

SLICED BREAD.

This contained a dark brown foreign substance, embedded in the centre of the slice. When removed and submitted to a chemical examination, the substance was found to be oily in character and to consist of some type of lubricant.

CHOCOLATE CARAMELS.

The complaint in respect of these sweets was that they were of very poor quality. A preliminary examination indicated that the chocolate coat was of a soft consistency and the sweets had a pronounced coconut flavour.

The centres were then analysed and, for purposes of comparison, similar centres from a well-known brand of Chocolate Caramel were also examined. The following results were obtained -

		<u>Sample Complained of</u>	<u>Control Sample</u>
Fat	...	6.1%	14.3%
Sugar	...	68.7%	64.0%

These analyses showed that the sugar content of both Caramels was approximately the same, but the product about which you received the complaint contained much less fat and it had also been admixed with a proportion of desiccated coconut.

The presence of this coconut definitely altered the flavour and character of the sweets and this, no doubt, gave rise to the complaint in question.

SOFT HERRING ROES.

It was alleged that certain tins of these Roes showed evidence of gas formation and were, therefore, regarded as unfit for consumption.

The tin submitted to me had a quite normal appearance and there was no evidence of bulging or internal pressure. When the tin was pierced there was, moreover, no escape of gas and the bacteriological examination failed to reveal the presence of any gas producing or putrefactive bacteria.

I formed the opinion that these Herring Roes were quite sound and in good, edible condition and I could find no grounds for this alleged condition.

TALC POWDER.

This powder was stated to have caused irritation of the skin. The sample submitted consisted of a white powder of normal appearance and the physical examination indicated that it was in a very fine state of division and free from gritty particles.

When submitted to an analysis, in accordance with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia Codex, it was found to substantially conform to all the prescribed tests. When boiled with water the filtrate was quite neutral in reaction, indicating the absence of either acid or alkaline impurities.

Having regard to these results, I was of the opinion that this Talc Powder was well up to pharmaceutical quality and I could find no reason to account for the alleged complaint that it has caused irritation of the skin.

BUTTER.

Two samples of Butter were sent to me with the complaint that they contained a proportion of Margarine. When submitted to an analysis both samples gave quite normal results for genuine butter and I could find no evidence to justify the complaint that they contained either Margarine or other foreign fat.

GLASS WORKS, LIVERPOOL ROAD, WATFORD.

During the year under review I was consulted by your Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Alcock, M.B., who informed me that you had received a number of complaints that the gaseous fumes emitted from the chimney of the above Glass Works were causing damage to the vegetation in the gardens of people living within a certain area of the works.

In order to investigate these complaints, I visited Watford on the 30th July and, in company with Dr. Alcock and your Chief Inspector, Mr. Jacob, inspected these Works and also visited certain houses and gardens near the Glass Works.

I have also examined a number of specimens of leaves and flowers which showed evidence of brown discoloration, and tested them for the presence of traces of fluorine.

Samples of the air have also been tested and the results of these examinations have been communicated to Dr. Alcock in various reports.

I understand that this matter has been brought to the notice of the Glass Works and that plans have been prepared which include the erection of a new chimney, higher than the present one, and also a more efficient scrubbing plant for washing the gases.

When this new plant has been installed, it is to be hoped that the nuisance caused by the emission of these gaseous fumes will be entirely eliminated.

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 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	52	43	1	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	358	362	9	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	21	-	-	-
Total	431	405	10	-

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)	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperatures (Sec.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (Sec.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (Sec.6)	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec.7)					
(a) insufficient	1	2	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	11	13	-	1	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act.	-	-	-	-	-
Total	14	17	-	1	-

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

21 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 8 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).
Wearing apparel making	12
Furniture hangings	1
Cake decorations	2
Cardboard making for fireworks	1
Brushmaking	23
Christmas Crackers etc.	1
Lampshades - painting	1
	41

Underground Bakehouses. - Section 54 - Certificates of Suitability.

The quinquennial review of underground bakehouses within the Borough took place during the year. One underground bakehouse at 89, Vicarage Road was voluntarily closed. The Council renewed the Certificate of Suitability in respect of the one remaining underground bakehouse, which is situated at 24, Langley Road, after the execution of certain improvements.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

Owing to the illness of the Shops Inspector there have been fewer routine inspections made during 1953 than in previous years.

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	156
Visits to shops regarding early closing day	56
Evening visits to shops and observations after legal closing hours	8
Visits to shops in respect of Sunday trading	7
Number of infringements investigated and appropriate action taken to remedy matters complained of	40
New shops added to records	5
Shops closed down	4

ERADICATION OF INSECT PESTS

Number of premises treated for bugs by the Department		
Council houses ...		4
Other houses ...		4
Number of premises treated for other insect pests by the Health Department ...		2
Total ...		10

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

There are two rodent operatives employed in the Department and they are provided with a light van for the transport of poison baits etc. Tribute must be paid to the work of Mr. T.E. Farrance who died in July, 1953. He was the first rodent operative appointed by the Council and during the whole of his 9½ years employment he carried out his duties most conscientiously.

With the co-operation of the Borough Engineer the public sewers were subjected to two rodent 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 the 15 months ending 31st March, 1954:-

	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	20,850	4	2,501	23,434
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during the 15 months ended 31st March, 1954, as a result of (a) notification (b) survey (c) otherwise Notes 1, 2 & 3).	(a) 2	233		42	277
	(b) 40	789	2	18	849
	(c) 11	1,100		1,585	2,696
III. Number of properties inspected (See Section 11) which were found to be infested by rats. (Notes 1, 2 & 3).	Major 2	-	-	1	3
	Minor 31	437	-	15	483

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial)	
IV. Number of properties inspected (See Section 11) which were found to be seriously infested by mice. (Notes 1, 2 & 3)	-	-	-	1	1
V. Number of infested properties (see Sections III & IV) treated by the Local Authority (Notes 1, 2 and 3).	33	437	-	17	487
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	152				

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.

