[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Coulsdon].

Contributors

Coulsdon and Purley (London, England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

[1956?]

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HEALTH REPORT

for

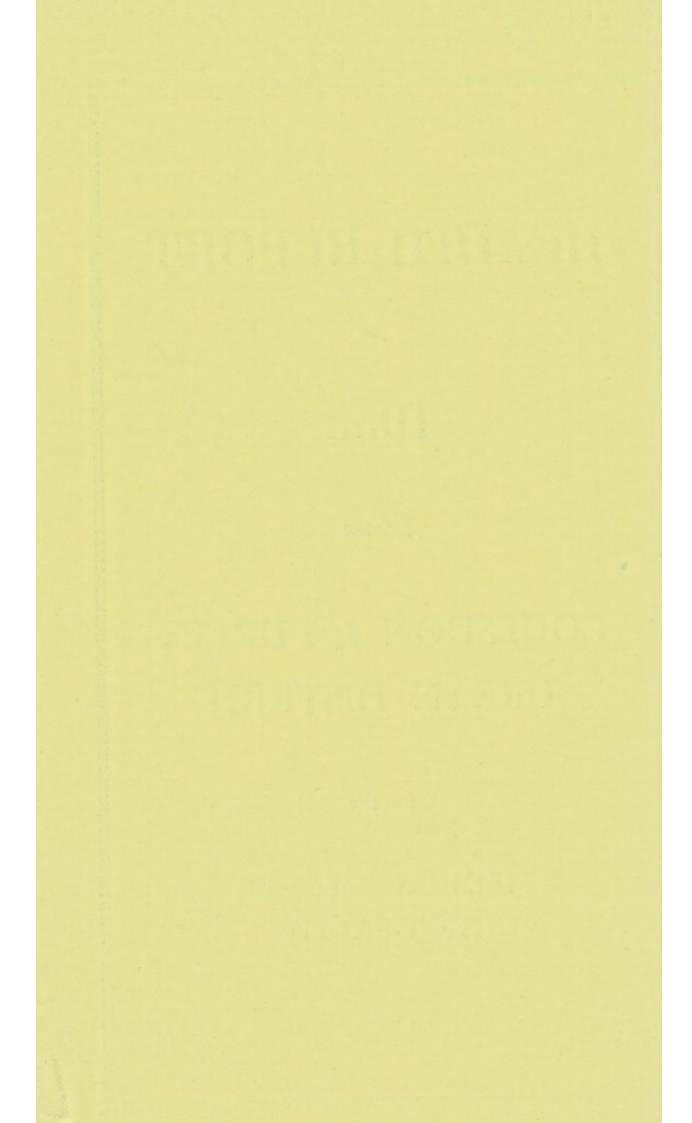
1955



COULSDON & PURLEY URBAN DISTRICT

by the

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH



HEALTH REPORT

for

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF COULSDON AND PURLEY. 1955.

Public Health Committee.

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B.SC., A.R.I.C.

Public Health Department.

STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health: *F. R. EDBROOKE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: *T. R. BENNETT., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

> Chief Sanitary Inspector: W. HAWORTH, F.S.I.A.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector:

W. RICE-JONES, M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

E. R. ROGERS, M.S.I.A.

G. H. BOURNE, M.S.I.A.

D. G. STRIPP, M.S.I.A.

Assistant to Sanitary Inspectors: W. H. SANDS.

Rodent Operative:

H. M. KEY.

Chief Clerk:

*D. V. PROTHERO.

Clerks:

Mrs. G. Edmonston.

*Mrs. J. M. Smyth.

*Mrs. L. R. PROCTOR.

F. J. SMITH.

(* Part-time appointment only to this Council.)

COULSDON AND PURLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1955, this being my twenty-fourth report as your Medical Officer of Health.

As in previous years, this Report has been prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Minister, but it had been hoped to experiment with a re-arrangement of its contents and to give more positive advice on the achievement of good health. Unfortunately, owing to the increasing demands on the service this proved impracticable this year. Nevertheless it is hoped that it will be found to contain food for thought, even in the maligned statistics, although it is less appetisingly presented than one would have wished.

Last year it was noted that 1954 would be remembered as being comparatively sunless with a wet Summer and Autumn, but in spite of this a good one from the point of view of the public health. Meteorologically 1955 apparently provided a marked contrast with a dry and sunny Spring and Summer, although for the third year in succession there was but little difference in the total rainfall.

On the whole the public health remained good as judged by the usual standards, but some of the infectious diseases were more prevalent. The birth rate remained at a slightly higher level, while illegitimacy and the proportion of still births were less, and there were no maternal deaths.

As was expected, the infant mortality rate increased after the exceptionally low level reached in 1954, and similarly, the general death rate among ordinary residents increased slightly, although still well below the recent average. The cancer death rate again decreased slightly, but the proportion of male deaths due to lung cancer was again relatively high. Deaths due to accidents in the home showed a welcome decrease, but those caused by road accidents were relatively high.

Slightly more new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, possibly attributable in part to earlier detection due to a visit of the Mass X-ray Unit. Counterbalancing this is the steady improvement in the death rates from all forms of tuberculosis.

The year was indeed a "measles year" with the extraordinary contrast of 1,012 notified cases compared with only 9 in 1954, and 1,319 in 1953.

The other very prevalent infectious disease was a mild form of dysentery. Poliomyelitis also increased but, although the number of notified cases (17) was the highest yet reached locally, it is doubtful whether the District did in fact experience its greatest prevalence. There were only 3 really serious cases, all in adults, including one isolated fatal case in January; the remainder had very slight paralysis, if any, after treatment.

It may be that the unjustified publicity given to any case of poliomyelitis is one of the reasons for the slight decline in the percentage accepting diphtheria and whooping cough immunisation and vaccination. If so, it can be stated quite categorically that the risks of immunisation provoking paralytic poliomyelitis are very slight indeed given the precautions now taken as a routine. Primary immunisation was continued steadily throughout 1955, the only exception being a break of one month at one Infant Welfare Centre, without any untoward sequelae. The introduction of two new forms of vaccination and the absence of diphtheria from the District for nine consecutive years must not distract attention from the desirability of maintaining these earlier forms of immunisation.

From the point of view of the improvement of the sanitation of the District, the most publicised activities have been those aimed at the removal of the cause of the periodical flooding at Purley Corner. While the hope that these will bear fruit in the not very distant future is warmly welcomed, of at least as much importance are the unspectacular but continued maintenance of satisfactory water supplies to the District, the Council's policy of steadily extending the sewerage system and abolishing local cesspools, the improving hygiene in food handling combined with the corrective effect of vigilance in applying the Food and Drugs Acts, the removal of any unsound food, etc. The beneficial effects of these and other measures will be noted later in the report.

Much good work was again done by the Sanitary Inspectors with a view to improving sub-standard housing and securing the removal of the relatively small number of houses which have already become unfit for human habitation. The Chief Sanitary Inspector has reported in the section on Housing how unrewarding much of his preventive work is, partly owing to weaknesses in the present legislation, but even so some progress is recorded.

From this brief summary of the year's activities and assessment of the state of the Public Health it will be seen that there are some grounds for satisfaction and hope that, if all concerned continue to play their part, including primarily, of course, the residents themselves, we can anticipate still better achievements.

May I, in conclusion, again express my thanks to all associated with the local Health and Social Services, both official and voluntary, for their co-operation during the year, and in particular I would mention the contributions of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and my Administrative Assistant, not only towards the production of this report, but for their loyal help at all times.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. R. EDBROOKE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	od wise			ib gnilgeone s	11,142
Registrar-General's estir	nate of	pop	ulatio	n, mid 1955	65.420
Population, Census 1931					37,666
Population, Census 1951				THO LIVE THE TAX	63,770
Number of occupied hor			er, 19	955	19,401
Number of occupied ho	uses, 1	931			9,533
Number of occupied ho	uses, 1	951			18,071
Rateable Value, Decem	ber, 19	55		ingland in and	£838,282
Sum represented by a p	enny ra	ate			£3,350
VITAL STATI	STICS	FOR	THI	E YEAR 195	5.
	Total	М.	F.e	Birth Rate per 1 estimated residen	,000 of the
Live Births-Legitimate	822		398	12.9	
do. Illegitimate		10	11		
	0.42	124	400	Corrected Bi	irth Rate
	843	434	409	13.9	
				Rate per	1.000
				(live and stil	
Still Births—Legitimate	17	6	11	19.8	
do. Illegitimate	tebratu				
	17	6	11		
	H make		ad III		
				Crude Death	
			e	stimated residen	
Deaths	917	401	516	14.0	And and
				Corrected Dec	
Deaths from nuarparel	2011020 1			Rate per	1,000
Deaths from puerperal e Puerperal Sepsis		-		(live and stil	l) births.
Other Puerperal ca		***		a Elisali Jupo	- distant
d microlina in the bas			liou.	macrieso hioda	
	Т	otal		one officiality	a shill now
Dooth Dotos of Infants					STAIN S
Death Rates of Infants					22.7
All infants per 1,0					23.7
Legitimate infants					24.3
Illegitimate infants	-				1.42
Deaths from Measles (143
Deaths from Measles (a Deaths from Whooping					Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhea					Nil.
Deaths from Diarrilea	(under	z ye	als)		Nil.

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1955.

The Urban District of Coulsdon and Purley was constituted by an Order of the Local Government Board dated 1st November, 1914, and came into existence on the 7th April, 1915. It has, therefore, been a separate District for 41 years.

Situated on the North Downs immediately to the south of Croydon, this well-favoured "dormitory" suburb, has a very considerable proportion of its area reserved as part of the "Green Belt," and there is comparatively little dense development.

The majority of the residents who work, do so in London or Croydon, travelling to and fro daily. Locally there are no really large manufacturing or other industries, most of the residents employed in the District being connected with building and decorating, with the provision of food and the other wants of the inhabitants, or attached to the mental hospitals. The amount of unemployment, apart from temporary unemployment pending transfer, is still negligible.

AREA AND POPULATION.

The District has an area of 11,142 acres, these being distributed among the wards as follows:—

Coulsdon 1	East		***	2,812
Coulsdon '	West			1,253
Kenley		***		1,292
Purley	***		***	685
Sanderstead	d			2,311
Selsdon an	d Far	leigh		1,924
Woodcote				865

At the time of the 1951 census the population was shown to be 63,770 and apparently this is thought to have increased only slightly since, the mid-year population for 1955 being estimated by the Registrar-General to have been 65,420 compared with 64,650 last year. The latest figures are, however, almost certainly underestimates.

These numbers include persons resident in Institutions in the District, the number of which at the end of 1955 were as follows:-

Cane Hill Hospital		2,454
Netherne Hospital		2,127
Russell Hill School	***	222
Reedham Orphanage		271

In December, 1955 there were 19,401 occupied houses, distributed as follows:-

Coulsdon E	ast	 	3,200
Coulsdon W	est	 	3,180
Purley		 	2,639
Woodcote		 ***	1,784
Sanderstead	North	 	2,361
Sanderstead	South	 1-10.	2,839
Selsdon		 00.15	1,889
Kenley		 	1,509

This suggests an average of 3.37 persons per occupied house in 1955, or 3.11 if the institutional population is excluded, compared with 3.53 and 3.24 in 1951. As there were more than 1,300 additional occupied houses in 1955 compared with 1951, the population must have increased by quite 3,900 in that time rather than just 1,650 as estimated by the Registrar-General, and have been at least 67,670 in 1955.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following table gives the average population, birth, death, maternal and other important mortality rates for the quinquennial periods 1920–1954 together with the actual figures for 1955.

Rates per 1,000 population.	1920- 1924.	1925- 1929.	1930- 1934.	1935- 1939.	1940- 1944.	1945- 1949.	1950- 1954.	1955.
Birth rate	13.5	12.9	11.6	12.8	15.2	15.2	12.0	12.9
Percentage ille- gitimate	3.4%	3.7%	2.8%	3.4%	3.9%	3.4%	2.7%	2.5%
Stillbirth rate	-	_		0.43	0.48	0.40	0.24	0.26
Death rate	7.4	7.0	7.4	8.3	11.4	9.7	12.1	14.0
Cancer death	0.96	1.15	1.35	1.19	1.70	1.75	2.02	2.19
Tuberculosis death rate (per 100,000	PAGE 1	muses	zhish	el bu	mabil	Na Pi		
population)	57	36	38	35	48	36	25	21
Violence includ- ing Suicide	0.44	0.35	0.32	0.46	0.82	0.37	0.46	0.59
Maternal mor- tality rate per 1,000 live and still births	2.08	2.66	3.21	2.27	2.10	1.12	1.01	Nil
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 registered births)	28	38	32	38	40	26	21	24
Neo-natal mor- tality rate	1		lmi Lini	26	28	19	15	20
Estimated population	21,351	28,950	41,616	53,084	49,880	60,610	64,466	65,420

BIRTHS.

During the year 1955, 843 births were registered as occurring in the District, of which 434 were male and 409 female, compared with 834 in 1954. It will be seen by reference to the preceding table that this is equal to an annual birth rate of 12.9 per 1,000 population, which was the same as last year. The average for the last five years was 12.0.

If this rate is corrected in accordance with the Registrar-General's assessment of the atypical constitution of the population it becomes 13.9 and this should be comparable with the birth rates for England and Wales which was 15.2 in 1954, 15.0 in 1955, and an average of 15.3 in the last five years.

ILLEGITIMACY.— In 1955, of the births registered, 21 were illegitimate (10 males and 11 females), this being 1 less than in the preceding year. The percentage of illegitimate births was thus below the lowest pre-war average.

STILLBIRTHS.— The number of stillbirths registered during 1955 was 17 (6 males and 11 females), which is 1 less than last year. None of the stillbirths was in respect of an illegitimate child. The local stillbirth rate was 19.8 per thousand live and still births while that for England and Wales was 23.1 in 1955.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered during 1955, as belonging to this District was 917, (401 males and 516 females), which is 3 more than last year, and 261 more than in 1952. It will be remembered that in 1953 a new system was introduced whereby the Registrar General now attributes to this District all the deaths occurring in the two large mental hospitals, it being suggested that as the majority of the inpatients in these hospitals are long stay cases, they should be regarded as forming part of the normal population. Numerically, of course, they are included in the population, but, their death rate being inevitably higher than the average, the effect on the local death rate is misleading. Applying the "comparability factor" supplied by the Registrar General, the gross local death rate of 14·0 is decreased to a corrected one of 12·2 but it is doubtful if this is really comparable with the national death rate of 11·7 for 1955.

In order to be able to compare more accurately the 1953–1955 death rates with similar rates prior to 1953, the records in respect of the normal residents have been kept separate from those of the mental hospital patients, who would previously have been transferred to their own districts, and as far as practicable throughout this Report a distinction has been made between them.

The total death rate for 1955 for normal residents would have been 9.2 but for the new system, compared with 8.6, 9.9 and 10.2 in the three preceding years.

The principal causes of death locally during 1955 together with the rates per cent of total deaths, are shown in the following table, the corresponding figures in respect of ordinary residents only being shown in brackets:—

Cause.	Number of Deaths.	Rate per cent. of Total Deaths.			
Heart and circulatory diseases	459 (274)	50.1 (48.6)			
Cancer, malignant disease	143 (108)	15.6 (19.1)			
Pneumonia	89 (30)	9.7 (5.3)			
Bronchitis	26 (20)	2.8 (3.5)			
Accidents	30 (18)	3.3 (3.1)			
Tuberculosis (all forms)	14 (8)	1.5 (1.4)			

(A full list of the causes of deaths and the ages at which they occurred is given in Table IV. in the Appendix.)

HEART AND CIRCULATORY DISEASE.

Among the ordinary residents the death rate from heart and other circulatory disease was 4.50 compared with an average of 5.06 in the preceding five years. As this group includes a high proportion of elderly people dying virtually of old age, it is not regrettable if this particular rate remains high.

Ignoring the mental hospital group, this year 80 per cent of residents dying from heart and circulatory disease were over 65 years of age at the time of death, compared with an average of 79 per cent in the previous five years, while 52 per cent were over 75 years of age. (Incidentally, 67 per cent of deaths from all causes were over 65 years, which is the same as the average for the five preceding years).

CANCER.

The cancer death rate in respect of normal residents was 1.77 in 1955 compared with an average of 1.87 in the previous five years. This is the second consecutive year in which there has been a slight decline in this rate and, allowing for the variations apt to occur when dealing with comparatively small numbers, at least a tendency to stabilisation can be justifiably assumed.

CANCER DEATHS 1955.

Localisation.	0-:	30	30-	40.	40-	-50.	50	-60.	60-	-70.	70	-80.	Ove	er 80.	To	TAL.
Localisation.	М.	F.	М.	F.	М.	F.	М.	F.	M.	F.	М.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Larynx Brain and Thyroid Bone Oesophagus Stomach and Duodenum Intestines Liver Pancreas Lungs Bladder Prostate Uterus Vagina and Ovary Breast Kidneys Ill-defined			71111111111111		1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	1 (1) 1 3	(1) 2 (1) 2 (1) 4(1) 		2(1) 	-(2) -(1) 4(1) 1 -(1) 1 -(1) 1 -(1) 1(1)		1 (2) 1(1) 1 (4) 3(2) (2(1)) 1(1) 1(2)	1 3 1 - 4 1(1)		2(1) 	1 1(2) -(1) 1(2) 3(2) 11(3) 3(1) - 7 4(3) - 2(2) 5(2) 14(3) - 4(3)
TOTALS	_	-	1	-	4(1)	5(1)	7(2)	13(5)	22(5)	8(7)	8(2)	14(9)	10(1)	16(2)	52(11)	56(24)

11

The previous table gives the age, sex and distribution of this disease in the fatal cases among ordinary residents which occurred in 1955, the mental hospital cases being added in brackets. Compared with recent years, the number of deaths from breast cancer in females was the average for the last 10 years, but the number of lung cases among males was relatively high. On the average, since the war 24 per cent of male deaths from cancer originated in the lungs, but in the last 3 years this percentage has increased to 30 per cent or more. Research into the cause of the increase in this form of cancer is proceeding. While other carcinogenic factors may be involved the association with heavy cirgarette smoking is very suspect and pending further evidence personal restrictive measures are well justified. As previously stated, the younger generation would be wise to consider the unnecessary risk before they become addicted to what is, at the least, a foolish and uneconomic habit and one which most probably contributes to other forms of illhealth.

VIOLENCE.

Excluding 11 deaths among mental hospital inmates (previous ly transferable), 8 of which were due to falls in the elderly, the number of deaths from violence (including suicide) was about the average, the death rate being 0.38 per thousand of population compared with 0.43 last year and an average of 0.39 both for the inter-war years and for the years since the war.

Deaths on the road again increased by two, eight deaths being attributed to this cause which is the highest since the 8 road deaths in 1939. Four were pedestrians, three elderly, knocked down by a motor car, a lorry or, in two cases by a motor cyclist. One only was a car driver in collision with another car, two were on motor cycles, one being a pillion rider, and the last was riding a motor assisted pedal cycle. All but one were ordinary residents.

There was a variety of causes for the remaining 11 accidental deaths in the District, the most common being falls in the elderly. Attention is now being focussed on the prevention of such accidents by the Home Safety Council.

The number of deaths attributed to suicide decreased from 11 to 7, and 3 of the latter were mental hospital patients. The nett figure was thus below the annual average of 6.5 since the war.

TUBERCULOSIS AND PNEUMONIA.

Deaths from tuberculosis and pneumonia are referred to in later sections of this report.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

After one maternal death having occurred in each of the last two years, it is very pleasing to be able to report a clear year. The maternal mortality rate for England and Wales was 0.64 per 1,000 live and still births which is the lowest to date.

INFANT MORTALITY.

During 1955 there were 20 deaths among children under one year of age, as compared with 9 last year, and an average of 20 in the last six years. None of the deaths was in respect of an illegitimate child.

The resultant infant mortality rate was 23.7 per 1,000 registered births, compared with an average of 20.6 for the previous five years. The rate in 1954 was much the lowest recorded for this District, hence an increase this year was anticipated.

The infant mortality rate for England and Wales was the record of 24.9 in 1955, the lowest previously recorded being 25.5 in 1954.

The 17 babies dying in the first month correspond with a neonatal mortality rate of 20.2 (i.e. deaths in the first month per 1,000 live births), whereas the average for the past five years was 17.0.

During the year 4 premature babies were notified as being born at home and 43 in institutions. Of the latter 9 died, all within the first twenty-four hours after birth.

This suggests that 19 per cent of the premature babies died, compared with an average of about 22 per cent in the years since 1945.

The following table gives the causes of the 20 deaths which occurred during 1955 together with the age at death.

In the present stage of our knowledge the deaths from pneumonia and the accidental death which was primarily due to a cold, are the most to be regretted as they might have been prevented had adequate measures been taken to prevent the infection.

As is usual, however, the commonest cause is prematurity and, in an attempt to diminish this risk, investigations are now proceeding.

14

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1955.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	and under	and under	and under	9 months and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
144 Z 18 8						S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S S				1
Asphyxia neonatorum	1				1	7 E.B.			188-	1
Congenital malformation	2		1 - 10		2	1 1		1 -	BE	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	1	5-9		1		2
Prematurity and atelectasis	13	1	-	-	14	320		944	18-	14
Accident				WE B		1 = 1			1	1
TOTALS	16	1	-	1	18	198		1	1	20

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table indicates the number of cases of infectious disease notified during 1955, the number thought to have been treated in hospital, and the number of deaths which occurred.

Disease.		Numbers Notified.	Treated in Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Diphtheria	7	34 INJUNE	26 _	_
Scarlet fever		46	18	ib sieT
Erysipelas		4	STEGIES ED	re no tified
Puerperal pyrexia		3	1	Alle terreso
Pneumonia - primary		31	3	89*
Enteric fever		3	2	
Encephalitis, acute		of prophine	Do Joseph Land	201200
Dysentery		98	35	-
Poliomyelitis		17	16	1
Measles		1,012	2	nunano 1
Whooping cough		64	ALL AND THE PARTY OF	rea danio
Food poisoning		5	3	DESCRIPTION OF THE
TOTALS		1,283	80	90

^{*}Deaths from all forms of pneumonia including 59 mental hospital cases.

A further analysis of these cases by age, wards and the months during which they occurred is given in Tables I and II in the Appendix, while a full statement of the cases of infectious disease notified since 1925 is presented in Table III in the Appendix.

It will be seen that measles was again much the commonest notifiable infectious disease while whooping cough, scarlet fever and food poisoning were much less prevalent than in the previous year. More cases of dysentery and pneumonia occurred, and to a lesser extent poliomyelitis.

Excluding food poisoning, measles and whooping cough which were not notifiable between the two Wars, and the hospital cases of dysentery, the incidence of the remaining acute notifiable infectious diseases was 2.6 per 1,000 population, which is slightly above the post-war average of 2.3, chiefly due to the wave of Sonne dysentery.

SMALLPOX.

No case of this disease occurred in the District during the year but 6 individuals who might have been in contact with a case on a liner at Suez at the end of February were under surveillance for a period.

DIPHTHERIA.

For the ninth year in succession no case of diphtheria occurred in the District and only two suspicious but unconfirmed cases were admitted into hospital, both proving to be cases of glandular fever. Bearing in mind that the natural stimulants to immunity have now virtually disappeared, as judged by the absence of any form of diphtheria organism in the routine bacteriological examinations of throat swabs, it is all the more necessary to maintain the immunity of the population by artificial means.

SCARLET FEVER.

This disease remains of a very mild type and only 46 cases were notified as compared with 68, 80, 90 and 149 in the previous 4 years.

To what extent the number of these known cases represents the degree of infection in the District it is impossible to say. There is a good deal of evidence to show that while the disease remains so mild a number of missed cases occur, the mildest often not coming to the notice of the doctors or being regarded as due to other causes; moreover it is well known that for every case exhibiting a rash, others suffer from a temporary sore throat or slight upset without producing a rash, although they have been infected with the same organism.

The question naturally arises whether all known cases of streptococcal infections should be notified, or alternatively whether the notification of scarlet fever and the measures associated therewith should be dropped. It is thought that wider notification would cause a great deal of inconvenience without materially affecting the spread of the infection, but on the other hand, in view of the tendency for scarlet fever to vary in its severity, it is considered that it would be unwise to give up the present practice completely. Modifications in procedure have, however, gradually been introduced. The mildest cases are, for example, allowed to return to school earlier if they are normal clinically, though a mimimum exclusion of fourteen days is probably desirable in case complications arise. Similarly it is now proposed that contacts should normally continue at school irrespective of whether the case is being treated at home or in hospital.

The disease has for some years been mainly associated with school children and particularly the 5-8 year old children, 58% being in this group in 1955 compared with 15% under school age (nearly half of whom attended Day Nurseries or Nursery Schools), and 19% older school children. Three cases occurred among adults.

Almost all schools in the District, including a few private schools, had one or more cases, the maximum in any one school being four.

Relatively the hospitalisation of cases increased, 39% being admitted compared with 22% last year. Of the 18 cases admitted in 1955, (Wandle Valley 4, Bletchingley 7, Queen Mary's 1 and Waddon 5), a third were sent in by one doctor.

On the available facts this tendency would not appear to be justified. In only one instance did a secondary case follow treatment of the initial case at home whereas one definite case followed hospitalisation of the first case for ear trouble.

ERYSIPELAS.

Only four isolated cases occurred in the summer, none of which were admitted to Hospital. All recovered.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

Three cases were notified, two being due to influenza and another to phlebitis. One occurred in hospital and all recovered.

ENTERIC FEVER.

Three confirmed cases of paratyphoid fever (B. type) were notified during the year, two being admitted to hospital. Two were due to the Taunton strain and while the source of the infection could not be traced, they were almost certainly associated directly or indirectly with cases which occurred on the South Coast in the summer and early autumn. The third case was type B.A.O.R. and again the source of the infection could not be traced.

DYSENTERY.

The total of 98 notifications received was the highest known in this District except during the war years. Of this number 32 were in respect of mental hospital cases caused by the Flexner bacillus during the early months of the year, a relatively high figure for peace time.

The number of cases occurring among ordinary residents was abnormally high and even so does not give a true picture of the extent to which the milder forms of Sonne dysentery affected the District, particularly during the first half of the year. In the early stages the local infection was mostly associated with the new infants school in Woodcote then taking children from Carshalton and Old Coulsdon, but a large proportion of the resulting cases were probably unnotified. Those which were notified lived chiefly in the Southern half of the District.

In May more cases occurred in Sanderstead and Selsdon and were associated with a wave of the disease north of the District. Others followed thereabouts during the next two months but gradually the disease died down except for 15 cases which occurred in a residential nursery in Kenley in July. Adult cases associated with the preparation of food were excluded from work and propoganda was concentrated on the need for scrupulous cleanliness following the use of the toilet and before handling food. Only one school was seriously affected and in the circumstances the limitation of the outbreak was not considered too unsatisfactory.

FOOD POISONING.

During the year two notifications of food poisoning were received which were confirmed, one being a child who was probably infected with S. typhi murium when on holiday. The other was an adult infected by S. thompson but the source of infection could not be found. In addition a mother and her two children who were admitted to hospital were found to be infected with S. typhi murium, but again, the source of infection was not discovered. Apart from these 5 definite cases, investigations were carried out in respect of 5 families, in which one to three members had suffered from diarrhoea and vomiting. In all cases the bacteriological findings were completely negative and no doubt in two of the families the cause was epidemic vomiting.

POLIOMYELITIS.

This disease was more prevalent nationally in 1955 and once again this increased incidence coincided with a Summer which was mainly dry and sunny.

The total of 11 paralytic and 6 non-paralytic cases was the highest recorded locally, the next highest being in 1947 when there were 8 paralytic and 3 non-paralytic cases. There can be but little doubt, however, that in 1955 the signs thought to justify a positive diagnosis were more numerous and it is very doubtful whether the disease was really more prevalent.

One isolated fatal case occurred in January followed in May by another severe adult paralytic case. All the other cases occurred in September to November and the first three of these were also adults. Altogether 8 were over 20 years of age (1 non-paralytic), 2 were pre-school children, (1 non-paralytic) and 7 were school children, 4 of whom were non-paralytic.

Of the 11 paralytic cases only 3 were severe, all adults, and of the 10 survivors only 2 had any pronounced residual paralysis after treatment, the majority finishing only with slight paralysis, if any.

In addition to the above, 6 persons were admitted to hospital as suspected cases but were found to be suffering from other diseases. Similarly, as is usual at such times, a number of contacts with cases outside the District had to be followed up.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS.

One young child who died suddenly was diagnosed postmortem as having suffered from meningococcal meningitis but the case was unnotified.

PNEUMONIA.

During the year 31 cases of acute primary or influenzal pneumonia were notified, compared with 20, 44, 21 and 51 in the 4 preceding years. The cases occurred fairly uniformly throughout the year and, although mainly in the Purley Ward, few of them appeared to be interconnected. So far as is known only 3 of them were admitted to hospital and no deaths occurred among these notified cases.

MEASLES.

This disease is usually prevalent in alternate years and it was therefore, expected that there would be more cases in 1955. Actually 1,012 were notified compared with 9, 1,319, 170 and 810 in the four preceding years.

So far as is known, the disease remained faily mild in type and only 2 cases were admitted to hospital. No deaths occurred and in fact only 2 with very exceptional complications have died since the war.

The value of the compulsory notification of measles in a District such as this, has previously been questioned on several occasions. General propaganda during times of epidemics is all that is practicable as notifications are received too late to be of any use and in such numbers as to make the visitation of all, almost impossible without severely limiting the other health visiting at the peak of the epidemic.

WHOOPING COUGH.

In 1955 there was a decrease in notifications, 64 being received compared with 131, 66, 196, 204 and 242 in the 5 previous years. None of the cases are known to have been admitted to hospital and all recovered. The majority of the cases occurred between June and August, the incidence being highest in July and August. Purley had much the highest number of cases. Just over 40% were children under 5 years of age and 3 babies were under 1 year. It must again be emphasised that this disease can be very serious and is often very debilitating. The immunisation of all children against it is strongly recommended and this treatment should be commenced by at least the sixth month of life.

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The following table presents concisely the position with regard to tuberculosis in the District during 1955:—

not be found. In addition 23	Pulme	onary.	No pulmo	on- onary.	T	otal.
at in alterente years and at was	M.	F.	М.	F.	M.	F.
Number of cases on register, 1st January, 1955	266	181	33	35	299	216
Additions, 1955:— New cases notified Cases removed into District Restored to register TOTAL ADDITIONS	31 17 — 48	16 23 4 43	2 1 - 3	1 1 - 2	33 18 — 51	17 24 4 45
Removals, 1955:— Deaths from (a) Tuberculosis (b) Other causes	4	7	adi)	o sule o sule o sule	5	7
Removed from District Recovered Non-tuberculous	14 13 1	16 9	1 6	2 4	15 19 1	18 13
TOTAL REMOVED FROM REGISTER	32	32	8	6	40	38
Number of cases on register, 1st January, 1956	282	192	28	31	310	223

The following table shows the age-groups in which notifications and deaths occurred:—

s were under I year.	dad !	New	Cases.	Deaths.				
Age Periods.	Pulmonary.		Non- pulmonary.		Pulme	onary.	Non- pulmonary	
ad Dinone mountain	M.	F.	M.	F.	М.	F.	М.	F.
Under 1 year	PDO!	_	-	_		Ma_lo		_
1 and under 5	-	_	_	_	_	_	-	-
5 and under 10	1	1	_	-	-	-	-	-
10 and under 15	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 and under 20	4	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
20 and under 25	3	1	1	-	_	_	-	-
25 and under 35	6	5	-	-	-	2		
35 and under 45	6	2	-	1	_	1		-
45 and under 55	6	3	-	-	4	-	1	-
55 and under 65	2	2	-	-	-	2	-	
65 and over	1		-	-	-	2		-
TOTALS	31	16	2	1	4	7	1	-

The new cases were distributed amongst the wards as follows:—

Localisation.	Coulsdon East.	Coulsdon West.	Kenley	Purley.	Sander- stead.	Selsdon and Farleigh.	Wood- cote.
Pulmonary	6	15	6	4	12	2	2
Non- pulmonary	hillial vio	noini	DANTE OF	devices in of a	2	MINISTER S	MUT.
TOTALS	6	16	6	4	14	2	2

The following table illustrates the trend of this disease since the formation of the District.

Average figures for the quinquennial periods 1915-1954.

Managaran M	1915- 1924	1925- 1934	1935- 1944	1945- 1949	1950- 1954	1955
PULMONARY-	Beny	D-FARE	EL-PR	R Sede	Name of the	E OV
New cases notified	22	29	35	49	43	47
*Case rate	115	82	68	81	67	72
Deaths	12	13	21	27	16	11
*Death rate	65	37	42	44	22	17
Non-Pulmonary-	ob ws	I VIEW	OLO D	SHIEGO	OB min	
New cases notified	3	6	7	8	5	3
*Case rate	15	18	15	13	8	5
Deaths	3	3	2	2	2	1
*Death rate	15	8	5	3	4	1

^{* (}The rates in this table and the remainder of the section are in all cases per 100,000 population).

During 1955 the number of new notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis increased to 47 compared with 31 last year, and an average of 43 in the last five years. This increase may be due to a fluctuation such as is apt to occur in dealing with relatively small numbers or the result of the visit of the Mass X-ray Unit. The steady improvement in the death rate from pulmonary tuberculosis is encouraging as is the decreasing prevalence and death rate from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The Council is responsible for one of the most important measures aimed at combating this disease, viz., rehousing, and also for disinfection, but the County Council bears the responsibility for all other preventive measures except the treatment of cases which is that of the Regional Health Boards.

Schemes are being carried out for the immunisation of certain sections of the population, and for tracing contacts of infectious cases among school children. Reference is made later in this Report to the B.C.G. immunisation of certain school children.

The Mass X-Ray Unit which last visited the District in June, 1953, revisited Purley and Coulsdon in June, 1955. Nearly 4,000 persons attended and at least 4 new cases of active pumonary tuberculosis were discovered. In addition it is known that an appreciable proportion of the residents take advantage of X-Ray facilities in London or the surrounding districts each year.

There is still no sign of progress in the erection of the anticipated self-contained Chest Clinic which it is hoped will be built in Purley Hospital grounds. The provision of this Clinic is urgently required as the County Council Clinic is being seriously over-used.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 172. PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action has been required under these powers during recent years.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The group of non-notifiable infectious diseases including influenza again accounted for very few deaths.

Excluding the death returns, the only information as to the presence of outbreaks of non-notifiable infectious disease is obtained from the returns from the nurseries and public elementary schools. As judged by these there were very few cases of german measles and mumps in the schools, only one small outbreak of the latter occuring in Kenley. On the other hand quite a number of cases of chicken-pox occurred, mainly in Old Coulsdon in the Spring and Autumn and to a smaller extent in the Chipstead Valley where the previous Autumn's outbreak subsided in the Spring.

Home visitation and exclusion from school are still the two chief methods relied upon to prevent the spread of these diseases. Treatment in hospital is provided when required owing to social or physical complications being present, but records of these admissions are rarely received.

INFESTATIONS.

(a) SCABIES.

During 1955 no cases were treated by the Health Department for this disease, compared with an average of 6 in the preceding 5 years and a maximum of 399 in 1944.

In view of the very small number of isolated cases now occurring it would be preferable for them to be referred to the Medical Officer of Health in order that the contacts can be dealt with really effectively.

(b) VERMIN.

The number of reported cases of infestation also remained small and was limited to 12 children found to have head nits in school. Almost all of these were only casual infestations which immediately responded to the treatment which was mainly provided by the parents.

THE CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

When it can be used, immunisation is the most valuable of the measures for the control of infectious disease, but its usefulness naturally depends on the effectiveness of the vaccine, and otherwise is proportional to the degree of public support and the standard of immunity which is maintained by reinforcing doses, if and when these are necessary.

The comparatively small risk of inoculations against diphtheria and whooping cough influencing the onset of poliomyelitis is now well-recognised, particularly when precautionary measures are instituted. It should certainly not deter parents from agreeing to immunisation against these diseases, which treatment will only be given if the time is considered opportune by the doctor concerned, and especially if subcutaneous injections are used as these avoid damage to the muscles. This is now standard practice locally.

With the introduction of two more official schemes for vaccination against tuberculosis and poliomyelitis the question of spacing becomes more complex and close co-operation between all concerned is very desirable.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

As previously stated it is still very important that the parents of all children should ensure that they are kept as highly immune as possible against diphtheria by early immunisation and periodical enhancing doses. This can still be the most deadly of the infectious diseases but immunisation against it has proved more effective than any other form of vaccination.

The following table shows the treatment given during 1955 and the proportion of children estimated to have been immunised:-

Number who completed Primary treatment Number of "Booster" doses given	393 117
SCHOOLS.	
Number who completed Primary treatment	9
Number of "Booster" doses given	587
GENERAL PRACTITIONERS.	The h
Number who completed Primary treatment	398
Number given "Boosters"	339
Proportion of children estimated to have been immunised:—	n sair
(a) from 1-5 years	67%
(a) from 1-5 years	84%

The total number of primary treatments was slightly less than last year and 549 fewer children received boosting doses.

As a result the percentage of children aged 1 to 5 years estimated to have been immunised was about the same, but the proportion of school children who have been treated during the last 5 years, and who can therefore be considered to be sufficiently immune, is only about 68%. There is therefore room for improvement particularly in the maintenance of immunity by boosting doses at about 5 and 10 years of age.

VACCINATION.

The following table shows the number of vaccinations performed in the District during 1955:—

WELFARE CENTRES. Primary vaccinations			280
GENERAL PRACTITIONERS.	Wiegh	7197 F	(Benjasanda
Primary vaccinations 0-15 years over 15 years			292 24
Re-vaccinations 0-15 years over 15 years	9.3.41	14410	20 104

The number of primary vaccinations was 37 fewer than last year, but it is good to find that at least 60% of the babies born in the District in each of the last 4 years were vaccinated. If this percentage can be maintained it will be very satisfactory.

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION.

The following numbers were treated during 1955 and it is noted that 62 fewer children were given primary courses and 5 fewer received reinforcing doses than in 1954.

Welfare Centres.	E BSS II	
Number who completed Primary treatment		309
Number of "Booster" doses given		94
GENERAL PRACTITIONERS	the Pub	lo ansoille
Number who completed Primary treatment	Dillips to	343
Number of "Booster" doses given	100	170

At present it is recommended that 3 doses of whooping cough vaccine should be given (usually combined with a diphtheria immunisation agent) at monthly intervals, commencing at the latest in the sixth month, and followed by a "booster" dose at 2 years, but with experience this time table may be varied. As this treatment is not usually given much after 2 years of age, there is a tendency for fewer children to be immunised against whooping cough than against diphtheria, and this year the difference is 148 or about 24%.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.

During the second half of the year parents of children who were 13 years of age and who were attending any County Council School or a grant aided school were asked if they would agree to their children being tested and, if necessary, given B.C.G. immunisation against tuberculosis. As a result, in this Division 63% of them accepted and 80% of these were inoculated, i.e. 49% of all the eligible children. The scheme is being extended in 1956 to any private school which is prepared to co-operate.

It is of interest to note that in the last 2 years about 13% of these children who were Mantoux tested proved positive, indicating that they had already been in contact with tuberculosis.

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND CHEMICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Almost all the specimens requiring bacteriological examination in the interests of the public health are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, West Hill House, West Hill Road, Epsom, and during 1955 reports were received on the following specimens:—

Milk, ice crea	ım, and	d wa	ter sai	mples	***		434
Food utensils				***	***	***	150
Nose or throa	t swab	S					27
Food		***	A				19
Faeces						TI 1	414
Sputum							4
Rectal swabs		. 2011					1

Samples of milk for biological examination are sent by the Local Authority to the Public Health Laboratory Service, while samples of water requiring chemical analysis and Food and Drug samples are submitted to the Public Analyst.

DISINFECTION.

The disinfection of bedding, etc., is undertaken at the Wandle Valley Hospital, while the disinfection of premises is carried out by the officers of the Public Health Department.

For the convenience of ratepayers, the Council has decided to arrange disinfection even when this is not essential to the public health, but in these cases the following charges are made:—

£1 per load of bedding, etc., 5s. for the first room and 2s. 6d. for each additional room disinfected at the same time.

During 1955 the following disinfections were carried out:-

		Free of cost.	Upon payment.	Total.
Loads of bedding, etc		49	3	52
Houses disinfected		67	_	67
Parcels of clothing	***	lead to a	-	-
Library books	***	893	one Thomas	893

MASSAGE ESTABLISHMENTS.

The provisions of Part IV of the Surrey County Council Act, 1931, relating to the registration and management of massage establishments, are in operation. There are 16 such establishments in the Urban District.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

The powers given under this section for securing the removal of aged persons from insanitary conditions were not utilised during 1955.

Periodically border line cases occur in which the Welfare Officers seek advice, but every endeavour is made to find a satisfactory solution without resorting to compulsory powers, especially as the latter are so limited in their application.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 50.

Under the above section, as from 5th July, 1948, the Council became responsible for the disposal of the remains of any person dying in the District, where suitable arrangements would not otherwise be made, and during the year the Council dealt financially with one case of this type.

HEALTH PROPAGANDA.

Constant attention is given to the opportunities for health propaganda at the Clinics and Centres in the area and during the visits made by the Health Visitors and Sanitary Inspectors. In addition each year a number of talks are given by the Officers to various organisations who request their assistance. If time permitted doubtless more of these could be given to advantage.

The material supplied by the Central Council for Health Education and other bodies is extremely useful.

OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITY HEALTH SERVICES.

Since 1948 the local Council has been represented on the S.E. Divisional Health Sub-Committee of the County Health Committee and the corresponding Educational Executive, which bodies have certain specified powers and responsibilities for some of the allied Health Services. The Medical Officer of Health for this District and his Deputy, who hold similar positions in the Caterham and Warlingham Urban District, are the responsible officers for the Divisional Health Services, and deal to a limited extent, among other things with the maintenance and detailed organisation of the following branches.

MATERNITY CLINICS.

Residents are welcome to attend the following Clinics, the specified times at which they are held being those now in operation.

MATERNITY CLINICS.

62, Whytecliffe Road, 1st, 3rd and 5th Wed-Purley. nesday in each month, 10 a.m.—12 noon. and every Thursday 2 p.m.-4 p.m.

on-the-Hill.

Westway, Caterham- Every Tuesday, 2-4 p.m. (Old Coulsdon

mothers).

Selsdon.

The Baptist Church, 2nd and 4th Wednesday Addington Road, in each month, 10 a.m. -12 noon.

Since the National Health Service Act has been implemented, prospective Mothers wishing to take advantage of its provisions may arrange for their confinements with

- (1) a doctor providing midwifery service and a maternity nurse, or
- (2) a midwife, the doctor of their choice being on call in emergency, or
- (3) a hospital, where a bed may be reserved in certain circumstances.

Expectant mothers making arrangements (2) or (3) usually attend the Council's Maternity Clinics but private doctors can also refer their cases for special purposes, e.g., blood tests for Rhesus factor, etc. Every case has an X-ray examination of the chest, and a full examination including weighing and examination of the urine, blood, blood pressure, etc.

Arrangements have been made in some cases for the District Midwives to assist general practitioners at ante-natal sessions in their surgeries.

The results of this arrangement of alternative services are now being reviewed with the aim of ensuring that every ante and post-natal mother gets the full advantage of modern knowledge, and that no gaps exist or inferior standards of practice are permitted, but that the closest co-operation between all branches of the Health Service is secured.

During 1955, 209 residents had their babies in their own homes, some 248 at 10 hospitals in the County, including 229 at Redhill County, some 287 at 25 hospitals outside the County including 150 at Purley Hospital and 76 at Mayday, while about 95 were confined in private nursing homes.

Only 25% arranging for home confinements is a low proportion but one for which there are a number of reasons.

MOTHERCRAFT AND RELAXATION CLASSES.

Classes covering these subjects were commenced in Purley at the end of 1953 and the numbers attending have increased very rapidly, hence it is hoped to extend the facilities in the near future. It is now necessary for expectant mothers wishing to join these classes to make application to the Divisional Health Visitor at 115 Brighton Road, Purley, who will inform them as soon as a vacancy occurs.

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING SERVICE.

Apart from some changes in the personnel there were no marked alterations in this service during 1955. As considerable changes in the staff are now occurring it is probably wise only to mention the following Home which acts when necessary as a co-ordinating centre for the District: viz. Surrey County Council Nurses Home, Westview, Woodstock Road, Coulsdon. Tel. No.: Downlands 4005.

District nursing has undoubtedly increased considerably in recent years as would be expected in an ageing population, with the greater number of injections now given and as a result of the difficulty of arranging hospital admissions, which, in the case of the elderly is probably more acute in this area than in most parts of the County.

HOME HELP SERVICE.

The activities of this service continue to increase, particularly as there is no comparable agency in this District, and applications for the service of a Home Help should be addressed to the Home Help Organiser, 115 Brighton Road, Purley. In case of emergency the following telephone numbers may be used: UPLands 7014 or 9277, preferably between 9.30 and 10.30 a.m. Home Helps can only be supplied to cases genuinely needing their assistance in which ill-health or old-age are involved; the capacity of the Service is limited, but preference is given to those in greatest need, the degree of help varying with the physical and social circumstances of the family.

FAMILY PLANNING.

The local Family Planning Clinic is now held at the Surrey County Council Clinic, Westway, Caterham-on-the-Hill. Residents needing advice are seen only by appointment and this should be obtained by application to the Divisional Medical Officer at 115 Brighton Road, Purley.

HEALTH VISITATION.

The Health Visitors are mainly based on 115 Brighton Road, Purley, UPLands 9277, where they can normally be contacted direct or through the Divisional Health Visitor between 9.0 and 10 a.m. daily.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Apart from staff changes, the only important alteration during 1955 was in the hall in which the Riddlesdown Centre is held.

The following Infant Welfare Centres are held regularly from 2-4 p.m.:-

Methodist Church, Brighton Road, Coulsdon ... Every Thursday. Church of St. Francis, Rickman Hill, Coulsdon Every Tuesday. St. John's Hall, Bradmore Green, Old Coulsdon Every Wednesday. Methodist Church, Sylverdale Road, Purley ... Baptist Church, Addington Road, Selsdon ... Congregational Church, Sanderstead Road, Sanderstead Whitgift Sports Pavilion, Lime Meadow Avenue, Sanderstead Church Hall, Mitchley Avenue, Purley

Community Centre, Hooley

Every Friday. Every Monday. Every Wednesday.

Every other Thursday. 2nd and 4th Tuesday in each month. 1st and 3rd Wednesday in each

Slightly greater use was made of the Centres in 1955 than in 1954 as illustrated by the following statistics, those for 1954 being given in brackets:-

The total attendance was 14,647, (13,442), the number of new cases being 628 (597), and the average attendance at the 406 sessions being 36 (33). The doctors' consultations numbered 4,172 (3,735) or 10.8 (9.9) per session.

DAY NURSERIES.

The two local Day Nurseries are situated as follows:-

Telephone:

"Hazelglen" Day Nursery, Sanderstead Road, Sanderstead. (Matron: Miss I. M. Bettridge)

SANderstead 5329

Old Coulsdon Day Nursery, Bradmore Green, Old Coulsdon (Matron: Mrs. L. C. Bryan, S.R.N.) ...

Downland 4071

They can only accept the children of residents on grounds of health in the widest sense, including bad home conditions, or when the mother is the sole wage earner. Applications for admission should be made to the Divisional Medical Officer, 115 Brighton Road, Purley.

It is a pity from the point of view of training girls for nursing and for life generally that for several years neither of the local Nurseries has been a Training Nursery; also that, where a number of vacancies are a semi-permanent feature, as at Sanderstead, these cannot be filled at an economic charge with children whose mental health and whose parents' physical and mental wellbeing would benefit.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE.

The basis of this service is the periodical medical and dental inspection of all the children in attendance at the local schools who, in this Division, now number over 12,000 compared with 7,490 in 1946. Several full and part time doctors and one full time dentist are employed on the work in this District. Some of the defects noted need to be kept under observation and others are referred for treatment by private doctors, hospitals or specialist clinics. Among the clinics organised by the Education Authority are the dental, eye, speech, general medical, child guidance and remedial exercise clinics.

Special attention is given to handicapped children, some of whom require to be admitted to special schools, e.g. those for the deaf, mentally or physically sub-normal.

As is noted in other parts of this Report, the condition of the school premises and of the school meals service are kept under supervision and special steps are taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases, including the immunisation of school children.

This well established service performs a very useful function but does not often attract the attention of the majority of residents.

WELFARE SERVICES.

The members of the Health Services work in close cooperation with the local representatives of the County Council's Welfare, Children's and Education Departments and such voluntary bodies as the Guild of Social Service, N.S.P.C.C. and Marriage Guidance Council.

The Divisional Medical Officer has become responsible for co-ordinating the activities of all concerned with "Problem Families" and children neglected in their own homes, and, in addition to emergency meetings, all current cases are reviewed at quarterly case conferences.

OTHER ADDRESSES FOR REFERENCE.

AMBULANCES.

Ambulance Station, 115a, Brighton Road, Purley. Sanderstead Fire and Ambulance Station, Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead. Requests should be made to MITcham 2084, or in cases of emergency dial 999.

AUTHORISED OFFICER FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

Telephone:

Mr. D. E. Twivey, 44, Reigate Hill, Reigate ... Reigate 3357

BLIND WELFARE WORKER.

Telephone:

Miss Mitchell, 53, Abbey Road, Selsdon ... SANderstead 2790

CHILDREN'S OFFICER FOR THE DISTRICT.

Telephone:

Miss J. M. Vann, Children's Department, County Hall, Kingston-upon-Thames ... KINgston 1050

> DIVISIONAL HEALTH AND SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES, IMMUNISATION AND FAMILY PLANNING.

> > Telephone:

Divisional Medical Officer, 115, Brighton Road, Purley. UPLands 9277

DIVISIONAL EDUCATION EXECUTIVE.

Telephone:

... ... UPLands 7601 38 Grovelands Road, Purley ...

EMERGENCY UNITS ('FLYING SQUADS').

Telephone:

Redhill County Hospital, Earlswood Common, Redhill Redhill 3581 St. Helier Hospital, Wrythe Lane, Carshalton ... FAIrlands 6622 May Day Hospital, Mayday Road, Croydon ... THOrnton Heath 6999

HOSPITAL GROUPS.

Telephone:

Croydon General Hospital, London Road, Croydon ... CROydon 7755 Redhill County Hospital, Earlswood Common, Redhill Redhill 3581

SCHOOL CLINICS.

S.C.C. Clinic, 62, Whytecliffe Road, Purley

9-11 a.m.

Baptist Church, Addington Road, Selsdon ... Mondays

1.30-2.0 p.m.

St. John's Hall, Bradmore Green, Old Coulsdon ... Wednesdays

1.45-2.0 p.m.

SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC.

S.C.C. Clinic, 62 Whytecliffe Road, Purley ... Monday, 9.45 a.m. or by appointment.

Welfare Officers.

Telephone:
UPLands 0076
Mr. E. G. Griffiths (Principal Divisional Welfare Officer)
WALlington 9237
Mrs. J. M. Parker (Divisional Welfare Officer) ... Caterham 4713

WELFARE HOMES.

"Chipstead Lodge," Hazelwood Lane, Chipstead ... Downland 4811
"Santa Tecla," Stanstead Road, Caterham Caterham 2641

VOLUNTARY BODIES.

MORAL WELFARE WORKER.

Miss Scoones, 1 Sunnyrise, Caterham Caterham 3728

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.

Inspector A. J. G. Budge, 37, Hartley Road, Croydon. THOrnton Heath 4250

COULSDON AND PURLEY GUILD OF SOCIAL SERVICE.

Secretary: Miss Honeyman, 105, Brighton Road, Purley UPLands 6800

Coulsdon and Purley Old People's Welfare Association.

Secretary: Miss D. M. Barnett, 71, Brighton Road,
Purley.

COULSDON AND PURLEY MARRIAGE GUIDANCE COUNCIL.

Secretary: Mrs. H. W. Pritchard, 38, Russell Hill, Purley UPLands 9029

ROAD SAFETY COMMITTEE (COULSDON AND PURLEY).

Organiser: Major A. Melling, 17, Briton Crescent, Sanderstead SANderstead 3451

Home Safety Council (Coulsdon and Purley).

Secretary: Mrs. A. Pope, 34 Grasmere Road, Purley ... UPLands 8047

HOUSING.

The following is a statistical record of work carried out in respect of the sanitary condition of dwelling houses, as required by the Minister.

1.	INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR 1955.	
	(1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	349
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	2,177
	(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	77
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	749
	(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so danger- ous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	27
	(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	232
2.	REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:—	
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	172
3.	ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:-	
	(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
	(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	3
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	1
	(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:—	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	13
	(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—	
	(a) By owners	3
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	10
	(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
	(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Dem- olition Orders were made	3
	(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil
	(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	
	(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil
(e) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Acts, 1953:— (1) Closing Orders made under Section 10(1)	2
4. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV—OVERCROWDING:—	
(a) (1) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at end of year	2
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	2
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	7
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	3
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	5
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	22
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR:-	
By the Local Authority	27
By other percope	487

For the second year in succession there was an increase in the number of dwellings inspected for housing defects and a very substantial increase in the number of visits necessitated thereby, due to the duties imposed upon Local Authorities in implementing the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

Under Section 1 of this Act, the Council was required to submit to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government by the 30th August, 1955, proposals for dealing with houses in the District which appeared to be unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.

The problem in this District may be said to be a comparatively minor one, but, although there are no large areas of such properties, there is nevertheless a small number of houses which it is considered should be dealt with under these Sections of the Housing Act.

A survey carried out for the purpose of estimating the number of houses coming within the scope of these two Sections covered approximately 200 houses and detailed inspections were made of more than half this number. As a result, the Council have submitted proposals for dealing with 27 houses under Parts II and III of the Housing Act, 1936 during the next five years.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector reports "that many houses omitted from the proposals can be considered at best as of a border line character only, and unless a radical change in the attitude of

property owners to the repair of rented property is encouraged, or made economically possible in the near future, further deterioration will result and clearance made necessary. This latter problem has been the subject of comment in previous years and it is becoming apparent that the rent increase provisions of the 1954 Act are proving a failure. Since the Act came into force in August, 1954, only 25 Certificates of Disrepair have been issued by the Council, of which 18 have been revoked on completion of the necessary repairs.

It is evident that owners of property with statutory deductions of the order of £6 or £7 are not prepared to risk the possibility of having to carry out repairs costing possibly £100 or more in order to obtain a gross increase of rent of £12 or £14 per annum.

It should be recalled also that to qualify for the repairs increase the house must be in "good repair" as respects both structure and decoration and not merely fit for human habitation. Nevertheless, many of these houses if repaired or improved will provide good housing accommodation for many years.

To say as did the White Paper entitled "Houses — The Next Step" that if a house cannot be made fit at reasonable expense it becomes a candidate for demolition and replacement, over-simplifies, in my opinion, a very complex problem."

Another measure which aimed at preserving the older type house was the making of "Improvement Grants" towards the provision of modern amenities, but this also has not been very successful in practice. The Council, in 1954, agreed to operate these provisions of the Housing Act in respect of sub-standard properties, but by the end of 1955 only 6 applications for Grant had been approved, and only two of them related to rented properties.

However, in spite of the difficulties that surround housing work in these post-war days of high costs, a measure of success was achieved in the repair of insanitary houses, by persuasion coupled with the application of statutory provisions when the occasion demanded, as will be evident from the preceding statistics.

WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply of the District was, as in previous years, provided by the Sutton District Water Company and the East Surrey Water Company, with a private supply supplementing, as necessary, at Cane Hill Hospital.

Routine samples of the treated water in public supply were submitted quarterly for bacteriological and chemical examination. In addition, seven further samples were obtained for various reasons, making 23 samples in all.

In addition, both the Water Companies and the Local Authorities sharing these public supplies provided the Department with copies of the reports on the samples taken by them. No complaints were received during the year with regard to

the quality or quantity of water supplied by the Companies. One unsatisfactory report on a bacteriological sample was attributed to faulty sampling technique.

The Cane Hill Hospital Management Committee has made arrangements with the Public Health Department of the London County Council for routine sampling and supervision of the water supply from the relatively shallow well in their grounds, which is used exclusively by this Hospital. Adequate chlorination is essential and steps have been taken to ensure this and to effect closer co-operation between the officers of the three authorities interested in the standard of this supply.

The results of two chemical and two bacteriological examinations of the water in public supply are given below and these are fairly typical of the reports received:—

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

	Sutton District Water Company.		East Water	Surrey Company.
	Parts per Million.	Grains per Gallon.		Grains per Gallon.
Total solid matter (dried at 180°C.)	178.0		122.0	-
Chlorine present as chloride	14.3	-	16.4	-
Ammonia, free	0.005	-	0.05	-
Ammonia, albuminoid	0.002	-	0.00	-
Nitrate nitrogen	5.3	nw _pruz	5.9	don's
Nitrite nitrogen	trace	The same	trace	-
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate solution in 4 hours at 27°C	0.11	TO LEGIS	0.11	HI LOOM
Hardness - Temporary	97.0		40.0	-
Permanent	30.0	HELMS	37.0	211-
Total	127.0	8.9	77.0	5.4
Iron and other metals	absent	-	absent	
Residual chlorine	absent	-145	0.07	alle O
рН	7-	5	8	.4
Electric conductivity at 20°C	2:	55 units	16	5 units

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION.

Probable number of coliform bacilli,

MacConkey 2 days, 37°C. 0 per 100 r

0 per 100 ml. 0 per 100 ml.

There are no private wells in use in the District; all houses are provided with a mains supply laid into the house, and there are no standpipes for common use.

Forty-eight samples were taken from the supplies of the two Companies and examined for hardness by the Department, all of which were satisfactory in that adequate softening had been carried out.

RAINFALL.

The rainfall registered by the automatic rain gauge installed at Alderstead Heath was 28.76 inches, this being a decrease of

0.78 inches compared with the previous year. The monthly totals throughout the year were as follows:—

			inches.
		said br	3.37
22.01			1.90
			1.42
			0.41
		THE SHOW	4.68
	***	2010	2.57
			1.42
			1.44
			2.65
			4.64
		***	1.32
			2.94

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A total of 2,035 yards of new sewers was constructed during the year mainly to cope with development by the Council and private builders. Included in the total is the provision of a new sewer of approximately 973 yards in Old Farleigh Road and Beech Way, Selsdon, which provides main drainage for 18 existing houses and is the first stage of a scheme propounded in 1937 for the extension of the sewer towards Farleigh.

The cause of the periodical nuisance and dislocation produced by flooding at Purley Fountain has not yet been dealt with satisfactorily, and a particularly severe incident occurred after a thunderstorm in July. A number of premises, including 15 food shops and a public house, were affected and considerable quantities of foodstuffs were rendered unfit for human consumption. Happily there are signs that a solution to this long standing problem is becoming more probable.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

During the year, 21 houses and a block of offices were connected to the sewer, and 21 cesspools abolished.

It has been the Council's long standing policy to eliminate cesspool drainage in the District wherever possible, and since 1950, when this policy was resumed after the war, 93 houses and 7 other premises, including a large private school, have been connected to the public sewer and no less than 92 cesspools and 6 pail closets have been abolished.

At the end of the year the following pail closets and cesspools remained in use:—

Premises	with	pail	closets	 	11
Number	of c	esspo	ools	 	117

The contents of pail closets at private premises are disposed of in the gardens by the occupiers of the houses.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of refuse was continued on a weekly basis throughout the year, and the charges for trade refuse collection and for cesspool emptying remained unchanged.

The Council's charges for cesspool emptying provide for the collection of 12 loads a year at 7/6 a load from cesspools at private dwellings, all additional loads in the same year being at the rate of 15/- a load, and for the emptying of cesspools at all commercial premises at the rate of £1. 5s. 0d. a load.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The chimneys of the small factories in the District give little trouble and no serious nuisance was recorded during the year.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

From time to time inspections are made of the watercourses in the District, and they have been cleared whenever necessary. No particular difficulty has arisen in regard thereto.

CAMPING SITES.

The Boy Scouts' camping site at Featherbed Lane continues to be used, and is conducted in a very satisfactory manner.

The action under Section 57 of the Surrey County Council Act, 1931, as amended, which was taken by the local Council in 1951 to obtain prohibition orders in respect of certain areas in the District has continued to prove effective in preventing nuisance arising from gipsy encampments.

The unauthorised camp site for trailer caravans for residential and occasional use established on land at Dean Lane, Merstham, adjoining Alderstead Heath, has continued to operate, subject to the conditions stipulated by the Minister of Housing and Local Government on appeal.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There are two swimming baths in the District which are used by the general public, and during the year, 21 samples of water were obtained for chemical and bacteriological examination.

Adverse reports were received in respect of 2 samples of water from the same pool, both indicating insufficient chlorination. Representations were made to the persons concerned and subsequent samples proved satisfactory.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

As far as possible inspections have been made of the sanitary accommodation, washing facilities, heating and ventilation of shops and offices, and improvements have been effected as circumstances have permitted.

Surveys are carried out as and when necessary to observe compliance with the Shops Act in respect of general closing hours, half day closing and Sunday trading, with individual inspections as necessary in respect of conditions of employment of young persons.

In addition, advice is given to traders on the operation of the Shops Act as related to specific trades.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

PART I.

1. INSPECTIONS.

	Number	Number of				
Premises.	Register.	Inspec- tions.	Written notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.		
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be en- forced by Local Authorities	39	46	District s	ive little		
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	151	229	6	_		
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	10	re made d cleared w	the wat benever n thereis.	orodunes ecessary		
TOTAL	200	282	7	_		

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

1951 to obtain prohibition	Number	Number of cases in which defects were found.					
Particulars.	Found.	Remedied.	Refe To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	which prosecu- tions were instituted.		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	neg_on	lung_ at	Denz L	inc_Me	_		
Overcrowding (S.2)	-		10-000	mic_sui	-		
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	_	_	_	Ind The	-		
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	_	_	-	-	-		
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient	1	817	S	_	_		
(b) Unsuitable or defective	20	18	-	1	-		
(c) Not separate for sexes	_	_	-	7	-		
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating	and b	cteriolo		mination			
to Outwork)	6	5	er #2 s	my Tes o	WEST .		
TOTAL	27	24		1	-		

PART VIII.

OUTWORK,

(SECTIONS 110 AND 111)

		Section 110.	-	Section 111.			
Nature of Work.	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c).	lists to the	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises.	Notices served.	Prosecu-	
Wearing Making, etc. Cleaning and washing	32		-	balaaque tateat	eganis oraniz disposiz	000	
Umbrellas, etc Making boxes	1	- Egod	ullies od <u>m</u> ilks	a appoint	wers and	- 2	
Carding, etc. of buttons etc	17	_		nus_ree	godi has	M	
Duster Dolls Cosaques, Christmas	9	d of red	CONTROL OF	shops Force Other	kei—sses	10 H	
crackers, Christmas stockings, etc	4	_	bool 190	M -6010	od mepe		
TOTAL	64	-	_	13//0	-		

SANITARY INSPECTIONS, ETC.

The following is a summary of the complaints received and visits made, together with details of work carried out and defects remedied as a consequence of notices served during the year 1955:—

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED.

General disrepair and insanitary conditions	1			37
Dampness			1 212	22
Overcrowding			2	3
Defective drainage systems	***			12
Blocked drainage systems	***		***	175
Defective drainage fittings				4
Defective W.C. pans and flushing apparatus			***	2
Defective service water pipes		***		9
Defective hot water systems		***		4
Defective chimney stacks			***	2
Absence of, or defective dustbins	***		***	0
Insanitary pig waste bins Accumulation of refuse, etc		***	***	18
Data and min	***		***	389
Keeping of animals		de la	THE SECOND	309
Insect pests, etc		***		41
Wasps' nests	***	DI INTE	***	39
Smoke nuisance	2	Barreda		10
Contaminated food		720		18
Unsound food	1000	1.000	00% 014	58
Miscellaneous				63
				-
		TOTAL	Acres 10	920
The same of the sa				-

SUMMARY OF VISITS MADE.

	Number of houses visited .						416
	Number of reinspections and cal		nade				2,035
	Verminous premises						42
	Incact necte						161
	Water supply						2
	Tente vane and chede						46
	Schools						12
	Places of entertainment						3
	Licensed premises		133	W			56
	Storage of refuse						67
	Accumulation						123
	Piggeries, fowls and other anima	ls					134
	Stables						18
	Rodent control						5,244
	Drainage inspected						2,701
	Drainage tested						265
	Cesspools			***			91
	Ulrinale						12
	Sowers and street cullies						272
	Cowsheds, dairies and milkshops						57
	Ice-cream premises						47
	Meat chans						101
	Food preparing premises						394
	Other food shops						557
	Bakehouses-Power					all c	55
	., Other						3
	Slaughterhouses						12
	Food Inspection-Meat						25
	" Other food						136
	Factories-Power						174
	., Other					10.1	27
	Workplaces			-			23
	Outworkers						76
	Heating Appliances (Fireguards)	Act					31
	Merchandise Marks Act				A		7
	Pet Animals Act						4
	Shops Act						695
	Unirdrassina actablishments		0.711	W. 101	Hogget .	OD.	50
	Infectious disease enquiries		nomina i	0.52.00	12.12.21		333
	Infectious disease contacts						26
	Food poisoning enquiries		***				18
							123
	Disinfection Disinfestation			bres. T		lens-	50
	Swimming baths			***		***	96
	Sampling-Food and Drugs Act,						231
	Ton annum					***	144
	" Milk (bacteriological)				***		247
	" Milk (biological)						49
	,, Water	urlan					25
	Interviews						2,198
	Miscellaneous visits			1			1,048
	Name of the Local Control of t		2700		- chi	Virgo:	-
					TOTAL		18,762
							-
	WORK CARRIED OUT ANI	DE	FECTS	REME	DIFD		
		DE		A CLIMIC	50.00		
ra	inage and Sanitary Fittings:						
	Drains examined and tested		13000		200	1,772	694
	Drains repaired or reconstructed				dienn		69
	Flood valves inserted in drainage						1
	Blocked drains cleared	Day Division				PROPERTY.	192
	Soil and vent pipes repaired or						8
	Inspection chambers provided or						69
	Fresh air inlets repaired or renewed						39
					***		13

W.C. flushing cisterns repaired or renewed			11
Cesspools cleansed, repaired or renewed			1
	sewer		21
Soakaways reconstructed or provided	***		12
Rain water diverted from soil drain			4
Eaves gutters and stack pipes renewed or repaired			58
New lavatory basins fixed Baths provided or repaired	***	***	6
Glazad sinks renewed or reneired	***	***	5
Waste pipes trapped, repaired or renewed			13
Sink gully dishings repaired			19
Miscellaneous			8
General Housing Repairs:			
			41
Defective roofs repaired Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	***		14
External walls renaired		***	12
Vards paved or paving repaired			13
Steps repaired or renewed		***	8
Dampness in walls remedied			27
Damp-proof courses provided			12
Additional sub-floor ventilation provided			1
Walls and ceilings repaired			82
New ceilings provided			6
Internal woodwork cleansed and/or redecorated			13
Walls of rooms cleansed and/or redecorated			55
Ceilings of rooms cleansed and/or redecorated		***	53
Floors repaired or renewed	***		28
Staircases repaired or renewed			3
Windows repaired or renewed Doors repaired or renewed	***	***	58
Circonstant remained on remained		***	41 24
Domestic boilers repaired or renewed		***	5
Water storage tanks repaired or renewed			4
Service water pipes repaired or renewed			13
External paintwork renewed			10
Boundary fences and gates repaired or renewed	***	441	13
Coal sheds repaired or renewed			1
Portable dustbins provided			6
Premises improved (with or without grant aid)		***	2
Electricity supply repaired or renewed			12
Miscellaneous		***	13
P 1 P 1			
Food Premises:			
Premises reconstructed			2
Staff room provided			1
Lockers for clothing provided	***		1
Hot water supply provided for ablution purposes			7
Lavatory basins provided			4
Glazed sinks provided			7 7
Draining boards provided			5
Waste pipes repaired or renewed		***	
Staff and public sanitary accommodation repaired	***	***	12 13
Staff and public sanitary accommodation cleansed Staff sanitary accommodation provided	***		3
Walls and ceilings cleansed, repaired and redecorate	d		91
Floors repaired, relaid, recovered or cleansed			6
Equipment cleansed and repaired			10
Additional lighting provided			1
Additional ventilation provided to kitchens			1
Windows repaired or cleansed			5
Doors repaired or renewed			1
Food store provided		***	1
Rain water pipes and gutters repaired or renewed	***	***	2
Roofs repaired			1

	Blocked drains cleared Dustbins provided	and dra	ins rep	paired		D second	Die.	12
	Accumulations removed Miscellaneous		***					27 19
Rat	proofing:							
	Work carried out by o	ccupiers	s of pr	remises	after	compl	etion	N .
	of treatment		***			II kee		17
Hee	ating Appliances (Firegua	urds) A	ct, 195	2:				
	Fires altered or withdra	awn fro	om sale	e			Ilian III	6
		NOTICE	S SER	VED.				
	Braliminary Nations							446
	Preliminary Notices Statutory Notices			***		***	***	63
	Statutory Profices		***	X41 00	***	***	***	03

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

During the year legal proceedings were instituted in respect of non-compliance with a Statutory Notice served under the provisions of Section 39 of the Public Health Act, 1936, requiring the provision of a new drainage system at a large house.

The Summons was heard at Wallington Magistrates Court and the defendant was fined £1. 0s. 0d. with £5. 5s. 0d. costs.

An Order was made by the Court that the necessary works of drainage referred to in the Notice should be executed within three months from the date of the Order.

SCHOOLS.

Matters affecting adversely the hygienic conditions of the schools are normally reported by the Divisional Medical Officer to the Divisional Executive or, in the case of the canteens, to the Central Committee concerned, and improvements are slowly being effected.

Close co-operation exists between the School Health and Public Health Services in relation to the above and the prevention of the spread of disease.

HAIRDRESSING ESTABLISHMENTS.

During the year a survey of all hairdressing establishments in the District was carried out with a view to assessing the need or otherwise to make Byelaws in respect of such premises under the provisions of the Surrey County Council Act, 1936.

Thirty-five premises were inspected, comprising 25 ladies' and 10 gentlemen's establishments in which 69 females and 21 males were employed.

While very few premises were, it was thought, originally designed for the purpose, and their subsequent adaptation could be improved, the general impression was that the trade wishes to maintain a high standard of hygiene, and every assistance was

given by the proprietors in connection with the inspection of their premises.

The Public Health Committee later considered a set of draft Byelaws received from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and, with minor amendments, agreed to submit them to the Minister for preliminary approval.

DISINFESTATION.

During the year 2 houses needed to be, and were disinfested owing to the presence of bed bugs. Action was also taken by the Department in 53 cases of infestation with other pests such as flies and wasps.

In the majority of cases disinfestation was carried out by spraying with a proprietary insecticide.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The following table is a tabular statement indicating the action taken in 1955 under this Act.

During the year, 93 visits were made to the Council Depots at Millstock, Purley Oaks, Kenley and Old Lodge Lane, and land at Littleheath Woods, Selsdon.

In accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries a routine test baiting of the sewers in the District was carried out, with negative results.

The Council's charges for services rendered in the destruction of rats and mice at premises other than private dwellings were increased during the year from 6/3d. per hour to 8/9d. per hour plus the cost of materials.

The flat rate charge of 5/0d. in respect of private dwellings remains the same.

The Council continues to undertake the routine disinfestation of local schools and school canteens owned by the County Council, as and when necessary, on a contract basis.

Type of Property.	by th	of properties le Local Auth s a result of-	ority	Number of found to be		by arrang	treatments Department ement with pier.		lotices served ection 4.	Number	of inspections	made.
	Notification	Otherwise.	Total.	Rats.	Mice.	Rats.	Mice.	Treatment.	Structural works, i.e. proofing.	Primary and re- inspections.	Sewer treatment.	Total.
Local Authority	7	24	31	7	4	7	4	19-	- I	AF 18		
Dwelling Houses	309	140	450	231	36	210	34	18-	-	HON IN		
Business Premises	70	69	138	43	28	35	28	3-		4,507	737	5,24
Agricultural	3	6	9	3	partes	2	Name of the Party	8-	- B	S of E	OST.	
TOTAL	389	239	628	284	68	254	66	3-	<u> </u>	Acente	E.	

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949 - 1954.

In accordance with these Regulations, the handling, distribution and sale of milk after leaving the point of production continued to receive the necessary supervision.

The entries in the register, which has to be kept, were as follows:—

Distributo	ors of	Milk	in	the	district	 	19
Premises	regist	ered	as	Dairi	ies	 100,0100	1

The only remaining Dairy at which milk is processed in the District is equipped with pasteurising plant and is licensed by the Council under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949–1953.

Most of the milk now consumed in the District is produced and processed outside the District and retailed by the large dairy companies.

By virtue of the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order, 1951, the use of a special designation is obligatory in respect of all sales of milk within the Urban District.

MILK SAMPLING.

The routine sampling of milk was continued and a total of 328 samples was submitted for bacteriological and biological examination, with the results set out in the following tables:—

BACTERIOLOGICAL.

Tests required by the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949 - 1954.

Designation	Num-	Methyle	ne Blue.	Phosph	natase.	Turbidity.		
Designation.	ber.		Unsatis- factory.		Unsatis- factory.		Unsatis-	
Pasteurised	198	192	6	198	_	_	_	
T.T. (Raw)	27	24	3	_	-	-	-	
T.T. (Pasteurised)	18	18	-	18	-	-	_	
Sterilised	30	100	DESTI S	-	-	30	all of	
TOTALS	273	234	9	216		30	×II	

BIOLOGICAL.

Designation.	Num-	Tubercle Bacillus.			
	ber.	Present	Absent		
Tuberculin Tested	36	noe with	36		
Ungraded	19	allima lo s	17		
TOTALS	55	2	53		

Only a comparatively small number of samples failed to pass the Methylene Blue (keeping quality) test, and subsequent samples taken of similar supplies proved satisfactory.

In accordance with a standard practice throughout the County, samples of all milk (including T.T. milk) which is sold to the public without heat treatment, were submitted to routine biological testing. Of the 55 samples taken, 2 indicated the presence of tubercle bacillus. Both samples were obtained from the same farm on the same day. The circumstances were reported to the Divisional Veterinary Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and investigations carried out subsequently resulted in the elimination of 2 cows from the herd.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1949 - 1954.

Licences to sell milk under the above Regulations were issued as follows:—

Dealers:				
Tuberculin '	Tested		 	13
Pasteurised		****	 	14
Sterilised			 	16
Pasteuriser's			 	2
Supplementary:				
Tuberculin '	Tested		 ***	10
Pasteurised	***	***	 2.5	10
Sterilised			 	8

ICE CREAM.

Under the provisions of Section 64 of the Coulsdon and Purley Act, 96 premises within the District are registered for the sale of ice cream and a further 3 for the manufacture and sale of this commodity. In addition, the sale of ice cream is carried on from 25 premises which are exempt from registration. During the year, 47 visits of inspection were made to these premises.

The manufacture of ice-cream was not carried out at any of the premises registered for that purpose during the year, and thus, with a minor exception, all the ice cream retailed in the District was obtained by the vendors, prepacked, from large scale manufacturers whose premises are situated outside the District.

A total of 128 samples of ice cream was examined for bacterial quality by submission to the methylene blue reduction test, and placed in the following provisional grades—

Grade	I				110
Grade	H	***			14
Grade	III				4
Grade	IV		1772017 0	1	002 -

Grade I and II samples can be considered satisfactory; only about a fifth of the samples taken from any dealer should be of Grade III quality, and none of Grade IV.

As judged by these standards the above results can be considered satisfactory.

MEAT.

There are no slaughtering facilities in the District, apart from those at Cane Hill and Netherne Hospitals which provide meat for consumption by the inmates, and the arrangements made to carry out post-mortem inspections of all animals slaughtered at these Institutions were continued.

No slaughtering, however, was recorded at Cane Hill, while at Netherne Hospital the carcases and offals of 8 cattle and 2 calves were inspected for evidence of disease with negative results.

One slaughterman's licence was issued under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, for the purpose of slaughtering at a Public Institution in the District.

There are 31 butchers' shops in the District, all registered for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved meat under the provision of Section 64 of the Coulsdon and Purley Act.

Retailers now obtain supplies of fresh and imported meat from the Croydon Abattoir and Meat Market and the Smithfield Market, and in addition small quantities of fresh meat direct from Scotland.

Frequent inspections of shops are carried out, and, during the year, 101 visits were made for this purpose.

OTHER FOODS

The routine inspection of food shops and other food premises has continued to form an important part of the work of the Sanitary Inspectors. A register of all such premises includes the following:—

Confectioners			 	63
Butchers		***	 	31
Fishmongers (We	t and	Dry)	 ***	16
Fishmongers (Fri	ied))		 	6

Bakers	57			 	28
Greengroce	ers and	Fruite	erers	 	50
Cafes and	Restau	rants	Hele !	 1	60
Grocers				 	78

Two grocers' shops and one baker's premises are registered under the local Act for the preparation of preserved meat, etc., and all the fish friers' premises are similarly registered in respect of fish frying.

The Chief Sanitary Inspector reports: "There has been a steady improvement in the standard of Food Hygiene in food premises in the District during the past few years, largely as a result of the genuine desire on the part of the majority of food traders to give a better service, stimulated by the national publicity given to the subject and the continuing interest of the general public in the campaign for cleaner food.

This has been supplemented by the regular inspections made of all food premises by the Sanitary Officers, and in this respect, it should be stressed that the maintenance of a high standard of hygiene cannot be achieved by a 'once and for all' effort, but only by a continuous policy of attention to detail."

Advice and assistance has been given whenever necessary, and in the course of this work during the year, 83 swabs were taken from washed crockery and 5 samples of washing up water were taken for bacteriological examination.

Samples of food submitted for bacteriological examination included synthetic cream, cream doughnuts, buns, egg albumin and dried egg.

The Council has adopted the new Model Byelaws issued by the Ministry of Food in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air, and copies have been circulated to all food traders in the District.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following unsound foods were surrendered during the year, the total bulk being more than that surrendered in 1954, chiefly due to the results of flooding in Purley:—

				cwts.	lbs.	ozs.
Canned Soups		 			7	9
Canned Meat		 		1	43	2
Canned Fish		 	***		5	01/2
Canned Vegetables		 			34	0
Canned Fruits		 		1	2	8
Canned Milk and Crean	1	 			60	12
Meat, Bacon, Poultry, et	tc.	 		1	6	12
Fish		 		4	85	0
Fresh Vegetables		 		18	1	0
Fresh Fruit		 		1	37	8
Butter, Fats and Cheese		 	***		85	0
Sugar, Jam, etc.		 		1	52	14

						cwts.	lbs.	ozs.
Flour, Bread, Co	ereals	and Bi	scuits			3	36	51
Pickles and Sau	ces						12	0
Dried Fruit				***	***	2	15	0
Eggs							22	6
Miscellaneous							31	12½
		E BARRE	TOTAL			36	90	9½
Beer and Soft D	rinks					402	gallons.	PH Sol

All unsound food, with minor exceptions, is disposed of at the Council's refuse destructor at Kenley.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The following samples were taken during 1955 and submitted to the Public Analyst, with the results shown:—

- And editors in this desirable of the	9	Analysed	1.	N	on-Genu	ine.
Article.	For- mal.	Infor- mal.	Total.	For- mal.	Infor- mal.	Total.
						Son
Almond essence	1	_	1	_	_	Sun
Albumen	_	2	2	_	_	_
Arrowroot	1	_	1	_	-	-
Ale	2	_	2	-	-	-
Butter	3	_	2 3	-	-	_
Bay leaves	1	_	1	_	-	_
Beef, minced	1	-	1	-	_	-
Bread	1	1	2	_	-	_
Baking powder	2	-	2	-	-	_
Blackcurrant syrup	1	-	1	-	-	-
Brandy	1	_	1	-	-	-
Coffee	2	-	2		-	_
Cheese	1	1	1	T	-	COTTON .
Cake	1	1	2 2	_	_	-
	2	_				In The
Cake decorations Cream	1	100.00	1	-	0	-
Croom huma	1		1			
Consession	1	1 200	1	_	_	
Cooking fot	1	STEED.	1	BT 91	700	DELLER
Cocos	î	17 DIN	1	BUE N	IOT V	2130
Cream of tartar	i	10-10	1	REID !	numil	-
Champagne perry	î	-	1			
Cherries, glace	1	_	1			
Chicklettes	1	_	î	_	4	
Epsom salts	1	-	î	1	Size or	_
Fruit, dried	3	_	3	2	_	_
Fruit, tinned	2	2	4	_	_	-
Flour	-	1	1	-	_	-
Gin	1	-	1	-	-	-
Ginger, ground	1	-	1		-	_
Glauber salts	1	-	1	-	-	-
Herbs, dried mixed	1	1000	1	-	-	10-01
Ice cream	1	-	1	-	-	-
Jelly, table	1	-	1	-	-	-
Linctus	2	-	2	-	-	-
				the state of	ha ha	Series.

			Analysed		No	on-Genui	ne.
Article.	Residential	For- mal.	Infor- mal.	Total.	For- mal.	Infor- mal.	Total.
Milk Mincemeat Nutmeg, ground Olive oil Orange squash Paste, meat Peas, tinned Pepper Pickle Quinine, tincture of Rice		1 1 59 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 2		1 1 1 59 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 2			
Sausages, beef Sausages, pork Sausagemeat, beef Semolina		1 1 1 6 9 1 1 1 1 2 5 3 2 1 2		1 1 1 6 10 1 1 1 1 2 6 3 2 1 2	1 2		1 1 2 2
- The CouncilShap	TOTALS	154	10	164	3	1	4

It will be noted that adverse reports were received on 4 samples and the following is a summary of the action taken.

Cambridge Sausages.

The Public Analyst stated that the meat content (including fat) of this sausage was 61 per cent and observed that Cambridge Sausages are high quality pork sausages, the meat of which consists of pork with a little veal. He further stated that pork sausages of ordinary commercial quality contain not less than 65 per cent of meat and in his opinion, Cambridge Sausages should contain at least this proportion.

In view of a recent High Court decision on an appeal against the dismissal by Justices of a similar case, no further action was taken.

Scotch Butter Shortbread.

The constituents of this sample included 10% butter with a total fat content, including butter fat, of 25 per cent.

The Public Analyst observed that the article contained only one half of the proportion of butter claimed in the statement printed on the label.

This product was made by a local baker and after full investigation, it was concluded that a proportion of the butter in the recipe was inadvertently replaced with margarine or margarine and butter mixture.

A warning letter was sent to the person concerned.

Whipped Cream Bon Bons. Buttermint Toffee Rolls.

Both these samples were reported as deficient in the 4 per cent milk fat or butter fat content required in sweets of this description.

In the first case, the retailers confirmed that the sweet had been described as "Whipped Bon Bons" since 1953. Further investigation revealed that the label normally displayed was missing and temporary staff on the counter had described the sweets as "Whipped Cream Bon Bons" in error. No further action was taken.

In the second case, the manufacturers agreed to make certain modifications in the formula of the article.

54

TABLE I.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1955.

		Number of cases notified. At Ages—Years.										Total cases notified in each Ward.								
Disease.	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2.	2 and under 3.	3 and under 4.	4 and under 5.	5 and under 10.	10 and under 15.	15 and ander 20.	20 and under 35.	35 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and over.	Coulsdon East.	Coulsdon West.	Purley.	Kenley.	Sanderstead.	Selsdon and Farleigh.	Woodcote.
Diphtheria	3 46 4 3 31 98 	1 - 6 3	- - - 10 - 51 4 - -		3 - 5 - 104 - 1					 1 1 1 2 1 18 5 8 1 1				- 1 4 1 - 1 30 - 6 90 5 -	- 1 7 1 - 6 38 - 4 172 7 - 1	- 13 1 - 13 8 - 6 218 26 - -		 14 1 7 4 -1 313 14 	2 - 1 1 - 163 2 - 4	1 2 1 1 - 8 8 3
TOTALS	1,283	10	66	110	113	155	662	41	14	39	21	30	22	138	237	285	80	355	173	1

TABLE II.

THE MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1955

ing could	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Diphtheria			13 1 1 1 33 217 2 2	- - 4 - 8 8 8 322 5 - -				- 1 1 1 - 7 11 - 3	1 - - 1 1 4 - - 1	1 1 1 1 5 4 -	4 -6 1 2	- 4 - 2 1 5	3 46 4 3 31 98 17 1,012 64 —
TOTALS	36	124	267	348	205	182	49	25	9	13	13	12	1,283

55

56

TABLE III.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED EACH YEAR SINCE 1925.

Disease	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	19
mall pox	_	_	_	_		2	3	4	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-	_	_	_	_	_	-	-	-	-	-	
carlet fever	35	48	74	94	125	69	45	29	69	119	124	117	62	71	65	61	39	45	184	88	67	93	78	62	138	149	90	80	118	68	4
Diphtheria	14	17	11	23	26	17	8	21	16	24	52	35	8	10	10	25	7	9	7	19	15	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
rysipelas	10	4	13	8	3	11	8	11	23	17	11	12	14	13	10	17	27	22	5	9	4	8	5	8	4	4	3 '	-	3	4	
yphoid and para-	-										1000				100						700	11.9		1				631		89	
typhoid fever	24	9	9	9	6	4	4	7	5	5	1	3	26	5	1	53	12	3	1	6	4	4	2	2	2	1	11	1	-	1	
feningococcal		- 50							8.1										10.1			19.0		311		Sec.	B 19		13	13	
infections	_		_	_	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	8	6	1	4	2	1	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	000	
uerperal fever	_	1	_	_	1		1	1		1	1	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	1	
uerperal pyrexia	-	_	1	1	1	1	3	5	1	2	1	-	2	5	3	2	-	2	3	1	2	- 2	1	2	2	2	3	2	3	-	1
oliomyelitis	_	_	1	1		1	-	2	-	1	1	-	3	1	1	1	2	3	-	-	2	1	11	2	9	10	-	8	9	1	4
olio-encephalitis	-	-	_	_		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4
cute encaphalitis	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	_	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	4
Ophthalmia	100	1			1000					-	150	1				31.	16.31			-					51						1
neonatorum	_	12	-	3	-	1	1	2	-	1	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	- 1
neumonia	11	_	9	7	38	11	14	29	28	20	32	13	30	12	52	19	32	38	27	9	17	16	20	13	5	23	51	21	44	20	4
Aalaria	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	-		-	-	-	_	-	_	-	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	
Measles			100				1966			in	-				2	11	214	479	275	52	705	41	218	567	600	477	810	170	1319	9)
Dysentery	_	1	-	_	5		-	-	4	-	6	-	1	2	10	85	224	121	21	42	172	82	43	71	14	28	22	48	13	12	- 1
Vhooping cough	100		AGE	1	1		100								6	1	136	36	55	51	100	31	115	201	42	242	204	196	66	131	
ood poisoning			-		-	-			7		70.0	1114						7	-	-	-				2	6	2	5	2	74	1
uberculosis :-			200	1111			-	contra	-	2.00	100	2000	100	600	F747			100	10000	1977	333	100		1000	64	1					1
Pulmonary	14	19	25	23	22	38	44	36	44	28	30	27	36	32	31	31	32	43	39	1.50	44	38	59	48	57	47	60	42	37	31	
Other forms	5	2	9	4	2	7	4	6	10	17	5	3	7	10	12	8	-11	7	9	7	3	7	11	13	5	7	4	4	3	7	
						1																						_	_	_	-
Totals	114	113	153	174	232	162	135	154	196	235	265	213	197	162	207	323	743	809	632	337	1137	335	564	990	880	998	1260	579	1617	359	,

TABLE IV.

DEATHS OCCURRING DURING THE YEAR, 1955.

Cause of death.	Private	Residents	Hospital	Cases	20	1 year.	nder 2.	nder 5.	and under 15.	nder 25.	and under 45.	nder 65.	ver.
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Total.	Under 1 year.	1 and under	2 and under	5 and u	15 and under	25 and u	45 and under 65	65 and over.
Respiratory tuberculosis Other tuberculosis Syphilitic disease Diphtheria Whooping cough Meningococcal infections Poliomyelitis Measles Other infective and parasitic diseases Cancer Leukaemia Diabetes Vascular lesions of nervous system Coronary disease, angina Hypertension with heart disease Other heart disease Other circulatory disease Influenza Pneumonia Bronchitis Other respiratory diseases Ulcer of stomach and duodenum Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea Nephritis and nephrosis Hyperplasia of prostate Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion Congenital malformation Other defined and ill-defined diseases Motor vehicle accidents All other accidents Suicide Homicide and operations of war	2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 3 3 3 3 3 1 3 1 1 1 1	5 -1 	4 — 1 — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —	2 	13 15 - 11 1 - 143 4 2 100 142 24 129 64 289 26 10 5 3 9 13 - 3 89 89 89 26 10 - 3 89 89 89 89 89 89 89 89 89 89 89 89 89	18 18 1				THE STATE OF THE PARTIES IN STATE OF THE PARTIES IN STATE OF THE PARTIES OF THE P	5 1 1 - - - 2 1 - - - - - - - - - - - - -	7 1 - - - - - - - - - - - - -	1 3
TOTALS	269	294	132	222	917	20	2	-	5	3	26	184	677
Mater Species To Manager Cough Is	Infectional Disease: Cases Notified Monthly incidence of the control of the con												

INDEX.

						Page	
Addresses of Health and We	elfar	e Services				30, 31,	32
Ambulances						31	
Analysis of Mortality						12, 13,	14
Area			***	***	***	7, 8	
Destanial asias I would						25	
Bacteriological work		***				25	
Bed Bugs, Eradication of Birth Rates				***	***	6, 8	
Birth Rates Births, Live, Illegitimate an	1 5	i11		***		6, 8	
Direns, Live, megiciniate an	u Si				***	0, 0	
Camping Sites						38	
Cancer						10, 11	
Causes of Deaths						10, 57	
Clinics:						PUTASID	
Diphtheria Immunisatio	n		***	***		23	
Family Planning						28	
Infant Welfare	***	***				29	
Maternity	***					27	
School Relays	tion			***		29 28	
Mothercraft and Relaxa Closet Accommodation				***		37	
Closet Accommodation		CHING I				3,	
Day Nurseries						30	
Deaths and Death Rates						6, 8, 9,	57
Diphtheria						15	
Diphtheria Immunisation						23	
Disinfection						26	
Disinfestation					***	45	
Drainage and Sewerage						37	
Dysentery		***				17	
Enteric Fever	***	***	***	***	***	17	
Erysipelas	***	35 777		***	***	17	
Eye Defects		***			***	50	
Factories						40, 41	
Food and Drugs Act						51, 52	
Food Supply:	***				DOM: 11	HEIM	
Milk						47	
Meat						49	
Unsound				***		50	
Food Premises						49	
Food Poisoning						18	
Heledonica Particle						44	
Hairdressing Establishments		100	***	3.55	***	44	
Health Propaganda	***	- ***		***	***	29 27	
Health Propaganda Heart Disease, etc	***				***	10	
Home Helms	***	111-15		•••		29	
Home Safety Council	***				***	32	
Houses, Inspection of						33	
Houses, Inhabited						8	
Housing						33, 34	
110 101 00 00 101 101 00						ATOL	
Ice-Cream						48	
Illegitimate Babies						9	
Infectious Disease:						15 54	55 56
Cases Notified						15, 54,	33, 30
Control of Monthly incidence of		***		***	***	23 55	
School Notifications	***		***	***		22	
Inspection and Supervision	-	Food				47	
The superinsten			17.7				

INDEX-continued.

Laboratory Facilities	Q.						25
Legal Proceedings					***	•••	
Legal Proceedings	•••	***	***		***	***	44
Massage Establishm	ents						26
Massles							19
7 (2) (1) (2) (3) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4) (4							49
Meat		***	***			***	7.5
Meningococcal Infec	cuons	***	***	***	***	***	18
Midwifery Service	***		***		***	***	28
Milk and Dairy Re				***	***	***	47
Milk (Special Desig	nation)) Regul	ations				48
Milk, Sampling of					***	***	47
Mortality:							
Analysis of							12
Infant							13
Matannal							12
	***			***	***	***	
Mumps	***	***	***	***	***	***	22
National Assistance	Act. S	Sect. 47					26 -
National Assistance							26
Non-notifiable Infect				***	***	***	22
				***	***	***	
Nursing Service	***	***		***	***	***	28
Pneumonia							18
D - 11 1141 -		***	***		***		18

Population					***		6, 7
Public Cleansing	***	***	***			***	38
Public Health Comn	nittee		***	***	***	***	3
Puerperal Pyrexia							17
Rainfall							36
	***	***	***			***	
Rateable Value	***	***		***		***	6
Rats and Mice Desti	ruction		***	***			45, 46
Rivers and Streams							38
Conitory Inspections	ata						41 42 42
Sanitary Inspections,	elc	***			***	***	41, 42, 43
Scabies			* > *		***		23
Scarlet Fever			***	***			16
Schools							44
Sewerage					***		37
Shops							39
Slaughterhouses							49
Smallpox							15
Smoke Abatement			***			***	38
Social Conditions	***		***	***	***	***	
Social Conditions		***	***	***	***	***	7
Staff	***		***	***	***	***	3
Statistics:							
Housing				***	***		33, 34
Vital					***		6, 8
Swimming Baths							38
F. 1							
Tuberculosis				***	***		20, 21
Tuberculosis Immuni	isation		***	***	***	***	25
Typhoid Fever	***			***	***		17
Vaccination							24
Vaccination	***			***	***	***	24
Violence, Deaths from	m						12
Water Supply							35, 36
Welfare Services						***	
Whooning Course				***		***	30
Whooping Cough		44			***		19
WILLIAM DOLLAR IN	2022110210	CO T 1 () PS					13

			and the same of