

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

Contributors

Mitcham (London, England). Borough Council.

Publication/Creation

[1950?]

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BOROUGH OF MITCHAM

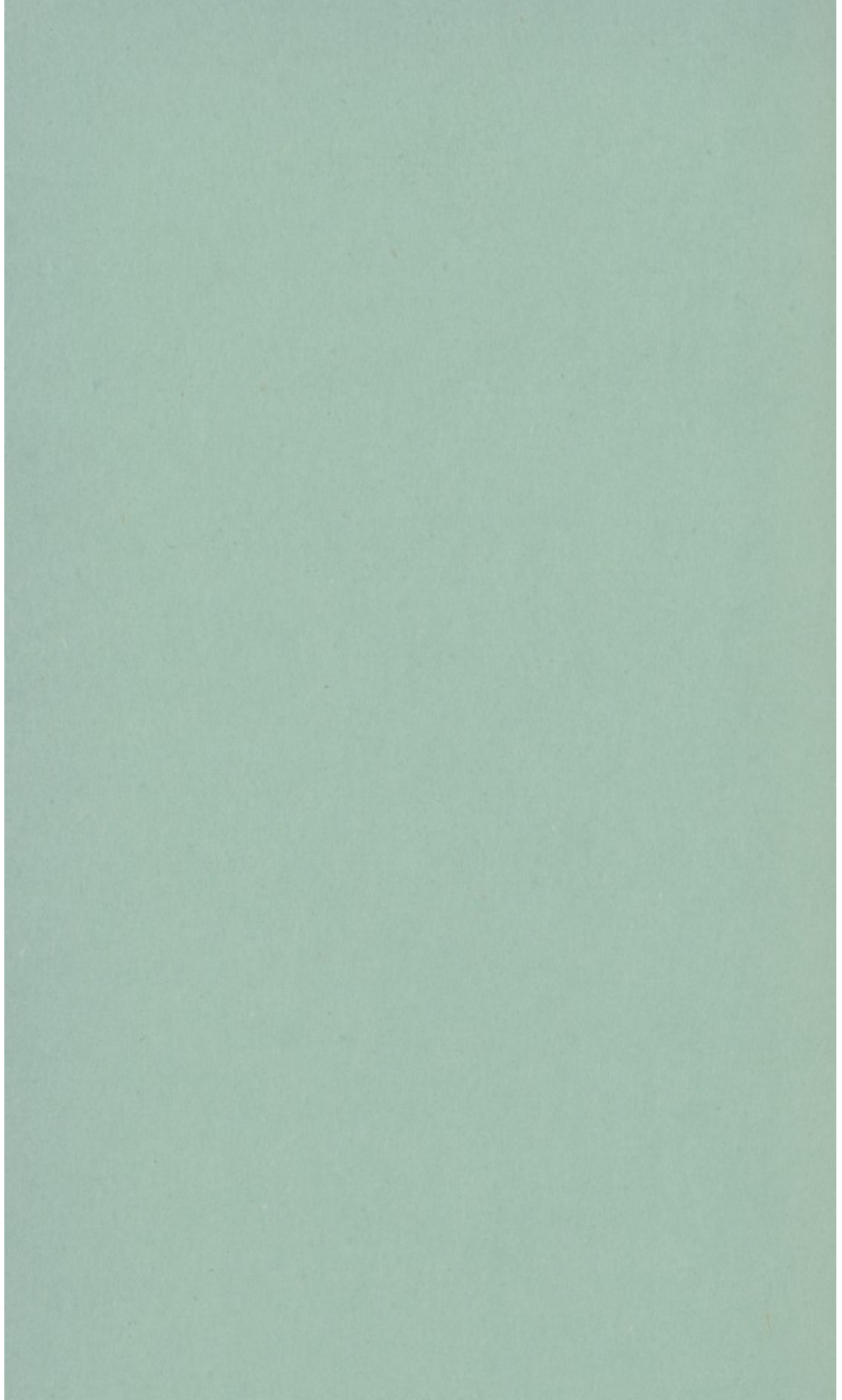
REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

YEAR 1949





Borough of Mitcham

BOROUGH OF MITCHAM

REPORT

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for the

YEAR 1949

MITCHAM

H. G. MATHER, LTD., CAXTON WORKS, LOWER GREEN

Borough of Mitcham

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1949

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Madam, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting the annual report for the year 1949.

During most of the year Dr. A. Ashworth was Medical Officer of Health, but he left in October, 1949, to take up his new position as Medical Officer of Health of Brisbane, Australia. Dr. A. W. Johns (Medical Officer of Health of Merton and Morden Urban District) then carried on until the end of the year as Acting Medical Officer of Health.

The year was a very good one as regards infectious diseases, the incidence of disease and the severity being generally of a low order.

In this connection probably the most outstanding point of interest is that only one case of diphtheria occurred. This compares with a yearly average of 60 for the 20-year period 1927-1946, so that there almost certainly has occurred a considerable saving of lives and illness as a result of immunisation. Although 1949 was a bad year in England and Wales for poliomyelitis, ranking second only to 1947, Mitcham was fortunate in having only six cases, plus one fatal case of polio encephalitis.

The birth rate, which reached the high level of 21.39 in 1947, dropped again to a figure of 16.45, corresponding to that which occurred in England and Wales generally.

The death rate of 9.17 is low compared with 11.7 for England and Wales.

The infant death rate of 24.48 is good compared with 32 for England and Wales, which itself is the lowest rate the country has ever had.

Housing difficulties still cause great concern and are a source of bitterness to many in the community. The Borough Council is very well advanced with its housing programme, but the restricted building space available will soon be filled up, making it impossible to rehouse all those who seek fresh accommodation.

I wish to thank the Chairman of the Committees for their great help and assistance, and all the staff for their loyalty and support.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. R. GRAHAM,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Mitcham Court,
Mitcham.

BOROUGH OF MITCHAM

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

CHAIRMAN - - - ALDERMAN MRS. H. E. NIVEN

The Worshipful the Mayor (Alderman Mrs. J. C. Ericson, J.P.)

Aldermen—

Mrs. E. Watson

T. A. East

C. A. Norris

G. W. Pearce

Councillors—

Mrs. L. Crump

Miss M. J. Faraday

Mrs. W. R. Martin

D. Gifford

E. Gulliver

J. M. Togwell

REPRESENTATIVES ON WANDLE VALLEY JOINT SEWERAGE BOARD

The Worshipful the Mayor (*ex officio*)

Alderman—

W. Jeffery

Councillors—

F. S. Niven

S. L. E. Saldanha

STAFF**Medical Officer of Health**

A. Ashworth, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M.
(Ceased duties October, 1949)

A. W. Johns, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Acting Medical Officer of Health till end of 1949)

**Chief Sanitary and Meat Inspector. Petroleum Inspector
Shops Act Inspector**

K. J. Gutteridge (1, 2)

Assistant Sanitary and Meat Inspectors

L. Gleed (1, 2, 3) E. N. Montague (1, 2)
E. J. Sluis (1, 2) L. M. Edwards (1)

1. Certificate Sanitary Inspectors' Board.
2. Certificate Meat and Foods R.S.I.
3. Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

Clerks

(a) L. J. Bellingham (b) Miss V. Valentine
(c) Miss M. Jarrold (d) Miss M. Sanders
(e) Mrs. R. Osborn

- (a) Part-time—75 per cent. Surrey County Council.
- (b) Part-time—75 per cent. Surrey County Council.
- (c) Transferred to Surrey County Council 24.10.49.
- (d) Part-time—40 per cent. Surrey County Council.
- (e) Full-time—Borough of Mitcham.

REPORT

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	2,916 acres
Population, Census 1921	35,119
" " 1931	56,856
Registrar-General's estimate of population mid-year, 1949	67,060
Number of inhabited houses, 1921	7,150
" " " 1931	18,187
" " " 1949	18,588
Rateable Value, 1949	£529,560
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£2,089

STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 of population
Legitimate ...	1064	566	498	
Illegitimate ...	39	20	19	
Total ...	1103	586	517	16.45

STILL BIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 total births
Legitimate ...	23	12	11	
Illegitimate ...	3	2	1	
Total ...	26	14	12	23.03

DEATHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 of population
	615	327	288	9.17

Deaths from disease and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth:—

	Rate per 1,000 total births
From puerperal sepsis	—
From other maternal causes	0.88
Total	0.88

Deaths of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	24.48
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births	...	...	...	24.44
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births	...	...	...	25.64

Deaths from :—

Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	124
Measles	...	...	...	—
Whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Diarrhœa (under two years of age)	...	...	...	—

PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS OCCURRING IN INSTITUTIONS

Year	Total births	Births in hospitals, etc.	Percentage of births occurring in institutions
1931	1143	370	32.3
1932	1084	381	35.1
1933	1010	420	41.5
1934	982	428	43.5
1935	969	474	48.9
1936	1033	497	48.1
1937	976	501	51.3
1938	1028	569	56.3
1939	966	518	53.7
1940	854	453	53.0
1941	737	408	55.4
1942	986	518	52.5
1943	1048	727	69.4
1944	996	678	68.1
1945	993	661	66.5
1946	1290	845	65.5
1947	1405	956	68.0
1948	1215	855	70.37
1949	1129	832	73.69

The birth rates, death rates per 1,000 of population, and the infantile mortality rates for the years 1929-49 are shown in the following table:—

Year	Births per 1,000 population		Deaths per 1,000 population		Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	
	MITCHAM	England & Wales	MITCHAM	England & Wales	MITCHAM	England & Wales
1929	19.1	16.3	11.2	13.4	72	74
1930	19.3	16.3	8.2	11.4	49	60
1931	19.2	15.8	9.8	12.3	42	66
1932	18.0	15.3	8.4	12.0	43	65
1933	16.1	14.4	8.8	12.3	37.1	64
1934	15.6	14.8	9.1	11.8	51.6	59
1935	15.6	14.7	7.7	11.8	49.5	57
1936	15.4	14.8	9.1	12.1	48.0	59
1937	14.3	14.9	8.5	12.4	43.4	58
1938	15.1	15.1	8.3	11.6	38.0	53
1939	15.2	15.0	8.6	12.1	31.0	50
1940	15.4	14.6	11.8	14.3	46.0	55
1941	13.57	14.2	11.06	12.9	55.4	59
1942	17.54	15.8	9.81	11.6	43.75	49
1943	18.75	16.5	10.77	12.1	36.2	49
1944	18.99	17.6	11.88	11.6	36.8	46
1945	18.01	16.1	10.19	11.4	31.83	46
1946	20.3	19.1	9.2	11.5	19.9	43
1947	21.39	20.5	9.47	12.0	38.60	41
1948	17.99	17.9	8.79	10.8	23.49	34
1949	16.45	16.7	9.17	11.7	24.48	32

INFANT MORTALITY

During the year 27 deaths were registered as occurring in infants under one year of age:—

		Males		Females		Total
Legitimate	...	15	...	11	...	26
Illegitimate	...	1	...	—	...	1
Totals	...	16	...	11	...	27

as compared with 28 deaths last year.

The following table shows the principal causes of death in the various age groups:—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

Age	No.	Cause of Death				
		Pre-maturity	Congenital Defects	Accidents of birth	Infectious conditions	Other conditions
Under 24 hrs...	12	8	3	1	—	—
1-7 days ...	1	1	—	—	—	—
8 days - 1 mth.	1	—	1	—	—	—
1mth - 12 mths.	13	—	2	—	1	10
Total	27	9	6	1	1	10

Fourteen infants failed to survive the first month of life, and prematurity was certified as the cause of death of nine of these infants.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

During the year one death was registered.

In 1948 one death was registered due to disease or accident of pregnancy.

INQUESTS.

Inquests were held on 21 residents dying within the district and on 8 Mitcham residents who died outside the district, a total of 29. In addition, the coroner held 67 post-mortems without

inquests on residents dying within the district, and on 66 Mitcham residents who died outside the district, a total of 133.

The following table shows the results of the findings of these inquests:—

Accidental deaths	...	...	...	...	19
Deaths from misadventure	...	...	...	...	6
Suicides	...	...	...	...	2
Open verdict	...	...	...	...	2
Manslaughter	...	...	...	...	—
Total					29

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1949

CAUSE OF DEATH					Males	Females	Total
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	1	1
3	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	15	5	20
7	Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	1	...	1
8	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	4	4	8
9	Influenza	...	...	...	4	4	8
10	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	1	1
12	Acute infectious encephalitis	...	...	...	1	...	1
13	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (m) and uterus (f)	...	...	...	3	5	8
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	12	9	21
15	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	8	8
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	54	33	87
17	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2	2
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	28	24	52
19	Heart disease	...	...	...	81	89	170
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	12	16	28
21	Bronchitis	...	...	...	27	18	45
22	Pneumonia	...	...	...	11	17	28
23	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	2	2	4
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	6	1	7
25	Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	...	...	...	...	...
26	Appendicitis	...	...	...	2	1	3
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	4	4	8
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	11	2	13
29	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...
30	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	1	1
31	Premature birth	...	...	...	4	3	7
32	Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile disease	...	...	...	7	7	14
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	2
34	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	9	1	10
35	Other violent causes	...	...	...	6	3	9
36	All other causes	...	...	...	23	25	48
All causes					327	288	615

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and
Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1949.
(Provisional figures based on quarterly returns.)

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London Admin- istrative County	Mitcham
Rates per 1,000 civilian population					
Births—					
Live	16.7 *	18.7	18.0	18.5	16.45
Still	0.39*	0.47	0.40	0.37	0.39
Deaths—					
All causes... ..	11.7 *	12.5	11.6	12.2	9.17
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	00.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough ...	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.45	0.52	0.42	0.52	0.31
Influenza	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.11	0.12
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia	0.51	0.56	0.49	0.59	0.42
Notifications (corrected)—					
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever ...	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.00
Scarlet fever	1.63	1.72	1.83	1.46	1.33
Whooping cough... ..	2.39	2.44	2.39	1.70	3.16
Diphtheria	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.07	0.01
Erysipelas	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.17	0.18
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	8.95	8.91	9.18	8.54	5.28
Pneumonia	0.80	0.91	0.65	0.55	0.29
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.18	0.09
Acute Polioencephalitis...	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01
Food Poisoning	0.14	0.16	0.14	0.19	0.09
Rates per 1,000 live births					
Deaths under one year of age	32†	37	30	29	24.48
Deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis under two years of age	3.0	3.8	2.4	1.7	0.00
Rates per 1,000 total births (live and still)					
Maternal mortality...					
Abortion with sepsis ...	0.11	Not available			{ — — — 0.88
" without sepsis...	0.05				
Puerperal infections ...	0.11				
Other	0.71				
Notifications—					
Puerperal fever	6.31	8.14	5.30	6.82	1.77
Puerperal pyrexia					
Mortality per million women aged 15-44					
Abortion—					
With sepsis	8	Not available			
Without sepsis	4				

* Rates per 1,000 total population.

† Per 1,000 related live births.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Most of the bacteriological examinations for this district were carried out at the Emergency Public Health Laboratory at Epsom, including bacteriological examinations of milk, water and ice-cream. Examinations were also carried out in respect of certain infectious diseases at the Wandle Valley Isolation Hospital where 79 swabs for Diphtheria and 11 sputa for Tuberculosis were examined during the year.

The chemical analysis of milk, water and foodstuffs was carried out by the Public Analyst, Daniel D. Moir, M.Sc., F.R.I.C., 16, Southwark Street, London, S.E.1.

AMBULANCES

The Ambulance service is supervised by the Surrey County Council.

Two ambulances are stationed at Mitcham Court, Telephone No. Mitcham 3082. If an ambulance is not available telephone Fairlands 8893 (St. Helier Hospital).

For Infectious Disease Cases.—Two motor ambulances for the removal of cases of infectious disease are stationed at the Wandle Valley Isolation Hospital.

DISINFECTION

The disinfection of houses is undertaken by the Council. Disinfection of bedding, etc., is done by the Wandle Valley Isolation Hospital.

No charges are made for disinfections carried out in cases of notifiable infectious disease.

Public library books which have been in contact with cases of infectious disease are disinfected at the Public Health Department.

Number of disinfections carried out by Wandle			
Valley Isolation Hospital	...	...	42
Number of rooms disinfected by fumigator	...		231
Number of library books disinfected	...	...	237

HOSPITALS

The hospitals directly concerned with the Mitcham area are administered by the St. Helier Group Hospital Management Committee, which is situated at Carshalton, Surrey. This group is itself contained within the South-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

General Cases.—The principal hospitals are the Wilson Hospital which is situated within the district, and the St. Helier Hospital, Carshalton, which caters for all types of cases. The Nelson Hospital at Merton and the large London hospitals are also used.

Infectious Diseases.—Cases usually go to the Wandle Valley Isolation Hospital at Beddington Corner, Mitcham Junction. Other hospitals nearby, namely, the Grove Hospital, Tooting, and the Cuddington Isolation Hospital, Banstead, are also used frequently.

Smallpox Cases.—By agreement with the South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, any cases are admitted to the Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford, Kent, upon application.

Maternity Cases.—Expectant mothers, if home conditions or medical history do not permit of home confinement, are admitted to the Woodlands Maternity Home situated within the district, or to the St. Helier Hospital, Carshalton, if hospital treatment is required.

Tuberculosis Cases.—The Regional Hospital Board is responsible for providing the specialist services for the tuberculous, also for institutional treatment. Dr. Dadds, the chest physician, holds a clinic for Mitcham patients at the St. Helier Hospital, Carshalton, every Monday at 9.30 a.m., Wednesday at 1.50 p.m., Thursday at 1.50 p.m., and Friday at 9.30 a.m. The

clinic held every fourth Wednesday at 5.30 p.m. is for old cases only.

Venereal Diseases Clinics.—Confidential treatment can be obtained at the St. Helier Hospital, Carshalton, and the Croydon General Hospital. Treatment can also be obtained from the out-patients' departments of many of the London hospitals.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES (Under Control of the Surrey County Council)

WELFARE CLINICS

Infant Welfare Centres are held at the following places:—

Cavendish Road Welfare Centre.—Sessions are held every Monday afternoon.

St. Barnabas Church Hall, Gorringe Park Avenue.—Sessions are held every Tuesday afternoon.

Sherwood House, Commonsides East.—Sessions are held every Thursday morning, and Monday afternoon (weighing).

Church Road Centre.—Sessions are held every Thursday afternoon, and Wednesday afternoon (weighing session).

Meopham Road Clinic.—Sessions are held each Wednesday afternoon, and Friday afternoon (weighing session).

Toddlers' Clinics for children between the ages of two to five years are held on alternate Monday mornings by appointment.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Ante-natal clinic is held at the Church Road Clinic. Sessions are held every Tuesday and Friday morning, and a clinic for cases booked by midwives is held on Friday afternoons.

X-Ray examinations are carried out at the Wilson Hospital when necessary for expectant mothers.

POST-NATAL CLINIC

A post-natal clinic is held at Church Road Clinic on alternate Mondays by appointment.

DENTAL CLINICS

Dental services are provided for expectant and nursing mothers, toddlers and school children at the Church Road, Western Road and Sherwood House Clinics.

MINOR AILMENTS

A clinic is provided at Western Road.

U.V. RADIATION CLINICS

Sessions are held as follows:—

Church Road Clinic: Monday afternoons, Thursday mornings.

Sherwood House Clinic: Tuesday mornings, Friday afternoons.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINICS AND VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Clinics are held as follows:—

Meopham Road Clinic	Monday afternoons
Mitcham Court	Wednesday mornings
Cavendish Road Clinic	Thursday afternoons

DAY NURSERIES

The Surrey County Council provide two day nurseries in Mitcham, one at Eagle House, London Road, Mitcham, with 85 places, and the other at Robinson Road, Colliers Wood, with places for 50 children.

HEALTH VISITING.

Health visitors are under the control of the Surrey County Council.

There were eight Health Visitors employed in visiting the mothers and children in this district. Every Health Visitor carries out the combined duties of District Health Visitor and School Health Visitor.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The Home Help Service, which is under the control of the Surrey County Council, has proved most successful.

Applications for assistance are made to the Divisional Medical Officer at Mitcham Court.

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

The Society does very valuable work in the Borough and there is very close co-operation between the officials of the Public Health Department and the officers of the Society.

Number of Mitcham cases dealt with in 1949	...	...	...	...	49
Number of children affected	...	...	...	...	81
Number of visits paid	...	...	...	...	114

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

Except for eight houses in Goat Road, supplied by the Sutton Water Company, the whole of Mitcham is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. A few factories have an additional supply from deep wells.

There are six licensed caravan yards, each with a stand pipe, supplying altogether a total of 16 caravans.

The water has been of a consistently high standard of purity and no case of infectious disease has been transmitted by water.

A large number of houses in the Borough have no supply of drinking water direct from the main, but are supplied from a tank in the roof. Provided the tank is properly covered and is cleansed regularly, it provides a satisfactory supply.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Visits have been paid to all works suspected of discharging effluent into surface water sewers.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

The whole of the district is on the water carriage system, the houses being drained to the public sewer, then treated at the works of the Wandle Valley Joint Sewerage Board.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A weekly collection of house refuse is carried out by direct labour. Eight refuse collection vehicles are in use.

A weekly collection of salvage is also made, two vehicles being used for this purpose.

Pig food is collected twice weekly, except for the months of June, July and August, when a daily collection is made.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Number of Council houses found infested during the year, 100.

Number of other houses found infested during the year, 8.

Number of requisitioned, etc., houses found infested during the year, 4.

Total number of houses disinfested during the year, 116.

Methods employed:—

8 houses treated with sulphur dioxide.

108 houses treated with insecticide spray (inclusive of rooms treated on more than one occasion).

No private house was treated by the Council staff, but advice was given and material supplied at cost price on request in respect of 8 houses.

Number of houses disinfested for beetles, 107.

Number of houses disinfested for spiders and other insects, 12.

SCHOOLS

The supervision of the public elementary schools is under the control of the Education Department of the Surrey County Council.

The sanitary fittings, etc., however, are inspected periodically by the sanitary inspector. All schools have a constant supply of water from the mains of the Metropolitan Water Board.

Medical Inspection.—The medical inspection of school children is carried out by the Education Department of the Surrey County Council.

Closure of Schools.—No school has been closed by the local authority during the year.

Infectious Diseases.—Scholars in contact with a case of infectious disease are excluded from school, the period of the exclusion being that set out in memorandum of the County School Medical Officer to the Surrey Education Committee. The head teacher of the school concerned is always notified of this exclusion and the reason for same.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919

Three full-time and one part-time Rodent Operators were employed.

House to house inspections	...	...	9,440
Complaints received	...	...	448
Number of treatments re rat infestation including test baits as result of inspections and complaints	...	...	1,903
Factory and business premises treated	...		211
Visits by Sanitary Inspectors	...	...	540

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out; 496 manholes were baited. A 10 per cent. test of the sewer manholes in the district was carried out.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY
INSPECTOR

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Mitcham

Madam, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit a summary of the visits and works carried out in the Borough by myself and the District Sanitary Inspectors:—

Number of complaints received	...	...	...	1,535
Visits <i>re</i> complaints and sundries	...	...	...	2,382
Revisits	...	...	...	5,122
Houses inspected for defects	...	...	...	1,975
Number of nuisances discovered	...	...	...	1,453
Number of intimation notices served	...	...	...	953
Number of intimation notices complied with	...	...	...	711
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	...	263
Number of statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	243
Visits to butchers	...	...	...	189
Visits to other food shops	...	...	...	475
Visits to ice-cream shops	...	...	...	155
Visits to factories	...	...	...	162
Visits to slaughter houses	...	...	...	44
Visits to restaurant kitchens	...	...	...	158
Visits to stables	...	...	...	32
Visits to garages	...	...	...	11
Visits to outworkers' premises	...	...	...	57
Visits to marine stores	...	...	...	4
Visits to caravan yards	...	...	...	48
Visits <i>re</i> building licence applications	...	...	...	486

Details of visits to other premises are enumerated in other sections of the report.

Character of Work Done

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	337
Eaves guttering and spouting repaired or renewed	...	...	...	295
Yards paved or repaired	...	...	...	127
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	269
Water service pipes repaired	...	...	...	89
Waterclosets: repairs to roof, walls, doors, windows, floors and seats	...	...	...	168

Waterclosets: flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	153
Water storage cisterns cleansed, regulated, repaired or renewed	40
Water supply reinstated	14
Flooring of rooms repaired and ventilation improved	255
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	465
Repairs to waste pipes and traps	80
Window sills repaired or renewed	79
Window frames and sashes repaired or renewed	348
Drains repaired and obstructions removed	212
Repairs to firegrates (including surrounds and hearths)	96
Repairs to stoves, coppers, ranges, etc.	67
New dustbins provided	38
Accumulations removed	19
Repairs to chimney stacks, etc.	59
Repairs to staircases	77
Repairs to doors	78
Sinks and handbasins, repairs or renewals	94
Drains tested	110
Repairs to internal plaster	1,866
Grid and mica flaps provided	21
Drain inspection chamber covers provided	49
External brickwork (repaired, pointed or rendered)	197
W.c. pans and traps provided	107
Sash cords renewed	298

All ponds and ditches in the Borough where mosquito breeding was possible were sprayed with insecticide twice during the year. Twenty-six visits were paid for this purpose.

Legal Proceedings.—Nine applications were made to the Justices for Nuisance Orders against property owners under Section 94, Public Health Act, 1936. The results were as follows:—

Seven summonses were dismissed with costs, as works were completed before the hearing of the summonses.

Two summonses with costs were adjourned for one month for completion of works.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.—Eighty-eight licences to store petroleum and cellulose solutions were granted, totalling 182,315 gallons. Four licences were also issued for 2,904 lbs. of carbide of calcium to be stored.

UNSOOUND FOOD DEALT WITH.

Beef	715 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Pork	150 lbs.
Fish	1,477 "	Macaroni	419 "
Cheese	13 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	Corned Beef	162 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
Poultry	196 "	Butter	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Sausages... ..	14 "	Jam	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Milk Powder	112 "	Mincemeat	1 "
Sugar	1,010 "	Eggs	648
Fruit, Dried	216 "	Mutton and Lamb	221 lbs.
Bacon	23 "	Almonds... ..	3 tons 4 cwt.
Assorted Tin		Luncheon Meat... ..	3 lbs. 9 ozs.
Foods	1,015	Rice	71 lbs.
Herbs	16 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Salad Cream	11 bottles

Yours faithfully,

K. J. GUTTERIDGE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,975
(b) Number of inspections made for the purposes	2,214

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	732
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of formal action by the local authority or their officers	263

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

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 | 9 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of informal notices:— | |
| (a) By owners | — |
| (b) By local authority in default of owners ... | 9 |

Proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | |
|--|---|
| (1) Number of houses in which demolition orders were made | 1 |
|--|---|

Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) Number of houses in which closing orders were made for underground rooms | — |
|---|---|

4. RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1933, SECTION 12.

Number of certificates issued to occupiers that houses were not in a reasonable state of repair	1
---	---

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Formal Samples.

Ninety-eight formal samples were taken as follows:—

Milk	65	Gelatine	1
Baking Powder ...	1	Olive Oil	1
Cake Mixture	1	Ground Cloves ...	1
Malt Vinegar	2	Sausage Meat	11
Non-brewed Vinegar ..	2	Fruit Cake	1
Lemonade Powder ...	1	Jam	6
Pie Crust	1	Salad Cream	1
Cooking Fat	2	Christmas Pudding ...	1

Informal Samples.

Seventy-one informal samples were taken as follows:—

Milk	3	Coffee Extract	5
Sponge and Pudding Mixtures	3	Bicarbonate of Soda ..	1
Mixed Spice	1	Chocolate, Cocoa	1
Baking Powder	4	Jam	2
Black Pepper	1	Self-raising Flour	1
Pickles, Sauces, etc. ...	5	Swiss Roll	1
Meat and Fish Pastes, Sandwich Spreads ...	8	Saccharine Tablets ..	2
Coconut Essence	1	Meat Cubes	2
Soup Powder	1	Sage and Onion Stuffing	2
Beecham's Powders ..	1	Gelatine	1
Ice Cream	14	Foam Crystals	1
Pastry Mixture	1	Coffee & Chicory Cubes	1
Custard Powder	1	Junket Powder Rennet	3
Ground Ginger	1	Peppermint Flavouring	1
		Herbs	1
		Gravy Browning	1

All samples, with the exception of two were satisfactory. One formal sample of South Devon Milk was found to be deficient in fat and this result was passed to the Ministry of Food. One informal sample of jam was found to have 20 per cent. instead of 30 per cent. fruit content. A warning letter was sent to the manufacturer of this jam. A further formal sample of jam was taken and was reported genuine.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Legal proceedings were taken against a shopkeeper selling unsound meat pies. The Justices fined the shopkeeper £5 with costs of £13 18s. Legal proceedings were also taken against a baker for selling a bakewell tart containing a nail. The Justices fined the baker £5 with £3 3s. costs.

ICE-CREAM

Four premises in the Borough are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream, and fifty-four for the storage of ice-cream. One hundred and fifty-five visits were paid during the year.

Seventy-eight samples of ice-cream were taken and examined for bacteriological purity. Twenty-six were also tested for fat content. The results are tabulated below:—

	Provisional Grade.			
	I	II	III	IV
Coliforms absent	33	6	4	3
Coliforms present in 1/10th ml...	5	4	8	6
Fæcal coli present (in addition to above):—				
In 1 ml.	—	—	—	2
In 1/10th ml.	2	—	2	1
In 1/100th ml.	—	—	—	2

FAT CONTENT

3-4 per cent.	4-5 per cent.	5-6 per cent.	6-7 per cent.	7-8 per cent.
1	1	5	2	9
8-9 per cent.	9-10 per cent.	10-11 per cent.	11-12 per cent.	
5	2	—	1	

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS, 1936-46.

During the year the Council granted the following number of licences under the above-named Order:—

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	10
Pasteurised	...	...	...	10
Pasteurising Plant	...	...	...	1
Supplementary Licences—				
Pasteurised	...	...	...	8
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	7

One hundred and thirty-five samples of Graded Milk were submitted for bacteriological examination. One hundred and twenty-nine samples were satisfactory and six were unsatisfactory. Communications were sent to the dairies regarding the unsatisfactory samples.

BAKEHOUSES

The number of bakehouses in the district is 10.

Forty-six visits have been paid.

DAIRIES

There are 10 registered premises within the district. With the exception at one pasteurising establishment, milk is now being supplied by the wholesalers to the dairymen in sealed bottles.

During the year 179 visits of inspection were paid.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two registered slaughterhouses in the Borough; 44 visits have been paid.

MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle, excluding cows	Cows	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	69
Number inspected	69
All diseases except tuberculosis:				
Whole carcasses condemned	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	5.79
Tuberculosis only:				
Whole carcasses condemned
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.45

FOOD PREPARING FACTORIES

There are 12 other premises in which food is prepared for human consumption. All of these have been systematically visited.

INFORMAL ACTION TAKEN UNDER SECTION 13, FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Number of Notices served, 14. Number of Notices complied with, 12.

PIGGERIES

There are 24 piggeries in the Borough. Ninety-three visits were paid during the year.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

I.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):—

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	20	17	...	...	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies						
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938	2	214	176	14	...	2
(b) Others	3	...	...	...	...	3
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	19	37	...	...	4
TOTAL ... ..	...	253	230	14	...	...

2.—Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5	7	2	...	...	...	5
Overcrowding (S.2)	6	...	...	...	...	...	6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	7	...	...	...	...	...	7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	8	...	...	...	...	...	8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	9	...	...	...	...	...	9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) Insufficient	10	1	1	...	...	...	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	11	21	16	6	...	...	11
(c) Not separate for sexes	12	...	...	...	...	...	12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	13	6	5	...	...	...	13
TOTAL ... ..	...	35	24	6	...	...	...

Nets, other than wire nets	30							30
Tents	31							31
Sacks	32							32
Racquet and tennis balls	33							33
Paper bags	34							34
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper ...	35	13						35
Brush making	36							36
Pea picking	37							37
Feather sorting	38							38
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc. ...	39							39
Stuffed toys	40							40
Basket making	41							41
Chocolates and sweetmeats ...	42							42
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.	43	2						43
Textile weaving	44							44
Lampshades	45							45
TOTAL ... ..	...	88						...

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS

The total number of confirmed notifications received during 1949 was 717.

CONTACTS, SUSPECTS, ETC.

The Medical Officer of Health may be called in consultation by medical practitioners to see patients in their homes.

VISITS

Made by				No.
Sanitary Inspectors	...	...	...	321
Health Visitors	...	...	...	97
To small pox contacts	...	...	...	10
Total				428
Rooms disinfected after infectious disease	...	...	...	231

The monthly incidence of infectious disease was:—

	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Fuerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	Polionyelitis	Measles	Whooping Cough	Food Poisoning	Polio- Encephalitis	Paratyphoid	Malaria	Totals
January	5	...	...	1	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	30	32	...	...	...	...	73
February	7	1	...	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	47	32	...	...	...	...	92
March	11	...	...	2	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	78	24	...	1	...	...	123
April	6	...	...	...	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	81	45	...	...	...	...	137
May	10	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	28	22	1	...	...	...	65
June	19	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	22	13	...	...	...	...	56
July	7	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	21	23	...	...	...	...	54
August	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	9	17	4	...	...	...	34
September	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	7
October	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	3	...	1	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
November	6	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	1	13	1	1	...	...	...	...	26
December	11	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	2	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Totals	89	1	...	12	19	2	8	7	...	6	354	212	6	1	...	...	...	717

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS, 1929-49.

DISEASE	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1.1.48 to 4.7.48	5.7.48 to 31.12.48	1949
Small Pox ...	7	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	134	113	105	174	240	392	143	171	192	150	61	48	75	175	212	97	147	95	62	35	57	89
Diphtheria ...	133	129	49	32	40	83	80	104	89	64	27	36	72	25	42	10	63	32	4	...	1	1
Typhoid Fever ...	4	9	2	3	3	...	3	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Undulant Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	6	1	7	5	1	1	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia...	5	6	9	4	9	6	4	11	5	4	7	2	2	6	3	5	8	6	9	3	...	2
Anthrax ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	4	...	...	1	4	1	1	3	1	2	1	13	12	6	8	3	3	1	2	1	1	...
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	22	22	17	11	31	30	20	22	16	8	19	17	19	7	22	13	16	25	9	18	6	12
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	301	194	599	651	112	739	358	533	818	252	354
Acute Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	11	2	2	6
Ophthalmia Neona- torum	3	1	3	4	2	2	4	3	1	3	3	1	3	10	4	4	...	2	2	6	3	8
Polio-encephalitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	57	35	45	52	37	45	35	36	32	43	...	30	22	20	50	37	33	41	37	30	13	19
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	16	186	161	162	166	96	234	216	117	149	212
Food Poisoning ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	6	11	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	...	6
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	67	13	6	1	2	5	7
Paratyphoid ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	375	319	242	288	368	560	293	357	338	275	125	468	591	1021	1161	515	1126	807	888	1033	490	717

SMALL POX

No case of small pox was notified during the year 1949.

SCARLET FEVER

The number of cases of scarlet fever notified during the year was 89 as compared with 92 in 1948, equivalent to a case rate of 1.33 per 1,000 population. The disease has continued mild in character; no death due to this cause was recorded. Of the total number of cases notified 46 were treated in hospital, and 43 cases were treated at home.

The patient's home was disinfected after removal to hospital or release from isolation, but steam disinfection of the bedding has been discontinued as a routine procedure.

DIPHTHERIA

One case of diphtheria was notified during the year. The case recovered after hospital treatment. Contacts are swabbed as a routine.

The following table shows the number of each age group immunised in relationship to cases of diphtheria:—

NOTIFICATIONS			DEATHS		
Age at date of notification.	Number of cases notified	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the patient had completed a full course of immunisation.	Age at date of death	Number of deaths	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the patient had completed a full course of immunisation.
Under 1	—	—	Under 1	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—
2	—	—	2	—	—
3	—	—	3	—	—
4	—	—	4	—	—
5-9	—	—	5-9	—	—
10-14	1	—	10-14	—	—
Over 14	—	—			
Totals	1	—	Totals	—	—

Immunisation and reinforcing doses were available to every school child whose parents gave consent.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Efforts have continued during the year to obtain the immunisation of every child before the second birthday. A birthday greeting letter is sent on the first birthday, making an appointment for immunisation, and three clinics are available, so that no mother is beyond easy walking distance of a clinic. The health visitors have urged the mothers at the welfare centres, and when making home visits, to have their children immunised, and have made special visits in difficult cases.

Immunisation has been continued at the schools. All the non-immunised children at the Day Nurseries were immunised after admission.

The following figures show the number of children immunised during the year:—

Under five	...	...	...	...	...	983
Five—14	...	...	...	...	...	628

Total	...	1,611
-------	-----	-------

The following figures show the number of the child population considered immunised at December 31, 1949:—

Age at 31.12.49 <i>i.e.</i> born in year	Under 1 1949	1 1948	2 1947	3 1946	4 1945	5 to 9 1940-1944	10 to 14 1935-1939	Total under 15
Number immunised	25	743	931	908	668	4172	3517	10964
Estimated mid-year population 1949	5814					8500		14314

The percentage immunised is as follows:—

Under five	...	...	...	...	56.33%
Five—14	...	...	...	...	90.46%

The number of birthday greetings sent in 1949 was 786.

TYPHOID FEVER

No case was notified during the year.

DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE

No death was registered during the year.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA

No case was notified during the year.

ERYSIPELAS

Twelve cases were notified. Six cases were removed to hospital.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Two cases were notified during the year.

PNEUMONIA

Nineteen cases of primary pneumonia were notified during the year. The number of deaths from all forms of pneumonia, some of which are not notifiable, was 28, of which 11 were males and 17 females.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER

One female death was returned in the Registrar-General's figures, but no notification was received at this office.

INFLUENZA

During the year eight deaths from influenza were recorded, of which four were male and four were female. The previous year three deaths were registered.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

This comes under the control of the Surrey County Council.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

During the year eight cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified.

POLIOMYELITIS

Thirteen cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the year, of which the diagnosis was subsequently confirmed in six cases. There was also one case of polioencephalitis which was fatal.

SCHOOL NOTIFICATIONS

The school intimation notices of infectious disease are always compared with the notifications received from the medical practitioners. If any case on the school return is found to be unnotified, investigations are made in order to find out if the patient is receiving medical attention.

The school notices also give fairly accurate estimates of the prevalence of non-notifiable infectious disease, such as chicken pox, mumps, etc. The numbers were as follows:—

Chicken pox	...	...	...	...	26
Mumps	...	...	...	...	17
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	3
Ringworm	...	...	...	...	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	43
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	48
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	29
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1

CANCER

The number of deaths from cancer registered during the year was 124, of which 69 were males and 55 were females.

The site distribution for 1949 was as follows:—

Digestive organs	...	...	...	21 cases
Genito-urinary organs	...	...	...	8 "
Breast	...	...	...	8 "
Other sites	...	...	...	87 "
Total				124

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 100 new cases of tuberculosis were notified.

Total	100	41	59	Pulmonary
—	4	2	2	Non-Pulmonary
Total	104	43	61	

The following table shows the number of deaths from cancer, together with the death rate as compared with England and Wales:—

Year	Number of Deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 of population			
			Mitcham	England and Wales		
1929	...	66	...	1.33	...	1.43
1930	...	73	...	1.25	...	1.45
1931	...	81	...	1.41	...	1.48
1932	...	68	...	1.0	...	1.51
1933	...	52	...	.86	...	1.52
1934	...	70	...	1.1	...	1.56
1935	...	61	...	1.0	...	1.58
1936	...	80	...	1.2	...	1.61
1937	...	76	...	1.1	...	1.63
1938	...	103	...	1.5	...	1.66
1939	...	73	...	1.12	...	1.64
1940	...	94	...	1.55	...	1.66
1941	...	84	...	1.6	...	1.67
1942	...	104	...	1.9	...	1.698
1943	...	95	...	1.7	...	1.74
1944	...	83	...	1.6	...	1.7
1945	...	103	...	1.9	...	1.74
1946	...	108	...	1.74	...	1.76
1947	...	103	...	1.60	...	1.86
1948	...	111	...	1.67	...	1.85
1949	...	124	...	1.85	...	1.87

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 106 new cases of tuberculosis were notified, viz.:—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	61	41	102
Non-Pulmonary	2	2	4
	—	—	—
Totals	63	43	106

Thirteen cases were transferred into the Borough as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	7	5	12
Non-Pulmonary	1	—	1
	—	—	—
Totals	8	5	13

The total number of deaths registered as occurring from tuberculosis was viz.:—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	15	5	20
Non-Pulmonary	1	—	1
	—	—	—
Totals	16	5	21

England
and Wales Mitcham

Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis per 1,000 population	0.41	0.28
Death rate from non-pulmonary tuberculosis per 1,000 population	0.05	0.01

The sources from which information as to the above-mentioned cases was obtained are as follows:—

	No. of Cases		
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Death Returns ...	(a) From Local Registrar	3	...
	(b) Transferable deaths from Registrar General	2	2
Posthumous notifications ... ..	...	...

Number of cases removed from register during 1949:—

Reason	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Cases
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Withdrawal of notification	1	...	1	...	...	...	1
Recovery from disease ...	12	14	26	1	1	2	28
Death... ..	18	6	24	...	...	...	24
Removed from district ...	15	11	26	...	1	1	27

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to the total tuberculosis deaths is as follows:—

Non-notified tuberculosis deaths	...	7
Notified tuberculosis deaths	...	14
Percentage of non-notified T.B. deaths (all forms)	...	33.33 per cent.
Percentage of non-notified pulmonary T.B. deaths	...	23.81 ..

MITCHAM, BEDDINGTON AND WALLINGTON TUBERCULOSIS CARE
COMMITTEE

Functions of the Committee

1. To alleviate want or distress amongst those suffering from tuberculosis, providing where necessary, extra nourishment, clothing, bedding, coal, surgical appliances, travelling expenses and help in the home.

2. To care for the families of patients who are in sanatoria so that their changed economic circumstances shall not result in impaired health, and that the sufferer shall not be harassed by undue anxiety.

Christmas gifts were given to hardship cases.

Assistance was given towards extra nourishment, beds and bedding, occupational therapy material, education, clothing, provision of wireless, holidays, fares for relatives to visit, pocket money for patients, removal expenses, etc., etc. The Committee also carry for distribution a stock of milk foods, blankets and sheets. The help given improves the morale of the patient or the well being of his or her family.

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