

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

Contributors

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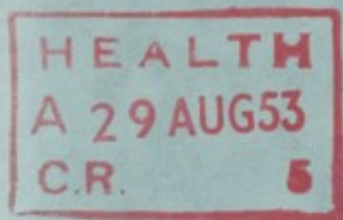


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BOROUGH OF MITCHAM



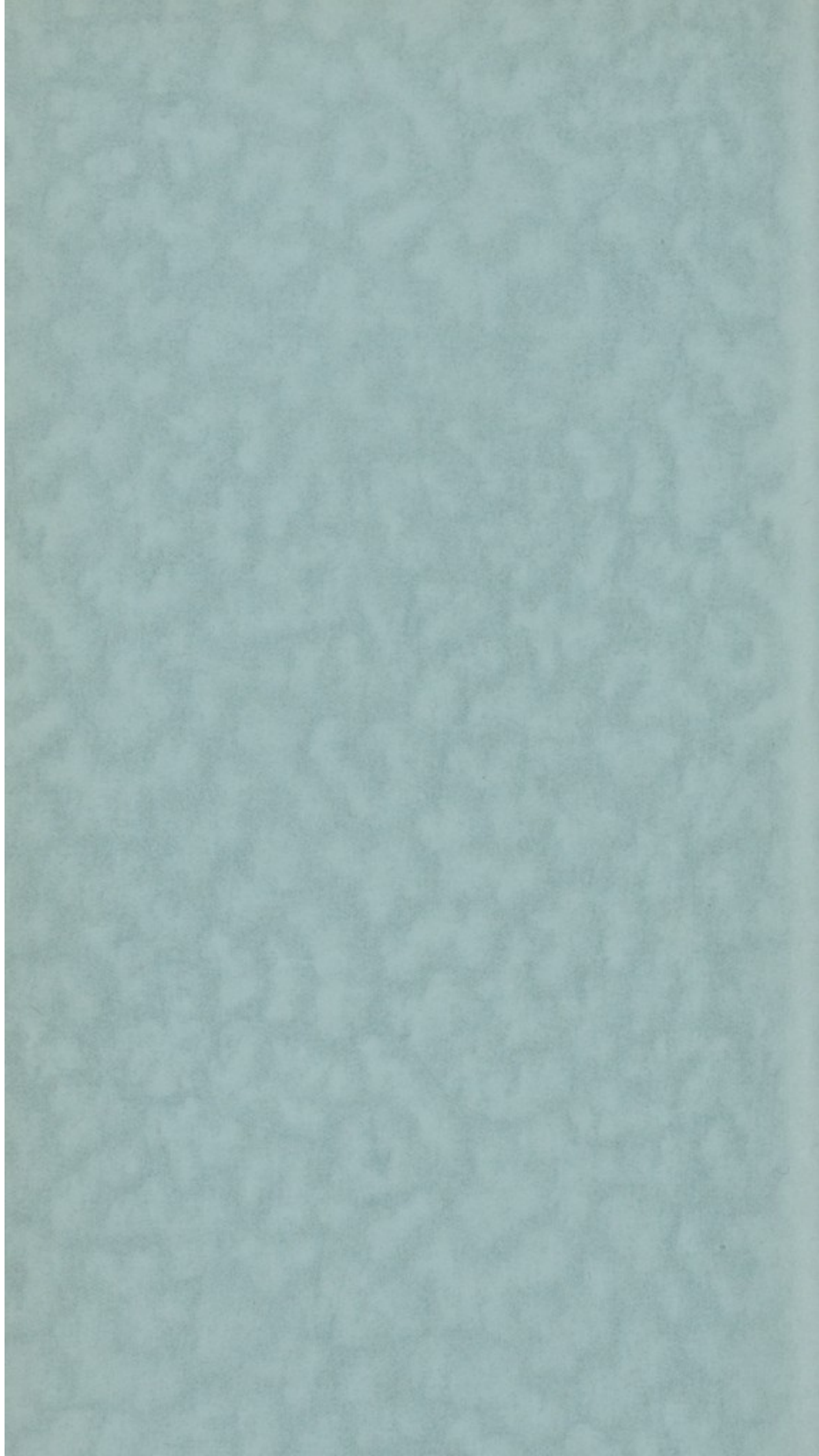
REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

YEAR 1952





Borough of Mitcham

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1952

BOROUGH OF MITCHAM

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my annual report for the year 1952.

The general health in the Borough has been good, and most of the statistics compare very favourably with those for England and Wales. There was no outbreak of infectious disease to cause special alarm. The influenza epidemic was much reduced because of the exceptionally large and early onset with whooping cough.

REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for the YEAR 1952

It was pleasing to note that deaths from tuberculosis were the lowest on record, the incidence being 0.19 per 1,000 population, compared with 0.33 last year and 0.24 for England and Wales. The figures for the industrial area are not usually as favourable.

The sixteen cases of dysentery were mostly single cases diagnosed on clinical grounds, not confirmed bacteriologically.

The birth rate of 12.7, after correction for the comparability factor to correspond with the average age and sex grouping of the whole population, being 12.5, which compares with 15.3 for England and Wales.

MITCHAM:

H. G. Mather, Ltd., Caxton Works, Lower Green.

Borough of Mitcham

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1952

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my annual report for the year 1952.

The general health in the Borough has been good, and most of the statistics compare very favourably with those for England and Wales. There was no outbreak of infectious disease to cause special alarm. The infectious diseases notifications were much reduced because of the great reduction in measles, which was exceptionally large the year before, and to a less extent with whooping cough.

Poliomyelitis affected four people, but they were fairly mild cases. Very much on the preventive side for the third year in succession, there was no case of diphtheria, and only two in the past six years, whereas before that cases averaged sixty per year.

It was pleasing to note that deaths from tuberculosis were the lowest on record, the death rate being 0.19 per 1,000 population, compared with 0.33 last year and 0.24 for England and Wales. The figures for this industrial area are not usually as favourable.

The sixteen cases of dysentery were mostly single cases diagnosed on clinical grounds, not confirmed bacteriologically.

The birth rate of 13.57, after correction by the comparability factor to correspond with the average age and sex grouping of the whole population, becomes 12.62, which compares with 15.3 for England and Wales.

The actual death rate of 9.37, which after applying the comparability factor becomes 10.89, compares with 11.3 for the whole of the country.

The infant mortality rate is the lowest recorded in Mitcham, and is 19.8 compared with 27.6 for England and Wales, which itself is the lowest ever recorded for this country.

The death rate from cancer continues to rise and is now the highest ever, being 1.91 per 1,000 population, equal to that in 1945.

I wish to thank the Chairmen of the Committees for their friendly support, and all the members of the staff for their loyalty and service throughout the year.

I have the honour to be, 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. J. C. ERICSON
His Worship the Mayor (Councillor A. C. Prestage, J.P.)

Aldermen—

Mrs. L. Crump Mrs. H. E. Niven T. A. East, J.P.
G. W. Pearce T. L. Ruff

Councillors—

Mrs. W. R. Martin E. E. Field W. Lancaster
E. J. Mills R. Stanley

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COUNCIL ON OTHER AUTHORITIES.

WANDLE VALLEY JOINT SEWERAGE BOARD

His Worship the Mayor (*ex officio*)

Alderman W. Jeffery

Councillors—

D. W. Fido F. S. Niven

NORTH-EAST DIVISIONAL HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE (SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL)

Aldermen—

Mrs. J. C. Ericson Mrs. H. E. Niven G. W. Pearce

Councillors—

Mrs. W. R. Martin R. Stanley

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

A. R. Graham, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law.

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. J. Sluis (1, 2) L. M. Edwards (1, 2)
F. A. Evans (1, 2)

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

Clerks

L. J. Bellingham

(a) Miss B. J. Hogan	(b) Miss V. I. Hill
(c) Mrs. V. E. Bevan	(d) Miss M. Sanders

- (a) Resigned 2.2.52.
- (b) Commenced duties 31.3.52.
- (c) Part-time—40 per cent. Surrey County Council. Resigned 9.12.52.
- (d) Part-time—40 per cent. Surrey County Council.

REPORT

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	2,932 acres
Population, Census 1921	...	...	...	...	...	35,119
" " 1931	...	...	...	...	...	56,856
" " 1951	...	...	...	...	...	67,273
Registrar-General's estimate of population mid-year, 1952	...	...	...	...	...	66,950
Number of inhabited houses, 1921	...	...	...	...	...	7,150
" " " 1931	...	...	...	...	...	13,187
" " " 1952	...	...	...	...	...	19,284
Rateable Value, 1952	...	...	...	...	...	£560,781
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	...	£2,269

The Borough of Mitcham is an irregular oval in shape, situated in North-East Surrey adjoining the south-west border of the London metropolitan area. It is a fairly flat and low lying area, with some 600 acres of open space including the 440 acres of Mitcham Common.

The River Wandle, which forms the south-west and western boundary, separates Mitcham from Beddington & Wallington in the south and Carshalton in the west, as it runs a northwards course towards the Thames.

The soil of Mitcham consists of up to four feet of top-soil, with about ten feet of gravel sub-soil, except for one or two parts where London clay comes to the surface. Below the gravel, London clay extends downwards for 200 to 300 feet.

Mitcham, with nearly 300 factories, has a great variety of industries, of which probably the chief ones are paint and varnish, chemical, engineering, margarine and dairy products. Unemployment for the year was not high, although somewhat increased from 1951, especially towards the end of the year.

Although Mitcham is chiefly a working class area, there are no real slums and no back-to-back houses. Nearly two-thirds of the houses have been built since 1921 and more than 50 per cent. of all the roads are tree-lined. Mitcham is now a fairly densely populated area, with the few available building sites being rapidly filled up.

STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 of population
Legitimate ...	884	424	460	
Illegitimate ...	25	14	11	
Total ...	909	438	471	13.57

After correction by the comparability factor becomes 12.62

STILL BIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 total births
Legitimate ...	20	13	7	
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	
Total ...	20	13	7	21.53

DEATHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 of population
	628	338	290	9.37

After correction by the comparability factor becomes 10.87

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion:—

	Rate per 1,000 total births
Number of cases 1	1.08

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	19.80
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births	16.97
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births	120.0

Deaths from:—

Cancer (all ages)	128
Measles	—
Whooping cough (all ages)	—
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age... ..	1

PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS OCCURRING IN INSTITUTIONS

Year	Total births	Births in hospitals, etc.	Percentage of births occurring in institutions
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
1950 ...	933	718	76.96
1951 ...	926	703	75.92
1952 ...	929	749	80.62

The birth rates, death rates per 1,000 of population, and the infantile mortality rates for the years 1933-52 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
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
After 1949 the actual Birth and Death Rates for Mitcham are modified by a comparability factor to correspond with the average age and sex distribution of England and Wales.						
1950	12.56	15.8	10.66	11.6	29.64	29.8
1951	12.54	15.5	11.32	12.5	25.47	29.6
1952	12.62	15.3	10.87	11.3	19.80	27.6

INFANT MORTALITY

During the year 18 deaths were registered of infants under one year of age:—

		Males		Females		Total
Legitimate	...	7	...	8	...	15
Illegitimate	...	3	...	—	...	3
Totals	...	10	...	8	...	18

as compared with 23 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...	4	—	1	1	—	2
1-7 days ...	8	2	5	1	—	—
8 days - 1 mth.	—	—	—	—	—	—
1mth. - 12 mths.	6	—	—	—	3	3
Total	18	2	6	2	3	5

Twelve infants failed to survive the first month of life, and prematurity was certified as the cause of death of two of these cases.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

During the year one death was registered as compared with none in 1951.

INQUESTS.

Inquests were held on 23 residents dying within the district and on 15 Mitcham residents who died outside the district, a total of 38. In addition, the coroner held 65 post-mortems without inquests on residents dying within the district, and on 73 Mitcham residents who died outside the district, a total of 138.

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1952

CAUSE OF DEATH					Males	Females	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	7	4	11
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	2	...	2
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	1	...	1
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Measles	...	...	...	1	...	1
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	8	4	12
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	29	2	31
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	14	14
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	5	5
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	36	30	66
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	2	1	3
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	5	5
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	26	36	62
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	49	28	77
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	4	4	8
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	44	67	111
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	12	19	31
22	Influenza	...	...	...	1	...	1
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	17	12	29
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	36	24	60
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	1	2	3
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	6	2	8
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	1	1	2
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	2	1	3
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	3	...	3
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	1	1
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	2	3	5
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	27	19	46
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	4	1	5
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	6	3	9
35	Suicide	...	...	...	8	2	10
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	3	...	3
All causes					338	290	628

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and
Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1952.

(Provisional figures based on quarterly returns.)

	England and Wales	160 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	160 Smaller Towns (Resident Popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000 at 1951 census)	London Admin- istrative County	Mitcham
Rates per 1,000 home population					
Births—					
Live	15.3	16.9	15.5	17.6	12.62
Still	{ 0.35 22.6*	{ 0.43 24.6*	{ 0.36 23.0*	{ 0.34 19.2*	{ 0.30 21.53*
Deaths—					
All causes... ..	11.3	12.1	11.2	12.6	10.87
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Whooping cough ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.24	0.28	0.22	0.31	0.19
Influenza	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.05	0.01
Smallpox	0.00	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia	0.47	0.52	0.43	0.58	0.43
Notifications (corrected)—					
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Paratyphoid fever ...	0.02	0.02	0.03	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.01
Scarlet fever	1.53	1.75	1.58	1.56	3.36
Whooping cough... ..	2.61	2.74	2.57	1.66	1.67
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.03	0.01	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.15	0.12	0.14	0.21
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	8.86	10.11	8.49	9.23	8.82
Pneumonia	0.72	0.80	0.62	0.57	0.39
Acute Poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06
Non-paralytic	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.00
Food Poisoning	0.13	0.16	0.11	0.18	0.15
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	17.87*	23.94*	10.22*	30.77*	24.76*
Rates per 1,000 live births					
Deaths under one year of age	27.6†	31.2	25.0	23.8	19.80
Deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis under two years of age	1.1	1.3	0.5	0.7	1.10
Maternal mortality...					
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	0.72*	Not available			1.08*
Mortality per million women aged 15-44					
Abortion—					
With sepsis	5 }	Not available			
Without sepsis	3 }				

* Per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

† 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.

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. The ambulances are controlled from St. Helier Hospital (Telephone: Fairlands 8893), some of them being stationed at Mitcham Court.

DISINFECTION

The disinfection of houses is undertaken by the Council. Disinfection of bedding, etc., is done at 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	...	...	41
Number of rooms disinfected by fumigator	...	...	346
Number of library books disinfected	...	...	570

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, and itself comes under 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. J. M. Hill is the chest physician for Mitcham patients and holds a clinic at the St. Helier Hospital, Carshalton, every Monday at 9.30 a.m., Wednesday at 1.50 p.m., Thursday at 9.30 a.m., and Friday at 9.30 a.m. A clinic is held, for old cases only, on every fourth Wednesday at 5.30 p.m.

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, Gorrings Park Avenue.—Sessions are held every Tuesday afternoon.

Sherwood House, Commonside East.—Sessions are held every Thursday morning and Monday afternoon.

Church Road Centre.—Sessions are held every Thursday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon.

Meopham Road Clinic.—Sessions are held each Wednesday afternoon.

Toddlers' Clinics for children between the ages of two to five years are held on Monday mornings, other than the first Monday in the month, by appointment.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

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

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

POST-NATAL CLINIC

A post-natal clinic is held at Church Road Clinic on the first Monday in the month.

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.

SPEECH CLINIC

An all day session is held at Western Road Clinic on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday when two speech therapists are in attendance.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC

An eye specialist attends Western Road Clinic on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and Wednesday afternoons.

MINOR AILMENTS

A session is held at Western Road Clinic on Monday and Friday mornings.

U.V. RADIATION CLINICS

Sessions are held as follows:—

Church Road Clinic: Monday afternoons, Thursday mornings.

Sherwood House Clinic: Tuesday afternoons, Friday afternoons.

DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALL POX

(Under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health.)

Clinics are held as follows:—

Meopham Road Clinic ...	...	Monday afternoons
Church Road Clinic ...	...	Wednesday mornings
Cavendish Road Clinic ...	...	Thursday afternoons

DAY NURSERY

The Surrey County Council provide one day nursery in Mitcham, at Eagle House, London Road, Mitcham, with 85 places.

HEALTH VISITING.

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

There were nine 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.

Numbers of Mitcham cases dealt with in 1952 ...	19
Number of children affected	29
Number of visits paid	107

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948: SECTION 47.

Removal to Suitable Premises of Persons in Need of Care and Attention.

There were no cases during the year that needed court action. Two cases which seemed likely to require such action eventually went, voluntarily, to a hospital for the chronic sick and to a welfare institution.

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 21 caravans.

The water has been of a consistently high standard of purity and there is no record of any case of infectious disease being 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 paper salvage was also made, two vehicles being used for this purpose.

Pig food is collected three times 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, 52.

Number of other houses found infested during the year, 30.

Number of requisitioned, etc., houses found infested during the year, 8.

Total number of houses disinfested during the year, 60.

Methods employed:—

62 houses treated with insecticide spray (inclusive of those 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.

Number of houses disinfested of beetles, 68.

Number of houses disinfested of spiders and other insects,
32.

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 School Health Service of the Surrey County Council.

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

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 a 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.

PREVENTION OF DESTRUCTION BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

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

Properties inspected	...	...	...	...	4,872
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	641
Number of treatments <i>re</i> rat infestation including test baits as result of inspection and complaints	...	...	...	...	1,095
Factory and business premises treated	...	...	...	...	114
Visits by Sanitary Inspectors	...	...	...	...	161

Three sewer maintenance treatments were carried out; 476 manholes were baited. 194 intercepting chambers were also baited during the three maintenance treatments. A ten per cent. test of all the sewer manholes in the district was also carried out.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Mr. Mayor, 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:—

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	784
Nuisances found	...	...	...	...	...	666
Verbal Notices given	...	...	...	...	...	166
Verbal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	71
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	474
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	258
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	209
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	206
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	2,695
Houses inspected for defects	...	...	...	...	...	676
Visits made for this purpose	...	...	...	...	...	737
Drains tested and inspected	...	...	...	...	...	418
Private houses found verminous	...	...	...	...	...	38
Visits <i>re</i> Building Licence applications	...	...	...	...	...	9
Visits to butchers	...	...	...	...	...	188
Visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	80
Visits to dairies	...	...	...	...	...	26
Visits to restaurant kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	288
Visits to ice-cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	212
Visits to bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	65
Visits to other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	547
Number of notices served under Food and Drugs Act,						
1938	...	...	...	...	...	22
Number of notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	18
Visits to factories	...	...	...	...	...	273
Visits to workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	23
Visits to outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	128
Visits to stables	...	...	...	...	...	53
Visits to piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	93
Visits to marine stores	...	...	...	...	...	1

Visits to caravan yards	...	...	...	...	139
Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	32
Visits <i>re</i> infectious disease cases	...	...	...	...	352
Visits <i>re</i> smallpox contacts	...	...	...	...	—
Visits <i>re</i> food poisoning	...	...	...	...	6
Visits <i>re</i> rats and mice	...	...	...	...	161
Visits <i>re</i> Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	87
Visits <i>re</i> schools	...	...	...	...	24
Sundry visits	...	...	...	...	238

Character of Work Done

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	159
Rainwater piping or gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	153
Yards paved or repaired	...	...	...	...	14
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	153
Water service pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	19
Waterclosets: Repairs to structure	...	...	...	...	15
Flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	38
New pans and traps fitted	...	...	...	...	29
Water storage cisterns cleansed, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	11
Water supply reinstated	...	...	...	...	7
Flooring of rooms repaired and sub-floor ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	103
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	31
Sinks and handbasins repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	18
Waste pipes and traps repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	32
Window frames and sashes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	53
Window sills repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	36
External brickwork (repaired, pointed or rendered)	...	...	...	...	20
Drains repaired or obstructions removed	...	...	...	...	88
Drain inspection covers renewed	...	...	...	...	13
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	95
Grid and mica flaps provided	...	...	...	...	3
Firegrates repaired (including surrounds and hearths)	...	...	...	...	28
Stoves, coppers, ranges, etc., repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	35
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	25
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	21

Internal plaster repairs	...	...	...	...	217
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	105
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	23
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	10

All ponds and ditches in the Borough where mosquito breeding was possible were sprayed with insecticide twice during the year.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Section 94, Public Health Act, 1936.—14 applications were made to the Justices for summonses against property owners who failed to carry out works of repair.

In 11 cases the work was carried out before the hearing of the applications and the Court awarded 10s. 6d. in each of eight applications, total £4 4s. The remaining three applications were withdrawn on the works being completed before the hearing.

In three applications orders were made by the Justices for the work to be carried out within 14 days and the Council was awarded £1 1s. costs and 2s. 6d. Court costs in two cases, and 10s. 6d. costs in the remaining application, total £2 17s. 6d.

Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936.—Legal proceedings were instituted against the owner of land for allowing a caravan to be occupied on an unlicensed site for a period exceeding 42 consecutive days. The Court imposed a fine of £2 and £2 2s. costs upon the owner of the land, and a fine of £1 upon the occupier of the caravan, and ordered the removal of the caravan from the site forthwith.

Section 68, Mitcham Urban District Council Act. 1923.—One application was made to the Justices requiring the provision of a dustbin but, as the dustbin was provided before the hearing, the application was withdrawn.

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936, and Petroleum (Mixtures) Order, 1929.—Ninety-five licences to store petroleum spirit and/or petroleum mixtures were issued for a total of 205,935 gallons (inclusive of cellulose solutions).

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936, and Petroleum (Carbide of Calcium) Order, 1929.—Three licences were issued for the storage of 2,844 lbs. (plus 448 lbs. temporary re-supply) of carbide of calcium.

UN SOUND FOOD DEALT WITH.

Beef	...	...	128 lbs.	Fruit	...	...	358 lbs.
Pork	...	...	127 „	Prunes	...	...	30 „
Kidney	...	...	8 „	Macaroni	...	...	41 „
Mutton	...	...	150 „	Golden Syrup	...	...	6 „
Veal	...	...	6 „	Chocolate	...	...	4 „
Lamb	...	...	477 „	Dehydrated			
Tongue	...	...	8 „	vegetables		180 „	
Jellied Veal	...	...	30 „	Apricot Pulp	...	...	378 „
Stewed Steak	...	...	14 „	Biscuits	...	...	14½ „
Minced Beef Loaf	...	...	1½ „	Cheese	...	...	16 „
Veal and Ham Loaf	...	...	12 „	Sugar	...	...	30 „
Luncheon Meat	...	...	123½ „	Milk Powder	...	...	408 „
Sausages	...	...	26 „	Cereals	...	...	52 pkts.
Ham	...	...	501 „	Tinned foods	...	...	1,072 tins
Fish	...	...	397 „	Assorted	...	...	41 bottles & jars

Yours faithfully,

K. J. GUTTERIDGE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING STATISTICS

TOTAL NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES—19,284.

Permanent buildings built by the Council before the war—1,461.

Permanent buildings built by the Council after the war—1,308.

Other Housing Accommodation Available:—

A. Requisitioned and sundry properties	...	394
B. Temporary buildings, Arcon bungalows	...	345
C. Hutments, 320 originally, now reduced to	...	219

D. Gunsite hutments, 61 originally, now reduced to 26

E. Therefore total number of properties acquired
during and since the war is 2,292

NUMBER OF PEOPLE REHOUSED.

About 8,300 applicants have registered since 1945, and the current list is still about 2,500, so that some 5,800 applicants have been dealt with. The actual number of people including children who have been rehoused is about 6,000.

TYPES OF ACCOMMODATION.

The Nissen huts and gunsite hutments were built to last only a few years, and do not always give protection against the weather, although much has been spent on improvements. The numbers are gradually being reduced and the Mitcham Borough Council is acquiring the sites for permanent housing purposes.

The temporary Arcon bungalows, however, give very good housing accommodation.

The chief new development is that of building large blocks of flats to get the greatest number of families rehoused with a limited building space available.

A housing estate is also to be constructed outside the borough at Banstead in conjunction with the neighbouring authorities of Merton and Morden Urban District Council and the Borough of Sutton and Cheam.

The Mitcham Borough Council has also started the building of aged persons' dwellings.

The post-war housing is also making provision for the communal needs of the occupants of the new estates by proposed community centres, erection of garages, etc.

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) ...	676
(b) Number of inspections made ...	737

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR:—

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in
consequence of informal action by the local
authority or their officers 201

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in con-
sequence of formal action by the local authority
or their officers 183

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 —

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were ren-
dered fit after service of informal notices:—

(a) By owners —

(b) By local authority in default of owners —

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

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

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 (RESTRICTIONS) ACT,
1920-1938.

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

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

Examinations are made of all food premises, the desirable features carefully assessed and marks awarded on a special form. The premises were on the whole satisfactory with some minor adjustments necessary.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Formal Samples.

Eighty-four formal samples were taken as follows:—

Milk	...	...	39	Jelly Crystals	...	...	1
Luncheon Meat	...	...	1	Ice-cream	...	...	7
French Coffee	...	...	1	Non-brewed Vinegar	...	...	1
Pork sausages	...	...	7	Jam	...	...	1
Beef sausages	...	...	9	Coconut Marshmallow			
Beef sausage meat	...	...	2	Biscuits			1
Chippolata, beef	...	...	1	Pepper Flavoured			
Pure Ground Coffee	...	...	1	Compound			1
Salad Cream	...	...	1	Gelatine	...	...	1
Harlequin Roll	...	...	1	White Pepper	...	...	1
Orange Squash	...	...	1	Cod Liver Oil	...	...	1
Liver Sausage	...	...	1	"Multivite"	...	...	1
Chippolata, pork	...	...	1	Calcium Gluconate	...	...	1
				Halibut Liver Oil Capsules			1

Informal Samples.

Fifty-seven informal samples were taken as follows:—

Essence of Rennet	...	...	1	Vegetable Extract	...	...	1
Jelly	...	...	3	Digestive Powder	...	...	1
Sauce	...	...	2	Blancmange Powder	...	...	1
Malt Vinegar	...	...	1	"Lactagol"	...	...	1
Condiment	...	...	1	"Yogurt"	...	...	1
Bronchial Elixir	...	...	1	Suet	...	...	2
Ice-cream	...	...	23	Marshmallow Creme	...	...	1
Halibut Oil	...	...	1	Baking Powder	...	...	1
"Torox" Cubes	...	...	1	Orange Squash	...	...	1

Almond Culinary Flavour	1	Pepper Flavoured	
Bloater Paste	1	Condiment	1
Horseradish Cream	1	"Gravylets"	1
Veal and Ham Paste	1	Gravy Powder	1
Mincemeat	1	Yorkshire Pudding	
High Protein Food	1	Powder	1
Crab and Lobster		Custard Powder	1
Fish Paste	1	Children's Bronchial Syrup	1

All samples were satisfactory, with the exception of three formal samples (Pork Sausage 1, Ice-cream 1, Non-brewed Vinegar 1) and four informal samples (Malt Vinegar 1, Ice-cream 2, Children's Bronchial Syrup 1). A warning letter was sent in each of these cases.

On complaints being received the following cases were reported to the Public Health Committee:—

Three dirty milk bottles.

One of glass in milk bottle.

One of maggots in bacon.

Two of foreign bodies in bread.

Legal action was not taken against the firms concerned but all received warning letters.

ICE-CREAM.

Four premises in the Borough are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream, and 122 for the storage of ice-cream. Two hundred and twelve visits were paid during the year.

Sixty-two samples of ice-cream were taken and examined for bacteriological purity. Thirty samples were also tested for fat content. The results are tabulated below:—

	Provisional Grade.			
	I	II	III	IV
Coliforms absent	25	5	—	—
Coliforms present in 1/10th ml ...	14	5	11	2
Fæcal coli present (in addition to above)	—	—	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	1	3
8-9 per cent.	9-10 per cent.	10-11 per cent.	11-12 per cent.	12-13 per cent.
4	9	6	—	—

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF CUPS AND GLASSES.

Seventy-two swabs were taken from tea cups at various catering establishments and 14 swabs were taken from beer glasses at various public houses during the year, and were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination. The results are tabulated below:—

TEA CUP SWABS.

Colony Count (per cup)	Coliforms.		Faecal Coli.		Result—	
	Present.	Absent.	Present.	Absent.	Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.
Under 100 ...	1	24	—	1	25	—
100-200 ...	—	10	—	—	10	—
200-500 ...	1	8	—	1	—	9
500-1,000 ...	1	7	—	1	—	8
1,000-1,500 ...	1	3	1	—	—	4
1,500-2,000 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
2,000 and over	6	10	—	6	—	16
Total ...	10	62	1	9	35	37

BEER GLASS SWABS.

Under 100 ...	—	11	—	—	11	—
100-200 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
200-500 ...	1	1	—	1	—	2
500-1,000 ...	—	1	—	—	—	1
1,000-1,500 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
1,500-2,000 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
2,000 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	1	13	—	1	11	3

The result of the swabs was sent to the establishments concerned.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 AND 1950.

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

Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licences	1
Dealer's Licences—	
Pasteurised	21
Sterilised	37
Supplementary Licences—	
Pasteurised	16
Sterilised	16

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 AND 1950.

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

Dealer's Licences (Tuberculin Tested)	14
Supplementary Licences (Tuberculin Tested) ...	16

One hundred and sixty samples of Graded Milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, and all were found to be satisfactory.

BAKEHOUSES

The number of bakehouses in the district is 13.

Sixty-five visits have been paid.

DAIRIES

There is one registered dairy and pasteurising establishment within the district.

During the year 11 visits of inspection were paid.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two registered slaughterhouses in the Borough; 80 visits have been paid.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Seven licences were issued to slaughtermen in accordance with the requirements of the above Act.

MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle, excluding cows	Cows	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	164
Number inspected	164
All diseases except tuberculosis:				
Whole carcasses condemned
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	0.61
Tuberculosis only:				
Whole carcasses condemned	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0.61

FOOD PREPARING FACTORIES

There are 13 factories which are engaged in the manufacture and preparation of food products. All of these have been systematically visited.

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

Number of notices served, 22. Number of notices complied with, 18.

PIGGERIES

There are 32 piggeries in the Borough. Ninety-three visits were paid during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Five licences were issued to occupiers of pet shops.

10171 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	19	45	1	...	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	265	214	9	...	2
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	10	15	...	...	3
TOTAL ... ..	...	294	274	10	...	...

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)	4	4	4	...	1	...	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	1	1	...	...	...	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	...	...	...	...	...	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	...	...	...	...	...	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	...	...	...	...	...	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) Insufficient	9	2	2	...	...	...	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	23	23	...	1	...	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	...	...	...	...	...	11
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	12	6	6	...	1	...	12
TOTAL	60	36	36	...	3	...	60

3.—Outwork (Sections 110 and 111):—

Nature of Work (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Section 110			Section 111			M/c line No. (9)
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecu- tions (8)	
Wearing { Making, etc.	13	82						13
apparel { Cleaning and washing ...	14							14
Household linen	15							15
Lace, lace curtains and nets ...	16							16
Curtains and furniture hangings ...	17							17
Furniture and upholstery	18	4						18
Electro-plate	19							19
File making	20							20
Brass and brass articles	21							21
Fur pulling	22							22
Iron and steel cables and chains ...	23							23
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels	24							24
Cart gear	25							25
Locks, latches and keys	26							26
Umbrellas, etc.	27							27
Artificial flowers	28							28

3.—Outwork (Sections 110 and 111) *continued* :—

Nets, other than wire nets	29							29
Tents	30							30
Sacks	31							31
Racquet and tennis balls	32							32
Paper bags	33							33
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper ...	34	8						34
Brush making	35							35
Pea picking	36							36
Feather sorting	37							37
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc. ...	38							38
Stuffed toys	39	6						39
Basket making	40							40
Chocolates and sweetmeats ...	41							41
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc.	42	25						42
Textile weaving	43							43
Lampshades	44	12						44
TOTAL	70	137						70

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS

The total number of confirmed notifications received during 1952 was 1,027.

CONTACTS, SUSPECTS, ETC.

The Medical Officer of Health is called in consultation by medical practitioners to see patients in their homes, as required.

VISITS

Sanitary Inspectors in common infectious diseases	352
" " to small pox contacts	... —
	—
Total	... 352
Rooms disinfected after infectious disease	... 346

The monthly incidence of infectious disease was:—

	Small Pox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Meningococcal Infections	Polio-myelitis Paralytic	Polio-myelitis Non-Paralytic	Measles	Whooping Cough	Food Poisoning	Paratyphoid	Malaria	Acute Encephalitis Infective	Acute Encephalitis Post-Infectious	Totals
January	10	...	...	...	2	3	...	3	...	...	...	1	16	...	...	...	...	...	35
February	16	...	...	...	5	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	15	...	...	...	...	...	39
March	52	...	...	3	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	6	14	...	...	...	...	...	81
April	22	...	...	1	2	1	1	2	...	...	...	14	10	...	...	...	...	...	53
May	14	...	...	1	1	1	1	2	...	...	...	39	17	...	...	...	...	...	76
June	14	...	...	2	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	66	11	...	...	...	...	...	98
July	30	...	...	2	1	2	...	2	...	...	...	191	12	1	...	1	...	...	242
August	10	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	142	8	3	...	...	...	...	169
September	11	...	...	2	1	5	...	4	...	...	...	12	3	6	...	...	...	...	44
October	13	...	...	2	1	...	...	2	...	1	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	24
November	25	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	24	3	...	...	...	...	...	55
December	8	...	...	1	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	93	1	...	...	...	...	...	111
Totals	225	...	...	14	26	23	4	16	1	4	...	591	112	10	...	1	...	...	1027

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS, 1933-52.

DISEASE	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	1950	1951	1952
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	240	392	143	171	192	150	61	48	75	175	212	97	147	95	62	35	57	89	110	111	225
Diphtheria...	40	83	80	104	89	64	27	36	72	25	42	10	63	32	4	...	1	1	...	...	...
Typhoid Fever ...	3	...	3	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia...	9	6	4	11	5	4	7	2	2	6	3	5	8	6	9	3	...	2	...	13	23
Meningococcal	4	1	1	3	1	2	1	13	12	6	8	3	3	1	2	1	1	...	1	3	1
Infections																					
Erysipelas ...	31	30	20	22	16	8	19	17	19	7	22	13	16	25	9	18	6	12	7	8	14
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	301	194	599	651	112	739	358	533	818	252	354	354	1386	591
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis:																					
Paralytic ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	11	2	2	6	2	1	4
Non-Paralytic ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neona- torum	2	2	4	3	1	3	3	1	3	10	4	4	...	2	2	6	3	8	2	1	4
Acute Encephalitis:																					
Infective...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Post-Infectious...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Pneumonia ...	37	45	35	36	32	43	...	30	22	20	50	37	33	41	37	30	13	19	28	24	26
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	16	186	161	162	166	96	234	216	117	149	212	387	420	112
Food Poisoning ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	6	11	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	6	3	4	10
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	67	13	6	1	2	5	7	16	7	16
Paratyphoid ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	...
Totals...	368	560	293	357	338	275	125	468	591	1021	1161	515	1126	807	888	1033	490	717	911	1980	1027

SMALL POX

No case of small pox was notified during the year 1952. The last case was in 1932.

SCARLET FEVER

The number of cases of scarlet fever notified during the year was 225 as compared with 111 in 1951, equivalent to a case rate of 3.36 per 1,000 population. This disease has continued mild in character; no death due to this cause was recorded. Of the total number of cases notified 78 were treated in hospital and 147 were treated at home.

DIPHTHERIA

No case of diphtheria was notified for the third year in succession and only two in the past six years, whereas before that cases averaged sixty per year.

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

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

There are three clinics within relatively easy reach of everyone, as well as immunisation sessions held in the schools.

Efforts have continued during the year to obtain the immunisation of every child before the first birthday. The health visitors urge mothers at the welfare centres, and at home visits, to have their children immunised, making special visits in difficult cases. A birthday greeting letter is sent at the approach of the first birthday, making an appointment for immunisation for those infants not yet immunised.

The following figures show the number of children immunised and reinforced during the year (the figure for immunisation includes those who received combined injections against diphtheria and whooping cough):—

	Immunised.	Reinforced.	Total.
Under five years ...	661	34	695
Five to 14 years ...	72	2,275	2,347
Totals	733	2,309	3,042

The following figures show the number of the child population considered immunised at 31st December, 1952:—

Age at 31.12.52 <i>i.e.</i> born in year	Under 1 1952	1 1951	2 1950	3 1949	4 1948	5 to 9 1943-1947	10 to 14 1938-1942	Total under 15
Number immunised	25	478	549	703	850	3917	3599	10121
Estimated mid-year population 1952	5300					9290		14590

The percentage immunised is as follows:—

Under five ...	49.15 %
Five—fourteen ...	81.69 %

WHOOPING COUGH IMMUNISATION

This is carried out at the same clinics as diphtheria immunisation, but special visits to schools are not made as this inoculation is intended primarily for children under five years old.

The following figures show the number of children immunised and reinforced from the commencement of the Surrey County Council scheme on 1st August, 1952 (this includes those children who received the combined diphtheria and whooping cough treatment):—

	AGE at date of final injection (as regards A) or of re-inforcing injection (as regards B)				
	Under 1	1	2	3	4
A. Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the Authority's area (including temporary residents) during the five months ended December 31, 1952.	25	142	11	11	7
B. Number of children who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection (<i>i.e.</i> subsequently to primary immunisation at an earlier age) during the five months ended December 31, 1952.	—	—	—	—	—

ENTERIC FEVER.

No case of typhoid fever was notified during the year.

DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE

One death was registered during the year.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

There were two family outbreaks which affected two in each family and six single cases. It was not possible to identify the causative organism or be certain of the food responsible.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA

No case was notified during the year.

ERYSIPELAS

Fourteen cases were notified. Four cases were removed to hospital.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Twenty-three cases were notified during the year. The increased number has followed the wider scope of the definition of puerperal pyrexia under the 1951 regulations.

PNEUMONIA

Twenty-six 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 29, of which 17 were males and 12 females.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS.

One case occurred during 1952.

INFLUENZA

During the year one male death from influenza was recorded. The previous year 13 deaths were registered.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

This comes under the control of the Surrey County Council.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

During the year four cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified.

POLIOMYELITIS

There were four cases affecting one adult, one youth, and two young children. The adult case was very doubtful, while the others had some degree of paralysis, two very slight and one moderate.

The three paralytic cases had an illness resembling a cold about one week before the paralysis, which is a typical history.

Before paralysis occurred in one case there was an inflamed throat with glands in the neck enlarged, a similar picture being present in two cases seen by general practitioners.

In those cases which are seen before paralysis it is unusual to report enlarged cervical glands.

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 information of the prevalence of non-notifiable infectious disease, such as chicken pox, mumps, etc. The numbers were as follows:—

Chicken pox	...	...	...	...	252
Mumps	...	...	...	...	66
Ringworm	...	...	...	...	1
Rubella	...	...	...	...	234
Scabies	...	...	...	...	1

CANCER

The number of deaths from cancer registered during the year was 128, of which 73 were males and 55 were females.

The incidence of deaths from cancer has been steadily growing and the rate of 1.91 per 1,000 population is the highest recorded, although this was equalled in 1945.

The rate for Mitcham is usually below that for England and Wales, the figure for the past year not being available yet.

The site distribution for 1952 was as follows:—

Digestive organs	...	...	...	12 cases
Respiratory organs	...	...	...	31 "
Breast	...	...	...	14 "
Genito-urinary organs	...	...	...	5 "
Other sites	...	...	...	66 "
Total				128

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	
1933	...	52	...	.86	...	1.52
1934	...	70	...	1.1	...	1.56
1935	...	61	...	1.0	...	1.58

Year	Number of Deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 of population	
			Mitcham	England and Wales
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	1.90	1.698
1943	...	95	1.7	1.74
1944	...	83	1.6	1.7
1945	...	103	1.91	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
1950	...	102	1.51	1.89
1951	...	108	1.61	1.90
1952	...	128	1.91	—

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 116 new cases of tuberculosis were notified viz:—

			Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	...	...	59	51	110
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	4	2	6
			—	—	—
Totals	...	...	63	53	116

Thirty-nine cases were transferred into the Borough as follows:—

			Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	...	...	18	21	39
Non-Pulmonary	...	...	—	—	—
			—	—	—
Totals	...	...	18	21	39

The total number of deaths from tuberculosis was:—

		Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	... ..	7	4	11
Non-Pulmonary	... ..	2	—	2
		—	—	—
Totals	... ..	9	4	13

England
and Wales Mitcham

Death rate from tuberculosis, all forms,
per 1,000 population 0.24 0.19

The following table shows the number of new cases, the type of disease and the deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 year to 4 years	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 years to 9 „	2	3	1	...	...	1	1	...
10 „ „ 14 „	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 „ „ 19 „	5	7	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 „ „ 34 „	19	24	1	1	...	2	...	...
35 „ „ 44 „	13	5	1	...	1	1	...	...
45 „ „ 64 „	16	9	1	...	6	...	1	...
65 „ and upwards	3	2	...	1	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	59	51	4	2	7	4	2	...

New cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year through death returns; and posthumous notifications:—

Age Periods	0.	1.	5.	10.	15.	20.	25.	35.	45.	55.	65.	Total
Pulmonary : males	1	1
Pulmonary : females	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2
Non-Pulmonary : males
Non-Pulmonary : females	1	1

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	2	1
	(b) Transferable deaths from Registrar General	...	...
Posthumous notifications from doctors ...		1	...

The percentage of non-notified tuberculosis deaths (i.e., new cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health after death of the case) is 30.77.

Non-notified tuberculosis deaths ...	...	...	4
Total tuberculosis deaths ...	...	...	13

MINIATURE MASS RADIOGRAPHY

A mass radiography unit comes to Mitcham every year and is granted free use of the Vestry Hall (Town Hall). In 1952 the

unit carried out its work from 9th June to 11th July, and the following summary was supplied by the Medical Director of the Unit, Dr. F. J. H. Walters:—

	Male.	Female.
Total number examined	3,481	3,867
Pulmonary tuberculosis <i>active</i> ...	2	7
Pulmonary tuberculosis <i>inactive</i> ...	166	163
Non-tuberculous abnormalities ...	103	62
Cases outstanding	13	6

During 1952 a unit also worked for the period 4th to 15th February at the Methodist Mission, 65, High Street, Colliers Wood, S.W.19. The following is a brief summary of findings:—

	Male.	Female.
Total number examined	1,015	921
Pulmonary tuberculosis <i>active</i> ...	5	1
Pulmonary tuberculosis <i>inactive</i> ...	47	29
Non-tuberculous abnormalities ...	52	26
Not yet diagnosed	7	11

The above figures do not apply to Mitcham residents only, as anyone may make use of the service whether resident or non-resident.

The examination is of value in the early diagnosis and treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis and other non-tuberculous abnormalities.

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 are given to hardship cases.

Assistance is 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.

The Committee has the task of raising the larger portion of the funds necessary, the bulk coming from the sale of Christmas seals and donations from voluntary associations.

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