

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

Contributors

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BOROUGH OF MITCHAM



REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

YEAR 1953





Borough of Mitcham

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1953 BOROUGH OF MITCHAM

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my annual report for the year 1953.

The general health in the Borough has been good, and there was no outbreak of infectious diseases to cause special alarm. The infectious diseases which have occurred have been of a type not unusual in the community, and the number of cases of scarlet fever has been small.

REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

YEAR 1953

The fifteen cases of diphtheria were mainly single cases diagnosed on clinical grounds and confirmed bacteriologically.

The birth rate of 13.91, after adjustment by the Registrar General to correspond with the age and sex grouping of the whole population, is a low one, compared with 15.3 for England.

MITCHAM:

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

Borough of Mitcham

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1953

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my annual report for the year 1953.

The general health in the Borough has been good, and there was no outbreak of infectious disease to cause special alarm. The infectious diseases notifications were increased because of a rise in measles and whooping cough, although the number of cases of scarlet fever decreased.

Poliomyelitis affected five people, but they were fairly mild cases, except for one case which died. Very much on the preventive side for the fourth 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, for the second year in succession, the death rate being 0.15 per 1,000 population, compared with 0.19 last year and 0.24 for England and Wales. The figures for this industrial area used to be less favourable.

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

The birth rate of 13.91, after correction by the comparability factor to correspond with the average age and sex grouping of the whole population, becomes 13.21, which compares with 15.5 for England and Wales.

The actual death rate of 9.23, which after applying the comparability factor becomes 10.52, compares with 11.4 for the whole country.

The infant mortality rate is again the lowest recorded in Mitcham, and is 18.39 compared with 26.8 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 1.94 per 1,000 population.

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 E. E. Mount, J.P.)

Aldermen—

Mrs. L. Crump Mrs. H. E. Niven G. W. Pearce

Councillors—

Mrs. W. R. Martin E. E. Field W. Lancaster

E. J. Mills R. A. Spalding 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. H. E. Niven G. W. Pearce

Councillors—

Mrs. E. G. Baker 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

I. J. Bellingham

Miss V. I. Hill

(a) Miss M. Sanders

(b) Miss K. E. Becket

(a) Part-time—40 per cent. Surrey County Council.

(b) Part-time—40 per cent. Surrey County Council. Commenced duties 13th January 1953.

REPORT

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	2,932 acres
Population, Census 1921	...	...	...	...	35,119
" " 1931	...	...	...	...	56,856
" " 1951 (32,284 M.; 34,885 F.)	...	...	...	...	67,269
Registrar-General's estimate of population mid-year, 1953	...	...	...	...	66,430
Density of Population, 1951	...	...	...	22.9 persons per acre	
Number of inhabited houses, 1921	...	...	...	...	7,150
" " " 1931	...	...	...	...	13,187
" " " 1953	...	...	...	...	19,421
Rateable Value, 1953	...	...	...	...	£574,590
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	£2,310

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 and 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 over 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 which increased somewhat in the early months of the year subsequently decreased till there was practically no unemployment, the best month being July.

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 ...	896	458	438	
Illegitimate ...	28	16	12	
Total ...	924	474	450	13.91

After correction by the comparability factor becomes 13.21

STILL BIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 total births
Legitimate ...	24	12	12	
Illegitimate ...	2	1	1	
Total ...	26	13	13	27.37

DEATHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 of population
	613	314	299	9.23

After correction by the comparability factor becomes 10.52

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion:—

Number of cases	Rate per 1,000 total births
... .. 1	1.05

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	18.39
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births	16.74
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births	71.43

Deaths from:—

Cancer (all ages)	129
Measles	2
Whooping cough (all ages)	—
Enteritis and Diarrhœa 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
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
1953 ...	950	735	77.37

After 1949 the actual birth and death statistics are modified by a comparability factor to correspond with the average age and sex distribution of the population in 1949.

1954	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1955	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1956	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1957	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1958	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1959	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1960	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1961	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1962	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1963	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1964	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1965	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1966	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1967	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1968	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1969	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
1970	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00

The birth rates, death rates per 1,000 of population, and the infantile mortality rates for the years 1934-53 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
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
1953	13.21	15.5	10.52	11.4	18.39	26.8

INFANT MORTALITY.

During the year 17 deaths were registered of infants under one year of age:—

		Males		Females		Total
Legitimate	...	7	...	8	...	15
Illegitimate	...	—	...	2	...	2
Totals	...	7	...	10	...	17

as compared with 18 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...	7	1	2	2	2	—
1-7 days ...	2	—	2	—	—	—
8 days - 1 mth.	2	—	1	—	1	—
1mth. - 12 mths.	6	—	1	—	3	2
Total	17	1	6	2	6	2

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

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

During the year one death was registered as compared with one in 1952.

INQUESTS.

Inquests were held on 13 residents dying within the district and on 10 Mitcham residents who died outside the district, a total of 23. In addition, post-mortems without inquests were held on 90 residents dying within the district, and on 70 Mitcham residents who died outside the district, a total of 160.

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

Accidental death	...	...	...	...	16
Death from misadventure	...	...	...	...	1
Suicide	...	...	...	...	5
Natural death	...	...	...	...	1
Total					23

Deaths of Infants under One Year of Age.					
Age	No.	Pre-maturity	Congenital Defects	Accidents and birth conditions	Other
Total	17	1	8	3	5
Under 24 hrs...	7	1	2	2	2
1-7 days	3	—	2	—	—
8 days - 1 mth	3	—	1	—	1
1 mth - 12 mths	4	—	1	—	2

Eleven infants failed to survive the first month of life and prematurity was certified as the cause of death of one of these cases.

During the year one infant was registered as compared with

one in 1952.

Infants were held on 13 residents living within the district and on 10 Middlesham residents who died outside the district, a total of 23. In addition, post-mortems without inquests were held on 90 residents dying within the district, and on 70 Middlesham residents who died outside the district, a total of 160.

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1953

CAUSE OF DEATH					Males	Females	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	9	1	10
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	...	1	1
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	...	1	1
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	1	...	1
8	Measles	...	...	...	2	...	2
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	...	1	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	16	10	26
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	16	1	17
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	17	17
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	3	3
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	41	25	66
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	1	4	5
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	19	49	68
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	49	43	92
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	6	7	13
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	28	45	73
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	10	14	24
22	Influenza	...	...	...	2	6	8
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	16	9	25
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	38	22	60
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	6	...	6
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	5	2	7
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	1	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	6	6	12
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	6	...	6
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	1	1
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	3	2	5
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	20	21	41
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	4	...	4
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	6	6	12
35	Suicide	...	...	...	4	1	5
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	...	...	...
All causes					314	299	613

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and
Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1953.
(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	15.5	17.0	15.7	17.5	13.21
Still	{ 0.35 22.4*	{ 0.43 24.8*	{ 0.34 21.4*	{ 0.38 21.0*	{ 0.39 27.37*
Deaths—					
All causes... ..	11.4	12.2	11.3	12.5	10.52
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	—	—	0.00
Whooping cough	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.24	0.19	0.24	0.15
Influenza	0.16	0.15	0.17	0.15	0.12
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Pneumonia	0.55	0.59	0.52	0.64	0.37
Notifications (corrected)—					
Typhoid fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Meningococcal infection	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.00
Scarlet fever	1.39	1.50	1.44	1.02	1.29
Whooping cough... ..	3.58	3.72	3.38	3.30	5.06
Diphtheria	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00
Erysipelas	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.12	0.16
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	—
Measles	12.36	11.27	12.32	8.09	13.37
Pneumonia	0.84	0.92	0.76	0.73	0.40
Acute Poliomyelitis (in- cluding polioencephalitis)					
Paralytic	0.07	0.06	0.06	0.07	0.06
Non-paralytic	0.04	0.03	0.04	0.03	0.01
Food Poisoning	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.38	0.25
Puerperal Pyrexia	18.23*	24.33*	12.46*	28.61*	11.57*
Rates per 1,000 live births					
Deaths under one year of age	26.8†	30.8	24.3	24.8	18.39
Deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis under two years of age	1.1	1.3	0.9	1.1	1.08
Maternal mortality...					
Pregnancy, childbirth and abortion	0.76*	Not available			1.05*
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	32
---------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

Number of rooms disinfected by fumigator	...	182
--	-----	-----

Number of library books disinfected	...	271
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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, or to the Grove Hospital, Tooting.

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 St. Helier Hospital, Carshalton.

The Woodlands Maternity Home situated within the district was closed as a Maternity Home on the 31st May, 1953, and is due to reopen as an Old People's Home on the 18th January, 1954. The number of beds available will be 21.

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 p.m. A Refill Clinic is also held every Monday and Tuesday at 2 p.m., at Cumberland Hospital. The Cumberland Hospital, which is situated in Mitcham, deals only with Tuberculosis and has 100 beds available.

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.

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.

An ante-natal session is held at the Cavendish Road Clinic every 2nd and 4th Monday morning during the month.

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, with a doctor in attendance, and on Wednesday mornings under the supervision of a nurse.

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 under the supervision of a Divisional Superintendent Health Visitor. 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 1953 ...	17
Number of children affected	38
Number of visits paid	85

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 required action under the above-named Act or under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951. All authorities concerned co-operate to avoid court action if possible. One or two cases which might have required such action were persuaded to enter voluntarily Welfare or Hospital establishments.

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 18 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, but this collection ceased on 31st March, 1953.

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, 18.

Number of other houses found infested during the year, 28.

Number of requisitioned, etc., houses found infested during the year, 10.

Total number of houses disinfested during the year, 56.

Methods employed:—

56 houses treated with insecticide spray (inclusive of those treated on more than one occasion):

Number of houses disinfested of beetles, 267.

Number of houses disinfested of other insects, 184.

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	...	...	...	...	6,317
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	454
Number of treatments <i>re</i> rat infestation including test baits as result of inspection and complaints	...	...	...	...	1,016
Factory and business premises treated	...	...	...	...	111
Visits by Sanitary Inspectors	...	...	...	...	136

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out; 245 manholes were baited. 23 intercepting chambers were also baited during the two 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	...	...	...	...	...	797
Nuisances found	...	...	...	...	...	655
Verbal Notices given	...	...	...	...	...	120
Verbal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	74
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	512
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	307
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	195
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	173
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	2,654
Houses inspected for defects	...	...	...	...	...	796
Visits made for this purpose	...	...	...	...	...	867
Drains tested and inspected	...	...	...	...	...	841
Private houses found verminous	...	...	...	...	...	30
Visits <i>re</i> Building Licence applications	...	...	...	...	...	—
Visits to butchers	...	...	...	...	...	210
Visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	68
Visits to dairies	...	...	...	...	...	6
Visits to retail milk shops	...	...	...	...	...	20

Visits to restaurant kitchens	289
Visits to ice-cream premises	174
Visits to bakehouses	67
Visits to other food premises	562
Number of notices served under Food and Drugs Act, 1938	31
Number of notices complied with	20
Visits to factories	283
Visits to workplaces	51
Visits to outworkers	140
Visits to stables	70
Visits to piggeries	114
Visits to marine stores	—
Visits to caravan yards	128
Smoke observations	39
Visits <i>re</i> infectious disease cases	198
Visits <i>re</i> smallpox contacts	8
Visits <i>re</i> food poisoning	23
Visits <i>re</i> rats and mice	136
Visits <i>re</i> Shops Acts	184
Visits <i>re</i> schools	27
Sundry visits	208
<i>Character of Work Done</i>	
Roofs repaired	158
Rainwater piping or gutters repaired or renewed	144
Yards paved or repaired	3
Dampness remedied	168
Water service pipes repaired	16
Waterclosets: Repairs to structure	11
Flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	47
New pans and traps fitted	26
Water storage cisterns cleansed, repaired or renewed	14
Water supply reinstated	9
Flooring of rooms repaired and sub-floor ventilation improved	65
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	16
Sinks and handbasins repaired or renewed	5

Waste pipes and traps repaired or renewed	28
Window frames and sashes repaired or renewed	58
Window sills repaired or renewed	18
External brickwork (repaired, pointed or rendered)	39
Drains repaired or obstructions removed	106
Drain inspection covers renewed	8
Drains tested	90
Grid and mica flaps provided	2
Firegrates repaired (including surrounds and hearths)	20
Stoves, coppers, ranges, etc., repaired	8
Chimney stacks repaired	16
Staircases repaired	22
Doors repaired	16
Internal plaster repairs	198
Sash cords renewed	95
Dustbins provided	43
Accumulations removed	11

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.—One application was made to the Justices for a summons against a property owner who failed to carry out works of repair. The Court made an Order for the works to be carried out within 28 days and awarded the Council £2 2s. costs.

Section 68, Mitcham Urban District Council Act, 1923.—One application was made to the Justices requiring the provision of a dustbin and, although the dustbin was provided before the hearing, the Court imposed a fine of £1 with £1 1s. costs.

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936, and Petroleum (Mixtures) Order, 1929.—102 licences to store petroleum spirit and/or petroleum mixtures were issued for a total of 211,935 gallons (inclusive of cellulose solutions).

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936, and Petroleum (Carbide of Calcium) Order, 1929.—3 licences were issued for the

storage of 2,344 lbs. (plus 448 lbs. temporary re-supply) of carbide of calcium.

UN SOUND FOOD DEALT WITH.

Beef	2,592 lbs.	Ground Rice	94 lbs.
Pork	16 "	Semolina	55 "
Corned Beef	42 "	Lentils	4 "
Rabbit	90 "	Marzipan Cake	8 "
Liver	50 "	Potatoes	2,240 "
Chicken	35 "	Mincemeat	32 "
Tongue	8 "	Butter	3 "
Jellied Veal	12 "	Biscuits	14 "
Stewed Steak	20 "	Cheese	36 "
Minced Beef Loaf	4 "	Sugar	1,816 "
Pressed Pork	4 "	Milk Powder	2,058 "
Luncheon Meat	32 "	Cereals	81 pkts.
Sausages	47 "	Xmas Puddings	2 No.
Ham	162 "	Eggs	120 "
Bacon	27 "	Condensed Milk	25 tins
Brisket	2 "	Tinned Foods	827 "
Fish	672 "	Assorted	15 bottles and jars
Currants	46 "		

Yours faithfully,

K. J. GUTTERIDGE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING STATISTICS

TOTAL NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES—19,421.

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

Permanent buildings built by the Council after the war—1,564.

Other Housing Accommodation Available:—

A. Requisitioned and sundry properties ...	354
B. Temporary buildings, Arcon bungalows ...	345
C. Hutments, 320 originally, now reduced to ...	129

D. Gunsite hutments, 61 originally, now reduced
to 18

E. Therefore total number of properties used for
housing by the Mitcham Borough Council is 3,871

NUMBER OF PEOPLE REHOUSED.

About 8,700 applicants have registered since 1945, and the current list is still about 2,500, so that some 6,200 applicants have been dealt with. The actual number of people including children who have been rehoused is about 6,900.

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 being 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 is increasing the number of aged persons' dwellings being built.

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) ...	796
(b) Number of inspections made ...	867

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	255
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of formal action by the local authority or their officers	162

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 rendered 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 —
- (2) Number of houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners and still in force 2

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

- (1) Number of houses in which closing orders were made for underground rooms —
- (2) Parts of buildings closed 1

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 premises by type of business.

General Stores	...	...	14	Restaurants	...	...	...	6
Groceries	...	...	80	Ice-Cream Manufacturers	...	...	...	4
Butchers	...	...	35	Cafés	...	...	...	23
Continental Butchers				Café & General Stores	...	...	...	2
(Horseflesh)			3	Roadside Snack Bars	...	...	...	4
Greengrocer & Fruiterers			59	Fishmongers	...	...	...	11
Greengrocer & General				Fried Fish Buffets	...	...	...	5
Provisions			2	Fried Fish	...	...	...	12
Confectionery	...	...	74	Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	18
Confectioner & Green-				Milk & Provisions	...	...	...	13
grocers			2	Public Houses	...	...	...	28
Chemists	...	...	11					

Food premises by type, registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The storage and sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	130
The manufacture for sale of Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	4
The preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food	...	...	...	...	38
Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949	...	...	...	...	1
Number of inspections of registered food premises during the year	...	...	...	...	279

All condemned food is incinerated at the Council's Refuse Destructor, Homewood Road.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Formal Samples.

Eighty-three formal samples were taken as follows:—

Milk	...	...	47	Ice-Cream	...	...	7
Batter Mixture	...	...	1	Orange Squash	...	...	1
Beef Sausages	...	...	3	Vitamin Pellets	...	...	1
Chippolata, Pork	...	...	1	Vitamin Capsules	...	...	1
Beef Sausage Meat	...	...	1	Plum Jam	...	...	1
Youngberry Jam	...	...	1	Raspberry Jam	...	...	1
Ground Almonds	...	...	1	Vitamin B.1. Powder	...	...	1
Pork Brawn	...	...	1	Cough Syrup	...	...	1
Ruby Wine	...	...	1	Strawberry Jelly Creams	...	...	1
Synthetic Cream Powder	1			Malt Vinegar	...	...	1
Sweetened Cake Flour with				Honey, Glycerine & Black-			
Egg	1			currant Children's Cough			
Pork Sausages	...	...	3	Mixture	1		
Processed Cheese	...	...	1	Pork Sausage Meat	...	...	1
Pork Pie	...	...	1	Popcorn	...	...	1

Informal Samples.

Sixty-five informal samples were taken as follows:—

Iced Fancies	...	...	1	Meat Pudding	...	...	1
Processed Cheese	...	...	2	Beef Steak Pie	...	...	1
Chocolate Sponge Mixture	1			Flour	...	...	2
Dressed Crab	...	...	1	Medicinal Glucose	...	...	2
Welsh Rarebit	...	...	1	Single Cream	...	...	3
Cheese and Celery Spread	1			Double Cream	...	...	5
Cheese Spread	...	...	1	Glucose Drink	...	...	1
Full Cream Sweetened Con-				Swiss Roll	...	...	2
densed Milk	2			Bicarbonate of Soda	...	...	1
Harlequine Roll	...	...	1	Medicinal Liquid Paraffin	...	...	1
Cochineal Colouring	...	...	1	Sulphur and Yeast Tablets	1		
Tomato Puree	...	...	1	Steak Pudding	...	...	1
Marshmallow Creme	...	...	1	Sterilised Cream	...	...	1
Salmon and Shrimp Paste	2			Junior Aspirin	...	...	1
Horseradish Relish	...	...	1	Savoury Spread with			
Cooked Meat	...	...	1	Gorgonzola	1		

Tea Cake Mixture	...	2	Rose Hip and Orange	...	1
Tomato Soup	...	...	Madelaine Sweetened		
Chicken Noodle Soup	...	1	Mixture		1
Beef Suet	...	...	Pineapple in Syrup	...	1
Coffee and Chicory	...	1	Orange Squash	...	1
Sweetened Sponge Mixture	1		Battenburg Cake	...	1
Bridal Icing Sugar	...	1	Cod Liver Oil Emulsion	...	1
Ground Almonds	...	1	Harlequin Xmas Pudding	...	1
Cod Liver Oil	...	1	Soup	...	1
Bloater Paste	...	1	Throat Sweets	...	1
Sardines	...	1	Honeycomb Mould	...	1

All samples were satisfactory with the exception of one formal (batter mixture 1), and four informal samples (Chocolate Sponge Mixture 1, Full Cream Sweetened Condensed Milk 1, Medicinal Glucose 1, Orange Squash 1).

A warning letter was sent in four of these cases, the exception being full cream sweetened condensed milk. As a result of the analyst's examination of the sample of condensed milk a consignment of this milk was surrendered for destruction.

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

Three dirty milk bottles.

One of mouldy bread.

One of foreign body in a tin of Irish Stewed Steak.

Legal action was taken against the company in the case of two dirty milk bottles and fines of £25 in each case were imposed on the company, together with a total of £16 16s. costs.

In the remaining cases all the firms concerned received warning letters.

ICE-CREAM.

Four premises in the Borough are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream, and 130 for the storage of ice-cream. One hundred and seventy four visits were paid during the year.

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

	Provisional Grade.			
	I	II	III	IV
Coliforms absent	20	—	—	—
Coliforms present in 1/10th ml ...	15	1	4	—
Fæcal coli present (in addition to above)	—	—	—	—

FAT CONTENT

3-4 per cent.	4-5 per cent.	5-6 per cent.	6-7 per cent.	7-8 per cent.
—	—	—	—	2
8-9 per cent.	9-10 per cent.	10-11 per cent.	11-12 per cent.	12-13 per cent.
1	2	1	1	—

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF CUPS AND GLASSES.

Eighty-two swabs were taken from tea cups at various catering establishments and twenty-eight 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.		Fæcal Coli.		Result—	
	Present.	Absent.	Present.	Absent.	Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.
Under 100 ...	3	49	—	3	52	—
100-200 ...	3	4	—	3	—	7
200-500 ...	4	9	1	3	—	13
500-1,000 ...	1	1	—	1	—	2
1,000-1,500 ...	2	2	—	2	—	4
1,500-2,000 ...	—	2	—	—	—	2
2,000 and over	1	1	—	1	—	2
Total	14	68	1	13	52	30

BEER GLASS SWABS.

(Per Glass)						
Under 100 ...	—	15	—	—	15	—
100-200 ...	1	—	—	1	—	1
200-500 ...	1	1	1	—	—	2
500-1,000 ...	—	1	—	—	—	1

Colony Count (per cup)	Coliforms.		Fæcal Coli.		Result—	
	Present.	Absent.	Present.	Absent.	Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.
1,000-1,500 ...	1	—	—	1	—	1
1,500-2,000 ...	1	—	—	1	—	1
2,000 and over	6	1	—	6	—	7
Total ...	10	18	1	9	15	18

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 20

Sterilised 40

Supplementary Licences—

Pasteurised 17

Sterilised 17

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) 17

One hundred and sixty three 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 10.

Sixty-seven visits have been paid.

DAIRIES

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

During the year six visits of inspection were paid.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two registered slaughterhouses in the Borough; 68 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	1 Calf	...	170
Number inspected	1 Calf	...	170
All diseases except tuberculosis:				
Whole carcasses condemned
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	3.53
Tuberculosis only:				
Whole carcasses condemned
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	1.76

FOOD PREPARING FACTORIES

There are 17 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, 31. Number of notices complied with, 20.

PIGGERIES

There are 30 piggeries in the Borough. One hundred and fourteen visits were paid during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Six licences were issued to occupiers of pet shops.

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	21	28	3	...	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	271	213	6	...	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)...	3	24	22	3	...	3
TOTAL ... ..	...	316	263	12	...	...

2.—Cases in which defects were found:—

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred			
				To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector		
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	3	3	...	...	...	4
Overcrowding (S.2)... ..	5	...	...	...	...	...	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	1	1	...	...	...	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	3	3	...	...	...	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	...	...	...	...	...	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) Insufficient	9	4	4	...	...	...	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	6	6	...	...	...	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	...	...	...	...	...	11
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	12	3	3	...	1	...	12
TOTAL	60	20	20	...	1	...	60

3.—Outwork (Sections 110 and 111):—

Nature of Work (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Section 110			Section 111			M/ 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	139						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	...						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	1						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	13						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	35						42
Textile weaving	43	1						43
Lampshades	44	4						44
TOTAL	70	199						70

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS

The total number of confirmed notifications received during 1953 was 1,396.

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	198
" " to small pox contacts	8
<hr/>	
Total	206
Rooms disinfected after infectious disease ...	182

The monthly incidence of infectious disease was:—

	Small Pox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Meningococcal Infections	Poliomyelitis Paralytic	Poliomyelitis Non-Paralytic	Measles	Whooping Cough	Food Poisoning	Paratyphoid	Malaria	Acute Encephalitis Infective	Acute Encephalitis Post-Infectious	Totals
January	10	...	...	...	9	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	237	5	...	...	...	...	...	263
February	3	...	...	1	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	321	7	...	...	...	...	...	339
March	15	...	...	2	5	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	223	7	...	...	...	...	...	256
April	8	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	80	29	...	...	...	...	...	121
May	10	...	...	1	2	3	...	4	...	1	...	...	11	39	1	...	...	...	...	72
June	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	5	40	1	...	...	...	...	52
July	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	46	...	...	...	...	...	61
August	4	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	90	4	...	...	...	...	104
September	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	30	2	...	...	...	...	38
October	7	...	...	3	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	1	15	9	...	...	...	...	42
November	6	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	16	...	...	...	...	...	26
December	5	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	12	...	...	...	...	...	22
Totals	86	...	...	11	27	11	...	15	...	4	1	888	336	17	...	...	...	...	...	1396

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS, 1934-53.

DISEASE	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	1953
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	392	143	171	192	150	61	48	75	175	212	97	147	95	62	35	57	89	110	111	225	86
Diphtheria...	83	80	104	89	64	27	36	72	25	42	10	63	32	4	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Typhoid Fever ...	...	3	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia...	6	4	11	5	4	7	2	2	6	3	5	8	6	9	3	...	2	...	13	23	11
Meningococcal	1	1	3	1	2	1	13	12	6	8	3	3	1	2	1	1	...	1	3	1	...
Infections																					
Erysipelas ...	30	20	22	16	8	19	17	19	7	22	13	16	25	9	18	6	12	7	8	14	11
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	301	194	599	651	112	739	358	533	818	252	354	354	1386	591	888
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis:																					
Paralytic ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	11	2	2	6	2	1	4	4
Non-Paralytic ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ophthalmia Neona-	2	4	3	1	3	3	1	3	10	4	4	...	2	2	6	3	8	2	1	4	...
torum																					
Acute Encephalitis:																					
Infective...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Post-Infectious...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Pneumonia ...	45	35	36	32	43	...	30	22	20	50	37	33	41	37	30	13	19	28	24	26	27
Malaria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	16	186	161	162	166	96	234	216	117	149	212	387	420	112	336
Food Poisoning ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	6	11	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	6	3	4	10	17
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	67	13	6	1	2	5	7	16	7	16	15
Paratyphoid ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Totals...	560	293	357	338	275	125	468	591	1021	1161	515	1126	807	888	1033	490	717	911	1980	1027	1396

SMALL POX

No case of small pox was notified during the year 1953. The last case was in 1932.

SCARLET FEVER

The number of cases of scarlet fever notified during the year was 86 as compared with 225 in 1952, equivalent to a case rate of 1.29 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 34 were treated in hospital and 52 were treated at home.

DIPHTHERIA

No case of diphtheria was notified for the fourth 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.

Because of the prevalence of poliomyelitis in the region all school and clinic immunisations were stopped during August, September and October, 1953. The clinic immunisations started slowly but were back to normal by the end of December. School immunisation could not be restarted until January 1954, because of the holidays, which also meant that certain schools missed the annual visit for immunisations so that boosting doses in some cases are overdue.

The following figures show the number of children immunised and reinforced during the year (this includes those children who received the combined diphtheria and whooping cough prophylaxis):—

	Immunised.	Reinforced.	Total.
Under five years ...	441	38	479
Five to 14 years ...	115	1,003	1,118
Totals	556	1,041	1,597

The following figures show the number of the child population considered immunised at 31st December, 1953:—

Age at 31.12.53, <i>i.e.</i> born in year	Under 1 1953	1 to 4 1952-1949	5 to 9 1948-1944	10 to 14 1943-1939	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1949-1953 ...	14	2212	3849	2707	8782
B. 1948 or earlier ...	—	—	405	444	849
C. Estimated mid- year child population	923	4208	9482		14613
Immunity Index 100A/C ...	1.52	52.57	73.83		60.10

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 during the year (this includes those children who received the combined diphtheria and whooping cough prophylaxis):—

ENTERIC FEVER.

No case was notified during the year.

DIARRHEA AND ENTERITIS UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE

One death was registered during the year.

	AGE at date of final injection (as regards A) or of re-inforcing injection (as regards B)							Total
	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5 to 9	10 to 14	
A. Number of children who completed a course of inoculation with pertussis vaccines (including suspended diphtheria pertussis prophylactic and adsorbed diphtheria pertussis prophylactic) during the year ended 31st December, 1953.	13	299	69	30	26	41	1	479
B. Number of children who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection (<i>i.e.</i> subsequently to primary immunisation at an earlier age) during the year ended 31st December, 1953.	—	—	—	—	—	9	2	11

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

There were seventeen cases of food poisoning in 1953 comprising two family outbreaks which affected three members of one family and five in the other, together with nine single cases.

The outbreak affecting three members in the same family was caused by the classical type of food poisoning, *Salmonella* Typhimurium, the first case arising in the son while returning from a holiday in France and subsequently being transmitted to his parents. The disease affected father and son very severely.

The other family outbreak was milder and was possibly due to *Staphylococcus Aureus* which was found in two cases.

In the single cases the cause could not be discovered, as there is usually insufficient evidence.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA

No case was notified during the year.

ERYSIPELAS

Eleven cases were notified. Three cases were removed to hospital.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Eleven cases were notified during the year.

PNEUMONIA

Twenty-seven 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 25, of which 16 were males and 9 females.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS.

No case occurred during 1953.

INFLUENZA

During the year eight deaths, of which two were males and six females, were recorded. The previous year one death was registered.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

This comes under the control of the Surrey County Council.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

During the year no case of ophthalmia neonatorum was notified.

POLIOMYELITIS

There were five cases affecting one adult, one youth, and three young children. The adult case was non-paralytic, while the others had some degree of paralysis, two very slight, one moderate, and one very severe, which probably affected the respiratory muscles, causing death.

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	...	...	...	...	185
Mumps	...	...	...	...	11
Ringworm	...	...	...	...	1
Rubella	...	...	...	...	15
Scabies	...	...	...	...	2
Shingles	...	...	...	...	1
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	2
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	1
Influenza	...	...	...	...	285
Skin Disease	...	...	...	...	1

CANCER

The number of deaths from cancer registered during the year was 129, of which 73 were males and 56 were females.

The incidence of deaths from cancer has been steadily growing and the rate of 1.94 per 1,000 population is the highest recorded.

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 1953 was as follows:—

Digestive organs	...	...	...	26 cases
Respiratory organs	...	...	...	17 „
Breast	...	...	...	17 „
Genito-urinary organs	...	...	...	3 „
Other sites	...	...	...	66 „
Total				129

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	
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	...	1.90	...	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

Year	Number of Deaths	Death Rate per 1,000 of population	
		Mitcham	England and Wales
1951	108	1.61	1.90
1952	128	1.91	1.94
1953	129	1.94	—

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 85 new cases of tuberculosis were notified, viz:—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	52	27	79
Non-Pulmonary	1	5	6
Totals	53	32	85

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

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	16	18	34
Non-Pulmonary	—	1	1
Totals	16	19	35

The total number of deaths from tuberculosis was:—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	9	1	10
Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—
Totals	9	1	10

	England and Wales	Mitcham
Death rate from tuberculosis, all forms, per 1,000 population	0.24	0.15

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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