

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

Contributors

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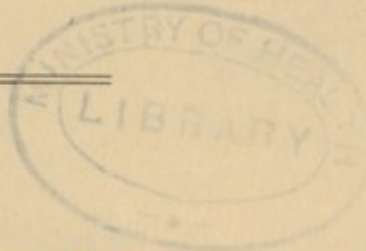


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BOROUGH OF MITCHAM



REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

YEAR 1954



BOROUGH OF MITCHELL

REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

YEAR 1924



Borough of Mitcham

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1954 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 1954.

The general health in the Borough has been good, and there was no special outbreak of infectious disease. In fact the notification of infectious diseases was at a low level, being only 1,396 last year, which had a large epidemic of diphtheria in 1953.

REPORT

No cases of poliomyelitis were reported during the year.

of the

The absence of diphtheria has been taken for granted now with no cases for the fifth year in succession. Only two cases have occurred since 1951.

Medical Officer of Health

The death rate from tuberculosis was 0.17, a slight increase on the low record of 0.15 last year, but still less than 0.13 for England and Wales. New tuberculosis notifications show a welcome decrease with 64 new cases of tuberculosis notified in 1954 as against 85 in 1953.

for the

YEAR 1954

Cases notified in 1954 numbered 46 of which 26 were confirmed by bacteriological findings. They were usually single cases or family outbreaks mostly due to the mild form of D. sonnei.

There were also 15 cases of food poisoning, mostly single cases, or affecting several members of a family. There were no deaths due to dysentery or food poisoning. Diseases were usually mild and of short duration.

MITCHAM

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

Borough of Mitcham

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1954

To the Mayor, Alderman and Councillors.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my annual report for the year 1954.

The general health in the Borough has been good, and there was no special outbreak of infectious disease. In fact the notifications of infectious diseases were remarkably low at 450 against 1,396 last year, which had a large epidemic of measles.

No cases of poliomyelitis were reported during the year.

The absence of diphtheria is almost taken for granted now with no cases for the fifth year in succession. Only two cases have occurred in the past seven years, although cases averaged sixty per year before that.

The death rate from tuberculosis was 0.17, a slight increase on the low record of 0.15 last year, but better than 0.18 for England and Wales. New tuberculosis notifications show a welcome decrease with 64 new cases of tuberculosis notified in 1954 as against 85 in 1953.

Cases notified as dysentery rose from 15 to 46 of which 26 were confirmed by bacteriological findings. They were usually single cases or family outbreaks mostly due to the mild form of *D. sonnei*.

There were also 16 cases of food poisoning, mostly single cases, or affecting several members of a family. There were no deaths due to dysentery or food poisoning and the diseases were usually mild and of short duration.

The birth rate of 13.65, after correction by the comparability factor to correspond with the average age and sex grouping of the whole population, becomes 12.97, which compares with 15.2 for England and Wales.

The actual death rate of 8.80, which after applying the comparability factor becomes 10.03, compares with 11.3 for the whole country.

The infant mortality rate is again the lowest recorded in Mitcham, and is 13.32 compared with 25.5 for England and Wales, which itself is the lowest ever recorded for this country.

The death rate from cancer has gone down a little to 1.64 although that of England and Wales has again risen to the highest ever, being 2.04 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 for Health.

Public Health Department,
Mitcham Court,
Mitcham.

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. Glead (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

Miss V. I. Hill

- (a) Miss M. Sanders (b) Miss K. E. Becket
(c) Miss C. F. M. Hollingsworth

- (a) Part-time—40 per cent. Surrey County Council.
(b) Part-time—40 per cent. Surrey County Council. Resigned
31st March, 1954.
(c) Part-time—40 per cent. Surrey County Council. Commenced
duties 12th May, 1954.

REPORT

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	2,932 acres
Population, Census 1921	35,119
" " 1931	56,856
" " 1951 (32,384 M. ; 34,885 F.)	67,269
Registrar-General's estimate of population mid-year, 1954	66,050
Density of Population, 1951	22.9 persons per acre
Number of inhabited houses, 1921	7,150
" " " 1931	13,187
" " " 1954	19,521
Rateable Value, 1954	£580,200
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£2,371

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 the chief ones are paint and varnish, chemical, engineering, margarine and dairy products.

The unemployment position was one of continuing improvement, the best months being as usual the late summer with a subsequent increase of unemployment following the usual seasonal trend, but finishing up with the best figures for the last five years.

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 ...	866	428	438	
Illegitimate ...	35	20	15	
	—	—	—	—
Total ...	901	448	453	13.65

After correction by the comparability factor becomes 12.97

STILL BIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 total births
Legitimate ...	21	12	9	
Illegitimate ...	5	2	3	
	—	—	—	—
Total ...	26	14	12	28.86

DEATHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 of population
	581	314	267	8.80

After correction by the comparability factor becomes 10.03

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion:—

Number of cases	Rate per 1,000 total births
... .. Nil	—

Deaths of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births ...	13.32
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births	12.70
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births	28.57

Deaths from:—

Cancer (all ages) ...	108
Measles ...	—
Whooping cough (all ages) ...	—
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under two years of age ...	—

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
1954	927	673	72.71

Inquests were held on 25 residents dying within the hospital and on 11 Michigan residents who died outside the hospital.

The birth rates, death rates per 1,000 of population, and the infantile mortality rates for the years 1935--54 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
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
1954	12.97	15.2	10.03	11.3	13.32	25.5

INFANT MORTALITY

During the year 12 deaths were registered of infants under one year of age:—

		Males		Females		Total
Legitimate	...	5	...	6	...	11
Illegitimate	...	1	...	—	...	1
Totals	...	6	...	6	...	12

as compared with 17 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	2	—	1
1-7 days ...	2	2	—	—	—	—
8 days - 1 mth.	2	1	—	—	1	—
1 mth. - 12 mths.	4	—	1	—	—	3
Total	12	3	2	2	1	4

Eight infants failed to survive the first month of life, and prematurity was certified as the cause of death of three of these cases. This gives Mitcham a neo-natal mortality rate of 8.88 per 1,000 related live births as compared with 17.7 for England and Wales.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

During the year no death was registered as compared with one in 1953.

INQUESTS

Inquests were held on 25 residents dying within the district and on 11 Mitcham residents who died outside the district, a total

of 36. In addition, post-mortems without inquests were held on 78 residents dying within the district, and on 69 Mitcham residents who died outside the district, a total of 147.

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

Accidental death	...	...	...	...	13
Death from misadventure	...	...	...	...	3
Suicide	...	...	...	...	14
Natural death	...	...	...	...	3
Murder	...	...	...	...	1
Open verdict	...	...	...	...	2
Total					36

Year	Age	No.	F%	Cause of Death		
				Accidents	Infectious	Other
1941	Under 25	4	100	—	—	
1941	25-49	3	100	—	—	
1941	50-64	2	100	—	—	
1941	65-79	4	100	—	—	
1941	80 and over	12	100	—	—	
Total		25	100	—	—	

Inquests were held on 25 residents dying within the district and on 11 Mitcham residents who died outside the district, a total

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1954

CAUSE OF DEATH	Males	Females	Total
1 Tuberculosis, respiratory	6	2	8
2 Tuberculosis, other	2	1	3
3 Syphilitic disease	3	...	3
4 Diphtheria ... ..	...	...	...
5 Whooping cough ... ..	...	...	...
6 Meningococcal infections ... ..	...	...	...
7 Acute Poliomyelitis ... ..	...	...	...
8 Measles ... ..	...	...	...
9 Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	...	1
10 Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	10	18
11 Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	23	4	27
12 Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ..	...	10	10
13 Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ..	...	1	1
14 Other malignant and lymphatic neo- plasms	31	21	52
15 Leukæmia, aleukæmia	3	1	4
16 Diabetes ... ..	...	1	1
17 Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	33	35	68
18 Coronary disease, angina	67	33	100
19 Hypertension with heart disease	4	8	12
20 Other heart disease	30	44	74
21 Other circulatory disease	20	19	39
22 Influenza ... ..	...	...	...
23 Pneumonia	10	13	23
24 Bronchitis	21	18	39
25 Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3
26 Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	9	...	9
27 Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
28 Nephritis and nephrosis	6	2	8
29 Hyperplasia of prostate	2	...	2
30 Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ..	...	...	...
31 Congenital malformations	2	...	2
32 Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14	30	44
33 Motor vehicle accidents	2	2	4
34 All other accidents	5	4	9
35 Suicide	9	5	14
36 Homicide and operations of war ... ..	...	1	1
All causes	314	267	581

HOSPITALS

The hospitals directly concerned with the Mithras were administered by the St. Heller Group Hospital Management

BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND MATERNAL
MORTALITY IN THE YEAR 1954.

	England and Wales	Mitcham
	Rates per 1,000 home population	
<i>Births—</i>		
Live	15.2	12.97
Still	{ 0.36 23.4*	{ 0.39 28.86*
<i>Deaths—</i>		
All causes	11.3	10.03
Malignant neoplasm—lung, bronchus ...	0.37	0.41
Whooping cough	0.003	...
Diphtheria	0.0002	...
Tuberculosis—all forms	0.18	0.17
Influenza	0.04	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.003	...
Pneumonia	0.41	0.35
Coronary disease—angina pectoris ...	1.51	1.51
Maternal mortality	0.69*	...
<i>Notifications (Corrected)—</i>		
Scarlet Fever	1.00	0.71
Whooping Cough	2.39	2.77
Diphtheria	0.004	...
Measles	3.32	1.98
<i>Acute Poliomyelitis—</i>		
Paralytic	0.03	...
Non-Paralytic	0.01	...
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	0.003	0.015
Para-typhoid Fever	0.010	0.015
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	0.03
Erysipelas	0.12	0.09
Dysentery	0.72	0.70
<i>Acute Encephalitis—</i>		
Infective	0.003	...
Post-Infectious	0.002	...
Acute Pneumonia	0.60	0.24
Food Poisoning	0.20	0.18
<i>Tuberculosis—</i>		
Respiratory	0.87	0.80
Non-Respiratory	0.13	0.17

* Per 1,000 total (live and still) 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	...	...	...	11
Number of rooms disinfected by fumigator	...	...	...	84
Number of library books disinfected	...	...	...	261

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 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 reopened as an Old People's Home on the 18th January, 1954. The number of beds available is 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 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, 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.

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 Meopham Road 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 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 SMALLPOX

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

Clinics are held as follows:—

Cavendish Road Clinic.—Each Monday afternoon in conjunction with Welfare Clinic.

Church Road Clinic.—On 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays of the month in the morning.

Meopham Road Clinic.—Each Wednesday afternoon in conjunction with Welfare Clinic.

St. Barnabas Clinic.—On 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays of the month in the afternoon.

Sherwood House Clinic.—Each Monday afternoon (immunisation only) and each Thursday morning (immunisation and vaccination) in conjunction with Welfare Clinics.

DAY NURSERY

The Surrey County Council provide one day nursery in Mitcham, at Eagle House, London Road, Mitcham, with 49 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 1954	...	28
Number of children affected	... ..	69
Number of visits paid	... ..	200

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 case which might have required such action was persuaded to enter voluntarily a Hospital establishment.

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 20 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.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Number of Council houses found infested during the year, 36.

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

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

Total number of houses disinfested during the year, 48.

Methods employed:—

48 houses treated with insecticide spray.

Number of houses disinfested of beetles, 42.

Number of houses disinfested of other insects, 16.

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	...	...	...	...	5,943
Complaints received	...	...	...	...	580
Number of treatments <i>re</i> rat infestation including test baits as result of inspection and complaints					1,122
Factory and business premises treated	...	...			107
Visits by Sanitary Inspectors	...	...	...		114

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out; 211 manholes were baited. Twelve 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	...	...	...	...	696
Nuisances found	...	...	...	...	556
Verbal Notices given	...	...	...	...	132
Verbal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	77
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	464
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	241
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	178
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	139
Revisits	...	...	...	...	2,198
Houses inspected for defects	...	...	...	...	795
Visits made for this purpose	...	...	...	...	885
Drains tested and inspected	...	...	...	...	247
Private houses found verminous	...	...	...	...	20
Visits to butchers	...	...	...	...	186
Visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	444
Visits to dairies	...	...	...	...	10
Visits to retail milk shops	...	...	...	...	34
Visits to restaurant kitchens	...	...	...	...	292
Visits to ice-cream premises	...	...	...	...	63
Visits to bakehouses	...	...	...	...	69
Visits to other food premises	...	...	...	...	482
Number of notices served under Food and Drugs Act, 1938	...	...	...	...	24
Number of notices complied with	...	...	...	...	24
Visits to factories	...	...	...	...	210
Visits to workplaces	...	...	...	...	80
Visits to outworkers	...	...	...	...	33
Visits to stables	...	...	...	...	69
Visits to piggeries	...	...	...	...	86
Visits to marine stores	...	...	...	...	—
Visits to caravan yards	...	...	...	...	88

Smoke observations	...	...	...	...	...	51
Visits <i>re</i> infectious disease cases	...	...	...	...	...	491
Visits <i>re</i> smallpox contacts	...	...	...	...	...	11
Visits <i>re</i> food poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	20
Visits <i>re</i> rats and mice	...	...	...	...	...	114
Visits <i>re</i> Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	77
Visits <i>re</i> schools	...	...	...	...	...	29
Visits to Refuse Tipping Site, Mitcham Common	...	...	...	...	...	62
Sundry visits	...	...	...	...	...	227

Character of Work Done

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	110
Rainwater piping or gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	97
Yards paved or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	124
Water service pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Waterclosets: Repairs to structure	...	...	...	...	...	10
Flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	42
New pans and traps fitted	...	...	...	...	...	27
Water storage cisterns cleansed, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	13
Water supply reinstated	...	...	...	...	...	3
Flooring of rooms repaired and sub-floor ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	65
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	7
Sinks and handbasins repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Waste pipes and traps repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	23
Window frames and sashes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	28
Window sills repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	12
External brickwork (repaired, pointed or rendered)	...	...	...	...	...	19
Drains repaired or obstructions removed	...	...	...	...	...	110
Drains inspection covers renewed	...	...	...	...	...	20
Drains tested	...	...	...	...	...	75
Grid and mica flaps provided	...	...	...	...	...	11
Firegrates repaired (including surrounds and hearths)	...	...	...	...	...	12
Stoves, coppers, ranges, etc., repaired	...	...	...	...	...	7
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	...	17
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	13

Internal plaster repairs	...	...	...	...	...	156
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	...	73
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	37
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	13

All ponds and ditches in the Borough where mosquito breeding was likely 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 summons was withdrawn as the work was completed before the date of the hearing.

Section 68, Mitcham Urban District Council Act, 1923.—Two applications were made to the Justices requiring the provision of dustbins. The summonses were withdrawn as the dustbins were supplied before the date of the hearing.

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936, and Petroleum (Mixtures) Order, 1929.—97 licences to store petroleum spirit and/or petroleum mixtures were issued for a total of 210,827 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 2,364 lbs. (plus 448 lbs. temporary re-supply) of carbide of calcium.

UN SOUND FOOD DEALT WITH

Beef	...	...	...	785 lbs.	Fish	...	...	...	508 lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	45½ "	Currants	...	...	...	8 "
Corned Beef	...	...	...	46¾ "	Fruit, Dried	...	...	...	15 "
Rabbit	...	...	...	57 "	Tomato Paste	...	...	...	70 "
Veal	...	...	...	89 "	Dry Vegetables	...	...	...	20 "
Lamb	...	...	...	35¼ "	Marshmallow	...	...	...	980 "
Beef Fat	...	...	...	6½ "	Potatoes	...	...	...	145 "
Jellied Veal	...	...	...	24 "	Trufflits	...	...	...	3394 "
Stewed Beef	...	...	...	85 "	Chocolate	...	...	...	143½ "
Stewed Steak	...	...	...	9 "	Biscuits	...	...	...	3½ "

Stewed Mutton	151	„	Cheese	111½	„
Minced Beef Loaf	1¾	„	Margarine	24	„
Ox Kidneys	15¾	„	Xmas Pudding	8	„
Luncheon Meat	111½	„	Cereals	12	pkts.
Ham	112	„	Tinned Foods	498	tins
Bacon	164	„	Assorted	16	pkts.

Yours faithfully,

K. J. GUTTERIDGE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING STATISTICS

TOTAL NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES—19,521.

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

Permanent buildings built by the Council after the war—1,915.

Other Housing Accommodation Available:—

A. Requisitioned and sundry properties	321
B. Temporary buildings, Arcon bungalows	345
C. Hutments, 320 originally, now reduced to	108
D. Gunsite hutments, 61 originally, now reduced to	8
E. Therefore, total number of properties used for housing by the Mitcham Borough Council is	4,158

NUMBER OF PEOPLE REHOUSED.

About 9,200 applicants have registered since 1945, and the current list is still about 2,000, so that some 7,200 applicants have been dealt with.

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, where possible.

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. One hundred and eighty-four houses are now occupied.

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) ...	795
(b) Number of inspections made ...	885

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	196
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of formal action by the local authority or their officers	134

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 formal notices:—

(a) By owners 2

(b) By local authority in default of owners 1

Proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953:—

(1) Number of houses in which demolition orders were made 2

(2) Number of houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners and still in force 3

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 —

4. RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST (RESTRICTIONS) ACT, 1920-1938, AND HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954:—

Number of certificates issued to occupiers that houses were not in a reasonable state of repair 10

Number of Revocations of Certificates issued ... 2

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	...	...	18	Restaurants	...	...	...	7
Groceries	...	...	79	Cafés	...	...	...	24
Butchers	...	...	36	Café & General Stores	...	...	...	1
Continental Butchers				Roadside Snack Bars	...	...	...	3
	(Horseflesh)		3	Fishmongers	...	...	...	11
Greengrocer & Fruiterers			61	Fried Fish Buffets	...	...	...	5
Greengrocer & General				Fried Fish	...	...	...	12
	Provisions		2	Bakers and Confectioners	...	...	...	17
Confectionery	...	...	71	Milk & Provisions	...	...	...	13
Confectioner &				Public Houses	...	...	...	28
	Greengrocers		1	Off-Licences	...	...	...	9
Chemists	...	...	16					

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

The storage and sale of ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
The manufacture for sale of ice-cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
The preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949								1
Number of inspections of registered food premises during the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	191

All condemned food is incinerated at the Refuse Destructor, Garth Road, Morden, by arrangement with the Merton and Morden Urban District Council.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Formal Samples.

Seventy-eight formal samples were taken as follows:—

Milk	...	...	...	44	Halibut Liver Oil Capsules	...	1
Cake Mix	...	...	...	1	Coffee and Chicory	...	2
Medicinal Glucose Powder	1				Apricot Jam	...	1
Sausages, pork	...	...	...	8	Lemon Flavour Pie Filling	...	2
Sausages, beef	...	...	...	2	Banana Curd	...	1
Wine Gums	...	...	...	1	Chocolate Drink	...	1
Compound Fat	...	...	...	1	Glucodin	...	1
Butter	...	...	...	3	Vitamin Tablets, Vitamin C		
Margarine	...	...	...	2	plus Glucose		1
Margarine (10 per cent.					Butterscotch Toffees	...	1
Butter)	1				Vinegar	...	1
Gelatine	...	...	...	1	Plum Jam	...	1

Informal Samples.

Sixty-two informal samples were taken as follows:—

Fresh Orange Drink	...	1	Vegetable Soup	...	1
Processed Peas	...	1	Cough Syrup	...	1
Pickle	...	1	Chocolate Spread	...	1
Pickled Onions	...	1	Custard Powder	...	1
Sardines in Olive Oil	...	1	Mixed Pickling Spice	...	1
Milk Pudding (Macaroni)	...	1	White Pepper	...	3
Compound Tablets of			Porage Oats	...	1
Codeine, B.P.	1		Pure Dairy Cream (Danish)	...	1
Essence of Rennet	...	2	Chocolate covered Roll	...	1
Swiss Roll, chocolate flavour	1		Ice-Cream	...	8
Beef Steak Pudding	...	1	Bicarbonate of Soda	...	1
Curry Powder	...	1	Ham and Beef Luncheon		
Banana Essence	...	1	Meat		1
Mixed Fruit Pudding	...	1	Lemon Flavour Pie Filling	...	1
Fruit Enriched Bread	...	1	Worcestershire Sauce	...	2
Vienna Sausage	...	1	Sardines in Oil	...	1
Orange Juice	...	1	Mustard Pickle	...	1

Dressed Crab	...	...	1	Savoury Spread with	
Creamed Cottage Cheese	...	...	2		Gorgonzola 1
Lard	...	...	3	Flour	... .. 1
Roasted and Salted Peanuts	1			Samonaize Fish Spread	... 1
Roll-Mop Herrings in				Christmas Pudding	... .. 1
	Vegetable	1		Steak and Kidney Pudding	... 1
Peanut Butter	...	...	1	Cherry Bark and Glycerine	
Tomato Chutney	...	...	1		Cough Cure 1
Chocolate Drink	...	...	1	Cream of Tartar	... .. 1
Almond Culinary Flavouring	1				

All samples were satisfactory with the exception of two formal samples (milk 1, coffee and chicory 1) and one informal sample (roll-mop herrings in vegetable 1).

A warning letter was sent to the firm concerned in two of these cases, the exception being Roll-Mop Herrings in Vegetable and in this case the firm withdrew all stocks from sale.

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

- One dirty milk bottle.
- One of foreign body in a loaf of bread.
- One of glass in a bottle of school milk.
- One dirty churn of milk.

Legal action was taken against the two firms concerned in the case of the dirty churn of milk and fines of £15 (£5 5s. costs) and £12 (£5 5s. costs) respectively were imposed.

In the case of a foreign body in a loaf of bread, legal action was taken against the baker and a fine of £10 with £2 2s. costs was imposed.

Warning letters were sent to the firms concerned in the other cases.

ICE-CREAM

Four premises in the Borough are registered for the manufacture of ice-cream and 131 for the storage of ice-cream. Sixty-three visits were paid during the year.

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

	Provisional Grade			
	I	II	III	IV
Coliforms absent	12	4	3	—
Coliforms present in 1/10th ml	2	—	4	—
Fæcal coli present (in addition to above)	—	—	—	—

FAT CONTENT

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

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF CUPS AND GLASSES

Seventy-three swabs were taken from tea cups at various catering establishments and thirteen 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	1	42	—	1	43	—
100-200	1	8	—	1	—	9
200-500	1	6	—	1	—	7
500-1,000	—	4	—	—	—	4
1,000-1,500	—	—	—	—	—	—
1,500-2,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
2,000 and over	2	8	—	2	—	10
Total	... 5	68	—	5	43	30

BEER GLASS SWABS (per glass).

Under 100	1	7	—	1	8	—
100-200	—	1	—	—	—	1

200-500	1	—	—	1	—	1
500-1,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
1,000-1,500	—	2	—	—	—	2
1,500-2,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
2,000 and over	1	—	—	1	—	1
Total	3	10	—	3	8	5

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

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 to 1953

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	...	...	...	...	...	24
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	39
Supplementary Licences—						
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	16
Sterilised	...	...	...	...	...	16

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949 to 1954

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

Dealer's Licences (Tuberculin Tested)	...	...	17
Supplementary Licences (Tuberculin Tested)	...	...	16

One hundred and twenty-nine samples of Graded Milk were submitted for bacteriological examination. One hundred and twenty-eight samples were satisfactory and one was unsatisfactory. A communication was sent to the dairy concerned regarding the unsatisfactory sample.

BAKEHOUSES

The number of bakehouses in the district is ten.

Sixty-nine visits have been paid.

DAIRIES

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

During the year ten visits of inspection were paid.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two registered slaughterhouses in the Borough; 444 visits have been paid.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933 TO 1954

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

MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle, excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	100	...	47	...	7,412
Number inspected	100	...	47	...	7,412
All diseases except tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned...	...	...	...	...	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	6	...	...	...	204
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	6.00	...	...	...	2.86
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned...	1	...	...	...	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	7	...	...	...	98
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis... ..	8.00	...	...	...	1.39

FOOD PREPARING FACTORIES

There are 17 factories which are engaged in the manufacture and preparation of food products. All of these are systematically visited.

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

Number of notices served, 24. Number of notices complied with, 24.

PIGGERIES

There are 30 piggeries in the Borough. Eight-six visits were paid during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Five licences were issued to occupiers of pet shops.

MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDANNED

Number killed	Number inspected	Cattle, excluding cows	Cows	Lambs	Pigs
100	100				7,412
100	100				7,412

MILK SPECIAL DESIGNATION REGULATIONS, 1949

During the year the Council granted 4 licences under the above-named Regulations.

Number of carcasses of which whole carcasses condemned or organ was condemned	Number of carcasses of which whole carcasses condemned or organ was condemned
0	0

Number of carcasses inspected other than tuberculous disease affected with tuberculosis only: 0

Number of carcasses inspected other than tuberculous disease affected with tuberculosis only: 0

FOOD PREPARING FACTORIES

There are 17 factories which are engaged in the manufacture and preparation of food products. All of these are systematically visited.

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	24	3	...	...	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	271	177	9	...	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	28	21	...	...	3
TOTAL ... ..	...	323	201	9	...	...

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
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	...	...	...	...	...	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	...	2	..	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	12	12	...	3	...	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	...	...	...	...	...	11
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	12	6	6	...	...	...	12
TOTAL	60	20	20	...	5	...	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)
		Number of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (3)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	Number of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists (5)	Number of instances of work in unwhole- some premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecu- tions (8)	
Wearing apparel { Making, etc. ...	13	142						13
{ 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

2.—Cases in which defects were found:—

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	18							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	36							42
Textile weaving	43	1							43
Lampshades	44	4							44
TOTAL	70	208							70

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS

The total number of confirmed notifications received during 1954 was 450.

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 to common infectious diseases	491
Sanitary Inspectors to smallpox contacts	11
	502
Total	502
Rooms disinfected after infectious disease	84

The monthly incidence of infectious disease was:—

	Smallpox	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	6	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
February	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	4	26	1	...	...	...	...	36
March	10	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	2	...	...	...	29	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
April	7	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	1	...	...	...	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
May... ..	5	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	10	1	...	...	1	8	...	...	...	...	...	28
June	5	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	10	3	...	1	...	...	41
July... ..	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	6	...	...	...	2	7	3	...	...	...	...	23
August	2	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	10
September... ..	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	...	11
October ... ..	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	92	19	3	...	...	...	...	116
November	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	21	13	...	...	...	...	...	37
December	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	26	2	1	...	...	...	41
Totals	47	...	1	6	16	3	1	46	2	...	...	...	131	183	12	1	1	...	...	450

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS, 1935-54.

DISEASE	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	1954
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	143	171	192	150	61	48	75	175	212	97	147	95	62	35	57	89	110	111	225	86	47
Diphtheria	80	104	89	64	27	36	72	25	42	10	63	32	4	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Typhoid Fever	3	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	11	5	4	7	2	2	6	3	5	8	6	9	3	...	2	...	13	23	11	3
Meningococcal	1	3	1	2	1	13	12	6	8	3	3	1	2	1	1	...	1	3	1	...	2
Infections																					
Erysipelas	20	22	16	8	19	17	19	7	22	13	16	25	9	18	6	12	7	8	14	11	6
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	301	194	599	651	112	739	358	533	818	252	354	354	1386	591	888	131
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis:																					
Paralytic	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	11	2	2	6	2	1	4	4	...
Non-Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Ophthalmia	4	3	1	3	3	1	3	10	4	4	...	2	2	6	3	8	2	1	4	...	1
Neonatorum																					
Acute Encephalitis:																					
Infective	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Post-Infectious	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Pneumonia	35	36	32	43	...	30	22	20	50	37	33	41	37	30	13	19	28	24	26	27	16
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	4	16	186	161	162	166	96	234	216	117	149	212	387	420	112	336	183
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	4	4	6	11	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	6	3	4	10	17	12
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	67	13	6	1	2	5	7	16	7	16	15	46
Paratyphoid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Totals	293	357	338	275	125	468	591	1021	1161	515	1126	807	888	1033	490	717	911	1980	1027	1396	450

SMALLPOX

No case of smallpox was notified during the year 1954. The last case was in 1932.

SCARLET FEVER

The number of cases of scarlet fever notified during the year was 47 as compared with 86 in 1953, equivalent to a case rate of 0.71 per 1,000 population. This disease has continued mild in character. Of the total number of cases notified 13 were treated in hospital and 34 were treated at home

DIPHTHERIA

No case of diphtheria was notified for the fifth year in succession and only two in the past seven 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 five 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.

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	795	46	841
Five to fourteen years	215	1,299	1,514
	—	—	—
Totals	1,010	1,345	2,355

The following figures show the number of the child population considered immunised at 31st December, 1954:—

Age at 31.12.54, i.e. born in year	Under 1 1954	1 to 4 1953-1950	5 to 9 1949-1945	10 to 14 1944-1940	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1950-1954... ..	51	2165	4012	2957	9185
B. 1949 or earlier ...	—	—	518	466	984
C. Estimated mid-year child population ...	876	4028	9576		14480
Immunity Index 100 A/C	5.82	53.75	72.78		63.43

WHOOPIING 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):—

	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, 1954.	47	491	149	33	40	76	2	838
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, 1954.	—	—	1	1	8	28	1	39

ENTERIC FEVER

No case was notified during the year.

DIARRHOEA AND ENTERITIS UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE

No death was registered during the year.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

There were sixteen cases of food poisoning in 1954 comprising four family outbreaks, together with five single cases. The illness was caused by *Salmonella Typhimurium* but the source of the disease could not be discovered.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA

No case was notified during the year.

ERYSIPELAS

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

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Three cases were notified during the year.

PNEUMONIA

Sixteen 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 23, of which 10 were males and 13 females.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS

Two cases occurred during 1954.

INFLUENZA

During the year no death was recorded. The previous year eight deaths were registered.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

This comes under the control of the Surrey County Council.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

During the year one case of ophthalmia neonatorum was notified.

POLIOMYELITIS

No case was notified during the year.

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	...	...	...	...	79
Mumps	...	...	...	...	205
Ringworm	...	...	...	...	2
Rubella	...	...	...	...	2
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	3
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	4
Influenza	...	...	...	...	7
Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	1

CANCER

The number of deaths from cancer registered during the year was 108, of which 62 were males and 46 were females.

This is a decrease from last year although the trend for England and Wales is continuing upwards.

The site distribution for 1954 was as follows:—

Digestive organs	...	...	...	18 cases
Respiratory organs	...	...	...	27 "
Breast	...	...	...	10 "
Genito-urinary organs	...	...	...	1 "
Other sites	...	...	...	52 "

Total ... 108

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
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
1951	108	1.61	1.90
1952	128	1.91	1.94
1953	129	1.94	1.95
1954	108	1.64	2.04

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 64 new cases of tuberculosis were notified, viz:—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	26	27	53
Non-Pulmonary	6	5	11
Totals	32	32	64

Twenty-eight cases were transferred into the Borough as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	9	18	27
Non-Pulmonary	—	1	1
Totals	9	19	28

The total number of deaths from tuberculosis was:—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	6	2	8
Non-Pulmonary	2	1	3
	—	—	—
Totals	8	3	11
	England and Wales	Mitcham	
Death rate from tuberculosis, all forms, per 1,000 population	0.18	0.17	

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...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 years to 9 ,, ...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 ,, ,, 14 ,, ...	1	7	...	...	...	...	...	1
15 ,, ,, 19 ,, ...	...	6	1	1	...	...	...	...
20 ,, ,, 34 ,, ...	7	8	2	3	...	1	...	...
35 ,, ,, 44 ,, ...	2	5	3	1	...	...	...	...
45 ,, ,, 64 ,, ...	11	1	...	...	1	1	1	...
65 ,, and upwards	2	...	...	...	5	...	1	...
Totals	26	27	6	5	6	2	2	1

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-	2-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75-	Total
Pulmonary: Males	1	...	2	3
Pulmonary: Females
Non-Pulmonary: Males
Non-Pulmonary: Females

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

	Number of Cases		
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Death Returns ...	(a) From Local Registrar ...	1	...
	(b) Transferable deaths from Registrar General ...	2	...
Posthumous notifications from doctors ...	...	...

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 27.27.

Non-notified tuberculosis deaths ...	...	3
Total tuberculosis deaths ...	...	11

MINIATURE MASS RADIOGRAPHY

A mass radiography unit comes to Mitcham every year and is granted free use of the Vestry Hall (Town Hall). In 1954 the unit carried out its work from 30th August to 1st October and the following summary was supplied by the Medical Director of the Unit, Dr. F. J. H. Walters:—

	Male.	Female.
Total number examined	3,060	3,241
Pulmonary tuberculosis <i>active</i>	6	7
Pulmonary tuberculosis <i>inactive</i>	140	120
Non-tuberculous abnormalities	105	73

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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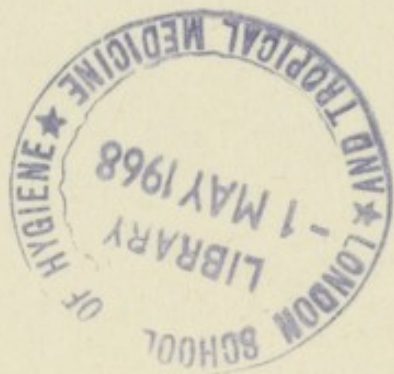
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