

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

Contributors

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BOROUGH OF MITCHAM

REPORT

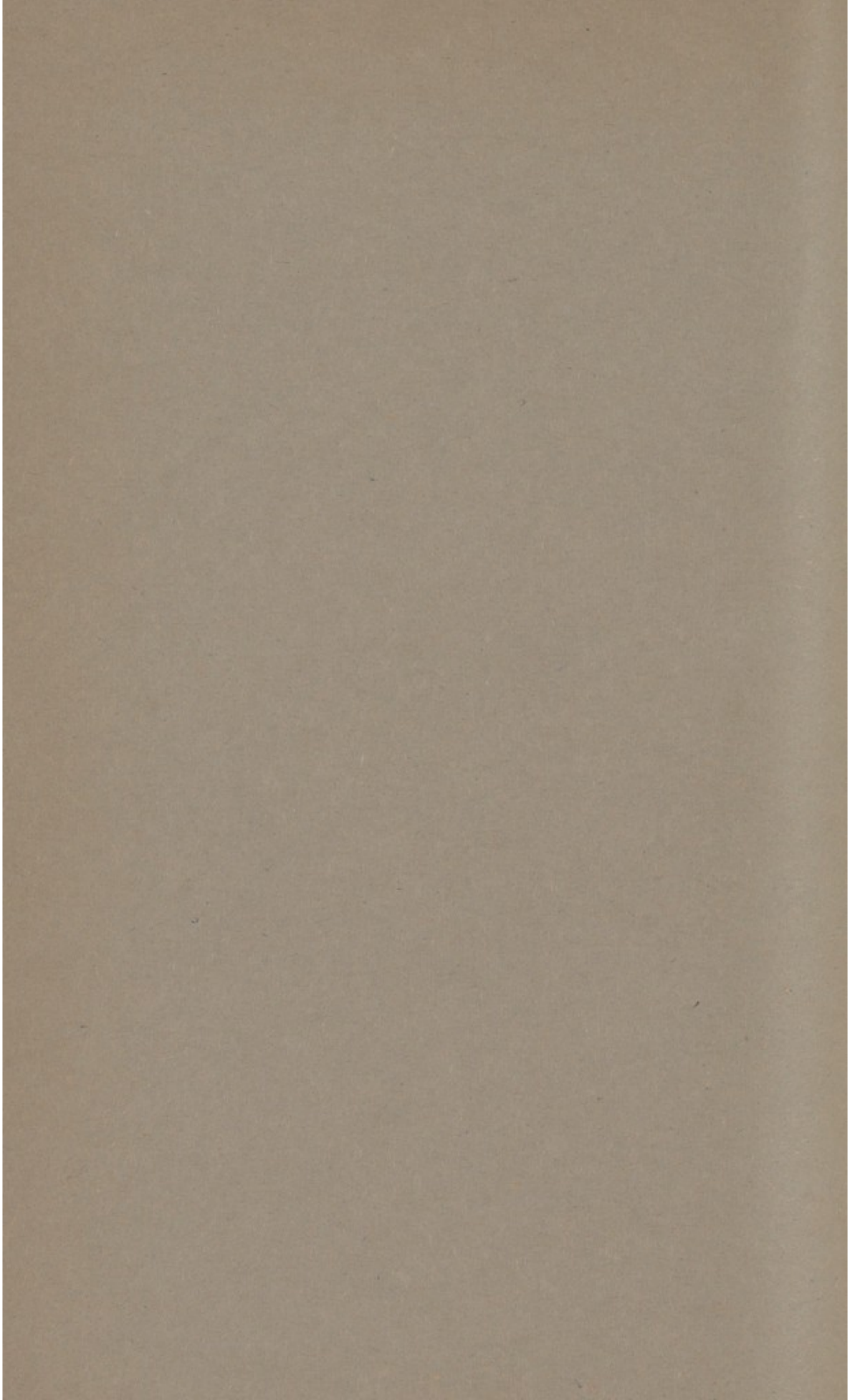
of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

YEAR 1959







HEALTH REPORT FOR 1959

BOROUGH OF MITCHAM

I have much pleasure in submitting my annual report for the year 1959.

The general health in the Borough has been good and there was no special outbreak of

The notifications of infectious diseases were 1,000 compared with 325 in 1958. The increase was mainly due to measles for which 1959 was a high year.

There was one paralytic case in a boy aged 2½ years.

REPORT

This is the only case since September, 1958, and I think it can safely be said that this is the beneficial effect of polio vaccination. Each year the number of cases for England and Wales becomes smaller and smaller, a trend which is seen even in the

Medical Officer of Health

The decline in whooping cough notifications continued. This year there were only 17, the lowest figure for 20 years.

for the

The tuberculosis death rate fell to 0.08 in 1959 which compares with 0.08 per 1,000 population for England and Wales. Notifications were 23 compared with 12 in 1958.

YEAR 1959

It is worthy of note that the number of cases on the tuberculosis register has decreased consistently over the last ten years and now shows a reduction of 34.5 per cent. for non-pulmonary cases as compared with 1950.

Dysentery was notified 12 cases against 8 for 1958.

MITCHAM

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

Borough of Mitcham

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1959

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my annual report for the year 1959.

The general health in the Borough has been good and there was no special outbreak of infectious disease.

The notifications of infectious diseases were 1,000 compared with 325 in 1958. The increase was mainly due to measles for which 1959 was a high year.

There was one case of poliomyelitis, a mild paralytic one in a boy aged $2\frac{1}{4}$ years.

This is the only case since September, 1959⁷, and I think it can safely be said that this shows the beneficial effect of polio immunisation. Each year the number of cases for England and Wales becomes smaller and smaller, a trend which is seen even in the weekly figures.

The decline in whooping cough notifications continued. This year there were only 17, the lowest figure for 20 years.

The tuberculosis death rate fell from 0.08 to 0.03 which compares with 0.08 per 1,000 population for England and Wales. Notifications were 28 compared with 31 for the previous year.

It is worthy of note that the number of cases on the tuberculosis register has decreased consistently over the last ten years and now shews a reduction of 34.5 per cent. for pulmonary and 75.1 per cent. for non-pulmonary cases as compared with 1950.

Dysentery was notified in 10 cases as against 8 for 1958.

There were no cases of paratyphoid.

The birth rate of 13.16 per 1,000 population becomes, after correction by the comparability factor, 12.76 compared with 16.5 for England and Wales.

The death rate of 10.5 becomes, after correction by the comparability factor, 12.6 per 1,000 population, against 11.6 for England and Wales.

It is most unusual for the death rate in Mitcham to be higher than in England and Wales.

The increase was mainly due to deaths from respiratory disease, heart disease and cancer. There was no obvious cause for the increased rate. The previous year had shewn cancer death rate to be very low.

The death rate from cancer for Mitcham in 1959 increased from 1.89 to 2.25 while that for England and Wales increased from 2.12 to 2.14 per 1,000 population.

As regards infant mortality the local rate was 14.17 and the rate for England and Wales, 22.2 per 1,000 live births, the lowest ever recorded.

A meals-on-wheels service was inaugurated in July and supplies 30 old people who are housebound with a hot meal twice a week. It is run by the W.V.S. and financed by the Borough Council, reports being received by the Public Health Committee.

The scheme is to be extended to include more housebound old people and also to provide hot meals for able-bodied old people who attend the Old People's Welfare Centre in London Road. The service has been much appreciated.

I wish to thank the Chairmen of the Committees for their unfailing 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 (Alderman D. W. Chalkley, J.P.)

Aldermen—

Mrs. L. Crump

G. W. Pearce

Councillors—

Mrs. E. G. Baker

W. J. Dungate

A. S. Hutchin

Mrs. J. E. Spalding

E. J. Mills

D. A. Small

R. Taylor

Representatives of the Council on Other Authorities:

WANDLE VALLEY JOINT SEWERAGE BOARD

His Worship the Mayor (*ex-officio*)

Alderman T. J. Higgs

Councillors—

D. J. Hempstead

L. A. Cobb

NORTH-EAST DIVISIONAL HEALTH SUB-COMMITTEE

(SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL)

Alderman G. W. Pearce

Councillors—

L. A. Cobb

D. Griffith

R. Taylor

W. E. M. Townsend

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

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

Chief Public Health and Meat Inspector

Petroleum Inspector

Shops Act Inspector

K. J. Gutteridge (1, 2)

Assistant Public Health and Meat Inspectors

L. Gleed (1, 2, 3)

E. J. Sluis (1, 2)

J. E. Higgs (1, 2)

Pupil Public Health Inspector

C. S. Smith (a)

1. Certificate R.S.H. and Public Health Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.
2. Certificate Meat and Foods R.S.H.
3. Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

Clerks

(b) Chief Clerk and Administrative Assistant—F. H. White

(c) Senior Clerk—F. G. Taylor

(d) Secretary—Miss V. I. Hill

(e) Mrs. M. Drewett

(e) Mrs. K. North.

(a) Commenced 1st September, 1959.

(b) 75 per cent. Surrey County Council duties.

(c) 25 per cent. Surrey County Council duties.

(d) 20 per cent. Surrey County Council duties.

(e) 40 per cent. Surrey County Council duties.

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, 1959	64,380
Density of Population, 1951	22.9 persons per acre
Number of inhabited houses, 1921	7,150
" " " 1931	13,187
" " " 1959	19,900
Rateable Value, 1959	£1,103,203
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£4,510

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 fairly flat and low lying, 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 situation improved during the year till it reached practically full employment, except for the hard core and

those in process of changing jobs. There were vacancies for all especially on the women's side.

There is always a slight seasonal increase in unemployment at the very end of the year.

Mitcham is chiefly a working class area. Nearly two-thirds of the houses have been built since 1921 and more than 50 per cent. of all roads are tree-lined.

Virtually no building land is available except for the projected Phipps Bridge scheme on which preliminary work has been done in the way of site clearance.

STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS.		Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 of population
Legitimate	...	813	428	385	
Illegitimate	...	34	21	13	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	847	449	398	13.16

After correction by the comparability factor becomes 12.76

Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births 4.01

STILL BIRTHS.		Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 total births
Legitimate	...	12	5	7	
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—	
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	12	5	7	13.97

DEATHS.		Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 of population
		676	337	339	10.5

After correction by the comparability factor becomes 12.6

Deaths from pregnancy, childbirth and abortion:—

					Rate per 1,000 total births
Number of cases	...	...	...	Nil	—
Deaths of infants under one year of age:—					

All infants per 1,000 live births 14.17

Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births 13.53

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births —

Deaths from:—

Cancer (all ages)	145
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
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
1955 ...	869	628	72.28
1956 ...	888	661	74.44
1957 ...	899	650	72.22
1958 ...	944	670	70.97
1959 ...	859	604	70.32

The birth rates, death rates per 1,000 of population, and the infant mortality rates for the years 1940-59 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
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 comparability factor to correspond with the average age and sex distributions 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
1955	12.40	15.0	10.81	11.7	15.20	24.9
1956	12.91	15.7	11.49	11.7	13.73	23.8
1957	13.05	16.1	11.07	11.5	12.36	23.0
1958	13.91	16.4	11.48	11.7	20.48	22.5
1959	12.76	16.5	12.6	11.6	14.17	22.2

INFANT MORTALITY

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

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ...	5	7	12
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Total ...	5	7	12

as compared with 19 deaths last year.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

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

Age	No.	Cause of Death				
		Pre-maturity	Congenital Defects	Accidents of birth	Infectious conditions	Other conditions
Under 24 hrs ...	6	3	2	—	—	1
1-7 days ...	5	3	—	—	1	1
8 days - 1 mth.	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 mth. - 12 mths.	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total	12	6	2	—	1	3

Eleven infants failed to survive the first month of life, giving Mitcham a neo-natal mortality rate of 12.99 per 1,000 related live births as compared with 15.8 for England and Wales.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

During the year no deaths were registered, as in 1958.

INQUESTS

Inquests were held on 17 residents dying within the district and on 14 Mitcham residents who died outside the district, a total of 31. In addition, post-mortems without inquests were held on 83 residents

dying within the district, and on 62 Mitcham residents who died outside the district, a total of 145.

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

Accidental death	...	...	...	...	12
Death from misadventure	...	...	...	...	4
Suicide	...	...	...	...	10
Open verdict	...	...	...	...	3
Homicide	...	...	...	...	2
Total					31

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1959

CAUSE OF DEATH					Males	Females	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	1	1	2
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	1	...	1
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	...	...	...	6	5	11
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	27	5	32
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	...	25	25
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	...	4	4
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	34	36	70
15	Leukæmia, aleukæmia	...	...	...	1	2	3
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	5	6
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	22	51	73
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	93	56	149
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	...	9	9
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	24	40	64
21	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	14	12	26
22	Influenza	...	...	...	2	5	7
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	18	16	34
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	42	16	58
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	6	1	7
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	1	2	3
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	2	4	6
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	1	4	5
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	3	...	3
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	3	1	4
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	17	24	41
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	5	3	8
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	4	7	11
35	Suicide	...	...	...	7	4	11
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	1	1	2
All causes					337	339	676

The hospitals directly concerned with the Mithras 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,

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1959

							England and Wales	Mitcham
							Rates per 1,000 home population	
<i>Births—</i>								
Live	...	...	...	...	...	...	16.5	12.76
Still	...	...	...	...	...	...	{ 0.35 21.0*	{ 0.19 13.97*
<i>Deaths—</i>								
All causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.6	12.6
Malignant neoplasm—lung, bronchus	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.46	0.50
Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.001	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Tuberculosis—all forms	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.08	0.03
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.17	0.11
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.001	...
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.59	0.53
Coronary disease—angina pectoris	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.87	2.31
Maternal mortality	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.38*	...*
<i>Notifications (Corrected)—</i>								
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.05	1.07
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.73	0.26
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.002	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.88	13.00
Acute Poliomyelitis—								
Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.016	0.016
Non-Paralytic	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.006	...
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.003	...
Para-typhoid Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.008	...
Meningococcal Infection	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.018	0.016
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.070	0.062
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.784	0.16
Acute Encephalitis—								
Infective	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.003	...
Post-Infectious	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.003	...
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.59	0.34
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.11	0.42
Tuberculosis—								
Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.54	0.40
Non-Respiratory	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.058	0.03

* 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 operate from the Ambulance Control Station, Hill House, Bishopsford Road, Morden (Telephone: MAL 7733).

DISINFECTION

The disinfection of houses is undertaken by the Council. Disinfection of bedding, etc., is done either at the Wandle Valley Isolation Hospital, or in the home.

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	1
----------------------------------	---

Number of rooms disinfected by fumigator	45
---	----

Number of library books disinfected	494
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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 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 that may occur would be 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, or occasionally to other hospitals such as the Nelson Hospital, Kingston Road, Merton, S.W.20.

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 Cumberland Hospital, Mitcham, every Monday and Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning. A clinic is held for old cases only, on every fourth Thursday at 5 p.m. The Cumberland Hospital, which has 100 beds available, deals principally with tuberculosis although an increasing number of other chest diseases are dealt with.

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)

There were some changes during the year.

New Clinic.—The most important was the opening of the clinic at Wide Way which replaces that at Sherwood House which was too old and too small to cope with the increased population.

Sessions actually commenced in October, 1959.

Physiotherapy Clinic.—For the first time in Mitcham a physiotherapy clinic under the Local Health Authority became available for the treatment of suitable cases referred by General Practitioners or Assistant Medical Officers.

Formerly minor orthopædic and other cases had to go to hospital for physiotherapy which was often a lengthy procedure.

Child Guidance.—There used to be no clinic in Mitcham. With the availability of Sherwood House and an increasing number of cases, Sherwood House was adapted to give psychological and psychiatric treatment to children of all ages. It has the services of a psychologist, two part-time psychiatrists and a social worker. There are four sessions held weekly.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

An ante-natal session is held at the Church Road Clinic every Tuesday, 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 second and fourth Friday afternoon of the month.

An ante-natal session is held at Wide Way Clinic on Friday mornings, and on Wednesday afternoons for cases booked by midwives.

X-Ray examinations necessary for expectant mothers are carried out at the Wilson and St. Helier Hospitals.

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS

Infant Welfare sessions are held at the following places:—

Cavendish Road Clinic.—Every Monday afternoon.

St. Barnabas Church Hall, Gorringer Park Avenue.—Every Tuesday afternoon.

Wide Way Clinic.—Every Thursday morning and Monday afternoon.

Church Road Clinic.—Every Thursday afternoon and Wednesday afternoon.

Meopham Road Clinic.—Every 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.

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.

Western Road, Mitcham.—Every weekday morning and afternoon.

Church Road, Mitcham.—Every weekday morning and afternoon.

Meopham Road.—Every weekday morning and afternoon.

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS IMMUNISATION VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

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.

Wide Way Clinic.—Each Monday afternoon (immunisation only—in conjunction with Welfare Clinic), each Thursday morning (immunisation and vaccination in conjunction with Welfare Clinic), and each Wednesday morning.

POLIOMYELITIS IMMUNISATION

A large number of sessions are held in schools and a large number on Saturday mornings and Tuesday evenings at the various clinics, for children and adults.

MINOR AILMENTS

Sessions are 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; at Wide Way Clinic, with a doctor in attendance, on Wednesday mornings.

MOTHCRAFT CLASSES

Wide Way Clinic.—Thursday, 2 p.m.

Church Road Clinic.—Friday, 9.30 a.m.

OPHTHALMIC CLINIC

An eye specialist attends Western Road Clinic on Thursday mornings and Wednesday afternoons, and Wide Way Clinic on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays of the month, in the morning.

PARENTCRAFT CIRCLE

Church Road Clinic.—Monday, 3 p.m.

POST-NATAL CLINIC

The post-natal clinics at Church Road, Cavendish Road and Wide Way are now held in conjunction with the ante-natal clinics.

SPEECH CLINIC

A session is held at Western Road Clinic on Tuesday (all day), and Thursday (all day). A speech therapist also holds a session at Wide Way Clinic on Friday afternoons.

U.V. RADIATION CLINICS

Sessions are held during the winter months, as follows:—

Church Road Clinic.—Thursday mornings and Monday afternoons.

Wide Way Clinic.—Tuesday afternoons, Friday afternoons.

DAY NURSERY

The Surrey County Council day nursery at Eagle House was closed during the year. There is now no day nursery in the Borough but, when necessary, children are found places in one of the Wimbledon or Merton and Morden nurseries or privately with child minders.

HEALTH VISITING

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

There are 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. Over 80 part-time workers are usually employed. Enough workers can not be obtained to satisfy the full demand.

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 1959	...	48
Number of children affected	... ..	109
Number of visits paid	... ..	340

These figures include 91 visits paid to five problem family cases.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948: SECTION 47

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

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

There were no cases in this category.

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 five licensed caravan yards, each with a stand pipe, supplying altogether a total of 15 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, situated in Mitcham.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

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

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

There are no Smoke Control Areas as yet, as the Council do not consider the area to be a bad one compared with the neighbouring metropolitan areas. Mitcham is, however, included with those areas and the position will be reviewed from time to time.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

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

Number of other houses found infested during the year, 11.

Total number of houses disinfested during the year, 41.

Methods employed:—

41 houses treated with insecticide spray.

Number of houses disinfested of beetles, 101.

Number of houses disinfested of other insects, 18.

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 public health 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 cases of certain infectious diseases 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 the reason.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

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

Properties inspected	3,469
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Complaints received	468
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Number of treatments <i>re</i> rat infestation, including test baits, as result of inspection and complaints					874
--	--	--	--	--	-----

Factory and business premises treated	104
---------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Visits by Public Health Inspectors	80
------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

One sewer maintenance treatment was carried out in the year; 60 manholes and two intercepting chambers were baited. A total of 10 baits were taken compared with 32 taken in 1958.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH 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 Public Health Inspectors:—

Complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	483
Nuisances found	...	...	...	...	...	339
Verbal Notices given	...	...	...	...	...	103
Verbal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	81
Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	229
Informal Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	148
Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	89
Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	82
Revisits	...	...	...	...	...	1,392
Houses inspected for defects	...	...	...	...	...	473
Visits made for this purpose	...	...	...	...	...	574
Drains tested and inspected	...	...	...	...	...	158
Private houses found verminous	...	...	...	...	...	6
Visits to butchers	...	...	...	...	...	176
Visits to slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	806
Visits to dairies	...	...	...	...	...	21
Visits to retail milk shops	...	...	...	...	...	65
Visits to restaurant kitchens	...	...	...	...	...	292
Visits to ice-cream premises	...	...	...	...	...	50
Visits to bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	50
Visits to other food premises	...	...	...	...	...	1,135
Number of notices served under Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955	...	...	...	...	...	8
Number of notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	10
Visits to factories	...	...	...	...	...	342
Visits to workplaces	...	...	...	...	...	24
Visits to outworkers	...	...	...	...	...	59

Visits to stables	59
Visits to piggeries	41
Visits to caravan yards	87
Smoke observations	75
Visits <i>re</i> infectious disease cases	222
Visits <i>re</i> smallpox contacts	4
Visits <i>re</i> food poisoning	22
Visits <i>re</i> rats and mice	80
Visits <i>re</i> Shops Acts	208
Visits <i>re</i> schools	20
Visits <i>re</i> Rent Act, 1957	114
Visits to refuse tipping site, Mitcham Common ...	46
Visits <i>re</i> refuse chutes	42
Visits to sewage works	14
Sundry visits	261

Character of Work Done

Roofs repaired	73
Rainwater piping or gutters repaired or renewed ...	63
Yards paved or repaired	13
Dampness remedied	77
Water service pipes repaired	12
Waterclosets: Repairs to structure	4
Flushing apparatus repaired or renewed ...	12
New pans and traps fitted	12
Water storage cisterns cleansed, repaired or renewed ...	7
Water supply reinstated	8
Flooring of rooms repaired and sub-floor ventilation improved	43
Rooms cleansed	17
Sinks and handbasins repaired or renewed	5
Waste pipes and traps repaired or renewed	18
Window frames and sashes repaired or renewed	41
Window sills repaired or renewed	23
External brickwork (repaired, pointed or rendered) ...	22
Drains repaired or obstructions removed	89
Drains inspection covers renewed	5
Drains tested	46

Grid and mica flaps provided	...	...	...	...	3
Firegrates repaired (including surrounds and hearths)	...	...	...	...	8
Stoves, coppers, ranges, etc., repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Staircases repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	11
Internal plaster repairs	...	...	...	...	87
Sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	39
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	27
Accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	16

All ponds and ditches in the Borough where mosquito breeding was likely were sprayed with insecticide during the year and larger areas where mosquitoes were found to be breeding but spraying was impracticable, were treated with a fog generating apparatus with satisfactory results.

Disinfestation of dust chutes at the Council's blocks of flats was carried out by means of the high pressure fogging apparatus which was most effective: all school canteens were similarly treated.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

Public Health Act, 1936.—

Summonses were issued against the occupiers of two caravans on vacant land in Bath Road in respect of non-compliance with notices for the abatement of a statutory nuisance and a contravention of section 292 of the Public Health Act, 1936, but as both caravans were removed out of the Borough on the day that the summonses were issued, the summonses could not be proceeded with.

Summonses were issued against the occupiers of three caravans on vacant land in Bath Road for contravening the provisions of section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. At the Hearing at Wallington on the 5th August the Court imposed a fine of £5 and awarded one guinea costs to the Council in each case.

Summonses were issued against the occupiers of two caravans on vacant land in Bath Road for contravening the provisions of section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936. At the Hearing on 7th January, 1960, the Court imposed a fine of £5 with costs of two guineas to the Council in one case and a fine of £3 in the other case.

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936, and Petroleum (Mixtures) Order, 1929.—98 licences to store petroleum spirit and/or petroleum mixtures were issued for a total of 252,874 gallons (inclusive of cellulose solutions).

Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936, and Petroleum (Carbide of Calcium) Order, 1929.—Two licences were issued for the storage of 1,224 lbs. of carbide of calcium.

UNSOUND FOOD DEALT WITH

Beef	123 lbs.	Sausages	47 lbs.
Fruit	47 „	Fish	12 stone
Pig spleens	50 „	Dried fruit	54 pkts.
Corned beef	60 „	Eggs	15 doz.
Bacon	76 „	Meat pies	68
Pork luncheon meat	12 „	Assorted	229 tins
Ham	33 „		

Yours faithfully,

K. J. GUTTERIDGE,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING STATISTICS

TOTAL NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES—19,900.

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

Permanent buildings built by the Council after the war—2,341.

Other Housing Accommodation Available :—

A. Sundry properties 157

B. Temporary buildings, Arcon bungalows ... 345

C. Hutments, 320 originally, now reduced to ... 26

Therefore, total number of properties used for housing by the Mitcham Borough Council is 4,330

NUMBER OF PEOPLE REHOUSED

About 10,600 applicants have registered since 1945, and the current list is still about 1,300, so that some 9,300 applicants have been dealt with.

HOUSING SITUATION

There is no longer any requisitioned property. A small amount of building is at present going on at the Gaston Road, Lactagol and Brenley sites. The ambitious Phipps Bridge development scheme, estimated at about £2½ million, is to go ahead and certain preliminary work has been put in hand involving the clearance of sites.

RENT ACT, 1957

Twenty-six applications were made for Certificates of Disrepair. In two cases it was decided not to issue a certificate, in 10 cases undertakings were given by the various landlords and in the remaining 14 cases certificates were issued. Twelve certificates were cancelled during the year on application by landlords, the works specified having been completed.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

One thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine inspections were made of food premises other than slaughterhouses. The premises were on the whole satisfactory with some minor adjustments necessary.

Food premises by type of business.

General Stores	10	Café & General Stores ...	2
Groceries	81	Roadside Snack Bars ...	2
Butchers	33	Fishmongers	8
Greengrocer & Fruiterers	60	Fried Fish Buffets ...	7
Greengrocer & General		Fried Fish	5
Provisions	2	Bakers and Confectioners	14
Confectionery	74	Milk & Provisions ...	12
Chemists	16	Public Houses	30
Restaurants & Cafés ...	32	Off-Licences	10

Food premises by type, registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

The storage and sale of ice-cream	158
The manufacture for sale of ice-cream	1
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	312

All condemned food is either incinerated at the Refuse Destructor, Garth Road, Morden, by arrangement with the Merton and Morden Urban District Council, or treated with dye and disposed of to fat and bone merchants.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

Formal Samples.

Ninety formal samples were taken as follows:—

Milk	47	Cheese and Tomato Spread	1
Redcurrant Jelly Jam ...	1	Pork Luncheon Meat ...	1
Margarine (10% Butter) ...	7	Rich Fruit Cake	1
Sultanas	1	Beef Sausages	2
Coconut Culinary Flavour	1	Cream	1
Meat Pudding	1	Ground Cinnamon ...	1
Pure Dairy Butter	5	Blackcurrant Jam	1
Beef Pudding	1	English Cheddar Cheese	1
Processed Peas	1	Indigestion Tablets ...	1
Mint in Vinegar	1	Toothache Tincture ...	1
Pork Sausage Meat	1	Fresh Shrimps	
Pure Lard	1	(Confectionery)	1
Pure Dripping	1	Lemonade Powder ...	1
Tablets of Aspirin	1	Table Jelly	1
White Pepper	1	Gravy Powder	1
Orange Squash	1	Jam Pudding (Plum) ...	1
Peeled Potatoes	1	Pork Sausages	1

Informal Samples

Eighty-eight informal samples were taken as follows:—

Batter and Pancake Mixture	1	Split Tin Loaf	1
Sponge Sandwich with		Double Cream	1
Pure Butter Filling	1	Golden Glucose Syrup ...	1
Potted Crab with Butter ...	1	Mustard	1
Stoned Dates (Pasteurised)	1	Pure Ground Coffee ...	1

Red Salmon	3	Variety Cheese Spread ...	1
Peaches in Syrup	1	Cheese Spread with Shrimp	1
Butter Cake	1	Chicken and Veal Pie ...	1
Steak and Kidney Pie ...	2	Dried Fruit Mixture ...	1
Vienna Sausages	1	Mayonnaise	1
Tea Cakes Mixture	1	Chop Sauce	1
Celery Salt	1	Danish Cream	1
Coffee Cream Biscuit ...	1	Chicken and Mushrooms	
Sardines in Olive Oil ...	2	in White Sauce	1
Black Currants	1	Raspberries in Syrup ...	1
Process Cheese Spread		Hamburgers in Rich Gravy	1
with Mushrooms	1	Instant Coffee	1
Cornish Fairings (Ginger)	1	Synthetic Cream Powder	1
Chocolate Sponge Mixture	1	Pork Sausages	1
Energen Orange	1	Casserole Steak	1
Sugarless Black Cherry		Coffee	1
Preserve	1	Golden Oat Cereal ...	1
Gruyere Process Cheese ...	1	Cottage Cheese	1
Self Raising Flour	1	Instant Tea	1
Puff-kins (Breakfast Cereal)	1	Lemonade	1
Pure Dairy Cream	1	Orange Squash	1
Butter Crisps (Sugar		Pears in Syrup	1
Confectionery)	1	Strawberry Jam	1
Pickled Red Cabbage ...	1	Tea	1
Stewed Steak	1	Garden Peas	1
Vegetable Juices	1	Non-Alcoholic Drink ...	1
High Protein Cereal ...	1	Processed Cheese	1
Ravioli in Tomato Sauce ...	1	Rice Pudding	1
Jellied Eels	3	Concentrated Essence ...	1
Cockles	2	Cheese Sandwich (Biscuits)	1
Whelks	2	Yeast Extract (Marmite)	1
Dairy Ice Cream	4	Milk Chocolate Mallows	1
Ice Cream	1	Frankfurter Sausages in	
Malt and Honey Fruit Loaf	1	Brine	1
Corned Beef	1	30% Bran Flakes	1
Chicken and Ham		Horseradish Relish ...	1
Luncheon Meat	1	Lemon Juice	1

The following samples were not up to standard and warning letters were sent to the firms concerned:—

Informal.—Pork luncheon meat, high protein Breakfast Cereal.

Complaints from the public relating to food were as follows:—

Three of mould in a loaf.

Three of a dirty milk bottle.

Two of mould in a meat pie.

One each of:—

Contaminated lemonade.

Maggots in chocolate.

A foreign body in a loaf.

Maggots in dried fruit.

A maggot in dried milk powder.

A contaminated loaf.

A "sour" loaf.

A caterpillar in tinned tomatoes.

Warning letters were sent to the firms concerned.

ICE-CREAM

One establishment in the Borough is registered for the manufacture of ice-cream and 158 for the storage and sale of ice-cream. Fifty visits were paid during the year.

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

	Provisional Grade.			
	I	II	III	IV
Coliforms absent	6	1	—	—
Coliforms present in 1/10th ml	—	—	—	—
Fæcal coli present (in addition to above)	—	—	—	—

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF CUPS AND GLASSES

Eighty-three swabs were taken from tea cups at various catering establishments and seventeen 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	2	66	—	2	68	—
100-200	2	1	1	1	—	3
200-500	5	—	—	5	—	5
500-1,000	—	1	—	—	—	1
1,000-1,500	—	1	—	—	—	1
1,500-2,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
2,000 and over	3	2	2	1	—	5
Total	12	71	3	9	68	15

BEER GLASS SWABS.

Colony Count (per glass).	Coliforms		Fæcal Coli		Result	
	Present.	Absent.	Present.	Absent.	Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.
Under 100	—	13	—	—	13	—
100-200	—	2	—	—	—	2
200-500	—	—	—	—	—	—
500-1,000	1	—	1	—	—	1
1,000-1,500	—	—	—	—	—	—
1,500-2,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
2,000 and over	1	—	—	1	—	1
Total	2	15	1	1	13	4

The result of the swabs was sent to the establishments concerned and visits were paid to premises where the results were unsatisfactory.

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 ... 39

Sterilised ... 49

Supplementary Licences—

Pasteurised ... 15

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)	22
Supplementary Licences (Tuberculin Tested)	15

One hundred and sixty-three samples of Graded Milk were submitted for bacteriological examination. One was unsatisfactory and a warning letter was sent to the firm concerned.

BAKEHOUSES

The number of bakehouses in the district is six.
Fifty visits have been paid.

DAIRIES

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

During the year twenty-one visits of inspection were paid.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are two licenced slaughterhouses in the borough; 806 visits have been paid.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933 TO 1958

Fifteen licences were issued to slaughtermen in accordance with the requirements of the above Acts, three being licences to slaughter under supervision only.

MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASSES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART.

	Cattle, excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	122	25	2798	3212	13,524
Number Inspected ...	122	25	2798	3212	13,524
All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	1	2	...	46
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	9	4	3	130	786
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	8.19	20.0	0.18	4.05	6.15
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	...	..	...	...	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	...	...	...	56
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis... ..	...	...	...	...	0.47

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 THE FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955

Number of notices served, 8. Number of notices complied with, 10.

PIGGERIES

There are 6 piggeries in the Borough. Fifty-nine visits were paid during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Four licences were issued to occupiers of pet shops.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

I.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health 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	13	15	...	...	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	292	329	3	...	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	3	...	...	...	...	3
TOTAL ... ..	...	305	344	3	...	...

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	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred			
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	(7)	(8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	1	1	...	...	...	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	...	...	...	...	...	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	...	...	...	...	...	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	...	...	...	...	...	11
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	12	3	3	...	...	...	12
TOTAL		4	4	...	...	...

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 { Making, etc. ...	13	44						13
apparel { Cleaning and washing	14							14
Household linen ...	15	2						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							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	6						34
Brush making	35							35
Pea picking	36							36
Feather sorting	37							37
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc. ...	38	1						38
Stuffed toys	39							39
Basket making	40							40
Chocolates and sweetmeats ...	41							41
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc. ...	42	10						42
Textile weaving	43							43
Lampshades	44	10						44
TOTAL		73						

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS

The total number of confirmed notifications received during 1959 was 1,000.

CONTACTS, SUSPECTS, ETC.

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

VISITS

Public Health Inspectors to common infectious diseases	222
Public Health Inspectors to smallpox contacts	4
	<hr/>
Total	226
Rooms disinfected after infectious disease	45

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	14	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	139	3	...	...	...	...	...	157
February	12	...	...	...	12	...	...	2	...	...	...	219	2	1	...	...	...	...	248
March	13	...	...	...	4	...	...	5	...	...	...	193	1	6	...	...	...	...	222
April	5	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	125	3	6	...	...	...	...	143
May...	...	8	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	127	2	1	...	...	...	...	141
June	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	1	1	...	...	...	...	37
July	9	1	...	...	...	...	...	10
August	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	4	...	...	...	...	11
September...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
October	5	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	10
November	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	5	...	...	...	...	15
December	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Totals	69	...	...	4	22	...	2	10	1	1	...	847	17	27	...	...	...	...	1000

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS, 1940/59

DISEASE	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	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	48	75	175	212	97	147	95	62	35	57	89	110	111	225	86	47	33	56	18	75	69
Diphtheria ...	36	72	25	42	10	63	32	4	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Typhoid Fever ...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	2	6	3	5	8	6	9	3	...	2	...	13	23	11	3	1	...	...	...	...
Meningococcal	13	12	6	8	3	3	1	2	1	1	...	1	3	1	...	2	...	1	...	...	1
Infections																					
Erysipelas ...	17	19	7	22	13	16	25	9	18	6	12	7	8	14	11	6	9	7	4	3	4
Measles ...	301	194	599	651	112	739	358	533	818	252	354	354	1386	591	888	131	1059	50	1358	172	847
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis:																					
Paralytic ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3	11	2	2	6	2	1	4	4	...	4	5	2	...	1
Non-Paralytic ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	8	1	...	...
Ophthalmia	1	3	10	4	4	...	2	2	6	3	8	2	1	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
Neonatorum																					
Acute Encephalitis:																					
Infective ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Post-Infectious ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Pneumonia ...	30	22	20	50	37	33	41	37	30	13	19	28	24	26	27	16	34	19	24	12	22
Malaria ...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	16	186	161	162	166	96	234	216	117	149	212	387	420	112	336	183	167	103	130	45	17
Food Poisoning ...	4	6	11	...	...	5	1	...	...	...	6	3	4	10	17	12	8	11	4	9	27
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	4	67	13	6	1	2	5	7	16	7	16	15	46	17	60	47	8	10
Paratyphoid ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...
Totals ...	468	591	1021	1161	515	1126	807	888	1033	490	717	911	1980	1027	1396	450	1335	322	1590	325	1000

SMALLPOX

No case of smallpox was notified during the year 1959. The last case was in 1932.

SCARLET FEVER

The number of cases of scarlet fever notified during the year was 69 as compared with 75 in 1958, equivalent to a case rate of 1.07 per 1,000 population. This disease has continued mild in character. Of the total number of cases notified three were treated in hospital and 66 were treated at home.

DIPHTHERIA

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

Immunisation and reinforcing doses were available to every 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	592	53	645
Five to fourteen years ...	68	1,356	1,424
	—	—	—
Totals	660	1,409	2,069

The following figures show the number of the child population considered immunised at 31st December, 1959:—

Age at 31.12.59, i.e. born in year	Under 1 1959	1 to 4 1958-1955	5 to 9 1954-1950	10 to 14 1949-1945	Under 15 Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster)					
A. 1955-1959... ..	237	2490	3062	3863	9652
B. 1945-1954... ..	—	—	742	1464	2206
C. Estimated mid-year child population ...	842	3492	10161		14495
Immunity Index 100 A/C	28.15	71.31	68.16		66.59

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 or the triple tetanus, diphtheria, whooping cough antigen):—

	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 pertus- sis vaccines (including combined vaccines)	575	72	21	15	9	9	2	703
B. Number of children who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection during 1959	—	1	—	5	40	41	5	92

POLIOMYELITIS

There was one case of mild paralytic poliomyelitis during the year, the first since September, 1957. The immunisation campaign was undoubtedly responsible for the diminishing number of cases. For England and Wales the number of cases goes down considerably year by year and even week by week.

POLIO VACCINATION

The scheme was once again extended and now includes all up to 40 years of age.

		Numbers vaccinated in 1959	
		Primary courses	Third injections
Children	... ..	3,049	7,577
Adults	... ..	3,516	1,214

The total number inoculated since the inception of the scheme is 15,613, which includes 12,635 children or 80.7 per cent. of the estimated child population.

The response from the group age 25 to 40 was very poor at first. As a result of the anti-polio campaign there was a temporary increase which soon subsided, making this the least responsive of all groups.

ENTERIC FEVER

There were no cases of enteric fever during the year.

DIARRHOEA AND ENTERITIS UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE

No death was registered during the year.

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

There were 27 notified cases in 1959 and a further 37 cases resulting from an outbreak in a factory. Of the 27 notified cases there were four family outbreaks involving a total of 13 people and 14 single cases. The illness was caused by *S. Typhimurium* in three cases, *S. Bredeney* in one case, *S. Anatum* in one case and, in the case of the factory outbreak, by *Cl. Welchii*. In the remaining 22 cases the cause was not known. The factory outbreak was found to be due to infected meat but in all other cases the source could not be ascertained.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA

There were no cases notified during the year.

ERYSIPELAS

Four cases were notified. None was removed to hospital.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

No case was notified during the year.

PNEUMONIA

Twenty-two 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 34, of which 18 were males and 16 females.

MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS

One case was notified during the year.

INFLUENZA

During the year seven deaths were recorded, as against three the year before.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

During the year two cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

This comes under the control of the Surrey County Council.

SCHOOL NOTIFICATIONS

The school intimation notices of infectious disease are 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	...	...	...	...	...	22
Ringworm	...	...	...	...	...	—
Rubella	...	...	...	...	...	133
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	...	1
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	...	5
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	297
Glandular fever	...	...	...	...	...	1

CANCER

The number of deaths from cancer registered during the year was 145, of which 68 were males and 77 females.

The trend for England and Wales is continuing upwards.

The site distribution for 1959 was as follows:—

Digestive organs	...	...	...	...	11 cases
Respiratory organs	...	...	...	...	32 „
Breast	...	...	...	...	25 „
Genito-urinary organs	...	...	...	...	4 „
Other sites	...	...	...	...	73 „
					—
Total	...	...	...	...	145

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.		
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

Death Rate per 1,000 of population

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	1.95
1954	108	1.64	2.04
1955	132	2.02	2.06
1956	135	2.08	2.07
1957	134	2.06	2.09
1958	122	1.89	2.12
1959	145	2.25	2.14

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 28 new cases of tuberculosis were notified, viz:—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary ...	17	9	26
Non-Pulmonary ...	1	1	2
Totals ...	18	10	28

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

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary ...	17	16	33
Non-Pulmonary ...	2	1	3
Totals ...	19	17	36

The total number of deaths from tuberculosis was:—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary ...	1	1	2
Non-Pulmonary ...	—	—	—
Totals ...	1	1	2

	England and Wales.	Mitcham.
Death rate from tuberculosis, all forms, per 1,000 population ...	0.08	0.03

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

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

Non-notified tuberculosis deaths ...	...	Nil
Total tuberculosis deaths ...	...	2

MINIATURE MASS RADIOGRAPHY

A mass radiography unit visits Mitcham nearly every year and is granted the free use of the Vestry Hall (Town Hall). In 1959 the unit was in Mitcham from January 13th to February 2nd. The following summary was supplied by the Medical Director of the unit, Dr. F. J. H. Walters:—

	Male	Female
Total number examined ...	1,889	1,829
Pulmonary tuberculosis (active)	4	2
Primary lung cancer ...	5	—

The main non-tuberculous abnormalities revealed were abnormal heart conditions, bacterial and virus infections of the lung and pulmonary fibrosis.

The above figures do not apply to Mitcham residents only as the service is open to anyone, resident or not.

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

MITCHAM, BEDDINGTON AND WALLINGTON CARE COMMITTEE FOR TUBERCULOSIS AND DISEASES OF THE CHEST

Functions of the Committee

1. To alleviate want or distress amongst those suffering from tuberculosis and diseases of the chest, 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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