

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Merton & Morden].

Contributors

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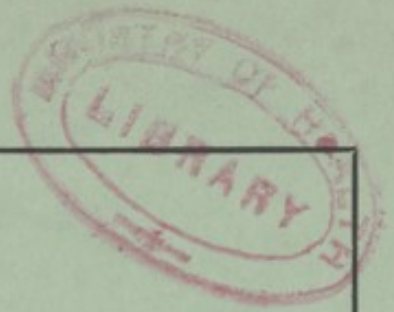
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Merton and Morden
Urban District

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1937

AND REPORT OF

The Sanitary Inspector



PREFACE

To the
Merton and Morden Urban District Council

which has
Mr. Chairman

of the
I have the honor to present my Annual Report for the
Year 1937.

The district continued to enjoy the good standard of
health which it has enjoyed in past years. As evidence
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country as a whole.

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months of the year. The epidemic which attacked the greater
part of the London area.

Sanitary inspection of the Housing
Acts was pursued with the same vigour as before, whilst the
same strict control over food and food premises was exercised.

The Maternity and Child Welfare service completed
another exceptionally successful year. The Council has in this
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value. The appreciation which the residents of the district
express by the excellent work of the sanitary inspectors is
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Merton and Morden Urban District

ANNUAL REPORT

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PREFACE.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Merton and Morden Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1937.

The district continued to enjoy that good standard of health which it has experienced in past years. As evidenced by the statistical information the year 1937 compares well with its predecessors. Mortality rates generally were low, and as in the past were more favourable than those for the country as a whole.

The incidence of the common endemic infections, scarlet fever, diphtheria, measles and whooping cough, was on a comparatively small scale. The only prevalence of an epidemic nature was that of Sonne dysentery in the last two months of the year, which in a mild form attacked the greater part of the London area.

Sanitary inspection and administration of the Housing Acts was pursued with the same vigour as before, whilst the same strict control over food and food premises was exercised.

The Maternity and Child Welfare service completed another exceptionally busy year. The Council has in this organisation a service which performs work of inestimable value. The appreciation which the residents of the district exhibit by the considerable use which they make of this Scheme is ample testimony to the wisdom of successive Councils in pursuing a policy of steady expansion in this very necessary service. Much has been done for the health of mothers and children. More can still be done. A stage has been reached when the work is outgrowing the accommodation

necessary for its performance, and the future concern of the Council will be to secure adequate accommodation so that these activities may continue to exert unimpeded their great influence on the health of the district.

I would record again my appreciation of the support given to me by the members of the Council, and of the encouragement of the Public Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees in my efforts to serve the best interests of the district. To the members of my staff I pay tribute to that loyalty and unstinting assistance which for many years I have always received.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Your obedient Servant,

F. LAWRENCE SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1938.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL of MERTON and MORDEN

1937

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman:

MRS. L. A. DOEL

MRS. E. M. CLIFTON

MR. F. G. HUMPHREYS

MRS. H. COBBETT

MR. E. KNOX

CAPT. E. A. EVANS

MR. W. S. LE GROS CLARK

MR. F. R. SMITH

MR. S. BEVEN (*ex-officio*)

MR. G. E. BAKER (*ex-officio*)

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman:

MR. W. S. LE GROS CLARK

MRS. E. M. CLIFTON

MRS. S. A. LODGE

MRS. H. COBBETT

MR. F. R. SMITH

MRS. L. A. DOEL

MRS. HAILSTONE

CAPT. E. A. EVANS

MRS. NOBLE

MR. E. KNOX

MRS. TURRELL

} *Co-opted
members*

MR. S. BEVEN (*ex-officio*)

MR. G. E. BAKER (*ex-officio*)

REPRESENTATIVES ON THE WANDLE VALLEY JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD.

MR. G. F. COLEMAN

MR. F. J. GRIMME

MR. G. E. BAKER (*ex-officio*)

REPRESENTATIVES ON THE WANDLE VALLEY JOINT SEWERAGE BOARD.

MRS. E. M. CLIFTON

MR. J. STUART-KER

MR. J. C. HUDSON

MR. G. E. BAKER (*ex-officio*)

REPRESENTATIVES ON NELSON HOSPITAL COUNCIL.

MR. G. E. BAKER

MR. A. E. CLIFTON

MRS. H. COBBETT

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

a F. LAWRENCE SMITH, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

b J. B. POINTON, M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspectors:

b c F. C. THOMAS, M.S.I.A.

b J. H. MASSEY, M.S.I.A.

Senior Health Visitor:

MISS E. M. SPERRY

Health Visitors:

MISS A. R. TAYLOR

MISS M. McL. DORAN

MISS E. WILLIAMS (resigned 23.3.37)

MISS A. HOWARD (from 1.4.37)

Senior Clerk:

A. A. MAKEPEACE

Clerks:

R. J. MITTON

H. J. ROGERS

PART TIME OFFICERS.

Assistant Medical Officer for Child Welfare Clinics:

MATTHEW ORR, M.B., CH.B.

Assistant Medical Officer for Maternity Clinics:

ESTHER RICKARDS, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.S.

Assistant Medical Officer for Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics:

T. ELLIOTT, M.B., CH.B.

Bacteriologist:

F. DEAS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Consulting Obstetrician under the Public Health (Notification of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926, and Public Health Act, 1936—Part VII.:

AUBREY GOODWIN, O.B.E., M.D., F.R.C.S.

PANEL OF HONORARY STAFF OF QUEEN CHARLOTTE'S HOSPITAL

Anæsthetist to Maternity and Child Welfare Dental Scheme:

MARY M. TULLOCH, M.B., B.S.

Dentist to Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme:

H. W. FYNN, L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng.)

a Medical Officer of Health for combined districts of Merton and Morden and Carshalton.

b Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.

c Sanitary Science Certificate, University of Liverpool.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	3,238
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) accord- ing to Rate Books	18,240
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1937	£553,627
Sum represented by 1d. rate	£2,210

Lying in the valley of the Thames and naturally drained by its tributaries the River Wandle and the Pyl and Beverley Brooks, the district is flat. The surface rises gently from the northern or Wimbledon boundary towards the southern limit of the Morden Ward, the whole lying between the 42ft. and 141ft. ordnance datum levels. The subsoil in the northern part is a sandy gravel which merges into the London clay which extends throughout the great part of the district lying to the south.

The district continued its steady development. A further 1,369 new houses and 449 flats were erected, the former being mostly of the small owner-occupier type.

Further progress was made with a view to creating a new Civic Centre on a site embracing both sides of the London Road in the Morden Ward bordering on and having as its setting Morden Park.

Industry. The number of factories and workshops as defined by the Factories and Workshops Act at the end of the year was as follows:—

Factories with more than 40 employees ...	22
Factories with less than 40 employees ...	60
Total factories ...	82
Workshops	28
Total factories and workshops ...	110

The number of employees engaged in these premises is approximately 6,000.

A list of the various trades carried on in the larger factories is shown in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Unemployment. The number of Merton and Morden residents registered as unemployed at the Wimbledon Exchange on 17th January, 1938, was as follows:—

Men	588	Women	201
Boys 16-17 years ...	23	Girls 16-17 years ...	12
Boys 14-15 „ ...	16	Girls 14-15 „ ...	19
	627		232
Total			859

The total of 859 compares with 544 registered at this Exchange twelve months earlier.

Public Assistance. The following information as to Public Assistance is supplied by the courtesy of the Chief Public Assistance Officer of the Surrey County Council.

MEDICAL RELIEF :—Number of persons from the Parishes of Merton and Morden admitted to institutions and hospitals during the year 515

Number of persons from the Parishes of Merton and Morden admitted to mental hospitals during the year ... 56

Average weekly number of persons in receipt of Medical out-relief 2

OTHER RELIEF :—Number of persons in Parishes of Merton and Morden in receipt of Domiciliary Assistance on :—

1st January, 1937	617
1st July, 1937	592
31st December, 1937	656

Total amount of Domiciliary Assistance afforded during the year £12,688

Climatic Conditions. Rain gauges are installed at the Joseph Hood Recreation Ground and West Barnes Pumping Station.

The monthly recordings are as shown below:—

RAINFALL, 1937.

	JOSEPH HOOD RECREATION GROUND.		WEST BARNES PUMPING STATION.	
January	...	3.75 inches.	...	3.64 inches.
February	...	3.98 "	...	4.03 "
March	...	2.47 "	...	2.76 "
April	...	1.61 "	...	1.96 "
May	...	2.34 "	...	2.38 "
June	...	1.71 "	...	1.77 "
July50 "	...	.51 "
August	...	2.78 "	...	2.83 "
September	...	1.87 "	...	1.72 "
October	...	2.66 "	...	2.58 "
November	...	1.32 "	...	1.37 "
December	...	4.36 "	...	4.10 "
Total	...	29.35 "	...	29.65 "

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1937.

(Registrar General's Figures).

Population :

Mid. 1937 Registrar General's Estimate ... 65,530

Births :

		M.	F.	Total.	
Live (Legitimate) ...	418	373	791		
(Illegitimate) ...	11	10	21		
	429	383	812		
Birth rate					12.3
Stillbirths	13	11	24		
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births					28.7

Deaths: 262 225 487
 Death Rate 7.4

Infant Mortality :

All deaths under 1 year	32			
Rate per 1,000 live births				39.4
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year	29			
Rate per 1,000 legitimate births				36.6
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year	3			
Rate per 1,000 illegitimate births				142

Maternal Mortality :

Deaths from Sepsis	1			
Deaths from other puerperal causes	1			
Maternal death rate				2.38

Zymotic Deaths :

Deaths from Measles	—			
Deaths from Whooping Cough	2			
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	—			
7 Principal Zymotic Diseases	6			
Zymotic Death Rate (per 1,000 popu- lation)				0.09

Deaths from Tuberculosis :

All forms	34			
Rate per 1,000 population				0.53
Phthisis	33			
Rate per 1,000 population				0.52

Deaths from Cancer 93
 Rate per 1,000 population 1.4

The Registrar General's figures differ very slightly in one or two instances from those compiled from local records. Where statistics in this report are stated for the district as a whole, the Registrar General's figures are given, but where comparative figures, e.g., as between wards, age groups, etc., are shown these are necessarily based on local information, and may differ slightly in the aggregate from the Registrar General's totals.

POPULATION.

The Registrar General's estimate of the mid-year population is 65,530.

My own estimate based on local information is 66,450, distributed in wards as follows:—

Wards	Houses at mid. 1937	Estimated Popu- lation mid. 1937
Abbey	1,210	4,335
Bushey Mead ...	2,113	7,596
Central	2,388	7,958
Morden	1,336	4,476
Park	2,763	9,870
Ravensbury ...	1,804	7,485
Raynes Park ...	1,853	6,536
St. Helier... ..	2,706	11,614
West Barnes ...	1,880	6,580
Whole District	18,053	66,450

BIRTHS.

The number of live births registered during the year was 812, giving a birth rate of 12.3 compared with 12.9 in the preceding year. Of the total 429 were males and 383 females. Twenty-one were illegitimate.

Stillbirths numbered 24, 13 being males and 11 females. Two of these were illegitimate.

Ward Distribution. For comparative purposes as between wards use is made of the births which occurred during the year and not those registered, since details with regard to

those births which are registered outside the district are not available to enable allocation by wards to be made. From the notifications of births and the records of births registered in the district information is available in respect of 790 live and 22 stillbirths, a total of 812 which took place during the year. This number is only slightly less than the total registered births, and hence is sufficiently accurate for comparative purposes. The distribution of these births was as follows:—

BIRTHS, 1937—DISTRIBUTION BY WARDS.

Wards	Live Births	Still Births	Total Births	Birth Rate
Abbey ...	48	—	48	11.0
Bushey Mead	115	7	122	15.1
Central ...	114	1	115	14.3
Morden ...	76	6	82	16.9
Park ...	92	2	94	9.3
Ravensbury	93	1	94	12.4
Raynes Park	64	1	65	9.7
St. Helier ...	114	3	117	9.8
West Barnes	74	1	75	11.2

Institutional and Domiciliary Births. A high proportion of the births took place in hospitals and maternity homes, and this tendency is increasing year by year. In the two wards which comprise the St. Helier Estate rather more than two-thirds of the total were domiciliary births, while in the rest of the district less than half took place in private dwellings.

Of the 812 total births (live and still) which occurred in the year, 448 took place in hospitals, nursing homes, etc. This represents 55% of the total, which is 4% higher than in 1936. They took place in the following institutions:—

Nelson Hospital	207
Kingston County Hospital	91
Other hospitals, institutions, and nursing homes	150
	<hr/>
	448
	<hr/>

The following shows the number of institutional births for each ward:—

Wards	Total Births (Live and Still)	Births in Hospitals, Nursing Homes, etc.	Percentage of Total Births which occurred in Hospitals, etc.
Abbey ...	48	28	58.3
Bushey Mead ...	122	74	60.6
Central ...	115	86	74.7
Morden ...	82	39	47.5
Park ...	94	56	59.5
Ravensbury ...	94	34	36.1
Raynes Park ...	65	42	64.6
St. Helier ...	117	41	35.0
West Barnes ...	75	48	64.0

Institutional and Domestic Births. A high proportion of the births took place in hospitals and maternity homes, and this tendency is increasing year by year. In the two wards which comprise the St. Helier Estate rather more than two-thirds of the total were domestic births, while in the rest of the district less than half took place in private dwellings.

BIRTHS

new and many foreign women still to remain in the district. The total number of live and still-born children in the year 1938 took place in hospitals, nursing homes, etc. This represents 55% of the total which is a higher than in 1938. They took place in the following institutions:—

Other hospitals, institutions, and nursing homes. For comparative purposes the following table is drawn up showing the number of births which took place in the various wards of the district in the year 1938.

TABLE I.
COMPARATIVE STATISTICS, 1937.

(R.G.'s Provisional Figures with Corresponding Figures for
Merton and Morden added).

	England and Wales	125 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Merton and Morden
	Rates per 1,000 Population				
<i>Births:—</i>					
Live	14.9	14.9	15.3	13.3	12.3
Still	0.60	0.67	0.64	0.54	0.36
<i>Deaths:—</i>					
All causes	12.4	12.5	11.9	12.3	7.4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	8.9
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.01	—
Scarlet fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Whooping Cough	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.03
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.06
Influenza	0.45	0.39	0.42	0.38	0.25
Violence	0.54	0.45	0.42	0.51	0.39
<i>Notifications:—</i>					
Smallpox	0.00	—	0.00	—	—
Scarlet fever	2.33	2.56	2.42	2.09	1.96
Diphtheria	1.49	1.81	1.38	1.93	0.33
Enteric fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.05	0.01
Erysipelas	0.37	0.43	0.34	0.44	0.15
Pneumonia	1.36	1.58	1.20	1.18	1.35
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age	58	62	55	60	39
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	5.8	7.9	3.2	12.0	—
<i>Maternal Mortality:—</i>					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.97	Not Available			1.23
Others	2.26				1.23
Total	3.23				2.46
	Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., Live and Still)				
<i>Maternal Mortality:—</i>					
Puerperal Sepsis	0.94	Not Available			1.19
Others	2.17				1.19
Total	3.11				2.38
<i>Notifications:—</i>					
Puerperal fever	13.93	17.59	11.52	4.15	1.19
Puerperal pyrexia				14.34	2.38

TABLE II.

Showing Births and Deaths with Rates since the
Amalgamation of Merton with Morden.

Year.	Estimated population.	Total Births.	Birth Rate.	Total Deaths.	Death Rate.
1913	16,767	400	23.5	166	9.9
1914	17,500	420	24	142	8.2
1915	17,500	402	22.9	169	10.4
1916	16,000	348	27.75	134	8.3
1917	17,000	271	15.75	145	9
1918	17,552	241	14	204	13
1919	18,100	257	14.2	210	11.6
1920	18,200	359	19.8	171	9.4
1921	18,000	322	17.8	138	7.6
1922	18,500	365	19.7	198	10.7
1923	18,750	341	18.1	153	8.1
1924	18,710	311	16.6	170	9.1
1925	18,960	307	16.2	187	9.9
1926	19,980	333	16.7	179	9.0
1927	21,850	352	16.13	200	9.2
1928	25,780	392	15.2	224	8.7
1929	27,430	442	16.1	281	10.2
1930	35,000	452	12.9	241	6.9
1931	41,610	628	15.1	333	8.0
1932	48,550	770	15.8	352	7.2
1933	52,130	644	12.3	416	7.9
1934	55,550	770	13.8	484	8.7
1935	57,440	721	12.5	433	7.5
1936	61,000	789	12.9	443	7.2
1937	65,530	812	12.3	487	7.4

DEATHS.

The registered deaths numbered 487, of which 262 were males, and 225 females. This total was arrived at by transfer adjustments in the following manner:—

Total deaths registered in the district ...	328
Less deaths of non-residents (outward transfers)	76
	<hr/>
	252
Plus deaths of residents occurring outside the district (inward transfers)	235
	<hr/>
Total ...	487

The crude death rate was 7.4 per 1,000 population, compared with 7.2 in the year before.

The comparable rate determined by the application of the areal comparability factor (A.C.F.) of 1.21 to allow for age and sex differences of the population was 8.9. This is the figure which should be compared with that for England and Wales which was 12.4.

Seasonal mortality is indicated by the deaths for each quarter of the year, which were:—

First quarter 154—second quarter 103—third quarter 91
—fourth quarter 137.

The following table shows the death rates for each ward and the mean age at death:—

TABLE III.
Ward Death Rates and Mean Age at Death.

Wards	Deaths	Death Rate (crude)	Mean age at death
Abbey	42	9.6	60.95 yrs.
Bushey Mead	85	11.1	58.49 „
Central	38	4.7	54.47 „
Morden	31	6.9	46.61 „
Park	83	8.4	56.09 „
Ravensbury	52	6.9	46.92 „
Raynes Park	40	6.1	56.90 „
St. Helier	61	5.2	46.49 „
West Barnes	53	8.0	55.96 „
Whole District	485	7.2	54.06 yrs.

The wards with the higher mean ages at death are the oldest from the point of view of development, and the variation in these figures is in accord with the probable average age of the respective ward populations.

The mean age at death for the whole district for the last four years was as follows:—

1934—48.3 yrs.; 1935—52.7 yrs.; 1936—54.5 yrs.;
1937—54.0 yrs.

Deaths in Institutions. Approximately half the deaths took place in hospitals and institutions, the actual number being 251, which represents 51% of the total. They occurred in the following institutions:—

Institutions.	Deaths.
Nelson Hospital	34
Surrey County Hospitals	87
Isolation Hospitals	6
London and other general Hospitals	98
Tuberculosis Institutions	15
Mental Institutions	11
	<u>251</u>

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Heart Disease. The number of persons dying of heart disease was 95, which is the greatest number attributable to any single cause, and the death rate for this disease was 1.5 per 1,000 of the population, the same as in the year before.

Of the total, 76, representing 80%, were over 55 years of age. There were no deaths under 25 years of age.

Cancer. Cancer deaths increased by 19 to 93, of which 42 were males and 51 females. This gives a death rate for cancer of 1.4 per 1,000 population, compared with 1.21 in 1936.

The sites affected in these deaths are shown in the following table:—

TABLE IV.

Deaths from Cancer—Sites Affected.

Group	Cancer of	Male	Female	Total
45	Buccal Cavity and Pharynx...	1	—	1
46	Digestive organs and periton- ium—			
	Oesophagus	2	1	3
	Stomach	10	9	19
	Liver and gall bladder	5	2	7
	Intestines	5	9	14
	Rectum and Anus	3	4	7
	Pancreas	3	—	3
47	Respiratory Organs—			
	Larynx	1	—	1
	Lungs	1	1	2
48	Uterus	—	6	6
49	Other female genital organs	—	6	6
50	Breast	—	12	12
51	Male Genito-Urinary Organs	8	—	8
52	Skin	1	—	1
53	Other Organs—			
	Shoulder	—	1	1
	Brain	2	—	2
	Totals	42	51	93

Mean age at death—

Males	59.50 yrs.
Females	59.59 „
All Persons	59.54 „

The cancer death rates for the last ten years were as follows:—

1928	1.4 per 1,000 population	1933	1.0 per 1,000 population
1929	1.1 " " "	1934	1.2 " " "
1930	1.2 " " "	1935	1.0 " " "
1931	0.9 " " "	1936	1.2 " " "
1932	1.2 " " "	1937	1.4 " " "

Respiratory Diseases. Influenza was prevalent in 1937, and in accordance with previous experience, this was accompanied by a higher mortality from respiratory diseases.

Influenza was responsible for 16 deaths against 10 in the year before and 3 in 1935, whilst the respiratory diseases, excluding influenza, caused 51 deaths as compared with 39 in the year before.

The death rate for the respiratory diseases accordingly rises from 0.6 per 1,000 population to 0.8.

TABLE V.
Deaths from Respiratory Diseases, 1925-37.

Year	Bronchitis	Pneumonia	Other Respiratory Diseases	Total	Death Rate
1925	6	16	1	23	*1.2
1926	6	8	5	19	0.9
1927	10	11	5	26	*1.2
1928	8	14	2	24	0.9
1929	11	20	4	35	*1.2
1930	2	10	3	15	0.4
1931	8	24	4	36	0.8
1932	11	27	3	41	0.8
1933	12	32	6	50	0.9
1934	7	38	4	49	0.8
1935	9	22	6	37	0.6
1936	2	35	2	39	0.6
1937	14	31	6	51	0.8

(*Years of high influenzal mortality)

Inquests. Inquests were held on 27 deaths which took place in the district, 12 of which were in respect of persons not resident in the district. The verdicts returned were as follows:—

(1) Natural causes	3
(2) Suicide by—	
Swallowing Lysol	2
Swallowing Disinfectant ...	1
Potassium cyanide	1
Jumping in front of train ...	2
Wound of throat	1
Coal gas	2
	— 9
(3) Accidental due to—	
Knocked down by motor car ...	2
Pedal cyclist colliding with car	2
Knocked down by train at level crossing	1
Thrown from motor cycle while racing	1
Fall	4
Coal gas	1
	— 11
(4) Misadventure—	
Injured by falling steel chimney	1
(5) In accordance with medical evidence—	
Fall in street—manslaughter ...	1
Riding motor cycle which collided with lamp standard	1
Death following operation from appendicitis	1
	— 3
	—
Total ...	27
	—

Deaths due to road accidents numbered 5, compared with 14 in the year before.

TABLE VI. Causes of Death during the Year 1937—By Age Groups.

No.	Cause of Death	0—		1—		2—		5—		15—		25—		35—		45—		55—		65—		75—		All Ages		
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Pers.
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3	Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4	Whooping Cough	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
5	Diphtheria	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4
6	Influenza	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	1	4	3	—	1	—	9	7	16
7	Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
8	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
9	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	3	6	7	1	3	—	3	—	1	1	—	—	21	12	33
10	Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
11	Syphilis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
12	General Paralysis of the Insane	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Tabes dorsalis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13	Cancer. Malignant Disease	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	3	2	5	11	8	9	16	11	8	6	10	42	51	93	
14	Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	4
15	Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	4	1	2	1	3	5	11	16	16	
16	Heart Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	3	1	5	5	9	5	17	15	13	17	50	44	94	
17	Aneurysm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
18	Other Circulatory Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	2	8	5	2	3	14	12	26	
19	Bronchitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	1	2	5	7	7	7	14	
20	Pneumonia (all forms)	4	2	2	—	—	2	—	—	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	4	1	2	2	21	9	30	30	
21	Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	5	1	6	
22	Peptic Ulcer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	3	1	—	—	—	7	3	10	
23	Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24	Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	3	3	6	
25	Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	2	
26	Other Diseases of Liver, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	3	5	
27	Other Digestive Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	3	—	7	2	2	2	9	6	15	
28	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	1	1	—	2	3	1	8	7	15	
29	Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
30	Other Puerperal causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
31	Congenital Debility. Premature Births, Malformations, etc.	10	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	7	17	
32	Senility	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	6	5	7	12	
33	Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	1	4	4	8	
34	Other Violence	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	4	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	2	2	13	5	18	
35	Other Defined Causes	2	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	1	—	1	3	3	2	4	3	3	2	1	1	17	13	30	
36	Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	All Causes	19	13	2	—	3	2	7	3	10	8	15	13	28	19	35	24	44	40	60	46	38	56	261	224	485

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Two deaths were ascribed to maternal causes, one due to sepsis and one to other causes. The maternal mortality rate was 2.39 per 1,000 total births, compared with 2.43 in the year before, and a rate of 3.11 for the country as a whole.

The cause of death in each case was:—

- (1) I. a. Shock following hæmorrhage from retained placenta.
- (2) I. a. Pulmonary embolism following puerperal septicæmia (5th pregnancy).

The first death was in a primipara following a three months abortion. She was suffering from influenza at the time, and it is probable that this induced the abortion.

The second death followed a 5th pregnancy, and was caused by a hæmolytic streptococcal infection. Labour was uneventful and the patient received every care.

One other death occurred following childbirth, but was occasioned by tuberculosis.

TABLE VII.
MATERNAL MORTALITY, 1924-37.

Year	Death rate per thousand total births		
	Sepsis	Other causes	Total
1924	—	3.2	3.2
1925	—	6.5	6.5
1926	—	—	—
1927	—	2.8	2.8
1928	—	—	—
1929	2.2	—	2.2
1930	—	2.2	2.2
1931	1.6	3.1	4.7
1932	5.1	2.5	7.7
1933	2.9	1.4	4.3
1934	2.5	2.5	5.0
1935	—	2.6	2.6
1936	2.4	—	2.4
1937	1.2	1.2	2.4

Maternal deaths occurring within the area are enquired into personally by the Medical Officer of Health and a confidential report in each case is forwarded to the Maternal Mortality Committee of the Ministry of Health in accordance with the recommendation contained in the Committee's report on Maternal Mortality.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Nineteen male and 13 female infants, a total of 32, died under one year of age. This gives an infant mortality rate of 39 per 1,000 live births as against a rate of 35 in the previous year. The corresponding rate for England and Wales was 58.

Of the total infant deaths 3 were illegitimate children, all males.

The neo-natal deaths, i.e., those occurring within one month of birth, totalled 15, representing 46% of the whole.

Diseases peculiar to the new born (prematurity, congenital malformations, marasmus, etc.), accounted for 18, and pneumonia for 6. Three were due to infectious diseases, one to whooping cough, one to diphtheria, and one to influenzal meningitis.

The infant mortality rates since 1921 are as follows:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Deaths per 1,000 live births.</i>	<i>Year.</i>	<i>Deaths per 1,000 live births.</i>
1921	70	1930	45
1922	46	1931	48
1923	27	1932	29
1924	51	1933	48
1925	66	1934	53
1926	43	1935	39
1927	36	1936	35
1928	55	1937	39
1929	58		

Table VIII shows the infant deaths classified as to age and cause of death.

The infant death rates for the individual wards are given below based on the 790 live births which took place during the year which it was possible to allocate by wards. As the total registered live births was 812 these rates will be slightly less than the actual, but will be sufficiently accurate for comparative purposes.

Wards	Live Births	Infant Deaths	Deaths per 1,000 live births
Abbey	48	2	41
Bushey Mead	115	3	26
Central	114	4	34
Morden	76	5	65
Park	92	5	54
Ravensbury	93	6	64
Raynes Park	64	4	62
St. Helier	114	3	26
West Barnes	74	—	—

Similar rates based upon the figures in respect of the last 3-year period 1935-37 are as follows:—

Wards	Live Births 1935-37	Infant Deaths 1935-37	Deaths per 1,000 live births 1935-37
Abbey	135	5	87
Bushey Mead	310	7	23
Central	290	9	31
Morden	173	9	52
Park	270	12	44
Ravensbury	279	15	54
Raynes Park	195	10	51
St. Helier... ..	333	16	48
West Barnes	240	5	21

TABLE VIII.—INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Deaths classified as to cause and age at death.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1—2 weeks.	2—3 weeks.	3—4 weeks.	Total under 4 weeks.	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Diphtheria and Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Laryngitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	1	2	6
Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Rickets... ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation, overlying	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at birth	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Atelectasis	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Congenital Malformations	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
Premature birth	5	—	2	—	7	2	—	—	—	9
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2
Other causes	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	3
TOTALS	10	—	3	2	15	10	2	1	4	22

Nett births in the year—Males 429, Females 383: Legitimate 791, Illegitimate 21. Nett deaths in the year of Legitimate Infants 29. Nett deaths in the year of Illegitimate Infants 3.

SECTION B.—HEALTH SERVICES.

Nursing in the Home. In September 1937 the Morden Nursing Association ceased to be a separate body, and its activities were merged with those of the Wimbledon District Nursing Association. The number of Associations serving the district at the end of the year was thereby reduced to three.

The Council makes an annual contribution to these Associations, in return for which home nursing facilities are provided for cases referred from the public health services.

(1) The Merton Parish Nurse Fund employs one nurse for general nursing, excluding midwifery, and its service covers approximately the ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary's, Merton Park.

The number of cases attended during the year was 250, of which 49 were children under 5 years. Visits made totalled 1,964.

(2) The St. Helier District Nursing Association employs one nurse for general nursing only. No midwifery is undertaken. Its activities cover that part of the St. Helier Estate situate in this district, and the smaller part of the Estate situate in Carshalton but lying to the north of the Sutton-Mitcham Road.

The number of cases undertaken in Merton and Morden during the year was 138, of which 24 were children under 5 years of age. Total visits made was 1,992, 214 of these being to children under 5 years.

(3) The Wimbledon & District Nursing Association has its headquarters in Wimbledon, but in addition to the Borough of Wimbledon it provides nursing facilities, both general and midwifery, in the western part of this district. The staff of the Association consists of 3 midwives and 8 general nurses. For duty in Merton and Morden two general nurses are employed, whilst midwifery and maternity nursing is carried on from the central home.

The following was the work done in the Merton and Morden district during the year:—

Cases undertaken—

(a) Children under 5 years	...	...	34
(b) Maternity (with a doctor)	...	...	16
(c) Midwifery (without a doctor)	...	...	56
(d) Total of all descriptions	...	...	289
Visits made	...	...	4,654

Figures in respect of the Morden Nursing Association up to September 1937, when it ceased to exist, are not available.

Laboratory Facilities. Laboratory examinations of clinical material in connection with infectious diseases, tuberculosis, and puerperal pyrexia, are undertaken under the Council's scheme by Dr. Deas, at the laboratory of the Nelson Hospital. The following examinations were made during the year:—

<i>Examination.</i>	<i>No. performed.</i>	<i>Positive result.</i>
Swabs for diphtheria bacilli	522	21
Sputum for tubercle bacilli ...	145	19
Blood for Widal test ...	4	—
Fæces	9	4

Samples of water, milk and food are submitted for examination either to the County Analyst, to the Clinical Research Association, or to the Laboratory of the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford. Use is also made of the facilities afforded by the Ministry of Health Laboratory, Endell Street, W.1, particularly in respect of cases of suspected food poisoning.

Ambulance Facilities. **INFECTIOUS CASES.** For the removal of infectious cases two ambulances are provided by the Wandle Valley Joint Hospital Board for use within its administrative area, including this district. No difficulty has been experienced in securing the prompt removal of any infectious case.

NON-INFECTIOUS CASES. For the removal of non-infectious and maternity cases the District Council provides one ambulance. The vehicle will accommodate two stretcher cases and two sitting cases. It is housed at the Fire Station in Kingston Road, S.W.19, and is equipped with the necessary stretchers and blankets and with a CO₂ and oxygen resuscitation apparatus. The engine is electrically heated in cold weather and there is thus no delay in getting away.

The ambulance staff consists, in addition to the Honorary Officer in charge, of two part-time driver-attendants with the assistance of the members of the Fire Brigade when necessary.

Reciprocal arrangements exist with all neighbouring authorities.

The use of the ambulance is free to residents up to a distance of 32 miles. This meets the needs of cases transported to hospitals on the north side of London.

The following is a summary of the working of the Council's ambulance service during the year:—

AMBULANCE CALLS, 1937.

1937	Calls received from Public	Calls received from neighbouring Brigades	Total Calls Received	Calls transferred to other Authorities	Calls answered by Own Ambulance
January	78	4	82	5	77
February	53	—	53	1	52
March...	56	5	61	2	59
April ...	53	3	56	1	55
May ...	59	2	61	1	60
June ...	53	3	56	3	53
July ...	51	—	51	5	46
August	53	—	53	1	52
September	65	5	70	—	70
October	67	2	69	2	67
November	66	2	68	4	64
December	79	3	82	3	79
	733	29	762	28	734

Street or works accidents accounted for 44 per cent. of the cases removed, the remainder being removals to and from hospitals, institutions, etc.

Number of calls for 2 attendants ... 65

Number of calls for 1 attendant ... 669

734

Time taken in executing the 734 calls
(from leaving station to return) ... 638 hours.

Mileage covered ... 5,373

Average time per call ... 52.1 mins.

Average distance per call ... 7.3 miles.

Legislation. No Local Acts, Special Orders, General Adoptive Acts or Byelaws applicable to this district came into force during 1937, with the exception of the under-mentioned:—

(a) Byelaw as to Nuisances by Dogs which came into force on the 1st August, 1937, and was confirmed by the Ministry of Health on the 14th June, 1937.

(b) Extended Byelaw re Children's Playgrounds confirmed by the Ministry of Health on the 28th April, 1937, which came into force on the 1st June, 1937.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

1.—Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics (provided by the Council).

Centre	Clinic	Times of Clinic
Congregational Hall Morden Road, Merton	Infant Welfare Toddlers	Wednesdays 2—4 p.m. 4th Wednesday in month 10—12 noon.
The Health Centre, Middleton Road, Morden	Infant Welfare Toddlers Ante-Natal Dental Post-Natal	Tuesdays and Fridays 2—4 p.m. Fridays 10—12 noon. Thursdays 10—12 noon Thursdays 10—12 noon 3rd Saturday in each month, 10—12 noon.
The Parish Hall, Central Road, Morden	Infant Welfare	Fridays 2—4 p.m.
The Health Centre, Aston Road, Raynes Park	Infant Welfare Toddlers Ante-Natal	Mondays and Thursdays 2—4 p.m. Fridays 10—12 noon Wednesdays 2—4 p.m. Mondays 10—12 noon.

2.—Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics (provided by the Council).

Aston Road, Raynes Park	1st and 3rd Wednesday in month at 10 a.m.
The Health Centre, Middleton Road, Morden	2nd and 4th Tuesday in month at 10 a.m.

3.—School Clinics (provided by Surrey Education Committee).

Aston Road Centre Raynes Park	General Medical	Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.30—12 noon.
	Dental	Mondays 9.30—12 noon. Tuesdays 9.30—12 noon, 1.45—4 p.m. Wednesdays 9.30—12 noon, 1.45—4 p.m. Thursdays 9.30—12 noon. Fridays 1.45—4 p.m.
	Eye	2nd Friday in month 1.45—4 p.m. 3rd. Tuesday in month 1.45—4 p.m.
The Health Centre, Middleton Road, Morden	General Medical	Mondays and Wednes- days 9.30—12 noon. Thursdays 2—4 p.m.
	Dental	Mondays 9.30—12 noon. Tuesdays 9.30—12 noon. Wednesdays 9.30—12 noon, 1.45—4 p.m. Thursdays 1.45—4 p.m. Fridays 9.30—12 noon, 1.45—4 p.m. Saturdays 9.30—12 noon
	Eye	Wednesdays 1.45— 4 p.m.

4.—Tuberculosis Dispensaries (provided by Surrey County Council).

30, Worples Road, Wimbledon.	Wednesdays, 1.30 p.m. Fridays, 9.30 a.m. 1st Tuesday in month, 5.30 p.m.
The Health Centre, Middleton Road, Morden.	Mondays, 1.30 p.m. 2nd Monday in month, 5.30 p.m.

5.—Venereal Diseases. The County Council administers the Venereal Diseases Regulations and participates in the London and Home Counties Scheme. Under this arrangement treatment is available at the principal London Hospitals. The sessions are numerous and in some cases continuous, whilst many of these institutions provide in-patient as well as out-patient treatment.

HOSPITALS.

Smallpox. THE SURREY COUNTY ISOLATION HOSPITAL, CLANDON—accommodation 28 beds.

These premises form the hospital provision for smallpox for the whole of the administrative County of Surrey, and is administered as a county service. No cases were admitted from this district during the year.

Infectious Diseases. THE WANDLE VALLEY JOINT HOSPITAL situated at Beddington Corner, Mitcham, maintained conjointly by the following districts:—

Beddington and Wallington Borough;
Coulsdon and Purley Urban;
Merton and Morden Urban;
Mitcham Borough.

The present accommodation is 128 beds. A scheme of extensions and alterations is in progress at the present time. These include the provision of:—

One new 30-bed ward;
One new 30-bed ward including 10 cubicles;
Extensions to administrative buildings;
Operating theatre;
New mortuary;
Covered ways between blocks;
Additional carriageways and entrance gates.

It is hoped that this scheme will be completed during the summer of 1938. The bed accommodation which is now 128 will then be raised to 188.

167 cases were admitted from Merton and Morden during the year compared with 162 in the year before. An analysis of the cases admitted from this and the other constituent districts is given in table IX.

General and Maternity.

1. THE NELSON HOSPITAL FOR WIMBLEDON, MERTON AND DISTRICT. The accommodation of this voluntary hospital to whose funds the Council makes an annual grant is 86 beds, arranged as follows:—

<i>Public Wards</i> ...	Adult beds ...	36	
	Children's beds ...	14	
	Maternity ...	12	
	„ isolation	1	
		—	63
<i>Private Wards</i> ...	General ...	15	
	Maternity ...	8	
		—	23
			—
	Total ...		86
			—

The following information relating to the hospital's activities during the year is supplied by the courtesy of the Secretary:—

(a) *General Medical and Surgical Treatment*—

Total in-patients admitted during 1937 ...	1,162
Number from Merton and Morden ...	455
Total number of new out-patients ...	6,005
Number from Merton and Morden ...	2,352

(b) *Maternity Services*—

Number of patients admitted from all districts during the year—

(1) General Wards	257
(2) Private Wards	114
Total	371

Number of patients admitted from Merton and Morden—

(1) General Wards	147
(2) Private Wards	74
Total	221

During the year a weekly clinic was instituted at the hospital in connection with the maternity department. This is primarily for children up to the age of one year born in the hospital, and their mothers. The object of the clinic is to advise mothers as to the health and upbringing of their children, and to help them in any difficulties they may encounter.

2. THE COUNTY HOSPITALS.

Most of the cases receiving hospital treatment in County hospitals are admitted from this district to the Kingston and District Hospital, Wolverton Avenue. For some time the County hospital provision has been inadequate and the new St. Helier Hospital now in course of construction will bring relief to a very difficult situation. Unfortunately it is very unlikely that these new premises will be ready for the admission of patients before the year 1940.

Tuberculosis:—THE COUNTY SANATORIUM, MILFORD—300 beds.

During the year 50 cases from this district were admitted to the County Sanatorium. 88 other cases received treatment at other hospitals and institutions under the County scheme.

TABLE IX.
**CASES ADMITTED TO THE WANDLE VALLEY
 ISOLATION HOSPITAL DURING THE YEAR 1937.**

Disease	Beddington and Wallington		Coulston and Purley		Merton and Morden		Mitcham	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Diphtheria	4	—	10	—	28*	4	98	2
Scarlet Fever	59	—	48	—	115	—	181	—
Typhoid... ..	1	—	13	1	1	1	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	2	—	1	—	8	—
<i>Other Diseases</i>								
Tonsillitis	1	—	5	—	2	—	7	—
Measles	2	—	1	—	3	—	3	—
Whooping Cough ...	1	—	—	—	3	—	6	—
Rubella	—	—	1	—	2	—	5	—
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Impetigo	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Meningitis-Tubercular	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Mumps	—	—	2	—	2	—	2	—
Furunculosis Anæmia...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Liver Abscess from Amœbic Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Rhinitis and Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Adenitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Cellulitis of Ankle ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Otitis Media	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—
Anterior Poliomyelitis	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—
Septic Burn of Foot ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Septicaemia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	70	—	86	1	167	6	327	4

*Includes six "carriers."

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 203—Notification of Births.—The births notified under Section 203 as adjusted by transferred notifications were:—

Live Births ...	769	Notified by midwives ...	453
Still Births ...	22	Notified by doctors and parents ...	104
		Transferred from other districts ...	234
Total ...	791	Total ...	791

The total is 52 more than in 1936, and represents 94% of the births registered during the year.

The number of notified births which took place outside the district represents 29% of the total—3% more than in the year before.

The Work of the Centres. The welfare activities at the Centres were again continued at a high level. The programme of clinics was increased slightly, and pending the erection of the proposed new clinic in Camborne Road, an additional temporary infant welfare centre was opened in December at the Parish Hall in Central Road, Morden, to relieve the increasing pressure on the Raynes Park clinic, and to provide facilities for the recent development on the Morden Park Estate. An additional weekly infant session was also established during the same month at the Raynes Park Centre.

The number of women who attended either ante-natally or post-natally at the maternity clinics rose from 306 to 358. The number who attended for ante-natal supervision increased by 62, and the number who attended for post-natal supervision by 12. Compared with a percentage of 39 in 1936, the number of women who attended the maternity clinics in 1937 represented 44% of the registered births. This is the highest percentage yet recorded for the district. Eight years ago the figure was under 10.

The infant welfare clinics established further records during the year. The number of children on the registers was 238 higher at the record total of 2,248, and the total attendances made by children exceeded 20,000 for the first time.

New babies attending for the first time numbered 569, which represents 70% of the registered births.

The infant welfare clinics now fall into two categories. The ordinary consultation clinics for children of any age up to 5 years, and special toddler clinics, first instituted in 1935, for the annual medical examination of pre-school children in their 3rd, 4th and 5th years. The attendances at both types of clinics are shown separately in tables XI and XII, from which it will be noted that both have been well attended.

The average attendance at the infant consultation clinic was 73, a high figure, and the average attendance at the special toddler clinics slightly less than 20, which is as many as can be dealt with adequately at these clinics where a comprehensive medical examination is undertaken.

The site for the new clinic in Camborne Road has been acquired by the Council, and plans for the building are now being considered.

The present programme of clinics is shown on page 27.

TABLE X.

Attendances at Maternity Clinics, 1937.

Centre	No. on Register	Attendances		Sessions	Average attendances per session
		Primary	Total		
MORDEN					
Ante-Natal	184	154	759	} 51	15.7
Post-Natal	46	1	46		
Individuals	186	155	805		
RAYNES PARK					
Ante-Natal	157	121	565	} 46	14.0
Post-Natal	60	6	80		
Individuals	172	127	645		
ALL CENTRES					
Ante-Natal	341	275	1324	} 97	14.9
Post-Natal	106	7	126		
Individuals	358	282	1450		

(A primary post-natal visit is the visit of a post-natal woman who has not attended previously either ante-natally or post-natally, so that the figures for primary attendances of individuals represents the number of new cases during the year).

TABLE XI.

Attendances at Infant Consultation Clinics, 1937.

Centre	No. on Register	Attendances		Sessions	Average attendances per session
		Primary*	Total		
MERTON Under 1 yr. 1—5 yrs.	177 {	51 4	1,053 1,148	} 52	42.3
MORDEN Under 1 yr. 1—5 yrs.	772 {	221 88	3,526 3,515	} 98	71.8
RAYNES PARK Under 1 yr. 1—5 yrs.	770 {	297 46	5,976 3,539	} 102	92.3
PARISH HALL Under 1 yr. 1—5 yrs.	22 {	— —	22 12	} 3	11.3
ALL CENTRES Under 1 yr. 1—5 yrs.	1,741 {	569 138	10,577 8,214	255	73.6

*Excluding children known to have attended other centres.

TABLE XII.

Attendances at Special Toddlers Clinics (2-5 Years), 1937.

Centre	Routine examinations	Observation attendances	Total attendances	Sessions	Average attendances per session
Raynes Park ...	529	593	1,122	51	22.0
Morden ...	191	214	405	22	18.2
Merton ...	62	46	107	12	8.9
All Centres ...	782	853	1,634	85	19.2

TABLE XIII.

Attendances at all Infant Welfare Clinics, 1937.
(Infant Consultation and Special Toddler).

Centre	No. on Register	Attendances		Sessions	Average attendance per session
		* Primary	Total		
MERTON Under 1 yr. 1—5 yrs.	214	51 4	1,053 1,255	64	36.0
MORDEN Under 1 yr. 1—5 yrs.	915	221 88	3,526 3,917	120	62.0
RAYNES PARK Under 1 yr. 1—5 yrs.	1,099	297 46	5,976 4,661	153	56.9
PARISH HALL Under 1 yr. 1—5 yrs.	22	— —	22 12	3	11.3
ALL CENTRES Under 1 yr. 1—5 yrs.	2,250	569 138	10,577 9,845	340	60.6

*Excluding children known to have attended other centres.

TABLE XIV.

Attendances at all Centres over last 10 Years.

Year	No. of Infants attending during year	No. of Women attending Maternity Clinics	ATTENDANCES			Grand Total
			Infants		Maternity	
			Primary under 1 yr.	Total		
1928	605	50	386	7,017	202	7,219
1929	657	44	394	8,751	175	8,926
1930	850	49	446	9,767	247	10,014
1931	1,586	190	1,030	15,299	447	15,746
1932	2,047	245	1,089	18,197	647	18,844
1933	1,863	220	825	18,724	540	19,264
1934	1,880	233	545	17,994	590	18,584
1935	1,936	253	554	18,800	622	19,422
1936	2,010	306	561	19,957	1,106	21,063
1937	2,250	358	569	20,422	1,450	21,872

TABLE XV.
CHILDREN ATTENDING CENTRES DURING 1937.
By AGE GROUPS.

Children born in	MERTON CENTRE			MORDEN CENTRE			RAYNES PARK CENTRE			PARISH HALL CENTRE			ALL CENTRES		
	Number attended	Attendances	Average attendances per child	Number attended	Attendances	Average attendances per child	Number attended	Attendances	Average attendances per child	Number attended	Attendances	Average attendances per child	Number attended	Attendances	Average attendances per child
1937 (1st year)	46	460	10.0	206	2,080	10.0	250	2,748	10.9	15	26	1.7	517	5,314	10.2
1936 (1st and 2nd year)	48	853	17.7	195	2,350	12.0	261	4,703	18.0	2	3	1.5	506	7,909	13.5
1935 (2nd and 3rd year)	43	446	10.3	150	1,145	7.6	205	1,553	7.5	4	4	1.0	402	3,148	7.8
1934 (3rd and 4th year)	40	300	7.5	148	896	6.0	159	828	5.2	1	1	1.0	348	2,025	5.8
1933 (4th and 5th year)	24	178	7.4	148	655	4.4	127	532	4.1	—	—	—	299	1,365	4.5
1932 (5th year)	13	71	5.4	68	319	4.6	97	273	2.8	—	—	—	178	663	3.7
All ages under 5	214	2,308	10.7	915	7,445	8.1	1,099	10,637	9.4	22	34	1.5	2,250	20,424	9.0

TABLE XVI.

Number of Children under 1 Year and Expectant Mothers Attending the Centres in Relation to the Registered Births.

Year	Registered births	Infants under 1 year		Mothers who attended either Ante-Natally or Post-Natally.	
		Primary attendances	Percentage of registered births	Number attended	Percentage of registered births
1926	333	124	37		
1927	352	168	46		
1928	392	386	98	50	12.7
1929	442	394	89	44	9.9
1930	452	446	98	49	10.8
1931	628	1,030	164	190	30.3
1932	770	1,089	141	245	31.8
1933	640	825	128	220	34.3
1934	770	545	70	233	30.2
1935	721	554	77	253	35.0
1936	789	561	71	806	89.0
1937	812	569	70	858	44.0

The Nelson Hospital Clinics. A maternity clinic is held at the Nelson Hospital every Tuesday afternoon in the charge of Mr. Leslie Williams, F.R.C.S., for the ante-natal and post-natal examination of women who have booked for admission, or who have been confined in the hospital. An arrangement exists whereby Merton and Morden women attending the hospital clinic may receive dental treatment under the Council's scheme.

On 14th January, 1937, an additional clinic was opened by the Hospital Committee in connection with the Maternity Department. This clinic which is held on alternate Thursdays, is attended by Dr. R. H. Dobbs from the Children's Department, University College Hospital, who sees children (with their mothers) subject to the under-mentioned conditions.

- (1) The clinic will be primarily for children up to the age of one year born in the hospital, and their mothers.
- (2) Others may attend on the recommendation of their usual medical attendant or the Medical Officer of Health for the district.
- (3) The clinic will be as nearly as possible for consultative purposes only.

The hospital serves Wimbledon, Merton and Morden and to a small extent other neighbouring districts. The following

information kindly supplied by the Secretary relates to the activities of the hospital clinics during 1937:—

Infant Clinic—

Total attendances during the year—

(1) By children under 1 year ...	630
(2) By children 1-5 years ...	23
Total 0-5 years ...	<u>653</u>

Number of children who first attended during the year, and who on the date of their first attendance were—

	<i>All Districts.</i>	<i>Merton & Morden only.</i>
(1) under 1 year ...	142	} 87
(2) 1-5 years ...	6	

Number of children who attended during year and who at end of year were—

	<i>All Districts.</i>
(1) under 1 year of age ...	102
(2) 1-5 years of age ...	46

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinic—

Number of attendances by women during the year	<i>Ante-natal.</i>	<i>Post natal.</i>
	1,375	35
Number of women who attended during the year	276	12

(156 Merton & Morden) (6 Merton & Morden)

When the work of the clinics provided by the Council and the hospital is considered together it will be observed that the percentage of babies born to residents of the district which come under clinic supervision rises to approximately 80, and the number of expectant mothers who receive assistance in the same way represents approximately 63% of the births.

Health Visiting.—Home visiting was on a slightly larger scale than in the year before. 6,848 visits were made to mothers and children under 5 years, as shown below, compared with 6,660 in 1936. In addition 345 other visits were made for special purposes in connection with puerperal pyrexia, ophthalmia neonatorum, diphtheria swabbing, etc., whilst a further 338 visits were made to foster children under Infant Life Protection.

To expectant mothers ...	first visits	281	
	total visits		476
To children under one year ...	first visits	892	
	total visits		2,716
To children 1-5 years ...	total visits		3,656
Visits re puerperal pyrexia, ophthalmia and miscellaneous ...			345
Visits to foster children re Infant Life Protection ...			338
	Total		<u>7,531</u>

Assisted Milk Scheme. The following table shows the number of persons assisted by the provision of fresh milk, and the extent of this assistance in each ward:—

TABLE XVII.
MILK GRANTS, 1937.

Wards.	Free Milk.			Half-price.		
	Indivi- duals	Families	Pints Supplied	Indivi- duals	Families	Pints Supplied
Abbey ...	8	8	2,701	6	5	568
Bushey Mead ...	40	31	5,481	17	14	8,079
Central ...	3	2	156	—	—	—
Morden ...	2	2	400	4	3	950
Park ...	4	3	630	3	3	401
Ravensbury ...	19	17	3,580	14	12	1,682
Raynes Park ...	1	1	181	1	1	246
St. Helier ...	32	25	6,821	19	18	2,382
West Barnes ...	4	3	1,012	3	2	481
	113	92	20,962	67	58	9,789

The quantity supplied during the last seven years was as follows:—

	<i>Free Milk.</i>	<i>Milk at half-price.</i>
1931 ...	15,280 pints	2,940 pints
1932 ...	35,196 "	4,309 "
1933 ...	30,245 "	5,445 "
1934 ...	17,592 "	8,236 "
1935 ...	18,855 "	6,805 "
1936 ...	18,242 "	10,656 "
1937 ...	20,962 "	9,789 "

Convalescent Home Treatment. Through the agency of the Invalid Children's Aid Association 5 children were provided with convalescent home treatment, towards the cost of which the Council gave assistance. They were recommended for the following conditions:—

<i>Condition.</i>	<i>Age of Child.</i>	<i>Period of Treatment.</i>
*Bronchitis and Asthma ...	4 years.	14½ weeks.
Debility following Pneumonia	4½ "	19½ "
Cardiac debility and mal- nutrition ...	4 "	15½ "
Debility ...	4¼ "	12 "
Debility ...	4¼ "	14 "
		<hr/> 75½ "

*Continued from previous year.

Orthopædic treatment. Children requiring hospital treatment for orthopædic defects are referred to the Nelson Hospital. The Council defrayed the cost of the attendance of another case for 3½ months at an Orthopædic Centre outside the district.

Maternity Hospital Treatment. Under an arrangement with the Nelson Hospital maternity cases requiring in-patient treatment are referred to that institution. Complicated and puerperal pyrexia cases may also be sent to Queen Charlotte's Hospital.

It is known that 448 of the notified births took place in hospitals or nursing homes, as compared with 400 in the year before. The proportion of institutional births is steadily increasing, the majority as a result of preference and not of necessity.

The maternity cases referred to hospital from the Council's Clinics totalled 38. They were delivered in the following institutions:—

The Nelson Hospital	...	...	...	7
The County Hospital, Kingston	...	...	...	28
Other hospitals	...	...	...	3

They were referred for the following reasons:—

Obstetrical	...	...	...	...	16
Medical	...	...	...	...	3
Home conditions	...	...	...	...	19

(For cases admitted to hospital under the Public Health (Notification of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, see page 68).

Consultant Service. A specialist's opinion may be had in cases of obstructed labour, emergencies of pregnancy, or puerperal pyrexia. Two cases were assisted in this way during the year, one for post-maturity and breech presentation, and one for uterine inertia.

Home Helps. Domestic assistance during confinement was arranged for 8 women during the year—free of cost in two instances, and on payment of part cost in six.

Sterilised Maternity Outfits. Sterilised Outfits in sealed metal containers are available for use during confinement at the cost price of 6s. 0d. In necessitous cases they are supplied either at half-price or free of cost.

Nine outfits were supplied—five at cost price, one at half-price and three free of cost.

Dental Scheme. There was a further increase in the work of the dental clinics. 314 mothers and children made 745 attendances as against 308 persons and 667 attendances in the year before.

TABLE XVIII.
ATTENDANCES AT DENTAL CLINIC, 1937.

Centre referred from.	No. who attended during year.	No. of attendances made.
MERTON		
Mothers	7	19
Children	25	45
Individuals	32	64
MORDEN		
Mothers	78	207
Children	88	187
Individuals	166	394
RAYNES PARK		
Mothers	34	124
Children	82	163
Individuals	116	287
ALL CENTRES		
Mothers	119	350
Children	195	395
Individuals	314	745

Number of sessions 53
Average attendances per session 14.0

The dental operations performed were as follows:—

TABLE XIX.
DENTAL SCHEME, 1937—OPERATIONS PERFORMED.

EXTRACTIONS.		
Temporary teeth		561
Permanent teeth		368
FILLINGS.		
Temporary teeth		80
Permanent teeth		47
DENTURES SUPPLIED.		
No. of cases		31
NO. OF LOCAL ANAESTHETICS GIVEN		—
NO. OF GASES GIVEN		258

Midwives. The Surrey County Council's scheme for a salaried midwifery service under the Midwives Act, 1936, was established in September, 1937. The scheme as far as this urban district is concerned provided for three salaried midwives—two appointed by the County Council and one by the District Council acting as agents for the County Council. The fees for the services of the midwives are:—

As maternity nurse	...	...	35/-
As midwife	...	...	40/-

Provision is made for a reduced fee in necessitous cases.

The District Council's midwife commenced duty on September 13th, and the following facts summarise her work up to the end of the year:—

Visits made—

By midwife	...	...	Ante-natal	...	186
			During confinement		416
To midwife	...	...	Ante-natal	...	68
			Post-natal	...	59
					<hr/> 729

Cases conducted—

			<i>Primip.</i>	<i>Multip.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
(a) As midwife	...	Live	3	12	15
		Still	—	1	1
(b) As maternity nurse		Live	1	1	2
		Still	—	—	—
			4	14	18
			—	—	—

Medical Aid Forms sent—8

Reasons for sending:—

Discharging eyes	...	...	1
Rupture of Perineum	...	...	2
Pain in leg	...	...	1
Feebleness at birth	...	...	1
Prolonged 2nd Stage	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia (mastitis)			1
Infantile convulsions	...	...	1

Number of the midwife's cases which attended the Council's ante-natal clinics 18

Percentage of total midwife's cases ... 100%

The extent to which the Council's midwife secures that her cases come under supervision at the maternity clinics as evidenced by these figures, clearly demonstrates the tremendous advantages to be gained by making salaried midwives officers of the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority. No other arrangement secures such complete co-ordination of the midwife's work with all the other branches of the maternity scheme.

Compensation in the sum of 10/- was paid to a midwife in respect of 1 case referred to hospital from the maternity clinic.

Voluntary Helpers. The Welfare Centres had the valuable assistance of 30 voluntary helpers during the year, the opening of an additional centre at the Parish Hall in Central Road creating a need for further help of this nature. There has never been any difficulty in securing willing workers for this part of the scheme, and the success of the Centres is in no small measure due to the very keen interest which these ladies take in their self appointed duties.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

The Statutory provisions of the Children and Young Persons Acts, 1908-32, have been re-enacted in Part VII of the Public Health Act, 1936, which repeals the earlier Acts.

The five Health Visitors are Protection Visitors for the purposes of this Act, each in her own district.

The main facts relating to the supervision of foster children during the year are as follows:—

Registered homes under supervision during the year	50
Registered homes under supervision at end of year	26
New homes registered during the year	20
Children on the register during the year	51
Children on the register at the end of the year	27
Children brought on to the register during the year	31
Children removed out of the district	15
Visits paid to nurse children	338
Children died during the year	Nil
Legal proceedings	Nil

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supply. The district is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board and by the Sutton District Water Company. Their respective distributive areas are approximately the parishes of Merton and Morden.

The quality of the supply as shown by sampling was satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage. The Surrey County Council's major scheme for the improvement of the Beverley and Pyl Brooks referred to in the report for 1936 was commenced in this district during the year. The Beverley and Pyl Brooks have been widened out and re-graded for their whole lengths, within the urban district, with the exception of the length of the Pyl Brook from West Barnes Crossing to the rear of Kingsway, which it is proposed to culvert as soon as negotiations are completed. Tenders have already been received for this work, and work on re-constructing the existing bridges is proceeding.

Local schemes for the relief of flooding in Northway have been prepared, and it is hoped that a cure will be effected.

Several open watercourses have been culverted during the past year in conjunction with the development of estates, notably—

- (a) The watercourse at the rear of West Barnes Pumping Station.
- (b) The watercourse at the rear of Morden Factory Estate.

A length of old soil sewer in Burlington Road which had been found faulty has been reconstructed, and a further length will be shortly undertaken. In Morden Road consequent on the widening of the Bridge at Morden Halt, the soil sewer was found in a very bad condition, and this was also re-constructed.

Rivers and Streams. Periodical visits are made for observing the condition of the River Wandle, the Pyl and Beverley Brooks, and the other natural watercourses in the district. The results of these inspections are detailed in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Closet Accommodation. All closets are of water carriage type drained to sewers, except 4 which are drained to cesspools and 4 Elsan closets on Sports Grounds.

Public Cleansing. There is a weekly collection of house refuse. Trade refuse is also collected on payment of a moderate charge.

Disposal is by incineration at the Council's destructor, the capacity of which was increased during the year by the addition of two further cells, making six in all.

Four moving floor Morris Dust Vans have been purchased to deal with the collection of refuse, and these vehicles have improved the collection service considerably.

The practice of dusting the dust bins with a disinfectant powder was continued.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The work performed in the sanitary inspection of the district is set out in the Sanitary Inspector's Report which follows:—

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report which briefly reviews the work of the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1937.

Housing Inspections. The total number of houses inspected during the year for housing defects under the Public Health Acts and Housing Acts was 296.

A systematic inspection of working class houses was carried out and in this connection 105 houses in the under-mentioned roads were subjected to detailed survey and the necessary particulars recorded in accordance with the Housing Consolidated Regulations:—

	<i>No. of houses.</i>
Crown Road	1
Dorien Road	91
Edna Road	1
High Path	1
Kingston Road	1
London Road	2
Meadow Road	1
Milner Road	1
Nelson Grove Road	2
St. Mary's Road	1
Sandringham Avenue	3
	—
	105
	—

Notices to execute the necessary repairs were served upon owners of properties as follows:—

<i>Intimation Notices.</i>		<i>Statutory Notices.</i>	
Public Health Acts ...	100	Public Health Acts ...	14
Housing Act, 1930 ...	108	Housing Act, 1930 ...	10
	208		24

The majority of the repairs were executed by the owners as the result of the service of informal notices. No works were undertaken by the Council in default of owners and no legal proceedings were taken during the year.

Details of the work carried out and of the sanitary improvements effected at dwelling houses are included in the summary at page 51.

Disinfestation. The number of houses found upon inspection to be infested with bed bugs was:—

<i>Council Houses</i>	<i>Other Houses</i>	<i>Total</i>
20	14	34

Of the 34 houses infested, 22 were treated by spraying with insecticides and 12 by fumigation with either sulphur-dioxide or other approved proprietary fumigant. The household effects of two families were treated with HCN gas (van disinfestation) before removal into Council houses.

Drainage Work. The number of notices served relating to obstructed or defective drains was 148. At 13 houses the drainage systems were entirely reconstructed and at 31 houses extensive repairs to drains were carried out. Smoke and water tests were applied to the drains of houses in 50 instances and obstructions were removed from the drains at 101 houses.

Infectious Diseases and Disinfection. For the purpose of obtaining information as to the source of infection and for taking steps to prevent the spread of the disease enquiries were made in respect of 185 cases of notifiable diseases as compared with 180 cases in 1936.

Disinfection of rooms was carried out and bedding and clothing removed for steam disinfection after the removal of patients to the Isolation Hospital or on the recovery of each patient treated at home. The number of rooms disinfected was 243.

Food Supply. The total number of inspections made to premises where articles of food are prepared or exposed for sale was 565. These premises include butcher's shops, fish shops, greengrocers, provision dealers, cooked meat shops,

refreshment houses and bakehouses. Eight infringements of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, were discovered, and remedied during the year. Twenty-three premises used for the manufacture of "preserved meat" and forty-four manufacturers, dealers, or vendors of ice-cream were registered during 1937, in accordance with Section 89 of the Merton and Morden Council Act, 1936.

Meat Inspection.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed ...	None.....				
Number inspected.....	None.....				

No animals were slaughtered in the district during the year. Practically all meat sold locally comes from wholesale markets outside the district.

Slaughter Houses. At the end of 1937 there were 3 private slaughter houses on the Register which are used intermittently for the slaughter of pigs and sheep. One slaughter house is registered and is situated at High Street, Merton, and 2 slaughter houses at Garth Road, Lower Morden are licensed annually. No notices of intention to slaughter were received during 1937 but 28 inspections were made at slaughter houses to ascertain whether any animals were being killed.

Milk Supply. At the 31st December, 1937, there were two cow-keepers on the Register, providing accommodation for about 50 cows. The number of retail purveyors carrying on the trade in the district during the year was 56, including 22 retailers whose premises are situated in adjoining districts. One hundred and fourteen inspections were made to cow-sheds, dairies and milk-shops during 1937.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936. The following licences were granted to dealers by the Local Authority under the Order, and were in force at 31st December, 1937.

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No.</i>
"Pasteurised"	18
"Tuberculin Tested"	8
Supplementary Licences.	
"Pasteurised"	2
"Tuberculin Tested"	3
Licence in respect of Pasteurising Establishment	1

Inspections of these licensed premises were carried out at regular intervals during the year in order to see that the conditions of the licences were being observed. Fifteen samples of graded milk were obtained for bacteriological examination and the report on each sample was satisfactory. Two samples were submitted for biological examination with negative results.

Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928. The above-mentioned Act is administered by the Surrey County Council and during 1937 samples were obtained by the County Inspectors and submitted to the public analyst as follows:—

Articles.	Analysed.			Adulterated or Deteriorated.		
	Formal.	Informal.	Total.	Formal.	Informal.	Total.
Milk	35	2	37	1	—	1
Butter	2	—	2	—	—	—
Cream	1	—	1	2	—	2
Meat	7	—	7	—	—	—
Other articles	5	—	5	—	—	—
Totals	50	2	52	3	—	3

Factories and Workshops. The number of inspections made to premises registered under the Factories and Workshops Act was 81. Particulars of the matters dealt with will be found in the table at page 57. The following list indicates the nature of the industries carried on at the larger factories in the district:—

Trade.	No.	Trade.	No.
Accumulator Makers ...	1	Electrical Engineering	1
Aero Engines	1	Electric Lamp Manufacturers	3
Breeze Block Manufacturers	2	Engineering	7
Carpentry and Joinery	3	Fibre Board Manufacturers	1
Coach Builders	1	Film Laboratories	1
Colour Printers	1	Film Studios	1
Furniture Makers	1	Saw Mills	2
Instrument Makers	3	Seed Merchants	1
Laundries	7	Sewing Machines	1
Manufacturing Chemists	1	Silk Printers	2
Meat and Fish Pastes	1	Sports Outfitters	1
Metal Printers	2	Time Switches	1
Motor Engineers	11	Toy Manufacturers	2
Office Equipment	1	Timber Merchants	1
Oxygen Manufacturers	1	Varnish Makers	1
Photographic Printers	1	Wholesale Stationers	1
Printers	3		

Smoke Abatement. During the year 82 observations were made of factory chimneys for the purpose of detecting offences. Smoke and grit nuisances were discovered in five instances and after appropriate action being taken by the Department amendments were carried out to abate the nuisances.

Rats and Mice Destruction. The Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, is administered by the Council, the Surrey County Council having delegated their powers to the local authority. The number of visits made to infested premises during the year was 330.

Watercourses. The number of inspections made to watercourses and ditches during the year was 81, and in 5 instances pollutions of the watercourses were detected, and appropriate action was taken and the nuisances remedied.

Mosquitoes.—As in previous years paraffin spraying of numerous ditches, ponds and watercourses was again carried out at fortnightly intervals during the breeding season.

Offensive Trades. There is one offensive trade carried on in the district, i.e., a fat extractor. The factory is situated at Garth Road, Lower Morden, and was rebuilt and modernised in the year 1935. Operations at this factory were suspended during 1936 and the premises were not in use during the year under review. New Byelaws regulating offensive trades were adopted by the Council in the year 1933.

Shops Acts, 1912-1936. The following statement summarises the inspections made, the infringements discovered and other matters dealt with during the year:—

No. of Inspections—Day Visits—628.

Evening Visits—74.

Infringements.

- (1) Evening closing hours—16.
- (2) Half-day closing—5.
- (3) Hours of employment of young persons—17.
- (4) Insufficient sanitary accommodation—Nil.
- (5) Seats not provided for female Shop Assistants—Nil.
- (6) Prescribed notices not exhibited—72.

Heating facilities provided at shops—4.

Council's Ambulance. The total number of calls received by the ambulance provided by the Council for use in non-infectious cases and accidents was 762, of which 339 were street accidents and the remainder were removals to or from hospitals or institutions. The total mileage during the year was 5,373. The following table shows the calls made upon the ambulance service during the past five years:—

Year.	Accidents.	Hospitals.	Total.
1937	339	423	762
1936	331	404	735
1935	332	436	768
1934	332	409	741
1933	272	304	576

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. B. POINTON,
Chief Sanitary Inspector

16th May, 1938.

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED AND SANITARY
IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

Ceilings cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	174
Coppers provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Dampness in premises remedied	...	...	...	...	55
Drains exposed and repaired	...	...	...	...	31
Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	13
Defective sashcords renewed	...	...	...	...	68
Drinking-water cisterns cleaned out	...	...	...	...	3
Drinking-water cistern covers provided	...	...	...	...	1
Drinking-water cisterns renewed	...	...	...	...	3
Dustbins provided	...	...	...	...	22
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	46
Forecourts drained	...	...	...	...	—
Fresh-air inlet valves provided and repaired	...	...	...	...	17
Inspection chamber covers provided	...	...	...	...	4
Obstructions removed from drains	...	...	...	...	146
Rain-water pipes renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Rooms cleansed	...	...	...	...	124
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	74
Gutters repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	42
Stoppers provided to intercepting traps	...	...	...	...	—
Sink wastes repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	20
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	119
W.C. cisterns provided	...	...	...	...	3
W.C. cisterns repaired	...	...	...	...	21
Water closets cleansed	...	...	...	...	22
W.C. approaches screened	...	...	...	...	—
W.C. pans provided	...	...	...	...	12
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	82
Yards paved or repaved	...	...	...	...	36
Stoves renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	51
Sinks provided	...	...	...	...	3
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	5
Water supply provided for domestic use	...	...	...	...	6
Verminous premises fumigated and cleansed	...	...	...	...	34
Ventilation provided under floors	...	...	...	...	8
Sanitary accommodation provided for workshops	...	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	110
<hr/>					
Total number of Inspections	...	...	...	...	6,175
Notices served:—					
Intimation Notices	...	...	...	...	355
Statutory Notices	...	...	...	...	25
Outstanding Notices at 31st December, 1937	...	...	...	...	9

Disinfestation. Details of bed bug infestation and the action taken is given in the Sanitary Inspector's report. Fumigation with H.C.N. is carried out by a private contractor. Spraying is done by the department.

Particular attention is given to Council houses. The homes of prospective tenants are visited, and where infestation is found or suspected appropriate action is taken to rid the household effects from vermin before they are admitted to the new house. Similarly the Council house is visited when vacated to ensure that it is free from vermin and fit for the incoming tenant. New tenants known to have been verminous at one time are kept under frequent observation.

Cemeteries. Plans have now been approved for the layout of part of the 33-acre site in Lower Morden, which was acquired by the Council for burial purposes in 1927.

Schools. The public elementary and secondary schools are under the control of the Surrey County Council.

The Department works in co-operation with the County School Medical Service in the control of infectious disease and in all sanitary matters affecting the health of school children. Policy is based on the recommendations contained in the "Memorandum on Closure and Exclusion from School 1927" issued jointly by the Ministry of Health and Board of Education.

The sanitary conditions and water supply of the schools are satisfactory.

Health Propaganda. The Council participated in the Surrey County Health Campaign which was a conjoined effort by the County Council and the majority of the Authorities of the more urbanised districts.

A programme of activities was organised for the period October 1937 to March 1938 to coincide with the National Campaign. A series of five Health Days— one in each month except December was held, when films were shown to school children in local cinemas and meetings were organised in the afternoon for mothers and in the evening for all members of the public, at which addresses were given by experienced speakers with special knowledge of various health topics. These talks, too, were illustrated by films.

SECTION D—HOUSING.

New Houses. The new houses erected during the year were :—

Wards.	By the Local Authority.	By the London County Council.	By other bodies or persons.		Total.
			Flats	H'ses	
Abbey	—	—	208	—	208
Bushey Mead	—	—	—	33	33
Central	—	—	47	365	412
Morden	—	—	28	805	833
Park	—	—	—	13	13
Ravensbury	—	—	11	29	40
Raynes Park	—	—	31	104	135
St. Helier	—	—	124	—	124
West Barnes	—	—	—	20	20
Whole district	—	—	449	1,369	1,818

The total of 1,818 new dwellings compares with 1,393 erected in the year before.

Council's Housing Scheme. The houses erected or acquired by the Council under the various Acts are as follows :—

Act.	Type						Total
	Cotts.	N.P.2	N.P.3	N.P.4	P.3	P.4	
Housing Act, 1919 (Assisted Scheme) ...	2	16	54	8	282	76	438
Housing Act 1924 ...	—	—	100	—	—	—	100
Housing Act 1930 ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	2
Total	2	16	156	8	282	76	540

The position with regard to applications during 1937 was as follows :—

Number of eligible applications received by the Council for houses during 1937	81
Total number of eligible applications on the files at 31st December, 1937	164
Number of houses allotted to tenants during 1937	48

(An eligible applicant is one with a family resident in the district).

Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding. At the overcrowding survey conducted under the 1935 Act in May, 1936, 149 dwellings were found to be overcrowded, involving 1,043 equivalent adults. By the beginning of 1937 the number of cases was reduced to 120, involving 824½ equivalent adults. During the year under review the nett reduction in the number of overcrowded families was 88, leaving at 31st December, 1937, 58 overcrowded dwellings housing 399½ equivalent adults yet to be decrowded.

Details of the overcrowding and decrowding in the individual wards is shown in the following table:—

Wards.	Over-crowded at end of 1936	Subsequently found to be overcrowded	Decrowded during the year.	Over-crowded at end of 1937.
Abbey	10	2	7	5
Bushey Mead	10 (a)	1	9 (e)	2
Central	—	—	—	—
Morden	5	2	5	2
Park	—	3	2	1
Ravensbury	38 (b)	8 (c)	26 (d)	20 (f)
Raynes Park	—	—	—	—
St. Helier	57 (b)	10 (b)	39 (b)	28 (b)
West Barnes	—	—	—	—
Whole district	120	26	88	58

- (a) Includes 1 Merton and Morden house.
 (b) All London County Council houses.
 (c) Includes 5 London County Council houses.
 (d) Includes 24 London County Council houses.
 (e) Includes 2 Merton and Morden houses.
 (f) Includes 19 London County Council houses.

The 26 new cases of overcrowding which came to notice during the year occurred in the following manner:—

By natural growth of the family in occupation on the appointed day	16
Otherwise than by natural growth of family (including illegal overcrowding)	10

Decrowding was effected in the 88 instances in the following ways:—

Family offered alternative accommodation	48
Lodgers or relatives offered alternative accommodation	2
Death of any of occupants	2
Marriage or removal of members of family	26
Family removed out of district	10

Alternative accommodation was provided :—

In Merton and Morden Council houses in 14 instances.
By the London County Council ... in 36 instances.

Inspection and Action Taken. The following is a summarised statement of the work relating to housing carried out under the Housing and Public Health Acts :—

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)	296
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purposes	296
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	105
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purposes	105
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	1
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	208

2. *Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	175
--	-----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

A.—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 ...	10
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By owners	9
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	Nil.

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	14
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	14
(b) By local authority in default of owners	Nil.
C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	Nil.
D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil.
4. <i>Housing Act, 1936—Overcrowding.</i>	
(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	58
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	58
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein—	
Aged 10 years and over	352
Under 10 years	95
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	26
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	88
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases—	
Aged 10 years and over	513
Under 10 years	135
(d) Number of dwelling houses which have again become overcrowded after Local Authority has taken steps to abate overcrowding	Nil.

FACTORY & WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries)	49	2	—
WORKSHOPS (including Workshop Laundries)	32	—	—
WORKPLACES (other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total ...	81	2	—

2. Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of offences in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
NUISANCES UNDER THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS:—*				
Want of cleanliness	2	2	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation				
Insufficient	2	2	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
OFFENCES UNDER THE FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS:—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921).				
Total ...	5	5	—	—

* Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

OUTWORK IN UNWHOLESOME PREMISES,
SECTION 108.

Nature of Work. (1)	Instances. (2)	Notices served. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Wearing Apparel:—			
Making, etc.			
Cleaning and washing ...			
Household linen			
Lace, lace curtains and nets ...			
Curtains and furniture hangings			
Furniture and upholstery ...			
Electro-plate			
File making			
Brass and brass articles			
Fur pulling			
Cables and chains			
Anchors and grapnels			
Cart gear			
Locks, latches and keys			
Umbrellas, etc.	N	I	L
Artificial flowers			
Nets, other than wire nets ...			
Tents			
Sacks			
Racquet and tennis balls ...			
Paper, etc., boxes, paper bags ...			
Brush making			
Pea picking			
Feather sorting			
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc. ...			
Stuffed toys			
Basket making			
Chocolates and sweetmeats ...			
Cosaques, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings, etc. ...			
Textile weaving			
Lampshades			

SECTION E—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(See Sanitary Inspector's Report, on page 46).

SECTION F—INFECTIOUS ILLNESS.

Notification. The following diseases are notifiable in the Urban District:—

Cholera.	Plague.
Cerebro-spinal fever.	Acute Primary pneumonia.
Continued fever.	Acute influenzal pneumonia.
Diphtheria (including membranous croup).	Acute Poliomyelitis.
Dysentery.	Acute Polioencephalitis.
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid fevers).	Puerperal Pyrexia.
Erysipelas.	Relapsing fever.
Encephalitis Lethargica.	Scarlet fever.
Food poisoning.	Smallpox.
Malaria.	Trench fever.
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Typhus fever.
	Tuberculosis (all forms).

Smallpox. No notifications were received.

Enteric Fever. One case of typhoid fever was notified in the person of a visitor to the district, a man of 56 years who had temporarily resided in South Croydon at the time when his infection probably occurred, and at the time when that particular part of Croydon was at risk from the infected water supply. The patient was admitted to isolation hospital and succumbed to the disease.

Dysentery. In October an unusual incidence of diarrhœa was observed, which persisted into the Spring of 1938.

The symptoms were diarrhœa, colicky pain in the abdomen, and in a proportion of cases vomiting. The looseness of the bowels was accompanied in some cases by mucus and blood. The attack which was mildly febrile lasted in the majority a matter of two or three days only. Although on the whole a mild type of illness an occasional case with marked prostration was observed, particularly in the elderly. It affected both sexes and all ages indiscriminately.

A series of faecal specimens were examined early in the outbreak, and in six consecutive cases Sonne's bacillus was isolated. This information was circulated to the practitioners in the area with suggestions as to the advice to be tendered to sufferers, to minimise spread of the infection. As a result of this a number of notifications of Dysentery were received during November and December, and into 1938, but in view of the fact that the majority of cases were mild and of short duration, practitioners were in some difficulty in deciding

whether any particular patient could justifiably be considered to be suffering from Dysentery. There is no doubt that the number of notifications received, which totalled 19, represented only the severer cases of this infection, and formed only a small part of the total.

None of the cases was admitted to isolation hospital, although some received treatment in general hospitals.

Enquiries which were made failed to identify any particular food or drink as the primary source of infection, but it is probable that the illness owed its persistence to a large extent to mild ambulatory cases, or to incompletely recovered cases handling food stuffs consumed by other members of the public.

Scarlet Fever. The incidence of scarlet fever, again of a mild type, was much the same as in the year before. 129 cases were notified compared with 127 in 1936, giving an incidence rate of 1.96 per 1,000 population, as compared with a rate of 2.33 for the country as a whole. Of the total cases 115 (89 per cent.) were removed to isolation hospital.

It was more prevalent in the three wards—Bushey Mead, Ravensbury and St. Helier which have the densest populations. The summer months had the lightest incidence. There were no "return" cases.

No person died of scarlet fever during the year.

TABLE XX.
SCARLET FEVER—MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION.

1937	Wards.									Total.
	Abbey.	Bushey Mead.	Central.	Morden.	Park.	Ravensbury.	Raynes Park.	St. Helier.	West Barnes.	
January ...	1	—	—	—	4	2	—	3	1	11
February ...	—	1	1	1	4	3	1	—	—	11
March ...	—	4	6	1	3	1	—	2	2	19
April ...	—	1	1	2	1	1	—	5	—	11
May ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	6	—	10
June ...	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	4
July ...	2	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	3	9
August ...	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	6
September ...	—	1	1	—	1	3	—	1	1	8
October ...	2	—	1	1	2	7	—	2	3	18
November ...	—	4	1	1	—	2	2	1	1	12
December ...	—	—	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	10
Total ...	8	11	13	10	19	25	7	23	14	129
Monthly mean	.66	.91	1.08	.83	1.58	2.08	.58	1.83	1.17	10.7

The incidence in the various wards is shown below, together with corresponding figures for 1936.

Wards.	Cases.	Incidence per 1,000 population, 1937	Incidence per 1,000 population, 1936
Abbey	8	1.0	1.1
Bushey Mead	11	1.0	3.3
Central	13	1.0	1.8
Morden	10	2.2	0.9
Park	19	1.9	1.8
Ravensbury	25	3.3	3.2
Raynes Park	7	1.0	0.8
St. Helier	22	1.8	2.2
West Barnes	14	2.8	1.4

TABLE XXI.
SCARLET FEVER—MULTIPLE CASES OCCURRING IN DOMESTIC DWELLINGS.

Wards.	Total cases in houses in each Ward.	No. of houses in which occurred.				No. of houses with cases.
		1 case	2 cases.	3 cases.	4 cases.	
Abbey	8	6	1	—	—	7
Bushey Mead	11	9	1	—	—	10
Central	13	13	—	—	—	13
Morden	10	10	—	—	—	10
Park	17	15	1	—	—	16
Ravensbury	24	24	—	—	—	24
Raynes Park	7	7	—	—	—	7
St. Helier	22	20	1	—	—	21
West Barnes	14	9	1	1	—	11
Whole district	126	113	5	1	—	119

(3 further cases occurred in institutions).

TABLE XXII.
INCIDENCE AND FATALITY OF SCARLET FEVER OVER
LAST 20 YEARS.

Year.	Population.	No. of cases.	Incidence rate per 1,000 population.	No. of deaths.	Percentage of deaths to cases.
1918	15,000	*	*	*	*
1919	18,100	20	1.1	...	...
1920	18,200	65	3.5	...	...
1921	18,000	120	6.6	...	...
1922	18,500	120	6.4	...	...
1923	18,750	65	3.4	...	...
1924	18,710	75	4.0	...	...
1925	18,960	74	3.9	1	1.3%
1926	19,980	70	3.5	...	...
1927	21,850	95	4.3	1	1.05%
1928	25,780	59	2.2	...	...
1929	27,430	121	4.4	...	...
1930	35,000	109	3.1	...	...
1931	41,610	132	3.2	3	2.2%
1932	48,550	118	2.4	...	...
1933	52,130	219	4.2	...	...
1934	55,550	335	6.03	...	...
1935	57,440	149	2.59	...	...
1936	61,000	127	2.09	1	0.7%
1937	65,530	129	1.96	...	...

*No figures available.

Diphtheria. The year 1936 was an exceptionally favourable one in respect of diphtheria prevalence. The year under review improved still further on 1936. Twenty-two cases were notified compared with 28 in the year before, and the incidence rate falls further to 0.33 per 1,000 of the population, which is again a record low one for the district. It compares with a corresponding rate for England and Wales of 1.49.

The figures in respect of the various wards show that for 1937 incidence was heaviest in the Park Ward where social conditions are probably the least favourable for the spread of infectious disease. This somewhat unusual feature is no doubt partly due to the influence of artificial immunisation which during the last two or three years has been fairly extensively practised through the public services on the St. Helier Estate, and in those wards which make more use of clinic facilities.

Four deaths resulted from diphtheria. One was a male aged 3 years and three were females aged 5 years, 2 years and 11 months. This gives a death rate for diphtheria of 0.06 per 1,000 population compared with a rate of 0.07 for England and Wales.

TABLE XXIII.
DIPHTHERIA, 1937—WARD INCIDENCE.

Wards.	Cases.	Rate per 1,000 population 1937.
Abbey	1	0.2
Bushey Mead	3	0.3
Central	1	0.1
Morden	2	0.4
Park	6	0.6
Ravensbury	3	0.4
Raynes Park	—	—
St. Helier	5	0.4
West Barnes	1	0.1
Whole district	22	0.33

TABLE XXIV.
DIPHTHERIA—MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION, 1937.

1937	Wards.									Total.
	Abbey.	Bushey Mead.	Central.	Morden.	Park.	Ravensbury.	Raynes Park.	St. Helier.	West Barnes.	
January ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	3
February ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
March ...	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3
April ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
May ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
June ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
July ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
August ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
September ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
October ...	—	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	5
November ...	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	4
December ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total ...	1	3	1	2	6	3	—	5	1	22
Monthly mean	.08	.25	.08	.16	.50	.25	—	.41	.08	1.83

The number of houses affected and details of multiple cases is shown below.

TABLE XXV.
DIPHTHERIA—MULTIPLE CASES OCCURRING IN
DOMESTIC DWELLINGS, 1937.

Wards.	Total cases.	No. of houses with				No. of houses with cases.
		1 Case.	2 Cases.	3 Cases.	4 Cases.	
Abbey	1	1	—	—	—	1
Bushey Mead	3	3	—	—	—	3
Central	1	1	—	—	—	1
Morden	2	2	—	—	—	2
Park	6	2	—	—	1	3
Ravensbury	3	3	—	—	—	3
Raynes Park	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Helier	5	5	—	—	—	5
West Barnes	1	1	—	—	—	1
Whole district	22	18	—	—	1	19

TABLE XXVI.
DIPHTHERIA—INCIDENCE BY AGE GROUPS.

	AGE GROUPS											
	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-25 years	25-35 years	35-45 years	Over 45 years	Total all Ages
Cases	1	—	—	2	3	6	4	5	—	—	1	22

Seventy-two per cent. of the cases were in children of school or pre-school age.

36,000 units of anti-toxic serum were issued to practitioners during the year, and 522 swabs were examined.

Diphtheria Immunisation. The public facilities for protective inoculation were as described in the report for 1935.

The most successful approach to parents is made by offering immunisation to their children at the schools. Whilst no scheme can be really effective which does not secure immunisation of a substantial proportion of pre-school children,

immunisation sessions held in the schools constitute the best means of protecting the 5-7 year-old groups, and better results could be obtained if the present practice, which is limited to the St. Helier Schools, was extended to the remaining infant departments in the district.

The number of persons immunised during the year at the clinics, in schools, and by private practitioners under the scheme is shown in the following tables:—

TABLE XXVII.
PERSONS IMMUNISED AT CLINICS DURING 1937.

Wards.	Age Groups			Total.
	0-5 years	5-15 years	15 and over	
Abbey ...	9	3	—	12
Bushey Mead ...	34	19	—	53
Central ...	71	40	—	111
Morden ...	31	8	—	39
Park ...	22	21	1	44
Ravensbury ...	32	20	—	52
Raynes Park ...	40	25	—	65
St. Helier ...	47	22	—	69
West Barnes ...	42	15	—	57
Total ...	328	173	1	502

Total inoculations given at clinics in 1937 = 1,474.

TABLE XXVIII.
PERSONS IMMUNISED BY PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS
1937.

Wards	Age Groups			Total
	0-5 years	5-15 years	15 and over	
Abbey ...	1	1	—	2
Bushey Mead ...	4	2	—	6
Central ...	—	1	—	1
Morden ...	—	—	—	—
Park ...	6	1	—	7
Ravensbury ...	—	—	—	—
Raynes Park ...	2	4	—	6
St. Helier ...	—	—	—	—
West Barnes ...	3	2	—	5
Total ...	16	11	—	27

Total inoculations given by doctors, 1937 = 81.

TABLE XXIX.
CHILDREN IMMUNISED IN SCHOOLS, 1937.

School	Incomplete	Complete
St. Helier No. 1 Infants	4	60
" " " 2 "	8	47
" " " 3 "	12	68
" " " 4 "	5	69
Holy Family R.C. Infants	—	20
Total	29	264

Total inoculations given in schools in 1937 = 853.

The number immunised at the clinics during the year increased by 119. The fall in the number of school children inoculated to something less than half is explained by the fact that 1936 was the first year in which school inoculation was practised, and the number of potential acceptances in 1937 fell a corresponding amount as only about half the children moved into the next senior department during the year.

Since the first immunisation clinic was opened in May, 1934, the following number of persons have been immunised under the scheme:—

	<i>At</i>	<i>By</i>	<i>In</i>	
	<i>Clinics.</i>	<i>Doctors.</i>	<i>Schools.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1934 ...	93	28	—	121
1935 ...	375	19	—	394
1936 ...	383	13	664	1,060
1937 ...	502	27	293	822
				— 2,397 —

TABLE XXX.
INCIDENCE AND FATALITY OF DIPHTHERIA,
1919-1937.

Year.	Population.	No. of cases.	Incidence rate per 1,000 population.	No. of deaths.	Percentage of deaths to cases.
1919	18,100	26	1.3	2	7.6%
1920	18,200	47	2.5	3	6.3%
1921	18,000	28	1.5	1	3.5%
1922	18,500	62	3.3	4	6.4%
1923	18,750	39	2.08	1	2.5%
1924	18,710	68	3.6	6	8.9%
1925	18,960	25	1.3	1	8.3%
1926	19,980	24	1.2	2	8.5%
1927	21,850	29	1.3	2	6.8%
1928	25,780	38	1.4	—	—
1929	27,430	53	1.9	1	1.8%
1930	35,000	72	2.05	6	8.3%
1931	41,610	80	1.9	6	7.5%
1932	48,550	30	0.6	—	—
1933	52,130	35	0.6	1	2.8%
1934	55,550	82	1.4	8	9.7%
1935	57,440	44	0.76	4	9.0%
1936	61,000	28	0.45	—	—
1937	65,530	22	0.33	4	18.1%

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis. Two cases were notified—one a male infant of 13 months was admitted to hospital as a moderately severe type, and responded extremely well to serum treatment. It was discharged as recovered after 17 days. The other, a woman of 56 years, was admitted to isolation hospital but succumbed to the infection.

Anterior Poliomyelitis. One case of a boy of 10 years was notified to be suffering from infantile paralysis. He was an in-patient for three months in a London Hospital and is now receiving out-patient treatment. Originally affected with paralysis of the right leg, there now remains some paresis of the foot.

Measles. The biennial wave of measles did not coincide with 1937, and a total of 86 cases in school children were reported by the head teachers compared with 586 in the year before.

Three cases were admitted to isolation hospital. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough. Whooping cough according to the school returns was slightly less prevalent. Eighty-one cases were reported among school children against 107 in the year before.

Two female infants aged 3 months and 3 years respectively died of the illness. This gives a death rate for this cause of 0.03 per 1,000 population.

Three cases were admitted to isolation hospital.

Erysipelas. Ten notifications were received. Five cases received hospital treatment, and five were treated at home.

The sites affected were the face in 9 instances and the leg in one.

There were no deaths.

Puerperal Pyrexia. The notifications received under the Public Health (Notification of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations were as follows:—

Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	2
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	1

The incidence rates for these conditions were:—

Puerperal Pyrexia	...	2.38	per 1,000 total births.
Puerperal Fever	...	1.19	„ „ „ „

The following are the main facts concerning these cases:—

- (1) Puerperal Fever—5th pregnancy.
Onset on third day of puerperium—hæmolytic streptococcal infection giving rise to septic pelvic thrombosis and pulmonary embolism. Admitted to isolation hospital. Died.
- (2) Puerperal Pyrexia—3rd pregnancy.
Illness due to pleuro-pneumonia. Onset prior to labour. Admitted to hospital. Died.
- (3) Puerperal Pyrexia—1st pregnancy.
Onset 11th day—Cæsarian section for breech presentation. Pyrexia due to breast abscess. Recovered.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Five cases were notified. One was a severe gonococcal infection but recovered after treatment in a special hospital. The remaining four were milder cases, one being a staphylococcal infection. All completely recovered after home treatment.

Notified.	Cases.		Vision Un-impaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Death.
	At Home	In Hosp.				
5	4	1	5	—	—	—

Prevention of Blindness. Information as to blindness occurring in children under five years coming to our notice through the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme is transmitted to the Surrey Voluntary Association for the Blind in accordance with the recommendation contained in Memo. 162/B.D.

No action was taken under Section 66 of the Public Health Act, 1925, nor under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Pneumonia. As mentioned earlier in this report the respiratory infections were more numerous in 1937 than in the year before. The number of notifications of pneumonia was correspondingly larger. Ninety cases were notified, of which 39 were stated to be influenzal in origin. This is more than twice the number in the year before. Eleven were babies under 2 years of age.

Food Poisoning. Six instances of suspected food poisoning were reported.

In three, in each of which only one person was affected, there was not sufficient evidence to establish whether any particular food was the cause. The symptoms in one of these suggested a Sonne infection, and the other two were notified too late for any useful investigation to be undertaken. The patients in all three instances recovered after a sharp attack of diarrhœa and abdominal pain. The suspected foods in two of these cases were:—

(1) Fried sole.

(2) Duck eggs.

The remaining three instances were of a more definite nature.

One was the case of a man who presented mild symptoms of botulism. Beginning with diarrhœa and sickness he later developed pains in the joints, with double vision and affection of his speech. Although there were 7 other members in the family he was the only one affected, and there was no single article of food which he alone partook of. Tinned cream and duck eggs had been consumed prior to the onset. There were no remnants which could be examined. The patient recovered.

In another instance three members of one family, father, mother and baby, were attacked with sickness, diarrhœa and abdominal pain, the father suffering considerably more than the other two. *Salmonella Aertryke* was isolated from specimens from the father and baby. There is no doubt that the illness in the mother also was of the same nature. Enquiries elicited the information that the father had partaken of an imported duck egg, which was believed to be the origin of

the poisoning. The illness in the mother and baby which was milder was explained by the fact that the mother had eaten a hen's egg and the baby bread, both fried with, and at the same time as, the duck egg. Alternatively it was possible that the mother contaminated her fingers when breaking the duck egg and conveyed the infection to her own food, and that of the baby. All three patients recovered.

The remaining instance was known to have affected 7 persons in three families, all of whom had purchased portions of a veal and ham pie from the same purveyor on the same day. The probability is that all these portions were from the same single pie, which itself was one of a batch. The onset varied from 2 to 5 hours after ingestion, and the symptoms were sickness, diarrhœa and abdominal pain. Examination of the remains of the pie revealed numerous staphylococci, and the symptoms were compatible with staphylococcal toxin poisoning. All patients recovered.

TABLE XXXI.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, NOTIFICATION DEATHS AND DISTRIBUTION, 1937.

Disease	Cases Notified	Case rate per 1,000 Population	Deaths among notified cases	Percentage of deaths to cases	Distribution of cases WARDS										No. of cases removed to hospital	Percentage of cases removed to hospital
					Abbey	Bushey Mead	Central	Morden	Park	Ravensbury	Raynes Park	St. Helier	West Barnes			
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	129	1.96	—	—	8	11	13	12	19	25	7	22	14	115	89%	
Diphtheria ...	22	0.33	4	18%	1	3	1	—	6	3	—	5	1	22	100%	
Enteric Fever ...	1	0.01	1	100%	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	100%	
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	2	0.03	1	50%	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	100%	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	2	0.03	1	50%	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	100%	
Puerperal Fever ..	1	0.01	1	100%	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	100%	
Erysipelas ...	10	0.15	—	—	—	2	1	—	4	2	—	1	—	5	50%	
Pneumonia ...	51	0.77	4	7%	4	7	1	3	7	17	5	6	1	—*	—	
Poliomyelitis ...	1	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	100%	
Relapsing Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Typhus Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Dysentery ...	19	0.28	—	—	—	8	—	—	2	3	1	3	—	—	—	
Encephalitis Lethargica...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	0.07	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	1	20%	
Plague ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Malaria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Influenzal Pneumonia ...	39	0.59	—	—	1	2	9	—	2	2	8	3	12	—*	—	

*Number admitted to isolation hospital only.

TABLE XXXII.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)
by Age Groups during the year 1937.

Disease.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.												Total Cases at all Ages.		
	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	25-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over			
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	4	6	7	14	65	18	6	4	—	3	—	—	—	129
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group)	1	—	—	2	3	6	4	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	22
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Acute Primary Pneumonia	4	3	3	1	1	5	1	3	4	4	16	6	—	—	51
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia	3	1	2	—	3	5	3	5	2	5	6	4	—	—	39
Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Acute Polio Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	1	1	—	1	6	1	2	3	2	2	—	—	—	19
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	4	3	—	—	10
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	13	10	12	10	22	87	29	21	16	15	34	13	—	—	282

TABLE XXXIII.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1937.

Disease.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	11	11	19	11	10	4	9	6	8	18	12	10	129
Diphtheria	3	—	3	2	1	1	1	—	1	5	4	1	22
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	8	19
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2
Pneumonia	13	2	8	3	1	1	2	1	—	5	6	9	51
Influenzal Pneumonia	18	6	2	4	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	5	39
Erysipelas	3	3	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	10
T.B. Pulmonary	8	8	9	7	7	6	3	4	3	6	10	9	80
T.B. Non-Pulmonary	—	2	—	2	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	2	11
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	5
Puerperal Pyrexia and Fever	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	60	33	42	29	22	14	20	12	14	37	46	44	373

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases admitted to the register numbered 134, compared with 107 in the year before. These additions were:—

	Males.	Females.	Total
Pulmonary	52	59	111
Non-Pulmonary	9	14	23
	61	73	134

Eighty-nine were primary notifications, 42 were transferred from other districts, and 3 came to notice otherwise than by notification. The number transferred from other districts was one more than in 1936. During the year 87 names were removed from the register for the following reasons:—

Thirteen recovered; 34 removed from the district; 40 died.

The numbers remaining on the register at the end of the year were as shown in Table XXXIV.

The incidence of notified tuberculosis on the St. Helier Estate at mid-year was 13.05 per 1,000 population, that in the rest of the district 5.6 per 1,000 population.

The following table shows the state of the tuberculosis register at the year end and the ward incidence at mid-year:—

TABLE XXXIV.

TUBERCULOSIS REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER, 1937,
AND REGISTERED NUMBER OF TUBERCULOUS
PERSONS PER 1,000 POPULATION AT MID-YEAR.

Wards.	Registered at December 31st.			At Mid-Year.	
	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total.	Number on Register.	Number on Register per 1,000 population.
Abbey ...	24	5	29	30	6.9
Bushey Mead	54	9	63	61	8.0
Central ...	15	10	25	22	2.7
Morden ...	27	3	30	26	5.8
Park	53	6	59	61	6.1
Ravensbury ...	66	30	96	91	12.1
Raynes Park ..	29	4	33	34	5.2
St. Helier ...	115	35	150	139	11.9
West Barnes ..	24	8	32	32	4.8
Whole district	407	110	517	496	7.4

The total at December 31st is 47 more than at the corresponding date in 1936.

Deaths from tuberculosis numbered 40, 39 being due to pulmonary and one to non-pulmonary disease. The death rate for phthisis was 0.50 per 1,000 population, against a rate of 0.57 in the year before. The deaths are classified as to age and sex in Table XXXV.

TABLE XXXV.
DEATHS DUE TO TUBERCULOSIS, 1937.

Ages Years.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Totals.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
0—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	—	—	1	—	1
15—	4	4	—	—	8
25—	3	6	—	—	9
35—	7	1	—	—	8
45—	3	—	—	—	3
55—	3	—	—	—	3
65—	1	1	—	—	2
Totals	21	12	1	—	34

Three of the 34 deaths were in persons who had not been notified. These represent 9 per cent. of the total tuberculosis deaths.

Institutional treatment was provided for 138 persons from this district as follows:—

At the County Sanatorium, Milford ...	50
At other institutions ...	88
	138

Two voluntary Tuberculosis Care Committees working in conjunction with the St. Helier and Wimbleton Dispensaries cover the district. The scope for alleviating distress among tuberculous families is wide. The Public Assistance organisation although of great help in this direction cannot meet all the needs of these unfortunate families. Whilst this aspect of anti-tuberculosis work is carried out on a voluntary basis, it will need all the financial help it can obtain from private sources to fulfil its very necessary functions.

The District Council provides a free service for the examination of sputum for tubercle bacilli. During the year 145 specimens were examined with a positive result in 19 instances.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which gives power to prohibit the handling of milk by infectious tuberculous persons, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which provides for the removal of an infectious person to hospital.

TABLE XXXVI.

TUBERCULOSIS—New Cases, Age and Sex, Distribution and manner of Admission to Register, 1937.

Age Groups. Years.	Primary Notifications ("A").				Cases transferred from other districts.				Cases brought to notice otherwise than by notification and transfer.				Total new cases.
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
0-1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-10	1	—	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	6
10-15	1	—	1	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	9
15-20	2	4	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	8
20-25	10	5	1	1	2	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	24
25-35	9	11	1	—	3	12	—	2	—	1	—	—	39
35-45	8	9	1	—	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	25
45-55	9	5	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
55-65	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
65 up	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Totals	43	35	4	7	9	22	4	7	—	2	1	—	134
	89				42				3				

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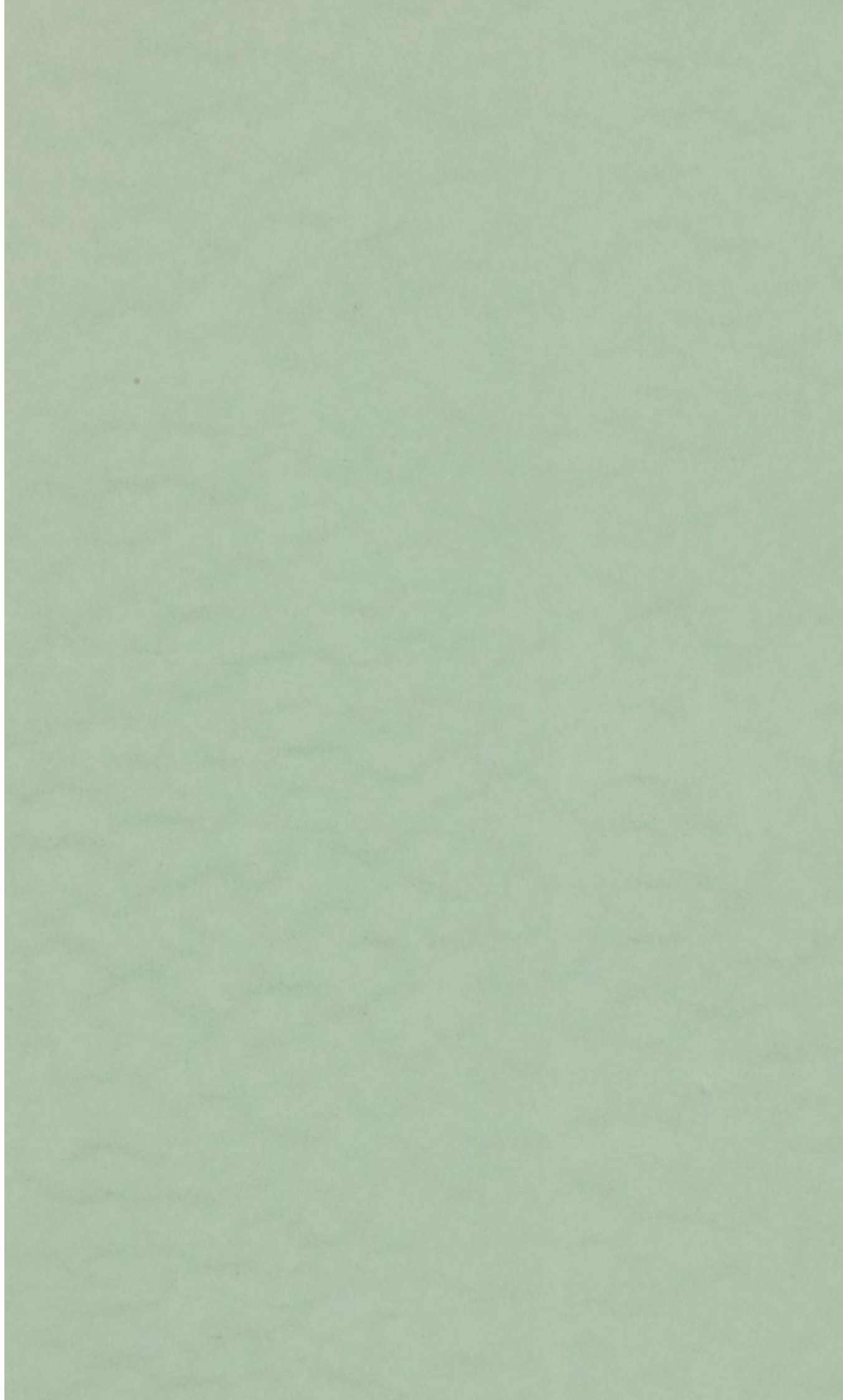
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