

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

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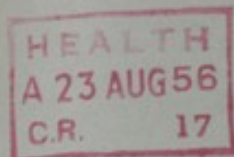
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BOROUGH OF SURBITON



ANNUAL REPORTS

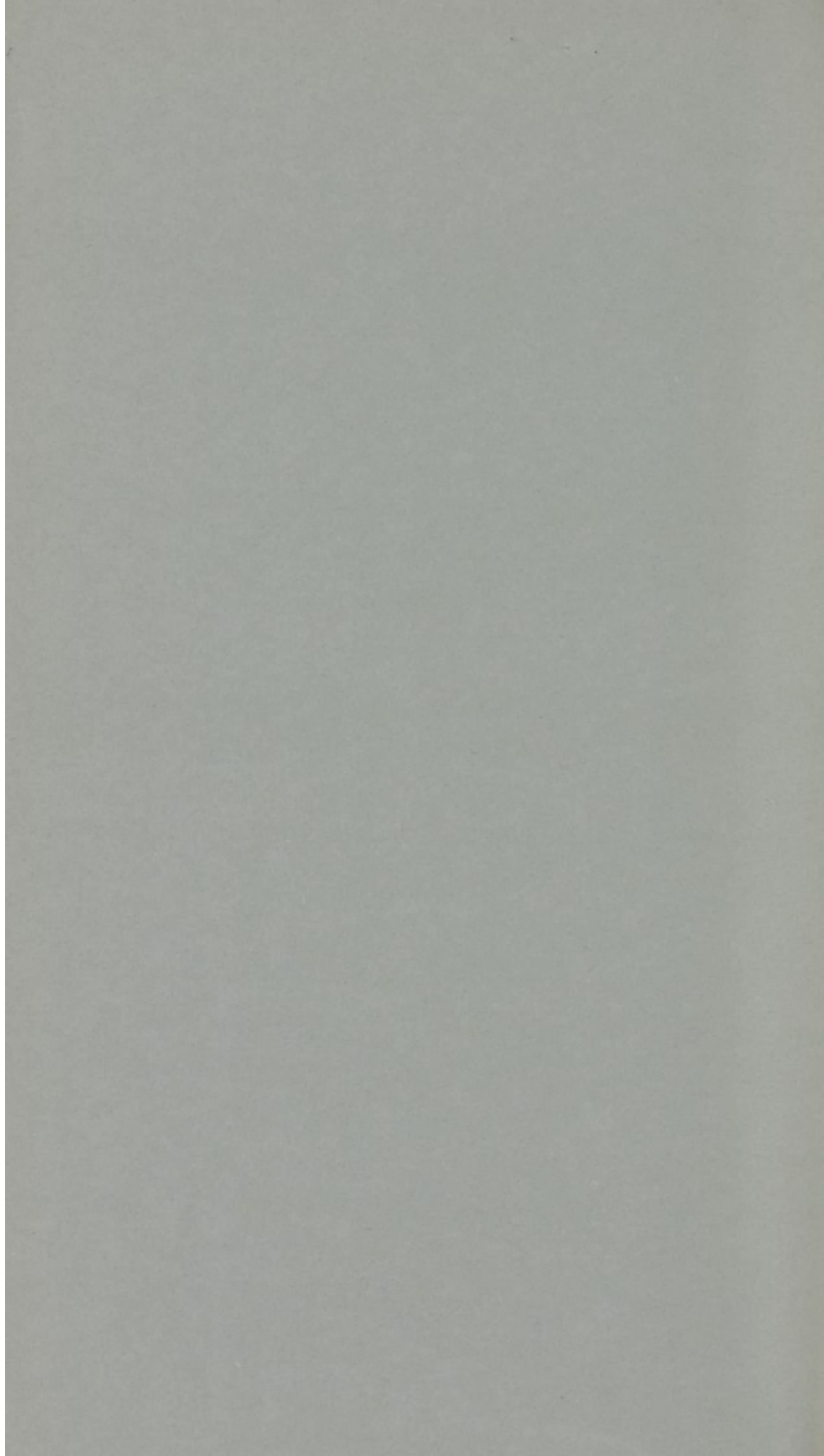
OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1955



BOROUGH OF SURBITON

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Councillor A.C. Healey, Ph.D., M.Sc., F.R.I.C. (Chairman)
Councillor J.R. Ashton. (Vice-Chairman)

Alderman G.W. Dew	Councillor H.J. Halford
Alderman A.G. Leach	Councillor J.A. Hay
Alderman Mrs. Woodgate, J.P.	Councillor C. Lesser
Councillor C.G.L. Du Cann	Councillor E.C. Pinfold
Councillor C.F.H. Goss	Councillor D. Scott

With the Mayor (Councillor P.F. Page, J.P.) and the Chairman of the Finance Committee (Alderman K. Bidmead, B.A.) ex officio.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - PERSONNEL

Medical Officer of Health (part-time)

- NEVILLE H. LINZEE, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector

§ / - H.J. ELDRIDGE, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector.

x * / - R.E. HAINES, Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors

x / Ø - W.H. GRAY, Cert. R.S.I., M.S.I.A., D.R.I.P.H.H.

x / - J.M. STAMP, M.S.I.A. (Resigned 28.2.55)

x / - F.H.A. BURTON, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., (Appointed 2.5.55)

Public Analyst (part-time)

D.D. MOIR, M.Sc., F.R.I.C.

Senior Clerk

E.D. ELMS

Rodent Officer

E.C. REEVE

Clerks

- Miss V. CRYER

Mrs. J.F. DEAKINS

Miss M. IRELAND

A.G. BABBAGE (In H.M. Forces)

J.C. CLAYDEN (temporary - Resigned 17.12.55)

Disinfector and Mortuary Attendant

A.C. BALL

- Contributions made to salary by County Council
- § Sanitary Inspector's Certificate (Royal Sanitary Institute)
- x Sanitary Inspector's Certificate (R.S.I. & S.I.E.J. Board)
- / Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods (R.S.I.)
- * Smoke Inspector's Certificate (R.S.I.)
- Ø Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works. (R.S.I.)

FOR 1955

Public Health Department,
2, Shalston Villas,
SURBITON.

July, 1956.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Surbiton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my thirty-fourth Annual Report, but it is with some regret that I have to do this owing to the fact that my retirement took place on 19th December, 1955, but I was permitted to continue until the end of the year so that I could render the report for the year ending 31st December, 1955.

During my term of office as Medical Officer of Health to Surbiton I have seen many changes.

In 1922 the population was approximately 19,000 and the town of Surbiton seemed to be round and in the vicinity of the station; the then station was not very attractive. However, it was redesigned in modern style in 1937.

The greater part of Surbiton was open fields which afforded delightful walks. The Kingston By-Pass Road was not in existence.

After 1926 the town began to become larger with the rapid increase of house building. The Council Offices were extended, and a new library and swimming pool were built giving added attractions to the residents.

In those days the Fire Brigade was manned by volunteers and was housed in Victoria Road.

The development of Surbiton brought the population of this small town up to well over 60,000 and it has overshadowed the important town of Kingston as far as size and resident population is concerned.

The Isolation Hospital was enlarged and now accommodates tubercular cases as well as the usual infectious diseases.

After Surbiton Hospital was erected in Ewell Road with the aid of voluntary subscriptions the old Cottage Hospital in St. James' Road was brought into use for old chronic cases.

The health of Surbiton has improved since 1922. The advent of immunisation has cleared diphtheria from Surbiton. The infantile mortality rate declined to 11.02 in 1954 which was the lowest figure on record but there was an unaccountable increase to 22.36 in 1955.

Dealing with the year 1955 the number of births attributed to Surbiton was 760 as against 816 for 1954. The decline of births since 1946 is no doubt due to the economical situation, difficulty in finding accommodation, etc. The number of deaths for 1955 was 600 against 596 for 1954. This leaves a natural increase of 160.

It is therefore difficult to understand why the population for 1955 is given as 62,570 when the population for 1954 was 63,320; however these figures are supplied by the Registrar General.

STATISTICS

Area (in acres) 4,709

Population (June 1955) Registrar General's Estimate... 62,570

Resident Population (Census 1951) 60,675

Estimated number of separate habitable dwellings
(houses and flats) in the Borough at the end of
the year 18,203

Number of new houses erected during the year:-

(a) By local authority 20

(b) By other local authorities (flats) ... 45

(c) By private enterprise 99

(d) Rebuilt following destruction by enemy
action Nil

(e) Self-contained flats provided by
conversion (private enterprise) 23

Rateable value at 31st December, 1955 £714,121

Sum represented by a penny rate £2,925

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Based on Registrar General's population figure of 62,570 and on adjusted statistics supplied by the Registrar General.

LIVE BIRTHS:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	359 (382)	373 (401)	732 (783)
Illegitimate	12 (15)	16 (18)	28 (33)
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			12.14 (12.88)
Adjusted birth rate (comparability factor 1.00)			12.14 (12.88)
England and Wales			15.0 (14.1)

STILL BIRTHS

Legitimate	5 (4)	5 (9)	10 (13)
Illegitimate	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.			12.98 (15.68)
England and Wales			23.1 (24.0)

DEATHS

	274 (272)	326 (324)	600 (596)
Crude death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.			9.58 (9.41)
Adjusted death rate (comparability factor 1.01)			9.67 (9.50)
England and Wales (all causes)			11.7 (11.4)

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

All infants per 1,000 live births	22.36 (11.02)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	23.22 (11.49)
England and Wales	24.9 (25.0)

POPULATION

(a) The following table shows the mid-year population figures for the last ten years:-

1946	56,420
1947	58,110
1948	58,870
1949	60,110
1950	61,230
1951	61,090
1952	61,590
1953	62,230
1954	63,320
1955	62,570

(b) Census Figures

1911	17,717
1921	19,536
1931	29,396
1951	60,675

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1955

	Male	Female
All causes	274	326
Tuberculosis, respiratory	6	4
Syphilitic disease	1	2
Infective and parasitic diseases	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	21	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	15
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	6
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	20	38
Diabetes	2	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	26	56
Coronary disease, angina	62	40
Hypertension with heart disease	3	7
Other heart disease	27	61
Other circulatory disease	20	16
Pneumonia	17	17
Bronchitis	12	7
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	6	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	4	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	1
Congenital malformations	4	6
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	20	23
Motor vehicle accidents	5	3
All other accidents	2	2
Suicide	4	5

INFANT MORTALITY

There were seventeen deaths of children under one year of age.
All were legitimate.

The causes and ages at death were as follows:-

Congenital heart disease	2 months
Status epilepticus	6 months
Broncho pneumonia	3 months
Chronic myocarditis	11 months
Prematurity	1 day
Staphylococcal pneumonia	1 week
Spina bifida	4 weeks
Congenital cardiac abnormality	3 days
Prematurity	16 hours
Congenital heart disease	7 months
Jaundice	7 months
Cardiac failure	1 day
Congenital heart disease	9 months
Congenital atelectasis lungs	3 days
Erythroblastosis foetalis	30 minutes
Prematurity	9 days
Sub-dural haemorrhage due to tentorial tear due to dystocia	3 hours

Of the infant deaths fourteen occurred in hospitals or public institutions outside the district of Surbiton.

INFANT MORTALITY RATE

The following table shows the death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births.

Year	Deaths under 1 year	Surbiton	England and Wales (Smaller Towns)
1946	21	19.75	37.0
1947	27	24.41	36.0
1948	16	17.48	32.0
1949	21	23.54	30.0
1950	22	26.31	29.4
1951	17	20.21	27.6
1952	15	18.42	27.6
1953	18	21.02	24.3
1954	9	11.02	25.0
1955	17	22.36	24.9

The infantile death rate doubled itself in 1955. This is somewhat difficult to understand.

BIRTHS

The following table shows the number of live births and the birth rate over the past 10 years.

Year	Number of Births	Birth Rate	Birth Rate for England and Wales
1946	1,063	18.84	19.1
1947	1,106	19.03	20.5
1948	915	15.54	17.9
1949	892	14.83	16.7
1950	836	13.65	15.8
1951	841	13.76	15.5
1952	814	13.21	15.3
1953	856	13.73	15.5
1954	816	12.88	14.1
1955	760	12.14	15.0

The above table shows the steady decline of the birth rate.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER
INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The Kingston Group Hospital Management Committee (South West Metropolitan Region) has supplied me with the following figures for 1955:-

ANALYSIS OF PATIENTS ADMITTED TO THE TOLWORTH
HOSPITAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

	Diphtheria	Scarlet Fever	Other Diseases	Total
Surbiton	-	13	90	103
Malden	-	1	61	62
Esher	-	-	44	44
Totals	-	14	195	209

The 90 "other diseases" admitted to the hospital from Surbiton were as follows:-

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	25
T.B. and Rt. Pl. Effusion	1
Pulmonary T.B. and T.B. Glands (neck)	1
? Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1
Whooping Cough	2
Measles	8
Measles and Bronchitis	1
Measles, Whooping Cough and Pneumonia	1
Measles and Chicken Pox	1
Chicken Pox	1
Gastro-Enteritis	6
Mumps	1
Dysentery	1
Poliomyelitis or suspected	15
Upper Respiratory Tract Infection	6
Meningitis, Influenzal	1
Paratyphoid B. carrier	1
Glandular Fever	4
? Glandular Fever	1
Enteritis	1
Rubella	1
Colitis	3
Impetigo	1
Erysipelas	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	1
Impetigo, Cellulitis of face	1
Infective Hepatitis	2

From this table it will be noticed that Surbiton have practically half of the number of cases admitted. The reason may possibly be due to the fact that the hospital is situated in the area and other districts may find it more convenient to use nearer isolation hospitals. The number of poliomyelitis cases admitted is fifteen but seven of the cases were sent in on suspicion and not confirmed. There were, however, eight confirmed cases in 1955. Only two were of the paralytic type and fortunately no deaths occurred.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING
THE YEARS ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1946 TO 1955.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Diphtheria	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	38	31	39	95	87	53	76	84	45	38
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	9	-
Interperal Pyrexia	6	-	2	-	1	4	4	3	1	1
Pneumonia	17	16	16	15	11	19	12	34	14	19
Erysipelas	5	4	5	2	5	2	5	6	4	3
Polio-myelitis	-	19	2	5	8	2	2	3	2	8
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	1	5	-	-	1	6	4	1	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
Dysentery	4	-	1	-	140	62	-	10	12	25
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	8	9	11	11	11	5	4
Measles	429	170	591	601	342	1069	538	790	114	998
Whooping Cough	48	108	157	102	176	163	204	139	41	70
Totals	565	354	815	829	780	1392	856	1083	249	1169

MEASLES

The year 1955 showed a great increase of measles, but the incidence of this disease does, however, occur in waves.

	Total Cases Notified at Ages										Total Deaths Notified at Ages									
	Under 1	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over	Age unknown	Total	Under 1	1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25 - 44	45 - 64	65 and over
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	2	9	23	3	1	-	-	-	-	38	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	1	2	-	2	4	5	4	-	19	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	27
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	21	174	198	584	7	2	3	1	-	8	998	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	11	19	32	-	1	1	-	-	1	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	3	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	1	2	13	4	1	4	-	-	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polio-encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

NOTE: Total deaths include transferable deaths occurring outside the district and are not included in the total cases notified.

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year 433 persons were shown to be suffering from tuberculosis and living within the district:-

	<u>Pulmonary.</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Males	230	19
Females	<u>149</u>	<u>35</u>
	<u>379</u>	<u>54</u>

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	9	9	1	2	-	-	-	-
25 - 34	14	11	1	4	1	-	-	-
35 - 44	6	5	-	-	2	2	-	-
45 - 54	6	2	1	1	4	1	-	-
55 - 64	4	1	1	-	2	-	-	-
65 and over	1	3	-	2	1	-	-	-
Totals	40	31	4	9	10	3	-	-

Of the 84 new cases tabulated above 39 are transferred from other districts.

At the commencement of the year there were 446 cases of tuberculosis on the register and at the end of the year this figure had decreased to 433.

During the year 37 were notified as recovered from the disease, 44 left the district, there were 13 deaths and 3 were found to be non-tubercular.

CASES ADDED TO REGISTER.

WARD	Primary Notifications			Transfers, etc.			Cases on Register 31st Dec 1955.
	1953	1954	1955	1953	1954	1955	
Berrylands	8	3	5	6	3	7	43
Chessington	11	8	3	9	9	5	77
Hook & Southborough	8	8	9	5	3	7	87
Seething Wells	-	2	1	4	3	3	22
St. Mark's	8	4	1	7	8	6	46
Surbiton Hill	7	8	2	6	3	4	29
Tolworth East	8	3	4	6	2	6	41
Tolworth West	19	3	3	1	3	3	32
Tolworth South	4	7	10	3	7	5	56
Totals	63	46	38	47	41	46	433

The table below shows the number of cases on the register at the end of the year for the past ten years:-

WARD	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Berrylands	61	60	53	47	41	37	43	50	45	43
Chessington	57	52	54	62	59	56	74	80	89	77
Hook & Southborough	52	59	65	68	80	74	95	85	74	87
Seething Wells	38	44	38	34	24	26	23	20	21	22
St. Mark's	39	33	38	38	34	41	46	48	54	46
Surbiton Hill	28	41	43	42	26	39	29	30	30	29
Tolworth East	53	51	52	56	39	42	48	50	45	41
Tolworth West	40	38	38	27	36	37	35	41	38	32
Tolworth South	47	42	44	50	49	46	41	48	50	56
Totals	415	420	425	424	388	398	434	452	446	433

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis)
Regulations, 1925.

It was not necessary to take any action under these regulations during the year.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172

No action was taken under this Section.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of immunisations carried out during the year was as follows:-

	<u>Primary Immunisations during 1955.</u>	<u>Re-inforcement doses during 1955</u>
Age under 1 year	444+	-
Age 1 year	149	-
Age 2 years	53	-
Age 3 years	21	-
Age 4 years	16	8
Age 5 - 9 years	54	117
Age 10 - 14 years	-	7

+ This figure includes children born in 1954 but still under 1 year when immunised in 1955.

The following table sets out the number of children immunised in each of the last five years:-

Year	Primary Immunisations	Reinforcements
1951	763	816
1952	613	325
1953	795	234
1954	746	284
1955	737	132

The Surrey County Council are responsible for this service which shows a definite decrease in the number of children immunised since 1951.

Public Baths

At the Spade Swimming Pool, Kingston-by-Sea Road, an open air pool 40 feet by 20 feet with a depth of 4 feet 6 inches to 5 feet 6 inches.

The water is treated by continuous aeration and filtration, and is constantly monitored by the Health Department.

Five samples were taken by the Department and were satisfactory.

School Bath

The private school has a small swimming bath which is used only by scholars. It is situated in the grounds of the school and is 13 feet by 6 feet 6 inches. The water is treated by continuous aeration and filtration, and is constantly monitored by the Health Department.

The number of immunisations carried out between 1st January 1941 and 31st December 1955, is shown below:-

Age on 31.12.55 (i.e. born in year)	Under 1 1955.	1 - 4 1951-1954	5 - 9 1946-1950	10 - 14 1941-1945	Under 15 Total
A. Number of children who have completed course (primary or booster) in the period 1951-1955.	126	2,501	2,071	813	5,511
B. Number of children who have completed course (primary or booster) in the period 1941-1950.	-	-	2,135	2,680	4,815
C. Estimated mid-year child population	800	3,500	7,800		12,100
Immunity Index 100 A/C	15.7	71.4	36.96		45.5

NOTE: The Immunity Index is the number of children immunised (primary or booster) during the last five years (total of Item A.) expressed as a percentage of the total estimated mid-year child population (total of item C.)

VACCINATION

The number of vaccinations carried out in the Borough by the general practitioners and doctors at the clinics was as follows:-

	<u>Vaccinations.</u>	<u>Re-vaccinations</u>
St. Mark's	614	211
Talsworth East		
Talsworth West		
Talsworth South		
Totals	614	211

Public Health Prevention of Tuberculosis

It was not necessary to take any action under these regulations during the year.

Public Health Act, 1936, Section 173

No action was taken under 14. Section.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water Supply.

The water throughout the district is furnished by the Metropolitan Water Board, and is a constant supply of excellent quality. Monthly reports by the Board are supplied giving details of their chemical and bacteriological examinations.

Public Cleansing

Refuse and Salvage Collection

The rate of the collection of refuse and salvage, except when Bank Holidays interfered with the collection, was maintained at once in every seven days.

Rivers and Streams.

Hogsmill River

The widening of the course of this stream through the Borough is nearly completed, but the state of the water is likely to remain unsatisfactory until the effluent from the Epsom Sewage Disposal Works is no longer discharged into it.

A new sewer is under construction which will soon carry sewage from Epsom to the joint disposal works being provided in Lower Marsh Lane.

Meanwhile notice boards are still displayed warning against bathing and paddling in the Hogsmill River.

Swimming Baths and Pools

Publicly owned baths

Surbiton Lagoon, situated in Raeburn Avenue, Surbiton, is an open air pool 165 feet long and 90 feet wide, with a depth of three to nine feet.

The water is treated by continuous pressure sand filtration, sterilisation by breakpoint chlorination and oxygenation over an ornamental cascade.

Periodical samples of water are taken by the Borough Engineer and the plant adjusted as necessary. In addition eleven samples were taken by the Public Health Department for both chemical and bacteriological examination all of which proved to be satisfactory.

Privately owned bath open to the public.

Ace of Spades Swimming Pool, Kingston-By-Pass Road, is an open air pool 40 feet by 20 feet with a depth of 4 feet to 7 feet 6 inches.

The water is treated by continuous pressure sand filtration, sterilisation by injection of chlorine and oxygenation over an ornamental cascade.

Five samples were taken by the Department and were satisfactory.

School Bath

One private school has a small swimming bath which is used only by scholars and staff. Sterilisation is by hand dosing with chlorine coupled with frequent changes of the water. Six samples were taken by the Department to ensure adequate chlorination.

Food Poisoning

There were no outbreaks of food poisoning and no deaths from this cause. Four cases were notified; in one case the causative organism was identified as *Cl. Welchii*, whilst no cause for the others could be found.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

It was not necessary to take action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	35	48	1	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	224	294	17	-
(iii) Other premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	7	12	-	-
TOTAL	266	354	18	-

Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
crowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
reasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
adequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
effective drainage floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
every conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
Insufficient	3	3	-	-	-
unsuitable or defective	23	23	-	3	-
not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
offences against Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	10	10	4	-	-
TOTAL	36	36	4	3	-

Outwork (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	Number of outworkers in August list required by Section 110(1)(c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel etc. (including and wearing).	37	-	-	-	-	-
and brass articles	12	-	-	-	-	-
in making	1	-	-	-	-	-
stuffed toys	1	-	-	-	-	-
toys, Christmas crackers, Christmas stockings,	2	-	-	-	-	-
Christmas	65	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	118	-	-	-	-	-

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR.

July, 1956.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Surbiton.

Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the work of your Sanitary Inspectors for the year ended 31st December, 1955, in which I have endeavoured to show under various headings the nature of the duties performed and results achieved.

COMPLAINTS.

During the year 1157 complaints were received with regard to the undermentioned matters, were duly investigated and any necessary action taken.

Choked and defective drains...	266
Insanitary or dilapidated condition of houses or premises...	57
Dampness...	16
Defective or insufficient W.C. accommodation..	10
Defective water pipes or fittings ...	12
Insufficient or defective refuse bins ...	4
Offensive smells from various causes..	32
Offensive accumulations ...	13
Nuisances from animals improperly kept ...	2
Unwholesome food...	19
Infestation with bugs or fleas ...	8
Infestation with other insect pests...	49
Infestation with rats and mice...	617
Smoke nuisances...	15
Flooding...	11
Water supply ...	2
Dangerous trees...	5
Dangerous structures ...	2
Pollution of watercourse ...	1
Miscellaneous ...	16

Total:- ... 1157

The number of complaints received in the Department during the past ten years was :-

1954 ...	905	1949 ...	1007
1953 ...	1037	1948 ...	986
1952 ...	1093	1947 ...	926
1951 ...	1059	1946 ...	831
1950 ...	1083	1945 ...	550

VISITS MADE

Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and housing Acts)...	...	301
Number of dwelling houses visited for other than housing defects...	...	1436
Number of visits to premises other than houses...	...	2111
Premises re-inspected	...	1806
Visits to works in progress..	...	592
+Visits re rats and mice	...	6806
Miscellaneous visits		693
Total:-...		<u>13,745</u>

+ Including visits made by Rodent Control staff.

Included in the above are the following classified visits:-

To food premises	...	595
" cowsheds	...	7
" dairies and milkshops	...	43
" milk vehicles	...	72
" ice cream premises and vehicles	...	132
" bakehouses	...	44
" butchers' shops	...	131
" fishfriers' premises	...	36
" factories	...	310
" workplaces	...	20
" outworkers' premises	...	8
" schools	...	139
" caravans	...	108
" council houses	...	60
" piggeries	...	27
" public conveniences	...	13
Re. cases of infectious disease (including dysentery, tuberculosis and food poisoning)	...	598
" overcrowding or possible overcrowding	...	33
" Shops Act	...	198
" Rag Flock Act	...	3
" Pet Animals Act	...	19
" Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act..	...	31
Smoke observations made	...	28
Interviews with owners, tradesmen, etc..	...	286
Samples of swimming bath water taken	...	22
" from paddling pool...	...	10
" of drinking water taken	...	6

TESTING OF DRAINS AND SANITARY FITTINGS

Drains tested with water	...	61
Drains tested by other methods	...	33
Drains examined under section 48 Public Health Act, 1936	...	Nil

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal and verbal notices	...	524
Statutory notices under sections 48 and 287, Public Health Act, 1936, to examine and test drains	...	1
Statutory notices under section 75, Public Health Act, 1936, to provide sufficient dust receptacles	...	6
Statutory notices under section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, to abate nuisances	...	12
Statutory notices under section 277, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises	...	5
Statutory notices under section 157, Housing Act, 1936, to enter premises	...	44
Statutory notices under section 168, Housing Act, 1936, requiring information as to ownership of premises	...	7
Statutory notices under section 11, Housing Act, 1936 - notice of Time and Place at which matters relating to the making of a Demolition Order in respect of a house will be considered	...	6
Statutory notices under sections 11 and 12, Housing Act, 1936 - notice of Time and Place at which matters relating to the making of a Closing Order in respect of Part of a Building will be considered	...	2
Statutory notices under section 11 Housing Act, 1936, - Order for Demolition of a House	...	7
Statutory notices under section 12 Housing Act, 1936, - Closing Order in respect of Part of a building	...	3
Statutory notice under Section 22 Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 - to enter upon land for the purpose of carrying out inspections	...	2

619
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LICENCES AND CERTIFICATES ISSUED.

Licences to station and use moveable dwellings (section 269, Public Health Act, 1936)	...	47
Licences under The Pet Animals Act, 1951 - to keep a Pet Shop	...	4
Certificate of registration under section 34, Food & Drugs Act, 1938, for carrying on business of wholesale dealer in margarine	...	1
Certificates of Disrepair under section 26, Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954	...	23
Revocation of Certificates of Disrepair under section 26 (4) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.	...	25

100
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HOUSING.

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :-	
(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	301
(b) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-heading (a) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	86
(c) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(d) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit	232
2. Remedy of defects without service of Formal Notices :-	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers - (including some from previous year)	161
3. Action under Statutory Powers:-	
A. Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-	
(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	1
(ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-	
(a) by owners	1
(b) by Local Authority in default by owner	Nil

3. B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-
- | | | | |
|------|--|-----|-----|
| (i) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | 4 |
| (ii) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :- | | |
| (a) | by owners | ... | 4 |
| (b) | by Local Authority in default of owners | ... | Nil |
- C. Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-
- | | | | |
|------|---|-----|-----|
| (i) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | 1 |
| (ii) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | ... | Nil |
- D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-
- | | | | |
|------|--|-----|-----|
| (i) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... | 1 |
| (ii) | 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. Proceedings were taken against the owner of a house for failing to comply with an abatement notice under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, requiring the repair of the defective roof.
- The Court made a nuisance order requiring the defendant to comply with the abatement notice within twenty-eight days and awarded the Council £5.5.0. costs.

DETAILS OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS ETC. EFFECTED DURING THE YEAR.

Drainage.

Choked drains and sewers cleared	...	...	...	236
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	56
Drainage systems partly re-laid	...	...	...	7
Drainage systems completely re-laid	...	...	...	4
Additional drains provided	...	...	...	10

Water Closets, etc.

Additional provided	...	...	...	21
Cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	34
New pans fixed	...	...	...	15
Lighted, ventilated or screened	...	...	...	15
Flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	15

Sinks, Baths, etc.

New fixed 37

Waste Pipes, etc.

Repaired 10
New provided 4
Disconnected or trapped 7

Water Supply.

Water re-instated 4
Service pipes and cisterns repaired etc. 7

Paving.

Yard paving repaired or re-laid 9

Dust Receptacles.

New dustbins provided 135

Dampness.

Roofs repaired 54
Gutters and rainwater pipes repaired or renewed 49
Damp courses inserted 4
Ventilation provided under floors. 6
External walls pointed or rendered 35
Walls treated with damp resisting material 48
Site concrete provided 1

General.

Windows repaired or renewed 131
Doors repaired or renewed 23
Floors repaired or renewed 40
Stoves and coppers repaired or renewed 35
Internal walls and ceilings repaired 92
Rooms cleansed 95
Rooms ventilated 9
Staircases repaired or provided with handrails 7
Staircase lighting improved 2
Chimney stacks and pots repaired or renewed 18
Dangerous walls re-built and made safe 2
Foodstores provided 5
Foodstores ventilated 5
External painting 7
Cesspools emptied 2
Cesspools eliminated 1
Cesspools provided 1
Statutory entries made in rent books 16
Overcrowding abated 1
Accumulations removed or covered 9
Nuisances from animals abated 2
Shops Act infringements 19
Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act 7
Miscellaneous 18

HOUSING REPAIRS & RENTS ACT, 1954.

This Act required Councils to submit to the Minister of Housing and Local Government by 30th August, 1955, proposals for dealing with unfit houses in their districts.

The situation was not very serious here because the policy of the Council for many years has been to insist upon owners maintaining their property in good condition or pulling it down when it became beyond repair at reasonable cost.

After due consideration it was decided to inform the Minister that out of 18,466 permanent dwellings in the area only six houses were considered to be unfit and suitable for action under Sections 11 or 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.

During the year twenty-five applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received following action by landlords to apply the permitted rent increase.

Twenty such Certificates were granted, four refused, and one application withdrawn, making a total since the commencement of the Act (1st August 1954) of 45 issued, four refused, and thirty-six revoked upon completion of the necessary repairs.

The expected flood of applications for these Certificates did not arrive and generally the whole thing passed off with considerably less trouble than had been anticipated. It is, of course, not known to what extent landlords tried to take advantage of the opportunity to raise rents.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

The Housing Act, 1949, introduced a scheme to encourage property owners to modernise existing houses "which though soundly constructed and in good general repair, lack the amenities and conveniences which have come to be regarded as essential to a decent and healthy life", by providing financial assistance for works of improvement.

The Council continued to operate this scheme in cases where new housing accommodation would be provided by the conversion of an existing building, where additional accommodation was to be provided by adding rooms, and where it was intended to improve the sanitary arrangements and/or the system of water heating.

Nineteen applications for grants were received during the year. Twelve were recommended by the Council and the remainder were disposed of as follows:-

Rejected

No further action

Pending.

4

1

2

24.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS(cont.)

The amounts granted together with works approved are detailed below :-

Serial No.	Amount Granted			Approved Works.
	£	s.	d.	
44	368	16.	3	Installation of bath, basin, internal W.C., hot water system, electricity supply and drainage.
45	56.	5.	0.	Installation of hot water system.
47	100.	0.	0	Provision of bathroom, hot water system, internal W.C., and larder.
50	100.	0.	0	Converting bedroom into bathroom and installing hot water system.
51	94.	3.	9	Converting bedroom into bathroom and installing hot water system.
52	100	0.	0	Provision of a bathroom, internal W.C. hot water system and new larder.
53	100.	0.	0.	Provision of a new living room on ground floor.
54	100.	0.	0	Provision of a bathroom, internal W.C., larder, and hot water supply.
55	400.	0.	0.	Conversion into two self-contained flats.
56	100.	0.	0.	Alterations to kitchen to form bathroom, internal W.C. and new larder, and providing hot and cold water supply.
57	100.	0.	0.	Building single-storey extension at back of house to form new kitchen, larder and bathroom/W.C. and installing hot water system.
58.	100.	0.	0.	Enlarging scullery so as to make a proper kitchen with a larder; constructing an extension at the rear to form a bathroom and installing hot water system.

The figures for previous years were :-

<u>Year</u>	<u>Applications received.</u>	<u>Grants approved.</u>	<u>Not taken up.</u>
1954	21	15	3
1953	7	6	3
1952	5	3	1
1951	3	3	1
1950	4	4	Nil

DUSTBINS.

One hundred and thirty-five dustbins were provided as a result of notices served, six such being statutory and the remainder informal.

The Council's scheme for the sale of new dustbins was continued, ninety bins being sold during the year.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Foodstuffs of all descriptions are constantly under inspection to see that they are fit for human consumption.

During the year a large variety of foods which were not so fit were surrendered by the owners and either salvaged for animal feeding or destroyed by burning.

The total weight of such goods was :-

2 tons: 11 cwts: 1 qr: 15 lbs: 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs.

There is now no slaughterhouse in use in the Borough consequently no meat inspection is carried out except in butchers' shops.

Seventy-four samples of various kinds were taken for bacteriological examination as a routine measure to check on fitness for food.

FOOD HYGIENE.

Forty-one premises are registered under section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1938, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

Nine hundred and thirty-eight visits were made to these premises and to shops, canteens, restaurants, public-houses, food-handling businesses, and vehicles to ensure the maintenance of a proper standard of hygiene and to examine food intended for sale.

The following works were carried out to meet the requirements of the Food & Drugs Act, byelaws and other legislation :-

Hot water supply provided	...	...	7
Protection of food from contamination	...	...	1
Windows repaired or renewed	...	...	1
Floors repaired or renewed	...	...	5
Food premises cleansed	...	...	33
Drains cleansed, repaired or renewed	...	...	4
W.Cs. cleansed or repaired	...	...	6
W.Cs. lighted or ventilated	...	...	1
Cold stores repaired	...	...	1
Cold stores provided	...	...	1
Accumulations removed	...	...	4
Dustbins supplied	...	...	11
Food vans repaired	...	...	1
Miscellaneous	...	...	11

In general the standard of food hygiene throughout the Borough has been maintained at a satisfactory level, though it is a subject which requires constant attention by the Inspectors.

New legislation with an all round tightening-up was expected during the year, but in fact did not arrive until 1st January 1956 and will therefore be the subject of comment in next year's report.

The following is a summary of samples taken during the year for analysis by the Public Analyst :-

Sample Nos.	Articles.	Analysed			Contraventions.		
		Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
1575	Chicken broth		1	1			
1576	Strained beef & liver soup		1	1			
1577	Strained bone and vegetable broth		1	1			
1578	Strained egg custard with rice		1	1			
1579	Strained chicken broth		1	1			
1580	Liver soup		1	1		1	1
1581	Meat and vegetable broth		1	1			
1582	Beef & vegetable broth		1	1			
1583	Beef Puree		1	1			
1584	Chocolate Swiss Roll		1	1			
1585	Chocolate Cup cakes		1	1			
1586	Chocolate sponge cake		1	1			
1587)	Cream of Chicken soup		2	2			
1630)							
1588)	Cream of Mushroom soup.	1	1	2	1	1	2
1615)							
1677	Cream of tomato soup		1	1			
1589	Strained apples		1	1			
1590	Apples with sugar		1	1			
1591	Apples with Rose Hip Syrup		1	1		1	1
1592-98-99)	Liver soup for babies		4	4		3	3
1601							
1593/4	Tomato soup for babies		2	2		2	2
1605/9	Strained tomato soup for babies		5	5		5	5
1595	Strained vegetable soup for babies		1	1			
1596	Apple & Blackcurrant juice for babies		1	1			
1597)	Cream of chicken broth		2	2			
1600)							
1602/4	Confectionery sweets		3	3			
1610)							
1611a)	Strained tomato soup		2	2			
1611							
1612							
1617							
1626-7	Milk	15		15			
1635-6							
1640							
1662-4							
1673-76)							
1616	Glueo-Lem		1	1			
1618)							
1678)	Ice-cream	2		2			
1619	Meat lunch		1	1			
1620	Vitaminised iron jelloids		1	1			
1621	Table jelly		1	1			
1628	Sherbet dabs	1		1			
1631	Wholemeal stone ground flour		1	1			
1632	Confection bar		1	1			
1633/4	Stewed steak and gravy		2	2			
	c/fwd.	19	47	66	1	13	14

Sample Nos.	Articles.	Analysed			Contraventions		
		Formal	Informal	Total	Formal	Informal	Total
1613/4)	Bt. fwd.	19	47	66	1	13	14
1622)							
1629)	Pork sausages	8	3	11	2		2
1637-9)							
1658-9)							
1665-6)							
1624)							
1661)	Pork chipolata sausages	1	1	2			
1623/25)	Beef sausages	2	1	3			
1657)							
1677)	Butter	1		1			
1641)							
1690)	Orange Squash		2	2			
1642)	Spanish Oranges		1	1			
1643)	Salmon Spread		1	1			
1644)	Chopped Prime Chicken		1	1			
1645)	Dessicated soup		1	1			
1646)	Vitaminised iron and						
1649)	yeast tablets	1	1	2	1	1	2
1647-8)	Peas (tinned)		2	2			
1650)	Compound lozenges of						
	bismuth BPC		1	1			
1651)	Pineapple jam		1	1			
1652)	Grapefruit marmalade		1	1			
1653)	Raspberry jam		1	1			
1654-56)	Strawberry jam		2	2			
1655)	Blackcurrant jam		1	1			
1660)	Cough syrup		1	1			
1667)	Bitter beer	1		1			
1668)	Potted meat	1		1		1	1
1669)	Tonivitan vitamin A and						
	D syrup		1	1			
1670)	Butter drops		1	1			
1671)	Butter macaroons		1	1			
1672)	Butter brazils		1	1			
1691)	Lemon squash		1	1			
1680)	Syrup minadex		1	1			
1681)	Ham & tongue meat paste		1	1			
1682)	Chicklettes		1	1		1	1
1683)	Tablets of ammoniated						
	quinine		1	1			
1684/87)	Halibut liver oil						
	capsules		2	2			
1685)	Yeast tablets		1	1			
1686)	Lung tonic		1	1			
1688)	Cod liver oil		1	1		1	1
1689)	Vitamin C orange crush		1	1			
1692)	Children's orange squash		1	1			
1693)	Glucos drink flavoured						
	with lemons		1	1			
TOTALS:		34	86	120	4	17	21

The Analyst's reports and details of action taken on contravening samples were as follows:-

1594 (informal)
 1605 { " }
 1606 { " }
 1608 { " }
 1609 { " }
 Soup - tomato, tinned
 for infant feeding.

These tomato soups all contained tin and iron in proportions varying from 30 - 54 p.p.m. respectively and in each sample there was a metallic flavour. The internal lacquering had failed to protect the contents from this metallic contamination.

Having regard to the purpose for which these articles were sold he was of the opinion it was important to ensure the absence as far as possible of contaminating metals.

These reports were taken up with the manufacturers concerned who, whilst not agreeing that the contamination was excessive, appeared to be taking precautions to minimise such contamination and to see that their products reached the public in the best possible condition.

1580 (informal)
 1598 { " }
 1599 { " }
 1601 { " }
 Soup - liver, tinned
 for infant feeding.

These soups contained tin varying from 32 ppm. to 100 p.p.m. and iron from 43 p.p.m. to 90 p.p.m. and in each sample there was a distinct metallic taste. The cans were lacquered internally but the lacquer had partially failed resulting in this metallic contamination. Having regard to the purpose for which these articles were sold, he was of the opinion it was important to ensure the absence as far as possible of contaminating metals.

These reports were taken up with the manufacturers who did not agree that the metallic contamination was excessive. They thought however that some of their products might be "out of condition" and these stocks with retailers would be replaced.

1591 (informal)
 Apples with Rose Hip
 Syrup.

Contained not more than 2% of rose hip syrup (if any) and no vitamin C. Having regard to the wide use of rose hip syrup as a source of vitamin C the description on the label was in his opinion grossly misleading as to the nature and to the nutritional or dietary value of this article.

Manufacturers agreed to omit rose hip syrup from their next apple production and to use a different description.

1588 (informal)
Soup - Cream of mushroom
dried.

The proportion of fat in the soup prepared according to the directions of the label would amount to only 0.6% whereas cream soups of ordinary commercial quality contain not less than $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ of fat. The dried soup as received contained only 8.0% of fat. Formal sample taken (see No.1615).

1607 (informal)
Soup - tomato, tinned
for infant feeding.

Consisted of a type of flavoured cornflour. This was supplied by the manufacturer for checking during an investigation into the problem of metallic contamination and was obviously an error.

1646 (informal)
Vitaminised iron and
yeast tablets.

Deficient in vitamin C to the extent of 71% of the amount claimed on the label. Instructions given for formal sample to be taken (See No. 1649).

1614 (formal)
Sausage- pork

It was a sample of preserved pork sausage containing 180 p.p.m. of sulphur dioxide.

Warning given as a result of which proper notice has since been displayed in shop.

1622 (formal)
Sausage - pork.

Contained only 53% of meat. Proceedings instituted. A fine of £10. was imposed and the Council awarded 10 guineas costs.

1615 (formal)
Soup - Cream of mushroom,
dried.

The proportion of fat in the soup prepared according to the directions would amount to only 0.5% whereas cream soups of ordinary commercial quality intended for direct use without dilution contain not less than $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ of fat. The dried soup as received contained 6.6% of fat.

The retailer stated that he would rely on a warranty. Enquiries about the manufacturers revealed that they had left their registered office and they stated they were in liquidation but this was not confirmed by the Registrar of Companies. Meanwhile proceedings were brought by another local authority who secured a conviction against the manufacturers in respect of this article. The Council therefore decided to deal with this sample by way of warning letters to retailer and manufacturer with the suggestion that arrangements might be made to withdraw this soup from sale.

1649 (formal)
Vitaminised iron and
yeast tablets.

73% deficient in ascorbic acid
(vitamin C).

Warning given to manufacturers who
withdrew the stock in the hands of
the retailer and replaced it. They
agreed with the findings of the
Public Analyst and were carrying
out investigational work to ascertain
why loss of vitamin C. had taken
place. In the meantime they
expressed their intention of not
manufacturing these tablets until
their investigations had reached
a satisfactory conclusion.

1668 (informal)
Potted Meat.

Contained 65% meat, including fat,
7% dry cereal matter, 2% seasoning
and 26% of additional water,
whereas in his opinion an article
described as potted meat should
consist entirely of meat with
additional seasoning only.

Enquiries revealed that consignments
of this food were imported several
years ago and this was probably
a relic. The small remaining
stock was withdrawn from sale by
the retailer.

1682 (informal)
Chicklettes.

This article contained not more than
25% of chicken meat whereas in his
opinion an article described as
"Real chicken in a delicious form"
should consist substantially of
chicken meat with additional
seasoning.

Warning letter sent to manufacturers
who had already brought into use
a more suitably worded show card.

1688 (informal)
Cod Liver Oil.

This oil was of relatively low
Vitamin A content and in his
opinion did not justify the claim
on the label that "this oil is
guaranteed to be particularly
rich in both vitamins (A & D) and
is far superior to cheap inferior
oils of low vitamin content".
The pharmacist explained that
the labels were provided by
himself when his supplies were
obtained from a different source
and he was satisfied that the
claim was then justified.

He had thoughtlessly continued
using these labels without
checking his new supplies. The
remaining stocks of labels had
been destroyed. Warning letter
sent.

There were in addition three prosecutions as follows:-

- (i) For selling to the prejudice of the purchaser a loaf of bread which was not of the substance demanded in that it contained tobacco.

A fine of £5 was imposed and the Council awarded £3.3.0. costs and £4.18.0 expenses.

- (ii) For selling to the prejudice of the purchaser a loaf of bread which was not of the substance demanded in that it contained a piece of wire wool.

A fine of £20. was imposed and the Council awarded £5.5.0. costs.

- (iii) For selling to the prejudice of the purchaser a loaf of bread which was not of the substance demanded in that it contained a piece of galvanised wire.

A fine of £3. was imposed and the Council awarded £2.2.0d. costs.

MILK SUPPLY.

- (i). at the end of the year there were thirty-eight entries on the register as follows:-

Distributors of milk with premises in the Borough 21

Distributors of milk with premises outside the Borough but retailing in the Borough 9

Premises registered (used as Dairies) 8

- (ii) Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949-1954.
Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949 - 1953.

Dealers' licences to sell designated milk were granted as follows:-

Pasteurised milk	19
" (supplementary)	8
Tuberculin Tested	18
" (supplementary)	7
Sterilised Milk	17
" (supplementary)	8

- (iii) One hundred and thirty samples of milk were taken during the year and submitted to the following tests :-

	<u>Turbidity</u> <u>Test</u>	<u>T.B. Biological</u> <u>Test</u>	<u>Methylene</u> <u>Blue Test</u>	<u>Phosphatase</u> <u>Test</u>
Pasteurised	-	-	74	74
TT Pasteurised	-	-	12	12
Sterilised	14	-	-	-
TT Farm Bottled	-	7	4	-
Tuberculin Tested	-	12	1	-
Raw ungraded	-	6	-	-

The phosphatase test indicates that pasteurisation has been

properly carried out; the methylene blue test is used to determine cleanliness and keeping quality; the turbidity test is a check on sterilisation and the T.B. test is for the purpose of detecting tubercle bacilli.

All four T.T. Farm-bottled samples (three from one farm) failed the methylene blue test. Very little of this milk is now sold and then only when specially ordered, so it is not easy to take samples.

One Pasteurised sample also failed methylene blue, but otherwise all samples passed the prescribed tests.

Proceedings were twice taken against a Distributor under Section 26 (1) of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, for failing to ensure that a vessel (bottle) used for containing milk was in a state of thorough cleanliness.

In the first case a fine of £10 was imposed and the Council awarded £3.3.0 costs, whilst in the second case the fine was £25. and the costs £5.5.0.

ICE CREAM.

Premises have been registered by the Corporation under Section 14, Food & Drugs Act, 1938, as under :-

For manufacture, storage and sale	8
For manufacture, storage and sale but manufacture to be limited to iced lollies	13
For storage and sale, but not manufacture	120

During the year 17 applications for registration were received (including 10 changes of occupier).

87 samples were taken, details being as follows :-

Ice Cream

Grade 1	62	86.1%	}	94.44%
Grade 2	6			
Grade 3	4	5.56%		
	<u>72</u>			

Iced Lollies

Grade 1	15
	<u>87</u>
	====

The Public Health Laboratory Service advises that it is unwise to pay too much attention to the result of any one sample. Judgment should be based rather on a series of samples. It is suggested that it would be reasonable to expect about 50 per cent of samples throughout the year to fall into Grade 1, 80 per cent into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 per cent into Grade 3, and none into Grade 4.

The results shewn above indicate that the satisfactory standard referred to in my last report is being maintained.

ICE CREAM (Cont.)

Each retailer from whom a sample was taken was supplied with a copy of the laboratory report; where manufacture took place outside the Borough copies of reports whether good or otherwise were also sent to the Sanitary Inspector for the District concerned for his information.

No ice cream is now manufactured within the Borough, but a few retailers make their own iced lollies.

DYSENTERY, PARA-TYPHOID FEVER AND FOOD POISONING.

The number of specimens collected and taken to the Laboratory for bacteriological examination in the course of investigating these illnesses was as follows :-

	<u>Faeces</u>	<u>Suspected food</u>
1950	1202	13
1951	694	2
1952	183	15
1953	129	12
1954	263	8
1955	306	10

FACTORIES AND BAKEHOUSES.

The total number of factories on the register at the end of the year was 266 (224 mechanical, 35 non-mechanical, and 7 works of building construction).

Three hundred and fifty-four visits were made to these premises, and work was carried out to remedy contraventions found as under:-

Insufficient sanitary conveniences	3 factories
Defective, dirty or inadequately lighted sanitary conveniences	23 "
Other offences, etc.	10 "

Four certificates were issued under section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937, that the factories to which they related were provided with such means of escape in case of fire for the persons employed therein as may be reasonably required in the circumstances.

There were one hundred and eighteen outworkers on the register at the end of the year. Eight visits were made.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Forty-seven licences to station and use moveable dwellings (caravans) were granted during the year. Twenty-four of the caravans are standing on the Riverhill Estate which has been leased to a local Sports Club. The remainder are stationed on odd sites throughout the Borough.

There is one site on which some unlicensed caravans are parked which is being dealt with by the acquisition of the premises by the Council.

Proceedings were instituted to enforce compliance with the Order of the Justices dated 6th May, 1947, made under section 57 of the Surrey County Council Act, 1931, as amended, prohibiting the stationing of caravans in Green Lane, Chessington.

Seven summonses were issued. Four caravans were involved, three being occupied and one unoccupied. The occupiers of the first three caravans were each charged with retaining the caravans in contravention of the Justices Order, and the occupier of the land was charged with retaining the unoccupied caravan. The occupier of the land was also charged with aiding and abetting the three caravan occupiers in committing the alleged offences.

The Court convicted on all seven summonses, but in view of mitigating circumstances low penalties were imposed.

The occupier of the land was fined £1 for retaining the unoccupied caravan and was conditionally discharged on each of the summonses charging him with aiding and abetting. The occupiers of the other caravans were each conditionally discharged.

Three of the caravans were eventually removed from the land, whilst the fourth, having regard to special circumstances was allowed to remain and duly licensed.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

One hundred and ninety-eight visits were made in the administration of this Act, and nineteen infringements corrected.

"Shop" for the purposes of this Act is a very comprehensive term and includes any premises where any retail trade or business is carried on.

The number of such premises in the Borough at the end of 1955 was :-

Antique dealers and secondhand furniture	...	...	12
Bakers	...	...	16
Boots and shoes	...	...	34
Builders and decorators supplies	...	...	14
Butchers	...	...	34
Cafes and restaurants	...	...	39
Chemists	...	...	23
Confectioners, Newsagents and Tobacconists	...	...	83
Cycles, Radio & Television	...	...	14
Dairies	...	...	7
Drapers and Ladies' Outfitters	...	...	52
Dyers and cleaners	...	...	13
Electrical supplies	...	...	6
Fishmongers & Fried Fish shops	...	...	15
General stores	...	...	11
Greengrocery, Fruiterers and Florists	...	...	48
Grocers and Provision Merchants	...	...	76
Hairdressers	...	...	44
Hardware, Ironmongery and Timber	...	...	19
Licensed premises	...	...	48
Motor & Cycle dealers and Engineers	...	...	32
Tailors and outfitters	...	...	14
Upholsterers & House furnishers	...	...	9
Watchmakers and Jewellers	...	...	7
Miscellaneous	...	...	67
TOTAL..			737
			=====

THE HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952.

This Act which prohibits the sale or letting of certain heating appliances without an effective fireguard, together with Regulations made by the Secretary of State, became fully operative during 1954.

Thirty-one visits were made to premises in the Borough and where such appliances were not satisfactory seven warnings of infringements were given. The offending appliances were either modified or withdrawn from sale.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

This Act is designed "to regulate the sale of pet animals".

Licences in respect of four such premises were issued during the year.

Nineteen inspections were made but no infringements of the licence conditions were found.

DISINFECTION.

- (a) During the year disinfection was carried out at forty-three premises in which the following diseases occurred :-

Poliomyelitis (or suspected)	...	...	18
Suspected Para-typhoid B.	...	...	1
Scarlet fever	...	...	5
Tuberculosis	...	...	10
Meningococcal infection	...	...	2
Miscellaneous	...	...	7

Disinfection was also carried out at twenty-four premises on request, the occupier in each case paying the cost.

- (b) The total number of articles disinfected by steam at the Tolworth Hospital, or destroyed was :-

	<u>Disinfected</u>	<u>Destroyed.</u>
Blankets	28	1
Bolsters	3	1
Featherbeds	3	5
Mattresses	10	4
Mattress covers	3	5
Pillows	34	8
Pillow cases	9	8
Sheets	5	-
Towels	3	-
Wearing apparel	12	-
Bedspreads	3	-
Rugs	4	-
Miscellaneous	-	1
	<u>117</u>	<u>33</u>

- (c) No. of rooms disinfected 94

- No. of library books disinfected 89

DISINFESTATION.

(a) Bed Bugs.

Council Houses		Other Houses	
Found to be infested	Disinfested	Found to be infested	Disinfested
-	-	4	4

Methods employed for disinfestation :-

Spraying with insecticide 4

(b) School Canteens.

At the request of the County Council nine school canteens were sprayed with insecticide to prevent flies and other insect pests, the County Council paying the cost of the work.

(c) General.

Advice is frequently sought from the Department in the identification and measures for eradication of insect pests of various kinds.

For the convenience of the public a stock of insecticides and sprayers is held in the Department, and these articles are sold at cost price when required. This service seems to be much appreciated.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

One burial was effected in accordance with Section 50 of the Act where it appeared that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body were being made otherwise than by the Council.

PUBLIC MORTUARY.

During the year 74 bodies were received into the mortuary for post-mortem examination.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries continued its grant-aid of 50 per cent of the irrecoverable expenditure incurred by the Council in carrying out its functions under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Grant-aid is not available in respect of expenditure incurred on treatment at commercial and industrial premises, and the full cost of the work has therefore to be recovered from the occupiers or, in certain circumstances, the owners.

46 business or industrial premises, schools, etc. were treated by the Council's staff on payment of the cost involved by the occupiers or owners concerned.

Whilst it is the duty of occupiers of houses to keep their premises free from rats and mice, the Council continued to carry out treatment of infestations at private dwellings without charge provided the occupiers took such steps as might from time to time be necessary and reasonably practicable for preventing their premises from becoming infested.

This decision has considerably facilitated the work at private houses as treatment is able to proceed almost immediately an infestation is found.

The figures which follow indicate the extent of the work carried out during the year. It seems that the rodent population is being kept down to as low a level as is likely to be achieved until new techniques are evolved and perhaps new poisons introduced.

	Private Dwellings	Business Premises	Agricultural Property	Corporation Property	Sewers	Totals	Total No. of visits
(a) <u>SURVEYS.</u>							
Re. complaints Under Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	565	68	1	11		645	
	693	1248	30	98	10	11	23 34
No access (re complaint)	112					112	
No access (re Pests Act)	98	3	2			103	
Miscellaneous	104	4		1		109	324
							1715
(b) <u>TREATMENTS.</u>							
No. of visits	4124	554	15	278		4971	4971
No. of properties treated	462	46	1	19			
No. of completed treatments	691	75	3	44			
(c) <u>SEWERS.</u>							
Twelfth Maintenance treatment (21 manholes pre-baited 18 manholes poison baited)					81	81	
Annual Test baiting							
Treatment of sewers in conjunction with surface infestations					17	17	98
(d) Other visits							
							22
							6806
							=====
2. <u>SURVEYS REVEALED.</u>							
Premises infested with rats.	556	41	4	21		622	
Premises infested with mice	35	22		3		60	
Premises not infested	697	1248	35	98	7	11	10 34
							709 1391

The following is a summary of the several treatments carried out since disinfection of sewers commenced in 1948 -

Date	Description	No. of manholes pre-baited	Takes of pre-bait	Takes of poison bait
April, 1948	1st Initial treatment	218	77	31
July, 1948	2nd " "	77	14	8
February, 1949	1st Maintenance treatment	80	49	18
July, 1949	2nd " "	71	20	7
March, 1950	3rd " "	58	41	21
July, 1950	4th " "	41	20	13
February, 1951	5th " "	57	17	15
August, 1951	6th " "	35	14	6
February, 1952	7th " "	69	36	15
July, 1952	8th " "	58	14	4
February, 1953	9th " "	54	13	8
February, 1954	10th " "	47	16	8
August, 1954	11th " "	16	7	5
December, 1955	12th " "	21	18	14

Results of Initial and Annual Test Baiting -

	No. of manholes baited	Takes of bait	Percentage of takes
Initial 1947/8	384	64	16.666
Second 1948	160	13	8.125
Third 1949	229	8	3.493
Fourth 1950	250	9	3.600
Fifth 1951	200	11	5.500
Sixth 1952	201	7	5.473
Seventh 1953	179	7	3.91

In December the twelfth maintenance treatment of the Corporation's sewer system was carried out as follows:-

Area	No. of manholes pre-baited	No. of manholes showing takes of pre-bait and subsequently poison baited	No. of manholes showing takes of poison bait
1	1	Nil	-
2	11	9	7
3	2	2	2
4	7	7	5
	21	18	14

Normally in each December annual test baiting of the Corporation's sewers is carried out, but in view of the small number of "takes" of poison bait recorded in the recent maintenance treatments, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries agreed that this work again be postponed until the summer months.

CONCLUSION.

This was another busy year of steady progress with no spectacular occurrences.

Despite the unfortunate absence on sick leave for a long period of one of the Inspectors (now, I am glad to say fully restored to health) every effort was made to give adequate attention to the manifold duties with which we are entrusted.

This is the last report I shall write of services rendered to the Council under the general direction of Dr. Linzee who retired on 31st December, 1955.

I worked with him for twenty-two years (eight as Senior Inspector) so his departure breaks a long association, and I should like to record my thanks to him for his friendliness and help to me, and to wish him every happiness in his retirement.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

H.J. ELDRIDGE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

In presenting this my last report to the Council I wish to thank all the members of the Public Health staff for their assistance to me.

Since my appointment in 1922 I have worked with three Senior Sanitary Inspectors, Mr. Nesfield until his retirement in 1931, Mr. McClelland until his untimely death in 1947 and finally Mr. Eldridge.

I cannot let this opportunity go without drawing the attention of the Council to the great help given to me at all times by Mr. Eldridge, Mr. Elms, and Miss Cryer.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

N.H. LINZEE.

Medical Officer of Health.