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Contributors

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DORKING URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

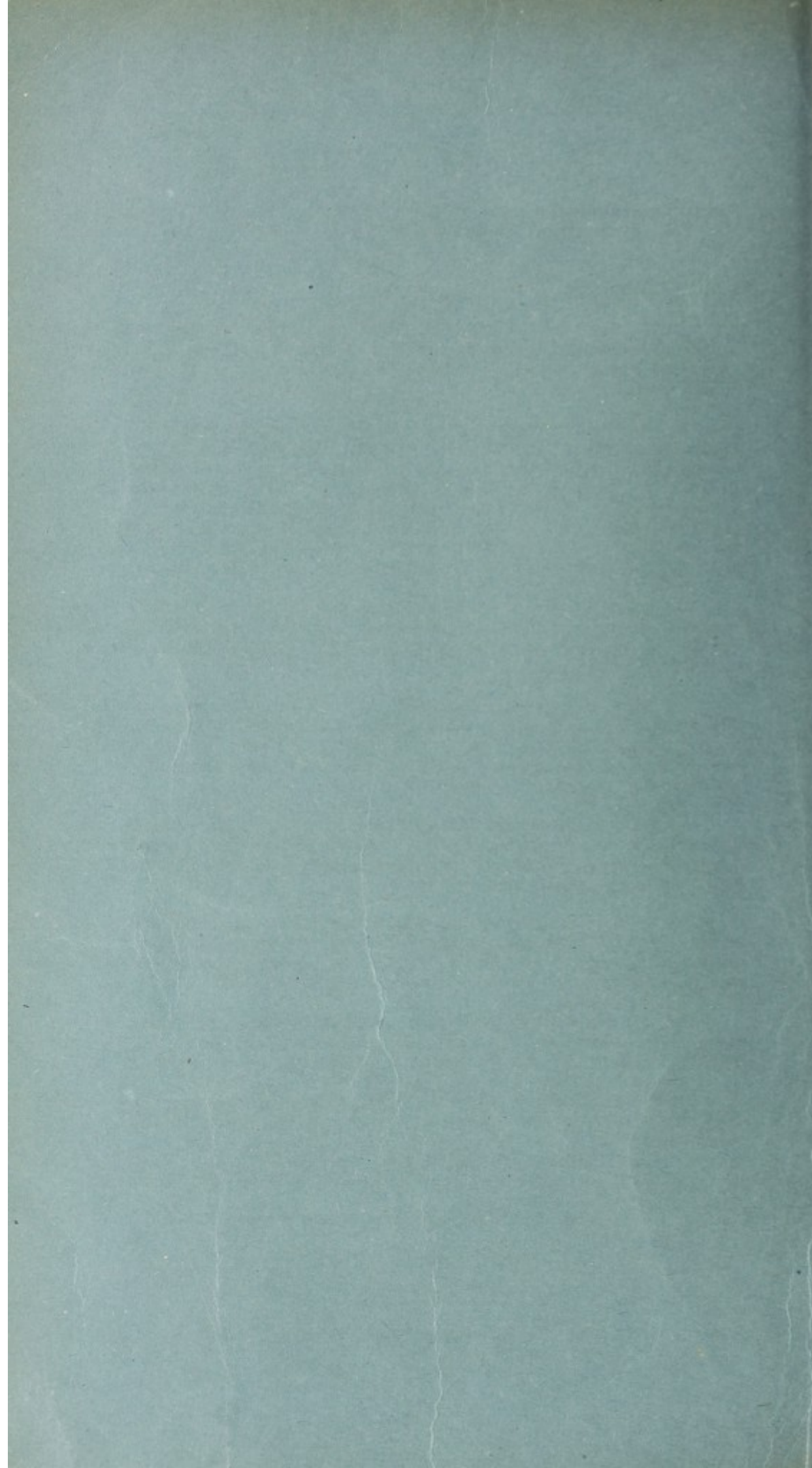
and of

THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1953

—o—o—o—



West Hill House,
West Hill,
Epsom,
Surrey.

August, 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dorking Urban District Council

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit a report for the year 1953, which has been prepared in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 1/54. Under the same cover will be found the annual report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

The first section of the report deals with vital statistics, including extracts from the report of the Registrar-General on the 1951 Census, as relating to the County of Surrey and to the Dorking Urban District in particular. The figures suggest that in most respects satisfactory health conditions prevail in the district, and it is particularly welcome to note that the number of infant deaths fell to a new low record. An unsatisfactory feature is the occurrence, for the third year in succession, of a high maternal mortality rate.

The second and third sections are largely repetitions of the contents of previous reports, but as they include a brief outline of the health and sanitary services of the district it is hoped they may be useful for reference.

The fourth section contains some information relating to housing. Unfortunately it is not possible to report any great improvement in the situation, but with the development of building sites by the Council in Westcott and North Holmwood in the near future there should be a considerable change for the better.

The fifth section is devoted to matters concerned with the infection and supervision of food. The Senior Sanitary Inspector and his staff give much attention to these matters, and other details will be found in his report.

The sixth section deals with the incidence of infectious diseases, which fortunately has been small for most diseases, with the exception of puerperal pyrexia. An explanation of the probable reasons for the higher notification rate of puerperal pyrexia is given.

The report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector indicates that the work of his department has, as usual, been marked by keenness and a willingness to assist in every way in the promotion of health.

A tribute must be paid to the other departments of the Council's staff for their interest in matters affecting the public health.


I am grateful to the Council, and particularly to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their encouragement.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CYRUS IVE

Medical Officer of Health.



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DORKING URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health

Cyrus Ive, M.B., B.S. (Lond.) M.R.C.S. (Eng.) L.R.C.P. (Lond.) D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector

+ D. Allan M.S.I.A., M.R. San. I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

+ C. F. Packham M.S.I.A.

Medical Officer of Health's Clerical Staff

Senior Clerk	C. H. Argent
Shorthand/Typist	Mrs. F. I. Holt
Telephonist	Mrs. M. E. Joseph

Senior Sanitary Inspector's Clerk

Mrs. E. Bloxham

Rodent Operator

G. Anscomb

(The Medical Officer of Health and his Clerical Assistants act in a similar capacity for the Borough of Epsom and Ewell, the Urban District of Leatherhead and the Rural District of Dorking and Horley.)

+ Holds the Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR
THE YEAR 1953.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (Acres)	9,511
Population (Census 1951)	20,252
Population (Estimated mid-year 1953)	20,100
Density (persons per acre)	2.11
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books at 31st December, 1953	5,511
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1953	£210,793
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£847

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Live Births

Total Male Female

Total Live Births	253	132	121	Birth rate per	
Legitimate	236	124	112	1,000 population	12.6
Illegitimate	17	8	9		
				Standardised	
				Birth rate	13.6

Still Births

Total Still Births	10	5	5	Rate per 1,000	
Legitimate	9	5	4	total live and	
Illegitimate	1	-	1	still births	38.0
				Rate per 1,000	
				population	0.50

Deaths

(net)

270	142	128	Crude death rate	13.4
			Standardised	
			death rate	11.1

Deaths of all infants under 1 year of age

Total infant deaths	2	1	1
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Deaths of infants under 1 month of age

Total Neonatal deaths	2	1	1
Legitimate	2	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births 7.9

Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 8.5

Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births -

<u>Maternal Mortality</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) Births</u>
Puerperal Sepsis	-	-
Toxaemia of Pregnancy	1	3.8
Abortion	1	3.8
Other Maternal Causes	-	-

<u>Deaths from:</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>
Measles (all ages)	-
Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-
Neoplasm (Cancer etc)(all ages)	52

Table I shows a comparison of the vital statistics of the year for the district with those of England and Wales.

Table II shows a comparison of birth, death and infant mortality rates for the district since 1931, with the figures for England and Wales during the same period.

BIRTHS

Live births numbered 253, of which 132 were males and 121 females, representing a birth-rate of 12.6 per 1,000 of the population, compared with the rate of 15.5 for England and Wales. The birth rate is the lowest so far recorded in this district. The number of deaths assigned to the area exceeded the number of births by 17.

A comparability factor (1.08) has been supplied by the Registrar-General, allowing for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas for use when comparing the local rate with those of other districts. If this is applied to the local rate the figure is raised to 13.6.

Ten still births were registered during the year, giving a still-birth rate of 0.50 compared with the rate of 0.35 per 1,000 population for England and Wales.

DEATHS

The deaths registered in the area after correction for inward and outward transfers numbered 270, representing a crude death rate of 13.4 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, compared with the figure of 11.4 for England and Wales. The total included 142 males and 128 females.

A comparability factor (0.83) has been provided by the Registrar-General which may be applied to the crude death rate for use in comparing the local death rate with those of other areas. The factor makes allowance for the differing age and sex distribution of district populations. Application of the factor to the local rate reduces it from 13.4 to 11.1.

The death rate was 1 per 1,000 higher than in 1952. The causes of death are set out in Table III. Heart disease, diseases of the circulatory system and cancer were again the most frequent causes of death in the older age groups. Compared with the previous year the most noticeable increases were in the groups in which deaths were caused by neoplasms, by heart and circulatory diseases, and to a lesser extent by infections of the respiratory tract. Approximately 40% of deaths took place in hospitals, nursing homes and hostels. The average age at death was 68.4 years for males and 68.8 years for females.

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of children under the age of one year numbered 2, and the infant mortality rate was 7.9 per 1,000 births. Comparable figures for 1952 were 6 deaths and an infant mortality rate of 21.2

Both deaths occurred within 2 days of birth and were attributed to prematurity. These are the lowest figures for infant mortality so far recorded in this district, and are evidence of the care with which modern methods of infant welfare are being applied by all concerned with the health of children.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Two deaths were reported to have occurred in connection with pregnancy during the year giving a maternal mortality rate of 7.6.

It is disturbing to note that there have been 6 maternal deaths in the period 1951 - 1953 in which time there were 832 births. The maternal mortality rate for this series was 7.2 per 1,000 births, including live and still births. The rate for England and Wales over the same period was 0.76.

Three of the six deaths were due to abortion or complications of abortion, none of which were induced for therapeutic reasons by medical practitioners. Presumably, therefore, it was some sociological cause in each case which was the deciding factor in determining that pregnancy should be terminated under conditions which would aggravate the dangers associated with abortion. Possibly the focussing of attention on what has happened in the past three years may produce a hesitation in the mind of anyone whom circumstances may encourage to contemplate abortion as a solution to social difficulties.

One maternal death in this series was caused by eclampsia and toxæmia of pregnancy, conditions which can occur in quite unforeseen circumstances and which can only be detected in their early stages by regular and complete ante-natal examinations, including the frequent testing of urine and observation of blood pressure. Every pregnant woman should make certain that these are carried out, either by arrangement with her doctor or midwife, or by attendance at the ante-natal clinic of the Surrey County Council. The fifth death in the series was due to an accident connected with a general anaesthetic, the administration of which was necessary so that instrumental delivery could be effected. Complications following a surgical procedure to induce labour caused the sixth death.

CENSUS 1951

The following details of the population of the Urban District are extracted from the report of the Registrar-General on the County of Surrey on information obtained at the Census taken in 1951. The figures relating to the Dorking Urban District are for that area as it was constituted in 1933.

Growth of Population

The table shows the growth of population which has taken place in the period 1921 - 1951.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Persons per acre</u>
1921	13,207	5,926	7,281	1.4
1931	15,204	6,939	8,265	1.6
1951	20,252	9,262	10,990	2.1

Percentage increase of Population

1921 - 1931	15.1	
1931 - 1951	33.2	(Natural increase 7.6 (Migration 25.6)

Geographical Distribution of the Population

The following table shows the changes which have taken place in the population of the Wards in the period 1921 - 1951, with the density of persons per acre for 1951.

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Acreage</u>	<u>Population</u>			<u>Persons per acre</u> <u>1951</u>
		<u>1921</u>	<u>1931</u>	<u>1951</u>	
BROCKHAM	2,135	1,086	1,504	2,903	1.4
MICKLEHAM	2,851	805	815	1,245	0.4
NORTH EAST	687	1,329	1,550	2,273	3.3
NORTH HOLMWOOD	1,405	1,206	1,159	2,154	1.5
NORTH WEST	369	2,436	2,332	2,799	7.6
SOUTH EAST	397	2,445	3,663	4,008	10.1
SOUTH WEST	273	2,308	2,566	2,856	10.5
WESTCOTT	1,394	1,592	1,615	2,014	1.4

Percentage Distribution of Population by Age

	<u>Years</u>				
	<u>0 - 4</u>	<u>5 - 14</u>	<u>15 - 44</u>	<u>45 - 64</u>	<u>65 & over</u>
ENGLAND AND WALES	8.5	13.7	42.7	24.2	10.9
COUNTY OF SURREY	7.8	13.0	41.5	25.8	11.9
DORKING URBAN DISTRICT	7.8	13.5	39.5	25.4	13.8

For comparison the figures for 1931 were:

ENGLAND AND WALES	7.5	16.3	47.1	21.7	7.4
COUNTY OF SURREY	6.7	14.1	48.4	22.8	8.0
DORKING URBAN DISTRICT	6.6	13.7	45.3	24.4	10.0

These figures emphasise the shift which has taken place into the older age groups at the expense of the 15 - 44 year group.

LABORATORY FACILITIES

Laboratories available to medical practitioners are situated at the East Surrey and St. John's Hospitals, Redhill. Examination of specimens in connection with the diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases can be referred to the Public Health Laboratory of the Medical Research Council situated at West Hill House, Epsom.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The public ambulance service is under the control of the Surrey County Council, who have given the following information regarding the use of the service:-

The main ambulance station for the area is the Smallfields Section of the Redhill County Hospital (Telephone Smallfields 271) with a sub-station at Harrowlands, South Terrace, Dorking.

In accidents in the home or elsewhere or in any sudden illness in the streets or public places, any responsible person may call the ambulance to remove the patient (if by telephone use the local Emergency Calling System). Normal maternity cases will be removed if the applicant can give evidence that a maternity bed has been booked. Maternity cases with serious complications, or where birth is imminent, will not normally be moved without the authority of a doctor or certified midwife who should travel with the patient in the ambulance. The removal of other cases of illness or accident will be arranged by the hospital concerned or by the medical practitioner in charge of the patient. For private removals a written request accompanied by a doctor's certificate should be made to the County Medical Officer for his consideration. Provided that these requirements are fulfilled, no charge will be made to users.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRESCare of Mothers, Young Children, etc.

The provision of services relating to the care of mothers and young children, midwifery, health visiting, home nursing, ambulance and domestic help are the responsibility of the Surrey County Council as local health authority. Day-to-day administration has been delegated to the Southern Division Health Sub-Committee and its officers, with headquarters at Caberfeigh, Hatchlands Road, Redhill, (Telephone No. Redhill 3206).

IMMUNISATION AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough and vaccination against smallpox can be obtained from medical practitioners under the terms of the National Health Service Act, or on application at the County Council Health Centres. Figures relating to the numbers treated will be found in Section 6 of this Report.

TUBERCULOSIS

The Chest Clinic, administered by the Hospital Board, is held at the Clinic in Dene Street, Dorking, by an arrangement with the Surrey County Council which dates from 1946. Prior to that year the County Council was responsible for the tuberculosis service, and in this is to be found the reason for what in our present knowledge can only be described as unsatisfactory planning.

The work of the Chest Clinic has increased considerably since the war and it is certain that with the renewed interest which is being shown in the control of tuberculosis, that increased demands will be made of the accommodation at the Dene Street Clinic. At the same time the health services of the County Council relating to the health of mothers and children continues to expand. It is now very desirable that the combination of these services in the same building should cease, and that accommodation for the Chest Clinic should be found elsewhere.

FAMILY PLANNING ASSOCIATION'S CLINIC

A branch of the Family Planning Association is active in the district. It provides a weekly clinic at the Redhill County Hospital with the consent of the Hospital Management Committee and the Medical Superintendent. The medical staff is appointed by the Association and is assisted by voluntary workers. The work of the Association is concerned with the teaching of contraception to married persons, and also with the investigation of sub-fertility.

Enquiries concerning appointments should be made to Mrs. Ryan, Little Abbots, Betchworth (Telephone Dawes Green 234).

A time-table of clinics available is set out below:

Ante-natal Clinic	Dorking General Hospital	Fridays 9.30 a.m.
Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics	S.C.C. Clinic, Dene St. Dorking	Mons. & Weds. 2 - 4 p.m.
	Brockham Homes, Brockham (Voluntary)	1st & 3rd Frid. 2 p.m.
	The Reading Room, Westcott	2nd & 4th Mons. 2 p.m.
	The Brodie Hall, Box Hill	Weds. 2 p.m.
	Village Hall, N. Holmwood	2nd & 4th Weds. 2 p.m.
		1st & 3rd Thurs. 2 p.m.
General School Medical	S.C.C. Clinic, Dene St.	Tues. 9.30 a.m. - 12 noon
Minor Ailments Clinic	Dorking	Mons. 9.30 a.m.
Dental Clinic	"	By Appointment
Eye Clinic	"	By Appointment
Tuberculosis Dispensary	"	Frid. 10 a.m.
Family Planning Association Clinic	Redhill County Hospital	Tues. 6 - 7.30 p.m.

Time-table of Clinics (cont.)

Venereal Diseases Clinics	Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford	Males: Tues. & Fri. 5 - 7 p.m. Females: Mons. 2 - 7 p.m. Thurs. 9.30 - 11 a.m.
	Redhill County Hospital Earlswood Common	Males: Mons. 5 - 7 p.m. Females: Weds. 5 - 7 p.m.

(And at the Out-patient Departments of many London Hospitals)

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

Section 47 of this Act gave power to local authorities to take steps to deal with persons suffering from chronic illness or infirmity, who for one reason or another are not receiving proper care and attention, and who are unable to manage for themselves. As might be expected, the majority of these are old people who, in addition to physical illness, have some loss of mental power sufficient to curtail their reasoning powers, but not serious enough to require their admission to hospitals for mental illness. There is a tendency for some of these old people to cut themselves off from relatives and friends and to refuse all help, and the conditions in which they live may reach a deplorable state of neglect before it is realised by relatives or neighbours that the matter should be reported to the Medical Officer of Health or to the Welfare Officer. Removal to hospital or other institution may then be a matter of some urgency to safeguard the invalid's life and to permit the removal of filth and rubbish from the existing accommodation.

Under the 1948 Act, power was given to the local authority to apply to the Magistrates Court for an Order to obtain the compulsory removal, for a period not exceeding three months, of a person found in such conditions. As the result of experience, it was found that the time taken to comply with the legal requirements of the Act in obtaining an Order for compulsory removal was so long that the practical value of the powers given by the Act to local authorities was curtailed. An amending Act which came into force in 1951 enables authorities to adopt a more expeditious procedure in cases requiring urgent attention.

No action was taken under this section during the year.

WATER

The district's supply is provided by two companies, Mickleham, Boxhill and Brockham by the East Surrey Water Company, and the remainder of the area by the Dorking Water Company.

The bulk of the water supplied by the East Surrey Water Company is obtained from borings into chalk at Purley, Kenley and Leatherhead. Before distribution it is softened by the addition of lime and dechlorinated after an adequate period of contact. The methods of purification in use are adequate to deal with any possible pollution which might occur.

The Dorking Water Company obtains its water from a series of fifteen wells situated a little to the south of the Pippbrook stream shortly before it reaches the western outskirts of Dorking. The boreholes extend to a depth of 130 feet into the Folkestone beds, from which the water is siphoned to a reservoir at the works. After chlorination it is pumped into covered service reservoirs.

The district is fortunate in the quality and adequacy of its water supplies.

Reports on 3 samples of the Dorking Water Company's supply were received, all of which were satisfactory, except one from a standpipe on a new building site, which indicated the need for additional flushing of the new lengths of main.

The system of weekly sampling in rotation by the various local authorities served by the East Surrey Water Company has continued.

As will be seen by the following figures, the great majority of houses are provided with a piped water supply delivered internally:-

Dwelling-houses supplied by wells	3
" " " " standpipes	21
" " " " piped main supply	5,477
" " " " piped private supply	3
" " " " other means	3

Several additional standpipes on main supplies have been installed at camp sites where caravans and temporary structures are being permanently occupied.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

At the beginning of March, the collection of house refuse, formerly on a weekly basis in the town area and fortnightly in the villages, was re-organised by the Engineer and Surveyor to provide a weekly collection throughout the area. There is no doubt that the change has proved of benefit, particularly to those living in small properties in the villages.

The controlled tipping arrangements worked satisfactorily and did not give any rise to complaints. Fly and insect nuisance was again negligible, and the one or two very minor rat infestations were dealt with quickly and effectively.

Public Cleansing (cont.)

The weight of house refuse from the urban area deposited at the tip amounted to 4,873 tons 1 cwt. Trade refuse was 122 tons 5 cwts. The arrangement for trade refuse is that traders can deposit their refuse on payment of a small charge, except in the case of putrescible matter from food premises, which is accepted free in the interests of public health to prevent accumulations which might give rise to flies or other pests on the trade premises concerned. On arrival at the tip, such refuse is deposited at the foot of the "working face" and then covered. No collection of trade refuse is made by the Council.

Refuse accepted from adjacent parts of the Dorking and Horley Rural District totalled 338 tons 14 cwts, an appropriate charge being made.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

At the end of the year the position with regard to sewage disposal remained as previously reported - the Pixham Lane Works, consisting of settling tanks, filters and humus tanks, with effluent discharging into the River Mole, and sludge pumped on to land on the lower slopes of Box Hill, continued to deal with sewage from the Dorking, Mickleham and Westcott sections of the district; while the Brockham Works consisting of detritus tanks, settling tanks, the effluent discharging into the River Mole, continued to contend, loaded to capacity, with the sewage from Brockham, North Holmwood and adjacent points of the Dorking and Horley Rural District.

During the year the Council's Engineer and Surveyor reported from time to time on the serious problems which arose, particularly as a result of the overloading of the Brockham Sewage Works. Some adverse reports on effluent were received from the Thames Conservancy, and residents in the Brockham area complained of the smells which emanated from the works.

In due course, when the proposed Main Drainage Scheme is an accomplished fact, such trouble should be eliminated. As an interim measure, however, the Engineer in November suggested certain temporary works involving the use of two disused settling tanks at the old Holmwood Sewage Works, and the addition there of two small temporary tanks and a portable sludge pump, these being intended to reduce the amount of sludge arriving at the Brockham Works. The Council approved the suggestion.

It could also be mentioned that the consideration of the Main Drainage proposals by an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was fixed for the 7th January, 1954.

In former years I have made frequent reference to the cesspool problem in the Box Hill area. The Engineer and Surveyor, in December, 1953, submitted a report to the Public Health Committee on this subject, and proposed the laying of a sewer from a suitable point on Box Hill to a tank near the foot of the hill, so that the sewage from this tank could then be irrigated over farm land in the same way as the sludge from the Pixham Works is treated. The proposal would enable the cesspool emptiers to discharge their contents at the head of the sewer and so save the constant journeyings between Box Hill and the Pixham Works.

The scheme was approved by the Council, who resolved to make immediate application for sanction to the raising of a loan in order that the scheme might be considered by the Inspector of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in conjunction with the Main Drainage Scheme.

CAMP SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

Sites in respect of which licences were issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, authorising their use for moveable dwellings, numbered 13.

In addition, licences to erect or station and use a moveable dwelling were issued in respect of 9 such dwellings, situated on pieces of land other than licensed sites.

There are approximately 150 caravans permanently occupied, the majority of which are in the camp sites on Box Hill.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the year, 96 inspections of shops were made. The conditions found and action taken are shown in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report, which also contains details of the record of all shops in the district.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

Four privately owned open air swimming pools were open to the public during the summer months. The Sanitary Inspectors made 72 visits.

At one of the two pools fitted with automatic chlorinating plants 20 samples were taken. The first two results were unsatisfactory, but the proprietor immediately called on the manufacturers of the plant, and their investigations revealed that although adequate chlorine was being used, it was not being properly absorbed into the water due to one or two faults in the plant. These were rectified and all subsequent samples were satisfactory.

Of 16 samples taken from the second of these pools, one was unsatisfactory, due to inadequate chlorination. The explanation was simple, in that at the end of a busy day a valve jammed, and the sample was taken on the following morning when repairs were still in progress.

All of the 11 samples taken from the third pool, the smallest in the district, were satisfactory. In this case, the water gravitates to a sand filter and is then pumped back to the delivery end of the pool. Chlorination is effected by the addition of chloros to the water in the pool.

The method of operating the fourth pool by weekly emptying and refilling continued in the same way as reported last year. Of 16 samples taken, 13 were satisfactory, 2 fairly satisfactory, and the last one of the season not satisfactory. Following notification of the latter result, the proprietors, instead of keeping the pool open for another fortnight, as originally intended, closed down. It is understood that the installation of a chlorinating plant is being considered for next season.

The summary of the season's sampling of all four pools is as follows:-

<u>Taken</u>	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Fairly Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
63	57	2	4

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was necessary during the year.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

The number of premises registered under the above Act is two, no fresh applications having been received during the year.

SCHOOLS

Action in connection with schools was limited mainly to treatments for the prevention of flies and other insect and rodent pests in school canteens and kitchens, in accordance with arrangements made between the Senior Sanitary Inspector and the Surrey County Council Education Department.

In December, however, the Senior Sanitary Inspector found structural conditions in the food store of the canteen at the Dorking County Grammar School which not only explained to some extent the undue spoilage of canned goods which had been brought to his notice, but also contravened Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938. He wrote drawing the attention of the Divisional Education Officer to the faults, stressing the dangers of food poisoning which might result from the conditions, and suggested remedies.

I regret to say that, at the time of writing, no remedy has been effected.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

The Council's Rodent Operator also deals with bed-bugs and other insect pests, under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, who gives full details of the year's work.

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES

- (1) Inspections for purposes of Provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspec- tions (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities	26	30	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	100	78	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	3	3	-	-
TOTAL	129	118	-	-

- (2) Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remo- died	Referred to H.M. Inspec- tor	by H.M. Inspec- tor	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient	-	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	3	-	2	-

- (3) The factories in the register are classified as follows:-

	Power	Non-Power
Aerated Water	1	-
Agricultural Engineers	1	-
Bacon Curing, Coffee Grinding etc.	1	-
Bakehouses	8	1
Boot Repairs	9	2
Brickmaking	1	-

<u>Factories (cont.)</u>	<u>Power</u>	<u>Non-Power</u>
Builders, Engineering and Joinery	5	1
Cable Making	1	-
Cabinet Repairs	-	1
Cleaning and Pressing	3	-
Coach Building	2	-
Cooker and Meter Repairs	1	-
Cork Processing	1	-
Crumpets	1	-
Dispensing Optician	-	1
Electricity Generating Station	1	-
Engineering (General)	7	-
Firewood Merchants	1	-
Fish Curing	-	1
Flour Mills	1	-
Flushing Appliances	1	-
Furniture Repairers	-	1
Furriers	1	-
Gas Works	1	-
Hairdressing Requisites	1	-
Ice-cream and Confectionery	1	-
Lampshades, etc.	1	-
Laundries	2	-
Leaded windows	-	1
Monumental Masons	-	1
Motor Vehicle Repair	13	1
Newspaper Fudging	1	-
Paper Baling	1	-
Plumbing	-	1
Printing	3	-
Provender Mills	2	-
Radio Engineers	3	2
Reinforced Concrete Products	1	-
Sausage Manufacture	10	7
Sheet Metal	1	-
Tailoring	3	3
Tent Making	1	-
Ticket Printing	1	-
Timber and Fencing	1	-
Toolmaking	1	-
Upholsterers, etc.	2	1
Watch Repairs	2	-
Wire Processing	1	-

The names and addresses of three out-workers in the wearing apparel trade were notified from other authorities

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Full details of premises visited, defects or nuisance discovered and the action taken under the appropriate legal provisions will be found in the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, with the results obtained.

SECTION 4.HOUSING

The year's statistics in connection with housing are set out below.

The 6 dwelling-houses stated to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation are in Heath Hill and Cotmandene. Those in Cotmandene form the balance of the block in which one was dealt with in 1951.

The Council has acquired these 6 properties and proposes to deal with them as soon as it is possible to find suitable alternative accommodation for the tenants.

I. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:

1.	(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	82
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	391
2.	(a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.	15
	(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	33
3.	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	6
4.	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation	58

II. 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	44
---	----

III. 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	2
	(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
	(a) By owners	1
	(b) By Local Authority in default of owner	Nil
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
	(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	11

Housing (cont.)

- B. (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
- (a) By owners 16
 - (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 pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil
 - (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 the Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil

IV. Housing Act, 1936, - Overcrowdings:

As in previous years the figures of new cases of overcrowding are obtained from the Sanitary Inspectors' visits to housing applicants. 181 of these visits were made during the course of the year.

Cases found during the last 8 years may be summarised as follows:-

	Part houses, rooms etc. during		Whole houses during	
	1946/52	1953	1946/52	1953
Overcrowded by $\frac{1}{2}$ unit	306	48	48	12
" " 1 "	149	30	47	11
" " $1\frac{1}{2}$ units	72	18	11	8
" " 2 "	25	4	17	3
" " $2\frac{1}{2}$ "	7	-	10	2
" " 3 "	2	-	5	-
" " $3\frac{1}{2}$ "	2	-	3	-
" " 4 "	1	-	1	-
" " 5 "	-	-	1	-
" " $5\frac{1}{2}$ "	-	-	-	1
" " 6 "	-	-	1	-
	564	100	144	37

Owing to the very small number of new Council houses completed, no cases of overcrowding were abated by re-housing of sub-tenants. The summary up to the beginning of the year, however, is as follows:

Housing (cont.)

	Part houses, rooms, etc. during 1946/52	Whole houses during 1946/52
Overcrowding -		
abated by $\frac{1}{2}$ unit	180	16
" 1 "	98	17
" $1\frac{1}{2}$ units	48	4
" 2 "	18	7
" $2\frac{1}{2}$ "	4	2
" 3 "	2	2
" $3\frac{1}{2}$ "	4	1
" 6 "	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>
	354	50

REHOUSING

The unavoidable delays and difficulties of the past year or two in obtaining additional land for building Council houses resulted, as envisaged in last year's Report, in this year being one which showed little progress so far as actual completion and occupation of new houses was concerned - the figure being only six. The Council's estates now comprise 681 houses and flats, and four shops with flats over.

Thirty-one houses were built by private enterprise, and 4 other units were made available by the conversion of large empty houses.

At the end of the year 48 families were still housed in premises requisitioned and converted by the Council. Of the 5 ex-army huts formerly reported, 4 were still occupied, the other having been demolished after the re-housing of the occupants.

CENSUS 1951

The following details relating to housing conditions have been extracted from information obtained at the Census taken in 1951 and contained in the Registrar-General's subsequent report on the County of Surrey.

CENSUS 1951

Year	Private Households	Populations in Private Households	Structural separate dwellings occupied.	Rooms Occupied	Persons per Room	Percentage of persons at more than 2 per room
1931	Dorking Urban District	4,051	3,792	20,432	0.71	+
1951						
	Brockham	6,201	5,784	27,969	0.70	2.6
	Mickleham	918	907	3,529	0.81	10.6
	North East	361	354	1,785	0.64	1.0
	North Holmwood	710	672	3,517	0.62	0.3
	North West	579	557	2,721	0.77	0.3
	South East	920	863	4,150	0.67	0.8
	South West	1,143	1,039	5,377	0.68	1.8
	Westcott	972	822	4,069	0.69	0.7
		593	570	2,821	0.69	2.5

+ Registrar General states that no figure is available.

Included in these figures were 152 households occupying caravans. The majority of these were on Box Hill and accounted for the fact that in the Brockham Ward the percentage of persons living at more than 2 persons per room was 10.6 compared with 2.6 for the Urban District as a whole and with 1.3 for the County of Surrey.

The average number of rooms per occupied dwelling was 4.84 compared with 5.39 in 1931. The average number of persons per household was 3.14 compared with 3.59 in 1931. One person households comprised 10.4% of the whole. The percentage of households sharing a dwelling was 12.5.

SECTION 5.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK

As has been previously stated, the Council's duties with regard to milk are now limited to the registration of distributors and dairies, with the enforcement of the relevant parts of the Milk and Dairies Regulations, the licensing of those who sell designated milk, either raw or heat treated, in the district, under the appropriate Special Designations Regulations, and the important function of sampling the various milk supplies, as a routine part of their work for the safeguarding of public health.

In regard to the pasteurising plant in the district, for which the licensing authority is the Surrey County Council, the Senior Sanitary Inspector continued to act as the agent of the County Medical Officer for the purpose of inspection, supervision, sampling and making recommendations as to licensing.

In addition, pasteurised milk is available from four sources outside the Urban District.

Full details of this aspect of the Department's work are given later by the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. ICE-CREAM AND FOOD HYGIENE

These subjects received, as usual, close and careful attention. The results of inspections, action taken, and progress achieved are dealt with in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Report.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD

The Surrey County Council continued to administer the sections of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 dealing with the adulteration of food. I am indebted to the County Medical Officer of Health for the information that a total of 83 samples for analysis were taken in this district. These included 61 samples of milk, 3 of sausages, 2 each of grapefruit juice and whisky, and the remainder of miscellaneous articles of foodstuffs and of drugs. Three samples of milk, and 1 each of grapefruit juice, malt extract with cod liver oil and halibut liver oil capsules did not comply with requirements. The information was also given that within the area of the County in which the County Council acts as Food and Drugs authority a total of 1,672 samples were taken for analysis, including 1,294 of milk. Eighty-six samples were found to be below standard, 59 of these being of milk. Successful legal proceedings were taken against a seller of chocolate roll deficient in dry fat free cocoa matter.

SECTION 6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table IV shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1953, classified according to age and sex.

SMALLPOX

No case of smallpox was notified.

Vaccination Against Smallpox

During the year notifications were received from general practitioners of 111 primary vaccinations and 35 revaccinations performed by them. Included in these are 91 vaccinations carried out on children before they had reached the age of one year, equivalent to approximately 36% of the number of births taking place during the year. The equivalent figure for England and Wales was 30.7%.

SCARLET FEVER

Seven notifications of scarlet fever were received during the year as against 9 in the previous year. Six of the cases were admitted to hospital for treatment. The notification rate per 1,000 population was 0.35 compared with 1.39 for England and Wales.

DIPHTHERIA

For the sixth consecutive year no case of diphtheria was notified in the district. The notification rate for England and Wales was 0.01 per 1,000 population.

Reference to Table V indicates the decline which has taken place in the incidence of this disease.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Treatment can be obtained from general practitioners under the terms of the National Health Service Act, or from clinics arranged by the local health authority, these being held at regular intervals at all Infant Welfare Centres serving the district. These arrangements are intended primarily for infants and others under school age. For the treatment of school children in large groups, clinics have been held on school premises in conjunction with the education authority. The aim is for every child to receive a primary treatment of two injections at about the age of nine months, with secondary treatment consisting of single injections at every 3 to 4 years up to the end of school life to reinforce the original treatment. It is not claimed even with such treatment that absolute immunisation will be attained by every child, but there is clear evidence that the risk of an untreated child contracting diphtheria is four times as great as that of an immunised child, and that the risk of death is nearly thirty times as great.

Diphtheria Immunisation (cont.)

Of practical importance is the fact that a combined preventative treatment is now available against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus (lockjaw). The treatment recommended is as follows: - a primary course of three injections at 4 to 6 months of age, followed by single reinforcing doses at 2 and 5 years and at intervals during school life.

Notifications were received from various sources that 233 children received primary treatment and 448 received reinforcing doses. Possibly some children may have been treated privately or in other districts, about whom information has not been received. The following figures show how the facilities for treatment have been used.

	<u>Primary Treatment</u>	<u>Reinforcing Treatment</u>
Treated at Clinics and Schools	120	403
Treated by General Practitioners	<u>113</u>	<u>45</u>
	233	448

Of the total number of children receiving primary diphtheria immunisation treatment, 112 completed treatment before reaching the age of one year.

At the end of the year it was estimated that 60% of children under the age of 15 years had been treated and were still in an effective state of immunity.

FOOD POISONING

No case of food poisoning was notified during the year. The incidence rate was 0.24 per 1,000 population for England and Wales.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS (INFANTILE PARALYSIS)

No case of poliomyelitis was notified during the year. The rate for England and Wales was 0.11 per 1,000 population.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Twenty-five notifications of puerperal pyrexia were received during the year, all from the maternity section of the Dorking General Hospital. The notification rate for puerperal pyrexia was 95.06 per 1,000 live and still births compared with 18.23 for England and Wales. Reasons for the high local rate are that the hospital admission area extends for a considerable distance outside the urban district; that a proportion of the maternity patients are selected for admission because of abnormal conditions likely to cause difficult confinements with subsequent rise of temperature in the puerperium, and that all patients are under closer supervision than they would be if confined at home and, therefore, minor disturbances of temperature are detected which might otherwise escape attention. Sixteen of the patients notified were normally resident outside the Dorking Urban District.

WHOOPING COUGH

The number of notifications received was 27 compared with 19 in 1952. The case rate was 1.34 per 1,000 population against 3.58 for England and Wales. No death occurred from the disease.

Whooping Cough Immunisation

The year 1953 was the first complete year in which this treatment was made available by the Surrey County Council under its scheme of immunisation against infectious diseases.

Notifications were received from various sources that 143 children had received a primary course and 3 children had been given booster doses.

As mentioned before this treatment can be combined with immunisation against diphtheria. More recently it has been possible to add immunisation against tetanus (lockjaw) in a combined treatment.

MEASLES

One hundred and forty-three notifications of measles were received during the year as against 12 in 1952, giving a case rate of 7.11 per 1,000 population compared with the rate of 12.36 for England and Wales. No death occurred from the disease.

TUBERCULOSIS

The names of 16 residents were added to the register, 13 suffering from disease of the lungs and 3 of other parts. There were also added the names of 11 persons who moved into this district during the year, having been notified previously elsewhere. Thirty-one names were removed. These included 15 of persons no longer resident in the district, and 7 of persons considered to have recovered, two in whom the diagnosis was not confirmed and 7 who had died.

At the end of the year 125 names remained on the tuberculosis register, this being 4 less than at the end of 1952. The entries consisted of 95 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (59 males and 36 females) and 30 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis (12 males and 18 females).

Six deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis were assigned to the district during the year, giving a tuberculosis death rate of 0.30 compared with 0.20 for England and Wales.

An analysis into the types of disease, sex and age groups of the new additions to the register and of those removed by reasons of death is to be found in Table VI.

In Table VII figures relating to the notifications of tuberculosis and deaths from the disease over a number of years have been collected for purposes of comparison.

Taking the notification rate of new cases as an index of the incidence of the disease in the district, there would appear to be little improvement in the position. It should be remembered, however, that at the same time there has been improvement in the methods of diagnosis and that considerable efforts have been made to examine large numbers of people by means of mass radiography. It is certain that many cases have been diagnosed in the early

Tuberculosis (cont.)

stage of illness who would formerly have escaped recognition. Earlier diagnosis and improved methods of treatment have had a noticeable effect on the death rate, which fluctuates from year to year, but which when taken over a period shows a definite fall.

B.C.G. Vaccination

It is obvious from the figures quoted that a large number of persons in the community are liable to transmit the infection. With the increasing expectation of life of the tuberculous person their proportion is likely to grow. It is also possible that there are still a number of unrecognised cases particularly liable to spread infection from ignorance of the need to take precautions. For these reasons it was suggested in the report for 1952 that a considerable decline in the incidence of pulmonary tuberculosis was not to be expected until B.C.G. vaccination was brought into more general use. Hitherto B.C.G. vaccination has been reserved for family contacts of known cases and for certain classes of the community thought to be at special risk of infection. The Ministry of Health has now signified that it will approve schemes of vaccination for school children between their thirteenth and fourteenth years, the authorities responsible for formulating schemes being local health authorities, which in this district is the Surrey County Council. Children in this age group have been chosen because they are entering a period in which they are particularly susceptible to infection, and in which they are likely to have increased risks of coming into contact with infectious persons. A previous test would indicate which of the children would benefit by B.C.G. vaccination, as only those who have no evidence of earlier infection would be treated. Those treated would require a subsequent test to ensure that the necessary reaction has taken place. The tests and vaccination are painless and harmless, and parents need have no anxiety in this respect, and when the treatment becomes available in their district they should have no hesitation in obtaining its benefits for their children.

Dorking and District Tuberculosis Care Committee

The Committee operates not only in the Dorking Urban District but in the surrounding parts of the Dorking and Horley Rural District. The Officers of the Care Committee are:-

Chairman:	Mrs. E. A. Roberts
Hon. Secretary:	Mrs. E. W. Hounshan
Hon. Treasurer:	Mr. A. R. Priest

I am indebted to Mrs. E. W. Hounshan, the hon. secretary of the Committee for the following list which indicates some of the varied ways in which it has helped patients during the year:-

- Provision of Children's holidays.
- Purchase of Knitting Machine.
- " " Wireless License
- " " Materials for assembling T.V. set.
- Help towards house decorations.
- Hire of television sets for patients in hospitals.

It is evident that the Committee carries out its work with imagination and zeal, and is worthy of the utmost support.

TABLE I. COMPARATIVE BIRTH-RATES, DEATH RATES
MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN
INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1953

	England and Wales	Dorking Urban District
<u>Rates per 1,000 Population</u>		
<u>BIRTHS</u>		
Live Births	15.5	13.6
Still Births	0.35	0.50
<u>DEATHS</u>		
All Causes	11.4	11.1
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	-
Whooping Cough	0.01	-
Diphtheria	0.00	-
Tuberculosis	0.20	0.30
Influenza	0.16	0.30
Smallpox	0.00	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01	-
Pneumonia	0.55	0.60
<u>NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)</u>		
Typhoid Fever	0.00	-
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	-
Meningococcal Infection	0.03	-
Scarlet Fever	1.39	0.35
Whooping Cough	3.58	1.34
Diphtheria	0.01	-
Erysipelas	0.14	0.10
Smallpox	0.00	-
Measles	12.36	7.11
Pneumonia	0.84	0.15
Acute Poliomyelitis	0.07	-
and Polioencephalitis	0.04	-
Food Poisoning	0.24	-
<u>Rates per 1,000 Live Births</u>		
Deaths under 1 year of age	26.8	7.9
<u>Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births</u>		
Still Births	22.4	38.0
Notification of Puerperal Pyrexia	18.23	95.06
Maternal Mortality:		
(Puerperal Sepsis)	0.10	-
(Toxaemia of Pregnancy)	0.25	3.8
(Abortion)	0.10	3.8
(Other Maternal Causes)	0.31	-

1871
The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been admitted to the membership of the Society since the last meeting.

Name	Age	Sex	Profession	Residence	Date of Admission
John Smith	45	M	Teacher	New York	Jan 15
Mary Jones	32	F	Homemaker	New York	Feb 10
James Brown	28	M	Student	New York	Mar 5
Elizabeth White	55	F	Retired	New York	Apr 20
Robert Green	38	M	Engineer	New York	May 15
Sarah Black	42	F	Homemaker	New York	Jun 10
William Hall	25	M	Student	New York	Jul 5
Anna King	60	F	Retired	New York	Aug 20
George Lee	30	M	Teacher	New York	Sep 15
Margaret Clark	48	F	Homemaker	New York	Oct 10
Thomas Evans	22	M	Student	New York	Nov 5
Elizabeth Scott	52	F	Retired	New York	Dec 20
Richard Adams	35	M	Engineer	New York	Jan 15
Mary Baker	40	F	Homemaker	New York	Feb 10
John Wilson	27	M	Student	New York	Mar 5
Anna Miller	58	F	Retired	New York	Apr 20
George Taylor	33	M	Teacher	New York	May 15
Margaret Hill	45	F	Homemaker	New York	Jun 10
Thomas Young	24	M	Student	New York	Jul 5
Elizabeth King	55	F	Retired	New York	Aug 20
Richard Green	36	M	Engineer	New York	Sep 15
Mary Adams	42	F	Homemaker	New York	Oct 10
John Clark	26	M	Student	New York	Nov 5
Anna Evans	53	F	Retired	New York	Dec 20
George Baker	34	M	Teacher	New York	Jan 15

TABLE III

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE DORKING URBAN DISTRICT

	M	F	TOTAL
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	6	-	6
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	3	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	1	9
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	2	2
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	6	6
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	18	13	31
15. Leukemia, aleukemia	1	1	2
16. Diabetes	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	19	29
18. Coronary disease, angina	25	7	32
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	5	7
20. Other heart disease	22	26	48
21. Other circulatory disease	8	9	17
22. Influenza	5	1	6
23. Pneumonia	7	5	12
24. Bronchitis	6	5	11
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	4	-	4
26. Ulcer of the stomach and duodenum	1	1	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	-	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	2	2
31. Congenital malformations	1	-	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	19	26
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-	-
34. All other accidents	3	2	5
35. Suicide	2	1	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	142	128	270

TABLE IV

[illegible]

TABLE V

INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN THE DORKING URBAN DISTRICT 1934 - 1953

Year	Average Annual Number of cases notified (Annual No. 1949-1953)	Average Annual Incidence Rate 1,000 Population (Annual Rates 1949-1953)	Average Annual Number of Deaths (Annual No. 1949-1953)	Average Annual Mortality Rate per 1,000 (Annual Rates 1949-1953)	Average Annual Number of Primary Immunisation Treatments (Annual No. 1949-1953)
1934-1938	6	0.36	0.8	0.048	65
1939-1943	2.4	0.12	0.4	0.022	478
1944-1948	0.4	0.02	-	-	285
1949	-	-	-	-	233
1950	-	-	-	-	239
1951	-	-	-	-	208
1952	-	-	-	-	206
1953	-	-	-	-	233

TABLE VI

TUBERCULOSIS

	Primary notifications relating to persons resident in the Dorking Urban District				Secondary notifications of persons already notified in other districts now resident in the Dorking Urban District				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-9	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-14	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-19	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
20-24	-	2	1	-	1	2	-	-	1	2	-	-
25-34	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
35-44	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
45-54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55-64	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 years & over	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
	7	6	3	-	5	4	1	1	7	-	-	-

TABLE VII

TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY

Year	Primary Notifications Average Annual Number (Annual No. 1949-1953)	Annual Average Rate per 1,000 (Annual Rate 1949-1953)	Average Annual No. of Inward Transfers (Annual No. 1949-1953)	Average Annual Number Posthumous (Annual No. 1949-1953)	Average Annual No. of Deaths Annual No. 1949-1953)	Average Annual Death Rate per 1,000 Population (Annual Rates 1949-1953)
1934-1938	12.2	0.73	5.8	2	6.4	0.41
1939-1943	16.4	0.83	7	0.6	6.6	0.33
1944-1948	16.4	0.85	11	2	8.4	0.43
1949	16	0.81	7	-	4	0.20
1950	10	0.51	12	3	10	0.51
1951	18	0.90	5	-	2	0.10
1952	18	0.90	15	2	5	0.25
1953	15	0.75	11	1	6	0.30

URBAN DISTRICT OF DORKING
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1953

Sanitary Inspector's Office,
Council Offices,
Pippbrook,
Dorking.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Dorking Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith my Annual Report on the work of your
Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1953.

To a large extent it forms a summary, as usual, of the
duties carried out during the year, of the results of informal
action, and also of formal action by way of statutory notices
authorised by the Public Health Committee.

Complaints received totalled just over fifty more than in
the previous year. Notices served numbered approximately the
same as in 1952, and the number complied with may be regarded as
satisfactory, leaving only a small amount of arrears to be carried
forward.

The inspection of food and food premises took up quite a
high proportion of time, but I think this can always be regarded
as worth while.

The total number of visits and inspections was considerably
less than last year, yet for some reason, the work was at a
consistently higher pressure. Part of this may perhaps be
attributed to an increasing tendency on the part of tradesmen,
owners, builders, and even the public at large, to seek interviews
"on the job" to obtain advice as to the best ways of carrying out
work, whether it is something for which we have asked or some
improvement or project of their own, and we are always willing to
give that advice. In my opinion, this is by far the best method
of achieving satisfactory results.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of
the Public Health Committee, Dr. Ive, and my colleagues for their
continued help, co-operation and support.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady, and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant, :

D. ALLAN.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTIONS AND REINSPECTIONS

The number of visits and inspections carried out during the year is summarised below:-

General Sanitation -

Water Supply	12
Drainage	307
Stables and Piggeries	6
Fried Fish Shops	7
Hotels and Public Houses	1
Tents, Vans and Sheds	413
Factories with mechanical power	78
Factories without mechanical power	30
Workplaces	4
Outworkers	3
Bakehouses	26
Dustbins	95
Refuse Accumulations	6
Rats and Mice (Visits by Rodent Operator)	6460
Pet Animals Act, 1951	1
Schools	5
Shops	96
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	818
Camp Sites	51
Wasps Nests	109
Fly Infestations	1
Swimming Pools	72
Unsuccessful Visits	219

Housing -

<u>Under Public Health Acts:</u>	67
No. of houses inspected	276
No. of re-inspections	
<u>Under Housing Acts:</u>	15
No. of houses inspected	33
No. of re-inspections	
<u>Verminous Premises:</u>	2
No. of houses inspected	3
No. of re-inspections	
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	181

Infectious Diseases -

Inquiries in cases of infectious diseases	7
Visits re disinfection	18
Miscellaneous infectious disease visits	16

Meat and Food Inspection -

<u>Inspection of Meat:</u>	20
Visits to Slaughterhouses	59
Visits to Shops and Stalls	9
Visits to Other Premises	
<u>Visits to:</u>	59
Butchers	18
Fishmongers and Poulterers	176
Grocers	27
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	6
Farms	85
Dairies and Milkshops	25
Ice-cream Premises	266
Food Preparing Premises	25
Market Stalls	46
Restaurants	62
Street Vendors and Hawkers' Carts	22
Canteens	



Meat and Food Inspection - continued -

Visits in Connection with Sampling:

Milk - Bacteriological	137
Milk - Tubercle Bacilli	8
Water - Bacteriological	68
Ice-cream - Bacteriological	33
Miscellaneous Food Visits	20
	<u>10,609</u>

NOTICES ISSUED AND ACTION TAKEN

The Notices served and the results of such action are given in their respective categories, but the total summary (excluding action taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938) is as follows:-

Preliminary -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1953	24
Issued during the year	91
Complied with during the year	61
Statutory Action necessary	31
Cancelled during the year	2
Outstanding on 31st December, 1953	21

Statutory -

Outstanding on 1st January, 1953	13
Issued during the year	37
Complied with during the year	42
Action in default taken	3
Outstanding on 31st December, 1953	5

COMPLAINTS

Five hundred and nineteen complaints were received from the public as follows:-

Dampness, defective roofs, etc.	29
Other defects - houses	39
Flooded cellars and basements	1
Drainage of houses	15
Drainage of other premises	3
Rats and Mice	165
Unsound food	96
Defective dustbins	32
Defective cesspools	13
Ants	16
Beetles	7
Bugs	2
Woodworm	6
Wasps nests	44
Miscellaneous insect pests	12
Miscellaneous	39
	<u>519</u>

DEFECTS FOUND AND REMEDIED, NUISANCES ABATED ETC.

The inspection of dwelling houses, etc., and consequent action resulted in the following conditions being found and remedied.

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Rooms requiring plastering	14	16
Damp walls	29	24
Defective eavesgutters	25	18
Defective rainwater pipes	8	4
Defective roofs	16	22
Defective chimneystacks	11	9

Defects found and remedied etc. - continued -

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Defective brickwork	15	14
Defective drains	38	36
Defective yard surfaces and passages	1	2
Flooded cellars	-	1
Defective water supply pipes	-	4
Defective w.c. cisterns	10	12
Defective water closets	1	-
Defective fireplaces and hearths	4	4
Defective kitcheners and ovens	3	3
Defective washboilers	2	2
Defective floors	13	12
Defective window frames	11	10
Defective sashcords and fasteners	18	9
Defective stairtreads and risers	2	2
Defective dustbins	31	32
Defective cesspools	4	3
Overflowing cesspools	9	9
Accumulations of refuse	2	2
Defective cills and reveals	17	17
Other nuisances	1	1

NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH DURING THE YEAR
AND NOTICES OUTSTANDING AT 31st DECEMBER, 1953

(1) Housing Act, 1936 -

No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding at 1st January, 1953	-
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding at 1st January, 1953	-
No. of Preliminary Notices served	3
No. of Preliminary Notices complied with	1
No. of Statutory Notices served	1
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	1
No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1953	1
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1953	-

(2) Public Health Act, 1936 -

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Other Premises</u>	<u>Dust-bins</u>
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No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding at 1st January, 1953	18	1	2
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding at 1st January, 1953	8	-	5
No. of Preliminary Notices served	54	1	29
No. of Preliminary Notices complied with	47	-	9
Statutory Action necessary	11	-	18
No. of Statutory Notices served	17	-	18
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	23	-	17
No. of Preliminary Notices cancelled	-	-	2
Action in default taken	-	-	3
No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1953	14	2	2
No. of Statutory Notices outstanding at 31st December, 1953	2	-	3

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

(a) Meat inspected at time of slaughter

The result of meat inspection at premises licensed as a slaughterhouse, but used only for dealing with self-suppliers' pigs and "casualty" animals, is set out below in the form required by the Minister.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned:

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	23
Number inspected	-	-	1	Nil	23
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	8.6
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-

(b) Meat (inspected in shops) and Other Foods -

Examination revealed that the following foodstuffs were unfit for human consumption, and were voluntarily surrendered and destroyed.

	No.	Tins	Bottles and Jars	Weight				
				Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Beef: English	-	-	-	-	5	-	24	8
Pork	-	-	-	-	4	2	21	2
Offal: English	-	-	-	-	3	-	23	4
Offal: Imported	-	-	-	-	1	3	22	-
Lamb: Imported	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8
Mutton and Lamb	-	-	-	-	-	-	23	8
Fish	-	221	-	-	2	1	19	14
Bacon and ham	-	-	-	-	19	2	17	-
Cheese	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	8
Fats	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	8
Tinned hams	-	-	-	-	-	3	9	7
Canned meat	-	-	-	-	15	3	20	8 ³ / ₄
Biscuits	-	-	-	-	-	2	18	12
Sausages	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	8
Vegetables	-	547	-	-	4	3	27	-
Flaky Pastry	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Sweets	-	-	-	-	2	-	16	-
Cereals	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	14
Milk	-	542	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fruit	-	883	2051	-	-	-	-	-
Soup	-	59	-	-	-	-	-	-
Preserves	-	5	14	-	-	-	-	-
Savouries	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-
Pickles and sauces	-	-	9	-	-	-	-	-
Fruit squash	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Cream	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Eggs	678	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	678	2259	2081	3	3	-	25	13³/₄

(b) Meat (inspected in shops) and Other Foods - continued -

When the quantities dealt with have been small, as they usually are, they have been removed to the controlled tip, deposited at the foot of the "working face", and immediately buried. If any large amounts are concerned, they are disposed of, if possible, to approved firms for conversion to other purposes.

The Public Health Committee, at their September meeting, noted with concern that over 5 cwts. of meat and 3 cwts. of offal had been condemned during the four weeks ended 31st August, 1953. This was meat which had been delivered to retail butchers' shops, mainly from the Ministry of Food's Croydon Slaughterhouse. The Committee instructed the Clerk of the Council to make representations to the Ministry of Food drawing attention to this waste, and expressing the Committee's view that this wastage of meat was to a certain extent due to the time taken in conveying the meat to the shops in Dorking during the heat of the day, as it was presumed that the meat had been inspected and found fit for food at the time of slaughter. The Ministry, in reply, confirmed that the meat had been carefully inspected but referred to difficulties experienced during the hot weather in August, and gave an assurance that immediate steps were taken to effect improvements in handling and transport in order to safeguard against the possibility of further losses arising from these causes.

In view of the fact that two lots, totalling 28 - 6 lb. tins, of Dutch Ox Tongues were found to be blown, the remainder of the consignment - some hundred tins - were examined. Several doubtful tins were removed for further examination, and in order to ascertain whether any potentially harmful organisms, likely to give rise to progressive deterioration, were present, two were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Epsom for examination. The report was that all cultures, aerobic and anaerobic, were sterile.

A complaint was received regarding the flavour of tinned grapefruit juice. The opened tin, with about half the contents left, and an unopened tin of the same consignment were passed to the County Sampling Officer, who later communicated the Public Analyst's report which revealed a grossly excessive amount of tin in the opened sample, but 0.6 grain per pound, as against a suggested maximum limit of 2.0 grains per pound, in the unopened tin. His explanation was that there could be two possible reasons -

- (a) that it was due to solution of tin taking place at a greatly increased rate once a can is opened; and
- (b) that as these cans were unlacquered it was conceivable that the amount of tin may have varied from can to can.

The County Sampling Officer undertook to investigate the matter fully and to take further samples.

Two complaints were received regarding the presence of foreign bodies in bread. The first concerned a loaf, the slicing of which had revealed what appeared to be rodent excreta, judging by the size and general appearance of the contaminating matter. The second was in respect of a loaf, which on being cut, was found to contain a large irregular pocket of dark coloured matter. In order to be accurate in reporting to the Public Health Committee, both specimens were submitted to the Public Analyst for examination. The foreign matter in the first loaf was reported on by him as consisting of a mixture of compressed dough with a little vegetable grease, the dark colour being due to particles of iron. No mineral oil or grease was detected.

(b) Meat (inspected in shops) and Other Foods - continued -

The contamination of the second loaf was found to consist of soiled matted cotton fibres of the nature found in dish-cloths or swabs, and the Analyst expressed the opinion that the cloth used for washing out plant or containers had become disintegrated and a small portion had been left behind to contaminate the dough. The two bakehouses concerned - one in the urban area, one out - were inspected by the sanitary inspectors of the respective areas as soon as the complaints were received, and were found to be in satisfactory condition. A full report was made to the Public Health Committee who decided that, in view of the Analyst's reports and the fact that no previous complaints had been received in regard to the two firms, action should be limited to the issue of warning letters.

(c) Milk -

(i) Samples:

During the year 169 samples of milk retailed in the Urban District were taken by the Sanitary Inspectors, and the summary of results is given below:-

Pasteurised Milk

No. of samples	Methylene Blue Reductase Test		Phosphatase Test	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satis:	Unsatis:
130	129	1	129	1

Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk

No. of samples	Methylene Blue Reductase Test		Phosphatase Test	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satis:	Unsatis:
26	25	1	26	-

Unsatisfactory reports on the Methylene Blue Reductase Test could be attributed to any one of several factors; such as the sample being slightly stale when taken, that the bottle had been unduly exposed to the sun's heat during delivery, that the bottle had not been properly cleansed, and so on.

When pasteurisation is concerned, however, the phosphatase test - that which is a check on the adequacy of the heat treatment - is the more important one, and any failure to pass this test is followed up by careful investigation.

The failure reported above was found to be due to a time lag in the operation of diversion mechanism on a day when several diversions had occurred owing to variation of steam pressure.

Biological Test for Tuberculosis

Eight samples of raw undesignated milk and five of Tuberculin Tested milk were submitted for guinea-pig inoculation. The results in all cases were negative.

(ii) Bacteriological Examination of Milk Containers:

As a check on the bottle washing plant at the pasteurising establishment in the district two batches, each of six bottles, were submitted to the laboratory for bacteriological examination.

The first batch had an average mean count of 760, not quite satisfactory as it was not within the provisional classification of a count of not more than 600 being regarded as satisfactory.

The average mean count on the six bottles in the second batch was 384 - satisfactory.

(c) Milk - continued -

(iii) Milk sold under Special Designations:

The following licences for the sale of undesignated milks, granted by the Dorking Urban District Council, were in operation during the year:-

(a) Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

Dealer's licence to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk 6
Supplementary licence to sell "Tuberculin Tested" milk 2

(b) Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

Dealer's licence to sell "Pasteurised" milk 5
Dealer's licence to sell "Sterilised" milk 13
Supplementary licence to sell "Pasteurised" milk 2
Supplementary licence to sell "Sterilised" milk 1

(d) Ice-cream -

Twenty-eight samples of ice-cream and seven ice-lollies were submitted for bacteriological examination. With the exception of one ice-lolly, all were manufactured outside the urban district. Over-all results were excellent, information on one adverse laboratory report was forwarded to the Public Health Department in whose area production took place, and an investigation revealed that, although the ice-cream itself was satisfactory, the tubs into which it was being placed were old stock and proved to be the definite cause of contamination.

Manufacturer's No:	Samples taken:	Provisional Grades:	Coliform present in:	Faecal coli:
1.	12	11 - Grade I 1 - Grade III	5 1	Present 2 Absent
2.	5	5 - Grade I	2	"
3.	4	4 - Grade I	2	"
4.	3	3 - Grade I	1	"
5.	3	1 - Grade I 1 - Grade II 1 - Grade III	- - 1	" " "
6.	2	2 - Grade I	-	"
7.	2	2 - Grade I	-	"
8.	2	1 - Grade I 1 - Grade II	- -	" "
9.	1	1 - Grade I	-	"
10.	1	1 - Grade I	-	"

NOTE:- The provisional grades which are referred to above are those introduced by the Ministry of Health. They are based on the number of organisms in the ice-cream absorbing oxygen, and this is shown by the reduction of colour in Methylene Blue which is an aniline dye. After incubation, the quicker the reduction of the colour the poorer the quality of the ice-cream.

The methylene blue test does not indicate the types of organisms present, but shows the number of organisms as a whole active in the ice-cream. It could be said to show the bacterial cleanliness of the ice-cream.

The four grades recommended are as follows:-

Grades:	Time Taken to Reduce Methylene Blue:
Grade I (Best quality)	4½ hrs. or over.
Grade II	2½ hrs. to 4 hrs.
Grade III	½ hr. to 2 hrs.
Grade IV	0 hrs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

1. The list of food premises now includes the following which are analysed under trade headings and show classes of food sold. In some cases, one business may be allocated under two headings:-

Bacon smoking factory	1
Bakehouses	11
Butchers	16
Catering Establishments	50
Confectioners (cakes, pastries, etc.)	18
Crumpet Factory	1
Fishmongers and Fish Fryers	9
Fruiterers and Greengrocers	20
Mineral Waters	1
Premises registered for the manufacture of sausages, etc.	17
Retail Grocers, etc.	48
Wholesale Greengrocers	1
Wholesale Grocers	1
Vegetarian Stores	1

2. PREMISES IN RESPECT OF WHICH NOTICES OF CONTRAVENTION WERE SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH UNDER SECTION 13 OF THE ACT

Informal Notices of Contravention -

	Brought Forward	Served	Complied With	Outstanding at 31.12.53.
Bakehouses	1	2	2	1
Butchers	1	1	2	Nil
Confectioners	Nil	2	1	1
Fried Fish Shops	1	Nil	1	Nil
Fruiterers & Greengrocers	1	1	2	Nil
Grocers	4	Nil	2	2
Restaurant Kitchens	3	3	3	3

CONDITIONS FOUND TO REQUIRE SERVICE OF NOTICES AND THE RESULTS OF SUCH ACTION UNDER SECTION 13 OF THE ACT

	Brought Forward	Found	Remedied	Outstanding at 31.12.53.
Sanitary conveniences and ashbins in or communicating with room.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Walls, ceilings, floors, windows and doors not kept in proper state of repair.	4	1	4	1
Redecoration required.	12	6	12	6
Floors inadequately cleansed.	1	Nil	1	Nil
Tables, benches, etc., kept in dirty condition.	1	Nil	1	Nil
Utensils kept in dirty condition.	1	Nil	1	Nil
Hot and cold water supply required.	3	3	5	1
Lack of towels.	Nil	1	1	Nil
Insufficient washbasins.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

3. Premises Registered under Section 14:

Registered for manufacture of sausages	17
Registered for manufacture of pressed, pickled, potted or preserved food	14
Registered for the sale of ice-cream	77
Registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream	3
Registered for storage, manufacture and sale of ice-cream	4

None of the four registered for storage, manufacture, and sale actually carried out manufacture, but changed to buying prepacked brands.

4. Registered under Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949:

The entries on the register at the end of the year may be summarised as follows:-

Number of Dairies	5
Number of Distributors with premises within the Urban District	17
Number of Distributors whose premises are outside the District	4

5. Food Hygiene:

There are now very few premises in the district without a supply of what can really be termed constant hot water, i.e. from instantaneous water heaters, for the washing of hands. In the last five years, twenty-four premises have been fitted with this equipment. It has never been our practice to regard the kettle on the gas ring as fulfilling the requirement, and perhaps we have been fortunate in the reasonable way in which the business proprietors have accepted our arguments.

Clean towels and overalls, too, are much more in evidence now, and in general, conditions continue to show steady all-round improvement, though we still have occasion to make adverse criticism sometimes.

So far as ice-cream is concerned, it should be noted, I think, that practically all ice-cream sales in the district, except those in restaurants, are of the pre-packed variety. It is a sad reflection on human nature, however, to see, especially in some of our more rural beauty spots, that members of the public whose health is safeguarded by the system of pre-packing, have no compunction in discarding wrapping papers, cartons, etc., on the ground nearest to them, rather than walk a few yards to a litter bin.

The mobile ice-cream vendors who operate in the district, have vans fitted with supplies of hot water, and carry towels and soap.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the year 96 visits were made. The Register of Shops now totals 346 premises (including licensed premises) as set out below. Each of these is classified under the main heading of goods sold:

Antiques	6
Baby Wear	4
Bread and Cakes	8
Boots and Shoes (Sales)	10
Butchers	15
Car Sales and Accessories	2
Chemists	11
China and Glass	2

c/f: 58

Shops Act, 1950 - continued -

	b/f: 58
Coal Order Office	2
Corn and Seed	2
Cycle Repairs	2
Decorators' Sundries	2
Drapers and Haberdashers	7
Electrical, Radio and Television	6
Fancy Goods	2
Fishmongers and Fish Fryers	9
Florists	3
Furnishers	6
Furriers	1
General Stores	15
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	14
Grocers	38
Hairdressers	14
Heating and Sanitary Engineers	1
Ironmongers and Hardware	8
Jewellers	4
Leather Goods	1
Licensed Premises	46
Milk Shops	1
Music Shops	2
Newsagents and Stationers	12
Opticians	4
Outfitters	21
Pet Food Shops	1
Pet Shops	1
Photographic	4
Restaurants, Cafes, and Snack Bars	33
Sewing Machines	1
Sports Goods, Toys, Cycles and Prams	4
Tobacco and Confectionery	17
Vegetarian Stores	1
Wool Shops	2
Wholesale Greengrocers	1
	<u>346</u>

In addition, the following premises are generally regarded by the public as shops but have already been included in the more accurate classification of factories (power or non-power) or workplaces:-

Boots and Shoes (Repairs)	12
Dyers and Cleaners	3

As the preliminary notice referred to last year was not complied with, a Statutory Notice was served, under Section 38 of the Act, requiring the cleansing and re-whitening of the walls and ceiling of a sanitary convenience. This work was carried out.

Following complaints about the lack of heating in a partly open fronted shop, a preliminary notice was served after checking temperatures under various conditions. Suitable heating arrangements were installed, and swing doors fitted to the open sections of the shop front.

In December notices were served in respect of two shops - one requiring the provision of sanitary accommodation for employees, the other requiring the repair and cleansing of sanitary accommodation.

The position regarding service of Notices is as follows:-

No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding	
at 1st January, 1953	1
No. of Preliminary Notices served	3
No. of Preliminary Notices complied with	1
No. of Preliminary Notices outstanding	
at 31st December, 1953	2
No. of Statutory Notices served	1
No. of Statutory Notices complied with	1

CAMP SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The thirteen licensed sites were visited from time to time and the attention of the owners was drawn, when necessary, to any matters which appeared likely to give rise to a nuisance or to infringe licence conditions. On one site this involved alteration in the disposal of the contents of chemical closets.

Three unlicensed sites continued to operate - one mainly huddled, one a caravan site in respect of which the Planning Authority proposed to take enforcement action, and the third the large site to which reference has been made in other years and in respect of which agreement has not yet been reached regarding the extent of future development, with the result that accurate Public Health licence conditions cannot be finally settled until planning considerations have been met.

The difficulty of assessing overcrowding in a permanently occupied caravan was made evident in the course of the year. During enquiries about the removal of T.B. patients from a caravan on one site, and the occurrence of scabies in the same van, it was found that when all the family were at home, there appeared to be gross overcrowding, despite the fact that the van was built, in theory at any rate if one accepted the number of berths with which it was fitted, to hold that number of people.

The Council requested that consideration should be given to the question of powers in relation to the prevention of overcrowding in caravans.

A report was prepared, therefore, summarising the whole position in various types of premises - dwelling houses, dealt with by Section 58 and the Fifth Schedule of the Housing Act, 1936; common lodging-houses, by byelaws under Section 240 of the Public Health Act, 1936; and canal boats, by Regulations, - and pointing out that no measurable standards are laid down by statute for the abatement of overcrowding in caravans. Although Section 9 to 17 of the Housing Act - those dealing with repair, closing and demolition of insanitary houses - can be applied equally to a hut, tent, or caravan used for human habitation and which has been in the same enclosure for two years, no similar provision is made regarding the overcrowding section of the Act.

Even the Model Byelaws for Moveable Dwellings omit any reference to overcrowding standards.

One has to fall back, therefore, on Section 263 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and prove that the caravan is in "such a state, or so overcrowded, as to be prejudicial to the health of the inmates" so that it can be dealt with as a statutory nuisance.

In other words, there is no provision at all for specifying in advance the number of persons who may occupy a van, but if a case is found which appears to be actionable under this Section an Abatement Notice can be served requiring the abatement of the overcrowding. It must be remembered, however, that if the Notice were not complied with, Court proceedings would be the next step, and before the Magistrates would grant an Abatement Order they would need to be satisfied, on medical grounds, that there was "prejudice to the health of the inmates". Presumably, if an Abatement Order resulted from the proceedings, it would require the reduction of the number of persons occupying the van, and the point would then arise as to where these persons, or maybe the whole family, would be accommodated.

In the parallel case of overcrowding a house no offence would have been committed unless suitable alternative accommodation had been offered to the occupier and he had refused to accept it, and while it is true that this is not specified so far as abatement of overcrowding under the Public Health Act is concerned, proof by the occupier of the caravan that he had made application to the Council for re-housing might cause some embarrassment.

Camp Sites and Moveable Dwellings - continued -

In these days, when there is so much use of caravans as permanent homes, it seems very necessary that there should be some legal enactment to control, by standards of cubic space or area, the number of persons who may occupy a caravan as a permanent residence.

PEST CONTROL

1. RATS AND MICE -

After some years of requiring annual returns on rodent control work for the period 1st January to 31st December - useful in that this coincided with our normal office records and necessitated the maintenance of only one set of figures for this Annual Report and the return to the Ministry - the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries asked that the last return should cover the period 1st January 1953 to 31st March 1954, and that future returns should be from 1st April to the following 31st March.

This means unnecessary duplication of records with the possibility of some discrepancies arising from the different periods covered, especially in view of the Ministry's requirement that one complaint, one inspection and one infestation shall be taken into account per twelve months for each premises.

Complaints, inspections, infestations, and treatments can obviously, and do, occur more than once a year in regard to some premises. The work which is done in connection with these must be considerable, yet, for the Ministry's purpose, it is ignored.

The work could be summarised as follows:-

Complaints:

(a) Awaiting investigation from 31st December, 1952	2
(b) Received during period	139
(c) Investigated	141

Premises:

(a) Under treatment from period ending 31st December, 1952	34
(b) Found infested as result of:	
(i) Notification	136
(ii) Otherwise	176
(c) Inspected and found not to be infested	577
(d) Treated and cleared	329
(e) Previously reported as cleared but which required re-treatment	51
(f) Still under treatment at 31st December, 1953	17

In the form returned to the Ministry, but covering only the year 1953, this would appear as shown overleaf:-

Rats and Mice - continued -

	Type of Property				TOTAL
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agricultural.	All others (including Business and Industrial)	
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	10	5523	30	420	5983
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1953 as a result (a) of notification, or (b) otherwise	(a) -	119	-	22	141
	(b) 10	691	14	71	786
3. No. of properties (under 2) found to be infested by rats	Major -	-	-	-	-
	Minor 5	256	-	10	271
4. No. of properties (under 2) found to be seriously infested by mice	2	46	-	24	72
5. Number of infested properties (under 3 & 4) treated by the Local Authority	7	302	-	34	343
6. No. of Notices served under Section 4 :					
(1) Treatment -	-	-	-	-	-
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7. No. of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
8. Legal Proceedings	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
9. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out					55

In addition, we have an arrangement for regular inspection and treatment when necessary at the following premises, a charge being made in the case of business and industrial firms and Surrey County Council establishments:-

Rats and Mice - continued -

	No.
Provender and Seed Mills and Stores	3
Grocery and Provision Merchants	3
Bakehouses	1
Sausage Factory	1
Hotels	1
School Canteens	6
Office Canteens	1
General Hospital	1
Sewage Works	2
Refuse Tips	2
Council Depot	1

Sewers:

Maintenance treatment on infested sections of sewers was carried out in June. In December we did the Annual 10% Test of sewer manholes in all sections of the district except where infestations were known to exist, 72 manholes being test-baited. Takes were recorded at 3 manholes.

This was followed up by prebaiting and poison treatment on sections previously known to be infested, plus those revealed by the Test. 37 manholes were prebaited, and 17 takes recorded, so poison bait was laid at these 17 manholes. Inspection of the latter next day showed that poisoned bait had been taken at 13.

2. INSECT PESTS -

(a) Red-bugs:

Two rooms in a private house were treated by spraying with an insecticide containing D.D.T.

(b) Fleas:

A severe infestation was found in an agricultural cottage after the removal of a family. Treatment was carried out, five rooms being sprayed with an insecticide containing D.D.T.

In addition, a slight infestation in the staff quarters of an hotel was treated.

(c) Common and German Cockroaches:

Infestations dealt with during the year occurred in four private houses, four Council houses and one requisitioned premises, the British Restaurant, an hotel, a bakehouse, a nursing-home, and the Dorking General Hospital. In the latter case, which continued to be inspected and treated under an annual contract, 49 visits were made, during which the treatments and re-treatments of rooms numbered 441.

(d) Red Ants (Pharoah's Ant):

Re-infestation occurred and required periodic re-treatment at the private nursing-home and office canteen to which reference was made last year. Compared with last year, however, the trouble could be regarded as slight.

(e) Garden Ants:

During the contract treatment at the Dorking General Hospital 35 rooms were treated. In addition, these insect pests created such a nuisance as to require treatment at three school canteens, a school domestic science block, a grocer's shop, the British Restaurant, two Council houses, and seven private houses.

(f) Mosquitoes:

One pond was sprayed with larvicide to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes.

(g) Wasps:

Fifty wasps' nests were dealt with during the year. As stated in last year's Report the practice is that in every case where it is at all possible to remove and destroy the nest after treatment this is done. Where removal is not possible revisits are made and re-treatments carried out until it is certain that the nests are inactive.

(h) Flies:

By agreement with the Education Authority four school canteens and the Central Kitchen, which prepares school meals for distribution to those schools which have no canteen kitchen of their own, were sprayed with insecticide as a measure of fly prevention.

Similar treatment was carried out at the British Restaurant kitchen for the same purpose.

A flat and two private houses were sprayed to clear heavy infestations.

(i) Moths:

Advice was given and a certain amount of treatment was carried out at a house which was badly infested.

(j) Furniture Beetle:

Affected woodwork and furniture was treated in four Council houses and one private house. Advice was given in several other cases.

(k) Carpet Beetle:

Three flats were treated and advice was given on further precautions.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During the year seven visits of enquiry were carried out in respect of cases of infectious diseases occurring in the District. In addition, sixteen visits were made for miscellaneous enquiries, and eighteen in connection with disinfection. Two caravans and one house were disinfected after the removal of T.B. cases, and three lots of bedding were removed to the Isolation Hospital for disinfection.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

One pet shop was licensed during the year. Inspection revealed that conditions were satisfactory.

HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952

and

HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) REGULATIONS, 1953

The Council appointed the Senior Sanitary Inspector as their Authorised Officer for the above purpose. In addition to the showrooms of the South Eastern Electricity and Gas Boards, there are 18 shops in the district which sell heating appliances to which the new legislation relates.

A circular letter was sent to each summarising the provisions of the Act, which came into operation on the 23rd March, 1953, and the Regulations, which operate from 1st October, 1953.

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