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**Contributors**

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# EPSOM URBAN DISTRICT.

## *Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1931.*

### 1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The area of the District is 4,423 acres.

The resident population, 1931, is estimated by the Registrar-General at 27,460 persons.

At the end of the year there were 2,635 inhabited houses on the Rate Books.

The rateable value in 1931 was £92,651, and the sum represented by a penny rate was £360.

The District is mainly residential and agricultural.

#### Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

##### Live Births—

			Total	M.	F.	
Legitimate	...	...	266	130	136	} Birth Rate 10.3
Illegitimate	...	...	16	6	10	
			282	136	146	} Rate per 1,000
Stillbirths	...	...	10	4	6	
Deaths	...	...	176	88	88	Death rate 6.4

##### Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth:—

From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	—
From other causes	...	...	...	...	...	—

##### Death rate of infants under one year of age:—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	53.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	45.1
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	185

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	—
„ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	—
„ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	—

The birth rate and death rate given above are the Registrar-General's figures.

P.A. J.B.  
27/4/32

The Registrar-General has supplied me with the following note on his method of dealing with institution populations when calculating birth rates :—

“In the Census classification of population according to residence, the populations of institutions, *e.g.*, Workhouses, Infirmaries, Hospitals, Asylums, etc., have been dispersed to their home areas where it was anticipated that they would be discharged within a period of six months; otherwise they were retained in the institution area.”

I have thought it well to adhere to the Registrar-General's figures as other areas will most probably do the same.

The chief causes of death were :—

Diseases of the heart and circulatory system	56
Cancer ... ..	21
Tuberculosis (all forms) ... ..	12
Kidney Disease ... ..	8
Bronchitis ... ..	7

Here, as in the other districts, diseases of the heart and circulatory system are responsible for many more deaths than any other disease. There is something in the conditions of present day life that puts on the heart and circulatory system a strain which they cannot stand. I think many people who suffer from abnormally high blood pressure owe their condition to the fact that they eat too much meat and take too little exercise. In recent years the motor car has been the worst enemy of reasonable exercise in the open air. The movement amongst young people of the present day in favour of rambling deserves every encouragement.

The vital statistics of the Epsom Urban District show that, so far as physical conditions are concerned, the town of Epsom is an extremely healthy place.

There were no maternal deaths.

## 2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.—Medical Officer of Health, Dr. J. Williamson, M.D. (Lond.), D.P.H.; whole time, combined District; salary contribution made.

Sanitary Inspector, Mr. W. H. Martin, A.R.S.I., A.I.S.E.; whole time; salary contribution made; is also Inspector under the Petroleum Acts and the Celluloid and Cinematograph Films Act, 1922.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.—Bacteriological and pathological examinations are made at the Lister Institute of Preventive Medicine at the expense of the District Council. The examination of food and drugs is done by the County Authority, which administers the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

As regards all the other Health Services of the Area, they remain exactly as set forth in the report for 1930, and the information given in that report is therefore not repeated here.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

**WATER.**—The water supply remains exactly as in 1930. It is obtained from bore holes, and is periodically examined by the Clinical Research Association. Their reports show it to be of good quality.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.**—No instances of pollution were reported in 1931.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**—The sewage treatment at the Sewage Farm continues to be satisfactory.

**SCAVENGING.**—House refuse is dealt with under the supervision of the Surveyor. Galvanised covered ashbins are general throughout the area. They are emptied weekly, and the refuse consumed in a Meldrum's Destructor at the Sewage Works. The heat generated by its incineration is used for working machinery of various kinds at the farm.

Mr. Warwick H. Martin, A.R.S.I., A.I.S.E., Sanitary Inspector to the Epsom Urban District Council, has furnished me with the following report on his work during 1931 :—

### HOUSING STATISTICS.

#### INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR, 1931.

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| (1) Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) :—  |      |
| (a) Number of houses ... ..   | 243  |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose  | 1041 |
| (2) Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925, and Housing Act, 1930 :—  |      |
| (a) Number of houses ... ..   | 168  |
| (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose  | 842  |
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous and injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ..                                      | 3    |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... .. | 138  |

*Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of formal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	...	...	...	135
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

*Action under Statutory Powers.**A.—Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	4
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—			
(a) By owners	...	...	4
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners			—

*B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	—

*C.—Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	—

*D.—Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930.*

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	—
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	—

*E.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit :—		
(a) By owners	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners		—

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... —

*F.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.*

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... .. —
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... .. —
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. —
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... .. —

CONDITIONS FOUND ON INSPECTION. *No. of Premises.*

Water supply from main ... ..	168
„ „ „ wells or springs ... ..	—
„ „ „ tanks in roof ... ..	—
„ „ „ rain water tanks ... ..	—
„ „ „ insufficient or unwholesome ... ..	—
Houses having water closets, with flushing apparatus ...	165
Houses having water closets hand flushed ... ..	—
Houses having pail closets or other earth closets ... ..	3
Houses having privies ... ..	—
Defective closets, or nuisances from closets or privies ...	26
W.Cs. without flush of water ... ..	6
Drains connected with sewers ... ..	165
Drains connected with cesspools ... ..	2
No drainage ... ..	1
Drains defective ... ..	23
Nuisances from cesspools ... ..	4
Defective sink waste pipes ... ..	53
Insufficient lighting of rooms ... ..	1
Insufficient ventilation of rooms ... ..	24
Overcrowding ... ..	11
Dampness of houses ... ..	34
Defective eaves, gutters and downspouts ... ..	26
Uncleanliness of houses ... ..	103
General want of repair ... ..	140
Inadequate paving of yards ... ..	21
Insufficient ashbins ... ..	106
Ashpits abolished ... ..	1
Outhouses dilapidated ... ..	25
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance ... ..	2
Offensive accumulations (manure, etc.) ... ..	19

INSPECTIONS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, HOUSING  
REGULATIONS AND OTHER ACTS—INCLUSIVE.

	<i>No.</i>
Inspections (including re-inspections) of dwelling-houses	1041
Inspections (including re-inspections): miscellaneous ...	671
Inspections (including re-inspections) of houses where Infectious Diseases occurred ... ..	74
Inspections (including re-inspections) of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops ... ..	62
Inspections (including re-inspections) of Slaughter- houses ... ..	307
Inspections (including re-inspections) of Common Lodging Houses ... ..	—
Inspections (including re-inspections) of Factories and Workshops ... ..	72
Inspections (including re-inspections) of Schools ...	26
Inspections (including re-inspections) of premises, other than Slaughter-houses, at which food is prepared or sold ... ..	43
Inspections (including re-inspections) of Petroleum Stores, etc. ... ..	59
Inspections (including re-inspections) of premises under Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919 ... ..	74
Total	<u>2429</u>

NOTICES SERVED.

	<i>No.</i>
Informal notices served ... ..	342
Statutory notices served, P.H.A., 1875, Section 36 ... ..	—
"    "    "    "    "    "    41 ... ..	—
"    "    "    "    "    "    94 ... ..	—
Notices served under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925, superseded by Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1930 ...	4

RESULT OF SERVICE OF NOTICE.

Water provided from mains ... ..	—
Wells or tanks repaired or cleansed ... ..	1
Nuisances abated ... ..	334
Water closets repaired or new basins provided, etc. ...	26
New water closets provided ... ..	37
Water laid on to closets and privies cleansed ... ..	6
Earth closets and privies cleansed ... ..	—
W.Cs. substituted for pail closets or privies ... ..	2
New drains provided or re-laid ... ..	4
Drains repaired ... ..	19
Drains unblocked or cleansed ... ..	36
Manholes, new ... ..	26

Manholes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Vent pipes, new	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Vent pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
New sinks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	44
New wash-hand basins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Cesspools cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cesspools, new	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cesspools abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Wells abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Sink waste pipes repaired or new provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Efficient lighting of rooms provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Efficient ventilation of rooms provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dampness of dwelling-houses remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	32
Houses cleansed and whitewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Houses generally repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	136
Eaves, gutters and downspouts repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Paving of yards provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Outhouses repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Covered ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	102
Nuisances from improper keeping of animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisances from smoke	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Ditches and ponds cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Unwholesome food condemned (number of times)	...	...	...	...	...	...	58
Houses disinfected after infectious diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Houses disinfected after Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Premises disinfected by request (cost defrayed)	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Legal proceedings under the P.H.A., 1875	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

## COMPLAINTS.

There were 110 complaints received during the year, which related to the following matters, viz. :—

Choked drains	...	...	...	...	...	20
Insanitary and dilapidated condition of houses	...	...	...	...	...	16
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	4
Removal of domestic refuse	...	...	...	...	...	7
Offensive smells	...	...	...	...	...	6
Animals kept so as to be a nuisance	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ditches in a dirty condition	...	...	...	...	...	2
Offensive accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	6
Smoke nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	1
Factories and workshops	...	...	...	...	...	5
Rats infesting premises	...	...	...	...	...	26
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	15

Total 110

All complaints were recorded in the register and investigated; steps were also taken to ensure the abatement of nuisances found to exist.

On the 13th March I drew the Manager's attention to large volumes of smoke and dust being emitted from the retort-house at the Gas Works during the discharging and re-charging of retorts. The Manager, Mr. G. E. Buxton, subsequently wrote thanking me for drawing attention to the matter, and promised that every effort would be made to minimise the trouble; some slight improvement followed, especially when extra care was taken during the emptying and re-charging of retorts.

During the year four statutory notices, and 342 informal notices were served to carry out repairs, cleansing, abate nuisances, and provide dust bins. In all cases, with the exception of three outstanding at the end of the year, the notices were complied with. In no case was legal proceedings necessary.

#### HOUSING.

The repairs and cleansing of 20 cottages outstanding at the end of the year 1930 were attended to satisfactorily.

The cottages, 1, Downside, and The Orchard, East Street, have been voluntarily demolished, the former being beyond repair, and the site of the latter required for shops. As 109, Albert Road was also very dilapidated and beyond repair the owner has voluntarily closed this cottage. At 28 and 30, Station Road (Capitol Garage), three flats have been vacated and added to the garage premises.

Of the 168 houses inspected under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925, and Housing Act, 1930, 27 were found in a satisfactory condition. A Demolition Order, issued by the Council in respect of 9a, Stamford Green Road, had not expired at the end of the year. As Nos. 27 and 29, Middle Lane were also found damp, dilapidated, and unfit for human habitation, the Council communicated with the owners, who subsequently agreed not to re-let the cottages when they became vacant. Both cottages were occupied at the end of the year; the respective tenants have intimated that they hope to obtain another house early in the New Year.

It will be gathered from the summaries that the chief defects found were general disrepair, dampness and uncleanness.

In many instances owners have shown a reluctance to keep their properties in a reasonable state of repair, and tenants have therefore been compelled to do their own minor repairs and cleansing, notwithstanding that 25 per cent. for repairs had been added to their rents under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restrictions) Acts.

Where tenants sub-let rooms at a rent almost approaching that of the actual rent of the house, owners often resent carrying out repairs and renovations, as they feel that they should not be held

wholly responsible for keeping the property in a reasonable state of repair. It is generally known, however, that the sub-letting of rooms is largely due to high rents, and to the want of cottages at lower rentals than is prevalent to-day.

The following properties have been converted into flats during the year :—

"The Rowans," Ashley Road ... ..	2 flats.
54, Station Road ... ..	2 "
56, Station Road ... ..	2 "
"Suffolk House," Worple Road ... ..	5 "
20 and 22, Station Road ... ..	7 "
	Total
	18 flats.

#### PREMISES CONVERTED INTO DWELLINGS.

The stables and coachman's cottage, Wells Estate, have been converted into two separate dwellings.

Each of the properties converted into flats and dwellings have been provided with sanitary accommodation, sink, and water supply.

#### SHEDS USED AS DWELLINGS.

As Mr. W. Honey was found using a loft over stables in Worple Road as a dwelling, I drew attention to the matter. Mr. Honey subsequently vacated the stable premises and removed the furniture from the loft.

Following complaints of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Crosse sleeping in roughly covered motor vehicles and using a small dilapidated shed for meals, I interviewed Mr. Crosse, who stated that he does not always sleep on the premises, but does so occasionally to look after his materials, etc. I also communicated with the Estate Solicitors regarding the unsightliness and disfigurement of the Estate by the old vehicles and sheds in question, and was informed that the Covenant in Mr. Crosse's and all other Conveyances of the Estate restricted the use of caravans on wheels, sheds, or other chattel being adapted or used as a dwelling or sleeping apartment, and that it also gave the Vendor a right to remove and dispose of any unsightly erection or thing. The Council subsequently intimated to the Estate Solicitors that they would appreciate any action taken by them under the Covenant to remove the old sheds and vehicles from the Estate. At the end of the year nothing had been done.

The following list shows percentage of accommodation of the 168 houses inspected, viz. :—

32·15%	Scullery, kitchen, front room, 3 bedrooms.
23·22%	Scullery, kitchen, front room and 2 bedrooms.
10·12%	Scullery, living-room and 1 bedroom.
8·93%	Kitchen, front room and 2 bedrooms.

- 5·36% Living-room and 1 bedroom.
- 3·57% Scullery, living-room and 2 bedrooms.
- 2·98% Kitchenette, living room and 3 bedrooms.
- 2·38% Scullery, kitchen, drawing-room, dining-room, 3 bedrooms and bathroom.
- 1·78% Kitchenette, living-room, 3 bedrooms and bathroom.
- 1·19% Kitchen, front room and 3 bedrooms.
- 1·19% Kitchenette, middle room, front room and 2 bedrooms.
- 1·19% Kitchenette, front room and 2 bedrooms.
- 59% Scullery, kitchen, middle room, front room, 4 bedrooms and bathroom.
- 59% Kitchen, dining-room, front room, 5 bedrooms and bathroom.
- 59% Scullery, living-room, shop, 3 bedrooms and bathroom.
- 59% Scullery, kitchen, front room and 4 bedrooms.
- 59% Kitchenette, front room and 4 bedrooms.
- 59% Scullery, kitchen, middle room, front room and 2 bedrooms.
- 59% Scullery, kitchen, drawing-room, dining-room and 3 bedrooms.
- 59% Scullery, kitchen and 3 bedrooms.
- 59% Scullery, kitchen, front room, 3 bedrooms and bathroom.
- 59% Living-room, front room and 1 bedroom.

The accommodation, exclusive of sculleries and bathrooms, shows an average of ·97 persons per room.

Seven hundred and sixteen persons (including 180 children) were housed in 165 of the 168 houses inspected, three houses being empty; the average number of persons per house was 4·34. One house contained three families, 19 two families, and at 21 there were lodgers.

In several cases the name and address of the Medical Officer of Health was inserted in the rent book at my suggestion.

#### OVERCROWDING.

Eleven houses found overcrowded during the year were reported to the Council. The overcrowding was chiefly due to large families living in cottages with inadequate accommodation, and in some cases to two families living in the same house. The nuisance was abated in two cases through the tenants obtaining larger houses, in four through the sleeping accommodation being re-arranged at my suggestion, and in the remaining five cases the tenants find difficulty in obtaining larger houses at rents which they could pay.

One hundred and sixty-four houses, and 26 flats have been built in this district by private enterprise during the year. The demand, however, for working-class cottages with economic rents is still great, and until these are forthcoming it will be difficult to deal with nuisances from overcrowding.

## PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

During race week all temporary conveniences erected on the Downs, five for ladies and five for gentlemen, were inspected, and found in order.

At Rosebery Park five new conveniences, four for ladies and one for children, have been provided.

INCREASE OF RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST  
(RESTRICTIONS) ACTS, 1920 TO 1923.

No applications for certificates under Section 2 (2) of the Act have been made during the year.

## DRAINAGE.

During the year drains and sanitary fittings were tested with water and smoke in 141 cases.

Drains were re-laid and made efficient, and the sanitary fittings overhauled at 4 premises, and at 19 premises repairs and amendments to drains and fittings were also carried out satisfactorily.

At "Dixmude," Rosebery Road, the cesspool had been cut off and taken possession of by the owner of the house adjoining. At my request the owner of "Dixmude" had a new cesspool built, and the whole of the drains re-laid; an old pail closet was also abolished and a new water closet provided.

The owner of "Ferndale," Headley Road, has had the cesspool abolished, and the drains re-laid and connected to the public sewer in Headley Road.

Alterations to sanitary fittings connected with the adaptation of the old men's day ward into accommodation for chronic patients, and building of new sanitary annexe at the Surrey County Council Institution, Dorking Road, were completed satisfactorily.

The quantity of re-drainage works was 252 yards.

Repairs and amendments to drains were also carried out at 23 premises, plans for which were approved by the Plans Committee and Council subject to the drainage works and fittings being to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Inspector. The quantity of drainage re-laid or repaired in these cases being 214 yards.

The diversion of the main combined drain to permit of the erection of a new building, at the rear of the "White Hart" Hotel, High Street, was approved by the Council, the commencement of the work being deferred until January.

During the year 123 block plans showing drainage of New Buildings have been traced and recorded in the New Drainage Register in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

## SCHOOLS.

The drains and conveniences at all Public, Elementary and Secondary schools in the district have been systematically flushed and cleansed.

At the Boys' School, East Street, the roof and gutterings were repaired and guttering cleansed; the yard paving was also repaired and improved.

The yard paving at the Pound Lane Schools was efficiently repaired and very much improved; a new storm water gully was also provided.

The following are private schools in this district :—

Epsom College, College Road.

“St. Andrew's” School, Downs Road.

“Kingswood House” School, West Hill.

“Convent of Sacred Hearts” School, Dorking Road.

“St. Hilary's” School, Ashley Road.

Miss Grey's School, Lecture Hall, Station Road.

“The Orchard” School, West Hill.

“Sherwood” School, Burgh Heath Road.

Langley Vale School, Rosebery Road.

At the Epsom College the old sanatorium has been converted into classrooms, and the conveniences and sanitary fittings overhauled. A new sanatorium has been built and fitted with modern appliances.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no Common Lodging Houses in this District.

## SLAUGHTER-HOUSES, MEAT AND FOOD REGULATIONS.

There are no licensed slaughter-houses in the district.

Frequent inspections have been made of the two registered slaughter-houses, when their general sanitary condition was found satisfactory, and in accordance with the Slaughter-house Regulations. The respective owners permit other butchers to use their slaughter-houses for a small fee.

During the year the following cattle were slaughtered in the two slaughter-houses, viz. :—

One Cow, 1 Bull, 23 Bullocks, 19 Heifers, 59 Calves, 596 Lambs, 926 Sheep and 548 Pigs. Total number of animals slaughtered, 2173.

The carcasses and organs were examined and found satisfactory, with the exception of the following organs and offal, which were found diseased and unfit for human food :—

Five beasts' Lungs, 5 Beasts' Livers, 6 Lambs' Lungs, 13 Lambs' Livers, 66 Sheep's Lungs, 11 Sheep's Livers, 2 Sheep's Plucks, 5 Pigs' Lungs, 9 Pigs' Livers, and 1 Pig's Pluck, all of which were surrendered for destruction at the Council's refuse destructor.

On the 22nd July the Medical Officer of Health and I examined the carcase and organs of a heifer, when the disease, Tuberculosis, was found localised, and in some of the organs only.

On the 17th April I examined the carcase and organs of a cow slaughtered at the farm of the Manor Mental Hospital, when the carcase was found in a poor and fevered condition, Acute Inflammation and Tuberculosis in the Kidneys, and unfit for human food. The carcase and organs were subsequently brought to the Council's refuse destructor for destruction.

Following a pipe in the refrigerator being damaged at a butcher's shop in High Street, I inspected the refrigerator and found that the sulphur fumes escaping therefrom had contaminated the meat and offal in the refrigerator, and rendered it unfit for human food. All the meat and offal was examined in the presence of a representative of the firm and local manager, when they voluntarily surrendered and removed the meat, 733 lbs., and offal 71 lbs., to the Council's refuse destructor for destruction.

Total weights of meat and offal destroyed during the year were 1,189 and 618 lbs. respectively.

The following table shows number of cattle slaughtered in this District from 1924 to 1931 :—

<i>Year.</i>						<i>No.</i>
1924	...	...	...	...	...	803
1925	...	...	...	...	...	2254
1926	...	...	...	...	...	2699
1927	...	...	...	...	...	2509
1928	...	...	...	...	...	2882
1929	...	...	...	...	...	2478
1930	...	...	...	...	...	2255
1931	...	...	...	...	...	2173

The greater portion of the meat slaughtered in this District is exported to London and neighbouring Districts.

#### BUTCHERS' SHOPS AND STALLS, ETC.

All butchers' shops and stalls from which meat is sold have been periodically inspected, and found in a clean and satisfactory condition. Of the 12 butchers' shops in the District 5 have permanent glass windows, which greatly protects the meat from dust raised through gusts of wind, passing motor cars and other vehicles.

In connection with a shop opened in Waterloo Road at the back end of the year for the sale of cooked meats, pies and other foodstuffs, the proprietor was asked to provide a cool meat safe in which to properly store meats and pies overnight and at week-ends. A promise was given that a refrigerator would be installed, and at the end of the year it was on order.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

No trade within the category of Offensive Trades is carried on within the district.

### FISH SHOPS AND FRIED FISH SHOPS.

All fish shops, fried fish shops and other premises where food is prepared and sold have been inspected periodically, and found to be kept in a clean and satisfactory condition.

Extensive alterations were carried out at 120, High Street, and the premises converted into a fish and chip restaurant fitted with modern appliances.

A building in Depot Road was repaired, walls lime-washed, floor paving made good, and a frying apparatus installed satisfactorily.

At 31, High Street, a quantity of rubbish and fish boxes strewn about the yard were removed, and minor defects to sanitary fittings remedied at my request.

On the 13th May I examined 4lbs. of plaice and found it unfit for human food; the fish was at once surrendered and destroyed.

### ICE CREAM VENDORS.

During the year a register has been compiled of all vendors and manufacturers of ice cream in this District. The names and addresses of seven manufacturers and vendors, and of four vendors, who receive supplies from Messrs. Lyons & Co., Walls & Son, Eldorado, and the United Caterers, have been recorded. Each of the premises have been inspected and found clean and satisfactory.

At Messrs. Walls and Son's Depot, South Street, a sink with water laid on has been provided, a wash for carts laid, and a modern ice store installed for the storage of ice cream.

### SHOPS ACT, 1912, AND SHOPS (HOURS OF CLOSING) ACT, 1928.

The Council having formally appointed me Inspector under the Shops Acts, complaints of five traders not closing their shops for the serving of customers at the times specified in the Act were investigated, observations made, and reported to the Council; no serious breach of the Shops Acts having been observed. In addition, 18 visits were made in connection with complaints, and 12 inquiries regarding the sale of newly cooked provisions and sweetmeats, etc.; in each case abstracts of the Shops Acts were forwarded for the trader's guidance. An Order, dated 10th November, from the Under Secretary of State, suspending the Closing Hours from Saturday, 19th, to Thursday, 24th December, 1931, was also submitted to the Council.

## DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

During the year the names and addresses of three Retail Purveyors of Milk who gave up business were removed from the register, and the names and addresses of 14 new Retail Purveyors added thereto. The increase in number of Purveyors of Milk was chiefly due to traders commencing to sell milk in bottles, as received from wholesale firms without first being registered. Application forms to be registered were accordingly forwarded to each of the Purveyors, filled in, returned, and approved by the Council.

At the end of the year the register recorded the names and addresses of three Cowkeepers and Wholesale Dealers, 1 Cowkeeper and Retail Purveyor of Milk, and 31 Retail Purveyors of Milk in the District. Each of the premises have been systematically inspected and found in a clean and satisfactory condition, the cleansing and lime-washing being done in accordance with the regulations. At the end of the year there were 46 milch cows in the District, exclusive of those kept at the L.C.C. farms.

At one farm repairs to wash-house floor and cleansing of water tank were attended to at my request, as were also the cleansing of cowsheds at two other farms.

A building used for the storage of milk utensils, damaged by a fallen tree, was thoroughly repaired, floor paving made good, and the interior walls lime-washed.

At my request the floor paving of a wash-house and dairy, also roof of wash-house were efficiently repaired, and the interior of both buildings cleansed and lime-washed.

In one case I drew the firm's attention to one of the dairy rooms being used as a messroom; the firm at once arranged for the roundsmen to keep their clothes and have their meals at other premises.

In accordance with Article 6 (4) of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, a list of all Cowkeepers in the district was forwarded to the Surrey County Council. A list as per the Council's Register of all Wholesale and Retail Purveyors of Milk was also sent to the Secretary of the Office of Trade Boards, as requested.

## EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES.

Sixteen samples of milk (8 on 27th March, and 8 on 19th November) were purchased from local purveyors of milk and forwarded to the Clinical Research Association, London, for Bacteriological Examinations and one for preservatives. The Bacteriologist's Reports were subsequently forwarded to the Medical Officer of Health, who reported thereon to the Council.

The total cost, including milk bottles, case and carriage, was £4 15s. 3d.

As the bacterial count of one sample, taken on the 19th November, was high, I interviewed the dairyman, who subsequently took samples of milk from each of the seven farms supplying his dairy, and forwarded them to the Clinical Research Association for analysis. The Analyst's report showed the counts to range from 1,050 to 57,333 per 1 c.c., and in all cases the Bacillus Coli was absent; films made from the cream and centrifugalised deposit also failed to show any Tubercle Bacilli. The report therefore showed each of the samples of milk to be of good quality.

#### THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1923.

Two applications to sell "Certified," 5 to sell "Pasteurised," and 1 to sell "Grade A. Tuberculin Tested" Milk were received, and a certificate in respect of each granted, the fee of 5s. being paid to the Council in respect of each certificate.

#### DISINFECTION.

The disinfection of infected rooms at 72 premises (a decrease of 24 on the previous year) has been carried out after infectious cases, the rooms being thoroughly sprayed with formalin and fumigated with formalin gas, and the bedding and clothing subsequently steam disinfected at the Hospital. Fifteen of these cases being non-notifiable diseases, the cost of work, £13 2s. 10d., was therefore recovered.

Bedding and clothing was also steam disinfected for the Matron on the discharge of patients from the Hospital.

During the year, 2,954 articles passed through the steam disinfectors.

By request 65 articles of bedding and clothing were destroyed at the Council's refuse destructor.

The maintenance charges for two patients from a local charitable institution were waived.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

At the end of the year there were 28 factories and 116 workshops recorded in the Council's registers, 45 of these being Domestic Workshops in which members of the same family are chiefly employed.

The figures also include 13 laundries, 3 being factories and 10 domestic workshops.

In 26 cases minor repairs and cleansing were carried out after informal notice or verbal request.

At 2 factories repairs were carried out to conveniences, and at 1 the floor was repaired and given a fall to gully outside.

At 5 factories, roofs, gutterings and downspouts were repaired, conveniences were also repaired and made good at 2, drains repaired at 1, and at another the floor paving was repaired and given a fall to a gully outside.

At 1 workshop an additional convenience was provided, and at another the convenience and roof were repaired. The ventilation was also improved, and the floor paving repaired at another workshop, and at two others minor repairs to roofs and floors were attended to.

At one workshop arrangements were made for the female employee to have access to the lavatory on premises adjoining.

#### BAKEHOUSES.

There are 10 bakehouses (1 new) in the District, all of which have been systematically inspected, and their condition found satisfactory; complete cleansing was in all cases carried out, 4 of which were at my request.

At 72, East Street, the bakehouse was enlarged, and a new flour store built, in accordance with plans approved in 1930. A new bakehouse, equipped with modern oven and appliances, was built at the rear of 62A, High Street. Repairs to roofs, eaves, gutterings and downspouts were also carried out at 2 other bakehouses after I had drawn attention to the walls being damp through the rain water overflowing from defective eaves gutterings.

#### HOME-WORKERS.

Fourteen lists (7 on the 1st February, and 7 on 1st August) were received, and the names of the outworkers recorded in the Register. Eighteen notices (8 in February, and 10 in August) were sent to other Local Authorities in accordance with Sub-Section 2 of Section 107 of the Act, 1901.

#### MARINE STORES.

There were 3 names and addresses of dealers in Old Metal and Marine Stores recorded in the register at the end of the year, the register being kept in accordance with Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

#### EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES.

The three licensed Female Domestic Servants Employment Agencies in the District have been inspected periodically, books examined, and scale of fees found exhibited in accordance with the Surrey County Council's Regulations and Bye-laws, dated 9th September, 1926. A report of the satisfactory conduct and management of the 3 Agencies was also forwarded to the Clerk of the Surrey County Council in accordance with Part V., Section 72 of the Surrey County Council Act, 1925.

### THEATRE, CINEMAS, AND THE CELLULOID AND CINEMATOGRAPH ACT, 1922.

The 2 cinemas in the District have been inspected, and their general condition found satisfactory. The number of reels and weight of films kept at the cinemas, which are stored in metal boxes when not in use, did not exceed those prescribed in the Act, viz., 20 reels or 80 pounds.

Other buildings in the district used for stage plays, dancing, and cinematograph displays were also inspected periodically, and their sanitary condition found satisfactory.

### PETROLEUM (CONSOLIDATION) ACT, 1928.

At the end of the year there were 54 licences to keep Petroleum Spirit, and 10 to keep Carbide of Calcium recorded in the Council's registers. The 54 licences permit of the store of 35,304 gallons of petroleum, an increase of 266 gallons on the preceding year, and the 10 licences to keep 644 lbs. of Carbide of Calcium.

There are 58 underground tanks for bulk storage, with pumps attached, and 19 stores for the storage of petroleum in two-gallon cans in the District.

Fees amounting to £32 5s. were received in respect of the 64 licences.

During the year three new licences were granted and recorded in the Council's register. The name and address of one licensee who gave up keeping petroleum spirit was removed from the register.

### RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

Twenty-six complaints were received during the year of rats infesting premises, these with a number of other premises entailing 74 inspections, were visited, and advice and assistance given as to the best methods of exterminating the pests. In several cases ferrets, dogs and nets were used with success, and in others traps and poisoned baits were resorted to, with the result that at the end of the year 2,636 rats had been destroyed: 177 on private premises, 160 on the Sewage Farm, and 2,299 on the L.C.C. premises.

At one business premises where foodstuffs were being contaminated and damaged by rats, difficulties arose in connection with their destruction, and the stopping off of rat runs under the floors. I subsequently conferred with Mr. Reid, representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and drew attention to the powers of a Local Authority under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act being very limited; Mr. Reid agreed, and intimated that the matter was receiving the consideration of the Ministry.

In answer to a circular letter from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries regarding Rat Week, the Ministry were informed that as continuous repressive action the whole year through showed good results, it was preferred in this district to that of a Special Rat Week; particulars of the number of rats destroyed during the year were also given.

#### MORTUARY.

Twenty-three bodies have been admitted to the mortuary, and 21 post-mortems held during the year. The number includes 7 from outside Districts; fees amounting to £3 15s. being received for the use of the post-mortem room.

The provision of a new spray over table was an improvement carried out during the year.

#### BETTER HEALTH.

Monthly issues of "Better Health," from August to end of the year, have been distributed to all local Schools and Councillors. The total number of copies distributed being 3,432.

### 6.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1931.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>Total Cases Notified.</i>	<i>Cases admitted to Hospital.</i>	<i>Total Deaths.</i>
Smallpox ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	26	24	—
Diphtheria ... ..	14	13	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	7	2	1
Puerperal Fever ... ..	1	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ... ..	—	—	—
Pneumonia ... ..	20	—	5
Erysipelas ... ..	22	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—
Dysentery ... ..	10	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	—	1

Included in the above cases are those which occurred in the Mental Hospitals in the Epsom Urban District. The number of these was as follows:—

Scarlet Fever ... ..	2
Enteric ... ..	4
Pneumonia ... ..	9
Erysipelas ... ..	13
Dysentery ... ..	9

The age and sex distribution of the cases notified are shown in the following table:—

**Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1931.**

Disease.	Cases Notified.											At all ages.	
	Under 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 65.		65 and over.
Smallpox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	..	1	1	4	..	7	4	4	5	..	..	..	26
Diphtheria .. .. .	..	1	1	1	1	1	5	1	3	..	..	..	14
Enteric Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4	..	2	..	7
Puerperal Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pneumonia .. .. .	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	2	3	12	1	20
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	4	11	4	22
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Encephalitis Lethargica .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Dysentery .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	2	..	10

It will be seen from the above tables that the incidence of, and the mortality due to, notifiable infectious disease in 1931 was very slight. No community, however healthy, can escape infectious disease altogether, and there is nothing which calls for comment in the few cases which occurred in 1931.

**OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM, 1931.**

Cases Notified.	Treated at Home.	Treated in Hospital.	Vision Unimpaired.
1	1	0	1

**NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**—No deaths were caused by Measles and Whooping Cough. Three deaths were attributed to Influenza.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1931.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Mortality.		
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		
	M	F	M	F	Males.	Females.	Total.
0	—	—	—	1	7	1	8
1	—	—	1	1			
5	—	1	—	—			
10	—	—	1	1			
15	—	1	—	—			
20	—	3	—	—	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		
25	4	7	2	1	1	3	4
35	1	3	—	—			
45	1	1	—	—			
55	1	—	—	—			
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—			
Totals	7	17	4	4			

The above table shows that there were 12 deaths from Tuberculosis in 1931, as compared with 13 in 1930. The Tuberculosis death-rate for 1931 is therefore .44, a very low Tuberculosis death-rate.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

As regards health, the record of the Epsom Urban District for 1931 is excellent. It would be difficult to find an area with a better record.

Tuberculosis

New Cases and Deaths during 1931.

Age Group	Males		Females		Total
	New Cases	Deaths	New Cases	Deaths	
Under 15	1	1	1	1	2
15-20	1	1	1	1	2
20-25	1	1	1	1	2
25-30	1	1	1	1	2
30-35	1	1	1	1	2
35-40	1	1	1	1	2
40-45	1	1	1	1	2
45-50	1	1	1	1	2
50-55	1	1	1	1	2
55-60	1	1	1	1	2
60-65	1	1	1	1	2
65-70	1	1	1	1	2
70-75	1	1	1	1	2
75-80	1	1	1	1	2
80-85	1	1	1	1	2
85-90	1	1	1	1	2
90-95	1	1	1	1	2
95-100	1	1	1	1	2
Total	17	17	17	17	34

The above table shows that there were 12 deaths from Tuberculosis in 1931, as compared with 13 in 1930. The Tuberculosis death rate for 1931 is therefore 44.2 per 100,000 population, as compared with 47.5 per 100,000 population in 1930. The Public Health Department has taken steps to reduce the death rate from Tuberculosis, and it is hoped that the death rate will be further reduced in the future.