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Leatherhead Urban District Council



ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF

THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the Year 1946



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For the Year 1946

WEST HILL HOUSE,
WEST HILL,
EPSOM.
October, 1947.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Leatherhead Urban District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1946, which has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 13/47.

The vital statistics of the district for the year are satisfactory. The birth rate shows a rise on the previous year, and the death rate a fall. The infant mortality rate is again very low, and there is a fall in the incidence of tuberculosis.

Legislation which will make important changes in the public health work has been enacted during the year, and some of the effects which the National Health Service Act will produce on the functions of their authority can now be estimated. Under Part II of the Act, the Council will lose its responsibility in hospital administration, in that the Cuddington Isolation Hospital, on whose joint board the Council is represented, will be transferred on the appointed day in 1947 to the charge of the Regional Hospital Board. Under Part III of the Act, the duty to provide an Ambulance Service will fall on the County Council as the local health authority, as will the responsibility for securing immunisation against diphtheria and vaccination against small-pox. Other services mentioned in Part III of the Act, such as those dealing with the care of mothers and young children, midwifery, health visiting, home nursing, and the provision of domestic help, are in this district already under the administration of the County Council. Other legislation includes the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, which require the compulsory heat treatment of all ice-cream unless produced from what is known as a "complete cold mix powder." Shortage of equipment and practical difficulties in administrative control may prevent the Regulations from being fully effective at once, but the ultimate result should be satisfactory.

I take this opportunity of recording my appreciation of the work of my own staff and that of the Chief Sanitary Inspector. I am grateful for the co-operation which I have been given by all officers of the Council when the need arose. The support which I have received from the Council has been a great encouragement to me.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

CYRUS IVE,
Medical Officer of Health.

Leatherhead 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.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

*WILLIAM J. WHITING, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

C. J. LYNCH, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Medical Officer of Health's Clerical Staff:

Senior Clerk : C. H. ARGENT.

Shorthand Typist : Miss L. W. DAVIS.

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Clerical Staff:

Clerk : E. W. BUGDEN. (H.M. Forces 17-10-40—1-7-46.)

Junior Clerk : A. C. MILNE.

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

* Holds The Royal Sanitary Institute Certificate as Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

TABLE I.—COMPARATIVE BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN THE YEAR 1946:—

	<i>England and Wales.</i>	<i>Leatherhead Urban District.</i>
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.		
BIRTHS—		
Live Births	19.1	17.72
Still Births	0.53	0.40
DEATHS—		
All Causes	11.5	9.50
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0.00	—
Scarlet Fever	0.00	—
Whooping Cough	0.02	—
Diphtheria	0.01	—
Influenza	0.15	—
Smallpox	0.00	—
Measles	0.00	—
NOTIFICATIONS—		
Typhoid Fever	0.01	—
Paratyphoid Fever	0.02	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.05	0.04
Scarlet Fever	1.38	1.32
Whooping Cough	2.28	2.41
Diphtheria	0.28	—
Erysipelas	0.22	0.16
Smallpox	0.00	—
Measles	3.92	5.85
Pneumonia	0.89	0.64
Rates per 1,000 Live Births.		
DEATHS under 1 year of age	43	13.6
DEATHS from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age	4.4	—
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still).		
MATERNAL MORTALITY—		
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	0.31	—
Other Maternal Causes	1.06	—
NOTIFICATIONS—		
Puerperal Pyrexia	8.50	2.21

Leatherhead Urban District 1946

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1946

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,187
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	...	16,483
Population (estimated mid-year 1946)	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,940
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books at 31st December, 1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	6,700
Rateable value at 31st December, 1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	£272,464
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£1,080

The district is a rectangular shaped area of 11,187 acres. The northern half is situated on the flat clay bed of the Thames Valley ; the southern half extends on to the chalky northern slopes of the North Downs. East and West it is separated from neighbouring districts by commons and agricultural land, and it is bi-sected by the River Mole flowing in a northerly direction. There are good road and rail communications with London, and many City workers live in the district. Local employment is created by firms engaged in various light industries, in engineering, in transport undertakings, and in agriculture.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live Births:—

	<i>Total.</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	} Birth rate per 1,000 Civilian Population 17.72
Total live births	442	251	191	
Legitimate ...	401	232	169	
Illegitimate ...	41	19	22	

Still Births:—

Total still births	10	5	5	} Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births ... 22.1
Legitimate ...	8	4	4	
Illegitimate ...	2	1	1	

<i>Deaths (net)</i>	237	122	115	Crude death rate ... 9.50
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*Deaths of Infants under
1 year of age:—*

Total infant deaths	6	4	2
Legitimate ...	5	3	2
Illegitimate ...	1	1	—

Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births 13.6

Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live
births 12.5

Death Rate of illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live
births 24.4

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:—

	<i>Deaths.</i>	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis ...	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—

Deaths from:—

Measles (all ages)	—
Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—
Cancer (all ages)	44

Table II shows a comparison of vital statistics for the district since 1931, with figures for England and Wales during the same period.

TABLE II.—COMPARATIVE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Period.	Average Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population. (Annual Rates 1940—1946)		Average Annual Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population. (Annual Rates 1940—1946)		Average Annual Death Rate of Children under 1yr. of age per 1,000 live births. (Annual Rates 1940—1946)	
	England & Wales.	Leatherhead U.D.	England & Wales.	Leatherhead U.D.	England & Wales.	Leatherhead U.D.
1931—1940	14.9	13.3	12.2	9.3	58	33.0
1940	14.6	13.0	14.3	10.8	55	47.1
1941	14.2	13.9	12.9	10.1	59	47.0
1942	15.8	17.4	11.6	10.3	49	26.1
1943	16.5	18.8	12.1	11.8	49	41.5
1944	17.6	18.4	11.6	10.1	46	20.5
1945	16.1	15.2	11.4	10.1	46	30.6
1946	19.1	17.7	11.5	9.5	43	13.6

BIRTHS.

Live births accredited to the area by the Registrar-General numbered 442, of which 251 were of males and 191 of females, representing a birth rate of 17.7 per 1,000 of the civilian population, compared with the rate of 19.1 for England and Wales. The birth rate is 2.5 higher than in 1945.

Ten still-births were registered during the year, giving a still-birth rate of 0.40 per 1,000 of the civilian population, compared with the rate of 0.53 for England and Wales.

DEATHS.

The deaths registered in the area after correction for inward and outward transfers numbered 237. This represents a crude death rate of 9.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population, compared with the figure of 11.5 for England and Wales. The death rate is 0.6 lower than in 1945.

The causes of death are set out in Table III.

TABLE III.—CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE LEATHERHEAD
URBAN DISTRICT.

Cause of Death.		M.	F.	Total.
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	1	—	1
3.	Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	6	2	8
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	2	1	3
8.	Syphilitic Disease	1	1	2
9.	Influenza	—	—	—
10.	Measles	—	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	—	—	—
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (males)	1	—	1
13A.	Cancer of Uterus (females)	—	—	—
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	4	9
15.	Cancer of Breast	—	4	4
16.	Cancer of all other Sites	13	17	30
17.	Diabetes	—	—	—
18.	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	10	19	29
19.	Heart Disease	33	37	70
20.	Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	5	3	8
21.	Bronchitis	5	2	7
22.	Pneumonia	7	1	8
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	1	—	1
24.	Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum	2	—	2
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	—	—	—
26.	Appendicitis	1	1	2
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	2	6	8
28.	Nephritis	6	1	7
29.	Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis	—	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	—	1	1
32.	Congenital Malformations, Birth Injury, Infantile Disease	2	1	3
33.	Suicide	1	2	3
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	2	1	3
35.	Other Violent Causes	2	—	2
36.	All Other Causes	14	11	25
		122	115	237

INFANT MORTALITY.

The deaths of infants under one year numbered six, of which four were males and two females. The infant mortality rate for the year is 13.6 per 1,000 live births, which is substantially lower than the figure of 43 for England and Wales.

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

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

During the year Public Health Laboratory service has been established to replace the emergency service set up during the war. The service is directed by the Medical Research Council for the Ministry of Health. A local laboratory of the service is working in temporary quarters in West Hill House, West Hill, Epsom. During the year 1946 the number of specimens sent by practitioners in this district was as follows :

For the diagnosis of Diphtheria...	...	...	...	24
" " " " Tuberculosis	...	...	...	18
" " " " Enteric Fever	...	...	...	230
" " " " Haemolytic Streptococcal				
			infections	108
				<hr/> 380 <hr/>

The laboratory also examines and reports on the bacteriological conditions of samples of milk, food and potable water submitted by the Council's Public Health Department. Details of samples are as follows:

Milk	63
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AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

(1) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.—Ambulances maintained by the Cuddington Joint Hospital Board are used for the removal of cases of infectious disease.

(2) NON-INFECTIOUS AND ACCIDENT CASES. — An ambulance is owned by the Leatherhead Urban District Council, and garaged at 9, North Street, Leatherhead. In 1946 the ambulance was used for 58 accidents and 517 sickness cases (575 cases in all) and travelled a distance of 7,557 miles.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

(a) GENERAL NURSING.—There are three Nursing Associations in the district, the Ashted Nursing Association, the Bookham Nursing Association, and the Leatherhead Nursing Association, each employing two nurses. The Bookham Nursing Association extends its activities into Fetcham and Effingham, and a car is maintained to cover this wide area.

(b) NURSING OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.—There is no special provision for the nursing of such cases.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

(a) GENERAL AND MATERNITY.—The Leatherhead Hospital is a Voluntary Hospital housed in modern buildings, and provides 45 beds for medical, surgical and abnormal midwifery cases. Normal midwifery

cases are not admitted. Out-patient, massage, and X-ray departments are maintained. A large proportion of patients requiring hospital treatment, particularly of long duration, are admitted to the Epsom County Hospital, which has more than 300 beds.

The majority of maternity cases needing accommodation in hospital are admitted to the Dorking County Hospital, which has a modern maternity block.

(b) INFECTIOUS DISEASES. — With the exception of smallpox, patients suffering from acute infectious disease requiring isolation and treatment in hospital are admitted to the Cuddington Isolation Hospital, situated on Banstead Downs. This hospital is administered by the Cuddington Joint Hospital Board, composed of representatives from the five constituent local authorities.

Accommodation for cases of smallpox is provided by the Surrey County Council in the Clandon Smallpox Hospital.

The Surrey County Council is responsible for the provision of institutional treatment for persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

CLINICS AND WELFARE CENTRES.

(a) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.—The County Council is the responsible authority for this service. Centres are situated at Leatherhead, Ashted, Bookham and Fetcham. Clinic arrangements are set out in the accompanying schedule. None of the premises used were built as clinics, and it cannot be said that any of them adapt themselves well to this purpose. There is need of a series of new buildings, or the adaptation of more suitable existing ones, to house this important service. When it is possible to direct building activity to such matters, the requirements of the district in this respect should establish a claim for priority.

(b) DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.—Clinics for immunisation against diphtheria are held by the Medical Officer of Health at the Leatherhead Institute, and at the Peace Memorial Hall, Ashted, assistance being given by the County Council Health Visitors. Children in Bookham and Fetcham can come to the Leatherhead clinic or can be treated at their respective Infant Welfare Centres.

Further details regarding diphtheria immunisation are given in Section 6, dealing with infectious diseases.

(c) SCABIES TREATMENT.—The arrangements were continued for patients resident in the Leatherhead Urban District to receive treatment at the Borough of Epsom and Ewell Scabies Clinic at "The Cedars," Church Street, Epsom, which is in charge of a trained nurse. The function of these clinics is essentially treatment, and patients are not accepted unless referred by a medical practitioner. Emphasis is laid on the importance of prophylactic treatment for close contacts. One hundred and sixty-six patients received treatment during the year.

The clinics have also been used in assisting persons to rid themselves of infestation of the head or body louse. Experience suggests that body louse infestation is rare in this district ; head louse infestation is a more common occurrence, usually detected by the health visitors at the medical inspections of school children.

(d) TUBERCULOSIS.—The County Council Chest Clinic is situated at 44, Waterloo Road, Epsom.

(e) VENEREAL DISEASE CLINICS.—The arrangements made by the County Council are set out in the accompanying time-table.

(f) BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE.—The South London Blood Transfusion Depot, situated at Benhill Avenue, Sutton, Surrey (Telephone No. Vigilant 0068) has a day-and-night service for the issuing of blood for transfusion purposes. This can be obtained by medical practitioners on application direct to them.

TIME-TABLE OF CLINICS.

<i>Ante-natal Clinic ...</i>	<i>... The Institute, High Street, Leatherhead.</i>	1st, 3rd and 5th Fridays at 1.30 p.m.
<i>Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics</i>	(1) Peace Memorial Hall, Ashted.	Tuesday, 1.30—4 p.m.
	(2) Barn Hall, Bookham.	1st and 3rd Wednesdays, from 1.30—4 p.m.
	(3) Village Hall, Fetcham.	2nd and 4th Thursdays at 1.30—4 p.m.
	(4) The Institute, High Street, Leatherhead.	Friday, 2—4 p.m.
<i>General School Medical and Minor Ailments Clinics ...</i>	<i>... At the above centres.</i>	
<i>Eye Clinic ...</i>	<i>... The Institute, High Street, Leatherhead.</i>	By Appointment.
<i>Dental Clinic ...</i>	<i>... The Institute, High Street, Leatherhead.</i>	By Appointment.
<i>Tuberculosis Dispensary...</i>	<i>S.C.C. Clinic, 44, Waterloo Road, Epsom.</i>	Thursday, 2 p.m. Every 3rd Thursday at 5 p.m.
<i>Scabies Treatment Clinic</i>	<i>The Cedars, Church Street, Epsom.</i>	By Appointment.
<i>Venereal Diseases Clinics</i>	<i>Royal Surrey County Hospital. Out-patients' Department.</i>	Males— Tuesday and Friday, 5—7 p.m. Saturdays, 9.30—11.30 a.m. Females— Monday, 2—7 p.m. Thursday, 9.30—11 a.m.

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

TIME-TABLE OF CLINICS.—Continued.

<i>Diphtheria</i> <i>Immunisation Clinics</i>	Peace Memorial Hall, Ashtead.	Every 3rd Tuesday at 10.30 a.m.
	Barn Hall, Bookham.	1st Wednesday in each month at 2 p.m.
	Village Hall, Fetcham.	2nd Thursday in each month at 2 p.m.
	The Institute, High Street, Leatherhead.	1st Tuesday in each month at 10 a.m.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The district is fortunate in its water supply, which is abundant, of excellent quality and widely distributed. The East Surrey Water Company is the statutory undertaking. It obtains its water from deep wells sunk into the chalk situated in the area. Supplies are softened and chlorinated before distribution. A careful control is maintained by the bacteriological and chemical examinations, typical results of which are shown below.

EAST SURREY WATER COMPANY.

CHEMICAL RESULTS IN PARTS PER 100,000.

Appearance: Bright. Very slight film deposit of chalk.		Turbidity: Less than 5 p.p.m. Silica scale.	
Colour Normal		Electric conductivity at 20°C.	260
Reaction pH. Alkaline: ... 8.2		Chlorine in Chlorides...	2.1
Free Carbonic Acid ... Trace		Hardness—	
Total Solids dried at 180°C. ... 17.5		Total	10.0
Alkalinity as Calcium		Temporary	3.5
Carbonate 5.5		Permanent	6.5
Nitrogen in Nitrates ... 0.52		Nitrites	Absent
Free Ammonia ... 0.0032		Ammoniacal Ammonia ...	—
Albuminoid Ammonia ... 0.0000		Albuminoid Nitrogen ...	—
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at at 80°F. ... 0.015		Metals: Iron	—
Other Metals ... Absent		Free Chlorine	0.23
Odour ... Nil			

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS.

(Bacteriological sample dechlorinated on collection.)

Number of "Bacteria" growing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in 1 day at 37°C. ...	1
Number of "Bacteria" growing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in 2 days at 37°C. ...	5
Number of "Bacteria" growing on Agar per c.c. or ml. in 3 days at 20°C. ...	1
Presumptive Bacillus Coli Test	Present
Bacillus Coli	Absent 100 c.c.
Bacillus Coli	Present
Bacillus Coli	Absent 100 c.c.
Bacillus Welchii	Present
Bacillus Welchii	Absent 100 c.c.

On service of statutory notices, an improved supply of main water was obtained for nine cottages in Great Bookham.

Contractors were given the order to provide a main water supply by means of a common service pipe to five cottages on Bookham Common; and independently a further scheme was initiated to supply main water to the remaining two cottages thereon. After these extensions there will remain only five houses in the district without a piped water supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There are two sewage disposal works in the district, one at Leatherhead and the other at Bookham. Both processes are on continuous flow settlement, comprising detritus tanks, settlement tanks, rotary filters, etc.

At Bookham the effluent passes through a humus tank and thence by the outfall sewer to a ditch adjacent, finally reaching the River Mole.

The Leatherhead Sewage Disposal works consists of detritus channels, primary and secondary sedimentation tanks, rotary and travelling distributors, humus tanks, etc. Land treatment is now only used for the treatment of storm water. The effluent after final treatment at the humus tanks is discharged into a concrete channel and conveyed to the River Mole.

Sludge is disposed of by composting with a screened and pulverised house refuse, the resultant manure being sold to a firm of agricultural merchants and to ratepayers.

During the year a scheme for dredging Ashtead Pond and provision of a new Trunk Surface Water Sewer at Woodfield Lane was approved and the work is now in hand.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of house refuse is undertaken by means of five low-loading Shelvoke and Drewry freighters, each with a capacity of seven cubic yards. The collection is entirely mechanical, three freighters having been entirely reconditioned during the year to bring them into line with the two new freighters purchased last year. Four new one-ton trailers have also been bought to cope with the salvage collection.

House refuse from the whole area is disposed of at the Leatherhead Sewage Disposal Works, where a salvage and crushing plant has been installed. Clinker is retained by screening; bottles, tins, etc., removed on a picking belt; paper baled for sale, and the residue crushed, as mentioned above, and sold as a fertiliser.

Great difficulty was experienced during the year in the recruitment of refuse collectors, but there is now a full complement of men and the weekly collection of pre-war years has been reverted to in all districts.

CESSPOOLS AND PRIVIES.

Cesspool emptying is carried out by a firm under contract to the Council.

This firm visits the district monthly to empty cesspools as required by respective owners.

A nominal charge of 25s. is made to the owner; leaving, on the average, approximately 7s. per emptying to be met from the rates.

Of the 500 cesspools estimated to exist in the district, 116 were emptied during the year, the total number of emptyings being 216, an increase of more than 25 per cent. on the previous year.

Nine existing properties were connected to the sewer during the year and the old cesspools filled in.

Only a very few pail closets remain, water closets being in general use throughout the district.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

WATERCOURSE.—During the first half of the year a watercourse in the Leatherhead Ward was found to be choked and silted up to the extent of being a nuisance. The nuisance was abated after service of Statutory Notices on the occupiers of the houses whose gardens abutted on to the watercourse.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

I am indebted to Mr. W. J. Whiting, M.R. San. I., M.S.I.A., the Chief Sanitary Inspector, for the particulars of the work performed under his supervision during 1946.

INSPECTIONS AND RE-INSPECTIONS UNDER THE HOUSING
AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, ETC.

Dwelling-houses	484
Overcrowding	22
Nuisances (other than dwelling-houses)	94
Disinfestation	32
Smoke	6
Water	9
Watercourses	7
Scabies	38
Notifiable Infectious Disease	38
Contacts, Infectious Disease	92
Disinfections	7
Cowsheds	15
Dairies	17
Pasteurising Establishment	15
Slaughterhouses	2
Bakehouses	8
Ice-Cream Premises	27
Other Food Premises	9
Sampling	70
Food Examination	131
Food Poisoning	1
Factories (Mechanical)	1
Movable Dwellings	60
Schools	1
Miscellaneous	57
Licensing	311
Rehousing	190
Rodent Control	7
Swimming Pools	4
Squatters	14

CONDITIONS FOUND REQUIRING SERVICE OF A NOTICE.

Defective roofs ...	21
Defective plastering ...	10
Defective ceilings ...	13
Defective walls ...	2
Defective windows ...	10
Defective floors ...	2
Defective doors ...	4
Defective R.W.P. and gutters ...	10
Defective drains ...	1
Defective sinks ...	1
Defective W.C.s ...	2
Defective cistern and/or flush pipe ...	6
Defective kitcheners ...	4
Defective F.A.I. ...	1
Defective ashbins ...	2
Damp walls ...	40
Rooms requiring decorations ...	35
Defective water service pipe ...	1
Defective sash cords ...	2

RESULTS OF SERVICE OF NOTICE.

Roofs repaired ...	19
Plastering repaired ...	15
Floors repaired ...	1
Ceilings repaired ...	8
Defective walls repaired ...	1
Windows repaired ...	12
Doors repaired ...	4
R.W.P. and gutters repaired ...	12
Drains repaired ...	2
New sink provided ...	1
W.C. repaired ...	2
Cistern and/or flush pipe repaired ...	6
Kitcheners repaired ...	5
Ashbin provided ...	1
Damp walls remedied ...	37
Rooms decorated ...	24
Trap provided to sink waste ...	1
Sash cords repaired ...	5
Defective water service pipe ...	2

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The installation of a mechanical under-feed stoker at the laundry mentioned in my last Annual Report caused the abatement of the nuisance arising from the emanation of excessive smoke.

SWIMMING POOLS.

Four privately owned swimming pools were operated during the year. Three were constructed and one natural. They are provided with adequate dressing and sanitary accommodation, and the constructed pools have filtering and chlorinating plants installed. Colour tests to control the dosage of chlorine are made periodically by the proprietors and also at each visit of the Sanitary Inspector. Samples of water were also submitted to the Public Health Laboratory.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Early in the year two Orders, under the Surrey County Council Acts, 1931 and 1936, were made prohibiting the placing of movable dwellings in the Oaklawn Road and Woodbridge Area of Leatherhead.

This brought the total number of Orders made to eight, and in the first three months of the year twelve successful prosecutions for infringement of these were undertaken and fines totalling £31 inflicted on the defendants.

Since that time the district has had little or no trouble arising from the presence of gipsy caravans. The co-operation of the local Police with the Council's Officers has been a valuable contribution to the success of this campaign.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades carried on in the area.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Surrey County Council continued to be the authority for the control of rats and mice, the local Council being agents for passing on complaints and having a representative on the Surrey No. 3 Workable Area Committee.

Seventy-seven complaints were received and passed to the Surrey County Council.

SHOPS.

It was not found necessary to take any action under the section of the Shops Act, 1934, dealing with the provision of sanitary conveniences and the regulation of temperature and ventilation.

SCHOOLS.

Improvement was effected in the unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation at the school mentioned in my last Annual Report.

Representations made to the County Council regarding insanitary conditions obtaining at the School Canteen under their control in the district in 1945 had still achieved no satisfactory result by the end of 1946.

MORTUARY.

A mortuary is owned and maintained by the Council. It is inadequate, out of date, and badly sited. When material and labour are available for such purposes, it will need to be replaced.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

Three premises were disinfected after notifiable infectious disease and one for other reasons.

Disinfestation was carried out at ten premises by the Staff of the Public Health Department. Insecticides used included Zaldecide and Forcide, both combined with D.D.T.

4.—HOUSING

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)	147
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	484
2. (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purposes ...	Nil
3.	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil
4.	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	72

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	51
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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	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	Nil

B.—Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:

(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	10
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	10
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 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 Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

RE-HOUSING.

Fifty prefabricated houses were erected and occupied during the first half of the year.

By the end of the year good progress had been made on the erection of permanent houses on the Cleeve Road Extension Estate.

In the last quarter of the year about twenty families took squatter action in respect of two disused Army camps, which after due consultation were taken over and controlled by the Council.

5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK.

At the end of the year there were 29 entries on the register of cow-keepers, dairymen and retail purveyors of milk.

No. of cowkeepers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
No. of dairymen (exclusive of above)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
No. of retail purveyors of milk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

Of the producers, two are licensed for the production of Tuberculin-tested milk, and three for accredited milk.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Thirty samples of pasteurised milk and thirty-three of raw ungraded milk were taken and forwarded to the Public Health Laboratories at Epsom. Of these twenty-five samples satisfied the Methylene Blue Test and all satisfied the Phosphatase Test.

Results of the examinations of raw ungraded milk were compared with the standard for accredited milk; twenty-seven satisfied the Methylene Blue Test, sixteen the Coliform Test, and fourteen reached the combined standard. Three of the raw samples were tested biologically and showed no evidence of tuberculosis.

DESIGNATED MILK SUPPLY.

The following licences were issued to retailers desiring to retail graded milk :—

Tuberculin Tested.—	Dealer's Licence	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Supplementary Licence	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pasteurised.—	Pasteuriser's Licence	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Dealer's Licence	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Supplementary Licence	...	...	...	...	...	3

(b) MEAT.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS.

Three slaughterhouses in the district were licensed with the reservation mentioned in my last Annual Report.

Eleven animals were slaughtered in these slaughterhouses during the year under licence from the Food Office.

Three slaughtermen were licensed to slaughter or stun animals during the year.

(c) OTHER FOODS.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The following foods were found on examination to be unfit for human consumption, and certificates issued to that effect :—

1,756 lb. Meat	80 lb. Dried Fruit
184 tins Meat	265 tins Milk
21½ st. Fish	39 jars Paste
102 tins Fish	62 lb. Preserves
15½ cases Oranges	1,554 Eggs
12 tins Fruit	

BAKEHOUSES.

There are eight bakehouses in the district, all of which were visited during the year.

Where necessary, requests were made for cleansing and limewashing of walls and ceilings.

ICE-CREAM.

Twenty-one premises in the district are registered by the Council for the sale of ice-cream. Of these, six are registered for manufacture of the product as well as for sale.

Seven samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination. The bacteriologist reported favourably upon five of these. The other two were from a manufacturer in the district who was persuaded to cease manufacture of the commodity until he was able to obtain more satisfactory ingredients and machinery.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

The County Council is the administrative authority for the sections of the Food and Drugs Act dealing with adulteration. Information has been received from the County Medical Officer of Health that during the year 54 samples were taken for analysis, of which 27 were milk, seven of spirits, three of soap and the remainder of miscellaneous articles. One sample of spirits, one of "influenza mixture," one of "tonic syrup for nerves," one of soap and one of "natural fruit saline" were found to be adulterated and deteriorated. No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

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

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Table IV shows the total of the various infectious diseases notified during 1946, classified according to age and sex, together with the number of cases removed to isolation hospital and the total deaths, if any, from each disease.

SMALLPOX.—No case of smallpox was notified during the year. No primary vaccination or re-vaccination was performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

SCARLET FEVER.—Thirty-three notifications were received, compared with fourteen in 1945. The case rate per 1,000 civilian population was 1.32, compared with the rate of 1.38 for England and Wales.

The type of infection was generally of a mild character, and there were no deaths. Twenty-nine cases were admitted to hospital for treatment, the remainder being isolated and nursed at home.

DIPHtheria.—No notifications of diphtheria were received during the year. The case rate for England and Wales was 0.28. Two patients were admitted to hospital as suspected cases, but the diagnosis was not confirmed.

TABLE IV.

Disease	Cases Notified.																Total all ages both sexes.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital.
	Under 1 yr.		1 to 3		3 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 15		15 to 25		25 and over		All ages			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	—	2	3	6	3	4	3	4	4	1	2	18	15	33	29
Whooping Cough ...	2	3	5	7	9	11	7	11	1	1	—	2	1	—	25	35	60	3
Measles ...	3	1	16	18	12	13	40	30	7	4	—	1	1	—	79	67	146	1
Pneumonia ...	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	6	6	8	8	16	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	3	1	4	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	5	5	23	26	24	28	55	44	12	8	5	8	11	9	135	128	263	34

The downward tendency of diphtheria incidence and mortality rates will be noticed on reference to Table V, in which are tabulated the yearly figures since 1934. This satisfactory feature is probably the result of several factors, of which I consider the more important to be the improved general care of children's health, both in the home and at school ; the speedy and effective means taken in co-operation by medical practitioners, the school medical authority and the local public health department in detecting and isolating suspected sources of infection, and, particularly in the last few years, in the controlled production of immunisation by appropriate treatment, of which particulars are given below.

TABLE V.—INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN LEATHERHEAD URBAN DISTRICT, 1934-1945.

Year.	No. of Cases Notified.	Incidence Rate per 1,000 Population.	No. of Deaths.	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Population.
1934	17	0.90	1	0.05
1935	7	0.36	1	0.05
1936	25	1.25	2	0.10
1937	3	0.15	—	0.00
1938	2	0.09	—	0.00
1939	5	0.21	—	0.00
1940	1	0.04	—	0.00
1941	3	0.12	—	0.00
1942	7	0.28	1	0.04
1943	6	0.24	—	0.00
1944	—	0.00	—	0.00
1945	2	0.08	1	0.04
1946	—	—	—	0.00

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

The Council's scheme to promote active immunisation against diphtheria has been in operation since 1936. Regular clinics for this purpose are held in collaboration with the Surrey County Council at the Leatherhead Institute and the Peace Memorial Hall, Ashted. In Fetcham and Bookham children can be treated at the Infant Welfare Centres.

Some parents prefer their children to be treated by their own doctors. In such cases the immunising material can be supplied free of charge, the fee for the treatment being a matter for private arrangement between the parents and the practitioner.

The ideal is for every child to receive a primary treatment of two injections at about the age of one year, with further single injections at five and ten years.

During the year 296 children are known to have received primary treatment, and 135 have received secondary treatment. Of the former 204 were aged one to two years, representing 56.7 per cent. of the births accredited to the district in 1945.

At the end of 1946, 975 children under the age of five years and 2,241 aged five to fifteen years, are recorded as having completed treatment, equivalent to percentages of 52.7 per cent. and 71.6 per cent. respectively of the estimated total child population of the corresponding age groups.

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 a treated child, and that the risk of death from the disease is nearly thirty times as great.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Forty-one names were added to the tuberculosis register during the year. They include twenty-seven of persons already domiciled in the district and fourteen persons who came to live here from other areas in which they had already been notified. Thirty-seven notifications related to the pulmonary form of the disease and four to non-pulmonary. Eight deaths occurred from pulmonary tuberculosis, representing an annual death rate of 0.32 per 1,000 population, and three deaths were caused by non-pulmonary tuberculosis with a death rate of 0.12. The total tuberculosis death rate of 0.44 compares with a rate of 0.54 for England and Wales.

An analysis into types of disease and age groups is to be found in Table VI.

TABLE VI.

Age Period.	Primary Notifications Relating to Persons Already Resident in The Leatherhead Urban District.				Notifications of Persons Already Notified in Other Districts and Now Resident in The Leatherhead 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 to 5...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5 to 10...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20...	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20 to 25...	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
25 to 35...	1	5	—	—	2	3	—	—	2	—	—	—
35 to 45...	2	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	1	—	1
45 to 55...	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
55 to 65...	2	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 years and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	8	16	1	2	6	7	—	1	6	2	2	1

For comparative purposes, figures relating to the notification of and mortality from tuberculosis between the years 1938-46 are set out in Table VII, the notification figures being those for persons domiciled in the district at the time of diagnosis of the disease. The figures show a deterioration from 1940 onwards. The higher incidence rate may reflect improved methods of diagnosis, especially the increase in radiographical examinations and regular medical supervision of service personnel and factory workers. In this connection it may be noted that many residents of the district attended for examination when the Miniature Radiography Unit of the Surrey County Council visited Epsom.

TABLE VII.
TUBERCULOSIS INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY, 1938-46.

Year.	Population.	Total Primary Notifications.	Rate per 1,000 Population.	Total Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 Population.
1938	21,170	17	0.80	6	0.28
1939	22,260	9	0.40	6	0.27
1940	25,500	21	0.82	6	0.24
1941	25,200	30	1.15	6	0.24
1942	24,760	33	1.33	11	0.44
1943	24,310	24	0.99	6	0.25
1944	23,870	37	1.55	8	0.34
1945	23,700	35	1.48	9	0.38
1946	24,940	27	1.08	11	0.44

The Epsom, Leatherhead and District Tuberculosis Care Committee has continued its work with energy during the year under the chairmanship of Mrs. A. Winter. The secretary of the Committee is Miss Linford, who is also the Surrey County Council's Care Almoner in the area, and the treasurer is Lt.-Col. H. W. Lucy, O.B.E., T.D., manager of the Epsom branch of the Westminster Bank. Members of the Committee include representatives of the Borough Council, the Leatherhead Urban District Council, associations and societies interested in social welfare, and officers engaged in work connected with health, welfare and relief. Thus the Committee is in a good position to help solve the special problems of the tuberculous person and the household to which he belongs. Much valuable work has been done, and will remain to be done in the future. Under the National Health Service Act the local health authority, in this case the Surrey County Council, is precluded from making monetary payments (except by way of remuneration for work performed) to sick persons, and there are times when advances in cash are of great importance in the rehabilitation of the tuberculars. At the same time the local health authority is required to make arrangements for the care and after-care of sick persons, including those who are tuberculous, and is given permission to carry out these duties through an established care committee acting under the direction of the local health authority. The care committee can make monetary payments when necessary, provided that these come from funds voluntarily contributed. Hence the need for continued strong financial support of this committee.

