[Report 1950] / Medical Officer of Health, Leatherhead U.D.C.

Contributors

Leatherhead (England). Urban District Council.

Publication/Creation

1950

Persistent URL

https://wellcomecollection.org/works/vak4v5mw

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.

Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
https://wellcomecollection.org

Unable to display this page

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29721313

LEATHERHEAD
AC4113(3) LEATHERHEAD
LIBRARY
C.R. 53
Surrey
MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

LEATHERHEAD URBAN DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of

THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1950

----oOOo----

West Hill House,
West Hill,
Epsom.

October, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the
LEATHERHEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit an annual report for the year 1950, which has been prepared in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 112/50.

With regard to vital statistics, the birth rate, for the third year in succession, shows a decline and is now little above the rate prevailing in the years before the war. The death rate is slightly higher than in the previous year. Both these rates, as well as the infant mortality rate, are considerably below the national rates.

Some infectious diseases occurred in epidemic form, particularly measles and whooping cough. Scarlet fever was prevalent for a while, and three cases of poliomyelitis occurred, two of them of the paralytic type. For the third year in succession no case of diphtheria was notified. As in 1949, the tuberculosis rate was low, being approximately one half the average rate for the previous ten years, and also less than one half the figure for England and Wales.

The satisfaction of the demand for housing is still one of the Council's major problems. Despite the energetic effort it has made, there are many applicants in most unsatisfactory conditions still waiting their turn for accommodation. In many a sense of frustration has developed, from which it is evident that much mental ill-health has sprung, with concomitant effects on the physical state of those affected. With the exception of this important group, it can be claimed that the health and well-being of the district has been maintained in a satisfactory condition.

The work of the Chief Sanitary Inspector has been carried out, as usual, in a most conscientious and painstaking manner, both in relation to his duties as a sanitarian and as a housing officer. His example in this respect has been followed by his staff.

I am indebted to other officers of the Council for help and advice, and I have to express my thanks to the Council for the consideration they have shown me during the year.

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.

x William J. Whiting. M.R.San.I.,M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspector

x C.J. Lynch, M.R.San.I.,M.S.I.A.

Medical Officer of Health's Clerical Staff

Senior Clerk:	C.H. Argent.
Shorthand/Typist:	Miss F.I. Gardiner.
Telephonist:	Miss M.E. Hamper.

Chief Sanitary Inspector's Clerical Staff:

Clerk & General Assistant:	E.W. Bugden.
Clerk:	A.C. Milne.
Junior Clerk:	A. Griffin.

---------oOOo---------

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

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

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (acres)	11,187
Population (Census 1931)	16,483
Population (Estimated mid-year 1950)	27,990
Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books at 31st December, 1950.	7,740
Rateable value at 31st December, 1950	£300,639
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,210

1. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

Live Births	Total	Male	Female		
Total Live Births	389	213	176	)Birth rate per	
Legitimate	379	205	174	)1,000 Population	
Illegitimate	10	8	2	)	13.9
Still Births					
Total Still Births	8	1	7	)Still Birth rate per	
Legitimate	7	1	6	)1,000 Live and Still	
Illegitimate	1	-	1	)Births	20.1
Deaths (net)	280	131	149	Crude Death Rate	10.0
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age					
Total infant deaths	9	6	3		
Legitimate	9	6	3		
Illegitimate	-	-	-		

Death Rate of all infants per 1,000 live births 23.1

Death Rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 23.7

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

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (Live & Still) Births
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	-	-
Other maternal causes	-	-

Deaths from:-

Measles	(all ages)	1
Whooping Cough	(all ages)	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		-
Neoplasm (Cancer etc.)	(all ages)	45

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

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

BIRTHS

Live births numbered 389, of which 213 were males and 176 were females, representing a birth rate of 13.9 per 1,000 population. A comparability factor (1.00) 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.

The birth rate has declined for the third year in succession and is approaching the level of the years before the war.

Eight still births were registered during the year, giving a still birth rate of 0.29 compared with a rate of 0.37 per 1,000 population for England and Wales.

DEATHS

The deaths registered in the area after correction for inward and outward transfers numbered 280, representing a crude death rate of 10.0 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, compared with the figure of 11.6 for England and Wales. The crude death rate of 10.0 is reduced by the application of a comparability factor (0.91) to 9.1. The average age at death of males was 66 years and of females 68 years. Deaths in hospital or residential institutions amounted to approximately 54% of the total.

INFANT MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year of age numbered 9, of which 6 were males and 3 females. The infant mortality rate for the year was 23.1 per 1,000 live births. All the deaths occurred within 28 days of birth, and 6 of them within 1 day. The rate is higher than that of last year (17.7), but is still considerably below the figure for England and Wales (29.8).

Causes of death were as follows:- 7 from Prematurity, 1 from asphyxiation at birth and 1 from Erythroblastosis Foetalis.

POPULATION

The excess of births over deaths was 109. The Registrar General's estimate of population rose from 27,710 in 1949 to 27,990, an increase of 280. The preliminary report on the 1951 Census indicates that this estimate is slightly high, and gives the total population of the district as 27,203.

2. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory service is maintained 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 1950 copies of reports on specimens submitted by medical practitioners in the district were received from the laboratory in the following numbers:-

Nose and Throat Swabs	273
Faeces	36
Sputum	42
Others	14
	365

Laboratory Facilities (contd)

The staff of the laboratory also examine and report on the bacteriological conditions of samples of milk, food and water taken by local authorities' Public Health Departments. In the course of the year 13 samples of water, 103 of milk and 17 of ice-cream taken in this district were examined. The results of the examination of milk supplies are summarised in later sections of this report, and those relating to ice-cream are dealt with in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The public ambulance service is now under the control of the Surrey County Council.

In the County Council's original scheme for a unified ambulance service under the National Health Service Act, 1946, the Urban District was placed in the area of control of the main station at St. Helier Hospital, Carshalton, with a sub-station in Leatherhead. In future it is proposed to transfer the Leatherhead sub-station to the area of control of the main station at the Smallfields section of the Redhill County Hospital. It is hoped that this change will have the effect of eliminating delays which have occurred in a few cases under the present arrangements.

In case of accidents in the home or elsewhere or in sudden illness in the street or public places, any responsible person may call the ambulance to remove the patient (if by telephone use 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 removed 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. Providing that these requirements are fulfilled, no charge will be made to users.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION

Hospitals previously owned and administered by local authorities and private bodies were transferred to the Regional Hospital Board under the National Health Service Act.

There are two classes of case for which the provision of accommodation is of particular interest to this authority on whom rests the ultimate responsibility for the removal of the patient.

(1) Cases of Infectious Disease - Following the great reduction in the number of beds available for infectious diseases at Cuddington Hospital, which has hitherto served the needs of this locality, 75% of cases requiring hospital treatment have been sent elsewhere.

One result of this change has been to increase the proportion of cases of scarlet fever nursed in their own homes, to the extent of three quarters of the number notified. This is a reversal of previous figures, and in the majority of cases can be regarded as a beneficial change. In all 20 patients were removed, the following hospitals being involved in providing accommodation - Cuddington (5), The Grove, Tooting (4), Western Hospital, Fulham (1), Tolworth (1), Wandle Valley, Mitcham (6), Ottershaw, Chertsey (1), Westcott, Dorking (2).

(2) Cases removed under the National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47. Under this section of the act it is possible to seek the compulsory removal to hospital or other suitable residential accommodation of persons who by reason of old age or chronic infirmity are not able to give themselves proper attention, and who do not receive sufficient care from other people. No action was taken by the Council under this section of the Act.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Care of Mothers, Young Children, etc:- The provision of services relating to the care of mothers and young children, midwifery, health visitors, home nursing, immunisation and vaccination, ambulance and domestic help are the responsibility of the Surrey County Council as local health authority. Day-to-day administration is carried on by the Central Divisional Health Sub-Committee with offices in the Borough of Epsom.

Disinfestation:- The arrangements were continued by which patients residing in the Leatherhead Urban District received 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 this clinic is to provide treatment, and patients are not accepted unless referred by a medical practitioner. Emphasis is laid on the importance of prophylactic treatment for close contacts. During the year 16 persons were treated, of these 12 showed clinical evidence of infection, and 4 had been in close contact with known cases, and were given precautionary treatment. The clinic has also been used to assist persons to rid themselves of infestation by the head or body louse. 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. There are frequently multiple cases in the household, and efforts are made to examine and treat the whole family when necessary.

Diphtheria Immunisation:- Immunisation against diphtheria can be obtained from general practitioners or from County Council clinics.

Tuberculosis:- The County Council Chest Clinic is situated at the County Council Health Centre, 44, Waterloo Road, Epsom.

Venereal Diseases Clinics:- The arrangements made by the County Council are set out in the accompanying time-table.

Blood Transfusion Service:- The South London Blood Transfusion Depot situated at Stanley Avenue, Belmont, Surrey, (Telephone No.Vigilant 0068) has a day-and-night service for the issuing of blood for transfusion purposes to hospitals and medical practitioners.

For convenience of reference a time-table of clinics is set out below:-

Ante-natal Clinic	The Institute, High Street, Leatherhead.	Tuesdays 1.30.p.m.
Child Welfare Clinics	Peace Memorial Hall, Ashtead.	Tuesdays 2.p.m.
	Church House, Bookham.	1st, 3rd & 5th Weds. from 2.p.m.
	Village Hall, Fetcham.	2nd & 4th Thurs. from 2.p.m.
	The Institute, High Street, Leatherhead.	Fridays at 2.p.m.
General School Medical and Minor Ailments Clinics.	Peace Memorial Hall, Ashtead.	Tues. 9 - 10.45.a.m.
	Church House, Bookham.	1st, 3rd & 5th Weds. from 1.30.p.m.
	Village Hall, Fetcham.	2nd & 4th Thurs. from 1.30.p.m.
	The Institute, High Street, Leatherhead.	Fridays at 1.30.p.m.

Timetable of Clinics (contd)

Eye Clinic	The Institute, High Street, Leatherhead.	By appointment
Dental Clinic	The Institute, High Street, Leatherhead.	By appointment
Chest Clinic	S.C.C. Clinic, 44, Waterloo Rd., Epsom.	Tues & Thurs. 1.30.p.m. Every 3rd Thurs. 5.p.m.
Family Planning Association Clinic.	Epsom District Hospital.	Fridays 7 - 8 p.m.
Scabies Treatment Clinic	The Cedars, Church Street, Epsom.	By appointment
Venereal Diseases Clinics	Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford.	Males - Tues.& Fri. 5-7.p.m. Sats.9.30.-11.30.a.m. Females- Mondays 2 - 7 p.m. Thurs. 9.30.-11.a.m.

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

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics	Peace Memorial Hall, Ashtead.	Every Tuesday at 10.30a.m.
	Church House, Bookham.	At Child Welfare Clinics.
	Village Hall, Fetcham.	" " "
	The Institute, High Street, Leatherhead.	1st Tuesday in each month at 10.a.m.

3. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLIES

The district is fortunate in its water supply, which is abundant, of good quality and widely distributed. The East Surrey Water Company is the statutory undertaking for the area. It obtains its water from deep wells sunk into chalk, some of which are situated in this district. Supplies are softened and chlorinated before distribution. A careful control of the raw and treated water is maintained by the company, who have now appointed a full time chemist and bacteriologist. All examinations of the treated water made during the year have been found to be satisfactory.

Examinations are also made at regular intervals on behalf of various local authorities whose districts are served by the Company.

The water is not plumbo-solvent.

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 consist 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.

Drainage and Sewerage (contd)

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. Another shredder has been installed for shredding the compost after manufacture thus providing a finely divided product suitable for bagging.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The weekly collection of house refuse is undertaken by means of 5 low loading Shelvoke and Drewry freighters, each with a capacity of 7 cubic yards, manned by a driver and 2 loaders. The vehicles used in the collection of house refuse are entirely mechanical.

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

Five acres of low lying land has been acquired for extension to the works and is being made to the required levels with the separated ash screenings.

CESSPOOLS AND PRIVIES

Cesspool emptying is carried out by a firm under contract to the Council to visit the district twice per month to empty cesspools.

Of the 500 cesspools estimated to exist in the district, 151 were emptied during the year, the total number of emptyings being 242.

The charge made to each owner is 30/- per cesspool for each emptying, which leaves approximately 10/- per emptying to be met from the rates.

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

Frequent pollution of surface watercourses in the vicinity of Burnhams Road and Maddox Lane, caused by the overflowing of inadequate cesspools and septic tanks, was reported to the Council during the year. As a result, the Council considered that an extension of the main sewer to this area would be the only effective remedy, and decided that this should be done in view of the potential danger to public health which existed.

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

RIVERS AND STREAMS

River Mole

Factory premises were found to be causing pollution of the River Mole by the discharge of trade effluent into the surface water drainage system: The owners of the factory were interviewed and arrangements made to prevent further trouble, by diverting the effluent to the soil sewer after appropriate treatment.

SWIMMING POOLS

Four swimming pools continued in use during the year, one of which has been purchased by the Council. Three are constructed and one natural. Tests for residual chlorine at the former were made at intervals by the Sanitary Inspector, and samples taken for bacteriological examination.

The owner of the natural pool completed the erection of new dressing, and water carriage sanitary and lavatory accommodation.

MORTUARY

A mortuary is owned and maintained by the Council in Emlyn Lane, Leatherhead. It is equipped with a refrigeration chamber. Though it is not an imposing building, it should meet the needs of the district for some years.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 - SECTION 50 - BURIAL OF THE DEAD

No action was necessary under this Section.

4. HOUSING

HOUSING STATISTICS

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)	178
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.	353
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 purpose.	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.	6
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.	56

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.	45

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.	Nil
(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 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.	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.	
(a) By owners	6
(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. x 5

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders. 3

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

x In one other case (vide I3 above) an undertaking was accepted that the house would not be re-let on vacation.

REHOUSING

At the beginning of the year 827 applications were on the Council's Housing List, and further applications were being received from persons with either a residential qualification of 3 years or an employment of 6 years within the Leatherhead Urban District.

During the Year 170 houses on the Barnett Wood Farm Estate at Leatherhead were completed and 2 on the Pound Farm Estate at Fetcham.

A total of 203 families were offered accommodation during the year, among whom were 33 who had been awarded extra points by the Medical Officer of Health after a certificate had been issued by medical attendants, 6 of which concerned tuberculosis.

At the end of the year it was found that of 864 applicants on the list 279 had not renewed their applications for over 6 months and these were removed from the list until such time as they once again contacted the housing office, thus leaving 585 "live" applications on the list.

5. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

Bacteriological Examinations:

Eighty-three samples of pasteurised milk, 16 of raw ungraded milk and 4 of sterilised milk were taken and sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Epsom for examination.

Of the samples of pasteurised milk, all passed the Phosphatase Test, showing that the milk had been properly heat treated, and 78 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test.

All sterilised milk samples conformed with the statutory requirement.

Comparing the results of the examination of raw ungraded milk with the standards laid down for accredited milk, 12 satisfied the Methylene Blue Test, and 10 reached the combined standard.

One sample of milk produced and retailed in the district as raw ungraded was submitted for biological test for the presence of tubercle bacilli, with a negative result.

Designated Milk Supply:

The following licences were issued to retailers desiring to retail Graded Milk:-

Tuberculin Tested	(Dealer's Licence)...	...	4
Tuberculin Tested	(Supplementary Licence)	...	4
Pasteurised	(Dealer's Licence)...	...	2
Pasteurised	(Supplementary Licence)	...	5
Sterilised	(Dealer's Licence)...	...	1
Sterilised	(Supplementary Licence)	...	3

One dairyman holds a Pasteuriser's Licence issued by the Surrey County Council in respect of his pasteurising plant within the district.

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 that authority that during the year 70 samples were taken in this district for chemical analysis, and that during the same period 1,864 samples were taken within the administrative area of the County.

Of the samples taken in this district 27 were of milk, 7 of spirits, 2 each of apple puree, fish paste, jelly, pepper, salad cream and sausages, and the remainder of miscellaneous articles of foodstuff.

Two samples of milk and one of pickling spices were found to be below standard. No prosecutions were undertaken.

6. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Table IV shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1950, classified according to age and sex, together with the number of patients removed to hospital, and the number of deaths, if any, from the various diseases.

SMALLPOX - No case of smallpox was notified during the year.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX - During the year notifications were received from general practitioners of 306 primary vaccinations and 111 revaccinations performed by them. Included in those are 220 vaccinations done on children before they had reached the age of one year, equivalent to approximately 56.5% of the number of births taking place during the year. The equivalent figure for 1949 was 49%. This increase suggests that the right course was adopted when the Vaccination Act with its compulsory element of treatment by public vaccinators was repealed, to be replaced by a voluntary system in which the family doctor and the staff of the local health authority both have an active interest.

SCARLET FEVER - Twenty-four notifications of scarlet fever were received during the year, as against 28 in the previous year. Four cases were admitted to hospital for treatment, and the remainder were nursed at home. The notification rate per 1,000 population was 0.86 compared with 1.50 for England and Wales. The illness was in most instances of a mild type.

DIPHTHERIA - For the third consecutive year no case of diphtheria has been notified in the district. The notification rate for England and Wales was 0.02 per 1,000 population.

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. Clinics in schools have been organised by the Divisional School Medical Officer for pupils requiring treatment, usually the reinforcing course.

Notifications were received from various sources that 368 children received primary treatment and 624 were given 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.

	Primary Treatment	Reinforcing Treatment
Treated at Clinics and Schools	162	590
Treated by General Practitioners	206	34
	368	624

Of the total number of children receiving diphtheria immunisation treatment, 120 completed treatment before reaching the age of one year.

Of the estimated child population of the district it is known that 1,398 under the age of five years, and 2,528 over five years but under fifteen years have received treatment, equivalent to percentages of 65.1 and 63.8 respectively of the estimated population of these age groups.

Diphtheria Immunisation (contd)

Active immunisation against diphtheria has now been in operation in the district since 1935 and can claim a part in the reduction of the incidence and mortality rates which have occurred. The downward tendency of these rates can be seen by referring to Table VI. It is estimated 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.

It is important that the numbers immunised should not be allowed to fall, and in this respect two circumstances have arisen which may have some adverse effect. First, the complete absence of diphtheria from the district for a considerable period tends to create a false sense of security in parents. Second, the publicity given to reports on the possible association of immunisation with the occurrence of poliomyelitis. It had been noted by some observers that in a very small proportion of children paralysis occurred in the limb injected with the immunising agent within four weeks of the injection. It was not suggested that the injection caused poliomyelitis, but that it had some effect in deciding the area of paralysis. No such effects were reported in this district.

FOOD POISONING - Four cases of food poisoning were notified during the year, none of them being apparently related. Investigations were carried out in an effort to trace the source of infection, but this was found to be impossible as food concerned had either been consumed or any remnants destroyed. The organisms responsible were isolated in one case.

The incidence rate was 0.14 per 1,000 population compared with the rate of 0.17 for England and Wales.

ACUTE ANTERIOR POLIOMYELITIS (Infantile Paralysis) - Three cases were notified, all were residents of Ashtead. The first notification was received in August, being a male child aged 2 years. He was admitted to hospital with slight weakness in one leg. The second case was notified in September, a female aged 29 years, whose illness was of the non-paralytic type. The third notification was received in October, this being a boy aged 8 years, who suffered from a slight paralysis from which he made a good recovery.

The case rate was 0.11 per 1,000 population, as compared with 0.18 for England and Wales. Despite careful enquiries into the circumstances of each case, nothing positive could be decided about the source of infection or the mode of its spread.

PARA-TYPHOID FEVER - One case was notified, the patient being an adult female who had recently returned from a holiday abroad, where the infection was probably contracted. The matter required particularly careful investigation, as the patient was a member of a milk producing establishment. The case rate per 1,000 population was 0.04 compared with the rate of 0.01 for England and Wales.

WHOOPING COUGH - The number of notifications was 154 compared with 68 in 1950. The case rate was 5.50 per 1,000 population against 3.60 for England and Wales. No deaths occurred from the disease, which is however, one of the most distressing and debilitating of childhood complaints. It is frequently associated with serious complications affecting the respiratory system, the results of which may not reveal themselves until later in life. Encouraging results have been reported in some of the controlled investigations which have been carried out under the aegis of the Medical Research Council into the effectiveness of various products claimed to be effective in preventitive treatment of whooping cough. It is to be hoped that the materials giving the best results will be available soon, so that a scheme for the organised treatment of the child population can be set up.

MEASLES - Four hundred and fifty-three cases of measles were notified during the year compared with 48 in 1949. The epidemic occurred in the last quarter of the year, the majority of the patients being residents of the Ashtead district. There was one death recorded from the disease. The case rate was 16.19 per 1,000 population as against the rate of 8.39 for England and Wales.

TUBERCULOSIS - At the end of the year the tuberculosis register contained the names of 103 men and 98 women, who at some time in their lives have been notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, and 17 men and 27 women suffering from the non-pulmonary form of the disease. The total of 245 exceeds that of 1949 by 27, there having been added the names of 31 persons already resident in the district and 31 persons previously notified in other areas now living in the district, and there having been removed the names of 19 notified persons who have removed from the district, 11 who are regarded as recovered, and 5 who have died.

An analysis into the types of disease, sex and age groups of the new additions to the register is to be found in Table VI. The greatest incidence fell on persons aged between twenty and forty-five years.

Five deaths occurred from pulmonary tuberculosis, representing an annual death rate of 0.18 per 1,000 population. There were no deaths from the non-pulmonary form of the disease. The total death rate from all forms of tuberculosis was 0.18 compared with the rate of 0.36 for England and Wales.

The notification rate has risen above the average of previous years. This does not necessarily indicate an increasing amount of infection, but probably improved earlier diagnosis of the disease. The death rate from tuberculosis remains the same as that of 1949 and is below the average of previous years, including those immediately before the war.

The prevention of tuberculous disease calls for the solution of several problems. Some of these, including the provision of adequate medical services, a sufficient number of hospital beds where modern methods of treatment can be carried out, of residential accommodation for infectious patients not able to be given effective isolation in their own houses, are matters under the control of other authorities. The question of rehousing, which can be of great importance in the prevention of infection, is one for this authority to deal with. Among the houses allocated in the post-war period, 23 have been let to families with a tuberculous member.

A promising factor in obtaining a reduction in the incidence of tuberculous disease is the use of B.C.G. Vaccination if the claims made on its behalf are substantiated. At present the treatment is mainly reserved for certain classes of persons in special risk of becoming infected.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY - The Mass Radiography Unit of the South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board visited the Leatherhead and Fetcham district during the year and 846 persons (410 males, 436 females) took advantage of the facilities offered.

TUBERCULOSIS CARE COMMITTEE - The Epsom, Leatherhead and District Tuberculosis Care Committee has continued its work with energy during the year under the Chairmanship of the Mayor of Epsom & Ewell Alderman 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 Mr. T.L. Flanagan, of the Epsom branch of the Westminster Bank. Members of the Committee include representatives of the Leatherhead Urban District Council, the Epsom and Ewell Borough 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 remains to be done in the future, notwithstanding the advent of new social legislation;

TABLE I. COMPARATIVE BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN THE YEAR 1950

	England and Wales	L'head Urban District
Rates per 1,000 Home Population		
BIRTHS		
Live Births	15.8	13.9
Still Births	0.37	0.29
DEATHS		
All Causes	11.6	10.0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	-
Whooping Cough	0.01	-
Diphtheria	0.00	-
Tuberculosis	0.36	0.18
Influenza	0.10	0.07
Smallpox	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.02	-
Pneumonia	0.46	0.46
NOTIFICATIONS (Corrected)		
Typhoid Fever	0.00	-
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.04
Meningococcal Infections	0.03	-
Scarlet Fever	1.50	0.86
Whooping Cough	3.60	5.50
Diphtheria	0.02	-
Erysipelas	0.17	0.21
Smallpox	0.00	-
Measles	8.39	16.19
Pneumonia	0.70	0.68
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis — Paralytic	0.13	0.07
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis — Non-Paralytic	0.05	0.04
Food Poisoning	0.17	0.14
Rates per 1,000 Live births		
Deaths under 1 year of age	29.8	23.1
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age	1.9	-
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births		
Notifications (corrected) of Puerperal Fever and Pyrexia	5.81	2.52
Maternal Mortality:		
Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	0.12	-
Other Maternal Causes	0.69	-

TABLE II

COMPARATIVE BIRTH, DEATH AND INFANT MORTALITY RATES

Period	Average Annual Birth Rate per 1,000 Population. (Annual Rates 1941-1950)		Average Annual Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Population. (Annual Rates 1941-1950)		Average Annual Death Rate of children under 1 year of age, per 1,000 Live Births. (Annual Rates 1941-1950)	
	England and Wales	Leatherhead Urban District	England and Wales	Leatherhead Urban District	England and Wales	Leatherhead Urban District
1931-1940	14.9	13.3	12.2	9.3	58	33.0
1941	14.2	13.9	12.9	10.1	59	47.0
1942	15.8	17.0	11.6	10.3	49	26.1
1943	16.5	18.8	12.1	11.4	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
1947	20.5	18.3	12.0	10.4	41	31.8
1948	17.9	16.0	10.8	8.9	31	18.5
1949	16.7	14.3	11.7	9.6	32	17.7
1950	15.8	13.9	11.6	10.0	29.8	23.1

TABLE III

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE LEATHERHEAD URBAN DISTRICT

	M	F	Total
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	4	1	5
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	1	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	1	-	1
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	-	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.	3	1	4
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	3	1	4
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.	1	8	9
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	16	27
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	2	-	2
16. Diabetes.	-	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	4	32	36
18. Coronary disease, angina.	23	10	33
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	11	3	14
20. Other heart disease.	25	31	56
21. Other circulatory disease.	7	1	8
22. Influenza.	1	1	2
23. Pneumonia.	4	9	13
24. Bronchitis.	4	3	7
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	2	-	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	2	1	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.	2	2	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.	-	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.	-	3	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	14	20	34
33. Motor vehicle accidents.	2	1	3
34. All other accidents.	1	3	4
35. Suicide	1	-	1
36. Homicide and operations of war.	-	-	-
	131	149	280

TABLE IV

Disease	Cases Notified																				Total all ages both sexes	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1 year		1 to 3		3 to 5		5 to 10		10 to 15		15 to 25		25 to 45		45 to 65		65 years and over		All ages				
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F			
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	2	8	6	2	2	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	14	24	4	-
Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	1	3	2	-
Polioencephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	3	4	1	-	4	6	13	19	2	13
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	3	1	4	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	-	3	3	6	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	3	1	31	47	42	35	125	150	4	8	2	2	1	2	-	-	-	-	208	245	453	7	1
Whooping Cough	3	5	9	17	15	29	35	36	-	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	64	90	154	4	-
	6	7	41	67	57	66	170	193	6	13	5	7	5	9	5	3	2	4	297	369	666	20	14

TABLE V

INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA IN THE LEATHERHEAD URBAN DISTRICT 1934 - 1950

Year	Number of Cases Notified	Incidence Rate per 1,000 Population.	Number of Deaths	Mortality Rate per 1,000 Population.	Immunisation. No. of treatments.
1934	17	0.90	1	0.05	-
1935	7	0.36	1	0.05	-
1936	25	1.25	2	0.10	269
1937	3	0.15	-	-	182
1938	2	0.09	-	-	17
1939	5	0.21	-	-	122
1940	1	0.04	-	-	215
1941	3	0.12	-	-	1,083
1942	7	0.28	1	0.04	742
1943	6	0.24	-	-	539
1944	-	-	-	-	256
1945	2	0.08	1	0.04	555
1946	-	-	-	-	296
1947	2	0.08	-	-	334
1948	-	-	-	-	464
1949	-	-	-	-	410
1950	-	-	-	-	367

TABLE VI

	Primary notifications relating to persons resident in the Leatherhead Urban District				Secondary 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	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15	-	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25	2	1	-	1	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35	4	4	-	1	6	4	2	-	1	-	-	-
35 to 45	2	-	-	-	3	3	1	-	-	1	-	-
45 to 55	4	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 to 65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 years and over	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	16	10	-	5	16	12	3	-	4	1	-	-

LEATHERHEAD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1950

The Red House,
Bull Hill,
Leatherhead.

October, 1951.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Leatherhead Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present the following report for the year 1950.

Three years ago, I pointed out that the concentration of available labour and materials on the provision of new houses, inevitably led to only the minimum attention being given to existing houses, and looked forward to the time when it might be possible to restore the balance. Today, one can see in the demand for further houses no decrease commensurate with the number which have been provided; while higher standards being set by the new houses intensify the shortcomings of the old. I hope to be able to record in future reports, how, and with what success, this problem is being met.

A new duty undertaken by the department during the year calls for mention, namely, the prevention of damage by pests. I am grateful to the Council for providing the facilities I considered necessary for an efficient service, and am, therefore, the more sorry that staffing difficulties were experienced so soon after its inception. Having regard to the fact that for two months out of the nine covered in the report we were without a trained operator, the statistics given show how valuable would be a service uninterrupted by loss of staff.

I sincerely acknowledge the interest and support shown me by the Council, the ready assistance of the Medical Officer of Health and other Chief Officers, and the loyal help of my Staff.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. WHITING.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

INSPECTIONS AND REINSPECTIONS UNDER THE HOUSING AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, ETC.

Dwelling-houses	353
Nuisances (other than dwelling-houses)	34
Disinfestation	53
Smoke	14
Common Lodging House	2
Water	11
Watercourses	19
Notifiable Infectious Disease	32
Contacts, Infectious Disease	4
Scabies	5
Disinfections	12
Dairies	14
Pasteurising Establishment	30
Slaughterhouses	4
Bakehouses	15
Ice-cream Premises	42
Other Food Premises	196
Sampling	103
Food Examination	108
Food Poisoning	6
Factories (Mechanical)	.13
Factories (Non-Mechanical)	3
Moveable Dwellings	70
Schools	15
Miscellaneous	29
Pig Keeping	19
Rehousing	171
Swimming Pools	27

CONDITIONS FOUND REQUIRING THE SERVICE OF A NOTICE

Defective roofs	17
Defective plastering	1
Defective ceilings	11
Defective walls	3
Defective windows	8
Defective floors	5
Defective doors	5
Defective R.W.P. and gutters	9
Defective W.C's.	2
Defective cistern and/or flush pipe	5
Defective kitcheners	2
Defective fireplaces	1
Defective F.A.I's	1
Defective Ashbins	4
Damp walls	25
Rooms requiring decoration	15
Defective sashcords	3
Defective drains	2
Drain yard	1
External painting required	-
Defective chimney	4
Repair Cesspool	2
Repair burst water pipe	3
Provide new lavatory basin	1

RESULTS OF SERVICE OF NOTICE

Roofs repaired	17
Plastering repaired	3
Ceilings repaired	17
Walls repaired	7
Windows repaired	3
Floors repaired	4
Doors repaired	1
R.W.P. and gutters repaired	10
W.C.'s repaired	2
Cistern and/or flush pipe repaired	5
Kitchener repaired	3
Fireplaces repaired	3
New F.A.I. Provided	1
Ashbin replaced	5
Damp walls remedied	24
Rooms decorated	30
Defective sashcords repaired	-
Drains repaired	1
Yards drained	1
External painting carried out	1
Defective chimneys repaired	2
Lavatory basin provided	1
Defective cesspool repaired	3
Burst waste pipes repaired	2

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

The nine Orders made under the Surrey County Council Acts 1931 and 1936 remain in force together with Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

I am informed by the Police that during the year they brought one prosecution resulting in a conviction and a fine of one pound.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE AND DISINFECTION

Thirty-six visits of enquiry were made during the year in respect of notifiable infectious disease.

Eleven premises were disinfected for notifiable infectious disease.

FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES

Three premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for the frying of fish; twelve for the manufacture of sausages, ten for the pickling of meat, and one for the preserving of fruit. All these premises were visited during the year.

Thirty-seven other premises, where food is prepared or stored for sale, were visited. In only six cases was it necessary to invoke Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, on account of defective internal surfaces and in those cases immediate action resulted.

Generally a high standard of cleanliness was observed and an increasing interest on the part of shop managements was evident.

On June 26th, Byelaws relative to the handling and wrapping of food in the open air, came into operation after approval by the Ministry of Food.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Meat.

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

No animals were slaughtered therein during the year.

Four slaughtermen were licenced to slaughter or stun animals during the year.

Other Food

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

	No.	Tins.	Lbs.		No.	Tins.	Lbs.
Carcase Meat	-	-	773	Canned Soup	-	26	-
Canned Meat	-	-	266	Dried Fruit	-	-	34½
Fish	-	-	147	Preserves	-	-	54
Canned Fish	-	54	-	Cereal	-	-	49
Canned Fruit	-	161	-	Eggs	3046	-	-
Canned Vegetables	-	176	-	Fruit Pulp	-	-	33
Canned Milk	-	102	-	Artificial Cream	-	-	14

ICE-CREAM

Thirty-nine premises in the district are registered by the Council for the storage and sale of ice-cream. Of those, nine were registered for the manufacture of the product as well as for sale.

Due, however, to increased supplies, and to the impending full operation of the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947, local manufacture virtually ceased during the year.

The retailer of ice-cream from producer C discontinued his retail business.

Seventeen samples of ice-cream, were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination. The Bacteriologist's reports were as under:-

Producer	No.of samples taken.	Grade 1	2	3	4
A (Local)	1	1	-	-	-
B	3	3	-	-	-
C	2	-	-	-	2
D	3	2	-	1	-
E	1	1	-	-	-
F	1	1	-	-	-
G	2	2	-	-	-
H	1	1	-	-	-
I	2	2	-	-	-
J	1	1	-	-	-

RODENT AND INSECT PESTS

1. Rodent Control.

On the 1st April the Council, under the provisions of the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, became the Authority for the control of Rats and Mice, and a Rodent Operator was appointed.

The Council decided that private dwelling-houses should be treated free of charge to the occupiers, and in the case of business premises an inclusive charge of 5/- per hour should be made.

Statistics in connection with the activities of this service are appended overleaf.

Rodent Control (contd)

Complaints Received	... ...	142
Infestations Found:		
Rats (Major	... ...	37
Rats (Minor	... ...	108
Mice (Major	... ...	9
Mice (Minor	... ...	9
Infestations found as a result of independent investigations		56
Action Taken:		
Treated by Local Authority Operator	...	113
Treated by Occupier	... ...	-
Estimated Kill - (Ministry of Agriculture & Fisheries Formula)		
By Poison (Rats	... ...	4726
By Poison (Mice	... ...	-
By traps & other means (Rats	... ...	2
By traps & other means (Mice	... ...	29

2. Vermin

Disinfestation was carried out at 21 premises during the year as follows:-

Vermin.	No. of premises	Insecticide
Bed Bugs	7	4-cide and G.110
Cockroaches	8	Supor Secto
Flies	5	4-cide and Fumite

SCHOOLS

Six private schools within the Urban District were inspected and two found to be below the minimum requirements suggested by the Board of Education with respect to sanitary accommodation. Appropriate steps were taken to secure the remedying of these defects.