

# Beware watercress

Asington, Pitts near Chyndon



# **Beware Watercress**

## **Typhoid outbreak in Croydon Autumn 1937**

SLHG

26 May 2021

by Joyce Hoad

# Croydon Population

1801      6,000

1851      29,500

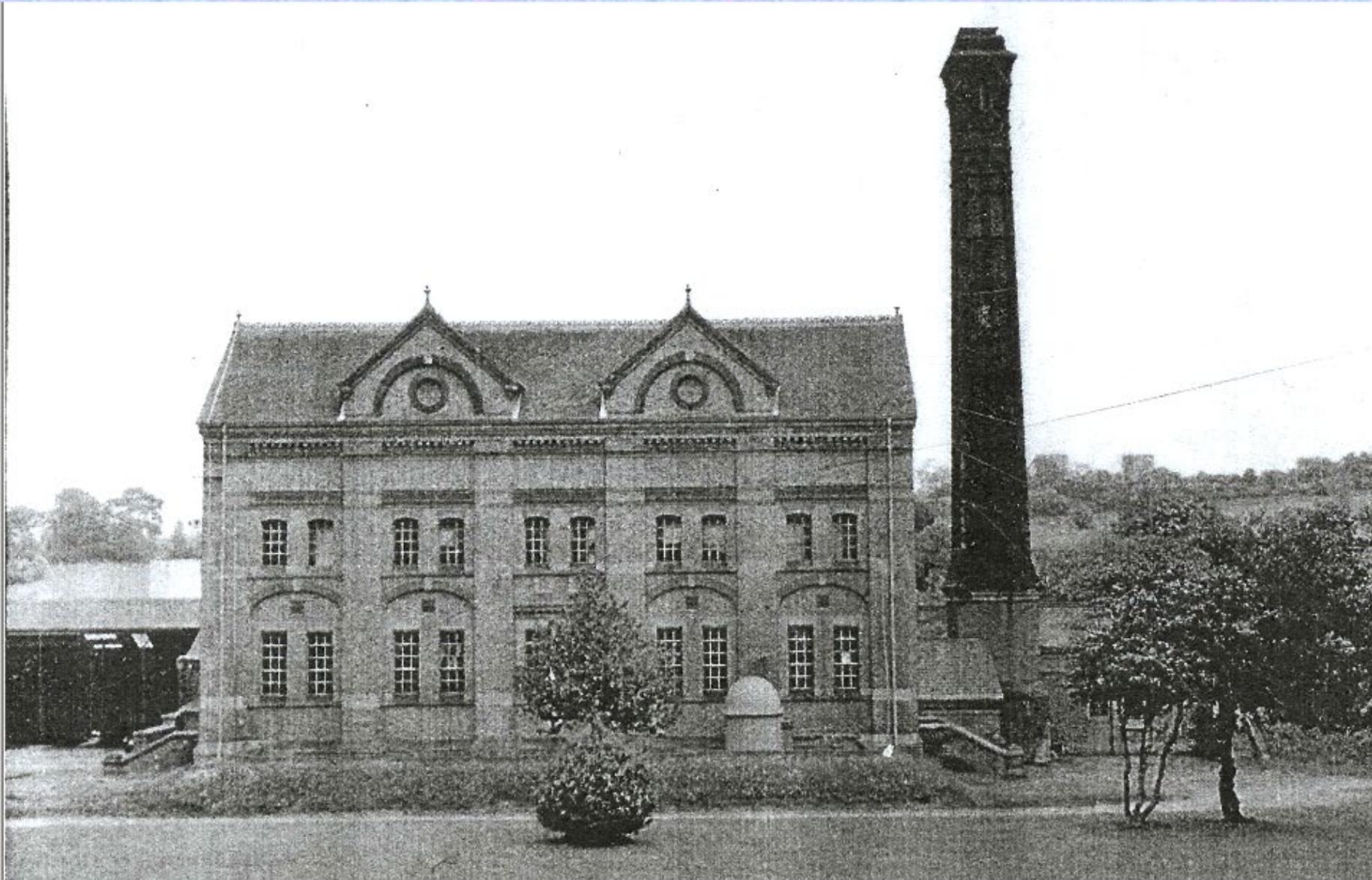
1853 & 1875 typhoid outbreaks occurred

1885 Addington well sunk into chalk ground

1891      103,000

1937      243,000

# Addington waterworks built 1888



1908-1936

10 Dec 1927 to 9 Nov 1936

documents showed the Addington well frequently subject to pollution

1908, 1928, and 1936.

Croydon Corporation installed a number of methods to filter and clean the water

Ozone plant, rapid pressure filters, a chlorinating plant and an ammoniating plant.

Filters and chlorinator worked together not possible to operate them separately.

The Addington well served c14000 households.

250 feet deep and 10 feet wide,  
was one of five wells that supplied Croydon.

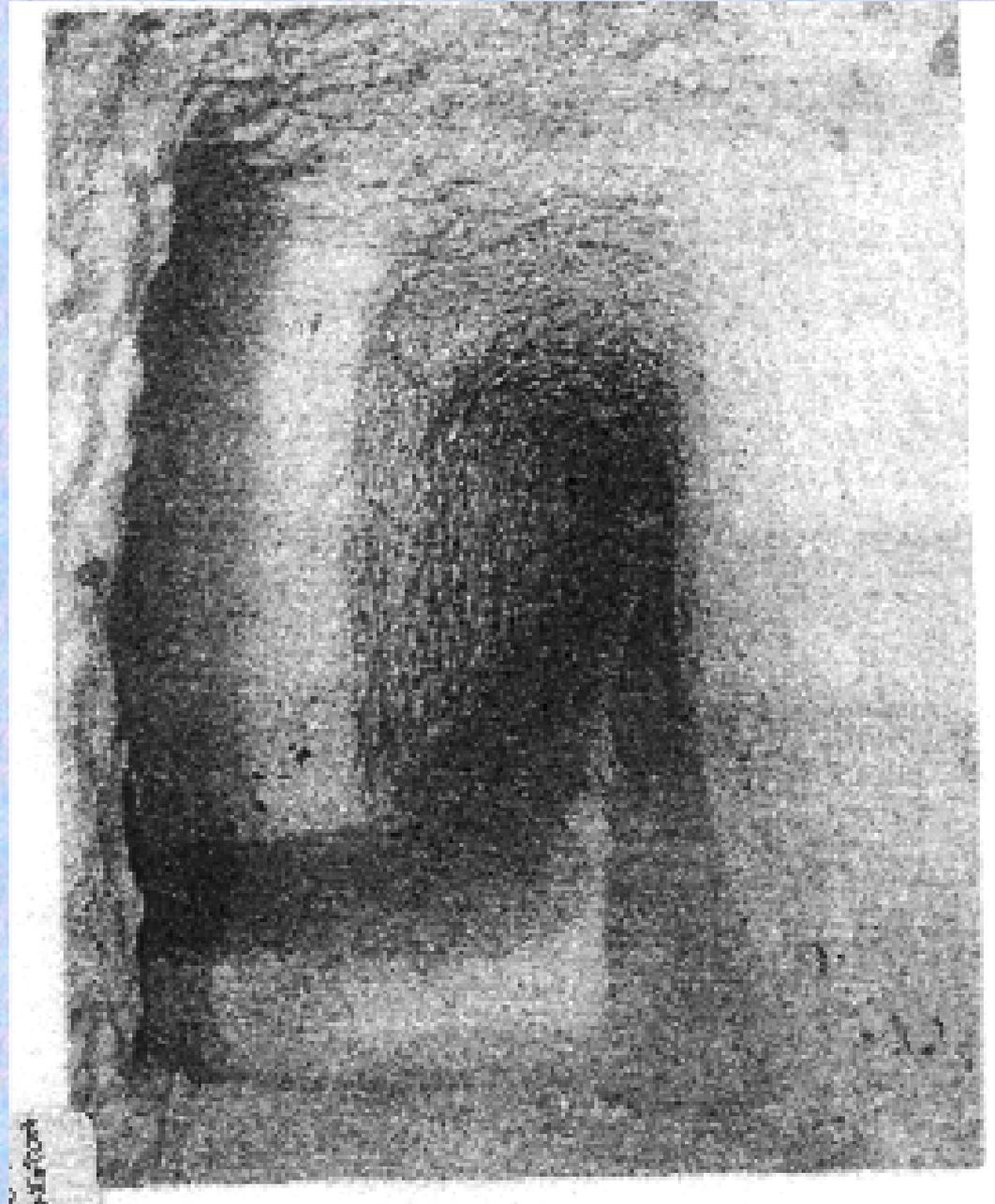
Collected water from the surrounding ground,  
some housed cesspools and a pig farm.

Stroud Green well and the Addington well  
fed the Addington Well Pumping Station.

The water was filtered, chlorinated and filtered again  
before being pumped into the Addington reservoir  
and fed through what was termed a "high level system

**Adits  
at Addington.**

**T**unnels through  
the chalk for  
collecting water



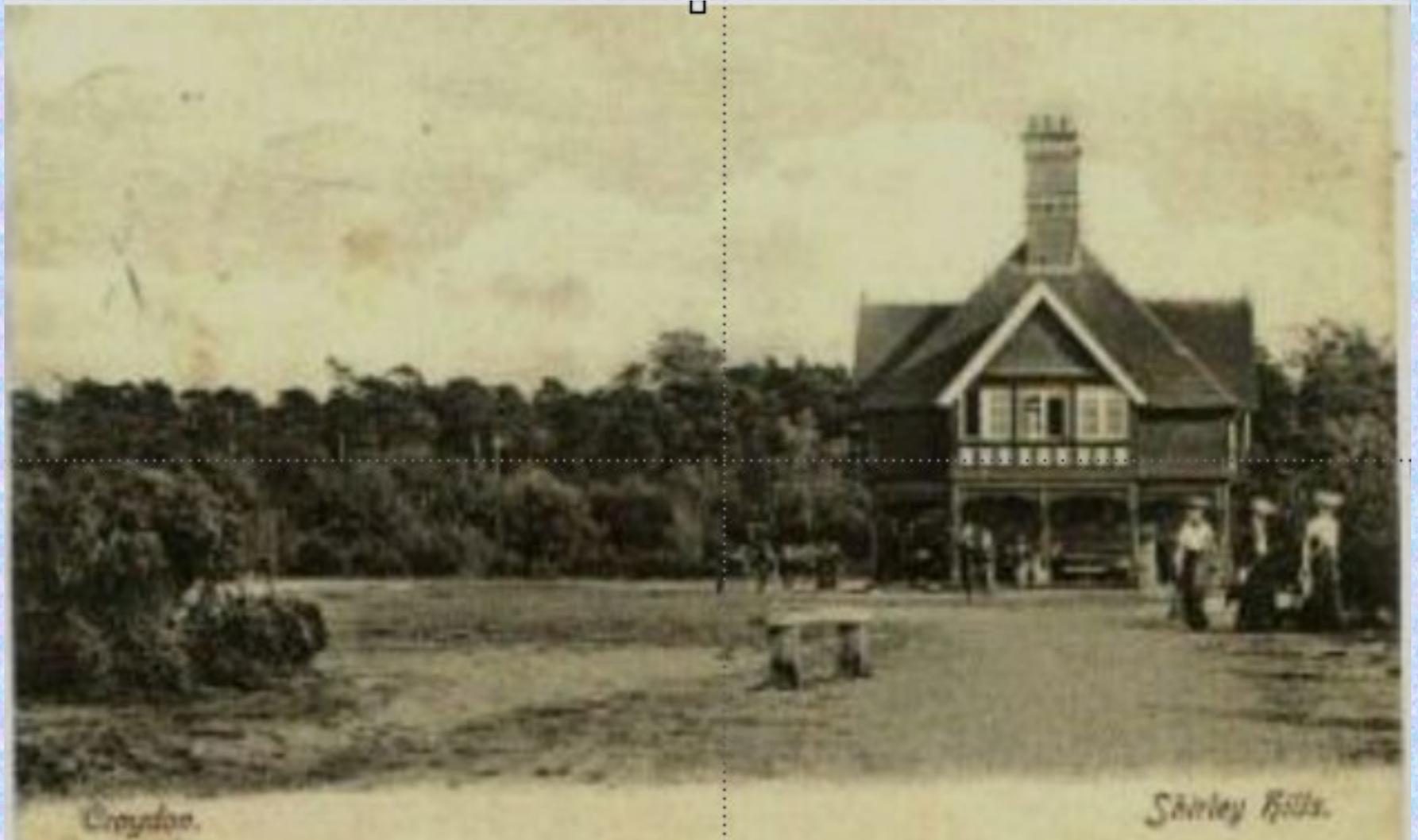
# An Adit at Chaldon



# Adit at Chaldon



# Addington valve house



20 July 1936 - April 1937

Regular chlorination from 20 July 1936 due to worrying levels of the bacteria *E. coli* in the Addington well water.

Later caused problems when the filters required repairs.

Both the reservoir and well waters were supposedly tested monthly until end of April 1937

For no explainable reason except by "mere oversight", it stopped

End of September 1937- Oct 1937  
work on the well

to 15<sup>th</sup> Oct water was pumped to waste

from 16<sup>th</sup> Oct pumped into the supply

**1937**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reported cases of typhoid in Croydon**

**30 Sept 1937**

Keith Lanchester age 15 had been taken ill – he died Nov

**Oct 19 1937**

A maid who had contracted the disease  
had just returned from a holiday in France

**27 Oct 1937**

Assumed to be associated with 1<sup>st</sup> case

## Mid Sept- 26 Oct 1937

Mid Sept – 15 Oct 1937

Unfiltered and unchlorinated water was pumped to waste, while repair work went on at the Addington well.

From 16 October 1937, raw untreated water began to be pumped into the public supply unknown to the Borough engineer, Charles Boast, or Croydon's medical officer of health, Oscar Holden.

## 27.10.1937 SHELL FISH

Origin of the illness initially thought to be infected shellfish from the European mainland, as the earliest case in 1937 presented mid-October with a history of travel to France.

As numbers increased an enquiry was held and the Ministry of Health appointed lawyer Harold Murphy, KC.

He recorded that the first case of the Croydon typhoid outbreak was not the one with a travel history to France, but one notified on 27 October 1937.

A second was notified on 28 October and two further cases on 30 October 1937.

## Richard Rimington Oct 1937

Richard H Rimington was aged 13 and was diagnosed at the end of October 1937, he later died.

His father Charles worked for the Bank of England and in 1939 Lived in St Augustines Ave South Croydon.

He conducted his own investigations and visited and questioned those that he personally knew who were affected.

He deduced the source of the outbreak must be the water supply.

He informed Boast, and presented his findings to Holden.

Charles Rimington wrote after Oct 1937

My son Richard has just been taken to the Isolation Hospital suffering from typhoid.

The maid from No. 66 in the same road has recently developed Typhoid.

A little girl from No.64 is suspected of having the same disease.

The milk supply in all these cases is not the same, shell fish and watercress have not been partaken of, the only common thing appears to be water.

Some operations in connection with the water supply have recently been carried out in this road.

31.10.1937

On 31 October 1937, 40 local residents, including Rimington met  
And they invited Boast and Holden.

Holden was distracted by the recent Bournemouth typhoid outbreak  
and its origins in milk.

Ronald Moss, aware of the relationship between the spread of typhoid  
via water from his experiences in India, was "amazed" that Holden  
felt it "inconceivable" that Croydon's troubles with typhoid stemmed  
from its water supply.

According to Holden, the water was tested regularly.

November 1937

Residents, dissatisfied with Holden's explanations, formed the South Croydon Typhoid Outbreak Committee (SCTOC),

Chair: Charles Rimington

In the subsequent month they met daily.

The Ministry of Health was notified by Holden on 1 November 1937.

Chlorination resumed that same day and Holden wrote to all registered medical practitioners in the Borough.

However, in the interim, another six people were confirmed.

Workers from Croydon were stigmatised by their London colleagues.

**1 Nov 1937**

The water was chlorinated

6 reported cases

**4<sup>th</sup> Nov 1937**

samples of water found to be  
heavily contaminated

4 Nov 1937

The water supply was disconnected

10 cases

all supplied by water from Addington

3rd - 17<sup>th</sup> Nov 1937 Enquiry requested

Holden requested the aid of Ernest T. Conybeare, the Ministry of Health's expert on typhoid

He mapped out the cases and matched them with the water supply using traditional epidemiological methods.

The origin was found to be the polluted well at Addington.

SCTOC media campaign initiated a public inquiry.  
17 November 1937 wrote to the Ministry of Health,  
demanding an inquiry

# **How the Newspapers reported the problem in November 1937**

BBC publicised news of the outbreak.

75% of the British population possessed  
a wireless

**5.11.1937**

**Now under control !**

**13 cases - 2 serious**

## **Another Case of Typhoid Fever at Croydon**

A further case of typhoid fever was reported from Croydon to-day, bringing the total number of patients to 13.

Of the cases in the isolation hospital two are serious. They are a 13-year-old school-boy and a middle-aged woman. An official of Croydon Public Health Department told the "Evening Standard" to-day: "We hope the outbreak is now under control and the last three cases reported are only mild."

6 Nov 1937

**A minor epidemic- no cause for public alarm!  
10 cases and 2 suspected**

## TYPHOID CASES IN CROYDON

### “Outbreak Well Under Control”

A minor epidemic of typhoid fever has been reported in Croydon this week. Up to Thursday, ten cases had been notified and two other suspected cases were under observation. Eight of the victims are in the Borough Isolation Hospital, Purley Way, and two are said to be very ill.

Dr. Oscar M. Holden, the Croydon Medical Officer of Health, said to a “Croydon Times” reporter: “The outbreak started last Saturday with two cases. While it is just possible that one or two more cases may crop up, I think the outbreak is under control and there is not the slightest cause for public alarm.”

# **We are not asleep. Not an epidemic**

**“ WE ARE NOT ASLEEP.”**

Dr. Holden strongly deprecated alarmist rumours which had been spread about in South Croydon. “ There is no cause for alarm,” he continued. “ We are not asleep on the job. We are dealing with it quite energetically, and the Ministry of Health, at my request, are helping in the investigations. We are hoping that the outbreak will peter out. So far it is not an epidemic, and had it been really widespread we should have had many more cases reported by now.”

**6 Nov 1937 –improvement –  
Epidemic has run its course  
2 serious and 11 progressing well**

## Going on Well

No fresh cases of typhoid fever have been reported from Croydon since Thursday.

The condition of the 13-year-old boy and the middle-aged woman, who are seriously ill in Croydon Isolation Hospital, is stated to-day to be unchanged.

It is hoped that the epidemic has now run its course.

The remaining eleven patients are stated to be progressing favourably.

*C. adv. 6/11*  
**TYPHOID FEVER**

**OUTBREAK IN SOUTH CROYDON**

**No Cause For Alarm**

**Authorities Have Position Well  
in Hand**

**6 Nov 1937**  
**Not the milk**  
**10 cases**

**NOT DUE TO MILK SUPPLY.**

Dr. Holden said that the origin of the outbreak had not yet been ascertained, but, aided by Ministry of Health experts, he and his department were making the closest investigation with a view to solving the mystery. "Milk as a possible source of infection can be definitely ruled out," said Dr. Holden. "It is quite out of the question.

## - 13th TYPHOID CASE

A further case of typhoid fever was reported at Croydon yesterday, bringing the total up to 13. The condition of two patients in the isolation hospital is stated to be serious. Officials who are still trying to trace the source of the epidemic believe it is on the wane.

*Daily Sketch Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>*

## Thirteen Typhoid Cases

New case of typhoid fever reported at Croydon yesterday brings total number of cases in the district to thirteen.

*Daily Mirror Nov 6<sup>th</sup>*

**13 Typhoid Cases.**—A further case of typhoid fever was reported at Croydon bringing the total to 13.

*Croydon Times Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>*

**6 Nov 1937**  
**On the wane?**

**13 cases**  
**2 serious**

**13.11.1937**

**Addington high level reservoir blamed**

**Pumping now ceased.**

**4 deaths – 37 cases notified**

## **FOUR DEATHS REPORTED**

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**A FULL** statement on the Croydon typhoid outbreak was made by the Medical Officer of Health (Dr. Oscar M. Holden) to Croydon Borough Council, on Tuesday. Investigations supported the opinion that the cause was contamination of the water at the Addington high-level reservoir, and pumping from there to the public supply ceased on Thursday of last week. All possible safety measures are being taken. The latest information on Thursday evening was that four deaths had occurred in the epidemic since Monday, and that the number of cases so far notified totalled 37.

**13.11.1937**  
**Well blamed**

# **Contaminated Well Blamed**

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**THE TYPHOID OUTBREAK  
IN CROYDON**

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**Full Statement Made At  
Council Meeting**

**13 Nov 1937  
statement by  
Town clerk.**

**The report  
from  
bacteriologists  
specialising in  
water supply  
has been  
received.**

## **—LATEST OFFICIAL— STATEMENT**

The Town Clerk of Croydon (Mr. E. Taberner) issued the following official statement on Thursday night in connection with the Croydon typhoid epidemic:

“A report from an eminent firm of bacteriologists, specialising in water supply, who have been called in at the invitation of the Corporation, has just been received. It confirms that everything that can

13.11.1937.

## Questions ask of the Council re the well

### COUNCIL'S QUESTIONS

Ald. James Marshall: Could the doctor tell us when the water supply was cut off from that area?

Dr. Holden: The supply was cut off on November 4th and is still cut off. Chlorination commenced on November 1st.

Coun. H. Lock Kendell: Will you alleviate the public's mind on this and state the area affected? I believe I am living in the

### AREA AFFECTED

Dr. Holden: The area is irregular, supplied from the one reservoir, the high level, and it covers an area in South Croydon on the East side of Brighton-road, covering the whole of the highland ground on that

**17 Nov 1937**  
**6 new cases.**

# **Typhoid Inquiry**

**PETITION TO  
BE SENT  
TO MINISTER**

**Six More Cases Notified  
To-day**

17 Nov 1937

Local wells may be closed

*Typhoid Area's  
Wells May  
Be Shut Down*

D. Harold  
17/11

TO-MORROW IS THE VITAL DAY IN THE  
CROYDON TYPHOID EPIDEMIC. IT SHOULD

**17 Nov 1937**

**12 new cases – now 92 known**

**6 deaths**

# 12 More Cases of Typhoid

**T**WELVE more cases of typhoid were reported in Croydon yesterday, bringing the total of known and suspected cases to 92.

There have been six deaths, one of which is still not definitely attributable to the disease.

**20 Nov 1937**  
**BBC issues warning**  
**Beware Watercress**

**7 deaths – 116 cases notified**

# *Typhoid: Radio Watercress: SOS*

*Three Victims Near  
Stricken Town Ate It:  
Peer Among Sufferers*

*'DAILY SKETCH' REPORTER*

**A**T the request of the Town Clerk of Croydon, the typhoid centre, the following warning was broadcast by the B.B.C. last night:—

Three cases of typhoid are reported in one family living outside Croydon, and it is believed that each one of them has been eating watercress which is stated to have come from near Croydon.

## In One Family

This was the radio warning:—

“Three cases of typhoid are reported in one family living outside Croydon, and it is believed that each one of them has been eating watercress, which is stated to have come from near Croydon.”

# Typhoid: Radio Warning

*Beard  
D.H. 30/11*

**W**ARNING THAT TYPHOID GERMS MAY LURK IN WATERCRESS-BEDS AROUND Croydon was broadcast in the second B.B.C. news bulletin last night.

**IZAL**  
is the  
answer

# Croydon Typhoid Epidemic

## —the Duty of the Citizen

**YOU CAN BREAK THE CHAIN OF INFECTION**  
by systematic disinfection with **IZAL**  
Germicide. Follow this simple routine:—

Preparation of

Food & drink & utensils

Wash your 'undies'

Gargle

- Before handling food or drink, wash the hands in **IZAL** solution (one table-spoonful to a bowl of water).
- Wash feeding and drinking vessels wherever possible in **IZAL** solution of same strength.
- Soak and wash undergarments and soiled linen in **IZAL** Solution.
- Gargle night and morning with warm salt water to which three or four drops of **IZAL** have been added.

**REMEMBER Soap and water alone will not  
kill Typhoid germs**

**IZAL KILLS ALL INFECTIOUS GERMS**

Jessops  
has the  
answer!

[Trump]

use  
disinfectant

**TYPHOID ANTIDOTE**  
for 1d. per day

**JESSOP'S**

(Patent No. 470031)

**Lactic Sugar**

**RENEW YOUR YOUTH  
LIKE THE EAGLE**

**ENERGISING, DETERGENT  
AND ELIMINATING**

This is a Pure Sugar, will increase vitality, is a solvent of Lime and Uric Acid, thus ridding you of all forms of Rheumatism. Of great assistance in keeping you in a sound state of health. Keeps the whole alimentary canal and glandular system healthy. A remedy for all irregularities. If you take it as a diet you will not suffer from any infectious disease. Will guard you against the flu. LACTIC SUGAR is a food product and not a drug.

**LARGE 1/- DRUMS**

Beauty and Health for 1/-

**Jessop's Lactic Sugars, L<sup>td.</sup>**

20 Nov 1937

Social life at a standstill for fear of typhoid

7 deaths- 116 cases

# A Standstill In Town Of 250,000

*Daily Express Staff Reporter*

**S**Ocial life in Croydon — town of 250,000 people ten miles south of London Bridge—is practically at a standstill. It is paralysed by the typhoid fear.

**20 Nov 1937**

**South & Central Croydon, Addiscombe  
Thornton Heath Norbury affected  
7 death 116 cases**

## **Panic In Croydon**

**Blame on Council for cutting  
down on inspections**

### **WATER SUPPLIES ARE CONNECTED**

It now appears that there is a connection between the high-level water supply from the Addington

### **INSPECTIONS GUT DOWN**

But the main attack is on the Tory Borough Council, because it was responsible for cutting down, for "economy," the number of times the Addington water was tested, and because it is felt that it must be responsible for the sewerage system that has been permitted in the newly built-up area around the Addington well.

Although the near-by well of the Metropolitan Water Board is tested daily, that at Addington has only had monthly tests

**20 Nov**

**1937**

**7 deaths –120 cases**

# **TYPHOID EPIDEMIC'S RAPID SPREAD**

## **Tory "Economy" Blamed For Contaminated Well**

**T**HE Croydon typhoid epidemic yesterday, far from being checked, increased in severity and extended into several new districts.

By the evening the total deaths officially reported rose to seven, and the number of cases to 120. This is an increase of 20 on the figures for the previous day, and is the biggest so far recorded.

## 20 Nov – Inoculation and isolation is answer

Chemists are busy; other businesses are suffering.

The proprietor of a small general store complained to me that he had done little business, since a scare went round that typhoid had been traced to foodstuffs sold by him.

Doctors are answering dozens of false alarms, for headache and chill are the first symptoms of fever.

An expert told me last night: "There is only one reasonably sure preventive—inoculation. People who think they have been in contact with typhoid victims should be inoculated. Definite contacts should be isolated immediately."

**22 Nov**

**7 deaths & 135 cases**

**Big Week-End  
Jump In  
Typhoid Cases**

**TOTAL NOW 142**

**22 Nov**

**Croydon 149**

**Wallington 1**

**West Wickham 2**

**TYPHOID CASES**

*27th 1911*

**CHILD FROM CROYDON  
SCHOOL NOW PATIENT**

# 300 DOCTORS MEET

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Typhoid “Mountain  
Out Of Molehill”

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SHOPS AND CINEMAS  
SPEAK UP

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Poster Campaign For  
Normality

**22 Nov**

**Don't panic!**

**180 cases & 6  
deaths**

# *Bosh*

Many of our readers will have been as amused as ourselves at reading specimens of certain sections of the National Press's methods of presenting the typhoid outbreak to their readers. We print above a selection of these, and we will be pleased to publish any further flight of fancy our readers may care to send us.

"South Croydon yesterday faced a week-end of terror. Dances and public dinners have been abandoned."

"Sunday Graphic,"  
November 21st.

"Nearly every family in South Croydon is living in fear."

"Daily Herald,"  
November 20th.

"The local papers are demanding a panic."

"Daily Express,"  
November 20th.

"Croydon's streets of terror."

"News of the World" placard,  
November 21st.

"Social life in Croydon—town of 250,000 people ten miles south of London Bridge—is practically at a standstill. It is paralysed by the typhoid fear.

"'Whose door next?' Croydon people ask one another as the blue ambulances turn into their street.

"Friend is afraid of friend. Bridge parties, golf matches, dinner parties, are being cancelled. Some are just being postponed 'until after the seventeenth day'."

"Daily Express,"  
November 20th.

**25.11.1937**

**Bulls Head Hotel closes after  
Mr E Hawke's son contracted typhoid**

**7 deaths – 180 cases**

**Hotel Closes After  
Case Of Typhoid**

**25 Nov 1937**  
**7 deaths- 180 cases**

## **SEVENTH DEATH**

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### **Girl Latest Victim Of Typhoid In Croydon**

*Nov. 25*  
Croydon's total of known or suspected cases of typhoid yesterday reached 180, when 17 fresh cases were notified.

A girl died from typhoid in the Croydon Isolation Hospital yesterday, and the town clerk stated last night that this brought the number of deaths in the borough to seven.

# Sales of Watercress drop

## IRREPROACHABLE CONDITIONS

The Watercress Branch of the National Farmers' Union stated on Saturday that cultivated watercress sold in and around London was grown under "irreproachable conditions." Notwithstanding this assurance large quantities of watercress remained unsold at Covent Garden Market on Saturday.

25.11.1937

watercress banquet message

The mayor says



slogan: "Go everywhere you want to go, eat everything you want, drink everything you want"; emphasised that, in proportion to population, the outbreak was a small one.

**25.11.1937**

**A 'Watercress banquet'  
to reassure the public it was safe to eat.**

**THEY ATE CRESS AT CROYDON BANQUET**



**Shirley.  
No cases  
water from Metropolitan board**

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**CONCERNING SHIRLEY**

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There have been no cases of typhoid in Shirley-way or on any part of the Spring Park Farm Estate Shirley.

Messrs. Gowers Builders Ltd. have stated that all the water is supplied to the estate by the Metropolitan Water Board and is obtained from wells at Farnborough, Kent.



## 25 Nov 1937. The communists call for action

Thursday, November 25, 1937

# CALL FOR ACTION BY COMMUNISTS IN TYPHOID AREA

(From Our Special Correspondent)

**H. R. G. JEFFERSON**

CROYDON, Wednesday.

**T**HERE were 17 new typhoid cases in Croydon today—the second biggest increase since the epidemic began. The total now in Croydon alone is 180.

The death roll was increased by one when a girl died in Croydon Isolation Hospital this afternoon.

The Town Clerk stated today that the boy Keith Lanchester, who died at Maydew Hospital, was a true typhoid case.

Traders have been quick to turn the reassuring statement of the Town Clerk to their advantage. Practically every shop in the borough today is displaying large posters quoting the Town Clerk's words, that: "The public may confidently continue to shop in Croydon."

These posters have been distributed by the Croydon Advertiser, a paper which represents local commercial interests.

Just how dangerous the silence of the Tory Council is to the public is illustrated by a notice I saw today in the window of a green-grocery shop in one of South Croy-

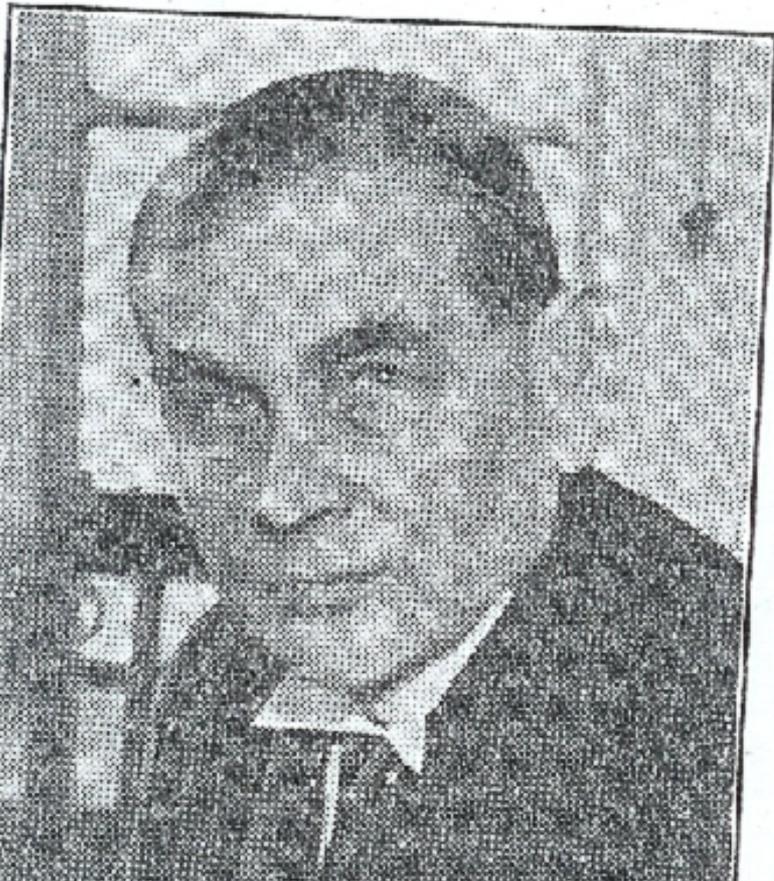
Keith Lanchester  
died at  
**MAYDEW [!]**  
hospital



## THE INQUIRY

### Committee of Three Appointed

It was announced on Tuesday morning that the Ministry of Health inquiry into the Croydon typhoid outbreak will be conducted by Mr. Harold Lawson Murphy, K.C., who will have as his assessors Sir Humphrey Rolleston and Mr. H. J. F. Gourley, M.Inst.C.E.



**26 Nov 1937**  
**Inquiry by**  
**Mr Harold Lawson**  
**Murphy KC**  
**Sir Humphrey Rolleston**  
**Mr H J Gourley M Inst CE**

### WATER EXPERT APPOINTED

It was stated on Wednesday that Dr. John Foster Beale, one of the greatest water experts in the country and an author of several papers on the examination of water, had been called to Croydon in connection with the typhoid outbreak.

In the course of an inquiry at Folkestone on Wednesday Dr. J. Foster Beale said that gulls were carriers of typhoid and paratyphoid, though themselves unaffected by the disease.

**3 Dec 1937**

**Last case reported**

## 6 Dec 1937 Inquiry

As number of cases increased an enquiry was held, Ministry of Health appointed lawyer Harold Murphy, KC.

Initially thought to be infected shellfish from the European mainland – One had been to France.

Then discovered an earlier case 27 October 1937.

A second notified on 28 October, two more on 30 October.

6th Dec 1937

80 cases in hospital when inquiry began

End of 1937 - 43 deaths and 341 cases.

Holden later received much criticism for not confirming the origin of the typhoid more speedily

## Enquiry findings from 20.12.1937

Combination of factors were concluded to have caused the incident

Repair works on the well, the worker who was a carrier of typhoid and the water supply not being chlorinated.

Management was criticised for not effectively managing the water supply and for not adequately communicating with each other.

The medical officer of health (Holden) and Borough engineer (Boast) had little or no contact with each other

Holden was also noted to have been "ignorant of the fact that water was the most common cause of transmission".

## Aftermath and responses 1938

230 Legal claims issued to Croydon corporation from Spring 1938.

Decided that one should be used as a test case.

December 1938, test case, Read v. Croydon Corporation, took place in the High Court.

The father of one of the survivors was successful in arguing that the water undertaker was liable.

It concluded with compensation for medical expenses and "pain and suffering and general inconvenience caused by [the plaintiff's] illness".

# Enquiry

**20 Dec 1937 – 12 Jan 1938**

Croydon Corporation  
was found to have been negligent

TEST ACTION in HIGH COURT

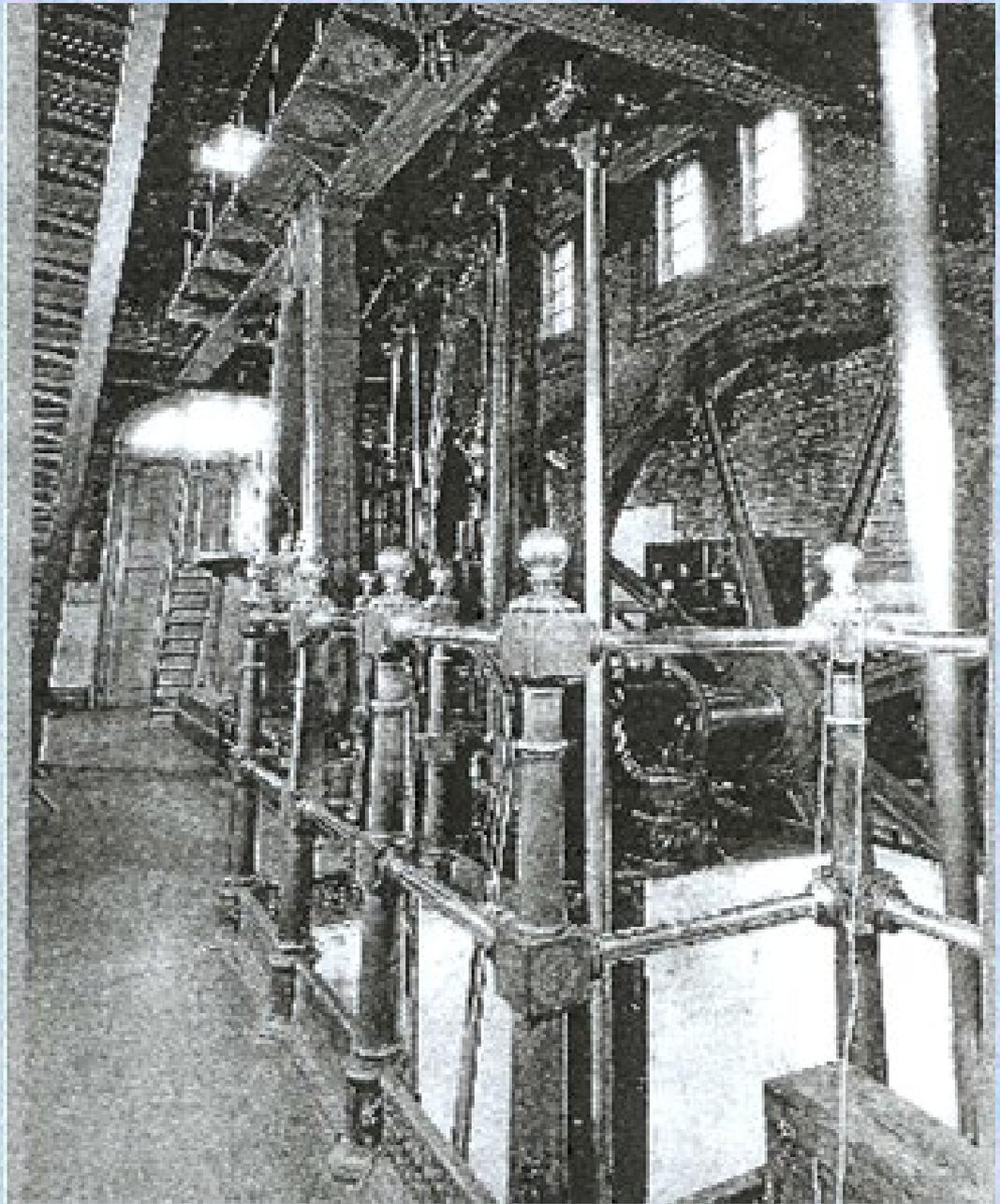
**10 Nov 1938**

Judgement given against Croydon Corporation  
of £100 for damages and out of pocket expenses for  
Patricia Rosemary READ a minor

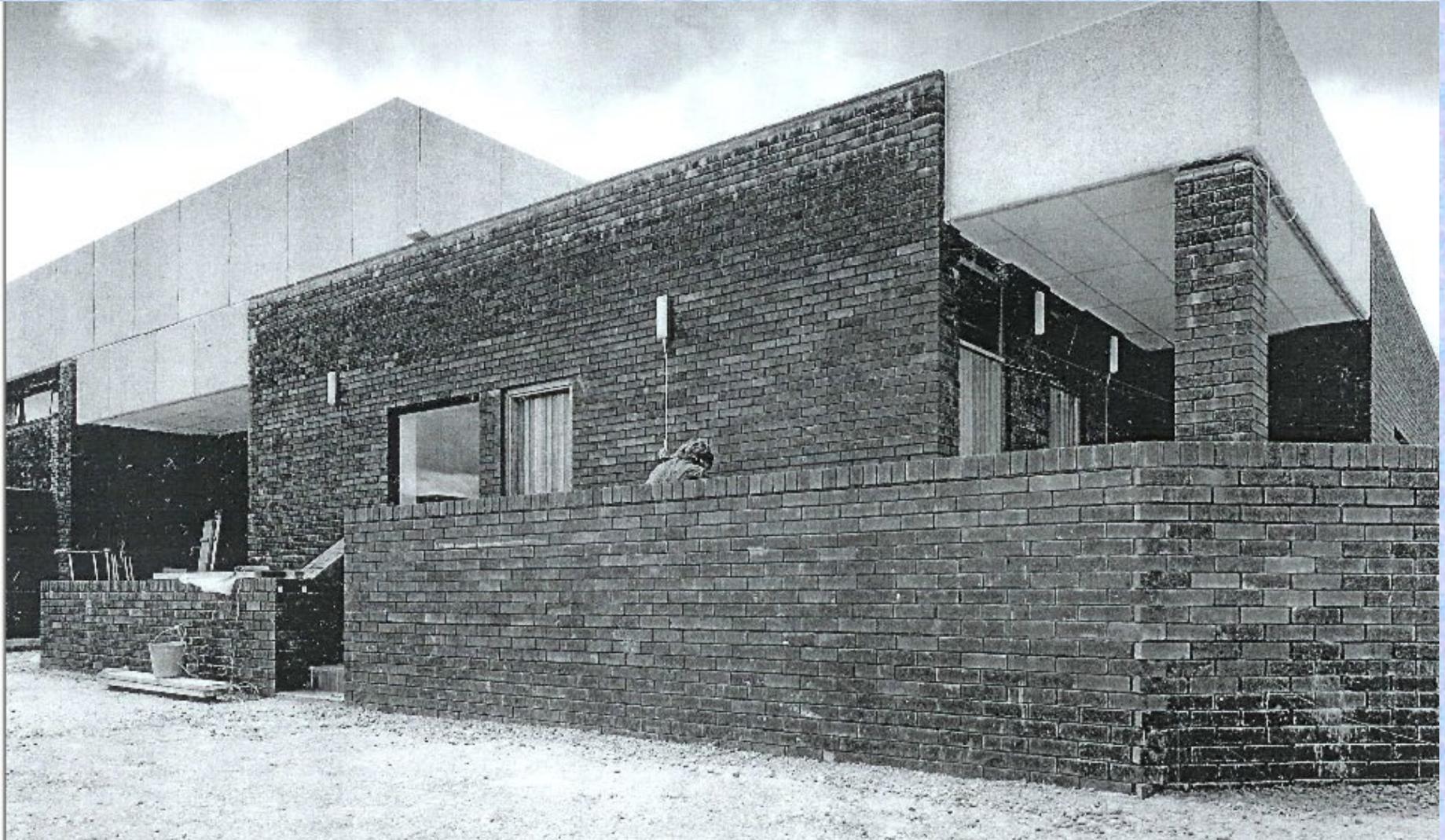
## Records of the court case 1938

Scrapbooks of newspaper articles [17 volumes] collected by Walter Monckton and the Croydon Corporation.

# Waterworks inside view



# A New Waterworks was built



# Typhoid causes

The origin of the outbreak was the polluted chalk water well at Addington which by 1937 supplied water to up to one-fifth of the area

Three coincidental events were blamed;

- [1] changes to the well structure by repair work
- [2] the employment of a new workman who was an unwitting carrier of typhoid
- [3] failure to chlorinate the water

## White paper 14 Feb 1938

The inquiry lasted 16 days and its report was published as a white paper

Murphy reported that the origin of the typhoid came from a workman, known as "Case A", who had become unwell with typhoid fever during the First World War, but hadn't realised he was a carrier.

He was employed in building works on the Addington well between 28 September and 26 October 1937.

Holden was however, unaware of the cessation of chlorination while works were being carried out, and he was accused of not notifying local doctors earlier.

**Beware Watercress**

**THE END**

## Enquiry answers 1937

The immediate cause of the outbreak was a portion of the public water supply becoming infected by the typhoid bacillus. This infected portion was derived from a chalk well at Addington.

How that well became infected is a question that cannot be answered with absolute certainty. However, all the circumstances and probabilities point so strongly in one direction, I feel justified in coming to a definite conclusion on the subject.

That conclusion is that the well was infected by the fact that at the end of September and during October 1937, workmen, one of whom was an active carrier of typhoid, were working in the well and that, during this time, large amounts of water from the well, were unfiltered and unchlorinated.

# Enquiry

The journal Medical Officer was critical of Holden and of higher medicine.

Murphy pointed out that a number of practitioners would not be familiar with the journal.

In addition, some practitioners from surrounding boroughs may not have access to the journal.

5.11. 1937

Outbreak under control?

13 cases

## TYPHOID AT CROYDON

Another case of typhoid fever at Croydon was reported to-day, bringing the number of cases to 13.

“We hope the outbreak is under control now,” said an official of the Croydon Health Department.

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Star

Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>

## 1937-1968

Between 1937 and 1986 the UK witnessed over 11,794 cases of water-borne disease over 34 outbreaks.

At least six deaths were reported during this time.

### **When Food Kills (2003)**

Bacteriologist Hugh Pennington quotes the Croydon Public Inquiry's conclusion that "there was both misunderstanding and lack of communication between the responsible officers" at Croydon and, in his opinion,

**"this is a recurrent theme in the incubation periods of disasters".**

# Typhoid victims

- c 1<sup>st</sup> **Master Rimington** son of Mr C H - chairman of Typhoid Outbreak committee
- c2<sup>nd</sup> **Keith Lanchester**—15- 55 Croham Valley Road died at Mayday Ill from Sept 30th  
3-4 N.K
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Mr James Rowland Hill** son of Mr & Mrs J A Hill of South Park Hill Road
- 6<sup>th</sup> A week later his only brother **Clifford A R Hill**- 24 at Borough Isolation hospital
- 7<sup>th</sup> **Girl** at Croydon isolation hosp
- 8<sup>th</sup> **Miss Dorothy Godden** —23- Mansfield road Sth Croydon d Croydon Boro Hospital
- 9<sup>th</sup> **Miss Winifred Tugwell**- 34- Biddulph Rd Sth Croydon died Mayday

Via D Batty

Mr Smith from Addington Palace -buried churchyard —grave cemented over  
Others from Addington [now New Addington]  
Mrs Wicks — Selsdon park rd

# Some who caught Typhoid

Lord Rochester Park Hill Road East Croydon  
and his neighbours

Mrs W L Anderson - wife of the Bishop of Croydon  
arrived in Croydon in beginning October and lived in the  
Vicarage in Park Hill Road

# Addington Hills Valve house

