

Alderman retires



AFTER 37 years' service to the town as a councillor, alderman and, for one year, as Mayor, Ald. Charles Herbert Gibson has retired from Croydon Council.

Ald. Gibson came to Croydon 48 years ago, when he joined a small firm of builders.

Since then, he has become one of Croydon's most prominent public figures and a leading businessman. His services to the town were recognised in 1954 when he was made a Freeman of the Borough. He is also a Deputy-Lieutenant of Surrey.

Ald. Gibson was elected to the council in 1921 and he soon made his mark as a man who was prepared to fight for any cause on which he felt strongly.

He became known as the "chief tram scrapper," because of his persistent efforts to get rid of the trams, then controlled by the council.

Ald. Gibson led the successful campaign soon after the last war which led to the trustees of the Crystal Palace, of whom he was one, reinstating a sports centre on the derelict grounds.

He founded, in 1913, the building firm of C. H. Gibson Ltd., which employed about 300 people, and for over 30 years has been a director of Stewart Klitz and Co., the Croydon firm of estate agents.

Ald. Gibson served as an Army officer in both world wars.

He has had many public interests outside the council. He is a Whitgift governor and was a member of the Croydon Group Hospital Management Committee and the South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board when the hospital service was first taken over by the State. He has been a Rotarian for 35 years.