

[Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Wimbledon].

Contributors

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BOROUGH OF WIMBLEDON

Public Health Department.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1940.

S T A F F .

Whole-time.

Medical Officer of Health; School Medical Officer;
Medical Superintendent of the Infectious Diseases Hospital;
Maternity and Child Welfare Officer:

± * HAROLD ELLIS, M.B., B.S.(Lond.), M.R.C.S.,
 L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health,
Assistant School Medical Officer:

± PATRICK J. DOODY, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

* R. T. AVIS, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., (c), (e), (f).

Sanitary Inspectors:

* D. F. S. FLYNN, (e), (f).

* C. W. SOUTHERBY, (e), (f).

Ø A. A. REID, (e), (f).

Ø H. R. FRY, (e).

Health Visitors - School Nurses:

MISS V. B. WOODROFF, (b), (c), (g).

MISS P.N. NASH, (a), (b), (d).

MISS J. C. MOFFAT, (a), (b), (d), (h).

MISS E.S.G. DAVIES, (a), (b), (d), (h).

MRS. E. A. JONES, (a), (b), (d).

Matron of Infectious Diseases Hospital:

MISS L. McCORRY.

Matron of Day Nursery:

MISS I. CUTLER.

Senior Clerk:

A. L. TAYLOR.

Clerks:

Ø J. E. FIELD.

J. BURROWS.

Clerk to the Maternity and Child Welfare Department:

A. L. TAYLOR.

PART-TIME.

- LESLIE H. W. WILLIAMS, F.R.C.S., F.C.O.G., Obstetric Consultant.
- S. TAYLOR HARRIS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer to Ante-natal Clinic.
- MARY M. TULLOCH, M.B., B.S., Medical Officer to Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.
- W. L. GALVIN, M.B., B.Ch., Deputy Medical Attendant Infectious Diseases Hospital.
- R. J. FURLONG, F.R.C.S., Orthopaedic Surgeon.
- R. J. CANN, M.S., Surgeon to Aural Clinic.
- A. McALLISTER, F.R.C.S., Consulting Obstetrician under Public Health (Notification of Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia) Regulations, 1926.
- Col. E. MIDDLETON PERRY, C.B.E., F.R.C.V.S., Veterinary Inspector.
- J. H. JOHNSTON, M.Sc., L.S.A., Bacteriologist.
-

- # Salary contribution under Public Health Acts.
- I " " by Exchequer Grants.
- a. S.R.N.
- b. S.C.M.
- c. Certificate Sanitary Inspectors Examination Board (London).
- d. New Health Visitor's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
- e. Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspector of Nuisances.
- f. Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute for Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.
- g. Diploma Board of Education (Health Visitors' Training) Regulations, 1919.
- h. Certificate of Fever Training.
- Ø Serving with H.M. Forces.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

1940.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Wimbledon.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the work of the Public Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1940. The Report for 1940 is an ordinary report compiled in accordance with the instructions contained in Circular 2314 of the Ministry of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres - Census, 1931)	..	..	..	3,221
Population (Census, 1931)	..	..	..	59,524
Resident Population (Estimated Mid-1940 R.G.)				
For calculation of birth rates)	..	..		49,910
" " " death rates)	..	..		
Number of inhabited houses:-				
1921 (Census)	..	..	..	11,926
1931 (Census)	..	..	..	13,325
Number of families or separate occupiers:-				
1921 (Census)	..	..	..	13,998
1931 (Census)	..	..	..	15,883

Rateable Value:- £829,430

Sum represented by a penny rate:- £3,456.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year 1940. (Registrar-General's Figures)

For Calculation of

		Infantile Mor- tality, etc.			Birth Rate		
		Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.
Live Births	(Legitimate	552	279	273	585	300	285
	(Illegitimate	24	15	9	24	15	9
	(Total	576	294	282	609	315	294
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		..	..	..	..	..	12.20
Stillbirths	(Legitimate	..	..	..	Total 19	M. 6	F. 13
	(Illegitimate	..	..	..	2	1	1
	(Total	..	..	..	21	7	14
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births		..	..	..	..	..	33.33
Deaths		..	..	..	Total 328	M. 406	F. 422
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population		..	..	..	..	..	13.92

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List):-

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births
No. 29 Puerperal & post- abortive sepsis	1	1.67
No. 30 Other maternal causes	-	-
Total	1	1.67

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-

All infants per 1,000 live births	43.40
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	36.23
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	208.33

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	106
" " Measles (all ages)	-
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	-
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	5

Birth Rates, Civilian Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality,
Maternal Death Rates, and Case Rates for certain Infectious Dis-
eases in the Year, 1940.

(Provisional figures based on weekly and quarterly returns)

	Wim- ble- don.	England & Wales	126 C.B.'s & Great Towns in- cluding London	148 Smal- ler towns (Resi- dent pop- 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County
Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population					
Live Births	12.20	14.6	16.0	15.7	13.7
Still Births	0.42	0.55	0.64	0.55	0.44
<u>Deaths:-</u>					
All Causes	13.92	14.3	15.8	12.8	17.8
Typhoid & Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Small-pox	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Scarlet Fever	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria	0.02	0.06	0.07	0.05	0.01
Influenza	0.20	0.32	0.29	0.30	0.18
Violence	2.70	#	#	#	#
<u>Notifications:-</u>					
Small-pox	-	0.00	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	0.80	1.63	1.53	1.57	0.82
Diphtheria	0.18	1.16	1.29	1.21	0.61
Enteric Fever	0.38	0.07	0.06	0.10	0.06
Erysipelas	0.22	0.33	0.36	0.30	0.35
Pneumonia	0.46	1.20	1.37	1.00	0.87
Rates per 1,000 Live Births					
<u>Infant Mortality:-</u>					
Deaths under 1 yr. of age	43	55	61	54	50
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under two years of age)	8.68	4.6	5.9	4.4	5.8
<u>Maternal Mortality (Excluding Abortion):-</u>					
Puerperal Infection	1.73)	#	#	#	#
Others	0.00)	#	#	#	#
Total	1.73)				

		Rates per 1,000 Total Births (i.e., Live and Still)				
<u>Maternal Mortality</u> (<u>Excluding Abortion</u>):-						
Puerperal Infection ..		1.67	0.52)	≠	≠	≠
Others		0.00	1.64)			
Total		1.67	2.16)			
<u>Notifications:-</u>						
Puerperal Fever ..	}	10.05	11.96	13.90	9.73	-3.34
" Pyrexia ..						13.40

≠ Not available.

Births.- The statistics supplied by the Registrar-General show that during 1940 the total number of registered live births belonging to Wimbledon amounted to six hundred and nine, (three hundred and fifteen males and two hundred and ninety-four females). This gives a birth rate equal to 12.20 per thousand of the population. Twenty-four of the births were illegitimate. Of this number fifteen were males and nine females. In addition, twenty-one stillbirths (seven males and fourteen females) were registered.

Public Health Act, 1936 - Notification of Births.

During the year, five hundred and eight-eight births were notified by the following persons:-

Parents	3
Midwives	182
Doctors	12
Other persons	391
Total	588

Twelve of these notifications were in respect of stillbirths.

Of the five hundred and eighty-eight notifications, two hundred and eighty-six were received from Medical Officers of Health of outside areas, and related to births which had occurred to Wimbledon residents confined outside the Borough. Similarly, forty-seven confinements occurred in Wimbledon amongst women whose homes were situated in other districts. The net number of notified births belonging to Wimbledon is therefore five hundred and forty-one.

Deaths.- The total number of deaths registered in the district was six hundred and seventy-three (three hundred and twelve males and three hundred and sixty-one females), equal to a death rate of 13.48 per thousand of the population.

The deaths occurring outside the district, of persons belonging to this Borough were three hundred and three.

The deaths occurring within the district, of persons not belonging thereto were one hundred and forty-eight.

Taking these figures into consideration, the total number of deaths properly belonging to Wimbledon is eight hundred and twenty-eight and the crude death rate 16.58 per thousand of the population.

The death rate shows an increase on the figure for the previous year.

The crude death rate is, strictly speaking, not comparable with the figure for England and Wales. In order to provide for this the Registrar-General has introduced an areal comparability factor. This factor, for Wimbledon is 0.84. The adjusted death rate for Wimbledon for 1940 is consequently 13.92 per thousand of the population as compared with a figure of 14.3 per thousand for England and Wales.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ..	-	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	2	1	3
3. Scarlet fever	-	1	1
4. Whooping cough	-	-	-
5. Diphtheria	-	1	1
6. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	15	6	21
7. Other forms of tuberculosis ..	1	1	2
8. Syphilitic diseases	4	-	4
9. Influenza	3	7	10
10. Measles	-	-	-
11. Acute poliomyelitis & polio- encephalitis	1	-	1
12. Acute infectious encephalitis ..	1	-	1
13.M Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (males only)	3	-	3
13.F Cancer of uterus	-	7	7
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum ..	8	6	14
15. Cancer of breast	-	10	10
16. Cancer of all other sites	36	36	72
17. Diabetes	3	3	6
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions ..	30	32	62
19. Heart disease	96	104	200
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system	9	16	25
21. Bronchitis	22	27	49
22. Pneumonia	20	16	36
23. Other respiratory diseases	8	5	13
24. Ulcer of the stomach or duodenum ..	14	4	18
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ..	3	2	5
26. Appendicitis	2	-	2
27. Other digestive diseases	10	12	22
28. Nephritis	9	12	21
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	-	1	1
30. Other maternal causes	-	-	-
31. Premature birth	3	2	5
32. Congenital malformations, birth injury, infantile disease	7	2	9
33. Suicide	2	7	9
34. Road traffic accidents	6	1	7
35. Other violent causes	61	58	119
36. All other causes	27	42	69
Totals	<u>406</u>	<u>422</u>	<u>828</u>

Over half the total deaths which occurred amongst Wimbledon residents in 1940 were due to cancer, diseases of the heart and circulation, and diseases of the respiratory system.

Infantile Mortality.

There were twenty-five infant deaths (including transferable deaths) giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of forty-three per thousand live births. In 1939 the figure was twenty-nine per thousand. During 1940 the Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales was fifty-five.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.

The Corporation employ a part-time bacteriologist for the examination of pathological specimens.

In addition, the laboratory provided at the Health Centre is utilised for the examination of pathological specimens from the Infectious Diseases Hospital. This work is carried out by the staff of the Public Health Department.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The total number of visits paid by the Health Visitors during 1940, amounted to 7,218, the figure for the previous year being 7,179.

Details of the home visits carried out are given below:-

Number of Infants visited - First visits	..	..	530	
Number of Infants visited - Re-visits	..	..	1,380	
Number of Toddlers visited	..	..	2,023	
Ante-natal - First visits	..	..	330	
Ante-natal - Revisits	..	..	196	
Visits re Infant Deaths	..	..	15	
" " Stillbirths	..	..	15	
" " Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	..	13	
" " Puerperal Pyrexia	..	..	4	
" " Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases	..	..	1	
" " Milk Applications	..	..	60	
" " Foster Children	..	..	142	
" " Midwives	..	..	7	
Miscellaneous	..	..	322	
Total welfare visits				5,038
Visits - School Medical Service	..	..	975	
Tuberculosis - Home Visits	..	..	64	
Visits to Nursing Homes	..	..	24	
Other visits	..	..	125	
Ineffectual visits	..	..	992	2,180
Total visits				<u>7,218</u>

The Maternity and Child Welfare Centres remained open throughout the year. At Pelham Road Centre two sessions per week were held. The average attendance at the Tuesday sessions was 59.46 and at the Friday sessions 69.57. At the Cottenham Park Centre the average weekly attendance was 28.26. The average attendance at the Wandle Park Centre was 57.24.

Ante-natal Clinic.

The Pelham Road Ante-natal Clinic was held weekly and the average attendance was 13.46. At the weekly Ante-natal Clinic at Wandle Park, which was re-started in January, 1940, there was an average attendance of 6.95.

Midwifery and Maternity Services - Midwives Acc, 1936.

A service of whole-time domiciliary midwives is provided by the Wimbledon District Nursing and Midwifery Association under an agreement with the Council.

Midwives Acts, 1902-1936.

The Council is the Local Supervising Authority for the Midwives Acts in Wimbledon.

There were seven practising midwives in Wimbledon at the end of 1940, one of whom was resident outside the Borough.

One hundred and sixty-three confinements were attended by midwives and twenty-five by maternity nurses.

Medical Aid forms were received in seventy-five instances.

The total fees paid to doctors by the Corporation during the year under Section 14 (1) of the Midwives Act, 1918, amounted to £101. 15s. 6d. The amount recovered from the patients' relatives was £44. 5s. 9d.

Public Health Act, 1936 (Child Life Protection); Children and Young Persons Act, 1933; Children Act, 1908 (Part 1).-
The following figures relate to the administration of the above Acts in Wimbledon during 1940.

- (i) Number of foster-mothers on the Register -
 - (a) At the beginning of the year .. 24
 - (b) At the end of the year.. .. 21
- (ii) Number of children on the Register -
 - (a) At the beginning of the year .. 56
 - (b) At the end of the year 40
 - (c) Who died during the year -
 - (d) On whom inquests were held during the year -

Every foster-child was visited regularly. In all, one hundred and forty-two visits were made to the homes of foster-mothers.

Treatment Facilities.- The Minor Ailment, Ophthalmic, Orthopaedic and Aural Clinics remained open throughout the year.

Facilities for the operative treatment of tonsils and adenoids remained available through the usual channels.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.- The following table shows that three cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified.

In no case did any impairment of vision occur.

C A S E S			Vision Unim- paired.	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness	Deaths
Notified	Treated					
	At Home	Hospital				
3	3	-	3	-	-	-

Maternal Mortality.

There was one maternal death amongst Wimbledon mothers in 1940. This occurred in a hospital outside the district and was due to general peritonitis and septic abortion.

During 1939 one maternal death occurred.

The following table gives the maternal mortality rates for Wimbledon and also for England and Wales:-

1940	Puerperal Infection.	Others	Total
Wimbledon:			
Per 1000 Live Births	1.73	0.00	1.73
Per 1000 Total Births	1.67	0.00	1.67
England & Wales:			
Per 1000 Total Births	0.52	1.64	2.16

Hospital Treatment for Complicated Obstetric Cases.-
During 1940 twenty-two patients received treatment under this Scheme.

The cost of maintenance and treatment of these patients amounted to £182. 0. Od. of which £39. 0s. Od. was recovered from the relatives.

Supply of Milk to Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Infants.-
During 1940, 4,140½ gallons of fresh milk and 896 lbs. of dried milk, cod liver oil and malt etc., were supplied under the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme. The National Milk Scheme came into operation at the end of July, and this is administered through the Ministry of Food.

Dental Treatment.

Dental treatment is available for children under school age, and for nursing and expectant mothers. This Clinic continued without interruption throughout the year.

Municipal Day Nursery.- On the outbreak of war the Nursery was evacuated to Arundel. In September 1940 the Nursery was transferred to Hinhead, and is now administered by the Surrey County Council on behalf of the Wimbledon Council.

Visits were paid to the Nursery by the Chairman of the Wimbledon Maternity & Child Welfare Committee and the Medical Officer of Health as circumstances permitted.

Nursing Homes Registration Act, 1927. Public Health Act, 1936 - Part VI.

The Wimbledon Borough Council is responsible for the supervision of nursing homes in Wimbledon. At the end of the year there were eleven registered nursing homes.

Twenty-three visits of inspection were made.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sanitary Inspection of District.- The following is a statement showing the number and nature of inspections made for the year 1940.

<u>Reason of Visit.</u>	<u>No.</u>
Infectious Diseases	586
House Inspections	4336
Inspections under Housing Acts 1936	229
House to House Inspections	598
Rent Act Inspections	6
Houses Let in Lodgings Inspections	-
Inspection of Factories, Workshops, Work- places and Outworkers' premises	120
Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections	78
Inspections under Shops Acts	131
Application of Tests to Drains	56
Inspections under Diseases of Animals' Acts	7
Obtaining Samples of Foods and Drugs	121
Miscellaneous (including Inspections of Food, slaughterhouses, mews, stables, caravans, Petroleum Acts, water supply, piggeries, mosquitoes, etc.)	1590
Total	7642

Notices Served.- One thousand and six preliminary notices or intimations were served during the year.

It was found necessary to serve two hundred and forty Statutory Notices.

House Inspection.- The following table gives a summary of the nuisances abated and the sanitary improvements carried out, together with the defects remedied, as a result of house to house inspection under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors:-

Accumulations removed	23
Cisterns provided	1
Cisterns repaired, cleansed or covered	5
Drains, new, provided	36
Drainage systems made water-tight by patent process	
Drains, repaired or altered	29
Drains, stoppages removed	60
Dustbins provided	286
Flushing cisterns, new, provided	13
Flushing cisterns repaired	45
Manure receptacles provided	1
Rain-water pipes disconnected	2
Roofs repaired	200
Rooms stripped and cleansed	367
Verminous rooms cleansed	71
Soilpipes, new, provided	6
Soilpipes, repaired or altered	7
Vent pipes, new, provided	6
Vent pipes, repaired or altered	8
Waste pipes, new, provided	25
Waste pipes, repaired, disconnected or trapped	15
Water-closets, new, provided	57
Water-closets, repaired or ventilated	8
Water services restored	77
Yards paved	6
Yards repaired	63
Guttering repaired	81
Floors ventilated	17
Nuisances from damp walls abated	309
Sinks provided	6
Other nuisances	1212
Rooms disinfected	314
Total	3,356

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices	Prosecutions.
Factories with mechanical power	81	2	-
Factories without mechanical power	8	-	-
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	-	-	-
Total	89	2	-

2. Defects found.

Particulars	Number of Defects.			Prosecutions.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	2	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
Insufficient	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or Defective	2	1	-	-
Not separate for Sexes ..	1	1	-	-
Other Offences	1	2	-	-
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937)				
Totals	8	7	-	-

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises - (Section 108).

Nature of work	Instances	Notices Served.	Prosecutions
Wearing Apparel - Making, etc.	-	-	-
Others	-	-	-

Outwork in Infected Premises - Sections 109-110 Nil.

HOME WORK.

Lists received:-							
Twice in the year	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Number of Outworkers	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Once in the year	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Number of Outworkers	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Number of Outworkers' Premises on register	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Number of addresses received from other Councils	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Number of addresses forwarded to other Councils	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Notices served on occupiers as to keeping or sending lists	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Prosecutions - failing to keep Outworkers' Lists	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Prosecutions - failing to furnish Lists	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Inspections of Outworkers' Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	31
Number of unwholesome premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
Notices served to remedy	..	..	..	..	..	..	-

OTHER MATTERS.

Underground Bakehouses in use at the end of the year	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:-							
Failure to affix Abstracts of Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspector as remedial under the Public Health Acts.	Notified by H.M. Inspector .. Reports of action taken sent to H.M. Inspector						Nil

HOUSING.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	..	..	..	..	..	..	124
Number of inspections made for the purpose	..	..	..	..	..	..	598

Housing Act, 1936.- Part IV.- Overcrowding:-

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	..	..	..	..	..	..	46
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	..	..	..	..	..	..	246
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	..	..	..	..	..	..	-
(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases	..	..	..	..	..	..	68½
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

AIR RAID SHELTERS.

Two hundred and seventy visits were paid to air raid shelters in the Borough. One hundred of these were carried out by the Medical Officer of Health or his Deputy, seventy-eight by the Sanitary Inspectors, and eighty-two by the Health Visitors. In seventy-four instances defects due to inadequate lighting or ventilation, dampness, uncleanness, or sanitary accommodation were reported to the A.R.P. Department for attention.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.- Practically all the milk for retail sale is brought into the area from other districts.

The number of licences granted under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936, was as follows:-

Pasteuriser's Licence	1
Dealers Licences:	
Tuberculin Tested Milk	4
Accredited Milk	-
Pasteurised Milk.. .. .	10
Supplementary Licences	4

Bacteriological Examination.- Eleven samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination under the Milk (Special Designations) Order.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The Council became the Local Authority under this Act on 1st October, 1939.

Sixty-three samples were taken up to the end of the year.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During 1940, two hundred and sixty-one cases of infectious disease were notified. These were seventy-four more than in 1939. This increase is almost entirely due to the addition of measles, whooping cough and food poisoning to the list of compulsorily notifiable diseases. For several years the incidence of notifiable infectious disease in Wimbledon has been low.

Scarlet Fever.- Forty cases of scarlet fever were notified, fourteen less than in 1939. The attack rate was 0.80 per thousand of the population. One death from scarlet fever occurred in a Wimbledon resident outside the Borough.

Thirty-two, or 80.00 per cent of the cases were treated in hospital. There was one death from this disease.

Diphtheria.- The number of cases of diphtheria showed a marked decrease, there being only nine notifications in 1940 as compared with twenty-four in the previous year. The attack rate was 0.18 per thousand of the population.

All the patients received hospital treatment. There was one death.

Diphtheria Immunisation.- Sessions of the Immunisation Clinic were held every Saturday morning at the Health Centre.

Twelve children were Schick tested. Seven were found to be positive and then immunised. The total number of children immunised was thirty-nine. In all, one hundred and eighty-eight attendances were made for this purpose. Nine children attended for a subsequent Schick test. In all cases they were found to be Schick negative.

Enteric Fever.- In August, several cases of paratyphoid fever were notified, and notifications continued to be received during September. In all, nineteen cases of paratyphoid fever were notified to the Department. In the investigations which ensued the

staff of a large restaurant came under suspicion. A very large number of samples of blood and excreta were submitted to examination and several carriers were detected and isolated. The assistance of Dr. Bamforth of the Ministry's Emergency Laboratory at Richmond was of great value in dealing with this outbreak. It was quickly brought under control and a detailed report was submitted in due course to the Ministry of Health. One patient, a girl aged eight years, has remained a persistent carrier of paratyphoid bacilli.

Food Poisoning.- This became a notifiable disease on 3rd October, 1939. Four notifications were received during the year. These were all members of one family.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.- Twelve cases of this disease were notified. All the patients were treated in hospital. There were three deaths.

Erysipelas.- Notifications were received in respect of eleven cases of erysipelas. Four patients were treated in Hospital.

Puerperal Pyrexia.- Six cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified. Four of these patients were removed to Hospital.

There was no death from puerperal sepsis amongst the six patients notified under the Regulations.

Measles.- Fifty-six cases of measles were notified. Eleven of these were removed to hospital. There were no deaths.

Whooping Cough.- There were only ten cases of this disease notified in 1940. Two cases were treated in hospital. There were no deaths.

TABLE A. - NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1940.

DISEASE	Number of Cases Notified in Various Age Groups.												Total Cases Notified	Total Cases Removed to Hospital
	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over		
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	5	1	15	8	3	4	2	-	-	40	32
Diphtheria (including Membranous Group) ..	-	-	2	-	-	2	2	1	2	-	-	-	9	9
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ..	-	1	2	-	-	3	1	3	6	-	2	1	19	11
Food Poisoning ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	-	4	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	6	4
Measles	3	4	7	5	4	9	5	7	11	1	-	-	56	11
Whooping Cough	2	1	-	1	1	4	1	-	-	-	-	-	10	2
Acute Primary Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	2	6	5	18	-
Acute Influenzal "	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	5	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	1	-	2	-	1	-	2	2	3	-	1	-	12	12
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Polio-encephalitis	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Encephalitis Lethargica	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malaria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum..	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	-	3	3	11	4
Tuberculosis (all forms)	-	1	-	-	1	2	2	7	34	6	13	1	67	47
TOTALS	9	9	14	12	8	36	23	26	71	13	29	11	261	132

TUBERCULOSIS.

Sixty-seven cases of tuberculosis were notified. This figure shows a decrease of six on the number for the previous year. The deaths from tuberculosis were six fewer than in 1939, the total figure being twenty-six.

Twenty-three of these were due to pulmonary tuberculosis.

During 1940, forty-seven Wimbledon patients were admitted to sanatoria or hospitals.

TUBERCULOSIS - 1940.

AGE GROUPS	NEW CASES												DEATHS											
	Primary Notifications (Form A)				New cases discovered otherwise than by Notification				Total New Cases															
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary									
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females								
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4								
1 - 5 years	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-								
5 - 10 "	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-								
10-15 "	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-								
15-20 "	3	2	-	-	1	1	-	-	4	3	-	-	-	-	-	-								
20-25 "	-	5	-	-	5	4	-	1	5	9	-	1	-	2	-	-								
25-35 "	3	2	-	1	7	5	1	-	10	7	1	1	3	1	-	-								
35-45 "	3	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	5	1	-	-	3	2	-	-								
45-55 "	3	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	4	3	-	-	7	2	-	-								
55-65 "	2	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	1	-	-	-								
65 and over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-								
Totals...	15	13	5	1	17	13	1	2	32	26	6	3	16	7	2	1								
	28		6		30		3		58		9		23		3									
	34				33				67				26											
	67																							

WIMBLEDON INFECTIOUS DISEASES HOSPITAL.

One hundred and ninety-six cases were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital during 1940. As there were ten cases in hospital at the end of 1939, the total number of cases under treatment during the year amounted to two hundred and six. One hundred and fourteen of these cases were from Wimbledon, and ninety-two from Kingston.

Of the two hundred and six patients under treatment, seventy-one were suffering from scarlet fever, twenty-nine from diphtheria and twenty-one from cerebro-spinal meningitis, sixteen from enteric fever, thirty-eight from measles and thirty-one from other diseases.

There were seven deaths during the year, one of which was due to diphtheria, five to cerebro-spinal meningitis and one to tuberculous meningitis.

Fifteen patients remained in hospital at the end of 1940. Ten of these were suffering from scarlet fever, two from measles, one from whooping cough, one from cerebro-spinal meningitis and one from erysipelas.

In concluding this report I should like to express my deep appreciation to the Chairman and members of the Public Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees for the consideration and courtesy which they have again shown me during 1940.

It is also a pleasure to draw attention to the help and co-operation which I have received from all members of the staff.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

HAROLD ELLIS.

