#### [Report of the Medical Officer of Health for Mitcham].

#### **Contributors**

Mitcham (London, England). Borough Council.

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#### BOROUGH OF MITCHAM.

#### Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Healt'

for 1940.

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



Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Owing to war conditions this annual report is confined to the urgent and essential matters affecting the public health during the year.

In Movember 1940 your Medical Officer of Health was unfortunately killed by enemy action, and Mitcham lost one of its most popular and efficient Officers.

Heavy and almost continuous night raids during the latter months of the year put a great strain on the Health Services, but I am glad to report that the general health of the population remained good and in spite of shelter life, no epidemic of infectious disease occurred.

There was an increase in the birth rate, which is the highest reported since 1936, and an increase in the death rate, the highest since 1918.

Meopham Road and Vestern Road Infant Welfare Centres were discontinued in 1939, but in spite of this the number of new attendances increased.

Woodlands Maternity Home continued its work satisfactorily. Although the upper wards were closed, 239 cases were admitted, 15 fewer than in 1939.

During the latter part of the year, the routine duties of the Sanitary Inspectors were limited by war conditions, and they gave an increasing amount of time to the A.R.P. services, their help proving most valuable during a difficult period.

#### A. ASHWORTH

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1942.

### Statistics and Social Conditions.

| 1 /                    |        |      |      |                 |
|------------------------|--------|------|------|-----------------|
| Area (in acres)        |        |      | <br> | <br>2935 acres. |
| Population, Census 19  |        |      | <br> | <br>35,119.     |
| " 19                   | 31     |      | <br> | <br>56,856.     |
| " Registrar-           |        | 1940 | <br> | <br>60,630.     |
| Number of inhabited he | ouses  |      | <br> | <br>16,635.     |
| Rateable Value 1940    |        |      | <br> | <br>£503,507.   |
| Sum represented by 1d  | · rate |      | <br> | <br>£1,950.     |

| Births.       |                   |             |         |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------|---------|
| Live births.  | Male.             | Female.     | Total.  |
| Legitimate    | 448               | 460         | 908     |
| Illegitimate  | 14                | 12          | 26      |
| Total         | 462               | 472         | 934     |
| Rate          | 15.4 per 1000 por | oulation.   |         |
| Still births. | Male.             | Female.     | Total.  |
| Legitimate    | 11                | 13          | 24      |
| Illegitimate  | -                 | 1           | 1       |
| Total         | 1.1               | 14          | 1<br>25 |
| Rate          | 26.06 per 1000 to | tal births. |         |
| Deaths.       |                   |             |         |
|               | Male.             | Female.     | Total.  |
|               | 377               | 339         | 716     |
| Rate          | 11.8 per 1000 por | oulation.   |         |
|               |                   |             |         |

#### Maternal Mortality.

From Puerperal Sepsic -From other Puerperal Causes 1

Rate Total. 1.04 per 1000 births.

Death rates of infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1000 live births.

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births.

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births. 115.

#### Deaths from:

Cancer (all ages) 94.
Measles (all ages) Whooping Cough (all ages) Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) 2

#### Notifications of Infectious Disease.

| Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.  | 13.  |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Diphtheria.                 | 36.  |
| Erysipelas.                 | 17.  |
| Measles.                    | 301. |
| Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. | 11.  |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum.      | 1.   |
| Pneumonia.                  | 30.  |
| Puerperal Pyrexia.          | 2.   |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis.     | 60.  |
| Scarlet Fever.              | 48.  |
| Thooping Cough.             | 16.  |

Notifications of Food Poistning.

3.

# Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case notes for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1940. Provisional figures based on Weekly and QuarterlyReturns.

| . g- / .  | Mitcham                      | England<br>and<br>Wales.              | 126 C.Bs.<br>and Great<br>Towns<br>including<br>London. | 148 Smaller<br>Towns<br>Resident Pop.<br>25,000 -<br>50,000 1931<br>Census. | London<br>Adm.<br>County             |  | England<br>and<br>Wales. | and Great<br>Towns<br>including | Resident Pop.  | Adm.          | Mitcham.  |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|
|   |                              |                                       |   | Civilian Popul  |                                      |  | Rat                      | tes per 1,0                     | 000 Live Birth | 5:-           |           |
| Live births<br>Still births                                 | 15.4                         | 0.55                                  | 16.0  | 15.7<br>0.55  | 13.7                                 | Deaths under 1 year of age. Deaths from                    | 55                       | 61                              | 54             | 50            | 46        |
| Deaths:-<br>All Causes<br>Typhold and                       | 11.8                         | 14.3                                  | 15.8  | 12.8  | 17.8                                 | Diarrhoea and<br>Enteritis under<br>2 years of age.        | 4.6                      | 5.9                             | 4.4            | 5.8           | 2.14      |
| Paratyphoid   | 0.01                         | 0.00                                  | 0.00  | 0.00  | 0.00                                 | - Jones or ago   |                          | ).,                             | ***            | ).0           | 2.14      |
| Small-Pox<br>Measles  | 0.00                         | 0.02                                  | 0.02  | 0.02  | 0.01                                 |  |                          |                                 |                | 1             |           |
| Scarlet Fever   | 0.00                         | 0.00                                  | 0.00  | 0.02  | 0.01                                 |  |                          | 1 -                             |                |               |           |
| Thoeping Cough Diphtheria Enfluenza                         | 0.00                         | 0.02<br>0.06<br>0.32                  | 0.02<br>0.07<br>0.29                                    | 0.02<br>0.05<br>0.30  | 0.00<br>0.01<br>0.18                 | Rates per 1,000 Tot  | al Birth                 | s (Live and                     | i Still)       |               |           |
| Notifications:-<br>Small-pox<br>Scarlot Fever<br>Diphtheria | -<br>0.79<br>0.54            | 0.00<br>1.63<br>1.16                  | 1.53  | 1.57<br>1.21  | -<br>0.82<br>0.61                    | Maternal Mortality:<br>Puerperal Sepsis<br>Others<br>Total | 0.52)<br>1.64)<br>2.16)  | not a                           | vailable       |               | 1.04      |
| rysipelas<br>neumonia<br>hooping Cough<br>leasles           | 0.29<br>0.49<br>0.26<br>4.96 | 0.07<br>0.33<br>1.20<br>1.34<br>10.24 | 0.06<br>0.36<br>1.37<br>1.29<br>9.23                    | 0.10<br>0.30<br>1.00<br>1.35<br>9.99  | 0.06<br>0.35<br>0.87<br>0.22<br>1.78 | Notifications:- Puerperal Fever ) Pyrexia)                 | 11.96                    | 13.90                           | 9.73           | 3.34<br>13.30 | 1.04      |
|   |                              |                                       |   |   |                                      |  |                          |                                 | # includi      | ng Puerp      | eral Feve |

String acted, Berth-rated, Resirets of Mortality, Material Mericility and Gare being for gertals

|    |  |  |  |       | 000 Live Elet   |  |
|----|--|--|--|-------|---|--|
| ā. |  |  |  | und . | 148 Smiler<br>Seathers Boy<br>25,000 -<br>50,000 1991<br>Consum |  |

### Deaths Registered during the Year, 1940.

| Cause of Deuth.                        | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|--|--------|----------|--------|
| Typhoid and paratyphoid                |        | 1        | 1      |
| Measles                                |        |          |        |
| Scarlet Fever                          |        |          |        |
| Whooping Cough                         |        |          |        |
| Diphtheria                             | 1      | 3        | 4      |
| Influenza                              | 4      | 3        | 5      |
| Encephalitis Lethargica                |        | 1        | 5      |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever                   | 2      |          | 7      |
| Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System | 22     | 5 22     | 44     |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases             | 6      | 7        |        |
| Syphilis                               | 4      | 3 4      | 9 8    |
| General Paralysis of the insane, tabes | , -    | *        |        |
| dorsalis                               |        |          | 1      |
| Cancer, malignant disease              | 50     | 44       | 94     |
| Dishidan                               | 1      | 5        | 6      |
| 0                                      | 17     | 70       | 47     |
| House Manager                          | 70     | 30<br>87 | 157    |
| O+h O17-1                              | 8      | 2        | 10     |
| Down ab 111-                           | 36     | 26       | 62     |
| Du                                     | 22     | 55       | 44     |
| 011 - 1                                |        | 2        |        |
| Daniel a 117 and                       | 5      | 1        | 7      |
| Di                                     | 1      | 1        | 7 2    |
|  | 7      | 1        | 4      |
| 411                                    | 36     | 4        |        |
| toute and Observed Northwestell        | 7      | 5        | 10     |
|  | 1      | )        | 1      |
| Puerperal Sepsis                       |        |          |        |
| Other Puerperal causes                 |        | 1        | 1      |
| Congenital Debility, Premature Birth,  | 16     | 10       | 06     |
| Malformations, etc Suicide             | 16     | 10       | 26     |
| Don't Monopole Application             | 2      |          | 2      |
| Road Traffic Accidents                 | 10     | 1        | 11     |
| Other Violence                         | 46     | 39       | 85     |
| Causes ill-defined or unknown          | ***    | 10       |        |
| All other Causes                       | 32     | 18       | 50     |
| Total                                  | 777    | 770      | 716    |
| 100at                                  | 377    | 339      | 110    |

#### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

#### Laboratory Facilities.

Bacteriological examinations for this district are carried out at the Wandle Valley Isolation Hospital.

The following number of specimens from this borough have been examined during the year:-

Swabs for diphtheria 277
Sputa for tubercle 56
Total 333

#### Hospital Facilities.

The Wilson Hospital is a voluntary Hospital situated in the Borough, for Mitcham residents. Other voluntary Hospitals are the Nelson Hospital, Croydon General Hospital and the London voluntary Hospitals. Cases may always be admitted to Furrey County Hospitals.

Cases of infectious disease are admitted to the handle Valley Joint

Isolation Hospital.

#### Ambulances.

The Borough has two ambulances for the removal of general and accident cases. Since the outbreak of war these ambulances have been under the control of the Public Health Department.

The Wandle Valley J int Hospital Board provide two ambulances for the removal of infectious disease cases.

#### Midwives.

There are four municipal midwives practising in this Borough. The Surrey County Council is the Local Supervising Authority.

#### Health Visiting.

Five health visitors are employed in this Borough. The Superintendent Health Visitor also acts as Infant Life Protection Visitor.

During 1940, 8,457 visits were made by the Health Visitors, 362 of these visits were paid to expectant mothers, 3,084 visits to children under 1 year of age, and 3,614 visits to children between one and five years of age. In addition 620 visits were paid to cases of tuberculosis.

#### Nursing in the Home.

There are three nursing associations in the Borough. The following are the returns from each association for the year ended December 31st, 1940.

| Association.                         | No. of nurses.                            | No. of patients visited. | No. of visits  |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|----------------|
| St. Bernabas<br>Mitcham South & East | 1 full-time                               | 112<br>447               | 4,269<br>9,996 |
| Christchurch, Mitcham,               | l part-time<br>l full-time<br>l part-time | 167                      | 3,086          |

#### Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Infant helfare Clinics.

Church Road (4 sessions per month).

No. of new cases registered during year - 277.

No. of children under 1 yr. attending for first time - 220.
No. of children between 1 - 5 years attending first time - 57.

No. of children under 1 yr. on Dec. 31st, 1940 - 149.

No. of children between 1 - 5 yrs. on Dec. 31st, 1940 - 314.

Total attendances - 2132.

West Centre (4 sessions per month).

No. of new cases registered during year - 200.

No. of children under 1 year attending for first time - 157. No. of children between 1 - 5 years attending first time - 43.

No. of children under 1 year on Dec. 31st, 1940 - 111.

No. of children between 1 - 5 years on Dec. 31st, 1940 - 296.

Total attendances - 1611.

St. Barnabas (4 sessions per month).

No. of new cases registered during year - 246.

No. of children under 1 year attending for first time - 205.

No. of children between 1 - 5 years attending first time - 41.

No. of children under 1 year on Dec. 31st, 1940 - 140.

No. of children between 1 - 5 years on Dec. 31st, 1940 - 443.

Total attendances - 1947.

Sherwood House (4 sessions per month).

No. of new cases registered during year - 194.

No. of children under 1 year attending for first time - 1.26.

No. of children between 1 - 5 years attending first time - 68.

No. of children under 1 year on Dec. 31st, 1940 - 94.

No. of children between 1 - 5 years on Dec. 31st, 1940 - 374.

Total attendences - 1734.

Ante-Natal Clinics

No. of expectant mothers attending - Mitcham Court - 208.

Mitcham Court

(Midwives) - 255

Woodlands - 248

Post-Natal Clinic.

No. of mothers attending - 84.

Home Helps.

The services of Home Helps were provided for 24 mothers

Orthoppedic Clinic.

36 cases were referred for treatment during the year.

X-Ray Examinations.

16 expectant mothers were sent for X-ray examination during the year.

Immunisation Clinic.

139 children were immunised against diphtheria during the year.

Infant Life Protection.

No. of foster-mothers on register Dec. 31st, 1940 - 14.

No. of foster-children.

No. of visits paid by visitor. 200.

No. of foster-mothers who have evacuated taking foster-children with them.

10.

The children were transfer to sentest distincts during the year.

### Woodlands Maternity Home.

No. of beds. 15. No. of cases admitted. No. of cases delivered by midwives. 239. No. of cases delivered by doctors. 13. No. of cases of puerperal pyrexia. No. of infants not entirely breast 2. No. of still births. 5.

#### Wandle Valley Isolation Hospital. 151 cases were admitted during the year.

British Dental Hospital.
No. of attendances during the year:

Nomen 57 Children 35 Total 92.

#### The Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Mitcham.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I bog to submit a summary of the visits and works carried out in the Borough by myself and the District Sanitary Inspectors:-

| Number | of | complaints received and investigated  |         |        | <br>426  |
|--------|----|---------------------------------------|---------|--------|----------|
|        |    | premises inspected                    |         |        | <br>1259 |
|        |    | premises revisited                    |         |        | <br>585  |
|        |    | houses measured for permitted numbers |         | , 1936 | <br>24   |
|        |    | nuisances discovered                  | *** *** |        | <br>348  |
|        |    | nuisances abated without reports      | *** *** |        | <br>243  |
|        |    | nuisances abated after reports        |         |        | <br>26   |
|        |    | intimatory notices served             |         |        | <br>112  |
|        |    | butchers and other food shops         |         |        | <br>127  |
|        |    | factories                             |         |        | <br>53   |
|        |    | marine stores                         |         |        | <br>9    |
|        |    | stables                               |         |        | <br>25   |
| Visits | to | refuse dumps                          |         |        | <br>20   |

Details of visits to other premises are enumerated in other sections of the report.

#### Character of Work done to abate nuisances.

| Roofs repaired  | <br>        | <br>34  |
|---|-------------|---------|
| Rainwater gutters and piping repaired or renewed      | <br>        | <br>14  |
| Ventilation under floors provided or improved         | <br>        | <br>5   |
| Dampness to ground floor rooms remedied               | <br>        | <br>15  |
| Water service pipes repaired                          | <br>        | <br>15  |
| Ventilation of watercloset compartments provided      | <br>        | <br>1   |
| Waterclosets: repairs to roof, walls, doors and seats | <br>        | <br>17  |
| Flushing apparatus repaired or renewed                | <br>        | <br>21  |
| Water storage cisterns cleansed or covered            | <br>        | <br>14  |
| Water supply to houses reinstated                     | <br>        | <br>6   |
| Back yards and sculleries paved or repaired           | <br>        | <br>5   |
| Flooring of rooms repaired                            | <br>        | <br>7   |
| Rooms cleansed and redecorated                        | <br>        | <br>135 |
| Repairs to internal plastering of walls and ceilings  | <br>13.70   | <br>146 |
|   | <br>• • • • | 740     |
| New scullery sinks provided                           | <br>• • • • | <br>20  |
| Repairs to sinks and waste pipes                      | <br>        | <br>50  |
| Walls round sinks rendered                            | <br>        | <br>4   |
| Vindow frames and sashes repaired                     | <br>        | <br>55  |
| Windows made to open                                  | <br>        | <br>10  |
| Sashcords provided                                    | <br>***     | <br>16  |
| Drains tested   | <br>        | <br>8   |
| Drains repaired and cleansed                          | <br>        | <br>143 |
| New watercloset pans and traps provided               | <br>        | <br>12  |
| Repairs to firegrates                                 | <br>        | <br>5   |
| Repairs to washing coppers                            | <br>        | <br>3   |
| New dustbins provided                                 | <br>        | <br>43  |
| Accumulations removed                                 | <br>        | <br>17  |
| Rooms disinfected after infectious disease            | <br>        | <br>187 |
| Repairs to chimney eaves                              | <br>        | <br>4   |
|   |             |         |

All pends and ditches in the Borough where mosquito breeding was possible, were sprayed with paraffin twice early in the year.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928. - Seventy-four licences to store petroleum and cellulose solutions were granted, totalling 119,320 gallons. A licence was also issued for 8 cmt. of carbide of calcium to be stored.

Visits to footorios ... ... Solitorios of stinit annillas but giles to patrotania immorat of existent

## 9. Housing Statistics.

| Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing Public Health or Housing Acts) Number of inspections made for the purpose  |          |        |         | 461<br>523                  |
|--|----------|--------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in informal action by the local authority or their of   | consec   | quence | of<br>  | 112                         |
| Number of dwelling houses in which defects were reme of formal notices   | edied a  | fter s | service | 16                          |
| Eradication of Bed Bugs.   |          |        |         |                             |
| No. of Council houses found infested during year No. of other houses found infested during the year No. of houses disinfested during the year No. of Council houses disinfested by Council staff No. of Council houses disinfested by Contractors Methods employed:- |          |        | :::     | 65<br>27<br>92<br>65<br>nil |
| 81 rooms treated with sulphur dioxide (Cescones). 158 rooms treated with insecticide sprays (Lethancof rooms treated on more than one occasion No private houses are treated by the Council staff and material supplied at cost price on recommendations.            | or Son). |        |         | ve                          |
| No. of private houses disinfested by owners or occ   | cupiers  | after  | notice  | 27                          |

#### Inspection and Supervision of Food

#### Food & Drugs Act, 1938.

Formal Samples - 48 as follows:

Milk
Chocolate roll 1.
Butter 1.

Informal Samples - 32 as follows:

Margarine 7. Pork sausage 5. Cocoa 4. Fish paste 3. Chocolate roll 2. Salmon 1. Beef dripping 1. Chopped lamb 1. Coffee 1. Soup powder 1. Jam 1. Tinned peas 1. Castor oil 2. Seidlitz powder 1. Gregory powder 1.

Seven warning letters were sent to suppliers of samples slightly below standard.

Proceedings were taken in one case of milk reported by the Public Analyst to be deficient in solids not fat. Case dismissed on technical error in service of summons.

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| ofwien works beloased outs about a doll of the work of the work to   |  |
|  |  |
| of other bouses found infested during the year   |  |
| it. of private houses theinfasted by owners or occupiers after notice  |  |
|  |  |
| Milk (6. 10 molecular and 1 mo |  |

### Milk (Special Designation) Order 1936.

During the year the Council granted the following number of licences under the above order:

Tuberculin Tested. 5.
Pasteurised. 7.
Pasteurising Plant. 1.

Supplementary licences Pasteurised. 7.
Tuberculin Tested. 5.

### No. of visits made to Meat Depot 20. - 444.

Unsound food dealt with. Beef. 2978 lbs. Mutton. 2787 " 275 " Veal. Offal. 10433 " Sheeps heads. 963. Fish, shellfish. 336 " Rabbits 51. Butter and margarine. 383 " 10 " Bacon. Jellied veal.

#### K. J. GUTTERIDGE

Chief Sanitary Inspector.