

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

Contributors

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BOROUGH OF MITCHAM

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR 1942



BOROUGH OF MITCHAM

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

YEAR 1942

Mitcham :

H. G. Mather, Caxton Works, Lower Green

Borough of Mitcham

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1942

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my annual report for the year 1942. Freedom from enemy action has permitted a gradual return to more normal conditions and large numbers of evacuees have returned requiring increased welfare and other social services.

The birth rate has increased and the death rate has decreased. The infant mortality rate has shown a satisfactory decrease, and is the lowest since 1939.

In May, the Day Nursery established at Eagle House was opened with accommodation for 65 children. A second Nursery at Robinson Road has been approved for 50 children, which should meet the requirements of mothers in the Colliers Wood area of the Borough.

The welfare and ante-natal clinics have again proved satisfactory and the number of sessions has been increased. The work of the voluntary helpers at the welfare centres has been of the highest value and has been greatly appreciated.

The Woodlands Maternity Home continued to give satisfactory service, in spite of the difficulties associated with war-time conditions.

There has been no serious outbreak of infectious disease, but the number of notifications of Scarlet Fever has considerably

increased since last year. Diphtheria notifications, however, have shown a substantial fall; diphtheria immunisation has been urged with encouraging results.

The treatment of scabies at the Baths has been very successful, and appears to have proved an effective factor in controlling the spread of this disease.

I wish to thank the members of the staff for the loyal and able service they have given during 1942.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. ASHWORTH,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Mitcham Court,
Mitcham.

BOROUGH OF MITCHAM

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN - - COUNCILLOR H. L. GAUNTLETT

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman J. R. Beaumont, J.P.)

Aldermen—

E. J. D. Field, J.P. S. L. Gaston, J.P.

Councillors—

G. W. Cole W. F. Hill G. R. Madgwick G. W. Pearce
Mrs. C. Randall Sir I. Wilson

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN - - - MRS. C. RANDALL

His Worship the Mayor

Councillors—

S. E. Birch G. G. Cock H. Conway
Miss G. D. Francombe Mrs. H. M. Hallowes J. E. Mahony
T. A. H. Murch Mrs. E. Watson

Co-opted Members—

Miss E. C. Chart Mrs. D. L. Chappell Miss K. Farewell-Jones
Mrs. C. Norman Dr. G. Stoker

REPRESENTATIVES ON WANDLE VALLEY JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD

His Worship the Mayor (*ex-officio*)

Aldermen—

C. Woods A. H. Bailey W. Dalton

REPRESENTATIVES ON WANDLE VALLEY JOINT SEWERAGE BOARD

CHAIRMAN - - ALDERMAN S. L. GASTON, J.P.

His Worship the Mayor (*ex-officio*)

Alderman W. Dalton Councillor A. T. Gidden

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

A. Ashworth, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Assistant Medical Officer

Florence M Parsons, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Consulting Gynaecologist

J. V. O'Sullivan, Esq., M.D., F.R.C.S.

Consultant in Diseases of Infants

N. L. Lloyd, Esq., M.B., M.R.C.P.

Consultant in Ear Diseases

W. H. B. Magauran, M.D., F.R.C.S.

Consultant in Diseases of the Eye

A. J. Cameron, F.R.C.S., D.O.M.S.

Chief Sanitary and Meat Inspector. Petroleum Inspector

Shops Act Inspector

K. J. Gutteridge (1, 2)

Assistant Sanitary and Meat Inspectors

A. H. Riley (1, 2, 4) L. Gleed (1, 2, 3)

Superintendent Health Visitor and Infant Life Protection Visitor

Mrs. E. S. Wray (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11)

Assistant Health Visitors

Miss G. Russell-Harris (5, 6, 7) Miss D. Hinds (5, 6, 7)

Miss E. Oakes (5, 6, 7) Miss P. Thompson (5, 6, 7)

Matron of Eagle House Day Nursery

(a) Miss J. E. Offer (5, 6, 12)

Midwives

Miss P. Gaunt (5, 6) Miss M. Monday (5, 6)

Mrs. L. Papps (5, 6) Mrs. T. Davies (5, 6)

(a) Appointed 9.3.42

Clerks

J. B. A. Roodhouse and L. J. Bellingham, H.M. Forces

Mrs. M. Odam Miss V. Valentine (temporary)

(b) Mrs. H. Whitfield (temporary)

(b) Engaged 20.4.42

1. Certificate Sanitary Inspectors' Board.
2. Certificate Meat and Foods R.S.I.
3. Smoke Inspector's Certificate.
4. Diploma Institute of Hygiene.
5. State Registered Nurse.
6. Certificate of Central Midwives' Board.
7. Health Visitor's Certificate R.S.I.
8. Health Visitor's Diploma.
9. Inspector of Nuisances.
10. Sanitary Inspector's Exam. Board.
11. Diploma Sanitary Science.
12. Sick Children's Registered Nurse.

REPORT

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	2,935 acres
Population, Census 1921	...	...	...	...	35,119
" " 1931	...	...	...	...	56,856
Registrar-General's estimate of population mid-year, 1942	...	...	...	...	54,720
Number of inhabited houses, 1921	...	...	...	...	7,150
" " " 1931	...	...	...	...	13,187
" " " 1942	...	...	...	...	16,802
Rateable Value, 1942	...	...	...	...	£499,028
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	£1,902

STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 of population
Legitimate	921	492	429	
Illegitimate	39	20	19	
Total	960	512	448	17.54
STILL BIRTHS	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 total births
Legitimate	24	16	8	
Illegitimate	2	2	—	
Total	26	18	8	26.37
DEATHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 of population
	537	269	268	9.81

Deaths from disease and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth : —

			Rate per 1,000 total births
From puerperal sepsis	...	—	—
From other puerperal causes	...	1	—
Total	...	1	1.01

Deaths of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	43.75
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births	...	...	...	40.17
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births	...	...	...	128.21

Deaths from :—

Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	104
Measles	...	...	...	Nil
Whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	1
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	5

PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS OCCURRING IN INSTITUTIONS

Year	Total births	Births in hospitals, etc.	Percentage of births occurring in institutions
1929	961	309	32.1
1930	1129	367	32.4
1931	1143	370	32.3
1932	1084	381	35.1
1933	1010	420	41.5
1934	982	428	43.5
1935	969	474	48.9
1936	1033	497	48.1
1937	976	501	51.3
1938	1028	569	56.3
1939	966	518	53.7
1940	854	453	53.0
1941	737	408	55.4
1942	986	518	52.5

Number of births notified by midwives in 1942	...	694
" " " doctors and others in 1942	...	292

The birth rates, death rates per 1,000 of population, and the infantile mortality rates for the years 1915-1942 are shown in the following table:—

Year	Births per 1,000 population		Deaths per 1,000 population		Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	
	MITCHAM	England & Wales	MITCHAM	England & Wales	MITCHAM	England & Wales
1915	28.9	21.8	12.7	15.7	78	110
1916	23.0	21.6	10.1	14.3	71	91
1917	18.0	17.8	11.8	14.2	75	96
1918	17.9	17.7	14.8	17.3	77	97
1919	17.0	18.5	10.2	14.0	58	89
1920	27.8	25.4	9.2	12.4	50	80
1921	23.1	22.4	11.1	12.1	70	83
1922	20.9	20.6	11.0	12.8	61	77
1923	21.5	19.7	9.4	11.6	59	69
1924	20.3	18.8	9.2	12.2	55	75
1925	18.2	18.3	9.6	12.2	54	75
1926	21.5	17.8	9.9	11.6	63	70
1927	20.9	16.7	9.8	12.2	45	69
1928	20.4	16.7	8.8	11.7	48	65
1929	19.1	16.3	11.2	13.4	72	74
1930	19.3	16.3	8.2	11.4	49	60
1931	19.2	15.8	9.8	12.3	42	66
1932	18.0	15.3	8.4	12.0	43	65
1933	16.1	14.4	8.8	12.3	37.1	64
1934	15.6	14.8	9.1	11.8	51.6	59
1935	15.6	14.7	7.7	11.8	49.5	57
1936	15.4	14.8	9.1	12.1	48.0	59
1937	14.3	14.9	8.5	12.4	43.4	58
1938	15.1	15.1	8.3	11.6	38.0	53
1939	15.2	15.0	8.6	12.1	31.0	50
1940	15.4	14.6	11.8	14.3	46.0	55
1941	13.57	14.2	11.06	12.9	55.4	59
1942	17.54	15.8	9.81	11.6	43.75	49

INFANT MORTALITY

During the year 42 deaths were registered as occurring in infants under one year of age:—

		Males		Females		Total
Legitimate	...	20	...	17	...	37
Illegitimate	...	2	...	3	...	5
Total	...	22	...	20	...	38

as compared with 35 deaths last year.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

During the year one death was registered as being due to:—

Obstetric shock cardiac failure.

Eclampsia in pregnancy.

Severe toxæmia in pregnancy.

In 1941, four deaths were registered as being due to diseases or accidents of pregnancy.

INQUESTS

Inquests were held on 16 residents dying within the district and on 14 Mitcham residents who died outside the district, a total of 30. In addition, the coroner held 74 post-mortems without inquests.

The following table shows the results of the findings of these inquests:—

Deaths from natural causes	...	...	...	3
Accidental deaths	...	...	...	16
Deaths from misadventure	...	...	...	4
Suicides	...	...	...	5
Fracture of skull	...	...	...	1
Self-neglect	...	...	...	1
				—
Total	...			30

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1942

CAUSE OF DEATH					Males	Females	Total
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	1	1
5	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	...	17	19	36
7	Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...	5	...	5
8	Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...	4	2	6
9	Influenza	...	...	...	2	1	3
10	Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Acute infectious encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (m) and uterus (f)	...	...	...	6	9	15
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	10	8	18
15	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	11	11
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	34	26	60
17	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	2	3
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	23	36	59
19	Heart disease	...	...	...	56	67	123
20	Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	11	9	20
21	Bronchitis	...	...	...	17	12	29
22	Pneumonia	...	...	...	16	11	27
23	Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	2	2	4
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...	...	...	6	2	8
25	Diarrhoea (under two years)	...	...	...	3	2	5
26	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	6	7	13
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	1	3	4
29	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	...
30	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	...	1	1
31	Premature birth	...	...	...	10	6	16
32	Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile disease	...	...	...	4	3	7
33	Suicide	...	...	...	3	2	5
34	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	3	...	3
35	Other violent causes	...	...	...	11	5	16
36	All other causes	...	...	...	18	21	39
All causes					269	268	537

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and
Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1942.

(Provisional figures based on weekly and quarterly returns.)

	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 census)	London Admin- istrative County	Mitcham
Rates per 1,000 civilian population					
Births—					
Live	15.8	17.3	18.4	14.0	17.5
Still	0.54	0.66	0.62	0.48	0.48
Deaths—					
All causes... ..	11.6	13.3	12.1	13.9	9.81
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Scarlet fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Whooping cough	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.02
Diphtheria	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.02	—
Influenza	0.09	0.09	0.10	0.07	0.05
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	—
Notifications—					
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.02	—
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.14	0.17	0.12	0.15	0.07
Scarlet fever	2.19	2.49	2.34	1.86	3.20
Whooping cough... ..	1.73	1.97	1.58	2.72	2.94
Diphtheria	1.05	1.35	0.91	0.76	0.46
Erysipelas	0.30	0.36	0.26	0.43	0.13
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	—	0.00	—
Measles	7.46	9.27	7.39	8.62	10.95
Pneumonia	1.07	1.30	0.94	0.94	0.37
Rates per 1,000 live births					
Deaths under one year of age	49	59	46	60	43
Deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis under two years of age	5.2	7.5	4.8	8.6	5.2
Rates per 1,000 total births (live and still)					
Maternal mortality (exclud- ing abortion)—					
Puerperal infection (No.147)	0.42	Not available			{ —
Others	1.59				{ 1.01
Total	2.01				{ 1.01
Notifications—					
Puerperal fever	12.61	15.94	10.80	{ 3.10	6.09
Puerperal pyrexia				{ 17.69*	

* Including Puerperal fever.

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

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	...	...	...	331
Sputa for tubercle	...	...	...	51
Total	...	...	...	382

AMBULANCES

The Ambulance service for the district is quite adequate at present, and the following arrangements have been made:—

For General and Accident Cases.—Two ambulances have been provided by the Council for the removal of general and accident cases. The total number of cases removed during the year was 1,338, of which 338 were accident cases, and 1,000 private removals.

For Infectious Disease Cases.—The Wandle Valley Joint Hospital Board have provided two motor ambulances for the removal of cases of infectious disease to the Isolation Hospital.

NURSING IN THE HOME

There are three nursing associations in the Borough. The following are the returns from each association for year ended December 31st, 1942:—

	No. of Nurses	No. of patients visited during 1942	No. of visits paid during 1942
St. Barnabas ...	1	108	4,029
South and East Wards	3*	424	10,055
Christchurch ...	2*	158	3,753
Totals	...	690	17,837

* One part time.

HOSPITALS.

For General Cases.—The Wilson Hospital, which is a Voluntary Hospital situated within the district, receives accident and general cases. Other voluntary general hospitals available for the district are the Nelson Hospital (Merton), the Croydon General Hospital, and the South London Hospital for Women (Clapham). The large London hospitals are also within easy reach of the district. The Surrey County Council are the local hospital authority and the County Council hospitals provide hospital accommodation for Mitcham patients.

For Infectious Diseases.—The Council is one of the constituent authorities forming the Wandle Valley Joint Hospital Board, and cases of infectious disease from this area are treated at their hospital situated at Beddington Corner, Mitcham Junction.

For Small Pox Cases.—By an arrangement with the Surrey County Council cases of small pox are admitted to the Small Pox Hospital, Clandon.

For Maternity Cases.—Cases requiring hospital treatment are admitted to the County Council Hospitals or the London Voluntary Hospitals.

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY

Four municipal midwives have been appointed for this Borough, the Borough Council acting as agents for the Surrey County Council, who are the local supervising authority.

WOODLANDS MATERNITY HOME

The Borough Maternity Home has accommodation for 15 cases. All patients must be Mitcham residents, and those who wish may book their own medical attendant for the confinement.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

WELFARE CLINICS

Infant Welfare Centres are held at the following places:—

Sunshine Hall, Park Road.—Sessions are held every Monday afternoon.

St. Barnabas Church Hall, Gorrings Park Avenue.—Sessions are held every Tuesday afternoon.

Sherwood House, Commonside East.—Sessions are held every Thursday morning.

Church Road Centre.—Sessions are held every Thursday afternoon.

Dr. Parsons attends all sessions.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Ante-natal clinics are held at the following places:—

Woodlands Maternity Home.—Sessions are held on Friday and Monday mornings for patients who have booked for the Woodlands Maternity Home.

Mitcham Court.—Sessions are held on every Tuesday morning.

The municipal midwives also hold a clinic at Mitcham Court on Wednesday afternoons.

POST-NATAL CLINIC

A post-natal clinic is now held at Mitcham Court on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

SCHOOL CLINIC

The Surrey County Council is the Local Education Authority. Medical and dental services are provided at the School Clinic, London Road.

DIPHtheria IMMUNISATION CLINIC

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics are held every Wednesday morning at Mitcham Court.

SCABIES CLINIC

A Clinic for the diagnosis of this condition is held by the Medical Officer of Health at Mitcham Court every morning.

TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC

The Surrey County Council is the authority responsible for diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis. Dispensaries are held at the London Road J.B. School as follows:—

First, third and fifth Tuesday of month at 1.30 p.m.

Each Thursday at 1 p.m., and third Saturday at 1.30 p.m.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINICS

The Surrey County Council is the responsible authority for venereal diseases in this area and is a member of the London and Home Counties Scheme. The arrangements provide for the free diagnosis and treatment of these diseases at the Croydon General Hospital, Royal Surrey County Hospital, Guildford, East Surrey Hospital, Redhill, and at hospitals under the London and Home Counties Scheme.

DISINFECTION

The disinfection of houses is undertaken by the Council. Disinfection of bedding, etc., is done by the Wandle Valley Isolation Hospital.

Charges are made for disinfection which is not in the interests of the public health.

REPORT ON MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

CHILD WELFARE

Child Welfare Sessions are held at four centres, thus serving every part of the Borough. Every centre is held weekly.

The total number of attendances at the infant welfare centres was 16,509, as compared with 9,555 in 1941. Of these, 994 were new cases, 820 being infants under one year of age, and 174 being children over one but under five years of age. The total number of attendances of infants under one year was 11,821, and of children between one and five years of age, 4,688.

At the end of the year there were 716 infants under one year and 1,426 children between one and five years of age attending the centres, making a total of 2,142.

The average attendance at each individual centre was:—

Park Road	73.2
Church Road	75.5
Sherwood Park	83.8
St. Barnabas	84.6

The percentage of infants under one year of age attending the centres for the first time was 85.4 per cent. of the total number of live births.

GENERAL REMARKS

The nutrition, clothing and cleanliness of the children continued to be of a high standard, and the children attended the centres very regularly.

SUNLIGHT TREATMENT

Arrangements have been made with the Wilson Hospital for giving sunlight treatment. No patients were sent during the year.

ORTHOPAEDIC CLINIC

Arrangements have been made with the Wilson Hospital, Mitcham, for children in need of orthopaedic treatment to attend the orthopaedic clinic of this hospital. During the year 58 cases were referred to this clinic, as compared with 24 cases in 1941.

DENTAL TREATMENT

Dental treatment is available to children under five years of age and to expectant and nursing mothers. Patients are referred from the infant welfare, ante-natal and post-natal clinics to the British Dental Hospital, Tooting. Attendances for treatment were as follows:—

Expectant mothers, 15; nursing mothers, 1; children under five, 4.

HEALTH VISITING

There are five health visitors employed in visiting the mothers and children in this district. The Superintendent Health Visitor is responsible for the general supervision of the welfare centres, ante-natal clinics, etc., and also does the visiting of tuberculous patients and acts as Infant Life Protection Visitor.

ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CENTRES, 1942

Particulars	Park Road	St. Barnabas	Church Road	Sherwood House	Total
Number of new cases registered during year of—					
Children under one year of age	168	210	221	221	820
Children over one year and under five years of age ...	50	57	36	31	174
Number of children in attendance at end of year—					
Under one year of age ...	147	193	199	177	716
Over one and under five years of age ...	253	499	386	288	1426
Total attendances of children under one year of age ...	2520	3012	3086	3203	11821
Total attendances of children over one year of age ...	1067	1390	988	1243	4688
Total attendances at centres ...	3587	4402	4074	4446	16509
Average attendances at centres...	73.2	84.6	75.5	83.8	79.2
Percentage of infants under one year of age attending centres of the total live births ...	...	...	...	...	85.4

VISITS PAID BY HEALTH VISITORS

Particulars	No.
Primary ante-natal visits ...	171
Subsequent ante-natal visits ...	90
Primary birth visits ...	847
Subsequent visits to infants ...	2,362
Visits to children over one and under five years of age ...	4,355
Visits <i>re</i> stillbirths ...	18
Visits <i>re</i> deaths of infants under one year of age ...	24
Visits <i>re</i> cases of ophthalmia neonatorum ...	8
Visits <i>re</i> cases of puerperal pyrexia ...	4
Primary visits to cases of tuberculosis ...	116
Subsequent visits to cases of tuberculosis ...	344
Special visits, and infant life protection visits ...	277
Infectious disease visits ...	238
Total ...	8,854

SUPPLY OF FOOD AND MEDICINES

Dried food, cod liver oil emulsion, Virol and Parrish's Food, were sold at the centres, and in necessitous cases supplied free. Arrangements were such that necessitous children needing dried food other than that supplied at the clinics could obtain this free.

Liquid or National Dried Milk is supplied free in necessitous cases on application to the local Food Office.

Vitamins are supplied to children under two years of age at Welfare Centres, the Food Office and at British Restaurants.

Arrangements were also made for necessitous nursing and expectant mothers to receive free meals.

ANTE-NATAL CENTRES

One ante-natal clinic is held each week at Mitcham Court and two clinics each week in connection with Woodlands Maternity Home.

A clinic for cases booked by the midwives is held each Tuesday at Mitcham Court.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT EACH CENTRE

	Number of expectant mothers	Number of attendances	Average attendance
Woodlands (two clinics) ...	261	2,627	53.6
Mitcham Court ...	265	1,566	30.1
Midwives' Clinic ...	358	1,597	30.7
<hr/>			
Total ...	884	5,790	38.1

Of the total number of registered births, 89.6 per cent. of the mothers had attended the ante-natal centres.

The number of expectant mothers who attended the ante-natal centres and were evacuated for their confinements was 120.

GENERAL REMARKS

The clinics were reserved, as in previous years, for those cases entering Woodlands, hospital, or for evacuation, or who

were to be confined in their own homes and attended by midwives. Any patient who was to be attended by her own doctor was advised to attend him for her ante-natal supervision.

Any patient found to be suffering from any serious pathological condition was referred to her own doctor or to hospital, a letter giving details of the conditions present accompanying the patient in either case. Letters were sent to midwives who referred patients to the clinics, and midwives were welcomed at the centres, the patients' ante-natal notes being available for their perusal.

Cod liver oil emulsion, Virol or Parrish's Food, and extra nourishment were supplied free to necessitous and debilitated patients.

X-RAY EXAMINATIONS

Arrangements have been made with the Wilson Hospital, Mitcham, for the X-ray examination of women attending the ante-natal clinics. The majority of the examinations are made to determine the presentation of the child in doubtful cases, and also to confirm the diagnosis of twins.

During the year 26 women attended for this examination, as compared with 26 last year.

POST-NATAL CENTRE

A Post-Natal Centre is held at Mitcham Court each month. Leaflets are given to the patients when they leave Woodlands Maternity Home and to the patients attending the various ante-natal clinics giving them information about this clinic and the purpose for which it is intended.

The total number of women who attended the post-natal clinic was 146, the average attendance being 12.1.

WOODLANDS MATERNITY HOME

The Woodlands Maternity Home, Devonshire Road, Colliers Wood, was established by the Council in 1924.

STAFF

The staff consists of a matron, two sisters, two staff nurses and five pupil midwives. All the staff are State registered nurses and, with the exception of the pupil midwives, hold the certificate of the Central Midwives' Board. The Home is recognised as a Part II. training school for midwives.

HOME

The Home can accommodate 15 patients at a time, but bookings are limited to 26 patients per month.

The following table shows the number of births which has occurred in each year since the opening of the Home:—

	Number of births				
1924 (August to December)	42
1925	129
1926	240
1927 (10 months)	177
1928	265
1929	298
1930	318
1931	259
1932	239
1933	285
1934	285
1935	299
1936	314
1937	309
1938	297
1939	254
1940	239
1941	215
1942	263

Number of maternity beds in the institution (exclusive of isolation and labour beds), 15.

Number of maternity cases admitted during the year, 263.

Average duration of stay, 14 days.

Number of cases delivered by (a) midwives, 231; (b) doctors, 32.

Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency, 25

Number of cases notified as (a) puerperal fever, nil; (b) puerperal pyrexia, 2.

Number of cases of pemphigus neonatorum, nil.

Number of infants not entirely breast-fed while in the institution, 4.

Number of cases notified as ophthalmia neonatorum, nil.

Number of maternal deaths, nil.

Number of stillbirths, 6.

Number of infants' deaths within 10 days of birth, 2.

An ante-natal clinic is held every Monday and Friday at the Home, and patients who have booked are expected to attend.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION

The Superintendent Health Visitor has been appointed the Infant Life Protection Visitor for this district.

Frequent visits during the year are paid to the homes of the foster children.

A strict supervision is kept on these homes, and no cause was found to remove any infant from the care of the foster mother during the year.

The following are the number of foster mothers and children on the register:—

Number of foster mothers on register, Decem-	
ber 31, 1942	20
Number of children on register, December 31,	
1942	18
Number of children who have died during the	
year	—
Number of children on whom inquests were	
held	—

Number of registrations withdrawn ...	...	—
Number of prosecutions ...	...	—
Number of visits paid by the Infant Life Protection Visitor ...	...	91

NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO CHILDREN

The Society does very valuable work in the Borough and there is very close co-operation between the officials of the Public Health Department and the officers of the Society.

WAR-TIME NURSERY

During May, Eagle House, London Road, was opened as a War-time Day Nursery. The house was adapted to accommodate 65 children, and the register was almost immediately filled by children of full-time war workers, preference being given to mothers of only children. The children admitted have made very good progress, both physically and mentally, and have shown the benefit to health of regular hours, good food and fresh air.

No serious epidemic of infectious disease has occurred, any cases or suspected cases being immediately isolated, and removed to hospital if necessary.

At the end of the year a long waiting list existed, and approval has been given for the establishment of a nursery for 50 children at 63, Robinson Road. This nursery will serve the Colliers Wood district, and will probably relieve the waiting list at Eagle House.

The average daily attendance at Eagle House was:—

Under two ...	...	16.07
Two—five ...	...	31.58
		—
Total ...		47.65

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

With the exception of eight houses in Goat Road, the whole of the Borough is supplied by the mains of the Metropolitan Water Board. The houses in Goat Road are supplied from the Sutton Water Company.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Twenty visits have been paid to all works suspected of discharging effluent into surface water sewers.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With very few exceptions the whole of the district is on the water carriage system, the houses being drained to the public sewer. At the end of the year there were three pail closets and one cesspool in use.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

A fortnightly collection of house refuse is carried out by direct labour. Four dust collection vehicles are in use.

A fortnightly collection of salvage is also made, two vehicles being used for this purpose.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Number of Council houses found infested during year	91
Number of other houses found infested during the year	15
Number of houses disinfected during the year ...	106
Number of Council houses disinfected by Council staff	91
Number of requisitioned, etc., houses disinfected by Council staff	15
Number of Council houses disinfested by Contractors	nil

Methods employed:—

- 100 rooms treated with sulphur dioxide (Cescones).
- 203 room treated with insecticide spray (Lethane) (inclusive of rooms treated on more than one occasion).
- No private houses are treated by the Council staff, but advice is given and material supplied at cost price on request.

Number of private houses disinfected by owners or occupiers after notice	24
--	----

SCHOOLS

The supervision of the public elementary schools is under the control of the Education Department of the Surrey County Council.

The sanitary fittings, etc., however, are inspected periodically by the sanitary inspector. All schools have a constant supply of water from the mains of the Metropolitan Water Board.

Medical Inspection.—The medical inspection of school children is carried out by the Education Department of the Surrey County Council.

Closure of Schools.—No school has been closed by the local authority during the year.

Infectious Diseases.—Scholars in contact with a case of infectious disease are excluded from school, the period of the exclusion being that set out in the memorandum of the County School Medical Officer to the Surrey Education Committee. The head teacher of the school concerned is always notified of this exclusion and the reason for same.

THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Mitcham

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

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

Total number of visits paid	...	...	...	...	5,565
Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	...	431
Visits <i>re</i> complaints and sundries	...	...	...	...	1,563
Revisits	...	...	...	...	946
Houses inspected for defects	...	...	...	...	940
Number of rooms measured for permitted numbers	...	...	...	...	98
Number of nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	611

Number of intimated notices served	...	...	439
Number of nuisances abated without reports	...	...	410
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	107
Number of nuisances abated after reports	...	...	90
Visits to butchers and other food shops	...	...	362
Visits to factories	...	...	133
Visits to piggeries	...	...	71
Visits to refuse dumps	...	...	12
Visits <i>re</i> infectious disease	...	...	234

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

Character of Work Done

Roofs repaired	...	...	135
Rainwater gutters and piping repaired or renewed	...	...	52
Ventilation under floors provided or improved	...	...	1
Dampness to ground floor rooms remedied	...	...	38
Water service pipes repaired	...	...	15
Waterclosets: repairs to roof, walls, doors and seats	...	...	29
Flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	39
Water storage cisterns cleansed or covered	...	...	14
Water supply to houses reinstated	...	...	14
Back yards and sculleries paved or repaired	...	...	9
Flooring of rooms repaired	...	...	26
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	107
Repairs to internal plastering of walls and ceilings	...	...	6
Repairs to sinks and waste pipes	...	...	39
Window frames and sashes repaired	...	...	49
Windows made to open	...	...	1
Sashcords provided	...	...	18
Drains tested	...	...	31
Drains repaired and cleansed	...	...	39
New watercloset pans and traps provided	...	...	21
Repairs to firegrates	...	...	13
New dustbins provided	...	...	54
Accumulations removed	...	...	22
Rooms disinfected, after infectious disease	...	...	218
Repairs to chimney eaves	...	...	1
Sundries	...	...	127

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

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.—Seventy-five licences to store petroleum and cellulose solutions were granted, totalling 137,760 gallons. A licence was also issued for 20 cwt. of carbide of calcium to be stored.

UN SOUND FOOD DEALT WITH.

Beef	...	...	2371 lbs.	Eggs	...	...	115
Mutton	...	...	298 „	Butter Beans	...	...	60 lbs.
Pork	...	...	171 „	Soya Flour	...	...	2½ tons
Veal	...	...	50 „	Baking powder	...	...	3½ „
Offal	...	...	1357 „	Butter	...	...	44½ lbs.
Fish	...	...	84 „	Bacon	...	...	75 „
Whelks	...	...	1 cwt.	Corned Pork	...	...	1323 „
Cheese	...	...	68 lbs.	Turkeys	...	...	3
Potatoes	...	...	273 lbs.				

Number of visits to Meat Depot 20 ... 576

Yours obediently,

K. J. GUTTERIDGE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	940
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purposes	... ..	1,009

2. 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	...	410
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:—

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	nil
	(b) By local authority in default of owners ...	nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Formal Samples.

46 formal samples were taken, as follows:—

Milk	37	Butter	2
Baking powder ...	5	Margarine	2

Informal Samples.

32 informal samples were taken, as follows:—

Cocoa	2	Custard powder ...	2
Meat Paste	2	Beef cubes	1
Sausage Meat ...	1	Flour mixtures ...	2
Jam	1	Beef suet	2
Baking powders and self-raising powders	6	Vinegar	4
Almond flavouring ...	1	Whiskey	1
Castor oil	1	Salad oil	2
Egg powder	3	Camphorated oil ...	1

One warning letter was sent to a supplier of one sample below standard.

Proceedings were taken under the above Act on one occasion during 1942. Analysis of a sample of baking powder revealed that it contained arsenic to the extent of five parts per million and fluorine to the extent of 3,000 parts per million. The impurities were due to the use in the manufacture of the baking powder of impure monamonium phosphate. Although the firm agreed that the arsenic and fluorine content were injurious to health the case was dismissed on legal grounds. The firm, however, surrendered their stocks of baking powder, some $3\frac{1}{2}$ tons in all, which were sent for salvage.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) ORDER, 1936

During the year the Council granted the following number of licences under the above named Order:—

Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	6
Pasteurised	...	...	...	8
Pasteurising Plant	...	...	...	1
Supplementary Licences—				
Pasteurised	...	...	...	4
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	5

BAKEHOUSES

The number of bakehouses in the district is 14.

Twenty-seven visits have been paid.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

There are 28 registered premises within the district, of which 27 are dairies and one cowshed.

During the year 63 visits of inspection were paid.

PIGGERIES

There are 23 piggeries in the Borough. Seventy-one visits were paid during the year.

OTHER FOOD PREPARING PLACES

There are four other premises in which food is prepared for human consumption. All of these have been systematically visited.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS

The total number of notifications received during the year was 1,021.

CONTACTS, SUSPECTS, ETC.

The Medical Officer of Health may be called in consultation by medical practitioners to see patients in their homes.

VISITS

Made by				No.
Sanitary Inspectors	...	...	...	234
Health Visitors	...	...	...	238
Total				472

The monthly incidence of infectious disease was:—

	Small Pox.	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	Poliomyelitis	Measles	Whooping Cough	Food Poisoning	Encephalitis Lethargica	Totals
January	6	4	...	...	5	2	1	...	...	...	6	11	...	...	35
February	5	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	71	10	...	...	89
March	6	3	...	1	3	...	2	...	1	...	23	10	...	...	49
April	2	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	29	11	...	...	49
May	2	1	...	...	2	...	98	4	...	...	107
June	6	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	113	6	...	...	129
July	4	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	189	11	...	...	208
August	4	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	43	4	...	1	56
September	14	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	13	14	1	...	45
October	46	2	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	26	10	...	92
November	36	3	...	...	2	...	4	...	...	...	7	25	...	...	77
December	46	1	...	1	4	1	...	...	...	...	3	29	...	...	85
Totals	175	25	...	7	20	6	10	...	6	...	599	161	11	1	1021

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS, 1922-42.

DISEASE	1922	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Small Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	7	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	178	110	87	106	104	145	102	134	113	105	174	240	392	143	171	192	150	61	48	75	175
Diphtheria...	84	35	59	201	87	76	75	133	129	49	32	40	83	80	104	89	64	27	36	72	25
Typhoid Fever ...	1	2	1	4	2	6	3	4	9	2	3	3	...	3	5	...	1	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	3	2	1	5	6	9	4	6	1	7	5	1	1	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...
Anthrax ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1	...	6	...	...	2	1	4	...	...	1	4	1	1	3	1	2	1	13	12	6
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	13	15	11	10	13	14	10	22	22	17	11	31	30	20	22	16	8	19	17	19	7
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	301	194	599
Acute Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox ...	26	91	35	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ...	...	4	...	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neona- torum	3	6	7	5	12	10	3	3	1	3	4	2	2	4	3	1	3	3	1	3	10
Polio-encephalitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia ...	30	19	39	42	30	62	54	57	35	45	52	37	45	35	36	32	43	...	30	22	20
Malaria ...	8	3	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia...	...	...	...	...	1	14	9	5	6	9	4	9	6	4	11	5	4	7	2	2	6
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	16	186	161
Food Poisoning ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	6	11
Totals ...	347	287	246	376	259	340	270	375	319	242	288	368	560	293	357	338	275	125	468	591	1021

SMALL POX

No case of small pox was notified during the year 1942.

SCARLET FEVER

The number of cases of scarlet fever notified during the year was 175, as compared with 75 in 1941, equivalent to a case rate of three per 1,000 population. The disease has been generally mild in character and no deaths due to this cause were recorded. Of the total number of cases notified 128 were treated in hospital, and 47 cases were treated at home.

There were seven cases which were known to be "return cases," representing 3.1 per cent. of the cases treated in hospital, and 6.4 per cent. of cases treated at home.

The patient's home was disinfected after his removal to hospital or his release from isolation, but steam disinfection of the bedding has been discontinued as a routine procedure.

DIPHTHERIA

Twenty-five cases were notified during the year and all the cases were removed to hospital for treatment. All the contacts are swabbed as a routine measure, and school contacts supervised by the staff of the school medical service.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During the year further efforts have been made to encourage parents to have their children protected against diphtheria. Every school-child has been offered immunisation at school. A large number of school-children, however, state that they have been immunised whilst they were evacuated, but we have no record of this. The probability is that a considerably greater percentage of school-children are immunised than our figure would suggest, as no child is regarded as immunised unless the details are available and confirmed. The success of immunisation depends on the number of children between one and two years of age who are immunised.

Every child on its first birthday has received a birthday greeting and an appointment at the clinic for immunisation. The

names and addresses of all children under five years of age have been obtained from the Food Office, and the Health Visitors have visited every child and urged the mother to have the child protected. Special appeals have been made to the mothers attending the Infant Welfare Centres. The following figures show the number of children immunised during the year.

Under five	...	...	...	933
Five—15	...	...	...	940
Over 15	...	...	...	5
				<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	1,878

The following figures show the percentage of the child population considered immunised at 31st December, 1942:—

Under five	...	...	...	39.43 %
Five—15	...	...	...	41.45 %

The number of birthday greetings sent in 1942 was 120. Seventy-five mothers took advantage of this offer.

TYPHOID FEVER

No case was notified during the year.

DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE

Five deaths were registered during the year.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA

One case was notified during the year.

CHICKEN POX

Two hundred and fifty-four cases of chicken pox were notified by the head teachers of the schools in the district.

MUMPS

Four hundred and eighty-nine cases of mumps were notified by the head teachers of the schools in the district.

IMPETIGO

Twenty-five cases of impetigo occurred in school-children during the year.

RUBELLA

Sixteen cases of rubella were notified among school-children.

RINGWORM

Five cases of ringworm were notified among school-children.

DERMATITIS

Two cases were notified among school-children.

INFECTIVE JAUNDICE

Two cases were notified among school-children.

ERYSIPELAS

Seven cases were notified. Five cases were removed to hospital. No deaths from this disease were registered.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Six cases were notified during the year.

PNEUMONIA

Twenty cases of primary pneumonia were notified during the year. The number of deaths from all forms of pneumonia, some of which are not notifiable, was 27, of which 16 were males and 11 females.

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER

Six cases occurred during 1942, and there were no deaths.

INFLUENZA

During the year three deaths from influenza were recorded. Two were males and one female. The previous year thirteen deaths were registered.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

By an arrangement with the London County Council cases of ophthalmia neonatorum can be treated at Whiteoaks Hospital, Swanley Junction, Kent.

Blind children are looked after by the Surrey Voluntary Association for the Blind.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

During the year ten cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified:—

Cases Notified	Treated		Vision Unim- paired	Vision Impaired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths
	At Home	In Hospital				
10	4	6	9	1*	nil.	nil.

* Child has small scar on left cornea.

SCHOOL NOTIFICATIONS

The school intimation notices of infectious disease are always compared with the notifications received from the medical practitioners. If any case on the school return is found to be unnotified, investigations are made in order to find out if the patient is receiving medical attention.

The school notices also give fairly accurate estimate of the prevalence of non-notifiable infectious disease, such as chicken pox, mumps, etc. The numbers so notified are reported on under various diseases mentioned earlier in this report.

CANCER.

The number of deaths from cancer registered during the year was 104, of which 50 were males and 54 were females.

Cancer is mainly a disease of the digestive system, with the exception of its preference for the generative system in females. The site distribution for 1942 was as follows:—

Digestive organs	18 cases
Genito-urinary organs	9 „
Breast	11 „
Other sites	66 „
<hr/>	
Total	104 „

The following table shows the number of deaths from cancer, together with the death rate as compared with England and Wales:—

Year	Number of Deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 of population			
			Mitcham	England and Wales		
1915	...	26	...	.77	...	1.22
1916	...	21	...	.63	...	1.16
1917	...	17	...	.50	...	1.19
1918	...	25	...	.72	...	1.19
1919	...	31	...	.89	...	1.18
1920	...	34	...	.94	...	1.16
1921	...	31	...	.87	...	1.21
1922	...	34	...	.94	...	1.22
1923	...	33	...	.90	...	1.26
1924	...	42	...	1.11	...	1.29
1925	...	48	...	1.29	...	1.33
1926	...	44	...	1.14	...	1.36
1927	...	46	...	1.13	...	1.37
1928	...	58	...	1.27	...	1.42
1929	...	66	...	1.33	...	1.43
1930	...	73	...	1.25	...	1.45
1931	...	81	...	1.41	...	1.48
1932	...	68	...	1.0	...	1.51
1933	...	52	...	.86	...	1.52
1934	...	70	...	1.1	...	1.56
1935	...	61	...	1.0	...	1.58
1936	...	80	...	1.2	...	1.61
1937	...	76	...	1.1	...	1.63
1938	...	103	...	1.5	...	1.66
1939	...	73	...	1.12	...	1.64
1940	...	94	...	1.55	...	1.66
1941	...	84	...	1.6	...	1.67
1942	...	104	...	1.9	...	1.698

TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 85 new cases of tuberculosis were notified, viz.:—

		Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	...	42	25	67
Non-Pulmonary	...	10	8	18
Total	...	52	33	85

The total number of deaths registered as occurring from tuberculosis was viz.:—

		Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	...	17	19	36
Non-Pulmonary	...	5	—	5
Total	...	22	19	41

		England and Wales	Mitcham
Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis per 1,000 population	...	0.506	0.66
Death rate from non-pulmonary tuber- culosis per 1,000 population	...	0.11	0.09

The following table shows the number of new cases, the type of disease and the deaths from tuberculosis during the year.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 year to 5 years	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	...
5 years „ 10 „	2	1	1	2	...	...	...	...
10 „ „ 15 „	2	...	1	1	...	...	1	...
15 „ „ 20 „	4	2	...	...	...	1	1	...
20 „ „ 35 „	19	18	2	3	3	9	1	...
35 „ „ 45 „	4	...	1	...	6	6	...	...
45 „ „ 65 „	11	2	2	2	8	3	1	...
65 „ and upwards	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	42	25	10	8	17	19	5	...

New cases coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the year through (a) Death returns; (b) Posthumous notifications:—

Age Periods	0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Total
Pulmonary : males	1	1	...	...	2	...	4
Pulmonary : females	1	1	1	...	3
Non-Pulmonary : males	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2
Non-Pulmonary : Females

The sources from which information as to the above mentioned cases was obtained are as follows:—

		No. of Cases	
		Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Death returns ...	(a) From Local Registers ...	1	...
	(b) Transferable deaths from Registrar General ...	...	...
Posthumous notifications	...	6	2

Number of cases removed from register during 1942:—

Reason	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Cases
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Withdrawal of notification...	2	..	2	...	...	...	2
Recovery from disease ...	1	...	1	1	1	2	3
Death ...	17	19	36	5	...	5	41
Otherwise ...	10	8	18	3	6	9	27

The ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to the total tuberculosis deaths is as follows:—

Non-notified tuberculosis deaths	...	9
Notified tuberculosis deaths	... ..	32
Percentage of non-notified T.B. deaths (all forms)	... ..	22 per cent.
Percentage of non-notified pulmonary T.B. deaths	... ..	19.4 „

Treatment for cases of tuberculosis is under the control of the Surrey County Council.

A dispensary has been established at London Road School, Mitcham. Arrangements have been made by this Borough for the examination of sputa from cases or suspected cases of tuberculosis, and during the year 51 such examinations have been made.

TUBERCULOSIS CARE COMMITTEE

The Mitcham Tuberculosis Dispensary area comprises the Boroughs of Mitcham and Beddington and Wallington.

Functions of the Committee

1. To alleviate want or distress amongst tuberculous people, providing, where necessary, extra nourishment, clothing, bedding, coal, surgical appliances, travelling expenses and help in the home.

2. To care for the families of patients in sanatoria so that their changed economic circumstances shall not result in impaired health, and that the sufferer shall not be harassed by undue anxiety.

Assistance to Patients—1942

Number of persons assisted	... ..	173
Receiving supplies of milk, butter, eggs, continuously for 12 months	... ..	8
“ “ “ for 6-9 months	... ..	7
“ “ “ under 6 months	... ..	23
Fares for family to visit sanatorium	... ..	4

Clothing, bedding (Bundles for Britain), supplied through the medium of Com- mittee	100
Tuberculous persons who have received special consideration <i>re</i> housing ...	1
Fares for children (contacts) for Sum- mer holiday	2
Fees for instruction	1
Payment for holiday	1
Christmas Gift, 5s. per head	26

SCABIES

The Scabies Order, 1941, provided for the diagnosis and treatment of scabies.

A clinic for the diagnosis of this condition has been held by the Medical Officer of Health each morning at Mitcham Court. Efforts have been made to obtain the co-operation, not only of the patient, but of the whole family, and all have been treated when possible.

As Mitcham has no cleansing centre, arrangements for the treatment of scabies were made at the Mitcham Public Baths. A part of the baths formerly used for foam baths was partitioned off and isolated from the public baths, so that a separate entrance was available.

Usually treatment was with benzyl benzoate lotion 25 per cent., and this has given very good results. Female patients have been treated by a nurse on the First Aid Post staff, and the men have been treated by a baths attendant who has received special training.

Treatment at the public baths has had the advantage of a constant supply of hot water, suitably heated premises and a competent male attendant, but it is not open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays, nor other days after 6 p.m., and those members of the family who are at work are loth to lose time from work for treatment, especially if they have few or no symptoms.

No disinfection of clothing or bedding, other than washing, has been recommended, and the results have justified the adoption of this course.

Visits paid, 73.

Attendances at clinic, 192 persons; representing 99 families.

Treated at baths, 122 persons; representing 52 families.

Number of baths given, 409.

Supplied with lotion or ointment (for home treatment), 58 persons; representing 32 families.

Admitted to hospital, 1.

FOOD POISONING

A small outbreak of acute food poisoning occurred during the year amongst the members of the National Fire Service. Some 16 cases of acute diarrhoea and vomiting were reported and several cases required hospital treatment. Examination of specimens from the patients and of food still available proved negative. A temporary canteen was in use at the time and the suspected cause of the outbreak was a staphylococcal infection of gravy, but as none was available for examination this could not be confirmed.

WANDLE VALLEY JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD

Cases admitted to the hospital during the year ended December 31, 1942.

DISEASE	Beddington & Wallington		Coulsdon & Purley		Merton & Morden		Mitcham	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Diphtheria ...	7	...	10	1	12	1	24	...
Scarlet Fever...	64	...	42	...	174	1†	128	...
Erysipelas ...	...	...	1	...	2	...	3	...
Tonsillitis ...	1	...	...	...	3	...	3	...
Measles ...	2	...	5	...	14	...	20	...
Influenza ...	...	...	2	...	4	...	1	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	2	...	6	...	16	1†
Rubella ...	...	...	...	...	5	...	3	...
Chicken Pox ...	...	...	1	...	1	...	2	...
Meningitis ...	1	...	2	1‡	9	3	7	...
Poliomyelitis...	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	5	...	2	...	5	1*	2	...
With mother ...	3	...	1	...	4	...	2	...
Minor injury ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
T.B. Meningitis ...	1	1	...	...	1	1	1	1
Cerebral Tumour ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Rheumatism ...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Pemphigus ...	1	...	...	...	1	1	4	...
Lung Abscess ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Thrush ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Enteritis ...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Admitted with baby...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Endocarditis and Peri-carditis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Pneumonia ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...
Glandular Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Hemiplegia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Pheno-Barbitone Poisoning ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ulceration of Mouth...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Psycho-Neurosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Erythema ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	91	1	71	2	247	8	226	4

* Puerperal Fever and Cerebral Embolus.

† Whooping Cough and Convulsions.

‡ Broncho Pneumonia.

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