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

#### **Contributors**

Mitcham (London, England). Borough Council.

#### **Publication/Creation**

[1945?]

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## BOROUGH OF MITCHAM

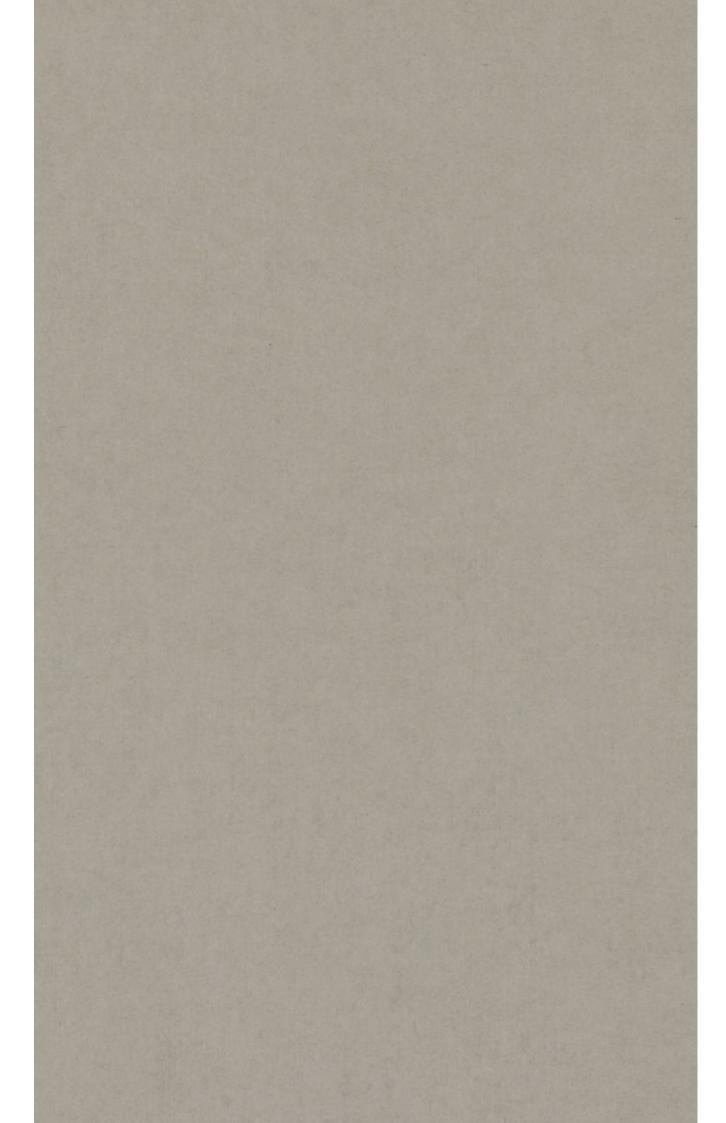
# REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the

**YEAR 1944** 





## BOROUGH OF MITCHAM

# REPORT

of the

## Medical Officer of Health

for the

**YEAR** 1944

Mitcham:

H, G. Mather, Caxton Works, Lower Green

NAMES OF TAXABLE

# REPORT

-41-15

Medical Officer of Health

no due

MOD MARK

## Borough of Mitcham

## **HEALTH REPORT FOR 1944**

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my annual report for the year 1944. The birth rate was the highest recorded since 1931, and except for the years 1939 and 1943, the infant mortality rate is the lowest on record. The number of illegitimate births has again shown a large increase, and the need for special help for these children is emphasised by their high infant mortality rate. The local death rate was 11.88 per 1,000 as against 11.6 for England and Wales, and 15.7 per 1,000 for the administrative County of London.

The work of the Day Nurseries has continued, and each nursery had a waiting list at the end of the year, despite enemy action.

There has been a decrease in the number of attendances at all clinics owing to evacuation from flying bombs, and this has been specially noticeable in the decrease of the number of children immunised against diphtheria.

There has been a substantial decrease in the number of notifications of scarlet fever, and the number of notifications of diphtheria is the lowest on record. There were no deaths from these causes during the year.

In spite of the difficulties of obtaining staff, the work at Woodlands Maternity Home continued throughout the flying bomb period, and high praise is due to the Matron, staff and patients for their courage during a very trying period.

I wish to express my appreciation of the health visitors for their assistance in the evacuation of mothers and children, and in providing trained nurses at the First Aid Posts, to the sanitary inspectors for their A.R.P. duties, including the salvage of large quantities of damaged food, and to the office staff, who have made this report possible.

I should also like to thank the Chairmen of the Maternity and Child Welfare and Public Health Committees for their constant help and support, and to all those voluntary helpers at the welfare centres, who have given so freely of their time and service.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

A. ASHWORTH, Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department, Mitcham Court, Mitcham.

patients for their courses slaving a very trying period

### BOROUGH OF MITCHAM

### PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN - - COUNCILLOR H. L. GAUNTLETT
His Worship the Mayor (Councillor W. Jeffery)

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 V. G. Pullen Sir I. Wilson

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN - - COUNCILLOR MRS. E. WATSON
His Worship the Mayor

Alderman-

#### J. R. Beaumont

Councillors-

S. E. Birch G. C. Cock H. Conway E. J. Dobinson F. Dominney R. A. Humphreys Mrs. C. Randall Co-opted Members—

Mrs. A. H. Bailey Mrs. D. L. Chappell Miss K. Farewell-Jones Dr. G. Stoker Mrs. E. F. Ward

# REPRESENTATIVES ON WANDLE VALLEY JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD

His Worship the Mayor (ex-officio)

Aldermen-

W. Dalton A. H. Bailey

Councillor-

Mrs. E. Watson

## REPRESENTATIVES ON WANDLE VALLEY JOINT SEWERAGE BOARD

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

His Worship the Mayor (ex-officio)

Alderman E. J. D. Field 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.

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.

Clinical Medical Officer—Woodlands Maternity Home
E. G. Housden, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G.

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 Miss E. G. Couzens (5, 6, 7, 9)

#### Assistant Health Visitors

Miss G. Russell-Harris (5, 6, 7) Miss D. Hinds (5, 6, 7, 9) Miss M. Knight (6, 8) Miss L. Salway (5, 6, 7)

#### Matron of Woodlands Maternity Home

- (a) Miss G. M. Evans (5, 6)
- (b) Miss M. Corrin (5, 6, 10, 11)

Matron of Eagle House Day Nursery
Miss J. E. Offer (5, 6, 12)
Matron of Robinson Road Day Nursery
Mrs. L. Elkington (5, 6, 13)

#### Midwives

Miss P. Gaunt (5, 6) Miss M. Monday (5, 6) Mrs. L. Papps (5, 6) Mrs. T. Davies (5, 6) (c) Miss M. Rice (6)

#### Clerks

- J. B. A. Roodhouse and L. J. Bellingham, H.M. Forces Mrs. M. Odam Miss V. Valentine (temporary)
  - (d) Miss D. Turner (temporary)
  - (e) Miss H. Bonny
  - (f) Miss J. Poulton ,
    - (a) Resigned 16.7.44
    - (b) Appointed 16.6.44
    - (c) Appointed 1.7.44
    - (d) Resigned 21.4.44
    - (e) Engaged 4.5.44
    - (f) Engaged 27.12.44
  - 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. Certificate Teaching of Mothercraft.
  - 10. Midwives' Teacher's Certificate.
  - 11. Housekeeper's Certificate.
  - 12. Sick Children's Registered Nurse.
  - 13. State Registered Fever Nurse.

## REPORT

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

STATISTICS	AND		REA	DITIONS	OI IIIL
Area (in acres)					2,935 acres
Population, Cen			· · · ·		35,119
LM Fores				Picoultons:	56,856
Registrar-Gener					L milk
year, 1944					51,490
Number of inha					7,150
	Dieca i		31		13,187
			44		17,979
Rateable Value,					£501,942
Sum represente					£1,800
oum represente	a by a	14. 1400			21,000
		OMARIT	STICS.		
		STATI	51105.		Rate per 1,000
LIVE BIRTHS.		Total	Male	Female	of population
Legitimate		914	462	452	
Illegitimate		64	41	28	
Total		978	503	475	18.99
		Alaska Principal		PRINCIPAL OF THE PRINCI	Rate per 1,000
STILL BIRTHS		Total	Male	Female	total births
Legitimate		18	8	10	
Illegitimate		prod <del>uct</del> é la	umater T	opingi <del>s o</del>	
Total		18	8	10	18.07
DEATHS.		Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 of population
		612	305	307	11.88
Deaths from disc	ease an	d accident	ts of pregi	nancy and	childbirth: -
	alasm od				Rate per 1,000 total births
From puerp	eral se	psis		1	_
From other	puerp	eral cause	98	-	-

Total ... 1

1.00

Dootho of inf		ndou one					
Deaths of inf				0.000		0	0.00
	100	1,000 live				3	6.80
		ants per		line at a set			- 01
mate l						3	5.01
		ants per	1,000 1	ive illegit	1-		
mate b	irths		See y	****	•••	6	2.50
Deaths from	_						
Cancer (a	all ages	3)	****				83
Measles							-
Whoopin	g coug	h (all ages	s)				2
Diarrhœa	a (unde	er two yea	ars of a	ige)		M.	8
PERCENTA	GE OF	BIRTHS	Occur	RRING IN	INS	TITUTIO	ONS
				Births in		ercentag	
Year		Total births	1	etc.		ths occu	
1929	1	961		309		32.1	
1930		1129		367		32.4	
1931		1143	1000	370		32.3	
1932		1084		381		35.1	
1933		1010		420		41.5	
1934		982	- 150000	428		43.5	
1935	A COLUMN	969	1	474	8	48.9	
1936		1033		497		48.1	
1937		976		501		51.3	
1938		1028		569		56.3	
1939		966	-111	518	**	58.7	
1940	B 1111	854	do. can	453		53.0	
1941		737	IRR.	408		55.4	
1010		986		518		52.5	
		1048		727		69.4	
1943		1040		121		00.4	

Number of births notified by municipal midwives in 1944, 249.

678

68.1

The birth rates, death rates per 1,000 of population, and the infantile mortality rates for the years 1924-44 are shown in the following table:—

996

1944

...

	Birtl per 1,000 pc		Death per 1,000 po		Infant Mortality per 1,000 live birth	
Year	MITCHAM	England & Wales	MITCHAM	England & Wales	MITCHAM	England & Wales
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
1943	18.75	16.5	10.77	12.1	36.2	49
1944	18.99	17.6	11.88	11.6	36.8	46

#### INFANT MORTALITY

During the year 36 deaths were registered as occurring in infants under one year of age:—

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	 11	 21	 32
Illegitimate	 3	 1	 4
Total	 14	 22	 86

as compared with 37 deaths last year.

#### MATERNAL MORTALITY

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

Toxaemia from empyema, and peritonitis due to septic abortion.

In 1943 one death was registered as being due to disease or accident of pregnancy.

#### INQUESTS

Inquests were held on 5 residents dying within the district and on 16 Mitcham residents who died outside the district, a total of 21. In addition, the coroner held 78 post-mortems without inquests.

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

Deaths from natural cause	es		 4
Accidental deaths			 11
Deaths from misadventur	e		 3
Suicides			 1
War operations			 2
			_
		Total	21

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1944

12

	CAUSE OF DEATH	Males	Females	Total
	Intell solution of the	-		
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers	***	de militare	
2	Cerebro-spinal fever	1		1
3	Scarlet fever			
4	Whooping cough		2	2
5	Diphtheria		1	1
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	22	15	57
7	Other forms of tuberculosis	1	4	5
8	Syphilitic diseases	2	2	4
9	Influenza		2	. 2
0	Measles	***		***
1	Acute polio-myelitis and polio-eucephalitis			
2	Acute infectious encephalitis			
3	Cancer of buccul cavity and oesophagus	TO SUID TO		Will
	(m) and uterus (f)	1	3	4
4	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	14	3	17
5	Cancer of breast		14	14
6	Cancer of all other sites	26	22	48
7	Diabetes		3	3
8	Intra-cranial vascular lesions	26	29	55
9	Heart disease	57	68	125
0	Other diseases of circulatory system	13	11	24
11	Bronchitis	33	13	46
2	Pneumonia	10	15	27
3	Other respiratory diseases	0	1	4
4	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	1	4
5	Diarrhœa (under two years)	1	2	3
6	Amman Africa	2	3	5
7	Other discourse discourse	3	4	7
28	NT 1 111	0	5	13
19	December 1 2 most abouting service		1	1
30	Other was to was I among		-	A CONTRACTOR
31	-	0	7	10
32		CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE	The state of	10
) 2	Congenital malformations, birth injuries,		6	11
33	infantile disease	5 1	0	1
-	Suicide	3	Harl Still week	3
4	Road traffic accidents	0.00	E 1	1000
5	Other violent causes	40	51	91
36	All other causes	25	19	44
77			8901092	7
		005	907	010
	All causes	305	307	612

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and
Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1944.

(Provisional figures based on weekly and quarterly returns.)

(Provisional ngures	based on	weekly and	quarterry	returns.)	110000
ACA MANAGEMENT			148		Participant of
		126	Smaller		
		County	Towns	London	
	England	Boroughs	(Resident		SERVICE STATE
	Engiand	and	Popula-	Admin-	Mitchar
	and	Great	tions	istrative	
	Wales	Towns	25,000 to		
	Wates	including	50,000 at	County	Side Health
		London	1931		
		London	census)	polist o	III.
	B	ates per 1,0	00 civilian	nonulatio	n
Births—	-	oweds per 1,0	OU CITITUM	Population	
Time	17.6 ‡	20.3	20.9	15.0	18.99
C4:11	0.50	0.64	0.61	0.42	0.35
Deaths—	0.504	10.04	0.01	0.32	0.00
A11	116 +	13.7	12.4	15.7	11.88
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Classification	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	H
	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04
Whooping cough	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.02
Diphtheria Influenza			0.03	0.01	0.04
	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.08	0.01
Smallpox	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	
Measles Notifications—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	Treban.
	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	-
Typhoid fever	0.01	0.01	0.01		
Paratyphoid fever	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.06
Cerebro-spinal fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.06	0.06
Scarlet fever	2.40	2.41	2.67	1.57	1.88
Whooring cough	2.49	2.49	2.29	2.90	3.22
Diphtheria	0.58	0.67	0.69	0.31	0.19
Erys pelas	0.29	0.32	0.28	0.37	0.25
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.10
Measles	4.16	4.51	3.94	2.98	2.18
Pneumonia	0.97	1.13	0.82	0.93	0.72
		Rates pe	er 1,000 live	births	
Deaths under one year of age	46†	52	44	61	36
Deaths from diarrhea and	201	The second second			The Party of
enteritis under two years			not belle	300-00	hotelman
of age	4.8	7.3	4.4	10.1	3.1
History College College	3930	1 21 10	10 9 10 1	4	
	Rate	es per 1,000	total births	(live and	still)
Maternal mortality					1
Abortion with sepsis	0.31)	MARINE MORN	Part Hall	Market J	(1.00
,, without sepsis	0.09	To be being	200 40 40	Hanst I	1 -
Puerperal infections	0.28	Not	available		
Other	1.25)	ELD HIJOURN	plan to e	sno to	1
Notifications—					
Puerperal fever	10.34	13.13	9.25	3.61	5.02
Puerperal pyrexia	10.04	10.10	0.20	(14.14	0.02
of the Borost all m	Mo	rtality per r	million won	nen aged 1	15-45
A moutton.	1			1	
Abortion—	05 )	The state of the state of	THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T		
With sepsis Without sepsis	25 }	N	ot availab	le	F. W. SHAD

<sup>\*</sup> Including Puerperal fever. A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths. ‡ Rates per 1,000 total population. † Per 1,000 related births.

# 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				218
Sputa for tubercle	***			29
		Total	and and an	247

## EMERGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY, EPSOM

This service has proved of the greatest use, particularly in regard to the control of infection in the Day Nurseries and Woodlands Maternity Home. The results of specimens taken to the laboratory by car have been available the following morning, and the advice and assistance of the staff have been most helpful.

#### 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 1,348, of which 187 were accident cases, and 1,161 private removals.

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

#### NURSING IN THE HOME

There are two nursing associations in the Borough. The following are the returns from each association for year ended December 31st, 1944:—

	No. of Nurses	No. of patients visited during 1944	No. of visits paid during 1944
St. Barnabas	1	102	4,023
Mitcham D.N. Association	_		
South and East	3*	330	6,888
Colliers Wood and West	2*	205	4,203
Totals		637	15,114

\* 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

Five 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, Gorringe Park Avenue.—Sessions are held every Tuesday afternoon.

Sherwood House, Commonside East.—Sessions are held every Thursday morning.—This clinic was transferred to Meopham Road F.A.P. in July as a result of enemy action.

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.—This clinic was transferred to the Church Road F.A.P. in July.

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

#### POST-NATAL CLINIC

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

Post-natal examinations of cases confined in Woodlands are made at the Woodlands clinics.

#### 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 as follows:—

Meopham Road F.A.P. ... Every Monday afternoon.

Mitcham Court ... ... Every Wednesday morning.

Cavendish Road F.A.P. ... Every Thursday afternoon.

#### 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 St. Helier County Hospital as follows:—

Every Tuesday at 10 a.m. Every Thursday at 1.30 p.m. Fourth Thursday at 5.30 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, the St. Helier, Guildford, Redhill and Kingston County Hospitals, the War Memorial Hospital, Woking, 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,

Public library books which have been in contact with cases of infectious disease are disinfected in the Public Health Department.

Boots, shoes, etc., taken in exchange by the Domestic Centre are disinfected at the Public Health Department before being re-exchanged.

Number of disinfections carried out by War	ndle	
Valley Isolation Hospital		71
Number of rooms disinfected by fumigator		192
Number of library books disinfected		177

# 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 11,136, as compared with 17,258 in 1943. Of these 848 were new cases, 766 being infants under one year of age, and 82 being children over one but under five years of age. The total number of attendances of infants under one year was 8,695, and of children between one and five years of age, 2,441.

At the end of the year there were 575 infants under one year and 1,102 children between one and five years of age attending the centres, making a total of 1, 677.

The average attendance at each centre was: -

Park Road	 	46.1
St. Barnabas	 	63.7
Church Road	 	54.6
Sherwood House	 	54.5

The percentage of infants under one year of age attending the centres for the first time was 78 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.

As a result of the flying bomb attacks that commenced in June and continued for the remainder of the year, large scale evacuation of mothers and children was recommenced, and the attendances at the Welfare Centres correspondingly fell.

Owing to the lack of shelter accommodation at Sherwood House and Mitcham Court the clinics were transferred to Meopham Road First Aid Post and Church Road First Aid Post.

#### 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 42 cases were referred to this clinic, as compared with 52 cases in 1943.

#### 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 mothe	rs				28
Nursing mothers					2
Under fives					8
The work carried out	was	as follo	ws:-		
Extractions				***	24
Dentures					12
Fillings					7
Scaling					14
Gum treatment					4
Advice					10
Vincent's Angina					1

#### 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 acts as Infant Life Protection Visitor.

#### LOUSE INFESTATION.

Special attention has been given by the health visitors to the inspection of children under five for infestation with lice. Few cases of heavy infestation have been reported, and in all cases lethane hair dressing has been supplied and has given very satisfactory results. Owing to the difficulty mothers have encountered in obtaining suitable combs, a number were bought and lent to the mothers. Infestation is usually present in several members of the household, and the desirability of both school children and pre-school children and adults being under one authority is obvious. Some of the more serious cases of infestation in children under five years were found at the day nurseries where children's heads are examined as a routine measure each day on admission.

ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CENTRES, 1944

Particulars	Park Road	St. Barnabas		Sherwood House	Total
Number of new cases registered	ing w	Blos-Yes	Serious)	more box	
during year of— Children under one year of age	142	222	213	189	766
Children over one year and	00	10	0.0	22	82
under five years of age Number of children in attend-	20	18	22	22	02
ance at end of year—		- Constant		V	
Under one year of age	126	98	189	162	575
Over one and under five years of age	197	315	284	306	1102
Attendances of children under one year of age	1696	2620	2212	2167	8695
Attendances of children over one year of age	517	629	622	673	2441
Total attendances at centres	2213	3249	2834	2840	11136
Average attendances at centres	46.1	63.7	54.6	54.5	54.7
Percentage of infants under one				THE STATE OF	
year of age attending centres of the total live births					78

#### VISITS PAID BY HEALTH VISITORS

Particulars					No.
Primary ante-natal visits					300
Subsequent ante-natal visits			Ochanie.		103
Primary birth visits					799
Subsequent visits to infants					2,063
Visits to children over one and un	der fiv	e yea	ars of age	3	3,820
Visits re stillbirths					3
Visits re deaths of infants under	one ye	ar of	age		6
Visits re cases of ophthalmia neo	natoru	m			5
Visits re cases of puerperal pyrex			1.00		-
Primary visits to cases of tubercu	ilosis				12
Subsequent visits to cases of tube		is			106
Special visits				****	666
Infant Life Protection visits					178
Infectious disease visits					86
Visits re diphtheria immunisation	1				466
			Total		8,613

#### SUPPLY OF FOOD AND MEDICINES

Dried milk, cod liver oil emulsion, Virol, Parrish's Food, groats, Bemax, Farex, iron pills and Lactagol 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 expectant mothers and children under two years of age at Welfare Centres, the Food Office and at the Public Health Department.

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

#### ANTE-NATAL CENTRES

Two ante-natal clinics are 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 Wednesday at Mitcham Court.

#### AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT EACH CENTRE

	Number of expectant mothers	Number of attendances	Average
Woodlands (two clinics)	260	2,080	20.6
Mitcham Court	345	1,053	21.0
Midwives' Clinic	302	972	19.4
Total	907	4,105	20.5

Of the total number of registered births, 92.8 per cent. of the mothers had attended the ante-natal centres.

Ninety-two expectant mothers who attended the ante-natal centres were evacuated for their confinements.

#### 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. Midwives are welcomed at the centres, and copies of their patients' ante-natal notes are forwarded to them for reference.

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 antenatal 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 25 women attended for this examination, as compared with 48 last year.

#### POST-NATAL CLINIC

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

The total number of women who attended the post-natal clinics was 94, the average attendance being 7.8.

#### HOME HELPS

The demand for the services of Home Helps has increased during the year. The number of part-time workers available has gradually decreased, in spite of higher rates of pay. The Council has approved the appointment of two full-time persons, and at the end of the year two regular part-time home helps were being employed. Seventeen mothers took advantage of this service. It has proved more satisfactory for the patient to find her own home help, if possible, usually a relative. The Council pay her wages, and claim re-imbursement according to scale from the patient.

During the year the scale of assistance for home helps was reviewed, and the Committee agreed to the same scale as that adopted by the Surrey County Council.

#### WOODLANDS MATERNITY HOME.

The number of cases admitted during the year was 216, eight fewer than in 1943. Owing to the danger from flying bombs, a number of cases booked for Woodlands were evacuated to reception areas for confinement. Although there were several incidents adjacent to the home, none of the patients or staff suffered injury, and the damage to the building was slight.

Dr. Housden was appointed Clinical Medical Officer, and commenced his duties on April 1st. Dr. Housden conducts the ante-natal clinics, and treats all cases requiring medical attention, other than private doctors' cases. He visits the Home daily, and thus continuity of observation and treatment has been attained.

Miss Corrin commenced duty as Matron in June. She has had special experience as a teacher of midwifery, and has improved the standard of the Home as a Part II training school for pupil midwives.

During the year an electrically heated cot was purchased for the care of the premature infants born in Woodlands.

The gas and air apparatus for analgesia has been very successful, and has been greatly appreciated by the patients.

#### STAFF

The staff consists of a matron, two sisters, two staff nurses and six 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:—

					Num	ber of birth	S
1924	(August to	De	cember)			42	
1925						129	
1926						240	
1927	(10 month	s)		***		177	
1928						265	
1929	monage a					298	
1930	d out to					318	
1931						259	
1932						239	
1933						285	
1984						285	
1985	and it.		legique.		ST. ST	299	
1936	mbeun H.	Q.,	P		Sidnie a	314	
1937	langing med		amp,ila a	***	.,,	309	

			Num	ber of birt	ths
1938	 	 		297	
1939	 	 		254	
1940	 	 		239	
1941	 	 		215	
1942	 	 		263	
1943	 	 		224	
1944	 	 	PILIP	213	

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

Number of maternity cases admitted during the year, 216.

Average duration of stay, 13.6 days.

Number of cases delivered by (a) midwives, 192; (b) doctors, 19.

Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency, 30.

Number of cases notified as (a) puerperal fever, nil; (b) puerperal pyrexia, 1.

Number of cases of pemphigus neonatorum, nil.

Number of infants not entirely breast-fed while in the institution, 6.

Number of cases notified as ophthalmia neonatorum, nil.

Number of maternal deaths, nil.

Number of stillbirths, 4.

Number of infants' deaths within 10 days of birth, 1.

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

The post-natal clinic is held once monthly.

#### 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 of	n regi	ster, De	cem-	
ber, 31, 1944				6
Number of children on regis	ster, I	Decembe	r 31,	
1944				6
Number of children who ha	ve die	d during	g the	
year				-
Number of children on wh	om ir	quests	were	
held				-
Number of registrations wi	thdra	wn		-
Number of prosecutions				-
Number of visits paid by	v the	Infant	Life	
Protection Visitor				178

### Adoption of Children Act, 1939.

This Act came into force on June 1st, 1943. Numbers of children are placed in homes in the Borough by the registered adoption societies without any reference to the Local Welfare Authority. In my opinion, this is a most unsatisfactory arrangement, and adoption societies have been requested to notify the Superintendent Health Visitor, who is Infant Life Protection Visitor, of any cases placed for adoption in the borough.

Number of persons who g	ave no	tice un	der Se	ction	
7 (3) during the year					9
Total number of children i	n resp	ect of v	hom n	otice	
was given					9
Number of such children	under	superv	ision a	t the	
end of the year					5

### 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.

Number of Mitcham cases dealt	with in	1944	 14
Number of children affected			 31
Number of visits paid			 70

#### WAR-TIME NURSERIES

Eagle House has continued to give satisfactory service during the year, and has a waiting list of cases for admission, although the accommodation has been increased from 65 to 85.

Robinson Road Nursery was opened on August 9th, 1943, and at the end of the year the register was full. The house has been adapted for nursery purposes, and with the addition of a prefabricated section, accommodation has been provided for 50 children.

The average attendances were as follows: -

	Eagle House.	Robinson Road
Under two	 18.08	16.42
Two—five	 33.40	18.43
	mareha local	mintdo all sor
Total	 51.48	34.85

Attendances were considerably below average for four months of the year owing to enemy action.

### THE CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN

Circular 2866 of the Ministry of Health drew the attention of Welfare Authorities to the importance of this matter. In February a meeting was held between representatives of the Surrey County Council and the autonomous Maternity and Child Welfare areas of the County, and it was decided that each authority should review the position in its own area, and consider by what means the position might be improved. The following report was submitted to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee:—

The Minister of Health draws the attention of Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities to the importance of the problem. The successful work of diocesan and other religious bodies has shown that much can be done to help the mother and safeguard the child, and the Minister suggests that each authority should formulate a scheme co-operating with and reinforcing existing Moral Welfare Associations. The Minister recommends the appointment of a trained worker, who has taken one of the recognised courses of training in social service, and who is experienced in the special problems she will have to handle.

The duties of the special worker in co-operation with existing workers of Voluntary Societies are briefly:—

- (i) To persuade the grandparents to make a home for the child.
- (ii) To advise the expectant mother on suitable accommodation.
- (iii) To assist the girl to obtain an affiliation order or assistance from the father.
- (iv) To assist the mother to obtain employment.
- (v) To find suitable lodgings for mother and baby.
- (vi) To find suitable foster-mothers.
- (vii) To arrange for places in Residential Nurseries.
- (viii) To obtain legal advice about adoption.

This work is done at present by the Superintendent Health Visitor in co-operation with the Citizens' Advice Bureau and the local Moral Welfare Authorities, usually the Bermondsey and Southwark Diocesan Association (C. of E.) and the Crusade of Rescue (R.C.). The number of illegitimate births in Mitcham in 1940-41-42 was 26, 26, 39 respectively. At least half of these cases remain at home with their parents, and the main difficulty of the remaining cases is to obtain suitable hostel accommodation until such time as the mothers are able to obtain employment and make arrangements for the care of the child. This may take many months to accomplish, and any time limit on the duration of stay of the mother should be avoided. Hostels should be near enough to industrial areas to provide adequate opportunities for employment, and nursery accommodation is essential. It is also desirable that girls should be accommodated in hostels outside the area in which they have been living. A hostel in the Sutton area would serve all the surrounding County districts, and I suggest that the County Council or a combination of adjoining Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities be requested to consider the possibility of establishing such a hostel.

It was resolved that an invitation be extended to the neighbouring autonomous Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities to discuss the question of the provision of a hostel.

In April a conference of the autonomous Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities was held at Mitcham. The need for hostel accommodation was generally agreed, but the Medical Officer of Health of Mitcham was requested to draw up concrete proposals for establishing a hostel in order that the position might be more fully discussed at a subsequent meeting.

The following report was submitted to the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee:—

The number of illegitimate children born has considerably increased since 1939, and in many areas this increase exceeds 50 per cent.

The Moral Welfare Associations have always undertaken the main responsibilities for the care of these cases, and local authorities have been asked to contribute only occasionally to the cost of maintenance of special cases. These local Moral Welfare Associations are largely independent in their administration, but most of them in this part of Surrey are affiliated to the Southwark Diocesan Association for Moral Welfare who, in a few instances, make small financial grants.

The Moral Welfare Associations employ social welfare workers, and consultation with these experienced workers has shown that they are unanimously agreed on the following points:

- 1. That further institutional accommodation is urgently required.
- 2. That relations can frequently be persuaded to take back the mother and accept the baby as one of the family provided institutional accommodation is available for a few months whilst awaiting the relatives' acceptance of the position.
- 3. That early adoption is undesirable. A mother who has had her baby for a month will rarely part with the child willingly.
- 4. That girls who have been urged and have agreed to have the baby adopted very frequently return within a

short time with a second illegitimate child, thus increasing the size of the problem.

- 5. At present a number of girls can obtain posts in domestic service where they can keep the baby with them, but in many cases it is a struggle to do domestic service and look after the baby satisfactorily. This is especially marked in the case of young mothers of 16 to 17 years of age, who at present make up a large number of the cases. A number of the girls have had no domestic training or experience but have had various types of technical training, e.g., shorthand typists.
- 6. That foster-mothers are frequently unsatisfactory and in any case they are at present almost impossible to find. Usually the charges are beyond the means of the mother and the care the child receives is most unsatisfactory.

One city has successfully used a foster-mother scheme where the Welfare Authority have been responsible for the payment of the foster-mothers' fees, and have assisted the mother during times of financial difficulty. This scheme does not overcome the difficulties of finding suitable foster-mothers, but by paying higher fees than can normally be afforded by the children's mothers, the Welfare Authority may command a much higher standard of care and exercise stricter supervision.

7. That institutions for these cases should not be too large.

The maximum accommodation recommended for one unit is 20 beds. It is essential that the grounds of a hostel should be both private and spacious. Many of the girls in the later stages of pregnancy are very self-conscious of their appearance and spend much of their time in the garden. Matrons in charge of hostels stress the need for providing some privacy for girls who stay for more than a few months. It would appear that for the long-stay type of hostel, separate bed-sitting-rooms are most desirable.

#### Institutions

These are maintained by the Voluntary Associations, and appear to be of two types: (i) Short Stay Hostels, (ii) Long Stay Hostels.

Short Stay Hostels are sometimes known as Shelters or Refuges. They frequently admit girls in moral danger, homeless and stranded girls, in addition to pregnant girls. The stay is normally limited to two or three months before and after the baby is born.

Long Stay Hostels in which the period of stay may exceed six months and from where the mother may go out to work.

There is at present a definite shortage of both long and short stay accommodation, and there is little likelihood of the Voluntary Association being able to increase the accommodation without very substantial financial support. The provision of a hostel of the long stay type would relieve the existing short stay hostels of a number of their cases and would enable them to take an increased number of short stay cases.

Hostel accommodation could most suitably be obtained by constructing a building specially designed for the purpose. Alternatively, some war-time nurseries might be easily adapted, but they are unlikely to become redundant until after the end of the war.

The most practical method at present would be to adapt an existing house. Such a house would be expected to cost £3,000. £500 would be necessary for adaption, and equipment would cost a further £1,000, giving a total capital cost of £4,500 for a hostel of 15 beds, with nursery accommodation. It would appear that for this figure of £4,500, a prefabricated building such as are at present being used for day nurseries might be suitably modified to provide the individual accommodation required by a hostel of the long-stay type. To obtain a site providing the necessary privacy would, however, prove difficult.

The staff for such a hostel would be as follows: -

1.	Sister in char	rge (1	resident	5)	 £130
2.	Nursery Nur	se			 175
3.	Cook				 165
			T	otal	 £470

Food					 £650
Rates					 75
Fuel ar	nd lig	hting			 100
Laundr	y, te	lephon	e, etc.		 75
					£900
Staff .					 470
			To	otal	 £1,370

A number of the girls would be able to contribute to their cost of maintenance, but the net cost would probably be not less than £1,000 per annum.

Should such a hostel be established and administered by the local authorities, the appointment of a special welfare worker at a salary of £300 per annum would be essential in my opinion. Such a worker would act as liaison officer between the welfare workers of the local Voluntary Associations and the hostel, and would be responsible to the local authorities. The local authorities would still require the present short stay accommodation of the Voluntary Associations, especially in the pre-natal period, and in view of their long experience of this type of work it would appear to be an advantage to arrange with them to administer the hostel and admit the cases from the contributory hostel authorities. This method would have the additional advantage that the appointment of the special social worker would not be necessary. The local Welfare Authorities might exercise some control on the administration by having a representative on the Committee.

The Voluntary Associations appear to have very little capital and the cost of establishing a hostel would fall almost entirely on the local authorities, with grants on an agreed basis to be made to the association and the financial position to be reviewed at the end of twelve months working.

Small grants of £25 to £50 by individual local authorities appear to be of little practical value in obtaining further hostel accommodation, and until this need is met, the Voluntary Associations would be able to achieve little more than they are already doing.

The Committee resolved that the report be circulated to the autonomous Maternity and Child Welfare Authorities for their observations.

Unfortunately the flying bomb attacks prevented the meeting of the conference taking place before the end of the year.

#### CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

Premature infants requiring hospital treatment are admitted to the County Hospital.

For cases remaining in their own homes special draught-proof cots heated by hot water bottles, blankets, clothes, special feeding bottles, etc., may be borrowed free of cost at the request of the doctor or midwife in charge of the case.

Home helps are available when necessary.

# SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA WATER SUPPLY

Except for eight houses in Goat Road, supplied by the Sutton Water Company, the whole of Mitcham is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board.

Four houses in the Borough have no separate water supply, and share a stand pipe situated at the rear of the houses. There are in addition ten licensed caravan yards, each containing a stand pipe and supplying a total of 26 caravans.

The water has been of a consistently high standard of purity and no case of infectious disease has been transmitted by water.

A large number of the houses in the Borough have no supply of drinking water direct from the main, but are supplied from a tank in the roof. Provided this tank is properly covered and is cleansed regularly, it provides a satisfactory supply, but frequently the covers are left off and the tanks become contaminated with dead birds, mice, etc., drowned whilst obtaining water. All the more modern houses are, however, supplied with one tap for drinking purposes direct from the main supply.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS

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

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

With one exception 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 was 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	101
Number of other houses found infested during the year	19
Number of houses disinfested during the year	120
Number of requisitioned, etc., houses disinfested	3
Methods employed:—	
Two houses treated with sulphur dioxide (Cescones).	
134 rooms 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 disinfested by owners or	
occupiers after notice	19
Number of shelters disinfested	78
Number of houses disinfested for beetles	16

#### 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.

# RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919

The Surrey County Council delegated their powers under the above Act to the Mitcham Borough Council in July, 1944.

A Rodent Operator was appointed in December, 1944. The man employed on disinfection also carried out work in connection with rat destruction.

Number of complaints received re rat infestation	 157
Number of visits paid by sanitary inspectors	 558
Number of visits paid by rodent operators	 707

# 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	 	 4,650
Number of complaints received	 	 351
Visits re complaints and sundries	 	 1,258
Revisits	 	 1,037

Houses inspected for defects		708
Number of rooms measured for permitted numbers		238
Number of nuisances discovered		528
Number of intimation notices served re houses		806
Number of intimation notices complied with re hou	ses	142
Number of statutory notices served re houses		83
Number of statutory notices complied with re hou	ses	55
Number of intimation notices served re workplaces		5
Number of intimation notices complied with re wo	rk-	
places		3
Number of statutory notices served re workplaces		1
Number of statutory notices complied with re wor	rk-	
places		r lood a
Number of intimation notices served re other matt	ers	6
Number of intimation notices complied with re oth	ner	
matters		6
Number of statutory notices served re other matt	ers	1
Number of statutory notices complied with re oth	ner	
matters		_
Visits to butchers and other food shops		482
Visits to factories		108
Visits to piggeries		55
Visits to refuse dumps		2
Visits re infectious disease		306
Revisits re infectious disease		35
Visits to slaughterhouses		14
Visits to restaurant kitchens		12
Visits to stables		7
Visits to schools		9
Visits to garages		7
Visits to outworkers' premises		127
Visits to marine stores		4
Visits to caravan yards		16
Details of visits to other premises are enumer	ated	
sections of the report.		
Character of Work Done		
		-
	***	50
Rainwater gutters and piping repaired or renewed		5

Eaves guttering and spouting repaired		22
Yards paved or repaired		4
Dampness remedied		13
Water service pipes repaired		4
Waterclosets: repairs to roof, walls, d	oors and sea	ts 12
Waterclosets: provision of seats		6
Waterclosets: flushing apparatus repair	red or renewe	d,
pans and traps provided		41
Waterclosets: repairs to pans and trap	s	2
Water storage cisterns cleansed		1
Water supply reinstated		4
Flooring of rooms repaired	.102	13
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	.217	60
Repairs to sinks and waste pipes		18
Window frames and sashes provided		30
Window frames and sashes repaired		24
Drains repaired		12
Repairs to firegrates		2
Repairs to stoves, etc		16
New dustbins provided		29
Accumulations removed		4
Repairs to chimney eaves		2
Repairs to staircases		6
Rainwater gullies repaired		3
Smoke nuisances abated		2
Verminous rooms disinfested		6
Stoves provided		1
External decorations		3
Repairs to doors		7
Sanitary accommodation provided		2
Repairs to sinks		
		10
Drains tested		25
		10
Grid and mica flaps provided		4
Drain inspection chamber covers provide		1
Sundries		11
Rooms disinfected, after infectious disea	ase	195
Rooms treated for vermin		214

All ponds and ditches in the Borough where mosquito breeding was possible were sprayed with insecticide early in the year. Nine visits were paid for this purpose.

Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.—Seventy-three licences to store petroleum and cellulose solutions were granted, totalling 139,980 gallons. Three licences were also issued for  $120\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. of carbide of calcium to be stored.

#### UNSOUND FOOD DEALT WITH.

Beef		 400 lbs.	Condensed milk 68 tins
Mutton		 254 ,,	Sardines 3 ,,
Pork		 712 ,,	Pork luncheon meat 3 lbs.
Offal		 $569\frac{1}{2}$ ,,	Pilchards 15 ,,
Tripe		 262 ,,	Herrings 3 ,,
Fish		 635 ,,	Sausages 28 ,,
Cheese		 $7\frac{3}{4}$ ,,	Dried egg 26 pkts.
Macaron	i	 22 .,	Chopped ham $14\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Sugar		 28 ,,	Eggs 376
Flour		 140 ,,	Bacon $219\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Potatoes	3	 9 cwt.	$Jam 76\frac{1}{2} ,,$
Margaria	ne	 273½ lbs.	Sundry tinned and 864 tins
Butter		 205 ,,	bottled foods & botts.
Lard		 40 ,,	beringer willing rategard

Number of visits to Meat Depot 20 ... 511

Yours obediently,

# K. J. GUTTERIDGE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

#### HOUSING STATISTICS

Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.—

 (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... 708
 (b) Number of inspections made for the purposes ... ... 840

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:—										
Number of defective dwelling houses ren-										
dered fit in consequence of informal action										
by the local authority or their officers 142										
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 requir-										
ing 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										
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938										
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938										
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938  Formal Samples.										
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938  Formal Samples.  44 formal samples were taken, as follows:—										
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938  Formal Samples.  44 formal samples were taken, as follows:—  Milk 43 Tecom fat 1										
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938  Formal Samples.  44 formal samples were taken, as follows:—  Milk 43 Tecom fat 1  Informal Samples.										
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938  Formal Samples.  44 formal samples were taken, as follows:—  Milk 43 Tecom fat 1  Informal Samples.  46 informal samples were taken, as follows:—										
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938  Formal Samples.  44 formal samples were taken, as follows:—  Milk 43 Tecom fat 1  Informal Samples.  46 informal samples were taken, as follows:—  Vinegar 2 Mustard 2										
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938  Formal Samples.  44 formal samples were taken, as follows:—  Milk 43 Tecom fat 1  Informal Samples.  46 informal samples were taken, as follows:—  Vinegar 2 Mustard 2  Scone mixture 1 Horseradish 1										
FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938  Formal Samples.  44 formal samples were taken, as follows:—  Milk 43 Tecom fat 1  Informal Samples.  46 informal samples were taken, as follows:—  Vinegar 2 Mustard 2  Scone mixture 1 Horseradish 1  Coffee 3 Cochineal 1										
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Glenmar pudding	2	Stomach powder	1
Headache powders	2	Sage and onion stuffing	2
Fish and meat paste	4	Self-raising flour	1
Pudding powder mix-		Malt cocoa spread	1
ture	1	Vironita	1
Gravy powder	1	Pepper	2
Worcester Sauce	1	Rennet	1
Beecham's powders	1	Bun and cake flour	1
Frutella	1	Epsom salts	1

Two warning letters were sent to suppliers of two samples below standard.

Six butterfat samples were submitted to the Public Analyst for the Ministry of Food.

## 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				5
Pasteurising Plant		***		1
Supplementary Licences				
Pasteurised	1.00		14.20	5
Tuberculin Tested				6

Twenty samples of Graded Milk were submitted for bacteriological examination. Sixteen samples were satisfactory, and four were unsatisfactory. Communications were sent to the dairies regarding the unsatisfactory samples.

#### BAKEHOUSES

The number of bakehouses in the district is 12. Twenty-two visits have been paid.

#### DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS

There are 16 registered premises within the district, of which 15 are dairies and one cowshed.

During the year 98 visits of inspection were paid.

#### PIGGERIES

There are 12 piggeries in the Borough. Fifty-five 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 515.

### 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 ... ... 341 Health Visitors ... ... ... 204 Total ... 545

	Small Pox.	Scarlet	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Dysentery	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	Poliomyelitis	Measles	Whooping	Food	Encephalitis Lethargica	Undulant	Malaria	Totals
January	 	13	1		1	8							11					34
February	 	15			1	3			15				24					58
March	 	15	2		1	3	2	1	32	2		5	31					94
April	 	6			3	5		2	8			3	19				1	47
May	 	6	2		1	1	***		4			9	32					55
June	 	9			2	3						16	38					68
July	 	2				3	1	1	5	1		1	1					15
August	 	3	1		1	2						1	2					10
September	 	6			1	2	1		1			1	4					16
October	 	3				2	1		1			4	2					12
November	 	8	1		1	1						50	1					63
December	 	11	3		1	4			1			22	1					43
Totals	 	97	10		13	37	5	4	67	3		112	166				1	515

The monthly incidence of infectious disease was:—

# 

			INI	ECI	TOU	s D	ISE.	ASE	No	TIFI	CAT	IONE	3, 18	124-	14.						
DISEASE	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	194
Small Pox					9	7		4	1												97
Scarlet Fever	87	106		145	102	134	113	105	174	240	392	143	171	192	150	61	48	75	175	212	70.0
Diphtheria		201	87	76	75	133	129	49	32	40	83	80	104	89	64	27	36	72	25	42	10
		4	2	6	3	4	9	2	3	3		3	5		1	***	***			1	
			100									***			***		***			***	***
Continued Fever		***		***																1	
Undulant Fever	1 4		6	9	4	6	1	7	5	1	1	2	2	1		***				***	***
Puerperal Fever		5	1	14	9	5	6	9	4	9	6	4	11	5	4	7	2	2	6	3	5
Puerperal Pyrexia			1	14	9	0	-		-												
Anthrax		***			***	***		***	1	4	1	1	3	1	2	1	13	12	6	8	3
Cerebro-spinal	6			2	1	4	***	***	1	*	1	1		-	-	7		200		- 50	
Meningitis			19 0	-				1	1 3		1										
Cholera				***	***	***			***	31	30	20	22	16	8	19	17	19	7	22	18
Erysipelas	11	10	13	14	10	22	22	17	11	31	30	20	22	10		1000	301	194	599	651	
Measles				100	***				***	***			***	***							
Acute Diarrhœa										***		1	***	***			***		***		
Chicken Pox	00				***								***	***	***		***	***		***	***
Typhus Fever			F					***					**			***	***	***		***	***
Poliomyelitis	1		1	2			1						***	1			***			***	
Ophthalmia Neona	100000	5	12	10	3	3	1	3	4	2	2	4	3	1	3	3	1	3	10	4	4
torum		1	10. 1	1	13.		1							15	1000						
Polio-encephalitis														***	***		***			***	***
Encephalitis	1000	0	2				2	1	1	1								***	1		
Lethargica	***	-	-		1	10000		1	1000		1	10000			1 3			13 13			
	00	42	30	62	54	57	35	45	52	37	45	35	36	32	43		30	22	20	50	37
Pneumonia		1	1	1	1														***	1	1
Malaria	-		1	***	***			1 2 3 3	1000							4	16	186	161	162	166
Whooping Cough		***					***		***							4	4	6	11		
Food Poisoning				***	***	***	***			***	1	1 3 3 3		1	1					4	6
Dysentery				***		***		***	***			***	***				-			-	-
Totals	. 246	376	259	340	270	375	319	242	288	368	560	293	357	338	275	125	468	591	1021	1161	51

#### SMALL POX

No case of small pox was notified during the year 1944.

#### SCARLET FEVER

The number of cases of scarlet fever notified during the year was 97, as compared with 212 in 1943, equivalent to a case rate of 1.9 per 1,000 population. The disease has continued mild in character and no deaths due to this cause were recorded. Of the total number of cases notified 74 were treated in hospital, and 23 cases were 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

Ten 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

Efforts have continued during the year to obtain the immunisation of every child before his second birthday. A birthday greeting letter is sent on the first birthday, making an appointment for immunisation, and three clinics are available, so that no mother is beyond easy walking distance of a clinic. The health visitors have urged the mothers at the welfare centres and when making home visits, to have their children immunised, and have made special visits in difficult cases.

Immunisation has been continued at the schools, although large numbers have been immunised during evacuation. All the non-immunised children at the Day Nurseries were immunised after admission, and there has been no case of diphtheria in the nurseries.

The following figures show the number of children immunised during the year:—

Under five	 		528
Five—15	 		89
Over 15	 	111,000	ABOUT.

Total ... 617

The following figures show the percentage of the child population considered immunised at 31st December, 1944:—

Under five	 	 48.04%
Five—15	 10.000	 68.80%

The number of birthday greetings sent in 1944 was 705. Two hundred and fifty-five mothers took advantage of this offer.

#### TYPHOID FEVER

No cases were notified during the year.

DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE Three deaths were registered during the year.

#### ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA

No case was notified during the year.

#### ERYSIPELAS

Thirteen cases were notified. Five cases were removed to hospital.

#### PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Five cases were notified during the year.

#### PNEUMONIA

Thirty-seven 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 12 were males and 15 females.

#### CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER

Three cases occurred during 1944, and there was one death.

#### INFLUENZA

During the year two deaths from influenza were recorded, both of which were males. The previous year nine 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 four cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified:—

Canan	Tre	ated	Vision Unim-	Vision	Total Blind-	
Cases	At Home	In Hospital	paired	Impaired	ness	Deaths
4	4	nil.	4	nil.	nil.	nil.

#### 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 were as follows:—

Chicken pox		 	 75
Mumps		 	 52
Impetigo		 	 3
Jaundice		 	 3
Rubella		 	 115
Ringworm		 	 1

#### CANCER.

The number of deaths from cancer registered during the year was 83, of which 41 were males and 42 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 1944 was as follows:—

Digestive organs	 ***	17	cases
Genito-urinary organs	 	3	,,

Breast	 	 14 cases	
Other sites	 	 49 ,,	
		-	
	Total	 83 ,,	

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

Death Rate per 1,000

	N	umber o			of populat	ion
Year	N	Deaths	1	Mitcham	En	gland and Wales
1924		42		1.11		1.29
1925		48		1.29	:	1.88
1926		44		1.14		1.86
1927		46		1.13		1.37
1928		58		1.27		1.42
1929		66		1.33		1.48
1930		78		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
1943		95		1.7		1.74
1944		83		1.6		1.7

#### Tuberculosis

During the year 83 new cases of tuberculosis were notified,

viz.:—		Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary		35	35	70
Non-Pulmonary		7	6	13
		_	_	_
Total	***	42	41	83

Seventeen cases were	transf	erred in	to the I	Borough,	as
follows:—		Males	Females	Total	
Pulmonary		9	6	15	
Non-Pulmonary	T	1	1	2	
recommend attacks to redom		10	dai grano	10	
Total	***	10		17	

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

Pulmonary Non-Pulmonary	E LL	Males 22 1	15 4	Total 37 5
Total		23	19	42
			Engla	nd

Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis

per 1,000 population ... ... 0.47 0.72

Death rate from non-pulmonary tuberculosis per 1,000 population ... ... 0.07 0.10

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

provability of nor		NEW	CASES		0	DEA	THS		
AGE PERIODS	Respi	ratory		Non- espiratory Resp		iratory		Non- lespiratory	
19 January	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Under 1 year					B	***			
1 year to 5 years	2			1	5			1	
5 years ,, 10 ,,	1	2			9		01.01		
10 " " 15 "	1	3			1			***	
15 ,, ,, 20 ,,	5	10	1	2		1		1	
20 ,, ,, 35 ,,	11	14	8	1	8	9			
35 ,, ,, 45 ,,	7	3	1	2	4	1		2	
15 ,, 4, 65 ,,	7	3			7	4	1		
55 ,, and upwards	1		2		2				
Totals	35	35	7	6	22	15	1	4	

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

									10000			
Age Periods	0-	1-	5-	10-	15-	20-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	Tota
Pulmonary :		100	.00	1,91	***	1		100	1	0110		2
Pulmonary: females			***				1	3	1	1		3
Non-Pulmonary : males	38	10										
Non-Pulmonary : Females	-	02.		s.d+	1	ioit.	has	2	erii duo	und radio	1.20	3

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

		No. o	f Cases
		Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary
edit or glad bit	(a) From Local Registers	anliquia de	igen Inc
Death returns	(b) Transferable deaths from Registrar General	11 70139700	T
Posthumous notificati	ons	adl gair	2

# Number of cases removed from register during 1944: —

work for telephonesis and	P	nlmona	ry	Non-	To the same		
Reason	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Total Cases
Withdrawal of notification	1	995	1				1
Recovery from disease							
Death	25	15	40		4	4	44
Removed from district	21	27	48	2	5	7	55

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

Non-notified tuberculosis deaths	8
Notified tuberculosis deaths	36
Percentage of non-notified T.B. deaths	
(all forms)	18.2 per cent.
Percentage of non-notified pulmonary	
T.B. deaths	12.5 ,,

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

A dispensary has been established at St. Helier County Hospital, Carshalton. Arrangements have been made by this Borough for the examination of sputa from cases or suspected cases of tuberculosis, and during the year 29 such examinations have been made.

# MITCHAM, BEDDINGTON AND WALLINGTON TUBERCULOSIS CARE COMMITTEE

## 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-1944

Number of persons assisted	103
Receiving supplies of milk continuously	
for 12 months	11
" " for 6-12 months	20
" " under 6 months	26
Fares for family to visit sanatorium	2
Clothing and bedding supplied	10
Tuberculous persons who have received	
special consideration re housing	2

Removal expenses paid	1
Rent paid while patient in Sanatorium	1
Pocket money	8
Number of persons supplied with dried	
milk and drinking chocolate (American	
Red Cross)	27

#### 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.

In order that treatment might be given after 6 p.m., the Cleansing Section at the Western Road First Aid Post has been adapted for treatment, and has been in use since June, 1944.

No disinfection of clothing or bedding, other than washing, has been recommended, and the results have justified the adoption of this course. Visits paid, 23.

Attendances at clinic, 390 persons; representing 155 families.

Treated at baths, 265 persons; representing 100 families.

Number of baths given, 645.

Supplied with lotion or ointment (for home treatment), 109 persons; representing 48 families.

Referred to hospital, 3.

# WANDLE VALLEY JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD

Cases admitted to the hospital during the year ended December 31, 1944.

DISEASE		ngton &		don &	Merton & Mitch		ham	
to vice for contra	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Diphtheria	6		10	10.00	7	1	11	1 0/0
Scarlet Fever	20		51		172	1*	74	
Erysipelas			1		5	ASSE	5	
Tonsilitis	2		4		14	San Barrell	10	
Measles	2	***	111111111111111111111111111111111111111	****	1	***	2	***
Influenza		15730	***	***	2	***	4 / / / / /	- 111
Whooping Cough	4	***				0.+	1	
Duballa	2		8	***	7	2†	4	
Manna		***	3	***	7	***	1	***
Chinken Dow	Towns !		***	***	1		1	***
Dhamastian	***	***	***	***	4	***	***	
	1	***	1	***	***	***	***	***
Meningitis & C.S.M	***	***	1	***			4	***
Puerperal Fever (Sepsis)	1	***	1	***	2	***		
Admitted with mother Enteritis & Gastro-	1	(perce)	1		5			
Enteritis, Gastritis	2	A			2	V	2	1‡
Streptoccal Carrier			1					
Abscess of Neck					1			
Dysentery	1		2		8		1	nim
Jaundice							1	3000
Pneumonia		***		***	3	***	4	18
Para Typhoid B		***	1	***		***		
Food Poisoning	1000	***		name de	1	11111	****	***
Cerebral Hæmorrhage						***	***	
Daniel itie	***	***	***	***	***	***	1	1
Admitted with Baby	1	***		3335			Fig.	***
D. m. L. L.	***		***	***	***	***	1	***
Pemphigus	***	***	***	10.0	***	***	1	***
Impetigo	***						1	
Hodgkins Disease and	14. 1911 41	11 (33)				HALLOW.		13041
Cellulitis of Leg	1	1	***			***	***	***
Shingles of Head	1	6.41	ins. in	9144.0		15	****	
Aid Post has been	45	1	85		242	4	125	3

<sup>\* 1</sup> death—Broncho Pneumonia, Measles and Scarlet Fever. † 1 death—Whooping Cough, Pneumonia and Enteritis; 1 death—Whooping Cough and Broncho Pneumonia.

<sup>† 1</sup> death—Gastro Enteritis. § 1 death—Broncho Pneumonia.

	INI	DE	V			
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Dairies and Cowsheds						40
Death Rates	on		1000			10, 13
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Dental Treatment			' '830			19
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— Immunisation						
Disinfection						17
Encephalitis Lethargica						
Eradication of Bed Bug						34
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