

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

**Contributors**

Mitcham (London, England). Borough Council.

**Publication/Creation**

[1947?]

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**BOROUGH OF MITCHAM**

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**REPORT**

of the

**Medical Officer of Health**

for the

**YEAR 1946**





# BOROUGH OF MITCHAM

## REPORT

of the

## Medical Officer of Health

for the

## YEAR 1946

MITCHAM

H. G. MATHER LTD., CANTON WORKS, LOWER GREEN





# **Borough of Mitcham**

## **HEALTH REPORT FOR 1946**

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting my report for the year 1946. There has been a gradual increase of the population of the borough, with the demobilisation of the Forces, creating further demand on the health services. Housing continues to be a most urgent problem, and the inspection of war-damaged and dilapidated property has been a major task of the Sanitary Inspectors.

The birth rate is the highest since 1928, and the infant mortality rate of 19.9 per 1,000 is the lowest ever recorded in the borough.

There was no death of any illegitimate infant during the year. This is a notable achievement which I believe is due to the increased care, supervision and assistance available to the unmarried mother. The Mitcham Moral Welfare Association was formed during the year and the Borough Council have made a grant towards the salary of the social worker.

The local death rate of 9.2 per 1,000 is the lowest since the war commenced, and compares with 11.5 for England and Wales and 12.7 for the Administrative County of London.

During the year the Day Nurseries were transferred to the maternity and child welfare authorities. Both nurseries were taken over by the Borough Council and there was a long waiting list for admission at the end of the year.



The rise in the birth rate has increased the attendances at the ante-natal clinics and it was necessary during the year to hold an additional session each week. The attendance at the welfare centres has increased considerably and at two clinics it has been necessary to hold sessions twice weekly. An improved scheme for dental treatment and a successful Home Help and Domestic Help scheme were established during the year.

Woodlands Maternity Home has been fully employed during the year, 292 Mitcham mothers being admitted for confinements with very satisfactory results. The provision of a Borough Maternity Home has been of great value to Mitcham owing to the acute shortage of maternity beds in the County hospitals and with so many damaged houses rendered unfit for a home confinement.

I wish to thank the Chairmen of the Maternity & Child Welfare and Public Health Committees for their help and support, and all the voluntary workers at the welfare centres who have done so much to make the work successful.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A. ASHWORTH,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

Public Health Department,

Mitcham Court,

Mitcham.

## BOROUGH OF MITCHAM

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### PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN - - - ALDERMAN MRS. E. WATSON

His Worship the Mayor (Alderman G. W. Cole, J.P.)

Aldermen—

E. J. D. Field, J.P.                      G. W. Pearce

Councillors—

D. Gifford              W. F. Hill              G. J. Kemp  
G. R. Madgwick              R. W. Morris

### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN - - - COUNCILLOR MRS. J. C. ERICSON

His Worship the Mayor

Aldermen—

Mrs. E. Watson              J. R. Beaumont

Councillors—

Mrs. E. G. Baker              J. H. S. Bradley              W. F. Hill  
R. F. Nicholson              E. Randall              T. Ruff

Co-opted Members—

Mrs. L. Crump              Mrs. E. Gifford              Mrs. E. L. Hawkes  
Mrs. E. F. Ward

### REPRESENTATIVES ON WANDLE VALLEY JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD

His Worship the Mayor (*ex-officio*)

Alderman—

Mrs. E. Watson

Councillors—

Mrs. J. C. Ericson              T. H. Barr

### REPRESENTATIVES ON WANDLE VALLEY JOINT SEWERAGE BOARD

His Worship the Mayor (*ex-officio*)

Aldermen—

A. H. Bailey              E. J. D. Field, J.P.

Councillor—

L. M. Ibbotson



## 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.

## Woodlands Maternity Home

## Clinical Medical Officer

E. G. Housden, M.D., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.R.C.O.G.

## Consulting Anaesthetist

I. Evans, M.A., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

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. Ashman (5, 6, 7, 9)

## Assistant Health Visitors

Miss G. Russell-Harris (5, 6, 7)      (g) Miss D. Hinds (5, 6, 7, 9)

Miss M. Knight (6, 8)      Miss L. Salway (5, 6, 7)

Miss R. M. Luther (5, 6, 7)

## Matron of Woodlands Maternity Home

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. A. Brookson (13)

## Midwives

Miss M. Monday (5, 6)      Mrs. L. Papps (5, 6)

Mrs. T. Davies (5, 6)      Miss E. D. Phillips (5, 6)

(h) Miss M. J. McWeeney (5, 6)

## Clerks

(a) J. B. A. Roodhouse and (b) L. J. Bellingham, H.M. Forces  
(c) Mrs. M. Odam Miss V. Valentine (d) Miss J. Poulton

(e) Miss W. Loines (f) Miss K. Lane

(a) Resumed duties 1.1.46—resigned 16.12.46

(b) Resumed duties 23.4.46

(c) Resigned 6.2.46

(d) Resigned 18.9.46

(e) Appointed 9.9.46—resigned 20.11.46

(f) Appointed 22.11.46

(g) Resigned 31.10.46

(h) Appointed 1.4.46

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

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	2,935 acres
Population, Census 1921	...	...	...	...	35,119
" " 1931	...	...	...	...	56,856
Registrar-General's estimate of population mid-year, 1946	...	...	...	...	61,850
Number of inhabited houses, 1921	...	...	...	...	7,150
" " " 1931	...	...	...	...	13,187
" " " 1946	...	...	...	...	17,615
Rateable Value, 1946	...	...	...	...	£503,962
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	£2,024

### STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 of population
Legitimate	1203	639	564	
Illegitimate	53	33	20	
	—	—	—	—
Total	1256	672	584	20.3
STILL BIRTHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 total births
Legitimate	33	22	11	
Illegitimate	1	1	—	
	—	—	—	—
Total	34	23	11	26.4
DEATHS.	Total	Male	Female	Rate per 1,000 of population
	569	299	290	9.2

Deaths from disease and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth : —

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

## Deaths of infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	19.9
Legitimate infants per 1,000 live legitimate births	...	...	...	20.8
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 live illegitimate births	...	...	...	—

## Deaths from :—

Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	108
Measles	...	...	...	—
Whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	—
Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	2

## PERCENTAGE OF BIRTHS OCCURRING IN INSTITUTIONS

Year	Total births	Births in hospitals, etc.	Percentage of births occurring in institutions
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
1943	1048	727	69.4
1944	996	678	68.1
1945	993	661	66.5
1946	1290	845	65.5

Number of births notified by municipal midwives in 1946, 445.

The births rates, death rates per 1,000 of population, and the infantile mortality rates for the years 1926-46 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
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
1945	18.01	16.1	10.19	11.4	31.83	46
1946	20.3	19.1	9.2	11.5	19.9	43

### INFANT MORTALITY

During the year 25 deaths were registered as occurring in infants under one year of age:—

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ...	20	5	25
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Totals ...	20	5	25

as compared with 31 deaths last year.

There were 25 deaths in infants under one year of age, and of this total 16 occurred during the first month of life. Of these cases five deaths were certified as due to prematurity, eight due to congenital defects and three to infectious conditions.

Of the nine deaths occurring in infants between one and 12 months, five were certified as due to infectious conditions, three due to congenital defects, and one death was accidental. There was no death due to prematurity.

No illegitimate infants died during the year.

### MATERNAL MORTALITY.

During the year no death was registered.

In 1945 one death was registered as being due to disease or accident of pregnancy.

### INQUESTS

Inquests were held on 14 residents dying within the district and on nine Mitcham residents who died outside the district, a total of 23. In addition, the coroner held 44 post-mortems without inquests on residents dying within the district, and on 25 Mitcham residents who died outside the district, a total of 69.

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

Deaths from natural causes ...	...	...	5
Accidental deaths ...	...	...	6
Deaths from misadventure ...	...	...	3
Suicides ...	...	...	7
Open verdict ...	...	...	2
			—
Total ...	...	...	23



## DEATHS REGISTERED DURING THE YEAR 1946

CAUSE OF DEATH					Males	Females	Total
1	Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2	Cerebro-spinal fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3	Scarlet fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4	Whooping cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	...	...	...	21	13	34
7	Other forms of tuberculosis ...	...	...	...	2	1	3
8	Syphilitic diseases ...	...	...	...	3	...	3
9	Influenza ...	...	...	...	2	4	6
10	Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	Acute infectious encephalitis ...	...	...	...	...	1	1
13	Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus (m) and uterus (f) ...	...	...	...	5	6	11
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	...	...	...	9	4	13
15	Cancer of breast ...	...	...	...	...	14	14
16	Cancer of all other sites ...	...	...	...	42	28	70
17	Diabetes ...	...	...	...	...	2	2
18	Intra-cranial vascular lesions ...	...	...	...	22	27	49
19	Heart disease ...	...	...	...	68	81	149
20	Other diseases of circulatory system ...	...	...	...	9	16	25
21	Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	22	14	36
22	Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	14	6	20
23	Other respiratory diseases... ..	...	...	...	7	2	9
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	...	...	...	8	...	8
25	Diarrhoea (under two years) ...	...	...	...	2	...	2
26	Appendicitis... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
27	Other digestive diseases ...	...	...	...	5	7	12
28	Nephritis ...	...	...	...	4	4	8
29	Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30	Other maternal causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
31	Premature birth ...	...	...	...	2	2	4
32	Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile disease ...	...	...	...	15	4	19
33	Suicide ...	...	...	...	5	3	8
34	Road traffic accidents ...	...	...	...	2	1	3
35	Other violent causes ...	...	...	...	5	2	7
36	All other causes ...	...	...	...	25	28	53
All causes ... ..					299	290	569

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality, and  
Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1946.  
(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 ... ..	19.1 †	22.2	21.3	21.5	20.3
Still ... ..	0.53 †	0.67	0.59	0.54	0.55
Deaths—					
All causes... ..	11.5 †	12.7	11.7	12.7	9.2
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet fever ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping cough ... ..	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00
Diphtheria ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Influenza ... ..	0.15	0.13	0.14	0.12	0.09
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	—	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Notifications—					
Typhoid fever ... ..	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever ... ..	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever ... ..	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.06	0.01
Scarlet fever ... ..	1.39	1.51	1.33	1.42	1.5
Whooping cough... ..	2.28	2.48	2.05	2.22	3.83
Diphtheria ... ..	0.28	0.32	0.31	0.24	0.53
Erysipelas ... ..	0.22	0.25	0.22	0.27	0.40
Smallpox ... ..	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles ... ..	3.92	4.73	3.70	7.35	5.79
Pneumonia ... ..	0.89	1.02	0.74	0.75	0.65
Rates per 1,000 live births					
Deaths under one year of age	43†	45	37	41	19.9
Deaths from diarrhoea and enteritis under two years of age ... ..	4.4	4.1	2.8	4.2	1.6
Rates per 1,000 total births (live and still)					
Maternal mortality...					
Abortion with sepsis ...	0.13	Not available			{ —
„ without sepsis...	0.06				
Puerperal infections ...	0.18				
Other ... ..	1.06				
Notifications—					
Puerperal fever ... }	8.50	10.35	7.63	{ 1.62	4.69
Puerperal pyrexia }				{ 9.68*	
Mortality per million women aged 15-45					
Abortion—					
With sepsis ... ..	11 }	Not available			
Without sepsis ... ..	3 }				

\* 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	...	...	...	493
Sputa for tubercle	...	...	...	29
				<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	522

### 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 are provided by the Council for the removal of general and accident cases. The number of cases removed during the year was 1,550, of which 387 were accident cases and 1,163 private removals, including 407 maternity cases. There were 26 calls when the ambulance was not required on arrival.

*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, 1946:—

	No. of Nurses	No. of patients visited during 1946	No. of visits paid during 1946
St. Barnabas ... ..	1	110	3,823
Mitcham D.N. Association—	4*	616	12,387
Totals ... ..		726	16,210

\* 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 Surrey County 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:—

*Cavendish Road Welfare Centre.*—Sessions are held every Monday afternoon.

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

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

*Church Road Centre.*—Sessions are held every Thursday afternoon, and Wednesday afternoon (weighing session).

*Meopham Road Clinic.*—Sessions are held each Wednesday afternoon, and Friday afternoon (weighing session).

### ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

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

*Woodlands Maternity Home.*—Sessions are held on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings for patients who have booked for their confinement at the Woodlands Maternity Home.

*Church Road Clinic.*—Sessions are held on every Tuesday and Friday mornings, and a clinic for cases booked by midwives is held on Friday afternoons.

### POST-NATAL CLINIC

A post-natal clinic is held at Church Road Clinic on alternate Mondays by appointment.

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, Western Road Clinic.

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINICS

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics are held as follows:—

Meopham Road Clinic ...	...	Every Monday afternoon.
Mitcham Court ...	...	Every Wednesday morning.
Cavendish Road Clinic ...	...	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. Treatment is given at Western Road Clinic.

### 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 every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday by appointment.

### 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 by the Public Health Department.

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

Number of disinfections carried out by Wandle				
Valley Isolation Hospital	...	...	...	103
Number of rooms disinfected by fumigator	...	...	...	275
Number of library books disinfected	...	...	...	187

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## REPORT ON MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

### CHILD WELFARE

Child Welfare Sessions are held at five centres, thus serving every part of the Borough. Each Clinic is held at least once each week.

The total number of attendances at the infant welfare centres was 20,783, as compared with 14,767 in 1945. Of these 1,261 were new cases, 1,132 being infants under one year of age, and 129 being children over one but under five years of age. The total number of attendances of infants under one year was 16,406, and of children between one and five years of age, 4,377.

At the end of the year there were 927 infants under one year and 1,489 children between one and five years of age attending the centres, making a total of 2,416.

The average attendance at each centre was:—

Cavendish Road	...	...	...	...	69·8
St. Barnabas	...	...	...	...	100·5
Church Road	...	...	...	...	70·2
Sherwood House	...	...	...	...	60·7
Meopham Road	...	...	...	...	65·1

The percentage of infants under one year of age attending the centres for the first time was 90·1 per cent. of the total number of live births.

Owing to the increased attendances at Church Road and Meopham Road Clinics an additional session has been necessary. These additional sessions are not attended by a Medical Officer, but are otherwise the same as other sessions.

#### 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.

The end of the war and demobilisation has resulted in a number of mothers and babies returning to Mitcham and a general increase in the attendances at the clinics has occurred.

The centres are staffed by a medical officer, two health visitors and voluntary helpers, who have rendered most valuable service by selling food, keeping the registers, etc.

#### SUNLIGHT TREATMENT

Arrangements have been made with the Wilson Hospital for giving sunlight treatment. Nineteen 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 38 cases in 1945.

#### DENTAL TREATMENT

During the war years nursing and expectant mothers requiring dental treatment were referred from the infant welfare ante-natal and post-natal clinics to the British Dental Hospital, Tooting. In 1945 the scale of assistance was revised with considerable advantage to the patients requiring dentures.

This scheme, whilst providing essential treatment, was inadequate for peace-time needs, and the Surrey County Council was approached with the object of obtaining the services of the School Dental Service for the treatment of mothers and children under five years of age. An agreement was reached, and at the close of the year a dental clinic for maternity and child welfare cases was being held on alternate Thursdays at Church Road Clinic.



It is the intention that all ante-natal cases, including the cases which are booked for confinement at the Woodlands Maternity Home, shall receive a routine dental inspection, followed by treatment and dentures when necessary.

The estimated cost of the services of the dental surgeon and attendant are refunded to the County Council, and a highly efficient scheme has been established.

The total attendances for treatment during 1946 were as follows:—

Expectant and nursing mothers, 48.

Children under five years of age, 27.

#### HEALTH VISITING

There are six 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.

#### ATTENDANCES AT INFANT WELFARE CENTRES, 1946.

Particulars	Cavendish Road	St. Barnabas	Church Road	Sherwood House	Meopham Road	Total
Number of new cases registered during year of—						
Children under one year of age	176	306	315	152	183	1132
Children over one year and under five years of age ...	26	21	31	21	30	129
Number of children in attendance at end of year—						
Under one year of age ...	206	258	259	133	71	927
Over one and under five years of age ...	156	368	373	241	351	1489
Attendances of children under one year of age ...	2460	3975	3732	2252	2855	15274
Attendances of children over one year of age ...	689	924	1193	732	710	4248
Total attendances at centres ...	3351	5226	5271	3157	3778	19512
Average attendances at centres...	69.8	100.5	70.2	60.7	65.1	...
Percentage of infants under one year of age attending centres of the total live births ...	...	...	...	...	...	90.1

## TODDLERS' CLINICS

In view of the increased attendance at the welfare centres, toddlers' clinics were re-established during the year. These clinics are held for children between the ages of two and five and are full routine examinations of the children. Any conditions requiring observation or treatment are noted and the parents advised. Further appointments are made as necessary.

The following table shows the work done during the year:—

Age Group			
2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	Total
161	130	58	349



# VISITS PAID BY HEALTH VISITORS

	Mrs. Ashman	Miss R. Harris	Miss Knight	Miss Hinds	Miss Salway	Miss Luther	Total
Primary Ante-Natal Visits ... ..	20	88	81	68	92	109	458
Subsequent Ante-Natal Visits ... ..	—	5	53	3	49	214	324
Primary Visits to Infants under 1 year ...	6	254	236	181	253	265	1195
Subsequent Visits to Infants ... ..	9	709	520	721	1014	1051	4024
Visits to Children 1—5 years ... ..	21	1333	1028	1353	2120	2375	8230
Visits to Premature Infants... ..	3	3	—	—	13	5	24
Visits re Infant Deaths ... ..	—	1	2	—	3	—	6
Visits re Stillbirths ... ..	—	2	4	1	4	2	13
Visits to Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—	3	—	2	7
Visits re Cases of Puerperal Fever ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Primary Visits to Cases of Tuberculosis...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Subsequent Visits to Cases of Tuberculosis	35	—	—	—	1	—	36
Visits re Diphtheria Immunisation ...	—	4	21	—	1	21	47
Visits re Scabies ... ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Visits re Other Infectious Diseases ...	35	17	9	7	118	38	224
Visits re Infant Life Protection ... ..	118	—	18	5	5	5	151
Visits re Adoption ... ..	87	2	21	3	27	12	152
Visits re Home Help Scheme ... ..	3	4	—	—	4	—	11
Special Visits ... ..	252	12	18	6	29	25	342
TOTAL ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,248

## SUPPLY OF FOOD AND MEDICINES

Dried milk, cod liver oil emulsion, Virol, Parrish's Food, groats, Bemax, Farex, iron pills, Lactagol, etc., 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 may 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 are available for necessitous nursing and expectant mothers to receive free meals.

## ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Three ante-natal clinics are held each week at Church Road Clinic and three clinics each week in connection with Woodlands Maternity Home.

The midwives' hold clinics for cases booked by them on each Tuesday at Church Road Clinic and Cavendish Road Clinic, also each Wednesday at Sherwood House.

## AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT EACH CENTRE

	Number of expectant mothers	Number of attendances	Average Clinic attendance
Woodlands (two clinics) ...	292	2,406	23.1
Church Road Clinic ...	654	2,928	28.7
Midwives' Clinic ...	375	1,092	21.0
Total ...	1,461	6,426	24.2

More expectant mothers attended the ante-natal centres than the total number of registered births.

Eleven 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 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 20 women attended for this examination as compared with 25 last year.

### POST-NATAL CLINIC

A Post-Natal Clinic is held at Church Road Clinic 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 Clinic; 179 cases attended during the year.

The total number of women who attended the post-natal clinics at Church Road Clinic was 216, the average attendance being 9.3.

### HOME HELPS AND DOMESTIC HELPS

There was a steadily increasing demand for the services of home and domestic helps during 1946.



Ministry of Health Circular (110/46) was received and the following report was submitted to the Maternity & Child Welfare Committee:—

“Two full-time maternity home helps are at present employed in Mitcham and part-time helps are employed when available. Additional help is necessary as, with a small staff, difficulties arise owing to over-lapping of dates and owing to the fact that the expected date of confinement is frequently far from the actual date of confinement. The increase in the birth-rate and the shortage of hospital beds have increased the number of home confinements recently, and there is a great demand for domestic home helps, and a combined service of domestic and maternity home helps would be a great advantage, provided the personnel were available. I understand that several suitable women have recently applied for positions as full-time home helps.

“If a scheme of combined maternity home helps and domestic helps were established, I think that to make the scheme a success I would need a whole-time paid supervisor in this department, and I would, of course, so arrange matters that she worked in close liaison with the Superintendent Health Visitor and the District Midwives.

“I would recommend that the Committee give consideration to the making of an appointment on these lines.”

The appointment of a Home Help supervisor was approved by the Minister of Health, and Mrs. Law was appointed and commenced duty in October. She has proved a most efficient and enthusiastic organiser and the service is already a success.

At the end of the year six full-time and nine part-time staff were employed. Three cases were receiving the service of a maternity home help and 14 families were receiving the services of a domestic help on December 31st, 1946.

#### WOODLANDS MATERNITY HOME

The number of cases admitted during the year was 292; 27 more than in 1945.

Dr. Housden was appointed Clinical Medical Officer on April 1st, 1944. 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, 1944. She has had special experience as a teacher of midwifery, and has greatly improved the standard of the Home as a Part II training school for pupil midwives.

During the year the electrically heated cot purchased for the care of the premature infants born in Woodlands has been used on several occasions.

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

During the year arrangements were made for the training of nurses in the administration of gas and air analgesia.

Dr. Ivor Evans was appointed consulting anaesthetist to the Home, and the approval of the Central Midwives' Board was received.

#### 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:—

	Number of births				
1924 (August to December)	...	...	...	...	42
1925	...	...	...	...	129
1926	...	...	...	...	240
1927 (10 months)	...	...	...	...	177
1928	...	...	...	...	265
1929	...	...	...	...	298
1930	...	...	...	...	318

						Number of births
1931	...	...	...	...	...	259
1932	...	...	...	...	...	239
1933	...	...	...	...	...	285
1934	...	...	...	...	...	285
1935	...	...	...	...	...	299
1936	...	...	...	...	...	314
1937	...	...	...	...	...	309
1938	...	...	...	...	...	297
1939	...	...	...	...	...	254
1940	...	...	...	...	...	239
1941	...	...	...	...	...	215
1942	...	...	...	...	...	263
1943	...	...	...	...	...	224
1944	...	...	...	...	...	213
1945	...	...	...	...	...	267
1946	...	...	...	...	...	290

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

Number of maternity cases admitted during the year, 292.

Average duration of stay, 12.1 days.

Number of cases delivered by (a) midwives, 251; (b) doctors, 39.

Number of cases in which medical assistance was sought by a midwife in emergency, 83.

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

Number of cases of pemphigus neonatorum, nil.

Number of infants not entirely breast-fed whilst in the institution, 30.

Number of cases notified as ophthalmia neonatorum, nil.

Number of maternal deaths, nil.

Number of stillbirths, 5.

Number of infants' deaths within ten days of birth, 9.

An ante-natal clinic is held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at Cavendish Road Clinic, and patients who have booked are expected to attend.



The post-natal clinic is held once monthly. 104 cases attended during the year.

#### 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, December 31, 1946	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of children on register, December 31, 1946	...	...	...	...	...	9
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	...	...	...	...	...	303

#### 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. 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 gave notice under Section 7 (3) during the year	...	...	...	...	22
Total number of children in respect of whom notice was given	...	...	...	...	22
Number of such children under supervision at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	10

## 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 1946 ...	11
Number of children affected ... ..	20
Number of visits paid ... ..	51

### 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 9, 1943, and at the end of 1946 the register was full. The house has been adapted for nursery purposes, and with the addition of a pre-fabricated section, accommodation has been provided for 50 children.

The average attendances were as follows:—

		Eagle House.	Robinson Road.
Under two ... ..	32·159	14·213	
Two—five ... ..	41·800	35·451	
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ... ..	73·959	49·664	

### 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, 1944, 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.

In April, 1944, 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.

Unfortunately the flying bomb attacks prevented the meeting of the conference taking place before the end of 1944.

On February 2nd, 1945, a conference of the interested local authorities took place at Mitcham and discussed the Medical Officer of Health's report. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining suitable accommodation it was agreed by the conference that the Merton and Wimbledon Moral Welfare Association should be approached to ascertain whether the association would be prepared to re-establish their Home in Gap Road, Wimbledon, if the financial backing of the interested local authorities was obtained. The Home at Gap Road had been badly damaged by enemy action, but was capable of repair at a reasonable cost. Representatives of the conference held various meetings with representatives of the Merton and Wimbledon Moral Welfare Association. Unfortunately the Gap Road premises could not be repaired under a cost of works payment as the Wimbledon Borough Council required the site for flats. The Welfare Association could only expect a value payment based on the 1939 value, and therefore any attempt to purchase another suitable building could involve them in a high capital expenditure which they were not prepared to accept. It was felt that the representatives of the local authorities would not be prepared to recommend to their Councils any extensive capital expenditure, and it was decided that the Welfare Association would endeavour to find a suitable building to rent. Unfortunately, no further progress could be reported by the end of the year.

Mitcham Moral Welfare Association was formed in March, 1946. Representatives of other interested local voluntary associations were elected members of the Committee, and the Chairman of the Public Health Committee, and the Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee were invited to join the Committee.

A part-time social worker, Mrs. Tyerman, was appointed, and the Borough Council made a grant of £70 per annum towards the cost of her salary.

The association, through Mrs. Tyerman, has done excellent work during the year, and cases referred to hostels have had their cost of maintenance paid by the Borough Council in every case.

I believe that the increased care of the unmarried mother and her child has resulted in there being no illegitimate infant death during 1946.

There is still a need for further hostel accommodation, and it is hoped that the Merton and Wimbledon Moral Welfare Association will be able to re-establish their hostel in the near future.

#### 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.

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### 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.

There are in addition eight 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

Twenty 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 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 the year, 47.

Number of other houses found infested during the year, 25.

Number of requisitioned, etc., houses found infested during the year, 4.

Total number of houses disinfested during the year, 76.

Methods employed:—

21 houses treated with sulphur dioxide.

55 houses treated with insecticide spray (inclusive of rooms treated on more than one occasion).

No private houses were treated by the Council staff, but advice was given and material supplied at cost price on request in respect of 25 houses.

Number of private houses disinfested by owners or occupiers after notice, 20.

Number of houses disinfested for beetles, 157.

## 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

One full-time and one part-time Rodent Operator were employed until September, 1946. The Ministry of Food Circular N.S. 12 was then adopted and two additional operators employed on house to house inspections.

Number of visits paid by rodent operators	...	8,664
Number of treatments <i>re</i> rat infestation	...	967

Two sewer maintenance treatments were carried out under the Ministry of Food Circular N.S. 11, 1,448 manholes were baited with poison.

#### 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	...	...	...	...	13,262
Number of complaints received	...	...	...	...	1,350
Visits <i>re</i> complaints and sundries	...	...	...	...	2,899
Revisits	...	...	...	...	2,271



Houses inspected for defects	...	...	...	...	1,957
Number of nuisances discovered	...	...	...	...	1,175
Number of intimation notices served	...	...	...	...	1,173
Number of intimation notices complied with	...	...	...	...	607
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	382
Number of statutory notices complied with	...	...	...	...	212
Visits to butchers and other food shops	...	...	...	...	369
Visits to factories	...	...	...	...	172
Visits to refuse dumps	...	...	...	...	12
Visits to slaughter houses	...	...	...	...	13
Visits to restaurant kitchens	...	...	...	...	7
Visits to stables	...	...	...	...	8
Visits to garages	...	...	...	...	8
Visits to outworkers' premises	...	...	...	...	69
Visits to marine stores	...	...	...	...	4
Visits to caravan yards	...	...	...	...	25

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

#### *Character of Work Done*

Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	121
Eaves guttering and spouting repaired	...	...	...	...	...	100
Yards paved or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	98
Water service pipes repaired	...	...	...	...	...	20
Waterclosets: repairs to roof, walls, doors, windows, floors and seats	...	...	...	...	...	27
Waterclosets: flushing apparatus repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	57
Waterclosets: repairs to pans and traps, obstruction removed	...	...	...	...	...	34
Water storage cisterns cleansed, regulated, repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	19
Water supply reinstated	...	...	...	...	...	9
Flooring of rooms repaired and ventilation improved	...	...	...	...	...	71
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	39
Repairs to sinks, waste pipes and traps	...	...	...	...	...	65
Window frames, sashes and sills provided	...	...	...	...	...	18
Window frames, sashes and sills repaired	...	...	...	...	...	73

Drains repaired and obstructions removed	51
Repairs to firegrates	18
Repairs to stoves, coppers, ranges, etc.	46
New dustbins provided	75
Accumulations removed	6
Repairs to chimney stacks, etc.	22
Repairs to staircases	20
Rainwater gullies repaired	9
Smoke nuisances abated	9
Repairs to doors	26
Repairs to sinks	4
Drains tested	25
Repairs to internal plaster	166
Grid and mica flaps provided	15
Drain inspection chamber covers provided	9
Sinks and handbasins provided or renewed	12
External brickwork (repaired, pointed or rendered)	45
W.c. pans and traps provided	60

*Legal Proceedings.*—Four applications were made to the Justices for nuisance orders under Section 94, Public Health Act, 1936, against property owners. The applications were granted with costs.

All ponds and ditches in the Borough where mosquito breeding was possible were sprayed with insecticide twice during the year. Twenty-six visits were paid for this purpose.

*Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928.*—Eighty-six licences to store petroleum and cellulose solutions were granted, totalling 157,660 gallons. Five licences were also issued for 7,832 lbs. of carbide of calcium to be stored.

#### UN SOUND FOOD DEALT WITH.

Beef	760 lbs.	Margarine	10 lbs.
Mutton	17 "	Butter	26 "
Pork	253 "	Corned beef	2,060 "
Offal	29 "	Corned Mutton	54 "
Fish	1,443 "	Pudding Mixture	128 pkts.
Cheese	122 "	Eggs	908
Sugar	6 "	Bacon	27 lbs.



Nuts	...	...	20	„	Sundry	tinned	
					foods	...	1098 tins
Number of visits to Meat Depot				20	...		123

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) ... 1,957

(b) Number of inspections made for the purposes ... 2,114

##### 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 ... 607

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of formal action by the local authority or their officers ... 212

##### 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 ... 4

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—

(a) By owners ... 4

(b) By local authority in default of owners nil

Proceedings under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of houses in which demolition orders were made ... 3

4. RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTION (AMENDMENT)  
ACT, 1933, SECTION 12.

Number of certificates issued to occupiers that  
houses were not in a reasonable state of repair 10

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

#### *Formal Samples.*

Thirty-eight formal samples were taken as follows:—

Milk ... ..	37	Cake Mixture ...	1
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#### *Informal Samples.—*

Forty informal samples were taken as follows:—

Gelatine ... ..	1	Aspirin ... ..	1
Ice Cream ... ..	1	Spice ... ..	1
Lemon flavouring ...	1	Junket ... ..	1
Ginger ... ..	1	Vegetables, tinned ...	1
Honey ... ..	1	Steak & Kidney Pud-	
Cocoa ... ..	3	ding ... ..	1
Salad Dressing ...	1	Milk ... ..	1
Fish and meat paste	2	Stomach powder ...	3
Cake Mixture ...	4	Flour ... ..	1
Jam ... ..	3	Custard powder ...	1
Syrup of Figs ...	1	Malted milk ... ..	2
Grape fruit squash	1	Baking powder ...	4
Soup ... ..	2	Curry powder ...	1

All samples were genuine with the exception of one informal milk sample. A further sample taken in course of delivery was found to be genuine. Two warning letters were sent *re* foods not properly labelled.

Four hundred and thirteen 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 ... ..	7
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Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	11
Pasteurising Plant	...	...	...	...	...	1
Supplementary Licences—						
Pasteurised	...	...	...	...	...	5
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	6

Seventy-two samples of Graded Milk were submitted for bacteriological examination. Seventy samples were satisfactory and two were unsatisfactory. Communications were sent to the dairies regarding the unsatisfactory samples.

### BAKEHOUSES

The number of bakehouses in the district is 12.

Twenty 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 53 visits of inspection were paid.

### PIGGERIES

There are nine piggeries in the Borough. Fifty-five visits were paid during the year.

### OTHER FOOD PREPARING PLACES

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

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## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

### INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS

The total number of confirmed notifications received during the year was 807.

### 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 ...

429

Health Visitors ...

225

To small pox contacts ...

390

Total

...

...

1,044

Rooms disinfected after infectious disease...

275

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	Polio- Encephalitis	Paratyphoid	Malaria	Totals
January ...	...	9	7	...	2	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	40
February ...	...	10	6	...	2	12	...	...	1	...	1	2	2	...	...	...	...	36
March ...	...	8	3	...	3	4	...	...	4	...	1	6	32	...	...	...	...	61
April ...	...	8	4	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	...	5	32	...	...	...	...	54
May ...	...	13	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	48	30	...	1	...	1	95
June ...	...	10	1	...	3	2	...	1	1	...	...	85	43	...	...	1	...	147
July ...	...	7	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38	19	...	...	...	...	66
August ...	...	6	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	18	14	...	...	...	...	42
September ...	...	5	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	18	13	1	...	...	...	41
October ...	...	9	3	...	6	1	1	...	...	...	...	29	14	...	...	...	...	63
November ...	...	5	5	...	1	3	3	...	...	1	...	25	18	...	...	...	...	61
December ...	...	5	1	...	1	5	1	...	...	...	...	84	4	...	...	...	...	101
Totals ...	...	95	32	...	25	41	6	2	6	1	3	358	234	1	1	1	1	807



# INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFICATIONS, 1926-46.

DISEASE	1926	1927	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946
Small Pox ...	...	...	9	7	...	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	104	145	102	134	113	105	174	240	392	143	171	192	150	61	48	75	175	212	97	147	95
Diphtheria...	87	76	75	133	129	49	32	40	83	80	104	89	64	27	36	72	25	42	10	63	32
Typhoid Fever ...	2	6	3	4	9	2	3	3	...	3	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Continued Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Undulant Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	6	9	4	6	1	7	5	1	1	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia...	1	14	9	5	6	9	4	9	6	4	11	5	4	7	2	2	6	3	5	8	6
Anthrax ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	...	2	1	4	...	...	1	4	1	1	3	1	2	1	13	12	6	8	3	3	1
Cholera ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	13	14	10	22	22	17	11	31	30	20	22	16	8	19	17	19	7	22	13	16	25
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	301	194	599	651	112	739	358
Acute Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhus Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis ...	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Ophthalmia Neona- torum	12	10	3	3	1	3	4	2	2	4	3	1	3	3	1	3	10	4	4	...	2
Polio-encephalitis...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	2	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	30	62	54	57	35	45	52	37	45	35	36	32	43	...	30	22	20	50	37	33	41
Malaria ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	16	186	161	162	166	96	234
Food Poisoning ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	6	11	...	...	5	1
Dysentery ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	67	13	6
Paratyphoid ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Totals ...	259	340	270	375	319	242	288	368	560	293	357	338	275	125	468	591	1021	1161	515	1126	807

## SMALL POX

No case of small pox was notified during the year 1946.

## SCARLET FEVER

The number of cases of scarlet fever notified during the year was 95 as compared with 147 in 1945, equivalent to a case rate of 1.53 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 70 were treated in hospital, and 25 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

Thirty-two cases of diphtheria were notified during the year and all cases were removed to hospital for treatment, including any carriers discovered by routine swabbing of contacts. Every case recovered.

The following table gives details of notifications and the number of each age group immunised:—



NOTIFICATIONS			DEATHS		
Age at date of notification.	Number of cases notified	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the patient had completed a full course of immunisation.	Age at date of death	Number of deaths	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the patient had completed a full course of immunisation.
Under 1	2	—	Under 1	—	—
1	1	—	1	—	—
2	2	1	2	—	—
3	5	2	3	—	—
4	5	3	4	—	—
5-9	11	4	5-9	—	—
10-14	1	—	10-14	—	—
Over 14	5	—			
Totals	32	10	Totals	—	—

The number of cases is a considerable decrease over 1945, when 63 cases were notified. I believe that mild cases of diphtheria occur in immunised children without being recognised by the parents, and the child is allowed to return to school in a highly infectious state. Fortunately they remain carriers for only a short period, so that by the time the contact case is recognised their swabs have become negative. Immunisation and reinforcing doses were given to every child in the schools whose parents gave consent.

#### 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.

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

Under five	...	...	...	731
Five—15	...	...	...	233
Over 15	...	...	...	—
				—
Total	...	...	...	964

The following figures show the number of the child population considered immunised at December 31st, 1946:—

Age at 31.12.46 <i>i.e.</i> born in year	Under 1 1946	1 1945	2 1944	3 1943	4 1942	5 to 9 1937-1941	10 to 14 1932-1936	Total under 15
Number immunised	—	505	756	692	759	3567	2733	9012
Estimated mid-year population 1946	4880					8570		

The per cent. immunised is as follows:—

Under five	...	...	...	55.57%
Five—14	...	...	...	73.51%

The number of birthday greetings sent in 1946 was 882. Five hundred and twelve mothers took advantage of this offer.

#### TYPHOID FEVER

No case was notified during the year.

#### DIARRHŒA AND ENTERITIS UNDER TWO YEARS OF AGE

Two deaths were registered during the year.



### ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA

No case was notified during the year.

### ERYSIPELAS

Twenty-five cases were notified. Six cases were removed to hospital.

### PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Six cases were notified during the year.

### PNEUMONIA

Forty 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 20, of which 14 were males and 6 females.

### CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER

One case occurred during 1946, and there was no death.

### INFLUENZA

During the year six deaths from influenza were recorded, of which two were males and four females. The previous year two 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 two cases of ophthalmia neonatorum were notified.

### 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	...	...	...	...	81
Mumps	...	...	...	...	59
Impetigo	...	...	...	...	7
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	2
Rubella	...	...	...	...	17
Ringworm	...	...	...	...	1

#### CANCER

The number of deaths from cancer registered during the year was 108, of which 56 were males and 52 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 1946 was as follows:—

Digestive organs	...	...	...	13 cases
Genito-urinary organs	...	...	...	6 „
Breast	...	...	...	14 „
Other sites	...	...	...	75 „
Total				108 „

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

es:—

Year	Number of Deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 of population			
			Mitcham	England and Wales		
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



Year	Number of Deaths		Death Rate per 1,000 of population	
			Mitcham	England and Wales
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
1945	...	103	1.9	1.74
1946	...	108	1.74	1.76

## TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 91 new cases of tuberculosis were notified, viz.:—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary ...	40	41	81
Non-Pulmonary ...	5	5	10
	—	—	—
Totals ...	45	46	91

Forty cases were transferred into the Borough, as follows:—

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary ...	18	20	38
Non-Pulmonary ...	1	1	2
	—	—	—
Totals ...	19	21	40

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

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary ...	21	13	34
Non-Pulmonary ...	2	1	3
	—	—	—
Totals ...	23	14	37

	England and Wales	Mitcham
Death rate from respiratory tuberculosis per 1,000 population ... ..	0.42	0.54
Death rate from non-pulmonary tuber- culosis per 1,000 population ... ..	0.08	0.04

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...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...
5 years „ 10 „ ...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 „ „ 15 „ ...	...	1	1	2	...	...	1	...
15 „ „ 20 „ ...	5	8	...	...	1	...	...	...
20 „ „ 35 „ ...	20	20	1	3	6	4	...	1
35 „ „ 45 „ ...	4	4	1	...	2	3	...	...
45 „ „ 65 „ ...	10	5	...	...	12	4	...	...
65 „ and upwards	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Unknown ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ... ..	40	41	5	5	22	12	2	1



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 ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
Pulmonary : females ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	3
Non-Pulmonary : males ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Non-Pulmonary : Females ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1

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 Registrar ...	4	...
	(b) Transferable deaths from Registrar General ...	1	1
Posthumous notifications ...		3	1

Number of cases removed from register during 1946:—

Reason	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Cases
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Withdrawal of notification...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Recovery from disease ...	2	4	6	1	...	1	7
Death ...	24	14	38	2	...	2	40
Removed from district ...	18	20	38	1	2	3	41

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

Non-notified tuberculosis deaths	...	10
Notified tuberculosis deaths	...	30
Percentage of non-notified T.B. deaths (all forms)	...	33.33 per cent.
Percentage of non-notified pulmonary T.B. deaths	...	26.6

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—1946*

Number of persons receiving milk	...	53
Clothes, bedding and towels supplied	...	14
Beds supplied	...	6
Fares paid for family to visit Sanatorium	...	12
Payments for Home Help	...	2
Pocket money	...	10
Assistance with training courses	...	3
Assistance with solicitor's bill	...	1
Assistance with doctor's bill	...	1



Deposit for purchase of furniture	...	...	1
Assistance with cost of spectacles	...	...	6
Cost of accommodation for relative	...	...	1
Special grants for materials, etc., for occupational therapy	...	...	2

A donation of £5 5s. was made to the Children's Holiday Fund.

Christmas gifts amounting to £20 were given to hardship cases.

Dried milk, drinking chocolate and invalid foods, from the Dominions, were supplied to numerous patients.

#### 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.

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

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 staff, and the men have been treated by a male attendant who has received special training.

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

Number of patients treated, 426 persons.

Classified as:—

Pre-school age children	...	...	59
School age children	...	...	145
Adults	...	...	222

Number of baths given, 977.

## 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 each day on admission.

A nurse appointed as a full-time cleansing attendant has been employed not only in the cleansing of cases at the Western Road Cleansing Station, but has attended families in their own homes, where she has inspected the whole family and has given or supervised their treatment.

Most of the cases treated at the cleansing station are referred by the School Medical Staff.

The following table gives a summary of the work done during the year at the Western Road Cleansing Station:—

Number of patients treated, 199.

Classified as:—

Pre-school age children ...	...	...	—
School age children ...	...	...	145
Adults ...	...	...	10

Number of treatments given, 452.



## WANDLE VALLEY JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD

Cases admitted to the hospital during the year ended December 31, 1946.

DISEASE	Beddington & Wallington		Coulson & Purley		Merton & Morden		Mitcham	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Diphtheria ... ..	3	...	5	..	9	...	32	...
Scarlet fever ... ..	30	...	71	...	95	...	70	...
Erysipelas ... ..	1	...	2	...	4	...	6	...
Tonsillitis or Quinsy	1	...	1	...	12	...	7	...
Measles ... ..	2	...	4	...	3	...	6	...
Influenza ... ..	1	...	2	...	1	...	6	...
Whooping cough ...	...	...	5	...	2	...	9	...
Rubella ... ..	...	...	1	...	2	...	4	...
Typhoid & Enteritis...	5	*1	3	...	...	...	3	...
Meningitis, all types including T.B. Meningitis ... ..	1	...	...	...	2	†2	2	...
Puerperal Fever (Sepsis)	1	...	9	...	3	...	4	...
Admitted with mother	...	...	8	...	3	...	4	...
Infantile paralysis ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...
Dermatitis ... ..	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	...
Laryngitis ... ..	...	...	1	...	2	...	3	...
Bronchitis ... ..	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Pneumonia ... ..	...	...	2	‡2	1	§1	5	...
Nephritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Glandular Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Tumour of Brain ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Otitis Media ... ..	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas (Acute Heart Block) (Admitted December 21, 1945) ... ..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Anterior Poliomyelitis & Influenzal Pneumonia (admitted July 24, 1945) ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	48	3	116	4	146	3	166	0

\* Enteritis &amp; Broncho Pneumonia.

† 1 death Pneumonoccal Meningitis, 1 death Cerebro T.B. following Pulmonary.

‡ 1 death Septic Bronchitis, 1 death Croup and Broncho Pneumonia.

§ Septic Parotitis and Pneumonia.

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