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**Contributors**

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Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1940.

In accordance with the terms of Circular 2314 of the Ministry this Report is prepared on the lines indicated in Circular 2067 of the previous year.

Notwithstanding the adverse conditions of war-time the full programme of the work connected with public health, as detailed in previous Reports, has been carried out. This is all the more noteworthy when it is remembered that every member of the Staff has actively participated in one or other of the Civil Defence Services necessitating numerous hours of duty beyond the normal working hours, and frequently all night duty.

The following brief observations may be of special interest.

GENERAL HEALTH OF THE COMMUNITY.

On the whole the health of the inhabitants was good during the year. The number of infectious disease cases notified was not abnormal. Measles and Whooping Cough were, however, prevalent amongst young children, and much useful, though additional work, was accomplished by the Health Visiting Staff, by home visits to these cases. The general death rate was in advance of previous years and this applied mainly to aged people. Large numbers of the population took advantage of the provisions for immunisation against Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE.(a) Municipal Midwives.

The midwifery service continues to function successfully. The 8 midwives employed by the Council are fully employed, and the public are now reaping the benefit of a well organised and equipped municipal midwifery service. Sound co-operation between the Municipal Maternity Home, the Ante-Natal and Post-Natal Clinics is proving beneficial to all concerned.

(b) Municipal Maternity Home.

The Home at Risedale maintains its popularity and the excellent facilities provided here were enhanced during the year by the opening of a new Ante-Natal Clinic in the grounds of the Home. An understanding has been reached as between the work of the General



Practitioners and the Council's Obstetric Officer in the Home, and the arrangements are now working smoothly. Miss H. Pirie, the Matron, resigned her post after some 19 years helpful service, and Miss G. Tunstall, S.R.N., S.C.M., was appointed to succeed her.

ULTRA VIOLET RAY CLINIC.

A further step in the path of progress was taken by the establishment of an Ultra Violet Ray Clinic. This is used mainly in connection with the tuberculosis scheme of the Borough, the School Medical Service and Maternity & Child Welfare Service, and is much appreciated.

FOOD AND DRUGS: FOOD POISONING.

Special watch is kept on food offered for sale, and regular sampling has been carried out. The results generally were up to standard, although a few cases of milk deficiency were found and necessary action taken.

Three cases of food poisoning were investigated during the year. One patient died from Aertrycke Food Poisoning. Full investigations were made regarding the source of suspected food in each case, and clinical and bacteriological examinations of contacts carried out.

I desire to record my thanks to all the members of my staff for their loyal and unselfish service in these difficult times. I also appreciate very much the courtesy and consideration extended to me by the Chairman and Members of the various Committees with whom I deal.

*A.R. Forrest.*

Medical Officer of Health.