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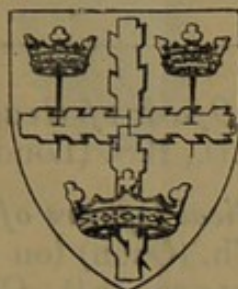
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AC.4411(1) COLCHESTER

BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. F. CORFIELD,

M.D., B.S., London; M.R.C.S., England; L.R.C.P., London;
D.P.H., Cambridge.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH;

SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER;

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ISOLATION
HOSPITAL AND SANATORIUM;

AND TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.

1942.

Colchester:

WILES AND SON LTD., TRINITY STREET

THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1942.

Medical Officer of Health, etc. :

W. F. CORFIELD, M.D., B.S. (Lond.), D.P.H. (Camb.).

Assistant Medical Officers of Health, etc. :

R. W. CUSHING, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Oxon) (on Military Service, from 18/9/39)

MRS. W. WALKER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Dental Surgeon :

J. F. GODFREY, L.D.S., R.C.S.

Sanitary Inspectors :

†*A. FISHER. †*O. R. WARNER. †*C. J. JACOBI. †*R. F. KNOWLE

† Sanitary Inspector's Certificate. * Meat Inspector's Certificate

Health Nurses :

*†† Miss E. R. SMITH.

*†† Miss M. E. RICKARD.

*†† Miss M. PENNICK.

*†† Miss A. E. BICKERDIKE.

*†† Miss M. H. WILLIAMSON.

Clerks :

R. D. SARGEANT, A.C.C.S. H. T. PERCIVAL.

A. W. MILLBOURN.^a W. B. WYNOLL.^a L. G. NICHOLLS.^a MRS. P. C. BROOK

R. T. TAWELL.^a

MRS. I. NICHOLLS.

D. R. FELGATE.

MRS. E. FISHER.

I. C. HAZELL.

MISS B. J. GILL.

Laboratory Assistant :

R. D. SARGEANT.

Disinfectors :

H. EDWARDS.^a

^a On Military Service.

Matron, Isolation Hospital and Sanatorium :

*† Miss D. COPELIN.

(Fever and Tuberculosis Nursing Certificates.)

Matron War-time Nursery :

† Mrs. F. A. P. HARRIES.

Matron, Maternity Home :

*† Mrs. F. DENNIS.

* Certified Midwife.

† State Registered Nurse.

‡ Health Visitor's Certificate.

PART-TIME SPECIALISTS :

Surgeon, Isolation Hospital :

RONALD REID, F.R.C.S. (Eng.).

Orthopaedic Surgeon :

T. ALEXANDER OGILVIE, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.

X-Ray Specialist :

J. ORD PENDER SMITH, M.B., Ch.B. (Edin.), D.M.R.E. (Camb.).

Medical Officer—Ante-Natal Clinic :

GWYNEDD HUGH-JONES, M.B., B.S. (Lond.), M.M.S.A.

Masseuse :

MISS F. E. PARSONS, C.S.M.M.G.

Veterinary Surgeon :

C. T. MURPHY, M.R.C.V.S.

Public Analyst :

A. H. MITCHELL MUTER, F.I.C.

BOROUGH OF



COLCHESTER.

BOROUGH & PORT HEALTH COMMITTEE,
1942-43.

THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR,
ALDERMAN P. A. SANDERS, O.B.E., D.L., J.P., C.A.

Chairman :

ALDERMAN P. A. SANDERS, O.B.E., D.L., J.P., C.A.

Deputy-Chairman :

ALDERMAN G. W. B. HAZELL, J.P.

Members :

COUNCILLOR W. ALLEN.

COUNCILLOR MRS. R. L. BENSUSAN-BUTT, M.D.

COUNCILLOR J. CHASE.

COUNCILLOR A. CRAIG.

COUNCILLOR H. H. FISHER, J.P.

COUNCILLOR S. E. HUNWICKE.

COUNCILLOR F. A. JACKLIN.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee :

The Health Committee with the addition of

MRS. W. W. TOWNSEND, J.P., and

MISS K. E. SANDERS, J.P., R.R.C.

(*Mayoress*).

HEALTH OFFICES,

TRINITY STREET,

21st June, 1943.

*To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Colchester.*

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to you my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1942.

This report is upon the same lines as that of 1941 as requested in Circular 2773 by the Ministry of Health.

Both Death Rate and Birth Rate have risen, the former by 1 per 1,000 and the latter by 2 per 1,000. The Death Rate is calculated upon an estimated population and so not very reliable. The Birth Rate is now well above the rate for the whole country. The Infantile Mortality Rate is decidedly low. Other rates are much as usual except that the Cancer Death Rate has gone up.

The increase of infants has made the work of the Infant Welfare Clinics particularly heavy and two further clinics have been opened. The extra work has fallen heavily upon the Health Nurses.

Figures are given that show the work of the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic and Scabies Cleansing Centre. Immunisation is not yet as complete as it should be. The Scabies Centre has had more patients to attend to but so far as can be judged this complaint is not increasing in the Borough.

The members of the Health and Maternity and Child Welfare Committees have shown great interest in the work of the Department, which is always encouraging to those who work in the Health Offices and from all the latter I have as in previous years received their loyal assistance.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. F. CORFIELD,

Medical Officer of Health, etc.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1942.

*An "Abridged Report" as directed by various Circulars of the
Ministry of Health.*

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Birth Rate (732 Legitimate Births, 70 Illegitimate)	18.3
" " England and Wales	15.8
Death Rate per 1,000 of the population	13.4
" " England and Wales	11.6
Percentage of total deaths occurring in Public Institutions....	48%
Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, Child-birth— From Sepsis, — From other Causes, —	
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births— Legitimate, 31.4. Illegitimate, 28.6. Total	31.2
Deaths from Measles	1
" " Whooping Cough	1
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years).	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis Death Rate	0.38
Other Tuberculous Diseases Death Rate	0.09
Cancer Death Rate	1.86

The Birth Rate has made a big jump up, from 16.2 to 18.3. It is 20 years since this rate was so high. In 1923 it was 18.6. The Stillbirth Rate was 0.45 per 1,000 of the civil population. The average rate in towns between 25,000 and 50,000 population was 0.62. Colchester generally returns a low Stillbirth Rate.

There were 52 more Deaths than in 1941, increases occurring from Cancer (18 more), Pneumonia (9 more) and Violent Deaths (16 more), enemy attacks accounted for many of these. Small increases occurred from certain other diseases. There was a decrease of Deaths from Bronchitis (less by 9) and Other Digestive Diseases (less by 12).

The large increase in Deaths from Cancer has resulted in the highest Cancer Death Rate yet recorded in Colchester.

The previous highest rate was 1.8 in 1926 so it seems reasonable to consider this unusually high figure an exception. In fact it levels out a number of recently good years. Time will show if a steady increase in the Cancer Rate is again going to occur or if a Rate of about 1.6 is going to remain fairly steady.

The Tuberculosis Death Rates remain gratifyingly low.

The Infantile Mortality Rates are excellent. Even the deaths of Illegitimate babies are much fewer, the rate having fallen from 89.5, a high rate, to 28.6, a very low rate.

The Population figures have been omitted for the same reasons as last year.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

New Infant Welfare Centres are mentioned later in this Report, and the institution of war-time Nurseries, otherwise the Clinics and Treatment Centres, have continued as in 1941.

The work of the Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is referred to in the pages devoted to the Infectious Diseases. But the Table of monthly immunisations in age groups is again given below.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION CLINIC 1942.

Age.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
9/12—5 years ...	53	44	16	33	9	27	51	136	80	242	154	160	1005
5—10 years ...	68	72	41	29	10	37	30	50	54	354	186	180	1111
10—16 years ...	96	75	32	7	4	10	4	28	39	215	115	223	848
Adults ...	—	1	—	2	—	2	—	2	—	—	2	5	14
Total	217	192	89	71	23	76	85	216	173	811	457	568	2978

The drive in the Summer and Autumn to encourage Immunisation is well shown in the figures of the above Table. The total immunised in 1942 is rather more than double the number immunised in the previous year.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER, DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SCAVENGING.

Little or no change has taken place in any of the provisions concerning the Water Supply, Drainage, Sewerage or Scavenging.

The new system of Sewage Disposal is in full working order and proving most efficient. The nitro-Humusol and Digested Sludge Product is in great demand by allotment holders, market gardeners, etc.

One cesspool has been done away with in Glen Avenue, the house being now connected to the sewer.

Salvage Collection has been most successfully carried out all through the year. Nearly 2,000 tons were collected with an actual value of £5,812.

No fresh wells have been sunk during the year, nor old ones done away with.

Sanitary Inspection.

General Summary of Work carried out by Sanitary Inspector's Department under Public Health Acts, Housing Acts, Bye-laws, etc.

Defects found	....	....	....	1,880
Defects remedied	....	....	....	1,583
Factories and Workshops Inspected	....	....	....	23

Housing.

Floors or walls or ceilings repaired....	....	....	....	211
Doors or windows provided or repaired	....	....	....	194
Ovens or fireplaces repaired	....	....	....	45
Stairs repaired	....	....	....	9
Rooms cleansed	....	....	....	27
Roofs repaired (including rainpipes and gutters)	....	....	....	146
Chimneys repaired or renewed	....	....	....	22
Damp houses remedied	....	....	....	56
Yards paved or repaired....	....	....	....	40
Other housing repairs	....	....	....	75

Drainage.

Repairs and improvements	....	....	....	166
Water closets provided or repaired	....	....	....	200

Other Sanitary Work.

Houses disinfected	....	....	....	100
Clothing and other articles disinfected	....	....	....	2,219
Dustbins provided	....	....	....	331
Re-visits in connection with Sanitary Notices	....	....	....	—
P.H. Act 3,297, H. Act 351	....	....	....	3,648
Offensive accumulations removed	....	....	....	2
Pig-keeping nuisances abated	....	....	....	—
Other nuisances or matters attended to	....	....	....	19
Air-Raid Shelter Inspections	....	....	....	427

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

Inspections	....	....	....	118
Premises freed	....	....	....	15

Almost all these figures are lower than similar figures in 1941. The reason being that it has been most difficult to get repairs carried out owing to shortage of material and shortage of labour. The fact that 600 more "revisits" were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors indicates that they did their best to get the work done.

The most important work was carried out as is shown by the large number of drainage repairs, these were only 12 less than in the previous year. It is interesting to note that nearly twice as many dust-bins were provided as in 1941 and over twice as many premises freed from rats.

Milk and Dairies Orders and Regulations.

Inspections (196) of cowsheds and dairies were regularly carried out. Three contraventions of the orders or regulations were found and corrected.

Premises and Occupations controlled by Bye-laws and Regulations, and Offensive Trades.

	Number.	Inspections.
Fish Frier	25	17
Gut Scraper	1	6
Tallow Melter	1	12
Rag, Bone and Skin Dealer	8	10
Bone Boiler	1	12
Total	36	57
Horse Slaughterer	1	9

There are 25 fish-frying businesses in the Borough but at the present time 10 of these are closed. The number of businesses in the above table remains the same as in the previous year. All of them have been carried on in a satisfactory manner and no complaints have been received.

Common Lodging Houses.

The Rose & Crown, Vineyard Street, of recent years occupied as a common lodging house, ceased to be used for this purpose during the year. The other two common lodging houses were well looked after and conducted in an orderly manner.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Houses Infested—Council 4, Others 38	....	42
Houses Disinfested—Council 4, Others 38	....	42
Rooms Infested and Disinfested	....	80

Eleven more houses were found to be infested with Bugs than in 1941 but it is gratifying to find that the number of Council Houses so infested is reduced by half. The same methods of eradication continue to be carried out.

HOUSING.*Statistics for the Year 1942.***I.—Inspection.**

Number of dwelling-houses inspected	1,195
Number of dwelling-houses found to be unfit for human habitation	—
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	767

II.—Number of defective houses rendered fit by Informal Action	574
---	-----

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

Under Sects. 9, 10 and 16, Housing Act, 1936—

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served for repairs	11
Number rendered fit—	
(a) By owners	11
(b) By Local Authority in default	—

Under Public Health Acts—

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served for repairs	133
Number complied with—	
(a) By owners	123
(b) By Local Authority in default	10

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders....	3

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936**IV.—Housing Act, 1936—Part IV.—Overcrowding.**

(a) (i.) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	*11
(ii.) Number of families dwelling therein....	9
(iii.) Number of persons dwelling therein....	76
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2
(c) (i.) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	6

* Remaining on List from Housing Survey 1935.

(ii.)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	....	....	....	44
(d)	Cases of houses again becoming overcrowded	....	....	....	—

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Premises				Number	Inspections
Slaughter-houses	...	...	...	see note	below
Bakehouses	...	...	31 }	32	19
Underground	...	...	1 }		
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	57	121
Cowsheds	...	...	...	34	75
Ice Cream Shops	...	...	...	83	36

The use of private slaughterhouses is still discontinued.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Beasts excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Total
Number Inspected	3259	439	2572	8429	1451	14150
Whole carcasses condemned T.B.	21	29	2	—	3	55
Other Conditions	3	4	6	13	6	32

The following quantities of parts of carcasses, or of organs were found to be unfit for human food by reason of T.B. or other conditions.

	Beasts including Cows.	Calves.	Sheep	Pigs	Total.
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Parts of Carcasses	5951	19	57	1334	7361
Organs	15797	17	71	374	16259

In addition 1,613 lbs. of imported Beef and 33 lbs. of imported Mutton were condemned.

The total weight of Meat found to be unfit for human consumption was—

33 tons 12 cwts. 3 qtrs. 13 lbs.

OTHER FOODS INSPECTION.

The following table gives the quantities of "other foods" which were inspected and found to be unfit for human food.

<i>Type of Food.</i>				<i>Weight in lbs.</i>
Butter	....	....	....	27
Sausages	....	....	....	122
Bacon	....	....	....	45
Cheese	....	....	....	146
Cooked Meats, etc.	....	....	....	1386
Flour	....	....	....	84
Fish	....	....	....	423
Vegetables	....	....	....	719
Cereals	....	....	....	247
Other Foods	....	....	....	56
				<hr/> 3612 <hr/>

The total weight of meat and other foods unfit for human food (excluding tinned foods, etc.) was—

35 tons 5 cwts. 0 qtrs. 13 lbs.

Tinned Milk	....	....	....	1054 Tins
Other Tinned Foods	....	....	....	1181 Tins
Eggs	....	....	....	490
Paste	....	....	....	6 Jars
Brawns	....	....	....	47

In accordance with Ministry of Food Instructions all the "other foods" condemned were reported either to the Food Executive Officer or to the Salvage Officer of the Ministry of Food who authorised their disposal either for animal feeding or by destruction.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.

Licences issued for sale of Graded Milk, 1941.

Pasteurised	....	....	....	....	7
Tuberculin Tested	....	....	....	....	3
Tuberculin Tested (Bottling)	....	....	....	....	1
Accredited (Bottling)	....	....	....	....	1
Pasteurised, Producer	....	....	....	....	2
Supplementary	....	....	....	....	1

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

Samples.	Number of Samples.	Adulterated.	Nature of Adulteration.
New Milk ...	45	11	(a) Fat deficient (2) = 6%
Pasteurised Milk ...	3		(a) " " (3) = 7%
Bread ...	1		†(a) " " = 13%
Coffee ...	1		†(a) " " = 15%
Baking Powder ...	1		*(a) " " = 27%
Mustard ...	2		(a) " " = 5%
Coffee Essence ...	1		(b) " " = 9%
White Pepper ...	2		(c) " " = 3%
Flaked Rice ...	1		
Camphorated Oil ...	1		
Lard ...	6		
Sugar ...	1		
Liquorice Powder ...	1		(a) Original Samples.
Cocoa ...	1		(b) Course of delivery Sample
Tea ...	6		(c) Farm Sample.
Ground Ginger ...	1		† Course of delivery Sample genuine.
Cheese ...	6		* A mixed milk, so it was not possible to follow up, Vendor warned.
Butter ...	6		
Boracic Ointment ...	1		
Aspirin Tablets ...	3		
Compound Syrup of Figs ...	2		
Fish Pastes ...	1		
Meat Paste ...	3		
Custard Powder ...	1		
Margarine ...	5		
Meat Pie ...	1		
Saccharine ...	1		
Sausages ...	1		
Brawn ...	1		
Egg Substitute ...	1		
	112	11	

Farmers and Vendors were warned in several instances of low quality milk.

In addition to the above, two samples of milk were taken in course of delivery for a neighbouring Authority and sent to the analyst of that Authority.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The number of visits paid by the Health Nurses has risen. They and the Infant Welfare Clinics have their time fully occupied with the rapidly increasing infant population. In 1941 the nurses' visits fell from 8,424 in 1940 to 7,750. In 1942 they have surpassed the previous figure and risen to 8,817. Similarly the attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinics have risen from 8,530 to 9,841. It will be obvious that these nurses have their hands full and further nursing help will have to be considered if babies continue to multiply so rapidly.

The difficulties of obtaining certain supplies for the Clinics

have continued and somewhat increased, but there has never been an actual shortage except that the supply of certain proprietary articles has had to be carefully limited.

The supply of Cod Liver Oil and Fruit Juices for little children has been taken over by the Food Officer. This arrangement saves the mothers an extra journey as they can get the vitamin foods from the milk officer. These foods are supplied in bulk to the War-time Nursery in Brook Street and similar arrangements are being made for supplying these foods to the School Nurseries.

The Ante-Natal Clinic continued to hold three sessions until November, 1942. For some reason attendances had been steadily getting fewer throughout the summer months and on 1st November this clinic reverted to two sessions per week. It was open for 144 sessions and 357 women from the Borough attended and 122 from neighbouring County Districts. They made altogether 2,403 attendances. In addition 71 Colchester women and 20 women from other districts made 109 postnatal visits. The average attendance of all cases per session was 17.

The Infant Welfare Clinics were all exceptionally busy throughout the year. This was particularly the case at the clinics held each Wednesday in St. Paul's Parish Room and each Monday in Wimpole Road Parish Hall. Two additional clinics were arranged to try and relieve these two clinics. Upon Wednesday afternoons a fresh clinic was held at St. Mary's First Aid Post and a second Wimpole Road Clinic was held on Thursday afternoons. This second clinic in Wimpole Road actually started early in 1943.

Great increases have occurred in the sales of dried milk and other foods. The sales of such articles as Ovaltine, Horlick's Malted Milk, etc., etc. have had to be somewhat restricted. Supplies of Liquid Paraffin have been easier.

The Women's Welfare Clinic has continued as in previous years. From the Borough 22 women attended and from the County Areas 47, to consult the Lady Doctor. This clinic is open every third Thursday in the month at 10 a.m.

The Orthopædic Clinic was attended by 31 pre-school children who made 37 attendances. Two of them were referred for hospital treatment.

The Orthopædic Massage Clinic is a necessary adjunct to the above clinic and in it massage and special manipulations are carried out in accordance with the surgeon's directions. Pre-school children made 114 attendances at this clinic.

The Dental Clinic devotes one afternoon each week to the treatment of expectant mothers and little children. This amount of time is quite insufficient for the amount of work that is now

required and after the war the appointment of a second dentist for both school and maternity and child welfare cases will have to be carefully considered if only to keep up with the steadily increasing child population. During the year 39 sessions were held and 51 mothers and 19 pre-school children received dental treatment.

WAR-TIME NURSERY.

This was opened in Brook Street on 2nd September, 1942. Mrs. Harries, a fully-trained nurse, was appointed Matron with Mrs. Annesley, also a fully-trained nurse, as Deputy Matron and 3 Nursery Assistants. Miss Clark was appointed Warden on 26th November, 1942, the Warden's duties being chiefly educational.

Arrangements were made with a man and his wife to live in the Nursery and to undertake the duties of cook, general caretaking and fire-watching. Also a daily woman was engaged to help with the cleaning and domestic work.

The attendance at first was not good but gradually more and more children were brought to the Nursery and at the end of the year the average attendance reached the satisfactory figure of 25, the number of children on the books on 31st December, 1942, being 39.

The Brook Street Nursery is situate in a large converted private house. It has accommodation for 40 children between the ages of 0 and 5 years. The children are brought to the Nursery between 7.30 a.m. and 8.0 a.m. and the Nursery closes at 6.0 p.m. It is open for six days a week.

Plans at the end of the year were in course of preparation for a second nursery to be erected in Sheepen Road.

Midwives.

At the end of 1942 there were 35 midwives practising in the Borough. The midwives of the various Borough Hospitals and Institutions are included in this total. The number of private midwives remains at 10.

Midwives Act, 1936.	As Midwives		As Maternity Nurses	
	1941	1942	1941	1942
Births attended by the District Nursing Assoc. Midwives	66	74	22	30
Births attended by Private Midwives	230	237	57	32
Births attended in Institutions	289	398	250	369

The figures for 1942 are all well above those for 1941 except the number of patients attended by private midwives as maternity nurses. The number of cases attended by the District Nursing Association Midwives is steadily increasing.

The Emergency Unit was called upon for assistance upon 4 occasions. Only one of these was for a patient in the Borough the other 3 being for the relief of patients in neighbouring County Districts.

Register of Foster Mothers and Boarded-Out Children.

Part VII Public Health Act, 1936, Sections 206-220.

	1941	1942
Children on Register 31st December	31	25
Names removed from Register	20	28
Additions during the year	8	22
Foster Mothers on Register	26	23

The decline in foster mothers still continues. The number in 1939 was 57, it fell in 1940 to 43, in 1941 to 31 and last year to 25. This can only be explained by the fact that capable women are doing war work instead of looking after other people's children.

The Maternity and Nursing Homes remain the same as last year and all three are well and properly conducted.

Puerperal Pyrexia cases have not been so many (11) as in the previous year (17). Four of these cases were admitted to the Isolation Hospital and seven were looked after in St. Mary's Hospital. In addition four more cases were sent to the Isolation Hospital from the neighbourhood. Thus out of a total of fifteen cases 8 were treated at the Borough Isolation Hospital and 7 at St. Mary's Hospital. All these patients made good recoveries.

BOROUGH MATERNITY HOME.

Work of the Home.		1941	1942
Admitted : Borough Patients 273, from County Council Area 193, from Harwich 10, Clacton 2,			
Private outside districts cases 18	....	380	496
Delivered in the Home	....	369	489
Admitted for Ante-natal Care only	....	8	7
Delivered by the Nursing Staff	....	193	236
Doctors....	....	176	253
Forms sent for Medical Aid under the Midwives			
Acts	....	76	69

The applications for admission to this Home continue to increase. Only four less than 500 patients were admitted in 1942, that is 116 cases more than the previous year. There were 38 emergency cases. Two patients were transferred to the Essex County Hospital, one for an operation, the other owing to antepartum hæmorrhage.

There were 5 baby deaths but only one maternal death.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1942.

(Civilian and Military Cases.)

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Total Cases in Age Groups												Cases admitted to Hospital
		Under 1 Year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-34	35-44	45-64	65 and over	
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	63	—	—	—	1	7	27	16	8	7	2	—	—	65
Diphtheria ...	24	—	—	—	1	—	7	1	5	8	1	1	—	24
Acute Polio-myelitis }	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	8	1	—	—	4
Pneumonia ...	120	9	1	3	1	5	6	5	7	25	13	26	19	—
Typhoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Other Diseases Generally Notifiable.

Malaria ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	4	—	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum }	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever }	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	79	—	1	4	—	—	7	—	4	25	10	19	9	—
Measles ...	24	3	1	3	6	4	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	63	6	9	4	10	8	24	—	1	1	—	—	—	—

It is gratifying to report that in every one of the above mentioned diseases the number of cases notified is less than in the previous year. The one case of Acute Poliomyelitis can hardly be counted as an increase.

Both Measles and Whooping Cough cases were few but these two diseases usually come in waves that flow and ebb and a light year is likely to be followed by one of increased incidence of these diseases.

It is worth noting that no notifications of cases of either Typhoid Fever or Paratyphoid Fever were received in 1942 though one woman died in the General Hospital from Typhoid Fever without being notified. Dysentery notifications fell from 296 to 79.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Cases admitted to the Isolation Hospital, 1942.

AUTHORITY SENDING IN CASES	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Mumps	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	German Measles	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Miscellaneous	TOTAL
Colchester Borough ...	59	8	2	—	—	3	1	20	93
Essex County Hospital ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Mental Institutions ...	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	1	11
Naval and Military ...	6	24	76	1	6	—	3	96	212
Wivenhoe U.D. ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Brightlingsea U.D. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
Tendring R.D. ...	12	4	—	2	—	—	—	1	19
Lexden and Winstree R.D. ...	9	22	—	—	—	—	—	5	36
Melford R.D. ...	9	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	11
Essex County Council ...	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	38	42
Clacton ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Sudbury U.D. ...	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Frinton and Walton U.D. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Harwich Borough ...	6	1	—	—	—	—	1	7	15
West Mersea U.D. ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Private Patients ...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
TOTAL CASES...	109	71	80	4	6	8	6	173	457
DEATHS { COLCHESTER ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
{ OTHER DISTRICTS ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	7

TOTAL : 457 Cases, 9 Deaths.

Fewer patients were admitted to the Hospital than in the previous year, when there were 575 admissions. The reduction was chiefly in the number of Scarlet Fever cases.

As in previous years a large number of Miscellaneous Cases were admitted. Out of the 173 in the miscellaneous group 50 were patients sent in suspected of suffering from one of the common infectious diseases but found to be ill with some other complaint frequently simulating the suspected disease. Such patients were suffering from Tonsillar Abscess, Cellulitis, Toxic Rash, Parotid Abscess, Scabies, Acne, etc., etc.

Of the other Miscellaneous Cases there were 27 cases of Dysentery, 23 of Chicken-pox and 35 of Pulmonary Tuberculosis. The remaining 38 cases were made up by a number of odd cases such as Pneumonia, Septic Abortion, Measles, Dermatitis, Vincent's Angina, etc.

The Tuberculosis cases are sent in by the County Council. They are chiefly patients with the disease in an advanced or chronic form and in many cases Sanatorium care improves their condition considerably. Five of the Miscellaneous deaths were due to advanced Tuberculosis, one was due to Influenzal Pneumonia and one to a Cerebral Tumour.

SCABIES.

Nearly 200 more cases were treated at St. Mary's First Aid Post in 1942 than in the previous year. This does not necessarily mean a large increase in the incidence of this condition as undoubtedly as the doctors gained experience of the cleansing centre they found it more satisfactory to send cases to the centre for treatment than to try to deal with them themselves. Altogether 439 cases were treated of whom 80 had been treated before. The majority of the patients received a Sulphur Shampoo, the rest (70) were treated with a Benzyl Benzoate preparation.

Three applications of the Sulphur Shampoo are found to be quite satisfactory and this preparation is a great deal cheaper than the Benzyl Benzoate preparation, the difference being somewhere in the region of 1d. per application of the Sulphur Lotion and 10d. per application of the Benzyl Benzoate.

If three applications of the former are needed and two of the latter, the cost of 100 cases would be 25/- for Sulphur Lotion and £8..6..8 for Benzyl Benzoate.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Over 1,000 children between the ages of 9 months and 5 years were immunised during 1942 against Diphtheria and altogether nearly 3,000 persons, the greater number being under 16 years of age, were so treated.

This campaign has entailed a great deal of work, particularly as special clinics have been held for the purpose in almost every school. The effort is well worth while and every encouragement is given to parents to get their children immunised. Among other methods is the scheme of sending a birthday greeting to every Colchester baby upon his or her first birthday and suggesting that immunisation would help to prevent serious illness.

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
1	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...
2-4	...	...	3	1	...	...	1	...
5-9	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
10-14	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
15-19	...	3	3	1	...	2	1	...
20-24	3	2	...	1	1	1	...	...
25-34	8	2	2	1	1	1	...	...
35-44	6	1	...	...	2	1	...	...
45-54	4	4	...	...	2	1	...	1
55-64	4	3	...	...	3	...	...	...
65 and upwards...	2	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
Totals	28	17	14	7	11	6	3	1

The percentages of cases that have died of Tuberculosis during the past five years, without having been previously notified, were—

1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
21.4%	43.0%	34.5%	38.1%	28.6%

Tuberculosis Register.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Pulmonary Cases....	158	160	168	168	157
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	93	86	83	89	79

There is a satisfactory fall in the number of cases recorded in the Tuberculosis Register.

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62.

„ „ „ 1936, „ 172.

No action was found necessary under any of the above powers.

Treatment of Blind Persons.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 66.

" " " 1936, " 176.

No action was required under either of these Sections.

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HEALTH OFFICES,

TRINITY STREET.