

CITY OF BALTIMORE

---

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH  
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

1943



*To the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore for the  
Year Ended December 31, 1943*

*Science contributed to the confusion by assuming  
that it could be indifferent to the use of its  
achievements . . . .*

From  
*The New York Times Book Review* of  
The Condition of Man by Lewis Mumford

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

---

Commissioner, HUNTINGTON WILLIAMS, M.D., Dr.P.H.  
Assistant Commissioner, ROSS DAVIES, M.D., M.P.H.  
Secretary, REED GAITHER

---

## ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

Administration..... HUNTINGTON WILLIAMS, M.D., Dr.P.H.  
Vital Statistics..... W. THURBER FALES, Sc.D.  
Health Information..... ESTHER S. HORNE  
DOROTHY REGINA KALBEN  
Laboratories..... C. LEROY EWING  
Eastern Health District..... C. HOWE ELLER, M.D., Dr.P.H.  
Western Health District..... ALFRED C. MOORE, M.D.  
Druid Health Center..... H. MACEO WILLIAMS, M.D., M.P.H.  
Southeastern Health District..... JOHN A. SKLADOWSKY, M.D.

## MEDICAL SECTION

Communicable Diseases..... DAVID H. ANDREW, M.D., C.P.H.  
Sydenham Hospital..... MYRON G. TULL, M.D., M.P.H.  
MARGARET H. D. SMITH, M.D.  
Tuberculosis..... MIRIAM BRAILEY, M.D., Dr.P.H.  
Venereal Diseases..... RALPH F. SIKES, M.D., M.P.H.  
FERDINAND O. REINHARD, M.D., M.P.H.  
Occupational Diseases..... JOHN M. McDONALD, M.D., D.P.H.  
Child Hygiene..... WILLIAM K. SKILLING, M.D.  
Maternity Hygiene..... M. ALEXANDER NOVEY, M.D.  
School Hygiene..... H. WARREN BUCKLER, M.D.  
Public Health Nursing..... JANE B. LAIB, R.N.

## SANITARY SECTION

WILMER H. SCHULZE, Phrf. D., Director  
Milk Control..... IVAN M. MARTY  
Food Control..... FERDINAND A. KORFF  
Meat Inspection..... WILLIAM BRENNER, D.V.S.  
Environmental Hygiene..... GEORGE W. SCHUCKER

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*Learn to Do Your Part in the Prevention of Disease*

## THE EVENING SUN

Published Every Week Day By  
**THE A. S. ABELL COMPANY**  
PAUL PATTERSON, President

BALTIMORE, WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1943

### Welcome Decision

Yesterday the Maryland Court of Appeals handed down a very welcome decision, in which it approved the constitutionality of Baltimore's new health ordinance.

The ordinance in question, which was passed in 1941 in response to a strong public sense of outrage against slum conditions in Baltimore, was designed to strengthen the hand of the Health Department in enforcing minimum housing standards.

A case tried before Judge Ulman under this law was appealed, on the ground that the ordinance was unconstitutional and gave illegal power to the Health Commissioner. In its opinion, written by Judge Lindsay D. Sloan, the Court of Appeals declares that:

The only purpose of the ordinance is to protect and preserve the health of the people of Baltimore . . . and that

. . . the city has the power under its charter "to preserve the health of the city" and "to prevent and remove nuisances." The exercise of charter powers by a city is not discretionary, but is a duty.

Thanks to this decision, the Health Commissioner finds yet another obstacle removed in his campaign to eliminate the worst of Baltimore's slum conditions.

STATE COURT OF APPEALS SUPPORTS  
CITY ORDINANCE ON THE HYGIENE OF HOUSING

## CONSULTANTS

DR. THOMAS S. CULLEN,  
*Member, Maryland State Board of Health.*

DR. ARTHUR G. BARRETT,  
*President, Maryland Academy of Medicine and Surgery.*

DR. ALLEN W. FREEMAN,  
*Professor of Public Health Administration,  
Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.*

DR. ANDREW C. GILLIS,  
*Professor of Neurology, School of Medicine, University of Maryland.*

DR. LOUIS HAMBURGER,  
*Associate in Medicine, Johns Hopkins Medical School.*

DR. ARTHUR J. LOMAS,  
*Administrative Consultant, Catholic Hospitals of Maryland.*

DR. ROBERT U. PATTERSON,  
*Dean, School of Medicine, University of Maryland.*

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*Professor of Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Maryland.*

DR. ROBERT H. RILEY,  
*Director, Maryland State Department of Health.*

DR. JAMES M. H. ROWLAND,  
*Dean Emeritus, School of Medicine, University of Maryland.*

DR. ARTHUR M. SHIPLEY,  
*Professor of Surgery, School of Medicine, University of Maryland.*

DR. SAMUEL WOLMAN,  
*President, Maryland Tuberculosis Association.*

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SANITATION

DR. WILLIAM H. HOWELL, *Chairman,*  
*Director Emeritus, Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.*

DR. ANNA M. BAETJER,  
*Associate in Physiology, Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.*

DR. HARRY J. WARNER,  
*Medical Director, United States Public Health Service  
in charge of the Baltimore Quarantine Station.*

MR. GEORGE COBB,  
*Chief Engineer of Baltimore.*

DR. ABEL WOLMAN,  
*Professor of Sanitary Engineering,  
Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.*

## MEDICAL STAFF

LYMAN ABBOTT, M.D. c  
 GEORGE G. ADAMS, M.D. t  
 MAURICE L. ADAMS, M.D. v  
 M. L. BARKSDALE, M.D. v  
 WALTER P. BLOCK, M.D. v  
 LOUIS V. BLUM, M.D. t  
 M. L. BREITSTEIN, M.D. ea  
 HARRY BROWN, M.D. c  
 G. RAYNOR BROWNE, M.D. v  
 WILLIAM BERKLEY BUTLER, M.D. v  
 CHARLES R. CAMPBELL, M.D. v  
 JAMES D. CARR, M.D. v  
 J. W. V. CLIFT, M.D. c  
 HENRY T. COLLEBERG, M.D. v  
 JOHN COLLINSON, M.D. v  
 JOHN CONSTANTINI, M.D. h o  
 THEODORE COOPER, M.D. t  
 ROSCOE Z. G. CROSS, M.D. h o  
 W. ALLEN DECKERT, M.D. m  
 SOLON A. DODDS, M.D. c  
 HANIA WISLICKA EHLERS, M.D. c  
 ANTHONY S. FELSOVANYI, M.D. v  
 HARRIS GOLDMAN, M.D. v  
 HARRY C. GRANT, M.D. h o  
 WALTER E. GREMLER, M.D. c  
 RICHARD DAVID HAHN, M.D. v  
 HAROLD V. HARBOLD, M.D. h o  
 LOUIS E. HARMON, M.D. v  
 JAMES B. HAWKINS, M.D. h o  
 JOHN M. HAWS, M.D. m  
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 LEON S. HORKA, M.D. h o  
 HUGH P. HUGHES, M.D. h o  
 MEYER W. JACOBSON, M.D. t

LOUIS L. JACOBS, M.D. h o  
 ALBERT JAFFE, M.D. c  
 WILLIAM ATWELL JONES, M.D. v  
 D. F. KALTREIDER, M.D. m  
 HENRY B. KOLB, M.D. h o  
 ALBERT L. LAFOREST, M.D. v  
 ELLA LANGER, M.D. h o  
 CHARLES D. LEE, M.D. t  
 LUCILLE LIBERLES, M.D. h o  
 HARRY LINDEN, M.D. v  
 AMELIA LINK, M.D. h o  
 FRANCIS J-B. LUKE, M.D. v  
 CHARLES F. MALONEY, M.D. h o  
 FRANK V. MANIERI, M.D. h o  
 MEYER MILLER, M.D. c  
 GEORGE C. PAGE, M.D. v  
 GEORGE H. PENDETON, M.D. v  
 MARY E. PERRY, M.D. s  
 A. L. RETTALIATA, M.D. h o  
 ALMA S. ROTHHOLZ, M.D. c  
 LEWIS J. ROSENTHAL, M.D. h o  
 ALBERT SCAGNETTI, M.D. c  
 J. DOUGLASS SHEPPERD, M.D. v  
 ERNEST W. SHERVINGTON, M.D. v  
 ISADORE A. SIEGEL, M.D. m  
 HARRY B. SMITH, M.D. v  
 GEORGE A. STRAUSS, M.D. v  
 HOWARD H. WARNER, M.D. h o  
 SAMUEL WEINBERG, M.D. h o  
 ALEXANDER A. WEINSTOCK, M.D. t  
 MARY COOK WILLIS, M.D. c  
 PAUL ELI WILSON, M.D. s  
 GUSTAV H. WOLTERECK, M.D. c  
 CHARLES T. WOODLAND, M.D. v  
 RALPH J. YOUNG, M.D. v

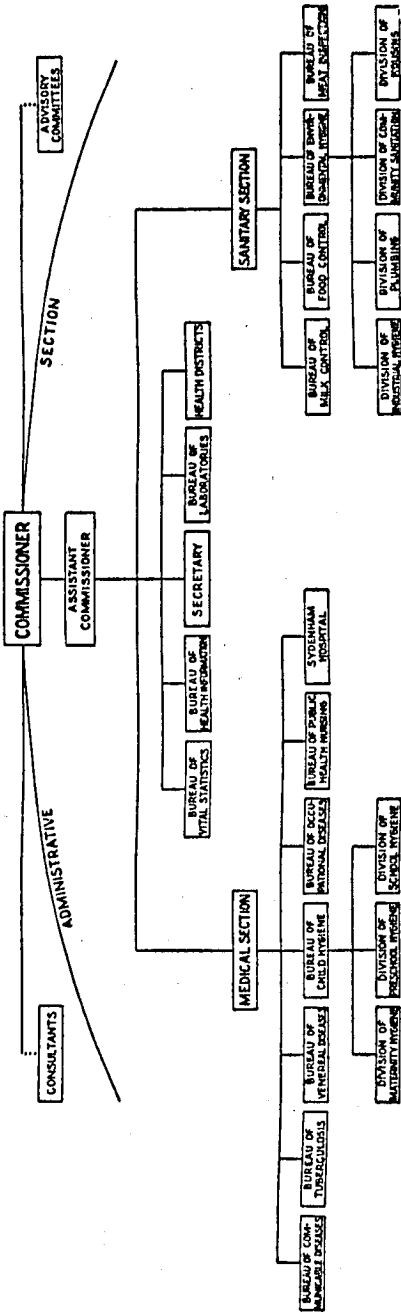
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c = child hygiene, ea = ear clinic, ey = eye clinic, h o = health officer for communicable disease control and school hygiene, m = maternity hygiene, s = Sydenham Hospital, t = tuberculosis clinic, v = venereal disease clinic, bold type = full time.

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# ORGANIZATION CHART BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT





A SUMMARY OF THE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL  
REPORT OF THE BALTIMORE CITY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1943

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

*The Honorable,*

THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE

GENTLEMEN:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 91 of the City Charter and also in accordance with a resolution adopted by the City Council in the year 1817, I have the honor to transmit to you a summary of the one hundred and twenty-ninth in a series of consecutive annual reports of the work done by the Baltimore City Health Department, and by the several bureaus thereof, for the year ended December 31, 1943.

**Introduction**

Another war year saw meningococcus meningitis reported more frequently than in any prior year of record in Baltimore and there was an increase in the prevalence of diphtheria over recent years. Late in 1943 there was also a brief period when deaths from pneumonia and influenza were more numerous than usual for the season. On the other hand a new low city record of only 20 cases of typhoid fever was established for 1943 and the maternal mortality rate for the city reached a new low figure of 1.6 per 1,000 live births.

The civic campaign for improved housing conditions and slum eradication for health was pressed forward materially with the decision of the State Court of Appeals on June 24 which sustained the new Ordinance on the Hygiene of Housing that had been enacted by the Mayor and City Council in 1941. The Health Department with its Division of Housing established on a firm footing in 1943 expanded the scope of its work in this important field.

Several other health services were particularly active during the year because of the war. These included venereal disease control and industrial hygiene. Active assistance was received from the new Baltimore Venereal Disease Council and there was a reorganization of the Health Department venereal disease bureau and clinic program.

Special emphasis was likewise devoted to expanding the work of tuberculosis control with the X-raying of expectant mothers that revealed a number

of early and unsuspected cases of the disease, to the clean-city campaign associated with trash and garbage disposal and rat control, to a breast-feeding campaign for new-born infants, to the prevention of deafness, and to the use and teaching of affiliate student nurses at Sydenham Hospital for the acute communicable diseases.

Rheumatic fever became a reportable disease by State Board of Health action in September, an event which raises interesting administrative questions. Late in the year the Health Department budget provisions for 1944 received unusual attention and an active advance over previous years, and plans were completed for Health Department cooperation in the development of the administration of the city's medical care program which is a function in Baltimore of the City Welfare Department. In December a special issue of *Baltimore Health News* was devoted to the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the public health service of Baltimore.



THE BBC TRANSOCEAN CONFERENCE OF SEPTEMBER, 1943

Left to right: *Colonel Raymond Scott*, Commander of evacuation hospitals in Sicily and North Africa; *Major General Norman T. Kirk*, Surgeon General of the U. S. Army; *Alistair Cooke*, Master of Ceremonies; *Colonel Crawford Sams*, Chief Army Surgeon in the Middle East; and *Dr. Huntington Williams*.

The Commissioner of Health on September 26 participated, at the invitation of the British Broadcasting Corporation in New York, in a half-hour Trans-Atlantic radio conference on wartime medicine with representatives of the U. S. Army medical services and corresponding military and public health officials in London. The British group on this occasion were Surgeon General Alexander Hood for the British Army; Dr. R. H. Parry, Medical Officer of Health of the City of Bristol; Major General C. Max Page,

Consulting Surgeon to the British Army, and Brigadier E. W. Wade, Inspector of the Medical Services throughout the African Campaign.

During the year the total city health effort won for Baltimore a place on The 1943 National Health Honor Roll of cities selected in the annual Health Conservation Contest which is conducted by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and the American Public Health Association.

### The Health of the City

From year to year the population of Baltimore is in large degree subject to the same causes of ill health and mortality as other American cities. Despite the operation of certain adverse health conditions in 1943 such as the presence in Baltimore of many war workers and resulting overcrowding, new low records were established in the number of reported cases of typhoid fever and deaths of mothers from causes connected with pregnancy and childbirth. On the other side of the ledger there was a further increase in the number of cases and deaths of meningococcus meningitis and the 106 cases of diphtheria reported was the largest number to occur since 1938. Both increases may be explained in part by conditions brought about by the war. The general death rate corrected for residence of 13.5 per 1,000 population was also considerably higher than the rate of 12.1 for 1942. The corresponding death rates for the white population were 11.1 in 1942 and 12.5 in 1943 and for the colored population 16.2 in 1942 and 17.7 in 1943.

#### *Population*

The influx of war workers and the departure of a considerable portion of the male population into the armed services made it difficult to estimate the midyear population for 1943. Utilizing special studies of the civilian population made by the U. S. Bureau of the Census for March 1, 1943 and November 1, 1943 and based on the issuance of war ration books, the estimated civilian population of Baltimore as of July 1, 1943 was 930,000. The estimated white population on the same date was 748,000 and the non-white or colored population was 182,000 or 19.4 per cent. The birth and death rates included in this report are based on these figures.

#### *Diseases Affected by War Conditions*

During 1943 the people of Baltimore experienced increased health risks from four diseases, tuberculosis, syphilis, meningococcus meningitis and diphtheria which may be considered as definitely affected by war conditions. Anticipation of upward trends made possible more effective programs for the control of tuberculosis and the venereal diseases. While the number of reported cases from both of these conditions increased over 1942 reports the

death rate for tuberculosis remained stationary and that for syphilis was slightly lower than for the previous year. There were 1,938 new cases of tuberculosis reported in 1943 as compared with 1,686 in 1942. The tuberculosis death rate for 1943 was 86.6 per 100,000 population as compared with the 1942 rate of 86.5. For syphilis the number of new cases reported in 1943 was 14,803; for 1942 there were 11,293 cases recorded. Death rates for syphilis were 19.5 in 1943 and 21.5 in 1942. Increased case reports reflect active case-finding programs. In tuberculosis the opening of new night chest clinics for both white and colored persons resulted in the early discovery of active cases of the disease, with prompter follow-up of reported cases, and there has been a cooperative relationship with Selective Service for securing reports and following up cases discovered through pre-induction examination of registrants. The earlier case discovery and follow-up and treatment lead to a better control of both tuberculosis and syphilis.

The nation-wide wartime outbreak of meningococcus meningitis which began in 1941 reached its peak in Baltimore during 1943 with the largest number of cases reported for any single year in the city's history. A thorough investigation of each case resulted in the general conclusion that emergency factors, especially the influx of war workers, accounted for this unusual increase to a considerable degree. It was found, for example, that nearly one-fourth of the 389 reported cases occurred in families which had resided in Baltimore less than two years. There had been 202 cases of the disease reported in 1942 and 72 cases in 1941. Deaths increased from 11 in 1941 and 31 in 1942 to 63 in 1943.

#### *Influenza and Pneumonia*

During the last three weeks of 1943 Baltimore experienced a widespread outbreak of respiratory diseases which are usually designated under the term influenza. Not only did the number of deaths from influenza and pneumonia increase markedly during this period but there was also a similar rise in the death rate from all causes. The death rate for December was 19.9 per 1,000 population as compared with 11.7 for December, 1942. The number of deaths from pneumonia in 1943 was 834 as compared with 707 in 1942; deaths from influenza were 102 in 1943 as contrasted with 60 in 1942.

#### *Typhoid Fever*

With the reporting of only 20 cases of typhoid fever a new low record was established for this disease in Baltimore. The previous low record of 23 cases was recorded in 1940. There was 1 death from typhoid fever in 1943 which was the same figure as reported for 1942.

*Births, Maternal Mortality and Infant Mortality*

The number of births continued to increase during 1943 with 21,054 resident births occurring or a birth rate of 22.6 per 1,000 population. Despite the largest number of births to be recorded for any year the deaths from maternal causes dropped to a new low record of 34 deaths or one less than the figure for 1942. The maternal death rate in 1943 was therefore 1.6 per 1,000 live births as compared with 1.7 for 1942.

The death rates for infants under one year of age and for under one month of age rose over the low rates for the previous year. Except for 1939 and 1942, however, the infant mortality rate of 46.2 per 1,000 live births and the neonatal mortality rate of 26.3 were lower for 1943 than the corresponding rates for any other years in the history of the city.

*Diphtheria*

An increase in diphtheria occurred in 1943 with 106 cases reported as compared with 74 cases during 1942. Nearly one-fourth of the 106 cases occurred in families residing in Baltimore less than two years which may indicate that part of the increase at least was attributable to the conditions arising from the active part that Baltimore is playing in the industrial war effort.

*Principal Causes of Death*

Pathological conditions accompanying the degenerative processes such as heart disease, nephritis and cerebral hemorrhage, and cancer continued to rank among the leading causes of death. The death rates from the seven leading causes of death for the total and for the white and colored populations are shown in the accompanying table.

RESIDENT DEATH RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION FOR THE SEVEN LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH; TOTAL, WHITE AND COLORED POPULATION: BALTIMORE 1942-1943

TOTAL POPULATION			WHITE POPULATION				COLORED POPULATION			
CAUSE	Death Rate per 100,000		CAUSE	Death Rate per 100,000		CAUSE	Death Rate per 100,000			
	1943	1942		1943	1942		1943	1942		
Diseases of heart.....	426.2	379.0	Diseases of heart.....	434.6	390.5	Diseases of heart.....	391.8	335.9		
Cancer, all forms.....	149.8	134.3	Cancer, all forms.....	159.0	142.0	Tuberculosis, all forms	221.4	240.1		
Nephritis.....	113.3	106.7	Nephritis.....	95.3	91.7	Nephritis.....	187.4	169.1		
Cerebral hemorrhage....	95.1	88.0	Cerebral hemorrhage..	87.7	77.7	Pneumonia.....	187.4	150.9		
Pneumonia.....	89.7	75.5	Accidental causes.....	70.1	67.0	Cerebral hemorrhage..	125.3	131.1		
Tuberculosis, all forms..	86.6	86.5	Pneumonia.....	65.9	67.4	Cancer, all forms.....	112.1	102.4		
Accidental causes.....	75.5	68.8	Tuberculosis, all forms	63.7	49.6	Accidental causes.....	97.2	76.5		

At the close of the report will be found certain selected tables that contain other important data on the vital statistics of the city for 1943.

## Administration

There follows a financial statement for the Health Department for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1943.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

As of December 31, 1943

Total City Appropriations.....		\$1,016,401.12
Total City Expenditures.....		1,015,594.82
Appropriations by Ordinance of Estimates January 1, 1943.....	\$916,642.72	
Appropriations for Transportation.....	30,946.68	
Supplementary Appropriations for Sydenham Hospital, Health Districts, Clinics and Special Projects.....	<u>68,811.72</u>	
		\$1,016,401.12

*Expenditures of the Baltimore City Health Department\**

## ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

Administration.....	\$28,268.86
Vital Statistics.....	40,495.64
Health Information.....	13,388.58
Laboratories.....	79,060.11
Eastern Health District.....	37,807.30
Western Health District.....	35,136.20
Druid Health Center.....	46,341.94
Southeastern Health District.....	<u>35,664.48</u>

\$316,163.11

\* *Additional Non-Health Department Health Expenditures*

There follow certain tabulations made of expenditures for health work in Baltimore in 1943 which were closely related to the work of the City Health Department:

## I OFFICIAL EXPENDITURES

City Department of Education—high school medical services	\$ 40,335.76
City Department of Welfare—city tuberculosis hospital.....	244,934.29
State Tuberculosis Hospitals—Baltimore City cases.....	368,424.32
State Health Department—city venereal disease control.....	5,098.51
The Johns Hopkins Hospital, venereal disease control...	13,000.00
Federal Social Security funds—city health work.....	22,000.97
The Johns Hopkins Hospital, venereal disease control....	<u>23,100.00</u>

\$ 716,983.85

## II NONOFFICIAL EXPENDITURES

Babies Milk Fund Association.....	\$ 37,673.04
Eudowood Tuberculosis Hospital—city cases.....	96,709.02
Instructive Visiting Nurse Association.....	81,058.73
Johns Hopkins University—Eastern Health District.....	25,000.00
Laboratory services—hospital or private.....	50,000.00†
Maryland Society for the Prevention of Blindness.....	5,933.95
Maryland Tuberculosis Association.....	41,733.00
Mount Pleasant Tuberculosis Hospital—city cases.....	66,631.02
Pasteurization plants—farm and laboratory control.....	32,000.00
Venereal disease control—hospital dispensaries.....	<u>90,000.00†</u>

\$ 526,738.76

TOTAL..... \$1,243,722.61

This \$1,243,722.61 added to the City Health Department expenditures of \$1,015,594.82 gives a grand total of \$2,259,317.43.

† Approximate figure.

MEDICAL SECTION

Communicable Diseases .....	17,985.59	
Tuberculosis .....	20,452.20	
Veneral Diseases .....	68,054.03	
Occupational Diseases .....	5,910.14	
Child Hygiene .....	40,763.61	
School Hygiene .....	12,120.21	
Public Health Nursing .....	<u>124,722.31</u>	
		\$290,008.09

SANITARY SECTION

Supervision .....	9,972.87	
Milk Control .....	39,782.58	
Food Control .....	19,386.69	
Environmental Hygiene .....	71,114.40	
Meat Inspection .....	<u>54,834.49</u>	
		\$195,091.03
Morgue and Public Cemetery .....		6,316.15
Sydenham Hospital .....		<u>208,016.44</u>
Total, Salaries and Expenses .....		\$1,015,594.82

Receipts

Health Revenue .....	\$ 220.50	
Vital Statistics .....	32,169.03	
Child Hygiene .....	325.00	
Milk Control .....	11,032.00	
Plumbing Permits .....	9,087.75	
Rooming House Licenses .....	245.00	
Meat Inspection .....	20,202.00	
Sydenham Hospital .....	<u>7,520.01</u>	
Total .....		\$80,801.29

Personnel

On January 4, 1943 Dr. Margaret H. D. Smith became Director of Medical Research at Sydenham Hospital and on March 13 Mrs. Gwendolyn B. Betz was appointed Superintendent of Nurses at that hospital. G. Yates Cook was appointed on January 1 to the newly created position of Chief of the Division of Housing in the Sanitary Section. On December 1 Dr. J. Wilfrid Davis was appointed Director of the Bureau of Communicable Diseases and Dr. Harry B. Smith became Senior Medical Supervisor in the Bureau of Venereal Diseases.

The War Roster

During 1943 the following City Health Department representatives were added to the Health Department war roster: John M. Ashworth, M.D., Horace L. Hodes, M.D.; Vera Craig, R.N., Edith Doyle, R.N., Edna Faith, R.N., Mildred Foster, R.N., Margaret Gogel, R.N., Teresa Griffin, R.N., Nell U. Hammer, R.N., Jane Kreitz, R.N., Tillie Krucoff, R.N.,

Zena T. Mattie, R.N., Bertha A. Schrock, R.N., Ingrid Selkamaa, R.N., Rose Shenk, R.N., Anne Smith, R.N., Mary I. Streckfus, R.N., Elizabeth L. Wolfe, R.N., Florence Zinz, R. N., public health nurses; James H. Carter and Marian Kramer of the Bureau of Vital Statistics; Charles E. Couchman and William J. Wheeler of the Sanitary Section; and Irene F. Shea, R.N., Superintendent of Nurses at Sydenham Hospital.

### Vital Statistics

Tabulation and analysis of reports of births, deaths and cases of communicable diseases was a continuing function of the Bureau of Vital Statistics during 1943. A statistical report formed the basis of the "Saturday Letter to the Mayor" submitted by the Commissioner of Health at the close of each week and released with comment for publication in the local press. Monthly summaries of vital statistics were published in *Baltimore Health News*. Tabulations for the year formed the statistical section of the ANNUAL REPORT of the Department. Special statistical analyses of public health data were also made on appropriate occasions in cooperation with the work of other bureaus.

During 1943 the bureau continued its activities in the analysis of population and housing data for the city for purposes of providing the Health Department and other city agencies with reliable sociological bases for community planning. From figures in the U. S. Census of 1940 and previous department reports there were prepared maps of the city showing significant health and social conditions for each census tract.

In 1943 the registration of current reports of births and deaths placed a heavier responsibility on the bureau than in any previous year. There were filed during the year 25,934 certificates of birth and 12,929 death certificates. The information contained on these vital records has become recognized as a valuable source of reliable public record of birthplace, age and relationship. The heavy demand for copies of these records in the form of birth and death transcripts continued during 1943. The bureau issued 37,899 transcripts of birth records and 22,278 transcripts of death records. Records of birth for persons furnishing evidence of birth in Baltimore were established in cases where no record had been made at the time of birth. Such delayed records were filed for 2,094 persons in 1943.

The director of the bureau engaged in two special projects during the year. To furnish figures on Baltimore births and an interpretation of their social significance the director and Dr. Edwin L. Crosby of the Johns Hopkins Hospital collaborated on an article published in the March-April issue of *The Councillor*, the bulletin of the Baltimore Council of Social Agencies, under the title "The Recent Increase in Births in Baltimore."

In October the director of the bureau was appointed by the Surgeon General of the U. S. Navy to serve on the Advisory Committee on Vital



Statistics to the Surgeon General. During the last three months of the year this committee evaluated the vital statistics services of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery of the U. S. Navy and submitted a report and recommendations to the Surgeon General.

### Health Information

The local press gave outstanding cooperation and support to the Department's program for informing the public about health matters. The "Saturday Letters to the Mayor" and special news releases on current situations in regard to communicable diseases, venereal diseases, housing and rat control were issued and used by the press during the year. In addition to these releases, health news items were sent to neighborhood newspapers and several church journals each month.

Other major health informational activities in 1943 included the following:

1. A "Keeping Well" radio drama was broadcast each Saturday evening. The dramas were begun in 1939 in continuation of the radio program presented each week since 1932 under the joint auspices of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland and the City Health Department.

The five radio broadcasting stations located in the city gave vital support to the Department by broadcasting spot announcements on rats, trash and garbage in an appeal for public cooperation during the city clean-up campaign in January.

2. In March there were 69 cases of meningococcus meningitis reported which was the largest number ever recorded in any one month in the records of the Health Department. To inform the public about the seriousness of the situation a new leaflet on "Meningococcus Meningitis" was published and given wide distribution. One issue of *Baltimore Health News* was devoted almost entirely to the subject and radio broadcasts were also presented.
3. The Baltimore Transit Company as in the previous year assisted the Department in an educational effort to control respiratory diseases. The Transit Company printed and displayed posters in all their public conveyances with a warning against the practice of smoking and coughing in crowded vehicles as a possible means of causing the spread of disease. They also published half-page advertisements in the local press and broadcast spot announcements in the campaign for "No Smoking" in crowded street cars and busses.