

CITY OF BALTIMORE

---

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOURTH  
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

1948



*To the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore for the  
Year Ended December 31, 1948*

*It can be done*

Helen Keller

# DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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Commissioner, HUNTINGTON WILLIAMS, M.D., DR. P.H.  
Assistant Commissioner, ROSS DAVIES, M.D., M.P.H.  
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Laboratories ..... CLINTON L. EWING  
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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.  
Sydenham Hospital..... HORACE L. HODES, M.D.

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Communicable Diseases..... MYRON G. TULL, M.D., M.P.H.  
Tuberculosis..... MIRIAM E. BRAILEY, M.D., DR. P.H.  
Venereal Diseases..... NELS A. NELSON, M.D., M.P.H.  
Occupational Diseases.....  
Child Hygiene..... M. ALEXANDER NOVEY, M.D.  
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Public Health Nursing..... JANE B. LAIB, R.N.

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## SANITARY SECTION

WILMER H. SCHULZE, Phar. D., Director

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Food Control..... FERDINAND A. KORFF  
Meat Inspection..... WILLIAM BRENNER, D.V.S.  
Environmental Hygiene..... GEORGE W. SCHUCKER

## STATISTICAL SECTION

W. THURBER FALES, Sc.D., Director

Vital Records..... SIDNEY M. NORTON  
Biostatistics..... MATTHEW L. TABACK

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

# THE SUN

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

BALTIMORE, WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 1948

## A Year's Experience With The Housing Court

The idea of having a special police magistrate in Baltimore just to hear cases involving unsanitary housing conditions was first given serious consideration a year ago this month. At that time the Health and Police departments were getting almost nowhere in their attempts to force compliance with the city's housing regulations. The law, in the person of assorted police magistrates, was not strongly behind them. Landlords and tenants alike disregarded cleanup orders, and, if prosecuted, their cases usually died in court.

When Mr. Harry S. Kruger was appointed the city's (and probably the nation's) first housing magistrate last July, neither he nor anyone else knew exactly what he was supposed to do. The Housing Court was established on the somewhat nebulous basis that justice and efficiency would be better served if all cases of leaky roofs, clogged toilets, rat-infested cellars and illegal pigeon lofts were channeled to one magistrate. Since then Magistrate Kruger has heard about 1,200 cases, none of them pleasant ones, and

has set a pattern for legal action against housing violations that is paying dividends in cleanliness.

The Kruger policy is simply a recognition of the fact that there is rarely a justifiable excuse for anyone's maintaining a public nuisance. While pulling no punches, the magistrate has kept his fines relatively low to date. "We don't want your money in fines," he has told landlords. "We'd rather you took more interest in your property and spent the money there." This policy of firmness, tempered with salutary punishments, has proved satisfactory both to those groups which wanted the new housing magistrate to "get tough" with property owners and to those that wanted him to appreciate the difficulties which property owners face.

While praise from opposing poles is significant, the real proof of the Housing Court's value is the faster rate at which unsanitary housing conditions in Baltimore are being abated. Whereas formerly the Health and Police departments frequently found their cleanup orders disregarded, their inspectors now have to take only one case in thirteen to court. With Magistrate Kruger on the receiving end of recalcitrant cases, most owners of clogged toilets and trash-laden back yards are willing to take a hint from a health inspector without waiting for a court order. It may be years before Baltimore can do any real boasting about its cleanliness, but at least it can now be said that the law does not condone filth.

THE PUBLIC INTEREST DEEPENS IN  
BALTIMORE'S SLUM CONTROL AND HOUSING COURT

## CONSULTANTS

DR. THOMAS S. CULLEN,

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DR. ALLEN W. FREEMAN,

*Professor Emeritus of Public Health Administration,  
Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health.*

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

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DR. ROBERT U. PATTERSON,

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MR. PAUL L. HOLLAND,

*Director of Public Works of Baltimore.*

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GEORGE G. ADAMS, M.D. t  
 MAURICE L. ADAMS, M.D. v  
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 RUTH W. BALDWIN, M.D. c  
 McDONALD BANDO, M.D. c  
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 LOUIS V. BLUM, M.D. t  
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 JAMES D. CARR, M.D. v  
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 CECIL RUDNER, M.D. t  
 J. DOUGLAS SHEPPERD, M.D. v  
 ERNEST W. SHERVINGTON, M.D. v  
 M. S. SHILING, M.D. t  
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 H. L. WHITTLE, M.D. c  
 JOSEPH C. WICH, M.D. c  
 GUSTAV H. WOLTERECK, M.D. c  
 CHARLES T. WOODLAND, M.D. v  
 LEROY JAMES YOUNG, M.D. v  
 RALPH J. YOUNG, M.D. v

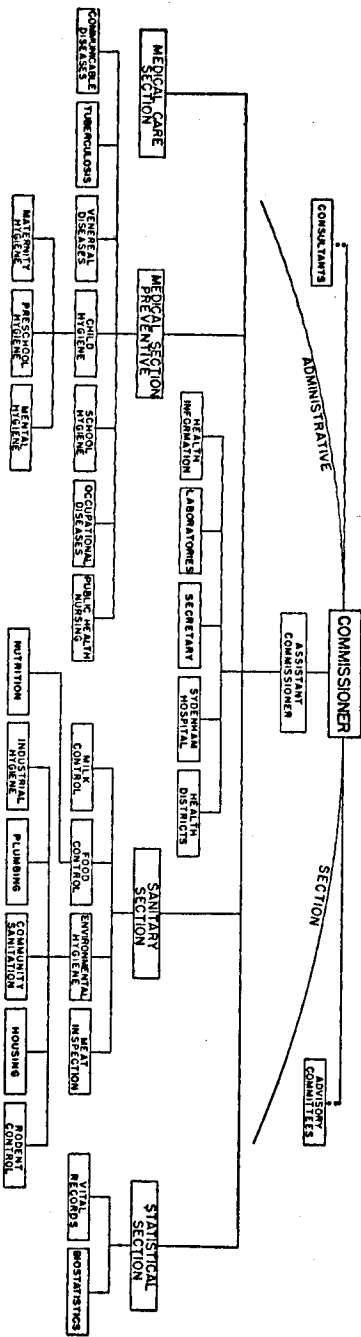
c = child hygiene, ea = ear clinic, h o = health officer for communicable disease control and school hygiene, m = maternity hygiene, m i = medical investigator, s = Sydenham Hospital, t = tuberculosis clinic, v = venereal disease clinic, bold type = full time.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.....	3
REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH.....	9
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION</b>	
Assistant Commissioner of Health.....	49
Health Information.....	53
Laboratories.....	61
Eastern Health District.....	79
Western Health District.....	87
Druid Health Center.....	93
Southeastern Health District.....	97
Sydenham Hospital.....	105
<b>MEDICAL SECTION—PREVENTIVE</b>	
Communicable Diseases.....	117
Tuberculosis.....	127
Venereal Diseases.....	147
Child Hygiene.....	165
School Hygiene.....	181
Dental Clinics.....	187
Public Health Nursing.....	193
MEDICAL CARE SECTION.....	203
<b>SANITARY SECTION</b>	
Sanitary Section.....	211
Milk Control.....	217
Food Control.....	225
Meat Inspection.....	239
Environmental Hygiene.....	245
<b>STATISTICAL SECTION</b>	
Statistical Section.....	271
Vital Records.....	275
VITAL STATISTICS TABLES.....	281
<b>APPENDIX</b>	
The Basic Medical Care Contract.....	349
Interim Report—Dental Care for Baltimore's School Children.....	355
INDEX.....	367



# ORGANIZATION CHART BALTIMORE CITY HEALTH DEPARTMENT



ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL  
REPORT OF THE BALTIMORE CITY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1948

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

*The Honorable,*

THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE

GENTLEMEN:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 81 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 thirty-fourth 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, 1948.

**Introduction**

Most important in the public health picture of Baltimore for 1948 was the actual launching on June 15 of the new medical care program after years of careful preparation. Under Health Department administration the recipients of public assistance of the City Welfare Department began to receive ambulatory medical care clinic service from the two largest, medical school hospitals in Baltimore and through them home and office care from personally selected family physicians. That this new work will grow is inevitable and the opportunities for expanding the scope and quality of medical service are very great.

Satisfactory early progress was also made in the field of mental hygiene in connection with the Health Department's well baby clinics, and by the close of the year new appropriations were approved by Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr. that should make possible a systematic extension of the dental care of Baltimore's school children. Plans went forward likewise for the construction of the proposed Southern Health District building, and the city provided a salary for the health officer of the Eastern Health District for the first time in 1948 after having received this financial aid from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health since the district was first established in 1932.

The vital statistics of the city for 1948 show a new low record for infant mortality, 28.7 per 1,000 live births. This is generally considered a reliable index of good civic health, and the figure was never below 32.7 before for any year. Typhoid fever was cut in half to a new low city record of 5 cases for 1948, and the reported cases of diphtheria and the city's tuberculosis death rates also reached new low records.

In November the voters approved city loans for replacing a worn-out tuberculosis building at the Baltimore City Hospitals and for the construction of health district buildings. On December 9 the final ceremonies were held in the transfer of the Babies Milk Fund Association work to the City Health Department. Slum control and rat control and industrial hygiene efforts were effective during the year. On May 1 the city milk supply became 100 per cent pasteurized for the first time by the closing out of the last half per cent of certified raw milk; and television was put to work for the health education of the people of Baltimore in a once-a-week program that was launched in December.

The city was honored by the services rendered to the World Health Organization by Dr. W. Thurber Fales, Director of the Statistical Section of the City Health Department. Dr. Fales, as Vice-Chairman of the Expert Committee and one of eleven United States delegates, went to Paris in April for the work of the Sixth International Conference for the Revision of the Lists of Diseases and Causes of Death. The Baltimore Color Plate entitled "Reactions to Smallpox Vaccination", issued by the City Health Department in 1936, has been republished from the original Hoen plates in four standard textbooks in medicine and public health in the United States. In 1948 it was reproduced in color with text in Spanish in the "Anales de la Clinica E Instituto de Enfermedades Infecciosas", a volume published by the National Ministry of Health at Montevideo, Uruguay. The Commissioner of Health presented a brief discussion entitled "The Local Health Officer and Sickness Surveys" at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association in Boston in November and continued to serve as a member of the Governing Council of the Association and of its Committee on Professional Education.

### The Health of the City

The estimated population of the city on July 1, 1948 which has been used for calculating the rates in this report was 958,000; the white population was 757,000 and the nonwhite population 201,000 or 21 per cent. The infant mortality rate set a new low record of 28.7 per 1,000 live births, as mentioned; for white infants the rate was 24.9 and for colored infants,

37.3. The maternal death rate of 1.1 deaths per 1,000 live births was the same as in 1947.

The resident birth rate for the city showed a slight drop from that reported in 1947. There were 22,083 babies born to Baltimore mothers during 1948 or a rate of 23.1 per 1,000 population. The white birth rate was 20.4 and the colored birth rate, 33.2.

Only 5 cases of typhoid fever were reported in 1948. A new low record of 46 cases of diphtheria was one less than the prior low of 47 cases recorded for the year 1941. There were 2 resident deaths from diphtheria during 1948. During the year there was a total of 8,943 cases of measles reported as compared with only 274 in 1947. The outbreak of measles commenced in March, continued to increase during the remaining months of spring and reached a peak of 3,071 cases reported during the month of June. Because of the lateness in the start of the outbreak all susceptibles were not attacked before the approach of warm weather, and the disease started to spread again in November. There were only 2 fatal cases, one in a two-year-old child and one in an adult. The number of newly reported cases of tuberculosis increased from 1,548 in 1947 to 1,581 in 1948. The tuberculosis death rate for 1948 was 68.6 per 1,000 population; the white death rate was 39.2 and the colored death rate was 179.1. All of these are the lowest resident death rates for tuberculosis to be recorded in the city's history and indicate a significant decrease in the mortality from this cause.

*Principal Causes of Death*

The death rates for the seven leading causes of death in 1948 and 1947 are shown in the accompanying table. Other vital statistics tables appear at the close of this report.

RESIDENT DEATH RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION FOR THE SEVEN LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH; TOTAL, WHITE AND COLORED POPULATION: BALTIMORE 1947-1948

TOTAL POPULATION			WHITE POPULATION				COLORED POPULATION			
CAUSE	Death Rate per 100,000		CAUSE	Death Rate per 100,000		CAUSE	Death Rate per 100,000			
	1948	1947		1948	1947		1948	1947		
Diseases of heart . . . . .	421.0	395.3	Diseases of heart . . . . .	434.1	412.1	Diseases of heart . . . . .	371.6	330.4		
Cancer, all forms . . . . .	152.7	156.9	Cancer, all forms . . . . .	162.1	164.3	Tuberculosis, all forms . . . . .	179.1	210.3		
Nephritis . . . . .	81.9	86.5	Cerebral hemorrhage . . . . .	70.8	80.7	Nephritis . . . . .	154.2	144.3		
Cerebral hemorrhage . . . . .	78.3	84.2	Nephritis . . . . .	62.7	71.0	Cancer, all forms . . . . .	117.4	128.3		
Tuberculosis, all forms . . . . .	68.6	75.8	Accidental causes . . . . .	50.2	54.6	Cerebral hemorrhage . . . . .	97.0	97.4		
Accidental causes . . . . .	55.4	56.6	Tuberculosis, all forms . . . . .	39.2	41.2	Accidental causes . . . . .	75.1	64.4		
Pneumonia, all forms . . . . .	36.0	38.7	Diabetes . . . . .	37.0	35.7	Pneumonia, all forms . . . . .	74.1	72.2		

## Administration

There follows a financial statement for the Baltimore City Health Department for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1948.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT

As of December 31, 1948

Total City Appropriations.....		\$1,891,347.28
Total City Expenditures.....		1,729,814.97
Appropriations by Ordinance of Estimates, January 1, 1948.....	\$1,813,124.00	
Appropriation for Transportation....	40,047.46	
Supplementary Appropriations for Building Maintenance and Special Projects.....	38,175.82	
		<hr/>
		\$1,891,347.28

*Expenditures of the Baltimore City Health Department*

## ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION

Administration.....	\$38,603.99	
Health Information.....	20,745.73	
Laboratories.....	116,755.94	
Eastern Health District.....	75,404.62	
Western Health District.....	58,268.81	
Druid Health Center.....	90,710.00	
Southeastern Health District.....	61,203.16	
		<hr/>
		\$461,692.25
Sydenham Hospital.....		339,442.03

## MEDICAL SECTION—PREVENTIVE

Communicable Diseases.....	\$25,764.62	
Tuberculosis.....	40,472.73	
Venereal Diseases.....	110,232.01	
Occupational Diseases.....	2,781.08	
Child Hygiene.....	71,072.19	
School Hygiene.....	13,823.79	
Public Health Nursing.....	204,894.18	
		<hr/>
		\$469,040.60

## MEDICAL CARE SECTION

Administration.....	\$10,625.39	
		<hr/>
		\$10,625.39

SANITARY SECTION

Administration.....	\$19,544.20
Milk Control.....	58,201.13
Food Control.....	40,369.71
Meat Inspection.....	65,139.24
Environmental Hygiene.....	190,197.70

\$371,451.98

STATISTICAL SECTION

Administration.....	\$11,839.96
Vital Records.....	43,894.01
Biostatistics.....	21,828.75

\$77,562.72

Total, Salaries and Expenses.....

\$1,729,814.97

*Receipts*

Vital Records.....	\$23,093.50
Child Hygiene Licenses.....	71.00
Milk Permits.....	13,410.00
Plumbing Permits.....	27,693.75
Meat Permits.....	24,863.00
Rooming House Permits.....	891.00
Sydenham Hospital, county patients...	24,225.00
Miscellaneous Revenue.....	327.50

Total.....

\$114,574.75

*Additional Non-Health Department Expenditures*

There follow certain tabulations of expenditures for health work in Baltimore in 1948 which were closely related to the work of the City Health Department:

I OFFICIAL EXPENDITURES

City Department of Education—high school medical services.....	\$79,045.74
City Department of Welfare—tuberculosis hospital service	
Baltimore City Hospitals.....	360,520.57
Mt. Pleasant Sanatorium—city cases.....	5,655.82
Eudowood Sanatorium—city cases.....	27,787.50
City Department of Welfare—venereal disease hospital service.....	28,720.98
State Department of Health Funds	
State Tuberculosis Sanatoria—city cases.....	813,923.04
Mt. Pleasant Tuberculosis Sanatorium—city cases.....	19,845.00
City venereal disease control.....	4,800.00
Services for city crippled children.....	51,345.94
Medical care.....	187,561.51
Maternal and child health services.....	867.74
U. S. Public Health Service Funds	
General.....	24,484.24
The Johns Hopkins Hospital—venereal disease control.....	127,579.00
Rapid Treatment Center.....	69,320.62
Tuberculosis control.....	50,841.55
U. S. Children's Bureau Funds	
Services for crippled children.....	22,335.86
Services for cerebral palsy project.....	16,023.61
Maternal and child health services.....	3,031.50

\$1,891,200.22

## II NONOFFICIAL EXPENDITURES

Babies Milk Fund Association .....	\$18,049.75
Baltimore Hearing Society .....	17,226.57
Eudowood Sanatorium—city cases .....	23,763.87
Food establishments—sanitary control .....	28,000.00†
Instructive Visiting Nurse Association .....	112,811.39
Johns Hopkins University—Eastern Health District .....	20,480.00
Laboratory services—hospital or private .....	87,000.00†
Maryland Chapter—National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis .....	49,811.41
Maryland Division—American Cancer Society .....	55,326.43
Maryland League for Crippled Children .....	68,032.96
Maryland Rheumatic Fever Association .....	7,468.08
Maryland Society for the Prevention of Blindness .....	9,806.14
Maryland Tuberculosis Association .....	92,800.00
Mt. Pleasant Sanatorium—city cases .....	101,906.48
Pasteurization plants—farm and laboratory control .....	115,000.00†
Veneral disease control—hospital dispensaries .....	100,000.00†
	\$907,483.08

Total..... \$2,798,773.30

This \$2,798,773.30 added to the City Health Department expenditures of \$1,729,814.97 gives an estimated total of \$4,528,588.27 or \$4.73 per capita. This does not include large expenditures for water purification or sewerage, or for general hospital and medical care services rendered by the City Welfare Department.

† Approximate figure.

### Personnel

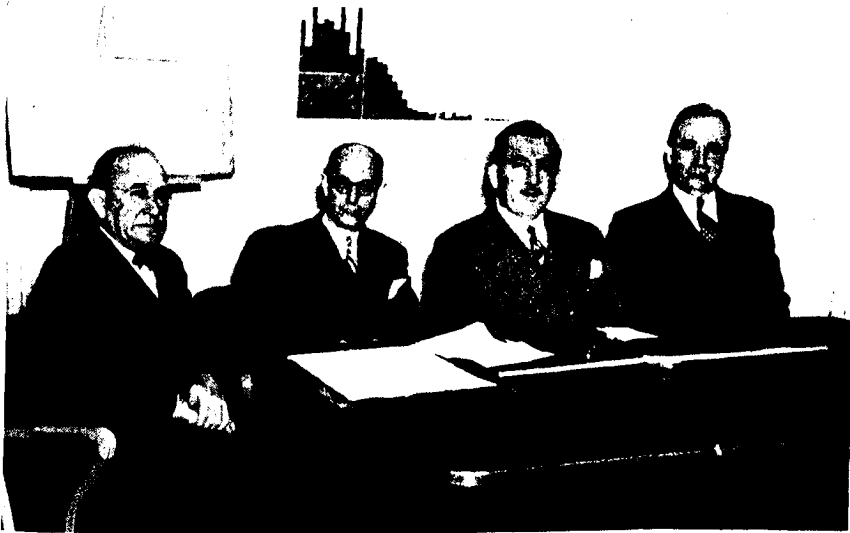
Dr. J. Wilfrid Davis became Director of the Medical Care Section on June 2 after the resignation of Dr. Wendell R. Ames. Dr. Davis received this promotion after more than four years of outstanding service as Director of the Bureau of Communicable Diseases. Dr. Myron G. Tull was transferred from Sydenham Hospital on May 24 to become Administrative Health Officer in the Bureau of Communicable Diseases and served as acting bureau director after the transfer of Dr. Davis to Medical Care. On September 27 Dr. George A. Silver was appointed Health Officer of the Eastern Health District and replaced Dr. Harry L. Chant who had resigned on June 15 to become Director of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Medical Care Clinic. Dr. Konstantin Sparkuhl, Assistant Health Officer of the District, resigned on May 28, and Dr. Elizabeth Woodward left the Bureau of Child Hygiene on August 19. Dr. Francis F. Schwentker, Pediatrician-in-Chief of the Johns Hopkins Hospital, resumed his connection with the City Health Department on July 1 when he was made Associate Medical Director at Sydenham Hospital to assist Dr. Horace L. Hodes, Medical Director, in the research program of the hospital.

By approval of the Board of Estimates and the City Service Commission the health information service was raised to a bureau level with the appointment of Isadore Seeman as bureau director on April 26. Sidney M. Norton replaced Mr. Seeman as Director of the Bureau of Vital Records on May 3. The new Bureau of Biostatistics was headed by its first director with the appointment of Matthew L. Taback on December 1. William

Sallow was promoted on July 23 to become Chief of the Division of Rodent Control, and on September 1 Miss Eleanor L. McKnight was appointed Chief of the Division of Nutrition. Miss Martha C. Eaton rendered valuable service as Head Statistician in the Medical Care Section from May 21 to December 28.

### Health Information

In anticipation of the growing value of television as a medium for the broad dissemination of health information, the Commissioner of Health



#### THE HEALTH TELEVISION SERIES IS INAUGURATED

Left to right: Dr. Charles W. Maxson, *President of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland*, the Commissioner of Health, Mayor Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr., and Dr. Walter D. Wise, *Chairman of the Council of the Faculty*.

proposed to the officials of the Baltimore Sun Station WMAR-TV and to the President of the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland the inauguration of a regular series of television health programs. The introductory telecast on December 15 and the subsequent programs which began on December 21 and 28 have been under the joint auspices of the City Health Department and the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty. This new series supplements the weekly radio broadcasts which have continued without interruption since their inauguration in 1932 under the same joint sponsorship. The scripts for the television dramas, under the general title "Your Family Doctor," were written by the director of health information who also played the role of "Dr. John Worthington," the



fictitious family doctor of the series. Each dramatization focuses on important facts in the prevention or cure of disease.

A two-day conference and demonstration on rodent control was held on April 8 and 9 with thirty-seven representatives of health and sanitation agencies from fifteen nearby cities in attendance. This conference was opened by Mayor D'Alesandro in the Board of Estimates room and was conducted under the joint auspices of the City Health Department and the Baltimore Rodent Control Coordinating Committee. Its purpose was to emphasize the importance of a thorough environmental control program for the elimination of rats in a city.



“YOUR FAMILY DOCTOR”

“Dr. John Worthington” and his office nurse “Miss Ross”  
December 15, 1948

A summary of other health information activities during 1948 includes the following:

1. The publication of *Baltimore Health News* and its distribution to a mailing list of approximately 10,000 persons each month, including all of the physicians in the city. Special features published during the year were the report on a plan for the dental care program for school children, the first medical care contracts with hospitals, an article reviewing the special surveys and studies conducted in the Eastern Health District, the “Outline of Mental Hygiene” used in seminars with public health nurses, a review of the De-

partment's housing program since 1939, and an article on the facilities for the care of tuberculous patients in the state.

2. Department press releases which resulted in the publication of 403 articles in the city-wide and neighborhood newspapers. Many of these articles were based on the "Saturday Letters to the Mayor" which were sent each week and contained current vital statistics and brief messages on disease prevention, medical care or community sanitation.
3. The issuing of two new leaflets, one for the medical care program and one for instruction in the use of DDT for the treatment of head lice. A total of 545,045 pieces of City Health Department literature was distributed by department personnel and through the public and parochial schools and the leaflet racks.
4. The preparation of an exhibit on housing which was included in the Peale Museum display "Baltimore Housing—Past, Present and Future" from April 12 to July 1. Thereafter this Health Department exhibit was on tour and was shown at nine locations during the remainder of the year. Other exhibits were prepared for a regional meeting of the American Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, and for the Food Show. A total of more than 100 health panels was put on display in 50 exhibits during 1948. A copy of the new poster on the prevention of lead poisoning in children was made by the silk screen process for each well baby clinic.
5. The editing and distribution of the ANNUAL REPORT of the Department for 1947 to city officials and to reference libraries. The summary report of the Commissioner of Health, under the title GUARDING THE HEALTH OF BALTIMORE, was mailed to each physician in the city and to other persons on a mailing list of about 3,000 names. Copies of this summary report, issued annually since 1931, are used daily by the various bureaus and districts of the Department and are basic introductory material for the many visitors and students interested in Baltimore's public health work.
6. Talks on public health given by Department staff members to 592 groups which reached approximately 27,000 persons. These included lectures and seminars for students in medicine and public health as well as discussions for community organizations.
7. Requests for 82 public health film showings during the year, many of which included arrangements for a speaker from the Department.
8. Two special local observances of health significance in East Baltimore, Health Week in March and Health Day during Community

Week in December. Cooperation was also furnished in local programs for the following nation-wide health celebrations: Cancer Control Month, Child Health Day, Heart Week, the March of Dimes, Negro Health Week, Public Health Nursing Week, Syphilis Control Day and the Tuberculosis Seal Sale.

9. Editorial and library service made available to the administrative staff of the Department and supervision of an active duplicating and stencil service.

### Laboratories

The number of laboratory examinations made by the Department for medical—diagnostic and sanitary enforcement purposes increased by more than 12,000 over the figure for 1947. A total of 243,240 examinations of 153,288 specimens and samples was completed in 1948. Special assistance of an emergency nature was given to a large hospital over a six-months period during an acute personnel shortage when the hospital laboratory

EMANUEL KAPLAN, Sc.D.

Chief, Division of Chemistry  
Since August 1, 1934



was unable to perform needed tests for tuberculosis. In addition, the bureau cooperated with the Infectious Disease Division of the National Institutes of Health by supplying 175 positive syphilitic blood specimens for a study of rickettsial antigens.

Diagnostic and other services included the examination of 108,336 specimens of blood and spinal fluid for syphilis; 4,997 smears and 7,316 cultures for gonococcus infections; 11,703 specimens for tuberculosis; 1,240 cultures for diphtheria; 716 agglutination tests for infectious mononucleosis; 68 animals for rabies; and 16,188 samples of milk, food products and industrial or other materials.

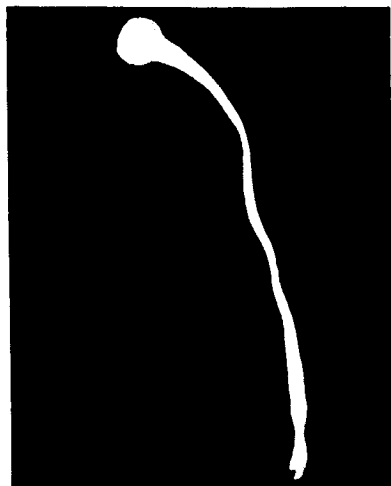
In the Division of Chemistry 31,885 examinations were made of 10,821

samples representing increases of 15.1 per cent in examinations and 5.1 per cent in samples. A total of 5,611 samples of pasteurized milk was ex-



FIVE FEET (3 LENGTH) OF TAPEWORM

amined by the phosphatase test and in only 2 instances was there evidence of faulty pasteurization. Out of the 481 other samples of pasteurized



HEAD AND UPPER INCH OF WORM

cream, chocolate milk or other dairy products tested, only one gave a phosphatase reaction which indicated slight underpasteurization. Anal-