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NEW YORK CITY
1866 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH 1966
CENTENNIAL



The Board of Health in Session - Receiving Reports of the Inspectors, At Police Headquarters, Mulberry Street, New York

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Chronology
of
New York City
Department of Health

(and its predecessor agencies)

1655 - 1966



ARTHUR BUSHEL, D.D.S, M.P.H.
Acting Commissioner of Health
March, 1966

FOREWORD

This chronology was set up as a convenient reference to answer many questions that arise regarding the date when specific events occurred in the Department of Health and as an outline which in itself is fascinating. It is not intended as a history or social document, but establishing dates should serve to lead quickly to sources where events can be put into the context of the period in which they occurred.

To provide perspective, selected events before 1866, when the Metropolitan Board of Health was established, are cited. To convey some time sense, occasional references are made to happenings outside the field of public health.

Names of important contributors to the Department have been limited to early pioneers. There is included as an addendum, the names of the Presidents of the Board and the Commissioners of Health with their terms of office.

Major credit for this chronology goes to Miss Margaret McMahon, who culled the facts from printed annual reports of the Department, other reference books, and narrative histories prepared by the Directors of the Department's various Bureaus.

*Arthur Bushel, D.D.S., M.P.H.
Acting Commissioner of Health*

March 2, 1966

Chronology of Important Events
New York City Department of Health
and Its Predecessor Agencies
1655 - 1966'

- 1657 Activities of the Bureau of Sanitary Inspections originated to some degree with an ordinance forbidding inhabitants of this city to throw garbage and other refuse in the streets.
- 1755 First quarantine law passed. All vessels having cases of contagion aboard were quarantined at Bedloes Island. Physicians were appointed to inspect all shipping.
- 1783 *War of Independence won. Peace treaty signed by Great Britain and the United States at Paris on September 3rd. Washington bids farewell to the officers of his army at Fraunces Tavern in New York City on December 4th.*
- 1784 By legislation, the State government appointed a Health Officer of the Port to enforce quarantine measures.
- 1795 First death records filed. They included 718 deaths resulting from a yellow fever epidemic.
- Dr. Richard Bayley*, Health Officer of the Port, attributed the yellow fever epidemic to the filthy condition of the city and the crowded dwellings of the poor.
- 1796 Physicians were required to report infectious diseases.
- The Legislature empowered the Common Council to make ordinances to cleanse the city. A Health Office Commission of seven men was appointed to administer the quarantine regulations.
- 1799 Inspectors of lots were appointed to check on the keeping of the sanitary ordinances of the Common Council and the Health Office Commissioners. Later, the membership of Health Office Commission was reduced to three, the Health Officer of the Port, the Resident Physician of Staten Island Hospital and the Assistant Resident Physician.
- 1803 Reporting of interments was required.
- Continuous file of death records was started with reports of burials within the city.
- 1804 Death certificate of Alexander Hamilton who was fatally wounded in a duel with Aaron Burr on the morning of July 11th, was filed. Hamilton was attended by Dr. David Hossack, the first Professor of Medicine at the College of Physicians and Surgeons.
- The Legislature empowered the Common Council to make sanitary ordinances and as a result the first City Inspector was appointed.

* Father of Mother Elizabeth Seton, foundress of "The Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul", who was recently beatified by the Roman Catholic Church.

1805 The Common Council by authority of the Legislature appointed a Board of Health to consist of the three State appointed Health Commissioners and such others as the Council thought proper.

1807 A physician attending a person in his last illness was required by legislation to leave a note with the family, giving name, age and cause of death of deceased, for submission to sextons of places of interment.

Sextons of all cemeteries required to file a report of burials with the City Inspector each week by Saturday noon. Penalties were imposed upon delinquent physicians and sextons.

The City Inspector was required to obtain reports of births and marriages. A penalty of \$25.00 was established for failure of physicians or midwives to register with the City Inspector. A \$50.00 penalty was stipulated for neglect to supply the City Inspector with records of births attended upon request.

1820 Health Wardens appointed for inspection of houses and lots, etc.

1838 City Inspector Henry G. Dunnell recommended prohibition against the removal of bodies from the City without transmittal of death certificates to his office.

1842 City Inspector John H. Griscom demanded that occupation of deceased be noted on death records to identify occupational hazards.

Griscom recommended replacement of politically important health wardens by medical doctors to be known as Health Inspectors.

1844 First private bath in an American hotel introduced at the New York Hotel.

1847 Legislation was enacted at the insistence of City Inspector Cornelius B. Archer requiring direct reporting of births and marriages by physicians, midwives and clergymen.

One-third of all deaths seen to occur in July-September. Excess of male mortality emphasized, even in prenatal life.

Need was expressed for adoption of a uniform nomenclature of diseases and the printing and distribution of copies to physicians.

1849 The City Inspector was made an elective official and given "cognizance of all matters relating to the public health".

1850 Comparative mortality rates for certain American cities 1805-1847 included in the City Inspector's annual report.

Law passed prohibiting burials below 86th Street.

The City Inspector was empowered to appoint his subordinates the health wardens.

The Board of Health became the Mayor and the Common Council when acting on matters of public health. The Presidents of the Board of Alderman and Assistant Aldermen, the Health Officer of the Port, the Resident Physician and the Assistant Resident Physician of the hospital on Staten Island and the City Inspectors were made Commissioners of Health.

- 1851 City Inspector A.W. White pointed out the serious deficiency of lack of penalty in the 1847 law, complaining that births reported numbered less than one-third that of "stillbirths and prematures".
- 1852 City Inspector Thomas K. Downing proposed compulsory use of standard form of death certificate, and sent copies of 1847 Act regarding reporting of births and marriages to all physicians and clergymen.
- City Inspector's Department was divided into the Bureau of Records and Statistics and the Bureau of Sanitary Inspections.
- 1853 New vital registration law enacted by State Legislature. Effective registration of births and marriages dates from this law.
- 1855 Law passed prohibiting disinterments without approval of the City Inspector and the Mayor.
- City Inspector George W. Morton recommended more playground facilities for children and the construction of experimental dwellings.
- 1857 Morton urged nativity of parents be reported on death records to permit analysis of deaths by nativity of parents with the idea that children of the foreign born were subject to same injurious illnesses upon health as their parents. High death rate of children under five stressed.
- 1858 Morton complained of overcrowded, ill-ventilated railroad cars.
- 1859 Proceedings before the New York State Senate reported on an investigation of failure of local city authorities to protect the public health.
- Position of Registrar of Records established. (See 1948)
- 1860 City Inspector Daniel E. Delavan noted that large yearly immigration adversely affects New York City mortality rates when compared with rates of other cities.
- Health Department was dissatisfied with the enumeration of New York City in the 1860 Federal Census (814,277). Population was held to be at least 1,000,000.
- 1861 *Civil War begins on April 21st in Charleston, South Carolina.*
- 1863 First chart used in a City Inspector's report showed weekly number of deaths from 1852 to 1863.
- 1864 The Citizen's Association at the behest of Dr. Stephen S. Smith started a

started a thorough sanitary inspection of the City which led to the legislation of 1866 and the founding of the Metropolitan Sanitary District.

Effect of nonresident deaths (those of immigrants at Castle Garden and at Emigrant Refuge) in magnifying the city's mortality rate explained. City-wide mortality shown to be 28 per 1,000; rate in better areas ranged from 10-17 in 1,000 while in tenement houses it ranged from 50-60 in 1,000.

1865 Cholera epidemic broke out in Europe.

President Abraham Lincoln shot by John Wilkes Booth in the Ford Theatre, Washington, on April 14th; dies April 15th.

1866 The State Legislature on February 26, 1866 enacted a bill providing for a Metropolitan Board of Health. The Board consisted of four Commissioners appointed by the Governor, the Health Officer of the Port and the four Police Commissioners.

Archives of City Inspector were transferred to the Metropolitan Board of Health.

Under the Metropolitan Board of Health a new Sanitary Bureau was formed with a Sanitary Superintendent and fifteen Sanitary Inspectors, all of whom were physicians. Dr. Edward B. Dalton was named Sanitary Superintendent.

Dorman B. Eaton, author of the "Metropolitan Health Law" was named counsel and attorney to the Board.

Bureau of Vital Statistics created and Dr. Elisha Harris named Registrar.

Branch of the Board was established in Brooklyn and the archives of the Health Office there transferred to the charge of a Deputy Registrar of Records.

Forms were designed for reporting births, marriages and deaths as well as for burial and transit permits.

A Cholera Epidemic hit the city causing citizens to flee to the suburbs.

Dr. Stephen S. Smith and the "Disinfectant Corps" controlled the disease and public confidence in Metropolitan Board of Health was established.

An intensive campaign to clean up the city was begun. Swill milk establishments were abolished and within eighteen months the Sanitary Superintendent's office issued 23,000 orders to abate nuisances and 5,000 warnings.

A sanitary company of the Metropolitan Police was assigned by the Board to inspection of food markets.

William Farr's nomenclature and classification of diseases approved by the International Statistical Congress was adopted for use in New York

City. Copies were sent to all physicians with a note of explanation.

Tuberculosis, then known as consumption or phthisis, was reported to account for one-fifth to one-sixth of deaths in the city and it was identified as a disease of minority groups and the underprivileged.

The first ambulance service in the city was organized by Dr. Edward B. Dalton, the Sanitary Superintendent, who followed the plan he used to organize the ambulance service of the Army of the Potomac.

Brooklyn's team, the Atlantics, played the Athletics of Philadelphia for the unofficial baseball championship of the United States. Brooklyn won 27 to 10. First deliberate bunt in baseball laid down by Dickey Pearce of the Brooklyn Atlantics.

1867 Sale of adulterated and misbranded drugs was prohibited by the Board.

Second Annual Report of the Board of Health recommended that all hospitals and dispensaries receiving financial assistance from the State be obliged to treat venereal diseases.

New York enacts the first Tenement House Law in the country. (Chapter 908, Laws of 1867)

1868 Board of Health published a sheet of rules for the use of disinfectants upon urging of Dr. Elisha Harris, Registrar of Records.

J. Haven Emerson, M.D., one of the original Sanitary Inspectors appointed by the Board, and father of the future Commissioner and Board member, Dr. Haven Emerson, resigned from his position.

1869 Chemical Laboratory was founded by Dr. Elisha Harris. Board's chemist, Dr. Charles F. Chandler, analyzed the city's water and milk supplies.

1870 By act of the State Legislature (Chapter 137, Laws of 1870) the Metropolitan Board of Health was supplanted by the Health Department which was headed by a Board consisting of the Police Commissioners, the Health Officer of the Port and four Commissioners of Health appointed by the Mayor.

The Department was reorganized with two additional bureaus, Street Cleaning and Sanitary Permits.

The first Sanitary Code (conformation of the laws and regulations of the Metropolitan Board of Health with the 1870 law) was adopted May 18, 1870.

All practicing physicians were required to register with the Bureau of Records and Vital Statistics. (See 1874, 1904, 1958)

Weekly statistical reports continued to this day, were initiated. (See 1913, 1933)

Close scrutiny of death records was established as a condition for the issuance of burial permits. Defective certificates were returned to

physicians. Failure to complete a record satisfactorily led to referral of the case to the Coroner for investigation. Birth and Marriage certificates were also carefully reviewed.

A uniform plan for treating bodies in transit was recommended to Boards of Health and physicians throughout the United States.

Imposition of successively greater fines for repeated neglect to file birth records recommended, with one-half the penalty to be given to the informer and notices of such rewards to be given publicity.

Deaths of children under five years accounted for 48 percent of total mortality. Deaths of children under two years amounted to approximately 40 percent of the total mortality.

1871 Success in reporting of stillbirths ascribed to the requirement for burial permits but failure to report stillbirths of early uterogestation was ascribed to surreptitious disposal or destruction of small fetuses.

1873 Set up of Board and Department changed as a result of a new City Charter, Board was to consist of the President of the Board of Police, the Health Officer of the Port and two Commissioners of Health appointed by the Mayor. Existing rules and regulations governing the Health Department were adopted without material change.

The Commissioners of Health were successful in forcing the daily removal of manure from the city and succeeded in having cellars unfit for habitation vacated.

Bureaus of Street Cleaning and Sanitary Permits were abolished and their duties returned to the Sanitary Bureau.

The Board won legal action allowing it to remove offensive stalls in food markets.

1874 A law was passed May 11, 1874 regulating the practice of medicine and surgery. As a result physicians registering with Bureau of Records and Statistics were required to produce diplomas. (See 1870, 1904, 1958)

High infant mortality in tenement houses gained attention. Extensive statistical tables appeared in the Annual Report stressing deaths of children under 5 years of age.

At the instigation of Dr. Elisha Harris, a "summer corps" of physicians visited tenement houses during July and August and distributed to mothers a Department circular on infant care. (See 1879).

The Board adopted an ordinance (effective 7/4/76) forbidding slaughtering of animals in the area south of 110th Street, except in abbatoirs approved by the Board.

Rules were promulgated by the Board for examination by the public of

registers of births, marriages and deaths. Schedule of fees for searches and transcripts of such records was set.

The Smallpox Hospital on Blackwell's Island under the control of the Commissioners of Charities and Corrections was transferred to the Health Department and renamed Riverside Hospital. Buildings were renovated and the nursing services of the Sisters of Charity obtained. The Reception Hospital at the foot of East 27th Street was included in the transfer.

Outbreak of Smallpox resulted in the organization of a permanent corps of vaccinators.

Vaccine Laboratory was established and the Board empowered to sell surplus vaccine.

During an outbreak of diphtheria printed leaflets were distributed to the public explaining precautions to be taken against the spread of the disease.

1875 Extensive statistical study of pneumonia done by Dr. Francis Delafield appeared in the Annual Report.

Sanitary inspection of schools was undertaken.

Surveillance of rabid dogs undertaken by the Sanitary Bureau.

1876 Court upheld the authority of the Department to regulate milk to prevent adulteration.

1879 Summer Corps of Physicians established with the "Tenement House Fund", a yearly sum appropriated by the Board of Estimate as required by the State Legislature. (See 1874)

1880 It was estimated that 75 percent of births occurring in the city were reported.

1881 Four new divisions were created in the Sanitary Bureau: Food Inspection and Offensive Trades, Contagious Diseases, Sanitary Inspections and Plumbing and Ventilation.

Board of Health purchased first steamboat, the "psyche" to transport patients to Riverside Hospital.

President James A. Garfield shot by a disgruntled office seeker on July 2nd; dies September 19th.

1883 Chapter 354 of the General Laws introduced Civil Service to New York State with provision for competitive examinations for public service.

1885 A new and larger plant was established on North Brother Island to take the place of the original Riverside Hospital which had grown too small.

The Board of Health ordered a large new steamboat, the "Mayor Franklin Edson" for its hospital service. The after-cabin of the boat was divided in two so as to permit transportation of two varieties of infectious diseases without danger of mixed infection.

- 1886 An Inspector of Schools and Institutions was appointed and inspection of child care institutions by the Department of Health became routine. Examination of youths applying for working papers was initiated.
- 1887 The Department erected Willard Parker Hospital.
- An article describing the operation of intubation as performed in Health Department hospitals in the treatment of diphtheria cases published.
- 1888 Four Consulting Pathologists: Drs. T. Mitchell Prudden, Herman M. Biggs, E.G. Janeway and Horace P. Loomis appointed to the Department.
- Blizzard cripples New York City. Transportation and communication lines completely disrupted.
- 1889 Dr. Biggs and his colleagues reported confirmation that tuberculosis was a communicable disease caused by a germ, and was not hereditary. Recommendations of Dr. Biggs accepted as basis for tuberculosis control plan.
- 1890 Registry for Tuberculosis deaths set up.
- An economy drive had eliminated printed annual reports from 1881 to 1888. However, vital statistics for the decade were preserved and printed in the 1890 report.
- The city, dissatisfied with Federal Census count of 1,515,301, had the Police Department take a municipal census which enumerated 1,710,715 persons.
- An epidemic of influenza (La grippe) caused an increase of 30 percent in deaths of persons over 25 years of age. Children seemed not to be affected. The increases were demonstrated particularly in deaths from other respiratory conditions, bronchitis, pneumonia and phthisis.
- Annual report states that 1,200,341 pounds of meat and 1,056,076 pounds of other food had been condemned by the Sanitary Bureau.
- 1891 Tuberculin testing of cattle to prevent infected milk and meat became accepted procedure.
- 1892 The Division of Plumbing and Ventilation was transferred to the Department of Housing and Buildings.
- The Department pioneered in the development of "certified" milk. Board embargoed milk from a dairy on which tuberculous cows were discovered. Experiments by Drs. Prudden and Biggs proved bovine T.B. was transmitted in milk from the diseased cows.

An outbreak of Asiatic Cholera in Hamburg, Germany resulted in 8,200 deaths. Five steamships from Hamburg were detained in New York Harbor because of Cholera aboard.

An emergency laboratory for the diagnosis of suspected cases of Cholera was established by the Department under Dr. Herman Biggs. The laboratory was continued after the epidemic and became the world's first Municipal Bacteriological Laboratory. (See 1966)

Charles E. Duryea finishes his gasoline buggy in Springfield, Mass. First American made automobile.

1893

Dr. Roger S. Tracy, Deputy Registrar of Records, caused vital statistics for small homogeneous areas called sanitary districts to be tabulated by race, nationality, social conditions, housing drainage and vicinity of nuisances. Need for health administration on a district basis was first emphasized.

All time high in number of suicides noted and ascribed to the financial panic of the year. The County was in a severe depression by the end of the year.

Dr. Biggs called for (1) a corps of medical inspectors to visit homes of both living and deceased tubercular patients to instruct the families and to consult with physicians treating such patients (2) free bacteriological examination of sputum by Health Department (3) hospital facilities under Health Department auspices for treatment of tubercular patients. These recommendations were adopted and control measures were carried out by the Divisions of Contagious Diseases and Medical Sanitary Inspections of the Sanitary Bureau.

Dr. William Hallock Park was brought to the Department to head the new laboratory.

Measures for the systematic bacteriological examination of all suspected cases of diphtheria were adapted by the Board with the cooperation of private physicians.

Dr. Park devised diagnostic outfits for making throat cultures which were made available in drugstores for private physicians.

First Infant Milk Station opened by Nathan Strauss.

1894

Registry of tuberculosis cases was established and physicians were urged to report cases coming to their attention.

Biggs initiated an educational program for tuberculosis control employing newspaper publicity, leaflets and public lectures illustrated with slides.

The laboratory began sputum examinations for tubercle bacilli, examinations for gonococci, malaria and typhoid fever and gave vaccine against rabies.

Park's work led to establishment of diagnosis by culture.

Park immunized the first horses for production of diphtheria antitoxin in this country and soon produced serum of a higher grade than any in the world.

New York City vital statistics office was first such office in the world to use electric tabulating devices.

1895 First diphtheria antitoxin serum was used in Willard Parker Hospital on January 1, 1895. By the end of the year ample supplies were available to private physicians and to the needy.

Legislation was passed allowing the Department to produce and distribute diphtheria antitoxin and other antitoxins and to sell any surplus. Use of antitoxin fund made the laboratory one of the foremost research bacteriological and immunological institutions in the world. (See 1955, 1908)

The work of Park and Dr. Alfred L. Beebe on the role of the carrier in the spread of diphtheria constituted the first large-scale attack on the problem based on a statistically significant number of cases.

The Board of Health established the "Hospital Laboratory" at the foot of East 16th Street near Willard Parker Hospital.

Tenement House Act required two annual inspections of each tenement house by Health Department inspectors.

1896 An amendment to the Sanitary Code required a permit for selling milk.

Spitting in public places prohibited by the Board.

A large number of accidental deaths were attributed to cable cars, especially at the corner of 14th Street and Broadway, which became known as "dead man's curve". A constant and large increase in deaths by suicide was noted, particularly among people of German ancestry. Their favorite methods were shooting or hanging.

For the first time, births were tabulated by wards for calculation of birth rates. Extremely high rates were observed in wards inhabited mostly by Russian Jews.

The annual report for 1896 summarized population, death, birth, and marriage data from 1790 to 1896, and included statements concerning contagious and infectious diseases reported 1874-1896 and temperature and rainfall 1822-1896 with dates of maxima and minima.

1897 Reporting of tuberculosis cases made compulsory for private physicians and institutions.

Anti-contagion service was begun in the elementary schools. Sanitary inspectors visited schools and excluded thousands of children for pediculosis, ringworm, scabies, impetigo and trachoma.

Lillian Wald of Henry Street Settlement set up demonstrations in several schools which were staffed by visiting nurses for follow-up purposes. (See 1902)

- 1898 Consolidation Act passed by the New York State Legislature. New York City's boundaries were extended to include the five counties, New York, Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Richmond.
- Charter provided for vital statistics registration offices under Assistant Registrars in each county under general jurisdiction of Registrar from whose office all papers and reports were to be issued.
- Formation of Greater New York brought decentralization of all the divisions in the Sanitary Bureau except Laboratories. Assistant Sanitary Superintendents were appointed for each borough. Much time and effort was devoted to taking over supervision of health facilities in the towns and villages incorporated into the City by the new law.
- Bindery established in Bureau of Records and Statistics.
- Title of Burial Permit Clerk established. (See 1902)
- The Department acquired Kingston Avenue Hospital in the Borough of Brooklyn.
- Analyses and reports made by the Department on medicines sold without prescriptions.
- Barren Island on which establishments for the disposal of offal and dead animals were situated was made a project of abatement.
- 1899 First automobile death recorded.
- Reporting of births "among so-called upper classes" said to be "of comparatively infrequent occurrence".
- 1900 Inspectors of the Office of Contagious Diseases on night duty ordered to issue burial permits in emergency cases.
- Regulations adopted for cleanliness of saloons, lodging houses and boarding houses.
- 1901 *President William McKinley shot by anarchist while attending Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo on September 6th; dies July 14th.*
- 1902 First use of birth records for systematic visits by the "summer corps" to families of infants six months of age or younger.
- First fireproof vault (a remodeled swimming tank) and a fireproof elevator were provided for vital records.
- New and vigorous enforcement of birth registration law undertaken. Physicians and midwives were summoned to the Bureau of Records to explain delinquency in filing certificates.

Title of Burial Permit Clerk changed to Medical Clerk.

Supervision of tenement houses relinquished to new Tenement House Department (See 1914, 1965) which was staffed with a considerable number of Health Department Sanitary Inspectors.

Dr. Park and L. Emmett Holt's research on the relationship between infant mortality and bacteria in milk showed that "Cholera Infantum" was not caused by a single specific pathogenic organism but was due to large numbers of ordinarily harmless bacteria which the delicate mucosa of children could not withstand.

Method for purifying and concentrating antitoxic sera was developed and adopted shortly by all laboratories.

Dr. Anna Williams devised the method of examining brain tissue smears for Negri bodies (organisms seen in brain tissues of animals dying of rabies).

First clear classification of different types of dysentery bacilli made by Dr. Park.

New York City established the first municipally supported school nursing service. Emphasis was placed on finding defects by routine examination of all children in schools. (See 1897)

The Board of Health hired the nation's first Public Health Nurse, Miss Lina L. Rogers, and created a new profession.

An experiment in control of communicable diseases stressing personal cleanliness and hygiene in four schools with 4,400 pupils in the worst slum of the city was undertaken by Miss Rogers with extraordinary success. A 98 percent reduction of children excluded from school attributed to this new program.

Eleven more nurses were added to the staff and Miss Rogers made Supervising Nurse. The Department began to establish treatment clinics in the schools.

Country Milk Inspection begun.

Bottled water and carbonated beverages regulated for the first time.

Two sanitary inspectors were assigned to the inspection of wholesale food establishments

1903 Closing of schools in the summer months released 30 school nurses who visited newborn babies and their mothers. It was estimated that 1200 more babies survived this summer than would normally have lived. The Board of Health, besieged with requests from health authorities throughout the country, issued pamphlets describing the experiments.

A corps of nurses was employed to visit "consumptives" too ill to go to work.

The Bureau of General Administration was established under the Secretary. First printed manual of rules and regulations for employees of the Department issued.

Proof of age (birth record or religious record) first required by law for working papers. Educational authorities instituted requirement for birth record for school registration in crowded areas.

Dr. William F. Guilfooy, Registrar of Records, introduced interborough correction of death rates to allow for transborough travel for hospital care. The Bronx recorded rate, for example, was 17.8 per 1,000 population while the resident rate proved to be 14.1. Guilfooy was at least 20 years ahead of his fellow registrars throughout the country with residence allocation.

First in-service training course given by the Bureau of Nursing.

1904 Board of Health passed a resolution requiring physicians employed by hospitals to register with the Department. (1870, 1874, 1958)

The Drug Laboratory was established.

With an appropriation by the Board of Estimate work on indexing of older birth records begun.

Investigation of the sanitary conditions of lodging houses undertaken.

First recruitment and orientation program begun in Bureau of Nursing.

The Board appointed a committee for the investigation of acute respiratory diseases.

A tuberculosis pavilion was opened in Riverside Hospital.

A tuberculosis dispensary was established with nurses in charge and the Department began distribution of free milk and eggs to needy tubercular patients.

Orville and Wilbur Wright made first successful airplane flight near Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

1905 Board required that bodies of persons dying from contagious diseases be sent to the morgue of the Health Department at foot of East 16th Street.

Drainage work was begun in marshland of Staten Island to eradicate mosquitoes. (See 1935, 1946)

The Division of Communicable Diseases was created and given responsibility for the departments programs on tuberculosis, diphtheria, meningitis and pneumonia.

A program was begun to improve the sanitary design and construction of milk processing and handling equipment.

The U. S. Supreme Court upheld the right of the Health Department to require a permit for sale of milk in city by dealers located outside the city.

1906 Communicable disease nursing began as an experiment.

The Municipal Sanitarium at Otisville was established. A tuberculosis clinic was opened adjacent to Health Department Building in Manhattan. Several clinics were opened in Brooklyn.

Stereopticon exhibitions on health were given by the Department in twenty-three of Manhattan's public parks during the summer.

Milk Shed of approved dairy farms and creameries was created for the City. The dairy farm inspection service was set up and a special milk house was required for the farms.

Severe epidemic of cerebro-spinal meningitis led to the organization of a special division of applied therapy for infections of the central nervous system.

First public school teachers were assigned to privately established schools to educate the handicapped.

1907 Inspection for communicable disease amongst school children was delegated entirely to the school nurse and the school health programs were expanded.

A tuberculosis clinic was opened in the Bronx.

Special classes for the blind and partially sighted were established in the public schools and serviced by Health Department staff.

Outbreak of typhoid fever was traced to infection of the Croton water supply. Discovery of the carrier Typhoid Mary by Major George A. Soper of the U. S. Army and her subsequent detention by the New York City Health Department led the Board of Health to establish a system of registration and supervision of typhoid carriers.

Stricter supervision of the Croton watershed was undertaken. The entire Croton supply was disinfected.

A street cleaning strike was called and the Board ordered the Sanitary Superintendent to take over the Street Cleaning Department and do its work. The Sanitary Superintendent was appointed Commissioner of Street Cleaning by the Mayor.

The Board of Health ordered the Registrar of Records not to allow correction on vital records unless it was evident that a mistake had been made originally by the medical attendant or a court order was obtained by the applicant.

Increase in observed cancer mortality ascribed only partly to better diagnosis and certification. "A real increase is noted".

Bureau of Records and Statistics increased its fees to fifty cents for a single copy of a record plus ten cents for each additional copy ordered at the same time. (See 1874, 1928, 1962)

1908 Decrease of 47 percent in the death rate noted since formation of the Metropolitan Board of Health 42 years earlier.

New York Milk Committee opened 31 infant milk stations to cooperate with the Department of Health.

Residence allocation was started for certain selected causes of death: typhoid fever, measles, scarlet fever, whooping cough, diphtheria, pulmonary tuberculosis, cerebrospinal meningitis and pneumonia. Such allocation was also done for all deaths under five years of age. Deaths of nonresidents were still counted in borough of occurrence. (See 1903 and 1914)

Authority to regulate midwifery given to the Department by the Legislature. Many applications for permits were refused because applicants could not fulfill requirements of the Department.

Supervision of licensed foster homes by nurses initiated.

Tuberculin testing introduced in clinics.

Board required that cocaine be sold only on prescription. (Similar requirement for morphine in 1909)

Board set up rules for sale of "pasteurized" milk.

Production of antitoxins and smallpox vaccine begun on farm in Otisville. (See 1895, 1955)

Annual Report shows that there were 263 Public Health nurses on the Department payroll. These nurses were active in most programs of the Department.

Division of Child Hygiene was created on August 8th. This was the first such unit in the world to be established.

School Health programs were expanded and transferred from the Division of Contagious Diseases to the Division of Child Hygiene, which also took over the work of the "Summer Corps". (See 1913, 1938, 1941, 1948, 1949)

Dr. Josephine S. Baker was appointed Director of the new bureau.

School for the Deaf was established by school system and medical services were provided.

Well-baby clinic organized and associated with dispensing of free milk by the Health Department.

"Conference on Summer Care of Babies" was called with representatives from the Departments of Health and Education, settlement houses, dispensaries and hospitals, in an effort to unify infant care programs in the city.

1909 Speech defect classes were started in the public schools with help of

Department of Health personnel.

A study of the dental condition of school children showed almost complete lack of dental treatment among the poorer classes. Teaching of oral hygiene by nurses to children in the schools, and mothers in the home was begun.

Superintendent of school nursing was appointed.

The Board passed a regulation designed to improve sanitary conditions in poultry slaughter houses.

Dr. William F. Guilfooy represented the U.S. as a delegate to the Decennial International Conference to revise the Classification of deaths. (See 1919)

1910 Use of nitrate of silver in the eyes of newborn babies required of midwives.

Every birth reported by a midwife was made the subject of a nurse's visit. School nurses were assigned during the summer months to care for such babies. (See 1953, 1959)

Visiting and instruction of mothers in infant care by nurses begun on a district basis and more revisits were provided for. (See 1940, 1941, 1953, 1959)

"Little Mother's League" was formed in public schools. The little mothers were girls eight years old and over who were taught to care for baby brothers and sisters.

A demonstration project financed by Russell Sage Foundation showed that 50 percent of the "hopeless" babies when taken from an institution and put in a foster home lived.

Fifteen new infant milk stations were opened. These stations had gradually become health education centers for mothers.

Permit required for foster homes.

Division of Milk Inspection created within the Sanitary Bureau.

Eight new Tuberculosis clinics were opened and the staff of physicians and nurses was enlarged.

"Anemic" or "open window" classes in schools were inaugurated to decrease the incidence of tuberculosis.

The Board of Health gave permission for internes serving on the resident staffs of hospitals to sign death certificates.

Division of Pathology, Bacteriology and Disinfection was abolished and the Division of Laboratories came into being. The Division with two subdivisions, the Bacteriological and Chemical Laboratories, was headed by a

Director of Laboratories.

First Laboratory building at Otisville completed.

Bureau of Hospitals created.

Board of Consulting Statisticians, appointed by the Commissioner at the suggestion of the Registrar of Records, recommended the reorganization of the bureau with three co-ordinate divisions: the Division of Records, the Division of Research and the Division of Publicity.

Practice of obtaining warrants for the arrest of persons who had violated the Sanitary Code was discontinued. Instead, Magistrates were requested to issue summonses for defendants to appear in court.

1911 Prosecution of 260 actions against physicians and midwives for failure to report births promptly resulted in fines of \$3,185.

Court of Appeals upheld a ruling of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court sustaining the right of the Department of Health to determine what safeguards and regulations should protect the privacy of its records.

Board of Health called for a plan to control venereal disease and the nursing staff was asked to help.

Bellevue Training School for Midwives established. First such school to be operated in this country.

Publication of the Monthly Bulletin for the information and education of private physicians begun. It combined statistical summaries with articles of special health interests and notes of important department activities.

1912 Forty new Infant Milk Stations were opened by the Department making a total of fifty-five municipal stations. These new stations replaced stations discontinued in 1911 by two voluntary agencies.

Infant mortality rate for 1912 was 105 per 1,000 live births, the lowest ever recorded in the city (the rate ten years previously was 181 in 1,000). The decline was most marked in the "diarrheal disease" cases with a particularly noteworthy decrease in infant deaths during the summer months.

An inspection system was set up for the supervision of midwives.

Board adopted a resolution requiring that all milk brought into the city for sale be graded. Grade A was suitable for infant and children. Grade B for adults and Grade C for cooking and manufacturing. The object of the grading system was to extend pasteurization.

Divisions of Food Inspection and Milk Inspection consolidated and separated from the Sanitary Bureau. Several inspectors were assigned to the inspection of wholesale food establishments.

Increase in cancer mortality ascribed to more careful diagnosis and certification. (See 1907)

The Registrar of Records was ordered by the Board of Health to prepare and keep a book for registering licenses of certified undertakers. Rules and regulations relating to the legal duties of undertakers were promulgated. (See 1920, 1954)

Board required that bodies of persons dying of contagious diseases be placed in sealed caskets.

Photostatic process of reproducing birth and death records was introduced.

Hospitals and public institutions were required by the Board of Health to report to the Department cases of venereal disease. Physicians were requested to supply similar information concerning their private patients except that the names and addresses of such patients were not required. Board's resolution made such information absolutely confidential and not accessible to the public.

Dr. Biggs in a campaign to rid the City of venereal disease placed educational advertisements in newspapers and signs in public lavatories. A laboratory was set up for making serological tests for syphilis and complement fixation tests for gonorrhea.

Printing of the Department's Reprint Series and Monograph Series was begun.

1913 The Divisions of Communicable Diseases and Contagious Diseases were separated from the Sanitary Bureau and combined to form the Bureau of Infectious Diseases with a new Division of Tuberculosis. (See 1914)

Venereal disease clinics were established.

Division of Food Inspection taken from jurisdiction of the Sanitary Bureau and made an independent bureau. (See 1914)

Division of Child Hygiene formerly under the Sanitary Bureau was itself given bureau status. (See 1908, 1938, 1941, 1948, 1949)

A Midwifery Division was created within the Bureau of Child Hygiene and midwives applying for permits to practice after January, 1914 were required to show proof of graduation from recognized schools.

Voluntary organizations withdrew support completely from the infant milk stations and the Department assumed entire responsibility for these stations which had become over the years centers for prenatal instruction. The Division of Infant Milk Stations was established.

Babies Welfare Association, a federation of Child Care Agencies of the City, continued to maintain offices in the Health Department.

"Better Baby Contests" were inaugurated in an attempt to evaluate the health of the City's children. (See 1921)

First budgetary provision for dentistry made. Dr. Baker faced with a failing school dental program decided on a new experiment; the major portion of clinic time was to be used for diagnostic and prophylactic work on children in the first and second grades who would be followed throughout their school life. The new program drew much criticism because it denied care to children in higher grades but was nevertheless continued and formed the basis for the Department's school dental services.

Division of Laboratories was raised to bureau status. The antitoxin and vaccine stables were transferred to the branch laboratory at Otisville. (See 1910)

State law charged the Department with the sanitary supervision of bakeries and the Bureau of Infectious Diseases gave 12,000 physical examinations to employees of this industry during the year.

A permit was required for the business of breaking out eggs for canning, freezing or drying and a definition for inedible "spot" eggs adopted.

Appellate Division sustained the constitutionality of Section 181 of the Sanitary Code prohibiting the discharge of dense smoke.

The Weekly Report which had been devoted exclusively to statistical tables was revised to include reading matter and was renamed the Weekly Bulletin. (See 1870, 1933)

1914

Commissioner Goldwater established Health District #1 in the Lower East Side, on an experimental basis to test a system of local administration. Subsequently, the City was partitioned into Health Districts under Health Officers to provide neighborhood services, thus enabling nurses to combine child hygiene and communicable disease instructions. (See 1916, 1917, 1930, 1934, 1941, 1942, 1951, 1955)

An improved form of stillbirth certificate was prepared "to permit compilation of statistics upon which to base prenatal work". Added to the record were items on occupation of mother during pregnancy, number of previous pregnancies with number of pregnancies resulting in living children and stillbirths, with, for latter, period of gestation and cause of stillbirth.

First cross tabulation of both primary and contributory causes of death was made. Attention was called by the Registrar of Records to the need for the Department to train its forces on the degenerative diseases and the growing accident rate.

The Sanitary Code was amended to provide that affidavits of department chemists should be considered presumptive evidence of the statements therein.

The Bureau of Infectious Diseases was reorganized as the Bureau of Preventable Disease and included the newly set up Division of Industrial Hygiene which contained an occupational clinic. In the early forties the functions of this division were absorbed by the Division of Sanitary Inspection. They had become investigations of complaints regarding hazardous conditions in industrial plants.

Sanitary inspectors once more began routine house to house building inspections throughout the city. Activities of the Sanitary Bureau were revitalized with the appointment of Dr. Haven Emerson as Deputy Commissioner and Sanitary Superintendent. (See 1902, 1965)

Bureau of Health Education was established. This was the first such bureau in the world to be affiliated with a public health agency. Dr. Charles Bolduan was appointed Director. The bureau employed in-service-training lectures, lectures to school students and factory workers, exhibits, weekly and monthly bulletins and material for feature stories in magazines.

"Baby Week" and "Clean up Week" were proclaimed during this year. Lantern slides and movies were shown in movie houses. Leaflets on vaccination were distributed to parents. Leaflets and letters on general health and sanitation were distributed to food handlers, lodging housekeepers and saloon keepers throughout the city. Issuance of news releases to newspapers was made a function of the Bureau. Mats were provided for a featured column entitled "Dr. Knickerbocker" which appeared weekly in the city's papers.

Bureau of Food Inspection was reorganized as the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

Sanitary Code defined grade standards for the sale of pasteurized and raw milk; dating of milk was required. (See 1960)

The Sanitary Code, amended to require proper sanitation in all restaurants, specified that all eating and drinking utensils be washed in clean water after each use.

Introduction of soft coal as fuel in New York City caused new air pollution problem. (See 1918, 1949)

Division of Research and Efficiency established. (See 1945, 1948, 1956, 1959)

1915

Lusitania, British Cunard Liner, sunk by German submarine off Irish Coast on May 7th; 1,198 lives lost of which 124 were Americans. Two years later on April 6, 1917 the United States declared war on Germany and entered World War I.

Division of Statistical Research headed by Shirley W. Wynne, M. D. was established within Bureau of Records and Statistics.

Births and deaths occurring in the borough of Manhattan were tabulated according to sanitary districts to afford mortality and birth statistics for small areas. They were also tabulated by occupation. (The sanitary district boundaries conformed with those of the federal census tracts)

First census of illness in the city and possibly in the country, taken in Health District #1.

The Chemical Laboratory was transferred from the Bureau of Laboratories to the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

Food inspection activities began to emphasize prevention of adulteration, deterioration and misbranding rather than condemnation. (See 1937, 1943, 1946, 1958)

Comprehensive regulations enacted for conduct of cattle slaughter houses. These remain substantially unchanged today. (See 1874)

Sanitary Code revision required that children admitted to school present a health certificate from a licensed physician (private physician or school physician).

The Board of Health declared 540 miles of New York City's 576 miles of waterfront unfit for bathing.

Health Department exhibit won a grand prize at the Panama Pacific Exhibition.

Reorganization brought centralization of the business functions of the various bureaus of the Department under the Bureau of General Administration.

The Sanitary Code established basic requirements for retail food sanitation substantially as they exist today.

Foodhandlers were required to submit to a physical examination by a Medical Inspector of the Department if the inspector deemed it necessary. In 1916 examinations by private physicians were accepted provided the examinations complied with Department regulations. (See 1923, 1934)

Dr. Haven Emerson, a teetotaler and ardent supporter of prohibition was appointed Commissioner of Health. Arrangements were made to conduct an "Alcohol Week". (See 1866)

Emerson in his annual report emphasized the need for physicians to overcome unwillingness because of social prudery and misplaced medical sympathy to report as causes of death such preventable diseases as alcoholism and syphilis, "otherwise serious error will exist in mortality statistics."

1916 For each newly filed certificate of birth a Certificate of Birth Registration was sent to the parents with the object of improving registration. It was theorized that a mother who did not receive a certificate for her child would inquire about it at the registration office. (See 1935, 1945)

Births were first indexed by hospital of birth or residence of mother in addition to name.

Births and stillbirths for Manhattan first tabulated by punched cards and electric sorter. (See 1894 and 1935)

City experienced its worst poliomyelitis epidemic, 9,023 cases were reported. (See 1931, 1935, 1944, 1949)

Division of Health Districts was created and Commissioner Haven Emerson delineated four additional districts in Queens to further localize the public health program of the Department. (See 1914, 1917, 1930, 1934, 1941, 1942, 1951, 1955)

A film of the work of the Bureaus of Food and Drugs and Laboratories was made by the Universal Film Company and shown throughout the country.

The Board authorized seizure and condemnation of adulterated and mis-branded drugs, medicines and poisons. Hair dyes and cosmetics were also regulated.

1917 Fifty Health Department physicians took training courses for the position of Health Officer and a number of Health Officers were assigned on full-time basis.

Public Health Division of the Municipal Reference Library was established and absorbed the Health Department collection of books and research material which was then opened to the public. (See 1936, 1961)

Rapid method of typing pneumococci was developed in the Department laboratories.

Regulations were passed requiring permit for manufacture and sale of frozen desserts.

Dental Hygienists were added to the Department staff.

Cardiac classes were started by Bureau of Child Hygiene.

Demand for copies of birth records rose markedly in connection with the draft. Applications for delayed registration of births also increased and the requirement for documentary evidence in support of delayed registrations was introduced.

The Board required that proper antidotes appear on labels of poisons sold in the city.

City meat inspection program for interstate meat shipments was instituted.

1918 Death rate rose to 16.7 per 1,000 population as a result of the influenza epidemic which was the worst ever experienced in New York City. Deaths in the weeks of October 20, October 27 and November 3 were three, four and five times normal. Practically all work in Bureau of Records and Statistics was suspended and every available clerk set to issuing burial permits. (See 1890, 1957)

Puerperal septicemia was made a reportable disease by the Board of Health.

Program of district health administration abolished. (See 1914, 1916, 1917, 1930, 1934, 1941, 1942, 1951, 1955)

The Department required notification by telephone of cases of abortion attended at a public institution.

With the help of the Maternity Center Association, Manhattan was divided into 10 maternity zones and 22 centers, to provide care and education to expectant mothers and to eliminate overlapping of effort in this field.

Programs begun to give care to preschool children in the child health stations.

Sections 211-212 of the Sanitary Code, the anti-smoke ordinances, were passed as a result of the nuisance created by the use of soft coal. (See 1914, 1949)

Shick Testing introduced in baby stations as a result of high death rate for diphtheria.

Service in World War I reduced nursing staff. Much time of administrative nursing staff devoted to training of personnel.

1919

Exhaustive studies were unsuccessful in identifying the causative micro-organism of the world-wide influenza epidemic of 1918.

Decentralizing tendencies vested more responsibility in the borough offices of the Department.

Infant Milk Stations were renamed "Baby Health Stations" and charged with the care of children from the prenatal period until school entrance.

A "Food Factory Squad" was organized in Bureau of Food and Drugs to supervise wholesale food processing plants.

Dr. Guilfooy, Registrar of Records, was U.S. delegate to the Decennial International Conference to revise the classification of deaths. (See 1909)

1920

Supervision of mothers for one month after delivery was begun by department nurses while prenatal supervision of mothers undertaken in Brooklyn on a larger scale.

A New York City population of 5,621,151 established by Federal census was disputed by the city. Enumeration of 106 areas by city employees demonstrated under-reporting in 70 percent of the areas, but complete enumeration was not possible. (See 1890)

The Health Department Pension Fund was closed to additional members with the establishment of the New York City Employees Retirement System.

The Board of Health passed a resolution requiring undertakers to obtain

business permits from the Department. (See 1912, 1954)

A Division of Food Standards and Nutrition was established in the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

Stringent regulations for operation of Poultry Slaughter Houses adopted by the Board.

Sale of adulterated and misbranded shellfish prohibited by the Board.

Prohibition, the 18th amendment, went into effect midnight January 16th. (It was repealed by the 21st amendment in 1933).

1921 A "Better Baby Contest", held to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the American Public Health Association, included 35,000 babies. Prize babies received special medals.

East Harlem Center Study sponsored by the American Red Cross was designed to coordinate voluntary and municipal health and welfare work in a given area and to eliminate gaps in service. All participating agencies, including the Department of Health housed their activities under one roof. This study showed the benefits to be derived from a generalized rather than a specialized nursing service. (See 1926)

Mental hygiene was introduced as a department service in the East Harlem Center Study. (See 1949)

Shellfish shippers required to register source of their supplies and to obtain permit to sell in New York City.

Agreement reached with the Board of Education whereby all dental clinics in the public schools were placed under the control of the Department

1922 Bureau of Health Education designed and managed an exhibition held by the Department at the 23rd Regiment Armory. Since this time health exhibits have been shown at APHA Annual Meetings and the Conference of State Health Officers.

New York City opened its own radio station, WNYC. Continuous weekly programs on health begun.

A five man Patent Medicine Committee was set up to deal with illegal practices in the labeling, advertising and sale of patent medicines.

The Board passed regulations controlling the sale and possession of hypodermic syringes and needles and prohibited over-the-counter sale of veronal, luminal, sulfonal, trional and tetranal.

Department required reporting of cases of food poisoning.

Registration of x-ray laboratories required. (See 1958)

1924 Supervision of clinical laboratories begun. (See 1954)

Twelve prenatal clinics were established with funds provided by the State of New York under the provisions of the national Sheppard-Towner Act of 1921. These were the first Federal funds obtained by the New York City Health Department. (See 1927, 1940, 1952, 1961, 1964)

Typhoid outbreak led to the establishment of the Shellfish Division. Taking of shellfish in local waters was prohibited.

1925 Studies showed that fewer than 22% of defects found in school children were being corrected. Effectiveness of a program which concentrated on a routine annual examination of school children was debated. (See 1936, 1941)

1926 Enabling Act passed by Board of Aldermen authorized the Board of Health to institute fees for permits it issued and to deposit these fees in the Health Department Pension Fund. (See 1920)

"Tagging" of all shellfish sold in the city to identify source was required by the Board.

A revised Sanitary Code section prohibited sale of any unpasteurized milk except certified.

With assistance of the Milbank Fund, a demonstration clinic was opened in midtown Manhattan and was employed as a training center for new clinic physicians.

An intensive study of pneumococci was undertaken. Twenty-eight new types were identified.

Midwives were visited by district nurses who instructed them in prenatal care and urged them to send their patients to the Department clinics.

A Milbank Fund Study recommended the consolidation of nursing services and the establishment of a Bureau of Nursing headed by a nurse executive. (See 1921)

Administrative Superintendent of Nurses was appointed.

The Bellevue Yorkville Health Demonstration, subsidized by the Milbank Memorial Fund, was opened as a testing ground for district health procedures and activities which were to be a cooperative effort on the part of all public and private health agencies in the area. Practically every known phase of public health activity was included.

Permit was required by the Board for sale of soft beverages.

1927 Teams of dental hygienists were sent into the schools for prophylactic and health education purposes.

Three prenatal centers were opened with state and federal funds. Equipment was provided by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. (See 1924, 1940, 1952, 1961, 1964)

The Department opened its first preschool clinic.

Pneumothorax treatment through "refill" units was set up in certain clinics.

Division of Permits was organized. Fees were instituted for six types of permits. (See 1926, 1950)

Local Law No. 13 amended section 1167 of the Charter of the City of New York (1901) to provide that the Commissioner of Health be the head of the Department of Health. However, jurisdiction over the majority of administrative function remained with the Board of Health because of failure to amend other sections of the Charter which specifically authorized the Board of Health to act in an administrative capacity. (See 1938)

1928

Private funds permitted hiring of help to compile the first index to show the health area in which any address in the city was located. This made possible coding of birth and death certificates by health area and district of residence and resulted in tabulation of vital statistics by small areas.

Revision of the Sanitary Code raised fees for copies of vital records to \$1.00 each plus fifty cents for each additional copy ordered at the same time, the first increase since 1907. (See 1874, 1907, 1962)

The Bureau of Nursing was established and a Director with Civil Service status appointed to head it. The generalized program of nursing service was extended to the entire city and a training center was established for the orientation of new nurses and to provide refresher courses.

The Child Health Stations, manned by qualified pediatricians, became teaching centers for medical students. Nursing students in Public Health at Columbia University received their practical experience in the Department of Health.

The Sanitary Code was amended to require that all eviscerated poultry for canning, processing, or smoking be purchased only from U.S. Department of Agriculture inspected poultry plants.

Three new diagnostic chest clinics with modern equipment and staffs of specialists were opened. Diagnosis service for private physicians was provided for.

The Diphtheria Prevention Commission, a group of distinguished citizens, was organized with funds provided by Milbank Memorial Fund and the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. An impressive anti-diphtheria campaign was begun, 8,500,000 pieces of literature in 10 languages were distributed. Snow removal trucks equipped as clinics and staffed with doctors and nurses visited beaches and congested areas of the city.

1929

The Department's contagious disease hospitals were transferred to the newly created Department of Hospitals.

"Squad Systems" of three inspectors, each trained in a different specialty, were used to examine preschoolers. "Squad Systems" of three physicians and one nurse working together within a district were also inaugurated.

School health service was extended to the vocational high schools.

Teacher observation system was started in the schools. Teachers referred pupils they believed to have specific medical problems to the school doctor.

Radio used extensively as an educational function.

Commissioner Wynne, appointed a Committee on Neighborhood Health Development, financed by the Milbank Memorial Fund, to formulate plans for individual health centers and their gradual establishment. (See 1936)

1930 The Master Plan for building of District Health Centers was adopted. (See 1937, 1960)

A demonstration district health center was opened in Central Harlem. (See 1914, 1916, 1917, 1934, 1941, 1942, 1951, 1955)

The Division of Dental Services was established in the Bureau of Child Hygiene.

Diphtheria toxoid replaced toxin - antitoxin in department clinics.

The second worst poliomyelitis epidemic was experienced by the city; 4,138 cases were reported. (See 1916, 1935, 1944, 1949)

Much emphasis was put on follow-up of venereal disease patients to search for contacts. Most of this work was done by nurses. (See 1943)

Division of meat and poultry inspection was organized in the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

1931 A cardiac clinic for children obtaining working papers opened.

1932 Permits for fumigators and exterminators were required by the Board.

Nutrition education service begun with a demonstration consultant program financed by the American Red Cross. (See 1937, 1941, 1943, 1946, 1949).

Sale of loose milk was prohibited.

Sale of drugs on the street was prohibited.

1933 *FDR inaugurated for first term. The New Deal begins.*

Facilities of Division of Dentistry were expanded to about 100 clinics operating on a part-time basis. Fifty-three dentists and thirteen dental hygienists were employed at clinics for indigent children with funds from the Temporary Emergency Relief Administration.

"Pathway to Corrections" an evaluation of school health services found that there was little coordination between the health services and the education staff. (See 1944)

The Weekly Bulletin was supplanted by a Quarterly Bulletin. (See 1870, 1913)

1934

The tuberculosis service was reorganized because of fear of resurgence of tuberculosis as a result of the depression. The Bureau of Tuberculosis was established, and a central record file set up. A coordinated program of control was mapped out.

Tuberculosis clinics which were renamed "Chest Clinics" participated in public health teaching programs of the Department and routine mass chest x-rays were begun with federal funds.

Full-time directors were appointed to six major bureaus and divisions that for years had been administered by part-time officials.

Three Deputy Commissioners were appointed to share the burden formerly carried by a single Deputy.

The Division of School Hygiene was made a bureau.

Commissioner Rice established seven districts with full-time District Health Officers. Bureau of District Health Administration was created and a director appointed. (See 1914, 1916, 1917, 1930, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1951, 1955).

The Board of Health was reorganized. Until 1934 it was made up of Commissioners of three City Departments and two physicians appointed by the Mayor. The physicians were paid \$50 a session. The Board met weekly. Since 1934 new appointees receive no remuneration and are appointed for eight year terms, the term of one member expiring every two years. Administrative duties formerly handled by the Board were transferred to the various bureaus of the Department and the Board concentrated on matters of major policy. Meetings were reduced to a monthly basis.

The Bureau of Preventable Diseases was reorganized with the aid of a representative from the USPHS and an epidemiological service with a full-time chief was established.

To cooperate with the Academy of Medicine in obtaining information regarding obstetric practice in New York City, the Department added several questions concerning manner of delivery to the bottom of the birth certificate. As soon as these data were taken from the certificates the lower portions were cut off and discarded. So far as known this is the first instance of collection of such data on birth certificates.

1935

The American Public Health Association which had been conducting an appraisal of the Health Department for several years issued a report in which it criticized the Department for its policy of police authority and prosecution rather than health education, lack of minimum quantity of service in nearly all bureaus, paucity of full time heads of bureaus, unequal distribution of services throughout the city and low morale of employees. (See 1952)

The Division of Social Hygiene was made a Bureau.

The fourth largest number of poliomyelitis cases in the city's history was recorded. (See 1916, 1931, 1944, 1949)

The mosquito control program of the WPA gave extensive aid to ditching, installing culverts, opening outlets and filling in large tracts of land, under direction of the Health Department. (See 1905, 1946)

A Federal Census for 1936 was recommended because a grave question arose concerning the reliability of available population estimates which were needed to determine prevalence of disease.

Certificates of birth registration of newborn children were prepared by the Bureau of Records and Statistics and delivered to mothers personally by nurses who explained available Department services to them. (See 1916, 1945)

Provision was made for coding of vital records centrally rather than in borough offices, to insure uniformity. Coding boxes were for the first time printed in margins of death certificates, a practice recommended by Bureau of Census to all other States.

Bimonthly publication "Neighborhood Health" initiated. Copies sent to key health workers in the community. (Discontinued in 1942 for lack of funds).

First Civil Service appointments of "Assistants in Health Education" were made. The assignments were to new district health centers.

The rapid phosphatase test was developed for detection of improperly pasteurized milk.

The addition of water in pumped meats was regulated.

The New Health Department Building was opened at 125 Worth Street on December 31, 1935.

The most modern electric tabulating equipment available at the time, replaced the old equipment which consisted mostly of sorters in the Bureau of Records and Statistics. (See 1894, 1916, 1937)

1936

The Astoria Health Demonstration which developed the fundamental idea of a school health team of physician, nurse, teacher and parent was initiated with the help of private funds. Since the school health service did not include treatment, the importance of getting the parent to follow the guidance of the school health staff was emphasized. Concentration was on children most in need of care. (See 1925, 1941)

The Committee on Neighborhood Health Development organized district committees with specialists in fields of health and social service to help integrate the district health program with community activity. (See 1929)

The Public Health Library moved to 125 Worth Street and began to serve four departments: Health, Hospitals, Sanitation and the Office of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. (See 1917, 1961)

A new laboratory building was erected on East 16th Street and the old building renovated, thus making modern facilities available. (See 1895, 1960)

Pneumonia typing stations were established in the Bureau of Laboratories.

Health Research Inc., a non-profit corporation designed to receive and administer funds for research in association with the Bureau of Laboratories, was organized. A result was the establishment of the Manhattan Convalescent Serum Laboratory. (See 1941)

The Registrar of Records, T.J. Duffield, aided in the formulation of legislation and the subsequent design of forms and procedures to:

Prohibit mention of illegitimacy on birth records

Provide a new birth certificate when parents marry after birth of a child, or a child is adopted or a paternity decree is entered by a court.

Facilitate reports of adoption or of paternity orders by courts to the Commissioner of Health.

Provide for reports of foundlings by the Department of Welfare.

Limit issuance of certified copies of birth records to an individual, his parents or their lawful representative upon specific request therefore - provision for issuance in all other cases of a certification of birth containing only name, sex, date and place of birth.

The Advisory Obstetrical Committee established.

Medical Society of Kings County upon its request was supplied with a weekly list of maternal deaths for investigation. (See 1961)

The Interstate Sanitation Commission was created in an attempt to abate pollution in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut waters.

A sanitary engineer was appointed as Deputy Commissioner in charge of inspection and food and drug services.

Licensing of master plumbers was transferred to the Department of Health.

Investigations of cross connections between water supply and sewerage pipes was undertaken.

1937

Health Department inspectors aided by outside experts conducted a course for personnel employed by the milk and frozen desserts manufacturing industry. (See 1915, 1937, 1943, 1946, 1958)

The Board pioneered in adopting the Self-Inspection Program in the milk industry. (See 1914, 1939, 1946) Self-inspection program for milk receiving plants inaugurated.

Section 140a was added to the Sanitary Code to provide a 10 percent added water standard for preserved meats, to prevent fraudulent adulteration by unscrupulous meat processors. (See 1955)

The Board of Health prohibited the sale of sulfonamides without a prescription.

A study of the health needs of the academic high schools was initiated with funds from the Rockefeller Foundation. The Department was urged to provide medical and nursing service to these schools.

Registration of marriages discontinued by the Bureau of Records.

Bureau of Records and Statistics arranged for distribution of a weekly Vital Statistics Report to the Executive Staff and the District Health Officers.

Weekly lists of deaths were sent to the Departments of Welfare and Housing and Buildings and to the Board of Elections. The Welfare Department used the listing to remove deceased persons from the relief rolls, thus saving \$500,000 a year. The Board of Elections removed names from the eligible voter lists.

Index tabulating cards were used for the first time in the preparation of the annual indexes of births and deaths. Listing permitted reproduction by photo-offset, thus reducing the cost of printing by fifty percent. (See 1935)

An Assistant Director of Laboratories was appointed to take charge of the enlarged service for combating pneumonia mortality. A special appropriation of \$90,000 was made by the city for purchase of anti-pneumococcic sera of various types. Personnel of the Bureau was increased with the appointment of bacteriologists and assistants.

Funds for employee training were procured by the Department under the Social Security Act. A program was organized and a Director of Personnel Training appointed. (Dee 1939, 1957)

Commissioner of Health appointed a committee to survey child and maternal health facilities throughout the city. (See 1938)

One nutrition consultant was included in the Department budget and assigned to Bureau of Nursing. (See 1932, 1941, 1943, 1946, 1949)

By the end of the year, seven permanent health center buildings were completed and opened. (See 1930, 1960)

1938

A new Charter for New York City defined powers and duties of the Commissioner of Health so as to place with him all the powers and duties except those specifically imposed by law on the Board of Health. (See 1928)

The Administrative Code of the City of New York, a compilation of all laws of the city, went into effect January 1, 1938. All provisions of the Code of Ordinances except the Sanitary Code were incorporated with the Administrative code, thus making the Sanitary Code a separate body of law in the city.

Staff of the Department was increased by WPA personnel.

The Board approved the inclusion of confidential medical information on certificates of birth and fetal death. Data included birthweight, period of gestation, mode of delivery and other obstetric facts. (See 1934)

The Bureau of Records and Statistics began to prepare a "composite" card for each neonatal death (death under 28 days). This card includes certain data which appear on the death statistical card and on the birth statistical card to permit the production, on a community-wide basis, of tabulations of neonatal deaths by gestational age, weight at birth and age of mother, parity, mode of delivery, etc.

Twenty-four hour service for the issuance of permits to dispose of bodies was inaugurated in Manhattan.

The Bureaus of Child Hygiene and School Hygiene were merged with Bureau of District Health Administration. Responsibility for the conduct of the district maternal and child hygiene activities was placed directly on the health officers. (See 1908, 1913, 1941, 1948, 1949)

The Committee on Neighborhood Health Development and the Children's Welfare Foundation issued a report "Child Health Services in N.Y.C." in which they recommended discontinuance of the Health Department's prenatal clinics in districts where the expectant mothers could be cared for in hospitals.

A demonstration of the child health service was carried on at the Kips Bay- Yorkville Health and Teaching Center by staff of the Personnel Training Unit with the help of Social Security funds. New methods were tried out and evaluated. Doctors and nurses from the various child health stations were assigned to this unit for one month. Emphasis was placed on clinic administration as well as pediatrics. Wards of Cornell University Medical College pediatric service were used for demonstrations.

A Nursing Staff Education Program was undertaken, financed in part by the Rockefeller Foundation.

District localization of sanitary and food supervision was begun in

Richmond and planned for other boroughs.

Cooperative public health teaching programs were initiated with four of the five medical school centers; Long Island Medical College in the Red Hook-Gowanus District, New York Medical College and Flower Fifth Avenue Hospital in East Harlem, and Cornell University Medical College in Kips Bay-Yorkville District. New York University Medical College also cooperated.

Care of infant and preschool children was consolidated and emphasis was placed on care of the total child. (See 1932)

Mayor LaGuardia appointed a commission for the study of crippled children.

Tuberculin testing was begun in selected high schools.

A special Committee on Prematurity was appointed by the Commissioners of Health and Hospitals, with representatives from eleven of the city's voluntary and municipal hospitals. The Committee made recommendations for minimum standards which hospitals caring for premature infants should meet. Recommendations were incorporated into the Sanitary Code.

Legislation required a serologic test for syphilis for all pregnant women. This test had been routine procedure in Department prenatal clinics for years. Questions concerning the serology tests were placed in the confidential portion of the birth certificate.

The Board prohibited sale of outdated biologicals.

1939 Typhoid Mary died in Riverside Hospital twenty years after her isolation. (See 1907)

A branch office of the Health Department was opened on the World's Fair grounds with a staff of thirty six persons.

Upon suggestion of the Registrar of Records the Board of Health adopted the term "fetal death" to replace the term "stillbirth". (This new terminology was adopted by WHO in 1950)

A new type death certificate containing a confidential medical report of cause of death was put into use in Manhattan on an experimental basis. (See 1947)

Self-inspection requirement for wholesale food processing establishments was adopted. (See 1915, 1937, 1946)

The Department battled to keep diseased dressed poultry out of the city.

The formal training program of the Department terminated during World War II. All training was decentralized. (See 1937, 1957)

1940 Serological tests for syphilis were made by the Bureau of Laboratories

on blood specimens submitted by physicians of the local draft boards.

The Department cooperated with the Armed Forces by giving chest x-rays as part of the pre-induction medical examination.

The Board of Health in Section 118 of the Sanitary Code listed over 40 types of harmful drugs and required that they be sold only on prescription. The code was unique in this respect for there was virtually no parallel in the statutes of other cities, states or at the federal level. (See 1947, 1951)

Prenatal clinics were reduced to eight. Patients were transferred to hospital clinics. (See 1924, 1927, 1940, 1952, 1961, 1964)

New rules adopted for correction of records and delayed registration of birth proved to be the most stringent in the country.

The Visiting Nurse Association undertook to visit mothers of infants born on ward service. (See 1910, 1941, 1953, 1959)

In various health districts, Community Health Educators began to conduct short courses in health problems for staff of social agencies. The need to enlist neighborhood people (volunteers) in health programs was recognized.

A Cardiac Consultation Unit was established in the Department. (See 1947, 1952)

1941

Department functions were reorganized under ten bureaus. The central administrative staff was set up with three Deputy Commissioners and the Secretary. The Bureau of District Health Administration was disbanded and the Director made Consultant in Local Administration. All personnel in the district offices placed under the direction of the District Health Officers who were directly responsible to the First Deputy Commissioner. (See 1914, 1916, 1917, 1930, 1934, 1942, 1946, 1951, 1955)

The Bureau of Child Hygiene once more became a separate unit. It was reorganized with seven divisions: Infant and Preschool, School Health, Dental Service, Crippled Children, Research and Training, Institutions and Foster Homes and Maternal Health. (See 1908, 1913, 1938, 1948, 1949)

All time low death rate of 9.9 was recorded.

Reorganization of Health Research Inc. was effected in order to establish continuity of research through long term, contractual arrangements with the city. In its stead, the Public Health Research Institute came into being, the first American municipal public health research institute. New York State agreed to match funds spent by the city for this arrangement. (See 1936)

A report issued by the Committee for the Study of the Care and Education of Physically Handicapped Children resulted in the transference of responsibility for class placement of the handicapped from the Board of

Education staff to the school health service.

The Division of Generalized Food Inspection was divided into the Wholesale and Retail Divisions. The Board adopted cold storage regulations for food with special provision for pork products. Modern pest control methods were instituted.

The New York City Food and Nutrition Program administered by the Health Department was begun as a cooperative effort with four other departments, Markets, Welfare, Hospitals and Education .

The "Astoria Plan" for school health was extended to the entire city. (See 1925, 1936)

System of grading milk was abolished and a new term "Approved Milk" was adopted by the Board.

Pearl Harbor attacked December 7th. U.S. declares war on Japan December 8th, and enters World War II.

1942 The Board of Health gave the Registrar of Records authority to approve applications for correction of records and delayed registration of birth, eliminating the necessity for sending such applications to the Corporation Counsel. The Registrar in turn delegated this authority to the Assistant Registrars.

An opinion of the Corporation Counsel stated that photostated signatures of the Registrars and Assistant Registrars were valid on certified copies of records, provided the Department Seal was imprinted. This meant eliminating a holograph signature on half a million copies of records a year.

Position of Assistant Commissioner of District Health Services was created. (See 1914, 1916, 1917, 1930, 1934, 1941, 1942, 1951, 1955)

Cooperative survey projects were begun with the Tuberculosis and Health Associations of Manhattan, Queens, and Richmond.

1943 Dr. John F. Mahoney discovered that penicillin could cure syphilis.

The Department cooperated with the Armed Services in a program to follow up all known contacts of soldiers and sailors infected with venereal disease. (See 1930)

Experimental studies by Department physicians proved the value of penicillin in the treatment of sulfonamide resistant gonorrhea.

Parasitology Service was renamed Tropical Disease Diagnostic Service and expanded.

A three year grant from the Children's Bureau allowed the establishment of a Nutrition Division with one Supervising Nutritionist and seven Nutritionists. (See 1932, 1937, 1941, 1943, 1946, 1949) Two daily radio programs devoted to nutrition information were begun at the request of Mayor LaGuardia.

Microfilming of birth and death certificates was initiated in the Bureau of Records and Statistics under municipal auspices after starting in 1941 as a WPA Project.

Executive Order 293 placed all statistical personnel and tabulating equipment under the Bureau of Records and Statistics.

Emergency Maternity and Infant Care Act was passed by Congress and its administration in NYC given to the Health Department.

A Day Care Unit was established in the Bureau of Child Health with help from the Adele R. Levy Fund.

The Division of Sanitary Engineering was established under the general supervision of the Deputy Commissioner and a Sanitary Engineer. Its staff was obtained by transfer of a group of inspectors from the Sanitary Bureau.

The Interdepartmental Board for Sanitary Control and Protection of the Public Water Supply was created. Chlorination of reservoir effluents was begun on a routine basis and companies treating any part of the water supply with anti-corrosion chemicals required to file analysis of such chemicals with the Department. The Department revoked all extant permits for the use of well water and new permits were issued only after examination of the wells.

Two large scale plumbing surveys involving waterfront structures and embalming establishments were conducted during the year. (See 1945, 1951)

An evening educational program for food handlers was begun in cooperation with the Board of Education. (See 1915, 1937, 1943, 1946, 1958)

1944 Regulations for cheese processing were introduced into the Sanitary Code.

A Coordinating Council on School Health was formed. Administrative personnel of the Health Department and the Board of Education joined in determining policies regarding services to children. (See 1933)

Fifth largest number of poliomyelitis cases in the city's history was recorded (1890 cases). (See 1916, 1931, 1935, 1949)

Physical examinations for entrants to vocational high schools were initiated.

A diagnostic treatment and training clinic was inaugurated in the Lower East Side Health Center under private sponsorship.

Five Senior District Health Officer positions were created for districts in which borough offices were located or which had special problems.

Much emphasis was placed on nutrition and meal planning as a result of

food rationing. Department nutritionists participated in the preparation of a "Family Budget Standard" which was published and widely distributed. Nutrition consultant service was initiated for the districts. (See 1932, 1937)

Chest x-rays were required of all Department personnel.

An executive order authorized Department personnel to give, upon request, directional information regarding the location of child spacing services. However, no members of the Department staff, with the exception of physicians, were to discuss such matters with patients.

1945

As a result of an epidemic of trichinosis, the Department began an educational program for wholesale and retail processors of pork products and for housewives.

The Board prohibited over-the-counter sale of antibiotics.

Close of World War II on May 8th found Department staff seriously depleted.

USPHS aided the New York City tuberculosis program by the assignment of a roentgen unit and personnel to the Department.

The Certificate of Birth Registration, sent gratis to mothers of newborns, was changed from a handwritten abstract of a few items to a photostatic copy of the entire face of the certificate. (See 1916, 1935)

Pertussis vaccine was produced by the Department Laboratories and administered to babies attending child health stations.

The name of the Sanitary Bureau was changed to the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering. The Division of Sanitary Engineering was abolished and its functions placed in a Division of Water and Sewage within the new bureau. (See 1943, 1951)

Bureau of Audits and Accounts was established.

Bureau of Personnel was established and a professional personnel administrator was appointed as Director. Administrative authority for personnel was transferred from the Secretary to the Deputy Commissioner for Administration. A clerical placement unit was created and a full time training officer appointed within the Bureau of Personnel.

A Procedure Division was created to study and analyze existing administrative procedures and to improve and coordinate them. Its name was subsequently changed to Division of Analysis and Procedure. (See 1948, 1956, 1959)

The Financial Aid Program (State Reimbursement) for handicapped children was transferred to the Health Department from the Domestic Relations Court. Standards were established for hospital and convalescent care of orthopedically handicapped children where tax funds were involved. An orthodontic program was developed.

School health service was extended to academic high schools. Physical examinations were given to all entrants. Examinations for working papers were also given.

On November 2nd the Board of Health adopted a resolution of "imminent peril to the safety and health of the people of New York City" and empowered the Commissioner to take necessary steps to ensure an adequate milk supply for the city in the nation-wide shortage.

At request of the Mayor, the Department participated in a drive to break the black market on meat.

1946 The Commissioner of Health appointed a committee to study ways of improving routine testing of serological specimens in order to expedite the service. Its recommendations were adopted.

Penicillin was used for the treatment of syphilis and sulfonamide-resistant gonorrhoea in Social Hygiene Clinics.

The Board of Health empowered the Commissioner to close on 48 hour notice any food establishment found on two inspections to be in a condition hazardous to health. All retail food processing establishments were required by the Board to have self-inspection plans. (See 1915, 1937, 1939) Permits were required for delicatessens, catering establishments and other retail processing establishments; an educational program was devised for these trades. (See 1915, 1937, 1943, 1958)

Standards for dishwashing machines and their installation were set up by the Board. A Dishwashing and Restaurant Plans Unit was established and gained national publicity. Blueprint and layout advice was given to restaurant planners.

The Health Officer training program was expanded. Thirteen physician - veterans were given four months orientation in the Department and then post-graduate study in schools of public health with the aid of federal funds.

A Public Information Officer was appointed to handle publicity in the daily press and to act as public relations officer for the Department.

"Medical Rehabilitation" program for cerebral palsied children was initiated.

The Nutrition Division was established as a Health Department service when the three year federal demonstration project ended. (See 1932, 1937, 1941, 1943, 1949) The New York Tuberculosis and Health Association assigned two nutritionists to work in health centers on community nutrition programs. One nutritionist was assigned to the Bureau of Public Health Nursing Training Center.

Four Child Health Stations became closely affiliated with hospital

pediatric services.

A Hospital and Institutional Division was created within the Bureau of Food and Drugs. Its purpose was to prevent epidemic outbreaks of diarrhea of the newborn by supervision of maternity services.

Lower East Side Rheumatic Fever Project was established. (See 1940, 1952)

The Day Care Unit became a Division in the Bureau of Child Health. (See 1943)

Pre-Service Training Course for School Physicians was initiated.

Ragweed Control Program initiated; 3,148 acres of ragweed eliminated by spraying with 24-D; cooperation received from Department of Sanitation, Department of Highways and the Borough President's offices. Neighboring communities received advice and assistance on request.

Use of the composite card extended to all infant deaths (information from birth and death certificate punched on one card). (See 1938)

Microfilming of all birth and death records filed with the Department prior to 1946 completed.

Opinion was received from the Corporation Counsel that the entry of an order of filiation carried with it the right of the child to bear the father's name. Correction procedure in the Division of Records was adapted to this ruling.

An outbreak of an unknown type of non-fatal fever led to the discovery of a new disease called Rickettsialpox.

Index cards for deaths reported by the Medical Examiner were duplicated and sent to his office for use as a current index. All Medical Examiner case numbers were printed in the Department's annual death index book so that the index could serve both agencies.

The Board of Health placed responsibility for executing and filing birth and fetal death certificates on supervisory medical personnel in hospitals.

Bureau of Maintenance was established.

A Child Growth Study was initiated in the Lower East Side Health Center.

Study of geriatric nutritional status in the Sirovich Day Center for senior citizens in Lower East Side Health Center was initiated.

Position of Assistant Commissioner for District Health Administration abolished. (See 1914, 1916, 1917, 1930, 1934, 1941, 1942, 1951, 1955)

1947 The Board adopted stringent laws to control the manufacture, sale, possession, filling and refilling of prescriptions for barbituates. New York City Health Department was the first health agency in the country to do so and acted with support of New York Academy of Medicine. (See 1940, 1951)

Confidential form of death certificate extended to all boroughs.

Routine preparation of indexes of births by hospital using tabulating equipment was begun. Since most births occurred in the hospitals monthly lists were sent to these institutions to be used for control purposes. Duplicates eliminated much clerical work. (See 1937)

Largest number of births in the city's history recorded.

Bureau of Dentistry was established.

First cancer detection clinic was opened in Kips Bay - Yorkville Health Center as a cooperative project with several outside agencies; full responsibility was assumed by the Department in 1948. (See 1950)

Red Hook Combined Nursing Program, affiliating Department nurses and the Brooklyn VNA nurses was established. (See 1965)

1948

United States accepts place in the World Health Organization (WHO)

Title of "Registrar of Records" was changed to Director of the Bureau of Records and Statistics. (See 1859)

An executive order gave District Health Officers full responsibility for all localized activities within their districts.

"You and your Department of Health", the first modern employees handbook in any city department was published and distributed.

Modernization of position classification structure of the Department was undertaken.

Bureau of Adult Hygiene was established with responsibility for new adult health activities.

Full time clinical and supervisory dentists were appointed in the Bureau of Dentistry to augment part-time staff.

An Advisory Committee, composed of the deans of the five medical schools of the city was formed to assist the Department in planning for a diagnostic clinic. Details of the functions and location of the first diagnostic clinic were later issued by the Commissioner of Health.

An Analysis Unit was created by order of the Mayor and coordinated with the existing Division of Analysis in the Bureau of the Budget. Its purpose was to study organization, procedures and personnel to effect greater efficiency. (See 1945, 1956, 1959)

Fee schedule for permits issued by the Department was revised after study by the Analysis Unit.

A special survey was made to determine factors creating insanitary conditions in low rent areas.

The Bureau of Food and Drugs adopted a new approach to restaurant sanitation. This involved an educational program for menu planning, flow of work, storage and preparation of foods.

A study on causes of carbon monoxide poisoning was carried on with the help of the Chief Medical Examiner whose records on such deaths were used. Determination was made that defective gas appliances were the chief cause of such deaths. An intensive campaign against use of defective appliances was begun.

The Division of School Health was separated from the Bureau of Child Hygiene and given bureau status.

Bureau of Child Hygiene was renamed Bureau for Mothers and Young Children. (See 1908, 1913, 1938, 1941, 1949)

Department's Eye Service, initiated in 1902, was placed in the Bureau for Handicapped Children. About fifty thousand children a year are serviced.

Payment for the care of two "blue babies" at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore was assumed by the Department.

The Department pioneered in establishing the position of Public Health Assistant.

Questions concerning congenital malformations and birth injuries were added to the confidential part of the birth certificate.

First public school unit for cerebral palsied children was organized.

A Premature Transport Service was set up to transfer low-weight newborns, where necessary, to a hospital with a special Premature Nursery.

Standards for the care of premature infants were formulated and approved by the Pediatric Advisory Committee. Standards covering maternity services and nurseries for the newborn in hospitals were also set up and enforced by the Department.

A unit concerned with care given in Children's Shelters and Institutions was organized in the Division of Day Care.

Shoe-fitting fluoroscopes were controlled by permit through action of the Board.

TB clinic supervision was put on a regional basis. Two photo-roentgen units were ordered for installation in district health centers and plans for a new regional survey center and for mobile truck-trailer mounted x-ray equipment for field use.

Standardization of serologic procedures was initiated by the Bureau of Laboratories and training courses were given to technicians of the Department of Hospitals. Private laboratories cooperated by invitation in this program.

The Rh Testing Laboratory and the Virus and Rickettsial Laboratory were established.

1949 Department functions were grouped into five services, each of which was placed under a deputy or assistant commissioner. Community Health Services came under the First Deputy Commissioner and the Administrative Service under the Second Deputy Commissioner. The other three services, Maternal and Child Health, Preventable and Adult Hygiene, and Environmental Sanitation were placed under Assistant Commissioners.

The third largest number of poliomyelitis cases in the city's history (2,446 cases) was reported. (See 1916, 1931, 1935, 1944)

The Bureau for Mothers and Young Children was renamed Bureau of Child Health. (See 1913, 1938, 1941, 1948)

Contracts were signed with the National Office of Vital Statistics to provide that office, on a current basis, with microfilm copies of all birth, death and fetal death certificates filed with the Department.

Three court actions were started in 1949 in an effort to obtain information from the confidential medical reports of cause of death. The Department's refusal to produce these records was upheld.

Spanish interpreters were added to the staff because of the increase of the Spanish speaking, Puerto Rican population.

A pilot unit in the Central Harlem District offered BGG inoculations to all T.B. contacts who did not react to tuberculin; this procedure was subsequently extended to all clinics.

Three psychiatric treatment clinics for adults were established.

Health Department staff participated in a training program conducted at New York Hospital for pediatricians and nurses in the care of premature infants.

Local Law Number 5 transferred smoke control to the Department of Housing and Building. (See 1914, 1918)

The Board of Health declared an emergency and ordered property owners to clean their vacant lots of rubbish and garbage. Within a short time a Rodent Control Unit was established in the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

An appointment system was instituted in the child health stations.

Division of Child Health Services in the Bureau of Child Health was renamed the Infant and Preschool Division.

Five Cardiac Consultation clinics were opened.

The Bureau of Nutrition was established with a staff of twenty seven nutritionists and Dr. Norman Jolliffe was appointed Director. (See 1932, 1937, 1941, 1943, 1946)

Kips Bay Attitude Study was undertaken to improve observation and interviewing skills of doctors and nurses with a view to fostering mental health. (See 1921)

1950

Preliminary analysis of differences in mortality statistics resulting from the radical changes in the Sixth Revision of the International List of Cause of Death was published. New coding procedures reduced diabetes deaths by about two-thirds and almost eliminated deaths from nephritis.

Legislation eliminating the words "By Adoption" on the certificate of birth of adopted children, resulted from activity of personnel of the Bureau of Records and Statistics.

Plans were laid with Department of Hospitals to collect reports of discharges from all hospitals on a routine basis. (See 1955)

Enactment of the State Civil Defense Law brought reestablishment of the New York City Civil Defense Organization organized during World War II. A Director of Civil Defense for New York City was appointed. A directive was issued establishing Emergency Divisions with emphasis on disaster planning and readiness. The Medical Emergency Division was created on August 9, 1950 with the Commissioner of Hospitals as Director and the Commissioner of Health as Associate Director. The Department of Health was responsible for organizing a Public Health Section of the MED to include: first aid activities, defense against chemical, biological and radiological warfare, control of communicable diseases, supervision of environmental sanitation, coordination of medical services of the Red Cross and health education of the public.

A Radiation Control Unit was established in the Bureau of Sanitary Inspections.

The Board of Health gave the Commissioner of Health authority to regulate the permit activity of the Department and the Division of Permits was promoted to bureau status.

Three eye clinics were opened and another cerebral palsy school unit was established.

Bureau of School Health initiated Play School examinations and added an interim examination between kindergarten and graduation from elementary or junior high school. (Upper Grade Examination)

The second cancer detection clinic was opened in Williamsburg-Greenpoint Health Center. (See 1947)

A campaign was begun to investigate all cases of lead poisoning in children. A complete inspection of the child's home was made in each case.

1951

The Department cooperated in the Birth Registration Test sponsored by the National Office of Vital Statistics. Manhattan had 99.1 percent registration, Queens 99.9 percent.

Division of Sanitary Inspections was separated from the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering and restored to bureau status. (See 1852)

Requirement of the Board for decharacterization of horsemeat sold for animal consumption was revised to remove conflict with federal regulations.

U. S. Congress enacted legislation requiring all drugs shipped in interstate commerce be labeled as to whether or not they could be sold over the counter or whether a prescription was required. (See 1940, 1947)

Bureau of Sanitary Engineering reorganized with four divisions: Water Control, Waste Disposal and Pollution Control, Rodent and Insect Control and Specialized Activities.

First obesity clinic for adults established.

Assistant Commissioner and Director of the Bureau of District Health Administration retired and the position was left vacant. District Health Officers again came directly under the First Deputy Commissioner. (See 1914, 1916, 1917, 1930, 1934, 1941, 1942, 1946, 1955)

Bureau of Personnel was merged with the Division of Budget.

Analysis Unit was placed under direction of the Chief Clerk.

A Day Camp Unit was set up with private funds in the Division of Day Care.

Children with orthopedic defects, receiving home instruction, were referred to the visiting nurse service.

The Department required that all cases of narcotic addiction coming to the attention of Bureau Directors and District Health Officers be reported within 24 hours to the Bureau of Preventable Diseases.

1952 Amendment to the Sanitary Code allowed federal, state and municipal agencies charged by law with investigatory powers, to obtain information from the confidential medical reports of deaths.

Effectiveness of isoniazid was clearly demonstrated and chemotherapy with isoniazid and other drugs became the most important service offered in the Department's tuberculosis clinics.

Health program for children of low income families was established in the all-day child care centers.

Bureau of Child Health initiated a program of payment for hospital care of premature infants in special centers.

Joint operation of prenatal clinics by the Health Department and selected hospitals began. (See 1924, 1927, 1940, 1961, 1964)

House organ "Inside Health" was initiated.

Liaison with the Atomic Energy Commission resulted in Health Department

inspectors visiting local users of radio-isotopes.

The American Public Health Association at the request of the Mayor made a management survey of the Health Department and advised a program of training, especially in the nursing and sanitation fields. (See 1935)

Division for Physically Handicapped Children was given bureau status. The Lower East Side Cardiac Project was extended to the rest of Manhattan. Position of Cardiac Consultant was created. (See 1940, 1947)

The Department of Health assumed active supervision of the planning, designing and constructing of home sewage disposal systems. The Director of the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering devised the "absorption system" for disposal of sewage in areas where systems could not be installed by other means.

Worden & Risberg management analysis report stated that the Health Department "had the most effective permit issuance procedure in New York City".

Project for standardization of serologic tests for syphilis was completed.

Laboratories of USPHS and the Department of Health were designated as repositories for standard antigens. Reference antigen was sent to the Serology Committee of WHO with hope that this organization would adopt a reference standard.

Department recommended that the New York City water supply be fluoridated. (See 1963, 1965)

The Interdepartmental Health Council was established on November 2nd to provide maximum coordination of the city's health services and to deal with problems of overlapping departmental jurisdictions. Members were the Commissioners of Health, Hospitals and Welfare and the Director of the Community Mental Health Board.

1953 Report on vital statistics among Puerto Ricans in New York City was prepared and published.

Section 110 of the Sanitary Code which regulated maternity and newborn services in hospitals was completely revised.

System of direct referral of mothers and newborn infants from the obstetric services of hospitals to child health stations was begun. (See 1940, 1941, 1959)

The Cancer Detection Clinic moved from the Kips Bay to the East Harlem Health Center. (See 1958)

1954 The Department, in an effort to prevent development of retrolental fibroplasia in new born infants, asked hospitals to discontinue routine use of oxygen in delivery rooms and nurseries.

Marked underreporting of congenital malformations and birth injuries was noted when medical data on a sample of birth certificates were compared with data on the hospital chart of the same infant.

Field trials which helped to establish the effectiveness of the Salk vaccine were undertaken.

A consultant in social work was appointed and given responsibility for all social workers in the various services of the Department and the coordination of various social work programs.

Bacterial standards for fresh crabmeat established by the Board were subsequently adopted in other parts of the country.

The Board ordered proper labeling of hazardous substances including household chemicals. Containers of paint having more than one percent lead content required a label warning against application on toys, furniture and interior surfaces of dwellings.

Records Retention Center was organized to act as a storage facility for important files of city departments.

Section 46 of the Sanitary Code requiring Funeral Directors to obtain business permits from the Department was revoked. (See 1912, 1920)

The Nosology Unit coded a sample of death certificates, including all supplementary diagnostic information reported, to determine the usefulness of multiple cause coding and to test a methodology for obtaining such data. (See 1914)

Departmental Training Committee was set up with the requirement that at least three subcommittees be appointed to provide for training of physicians, nurses and sanitarians.

The Commissioner of Health began appearing regularly on TB programs.

Program of research in cancer was organized in cooperation with several municipal and voluntary hospitals.

A Diabetes Detection Clinic laboratory was opened and the Brownsville Diabetes Control Center was established as a pilot project.

Office of Supervision of Clinical Laboratories assumed the task of supervising blood banks and bleeding centers. (See 1922, 1963)

The Quarterly Bulletin was discontinued and replaced with "Fact Sheets" which are sent to physicians when the Commissioner wishes to communicate with them about a serious public health matter. (See 1933)

Bureau of Social Hygiene was returned to division status and placed in the Bureau of Preventable Diseases. Its educational activities were returned to Bureau of Health Education.

The Director of the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering definitely established

the important role of combined sewers in polluting waters.

Mayor's Committee on the Elimination of Sources of Marginal Pollution was appointed with the Director of the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering as a member.

Bureau of Sanitary Engineering proposed installation of automatic monitoring and signaling devices to alert offices of the Borough Presidents and Department of Public Works when raw sewage began to flow from combined sewers into the receiving waters.

Tropical Disease Diagnostic Service transferred from the Bureau of Laboratories to the Bureau of Preventable Diseases and given division status.

1955 Position of Borough Director was created and a Borough Director appointed for Brooklyn.

The Commissioner of Health initiated the task of completely rewriting and revising the Sanitary Code. (See 1915, 1958)

Maternity and Newborn Division encouraged development of perinatal mortality conferences in hospitals. (See 1959)

Office of Scientific Program Planning and Development was created to develop techniques for control of chronic disease and placed under direction of one of the two Deputy Commissioners.

The Tabulating Division obtained three 407 type accounting machines. One result was mechanization of the permit issuance process.

A book was published on the pilot project sponsored by the Departments of Health and Hospitals and the Russell Sage Foundation investigating the practicability of collecting data on patients discharged from hospitals. (See 1950)

Salk vaccine injections were given to 274,000 children in first and second grades of elementary schools. Results studied in summer of 1955 proved that the vaccine was 80 percent effective.

State Aid Program administered by the Bureau for Handicapped Children was expanded to include children with cerebral palsy, heart disease, eye problems, congenital malformations, hearing impairment and epilepsy. (\$4,737,331 expended). Program was still later expanded to include children crippled by poliomyelitis, muscular dystrophy and other neuromuscular diseased.

Arrangements were made with Board of Education for appropriate school placement of all children with "brain injury".

Manufacture of biological products, except smallpox vaccine, was discontinued by the Department. (1895, 1908)

Development of a Public Health Virus Laboratory was begun.

Manufacture of diagnostic reagents was greatly expanded.

Bureau of Adult Hygiene organized a school for the training of both technicians and physicians in cytology and formulated a training program for physicians in the taking of Papanicalaou smears.

Bureau of Personnel was separated from the Budget Office and re-established independently with three divisions and one unit.

Division of Budget was set up under the Administrative Assistant Commissioner. (See 1961)

The Personnel Council was created by the New York City Personnel Director and uniform time and leave regulations for the city were formulated.

Office of District Health Administration was reorganized and became the Office of District Services under the First Deputy Commissioner. (See 1914, 1916, 1917, 1930, 1934, 1941)

Morrisania Health District began to serve as a teaching health center for Albert Einstein Medical School.

Intensive area chest x-ray surveys operating in recurrent cycles initiated.

Routine tuberculin testing of pupils entering secondary school was begun.

Routine hospital admission x-ray program was begun in cooperation with New York State; both voluntary and municipal hospital participated.

Poison Control Center was established.

The Board repealed Section 140a of Sanitary Code which provided for a maximum 10 percent added water content for preserved meat because it was in conflict with the more lenient requirement of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. (See 1937)

1956 Analysis unit was reorganized as the Division of Management Analysis. (See 1945, 1948, 1959)

Standards for food services in day care agencies were developed.

The Orthodontic Program, a phase of the Medical Rehabilitation Program, was transferred from the Bureau of Handicapped Children to the Bureau of Dentistry.

The Department set in operation a chest clinic program with Triboro Hospital for special treatment of pulmonary diseases.

1957 Office of Professional Education was reestablished and a Director, paid by the State Health Department, was appointed. State funds were allocated to the Department for intramural and extramural training of professional staff. A program was devised with federal agencies for foreign and domestic visitors to study and observe municipal health services. The Kellogg Foundation grant to Columbia University School of Public Health and Administrative Medicine established a continuation education program for public health workers. (See 1937, 1939)

A social research group was developed in the Office of Research with support from the Russell Sage Foundation.

The Diet & Coronary Heart Disease Study Project was initiated.

Surveillance of incidence of Asian influenza begun by the Virology Unit of the Bureau of Laboratories.

Intensive prenatal nutrition service programs were carried on in selected city hospitals.

Procedure was established to find school children using drugs in order to place them under care.

The City experienced a major nine week outbreak of influenza. It was estimated that the total increase in deaths for the nine weeks was 2,188 or an increase of 16 percent. The largest increase was in the age group of 65 and over; an increase of 1,121 deaths or 5,190 of the total increase. (See 1890, 1918)

Russians launched "Sputnik", world's first artificial satellite.

A Department car was fitted with sound equipment and used in a drive to prevent gas poisoning accidents. Such cars soon became standard tools in the Department's health education program.

1958

Three year task of completely revising and rewriting New York City's Sanitary Code was completed. The Code was renamed the New York City Health Code to reflect the change from the merely "sanitary" regulations of an earlier age to a broader, more positive emphasis on regulations for creating better health. (See 1915, 1955)

Board of Health adopted legislation aimed at the control of radiologic health hazards. This was believed to be the first comprehensive radiation legislation adopted by any city. Article 6 of new code required registration and inspection of all x-ray equipment. (See 1922)

Office of Radiation Control was created and placed under the direction of a physicist who had worked with the Atomic Energy Commission. A group of specially trained sanitarians was assigned to this office and formed the Radiation Control Unit.

Research studies on the use of x-rays by veterinarians and dentists were made and the results published.

The Health Research Council was appointed by the Mayor to study the entire medical research set-up in the city and to allocate funds for research in local medical schools, hospitals, universities, research institutions and city departments. The Council was composed of 42 of the city's outstanding scientists.

Testing for phenylketonuria was introduced in the Child Health Stations. Method used was the ferric chloride test. (See 1965)

Registration of physicians with the Department was discontinued. (See 1870, 1874, 1904)

The birth certificate was revised to require physicians to report the initial date of last menstrual period in lieu of completed weeks of gestation in order to obtain better data on duration of pregnancy.

Radio and TV Unit was established in the Bureau of Public Health Education and a series of sessions were set up to instruct training officers of various city agencies on audio-visual equipment and aids. (See 1960)

Bureau of Health Education planned and managed a health exhibition held in the Coliseum (first of its kind to be held in the city). Similar exhibitions were held in 1960 and 1961.

Bacteriologic standards were adopted for shellfish.

New York Heart Association surveyed the Cardiac Consultation Service offered in certain Health Department clinics and approved affiliation of these clinics with their own services.

The Interdepartmental Health Council appointed a Sub-committee on Maternal Care for the purpose of improving total maternity care in the city. Chief targets were the prenatal clinics of the voluntary and municipal hospitals. A uniform medical record card for pregnant women was devised.

Open heart surgery was included in the Medical Rehabilitation Program administered by the Bureau for Handicapped Children.

State Water Pollution Control Board, with the guidance of the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering, took first steps to classify waters surrounding New York City.

The engineering firm of Greeley & Hanson retained by Departments of Health, Public Works and Parks to study the city's polluted waters, confirmed the Health Department's observation regarding pollution by overflow from combined sewers.

1959 A cooperative program was undertaken by the Departments of Health & Welfare to improve the total medical and health services given families on relief. The Deputy Commissioner of Health was assigned to review, evaluate and supervise the medical program of the Department of Welfare.

Physical examinations for children newly admitted to classes for Retarded Mental Development were initiated.

A Family Day Care Unit was established in the Division of Day Care, Day Camps and Institutions to provide for care of children under the age of six, who have minor physical or emotional conditions.

The Sub-committee on Maternal Care (IHC) was instrumental in developing monthly perinatal mortality conferences of personnel in hospital services. (See 1955)

Division of Organization & Methods was created, bringing together the Division of Management Analysis, the Forms Control Unit and the Tabulating Division. (See 1945, 1948, 1956)

Health Code required construction of a community private sewage disposal system for developments containing fifteen or more housing units in an effort to reduce the number of individual disposal systems.

The Mayor created a Technical Advisory Committee on Radiation composed of experts in health physics and in medical and dental use of x-rays.

Health Code was revised at the recommendation of the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering to raise chlorine residual requirements for bathing pool water; additional safety regulations were adopted.

Every food handler employed in a restaurant or eating place was required to complete a course in food handling acceptable to the Department. (See 1915, 1937, 1943, 1946, 1958)

State Meat Inspection Program was augmented and Health Code was amended to include new regulations.

Food vending machines were regulated by the Board.

Mandatory Federal Poultry Inspection Act, applying to all poultry shipped in interstate commerce was passed, a regulation long advocated by the New York City Health Department.

Survey of a sample of households in high and low socioeconomic areas of the Bronx and Brooklyn, undertaken to determine the extent of vaccination against poliomyelitis, showed that the proportion immunized in the low economic areas was lower than that in the high economic areas at all age levels. Spanish speaking people showed the lowest percentage immunized.

Birth notices to districts were eliminated. As a result the birth index and the statistical punched cards were combined with a considerable savings in time of the tabulating division. (See 1910, 1940, 1941, 1953)

Staff of the Department participated in drafting a new classification for causes of mortality and morbidity peculiar to the perinatal period for recommendation to WHO in connection with the pending 8th Revision of the International Statistical Classification.

New buildings for the Bushwick District Health Center in Brooklyn and the Morningside Health Center in Manhattan were opened.

A nursing home demonstration project was set up in the Fort Greene district of Brooklyn to extend help and advice to proprietary nursing homes in this district. The project was a cooperative effort of the Departments of Health, Hospitals and Welfare and the Community Mental

Health Board.

With aid of federal funds a demonstration rehabilitation program for adults was launched in the Corona Health District in Queens. This was a cooperative effort on the part of Departments of Health, Hospitals and Welfare, the Community Mental Health Board, the Visiting Nurse Service of Queens and the Queens County Medical Society.

1960 Through the Health Research Council \$800,000 was allocated to the Cornell University Medical College (for a five year period) for a project to determine the most efficient system for administering medical care to families on the rolls of the Department of Welfare.

A grant was obtained through the Health Research Council for the establishment of the first separate unit in medical genetics in the city at the Albert Einstein Medical School.

Twenty-two district health centers and six smaller installations had been erected since 1937 in accordance with the Master Plan. However, local needs for Health Department facilities had changed over the years and the Master Plan was abandoned and new building plans laid. (See 1930, 1934, 1937)

The Director of the Bureau of Laboratories was appointed chief of the Division of Laboratory Diagnosis of the Public Health Research Institute, a unifying move. (See 1936)

Licensing of foster homes was transferred from the Health Department to the State Department of Social Welfare.

Programs were undertaken to eliminate duplication and waste of manpower through Department cooperation with outside nursing and social agencies.

Dual position of Executive Director of Medical Care services in the Department of Health and Medical Welfare Administrator in the Department of Welfare was created with the purpose of coordinating medical services to recipients of welfare.

District Health Officers were appointed, on part-time basis, as medical consultants to welfare centers.

Pilot projects were developed to demonstrate the feasibility of coordinated medical care in the home, clinic, hospital or nursing home from single source of service having quality standards of a major medical center.

Bureau of Sanitary Inspections took part in the Conservation and Rehabilitation Projects designed to halt and correct the rapid housing deterioration and obsolescence in certain city districts.

The Board of Health outlawed use of the old type water cooled refrigerator which was proved to be a cause of gas poisoning.

Emphasis was placed on cost studies of major Department activities.

Fee schedule was revised for certain permits because of the increased cost of administrative and inspectoral services. (See 1926, 1927)

Blue Cross undertook payment for care of premature infants born to its subscribers.

TV nutrition program was established. (See 1943)

Radio and TV Unit was transferred to the Public Information Office. (See 1958)

A demonstration program was conducted at Harlem and Metropolitan Hospitals to show the feasibility and effectiveness of taking Papanicalaou smears from women attending hospital clinics. (See 1955)

The Maternal and Child Health Committee of the Kings County Medical Society and the Department of Health initiated a comprehensive county-wide study of perinatal morbidity and mortality. Other county medical societies were invited to initiate similar studies.

Two nurse-midwives, graduates of the Maternity Center Association School, were licensed and employed at Kings County Hospital and Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn.

The Board of Health approved transfer of the item calling for "race or color" from the face of the certificates of birth, death, and fetal death to the confidential medical portion of the certificates.

School health service began giving primary or booster series of diphtheria - tetanus toxoid to children newly admitted to school when needed. Booster injection was added to the upper grade examination.

State legislation necessitated repeal of the milk dating requirements of the Health Code. (See 1914)

Polio Immunization Program was extended to the High Schools.

Assistant Commissionership for Community Health Services was established; Offices of District Services (formerly District Health Administration) and Social Work and the Bureaus of Nursing, Health Education and Nutrition were placed under the new Assistant Commissioner.

1961 A professional training center, equipped with the latest instructional devices was established.

"Satellite" clinics (Health Department clinics operated jointly with

hospital prenatal clinics) were opened in two District Health Centers because of the inadequacy and inaccessability of hospital maternity services in these areas. (See 1924, 1927, 1940, 1952, 1964)

Pilot screening program for glaucoma was initiated with funds from the Ophthalmological Foundation.

Pilot Health Maintenance Center was opened in the Riverside Health District in Manhattan in cooperation with St. Luke's Hospital. This was an approach to the problem of early detection of disease by supplying yearly physical examinations and laboratory tests to applicants regardless of their age. (See 1944)

A program was initiated to provide severely handicapped children with an opportunity for education at a high school level.

A Rheumatic Fever Prophylaxis Program was established in each of the six cardiac consultation clinics.

Plans were developed for the placement of children with brain injury in special classes.

Evaluation of the Manhattan Cardiac Program revealed that many children with congenital lesions were not receiving the benefits available in the approved cardiac hospitals. (See 1947, 1952)

Dental care surveys for the 1961-62 school year showed that only 50 percent of young children have good dental care.

Adolescent Health Maintenance Clinic was established as a joint venture of the Health Department and St. Lukes Hospital.

Comprehensive school-health service for the entire adolescent population of Riker's Island (a penal institution) was undertaken by the Health Department and the Department of Correction.

Services of part time nurses and practical nurses were recruited by the Department. The severe shortage of fulltime professional nurses poses a serious problem for the future as the Department expands its programs of ambulatory care, home care, rehabilitation and mental health.

Narcotics Program of the city was placed in the Health Department and a Narcotics Coordinator with responsibility for developing a community plan to meet the critical situation of narcotics addiction was appointed.

A Day Hospital for psychiatric cases was established at the Westchester - Pelham District Health Center and operated jointly by the Bronx Municipal Hospital Center and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

A Director of the Office of Social Work was appointed and all social work consultant positions were transferred from the various bureaus to the new office. Emphasis was placed on generalized rather than specialized service.

Bureau of Health Education organized and supervised the Department's "Third Annual Health Exposition" at the New York City Coliseum.

With the aid of a Federal grant the Bureau of Public Health Education created a VD Education Unit to organize and carry out an intensive city-wide education program to help control VD.

The Office of Research, at the request of the Public Health Service, the Armed Forces and the Selective Service System, developed a program designed to refer rejectees to community resources available to meet their medical needs. This included referral to private physicians.

In cooperation with seven other official and voluntary agencies the Department inaugurated a comprehensive health maintenance and medical care program for the aged in the Queensbridge Housing Project.

The Chief of the Division of the Budget was designated as Chief Clerk of the Department. Latter title was originally established in 1869. (See 1955)

Bureau of Medical Defense was created in the State Health Department. Emergency Hospital Training Program in New York City's Municipal, Federal, State and voluntary hospitals was organized. Extensive medical stockpiling program of State Aid Station Outfits began.

Public Health Library at 125 Worth Street was renamed The Haven Emerson Public Health Library. The Library contains over ten thousand books, two hundred periodicals, and thirty drawers of pamphlet material. (See 1917, 1936)

Bureau of Sanitary Engineering studied new iodine combination as pool water disinfectant to replace chlorine which is an irritant to the eyes.

Recommendations and plans were made to establish a service allowing authorized individuals to consult indexes to vital records for a prescribed fee.

A special fee schedule was established by the Board for supplying information from the confidential medical reports of births and deaths for research purposes approved by the Commissioner of Health or the Board itself.

Adenovirus Center was established with facilities at Otisville and at the 16th Street Laboratories. Redevelopment of the Otisville Branch Laboratory began; new 14 story Laboratory building to combine all laboratory facilities planned for use by 1965.

New York City has pioneered in the investigation of the commercial clinical laboratories and the clinical laboratories of the voluntary and proprietary hospitals. To spur this investigation, an increasing number of performance tests and consultative visits have been provided for.

1962 The Corona Rehabilitation Project was completed in its initial phase and a report of the study made. The program was renamed the Corona Stroke Rehabilitation Project and began directing its activities towards testing

the usefulness of early continuing rehabilitation therapy for patients who had sustained cerebrovascular accidents. (See 1959)

A grant from the U. S. Public Health Service allowed the Office of Research to form the Public Health Practice Research Center.

The summer student program, which offers training to medical, engineering, statistical, and social science students to help solve the recruitment problem in the public health field, particularly in regard to well qualified research workers, was bolstered by a grant from the Health Research Council.

Extensive clinical evaluation of welfare patients in nursing homes was undertaken to assess the adequacy of the care being given. The purpose was to determine whether any of the patients could function in their own homes or in foster homes with medical and nursing supervision.

A new ambulance especially designed for transportation of premature infants was acquired to replace the one in service since the program began. (See 1948)

Physicians in child health stations were requested to identify abused children, to provide counseling to parents and to report suspicious cases to a protective agency.

City wide program to improve quality of care given the child amputee was developed.

A pediatric treatment clinic was opened in the Bedford Health Center to alleviate the hardship of long delays experienced by patients in Kings County Hospital Emergency Pediatric Receiving Ward.

Sunset Park Alcohol Clinic was established as a research program designed to determine the best form of treatment and rehabilitation. The program was a joint effort on the part of the Health Department, the Downstate Medical School and the Health Research Council of Greater New York.

Task force of district health educators was used in a major venereal disease education program. The program was subsidized by a grant from the USPHS.

The position of Assistant Commissioner and Executive Director of Chronic Disease Programs was created and the adult hygiene, health maintenance and chronic disease services were reorganized.

A new glaucoma detection center was opened in Jamaica.

An anti-smoking educational program was inaugurated.

USPHS grant made possible the establishment of combined Health-Hospital Department Clinics at Metropolitan and Van Etten Hospitals and the strengthening of the hospital admission x-ray program in six other municipal

hospitals.

The Health Code was amended to authorize the Department to search drug company files under certain conditions and to require drug firms and others to make available a record of the distribution of drugs. Every drug company selling drugs in the city was required to register with the Department. (See 1940, 1947, 1951)

The Department, on the recommendation of the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering, contracted with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to perform pollution studies on its model of New York Harbor located at Vicksburg, Miss. to determine the influence of major sewage discharges upon beaches, shellfish areas, etc. The Bureau of Sanitary Engineering's scheme to employ pollution diversion baffles was tested on the Corps of Engineers' model and found effective.

Coordinating Council on Research was established. Members were the Commissioner, who served as Chairman, and the Executive Directors of the Office of Research, the Health Research Council, and the Public Health Research Institute.

Legislation allowed the set-up of a demonstration project to provide comprehensive medical care services to a group of welfare recipients through prepayment health insurance (HIP).

Nursing home and hospital affiliation was begun experimentally with Lutheran Medical Center and Parkhaven Nursing Home. Subsequently several other such affiliations were effected.

The Interdepartmental Health Council recommended that City payments to voluntary hospitals for maternity care be more realistic and related to units of service and standard of care, thus enabling these hospitals to absorb the overload from the municipal hospitals.

A Premature Center was opened in St. Vincent's Hospital on Staten Island bringing total number of such facilities in the City to fifteen.

The Poison-Chemical Control Division was organized. The office answers approximately 20,000 calls a year from physicians requesting help in identifying chemical hazards in substances accidentally swallowed by patients, especially young children.

1963

Measles Vaccine Program introduced into the child health stations. Measles (Schwarz) Vaccine Study was conducted among kindergarten children in selected schools. (See 1965)

Guthrie test for phenylketonuria using newborn blood and urine was used in a pilot study in hospitals of the metropolitan area.

A phenylketonuria (PKU) testing study was conducted in selected schools, in classes for children with retarded mental development (CRMD) and for the trainable mentally retarded (TMR).

Provision was made for private physicians to perform working paper examinations.

An Interdepartmental Regional Rehabilitation Services Coordinator was appointed to function under Medical Care Services. The following year saw development of rehabilitation programs in selected nursing homes.

Revision of the Article 13 of the Health Code gave the Department greater control over the quality of laboratory performance and the technical personnel in clinical laboratories and blood banks. The Division of Laboratory Field Services was established from old office of Supervision of Clinical Laboratories and Blood Banks. (See 1922, 1954)

Resurgence of botulism in commercially processed food necessitated an emergency recall program in certain lots of food in New York City.

A considerable number of residential buildings were declared unfit for human habitation and ordered vacated. The hardship inflicted on families trying to relocate in low rental areas showed need for a concerted emergency program of various city agencies to help dispossessed tenants and resulted in a Mayor's Executive Order establishing a coordinated procedure.

The Bureau of Health Education initiated efforts to have the Board of Education add a unit on venereal disease education to the curriculum of the junior and senior high schools.

The Environmental Sanitation and the Maternal and Child Health Services initiated an anti-lead poisoning program. The Red Hook Health District was selected as a demonstration area by health educators in this campaign, and in the following year the program was extended to ten high incidence areas in Manhattan, Bronx and Brooklyn.

Five million matchbooks containing a "high impact" V.D. message were distributed through commercial channels. A film on the urban teenager and V.D. was produced with the aid of a USPHS grant and made available for national distribution.

The Department sponsored the formation of a Joint Committee on Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Control with the five County Medical Societies and the Obstetric and Gynecological Societies participating.

Fourteen Stop-Smoking Institutes were arranged by the Bureau of Public Health Education. An educational campaign has extended to professional and non-professional groups as well as to youth serving agencies.

A new health features and filler service for the metropolitan weekly press was begun. Material was sent to 65 weeklies. Later, Union newspapers, ethnic publications, industrial house organs and college newspapers were added to the service.

As part of a research project conducted by the Department and the Committee for the New York Baby Tooth Survey, the Bureau of Dentistry, through its dental clinics, collected, exfoliated and extracted deciduous teeth which were to be used to determine the accumulation of radionucleides over a period of years.

On December 12th the Board of Estimate unanimously approved fluoridation of the city water supply and approved funds for plant construction, operation and maintenance. (See 1952, 1965)

President John F. Kennedy shot and killed by assassin in Dallas, Texas on November 22nd.

1964 The population Health Survey analagous to the National Health Survey officially set to begin.

Expansion of the Satellite Clinic Program for improved maternity care was made possible by a \$1,500,000 grant from the Children's Bureau. Two more clinics were put into operation and several others planned for. (See 1924, 1927, 1940, 1952, 1961)

Family Planning by a variety of modalities became an integral part of the service offered in the comprehensive Maternity Care Program of the Satellite Clinics. Public Health Educators arranged and conducted information and health education sessions and assisted in publicizing the clinics.

A large-scale survey of medical care received by infants and preschool children in two health districts of the Bronx began under a USPHS grant.

Infant formula was regulated by the Board to permit hospital use of pre-sterilized, ready-to-feed formula.

Working paper examination was added for students in 7th, 8th and 9th grades in all elementary and junior high schools. Applicants for full-time working papers are required to obtain chest x-rays.

Health services were extended to children in newly formed prekindergarten classes of Board of Education.

Physical examinations (including x-rays) were given children in JOIN program (Job Orientation in Neighborhoods). Later health services were extended to the Head Start (anti-poverty) program.

Narcotics Detection Laboratory was established. New techniques for identification of narcotics in urine were developed.

A special advisory committee of national and international authorities on tuberculosis control was organized to obtain the best advice on how to meet the increase in new cases of TB. The chest x-ray program was intensified, especially in areas of high prevalence and more emphasis was placed on the Hospital Admission X-ray Program. An intensive program of tuberculin testing, chest x-ray exams, BCG inoculations and chemo-prophylaxis, was initiated among junior high school students in selected areas.

Health Educators conducted an intensive campaign among school personnel, parents and students, to obtain maximum response in the tuberculin testing and BCG vaccination program.

Property owners' failure to maintain low rental dwelling units free of rodents, compelled the Department to undertake a rat extermination program in infested residential buildings. By resolution of the Board of Health, a rat infested building was declared a public nuisance and after five days' notice to the owner, the Department began rat eradication procedures where there was evidence that management failed to take such measures. The owner was billed for this "service". A Bureau of Pest Control was created. (See 1902, 1914)

Disability Certification Section was established in the Bureau of Adult Hygiene to certify to the Department of Traffic applications for Special Vehicle Identification cards for disabled persons.

On the recommendation of the Bureau of Sanitary Inspections the Board of Health adopted a Health Code amendment requiring that gas fired space and water heaters installed in one and two family residential buildings be approved for construction to prevent the generation of carbon monoxide.

Child health stations participated in referral and follow-up of every infant having result of 6 mgm % or over in the Guthrie test for PKU.

1965 Phenylketonuria testing made mandatory for all newborns in New York State. New York City Health Department's Bureau of Laboratories was designated as the official laboratory for the performance of the screening tests. (See 1958)

Bureau of Laboratories received a \$525,000, three year grant for a program of laboratory improvement.

Tuberculin Test was initiated for the 7th term pupils in secondary schools.

Measles vaccination introduced for school children in prekindergarten, kindergarten and first grade classes. (See 1963)

On September 30, 1965, New York City began fluoridation of its water supply. (See 1952, 1963)

Housing inspection activities transferred to the Department of Buildings by order of the Mayor. (See 1901, 1902, 1914)

In cooperation with the Bureau of Nutrition, the Bureau of Dentistry surveyed the dental status of approximately 1500 fifth and sixth grade children in six selected schools that participated in a new frozen food lunch program.

The Bureau of Dentistry, from funds supplied by the Improved Maternity and Infant Care Project, set up a pilot dental clinic at the Bronsville Health Center to provide dental care for the pregnant women participating in this project. These clinics were extended to eight other health centers at the end of 1965.

Dental clinics in twenty-eight health centers and twenty-six schools were kept opened during the summer months to provide dental care for approximately 28,000 children involved in Operation Head Start.

Water shortage recognized as a major problem in the city and a water conservation program enforced by the Department in places under its jurisdiction.

Milk screening test for abnormal milk (Whiteside test) was required by the Board in lieu of an annual physical examination of dairy herds.

Assistant Commissioner for Professional Staff Services appointed. Bureaus of Health Education and Public Health Nursing, and the offices of Social Work and Professional Training transferred to this service.

Environmental Sanitation Services were reorganized. Functions of the Retail Division of the Bureau of Food and Drugs were transferred to the Bureau of Sanitary Inspections along with the following units: Plans and Dishwashing, Self-Inspection and Retail Equipment. Functions concerning inspections of school and laboratories were transferred from the Bureau of Sanitary Inspections to the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

"The Blackout". On the evening of November 9th power failure put New York City in darkness for 12 hours.

Presidents of the Board of Health
and Commissioners of Health*

1866-1867	Jackson S. Schultz
1868-1869	George B. Lincoln
1870-1872	Joseph S. Bosworth
1873-1883	Charles F. Chandler, Ph.D.
1884-1887	Alexander Shaler
1888-1889	James C. Bayles
1890-1897	Charles G. Wilson
1898	Nathan Straus
1899-1900	Michael C. Murphy
1901	John B. Sexton
1902-1903	Ernst J. Lederle, Ph.D.
1904-1909	Thomas Darlington, M.D.
1910-1913	Ernst J. Lederle, Ph.D.
1914-1915	S. S. Goldwater, M.D.
1916-1917	Haven Emerson, M.D.
1918	J. Lewis Amster, M.D.
1918-1922	Royal S. Copeland, M.D.
1923-1925	Frank J. Monaghan, M.D.
1926-1928	Louis I. Harris, M.D.
1928-1933	Shirley W. Wynne, M.D.
1934-1942	John L. Rice, M.D.
1942-1946	Ernest L. Stebbins, M.D.
1946	Edward M. Bernecker, M.D.
1946-1947	Israel Weinstein, M.D.
1947-1949	Harry S. Mustard, M.D.
1950-1953	John F. Mahoney, M.D.
1954-1962	Leona Baumgartner, M.D.
1962-1965	George James, M.D.

*Originally the Board of Health elected one of its members to serve as President. Later, the titles of Commissioner of Health and President of the Board became synonymous. Today, the Commissioner of Health is ex officio Chairman of the Board of Health.

