Annual report on the health of Gibraltar.

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City Council of Gibraltar

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF GIBRALTAR

FOR THE YEAR

1947

BY

Major J. Q. MOUNTAIN, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., M.D.

Royal Army Medical Corps,
Medical Officer of Health, Gibraltar.

with which is included the Report of the City Analyst and Bacteriologist.

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PREFACE

The vital statistics for the year 1947 show that in general the health of Gibraltar has remained remarkably good. The death rate 6.56 per thousand total population is the lowest for many years. The infantile mortality rate 47.24 per thousand births shows a rise from that of 1946, but compares very favourably with the corresponding figures for prewar years. Serious infectious diseases have been notable by their scarcity. The birth rate after showing the expected post war rise is falling again and has now reached an average level. I have but one fear in presenting such satisfactory figures, the fear that, because few people have died and no outbreaks of disease have occurred, it will be thought that all is well in this City—and that nothing more need be done.

Whilst poor housing and overcrowding are as prevalent as they are in Gibraltar today, I cannot but feel that we are living on a volcano, quiescent but liable to erupt at any time were any serious infective disease to gain a footing. Some confirmation of this disquiet is to be found in the slight rise in the infantile mortality rate, a rate well known for its sensitivity to environmental conditions. To say that Gibraltar still has a big post-war rehabilitation problem is perhaps not strictly accurate, as we have now returned to the approximate position held in 1939. Rather is it the leeway lost in the war years when no advances could be made which has now to be recovered. Before we can feel satisfied, recovered it must be, in spite of all shortages of labour and materials.

Undoubtedly the greatest immediate problem is that of so many other countries, housing and the control of overcrowding. When the housing problem is solved that of overcrowding will also cease to exist, but in the meantime some legislation to prevent further overcrowding appears to be needed. The generosity of many Gibraltar people in offering relatives or strangers accommodation, whilst laudable in intent, must not be allowed to endanger the health of others. Therein lies a factor which must be ever kept in mind when considering the abatement of overcrowding and ~~sham~~ Slum clearance; namely, that overcrowding not only endangers the health of the overcrowded, but also that of their neighbours. Hence the fact that an overcrowded family has contributed to, or has permitted the overcrowding, in no way invalidates the necessity for its abatement.

The development of the Child Welfare and the School Medical Services are now in the hands of the Colonial Government and these services show steady progress.

A problem, which it gives me pleasure to report as being now in the process of solution, is that of the fresh water supply. Orders have been placed for purification plant which it is hoped will increase supplies by about 250,000 gallons per week. This will be a great advance but I fear that this same problem is likely to recur, for, as the people of Gibraltar become more hygienically minded so will the quantity of water consumed per head increase. I think it is true to say that it has been the experience of most water undertakings, that a bold policy, bold even to the point of apparent extravagance, proves most economical in the long run.

During the year a number of changes occured in the staff of the Health Department. Firstly, I had the honour to succeed Major G. M. Fleming in May. In September, Major A. L. M. Christie, the City Analyst and Bacteriologist returned to the United Kingdom and was replaced in October by Lieutenant G. W. Storey, who ably covered the work in the City Laboratory until the arrival of Dr. C. Voigt in December.

The appointment of a full time City Analyst-Bacteriologist marks a further step in the return to the former peace time practice.

The retirement last year of Mr. A. E. Victory and the appointment of Mr. J. Alcantara as Sanitary Inspector on probation has left the number of Sanitary Inspectors unchanged, but unfortunately reduces the number of Inspectors holding the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. It is to be hoped that the Council will give every assistance to the probationary Inspectors when, having attained the required qualification in general education, they are at liberty to proceed with training for this most necessary certificate. The high standards maintained in the past can only be continued if experienced and fully trained Inspectors are employed.

It remains for me to thank the staff of the Health Department, from the most senior to the most junior, for the painstaking way in which they have discharged their duties.

My thanks must also be extended to the Council for their interest, and to the heads and members of various other departments who have so readily given me their assistance.

J. Q. MOUNTAIN,
Major, R.A.M.C.,
Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
City Council of Gibraltar,
April, 1948.

City Council of Gibraltar

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Summary of Vital Statistics for the year 1947

Total area of Gibraltar Territory . .	1,387	acres
Area of the City	104	acres
Estimated Total Civil Population of Gibraltar	22,532	persons
Estimated Fixed Total Population of Gibraltar	20,316	persons
Births in Fixed Population . . .	196	Males
	185	Females
Total Births	381	
Birth rate per 1,000 of Fixed Civil Population . .	18.75	
Deaths in Fixed Civil Population . . .	146	
Crude Death rate per 1,000 of Total Civil Population .	7.18	
Death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis .	.31	
Infantile Mortality Rate	47.24	

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1947.

The following weather summary and tables have been supplied by the Air Ministry Meteorologist at Gibraltar.

January, February and March were all very unsettled with rainfall well above and sunshine well below average. Temperatures were near average.

April was unusually dry and sunny though with temperatures near normal.

Both May and June were cooler and less sunny than usual but with rainfall below average.

July and August were warmer and sunnier than usual. A thunderstorm occurred early in July which is unusual.

Weather became somewhat unsettled again towards the end of September and rainfall for the month was near normal with temperatures a little above and sunshine a little below normal.

October, November and December were all much sunnier and drier than average, the total rainfall for the three months being slightly above one third of normal.

Total rainfall for the year was 29.22 inches, well below the average of 35.15 inches. As in the previous year the first half of 1947 produced an excess of rainfall (22.18 inches as against the normal of 18.63 inches) and the second half a big deficit (7.04 inches against 16.52 inches).

Lat. 36'07 N. Long. 050 21 w. Windmill Hill Flats Barometer 403 Ft. Rain guage 370 Ft. Above M. S. L.

Months	Mean Pres. at MSL	TEMPERATURE °F														REL. HUMIDITY				CLOUD AMOUNT (TENTH)			
		MEANS								HIGHEST		LOWEST											
		Dry Bulb				Max. A.	Min. B.	Mean A and B	Diff. from average	Max	Date	Min	Date	Min on grass	Date								
		03	09	15	21											03	09	15	21	03	09	15	21
Jan.....	1018'1	52'1	52'5	55'4	52'9	56'8	49'5	53'1	—0'4	62	12	39	25,26	35	26	81	80	74	79	5'3	6'5	6'5	5'1
Feb.....	1010'8	53'7	54'1	57'3	55'4	58'7	51'3	55'0	0'0	65	21	44	1	39	1	87	85	79	85	6'6	7'0	7'0	5'5
Mar.....	1016'1	56'5	57'5	60'7	57'8	62'8	53'8	58'3	+ 1'3	68	13.20 21	47	30,31	39	15	86	84	79	83	5'5	6'0	5'9	4'1
April....	1023.0	58'5	60'1	62'4	59'7	63'8	56'8	60'3	—0'8	71	30	47	5	42	9	83	81	74	80	3'2	4'6	2'7	2'8
May ...	1014'3	59'8	62'9	66.0	61'5	67'5	57'6	62'0	—1'5	79	30	47	3	43	3,4	89	83	80	90	3'9	4'7	4'4	3'0
June ...	1016'7	66'0	69'3	72'6	67'6	71'7	64'1	67'9	—0'6	83	27	59	4	54	4	90	81	75	87	3'1	4'7	3'1	3'5
July ...	1015'6	70'6	73'1	76'3	71'4	77'9	68'2	73'0	+1.5	81	21,26 28	62	19	55	11	84	81	73	86	2'2	3'2	1'6	1'7
Aug.....	1014'9	70'5	73'5	77'3	'72'2	79'6	67'9	73'7	+0'7	91	4	64	15	56	24	87	79	70	83	2'6	3'1	1'9	1'5
Sept ...	1017'5	68'7	71'7	74'3	70'6	76'2	66'4	71'3	+ 0'8	80	2	58	28	55	5,24	88	80	75	86	3'9	5'5	4'8	3'9
Oct.....	1018'1	65'7	67'2	69'5	66'6	70'9	63'5	67'2	+1'7	75	1,2,9	55	31	51	31	91	88	85	89	4'1	5'6	5'2	4'3
Nov.....	1020.0	60'3	62'2	65'1	61'9	66'4	58'2	62'3	+2'3	74	20	46	29	40	15	90	85	84	89	3'3	4'9	3'6	2'6
Dec.....	1020'5	53'5	54'4	58'8	55'3	59'8	50'3	55'0	0'0	66	8	45	1,13, 21,27, 28	37	23,27	86	85	78	85	3'8	4'0	3'7	2'7
Year ...	1017'1	61'3	63'2	66'3	62'7	67'7	58'8	63'3	+0'4	91	4 Aug.	39	25,26 Jan.	35	26 Jan	87	83	77	85	4'0	5'0	4'2	3'4

Months	RAINFALL			SUNSHINE		WEATHER								
						No. of Days of								
	Total mm.	Max in 24 h	Date	Daily Mean (hrs)	o/o of Poss	Rain	Snow	Hail	Thun-der	Over-cast Sky	Clear Sky	Gales	Fog	Frost
Jan	174·7	51·8	30	4·29	43	14	0	1	1	8	4	6	0	0
Feb	200·4	24·5	23	4·42	41	21	0	1	2	7	0	11	0	0
Mar	160·8	64·9	2	6·79	57	16	0	3	3	9	2	3	0	0
April	0·7	0·5	1	9·52	73	2	0	0	0	0	10	2	0	0
May	25·9	13·5	3	9·51	67	9	0	1	2	1	6	2	2	0
June	0·7	0·7	2	10·35	71	1	0	0	0	2	10	0	1	0
July	4·1	3·7	6	11·85	83	2	0	0	1	0	17	0	0	0
Aug	0·1	0·1	31	11·09	82	1	0	0	0	1	16	0	0	0
Sept	26·6	14·3	27	8·02	64	4	0	0	1	4	7	0	0	0
Oct	26·0	9·7	30	7·79	69	7	0	0	0	4	7	0	0	0
Nov	52·3	35·9	30	7·46	73	4	0	0	1	2	10	2	0	0
Dec	69·7	15·9	3	7 15	73	9	0	0	0	4	11	4	0	0
Year	742·0	64·9	2nd Mar	8·19	66	90	0	6	11	42	100	30	3	0

WIND

Total Number of observations at 03. 09. 15. and 21 hours Greenwich Mean Time

MONTHS	FORCE					DIRECTION							
	8 or over	6-7	4-5	1-3	Calm	N.	NE.	E.	SE.	S.	SW.	W.	NW.
January	8	29	57	29	1	1	19	18	2	1	12	46	24
February	11	32	50	19	—	—	—	3	3	1	21	60	24
March	4	24	51	44	1	3	9	10	4	2	13	54	28
April	1	27	60	30	2	1	52	40	1	1	1	16	6
May	—	11	50	58	5	1	25	25	1	1	15	36	15
June	—	—	69	43	8	—	25	24	5	1	18	29	10
Jnly	—	9	62	48	5	—	30	35	4	1	13	28	8
August	—	11	57	49	7	—	25	21	4	1	20	36	10
September	—	12	53	51	4	3	35	32	5	1	10	20	10
October	—	13	66	43	2	3	24	41	4	—	3	24	23
November	2	10	52	51	5	2	29	34	2	1	5	23	19
December	10	21	43	48	2	9	16	15	3	—	6	37	36
Year	36	199	670	513	42	23	289	298	38	11	137	409	213

VITAL STATISTICS.

The civil population of Gibraltar as shewn in the Records and Permit Office of the Police Department consisted, at the end of 1947 of the following:—

	Men	*Women*	*Children*	*Totals*
British Subjects	7,144	8,158	5,014	20,316
Resident aliens	1,120	1,052	44	2,216
Totals	8,264	9,210	5,058	22,532

Average number of persons entering and leaving Gibraltar daily:—

1946	7,500
1947	8,400

The alterations in population during recent years are shown below:—

How Estimated.		British Subjects Fixed Population	Alien Subjects Floating Population	Total Population
Census April 1931		16,188	1,425	17,613
Police Estimate end of	1932	15,143	1,466	16,609
do.	1933	15,071	1,326	16,397
do.	1934	14,790	1,057	15,847
do.	1935	15,735	1,130	16,865
do.	1936	16,875	2,319	19,194
do.	1937	16,792	2,749	19,541
do.	1938	17,222	3,017	20,239
do.	1939	18,125	2,315	20,440
		Civil Population evacuated during war years.		
do.	1945	17,448	1,784	19,232
do.	1946	19,269	1,964	21,233
do.	1947	20,316	2,216	22,532

It will be noted that the present population figures are some 2,000 greater than pre-war. It must also be remembered that there are still approximately 1,400 persons who were evacuated during the World War waiting to return to Gibraltar as soon as housing accommodation can be found for them.

Whether the fall in the birth rate compared with 1946 indicates that the present high rate will not be maintained remains to be seen. The wide margin between the death rate and the birth rate indicates that a steady increase in the population is to be expected, unless emigration disturbs the natural order.

BIRTHS.

Three hundred and eighty-one children were born amongst the resident population during the year; one hundred and ninety six were males and one hundred and eighty-five females, giving a birth rate of 18.75 per 1,000 population.

The birth rate for 1947 shows a reduction from that of 21,38 for 1946 and brings the rate below that for previous years; the average birth rate for the five years 1935 to 1939 being 20.16.

In addition,fourteen children were born in 1947 from persons residing outside Gibraltar.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Two mothers died from accidents of pregnancy and parturition, giving a maternal mortality rate of 5.24 per 1,000 births. There were no deaths from, nor notifications of, puerperal fever during the year.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Eighteen children under the age of one year died in 1947, representing an infantile mortality rate of 47.24 per 1,000 births. This figure shows an increase compared with that of 36.4 in 1946, but is considerably below the average figure 70.3 for the five years prior to the War.

Causes of Infant Deaths:—

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1/2 weeks	2/3 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1/3 months	3/6 months	6/9 months	9/12 months	Total under one year
Congenital debility & malformations	12			12					12
Pneumonia			1	1					1
Gastro-enteritis					3				3
Other causes							2		2
Totals...	12		1	13	3		2		18

From the preceding table it will be seen that the vast majority of deaths occurred in the first week of life from congenital causes, the neonatal mortality rate being as high as 34.12.

The low mortality after the first week of life reflects the good missionary work done by the Child Welfare staff among the mothers of Gibraltar.

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered as having occurred in 1947 among the resident British population was one hundred and forty-six (7.18 per thousand); in addition there were two deaths among resident aliens (0.9 per thousand); making a total of one hundred and forty-eight (6.56 per thousand for the total population).

The principal causes of death were:—

Cancer	26
Heart diseases	21
Cerebral haemorrhage	13

Forty-eight percent of the deaths occurred in persons over sixty-five years of age.

Also twenty-one deaths occurred amongst persons landed from shipping in the Bay, or brought into the Town for treatment.

The number of deaths in each month and quarter of the year was as follows:—

January	17	April	19
February	19	May	15
March	15	June	7
Total 1st Quarter	51	Total 2nd Quarter ...	41
July	11	October	13
August	20	November	11
September	8	December	13
Total 3rd Quarter ...	39	Total 4th Quarter ...	37

It should be noted that these statistics do not include the Naval, Military or R.A.F. populations.

Causes of Death in the Civil Population during 1947. According to the International Abbeviated List with Age and Sex Incidence

Cause of Death	All Ages	under 1 year		1/2 years		2/5 years		5/15 years		15/25 years		25/45 years		45/55 years		55/65 years		65 and over	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M'	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Tuberculosis, respiratory system	7																		
Cancer, Malignant tumours	26										1		1	1		2		2	
Haemorrhage, apoplexy & softening of the brain	13											1		2	3	3	7	2	8
Heart diseases	21												1			2		6	4
Acute bronchitis	3											1	1	1		3	2	6	7
Chronic bronchitis	2																		2
Pneumonia	7																1	1	
Other diseases of the respiratory system	2		2								1					1	1	1	1
Diseases of stomach	2													1		1		1	
Diarrhoea and enteritis (under 2 years)	3	1	1	1												1			
Appendicitis & typhlitis	1																1		
Hernia, intestinal obstruction	3												1						2
Cirrhosis of the liver	1											1							
Acute and chronic nephritis	6															1	1	3	1
Accidents of pregnancy and parturition	2												2						
Congenital debility and malformations	12	4	8																
Old age	8																	1	7
Violent deaths (suicide excluded)	2													1		1			
Other diseases	27	1	1											1		5	3	7	9
Totals ...	148	6	12	1						2		3	6	7	3	20	17	30	41

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Maternity and Child Welfare Service is now under the control of the Colonial Government and I am indebted to Dr. D. J. Valentine, Chief Medical Officer for the following report.

MATERNITY SERVICE.

Regular antenatal clinics were held at the Colonial Hospital twice weekly. Attendance was very good. Preparations of calcium iron and adexolin were given to those who required them. A few cases are attended in their homes by private doctors or registered midwives, but the majority of women prefer to be delivered in hospital.

There were five registered midwives engaged in private practice.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICE.

The activities of the Infant Welfare Clinic were maintained throughout the year with three sessions a week at the Town Clinic, one session a week at the South Clinic and from May, one clinic a month at the Recreation Hall at Catalan Bay.

On 17th March, 1947, the Town Clinic moved from "The Haven" to new premises in the ground floor of the Exchange Building. Apart from being much more spacious, the main features of the new accommodation are: an adequate waiting room, a test feeding room, a weighing room, a consulting room, an adequate store, a kitchen, and lavatories for patients and staff—a distinct improvement on the rather cramped accommodation in "The Haven".

The South Clinics continued to be held in the ground floor of a house in Cumberland Road.

A state registered nurse and a registered midwife were appointed temporarily to fill the vacancies caused by the resignation of the two Health Visitors.

At these centres free medical advice was given to any mother who brought her infant or young child under five years for examination. The two Health Visitors and their assistants also visited the homes whenever possible, to help and advise mothers on the many problems arising in the care of young children. Milk foods were supplied free or at a reduced rate to those mothers who required assistance.

The clinics continued to be well attended but there are still many mothers who fail to take advantage of the facilities offered.

Valuable voluntary assistance was given to the staff by certain members of the Nursing Division of St. John's Ambulance Brigade.

The omnibus service for mothers and infants living at Catalan Bay was discontinued. Arrangements were made for the Medical Officer and a Health Visitor to hold a Clinic once a month at Catalan Bay.

Talks were given to mothers by the Health Visitors. A special endeavour was made to overcome a reluctance of some mothers to continue breast feeding. Some mothers found it easier to put their babies on sweetened condensed milk. Very often the kind of milk was quite unsuitable and gave rise to gastro-intestinal disturbances.

Table of Attendances and Home Visits.

(*a*) *Attendances* 1947.

	...Number on Register.	*Attendances*
Town Clinic ...	769	5,672
South Clinic ...	126	899
Catalan Bay Clinic	13	48
Totals	908	6,619

(*b*) *Home Visits* 1947.

Primary	319
Under 1 *year*	405
Over 1 *year*	589
Special	25
Ante-Natal	56
Houses	930
Transit Centres	14
Fruitless	95
Removals	40

(*c*) *Anti-Diphtheria Immunisations.*

1st Dose	=	81.
2nd Dose	=	77.
Boosting Dose	=	1.

Sales of Milk Foods and Vitamin Preparations.

Cow & Gate — full cream ...	1,886 tins.
Cow & Gate — half cream ...	3,192 „
Lacidac	152 „
Ideal Milk	2,939 „
Cod Liver Oil	16¾ pints.
Malt and Cod Liver Oil ...	1,641 lbs.
Vitamin C tablets	21,107
Adexolin Capsules	28,059
Ostocalcium tablets	24,736
Fersolate tablets	21,856
Radio-osteum	253½ ozs.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

The School Medical Service continues to be organised by the Colonial Government. For the following report I have to thank Dr. D. J. Valentine, Chief Medical Officer to the Colonial Government and Dr. J.A. Durante, School Medical Officer.

All the schools were visited on several occasions during the year and one thousand and thirty children were medically examined. Regular visits were also paid by the Health Visitors and cleanliness inspections carried out.

In 328 (31.8%) of the total number of children medically examined nothing abnormal was detected clinically, whilst 276 (26.7%) were found to be suffering from poor nutrition. Signs of anaemia were detected in two hundred and forty-two children, but this figure includes a large proportion of those suffering from poor nutrition who have been classified under both groups when the nutritional defect was associated with anaemia.

The majority of these children belonged to the five to eight age group. Fifty-seven children were undersized or poorly developed but their nutritional state was fair. Four hundred and sixteen children (40.4%) had dental caries often associated with pathological conditions of the gums. That only 31.8% of a fairly representative group of school children examined were considered to be in normal health, together with the high incidence of nutritional defects and dental caries shows the urgent necessity for intensifying medical and social measures to improve the environmental and nutritional standards of the child population. All the children in the five to eight age group are now receiving a third of a pint of free milk in school daily and this valuable preventive measure could with advantage be extended to all school children.

Apart from the provision of adequate housing, the appointment of a whole time school nurse to enable necessary domiciliary visits to be effected for the purpose of advising mothers and obtaining their cooperation, is essential to the progress of the school health service. These visits cannot be carried out efficiently under the present system by which the nurse can only devote part of her time to school work.

Three hundred and forty-nine children had varying degrees of enlargement of the tonsils and in two hundred and eighty-one the cervical glands were enlarged. In only a small proportion was the condition such as to require surgical treatment.

Postural defects due to acquired bad habits in standing and sitting were noted in one hundred and ninety-nine children. Besides properly conducted physical exercises much could be done by teachers in correcting these faulty habits.

Two hundred and twenty-one children were found to have defective vision and were referred to the eye clinic at the Colonial Hospital for treatment. Persuading parents to insist on their children wearing the prescribed spectacles has proved at times a labour of patience and perseverance.

By arrangement with the Physician to the King George V. Hospital, children suspected of suffering from pulmonary diseases have been referred to him at the Colonial Hospital for X-ray screening. Eighty-four children were referred to him for this purpose but owing to non-cooperation and at times definite objection by the parents, twenty-one failed to attend. The results are tabulated on page 13.

These cases stress the necessity for appointing a full-time school nurse.

Though the incidence of tonsillar hypertrophies was high, only two cases of valvular disease of the heart were detected (one was congenital) and it is encouraging to note that in spite of existing overcrowding and high cost of living the standard of cleanliness and clothing were good and the incidence of pyococcal dermatoses low.

The following medicines were recommended and supplied either at a reduced cost or free of charge at the Child Welfare Centre:—

Oil and Malt	to	187	children.
Tablets of Fersolate	to	90	„
Tablets of Ostocalcium	to	45	„
Adexolin	to	7	„

The adoption of the standard Medical Record Card recently approved by the Ministry of Education for use in all schools in England is being considered. Apart from its advantages over the one in use at present it would provide valuable health records detailed in accordance with the standards adopted in English schools which could accompany children going to continue their education in the United Kingdom.

Abnormality.	*Number of Children Affected.*
1. *Disorders of Nutrition and Metabolism.*	
Poor nutrition and anaemia	275
Undersized or poorly developed	57
Obesity	21
2. *Defective Posture* including postural scoliosis winged scapulae, etc.	199
3. *Skeletal Deformities.* Minor degrees of Genu Valgum, Varum, flat feet, etc.	37
4. *Disorders of upper respiratory passages and ears.*	
Enlarged tonsils and/or adenoids	349
Nasal obstruction	11
Enlarged cervical glands	281
Otitis media	5
(*a*) *Dental Caries and affections of gums* ...	416
5. *Deformities of the Chest.*	87
(*a*) *Disorders of the lungs.*	
Suspected pulmonary disease and referred for X-ray screening	84
Appointment not kept	21
Negative findings	42
Calcified lesions of hylum or parenchyma...	8
Enlarged roots	11
Enlarged mediastinal glands	1
Heavy broncho-vascular markings	5
Asthma	4
(*b*) *Disorders of the Heart*	
Functional murmurs	16
Valvular lesions (one congenital)	2
6. *Visual Defects.*	
Defective vision	220
Strabismus	19
Diseases of conjunctiva	13
7. *Dermatoses* including pyococcal infections ...	45

8. *Disorders of the Nervous System.*

Nervous excitability, depressions etc. ...	32
Enuresis	3
Stammer	2
Mentally backward	6

9. *Disorders of the Digestive System.*

Constipation, Anorexia and other conditions	16

10. *Other Abnormalities.*

Undescended testicles	23
Varicocele	2
Umbilical hernia	3
Inguinal hernia	4
Hydrocele of cord	1
Congenital syphilis	1
Enlarged thyroid	1

Health Visitors accompanied by Assistant Health Visitors carried out regular cleanliness inspections at all the schools. Out of 4.728 chidren examined 3,173 were found to be clean—65 were found to have dirty bodies and 47 were excluded.

Health Visitors also made 52 home visits.

School children requiring dental treatment were referred to the Dental Surgeons (Mr. Danino and Mr. Cochrane). They attended at the private surgeries by appointment — Mr. Danino on Wednesdays and Fridays at 9.30 a.m. and Mr. Cochrane on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9.30 a.m.

Summary of Dental Treatment.

Dental Surgeon	No. of Sessions for treatment.	Teeth Conserved.	Teeth Extracted	Attendances for Sealing and Gum treatment.
Mr. A. Danino	101	649	213	106
Mr. J. Cochrane	75	283	433	73

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

One hundred and sixty-eight cases of infectious disease were notified in 1947 (103 in 1946) equal to a rate of 7.5 per thousand. The increase compared with 1946 is due to a small outbreak of about fifty cases of measles in May and June, and higher incidence of chicken-pox. The cases of major infectious disease occurred sporadically throughout the year.

DIPHTHERIA.

Twelve cases were notified in 1947 (11 in 1946) showing the usual autumn-winter seasonal incidence. This figure is perhaps hardly a true index as a number of the cases were little more than K.L.B. carriers. The disease was mild in type and there were no deaths. Attempts are being made at the Welfare Centres to encourage parents to have their children immunised, and seventy-seven children completed successful courses of immunisation during the year. One views with some concern the small number of children who, either having been immunised or having had the disease, can be considered to be immune. The concern is no less because no epidemics of this disease have broken out in recent years, as it is more than likely that in due course the virulence of the organism will again increase, and the disease will then spread rapidly through the susceptible child population.

SCARLET FEVER.

Only three cases of scarlet fever occurred during the year.

ENTERIC AND DYSENTERY.

There were eight notifications of typhoid fever (including one of paratyphoid) during the year. This is a slight reduction on 1946 when twelve notifications were received.

Notifications of dysentery also showed a decrease — five as against eight in 1946. All were of the bacillary type.

Available evidence suggests that six of the eight notified cases of typhoid fever were infected outside Gibraltar. Whilst of the five cases of dysentery, two were certainly, and one probably infected outside Gibraltar.

SMALLPOX.

No cases of small-pox were notified in 1947 and none was brought into the Colony for treatment.

Vaccination.

Every child is required to be vaccinated within three months of birth and to be revaccinated at twelve years of age. Vaccination is carried out at the bi-weekly clinics held by the Public Vaccinator at the Health Department. Babies may also be vaccinated by the Medical Officer at the Child Welfare Clinics.

Number of children born	381
Number died before vaccination	12
Number who left Gibraltar	1
Certified as insusceptible to vaccination ...	Nil
Vaccination postponed on medical grounds	20
Number successfully vaccinated (children born in 1947)	269
Objectors to vaccination	Nil
Outstanding	79

Of the seventy-nine outstanding, seventy-one had not attained the age of three months — notices have been served on the remaining eight.

In all, three hundred and eighty-two vaccinations and two hundred and ninety-six revaccinations on children who had attained the age of twelve years, were performed during the year. The Public Vaccinator carried out three hundred and thirteen vaccinations and two hundred and seventy revaccinations.

MEASLES.

A small outbreak of approximately fifty cases occurred during May and June in the northern district of the Town. Surprisingly it died out without spreading through the central and southern areas.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Thirty-one cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year (representing an incidence of 1.54 per 1,000) and thirty of these received hospital treatment. During the year there were seven deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system, giving a death rate of .34 per 1,000.

It is regrettable that the poor housing conditions to which many tuberculosis patients return after undergoing prolonged periods of treatment in sanatorium tend to negative the painstaking care taken of them whilst in such institution. For economic reasons if no other, such tuberculous families should receive the highest priority in the award of new houses or tenements when these become available.

In December notification was extended to all forms of tuberculosis. It is not expected that undue incidence of non-pulmonary tuberculosis will be revealed, but it was thought advisable that non-pulmonary cases should be made known so that the Anti-tuberculosis Service could follow up these cases.

RABIES.

In 1947 there were no cases of rabies amongst dogs or cats in Gibraltar.

One suspected case was investigated but examination of the animal's brain at the Pasteur Institute, Tangier, failed to confirm the diagnosis.

Regulations prohibiting the importation of dogs except directly from the United Kingdom and for the licensing and muzzling of all dogs in Gibraltar, remained in force.

Stray dogs are taken to the kennels and if not claimed are destroyed. Any dog which bites a person is put under observation for ten days, unless the owner elects to have it destroyed.

The Commissioner of Police who has now taken charge of the kennels has kindly supplied the following statistics of the work done there.

Number of stray dogs admitted	102
,, ,, ,, ,, claimed	20
,, ,, ,, ,, destroyed	82
Number of dogs detained after biting persons	30
Number of dogs (detained) claimed ...	24
Number of dogs (detained) destroyed ...	6
Number of dogs detained as contacts of rabies	Nil
Number returned to owners after quarantine	Nil
Number destroyed	Nil

PHLEBOTOMUS FEVER

In June a local medical practitioner expressed his suspicion that cases of sand-fly fever had recently occurred. Seven suspect cases were eventually discovered, but by that time all had recovered and the diagnosis could not be confirmed. The cases were scattered in widely different localities but a search was made in the environs of each for sandflies. Although numerous suspected midges were examined in only one case was the phlebotomus identified — being found in a garage which was effectively treated with D.D.T. solution.

No further cases came to light.

Age and Sex incidence of Notifiable Infectious Diseases—Civil Population 1947.

Notifiable Disease	NUMBER OF CASES														Districts			No. of cases removed to Hospital
	All Ages	Under 1 year		1 and under 5 years		5 and under 15 years		15 and under 25 years		25 and under 45 years		45 and under 65 years		65 and over		North	Central	South	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	31	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	9	6	6	4	1	2	1	—	26	5	30
Chicken Pox	41	—	1	4	5	11	18	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	22	17	1
Measles	61	2	2	12	17	13	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	41	17	3	3
Diphtheria	12	—	1	6	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	8	2	11
Rubella	5	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
Dysentery	5	—	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	3
Enteric Fever	8	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	4	3	1	5
Scarlet Fever	3	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1
Undulant Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	2	—	—
Totals ...	168	3	4	24	25	28	41	6	12	8	6	6	1	2	2	49	90	29	54

Monthly Incidence of Infectious Diseases—Showing Number of Cases and Deaths, Civil Population, 1947.

C = cases D = deaths

Months.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Chicken Pox		Measles		Diphtheria		Rubella		Dysentery		Enteric Fever		Scarlet Fever		Undulant Fever	
	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.	C.	D.
January ...	4	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
February ...	4	2	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
March	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
April	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
May	3	1	9	—	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		1	—	1	—
June	3	—	7	—	32	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
July	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
August	4	1	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
September ...	3	1	1	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
October	5	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
November ...	2	—	6	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
December ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	31	7	41	—	61	—	12	—	5	—	5	—	8	—	3	—	2	—

Quarterly Return of Notifications of Infectious Diseases—Civil Population 1947.

	January	February	March	1st Qr.	April	May	June	2nd Qr.	July	August	Sept.	3rd Qr.	October	November	December	4th Qr.	Total	Deaths
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4	4	1	9	1	3	3	7	—	4	3	7	5	2	1	8	31	7
Chicken Pox	1	9	1	11	1	9	7	17	1	—	1	2	5	6	—	11	41	—
Measles	1	—	—	1	—	19	32	51	3	3	2	8	—	—	1	1	61	—
Diphtheria	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	7	2	9	12	—
Rubella	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	5	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	3	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	5	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	2	1	2	2	5	8	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	3	—
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
	8	13	2	24	8	33	43	84	6	9	10	25	12	17	7	36	168	7

Cases landed from the bay and cases brought into the town for treatment

	January	February	March	1st Qr.	April	May	June	2nd Qr.	July	August	Sept.	3rd Qr.	October	November	December	4th Qr.	Total	Deaths
Chicken Pox	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Diphtheria	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	1	3	4	3	—	3	6	4	1	—	5	1	2	1	4	19	
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	3	
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	
	1	2	3	6	3	—	4	7	5	1	1	7	2	4	1	7	27	

INSECT VECTORS.

MOSQUITOES.

The year could not be described as a bad one for mosquitoes. Some sixty-one specimens were taken for identification — the following species being found:—

Aedes argenteus ...	13	between July and October.
Theobaldia longiareolata	23	between July and October.
Culex pipiens	25	throughout the year.

No additional staff were employed during the mosquito season — the Sanitary Inspectors and their assistants covering the work, details of which are given in the table, whilst a summary is set out below:—

Number of visits paid to premises	29,405
Number of breeding places found	116
—composed of:—	
tubs	36
barrels	10
earthenware receptacles	1
miscellaneous	69

HOUSE FLIES.

Flies were not unduly prevalent, this being attributable in no small measure to the paucity of horses on the Rock and to the daily removal of house refuse.

Five percent D.D.T. solution for use in spray guns has been on sale at the Health Department and has proved popular, residents apparently recognising the greater efficacy of the five percent solution over those of lower concentration frequently sold as anti-fly sprays.

Two hundred and sixty-seven gallons of five percent D.D.T. solution were disposed of in this way during the year.

MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN RETURN—YEAR 1947

T = tubs. B = barrels. E/V = earthenware vessels. O = others.

Week ending		Visits paid to premises	Town Lower				Town Middle				Town Upper				South				North				Totals
			T.	B.	E/V.	O.	T.	B.	E/V.	O.	T.	B.	E/V.	O.	T.	B.	E/V.	O.	T.	B.	E/V.	C.	
Jan.	4	604	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	11	628	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	18	612	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	25	615	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Feb.	1	613	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	8	614	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	NIL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	15	558	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	NIL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	22	564	...	...	...	...	...	...	..		2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Mar.	1	549	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	8	557	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	15	566	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	NIL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	22	497	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	29	495	...	...	...	...	...	...	...		...	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	5
April	5	569	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
	12	600	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
	19	546	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	26	547	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
May	3	464	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2
	10	539	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	4
	17	581	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	3
	24	562	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	6
	31	560	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
June	7	578	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	4
	14	542	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	21	571	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	4
	28	569	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
July	5	557	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	5
	12	559	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	5
	19	528	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	11
	26	589	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
Aug.	2	571	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	6
	9	569	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	6
	16	570	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
	23	550	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
	30	576	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2
Sept.	6	566	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
	13	569	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	20	570	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1
	27	573	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Oct.	4	561	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	11	572	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	18	549	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	25	562	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Nov.	1	574	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	8	569	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	3
	15	553	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
	22	569	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	29	575	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL	.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dec.	6	580	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	NIL	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	13	582	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	20	568	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	. .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	27	544								...													1
Totals ...		29,405	...	...	...	3	1	4	1	18	33	...	...	11	2	4	...	18	...	2	...	19	116

"Others" include pits, drinking troughs, washing troughs, catch pits, wells, gullies, fresh water tanks, fire buckets, galvanised iron baths, old tins, flower pots, vases, bottles, grindstone receptacles, flushing tanks, underground tanks, wash boilers, &c.

SUMMARY

Tubs	36	Barrels	10	1st Offences	94
Earthenware Vessels	1	Others	69	2nd Offences	5

ANTI-RAT CAMPAIGN.

The organisation for the destruction of the rat menace was not allowed to die with the termination of the intensive anti-rat campaign undertaken in 1945-1946. The numbers of personnel were, of course, reduced but a great deal of maintenance work has been done.

The Anti-Rat Coordinating Committee continued to meet although less frequently. Four meetings were held at quarterly intervals; few meetings being necessary as cooperation and coordination between the three Services and the Civil Authority has been effected so smoothly.

A sixteen millimeter film illustrating the damage done by rats, the indications of their presence and methods of dealing with them, was obtained from the United Kingdom and shown to the public in the hall of the Calpe Institute.

The civilian staff has remained the same, one Rodent Officer, two skilled labourers and one handyman. Some difficulty was experienced in organising their work when a forty-four hour week was adopted.. Since that time it has been barely possible to deal with all complaints of rat infestation without additional staff. However, as far as can be ascertained, the present staff are managing to keep the rat population in check.

The tables which follow give a summary of the work done during the year.

* *

Anti-Rat Treatment of Civiiian Areas 1947

Week No.	Number of Premises Treated	Number of Points Prebaited	Number of Points Poison Baited	Number of Takes Recorded	Number of Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
					R.R.	R.N.	M.M.	
1/47	14	185	84	39				25.0
2/47	10	90	29	9				3.7
3/47	10	96	51	38				15.8
4/47	9	68	38	24			2	13.5
5/47	12	310	164	55				34.1
6/47	5	196	135	59				49.1
7/47	22	82	205	82	3			52.6
8/47	5	276	50	24				15.6
9/47	8	126	61	35			1	22.5
10/47	9	110	80	37				23.1
11/47	10	130	91	37				20.4
12/47	13	215	96	37				22.6
13/47	12	176	71	37				18.1
14/47		Holy Week						
15/47		Easter Week						
16/47	12	154	80	50	1	2	2	31.2
17/47	12	191	83	32			5	20.1
18/47	11	223	82	32			1	19.7
19/47	8	135	54	32	2			26.6
20/47	13	149	83	38			16	22.6
21/47	12	200	139	60	1		1	34.5
22/47	12	304	115	57			4	34.5
23/47	9	159	91	38			4	23.4
24/47	15	286	112	49	1		6	25.7
25/47	12	159	98	43				25.9
26/47	26	618	335	157	5		2	110.0
27/47	11	174	84	29			12	15.8
28/47	17	223	151	64			5	49.1
29/47	10	103	76	37				15.4
30/47	20	395	242	101			26	52.2
31/47	17	187	98	52			6	22.0
32/47	11	282	197	89				51.0
33/47	12	190	118	82	1		29	35.4
34/47	13	292	169	85			9	45.7
35/47	8	583	418	220			1	116.4
36/47	27	580	435	209	8		5	126.2
37/47	18	595	405	243	4		40	116.6
38/47	21	719	370	206	4		28	101.2
39/47	29	636	459	261	2		20	135.4
40/47	11	268	208	143	3		15	70.4
41/47	10	233	126	62	3		1	27.5
42/47	21	422	338	197	1		22	92.9
43/47	17	339	160	95			3	47.6
44/47	19	599	377	229			10	110.8
45/47	22	732	441	221			1	135.7
46/47	19	436	337	152	1		6	68.3
47/47	12	213	119	77			36	53.0
48/47	14	507	278	181			23	131.2
49/47	11	231	150	91			3	69.5
50/47	12	209	162	103			4	69.3
51/47	17	590	279	142	1			78.2
	680	14,376	8,624	4,472	41	2	349	2,528.1

Number of men employed during the year,..... 1 Rodent Officer
2 skilled labourers
1 handyman

44-hr. week operated for workmen from, ... 10/47 (Camp. week Number)
Number of days on which rain fell, ... 50
Poison used,..... 5 lbs. zinc phosphide
39 lbs. arsenious oxide

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY CIVIL, MILITARY, DOCKYARD AND R.A.F. TEAMS, 1947.

Team	Premises Treated	No. of Points Prebaited	No. of Points Poison Baited	Carcasses found			Estimated kill
				Rattus Rattus	Rattus Norvegicus	Mus Musculus	
Civil	680	14,376	8,624	41	2	349	2,528
Military	306	13,874	6,629	11		21	1,545
Dockyard	360	13,274	3,045	47		15	858
R.A.F.	943	757	233	2	2	43	184

ANTI-RAT TREATMENT OF SEWERS, ELECERIC LIGHT AND TELEPHONE PITS FOR YEAR 1947.

(PERFORMED BY THE CITY ENGINEER'S DEPT.)

Sewers

Campaign Week and Date	No. of Prebaits laid	No. of poison baits laid	Total No. of Takes	No. of Manholes Treated	Estimated Kill	Area
13/47, 24/3/47 to 28/3/47	36	36	3	36	2.5	Town
20/47, 12/5/47 to 16/5/47	40	40	4	10	2.5	Town
	76	76	7	46	5.0	

Electric Light, Telephone Pits—and Sub Stations

Campaign Week and Date	No. of Prebaits laid	No. of poison baits laid	Total No. of Takes	No. of Pits, Etc. Treated	Estimated Kill	Area
17/47, 21/4/47 to 25/4/47	24	24	11	7	11.8	City Mill Lane Pitman's Alley Cornwall's Lane.
19/47, 5/5/47 to 9/5/47	33	33	19	14	11.8	Main Street.
26/47, 23/6/47 to 27/6/47	25	24	20	8	12.5	Governor's Street Library Street.
27/47, 30/6/47 to 4/7/47	38	28	15	10	10.0	City Mill Lane John Mackintosh Square Irish Town
36/47, 1/9/47 to 5/9/47	24	24	24	2	18.1	Naval Hospital Road
39/47, 22/9/47 to 26/9/47	40	14	4	2	4.3	Naval Hospital Road
	184	147	93	43	68.5	

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

I am indebted to the City Engineer, Mr. F. L. Ruggeri, M.Inst., M. & Cy.E., M.I.Struct. E., for assistance in the preparation of this part of the report.

WATER SUPPLY.

Due to the low reserve carried over from the previous year, and to the partial failure of the late rains in April and May, a shortage of potable water was experienced towards the end of the summer and the public had to be exhorted to exercise economy in the use of fresh water. Their response to this appeal, and the arrival of tankers just saved the situation, and enforced rationing was avoided.

Supplies of fresh water to merchant shipping had to be curtailed — a ration of five gallons per head per day to the next port of call being allowed during the dry season. In order to reduce the load on the pumps and pipe line from North Front reservoirs, many ships were watered direct from the wells via tankers from the Watering Jetty.

A new well was completed and put into commission at North Front and is giving favourable results.

Investigations into the possibilities of installing a base exchange and/or a softening plant so that the hard brackish water from a number of wells at North Front could be rendered fit for drinking were made by the City Engineer, and the City Council have approved his scheme for a softening plant to be erected. It is hoped to commence this work during 1948.

The storage capacity of the reservoirs remained unchanged at 13,848,742 gallons. Rainfall at the catchments totalled 30.55 inches.

The following table shows the water collected and issued during the year:—

Water collected from catchments	16,561,858
Water pumped from North Front wells ...	27,199,909
Water pumped & transferred from Dockyard	1,604,288
Total ...	45,366,055

Fresh water issued from reservoirs as follows:—

To Town	33,900,267
To shipping	10,000,913
Total ...	43,901,180

Fresh water issued direct from wells:—

To shipping	2,543,200
To North Front Camps	757,744
To private consumers	232,106
Total ...	3,533,050

Brackish water (used for sanitary purposes) pumped during the year ... ... 382,313,400 gls.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

House refuse is collected once daily throughout the year, the average daily collection being twenty-two tons. It is still being disposed of by tipping into the sea at Dead Man's Hole. The new refuse destructor is not yet at work, but is complete except for roofing material which has so far failed to arrive. It is hoped that this destructor will begin work early in 1948.

Three new refuse lorries are on order to reinforce and replace units of the present fleet.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The erection of the temporary houses and the gradual completion of industrial premises at North Front are loading the sewers and pumps in that part of the City to their limits. To deal with this situation and that at Catalan Bay where the conservancy system of sewage disposal is still being used the City Engineer has a scheme in preparation.

The quantity of sewage and storm water pumped from low level during 1947 was 157,680,800 gallons.

PUBLIC HIGHWAYS AND STREET CLEANSING.

In 1947 improvements to highways were carried out in Line Wall Road at its junction with Casemates Hill and also in South Barrack Road at its junction with South Barrack Ramp.

Only on the temporary housing estates are unpaved streets to be found. It is to be hoped that with increasing availability of labour and materials the surfacing and drainage of these will soon be undertaken.

In addition to the normal sweeping of streets, a system of periodical washing is in vogue in Gibraltar. This is a method of cleansing which has much in its favour, and efforts might be made to extend its use.

PUBLIC BATHS.

The Sea Bathing establishment continues to be well patronised—some 64.879 bathers paying for admission during the year.

The temporary fresh water slipper baths still operate in the old Fire Station Building and were used by 11,690 persons in 1947.

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HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING.

HOUSING.

Housing remains the chief problem in Gibraltar. As a result of the very small area of land available for building, the majority of the people live in tenements, the better-off occupying flats. There are very few separate dwelling houses, except for the temporary dwellings erected at the northern end of the Rock. The impossibility of housing other than in tenements or flats can be understood when it is realised that the density of population in the City is approximately two hundred per acre.

If improvement in the health of the Colony is to continue better housing is essential. At present housing conditions are so poor as to negative efforts made in other directions, e.g control of tuberculosis, of infant mortality and of child health.

Slow but steady progress has been made on the large blocks of flats being built at Alameda where, owing to the nature of the ground, a great deal of preparation of the site had to be undertaken before operations on the buildings themselves could be commenced.

The Commissioner of Lands and Works has kindly provided the following figures showing the present position regarding new houses or converted houses completed since the war.

On 31st December, 1947:—

Temporary houses completed ...	430 tenements.
Permanent houses completed ...	4
Buildings converted into tenements	131
Temporary houses contemplated or in hand	109
Permanent houses in hand	20
Properties temporarily vested in the Resettlement Board	254

Repairs to houses continues to be a problem owing to the difficulties of obtaining materials and skilled labour. In consequence the work of the Sanitary Inspectors is greatly increased, as is that of the clerical and administrative staff. Many small repairs and nuisances which formerly merely required a visit by the Sanitary Inspector and an informal notice, now continue unabated, requiring further visits, letters and notices, many even

reaching the stage where legal proceedings have to be instituted.

At times knowing the difficulties experienced by property owners in getting repairs carried out, one feels that greater latitude might be allowed to them, but were this done, it would continue to be expected even when the supply situation became easier. At present it is often surprising how work, held up for long periods owing to the alleged impossibility of obtaining materials, is completed with dispatch when legal proceedings are commenced. Such occurrences suggest that some owners are using the shortage of materials as an excuse for their own failure to have necessary repairs executed.

TOWN PLANNING.

During the year Mr. C. Holliday completed his out-line Town Plan and returned to the United Kingdom, but much detail work remains to be done, in particular detailed surveys of many areas are required.

In order to control new and re-erected buildings, pending the introduction of a Town Planning Ordinance, a Building Interim Control Ordinance was enacted, followed by the making of Rules defining procedure, etc.

A Central Planning Commission was set up, with the duty of preventing the erection of new buildings or the alteration of old buildings which do not, or will not, conform with the requirements of the Outline Town Plan.

In a number of cases the Commission has had to demand amendment of plans submitted to it, in order that building lines, heights of buildings and use of buildings should conform to the Outline Town Plan.

The powers of the City Council under the Public Health Ordinance with regard to the erection of new buildings or the alteration of existing buildings, have been in no way changed by the new Building Control Ordinance, and seventy-seven plans were examined and reported upon during the year.

MEDICAL WORK DONE FOR THE COUNCIL.

The following numbers of men have been medically examined prior to their employment by the Council, in 1947.

January	2
February	3
March	4
April	10
May	14
June	2
July	6
August	5
September	2
October	13
November	—
December	3
Total	64

DISINFECTION

Date	Bed and Mattresses	Bolsters, Pillows	Blankets & Quilts	Sheets	Sundries	Totals
January	130	—	4	—	8	142
February	7	9	10	8	14	48
March	7	8	5	1	12	33
April	1	2	2	2	5	12
May	6	4	4	5	5	24
June	27	26	22	14	25	114
July	7	11	16	8	18	60
August	1	2	19	3	3	28
September	30	24	41	11	5	111
October	9	6	28	8	7	58
November	2	3	11	2	3	21
December	93	13	17	7	8	138
	320	108	179	69	113	789

AMBULANCE SERVICE.

For some time a great need has been felt for a new ambulance as the vehicles at present in use are old and have reached an age when their reliability cannot be of the standard expected of ambulances. The City Council have authorised the placing of an order for a new ambulance.

It will be noted that one hundred and sixty-two corpses were conveyed during the year. The majority of these being taken to the cemetery for interment. Such numbers warrant the provision of a vehicle of better appearance than that at present used. It is to be hoped that on the arrival of the new ambulance, further consideration will be given to the acquisition of a more fitting vehicle to act as hearse.

The number of cases conveyed by City Council ambulances during the year was as follows:—

	Local Cases	Bay Cases
Pneumonia	5	8
Appendicitis	4	8
Bronchial Asthma	1	2
Icterus	—	1
Chicken Pox	—	1
Meningitis	—	1
Pulmonary Congestion	1	—
Hernia	2	—
Cerebral Apoplexy	2	—
Intestinal Haemorrhage	1	—
Malaria	1	1
Tuberculosis	4	3
Mental cases	3	2
Cardiac Asthma	1	1
Haematuria	—	1
Burns	2	3
Rheumatism	1	—

Heart disease	5	—
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	1
Diabetes	1	—
Typhoid Fever	3	2
Coronary Thrombosis	—	1
Dysentery	—	3
Hemiplegia and Paralysis ...	—	1
Cancer	—	2
Pleurisy	—	1
Maternity Cases	20	—
Injuries	49	24
Dead Bodies	158	4
Miscellaneous	96	54
Totals	362	125

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SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS IN 1947.

Complaints Received:

Written	5
Verbal	579

Premises Inspected:

General inspection	17
House-to-house inspection	7800
Statutory notices served—general defects	17
Minor nuisances	509

Nuisances Found:

Defective drains	180
Obstructed drains	328
Defective W.Cs.	175
Defective W.C. fittings	288
water fittings	161
rainwater pipes	103
eavesgutters	158
roofs	148
yard paving	10
Dampness	22
Premises dirty	132
Defective or no dustbin	198
Other minor defects	1156
Suspected pollution of water in underground tank	43
Underground tank not insect proof	3
Brackish water tank not insect proof or no cover	4
Brackish water running to waste	150

Samples of Food and Drugs taken for analysis...	53
Visits to milk shops	130
Visits to eating houses	884
Visits to mineral water factories	174
Visits to common lodging houses	164
Visits to premises on which notice for abatement of nuisance has been served and are revisited for the purpose of ascertaining if requirements are being complied with	2415
Vaccination notices served	646
Legal proceedings instituted	73
Foodstuffs &c., condemned as unsound	19809 lbs.
Street water fittings found defective	115
Premises disinfected for infectious disease	53
Premises disinfected for vermin &c.	18
Articles disinfected at Disinfecting Station	789
Visits of enquiry re infectious disease	135
Cases removed in Ambulance:	
Local	362
Bay	125

FOOD SUPPLIES.

Food supplies have been adequate throughout the year and the arrangements for rationing those essentials in short supply have ensured that all have had the opportunity of a fair share.

Dry Goods

These are mostly imported via the United Kingdom and are nearly always up to standard.

Meat

Meat supplies, although limited, are adequate for the needs of health, but it is undesirable that Gibraltar should be condemned to eat chilled, frozen or canned meats for evermore.

The only safe way to ensure supplies of fresh meat is the re-opening of the slaughter house, but as the old slaughter house occupies the only really suitable site for such a building, and as it is at present being used for housing, there appears to be but little hope of opening an abattoir for some years. The possibility of erecting a temporary slaughter house was investigated but difficulties of finding a site and the cost of erecting and fitting out the buildings in a hygienic manner, precluded any such temporary scheme.

The importation of killed fresh meat from nearby countries, even if it were available cannot be entertained owing to the difficulties of ensuring its safety by inspection.

Some 283,375 pounds of frozen offal were imported and sold in the meat market, after inspection by the market staff.

Milk

The supply of milk is almost entirely in the form of tinned condensed milk and/or dried milk. There are, however, six vendors of fresh milk who between them import approximately a hundred pints of cows' milk and eighty pints of goats' milk a day. This must, by Law, be boiled before being sold to the public. Samples of this milk were taken from time to time in 1947. From these it would appear that the heat treatment is not always carried out as efficiently as it should be.

Whether any enterprising business man will ever find it worth while to obtain and erect efficient pasteurising or sterilising plant, and import fresh milk in quantity, remains to be seen. To

be efficient any such enterprise would have to be on a large scale owing to the expensive nature of the necessary plant, and the need for skilled operators.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables

Plentiful supplies have been imported from Spain for sale at the Public Markets and by the licenced street vendors. All such supplies pass under the surveillance of the Market Inspectors. In 1947 occasional consignments of these commodities were imported from Tangier.

Fresh Fish

Supplies are imported from Spain, the average daily rate being 3,500 pounds. It is normally subjected to two inspections by the Market Inspectors. One on landing at Waterport and one before sale in the markets. As a result of these inspections forty five cases representing approximately 3,500 pounds of fish were condemned as well as three sword fish weighing some six hundred and fifty pounds.

Condemnation of Foodstuffs

Food found to be unfit for human consumption and condemned during the year:—

Commodity	*Amount Condemned by*	
	Health Dept. Inspectors	*Market Inspectors*
Fish	3,352 lbs.	4,250 lbs.
Ham	6,832 lbs.	
Bacon	5,657 lbs.	
Beef	1,040 lbs.	
Pork	128 lbs.	
Compressed yeast	2,800 lbs.	

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES, GIBRALTAR, FOR THE YEAR 1947.

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the work carried out in the Public Health Laboratories during the year 1947.

The total number of pathological specimens and samples of all classes examined and reported on was 13,933.

The activities of the laboratories have been maintained and comprise pathological specimens from department (1) Navy — including His Majesty's Dockyard; (2) Military; (3) Child Welfare; (4) King George V. Hospital; (5) Colonial Hospital and (6) Civil and public health work.

Distribution of Specimens:

(1) Navy—including the Dockyard	1,245
(2) Military Hospital and Medical Inspection rooms in the town	4,067
(3) Child Welfare	65
(4) King George V. Hospital	898
(5) Colonial Hospital	2,429
(6) Civil and Public Health work	5,229
Total	13,933

Following is a summary of pathological, bacteriological and public health work.

C. VOIGT, M.D., D.T.M.,

City Analyst & Bacteriologist,

Gibraltar.

BACTERIOLOGICAL, PATHOLOGICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORK—1947.

Variety and number of specimens which come under this heading are listed below:—

Blood

Wassermann reaction	2,461
Kahn reaction	2,466
Widal reaction	85
Cultures for Enteric, Streptococci, &c.	33
Smears for Malaria	42
Cell Counts	389
Sugar estimations	361
Urea estimation	62
Van den Bergh, Paul Bummel etc.	33
Blood grouping	35
Blood sedimentation rates	40
Gonococcal Complement Fixation Test	349
Calcium	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid	
General examination	156
Swabs	
For K.L.B. Vincent's organisms &c.	792
Sputa	
Tubercle bacilli or causative organisms &c.	851
Urines	
Analytical and bacteriological examination	1,213
Pleural Fluids	
Cytology, organisms &c.	30
Gastric Contents	
T.B. culture &c.	126
Pus	
Gonococci, T.B. or causative organisms	482
Smears for V.D. diagnosis	106
Faeces	
Bacteriological, for enteric &c.	403
Rats	
Examination for plague	5
Prepared auto vaccine	2
Guineapig Inoculations	
Virulence of K.L.B. and T.B.	2
Histological sections	62
Total	10,587

Water

Examinations for B. Coli	*Specimens*
1. Reservoir, Willis Road	15
2. " " "	15
3. " " "	14
4. " " "	15
5. " " "	14
6. " " "	13
7. " " "	15
8. " " "	14
9. " " "	15
10. " " "	14
Moorish Castle Reservoir	16
Underground Tanks water	408
Hudson House, North Front, water	8
Parkways House, North Front, water	14
R.A.F. New Camp and North Front water	125
Watering Jetty	14
Examinations for Saline content	
Waterworks for saline content	144
North Front Wells for saline content	2,359
Total	3,132

MISCELLANEOUS.

Goats milk—for chemical analysis	8
Cows milk—for culture T.B.	11
Breast milk—for chemical analysis	1
Mineral water, Ice-cream, Ices—bacteriological examinations	22
Brandy—for alcoholic strength	1
Rum—for alcoholic strength	1
Wine—for alcoholic strength	4
Beer—for alcoholic strength	4
Whiskey—for alcoholic strength	1
Gin—for alcoholic strength	2
Ether—for purity	1
Margarine—for rancidity	6
Granulated sugar—for purity	1
Tinned luncheon meat)	3
Tinned mashed potatoe powder) for examination	2
Tinned chopped ham)	3
Essence chicken beef	3
Pickless for examination	21

Sand	4
Calculus analysis	1
Hair for ringworm	10
Deposit of boiler	2
Oil from cylinder	1
Fuel oil	1
Total	**114**