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City Council of Gibraltar

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF GIBRALTAR

FOR THE YEAR

1948

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
Pathologist-Analyst.**

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CITY COMMISSIONER OF DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

HEALTH OF CURRANT

FOR THE YEAR

1948

BY

Major J. C. MOUNTAIN, S.B., M.B., Ch.B.

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The Royal Air Force Representative.

The Port Surgeon.

Secretary

E. H. DAVIS, Esq.

PREFACE

It gives me much pleasure to present this Annual Report on the health of Gibraltar, unfortunately, my last.

The statistics for 1948 show a very satisfactory state as regards deaths and infectious disease, but perusal of the Child Welfare and School Medical Reports reveals the existence of a large amount of preventable illness and partial incapacity. I feel certain that even more would be found among the young working population, a condition ever reducing their efficiency as workers and wage earners. Unfortunately we have no statistics available for this section of the community.

The population has increased, but this is largely offset by the reduction in the number of Gibraltarians awaiting repatriation.

The birth rate has fallen considerably to 17.25 per thousand, but even so the births still exceeded the deaths by one hundred and ninety-five.

The infant mortality rate for 1948 was 29.64 the lowest for many years, if not the lowest ever recorded. Of still-births there is no accurate record, as they are not registered. The registration of still-births and the issue of burial certificates for them is a requirement long overdue.

The greatest problems facing Gibraltar remain those of housing, its related problem of overcrowding, and water supply. The completion of the new blocks of flats early in 1949 should do something to ease the first two in a general way. I say in a general way, because a working labourer needing a three or four bedroomed dwelling will not be able to afford the rents of these semi-luxury flats. Also, I fear that overcrowded rooms vacated by their present occupiers on their removal to more spacious premises will rapidly become overcrowded again — unless fresh legislation is enacted. The present Prevention of Overcrowding Bye-laws are quite inadequate since their standard of three hundred cubic feet per person is so low; in fact that standard, having been stated, now prevents action being taken under the general nuisances section, (Public Health Ordinance, Sec. 111 (f)).

That improved water supplies are required is self-evident from the crises which occur, almost annually, at the end of the dry season. The new softening plant, will no doubt relieve these

emergencies, but I fear it will not permit of the sensible requirement that all premises where food is prepared should be supplied with running fresh water. This is most necessary for the proper cleansing of utensils and the hands of the food handlers. Only a really clean food and drink supply will ever rid Gibraltar of its own endemic disease, I mean, "Gib Tummy."

The School Report should be carefully read for it shows not only the need for the training of mothers in child care, but also the necessity for better housing. Overcrowding leads to loss of sleep for children who cannot go to bed until their elders retire; whilst the absence of cooking facilities in many dwellings cause children to be improperly fed. For the teaching of mothers we certainly require more Health Visitors and School Nurses.

The need for an ordinance controlling safety, space, lighting and ventilation of workshops and factories has been forcibly brought to my notice when visiting food preparing premises. Too many factories employ unguarded belts and pulleys and unguarded machinery; many of the smaller workshops are very badly ventilated and suffer serious deficiencies of natural lighting. All of which must reflect upon the health of the employees.

The thanks of the people of Gibraltar must be extended to the St. John Ambulance Brigade, who generously donated an exceedingly well furnished ambulance to the City Council, for their ambulance service.

The revised system of charges for laboratory work done for the Services and Colonial Government has resulted in a considerable diminution of the work done for the Services, particularly the Army; on the other hand the number of specimens examined for the Colonial Government Medical Service has increased. The absence of an examination room attached to the laboratory is not without danger. Sooner or later, in spite of the care of the staff, some person attending for the taking of a specimen will become infected by the infected material necessarily being handled in the laboratory.

There were no changes in the permanent staff in 1948, but two temporary rodent operatives were employed for a short period at the latter end of the year.

I have to thank the whole of the departmental staff for the conscientious manner in which they have carried out their duties in the past year. Such loyalty and efficiency is certainly to be prized and cultivated. Every care should be taken not to strain their faith by taking the line of least resistance and overloading the willing.

That I have been able to complete this report before my departure is solely due to the hard work and overtime put in by both my Chief Clerk and Secretary.

My thanks must be expressed to the City Council for their interest and help, and to the heads and members of the many other departments, both Service and Civil, 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,

12 March, 1949.

City Council of Gibraltar

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Summary of Vital Statistics for the year 1948

Total area of Gibraltar Territory	1,387 acres
Area of the City	104 acres
Estimated Total Civil Population of Gibraltar ...	23,700 persons
Estimated Fixed Population of Gibraltar ...	21,472 persons
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£1,550
Births in Fixed Population	190 males 182 females
Total ...	372
Birth rate per 1,000 Fixed Civil Population...	17.32
Deaths in Fixed Civil Population	176
Death rate per 1,000 of Fixed Civil Population ...	8.19
Crude Death rate per 1,000 Total Civil Population...	7.67
Death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	0.51
Infantile Mortality Rate	29.56

City Council of Gibraltar

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METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1948.

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

January was milder than normal. A stormy spell towards the end of this month yielded heavy rainfall above the average.

February and March were both warmer and drier than usual. No rain fell in the first seventeen days of February.

April and May gave unsettled weather with rainfall rather above the average.

June, July, August and September were mainly fine months with abundant sunshine in the latter two months.

The drought was broken at the end of October with about normal rainfall for the month.

November was abnormally dry with a prolonged spell of levanter.

December begun with fair weather but an unsettled spell about Christmas produced about the normal rainfall.

The total rainfall for the year was 25.31 inches which is 72% of the average. The deficit was due to the fair dry weather in February and March, a fine September and an exceptionally dry November when only .07 inches were recorded.

It is to be noted that statistics refer to the R.A.F. Airfield at North Front, Gibraltar.

North Front. Lat. 36°09 N. Long. 05° 21 W. Barometer Height 11 Ft. Raingauge 8 Ft. Above M. S. L.

Months at MSL	TEMPERATURE OF										REL. HUMIDITY				CLOUD AMOUNT (TENTHS)									
	MEANS										HIGHEST				LOWEST									
	Dry				Bulb		Max. A.	Min. B.	Mean A. and B.	Max	Date	Min	Date	Min on grass	Date	03	09	15	21	03	09	15	21	
	03	09	15	21																				
Jan.....	54'1	55'3	61'0	50'1	62'9	51'9	57'4	72	4, 31	42	18	34	17,18	92	91	79	90	4'2	6'2	5'3	3'9	21		
Feb.....	56'6	57'7	62'6	57'9	65'1	54'3	59'7	73	10	48	4	40	4	89	85	76	88	4'1	6'2	5'8	3'9			
Mar.....	58'0	60'0	64'6	59'7	65'7	56'8	57'9	75	12	49	12	42	12	89	83	73	88	4'8	7'0	6'0	5'1			
April....	58'1	61'6	66'5	60'9	68'5	56'1	62'3	74	7	51	21	45	25	86	75	66	80	4'3	5'3	5'4	3'6			
May ...	60'7	64'9	69'7	63'2	72'1	59'0	65'6	81	26	51	3	46	18	86	76	65	81	4'7	5'5	5'5	4'0			
June ...	66'3	71'8	76'7	68'8	78'9	65'0	71'9	89	28	60	3	58	3,9	90	76	68	87	2'4	3'1	3'0	2'2			
July ...	69'0	74'3	79'5	71'3	81'2	67'5	74'3	92	6	63	13	59	13	87	74	61	85	3'3	3'3	1'1	1'6			
Aug.....	70'3	75'2	82'9	72'9	85'1	68'4	76'7	95	12	62	12	59	12	89	78	63	83	2'5	3'1	2'1	1'2			
Sept ...	68'0	72'3	77'7	70'3	79'0	66'3	72'7	84	22	61	14	54	14	92	80	71	89	2'	3'1	2'4	2'9			
Oct	64'3	67'8	72'9	66'7	74'3	62'8	68'5	83	7, 8	53	22, 28	45	21	91	84	74	86	3'3	5'3	4'8	2'6			
Nov.....	60'1	61'5	65'9	61'2	67'2	58'3	62'7	75	3	50	16, 17	41	16	92	88	83	94	5'0	6'8	5'5	4'2			
Dec.....	57'1	58'3	62'3	58'6	63'6	55'5	59'5	72	6	48	20, 28	43	4,20	93	89	81	90	4'3	7'7	6'4	5'3			
Year ...	61'9	65'1	70'2	64'0	72'0	60'2	65'8	95	12 Aug.	42	18 Jan.	43	17,18 Jan	90	82	72	87	3'8	5'2	4'4	3'4			

North Front.

Lat. 36°09 N. Long. 05° 21 W.

Barometer Height 11 Ft.

Raingauge 6 Ft. Above M.S.L.

Months	RAINFALL			SUNSHINE		WEATHER									
	Total mm.	Max in 24 h	Date	Daily Mean (hrs)	o/o of Poss	No. of Days of									
						Rain	Snow	Hail	Thun-der	Over-cast Sky	Clear Sky	Gales	Fog	Frost	
Jan	183.7	83.2	26	5.09	51	16	0	0	0	0	8	6	0	0	0
Feb	65.6	27.7	17	5.79	53	9	0	0	0	0	5	10	0	0	0
Mar	17.5	12.1	26	5.02	42	5	0	0	0	0	7	6	0	0	0
April	70.4	12.1	13	8.03	61	14	0	1	4	4	4	11	2	0	0
May	72.8	27.1	11	8.59	61	10	0	0	1	4	4	10	0	0	0
June	3.6	3.2	2	11.57	79	2	0	0	1	1	1	21	0	1	0
July	0.0	0.0	—	10.86	76	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0
Aug	Trace	Trace	16	11.34	84	0	0	0	0	0	1	20	0	0	0
Sept	0.0	0.0	—	10.39	84	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0
Oct	81.4	42.5	21	7.29	65	6	0	0	4	2	2	14	0	0	0
Nov	1.6	1.5	28	4.55	44	1	0	0	0	0	4	6	0	1	0
Dec	146.4	50.9	24	3.61	37	14	0	0	0	0	8	5	2	0	0
Year	643.0	83.2	26th Jan	7.67	61	77	0	1	10	44	150	4	2	0	0

WIND

MONTHS	FORCE					DIRECTION							
	8 or over	6-7	4-5	1-3	Calm	N.	NE.	E.	SE.	S.	SW.	W.	NW.
January	—	7	62	51	4	1	10	4	1	0	65	22	17
February	—	7	50	55	4	1	29	16	6	0	40	17	3
March	—	37	58	29	0	1	73	12	4	1	20	10	3
April	2	11	35	72	0	1	23	12	7	2	40	13	22
May	—	1	41	81	1	0	17	6	2	5	63	20	10
June	—	2	52	59	7	0	44	12	2	2	44	8	1
July	—	1	60	53	10	0	56	23	7	4	14	7	3
August	—	0	51	62	11	3	39	10	2	2	43	12	4
September	—	0	48	66	6	0	36	26	16	1	20	10	5
October	—	2	47	72	3	0	35	9	9	1	47	11	8
November	—	7	55	53	5	1	60	19	6	0	20	5	4
December	—	3	42	60	9	2	37	22	12	0	26	8	8
Year	2	78	601	713	60	10	459	171	74	18	442	143	88

VITAL STATISTICS

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

Population

The civil population of Gibraltar as shown in the Records and Permit Office of the Police Department consisted, at the end of 1948, of the following:—

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Totals</i>
British Subjects	7,300	8,583	5,589	21,472
Resident aliens	956	1,217	55	2,228
Totals ...	8,256	9,800	5,644	23,700

Average number of persons entering and leaving Gibraltar daily:—

1946	7,500
1947	8,400
1948	8,300

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
do. 1948	21,472	2,228	23,700

Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates for the Past Fifteen Years

	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Infant Mortality (per 1,000)</i>
1933	14.94	23.68	39.2
1934	14.51	25.8	54.8
1935	15.71	16.9	67.4
1936	15.47	19.3	62.09
1937	14.93	22.69	68.24
1938	13.73	21.07	74.38
1939	14.25	20.85	79.36
Period of evacuation of civil population.			
1945	8.42	34.84	32.89
1946	8.8	21.38	36.4
1947	6.56	18.75	47.24
1948	7.67	17.27	29.56

Births

Three hundred and seventy-two children were born from the resident fixed population during the year; one hundred and ninety males and one hundred and eighty-two females, making a birth rate of 17.32 per 1,000 fixed population.

The birth rate for 1948 shows a continuation of the fall noted last year, and is the lowest recorded since 1935. Such a fall is to be expected following the abnormal rise in the years immediately following the war.

It is probable that difficulties married couples find in obtaining living accommodation are contributing to this fall by delaying many marriages. Obviously, delayed marriages will inevitably lead to a reduction in the birth rate.

The table below shows the distribution of births between hospitals, doctors and midwives:

Births taking place at	Colonial Hospital	321
	Military Hospital	10
Births attended by... ..	medical practitioners	14
	midwives	24
Born before arrival		3
		372

Illegitimate Births

Only ten illegitimate births were registered in 1948, being 2.69 per cent of all births. The low illegitimate birth rate contributes to low infant mortality rates, as it is commonly found that the mortality among illegitimate babies is twice that among legitimate.

Still-Births

Still-births are not registered in Gibraltar but it is known that four occurred in the Colonial Hospital. The failure to require registration of still-births must, sooner or later, permit the escape of some person guilty of infanticide.

Infant Mortality

Eleven children under the age of one year died in 1948, representing an infant mortality rate of 29.56 per 1,000 births. This figure is considerably less than that of 1947 (47.2) and very much lower than the pre-war average of 63.7.

The causes of infant deaths are tabulated below :—

CAUSE OF DEATH	Under 1 week	1/2 weeks	2/3 weeks	3/4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1/3 months	3/6 months	6/9 months	9/12 months	Total under one year
Prematurity ...	3		1		4					4
Pneumonia ...						1				1
Birth injury ...	1				1					1
Meningitis ...						1			1	2
Diarrhoea & Enteritis								1		1
Septicaemia ...									1	1
Congenital debility						1				1
Totals...	4		1		5	3		1	2	11

It is noteworthy that of the eleven deaths, five or 45.4 per cent occurred in the first month of life. Thus the neonatal mortality per 1,000 births is 1.35, compared with 34.1 in 1947.

These low figures reflect the increasing use being made of the ante-natal and Child Welfare services now being provided by the Government.

Maternal Mortality

There was but one maternal death due to acute yellow atrophy of the liver.

Deaths

The number of deaths registered as having occurred in 1948 among the resident British population was one hundred and seventy-six or 8.19 per thousand; in addition there were six deaths among resident aliens (2.69 per thousand); making a total of one hundred and eighty-two or 7.67 per thousand of the total population.

The principal causes of death were:—

Diseases of the circulation	47
Cancer	28
Cerebral haemorrhage	19
Senility	14
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	12

With the exception of Cancer and Pulmonary Tuberculosis all the chief causes of death are associated with old age and the general ageing of the tissues.

It would therefore seem that if the death rate is to be further lowered the problems of Cancer and Tuberculosis will have to be solved.

This is not intended to suggest that the problems of geriatrics should not be studied, for old age brings other difficulties besides that of death. In Gibraltar provision for the aged who are no longer able to care for themselves is scanty, hence these older people become a serious burden to the younger members of the family, whilst those without near relations must rely on the kindness of neighbours, and often they are compelled to live under very distressing circumstances. Under such conditions, anything which can be done to prevent the aged becoming bed-ridden and helpless must be of inestimable value.

Fifty-one point one per cent of deaths occurred in persons over sixty-five years of age.

Also twenty-one deaths were registered from persons landed from shipping in the Bay or brought into the Colony for treatment.

Deaths by Months and Quarters

January	25	April	9
February	18	May	13
March	20	June	14
1st Qtr. ...	63	2nd Qtr....	36

July	23	October	14
August	17	November	21
September	14	December	15

3rd Qtr....	54	4th Qtr....	50
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The above table includes twenty-one deaths from cases landed from the Bay or brought into the Colony for treatment, and six from among resident aliens.

The table on page 6 shows that the greater number of births occurred in hospital and although modern opinion does not believe that hospital confinements are any safer than those taking place at home, in a city like Gibraltar with its overcrowding and all too frequent low housing standards, confinement in hospital would appear to be easily the better of two evils.

The physician in charge of the Maternity Department at the Colonial Hospital has kindly supplied the following information:—

An antenatal clinic is held weekly at the Colonial Hospital and the attendance at this clinic has been very good as the majority of mothers are realising the value of antenatal care and hygiene.

The maternity block is now fully equipped, the obstetric and terms of apparatus having arrived during the year.

Bellevue, N. Y. 10017. The total number of deliveries was twenty-nine less than in 1947. The maternity death rate was caused by acute yellow fever. The hospital deaths were: Neonatal deaths 1, Stillborn 1, Miscarried foetus 1, Maternal deaths 1, Twin 1.

MATERNITY, CHILD WELFARE AND SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES.

These services are operated by the Colonial Government, being closely linked with the hospital services.

Maternity

In 1948 new Midwives Rules on closely similar lines to those in force in the United Kingdom were promulgated. These will, without doubt, considerably improve the supervision of midwives practising outside the hospitals. It is to be hoped that they will not consider them restrictive but more in the light of authoritative directions as to their procedure for carrying on the safe practice of midwifery. The midwife who conscientiously carries them out will certainly never be able to reproach herself that she has not done the best for her patient.

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‘An antenatal clinic is held weekly at the Colonial Hospital, the attendance at this clinic has been very good as the majority of mothers are realizing the value of antenatal care and hygiene.

‘The maternity block is now fully equipped, the outstanding items of apparatus having arrived during the year.

Deliveries,	344
Females 180 \	
Males 164]	
Neonatal deaths	3
Still-born	4
Macerated faetus	4
Maternal deaths	1
Twins	1 set

‘The total number of deliveries was twenty-nine less than in 1947. The maternal death was caused by acute yellow atrophy of the liver.

Child Welfare and School Medical Service

Much good work is being done by these young services, but a perusal of the figures in the School Medical Officer's report shows that there is still a great deal more to be done.

The work is, of course, mainly educational, being that of teaching the parents the rudiments of nutrition and healthy living. It is bound to be a slow and lengthy process.

That thirty-three per cent. of the school children reach a nutritional standard of only "fair" and that forty-three per cent., suffer from dental caries shows the need for instruction in child feeding. The high incidence of verminous heads, of enlarged tonsils and neck glands, and of deformities of chest and limbs indicates the need for training in healthy living.

These facts undoubtedly demonstrate the need for increasing the missionary work being so ably performed by the very small staff of Health Visitors and School Nurses. That they meet considerable resistance to their advice from the parents is revealed by the high proportion of children who fail to keep appointments for eye tests and chest examinations. Such resistance makes their work doubly difficult as so much time has to be wasted on following up these recalcitrant children.

For the following reports I have to thank Dr. D. J. Valentine, Chief Medical Officer to the Colonial Government, Dr. Durante the School Medical Officer and Dr. Mary Voight, Child Welfare Officer.

Medical Inspection of School Children

All the schools have been visited on several occasions during the year and one thousand two hundred and ninety-two children were medically examined. Regular visits were also paid by the Assistant Health Visitor in charge of schools in the course of which three thousand seven hundred and three children were inspected for cleanliness and seven hundred and sixty-six for defects of vision.

Of the children medically examined eight hundred and fifty-nine (66.4%) were found in good general physical condition. In four hundred and twenty-six (32.9%) the general condition was fair, whilst seven (0.54%) were in a poor state of health. The majority of the children in which the general physical state was unsatisfactory belonged to the group of five to eight years old.

In one hundred and twenty-six children the nutrition was poor and eighty-five were suffering from clinical anaemia. One hundred and eighteen were undersized or poorly developed, but their general condition was fair. Twenty-eight showed a tendency to obesity. Five hundred and fifty-five (43%) were

suffering from dental caries often associated with disease of the gums. This incidence must be considered unduly high, although the figure does include a proportion of children in the age of changes of dentition.

Though on the whole the impression gathered from a general survey of the results of the examinations carried out is that there is some improvement in general health as compared with the previous year yet, the fact that 32.9% of these children were only in "fair" general condition and 43% were suffering from dental caries cannot be viewed with complacency and short of the institution of school meals it would be beneficial if the routine issue of a third of a pint of milk daily, which at present is confined to children in the five to eight year-old group, were extended to include all children of school age.

Postural defects were noted in two hundred and sixty-three children. It is, however, encouraging to find that the incidence of these defects gradually diminishes in the higher age groups probably due to the physical training classes which are now being conducted regularly in all schools.

Varying degrees of hypertrophy of the tonsils were found in three hundred and seventeen children and two hundred and eighty exhibited enlargement of the cervical glands. In only a small proportion was it considered necessary to advise surgical treatment. Though the incidence of tonsillar hypertrophies was high, rheumatic states were rare and only one child was reported on radiological examination to have a "mitral" type of heart. The only case of valvular heart disease detected clinically was of congenital aetiology.

To the ophthalmic clinic at the Colonial Hospital were referred two hundred and forty-nine children who were found to be suffering from defective vision. Though still a high proportion of those children have failed to keep their appointments, the attitude of parents to their children being examined and wearing glasses has gradually improved, but much patience and persuasion has had to be exercised to achieve this small improvement.

Children suspected of suffering from pulmonary disease have continued to be referred to the Colonial Hospital for X-ray screening by the Physician in Charge of King George V. Hospital. Seventy-four children were referred to him for this purpose but fourteen failed to attend owing to non co-operation or objection of the parents to the examination.

The results are tabulated below.

Though the incidence of infective and pyococcal dermatoses has been low and the standard of clothing and cleanliness satisfactory, head verminous infestations were undesirably high—as

many as one thousand children, 27 per cent, being found infested by the nurse in the course of her routine inspections.

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

Fersolate tablets	...	...	...	to 59 children
Ostocalcium tablets	...	...	...	„ 55 „
Cod Liver Oil and Malt	...	„	159	„
Parrish's Chemical Food...	...	„	6	„

<i>Abnormality</i>	<i>Number of Children Affected</i>
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Disorders of Nutrition and Metabolism

Poor Nutrition	...	...	...	...	...	126
Anaemia	...	...	...	...	...	85
Undersized or poorly developed	...	...	...	...	...	118
Obesity	...	...	...	...	...	28
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	1

Defective Posture

including postural Scoliosis, winged scapulae, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	263
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Skeletal Deformities—Minor Degrees

of Genu Valgum, Varum, Flat feet, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	157
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Mouth, Upper respiratory passages and Ears

Enlarged tonsils and/or adenoids	...	...	...	...	...	317
Nasal obstruction	...	...	...	...	...	9
Enlarged cervical glands	...	...	...	...	...	280
Otitis media, defective hearing	...	...	...	...	...	10
Otitis Externa	...	...	...	...	...	4
Dental caries and affections of gums	...	...	...	...	...	555

Chest

Deformities, pidgeon chest, depressed sternum, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	148
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Lungs and Mediastinum

Suspected pulmonary disease and X-ray screened	...	...	...	...	...	74
Appointments not kept	...	...	...	...	...	14
Negative findings	...	...	...	...	...	35

Calcified lesions of hylum or Parenchyma	12
Enlarged roots	8
Enlarged mediastinal glands	3
Heavy broncho-vascular markings	7
Healed primary T.B. parenchymatous focus	1
Ghon's focus with remains of interlobar pleurisy	1
Mitral type of heart	1
Rudimentary 1st rib	1
Asthma	3
Bronchitis	7
Heart—Functional Murmurs	33
Congenital morbus cordis	1
<i>Eyes</i>	
Defective vision	249
Strabismus	29
Diseases of Conjunctiva and eyelids ...	18
<i>Dermatoses including pyococcal infections</i> ...	49
<i>Nervous System</i>	
Nervous excitability, depression, negativism	44
Eneuresis	8
Stammer	4
Mentally backward	8
Epilepsy	2
Habit spasm	1
<i>Digestive System</i>	
Constipation, anorexia and other conditions	4
<i>Other Abnormalities</i>	83

Causes of Death in the Civil Population during 1948. According to the International Abbreviated List with Age and Sex Incidence.

	All Ages	Under 1 yr.		1 year & under 5		5 yrs. under 15		15 yrs. under 25		25 yrs. under 35		35 yrs. under 45		45 yrs. under 55		55 yrs. under 65		65 yrs. under 75		75 yrs. & over	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
I. Infectious & Parasitic Diseases																					
1. Typhoid and Para-typhoid Fevers ...	1											1									
2. Dysentery ...	1			1																	
3. Diphtheria ...	1																				
4. Cholera ...	12					3		2	2	3		1	1								
5. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	2			1																	
6. All other forms of tuberculosis ...	2																				
7. Paratuberculosis of the respiratory system (non-puerperal) ...	1																				
8. Paratuberculosis of the respiratory system (puerperal) ...	6																				
9. Syphilis ...																					
II. Cancer & Other Tumours																					
10. Cancer and other malignant tumours of the digestive organs & peritoneum ...	14							2		1		1	1	1	4					4	
11. Cancer & other malignant tumours of the respiratory system ...	5													2	1	2					
12. Cancer & other malignant tumours of the urinary & genital systems ...	2																				
13. Cancer & other malignant tumours of the breast ...	2																				
14. Cancer & other malignant tumours of the skin & cellular tissue ...	5													1							
15. Cancer & other malignant tumours of other or unspecified organs ...														1	2	1				1	
III. Rheumatism, Diseases of Nutrition and of the Endocrine Glands, Other General Diseases & Vitamin-Dietary Diseases																					
16. Chronic Rheumatism and Gout ...	1																				
17. Diabetes Mellitus ...	4																				
18. Other General Diseases ...	1			1																	
IV. Diseases of the Blood & Blood Forming Organs																					
19. Pernicious and Other Anemias ...	1																				
20. Leukaemias, aleukaemias and other diseases of the blood & blood forming organs ...	1																				
V. Diseases of the Nervous System & Sense Organs																					
21. Non-meningeal Meningitis ...	2			1																	
22. Encephalitis and other diseases of the brain ...	19																				
23. Epilepsy ...	1																				
VII. Diseases of the Circulatory System																					
42. Pericarditis (including chronic rheumatic pericarditis) ...	1																				
43. Chronic affections of the valves & endocardium ...	7																				
44. Diseases of the Myocardium including aneurism of the heart ...	10																				
45. Diseases of coronary arteries & angina pectoris ...	8																				
46. Other diseases of the heart ...	11																				
47. Arteriosclerosis and gangrene ...	11																				
48. Other Diseases of Circulatory System ...	8																				
VIII. Diseases of the Respiratory System																					
49. Bronchitis ...	3																				
50. Pneumonia and Bronchopneumonia ...	7			1																	
51. Other Diseases of Respiratory System except Tuberculosis ...	8																				
IX. Diseases of the Digestive System																					
54. Diarrhoea & Enteritis (under 2 yrs of age) ...	1																				
55. Hernia, intestinal obstruction ...	2																				
56. Other diseases of the liver and biliary passages, including biliary calculi ...	1																				
57. Other diseases of the digestive system ...	1																				
X. Diseases of the Urinary & Genital Systems (not venereal, or connected with pregnancy or puerperium).																					
61. Nephritis ...	1																				
62. Diseases of the bladder, except tumours ...	1																				
63. Diseases of the prostate ...	2																				
XI. Diseases of Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperal State																					
68. Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy ...	1																				
XII. Diseases of the Skin & Cellular Tissue																					
Diseases of the skin & cellular tissue ...	1																				
XV. Diseases Peculiar to the First Year of Life																					
76. Congenital debility ...	1																				
77. Premature birth (stillbirths excluded) ...	4																				
78. Injury at birth (stillbirths excluded) ...	1																				
XVI. Senility, Old Age																					
89. Senility, old age ...	14																				
XVII. Violent or Accidental Deaths																					
83. Automobile accidents (all motor driven vehicles) ...	3																				
84. Other violent or accidental deaths (automobile accidents excepted) ...	1																				
Total	182	9	2	1	6			1	3	4	5	10	4		19	4	15	9	19	25	6

School Cleanliness Inspections carried out by the Assistant Health Visitor

Number of children examined	3,703
" " " found clean	2,703
" " " with verminous heads	1,000
" " " overclothed	59
" " " excluded from school for failure to have heads cleaned after repeated notices	37
Number of home visits	6

In conclusion, though some progress can reasonably be claimed to have been made during the year in a service which in Gibraltar may be said to be in its infancy, much remains to be accomplished, but it is felt that further progress must greatly depend and cannot of necessity be dissociated from improvements in home conditions by the relief of overcrowding, raising of the standard of living, and the general education of parents to the advantage for their children's health of a service the full benefits of which cannot be attained without their close co-operation.

Child Welfare Clinics

The activities of the Infant Welfare clinics were maintained throughout the year with three sessions a week at the Town Clinic in the Exchange Building and one session a week at the South Clinic in Cumberland Road.

Medical advice was given to every mother who brought her child under five years for examination, and, in addition, Health Visitors and their assistants visited homes when possible to help and advise mothers on problems in the care and upbringing of infants and young children.

Clinics have been well attended.

Voluntary assistance has been of great help to the staff.

Milk Food and certain medical preparations (malt, calcium, iron, Vitamin C, gentian violet, etc.) have been supplied free or at reduced cost to those mothers who required assistance in this way. Other medicines prescribed were issued from the dispensary at the Colonial Hospital. In some instances the demand outran the supply.

Some mothers brought Pertussis vaccine for their children, and injections were given when considered advisable.

As necessary, patients were referred to the various departments of the Colonial Hospital, and in certain cases for admission to the Children's Ward.

Table of Attendances and Home Visits

	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Attendances</i>
Town Clinic	916	6,878
South Clinic	186	1,414
Catalan Bay	5	22
	—	—
	1,107	8,314
	—	—

Home Visits

Primary	373
Under 1 year	843
Over 1 year	2,630
Special	160
Ante-natal	81
Houses	3,008
Transit Centres	32
Fruitless	465
Removals	143

Anti-Diphtheritic Immunisations

1st Dose	110
2nd Dose	121

Summary of Dental Work

School children requiring 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.

	<i>Number of sessions</i>	<i>Teeth Conserved</i>	<i>Teeth Extracted</i>	<i>Attendance for Gum Treatment and Scaling</i>
Mr. Danino	103	796	214	110
Mr. Cochrane	68	171	376	54

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Two hundred and fifty-two cases of infectious disease were notified during the year (168 in 1947) equal to a rate of 10.6 per thousand.

This rate cannot be compared with that of 1947 owing to changes having been made in the diseases which are notifiable. 1948 was the first year in which Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis has been notifiable, and in August Whooping Cough and Mumps were also added to the diseases which are notifiable, whilst Erythema Infectiosum and Benign Lymphocytic Meningitis were deleted.

The main object of the additions was to obtain some control of children suffering from Whooping Cough and Mumps, and particularly to be able to prevent their attendance at school or their visiting clinics and other places where children congregate.

There were no epidemics of major infectious disease, but a mild outbreak of Measles occurred in midsummer.

Diphtheria

Only eight cases of Diphtheria were notified in 1948—but there was one death. Good as these figures are, one cannot but feel that they might have been better had full use been made of the facilities for immunisation. Now that the greater part of the task of medical examination of the school population has been completed, consideration will have to be given to making arrangements for the immunisation of those school children who have previously failed to be immunised and for reinforcing the immunity of those treated in infancy.

One hundred and twenty-one children completed immunisation at the Child Welfare Clinics. This represents only 32 per cent. of the number of children born.

Scarlet Fever

Scarlet Fever was virtually non-existent, only three cases being notified in the year.

Enteric Fever

There were eleven cases of Typhoid Fever. This is a slight increase on the number for 1947, eight, but is within the normal range.

Of the eleven notified cases of Enteric Fever, four were probably infected outside Gibraltar; one almost certainly was infected when bathing in the sea near a sewer outfall, and in the remaining six no definite source could be found.

Dysentery

Notifications numbered ten, as against five in 1947, and eight in 1946. All local cases were of the bacillary type, the majority being Flexner, but Sonne and Newcastle were also represented.

Three of the cases were probably infected outside Gibraltar and two others were found whilst examining contacts.

One case of amoebic dysentery was admitted to the Colonial Hospital from a ship in the Bay.

Undulant Fever

Notifications of Undulant Fever numbered two—both were Melitensis infections and both had consumed untreated goats milk while on visits outside the Colony.

Smallpox

No cases of Smallpox were notified in 1948, nor were any 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	385*
Number died before vaccination	6
Number who left Gibraltar	17
Certified as insusceptible to vaccination	2
Vaccination postponed on medical grounds	21
Number successfully vaccinated (children born in 1948)	251
Objectors to vaccination	NIL
Outstanding	88
(*includes 13 non-residents).	

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

In all, three hundred and fifty-two vaccinations and one 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 forty-seven vaccinations and two hundred and ninety-one revaccinations.

Measles

A mild epidemic of Measles occurred in May, June and July tailing off in August and September. It involved one hundred and thirty-five cases and was not confined to any particular district.

Whooping Cough

Pertussis became prevalent in the summer and early autumn, but the figures shown in this year's records are incomplete as the disease was only made notifiable in August. The disease was generally mild, few cases requiring hospital treatment.

Chicken Pox

Cases of Chicken Pox occurred sporadically but were fewer in 1948, thirteen, than in 1947, forty-one.

Tuberculosis

The number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified in 1948, seventeen, fell considerably below that of the previous year, thirty-one, but the number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis increased from seven in 1947 to twelve in 1948.

The corresponding incidence per thousand for 1948 was, cases 0.72 and deaths 0.51.

Much has been accomplished in the treatment and supervision of cases of Tuberculosis but much more could be achieved were it possible to house tuberculosis families so that the sufferer could be properly isolated from the rest of the family. That the infection does not spread with greater rapidity is often to be marvelled at when one finds families of three, four or five adults and children all sharing one room with a sufferer. Frequently the room is ill ventilated and ill lit, in some cases never even receiving the benefit of a single ray of sunlight.

As was expected the introduction in December, 1947, of the notification of Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis has not revealed any great number of these cases, only two being notified in the year under review, equivalent to a rate of 0.93 per 1,000 population. Two deaths were registered from Non-pulmonary Tubercle so that the death rate was also 0.93 per 1,000 population, but these rates relate to such small numbers that they have little value.

Rabies

In 1948 there were no cases of Rabies amongst dogs or cats in Gibraltar.

One suspected case in a cat was investigated but examination

of the animal's brain at the Pasteur Institute, Tangier, failed to confirm the diagnosis.

Between 19th July and 14th August a cat campaign was held to rid the City of some of its large population of stray cats. Two hundred and twenty-six cats were caught, and painlessly destroyed at the dogs' home. For some reason the population of Gibraltar, although complaining incessantly of these stray cats, will never lift a finger to help themselves. During the campaign the offer to destroy painlessly any cat brought to the dogs' home was made, but not a single individual brought one for destruction, the public leaving the whole of the work to the Council employees.

Regulations prohibiting the importation of dogs except directly from the United Kingdom and for the licensing and muzzling of all dogs in Gibraltar were amended so that the Colonial Secretary may authorise the importation of a dog, conditionally on its being kept in quarantine at the owner's expense for a period of six months. The amended rules also permit the entry, under licence, of dogs in transit with due precautions to ensure that they remain isolated during their stay in the Colony.

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 charge of the kennels has kindly supplied the following statistics of the work done there:—

Number of stray dogs admitted	199
Number of stray dogs claimed	50
Number of stray dogs destroyed	149
Number of dogs detained after biting persons	25
Number of dogs (detained) claimed	21
Number of dogs (detained) destroyed	4
Number of dogs detained as contacts of rabies	Nil
Number of dogs returned to owners after quarantine	Nil
Number destroyed	Nil

Notifications of Infectious Diseases, with Age and Sex Incidence, Civil Population — 1948

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.				
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	—	1
Rubella ...	4	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	8	—	1	4	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	3	7
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	17	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	3	3	3	—	1	—	—	2	10	5	17
Tuberculosis, non-respiratory...	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Dysentery ...	10	—	2	2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	6	3	2
Scarlet Fever ...	3	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Chicken Pox ...	13	—	—	3	1	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	3	—
Enteric Fever ...	11	—	—	1	3	—	3	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	2	7	2	5
**Benign Lymphocytic Meningitis ...	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
**Erythema Infectiosum ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Undulant Fever ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
*Pertussis ...	42	4	6	10	19	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	30	7	1
*Mumps ...	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Measles ...	135	2	1	33	32	35	28	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	128	6	6
TOTALS	252	7	10	57	63	46	40	6	4	8	6	2	3	—	—	16	205	31	41

** Removed from List of Notifiable Infectious Diseases August 25th, 1948.

* Added to List of Notifiable Infectious Diseases August 25th, 1948.

Monthly Incidence of Infectious Diseases, Showing Number of Cases & Deaths—Civil Population, 1948

Months.	Measles		Rubella		Diphtheria		Pulmonary Tuberculosis		Tuberculosis non-respiratory		Dysentery		Scarlet Fever		Chicken Pox		Enteric Fever		Benign** Lymphocytic Meningitis		Erythema** Infectiosum		Undulant Fever		Pertussis*		Mumps*		Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	
	C	D.	C	D.	C	D.	C	D.	C	D.	C	D.	C	D.	C	D.	C	D.	C	D.	C	D.	C	D.	C	D.	C	D.	C	D.
January ...	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
February ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
March ...	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
April ...	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May ...	30	—	—	—	1	—	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June ...	46	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
July ...	36	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
August ...	10	—	—	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
September ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
October ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	—
November ...	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—
December ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	135	—	4	—	8	1	17	12	2	2	10	—	3	—	13	—	11	1	1	—	2	—	2	—	42	1	1	—	1	—

** Removed from List of Notifiable Infectious Diseases August 25th, 1948.

* Added to List of Notifiable Infectious Diseases August 25th, 1948.

Quarterly Return of Infectious Diseases—Civil Population 1948.

	January	February	March	1st Qr.	April	May	June	2nd Qr.	July	August	Sept.	3rd Qr.	October	November	December	4th Qr.	Total	Deaths
Mumps*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	8	1	2	1	4	—	3	2	5	17	12
Tuberculosis (non-respiratory)	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	2
Rubella	1	—	—	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dysentery	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	2	1	1	4	6	10	—
Diphtheria	1	1	2	4	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	8	1
Measles	1	—	—	1	2	30	46	78	36	10	9	55	1	—	—	1	135	—
Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	1	—	2	1	3	5	1	—	5	1	2	—	3	13	—
Chicken Pox	—	—	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	2	1	3	1	5	3	—	—	3	11	1
Benign Lymphocytic Meningitis**...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erythema Infectiosum**...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Pertussis*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	18	19	13	7	3	23	42	1
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	2	—
Totals	6	2	5	13	7	39	52	98	44	20	32	96	19	14	12	45	252	17
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
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	—	1	2	3	1	5	—	6	—	3	1	4	—	3	2	5	18	1
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Totals	—	1	2	3	1	6	—	7	—	5	1	6	1	3	3	7	23	2

** Removed from List of Notifiable Infectious Diseases August 25th, 1948.

* Added to List of Notifiable Infectious Diseases August 25th, 1948.

INSECT VECTORS

Mosquitoes

The year was not a particularly bad one for mosquitoes, but owing to the drought during the usual rainy period, and consequent lateness of the last rains, mosquitoes continued to survive later in the year than is usual — *Aedes argenteus* being detected as late as December.

Some fifty-nine specimens were taken for identification, the following species being found :—

<i>Aedes argenteus</i>	...	31	(between June and December)
<i>Aedes aegypti</i>	...	1	(in June)
<i>Theobaldia</i>			(between April and June)
<i>longeareolata</i>		4	
<i>Culex pipiens</i>	...	23	(between January and October)

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 visit paid to premises 28,973

Number of breeding places found composed of

tubs	...	...	...	...	47	} 152
barrels	...	...	...	...	3	
earthenware receptacles	...				4	
Miscellaneous	...	...	...		98	

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

Five hundred and forty-four gallons of five per cent D.D.T. solution were disposed of in this way during the year.

mosquitoes

The year was not a particularly bad one for mosquitoes, but owing to the drought during the usual rainy period, and consequent lateness of the first rains, mosquitoes continued to bite late in the year than is usual. -- *Aedes argyrestes* being detected as late as December.

Some fifty-nine specimens were taken for identification, the following species being found:--

<i>Aedes argyrestes</i> ..	31	(between June and December)
<i>Aedes aegypti</i> ..	1	(in June)
<i>Theobaldia longicauda</i> ..	4	(between April and June)
<i>Culex pipiens</i> ..	23	(between January and October)

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 28,973
Number of breeding places found and disposed of 172

.....	47	
.....	3	
.....	4	
.....	18	

James Wilson

There were not unduly prevalent, this being attributable in no small measure to the paucity of horses on the flock and to the daily removal of horse refuse.

Five per cent D.D.T. solution for use in spray runs has continued to be on sale at the Health Department and has proved popular, residents apparently recognizing the greater efficacy of the five per cent solution over those of lower concentration frequently sold as anti-fly sprays.

Five hundred and forty-four gallons of five per cent D.D.T. solution were disposed of in this way during the year.

MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN RETURN — YEAR 1948.

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.		C.		
Jan 3	556	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 10	565	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 17	553	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 24	562	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 31	589	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Feb 7	576	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 14	568	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 21	562	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 28	549	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Mar. 6	553	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 13	562	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 20	569	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 27	503	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Apl. 3	557	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 10	567	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 17	552	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 24	569	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
May 1	553	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 8	586	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 15	555	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 22	507	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 29	541	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
June 5	494	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 12	563	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 19	565	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 26	503	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
July 3	505	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 10	574	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 17	554	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 24	597	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 31	555	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Aug. 7	577	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 14	597	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 21	557	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 28	559	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Sept. 4	535	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 11	535	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 18	528	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 25	538	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Oct. 2	513	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 9	505	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 16	512	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 23	547	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 30	556	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Nov 6	544	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 13	545	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 20	555	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 27	545	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Dec. 4	554	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 11	501	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 18	541	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 25	530	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
" 31	440	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Totals ...	28,973	3	...	...	4	...	...	...	1	19	44	...	3	44	1	3	25	...	6	152

"Others" include pits, drinking troughs, washing troughs, catch pits, wells, gullies, fresh water tanks, buckets, tubs, flower vases, pots, bottles, flushing tanks, underground tanks, washing boilers &c.

1st Offences, 72
2nd Offences, 24
3rd Offences, 3

ANTI-RAT CAMPAIGN

The organisation for the destruction of rats has remained the same. The closest liaison has been maintained between Civil and Service Authorities throughout the year, even to the extent of the preparation of bait and poisons in common. In consequence of this close cooperation at the lower levels there has been but little work to be done by the Anti-Rat Coordinating Committee, and only four meetings were found necessary.

From the tables appended it will be seen that more work has been done in 1948 than in the previous year.

	1948	1947
Points pre-baited	26,836	14,376
Points poison baited	18,615	8,624
Takes recorded	11,205	4,472
Estimated kill	4,828	2,528

The increasing numbers of takes in the late summer led to the employment of two additional men—from 1st October to the end of the year—in an effort to counteract the evident rise in the rat population.

It would seem that our effort, great though it has been, is not sufficient to maintain the status quo.

Late in the year a small quantity of Dicoumarol was obtained for experimental purposes, but to date tests are not complete and it would be premature to pass judgment on this new poison.

For a week in December an excellent film on anti-rodent work was shown to the public as a 'short' supplementing the ordinary film programme.

ANTI-RAT CAMPAIGN

WORK DONE BY CIVILIAN TEAM IN 1948.

Campaign Week Number.	Premises treated.	Prebait laid.	Poison baits laid.	Takes Recorded.	Carcasses Found		Estimated kill.
					Rattus Rattus.	Rattus Norvegicus.	Mus Musculus.
1/48							
2/48	17	New Year's Holiday	380	222	8		15
3/48	38	489	587	364			6
4/48	12	923	238	155			8
5/48	18	269	327	181	1		5
6/48	20	368	450	247			11
7/48	58	622	389	203			6
8/48	16	977	401	235	2		3
9/48	14	540	526	300	1		14
10/48	17	642	498	279	5		8
11/48	15	847	473	294	1		6
12/48	11	580	254	128			2
13/48		458					
14/48		Easter Holidays					
15/48	14	619	446	283			19
16/48	18	452	274	176			1
17/48	12	549	308	176	1		1
18/48	3	96	77	40			
19/48	9	327	164	113			25
20/48	12	505	296	189			9
21/48		Whitsuntide					
22/48	12	337	295	195	1		5
23/48	15	602	324	187	1		16
24/48	12	384	289	205	2		43
25/48	7	328	272	162			12
26/48	11	340	200	123			2
27/48	14	766	523	314	16		19
28/48	17	670	409	252	2		18
29/48	16	621	497	290	20		14
30/48	11	508	360	207	1	1	25
31/48	14	646	505	309			6
32/48	7	160	116	79			18
33/48	15	586	380	224	1		23
34/48	11	348	380	116	3		13
35/48	8	312	181	126	1		4
36/48	22	982	228	358	4		48.9
37/48	13	415	661	162	1		1
38/48	18	769	271	288	32		23
39/48	11	396	524	151			27
40/48	11	470	256	225	2		16
41/48	10	418	383	127	2		1
42/48	21	568	217	277			11
43/48	25	722	426	261	1	4	11
44/48	19	1151	470	603	4		8
45/48	15	1038	1012	486	2		5
46/48	26	768	805	312			4
47/48	26	771	456	386			43
48/48	18	466	365	250	1		12
49/48	15	1028	829	446	19		5
50/48	12	395	306	221	12		8
51/48	14	608	381	278			3
52/48		Christmas Holidays					
53/48							
TOTALS:	750	26836	18615	11205	148	5	535
							4827.9

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY CIVIL, MILITARY, DOCKYARD AND R.A.F. TEAMS, 1948.

Team	Premises Treated	No. of Points Prebaited	No. of Points Poison Baited	No. of Takes.	Carcasses found			Estimated kill
					Rattus Rattus	Rattus Norvegicus	Mus Musculus	
Civilian	750	26,836	18,615	11,205	143	5	535	4827.9
Military	154	13,417	5,836	2,859	11	--	13	1178.0
R.A.F.	59	1,667	936	330	--	--	2	232.2
H.M. Dockyard...	447	19,396	2,876	1,242	51	1	57	693.2
Sewers, Storm water drains, Electricity and Telephone pits and sub-stations	36 manholes	110	62	29	--	--	--	32.1
Totals	1,446	61,426	28,325	15,695	210	6	610	6963.4

ANTI-RAT TREATMENT OF SEWERS, ELECTRIC LIGHT AND TELEPHONE PITS FOR YEAR 1948.

	Date	No. of Prebait laid	No. of poison baits laid	Total No. of Takes	No. of Manholes Treated	Estimated Kill
26/48	21/6/48 to 25/6/48	73	37	11	25	10.3
27/48	28/6/48 to 2/7/48	20	20	13	5	9.3
42/48	11/10/48 to 15/10/48	17	5	5	6	12.5
		110	62	29	36	32.1

PORT HEALTH WORK

Maritime

The port health work is under the control of the Government, who employ two part-time medical practitioners, and a number of boarding officers who work under the administration of the Captain of the Port. The Medical Officer of Health is also nominated a "Health Officer" so that he shall have like powers to board ships, examine suspected cases of infectious disease and where necessary, to order infected or suspected ships in quarantine.

The Captain of the Port has kindly supplied the following information :—

'Every vessel arriving in the Colony is visited by a boarding or health officer and where any infectious disease exists or is suspected to exist on board any vessel, or where the boarding or health officer considers that the public health cannot otherwise be adequately safeguarded, such vessel is placed in quarantine and subjected to control under the provisions of the Quarantine Ordinance and Rules.

'Where a ship arrives and during the voyage there has been a death from illness suspected to be of an infectious nature, or a case of such illness; or the ship has called at an infected port; or plague has occurred or been suspected amongst rats, such ship is put by for full inspection by the health officer, and for control as circumstances may require.'

Number of ships entered during 1948	...	...	...	6,202
Number of ships visited by the Health Officer	...			126
Number of ships placed in quarantine	...	...	...	Nil

Cases of sickness landed from ships—

British	...	91
Foreign	...	134

Air

The airport is under the control of the Royal Air Force and their Senior Medical Officer acts as Health Officer.

Amendments to the Quarantine Ordinance and the Rules made thereunder have been drafted to legalise his position in carrying out the recommendations of the World Health Organisation and International Sanitary Conventions for Aerial Navigation.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

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

Water Supply

Gibraltar has a dual system of water supply. Fresh water for drinking and brackish water for sanitary and ablution purposes.

The population obtain fresh potable water also by two methods—(1) from roof catchments and underground tanks attached to each individual house; and (2) from the City Council's supply. The latter is rarely piped directly to the house but is supplied either through meters and flexible hoses to the underground tanks—or by bucket or barrel from the Council's street fountains.

All water barrels are steam sterilized at weekly intervals. The Sanitary staff are constantly on the watch for possible pollution of underground tanks. Samples from one hundred and fifty-four suspected tanks being taken in 1948.

A shortage of drinking water was again experienced towards the end of the year although the position of the Colony as a whole was never so precarious as in the previous year. The late spring rains came later than usual which helped supplies throughout the summer, however early winter rains, usual in November failed to materialise until late in December. As a result the City Council's stocks of water ran dangerously low in December and arrangements had to be made with the Admiralty. Their distilleries were prepared for use but recourse to distilling became unnecessary when rain fell in the last week of the year.

Supplies of drinking water to merchant shipping again had to be curtailed. According to the supply position a ration of from four to ten gallons per head per day to the next port of call was allowed. Boiler water was supplied to ships direct from the North Front wells via tankers loaded at the Watering Jetty.

Work on the installation of the new softening plant, approved by the City Council in 1947, was commenced in the latter part of the year.

The storage capacity of the reservoirs remained unchanged at 13,848,742 gallons, or barely eighteen weeks supply at current rates of consumption. Rainfall at the catchments totalled 20.89 inches, well below the average.

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

Water collected from catchments	14,343,840	gallons
Water pumped from North Front Wells	24,275,444	„
Water transferred from Dockyard	1,376,027	„
Total ...		39,995,311 gallons

Fresh water issued from reservoirs as follows:—

To Town	33,763,525	gallons
To Shipping	6,667,750	„
Total ...		40,431,275 gallons

Fresh water issued direct from Wells:—

To Shipping	5,577,000	gallons
To North Front Camps	651,300	„
To Private Consumers	425,100	„
Total ...		6,653,400 gallons

Brackish water (used for sanitary purposes)
pumped during the year 395,500,000 gallons

It should be noted that the total consumption of fresh water for the civil population is only 34,188,625 gallons, or rather less than four gallons per head per day. To permit the standards of personal cleanliness and of cleanliness in food handling expected today, a cheap supply of at least ten gallons per head would be required.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse

House refuse is collected once daily throughout the year.

The new refuse destructor at North Front was brought into use in August and has shown itself easily capable of dealing with the daily average of thirty tons of refuse. The installation of this destructor is a great advance on the older methods of tipping into the sea where wind borne or tide borne refuse inevitably caused some nuisance to neighbouring dwellings and beaches.

Sewage Disposal

As noted in last year's report the existing foul drainage facilities at North Front are now insufficient fully to meet the requirements. The City Engineer's scheme for their improvement and extension is still in course of preparation.

The quantity of sewage and storm water pumped from low level during 1948 was 137,564,100 gallons—a slight decrease on that of the previous year.

Public Highways and Street Cleansing

In 1948 improvements to highways were carried out at Casemates Hill and Line Wall Promenade, the latter including the railing off of the promenade from the carriage-way thus increasing the safety from road accidents as this promenade is very popular with mothers taking their small children for an airing.

The reinstatement of Corral Road was commenced late in the year. This road will form eventually part of a one-way traffic scheme to relieve congestion at Waterport.

During the year several streets were resurfaced with tar macadam.

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 further to extend its use.

Public Baths

The Sea Bathing establishment continues to be well patronized—some 54,900 bathers paying for admission during the year.

The temporary fresh water slipper baths were transferred from the old Fire Station Building to the Tarik Bathing establishment and were used by some 9,940 persons in 1948.

THE WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT

The work of the Sanitary Inspectors is summarized in the table below.

It will be seen that compared with 1947 there has been a rise in the house-to-house inspections and minor variations among the nuisances found.

There was in 1948 a slight improvement in the availability of sanitary ware and materials, and in consequence the difficulty of getting repairs executed was somewhat eased.

It should be noted that the Sanitary Inspectors performed one hundred and sixty-five visits while making investigations on behalf of the Resettlement Board. Not only does the local knowledge of the Inspector occasionally prevent deceit and misrepresentation, but while making such inspections not a few defects have been brought to light.

Summary of Work Done by Sanitary Inspectors

Complaints received :

Written	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Verbal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	604

Premises inspected :

General inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
House-to-house inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12,504
Statutory notices served—general defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Informal notices served—minor nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	412

Nuisances Found :

Defective drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	170
Obstructed drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	430
Defective W.Cs.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Defective W.C. fittings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	322
water fittings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	182
rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
eavesgutters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144
roofs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	157
yard paving	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Premises dirty	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	101
Defective or no dustbin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
Other minor defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,225
Suspected pollution of water in underground tank...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	154
Underground tank not insect proof	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Brackish water tank not insect proof or no cover...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Brackish water running to waste	173
Samples of food and drugs taken for analysis	99
Premises disinfected after infectious disease	90
Premises disinfected for vermin, &c.	38
Stables disinfected	12
Articles disinfected at disinfecting station	2,066
Visits of enquiry re infectious disease	262

Cases removed to hospital :

local	438
Bay	104

Visits to Milk-shops	115
Visits to Eating houses	1,090
Visits to Mineral water factories	208
Visits to Common lodging houses	113
Visits in connection with resettlement	165
Visits to premises on which notice for abatement of nuisance has been served and which are revisited for the purpose of ascertaining if requirements are being complied with	2,927
Vaccination notices issued	728
Legal proceedings instituted	4
Street water fittings found defective	93

Foodstuffs, &c., condemned as unsound :

Eggs	884 cases
Cordials	30 bottles
Yeast	2,800 lbs.
Cinnamon	52 lbs.
Dates	4,480 lbs.

FOOD SUPPLIES

Food supplies have been adequate throughout the year and arrangements for rationing those essentials still 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

Supplies of frozen beef and mutton have been sufficient to cover the ration of two pounds per week per person. There seems to be little hope of supplies of fresh meat becoming available in the near future.

The present supply of frozen meat is received as a bulk supply in conjunction with the Military Authorities, who also hold a considerable proportion of the civil supply in their coldstores until distribution is effected. In April certain supplies of frozen meat received via these channels were found to be affected with bone taint, some seven hundred and twenty-one pounds being condemned at the Markets on this account.

Early representation to the Military Authority led to the remainder of this allocation being examined. No further distribution was made from this particular consignment.

Very small quantities of fresh Kosher killed meat were imported, under special arrangements, for the Hebrew community.

Milk

The milk supply is almost entirely in the form of tinned condensed milk and/or dried milk. There are however six persons registered by the Health Department as milk vendors. Between them they import approximately a hundred pints of cows' milk and forty pints of goats' milk a day. By law all fresh milk must be boiled before being sold to the public. Samples of milk were taken from time to time in 1949, and from them it would appear that the heat treatment has been more conscientiously carried out in 1948; although one vendor had to be prohibited from selling milk for a short period. The Sanitary Inspectors made one hundred and fifteen visits to milk shops during the year.

Ice-Cream

Close supervision of ice-cream manufacturers and shops was maintained by the sanitary staff — twenty-one samples being

examined. All, with the exception of three were up to standard for cleanliness.

At present ice-cream vendors are subject only to bye-laws made as long ago as 1915, nevertheless, moderately good standards of cleanliness have been maintained but the enforcement of cleanliness is difficult in face of the absence of a good and plentiful piped supply of fresh water.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables.

Plentiful supplies have been imported from Spain for sale at the Public Markets, and by licensed street vendors. All such supplies pass under the surveillance of the Market Inspectors. In 1948 occasional consignments of these commodities were imported from Tangier.

Street vendors of market produce must each day obtain a ticket which acts as licence to sell from the Markets, before going out into the street. The Market Inspectors are thus given the opportunity of inspecting their produce before it is put on sale. Fifty-two vendors on foot and fifty-six with carts were the average number of tickets issued each day in 1948.

Fresh Fish

Supplies are imported from Spain, the average daily rate being 3,200 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 two inspections one hundred and forty-one cases, representing approximately 7,909 pounds of fish, were condemned as well as fifty-one pounds of sword fish.

Though the majority of fish coming into Gibraltar is sold from the Markets, there are an average of fifty fish vendors who obtain daily licences to sell fish in the streets.

Condemnation of Foodstuffs

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

				<i>Amount Condemned</i>	
				<i>Health Department</i>	<i>Market Inspectors</i>
				<i>Inspectors</i>	
Meat	...	...	...	—	721 lbs.
Fish	...	...	...	—	7,960 lbs.
Yeast	...	...	...	2,800 lbs.	—
Cinnamon	...	...	...	52 lbs.	—
Dates	...	...	...	4,480 lbs.	—
Eggs	...	...	...	30 cases	—
Cordial	...	...	...	884 bottles	—

Eating Houses and Cafes

Purveyors or vendors of refreshments, confectionery cakes, sweets, fruit and shell fish must be registered by the City Council as are the premises used for that purpose. They are subject to the Food Vendors Bye-laws which permit a fair control of these businesses. On the whole, reasonable standards of cleanliness are maintained and most proprietors seem willing to co-operate in such matters. However, the majority of these shops are so lacking in space that all too often adequate arrangements for the cleansing of utensils, crockery, cutlery, etc., just cannot be made.

The lack of a plentiful, piped supply of fresh water for this purpose and for the cleansing of the hands and persons of the food handlers definitely precludes the proper high standards of cleanliness being attained.

In the United Kingdom not only do food preparing premises have to be provided with a continuous supply of wholesome water, but also with a supply of hot water. Until the water supply position in Gibraltar is improved it is obviously impossible to attain such desirable standards.

The Sanitary Inspectors closely supervise the eating houses to see that the best is being made of the facilities available. They made one thousand and ninety visits for that purpose during 1948.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

Housing

Housing remains one of Gibraltar's chief problems, added to the difficulties of finance, shortage of materials and labour, is that of an acute shortage of land on which buildings can be erected.

The large blocks of flats at Governor's Meadow noted as under construction were almost completed by the end of the year.

From this scheme four hundred and seventy-two flats should be available in 1949. Unfortunately the rentals of these well appointed flats are likely to preclude their occupation by the most overcrowded families who are all too frequently the poorest.

A scheme for a further hundred smaller and simpler tenements built in blocks of eight and sited in differed parts of the North and South Districts, has been drawn up. Work on two of the sites for these tenements had been started before the end of the year. It is for the simpler and smaller type of tenement without frills or ornamentation that the greatest need exists.

The Commissioner of Lands and Works has kindly provided the following particulars of houses completed during 1948:—

Temporary and Semi-permanent houses

R.N.A.S. North Front	61 tenements	Formerly the R.N. Air Station converted into 61 tenements.
North Jumpers Bastion	22 „	Army Barracks converted, mostly underground accommodation. A small number of Nissen Huts.
Reclamation Road	12 „	Formerly offices of C.O. H.M.S. "Rooke." Nissen Huts.
3, Rosia Lane	8 „	Completion of temporary housing scheme. Gas Wks. Site. Concrete buildings.
Rosia Steps	3 „	Conversion of A.R.P. Shelter. Erection of additional tenement on roof.
Rosia Parade	2 „	Conversion of A.R.P. Shelter.

Witham's Road	1	„	do.
Assembly Rooms	8	„	Conversion of part of building into tenements used for decanting purposes.
21, Town Range	1	„	W.D. married Qrs. on loan to Colonial Government.
<i>Total</i>	<i>118 temporary/semi-permanent dwellings</i>		

Permanent Houses

Shorthorn Housing Scheme	18	„	Semi-independent houses on fine site.
Mount Road	2	„	Government Quarters.
<i>Total</i>	<i>20 permanent dwellings.</i>		

In addition to these a very small number of dwellings have been made available by alterations or additions to private property.

The position with regard to the maintenance of existing property becomes if anything even worse. The exceptionally high cost of major house repairs and the near impossibility of reimbursement from the rents obtained—no increase of rent for the rising cost of repairs having been permitted under the present Rent Restrictions Ordinance — naturally makes landlords reluctant and tardy in executing anything but the smallest of repairs.

There is undoubtedly a very great need for a Housing Ordinance, so that better control of houses let to the working classes, and houses let in lodgings can be obtained. Many rooms and portions of larger flats which have none of the amenities usually expected, no cooking facilities, no larder for food storage, no place for personal ablution and no provision for clothes washing, are being let or sublet.

Such an ordinance might also deal with overcrowding—at least preventing further dwellings from becoming overcrowded slums, even if little can be done to relieve the present and often serious overcrowding.

A Draft Housing Ordinance was considered in 1938, but was apparently lost in the welter of wartime legislation. It is high time this ordinance was resurrected, brought up-to-date and made law. The lack of powers under the Public Health Ordinance all too frequently hamstring the Health Department in its efforts to maintain a reasonably good standard of housing.

Town Planning

The Central Planning Commission has continued to meet frequently to discuss new building projects. Their work is however not infrequently hampered by the absence of detailed surveys of district in which proposed buildings are to be erected.

In the absence of a proper Town Planning staff delay is thus occasioned.

The absence of any ruling as to compensation for land on which the owner is denied the right to rebuild and as to any betterment charges which may be levied, must make owners chary of undertaking rebuilding projects.

There seems to be some danger that the fine ideas of the future Town Plan and the methods of enforcing them may soon be accused of obstructing smaller improvements so urgently needed.

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 Building Control Ordinance, and eighty-six plans were examined and reported upon during the year.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The Council is committed to providing an ambulance service for infectious cases only, but since the late war, being the only authority with ambulances available more and more non-infectious cases have been conveyed.

In the past year only seventeen local infectious cases and eight infectious cases from the Bay were carried, the rest being non-infectious.

The new ambulance mentioned in last year's report was delivered in August, and is proving most useful. More roomy than the older vehicles the forward driving position permits a shorter wheel base with consequent improved handiness in confined spaces. Although not of superfine finish it is very well equipped, the easy loading and cool or warm air ventilating system being features of special merit.

In April a gift of a large, commodious and very well fitted ambulance was received from the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Being able to accommodate four stretchers at one time this vehicle is a valuable addition to the Council's fleet.

The Health Department now has in operation four ambulances and one van. One ex-ambulance is in process of being converted into a hearse.

Much thought and discussion was given to improving the night ambulance service, but the expense of instituting a shift system of drivers and attendants, the only way of obtaining instant availability, was not deemed to be justified by the number of calls received during the night hours.

A convenient central garage with adjacent quarters for drivers and attendants would definitely improve the service, but this again is at present ruled out by cost and lack of a suitable site.

The number of cases conveyed by the City Council Ambulances during 1948 was as follows:—

	Local Cases	Bay Cases
Pelvic Cellulitis		
Cerebral Thrombosis		2
Injuries	1	
Pleurisy	51	20
Mental Cases		1
Maternity Cases	18	5
Diabetes and Glycosuria	22	1
Typhoid Fever	3	

Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	5	4
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
Burns	...	...	...	...	...	4	13
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...		1
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	10	
Malaria	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Venereal Disease	...	...	...	...	...		1
Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Uterine Haemorrhage	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...		1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	3	
Chicken Pox	...	...	...	...	...	1	
Miscellaneous, (medical & surgical cases)	...	...	...	...	...	103	39
Dead Bodies	...	...	...	...	...	198	10
						Totals ... 438	104

DISINFECTION

Disinfection of bedding, clothing etc., continued to be carried out at the Disinfection Station on Line Wall Road.

The following table shows that considerably more work was done than in the previous year when 789 articles were treated.

Date	Bed and Mattresses	Bolsters, Pillows	Blankets & Quilts	Sheets	Sundries	Totals
January	3	3	9	1	13	29
February	29	46	73	3	7	158
March	28	32	82	6	22	170
April	174	37	269	18	43	541
May	113	23	7	2	3	148
June	91	22	18	1	19	151
July	31	33	31	33	48	176
August	17	21	13	19	21	91
September	21	19	6	27	10	83
October	10	16	8	19	22	75
November	171	17	114	15	14	331
December	6	1	3	—	103	113
	694	270	633	144	325	2,066

MEDICAL WORK DONE FOR THE COUNCIL

The number of men examined during the year was seventy-nine, compared with sixty-four the previous year.

The majority of the examinations were still of new employees, though a number of men subjected to the hazards of lead poisoning were also examined but no signs of incipient poisoning were detected. Also a very few medical examinations were made to assess the fitness for work of men on the sick list, or returning to duty after illness.

Arrangements were made for the free radiological examination of the Council's workmen at King George V. Hospital. One hundred and thirty took advantage of the opportunity. One case of suspected incipient tuberculosis was discovered and is still under investigation. A number of other abnormalities were found, mostly of a non-serious nature, but in one or two cases it was deemed necessary to advise the men and further investigate.

The following table shows the number of men examined in each month of the year:—

January	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
February	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
March	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
April	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
May	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
June	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
July	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
August	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
September	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
October	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
November	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
December	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
								—
Total								79
								—

OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING THE HEALTH OF GIBRALTAR

Board of Health

The Board of Health continued to meet monthly throughout the year. Combining the heads of the medical services of the Navy, Army and R.A.F. with the Colonial Government and City Council, under the chairmanship of the Chief Assistant Colonial Secretary who may be said to represent the administrative aspect, it forms an excellent co-ordinating body and its advice has been greatly appreciated.

The following brief summary of subjects discussed demonstrates the width of its deliberations:—

Coroner's Ordinance and inquests on Service personnel.

Importation of Dogs.

List of Notifiable Diseases and the exclusion of school children contacts.

The Inundation.

Yellow Fever Inoculations.

International Certificates (inoculation and vaccination).

Overcrowding.

Public Urinals.

Quarantine Regulations as applied to air travellers.

Blood Transfusions.

General Medical Services

During the year two additional doctors entered general medical practice in Gibraltar. As most of the present practitioners are overworked, there would appear to be room for further entrants.

Nursing Services

Mention has already been made of the introduction of new Midwives Rules. A Nurses Registration Ordinance which establishes a Nursing Board for the Colony who shall keep a register of the nurses for the sick, and authorises the Governor to make regulations as to conditions of admission to the register, was

passed. This Ordinance also lays penalties on anyone using the title of Registered Nurse unless they are on the roll, and thus should do much to protect the public from untrained persons professing to be capable of nursing the sick.

In Gibraltar there is no recognised domiciliary nursing service and from hearsay there would appear to be very few trained nurses doing private work. It is my opinion that the hospitals could be relieved of an appreciable number of their chronic and convalescent cases were there trained nurses to visit them daily in their homes.

Such a service would also prove a boon to the aged for whom there is no special institutional accommodation and who, if they cannot be cared for at home, at present enter the Colonial Hospital where they occupy beds much needed for acute illnesses.

Marriage Ordinance

A Marriage Ordinance was enacted in 1948 which, among other things, controls the marriage of minors prohibiting marriage of females under the age of fourteen and of males under sixteen years of age.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES
REPORT OF THE CITY PATHOLOGIST-ANALYST,
GIBRALTAR

During the year a return has been made to more complete water and other analysis, and analytical work in general now constitutes an increasing part of the total. There has been much variety in this, and, from examinations carried out no evidence has been found of adulteration of milk or other foodstuff, or of substitution of indifferent for natural and genuine goods.

The system of charging fees to the Naval, Military, Royal Air Force and Colonial Government Authorities for individual items of work carried out has, during the year, coincided with some increase in the amount of investigations requested by the Colonial Government and private individuals, but a decrease in that requested by the Service Authorities.

Public Health laboratory work has covered a wide range of analytical and pathological investigation, and some morbid anatomy of animals.

No large scale outbreak of epidemic disease was encountered.

Until 1948 the nearest stored blood for use in this City was kept at the Military Hospital. With the kind co-operation of the Chief Medical Officer and one of his surgeons it was found possible to arrange for a small 'Bank' at the Colonial Hospital, and British Red Cross Authorities and workers are now assisting in the work connected with it. Further in clinical pathology some development of the laboratory methods has been made. Lecture-demonstration and teaching instruction has been given to hospital nursing and orderly staff.

Histology is upon the increase and methods are improving.

Morbid anatomy—post mortem examinations have been few. Certain morbid anatomy of animals has been carried out.

In the laboratory more space, and freedom from avoidable disturbance are pressing necessities.

In all the branches of the work constant re-examination of methods and procedure, and consideration and trial of new ones is essential. It is only by such care that the work of the department can be properly maintained. More of this re-examination and more actual development would have been possible during the year but for the interruption of the work of the staff necessitated by the collection of specimens which, normally, are sent to a laboratory.

I have consulted with authorities in Great Britain and elsewhere and am very grateful for their unstinted help.

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

City Pathologist-Analyst,
Gibraltar.

Laboratory, 12th March, 1949.

[illegible]

	I	II	III	IV	V	VI	Totals
Clinical Pathological Investigation upon:							
Blood							
Serology—Complement Fixation Reactions							
Wassermann tests	282	21	5	207	484	128	1,137
Gonorrheal	3	1		11	179	180	160
Flocculation tests, Kahn	291	20	5	290	466	31	1,005
Agglutination " for Widal	21	1			15	2	39
" " " for anti agglutinin							16
" " " for heterophile antibody (Paul-Bunnell test)							19
Cultures	4						35
Hematology—Grouping & tests for compatibility	36	6		1			43
Erythrocyte Sedimentation rates	26	5	2	3			36
Count of cells and platelets	26	2					28
Bleeding and clotting times	294	32	14	12			352
Specific Gravity	7						7
Films—for parasites	1						1
Chemistry—Albumen (plasma) estimation	12	1		9			22
Bilirubin—Vanden Bergh reactions	3			2			5
—ferrus index	1						1
Calcium	3			1			4
Chlorides	1						1
Cholesterol	3						3
Coagulable	1						1
Phosphorus	1						1
Glucose	2	1		4			7
Globulin	113						113
Proteins—total—phospho	2						2
Albumen/Globulin Ratio	108	28	7	6			159
Uric Acid	49			1			50
Spectroscopy—for pigments, etc.	5						5
Cerebro-Spinal Fluid							
Cytology—Cell counts	27						27
Chemical examination	17						17
Stained films of deposit—for organisms	15						15
Wassermann Reactions	8				34		42
Chemical determinations—including Lange tests	49				33		82
Pleural, etc., Fluids							
Cytology. Cultures. Stained films and some chemistry.	2	10		2			14
Urine							
General examination (reaction, S.P.G., presence of protein and reducing substances. Microscopical study of deposit)	255	7	22	1	1	705	900
Cultures	21	7	5			41	75
Other chemical tests and quantitative determinations that are included in the 'general' examination above—	9						9
Identi—of a sugar	2						2
Quantitative Glucose estimations	74		1			128	204
Tests for Ketones	10		2			105	117
Tests for albumin, salts and pigments	3	1				33	37
Chloride estimations	30					32	62
Dextro R., Indican—test for, etc.	1					3	4
Urea estimations	1		1			9	10
Urobilinogen	6				1		7
In addition to unstained deposits examined	22						22
Stained deposits there were examined	31		2				33
Specific Gravity alone	18		7				25
Chemical examinations	2						2
For Helminths	6						6
Specimens							
Microscopical examinations	11						11
Culture examinations	31						31
Chemical examinations	135						135
Specimen							
Microscopical examinations	60	746	3	1			810
Cultures	13	11					24
Gastric Contents, Lavage and Fractional Test Meals							
Pus and Exudate, Swabs, etc.							
Cultures	740	9	41	8	1	160	959
Microscopical of stained films	40					85	125
Chemical examinations	64	1	11		1	14	80
Tissue							
Anatomical and histological examinations	6						6
Animal Inoculations							
Sera for 'dark ground' examination	1						1
Semen 'Microscopical	13						13
Semen 'Microscopical	3						3
Hairs and Epithelium—Microscopical for fungi							
BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS							
NOT included in the foregoing and made upon:—							
Waters							

Block	IV	V	VI	III	II	I
1001	1001	1001	1001	1001	1001	1001
1002	1002	1002	1002	1002	1002	1002
1003	1003	1003	1003	1003	1003	1003
1004	1004	1004	1004	1004	1004	1004
1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005	1005
1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006	1006
1007	1007	1007	1007	1007	1007	1007
1008	1008	1008	1008	1008	1008	1008
1009	1009	1009	1009	1009	1009	1009
1010	1010	1010	1010	1010	1010	1010
1011	1011	1011	1011	1011	1011	1011
1012	1012	1012	1012	1012	1012	1012
1013	1013	1013	1013	1013	1013	1013
1014	1014	1014	1014	1014	1014	1014
1015	1015	1015	1015	1015	1015	1015
1016	1016	1016	1016	1016	1016	1016
1017	1017	1017	1017	1017	1017	1017
1018	1018	1018	1018	1018	1018	1018
1019	1019	1019	1019	1019	1019	1019
1020	1020	1020	1020	1020	1020	1020
1021	1021	1021	1021	1021	1021	1021
1022	1022	1022	1022	1022	1022	1022
1023	1023	1023	1023	1023	1023	1023
1024	1024	1024	1024	1024	1024	1024
1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025	1025
1026	1026	1026	1026	1026	1026	1026
1027	1027	1027	1027	1027	1027	1027
1028	1028	1028	1028	1028	1028	1028
1029	1029	1029	1029	1029	1029	1029
1030	1030	1030	1030	1030	1030	1030
1031	1031	1031	1031	1031	1031	1031
1032	1032	1032	1032	1032	1032	1032
1033	1033	1033	1033	1033	1033	1033
1034	1034	1034	1034	1034	1034	1034
1035	1035	1035	1035	1035	1035	1035
1036	1036	1036	1036	1036	1036	1036
1037	1037	1037	1037	1037	1037	1037
1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038	1038
1039	1039	1039	1039	1039	1039	1039
1040	1040	1040	1040	1040	1040	1040
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The following are the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various positions in the Department of the Interior, and who are now in the service of the Department:

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 Chief of Bureau of Reclamation: *William B. Hays*
 Chief of Bureau of Indian Affairs: *John D. Smith*
 Chief of Bureau of Geographical Names: *John D. Smith*
 Chief of Bureau of Fish and Game: *John D. Smith*
 Chief of Bureau of Forestry: *John D. Smith*
 Chief of Bureau of Mines: *John D. Smith*
 Chief of Bureau of Public Lands: *John D. Smith*
 Chief of Bureau of Survey and Mapping: *John D. Smith*
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