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ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF GIBRALTAR

FOR THE YEAR

1950

BY

**JAMES A. DURANTE, M.R.C.S. (Eng.),
L.R.C.P. (Lond.).**

Medical Officer of Health (Acting),

**with which is included the Report of the City
Pathologist-Analyst.**

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The Port Medical Officer.

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E. H. DAVIS, Esq.

PREFACE

I have the honour to present this report on the Health of Gibraltar for the year 1950.

In the statistical field the outstanding features are an almost dramatic fall in the birth rate (15.79) and a marked decrease in the infant mortality (28.16) and the neo-natal death rate (5.63).

These figures are the lowest recorded in the past twenty years.

The death rate (8.85) shows a small increase as compared with the previous year, due to deaths from diseases of the circulatory system in the older age groups. There was also a rise in deaths caused by cancer and other malignant tumours which continued to constitute the second principal cause of mortality.

Notwithstanding the marked fall in the birth rate, births outnumbered deaths by one hundred and fifty-six.

An extensive outbreak of chicken-pox caused a rise in the incidence of infectious diseases and marred what would otherwise have been a satisfactory low prevalence. Deaths from infectious diseases numbered eight and were all due to tuberculosis; nevertheless the incidence and mortality from this disease were lower than in 1949.

A considerable improvement with respect to Diphtheria Immunization of infants is reported by the Medical Officer in charge of the Infant Welfare Clinic, but the proportion of the child population which is being protected falls far short of that considered necessary to ensure safety, and every effort must be made to persuade parents to adopt for their children this important measure of protection which has been proved of undoubted efficacy in the prevention of a dangerous and not infrequently fatal disease.

The School Medical Officers' report shows that the progressive improvement noted in the health of school children since the inception of the School Medical Service has been maintained. That ninety-one per cent of all children examined should have been found in good physical health is an achievement of which the Child Health Services may justly be proud of.

Thus the health of the City may be regarded as having been satisfactory throughout the year, and when the foregoing data are viewed against an environmental background in which overcrowding, with its inevitable detrimental influence on hygiene and social conditions still holds an invidious prominence, it speaks well for the efficiency of the medical and welfare organisations and the enthusiasm and work of the staffs concerned.

Gratifying as this progress may appear, I must however submit, even at the risk of seeming unduly cautious, that it cannot be considered as affording grounds for complacency, but rather as a stimulus to further accomplishments in the elimination of many factors inimical to health and happiness which though not rendered evident by these figures nevertheless exist; in other words, to attain as far as feasible and for as many as possible a state of physical, mental and social well being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

By the retirement after thirty-nine years of service of the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. C. E. Norton, this year, the Public Health Department has suffered a grievous loss. His intimate knowledge of local conditions and wide experience in sanitation have been of incalculable value to generations of Health Officers, whilst his stimulating personality has gone far towards promoting the efficiency of the Department. I welcome this opportunity to render a tribute to a very able sanitarian imbued with the best traditions of the Service.

He has been succeeded by Mr. P. Vella, and Mr. J. Tipping, has resumed his duties on the staff after completing the training and obtaining the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute in England.

In conclusion I would express my gratitude to the Members of the Council for their unfailing support, to the Staff of the Department for their loyal and willing assistance and to all who have in any way contributed to the compilation of this report.

J. A. DURANTE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,

City Hall,

Gibraltar, 17th May, 1951.

City Council of Gibraltar

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Summary of Vital Statistics for the Year 1950

Total area of Gibraltar Territory	1,387 acres
Area of the City	104 acres
Estimated Total Civil Population of Gibraltar ...	24,886 persons
Estimated Fixed Civil Population of Gibraltar ...	22,470 persons
Births in Fixed Civil Population, Males—180) Females—175)	355
Birth Rate per 1,000 Fixed Civil Population ...	15.79
Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Civil Population ...	18.44
Deaths in Fixed Civil Population	199
Death Rate per 1,000 Fixed Civil Population ...	8.85
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Total Civil Population ...	8.31
Infantile Mortality Rate Fixed Civil Population ...	28.16
Infantile Mortality Rate Total Civil Population ...	23.96
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis..	0.24

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1950.

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

Rainfall was deficient throughout 1950 except in the month of January. February and November were exceptionally dry. The total rainfall at North Front during the year (17.93) was 13.61 inches less than in 1949. Sunshine averaged 8.5 hours per day as compared with 7.7 hours in the previous year. The relative humidity was on an average 3.5 per cent drier and temperatures were about the same as in 1949, the average being about 60°F for both years. The highest air temperature recorded in 1950 was 96°F and the lowest 41°F. Westerly winds were more prevalent than Easterlies.

The year began with abundant rainfall in January (7.33 inches); a notable fall of 3.53 inches occurred in the 24 hours from 7 a.m. on the 21st January.

February was a fine month with less than half an inch of rain while March gave showers and bright periods; sunshine was quite abundant in both these months, averaging about 7 hours per day.

April continued mainly fine and sunny; the night of the 10th and 11th April was notable for the fact that the temperature rose suddenly to 79°F compared with the day maximum of 70°F.

May was rather unsettled with occasional rain, although the total recorded was only 0.76 inches.

June, July and August were, as usual, mainly fine and almost rainless, only 0.18 inches being recorded in the latter month; sunshine during these three months averaged between 11 and 12 hours per day and on 9 days during July, temperature reached 90°F or over; sea fog occurred frequently in July with the onset of Easterly winds.

September continued fine, but the weather became unsettled at the end of the month, followed by a showery October; the total rainfall however for these two months amounted to less than 2 inches.

November was mainly fine and rather warm; this normally rainy month yielded only 0.32 inches.

December weather was unsettled with frequent periods of rain, but the total of 3.62 inches was still below average. The 5th December was remarkable for the occurrence of a sandstorm, a southerly gale blowing sand and dust from Morocco. A gust of 60 knots was recorded during this storm.

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

YEAR 1950 Months	Mean Pres- sure at MSL	TEMPERATURE OF										REL. HUMIDITY				CLOUD AMOUNT (EIGHTHS)						
		MEANS					HIGHEST		LOWEST			03	09	15	21	03	09	15	21			
		Dry Bulb			Max.	Min.	Mean of A & B	Max	Date	Min	Date									Min on grass	Date	
		0300	0900	1500																		2100
January	1019.6	52.7	53.6	60.7	54.9	62.1	50.5	56.2	68	16th	43	19th	36	19th	86	83	70	83	3.3	4.3	4.1	4.0
February.....	1024.7	53.8	56.3	63.1	56.3	64.7	52.1	58.4	73	10, 11th	46	14, 15th	36	15th	81	75	61	77	2.7	3.9	4.3	2.3
March	1020.0	56.5	58.7	65.1	59.0	66.9	54.3	60.6	76	21st	45	21st	40	3rd	83	77	64	77	3.1	5.1	4.1	3.1
April.....	1015.8	58.0	61.9	67.7	60.8	70.0	55.4	62.7	79	11, 23rd	48	1st	41	1st	79	70	60	78	2.7	3.2	3.1	2.1
May	1015.3	61.2	65.6	71.0	64.0	73.2	59.4	66.3	80	20, 26th	54	22nd	48	22nd	84	74	60	78	2.8	5.0	3.7	3.6
June	1017.8	66.1	71.8	77.5	69.4	79.3	64.7	72.0	85	13th	61	18, 19 25th	58	18, 19 25th	83	71	59	80	1.4	2.7	1.7	1.6
July	1015.0	72.3	76.4	82.5	75.4	84.9	70.1	77.5	96	20th	64	5th	61	5, 21st	74	69	55	69	2.4	3.0	1.0	1.4
August	1013.5	72.3	77.0	83.8	74.9	86.0	70.0	78.0	93	7, 24th	62	29th	60	29th	77	66	53	70	1.8	2.1	1.2	2.1
September ...	1016.9	68.7	72.7	78.5	70.9	80.8	66.6	73.7	92	20th	61	30th	59	2, 16 20th	84	74	63	80	2.5	3.3	3.1	3.3
October	1017.9	65.0	67.7	72.2	66.5	74.1	63.4	68.7	83	2nd	55	29, 31st	51	29th 31st	85	76	69	83	3.0	4.5	4.2	3.5
November.....	1019.7	59.3	61.8	67.9	61.3	69.9	56.9	63.4	76	4th	49	20th	45	13th	85	79	66	82	3.3	4.6	3.8	3.1
December	1017.0	51.8	53.4	60.4	53.8	61.7	49.1	55.4	75	3rd	41	27, 31st	37	18, 27 31st	78	73	57	77	2.5	3.8	4.1	3.2
Year	1017.8	61.5	64.7	70.9	63.9	72.8	59.4	66.1	96	July 29th	41	Dec. 27, 31st	36	Jan 19th Feb. 15th	82	74	61	78	2.6	3.8	3.2	2.8

YEAR 1950 Months	RAINFALL			SUNSHINE		WEATHER								
	Total	Max in 24 hrs.	Date	Daily Mean	o/o of Pos- sible	No. of Days of								
						Rain	Snow	Hail	Thun- der	Over- cast Sky	Clear Sky	Gales	Fog	Frost
Jan	186.3	89.6	21st	5.59	56.1	8	0	1	2	3	10	1	0	0
Feb	11.5	4.9	3rd	6.91	63.7	7	0	0	0	1	10	0	0	0
Mar	55.4	15.4	28th	7.49	62.7	8	0	0	1	2	6	2	0	0
April	30.2	27.5	11th	9.81	74.8	3	0	0	3	1	11	0	1	0
May	19.2	6.8	11th	9.18	65.4	5	0	0	1	2	6	0	1	0
June	Trace	0	0	11.79	80.9	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	3	0
July	Trace	0	0	11.49	79.9	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	9	0
Aug	4.5	4.3	20th	11.46	84.7	1	0	0	3	0	18	0	3	0
Sept	16.8	13.7	29th	8.40	67.3	3	0	0	0	2	11	0	4	0
Oct	31.6	12.8	7th	6.07	54.4	4	0	0	2	1	5	0	1	0
Nov	8.1	5.6	11th	6.53	63.7	2	0	0	0	1	6	0	1	0
Dec	91.9	50.9	27th	6.48	66.5	10	0	0	1	1	8	0	0	0
Year	455.5	89.6	21st Jan.	8.43	68.3	51	0	1	13	14	127	3	23	0

WIND

Frequency at 0300, 0900, 1500 & 2100.

Force 1—3 = 1—10 Knots. Force 4—5 = 11—21 Knots. Force 6—7 = 22—33 Knots.

Force 8 = 34—40 Knots.

YEAR 1950 MONTHS	FORCE					DIRECTION							
	8 or over	6-7	4-5	1-3	Calm	N.	NE.	E.	SE.	S.	SW.	W.	NW.
January	1	4	35	74	10	10	1	25	10	5	9	29	25
February	—	11	51	47	3	3	2	22	—	3	13	57	9
March	4	15	38	63	4	1	4	42	1	4	24	39	5
April	—	9	56	53	2	4	5	29	—	6	17	50	7
May	—	8	43	73	—	—	11	39	2	6	26	30	10
June	—	—	42	77	1	1	5	51	5	4	42	27	4
July	—	1	38	81	4	2	15	49	—	10	31	12	1
August	—	1	44	74	5	—	15	37	—	11	34	21	1
September	—	—	37	68	15	1	13	39	1	8	16	27	—
October	—	1	47	70	6	5	23	40	2	9	14	23	2
November	—	—	32	74	14	—	17	17	2	4	20	44	2
December	—	4	58	58	4	1	3	8	1	3	14	79	11
Year	5	54	521	812	68	28	114	398	24	73	260	438	77

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

These statistics are based on the civil population of Gibraltar as shown in the records of the Police Registration Office. They do not include personnel of His Majesty's Forces, or non-resident aliens.

The civil population at the end of the year was constituted as follows:—

	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Totals</i>
British Subjects	7,411	9,007	6,052	22,470
Resident Aliens	963	1,392	61	2,416
Totals ...	8,374	10,399	6,113	24,886

Average number of persons entering and leaving Gibraltar daily:—

1946	7,500
1947	8,400
1948	8,300
1949	9,545
1950	8,742

It will be noted that there has been a slight decrease in the number of daily entrants compared with 1949.

The alterations in population since 1931 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
1940 to 1944 civil population evacuated during war years				
Police Estimate end of	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
do.	1949	22,208	2,377	24,585
do.	1950	22,470	2,416	24,886

Deaths

One hundred and ninety-nine deaths were registered as having occurred in the resident British civil population during 1950, amounting to 8.85 per thousand; in addition there were eight deaths among resident aliens (3.31 per thousand) equalling a total of two hundred and seven deaths or 8.31 per thousand of the total population. These figures represent an increase of fourteen deaths compared with the previous year which is mainly accounted for by deaths in the older age groups. Non-resident aliens contributed fifteen deaths.

The principal causes of death were:—

Cardio vascular diseases	69
Vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system	32
Cancer (including all malignant neoplasms)	32
Senility	9
Pulmonary tuberculosis	6

The chief causes of death were conditions associated with the circulatory system and of these only eleven occurred in persons under fifty-five years of age. One hundred and thirteen or 54.6 per cent of all deaths occurred in persons over sixty-five years. The age group fifty-five and under sixty-five years contributed forty-four deaths.

Cancer and other malignant tumours continue to constitute the second highest cause of death. Thirty-two, representing 15.4 per cent of all deaths were caused by these diseases, and no less than eleven or 34.3 per cent of all cancer deaths were due to malignant neoplasms of the respiratory organs. The years 1948, 1949 and 1950 have contributed five, six and eleven deaths due to respiratory malignant tumours, respectively.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis caused six deaths of which four occurred in young subjects between fifteen and thirty-five years of age.

Two deaths were caused by conditions complicating pregnancy, child birth and the puerperium.

The crude death rate for the quinquennia immediately preceding and following the evacuation has been :—

	<i>Fixed Population</i>	<i>Total Population</i>
1935	16.20	15.71
1936	15.82	15.47
1937	15.24	14.93
1938	14.28	13.74
1939	15.22	14.25

Evacuation period

1945	8.88	8.42
1946	9.18	8.8
1947	7.18	6.56
1948	8.19	7.76
1949	8.15	7.52

Deaths by Months and Quarters

January	23	April	22
February	20	May	16
March	19	June	18
1st Quarter ...	62	2nd Quarter ...	56
July	11	October	25
August	19	November	16
September	15	December	18
3rd Quarter ...	45	4th Quarter ...	59

Includes fifteen deaths from cases landed from the Bay or brought into Town for treatment.

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

<i>Year</i>	<i>Birth Rate</i>	<i>Death Rate</i>	<i>Infant Mortality</i> (per 1,000)
1933	23.68	14.94	39.2
1934	25.8	14.51	54.8
1935	16.9	15.71	67.4
1936	19.3	15.47	62.09
1937	22.69	14.93	68.24
1938	21.07	13.73	74.38
1939	20.85	14.25	79.36

Period of evacuation of civil population

1945	34.84	8.42	32.89
1946	21.38	8.8	36.4
1947	18.75	6.56	47.24
1948	17.32	7.67	29.56
1949	18.37	8.15	34.2
1950	15.79	8.85	28.16

Births

Three hundred and fifty-five children, one hundred and eighty males and one hundred and seventy-five females were born from the civil population in 1950, providing a birth

rate of 15.79 per thousand fixed population, the lowest recorded since 1933. The corresponding figures for 1949 were four hundred and eight and 18.37 respectively.

The distribution of births between hospitals, private practitioners and midwives, was as follows:—

Colonial Hospital	279
Military Hospital	10
Medical Practitioners	13
Midwives	53
	355

Though there has been a small increase in domiciliary confinements attended by midwives the great majority of births took place in hospital.

Illegitimate Births

Illegitimate births numbered thirteen, providing 3.66 per cent of all births.

Infant Mortality

There has been a marked decrease in the infant mortality this year.

Ten infants died before attaining their first year, amounting to 28.16 per thousand. Two of these deaths occurred in the first week of life, representing a neo-natal mortality rate of 5.63 per thousand. It is encouraging to note that these figures are the lowest recorded during the post war period.

The ages and causes of death were as follows:—

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
Acute Purpura Haemorrhagica ...							1			1
Prematurity ...	2		1		3					3
Acute Gastro Enteritis ...						4	1			5
Broncho-Pneumonia ...								1		1
Totals ...	2		1		3	4	2	1		10

Still-Births

Statutory registration of still-births was enforced in July, since when five have been registered which together with four which had come to the notice of the department before registration was enforced, provide a total of nine or 24.72 per thousand total births. There are no comparable figures for previous years.

Infantile Mortality and Neo-natal Death Rates for the Past Six Years

	<i>Infantile Mortality</i>	<i>Neo-natal Mortality</i>
1945	32.89	16.4
1946	36.4	9.7
1947	47.2	34.1
1948	29.56	13.5
1949	34.2	24.2
1950	28.16	5.63

MATERNITY, CHILD WELFARE AND SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES

The Colonial Government continue to be responsible for these services which are operated under the direction of the Chief Medical Officer who is also the Superintendent of the Colonial Hospital. The arrangement favours the integration of the preventive and curative organisations concerned.

Maternity Service

Dr. Cochrane, Physician-in-Charge of the Maternity Department at the Colonial Hospital, has kindly supplied the following information:—

Ante-natal clinics were held at the Colonial Hospital twice weekly. Attendance was very good. Calcium, iron and vitamin preparations were administered to those who required them. The majority of mothers were delivered in hospital. A few cases were attended in their homes by private doctors or registered midwives.

There were five registered midwives engaged in private practice.

The average stay in hospital was 7 days.

Child Welfare and School Medical Services

I am indebted to Dr. Valentine, Chief Medical Officer to the Colonial Government, Dr. Ruggeri, School Medical Officer and Dr. Mary Voigt, Child Welfare Officer, for the following reports:—

Infant Welfare Service

The activities of the Child 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 regarding every child under five years brought for examination, and in addition, Health Visitors and their assistants visited homes to help and advise mothers on problems in the care and upbringing of infants and young children.

Voluntary helpers continued to give unstintingly of their time and service, assisting the staff generally.

Clinics were very well attended.

Over half the children attending the Clinics were under two years of age, and of these the age group under one year was slightly more in number than the age group one to two years.

There was a great increase in immunizations against both diphtheria and pertussis. In addition to primary immunizations, antidiphtheria boosting doses were given to several children approaching five years of age, and in a few instances primary inoculations or boosting doses were given to children over five years.

Combined diphtheria-pertussis vaccine was used in a considerable number of cases, and in a smaller number pertussis vaccine alone.

Milk food and certain medical preparations (calcium, iron, vitamin C. etc.) were supplied free or at reduced cost in necessitous cases. Other medicines prescribed were issued from the dispensary at the Colonial Hospital.

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

Attendances and Home Visits

	Number on Register	Attendances
Town Clinic	941	7,481
South Clinic	209	1,294
	1,150	8,775

Home Visits

Primary	371
Under 1 year	666
Over 1 year	1,964
Special	195
Antenatal	72
Houses	2,282
Fruitless	279

Immunizations

Diphtheria Vaccine	1st Dose	70
	2nd Dose	100
	Boosting Dose	16

Combined Diphtheria-Pertussis			
Vaccine	1st Dose	70	
	2nd Dose	48	
	3rd Dose	38	
Pertussis Vaccine	1st Dose	16	
	2nd Dose	8	
	3rd Dose	7	

School Medical Service

During the year all the schools were visited, in the course of which visits one thousand six hundred and forty children were medically examined. It was the rule rather than the exception for parents to attend at these examinations.

One thousand four hundred and ninety two (91%) were found to be in good physical health; one hundred and forty three (8.7%) were recorded as fair and only five were in a poor state of health.

Regular inspections were made by the school nurse. No less than four thousand children were inspected for cleanliness and two thousand and forty three were tested for defects of vision.

Children who appeared to require some form of general treatment were referred to their own doctors or to the Paediatrician.

Cases requiring special investigation were referred to special clinics —

Ophthalmic clinic	127 cases.
Dental clinic	127 cases.
Chest clinic	24 cases.

Many children were found to have enlarged tonsils but only those exhibiting gross symptoms such as recurrent sore throats or nasal obstruction were referred for operative treatment.

Children between the ages of 5 and 8 attending Infant Schools received a third of a pint of reconstituted milk a day during term time.

It is pleasing to report that though the number of children attending Government Schools increased to nearly three thousand the high standard of health was maintained and the numbers requiring special medical treatment were on the decline.

About five hundred children were enrolled in the Infant Schools. They constituted the first batch of children born and bred in Gibraltar in the post war period. Having enjoyed the advantages of the Child Welfare Service and having been reared in their normal environment these children exhibited a fine standard of physique. Their weight and height were above the average of their elders who endured the hazards and privations of war in the United Kingdom.

Owing to lack of space most of the schools have only a 'patio' for recreation. However the boys in the Secondary Schools played games and did physical exercises at the Stadium under the instructions of a trained P.T. instructor. By kind permission of Lady Anderson the girls received suitable physical training in the Ballroom of Government House.

School children requiring dental treatment were referred to the Dental Surgeons (Mr. Danino and Mr. Cochrane). They attended at their private surgeries by appointment.

On Saturday mornings a special session was held at the Colonial Hospital where extractions were done under gas and oxygen anaesthesia.

SUMMARY OF DENTAL TREATMENT

Dental Surgeon	Sessions for Treatment	Teeth Conserved	Teeth Extracted	Attendance for Scaling and Gum Treatment
Mr. A. A. Danino ...	118	898	187	109
Mr. J. A. Cochrane ...	72	141	338	48

Causes of Death in the Civil Population during 1950, according to the International Intermediate List with Age and Sex Incidence.

Cause of Death	Detailed List of Numbers	Under 1 yr.		1 yr. & 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
A 1 Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	001-1008							1		3						1	1				
A 2 Tuberculosis of meninges and central nervous system ...	010			1	1																
A 10 All other syphilis	022-023 024-029																				
A 39 Hydatid disease	125																				
A 41 Malignant neoplasm of buccal cavity and pharynx	140-148																	1			
A 46 Malignant neoplasm of stomach	151																	2			
A 47 Malignant neoplasm of intestine, except rectum	152-153																	1			
A 48 Malignant neoplasm of rectum	154																	1			
A 49 Malignant neoplasm of larynx	161																	1			
A 50 Malignant neoplasm of trachea, and of bronchus and lung not specified as secondary	162-163																				
A 51 Malignant neoplasm of breast	170																	4			
A 52 Malignant neoplasm of cervix uteri	171																	1			
A 53 Malignant neoplasm of other & unspecified parts of uterus	172-174																				
A 57 Malignant neoplasm of all other and unspecified sites	155-160 161-165 175-176 178-181 182-185 186-189																	1		1	1
A 60 Benign neoplasms and neoplasms of unspecified nature	210-239																				
A 63 Diabetes Mellitus	260																	5			1
A 66 Allergic disorders; all other endocrine, metabolic and blood diseases	240-245 253-254 270-277 287-289 294-299			1																	
A 70 Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	330-334																				
A 71 Non-meningococcal meningitis	340																	2	6	4	14
A 77 Otitis media and mastoiditis	391-393																	1			
A 80 Chronic rheumatic heart diseases	410-416																				
A 81 Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease	420-422																				
A 82 Other diseases of the heart	423-434																	9	8	12	
A 83 Hypertension with heart disease	440-443																	3	1	1	
A 85 Diseases of arteries	450-456																	4	2	1	
A 89 Broncho pneumonia	491																	1			
A 97 All other respiratory diseases	511-517 520 522-527																	1			
A 99 Ulcer of the stomach	540																				
A103 Intestinal obstruction and hernia	560-561																	1			1
A104 Gastro-enteritis and colitis, except diarrhoea of the newborn	571-572																				
A105 Cirrhosis of the liver	581																				
A106 Cholelithiasis and cholecystitis	584-585																				
A108 Acute nephritis	590																				
A109 Chronic, other and unspecified nephritis	591-594																	2			
A112 Hyperplasia of prostate	610																	1			
A114 Other diseases of genito-urinary system	601-603 605-609 611-617 622-637																				
A116 Toxicæmias of pregnancy and the puerperium	642-652																				
A120 Other complications of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium	655-686 645-649 673-680 683 687-689																				
A128 Congenital malformations of circulatory system	754																				
A135 Ill defined diseases peculiar to early infancy, and immaturity unqualified	773-776																				
A136 Senility without mention of psychosis	794																				
AN138 Fracture of the skull	N800-N804																				
AN149 Effects of poisoning	N900-N979																				
TOTALS		207	8	2	1	2	1	2	1	5	5	2	3	9	7	22	22	19	30	25	39

CARE OF THE SICK AND AGED

The position as regards the care of the aged and chronic sick remains as described in my annual report for the year 1949.

The care of the aged and infirm has been traditionally a prominent feature in welfare work in Gibraltar, indeed it may in truth be said that no elderly person has ever been left homeless or uncared for. In pre-evacuation days when housing and financial circumstances were such that few families would allow their aged relatives to have recourse to institutional life there existed no less than four institutions, three of them financed solely on charity, devoted to this purpose. It cannot but appear anomalous that now, when economic and other factors render their need all the greater, and when great advancements have been effected in the provision of medical and welfare services for other sections of the community, five years should have elapsed since repatriation commenced without the establishment of adequate institutional facilities for the care of the aged.

For however much may be accomplished by medical men and others interested in the welfare of these old folks, and however willing responsible relatives may be to undertake their care and maintenance at home, 'the poor are always with us,' and there will always remain a number for whom institutional care will be necessary; so that whatever difficulties have to be surmounted, and I appreciate there are many, everything possible must be done to remedy a defect which cannot be regarded as reflecting credit on our social services.

Welfare of the Blind

Much has been accomplished by the Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Blindness, since its foundation in 1948.

This voluntary organization aims not only at helping the blind by domiciliary visits, financial aid and the provision of transport to hospital for treatment, but also at the prevention of blindness by bringing to the notice of the public the common causes of this affliction and their prevention.

Orthoptic apparatus has been supplied by the Society to some children for use in their homes and, among the blind under its care, there are two teachers of Braille but apparently their abilities have not been fully exploited.

The prevention of blindness, which has been estimated by the ophthalmic specialist to the Government to affect one in every hundred and fifty of the civil population of the Colony, has not in the past received the attention it deserves and this Society should have all possible help and encouragement from the authorities and the public in its laudable and humane work.

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

To conform with the International Standard Classification of Diseases, which was brought into use in January, 1950, it was found necessary to make certain changes in the list of notifiable diseases. Encephalitis lethargica and cerebro-spinal fever were omitted and acute encephalitis and meningococcal infection included in lieu. The effect of these alterations is to render all forms of infective encephalitis, whether of microbic or viral origin, as well as those which occasionally follow or are associated with chicken-pox, mumps, vaccinia and other diseases, subject to notification. Meningococcal infection includes cases of fulminant and other forms of meningococcal infection without an initial meningitis, formerly notified as cerebro-spinal fever. Trachoma and erysipelas have also been made notifiable.

Two hundred and twenty five cases of infectious disease have been notified during the year, an incidence of 9.04 per thousand. This is an increase of forty over last year. Though these figures are not strictly comparable owing to the changes noted above, the increase has been principally due to chicken-pox which, already prevalent in 1949, assumed epidemic proportions during the winter and spring months this year, and accounted for one hundred and eight of the total notifications. There has been no significant increase in the incidence of pertussis as compared with the previous year. Forty-two cases were notified in 1950, two less than in 1949.

Deaths from infectious diseases totalled eight, and were all due to tuberculosis; six were caused by pulmonary and two by non-respiratory types of the disease.

Enteric Fever

Three cases of typhoid and six of paratyphoid fever have been notified during the year. One occurred in January, the others during the late summer and autumn and all were located in various places in the central and south districts. With the exception of five cases of paratyphoid fever, which are of sufficient interest to warrant special reference below, careful investigations which were carried out failed to reveal any common source of infection. All the patients had paid frequent visits to neighbouring towns where they partook of food and drank water, and in all probability were infected from these sources. One case of typhoid almost certainly contracted the disease outside Gibraltar. No deaths have been reported.



*With the
Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health*

*Public Health Department,
City Hall,
Gibraltar.*



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Infectious by Salmonella Paratyphi B.

An outbreak of paratyphoid fever occurred in a private day school catering for about ninety children. The head mistress and three teachers who constituted the entire teaching staff, and who normally took meals on the premises, as well as the cook, were affected.

There were no cases amongst the children.

The illness was attributed to a meal consisting of cooked fish and fresh vegetable salad, all the cases having occurred from twelve hours to twelve days after it had been consumed by those affected. Unfortunately no remnants of this meal could be obtained for bacteriological investigations. One of the teachers who had been repeatedly inoculated with TAB vaccine in childhood suffered a short abortive attack simulating acute food poisoning about twelve hours after partaking of this meal, from which she recovered in about three days without any specific treatment. The other three were taken ill at intervals of twenty-four hours, four days and twelve days after the same meal respectively, and all exhibited the clinical symptoms and followed the usual course of a moderately severe attack of the disease. *S. paratyphi B.* was isolated repeatedly from the faeces of all these patients.

The cook, who appears to have been unwell some time before the onset of the outbreak but who continued at her work, was taken ill about the same time as the others and went home to a neighbouring town beyond the jurisdiction of the Health Department. After considerable difficulty, specimens of her faeces were obtained and *S. paratyphi B.* was isolated from them. She continued to excrete this organism for about three months, and was eventually admitted to the Colonial Hospital for the purpose of clearing her carrier state.

Specimens of faeces obtained from all other members of the household proved negative on bacteriological examination, and it is considered probable that the outbreak was caused by contamination of the suspected meal by the cook.

If this inference is correct these cases are of interest because of the variability in the incubation period and the close simulation of acute food poisoning by *S. paratyphi* in one of the patients. They also indicate the importance of bacteriological investigation of all cases of acute food poisoning; it is possible that but for the coincident occurrence of typical cases, the aetiology of the one masquerading as food poisoning would not have been established and a carrier remained undetected at large.

Investigations carried out following the notification of a case of paratyphoid fever which occurred in an infant aged two years and three months led to the discovery of another carrier. The child suffered an attack of pyrexia associated with gastro-intestinal disturbances caused by infection with *S. paratyphi B.* which was isolated from the faeces. This organism was also found in the faeces of the infant's brother aged one and a quarter years who, however, did not exhibit any symptoms of ill health. Specimens of faeces from all other members of the family proved negative on bacteriological examination. The infection of these infants was eventually traced to the maid who was found to be a persistent excretor of *S. paratyphi B.*

Dysentery

Four cases of bacillary dysentery were notified during the year. Three were infections by *Shigella paradysenteriae* (Flexner) and one by *S. sonnei*. There were no deaths.

As gastro-intestinal disorders are known to have been very prevalent during the spring and summer months it is considered that the number of notifications does not represent the true incidence of the disease.

No notifications of amoebic dysentery were received.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Nineteen cases of pulmonary tuberculosis have been notified in 1950. There were six deaths. This represents a decrease of three in the incidence and two in the mortality as compared with the previous year, when the corresponding figures were twenty-two and eight. Twelve cases, five males and seven females occurred in the fifteen and under forty-five years groups.

The incidence and mortality rates for 1950 were 0.76 and 0.24 per thousand population respectively. Those for 1949 were 0.89 and 0.32.

Pulmonary tuberculosis has always constituted the one defiling feature in the otherwise generally satisfactory health records of Gibraltar, and a short review of its history at a stage when after surmounting great difficulties and experiencing many vicissitudes an organised scheme for the control and treatment of the disease has been successfully established, may prove of interest and help to assess the progress made since its inception.

An examination of all available records since 1891 shows that with the exception of the years 1903, 1907 and 1935 the mortality rate for pulmonary tuberculosis remained consistently over one per thousand of population. With the exception of improvements in housing and general hygiene no serious effort appears to have been made to face the situation until 1936 when a medical officer with special experience in tuberculosis was appointed by the Colonial Government and a clinic for the diagnosis and treatment of diseases of the chest was established at the Colonial Hospital, as a preliminary to the more ambitious opening of King George V. Chest Hospital which was soon to be put under construction. This officer was faced, as had been all medical practitioners before him, with a situation fraught with great difficulties, demanding much tact and patience, and which had arisen from deeply grounded prejudices based on a popular misconception that a diagnosis of tuberculosis not only amounted to a stigma on the unfortunate patient and his family, but was synonymous with ostracism by his fellow men, loss of employment and virtually constituted a death sentence. This attitude, together with the lack of equipment and absence of modern methods now in common use for the detection and treatment of the disease militated against the establishment of a diagnosis at a stage when it would be amenable to treatment, and reflected adversely on proper notification and consequent institution of preventive measures, in fact, it was not an infrequent occurrence for cases to be only notified on a death certificate.

When these difficulties are considered, it speaks well for the methods employed and the work accomplished by the medical officer concerned, in which he received the whole-hearted support of the great majority of the medical practitioners in the city, that the beneficial effects of the clinic were evident within a short time of its having been organised. Slowly but steadily the number of patients seeking advice increased as the popular attitude towards the disease gradually changed and its true nature and amenability to treatment in the early stages were rendered obvious by the good results achieved, but unfortunately what had been accomplished by much arduous effort and expense was suddenly wrecked by the intervention of the catastrophic world war. The hospital was severely damaged by bombs before it had even been used, the majority of the civil population was evacuated in 1940 and the scheme was disrupted in its very infancy.

On repatriation it became evident that a serious situation requiring urgent remedial measures had to be faced. Forty-five cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, over two per thousand of population, the majority in an active infectious state were reported in the first post-war Annual Health Report as having been notified during the year 1945 which, when associated with the gross over-crowding and unsatisfactory state of dwellings constituted a problem of no mean dimensions.

As many cases as possible were admitted to a ward in the Colonial Hospital specially allocated for the purpose under the direction of a physician experienced in the modern methods of control and treatment of tuberculosis, whilst extensive repairs were being effected to King George V. Hospital which had been used for other purposes during the war, and when later in the year, this hospital, equipped with all the necessary modern apparatus was opened, it may truly be said that the foundations of an up-to-date tuberculosis service of which the Colony may justly be proud, were put on a sound footing.

Though much has been accomplished since and great credit is due to all who have contributed towards it, still more remains to be done, for it is a true and well recognised fact that the problem is primarily a social one and intimately related to, and dependent on standards of living, adequate housing and education; progress in these factors is essential to a successful solution.

An encouraging improvement is indicated by the incidence and mortality figures in 1950, and it is gratifying to note that the numerous representations made by those concerned in the prevention and treatment of the disease to the housing authorities, have resulted in an increasing number of patients discharged from hospital being adequately accommodated during the year.

Tables showing the incidence and mortality from pulmonary tuberculosis in the quinquennium immediately preceding and that following the evacuation are appended.

Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis

A case of renal tuberculosis in a youth aged twenty-one and one of tuberculous meningitis in an infant aged six years were notified in 1950. The latter, as well as another case of tuberculous meningitis which had been notified late in the previous year proved fatal.

This represents incidence and mortality rates for non-respiratory tuberculosis of .08 per thousand.

*Incidence and Mortality from Pulmonary Tuberculosis
1935-1939 and 1945-1950*

<i>Year</i>	<i>Cases</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Incidence per thousand</i>	<i>Deaths per thousand</i>
1935	23	15	—	0.88
1936	30	19	1.90	1.20 (T.B.
1937	34	21	1.74	1.08 Officer
1938	8	16	0.39	0.79 appointed)
1939	16	14	0.8	—

Civil population evacuated during the War

1945	42	7	2.4	0.4
1946	30	6	1.55	0.31
1947	31	7	1.52	0.34
1948	17	12	0.72	0.51
1949	22	8	0.89	0.32
1950	19	6	0.76	0.24

Small-Pox

No cases of small-pox have been notified during the year and none were landed from the Bay.

Vaccinations

Number of children born	365*
Number who died before vaccination	9
Number who left Gibraltar before vaccination ...	7
Certified as insusceptible to vaccination ...	1
Vaccination postponed on medical grounds	9
Number successfully vaccinated (children born in 1950) ...	284
Objectors to vaccination	NIL
Outstanding	55

(*includes 10 non-residents)

In addition twenty-one children born outside Gibraltar were vaccinated.

Thus three hundred and five vaccinations and two hundred and nine re-vaccinations on children who had attained the age of twelve years, were performed during the year. Thirty-three adults were also vaccinated.

Two hundred and seventy-six of these vaccinations and two hundred and forty-two re-vaccinations were carried out by the Public Vaccinator. There have been no objectors to vaccination in 1950. Of the 55 outstanding, 52 had not attained the age of three months and notices were served on the remaining three.

Diphtheria

Four cases of diphtheria were notified during the year. None were reported in 1949.

Though the number is not large the position cannot be viewed with complacency when the existing overcrowding and the comparatively small proportion of infants who are being immunized against the disease is taken into consideration.

Chicken-Pox

This disease which had been prevalent during 1949 assumed almost epidemic incidence during the winter and spring this year. The outbreak was confined to children and all cases were of a mild nature.

One hundred and eight cases were notified but there are reasons to believe that the number of cases was much greater than indicated by the notifications received.

There were no fatal cases.

Measles

Twenty cases of measles and two of rubella were notified during the year. All occurred during the spring and summer months.

Whooping Cough

As in the previous year pertussis continued to be prevalent throughout 1950.

Forty-two notifications were received. No deaths occurred.

Scarlet Fever

Two notifications were received in 1950.

Mumps

Two cases of infective parotitis were notified.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Two notifications have been received.

Erysipelas

This disease was made notifiable in May. A single case was reported.

Trachoma

Owing to the prevalence of trachoma in neighbouring towns and in view of the close association and frequent inter-communication between their inhabitants and the residents of Gibraltar, it was considered expedient to include trachoma in the list of notifiable diseases in February this year.

Eight cases were notified during the year, the majority being patients with long-standing, chronic infections suffering from relapses.

Poliomyelitis

No notification of poliomyelitis, a disease which is fortunately rare in Gibraltar, have been received during the year.

In view of the vulnerability of Gibraltar as a sea and air port and the world wide epidemic prevalence of this disease during 1950, which included neighbouring towns and countries within relevant travelling time of the Colony, all reasonably possible precautions were taken to prevent the introduction of the infection.

Direct contacts of declared cases in infected vessels were not allowed to land and others were kept under surveillance by the Health Authorities and their movements restricted until such time as they were considered no longer a danger of spreading the contagion. These precautions were considered all the more necessary in view of the rarity of the disease in Gibraltar which renders the population a "virgin soil" in relation to attacks by the causative virus.

Only one case of poliomyelitis has occurred in the civil population during the quinquennium 1945-1950.

Rabies

The brains of a dog and a cat which had bitten persons in Gibraltar were sent to the Institute Pasteur at Tangier for investigation, and both were reported as exhibiting evidence of rabies. Investigations carried out failed to reveal the source of infection of these animals.

At the request of a British Subject living in Spain the brain of his dog which had behaved strangely and bitten him was also sent to the Pasteur Institute and found to be infected with rabies.

All the persons concerned underwent anti-rabic treatment.

The unaccountable occurrence of such sporadic cases of the disease associated with the number of dogs still to be seen unmuzzled and uncontrolled wandering at large in town must be viewed with grave concern and calls for the most stringent enforcement of the regulations for the control of these animals.

It is also imperative that strict vigilance be exerted at the Frontier and Ports to prevent the illegal importation of animals, and particularly the taking of dogs in and out of the Colony for trips in the neighbourhood, which is easily feasible, and which may not altogether be an infrequent occurrence.

The customary annual campaign to lessen the number of stray, starving and often diseased cats which infest the town was waged from the 31st July to 25th August, during which two hundred and five cats were painlessly destroyed at the Quarantine Kennels.

Stray cats caught by Council cat catchers (for detention and destruction if unclaimed)	136
Cats delivered by private individuals	37
Cats caught by the Services	32

Total number of cats delivered to the Govern- ment Quarantine Kennels and painlessly destroyed	205
--	-----

The Commissioner of Police who continued to be in charge of the kennels where dogs and cats are kept under observation and painlessly destroyed, has kindly supplied the following statistics of work done there during the year.

Number of stray dogs admitted	75
Number of stray dogs claimed by owners	12
Number of stray dogs destroyed	63
Number of dogs detained after biting persons ...	17
Number claimed by owners	12
Number destroyed	5
Number of dogs detained (in transit)	41
Number of dogs humanely destroyed at owners's request	70

Notifications of Infectious Diseases with Age and Sex Incidence — Civil Population 1950

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								
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.							
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	19	—	—	1	—	1	2	4	3	3	2	—	—	—	—	14	5	14				
Non-respiratory tuberculosis ...	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2				
Chicken Pox ...	108	2	—	24	30	25	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	69	26	2				
Enteric Fever ...	9	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	7	2	2				
Trachoma*	8	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3				
Dysentery ...	4	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1				
Whooping Cough	42	4	1	16	11	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	22	10	2				
Mumps ...	2	—	—	3	1	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1				
Diphtheria ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1				
Rubella ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1				
Measles ...	20	—	—	2	3	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	5	—				
Ophthalmia		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1				
Scarlet Fever ...	2	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—				
Erysipelas**	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—				
TOTALS	225	9	1	39	48	47	44	7	5	9	9	4	3	—	—	26	141	58	27			

*Declared notifiable in February, 1950.

**Declared notifiable in May, 1950.

Infectious Diseases — Monthly and Quarterly Incidence — Civil Population, 1950

Disease	January	February	March	1st Qr.	April	May	June	2nd Qr.	July	August	Sept.	3rd Qr.	October	November	December	4th Qr.	Total	Deaths
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	2	3	8	—	—	3	3	1	—	4	5	1	2	—	3	19	6
Chicken Pox	8	10	23	41	20	21	21	62	1	4	—	5	—	—	—	—	108	—
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	4	—	5	9	—
Trachoma*	—	6	—	6	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	8	—
Dysentery	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	4	—
Pertussis	—	1	5	6	3	3	4	10	2	2	8	12	6	6	2	14	42	—
Mumps	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Diphtheria	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	4	—
Rubella	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	1	5	2	8	11	1	—	12	—	—	—	—	20	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Tuberculosis Non-Respiratory	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	2
Erysipelas**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	—
TOTALS	12	20	34	66	26	31	33	90	16	10	16	42	9	15	3	27	225	8

*Declared notifiable in February, 1950.

**Declared notifiable in May, 1950.

Infectious Diseases — Monthly and Quarterly Return of Cases Landed from the Bay or Brought into Town for Treatment, 1950

Disease	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	2	—	1	3	—	2	1	3	3	1	1	5	14	5
Trachoma	—	1	—	1	3	—	5	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	2	—
TOTALS	1	1	2	4	7	2	7	16	—	2	1	3	5	1	2	8	31	5

INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION OF OTHER DISEASES

INSECT VECTORS

Flies

The prevalence of these insects has been remarkably low throughout the year.

One thousand gallons of the five per cent D.D.T. solution prepared for use in sprayers, which appears to be increasingly popular with the residents, have been sold.

Mosquitoes

From the number of reports received it became evident that owing to the occurrence of rains in late spring mosquitoes would become unduly prevalent, and it was resolved to wage an intensive campaign in co-ordination with the sanitary personnel of the services.

By these measures the threat was averted and the incidence of these insects kept at a satisfactory low level throughout the summer and autumn seasons.

All anti-mosquito work was effected by the regular sanitary staff of the department without the employment of extra personnel.

Some seventy specimens were taken for identification, the following species being found:—

<i>Aedes argenteus</i>	4	(between July and October)
<i>Theobaldia longiareolata</i>	14	(between March and September)
<i>Culex pipens</i>	52	(between April and December)

During 28,914 visits of inspection, one hundred and forty-six breeding places were found as follows:—

Tubs	14
Barrels	11
Earthenware vessels	3
Miscellaneous	118

MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN 1950

Months	Visits paid to Premises	Breeding Places Found—by Districts					Totals
		Town Lower	Town Middle	Town Upper	South	North	
January	2,259	—	—	—	—	—	NIL
February	2,332	—	—	—	—	—	NIL
March	2,366	—	—	—	—	2	2
April	2,659	—	5	—	1	1	7
May	2,290	1	3	3	4	4	15
June	2,283	10	3	3	7	13	36
July	2,846	1	2	11	7	2	23
August	2,072	17	1	6	1	5	30
September	2,812	—	2	9	—	—	11
October	2,210	—	—	4	2	7	13
November	2,257	1	—	4	—	2	7
December	2,528	1	—	1	—	—	2
Totals	28,914	31	16	41	22	36	146

Breeding places found consisted of :—Washing tubs, drains, drinking troughs, fresh water tanks, flushing tanks, tubs, barrels, pits &c.

RODENT CONTROL

The campaign to control rodent infestation continued to be waged unabatedly throughout the year with satisfactory results. Effective co-operation between the civilian and services personnel engaged was maintained, thus rendering the most economical use to be made of available baits and poisons, whilst ensuring the greatest efficacy in the measures adopted.

Judging from the large proportion of carcasses of *Mus musculus* recovered it would appear that these vermin constitute the major factor in the infestation, and that the rat population is being kept at a satisfactory low level: no relaxation of the measures being employed would, however, be advisable.

Sewers, storm water drains, and electricity and telephone inspection pits were thoroughly treated on four occasions.

It was not found necessary to employ extra personnel this year; all the work was carried out by the regular staff of the Rat Extermination Department.

A total of 55,420 points were prebaited and 27,194 poison baits were subsequently laid in 900 premises by civilian and military teams from which 15,606 takes were recorded—the estimated kill being 4,141. The carcasses of fourteen rats were examined in the City Council laboratories and found free from plague bacilli.

The Anti-Rat Co-ordinating Committee met four times during the year.

RODENT CONTROL—SUMMARY OF TREATMENT BY COMBINED SERVICES DURING THE YEAR 1950

Service	No. of Premises Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
					RR	RN	MM	
Civilian	490	20,554	13,568	8,082	43	—	645	1,873
Military	122	12,960	7,432	4,270	15	—	13	1,408
H.M. Dockyard...	202	20,926	5,341	2,762	14	—	41	575
R.A.F.	8	717	599	282	1	—	2	114
Sewers, Drains, Electric Light and Telephone Pits	78 manholes	263	254	210	—	—	—	171
Totals ...	900	55,420	27,194	15,606	73	—	701	4,141

RODENT CONTROL — SUMMARY OF TREATMENT OF CIVILIAN PREMISES DURING 1950

Campaign Weeks	Premises Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Bait Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
					RR	RN	MM	
2/50 to 13/50	124	5,920	3,757	2,404	17	—	141	615
14/50 to 26/50	109	4,659	2,608	1,522	4	—	106	322
27/50 to 39/50	134	4,790	3,445	1,997	7	—	231	447
40/50 to 51/50	123	5,185	3,758	2,159	15	—	167	489
Totals ...	490	20,554	13,568	8,082	43	—	645	1,873

**RODENT CONTROL—TREATMENT OF SEWERS, DRAINS, ELECTRIC LIGHT AND TELEPHONE PITS DURING
THE YEAR 1950**

Campaign Week	Date	Manholes Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
						RR	RN	MM	
18/50	1/5/50-5/5/50	21	88	79	53	—	—	—	27
31/50	31/7/50-4/8/50	21	63	63	51	—	—	—	47
32/50	7/8/50-11/8/50	17	55	55	55	—	—	—	58
33/50	14/8/50-18/8/50	19	57	57	51	—	—	—	37
	Totals ...	78	263	254	210	—	—	—	171

PORT HEALTH WORK

Maritime

Port health work is under the control of the Colonial Government and is carried out by two medical practitioners employed part time as Health Officers, together with a number of Boarding Officers, under the administration of the Captain of the Port.

The Medical Officer of Health is, under the provisions of the Quarantine Ordinance, also vested with the status of a Health Officer, which empowers him to board ships, examine persons suspected of suffering from infectious disease, and order quarantine restrictions to be imposed if and when necessary.

The following information relating to the work of this department during 1950 has been kindly supplied by the Captain of the Port.

Number of ships entered during 1950	4,823
Number of ships visited by the Health Officer	132
Number of ships inspected by the Health Officer, admitted to pratique or placed in quarantine	NIL
Number of patients landed, (nine of these were suspected of, or suffering from infectious disease)	243

Air

The Senior Medical Officer of the Royal Air Force is vested with the powers of a Health Officer, and controls all matters related to Health in connection with the air port.

Following representations made by the Board of Health in 1949, the Gibraltar Air Port has, this year, been classed as an authorized and sanitary aerodrome under the terms of the International Sanitary Convention for Aerial Navigation of 1944.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

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

WATER SUPPLY

Potable Water

The population obtain potable water by two methods (a) from roof catchments and underground tanks attached to each individual house; and (b) from the City Council's supply. The latter is mainly piped direct to the houses through a permanent meter but a high proportion is drawn by bucket or barrel from the Council's street fountains. In addition potable water is supplied through temporary meters and flexible hoses to private underground tanks in the dry season, and small quantities by tank lorry to those consumers whose premises are not within a reasonable distance from the distributing mains.

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 sixty-nine suspected tanks were taken in 1950.

The year started with all reservoirs full and rain water being allowed to run into the brackish water reservoirs. The stock of potable water at the beginning of the dry season was about thirteen and a half million gallons, eight million gallons more than the previous year, but due to the low rainfall during the months of October and November and consequent reduction in the yield from wells, stocks became dangerously low towards the end of November and a tanker that had been ordered in anticipation arrived and delivered over one and a half million gallons of water into the Council's reservoirs.

Supplies of drinking water to merchant shipping were not, however, curtailed until October, 1950, when a ration of ten gallons per head per day to the next port of call was imposed which was reduced within three weeks to five gallons per head per day as the position deteriorated. Towards the end of the year the supply of boiler water from Council's sources had to be discontinued and urgent cases were supplied by the Admiralty.

The Base Exchange Water Softening Plant completed in March 1949 was used throughout the year and in spite of abnormally low rainfall viz., 18.39 inches, as compared with 30.61 inches in 1949, an average of 500,000 gallons per week were drawn from the wells the year round. The hardness of well water is reduced from approximately thirty two degrees before treatment to zero after, and then blended with raw water to supply it at the desired degree of hardness, viz., ten degrees. The blended water after being chloraminated is pumped into a service tank and then lifted into the Council's reservoirs for distribution to the public, after it has been subjected to a bacteriological examination to establish its purity.

The year ended with the reservoirs holding just under two and a quarter million gallons, which compared very unfavourably with the position at the beginning of the year.

The storage capacity of the tanks remained unchanged at 13,848,742 gallons, or barely eighteen weeks supply at current rates of consumption.

Rainfall at the catchments during the calendar year 1950 totalled 18.39 inches.

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

Water collected from Council's catchments	8,871,766 gallons
Water pumped from North Front Wells to Reservoirs	23,695,763 „
Water imported by tankers	1,612,800 „
Water transferred from War Department Mains	222,647 „
Total ...	<u>34,402,976 gallons</u>

Fresh water issued from reservoirs as follows:—

To Town	30,536,205 gallons
To Shipping (Waterport)	8,525,285 „
To Shipping (Admiralty)	752,600 „
To War Department Tank	2,552,100 „
Loss	1,509,033 „
Total ...	<u>43,875,223 gallons</u>

Fresh water issued direct from wells:—

To Shipping (Watering Jetty)	625,200 gallons:
To North Front Camps	758,250 „
To Private Consumers	1,572,318 „
To City Council Works and Purposes ...	173,700 „
Total ...	3,129,468 gallons:

Brackish Water

Unavoidable interruptions in the supply of brackish water occurred due to frequent breakdowns in the pumping plant at Hesses and occasional bursts in the rising mains. Repairs were effected with the least possible delay and auxiliary plant put into use in the meantime. As had been feared, a major breakdown occurred towards the end of the year but fortunately the long awaited pumps had just been received and the erection of the one at Ragged Staff, the suction and delivery mains for which had been laid well in advance, was immediately proceeded with, completed in record time and put into use with satisfactory results. What would have been a serious situation was thus averted. Within three weeks the other pump at Hesses had also been erected and put into use.

The quantity of brackish water (used for sanitary purposes) pumped during the year amounted to 403,170,000 gallons.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse

With the exception of a new scavenging lorry with special removable containers, which was put into commission to remove the refuse from the Government flats at Governor's Meadows, there has been no change in the arrangements for the collection and disposal of refuse.

Sewage Disposal

Work on the scheme for the improvement and extension of the foul drainage system at North Front was started, and the sewer was almost completed by the end of the year but the cast iron tubbing and sewage pumps due for delivery in October were not received. It is expected that this material will be available in February, 1951. The ejectors at Western Beach and Devil's Tower Road have had compressors installed making the plant self contained.

The quantity of sewage and storm water pumped from low level during 1950 was 96,104,646 gallons.

Sanitary Conveniences

Two public lavatories (one for men and one for women) were erected in John Mackintosh Square and put into use early in the year.

Public Highways and Street Cleansing

During the year several streets were resurfaced with tarmacadam including Library Street, Bomb House Lane, City Mill Lane and part of Irish Town. Baker's Passage was regraded and resurfaced in concrete. Road improvements, consisting of road widenings, regrading of surfaces and construction of pavements, were effected on the north side of Cathedral Square and at the junction of Grand Parade with Rosia Road.

Work on the bridge over the Caledonian Canal in Devil's Tower Road started late in December 1949, was completed early in 1950 and the improvement and realignment of Devil's Tower Road, up to the Cross of Sacrifice, were completed during the year. The temporary bridges at Inundation Road were removed and replaced by a new bridge the full width of the road without interrupting the flow of traffic and other improvements in this area were started late in December.

Improvements to Sir Herbert Miles Promenade, including the provision of additional seats and of a railing on the east side, were completed. This open space has become, once again, a popular resort. The adaptation of the plot of land near Giralda Tower, as an open space for use by the public was also completed during the year.

In addition to the normal sweeping of streets, a system of periodical flushing is customary in Gibraltar. However, due to the critical brackish water position it had to be curtailed to a great extent.

Public Baths

There has been a small increase in the number of bathers frequenting Montagu Sea Bathing establishments but, owing to shortage of fresh water the Tarik hot water baths were closed from mid November till the end of the year.

Fifty one thousand seven hundred and fifty one admissions were recorded at Montagu Baths, and the Tarik slipper baths were used by some six thousand nine hundred and seventy four persons in 1950.

WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT

The summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspectors tabulated below again shows an increase of eight hundred and ninety-five in the house-to-house inspections as compared with the previous year.

The number of these inspections has progressively increased every year. A large proportion of them have been made to comply with requests for information on accommodation from the Resettlement Board, or to investigate complaints in respect of living conditions made direct to the Public Health Department by persons demanding improved accommodation.

One thousand five hundred and sixty four visits were made to eating houses and one hundred and eighty-one to milk shops, in efforts to maintain the highest possible standards of hygiene in these establishments. One hundred and sixteen samples of food and drugs were taken and analysed in the City Council laboratories.

Summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspectors

Complaints received :

Written	5
Verbal	700

Premises Inspected :

House-to-house inspection	17,793
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Statutory Notices :

General defects	4
Minor nuisances	285

Nuisances Found :

Defective drains	125
Obstructed drains	467
Defective W.Cs	38
Defective W.C. fittings	316
Defective water fittings	162
Defective rainwater pipes	83
Defective eaves gutters	101
Defective roofs	112
Defective yard paving	1

Dampness	34
Premises dirty	65
Defective or no dust bin	152
Other minor defects	1,188
Suspected pollution of water in underground tank	69
Underground tank not insect proof	13
Brackish water running to waste	175
Street water fittings found defective	59
Premises disinfected for infectious disease	68
Premises disinfected for vermin, etc.	25
Articles disinfected at Disinfecting Station	3,000
Visits of enquiry re Infectious Disease	193
Cases removed in the ambulance—Local	249
—Bay	84
Samples of food and drugs taken for analysis ...	116
Samples of water taken for analysis	32
Visits to milk shops	181
Visits to eating houses	1,564
Visits to mineral water factories	330
Visits to common lodging houses	104
Visits to premises on which notice for abatement of nuisance has been served and are revisited for the purpose of ascertaining if requirements are being complied with	4,079
Vaccination notices served	486
Legal proceedings instituted	4

Foodstuffs etc., condemned as unsound:

Cooked Ham	357½ lbs.
Flour	140 lbs.
Pigs Feet	3 lbs.

Common Lodging Houses

The only existing common lodging house in Gibraltar was visited regularly during the year. No infringement of the Bye-laws was on any occasion noted, nor have any cases of infectious disease occurred in it during the year.

FOOD IN RELATION TO HEALTH AND DISEASE

Supplies of food have been adequate in Gibraltar throughout the year. Essential foods continued to be rationed to ensure an equitable distribution of supplies available. Bread rationing which had been in force since November, 1949, ceased in October this year: a measure much appreciated by many housewives.

Groceries

Supplies of groceries, which have been adequate and of satisfactory quality, have been imported principally through the United Kingdom.

Meat

Frozen meat for the civilian population continued to be imported jointly with the Services provisions and stored in refrigerators by the military authorities from which it was issued when required. The weekly ration has been two pounds per person. Fresh meat has only been imported in small quantities by special arrangement from Spain for the use of the Hebrew community. Pork has not been available during the year. Supplies of poultry from Spanish sources have generally been adequate. The controlled price remained at 2/6d per pound.

Eggs

Tangier and Casablanca have been the principal sources of supplies, though small quantities of fresh Spanish eggs have occasionally been available in the markets. The controlled price has ranged from 2/6d to 3/9d per dozen.

Fruit and Vegetables

Ample supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables have continued to come daily into town from Spain and have been exposed for sale in the markets and shops, or hawked by licensed itinerant vendors in the streets. On an average, seventy tickets have been issued daily throughout the year.

Fish

With the exception of an almost negligible quantity of fish from Catalan Bay Village, all supplies have been imported from La Linea. Though at times, and particularly during pe-

riods of adverse weather conditions the position has been precarious, generally, supplies may be said to have been sufficient to meet the town's requirements. An average of 1,400 pounds have been imported daily.

All fish is inspected by the Market Inspectors before being exposed for sale in the markets or by street vendors who have to be licensed daily by the market authorities before they can ply their trade. An average of thirty tickets have been issued daily to itinerant vendors throughout the year.

Condemnation of Food

The following foods were found unfit for human consumption and condemned:—

	<i>Health Department Inspectors</i>	<i>Market Inspectors</i>
Fowls		25 lbs.
Rabbits		8 lbs.
Frozen Kidneys		60 lbs.
Fish		505 lbs.
Flour	140 lbs.	
Cooked Ham	357½ lbs.	
Pigs Feet	3 lbs.	

Milk

The quantity of fresh cows and goats milk imported has increased this year as compared with previous years, but the increase has not materially affected the supplies of the town which are essentially tinned — condensed or evaporated. The normal adult weekly ration remained at one tin (roughly two pints). Children under ten years received extra rations.

All fresh milk imported into Gibraltar must be boiled before being sold to the public.

Milk is a most important article of food, particularly so in the case of children and invalids, and to ensure its purity and freedom from adulteration samples of all imported milk are taken frequently by the department's Sanitary Inspectors and examined in the City Council's laboratories. On three occasions samples were found not to be genuine and the vendors were prosecuted, convicted and fined.

The importers of three brands of tinned milk which though genuine were not labelled in accordance with the provisions of the Milk and Dairies Bye-laws were warned and the products withdrawn from the market.

Ice-Cream

All premises used for the manufacture, storage or sale of ice-cream must be registered with the City Council under the Food and Drugs Ordinance, 1949.

The strictest vigilance has continued to be exerted by the department's inspectorate to ensure cleanliness in the manufacture of this popular commodity and the safety and bacterial purity of products sold to the public. All premises wherein it was proposed to manufacture ice-cream were inspected personally by the Medical Officer of Health before the necessary licences were granted.

On the whole, it may be said that the standard of purity of ice-cream manufactured in Gibraltar is satisfactory and only on a few occasions have samples been found contaminated, and the sales by the manufacturers concerned been temporarily stopped.

In the confection of an article which can be a palatable and valuable source of nourishment, but which can also constitute a grave source of danger as a carrier of germs of serious infectious diseases, the best is not good enough and every effort must be made to continue to improve on the methods of manufacture so as to eliminate all possible sources of contamination. Above all, it must always be borne in mind that the most exacting attention to detail in the process of manufacture is essential to ensure clean and safe products.

Eating Houses, Confectioneries and Cafes

All premises used for the preparation of meat or fish by any process of cooking, or for the manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale must be registered with City Council under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Ordinance, 1949, whilst the owners of other establishments such as confectioneries, cafes, fruit shops, as well as street vendors of food, must be registered under the Food Bye-laws.

The quality and safety of food supplies, always of prime importance in the preservation of public health is, under present circumstances of scarcity, progressively increasing demands with consequent increase in prices and the ever present possibility of substitution by inferior or adulterated products, assuming a character which makes daily greater demands on the personnel of public health departments.

Legislation designed to control the quality of foods and general conditions of cleanliness of premises used in the storing, preparation and exposure for sale thereof, as well as the personal hygiene on the part of all food handlers cannot by itself secure the attainment of these objects, and much depends on the good faith of producers and vendors, and on the co-operation of the public by insisting on the highest standards of hygiene possible, as a condition of their patronage.

One thousand, seven hundred and forty-five visits have been made to hotels, restaurants and other premises concerned with food catering by the department's inspectors during the year, and a special message has been addressed by the Medical Officer of Health to all members of the food trade, to request their co-operation in the efforts being made to ensure the cleanest and healthiest food supply possible and to safeguard the health of the community.

Food Poisoning

Only two instances of food poisoning have been notified since this condition was made statutorily notifiable under the Food and Drugs Ordinance in April. Both occurred in private houses and only affected members of the small families concerned.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

Construction of permanent dwellings has continued uninterrupted throughout the year.

Two hundred and twelve flats have been completed, the majority of which are already in occupation. These include a block in Red Sands Road and one in Kingsway comprising a total of one hundred and thirty-seven flats, and seventy-five flats of a simpler yet modern type, designed to meet the requirements of families with modest incomes, in other parts of the city. Forty-four more flats of this type in two blocks and the remaining block of eighty-four flats in Kingsway are under construction, the latter it is expected will be ready for habitation early in 1951.

Six tenements of a temporary character which will only be used to provide alternate accommodation whilst much needed repairs are effected to many existing houses are being erected in the Alameda Parade.

A small number of houses have also been constructed privately but the majority have been occupied by the owners themselves or are of such rentals as can only be afforded by families with moderately high incomes. Indirectly these also contribute towards the relief of the housing shortage by freeing cheaper accommodation.

Undoubtedly a great deal is being done to ameliorate the critical housing position, but it must be admitted that much space is lying waste which could be made use of for the erection of new dwellings whilst many antiquated, unhygienic and often dilapidated houses, if demolished, would render sites available for the construction of large blocks of small flats at moderate rentals.

Unfortunately financial considerations and other factors appear to militate against the owners of such properties embarking on large scale building projects, and it can only be hoped that in time the advent of more favourable circumstances will stimulate the more enterprising to do so.

It is undeniable that the gross overcrowding which prevailed has to a certain extent been relieved, but the relief falls far short of anticipation, and there is still a large number of families living under conditions which, to say the least, are most unsatisfactory. It cannot be too clearly appreciated that the small improvement in the position cannot afford grounds for complacency and the onerous and difficult work must continue unabated.

An average of fifteen visits a week have been made by the sanitary inspectorate to investigate and report on applications for accommodation either submitted by the persons concerned or referred to the Public Health Department by the Resettlement Board. The time expended in carrying out this work is very considerable and it is regretted to have to note that in the course of these enquiries several instances have been discovered of accommodation which had been granted to relieve overcrowding being used by the persons concerned to take in "paying guests." Such instances, though few, are most disquieting and this procedure cannot be too strongly condemned.

The Commissioner of Lands and Works has very kindly supplied the following information related to the progress of the Government Housing Scheme during the year 1950.

Houses completed—permanent

Anderson House	34 flats
South Sheds Place	14 flats
Withams (east block)	8 flats
Block A/1 Red Sands Road	60 flats
"L" block, Kingsway	77 flats
Scud Hill House	19 flats
	212 flats

Houses under construction—permanent

Lower Calpe Site	16 flats
Hospital Hill Road	28 flats
"M" block	84 flats
	128 flats

Temporary housing for decanting purposes

Grand Parade	6 tenements
	(to be completed January 1951)

Town Planning

The Central Planning Commission appointed under the provisions of the Building (Interim Control) Ordinance held regular meetings at which plans for improvements and new building projects were considered, throughout the year.

Sixty-seven applications for permission to effect structural alterations to existing premises or to erect new buildings have been considered and reported on under the powers vested in the City Council by the Public Health Ordinance.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

A total of three hundred and thirty-three patients have been conveyed by the Council's ambulances during the year. Of these, five were local infectious cases and nine from the Bay. The rest were non-infectious cases or accidents.

Though the ambulances are primarily intended for the transport of cases of infectious disease, to which the Council are committed, they constitute the only service available for the conveyance of patients from the civil population and the Bay.

The following table shows details of the work carried out by the service.

	<i>Local Cases</i>	<i>Bay Cases</i>
Tuberculosis	4	2
Typhoid fever	1	6
Pneumonia	5	6
German measles	—	1
Malaria	—	1
Cancer	3	—
Rheumatism	2	1
Appendicitis	8	13
Bronchitis and asthma	4	2
Maturity cases	29	—
Mental cases	16	3
Heart disease	13	3
Fractures and Injuries	44	12
Miscellaneous (medical and surgical cases)	120	34
	249	84

DISINFECTION

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

Table below gives details of the work done at the station during 1950.

Months	Beds and Matt resses	Bolsters and Pillows	Blankets and Quilts	Sheets	Coun- ter panes	Sun- dries	Totals
January	10	16	22	17	2	43	110
February	19	17	39	4	—	11	90
March	86	26	96	24	3	42	277
April	98	20	100	15	2	25	260
May	108	35	46	17	5	135	346
June	43	48	51	24	2	14	182
July	14	15	15	9	1	1,166	1,220
August	5	4	4	—	—	27	40
September	15	6	4	3	—	5	33
October	17	16	14	12	4	115	178
November	81	41	37	2	2	56	219
December	7	9	10	10	—	9	45
Totals	503	253	438	137	21	1,648	3,000

MEDICAL WORK DONE FOR THE COUNCIL

Two hundred and forty Council employees were medically examined during the year. The majority were routine examinations to establish the fitness of applicants for employment. A few concerned applications for retirement or assessment of the extent to which disablements were attributable to the nature of the employee's work.

Cases suspected of suffering from pulmonary disease were referred to the Physician at King George V. Hospital for radiological investigation.

January	25
February	20
March	40
April	17
May	35
June	6
July	21
August	23
September	11
October	15
November	10
December	17
Total ...	240

OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING THE HEALTH OF GIBRALTAR

Board of Health

Regular meetings have been held throughout the year by the Board of Health which constitutes the co-ordinating body in medical matters between His Majesty's Armed Forces, the Colonial Government and the Public Health Authorities.

The following are some of the subjects which have been considered and on which recommendations have been made by the Board:—

Revision of the list of notifiable diseases.

Diphtheria and whooping cough immunization in relation to acute poliomyelitis.

Rabies and control of dogs and cats.

Trachoma.

Control of insect vectors of diseases.

Status of aerodrome under the terms of the International Sanitary Convention for Aerial Navigation, 1944.

Isolation Hospital.

Preventive measures relating to poliomyelitis.

Yellow Fever inoculations.

General Medical Practitioner Service

The number of general medical practitioners remained at ten; a ratio of one to 2,488 population. Most of these practitioners hold part time appointments with the Colonial Government, an arrangement which ensures a very large measure of co-operation between the hospital, child welfare and domiciliary medical services.

Nursing Services

There is a long felt need for domiciliary nurses in the Colony. At present, with the exception of five midwives, a state registered nurse and a small number of Sisters of the religious order of Bon Secours, there are no trained, qualified nurses who dedicate themselves to this important aspect of nursing, but it is hoped that in time, more local girls will be trained at the Government Nurses Training School than can be absorbed by the hospital services, and some will opt for undertaking domiciliary work.

Legislation relevant to Medical and Public Health Interests enacted during the year

Two ordinances of outstanding importance to public health work came into force on April 1st this year; the Public Health Ordinance, 1950 and the Food and Drugs Ordinance, 1949.

The Public Health Ordinance repeals the corresponding ordinance which has been in force since October, 1907, together with amendments and other enactments related to health matters, and may be considered as consolidating the principal laws which regulate public health in Gibraltar.

The Food and Drugs Ordinance repeals the existing ordinance of 1932 and makes other provisions instead.

These instruments are based on the corresponding legislation at present in force in the United Kingdom, with certain necessary amendments to meet local requirements.

The following enactments also affect medical practice:—

Pharmacy and Medicines Rules: 1st July, 1950.

Order declaring trachoma notifiable: 5th June, 1950.

Births and Deaths Registration (Amendment) Ordinance, 1950: enforcing registration of still-births: 6th July, 1950.

Education Ordinance, 1950: (provides for medical examination of school children).

Industrial Accidents and Diseases (Notification) Ordinance, 1950: 27th December, 1950.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES REPORT OF THE PATHOLOGIST-ANALYST, GIBRALTAR

During 1950 clinical pathology has continued in much the same way as formerly. The range and scope of it has been much the same. With good co-operation it has been possible to study fairly minutely several very instructive conditions.

Haematological investigation has been increasing and some of the rather more uncommon states have been encountered.

Rather more than the usual number of Enteric Group organism infections have been met with during the year, in particular the number due to *S. Paratyphosus B.*

Together with a variety of interesting histological specimens were a number of relatively uncommon conditions.

The scope of public health laboratory work has comprised many different kinds of analytical and pathological investigations—ranging from chemical and bacteriological control of waters, foodstuffs etc. to bacteriological, serological and other study of cases and contacts of cases of infectious illness — and some morbid anatomy of animals. No large-scale outbreak of epidemic disease has been encountered, but some systematic and a number of intestinal infections have been investigated.

Interest and variety in the range of analytical chemical work has been considerable. Control has been maintained upon the quality of waters, milk and other foodstuffs and drugs, and many commodities being offered for sale to the public. Two cases of substitution of inferior for sound and genuine goods were found, and satisfactory action against offenders was made possible. Somewhat detailed study of certain well waters, and also of water percolating into rock tunnels, was undertaken.

Some medico-legal work has been carried out.

I have performed a number of active immunisations against yellow fever.

C. VOIGT, M.D., D.T.M.,
City Pathologist-Analyst,
Gibraltar.

Laboratory, 17th May, 1951.

Those shown in Column I	Where performed
I	Colonial and Mental Hospitals.
II	"
III	King George V Hospital.
IV	"
V	" Infant and Child Welfare Centres
VI	" " " " " Royal Navy.
VII	" " " " " Army and Royal Air Force.
VIII	" " " " " certain of the Public Health investigations — some not directly related to clinical cases and other work.
IX	" " " " " private medical practitioners, but not in partnership with firms and individuals.

[illegible]



