Annual report on the health of Gibraltar.

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City Council of Gibraltar

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF GIBRALTAR

FOR THE YEAR

1953

BY

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

Medical Officer of Health,

with which is included a summary of the work of the Public Health Laboratories.

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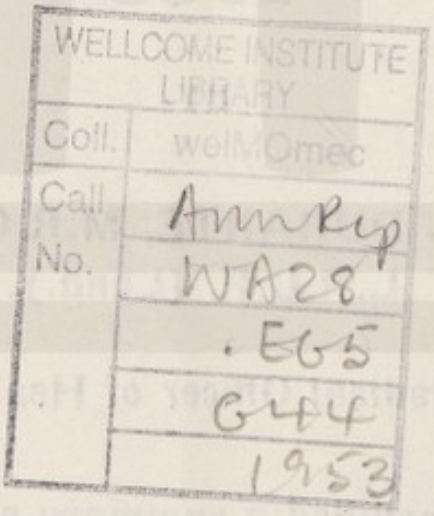

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*A. A. DANINO, Esq., L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng).

*J. J. COCHRANE, Esq., L.D.S., R.C.S. (Eng).

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*Allowance paid to private practitioners as a retaining fee for their services.

†Temporary appointment.

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Members:

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The Assistant Director of Medical Services.

The Chief Medical Officer, Colonial Government.

The Medical Officer of Health.

The Royal Naval Representative.

The Royal Air Force Representative.

The Port Medical Officer.

Secretary:

M. Cavilla, Esq.

PREFACE

I have the honour to present this report on the Health of Gibraltar for the year 1953.

The vital statistics show a sharp fall in the infant mortality which proved the lowest recorded since 1945, and a decrease in the birth rate which with the exception of the year 1950 reached the lowest level during the same period.

Notwithstanding the low birth rate, births outnumbered deaths by one hundred and ninety-one.

A total of one hundred and ninety-nine deaths from all causes occurred during 1953 providing a crude death rate of 8.79 per thousand total civil population. These figures do not differ materially from the corresponding ones for the preceding year and maintain the low level which with the exception of the year 1951 has characterized the mortality rates since 1945.

Fifty-five per cent of all deaths concerned persons 65 years of age or older and were attributed mainly to diseases of the heart and circulatory system, which contributed the principal causes of deaths.

There was an increase in deaths from cancer and other malignant tumours which as has been the case since 1947 proved the second highest cause of mortality. Thirty-nine or 19.5 per cent of all deaths resulted from these diseases whilst thirteen, representing a third of all deaths from cancer were caused by tumours of the respiratory organs.

Deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis showed a small increase compared with 1953, but this disease again proved a minor cause of mortality. All the persons concerned were over 50 years of age.

Ten infants died before attaining the age of twelve months, providing an infant mortality rate of 25.44. Not only is this rate the lowest recorded since 1945 as has been stated above, but it represents a marked improvement on the corresponding figure 41.55 recorded the preceding year.

It should be noted however, that nine of these infants did not survive four weeks, death in six being attributed to prematurity or accidents incidental to child birth, which would appear to indicate that though acute infectious conditions and gross errors in feeding which were the principal causes of the appalling high infant mortality in years past

have been to a great extent abolished, there still remains much scope for improvements in the ante-natal care of mothers and their environmental and social conditions.

The prolongation of the epidemic of Mumps recorded in 1952 well into the middle of the year under review together with outbreaks of Measles and Chicken-pox marred what would otherwise have been a satisfactory low incidence of infectious diseases, but the principal epidemiological event and one of much interest was however an unusual prevalence of Undulant Fever upon which I have commented in the appropriate section of the text of this report.

All the deaths recorded from notifiable diseases were caused by Tuberculosis.

It is disquieting to read in the Government Paediatrician's report of a decrease in attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinics by mothers of the poorer classes who normally are those most in need of help and guidance, and more disquieting still is his explanation that the decrease has been due to restrictions imposed by the Social Welfare Department on the issue of free or cheap milk which amounted to a reduction of well over 50 per cent in the quantity provided the preceding year. Though these clinics are primarily educational centres, the principal object of which is the instruction of mothers in the feeding, clothing and all other matters concerned with the healthy upbringing of infants, they also serve other purposes such as providing facilities for the immunization of children against certain diseases, and it is generally recognized that as their name implies, the supply of Welfare Foods such as milk, cod liver oil, orange juice and vitamin preparations and even of certain articles of clothing free or at economic prices to those in need falls within the province of their activities, indeed, human nature being what it is, the offer of these amenities often serves to attract the more recalcitrant mothers within the sphere of influence of the clinic enabling the work to be carried out with an economy of trained staff — the supply of which is very limited — compared with that required to attain the same object by domiciliary visits. Presumably there must exist strong reasons for the adoption of what would appear to be a drastic and inopportune measure, but I would urge that the policy be reviewed and consideration be given to rescinding or moderating these restrictions, failing which if the infant is not brought to the clinic, the "clinic" should be taken to the infant.

I regret to say that the number of infants who are being

immunized against Diphtheria is an almost insignificant fraction of those born each year. The efficacy of diphtheria prophylactic inoculations has been proved beyond reasonable doubt in the United Kingdom and other countries where immunization of children has been carried out on a large scale, in fact, it may be said that in these countries this disease which formerly claimed large numbers of victims and deaths every year is now becoming almost a rarity. To achieve such results however, it is considered that at least 75 per cent of the child population must be protected, and I would earnestly request my colleagues in clinical practice, members of the nursing profession and all interested in child health to co-operate with the Health Department in persuading parents to avail themselves of this measure of protection for their children against a disease which though fortunately not prevalent during the last decade in Gibraltar, may at any time renew its attacks and prove a most formidable enemy under the present overcrowded conditions in our City.

The School Medical Officer reports that the health of children of school age has maintained the high standard attained in preceding years, no less than ninety-seven per cent of those medically examined having been classed as being in perfect health, and it is gratifying to note that he considers the attitude of parents to have been one of "absolute co-operation," but I view with concern that the number of children who were medically examined as well as of those inspected by the school nurse fell well below that recorded in previous years and constitutes a rather small proportion of the school population which I understand totals approximately three thousand, five hundred children.

I am aware that the usefulness of periodic medical examinations of school children has on occasions been the subject of some controversy and that opinions have been expressed depreciating their value, but I firmly maintain that such examinations, provided they are thoroughly made in the presence of the parents and teacher, are an essential part of any scheme designed to promote child health and welfare, not only because minor remediable defects which may eventually prove disabling and which may otherwise pass undetected can be discovered and corrected, but principally because they provide unique and may be otherwise unobtainable opportunities for the doctor to discuss with those most interested the medical, educational and domestic aspects concerning the child, which not infrequently may appear conflicting, and correlate to the best advantage such measures as it may be deemed necessary to adopt. I venture therefore to hope that the apparent decline in the activities of this service

has been a temporary expedient to meet unavoidable circumstances and that measures have been or will be taken to prevent any deterioration in its efficiency and to ensure that all the children are examined at least on three occasions during their school career.

Several new blocks of flats were erected and others placed under construction during the year in pursuance of the Government Housing Scheme, but notwithstanding the erection of new dwellings which has continued unabated since the repatriation of the population in 1945, and that use is being made of Nissen Huts and certain buildings which have been adapted to serve temporarily as human habitation, shortage of accommodation and the consequent overcrowding still constitute the most serious problem facing the health authorities and the principal danger to the health of the community.

On the evidence provided by the vital statistics, it may be said that notwithstanding adverse environmental and economic factors, the health of the city has remained satisfactory throughout the year under review, but it must be appreciated that these figures do not include records which enable an assessment to be made of the many so called minor ailments and physical and mental disabilities which crowd our hospital clinics and doctors' surgeries with patients and which are not only of great economic importance as the cause of much loss of working time and efficiency, but which like the minor horrors of war can prove devastating to morale and happiness.

The Health Department staff has been increased by the engagement of two Sanitary Inspectors Trainees who, together with two others who have been for some time serving with the Department, will under the educational scheme adopted by the City Council to ensure an adequate staff of qualified inspectors eventually complete in the United Kingdom the training necessary to obtain the Certificate for Sanitary Inspectors of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Sanitary Inspector Alcantara proceeded to the United Kingdom in October for this purpose.

At the time of writing this report, Dr. E. A. J. Imossi, the City Pathologist and Analyst has returned from the United Kingdom where he has been attending a specialist course and has assumed the duties of his office.

It but remains for me to thank the members of the Council for their encouragement and unfailing support, my colleagues in other departments for their valuable co-operation and assistance, and particularly my staff for their loyalty and unstinted help throughout a difficult year.

J. A. DURANTE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,

City Hall,

Gibraltar, 22nd April, 1954.

CITY COUNCIL OF GIBRALTAR

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Summary of Vital Statistics for the Year 1953

Total area of Gibraltar Territory	1,387 acres
Area of the City	104 acres
Estimated Total Civil Population of Gibraltar	24,736 persons
Estimated Fixed Civil Population of Gibraltar	22,629 persons
*Births in Fixed Civil Population, Males — 191, Females — 186 } ...	377
Birth Rate per 1,000 Fixed Civil Population...	16.66
Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Civil Population...	17.36
*Deaths in Fixed Civil Population	186
Death Rate per 1,000 Fixed Civil Population	8.21
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Total Civil Population ...	8.79
Infantile Mortality Rate Fixed Civil Population	25.44
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	0.28

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*Vide note on Page 13.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1953

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

The year as a whole proved rather wet, the total rainfall being 16 inches more than in 1952, but rain was concentrated in the first three and last three months, the remaining six, April to September, being drier than usual. Total rainfall for 1953 was 36.62 inches compared with 20.55 inches in 1952. Sunshine was decidedly deficient, the daily average of 7.42 hours being about 0.7 hours below normal, and 0.8 hours below the 1952 figure. Despite this deficiency, the mean temperature of 65.7°F was over 2°F above the average and a little above that for the previous year which was itself high. The highest temperature recorded was 96°F on the 26th of both July and August, whilst the lowest was 38°F on the 16th February. Mean relative humidities were rather high and ranged from 64 per cent in mid afternoon to 83 per cent at night. Easterly winds were markedly more prevalent than westerlies, the predominance being greatest in March, November, April and December in that order. The spell of continuous easterly wind from 6th November to 5th December was probably one of the longest ever experienced.

January although favoured with sunny dry spells in the first two weeks, was very wet later with much cloud and little sunshine. The total rainfall of 8.94 inches, and the 24 hour fall of 5.20 inches on the 23rd were both new records for this month since 1938. An easterly gale occurred on the 16th.

February provided variable conditions with alternations of wet and fine periods. Although the sunshine aggregate was only a little below average, the rainfall total was nearly double the normal figure. This was largely accounted for by heavy thundery rain in the first week which produced a record 24-hour total of 3.95 inches on the 6th.

March was very unsettled with considerable rain, marked deficiency of sunshine, and persistent easterly winds which were strong to gale for long periods. The mean daily sunshine of 4.43 hours was the lowest recorded in this month since before 1938.

April proved fair or fine and rather warm as a whole,

especially during the first two weeks, but an unsettled thundery spell from the 18th to the 26th resulted in the total rainfall and sunshine figures varying little from the normal, although day temperatures averaged higher than usual. There was a large predominance of easterly winds.

May was dry and remarkably warm and sunny almost throughout; measurable rain fell only on one day. The very low rainfall (0.11 inches), high daily sunshine (11.24 hours), mean maximum temperature (77.3°F) and highest maximum (84°F), were all new record figures for this month at least since 1938.

June was also abnormally dry and mainly fine and warm with plentiful sunshine.

July, as usual, had no measurable rain and abundant sunshine. Day temperatures were mainly higher than normal, 90°F being reached or exceeded on six occasions; the highest was 96°F on the 26th. A noteworthy feature was the very low incidence of southerly sea breezes which are normally frequent during this month.

August also had no recorded rain, and was unusually hot, day maxima of 90°F or over being recorded on 5 days; 96°F on the 26th was the highest. The high frequency of easterly winds with the accompanying cloud banner caused the total hours of sunshine to fall well below normal, and the usual frequent southerly sea breezes were absent.

September was very warm, much drier than usual, and had an excess of sunshine. Rain in appreciable amount fell only on 2 days. Again, sea-breezes from the south were remarkably infrequent.

October experienced abnormally unsettled conditions with excess of rain and deficiency of sunshine; the daily mean sunshine of 5.17 hours represented a new low record for this month since 1938.

November opened with a week of sunny and reasonably dry weather. Thereafter the wind blew unceasingly from the east and conditions were very unsettled, with frequent rain and a noteworthy deficiency of sunshine. The mean daily sunshine, 3.3 hours, was easily the lowest figure recorded this month for the past twenty-one years, for which period figures are available. Very heavy thundery rain on the 18th provided a 24-hour fall of 3.24 inches.

December as a whole was wet and markedly lacking in sunshine ,although there was an improvement to dry brighter

conditions from the 23rd onwards, and it was persistently mild throughout. The mean maximum of 64°F was a new high record for the month since 1938. The total rainfall was decidedly above average, and thundery weather produced the high 24-hour fall of 3.18 inches on the 7th. Easterly winds again largely predominated.

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

YEAR 1953 Month	Mean Pressure at MSL	TEMPERATURE °F													RELATIVE HUMIDITY				CLOUD AMOUNT (EIGHTHS)			
		MEANS							HIGHEST		LOWEST											
		Dry Bulb				Max. A	Min. B	Mean of A & B	Max	Date	Min	Date	Min on grass	Date	03	09	15	21	03	09	15	21
		0300	0900	1500	2100																	
January	1019'6	50'6	52'0	57'7	53'2	58'7	48'7	53'7	74	31st	40	10th	26	10th	80	77	66	76	4'0	4'6	4'3	3'8
February	1019'5	52'0	53'2	59'6	53'9	61'4	49'7	55'5	73	2nd	38	16th	28	18th	78	75	61	73	3'0	4'3	4'5	3'3
March	1022'0	55'1	56'8	60'6	56'9	62'3	52'8	57'5	70	12th	44	12th	34	16th	79	75	68	77	4'5	5'5	4'9	4'7
April	1014'8	58'2	62'1	67'0	60'7	68'6	56'3	62'5	77	13th	49	5th	39	6th	83	72	62	78	3'1	4'8	4'3	3'1
May	1015'9	63'3	69'1	75.3	67'2	77'3	61'0	69'1	84	24, 28th	55	7th	43	10th	81	69	55	73	1'5	2'6	2'3	1'3
June	1013'8	65.3	70'6	76'5	67'9	78'8	62'9	70'9	86	3rd	57	6th	50	7th	78	69	55	73	2'2	3'2	2'4	1'9
July	1016'5	70'4	75'5	82'2	73'7	84'4	68'3	76'3	96	26th	62	4th	55	22nd 23rd	85	73	55	77	2'2	2'4	1'5	1'4
August	1016'6	73'1	77'1	82'9	75'2	84'8	71'4	78'1	96	26th	67	16th	62	8, 16th 20, 26h	85	74	61	79	2'9	3'2	1'6	1'9
September	1016'7	69'7	73'5	79'0	71.7	80'9	71'2	76'1	88	22nd	59	29th	54	29th	86	74	62	82	2'3	3'4	2'7	2'7
October	1016'7	6 '0	65'4	69'6	64'6	71'4	61'1	66'3	78	20th	52	29th	45	29th	88	83	74	87	4'2	4'9	4'9	4'0
November	1021.2	60'9	62'2	64'8	62'1	66'0	59'6	62'8	75	4th	52	5th	45	6th	87	83	77	85	4'2	5'3	5'0	4'7
December	1017'4	57'3	58'7	62'4	58.7	64'0	55'5	59'7	69	30th	48	28th	37	25th	83	81	74	80	4'1	4'7	5'5	4'5
Year	1017'6	61'6	64'7	69'8	63'8	71'5	59'9	65'7	96	26/7/53 26/8/53	38	16/2/53	26	10/ 1/53	83	75	64	78	3'2	4'1	3'7	3'1

North Front. **Lat. 36°'09' N.** **Long. 05° 21' w.** **Barometer Height 11 ft.** **Raingauge 8 ft Above M·S.L.**

YEAR 1953 Month	RAINFALL			SUNSHINE		WEATHER								
						No. of Days of								
	Total mm	Max in 24 hrs. (09-09)	Date	Daily Mean	o/o of Possible	Rain	Snow	Hail	Thunder	Overcast Sky	Clear Sky	Gales	Fog	Frost
Jan	227.0	132·1	23rd	5·25	52·7	12	0	0	0	8	5	1	0	0
Feb	139·5	100·2	5th	6·17	57·3	12	0	0	1	4	7	0	0	0
Mar	115·0	31·2	19th	4·43	37·2	13	0	1	3	13	4	6	0	0
April	49·6	33·8	19th	8·31	63·6	8	0	0	2	2	2	0	2	0
May	2·8	1·4	12th 13th	11·24	79·8	2	0	0	0	0	12	0	3	0
June	0·7	0·6	7th	11·35	77·9	2	0	0	0	0	13	0	8	0
July	Tr.	Tr.	31st	11·71	81·5	0	0	0	0	0	14	0	9	0
Aug	Tr.	Tr,	7th 13th	9·73	71·9	0	0	0	1	0	11	0	3	0
Sept	4·3	2·9	14th	8·91	71·9	2	0	0	1	0	7	0	0	0
Oct	83·3	18.3	13th	5·17	46·0	13	0	0	1	7	5	0	2	0
Nov	134.9	82·4	18th	3·28	31·4	11	0	0	5	5	3	0	0	0
Dec	173·1	80.7	7th	3·45	35·6	9	0	0	1	7	4	0	0	0
Year	930'2	132·1	23/1 /53	7·42	58'9	84	0	1	15	46	87	7	27	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 1953 MONTHS	FORCE					DIRECTION							
	8 or over	6-7	4-5	1-3	Calm	N.	NE.	E.	SE.	S.	SW.	W.	NW.
January	1	24	37	46	16	—	11	47	—	4	6	34	6
February	—	20	37	51	4	2	7	34	—	6	14	37	8
March	8	41	28	39	8	3	13	76	4	3	6	9	2
April	—	6	40	62	12	2	11	50	6	2	15	21	1
May	—	—	41	70	13	—	5	42	1	5	36	20	2
June	—	1	47	67	5	—	6	17	3	3	30	48	8
Jnly	—	1	54	55	14	—	7	50	4	4	25	17	3
August	—	8	69	40	7	—	4	69	7	3	23	8	3
September	—	—	57	57	6	—	2	49	5	—	21	33	4
October	—	4	41	65	14	—	6	40	3	1	20	37	3
November	—	17	78	22	3	—	4	89	3	1	4	15	1
December	—	12	43	52	17	1	2	55	5	3	21	19	1
Year	9	134	572	626	119	8	78	618	41	36	221	298	42

VITAL STATISTICS

These statistics are based on the estimated civil population of Gibraltar as shown in the Police Registration Office. They do not include personnel of Her Majesty's Armed Forces and unless otherwise stated, they do not relate to their families, or to non-resident aliens.

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

	Men	Women	Children Male	Children Female	Totals	
Gibraltarians ...	6,268	7,521	2,354	2,272 =	18,415	British Subjects
Statutory Aliens...	1,028	1,532	838	816 =	4,214	22,629
Other Aliens	719	1,361	16	11 =		2,107
Totals	8,015	10,414	3,208	3,099		24,736

These figures represent an increase of 453 in the British Fixed Civil Population and 263 in the Total Population as compared with the previous year.

The average number of persons entering and leaving Gibraltar daily:—

1949	9,545
1950	8,742
1951	7,866
1952	8,500
1953	8,649

There has been a progressive increase in the number of persons entering the City daily since 1951.

The alterations in population since 1931 are show 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
" " " " 1933	15,071	1,326	16,397
" " " " 1934	14,790	1,057	15,847
" " " " 1935	15,735	1,130	16,865
" " " " 1936	16,875	2,319	19,194
" " " " 1937	16,792	2,749	19,541
" " " " 1938	17,222	3,017	20,239
" " " " 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
" " " " 1946	19,269	1,964	21,233
" " " " 1947	20,316	2,216	22,532
" " " " 1948	21,472	2,228	23,700
" " " " 1949	22,208	2,377	24,585
" " " " 1950	22,470	2,416	24,886
Census July 1951	19,739	1,361	21,100
Police Estimate end of 1952	22,176	2,297	24,473
" " " " 1953	22,629	2,107	24,736

Deaths

One hundred and eighty-six deaths, ninety-one males and ninety-five females were registered as having occurred in the resident British civil population during 1953 amounting to 8.21 per thousand. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 191 and 8.6 respectively. In addition there were thirteen deaths (6.1 per thousand) amongst resident aliens providing a total of 199 deaths or 8.79 per thousand total civil population, which represents a small increase of five deaths over those recorded in 1952. Mortality in the year under review can therefore be said to have maintained the low level established since the repatriation of the population in 1945.

One hundred and nine deaths or 55 per cent of all deaths occurred in persons 65 years of age or older, and were attributed principally to cardio-vascular diseases, malignant tumours and degenerative organic processes incidental to senescence. The age group 55 and under 65 contributed 39 deaths, whilst out of the total 199 deaths, 51 or 25 per cent concerned persons under fifty-five years of age.

The principal causes of death were:—

Cardio vascular diseases	42
Malignant neoplasms	39
Vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system	30
Diseases of the respiratory organs	23
Senility	9
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	7

The distribution of causes maintained the same pattern as in the preceding quinquennium.

Nine of the deaths caused by cardio-vascular diseases occurred in subjects under 55 years of age, nine in the age group fifty-five and under 65, whilst the remaining 24 or 12 per cent of all deaths from these affections occurred in persons sixty-five years of age or older.

Malignant neoplasms again proved the second principal cause of mortality contributing 39 deaths or 19.5 per cent of all deaths. Three deaths occurred in persons under 45, four in others under 55 whilst the remaining 32 deaths from these diseases concerned individuals over 55 years of age.

Thirteen of these neoplasms originated in the respiratory organs (including three in the Larynx) providing the highest incidence, whilst the stomach and breast contributed eight deaths respectively and constituted the second highest cause of death from these causes.

The years 1947 to 1952 have contributed 26, 28, 25, 32, 32 and 35 deaths from cancer respectively.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis again proved a minor cause of mortality, only seven deaths being recorded.

No maternal deaths occurred.

The crude death rate for the years 1931-9 and 1945-53 has been:—

	Fixed Population	Total Population
1931	15.40	14.40
1932	16.17	15.59
1933	15.99	14.94
1934	15.21	14.51
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
1950	8.85	8.31
1951	12.2	12.08
1952	8.61	7.96
1953	8.21	8.79

Deaths by Months and Quarters

January	35	April	26
February	27	May	9
March	24	June	12
1st Quarter ...	86	2nd Quarter ...	47
July	21	October	7
August	11	November	21
September	16	December	13
3rd Quarter ...	48	4th Quarter ...	41

Includes twenty-three deaths from cases landed from the Bay or brought into Town for treatment.

Birth, Death and Infant Mortality Rates for the years 1931-9 and 1945-53.

Year	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality (1,000)
1931 Census Year ...	23.2	14.4	61
1932	22.84	15.59	60.69
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
1951 Census Year ...	19.6	12.2	31
1952	17.36	8.61	41.55
1953	16.66	8.21	25.44

Births

Three hundred and seventy-seven children, one hundred and ninety-one males and one hundred and eighty-six females were born from the civil population during the year 1953 providing a birth rate of 16.66 per thousand fixed British civil population. This represents a small decrease as compared with the corresponding figures for the preceding year which were three hundred and eighty-five and 17.36 respectively, and with the exception of the year 1950 (15.79) is the lowest birth rate recorded since the repatriation of the population in 1945. In addition there were sixteen births to non-resident aliens constituting a total of three hundred and ninety-three or 17.36 per thousand total population.

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

Colonial Hospital	323
Military Hospital	15
Private Practitioners	8
Midwives	47
	393

Thus the preference for confinement in hospital which has been a feature since the repatriation of the population in 1945 continues.

Illegitimate births totalled 12 or 3.05 per cent of all births. The corresponding figures for 1952 were 13 and 3.2.

Infant Mortality.

Ten infants died before attaining the age of one year which constitutes an infant mortality rate of 25.44 per thousand. Nine of these deaths occurred within four weeks of birth providing a neo-natal death rate of 22.9 per thousand. These figures represent a marked improvement on the corresponding ones for 1952 when infant deaths totalled 16 or 41.55 per thousand, and neo-natal deaths amounted to 14 ~~or~~ or 36.36 per thousand, further, the infant mortality rate proved the lowest recorded since 1945.

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
Prematurity and Sclerema...		1			1					1
Prematurity	1				1					1
Prematurity	1				1					1
Prematurity (Maternal Toxaemia)	1				1					1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1				1					1
Asphyxia Neonatorum	1				1					1
Nasal Infection, Orbital Cellulitis, Broncho Pneumonia			1		1					1
Broncho Pneumonia, Congenital Heart Disease						1				1
Acute Gastro-Enteritis			1	1	2					2
Totals	5	1	2	1	9	1				10

It is significant to note that six of the nine deaths in the newly-born were attributed to prematurity, and accidents incidental to parturition, whilst the only infant which survived four weeks exhibited congenital heart disease. This together with the fact that nine still-births were registered during the year would appear to indicate that attempts to improve the infantile mortality should be aimed principally at intensifying the pre-natal supervision of the mother and the betterment of her living conditions.

Still-births.

Nine still-births were registered during the year which amounts to 22.38 per thousand total live and still-births. This represents a small increase as compared with the figures recorded in 1952 which were 8 and 19.32 per thousand. Registration of still-births was first enforced in July 1950 when five were registered which together with four known to have occurred in the first half of that year amounted to nine. Seventeen were registered in 1951.

INFANTILE MORTALITY AND NEO-NATAL DEATH RATES FOR 1945-53.

	Infantile Mortality	Neo-natal Mortality
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	8.4
1951	31	12.9
1952	41.55	36.36
1953	25.44	22.9

Note:—

One hundred and thirty-two births and twenty-eight deaths (including three infant deaths) which occurred among sections of the population with which these statistics are not concerned are not included in the above data.

The total number of births and deaths which occurred in the Colony during the year 1953 and the corresponding crude birth and death rates were therefore as follows:—

Births ..... 525 or 21.22 per thousand total population.

Deaths ..... 227 or 9.17 per thousand total population.

Deaths in infants under one year ..... 13 or 24.76 per thousand live births.

MATERNITY, CHILD WELFARE AND SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES

The Colonial Government are responsible for these services which are operated under the administrative direction of the Chief Medical Officer who is also the Superintendent of the Colonial Hospital. This arrangement ensures a high degree of integration of the preventive and curative organisations concerned.

I am indebted to Dr. Edmundson — the Chief Medical Officer, to Dr. Cochrane and Dr. Page—Medical Officers in charge of the Maternity Service, to Dr. Triay—the Paediatric Physician to the Child Health Services, and to Dr. Ruggeri—School Medical Officer for supplying the information on which this part of the report is based.

Maternity Service

Ante-natal clinics were held at the Colonial Hospital twice weekly. Attendances were satisfactory. Calcium, iron and vitamin preparations were issued to those who required them. The majority of confinements took place in Hospital. A few mothers were delivered in their homes by private doctors or registered midwives.

There were five midwives engaged in private practice.

No maternal deaths occurred.

Paediatric Services

The paediatric services continued to function during 1953 in accordance with the scheme adopted in September of the preceding year.

The number of sick children treated at the Colonial Hospital was as follows:—

	1953	1952
In patients	625	229
Out patients	4,152	2,114

Infant Welfare Service

Clinics were held regularly throughout the year at the three existing centres, viz. at the Town Clinic twice weekly, at Glacis Clinic situated north of the Town once weekly, and at South Clinic once weekly. These clinics were all well attended.

A noticeable change has occurred in the type of mother attending the Infant Welfare Clinics. There has been an increase in the number of well-to-do mothers and a marked decrease in those from the poorer classes. This must be attributed to greater restrictions on the milk issues imposed by the Social Welfare Department. The number of tins of Ideal Milk issued to mothers has been reduced from 1,248 to 576 tins per week.

Sick children were discouraged from attending the Infant Welfare Centres and referred to the children's out-patient department at the Colonial Hospital for treatment.

The number of registered infants and attendances at the various centres were as follows:—

Town Clinic	1953	1952
Number of children registered ...	775	640
Attendances	8,958	10,247
South Clinic		
Number of children registered ...	209	202
Attendances	2,491	2,565
Glacis Clinic		
Number of children registered ...	150	150
Attendances	1,985	1,495 (6 months)

YEAR OF BIRTH, AGE GROUP AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN ON THE REGISTER WERE AS FOLLOWS:

Town Clinic Total number on Register 775.

Year of birth	Age group	Number	Percentage
1953	0 — 1	238	31%
1952	1 — 2	183	23%
1951	2 — 3	138	18%
1950	3 — 4	87	11%
1949	4 — 5	78	10%
1948	Over 5	51	7%

South Clinic Total number on Register 209.

Year of birth	Age group	Number	Percentage
1953	0 — 1	58	28%
1952	1 — 2	57	28%
1951	2 — 3	27	13%
1950	3 — 4	25	12%
1949	4 — 5	22	10%
1948	Over 5	20	9%

Glacis Clinic Total number on register 150.

Year of birth	Age group	Number	Percentage
1953	0 — 1	27	18%
1952	1 — 2	40	27%
1951	2 — 3	22	15%
1950	3 — 4	21	14%
1949	4 — 5	23	15%
1948	Over 5	17	11%

Home Visits

Primary	390
Under 1 year	564
Over 1 year	2,196
Special	59
Fruitless	148
Removals	120
Houses	2,204

The total number of children attended by the Paediatric Services was as follows:—

1953	1952
18,211	16,650

Immunizations (Now carried out at the Colonial Hospital).

Anti-diphtheria prophylactic	1st dose	47
	2nd dose	47
Combined diphtheria-pertussis prophylactic	1st dose	9
	2nd dose	9
	3rd dose	9
Pertussis Vaccine	Nil	

School Medical Service

Six hundred and thirty-four children were medically examined during the year, of which six hundred and fifteen or 97 per cent were found in excellent physical condition, eighteen were classified as fair, and one was considered to be in poor health.

Two thousand, five hundred and seventy-five children were inspected for cleanliness or tested for defects of vision by the school nurse who paid regular visits to all the schools.

Children requiring general medical treatment were referred to their own doctors or to the Government Paediatrician, whilst those in need of special investigation were referred to the special clinics as follows:—

Ophthalmic Clinic	56
Dental Clinic	438
Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic	2
Paediatric Clinic	10

It is interesting to note that thirty-nine children were found to have functional cardiac bruits, whilst five children suffering from active carditis received appropriate treatment.

Children between the ages of 5 and 8 attending Infant Schools continued to receive a third of a pint of reconstituted milk daily throughout term time.

It is encouraging to note that the School Medical Officer describes the attitude of parents as one of "absolute co-operation."

SUMMARY OF DENTAL TREATMENT

Dental Surgeon	Sessions for Treatment	Teeth Conserved	Teeth Extracted	Attendance for Scaling and Gum Treatment
Mr. A. A. Danino ..	140	688	126	77
Mr. J. J. Cochrane..	41	127	195	30

The following figures show the progressively increasing volume of work done in the Laboratories:—

Year	Investigations
1939	5,612
1949	11,167
1950	13,632
1951	13,535
1952	15,844
1953	15,865

It is anticipated that with the progress being made in the treatment and prevention of diseases and the increase in the number of antibiotics and other potent drugs being used for therapeutic purposes, the administration of which often requires careful laboratory control, demands for investigations made on the laboratories will continue to increase.

A number of Yellow Fever inoculations were performed during the year at the Laboratories which are recognized as an approved centre for such purposes by the World Health Organization.

Causes of Death in the Civil Population during 1953, according to the International Intermediate List with Age and Sex Incidence.

		Cause of Death	Detailed List of Numbers	All Ages	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 Respiratory System ...	001-008	7													2			1	4			
A	2	Tuberculosis of meninges and central nervous system	010	1			1																	
A	5	Tuberculosis, all other forms	014-019	1									1											
A	8	Tabes dorsalis	024	1													1							
A	46	Malignant neoplasm of stomach	151	8													1		3	1	1	1		1
A	47	Malignant neoplasm of intestines, except rectum	152/153	2																	1	1		
A	48	Malignant neoplasm of rectum	154	1															1					
A	49	Malignant neoplasm of larynx	161	3													2				1			
A	50	Malignant neoplasm of trachea, and of bronchus and lung not specified as secondary	162-163	10													1		3		5		1	
A	51	Malignant neoplasm of breast	170	8											1					4		2		1
A	53	Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified parts of uterus	172-174	1																				1
A	55	Malignant neoplasm of skin	190-191	1																			1	
A	57	Malignant neoplasm of all other and unspecified sites	155-160 164-165 175-176 178-181 192-195 198-199	5											2				1	1				1
A	58	Leukaemia and aleukaemia	204	2									1								1			
A	59	Lymphosarcoma and other neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic system	200-203 205	1																	1			
A	63	Diabetes Mellitus	260	5															1	2		1		1
A	65	Anaemias	290-293	1																		1		
A	66	Allergic disorders; all other endocrine, metabolic and blood diseases	240-245 253-254 270-277 287-289 294-299	1																1				
A	67	Psychoses	300-309	1														1						
A	70	Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	330-334	30		1						1						1	2	2		9	5	10
A	73	Epilepsy	353	1																				
A	78	All other diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	341-344 350-352 354-369 380-384 386 388-390 394-398	1																1				
A	80	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	410-416	3									1	1				1						

		system and sense organs	350-352	1																											
			354-369																												
			380-384																												
			386																												
			388-390																												
			394-398																												
A	80	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	410-416	3								1	1			1														
A	81	Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease	420-422	20										1		3		2		7	2	2	3							
A	82	Other diseases of heart	430-434	3														1				1	1							
A	83	Hypertension with heart disease	440-443	10												1		2	1		3		3							
A	84	Hypertension without mention of heart	444-447	2														1		1										
A	85	Diseases of arteries	450-456	3														2					1							
A	86	Other diseases of circulatory system	460-468	1										1							2									
A	88	Influenza	480-483	2														1				1								
A	89	Lobar pneumonia	490	2															1											
A	90	Broncho pneumonia	491	2	1													1		2		1	1							
A	93	Bronchitis, chronic and unqualified	501-502	5											1	2		1	1			2	4							
A	95	Empyema and abscess of lung	518-521	1																										
A	97	All other respiratory diseases	511-517	13			1		1							1														
			520																												
			522-527																												
A	99	Ulcer of stomach	540	2										1			1													
A	100	Ulcer of duodenum	541	1												1														
A	102	Appendicitis	550-553	1				1																						
A	103	Intestinal obstruction and hernia	560-561	3														1			1		1							
			570																												
A	104	Gastro-enteritis and colitis, except diarrhoea of the new born	571-572	2	2																									
A	105	Cirrhosis of liver	581	1																1										
A	107	Other diseases of digestive system	536-539	1					1																					
			542, 544																												
			545																												
			573-580																												
			582-583																												
			586-587																												
A	108	Acute nephritis	590	1				1																						
A	109	Chronic, other & unspecified nephritis	591-594	4				1			1									1	1									
A	111	Calculi of urinary system	602-604	1														1												
A	112	Hyperplasia of prostate	610	3																1		2								
A	122	Arthritis and spondylitis	720-725	1																			1							
A	128	Congenital malformations of circulatory system	754	1	1																									
A	131	Postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis	762	1		1																								
A	135	Ill-defined diseases peculiar to early infancy, and immaturity unqualified	773-776	4	1	3																								
A	136	Senility without mention of psychosis	794	9																		2	7							
AN	138	Fracture of skull	N800-N804	2			1										1													
AN	144	Internal injury of chest, abdomen and pelvis	N860-N869	1								1																		
AN	150	All other and unspecified effects of external causes	N950-959 N980-999	1																		1								
		Totals		199	5	5	1	2	3	2	1	3	3	3	4	15	4	24	15	28	25	19	37							

CARE OF THE SICK AND AGED

The position with respect to institutional facilities for the care of aged or infirm people remains essentially the same as described in my previous annual reports.

An average of about thirty aged and infirm women are comfortably housed and well cared for by the Colonial Government at Beriro's Home.

A number of aged men and women are housed at the Little Sisters of the Poor, where, though considerable improvements have been effected to better their living conditions and promote their comfort, circumstances still remain far from satisfactory, whilst a small number of old folks who cannot be housed in either of these establishments occupy beds at the Colonial Hospital, an arrangement which for many reasons must be regarded undesirable.

ORPHANS AND CHILDREN DEVOID OF PARENTAL CARE

There are at present no homes in Gibraltar where orphans or children devoid of parental care can be housed and adequately cared for.

I wrote at length on this subject in my annual report for 1952 and beyond stressing the necessity of remedying this defect in our social services, there is nothing further to add to what has been said which will serve a useful purpose.

CARE OF THE BLIND

I am indebted to the Honorary Secretary of the Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Blindness for the following information about the work of the Society during the year 1953.

The Society continued its beneficent activities related to the prevention of blindness and the care of the blind throughout the year.

A considerable contribution was made from the Society's funds towards setting up special sight saving classes in Gibraltar for children suffering from defects of vision which might be aggravated or whose sight might be lost if taught by ordinary methods, and the expenses incurred in London by a school teacher, who with the approval of the Government attended a three months's course on the methods adopted by the London County Council for teaching such children, were also paid from their funds. The Society has also undertaken

to buy the apparatus required for these classes which will start early in 1954 with an initial attendance of about twenty children.

There are about one hundred and twenty blind people in Gibraltar, mostly women in their sixties or older for whom there is little call for tuition, but two active men are taken in the Red Cross Van twice a week to La Linea to learn braille, music and chair seating. Only two young people under twenty, a brother and sister, are registered as blind but it has not been possible to persuade the parents to allow them to have any tuition whatsover.

The Society pays or contributes towards the cost of spectacles for necessitous persons who do not qualify for public assistance, and thus cannot obtain them from the Department of Labour and Welfare, and the blind are visited regularly in their homes, helped to apply for public assistance, or with occasional gifts to those in need and in such other ways as by the provision of escorts and transport to Hospital for treatment. Parties and outings for the blind are also organized, and through the Society's intercession the local bus companies kindly issued free tickets to the blind and their escorts to travel in all buses during the year.

Much credit is due to the members of this organization for their humanitarian work which should receive the encouragement and active support of all sections of the community.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The infectious diseases statutorily notifiable under the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance in Gibraltar are: Smallpox, Cholera, Epidemic Typhus, Plague, Yellow Fever, Relapsing Fever, Dysentery, Diphtheria, Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, Scarlatina or Scarlet Fever, Typhoid or Enteric Fever, Undulant Fever, Acute Encephalitis, Acute Poliomyelitis, Chicken Pox, Epidemic Parotitis (Mumps), Erysipelas, Leprosy, Measles, Meningococcal Infection, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Paratyphoid Fever, Pertussis (Whooping-Cough), Puerperal Fever, Rubella (German Measles), Trachoma, Tuberculosis (all forms), Venereal disease.

Five hundred and fifty-two cases of infectious disease were notified from the civil population during the year which represents an incidence of 22.3 per thousand, and an increase of ninety cases over the number reported in 1952 when the corresponding figures were 462 and 20.8.

The principal contributory factors to the high figures recorded were an epidemic of Mumps which started about the middle of 1952 and continued unabated until the end of April 1953, accounting for 174 notifications in the latter year, and small outbreaks of Chicken Pox and Measles which produced 155 and 116 notifications respectively, the former being a recrudescence of a similar outbreak which occurred in the previous year.

It may thus be said that but for these three diseases which together contributed a total of 445 cases, the incidence of infectious diseases during the year under review would have proved reasonably low.

Noteworthy features in the epidemiological pattern were the small number (eleven) of notifications of Whooping Cough received and a prevalence of Brucellosis (sixteen cases notified), a disease which but for a few rare instances has only occurred in the form of isolated sporadic cases during approximately the past half century in Gibraltar.

The figure for Whooping Cough is the lowest recorded since 1948 and the number of cases of Brucellosis the highest notified since 1905, when the diseases were made notifiable respectively.

Deaths from infectious diseases totalled nine and were all due to tuberculosis. Seven were caused by pulmonary and two by non- respiratory tubercular affections.

The following tables show the incidence of infectious diseases in the civil population for the periods 1935-9 and 1945-53.

1945-53

Year	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	Average
Cases	241	177	419	856	93	357.2

1945-53

Year	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	Average
Cases	102	103	168	252	181	225	836	462	552	320.1

NOTE: One hundred and ninety-one cases of infectious diseases which were notified from families of service personnel and casual visitors or who were brought into town for treatment are not included in the data recorded above.

Notifications received from all sources therefore totalled 743.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Twenty-three cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, sixteen males and seven females were notified during the year. There were seven deaths. This represents a decrease of five in the incidence and an increase of three in the mortality as compared with the preceding year, when the corresponding figures were twenty-eight and four.

The incidence and mortality rates for 1953 were 0.92 and 0.28 per thousand population respectively. The corresponding figures for 1952 were 1.26 and 0.18.

Of the total notifications, twelve, seven males and five females, concerned persons in the 15 and under 45 year groups; one was a male aged 14 years whilst four were persons over 65 years of age. The latter included two males aged 70 and 84 years respectively and a female 71 years old.

Two young adults aged 17 and 21 years were brothers living in the same house. No source of infection was detected in the other members of the household.

The seven deaths included six males and a female whose ages ranged from fifty-one to seventy years.

The scheme inaugurated in 1952 whereby employers may have prospective employees radioscopically examined free of charge on application to the Department of Labour and Welfare at the time of their statutory registration for employment continued to function during 1953, but the number of applications for such examinations I understand fell well below expectations and it is evident that full use is not being made of the facilities offered.

This scheme was organised principally to serve as a measure of protection for young children who being at an age when they are particularly vulnerable to attacks by the bacillus of Tuberculosis and because of the intimacy of the relations involved incur a grave risk of being infected by persons such as nurse maids and other domestic servants who may, unknown to themselves or to their employers, be suffering from the disease in an active infectious stage and

parents cannot therefore be too strongly urged to avail themselves fully of these facilities which are offered for the protection of their children.

Tables showing the incidence and mortality from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the quinquennium immediately preceding the war and the period 1945 to 1953 are appended.

Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis

Notifications of non-respiratory Tuberculosis totalled three. Two females in their thirties, one suffering from Tuberculous Iridocyclitis, the other from Renal Tuberculosis which proved fatal, and a female infant aged four and a half years who died from Tuberculous Meningitis. The incidence and mortality were 0.12 and 0.08 per thousand respectively.

NOTE: Thirty-three cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis involving two deaths which were notified from sections of the population with which these statistics are not concerned are not included in the above data.

Incidence and Mortality from Pulmonary Tuberculosis

1935-1939 and 1945-1953

Year	Cases	Deaths	Incidence per thousand	Deaths per thousand
1935	23	15	—	0.88
*1936	30	19	1.90	1.20* (T.B. Officer
1937	34	21	1.74	1.08 appointed)
1938	8	16	0.39	0.79
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
1951	22	6	1.04	0.28
1952	28	4	1.26	0.18
1953	23	7	0.92	0.28

Enteric Fever

The fourteen notifications from this group of fevers which were received comprised eight infections by Salmonella Typhi and six by Salmonella Para-Typhi B. In addition the blood of a patient suffering from a pyrexial condition which was not considered to be Enteric Fever by the attending practitioner gave a strongly positive Widal Reaction to S Typhi, and in view of the serological findings the routine administrative measures of prevention were adopted by the Department. Serological and cultural investigations failed to confirm one of the cases included above, and the clinical course suggested that the affection was not the result of infection by these salmonellae.

With the exception of a hospital nurse, who probably contracted Typhoid Fever from a patient she had been attending, the source of infection in these patients remained undetermined notwithstanding careful and extensive investigation. As they lived in widely separated districts in the City and no relationship or common factor was established, it can only be conjectured that the individuals concerned acquired their infections either from infected vegetables or fruits at home, or from food consumed during frequent visits which they all admitted having paid to places in the vicinity where enteric diseases are known to be prevalent; in fact, judging from the dates of onset it is almost certain that in four instances the disease was contracted in such places.

Brucellosis

Sixteen cases of Undulant Fever were notified during the months of May, June, July and August, the highest number recorded since 1905. One of the persons concerned was a British national living in Spain, the others were all local residents.

The sera from all the patients agglutinated both Brucella Melitensis and Brucella Abortus, the former in higher dilutions.

Owing to the mildness and insidious character of the initial symptoms it was not possible in many cases to determine accurately the date of onset. Generally the clinical course was not marked by great severity and no deaths were recorded.

The disease is known to have been very prevalent in Gibraltar but no statistical records are available previous to 1905 when on representations by Major W. H. Horrocks,

then Medical Officer of Health, it was made notifiable and eleven cases with one death were reported that year. This number did not include cases which may have occurred in the Armed Services. Later in 1906 on his advice, bye-laws were enacted enforcing the boiling of milk before sale to the public and administrative arrangements were made for the quarantining of goats imported into Gibraltar as well as for the periodic examination by blood tests of all goats within the jurisdiction of the health authorities for the presence or otherwise of the disease.

These measures proved immediately successful and though in 1922, 1923 and 1938 small outbreaks of undetermined origin occurred, the incidence of the disease may be said to be limited to occasional sporadic cases, often no notifications being received during the year. It is worthy of note that no cases of Brucellosis were reported during the period 1928 to 1933.

In view of the occurrence of such an unusual number of cases and as a milk purveyor had been detected selling unboiled goats milk about eight weeks before the first case was notified, a thorough investigation was undertaken in respect of the milk being sold locally, but numerous samples taken were found to have been boiled satisfactorily, further, the epidemiological data obtained clearly indicated multiple sources of infection and exonerated the local milk supplies.

The first case was notified on the 8th May and the patient admitted drinking unboiled fresh goats milk which he imported privately for his own use.

The onset of the next case reported was stated to have been on the 14th May and within a fortnight his wife and young child were also taken ill. They had been on a picnic to a neighbouring popular resort where they all consumed goats milk and fresh cheese, and there is little doubt contracted the disease there.

Four persons living in the same building all partook of fresh goats cheese which was bought by one of them and were all taken ill within short intervals of each other. As it was elicited that three of these patients habitually used tinned milk whilst the other though normally using fresh milk always bought it from an officially licensed vendor and besides boiled it herself before drinking, it would appear practically certain that the cheese consumed in common provided the vehicle for the infecting agent.

Two young children unrelated to each other were taken ill approximately eleven and twelve weeks respectively after the onset of the disease in their parents which would suggest that they acquired the disease from them.

The source of the infection in the other patients remained undetermined, but they had all visited and partaken of milk or fresh cheese in places in the vicinity, and presumably were infected from sources outside Gibraltar.

In accordance with the Council's bye-laws all imported fresh milk must be heated to a temperature of 200° Fahrenheit for twenty minutes or pasteurized in Gibraltar before it is sold to the public. As there are no pasteurizing plants in the town, the former process is normally adopted and samples are frequently examined to ensure compliance by purveyors with the bye-laws. This measure has not only resulted in the almost complete elimination of indigenous brucellosis from the City, but also rendered the number of infections by the bovine tubercle bacillus almost negligible.

Adequate publicity was given to the matter and the public were warned by the Sanitary Inspectorate and through the Press against the danger of contracting the disease by drinking raw milk or eating unseasoned cheese elaborated from goats or ewes milk and no further cases were reported.

Epidemic Parotitis (Mumps). The epidemic of Mumps which started in June 1952 continued unabated until the end of April in the year under review and contributed one hundred and seventy-four notifications. Sixty cases were also reported from sections of the population with which these statistics are not concerned, constituting a total of two hundred and thirty-four.

There were no deaths.

Measles

A small outbreak occurred from April to September during which one hundred cases of Measles and sixteen of German Measles were notified.

No fatalities were recorded.

Chicken Pox

There was a recrudescence during the winter and spring of the small outbreak of Chicken Pox recorded the previous year. One hundred and fifty-five cases were notified during 1953.

Pertussis

Only eleven notifications were received during the year, a figure which is the lowest recorded since the disease was made notifiable in 1948, as shown in the table included below.

It is not possible at this stage to explain satisfactorily this marked decrease in the incidence of a disease which has been consistently prevalent during the past five years, and it is a matter for conjecture whether it represents a temporary abatement due to a wide scale immunity of the present child population produced by sub-clinical infections. Suffice it for the present to say that any decrease in the incidence of this distressing disease which remains one of the "killers" of young infants and is frequently a prolific source of prolonged disablement to many of the children affected, is always a welcome feature in a statistical record.

Pertussis

Incidence during the period 1948-53.

Year	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	Notifiable on 25.8.48					
Cases	42	52	42	29	74	11

Scarlet Fever

Sixteen cases of Scarlet Fever were notified from the civil population which together with eleven notifications received from sections of the community outside the scope of these records totalled twenty-seven. The disease was consistently mild and no deaths were recorded.

Puerperal Fever

Two notifications were received; one case occurred in the domiciliary practice of a midwife, the other in Hospital.

Dysentery

Three notifications of Bacillary Dysentery were received. Two were caused by Shigella Sonnei, the other by S. Paradysenteriae (Flexner).

No cases of Amoebic Dysentery were notified.

There is little doubt that these figures do not represent the true incidence of Bacillary Dysentery. With the increasing use of the sulphonamides and antibiotics infections by these organisms improve so rapidly that it is only in cases with severe clinical symptoms or when the disease proves resistant to treatment that specimens of faeces are submitted for bacteriological investigation.

Poliomyelitis

A single notification of Poliomyelitis was received from the civil population during the year. It concerned a male adult aged thirty-one years and the source of the infection remained undetermined. Three isolated cases all in young adults were reported from sections of the community with which these statistics are not concerned. In one of these it was established that the disease had been contracted outside Gibraltar.

With the exception of the year 1952 when a total of twelve cases were notified, this disease has only occurred in the form of isolated sporadic cases in the civil population.

Diphtheria

Nine cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year, one of which concerned a female aged forty-two years. The disease in her case as well as in two others was not confirmed bacteriologically.

The patients came from various districts in the town and notwithstanding detailed investigations which were carried out and numerous bacteriological examinations of swabs taken from contacts, it was not possible to establish any connection between them or the presence of a carrier.

Pamphlets urging parents to have their children immunized against the disease continued to be distributed to mothers or relatives bringing infants to the Public Health Department for statutory vaccination against Smallpox by the Public Vaccinator, who at the same time briefly explained to each person individually the harmlessness of the process and the advisability of ensuring the infant's protection against the disease.

Judging however from the negligible number of children who were immunized during the year, it would appear that the advice is falling on barren soil, and it can only be hoped

that parents may not some day experience a rude awakening from their complacent apathy.

Trachoma

Four cases were notified.

Smallpox

No cases of Smallpox occurred in Gibraltar during 1953.

A case of confluent Smallpox of moderate severity, probably contracted in Bombay, was landed from the Bay and admitted to the Isolation Hospital where it recovered.

A patient suspected of suffering from Smallpox was also landed from the Bay and admitted to the Isolation Hospital. Laboratory investigations however proved the disease to have been Chicken-Pox.

Vaccinations

Number of children born	393*
Number who died before vaccination	10
Number who left Gibraltar before vaccination ...	11
Number certified as insusceptible to vaccination ...	NIL
Vaccination postponed on medical grounds	7
Number successfully vaccinated (children born in 1953) ...	249
Objectors to vaccination	NIL
Outstanding	116

(*includes 16 non-residents)

In addition one hundred and twenty-one children who were discovered not to have been vaccinated or whose vaccination had been postponed on account of illness, and four who were born outside Gibraltar, were also vaccinated.

Thus three hundred and seventy-four children were vaccinated which together with two hundred and ninety-eight re-vaccinations on children who had attained the age of twelve years and sixty on adults for purposes concerned with International Sanitary Regulations constitute a total of seven hundred and thirty-two vaccinations carried out during the year. Of these, six hundred and eighty-four were performed by the Public Vaccinator.

There have been no objectors to vaccination. Of the one hundred and sixteen outstanding, one hundred and three

had not attained the age of three months and notices were served on the remaining thirteen.

Rabies

No cases of rabies occurred in Gibraltar during 1953.

The brains of two cats who died soon after biting their respective owners and the carcasses of two rats, one of which had bitten a child, were sent to the Pasteur Institute at Tangiers for examination.

As Negri Bodies which are considered pathognomonic of rabies were reported to have been found in the brain of one of the cats by the Director of the Institute, two persons who had been bitten by it underwent a course of anti-rabic treatment, but the complementary routine animal inoculations with extracts from the brains of the suspected animals which were also carried out failed to confirm the disease in the incriminated cat, or to establish the presence of rabies virus in the other animals concerned.

Rabies as is well known is communicable to man and once established is not only incurable, but entails an invariably horrifying termination, and though I have in all my previous annual reports referred to this subject, I cannot but again urge dog owners to refrain from taking their pets for runs in the Campo, thereby not only infringing the law but also creating a grave risk to themselves and other members of the community. Reports of cases of human hydrophobia in the sanitary statistics from Spain are not so infrequent as to be considered negligible and should provide material for serious thought to even the most irresponsible.

The customary annual campaign to reduce the number of stray, ownerless and often diseased cats was waged from the 11th August to the 4th September, during which 228 were caught and painlessly destroyed at the Quarantine Kennels.

Stray cats caught by Council cat catchers (for detention and destruction if unclaimed) ...	173
Cats delivered by private individuals	35
Cats caught by the Services	20
Total number of cats delivered to the Government Quarantine Kennels and humanely destroyed	228

I am indebted to the Commissioner of Police who is in charge of the Government Quarantine Kennels, where dogs and cats are detained under observation and humanely destroyed if unclaimed, for the following information about the work done there during the year.

Number of stray dogs admitted	50
Number of stray dogs claimed by owners	16
Number of stray dogs destroyed	34
Number of dogs detained after biting persons	20
Number of dogs claimed by owners	18
Number of dogs destroyed	2
Number of dogs detained in transit	56
Number of dogs detained in Quarantine	1
Number of dogs humanely destroyed at owner's request ...	49
Number of stray cats admitted	85
Number of stray cats claimed by owners	—
Number of stray cats destroyed	85
Number of cats detained after scratching/ biting ...	7
Number of cats claimed by owners	1
Number of cats destroyed	6
Number of cats detained in transit	7
Number of cats humanely destroyed ..... (Exclusive of those destroyed during the Annual Campaign)	205

Influenza

This disease is not notifiable in Gibraltar, but so far as it has been possible to ascertain, there have been no epidemic manifestations in the City during the year.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases with Age and Sex Incidence — Civil Population 1953

Notifiable Diseases	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.				
Mumps	174	—	—	22	17	58	56	6	7	7	1	—	—	—	—	6	83	85	1
Diphtheria	9	—	—	1	2	1	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	7	—	4
Chicken Pox	155	—	1	17	15	47	59	5	8	3	-	-	—	—	—	8	111	36	3
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	23	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	2	4	3	5	1	3	1	6	13	4	21
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	--	—	2	--	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
Pertussis	11	—	1	5	5	—	--	—		—	—	—	—	--	—	2	6	3	-
Enteric Fever	14	—	—	—		--	2	1	3	5	3	—	—	—	—	3	8	3	7
Scarlet Fever	16	—	—	4	—	4	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	5	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	-	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1
Puerperal Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
Venereal Disease	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	--	2	—
Measles	100	2	2	16	14	40	20	1	4	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	85	13	2
German Measles	16	—	2	3	2	2	4	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	15	—	—
Undulant Fever	15	—	—	—	—	3	1	2	1	3	4	1	—	—	—	1	9	5	9
Dysentery	3	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	-	—	—	—	--	-	1	—	1
Trachoma	4	—	—	—	—	--	--	2	—	—	1	--	1	—	—	—	3	1	—
Totals ...	552	2	6	69	57	156	155	23	25	25	19	8	2	3	2	33	357	162	52

Infectious Diseases — Monthly and Quarterly Incidence — Civil Population 1953

Disease	January	February	March	1st Qr.	April	May	June	2nd Qr.	July	August	Sept.	3rd Qr.	October	November	December	4th Qr.	Total	Deaths
Mumps	66	53	43	162	11	1	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	174	—
Diphtheria	3	1	—	4	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	3	9	—
Chicken Pox	6	48	64	118	25	—	4	29	4	—	—	4	1	—	3	4	155	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	2	—	3	3	3	2	8	4	2	4	10	—	1	1	2	23	7
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	2
Pertussis	4	—	2	6	—	1	—	1	—	—	3	3	—	1	—	1	11	—
Enteric Fever	3	—	—	3	—	1	—	1	—	2	3	5	5	—	—	5	14	—
Scarlet Fever	1	3	—	4	—	1	3	4	4	2	—	6	—	—	2	2	16	—
Erysipelas	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Puerperal Fever	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Venereal Disease	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	4	3	7	14	74	8	3	85	1	—	—	1	100	—
German Measles	—	—	—	—	2	5	4	11	5	—	—	5		—	—	—	16	—
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	9	5	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	15	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Trachoma	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	3	4	—
TOTALS	84	110	111	305	47	22	25	94	99	19	14	132	10	3	8	21	552	9

Infectious Diseases — Monthly and Quarterly Return of Cases Landed from the Bay or Brought into Town for Treatment, 1953

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	7	1	1	9	1	1	3	5	8	4	3	15	1	—	1	2	31	2
Chicken Pox	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Mumps	—	2	3	5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Smallpox	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	2	—
Trachoma	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals ...	7	4	5	16	3	1	3	7	10	5	3	18	2	—	1	3	44	2

INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION OF OTHER DISEASES

INSECT VECTORS

Flies

The prevalence of flies has been remarkably low throughout the year. Only a few isolated complaints were received, investigated and the nuisance abated.

An intensive campaign against flies was started early in spring as in previous years, in the course of which pamphlets warning the public of the dangerous nature of these insects as propagators of diseases, advising on measures for their elimination, and requesting their co-operation with the Public Health Department were distributed to all households by the Sanitary Inspectors and their assistants. Food catering establishments received special attention and advice was given to owners on the protection of food from contamination by these insects.

One thousand, two hundred and ninety-six gallons of a five per cent solution of D D T prepared in the Public Health Department for use in sprayers were sold to the public.

Mosquitoes

The customary intensive campaign against these insects designed to supplement the routine measures normally taken by the Department throughout the year was again organized in co-ordination with the services sanitary staff and successfully implemented. Localities known from experience to constitute troublesome breeding places were given special attention, adequate preventive measures taken and existing centres of infestation destroyed.

By these measures infestation by mosquitoes has been effectively controlled and with the exception of a few isolated instances, the insects have not proved troublesome during 1953.

All anti-mosquito measures were carried out by the regular sanitary staff without the employment of extra personnel.

One hundred and ten specimens were taken for identification, the following species being found: —

Theobaldia longiareolata .....28 (between Feb. and Dec.)

Culex pipiens .....82 (between Jan. and Dec.)

Aëdes argenteus: no insect of this species was found during the year.

It is of considerable practical interest to note that for the third year in succession Aëdes argenteus, the only mosquito which breeds in Gibraltar which can be considered a danger from an epidemiological view, being the potential vector of Yellow Fever, has been rare or absent. None was found in 1951, only one in 1952, and out of some hundred specimens examined during the year under review, no insect of this species was identified.

During 26,275 visits of inspection, one hundred and forty-seven breeding places were found and destroyed as follows:—

Tubs	12
Barrels	2
Earthenware vessels	3
Miscellaneous	130

MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN 1953

Months	Visits paid to Premises	Breeding Places Found—by Districts					Totals
		Town Lower	Town Middle	Town Upper	South	North	
January	2,611	—	—	—	—	—	—
February	2.173	—	—	1	—	4	5
March	2,200	—	—	—	—	1	1
April	1,925	1	—	1	—	8	10
May	2,625	5	2	2	2	3	14
June	2,025	10	5	11	7	17	50
July	2,157	4	3	9	3	5	24
August	2,508	4	2	6	1	5	18
September	1.719	—	—	4	—	3	7
October	2,517	—	2	4	4	—	10
November	1,960	—	1	3	2	—	6
December	1,855	—	—	2	—	—	2
Totals ...	26,275	24	15	43	19	46	147

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

RODENT CONTROL

The close co-operation between the civilian and service personnel engaged in anti-rodent work which has been a feature of the service since the organisation of the Rat Extermination Department continued to be maintained throughout the year and thereby the maximum efficiency in operations as well as the most economical use of baits and poisons available was ensured.

It would appear from the predominance of carcasses of mice recovered and the nature of the complaints received that these vermin continue to constitute the principal element in the rodent infestation, and that the rat population is being effectively controlled by the measures adopted.

Sewers, stormwater drains and electricity and telephone pits were treated on several occasions with satisfactory results.

A total of 48,978 points were prebaited and 23,296 poison baits were laid in 863 premises by combined civilian and service teams during the year from which 12,303 takes were recorded, the estimated kill being 3,006.

The carcasses of 86 Rattus rattus and 855 Mus musculus were recovered in the course of these operations.

Carcasses of twelve rats which were examined in the City Council Laboratories were found to be 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 1953

Service	No. of Premises Treated	Prebaits Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
					RR	RN	MM	
Civilian	471	17,553	11,883	6,333	50	—	730	1,379
Military	107	6,496	4,294	2,651	23	—	84	837
H.M. Dockyard...	231	24,462	6,744	3,077	11	—	41	641
R.A.F.	7	280	270	148	2	—	—	46
Electric Light and Telephone Pits	10 manholes	35	30	19	—	—	—	10
Sewers and Drains	37 manholes	152	75	75	—	—	—	93
Totals ...	863	48,978	23,296	12,303	86	—	855	3,006

RODENT CONTROL — SUMMARY OF TREATMENT OF CIVILIAN PREMISES DURING 1953

Campaign Week	Premises Treated	Prebaits Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
					RR	RN	MM	
1/53 to 13/53	106	4,464	3,125	1,636	22	—	130	342
14/53 to 26/53	113	4,952	3,362	1,858	14	—	231	422
27/53 to 39/53	130	4,400	2,911	1,524	5	—	215	327
40/53 to 53/53	122	3,737	2,485	1,315	9	—	154	288
Totals ...	471	17,553	11,883	6,333	50	—	730	1,379

RODENT CONTROL—TREATMENT OF SEWERS, DRAINS, ELECTRIC LIGHT AND TELEPHONE PITS DURING THE YEAR 1953

Campaign Week	Date	Manholes Treated	Prebaits Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
						RR	RN	MM	
30/53	20/7/53-24/7/53	8	32	19	19	—	—	—	23
37/53	7/9/53-11/9/53	22	88	24	24	—	—	—	30
38/53	14/9/53-18/9/53	7	32	32	32	—	—	—	40
3/53	12/1/53-16/1/53	10	35	30	19	—	—	—	10
	Totals ...	47	187	105	94	—	—	—	103

PORT HEALTH WORK

Maritime

The Colonial Government are responsible for the control of the port health work which is carried out by two medical practitioners employed part time as Health Officers, together with a number of Boarding Officers under the administrative direction of the Captain of the Port.

Under the provisions of the Quarantine Ordinance, the Medical Officer of Health is also vested with the status of a Health Officer and is thereby empowered to board ships, examine persons suspected of suffering or who are suffering from infectious diseases, and impose quarantine restrictions if and when necessary.

I am indebted to the Captain of the Port for the following information relating to the work of this Department during 1953.

Number of ships entered during 1953	4,813
Number of ships visited by the Health Officer.....	141
Number of patients landed, from British Ships	82
from Foreign Ships	64

of these, sixteen were suspected of or suffering from infectious disease, and included a patient affected with Smallpox.

Air

All matters related to health in connection with the Air Port and the sanitation of all Service Aircraft are under the control of the Senior Medical Officer of the Royal Air Force, who is vested with the status and powers of a Health Officer.

The sanitary control including disinfection and disinsectization of Civil Aircraft landing at the Air Port is the responsibility of the Colonial Government. The work is carried out by a Medical Practitioner employed part time as a Health Officer under the administrative direction of the Chief Medical Officer to the Colonial Government, who is also vested with the status and powers of a health officer.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

I am indebted to the City Engineer, Mr. W. E. Chiappe, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I. Mun. 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 distributed mainly direct by pipes through permanent meters, but a small proportion is drawn by bucket or barrel from the Council's street fountains. The demand for supplies from fountains is decreasing in consequence of the large number of premises which are being provided with direct supplies from the City Council mains. In addition, potable water is supplied to private underground tanks during the dry season through temporary meters and flexible hoses and in smaller quantities by tank lorry to those consumers whose premises are not within a reasonable distance from the distributing mains.

All barrels are steam sterilized at weekly intervals. The sanitary staff are constantly on the watch for possible pollution of underground tanks. Samples from sixty-five suspected tanks were taken in 1953.

The stock of potable water at the beginning of the year was just below normal. The yield from wells was lower than usual but rainfall proved above the average and made up for the deficiency.

The modern vapour-compression distilling plant acquired from Messrs. Cleaver-Brooks and Company of Wisconsin was installed during the latter part of the year and successfully put into service. As a result it was not necessary to import any water during the year and supplies to shipping were restricted to a lesser degree than in previous years. It is hoped to lift all restrictions in future except in years of abnormally low rainfall.

The Base Exchange Water Softening Plant continued to function throughout the year. The hardness of well water is reduced from approximately thirty-two degrees to zero, then

blended with raw water to the optimum degree of hardness, viz., ten degrees. The blended water after chloramination 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.

Over 52.5 million gallons were issued during the year from various Council's sources.

Rainfall at the Council's catchments during the calendar year 1953 totalled 44.24 inches.

The supply of boiler water to Shipping from Council's sources at the Watering Jetty was maintained throughout the year.

Brackish Water

Brackish water is supplied by the Council for general sanitary purposes, fire fighting and other requirements.

The replacement pump which the makers had agreed to furnish was not received during 1953 but the supply of water was, however, maintained by pumping extra hours and making full use of the pump loaned by the War Department.

The quantity of brackish water pumped during the year amounted to some 466,000,000 gallons.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse

Domestic refuse is collected and disposed of daily by the City Council.

In addition to an average of 28 tons of domestic refuse which is collected by the Council's scavenging lorries and disposed of daily at the Refuse Destructor, approximately 6 tons of trade refuse, consisting of tobacco dust, wood shavings, saw dust, waste paper, coffee waste, etc., are carried by private lorries to the Destructor and dealt with every day.

Sewage Disposal

The whole of the sewage of Gibraltar eventually discharges into the sea at Europa Point Outfall.

Numerous storm overflows exist along the line of the main sewer and come into operation during times of heavy floods. The configuration of the Rock is such that very large volumes of storm water rapidly reach the lower levels and

the main sewer is then taxed to the outmost. The rate of run off is such that during heavy rains boulders and much silt reach the sewers.

The quantity of sewage and storm water pumped from low level during 1953 amounted to approximately 124,000,000 gallons.

Public Highways and Street Cleansing

The extensive road programme contemplated was deferred pending the results of a visit paid by the Colonial Liaison Officer for Road Research, at the request of the Council, to examine the Council's problems regarding road tar and roadmaking in Gibraltar.

The expert's report was submitted to the Council in November, 1953, and recommendations contained therein were adopted by the Council and will be implemented as soon as circumstances permit.

Patching, potholing and surface dressing was carried out to maintain public highways in as good a condition as possible.

Preparatory work on Reclamation Road was started towards the end of the year.

Flushing of streets was periodically carried out. During the dry season flushing was intensified.

Sweeping of streets was done in the normal way and a high degree of cleanliness was maintained.

Public Baths

The Tarik hot and cold fresh water slipper baths are open all the year round, and the Sea Bathing Establishment at Montagu continued to be well patronized in summer. Fresh water shower baths introduced a few years ago, have become increasingly popular.

Eastern Beach which is much favoured by the residents is controlled by the City Council during the bathing season. A boat patrols the beach throughout the day and two chalets provided with sanitary accommodation are available free of charge to bathers for use as changing rooms. These are kept open daily until half an hour after sunset.

WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT

The summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspectors shows that seventeen thousand, six hundred and eighty-nine house-to-house inspections were carried out during the year.

These included one hundred and fifty-seven investigations related to the allocation of accommodation undertaken in compliance with requests for information from the Commissioner of Lands and Works or following complaints regarding overcrowding or insanitary housing conditions submitted direct to the Health Department by persons seeking improved accommodation, and four hundred and forty-six to report on applications for permission to sublet civilian accommodation which were referred to the Health Department by the authorities concerned for investigation.

The high incidence of infectious diseases caused by the outbreaks noted in the appropriate section of this report entailed over five hundred domiciliary visits with consequent disinfection of premises and fomites.

Food hygiene received special attention. Catering establishments were inspected on one thousand, seven hundred and eighty-nine occasions, whilst one hundred and fifteen visits were made to dairies and three hundred and thirty-two to mineral water factories.

Ninety-nine samples of foods and drugs were also taken and analyzed in the City Council's Laboratories during the year.

Every effort has been made by the Inspectorate to control as far as possible the activities of the undesirably large number of persons who dedicate themselves to the collection of swill, kitchen refuse and other rubbish and who frequently perpetrate nuisances by rummaging in dust bins or sorting out the contents of their bins fouling the ground in the process, but only on one occasion was it found possible to institute legal proceedings against a perpetrator of such nuisances who was convicted and fined.

This matter is the cause of much concern to the Public Health staff, and I would urge all who take pride in the cleanliness and propriety of our streets to co-operate with the Sanitary Inspectors in their efforts to attain this object.

Summary of Work done by the Sanitary Inspectors

Complaints received:

Written	7
Verbal	714

Premises Inspected:

House-to-house inspection	17,689

Statutory Notices:

Served	453

Nuisances Found:

Defective drains	243
Obstructed drains	470
Defective W.Cs	119
Defective W.C. fittings	634
Defective water fittings	257
Defective rainwater pipes	107
Defective eaves gutters	190
Defective roofs	169
Defective wall plaster	78
Defective floors	17
Defective yard paving	4
Dampness	20
Premises dirty	62
Defective or no dust bin	218
Other minor defects	1,250
Suspected pollution of water in underground tank	57
Underground tank not insect proof	13
Brackish water tank not insect proof or no cover	3
Brackish water running to waste	275
Street water fittings found defective	79
Premises disinfected for infectious disease	83
Premises disinfected for vermin, etc.	15
Articles disinfected at Disinfecting Station	860
Visits of enquiry re Infectious Disease	505
Cases removed in the ambulance:	
Local	243
Bay	63
Samples of food and drugs taken for analysis	99
Samples of water taken for analysis	65
Visits to milk shops	115

Visits to eating houses, bakeries, etc.	1,789
Visits to mineral water factories	332
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	3,896
Vaccination notices served	382
Legal proceedings instituted	7

Food condemned as unsound:

Vide Food in Relation to Health and Disease page 51.

Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses in Gibraltar.

FOOD IN RELATION TO HEALTH AND DISEASE

Supplies of food have been adequate throughout the year. Essential commodities continued to be rationed to ensure an equitable distribution of all available supplies.

Groceries

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

Meat

Rationing of meat was discontinued this year. Beef, mutton and offal continued to be imported frozen, jointly with supplies for the services, stored in refrigerators by the military authorities and issued to butchers as and when required for the use of the civil population. No frozen pork has been available during the year, but the importation of fresh pork from Spain was permitted subject to the production of a satisfactory veterinary surgeon's certificate of fitness, and subsequent inspection and approval by the Superintendent of Markets or his staff. Small quantities of fresh meat were also imported by special arrangement from Spain for the exclusive use of the Hebrew Community.

Though supplies of meat have been adequate, recurrent and considerable rises in price have rendered the consumption of this commodity almost prohibitive to some sections of the community.

Supplies of poultry from Spain have been adequate, the prices ranging from 2/6d. to 3/- a pound. Small quantities of game have been available when in season.

Eggs

Supplies have been imported principally from Morocco and Spain. Prices ranged from 2/10d. to 5/4d. a dozen.

Fruit and Vegetables

Abundant supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables mostly of excellent quality have been imported daily from Spain for sale in the markets, shops in town or in the streets by itinerant licensed vendors. An average of sixty licenses were issued daily to such vendors throughout the year which represents a decrease of twenty compared with 1952.

Fish

Supplies of fish, though subject to inevitable fluctuations incidental to weather conditions and other influences outside the control of the Markets Authorities, may be said to have been generally adequate and varied.

The average amount of fish imported daily from Spain was 1,650 pounds, and did not differ materially from the previous year.

Supplies from Catalan Bay were so small as to be negligible.

All fish was inspected by the Markets Inspectors before it was exposed for sale in the markets stalls or permitted to be taken into the streets for sale by itinerant vendors licensed by the Markets Authorities.

On an average thirty licenses were issued daily to itinerant fish vendors, an increase of ten over the corresponding figure of 1952.

Condemnation of Food

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

	Health Department Inspectors		Market Inspectors	
Fresh Fish			1,001	pounds
Cockels			430	pounds
Squids			50	pounds
Lobsters			40	pounds
Prawns			15	pounds
Frozen Ox Livers			76	pounds
Frozen Beef			29	pounds
Fresh Beef			16	pounds
Fowls			25	in number
Rabbits			1	in number
Cooked Ham	403½	pounds		
Smoked Gammon	2,539½	pounds		
Luncheon Meat	624	pounds		
Tinned Beef	326	pounds		
Tinned Sausages	26	pounds		
Lunch Tongue	42	pounds		
Tinned Bacon	88	pounds		
Pork Luncheon	238	pounds		
Brawn	408	pounds		
Smoked Herrings	1,200	pounds		
Cheese	74	pounds		

	Health Department Inspectors		Market Inspectors
Liver Cheese	152	pounds	
Flour	42	bags	
Tinned Milk	46	tins	
Salmon	100	tins	
Fruit Cake	482	pounds	
Chocolate	159	dozens	
Sweets	42	pounds	
Liquorice Sticks	174	dozens	
Fruit Jam	63	pounds	

Milk

The average daily importation of fresh cows and goats milk from Spain amounted to approximately 160 pints which represents a very considerable decrease when compared with 450 pints imported daily in 1952. Supplies may therefore be said to have been essentially tinned products — condensed or evaporated, which continued to be rationed at one tin (approximately two pints) per person. Children under ten were allocated extra rations.

All fresh milk must conform with the standards prescribed by the Milk and Dairies Bye-laws which also require imported fresh milk to be boiled or pasteurized in Gibraltar before it is sold to the public, and strict control was maintained and frequent samples were taken and analysed to ensure compliance with these requirements.

Legal proceedings were instituted against purveyors and vendors on four occasions for infringements of the milk laws, and in every case the persons concerned were convicted and fined. One of these purveyors was permanently debarred from engaging in the milk trade for recurrent grave offences, whilst the licence of another was cancelled and its renewal suspended for a period of twelve months for similar reasons.

Ice-Cream

All premises wherein ice-creams are manufactured must be registered with the City Council in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Ordinance, and all such premises were inspected personally by the Medical Officer of Health before registration was effected to ensure strict compliance with the statutory requirements with regards to the sanitary conditions, fittings and equipment.

These establishments as well as all shops, refrigerators and vehicles used for the sale, storing or transport of ice-creams were frequently inspected by the Sanitary Inspectors and the utmost vigilance exerted to ensure the purity of the products and to safeguard the consumers. Besides locally-manufactured articles, considerable quantities of ice-creams were imported regularly from reputable firms in the United Kingdom and stored in refrigerators pending distribution to the public.

The sale of these products is conditional to their being sold in the original sealed wrappers or containers as issued by the manufacturers and subject to the same sanitary requirements regulating those produced in Gibraltar.

Numerous samples of all products both locally manufactured and imported were taken and examined bacteriologically in the Council's Laboratories, and it speaks well for the manufacturers and purveyors that none were found contaminated.

Eating Houses, Confectioneries and Cafes

All premises where meat or fish is prepared by any process of cooking or which are used for the preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food must be registered with the City Council in compliance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Ordinance, whilst purveyors and vendors of refreshments, confectionery, cakes, sweets, fruit or shell fish as well as the premises used for these trades must be registered under the Council's Food Bye-Laws.

All food catering establishments were regularly inspected at frequent intervals by the Department's Inspectors to ensure compliance with the food laws and the highest possible standards of hygiene in the storing, handling, preparation and serving of food.

One thousand, seven hundred and eighty-nine such inspections were made during the year, in the course of which advice was given to purveyors on measures for the prevention of contamination of food, and suggestions made on the utilization of available space and facilities to the best possible advantage.

Food Poisoning

No large outbreaks of food poisoning were notified during the year. Of two notifications received, one concerned a single individual, whilst the other was a familial incident involving three persons. The causes of both remained undetermined.

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

New dwellings continued to be erected by the Government during 1953 in pursuance of the Housing Scheme. MacMillan House and Stanley Building, two tenement buildings including eighteen and twenty flats respectively which were started in 1952 were completed and put into service during the year, whilst three buildings comprising a total of forty-nine flats were placed under construction and it is envisaged will be available for habitation early in 1954.

Notwithstanding the construction of new houses which has continued unabated since the repatriation of the population, the position with respect to overcrowding must continue to be viewed with concern, for apart from the considerable number of families occupying Nissen Huts and other such temporary structures who will eventually have to be rehoused, there are still many living under overcrowded unhygienic conditions or in old dilapidated dwellings and damp, dark basement tenements which but for the scarcity of accommodation would be condemned as unfit for human habitation.

Though repairs might be effected to some of these premises which would render them serviceable as dwellings, at least during the current critical period, the high cost of materials and building operations does not encourage house owners to undertake any but the most urgent repairs, whilst the difficulties of providing alternate temporary accommodation (which is virtually non-existent) renders the reconstruction of such houses by the more enterprising an almost insoluble problem. The provision of satisfactory decanting accommodation is an urgent necessity without which the reconstruction of some existing buildings, which though only fit to be demolished are still being inhabited, and repairs essential to prevent the complete dilapidation of many others cannot be undertaken.

One hundred and fifty-seven houses were inspected and reported upon by the Sanitary staff in compliance with requests from the Commissioner of Lands and Works for information related to the living conditions of applicants for Government owned houses, or following complaints made direct to the Public Health Department by persons seeking improved accommodation, whilst no less than four hundred and forty-six applications for permission to sublet civilian accommodation were investigated and recommendations made thereon.

I have commented on the practice of subletting in my annual reports for previous years, suffice it therefore to say that this figure represents an increase of over sixty per cent compared with the number of investigations carried out in 1952, and that this practice is doing a dis-service not only to many unfortunates who are living in overcrowded dwellings, but to those who are endeavouring to improve their living conditions.

My thanks are due to the Commissioner of Lands and Works for the following information respecting the progress of the Government Housing Programme during the year 1953.

Houses Completed — permanent

MacMillan House	18 flats
Stanley Building	20 flats

Houses Under Construction — permanent

Witham's Garden Site	22 flats
Willis's Road	19 flats
Prison Warders Quarters	8 flats

Town Planning

Plans for the erection of new buildings, improvements to existing structures and other constructional projects were considered at meetings of the Central Planning Commission, appointed under the provisions of the Building (Interim Control) Ordinance, which were held regularly throughout the year.

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

AMBULANCE SERVICE

A fleet of four ambulances is maintained by the City Council primarily for the conveyance of persons suffering from infectious diseases, but which in fact constitutes the only Ambulance Service available for the transport of civilian patients and those landed from the Bay.

A total of three hundred and six cases were conveyed by the Ambulances during the year, two hundred and forty-three from the town and sixty-three from the Bay.

Eleven of the local cases and sixteen landed from the Bay were patients suspected of or suffering from infectious diseases, the rest were accidents or persons suffering from non-infectious conditions.

	Local Cases	Bay Cases
Tuberculosis	5	5
Typhoid Fever	2	4
Small Pox	—	1
Chicken Pox	—	1
Meningitis	2	1
Pneumonia	2	3
Venereal Disease	—	1
Rheumatic Fever	—	1
Maternity Cases	12	—
Mental Cases	29	1
Appendicitis	4	7
Heart Disease	11	—
Fractures and Injuries	58	14
Miscellaneous (medical and surgical cases)	118	24
Totals	243	63

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 1953.

Months	Beds and Mattresses	Bolsters and Pillows	Blankets and Quilts	Sheets	Counterpanes	Books	Sundries	Totals
January	14	23	27	17	3	—	37	121
February	10	14	13	12	3	—	32	84
March	10	13	16	8	3	—	22	72
April	34	26	19	16	—	3	56	154
May	12	17	12	10	6	—	29	86
June	6	9	8	5	2	—	5	35
July	6	10	10	7	4	—	31	68
August	6	6	4	9	1	—	9	35
September	18	16	18	19	2	—	23	96
October	4	4	5	3	—	—	7	23
November	4	6	5	4	—	—	2	21
December	6	6	9	10	3	—	31	65
Totals	130	150	146	120	27	3	284	860

MEDICAL WORK DONE FOR THE COUNCIL

One hundred Council employees were medically examined during the year. The majority were routine examinations to determine the fitness of applicants for employment, a few were for the purpose of making recommendations related to retirement from the Council's service for reasons of health.

Applicants suspected of suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis were referred to the Physician, King George V. Hospital for radiological examination.

All workmen engaged in handling tar or tar products in the Council's Gas Department were examined for early signs of tar dermatitis, but no evidence of this condition was found in any of these employees.

January	1
February	13
March	3
April	10
May	5
June	—
July	2
August	1
September	3
October	3
November	7
December	52
Total	100

OTHER MATTERS CONCERNED WITH THE HEALTH OF GIBRALTAR

Board of Health

The Board of Health constitutes the principal co-ordinating body in medical matters between the Medical Services of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, the Colonial Government and the Public Health Services.

The following is a summary of the subjects which were discussed and on which recommendations were made at Meetings of the Board which were held regularly throughout the year:—

Supply of oxygen to hospitals.
De-ratisation of vessels.
The Isolation Hospital.
Regulations concerning Puerperal Fever and Ophthalmia Neonatorum.
Undulant Fever.
Rabies.
Reconstituted Milk.
Control of venereal diseases.
Statutory control of the sale of sulphonamides and antibiotics.

General Practitioners Service

The number of medical practitioners engaged in general practice appearing on the register at the end of 1953 was eight, a ratio of approximately 1 to 3,000 population. The majority also hold part-time appointments as medical officers with the Colonial Government, an arrangement which ensures a high degree of co-operation between the hospitals, Child Welfare and School Medical Services, and the general practitioner service, and which redounds to the benefit of both patients and the various services concerned.

Nursing Services

The number of nurses registered under the Nurses Registration Regulations up to the 31st December, 1953 was nine. Two of these are State Registered and the remaining seven hold local nursing certificates and are employed in the Colonial Hospital. These figures do not include the Colonial Nursing Sisters.

The number of midwives remained at five and it may be said that practically all domiciliary general nursing is almost essentially done by Sisters of the Religious Order of Bon Secours.

District Medical Services

A district nurse was appointed in November to assist the District Medical Officer with the care of indigent patients, and a special clinic has been opened in the Exchange Buildings where such patients may attend for advice and treatment by the Medical Officer. It is envisaged that this arrangement will help to decongest the overcrowding which is an objectionable feature of the out-patient department of the Hospital.

The appointment of a district nurse is a welcome measure which fills a long felt need and will undoubtedly help to foster the domiciliary care of the indigent sick and particularly the aged and infirm, thus relieving the pressure on hospital beds, but however energetic and conscientious such a person may prove, she cannot be expected to attain the impossible, and from my personal knowledge of the position with regards to the nursing requirements of the community, I am convinced that to ensure that all indigent persons will receive reasonably adequate attention, the services of at least two nurses are necessary, and these considerations apply equally to the number of District Medical Officers.

Apropos of this subject, "indigence" is an ugly word conveying the impression of abject poverty and destitution, and though because of the altruism and charitable disposition characteristic of the Gibraltarian the number of persons or families in our community to which such a term is applicable is so small as to be almost negligible, there are, however, many who though by exercising strict economy are able to keep their families is not in comfort at least reasonably well fed, clothed and housed under normal conditions, yet whose incomes will not permit of savings to provide for the extra demands made on their budget by the expenses incidental to an illness. Medical fees may prove considerable and modern medicines are costly and under the circumstances such persons who should properly be classed as temporarily "necessitous," may, unless effectively helped during the critical period, through necessity be forced to dispose of belongings, contract irredeemable debts and progressively losing morale and self-confidence, lapse into a state of indigency with all its inherent evil implications.

Though I am aware that a considerable number of persons so placed may and do normally receive treatment free or at a small cost in hospital, incidentally the most expensive way of treating disease, it is my view that they should qualify for domiciliary medical attention under the same conditions, at any rate until such time as a sickness insurance scheme is organized, and that admission to hospital should only be resorted to in cases when either because of the nature of the disease or of the environmental circumstances institutional treatment is considered necessary.

That the promotion of health, well being and a satisfactory standard of living in the community is the essential raison d'être of a Social Welfare Service is so obvious as to hardly need mentioning, but it is not always appreciated that the prevention of the development of a train of circumstances leading to a state of indigence, such as described above, by timely help to individuals or families is an important policy which cannot be dissociated from other measures designed for the attainment of these ideals, and I would therefore submit that though the professional work of the staff constituting the District Medical Service is the concern of the Medical Department, the service should be closely integrated with the Social Welfare Department, (their activities being joint contributions to the same end) bearing in mind that apart from the humanitarian aspect, the cost of such medical treatment is almost negligible when compared with that involved in the rehabilitation of an individual or a family once fallen into and become habituated to living in a state of destitution and penury, and that the rehabilitation of such a family, always an arduous uphill process, is not invariably crowned with success.

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

The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance was amended to include 3-Methoxy-N-methylmorphinan, and the salts and preparations thereof in the list of drugs to which the provisions of Part III of the Ordinance are applicable.

The Colonial Hospital Ordinance was amended in respect of some of the conditions of admission and treatment.

The Pensions Ordinance was amended to empower the Governor in Council to grant pensions or gratuities to officers on termination of service under circumstances when a pension or gratuity cannot otherwise be granted under the provisions of this Ordinance.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

I am indebted to Dr. E. A. J. Imossi, the Pathologist-Analyst for the information, and to Mr. H. J. Bruzon, A.I.M.L.T., Chief Laboratory Assistant and Deputy Public Analyst, for his assistance in the preparation of this summary of the work of the Laboratories.

Fifteen thousand, eight hundred and sixty-five investigations were carried out on specimens submitted to the Laboratories during 1953, representing a small increase over the corresponding figures the preceding year.

Of these, one thousand and ten were chemical and bacteriological examinations of water, foods and other materials performed to meet the requirements of the Public Health Department for the administration of the Food and Drugs Ordinance, and the determination of the purity of potable waters supplied to the public, whilst fourteen thousand, eight hundred and fifty-five were bacteriological, bio-chemical and pathological investigations necessary for the prevention and treatment of disease.

Serological investigations included one thousand, one hundred and fifty-four Wassermann Reactions and one thousand one hundred and ten Kahn Flocculation Tests.

There was a considerable rise in the number of blood grouping tests and Rhesus Factor investigations undertaken for purposes concerning pregnancy and blood transfusions, as well as in other haematological examinations which together provided a total of four thousand and fifty-two.

One thousand, four hundred and sixty-one smears of sputum were examined for the presence of Mycobacterium Tuberculosis, whilst twelve specimens of sputum, three of cerebro-spinal fluid and twenty of urine were investigated by culture for the same purpose.

One hundred and one specimens of tissues were submitted for histological examination.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE CITY LABORATORIES

I. For the Public Health Department, private Medical Practitioners, business firms and others.
II. For the Colonial Government Medical Services.
III. For the Army and Royal Air Force.
IV. For the Royal Navy.

Clinical Pathological Investigations	I.	II.	III.	IV.	Totals
BLOOD.					
(a) Serology					
Wassermann Reaction	106	708	20	320	1,154
Kahn Flocculation Tests	106	708	20	276	1,110
Gonococcal Fixation Tests	2	12	1	—	15
Widal Agglutination Tests	234	704	—	—	938
(b) Haematology					
Grouping tests for compatibility and Rhesus Factor. Erythrocyte Sedimentation Rates, fragility tests, Bleeding and ecagulation times	50	1,073	2	—	1,125
Erythrocyte, Leucocyte and differential counts. Mean cell diameter and Haemoglobin estimations	608	2,319	—	—	2.927
Films for Parasites	2	7	—	—	9
(c) Bacteriology					
Cultures for organisms	14	32	—	—	46
(d) Chemistry					
Including qualitative and quantitative investigations of Bio-chemical constituents	300	270	5	—	575
CEREBRO-SPINAL FLUID.					
(a) Cytological and Bio-chemical investigations	—	80	—	—	80
(b) Wassermann Reactions	—	16	—	—	16
Lange's Collodial Gold Tests	—	16	—	—	16
(c) Bacteriological investigations including cultures for organisms other than M. Tuberculosis	—	11	—	—	11
(d) Cultures for M. Tuberculosis	—	3	—	—	3
PLEURAL AND PERITONEAL EXUDATES, PUS AND OTHER PATHOLOGICAL FLUIDS.					
Cytological, Chemical and Bacteriological Investigations	36	101	—	—	137
URINE.					
(a) General physical and chemical examinations including tests for Acetone, Bile salts and pigments, indican, etc., and microscopic investigations of deposits	866	547	—	—	1,413
(b) Quantitative determinations of protein, glucose, chlorides, urea, etc.	572	252	—	—	824
(c) Cultures for organisms other than M. Tuberculosis	24	118	—	—	142
Cultures for M. Tuberculosis	4	16	—	—	20
FAECES.					
(a) Microscopical Examinations including detection of parasites and ova	34	76	—	—	110
(b) Chemical Investigations	1	30	3	—	34
(c) Cultures for organisms	208	138	—	—	346
SPUTUM.					
(a) Microscopical Examinations for organisms (other than M. Tuberculosis), malignant cells, fungi, etc.	10	31	—	—	41
(b) Examination of Smears for M. Tuberculosis	38	1,423	—	—	1,461
(c) Cultures for M. Tuberculosis	—	12	—	—	12
(d) Cultures for other organisms	10	31	—	—	41
GASTRIC AND DUODENAL JUICES.					
(a) Microscopical and Chemical Examinations	10	1,370	—	—	1,380
SWABS examined for C. Diphtheriae, Streptococcus Haemolyticus and other organisms	192	439	—	—	631
DARK GROUND EXAMINATIONS for T. Pallidum	10	1	—	—	11
TISSUE SPECIMENS for histological examinations	4	97	—	—	101
ANIMAL INOCULATIONS and Morbid Anatomical Examinations of animals	13	1	—	—	14
MISCELLANEOUS	101	11	—	—	112
PART II					
Bacteriological Examinations					
WATER (including mineral waters)	311	3	—	39	353
FOODS	34	—	—	—	34
Chemical Analyses					
WATER (including mineral waters)	447	—	—	39	486
FOODS AND DRUGS	119	—	—	1	120
OTHER MATERIALS	15	—	—	2	17
TOTALS	4,481	10,656	51	677	15,865

The following figures show the progressively increasing volume of work done in the Laboratories:—

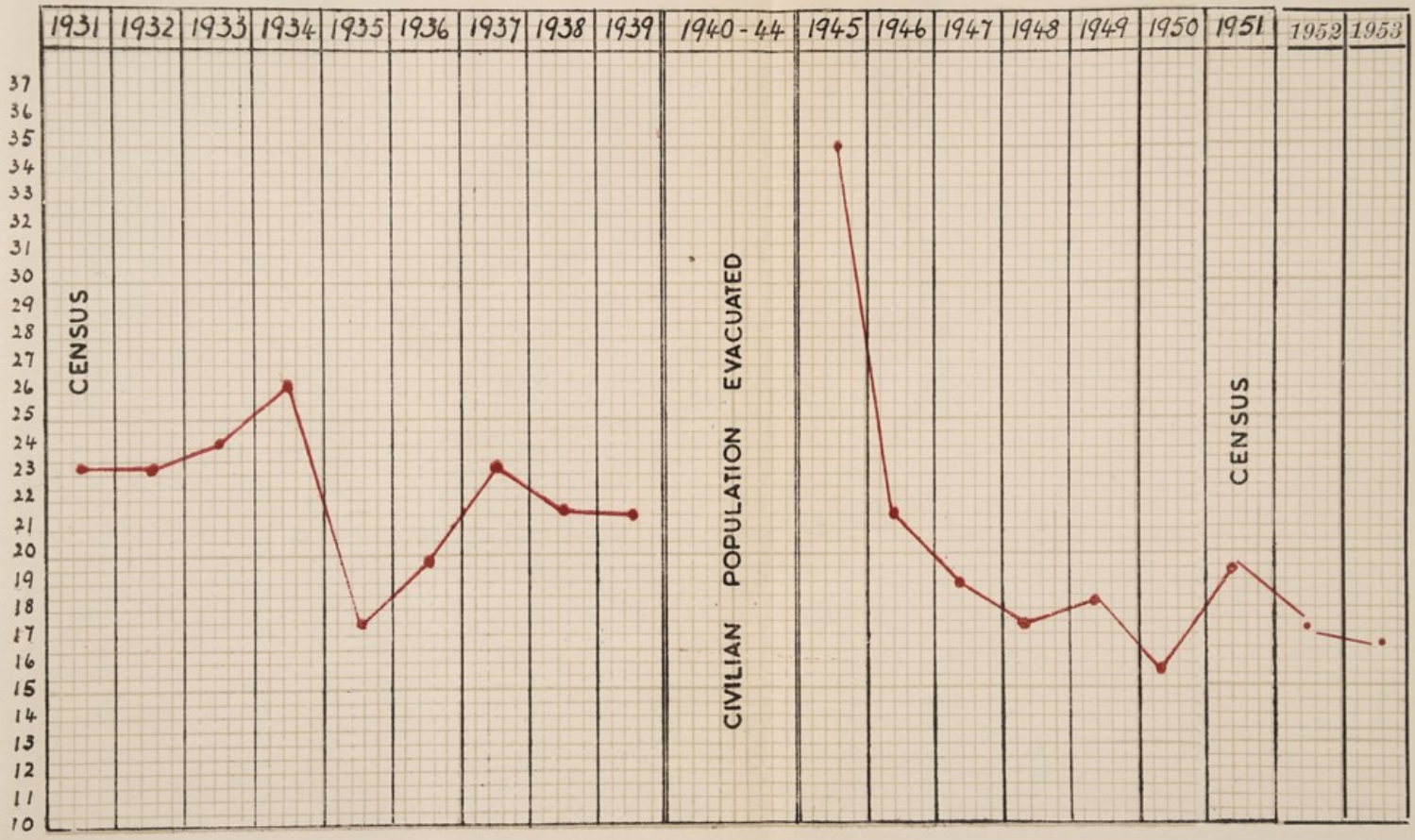
Year	Investigations
1939	5,612
1949	11,167
1950	13,632
1951	13,535
1952	15,844
1953	15,865

It is anticipated that with the progress being made in the treatment and prevention of diseases and the increase in the number of antibiotics and other potent drugs being used for therapeutic purposes, the administration of which often requires careful laboratory control, demands for investigations made on the laboratories will continue to increase.

A number of Yellow Fever inoculations were performed during the year at the Laboratories which are recognized as an approved centre for such purposes by the World Health Organization.

BIRTH RATE PER 1000 CIVIL POPULATION

1931 - 39 & 1945 - 53



AVERAGE TRIENNIAL PERIODS

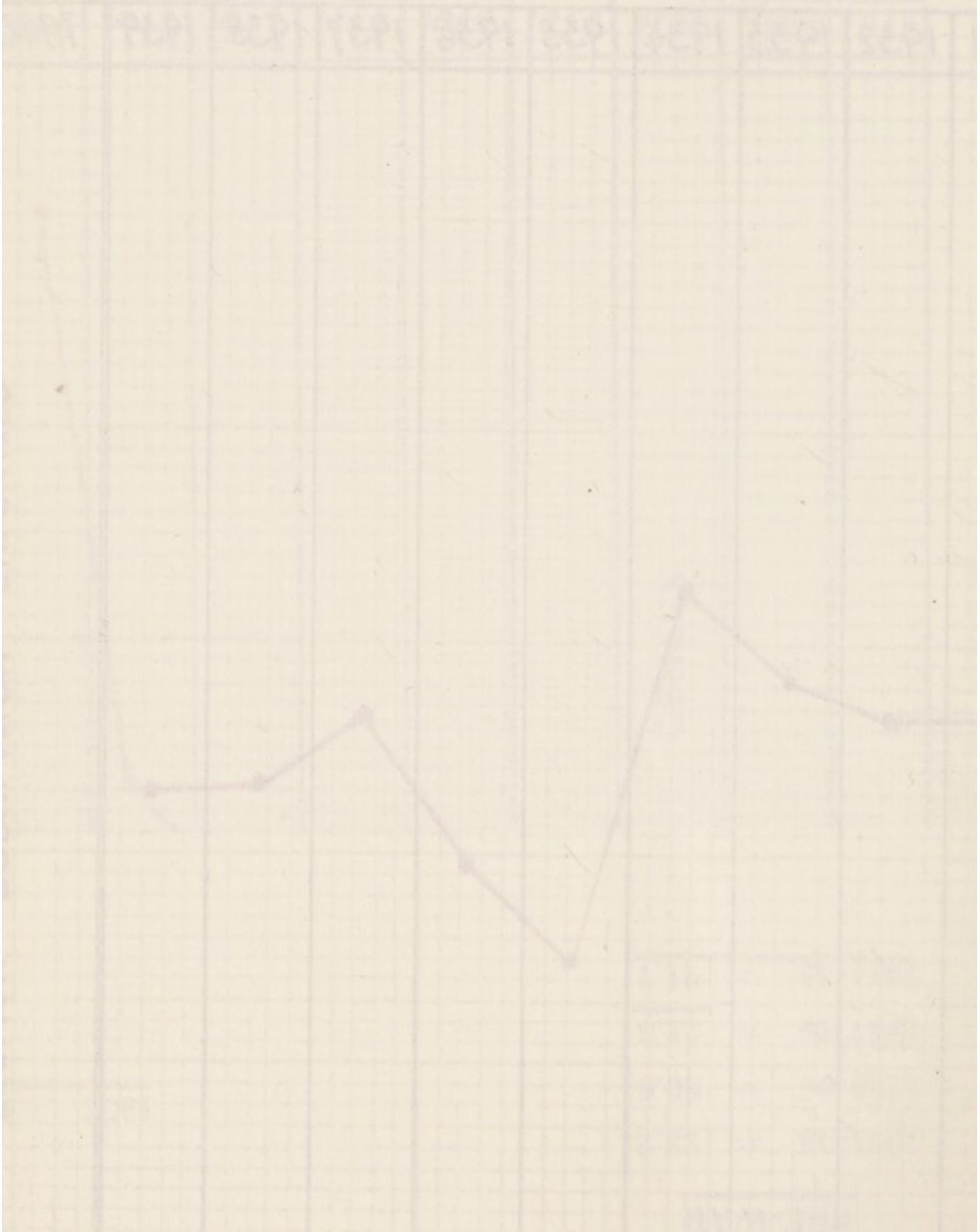
PRE-WAR

1931-33	=	23.2
1934-36	=	20.6
1937-39	=	21.5
1931-39	=	21.7

1953 = 16.66

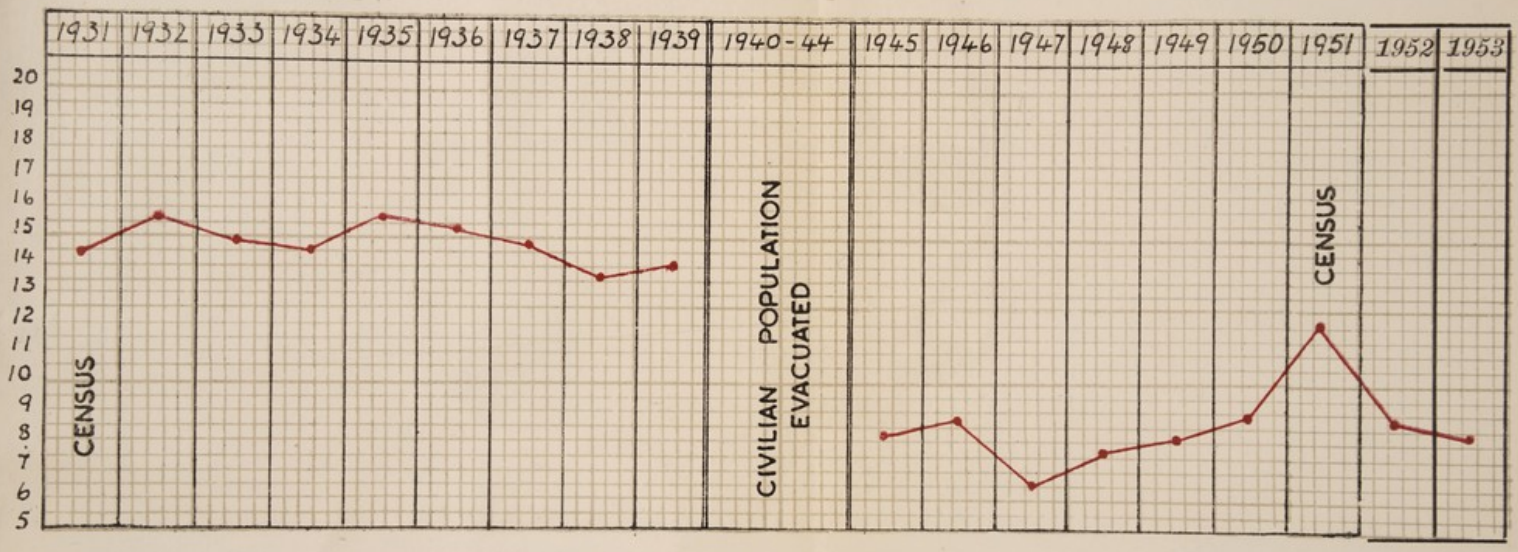
POST-WAR

1945-47	=	24.9
1948-50	=	17.2
1951-53	=	17.8
1945-53	=	19.9



DEATH RATE PER 1000 CIVIL POPULATION

1931 - 39 & 1945 - 53



AVERAGE TRIENNIAL PERIODS

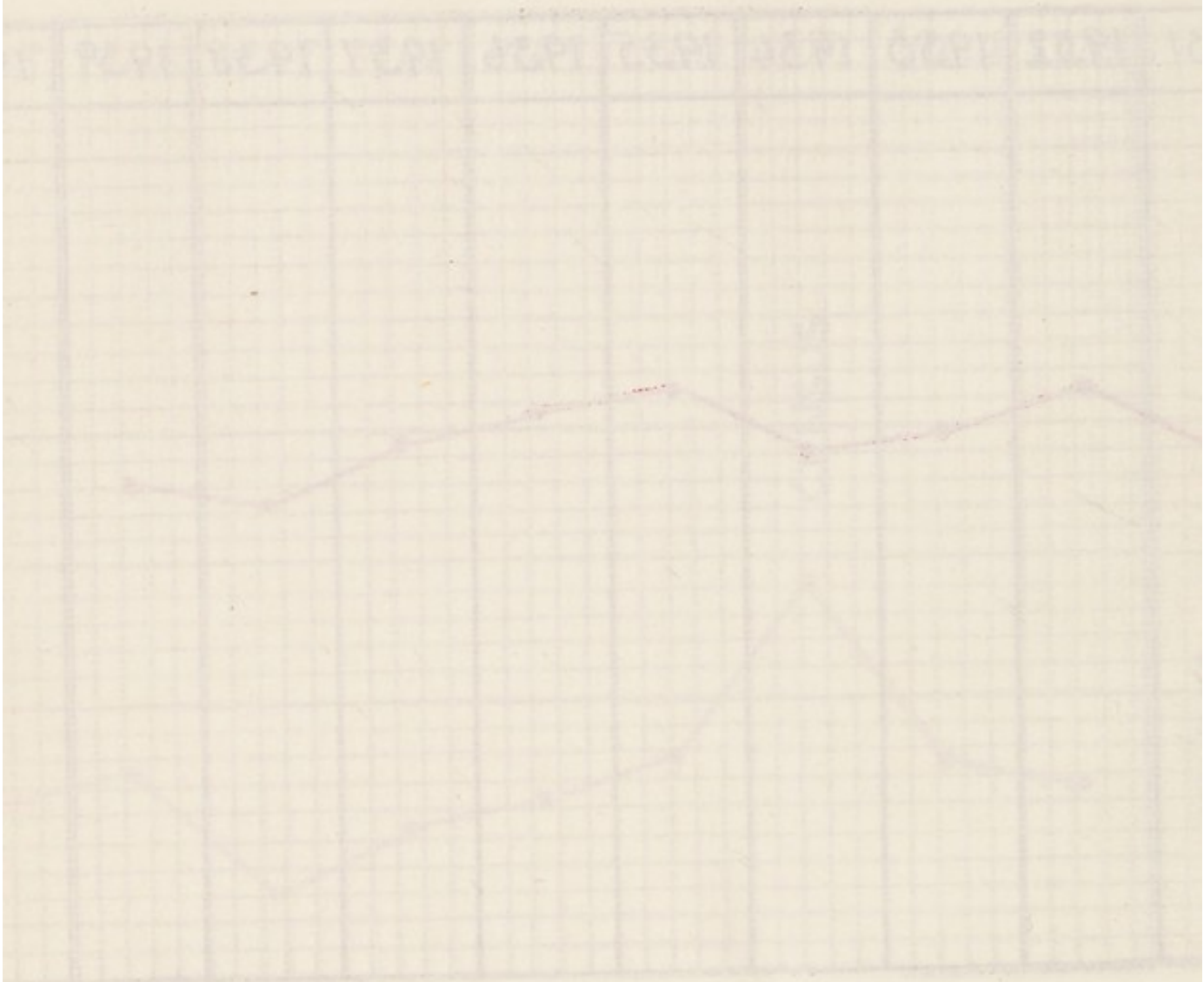
PRE-WAR

1931-33	=	14.9
1934-36	=	15.2
1937-39	=	14.3
1931-39	=	14.8

1953 = 8.21

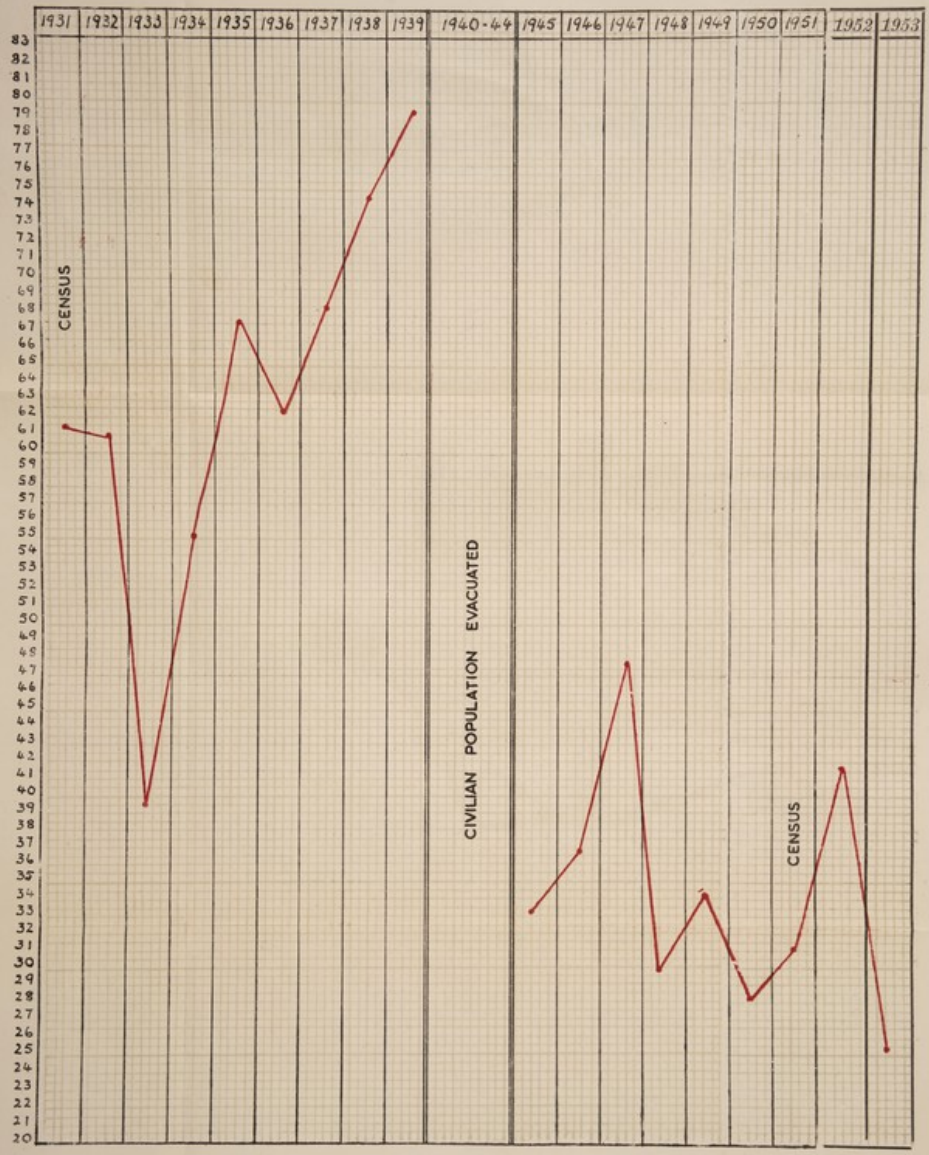
POST-WAR

1945-47	=	7.9
1948-50	=	8.2
1951-53	=	9.6
1945-53	=	8.5



INFANT MORTALITY PER 1000 BIRTHS CIVIL POPULATION

1931 - 39 & 1945 - 53



AVERAGE TRIENNIAL PERIODS

PRE-WAR

1931-33 = 53.6
1934-36 = 61.4
1937-39 = 73.9
1931-39 = 62.9

1953 = 25.44

POST-WAR

1945-47 = 38.8
1948-50 = 30.6
1951-53 = 32.6
1945-53 = 34