

Annual report on the health of Gibraltar.

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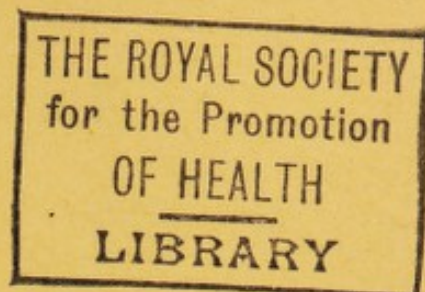
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City Council of Gibraltar

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF GIBRALTAR

FOR THE YEAR

1954

BY

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

Medical Officer of Health,

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

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

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

†Temporary appointment.

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The Medical Officer of Health.

The Royal Naval Representative.

The Royal Air Force Representative.

The Port Medical Officer.

Secretary : J. L. HOARE, Esq.

PREFACE

I have the honour to present this report on the Health of Gibraltar for the year 1954.

Though the vital statistics show a rise in the death rate and in the infant mortality rate as compared with the preceding year, it may be said that the health of the community remained satisfactory throughout 1954.

Two hundred and twenty-seven deaths from all causes occurred during the year providing a crude death rate of 9.10 per thousand total civil population. This represents an increase of twenty-eight deaths over the total number recorded in 1953 and constitutes the second highest death rate in the decennial period since the repatriation, the highest, 12.08, recorded in 1951 having been due to increased mortality amongst the aged during an epidemic of influenza.

Sixty-one per cent of all deaths occurred in persons over 65 years of age and were attributed mainly to diseases of the heart and circulatory system and other degenerative conditions incidental to ageing, which constituted the principal causes of death.

Cancer maintained the invidious position of being the second highest cause of mortality. Forty-five persons died from cancer and other malignant tumours during 1954 representing 20.8 per cent of all deaths and providing the highest figure recorded since 1947. Twelve or 26.6 per cent of all deaths from cancer were attributed to malignant tumours of the respiratory organs, all the persons concerned being males.

Though the number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was slightly higher than in 1953, the disease again proved a minor cause of mortality.

There was a small increase in the number of children born from the resident population compared with the preceding year and, notwithstanding the increased mortality, births outnumbered deaths by one hundred and seventy-two.

Thirteen infants died before attaining the age of twelve months which represents an infant mortality rate of 33.5 per thousand and a small increase over the corresponding rate for 1953. Nine of these babies did not survive four weeks from birth and their deaths were attributed to prematurity,

developmental defects and accidents incidental to parturition. I have commented on the significance of this in the text of the report, suffice it here to say that it indicates the necessity of wider measures for the ante-natal care of mothers.

Notwithstanding minor outbreaks of Measles and Chicken-pox, the incidence of infectious diseases proved the lowest since 1950, the only noteworthy features being the occurrence of an unusual number of sporadic cases of Undulant Fever and the virtual absence of Diphtheria.

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

Judging from the School Medical Officer's report, a high standard of health was maintained amongst the school children throughout the year, ninety-eight per cent of eight hundred and thirteen children who were examined having been found "perfectly healthy." It is encouraging to note that he considers the parents have shown a progressive interest and co-operated well in these examinations.

In my annual report for 1953 I commented on the decline in the number of attendances at the Infant Welfare Clinics and I note with concern in the Government Paediatrician's report a further decrease in attendances during 1954. No explanation for the decrease is given but if as would appear probable it has been due to the failure of the poorer mothers to attend, as was the case in the preceding year, it is indeed to be deplored for such mothers are most in need of help and advice, and all possible facilities and encouragement should be offered to persuade them to bring their babies to the Clinics. It has been said in diverse ways and on many occasions that the wealth of a nation depends on the health of its citizens. These babies needless to say are the citizens of the future, and apart from sentimental or humane considerations, viewing the matter from a purely material angle, it is not unreasonable to assume that whatever effort or moneys are devoted to promoting their health at such a fundamental stage of their development will eventually return ample dividends.

A number of new tenement dwellings were constructed by Government and placed into service during the year, but notwithstanding the considerable number of new buildings which have been built since the repatriation of the population, the position in respect of overcrowding still remains critical and affords no grounds for complacency.

Ten years have now elapsed since the repatriation of the population in 1945 and the occasion appears to me opportune to review the results of measures related to public health and social welfare which have been introduced since that event, and compare the present position with that in the two decennial periods preceding the war in so far as statistical data and other relevant information available will permit.

In the epidemiological field the decline in the incidence of the preventible infectious diseases which was evident before the war has been accentuated during the decennium under review. Smallpox has been eliminated principally as the result of strict enforcement of the vaccination laws, the incidence of Undulant Fever, Typhoid, Dysentery and other enteric infections is inconsiderable, whilst Diphtheria has become a comparatively rare disease. Puerperal Pyrexia has lost its terrors mainly due to the introduction of sulphonamides and antibiotics, whilst gastro-enteritis has ceased to be the cause of the high infant mortality and morbidity which obtained before the war. Changes in the incidence of Tuberculosis can only be surmised because of the incomplete notification of the disease before the evacuation, but it would appear probable that no significant change has occurred. The decrease in mortality has however been remarkable and must be attributed to the provision of modern methods of treatment at King George V. Hospital and the introduction of social measures to aid patients to maintain their dependants whilst undergoing treatment. These measures have undoubtedly gone far towards breaking down long-standing prejudice and misconceptions and encouraged sufferers to seek advice in the early stages of the disease.

The statistical tables and charts which are included in this report show that the average death rate for the period 1945-54 was virtually half that for 1920-9 and little over half that for 1930-9. The birth rate after attaining a not unexpected high peak in 1945 has maintained a generally lower level than in the decennium immediately preceding the war, though the decrease has not been proportionate to the fall in the death rate. The most striking feature however, and likewise most gratifying is the fall in the infant mortality rate which in 1945-54 averaged approximately a third of that of 1920-9, and just over half of the corresponding rate for 1930-9, in other words, whereas on an average 99 out of every 1,000 infants born during the period 1920-9 and 63 out of every 1,000 born during 1930-9 did not survive a year from birth, the number of such deaths was reduced to 33 during the decennium 1945-54.

When it is realised that the infant mortality rate is generally accepted as the best index available at present to the social circumstances of a community and that it tends to be high in places where overcrowding, bad housing, and poor sanitation together with maternal ignorance and neglect exist, the significance of the marked decline in infant deaths can be fully appreciated.

That notwithstanding the disruption caused by the evacuation, the hardships and difficulties incidental to the early days of resettlement and the overcrowding and insanitary environmental conditions which prevailed for a considerable time after and which efforts at amelioration have only partially abated, such a striking improvement in the deaths of newly-born infants should have been achieved is indeed encouraging and speaks well for the care and devotion of parents in our community towards their children, for without their intelligent and willing co-operation measures to promote child health however wisely conceived are apt to prove fruitless. It also reflects much credit on all who have been concerned with advancing the standards of sanitation, the introduction of social measures to promote general welfare and particularly that of mothers and infants, and not least, I venture to add, on the unremitting vigilance of sanitarians past and present who under the aegis of the City Council have waged incessant war against filth, foulness, fevers and folly and other forces inimical to health.

I cannot however conclude this brief survey without a note of warning. Though much has been accomplished still more remains to be done and satisfaction over past laurels cannot be allowed to weaken endeavour to attain further improvements, or undue complacency to provide the danger of retrogression, for in public health as in most affairs of men, nothing is stationary; there is either progress or decline.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my gratitude to the members of the Council for their courtesy and support, to my colleagues in other departments for their valuable co-operation and particularly to the staff of the Health Department for their loyalty and unfailing help at all times.

J. A. DURANTE,
Medical Officer of Health.
Public Health Department,

City Hall,

Gibraltar, 19th April, 1955.

CITY COUNCIL OF GIBRALTAR

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Summary of Vital Statistics for the year 1954

Total area of Gibraltar Territory	1,387 acres
Area of the City	104 acres
Estimated Total Civil Population of Gibraltar	24,921 persons
Estimated Fixed Civil Population of Gibraltar	23,044 persons
*Births in Fixed Civil Population,	
Males — 202 } Females — 186 } ...	388
Birth Rate per 1,000 Fixed Civil Population...	16.83
Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Civil Population...	16.65
*Deaths in Fixed Civil Population	216
Death Rate per 1,000 Fixed Civil Population...	9.37
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Total Civil Population...	9.10
Infantile Mortality Rate Fixed Civil Population...	33. 5
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	0.43

*Vide note on Page 12.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1954

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

1954 as a whole was rather dry, the total rainfall being nearly 12 inches less than in 1953. There was an unusually prolonged dry spell from May to October, but March and April were both abnormally wet. The year's total rainfall was 24.82 inches compared with 36.62 inches in 1953. Sunshine was slightly deficient, the daily average of 7.99 hours being 0.1 hours below the period mean but nearly 0.6 hours above the 1953 figure. The mean temperature of 64.8°F was, however, over 1°F above normal, but well below that for the previous year. The highest temperature recorded was 92°F on both the 28th July and 23rd September, while the lowest was 33°F on the 1st and 2nd February; the lowest figure recorded in February for the past 78 years. Mean humidities were slightly above normal and ranged from 82 per cent at night to 63 per cent in mid-afternoon. Westerly winds exceeded easterly in frequency, the excess being greatest in March, February and June in that order, but their predominance only amounted to some 19 per cent against the period average of 37 per cent and, in fact, easterlies were more frequent throughout the last six months.

January was unsettled but provided some lengthy fine spells and had less than the normal rainfall, while sunshine and day temperatures were up to the average for the month.

February was wet and rather cold during the first fortnight, but dry with plentiful sunshine in the second half. The first five days were exceptionally cold with night ground frosts and slight snow fell on the 4th. An appreciable fall over nearby Spain on the night of the 2nd/3rd covered the hills around the Bay with a mantle of snow which persisted for over a week — probably a unique occurrence. Temperatures averaged below the normal especially at night, but sunshine total was in excess and rainfall normal. Westerly winds were unusually frequent.

March was excessively wet and somewhat cool up to the 16th, but much drier, brighter and warmer thereafter. The

total rainfall of 7.58 inches was the highest recorded in March since 1932, but sunshine was nearly up to average and the mean day temperature well above the seasonal level. Westerly winds were abnormally predominant.

April experienced very changeable weather and was rather wetter than usual, but the total sunshine was nearly up to normal, and the mean day temperature above average although the nights were cool.

May provided remarkably dry warm conditions and an excess of sunshine. The total rainfall of 0.02 inches was the lowest May figure back to 1930, and the maximum temperature of 85°F on the 30th was the highest recorded since 1934.

June also proved unusually dry and warm with abundant sunshine. The frequency of Westerly winds was higher than normal.

July, as usual, was practically rainless, and somewhat warmer than the average with a slight excess of sunshine. It was marred to some extent, however, by the marked predominance of humid Levanter conditions, and there were foggy periods on several nights and early mornings.

August also produced no measurable rain and excessive warmth by day, but sunshine was a little less plentiful than usual and many nights were decidedly cool. The minimum temperature of 57°F on the 23rd was 4°F below the lowest recorded in this month, at least since 1930.

September continued the completely dry spell although this month normally has over an inch of rain. Both sunshine and mean day temperatures were above the period average.

October was also without recordable rain whereas a fall of over 2 inches is usual in this month. Despite a deficiency of sunshine both day and night temperatures were above average.

November at last produced a decided break in the long persistent dry spell of the previous six months and had nearly the normal amount of rain. Mean day and night temperatures were again above normal but sunshine was considerably deficient.

December was unsettled and rather mild despite a decided lack of sunshine, and provided about the average rainfall for the time of year. Thundery conditions were frequent and a waterspout was seen to the east on the 20th.

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

YEAR 1954 Month	Mean Pres- sure at MSL	TEMPERATURE OF										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								
		0300	0900	1500	2100																	
January	1020.8	50.0	50.9	57.7	52.5	59.0	48.2	53.6	65	15th	39	9th	25	9th	79	76	62	76	3.0	3.6	4.1	21
February.....	1016.6	49.6	51.7	58.4	52.4	59.6	47.4	53.5	65	22nd, 26th	33	1st, 2nd	21	4th	79	74	58	76	3.0	3.5	4.0	3.4
March	1014.3	54.9	47.1	62.3	56.8	64.3	52.6	58.5	72	20th	45	6th	35	1st, 6th	86	80	67	82	4.3	4.3	5.1	4.2
April.....	1016.3	55.8	60.1	65.8	58.8	67.5	53.7	60.6	76	16th	47	7th	41	9th 12th	83	73	61	77	2.6	4.5	4.2	2.7
May	1016.2	61.1	66.7	72.3	64.2	74.7	59.3	67.0	85	30th	51	5th	39	4th	82	69	59	78	2.7	3.8	3.3	2.0
June	1016.2	65.0	71.0	77.1	67.5	79.6	63.2	71.4	86	21st, 27th	59	3rd, 6th 11th	51	6, 7th 11th 23rd	79	66	54	75	0.8	2.7	1.6	1.6
July	1016.4	68.3	73.7	80.5	71.7	82.9	66.4	74.7	92	28th	58	3rd	47	3rd	81	70	55	76	1.5	2.0	0.6	1.2
August	1015.3	68.5	73.0	79.5	71.1	82.0	66.1	74.1	89	7th, 8th 9th, 20th	57	23rd	52	23rd	79	68	55	73	1.6	3.0	1.6	1.5
September ...	1018.6	67.3	71.4	77.5	69.6	80.1	65.2	72.7	92	23rd	61	22nd 29th	55	29th	83	72	62	78	2.5	3.2	2.6	2.5
October	1020.1	65.1	68.3	73.5	66.9	75.6	63.4	69.5	86	24th	57	27th 31st	48	28th	86	77	67	83	3.0	4.5	3.4	2.3
November.....	1016.8	61.3	62.7	65.9	62.2	67.5	59.3	63.4	74	11th	51	22nd	45	22nd	87	83	77	86	4.1	5.4	4.9	4.3
December	1020.5	56.2	57.4	61.1	57.4	62.2	53.8	58.0	68	6th	47	10th 11th 24th	38	25th	81	78	73	80	3.5	4.6	4.5	3.1
Year	1017.3	60.3	63.7	69.3	62.6	71.3	58.2	64.8	92	28/7/54 23/9/54	33	1/2 2/2	21	4/2	82	74	63	78	2.7	3.8	3.3	2.7

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

YEAR 1954 Month	RAINFALL			SUNSHINE		WEATHER								
	Total mm	Max in 24 hrs. (00-00)	Date	Daily Mean	o/o of Pos- sible	No. of Days of								
						Rain	Snow	Hail	Thun- der	Over- cast Sky	Clear Sky	Gales	Fog	Frost
Jan	69.3	26.0	20th	5.86	58.6	14	0	0	0	4	10	0	0	3
Feb	67.9	38.0	2nd	7.37	67.7	6	1	0	0	2	5	0	0	4
Mar	192.6	46.7	13th	6.41	53.7	16	0	0	2	4	5	0	0	0
April	78.0	45.5	12th	8.08	61.4	10	0	1	3	2	5	0	0	0
May	0.4	0.4	15th	10.49	74.5	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	1	0
June	1.1	0.7	8th	11.70	80.3	2	0	0	0	0	14	0	2	0
July	Trace	Trace	19th	11.66	80.8	0	0	0	1	0	20	0	4	0
Aug	Trace	Trace	30th	10.29	75.9	Trace	0	0	0	0	14	0	5	0
Sept	Trace	Trace	21st	8.86	71.2	1	0	0	0	0	8	0	9	0
Oct	Trace	Trace	20th	6.82	60.5	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	4	0
Nov	96.7	45.7	1st	4.06	39.7	10	0	0	4	3	1	0	0	0
Dec	123.3	45.5	9th	4.25	43.6	9	0	0	1	3	4	1	0	0
Year	629.3	46.7	13/3 /54	7.99	64.0	69	1	1	11	19	95	1	25	7

WIND

Frequency at 0300, 0900, 1500 & 2100 G.M.T.

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

Force 8 = 34-40 Knots.

YEAR 1954 MONTHS	FORCE					DIRECTION							
	8 or over	6-7	4-5	1-3	Calm	N.	NE.	E.	SE.	S.	SW.	W.	NW.
January	—	11	44	53	16	3	—	28	5	—	4	49	19
February	—	10	55	39	8	2	2	18	5	—	4	57	16
March	—	13	50	56	5	—	2	10	5	2	17	77	6
April	—	7	45	57	11	2	9	31	9	2	18	30	8
May	—	—	43	69	12	—	9	33	11	—	14	36	9
June	—	—	56	61	3	—	3	35	7	—	20	47	5
July	—	—	45	64	15	—	5	57	8	—	13	22	4
August	—	—	40	78	6	—	10	53	2	—	15	31	7
September	—	—	32	72	16	—	8	43	7	—	10	34	2
October	—	—	49	60	15	—	4	58	5	—	5	27	10
November	—	6	55	48	11	—	6	50	5	1	6	32	9
December	1	16	61	38	8	—	7	50	3	—	11	37	8
Year	1	63	575	695	126	7	65	466	72	5	137	479	103

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:—

	Children				Totals
	Men	Women	Male	Female	
Gibraltarians	6,301	7,543	2,356	2,248	= 18,448)
Statutory Aliens ...	1,109	1,672	928	887	= 4,596)
Others Aliens	629	1,216	17	15	=
Totals	8,039	10,431	3,301	3,150	= 24,921

These figures represent an increase of 415 in the British Fixed Civil Population and of 185 in the Total Population as compared with the preceding year.

No records are available of the average number of persons entering and leaving Gibraltar daily during 1954.

The figures for the years 1949 to 1953 are as follows:—

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

The alterations in population since 1930 are shown below:—

How Estimated	British Subjects Fixed Population	Allen Subjects Floating Population	Total Population
Police Estimate end of 1930	15,526	922	16,448
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
„ „ „ „ 1954	23,044	1,877	24,921

*Deaths

Two hundred and sixteen deaths, ninety-eight males and one hundred and eighteen females were registered as having occurred in the resident British civil population during 1954 amounting to 9.37 per thousand. The corresponding figures for 1953 were 186 and 8.21 respectively. In addition there were eleven deaths amongst non-resident aliens providing a total of two hundred and twenty-seven deaths or 9.10 per thousand total civil population. Though this represents an increase of thirty deaths in the British population as compared with the preceding year, they were mainly contributed by the older age groups and mortality may be said to have maintained the low level established since the repatriation of the population in 1945.

Of the total number of deaths, one hundred and thirty-two amounting to 61 per cent of all deaths concerned persons

*Vide note on Page 12.

65 years of age or older and were attributed principally to cardio-vascular diseases, malignant tumours and degenerative organic conditions incidental to senility. The age group 55 and under 65 years contributed thirty-seven deaths.

Thus a total of one hundred and sixty-nine or 78 per cent of all deaths occurred in persons aged 55 or older, whilst forty-seven or 22 per cent concerned individuals who had not attained their fifty-fifth year.

The principal causes of death were:—

Cardio vascular diseases	48
Malignant neoplasms	45
Vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system	32
Diseases of the respiratory organs	12
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	10
Senility	8

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

Eight deaths from cardio-vascular diseases and one from vascular lesions of the central nervous system occurred in subjects under 55 years of age, the remainder in these two groups concerned individuals over that age.

Malignant neoplasms continued to constitute the second highest cause of mortality, the respiratory organs (twelve) being the most commonly affected closely followed by the stomach (eight). Deaths from these conditions totalled forty-five, twenty-six males and nineteen females, and contributed 20.8 per cent of all deaths. Of these, three occurred in persons under 35 years of age, seven in the 45 and under 55 years group, the others concerned persons 55 years or older.

The twelve neoplasms which originated in the respiratory organs included one in the Larynx and represent 26.6 per cent of all cancer deaths. All the patients were males and with the exception of three, were fifty-five years of age or older.

The mortality from cancer has increased progressively since 1947. The years 1947 to 1954 have contributed 26, 28, 25, 32, 32, 35, 39 and 45 deaths from the disease respectively.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis again proved a minor cause of mortality. Ten deaths were recorded.

One maternal death occurred which was attributed to eclampsia.

Deaths by Months and Quarters

January	17	July	16
February	21	August	13
March	23	September	16
1st Quarter...	61	3rd Quarter...	45
April	18	October	25
May	17	November	21
June	19	December	21
2nd Quarter...	54	4th Quarter...	67

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

*Births

Three hundred and eight-eight children, two hundred and two males and one hundred and eighty-six females were born from the civil population during the year 1954 providing a birth rate of 16.83 per thousand fixed British civil population. This represents a small increase compared with the preceding year when the corresponding figures were three hundred and seventy-seven and 16.66. In addition there were twenty-seven births to non-resident aliens constituting a total of four hundred and fifteen or 16.65 per thousand total population.

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

Colonial Hospital	343
Military Hospital	20
Private Practitioners	7
Midwives	45
415	

It will be noted that preference for confinement in hospital which has been a feature since the repatriation of the population continued.

Illegitimate Births totalled eight (including three to non-resident aliens) which represents 1.9 per cent of all births. This is the lowest rate recorded since 1948 when illegitimate births were first included in the Annual Report for that year.

*Vide note on page 12.

Illegitimate births period 1948-1954

Year	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Number	10	15	13	17	13	12	8
Rate per cent of all births	2.69	3.69	3.66	4.29	3.2	3.05	1.9

*Infant Mortality

Thirteen infants died before attaining the age of one year which constitutes an infant mortality rate of 33.5 per thousand. Nine of these deaths occurred within four weeks of birth providing a neo-natal death rate of 23.19 per thousand. These figures represent an increase as compared with those recorded in 1953 when infant deaths totalled 10 or 25.44 per thousand, whilst the neo-natal deaths were nine or 22.9 per thousand.

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	1				1					1
Prematurity and Cardiac Failure ...	1				1					1
Prematurity and Pneumonia		1			1					1
Atelectasis	1				1					1
Anencephaly	1				1					1
Intracranial Haemorrhage	1				1					1
Congenital Pyloric Stenosis				1	1					1
Erythroblastosis and Pneumonia	1				1					1
Septicaemia	1				1					1
Gastro-Enteritis						1		3		4
Totals	7	1		1	9	1		3		13

Though small fluctuations in the number of deaths are bound to appear exaggerated in the calculated rates when the basic figures concerned are small, any increase in the mortality of infants must be viewed with concern. In this

*Vide note on page 12.

respect it is significant to note that the brunt of the death toll has again fallen on those within a few weeks of birth and that these deaths were attributed to prematurity and congenital abnormalities or accidents incidental to parturition, thus maintaining a feature which has characterized the infant mortality for the last three years.

This reflects the adverse influence on expectant mothers of the lack of comfort, privacy and needful rest inevitable under the overcrowded and unsatisfactory living conditions which still prevail, and it would appear to indicate that not only cannot any great improvement be expected in the neo-natal mortality until considerable amelioration of these conditions is attained, but that under the circumstances the ante-natal care and welfare of mothers must receive all the more attention if the mortality of infants is to be kept at its present not unsatisfactory level.

Still-births

Three still-births were registered during the year which amounts to 7.2 per thousand total live and still-births and represents the lowest number recorded since statutory registration was first enforced in 1950. Still-births registered in the years 1950 to 1953 were 9, 17, 8 and 9.

Infantile Mortality and Neo-Natal Death Rates for 1945-54.

	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
1954	33.5	23.19

Tables of vital statistics for the decennial periods 1930-1939 and 1945-1954 are appended.

Note:—

One hundred and fifty-one births and three 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 during the year 1954 and the corresponding crude rates were therefore as follows:—

Births 566 or 22.71 per thousand total population.

Deaths 230 or 9.22 per thousand total population.

Deaths in infants under one year 17 or 30
per thousand total live births.

Infant Mortality and Neo-Natal Death Rates for 1953-54			
Year	Infant Mortality	Neo-Natal Mortality	Total
1953	38.33	33.4	71.73
1952	38.4	34.1	72.5
1951	37.7	34.1	71.8
1950	38.92	34.1	73.02
1949	34.3	34.3	68.6
1948	31.32	34.3	65.62
1947	31	34.3	65.3
1946	33.14	34.3	67.44
1945	33.44	34.3	67.74
1944	33.3	34.3	67.6

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE DECENNIAL PERIODS 1930-1939 and 1945-1954

POPULATION			DEATHS				INFANTILE MORTALITY		BIRTHS		
Year	Fixed	Total	How Estimated	Fixed Population No.	Total Population No.	Rate per 1,000 population		No.	Rate per 1,000 births	No.	Rate per 1,000 Fixed Population
						Fixed Population	Total Population				
1930	15,526	16,448	Police Estimate	240	240	15.6	14.5	25	71.3	349	22.4
1931	16,188	17,613	Census	250	254	15.4	14.4	23	61.0	377	23.28
1932	15,143	16,609	Police Estimate	245	259	16.17	15.59	21	60.69	346	22.84
1933	15,071	16,397	"	241	245	15.99	14.94	14	39.2	357	23.68
1934	14,790	15,847	"	225	230	15.21	14.51	21	54.8	383	25.8
1935	15,735	16,865	"	255	265	16.20	15.71	18	67.4	267	16.9
1936	15,735	16,865	"	249	261	15.82	15.47	19	62.09	304	19.30
1937	16,792	19,541	"	256	292	15.24	14.93	25	68.24	381	22.69
1938	17,222	20,239	"	246	278	14.28	13.74	27	74.38	363	21.07
1939	18,125	20,440	"	276	296	15.22	14.25	30	79.36	378	20.85
Period of evacuation of civil population											
1945	17,448	19,232	"	155	162	8.88	8.42	20	32.89	608	34.84
1946	19,269	21,233	"	177	187	9.18	8.8	15	36.4	412	21.38
1947	20,316	22,532	"	146	148	7.18	6.56	18	47.24	381	18.75
1948	21,472	23,700	"	176	182	8.19	7.57	11	29.56	372	17.32
1949	22,208	24,585	"	181	185	8.15	7.52	14	34.2	408	18.37
1950	22,470	24,886	"	199	207	8.85	8.31	10	28.16	355	15.79
1951	19,739	21,100	Census)	241	255	12.2	12.33	12	31	387	19.6
			Mid-Year)								
1952	22,176	24,473	Police Estimate	191	195	8.61	7.96	16	41.55	385	17.36
1953	22,629	24,736	"	186	199	8.21	8.79	10	25.44	377	16.66
1954	23,044	24,921	"	216	227	9.37	9.10	13	33.5	388	16.83

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. Attendance was very good. Calcium, iron and vitamin preparations were administered to those who required them. The majority of mothers were confined in the Colonial Hospital. A few were delivered in their homes by private doctors or registered midwives.

There were five locally registered midwives engaged in private practice during the year.

The average stay in hospital was 6 days.

There was one maternal death from eclampsia.

Paediatric Services

The paediatric services continued to function as re-organised in September, 1952, but certain modifications were carried out in order to cope with the excessive number of patients attending the Sick Children's Clinics.

Whereas in 1952 and 1953 all children were entitled to free treatment in hospital, in 1954 a consultation fee of 2/6d was introduced and those unable to pay were referred by the Social Welfare Officer to the District Medical Officer for advice and treatment. Cases requiring special investigations were then referred to the Sick Children's Clinic at the Hospital, for free treatment.

A second measure adopted was to limit the age of children attending the clinic to ten years, since, in the opinion of the Paediatrician, their ailments do not vary much from adult

complaints after this age. These measures have reduced the number of in-patients and out-patients as follows:—

	1953	1954
In-patients attended in	625	498
Out-patients attended in	4,152	2,789

Infant Welfare Service

Clinics were held regularly throughout the year at the three existing centres, viz.: Town Clinic twice weekly, Glacis Clinic, north of the town, once weekly, and South Clinic once weekly. Besides these, two extra Clinics a week were held by the Medical Officer in charge, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, where cases referred from other Clinics received due attention.

Sick children who attended the Infant Welfare Centres were referred to the children Out-patient Department of the Colonial Hospital, for advice and treatment.

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

Town Clinic

Number of children registered	717	775
Attendances	8,009	8,958

South Clinic

	1954	1953
Number of children registered	202	209
Attendances	2,219	2,491

Glacis Clinic

Number of children registered	113	150
Attendances	1 484	1,985

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

Town Clinic

Total number on Register 717.

Year of birth	Age Group	Number	Percentage
1949	Over 5	42	6%
1950	4 — 5	56	8%
1951	3 — 4	77	10%
1952	2 — 3	126	17%
1953	1 — 2	181	26%
1954	0 — 1	235	33%

South Clinic

Total number on Register 202.

Year of birth	Age Group	Number	Percentage
1949	Over 5	10	5 %
1950	4 — 5	16	8 %
1951	3 — 4	24	12 %
1952	2 — 3	34	16 %
1953	1 — 2	54	27 %
1954	0 — 1	64	32 %

Glacis Clinic

Total number on Register 113.

Year of birth	Age Group	Number	Percentage
1949	Over 5	10	9 %
1950	4 — 5	15	13 %
1951	3 — 4	19	17 %
1952	2 — 3	22	19 %
1953	1 — 2	21	19 %
1954	0 — 1	26	23 %

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

1953	1954
18,211	16,489

Home Visits

Primary	368
Special	50
Ante-natal	66
Children under 1 year	721
(excluding primary visits)	
Children over 1 year	2,218
Fruitless	217
Removals	88
Total number of houses visited	2,872

Immunizations (Carried out at the Colonial Hospital).

Anti-diphtheria prophylactic Courses completed: 6.
 Combined diphtheria-pertussis
 prophylactic Courses completed: 38.

School Medical Service

The general health of children in the Colony remained excellent. In the course of the whole year, only one child was found to be in a state of nutritional deficiency, due, not to disease, but to social conditions. These were promptly remedied thanks to the co-operation of the Welfare Department. It is worthy of note that the mothers of children examined have shown a progressive interest in these routine examinations, and have co-operated well.

Altogether, eight hundred and thirteen children were examined, of whom seven hundred and ninety-eight or 98 per cent were found to be perfectly healthy. Twenty-seven with cardiac bruits were investigated of which twenty-six had no previous history of rheumatism. Four thousand, three hundred and forty-five were inspected for cleanliness. Of nine hundred and sixteen who had their eyes tested, thirty-five were found to have defective vision and were referred to the Eye Clinic at the Colonial Hospital. Five hundred and sixty-five were referred to the Dental Surgeons for treatment.

SUMMARY OF DENTAL TREATMENT

Dental Surgeon	Sessions for Treatment	Teeth Conserved	Teeth Extracted	Attendance for Scaling and Gum Treatment
Mr. A. A. Danino ...	150	783	160	102
Mr. J. J. Cochrane..	47	180	227	27

Causes of Death in the Civil Population during 1954, 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	10													1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1
A 10 All other syphilis	022-023 026-029	1									2				1							
A 20 Septicaemia and pyaemia	053	1																				
A 44 Malignant neoplasm of buccal cavity and pharynx	140-148	2																				
A 45 Malignant neoplasm of oesophagus ...	150	1															1		1			1
A 46 Malignant neoplasm of stomach	151	8															3		1			1
A 47 Malignant neoplasm of intestines, except rectum	152/153	2													1		1					
A 48 Malignant neoplasm of rectum	154	1																				
A 49 Malignant neoplasm of larynx	161	1															1		1			
A 50 Malignant neoplasm of trachea, and of bronchus and lung not specified as secondary	162-163	11															4					
A 51 Malignant neoplasm of breast	170	2													3	1			1			
A 52 Malignant neoplasm of cervix uteri ...	171	2																	2			
A 53 Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified parts of uterus	172-174	1																				
A 54 Malignant neoplasm of prostate	177	2																				
A 55 Malignant neoplasm of skin	190-191	1																	1		1	1
A 56 Malignant neoplasm of bone and connective tissue	196-197	1																				
A 57 Malignant neoplasm of all other and unspecified sites	155-160 164-165 175-176 178-181 192-195 198-199	8									1								1		1	2

A 58	Leukaemia and aleukaemia	204																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																															
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CARE OF THE SICK AND AGED

Facilities for the institutional care of aged or infirm persons remain essentially the same as have been described in my previous annual reports.

An average of thirty aged and infirm women are comfortably housed and adequately cared for in Beriro's Home by the Colonial Government, whilst a number of aged men and women are accommodated at the Little Sisters of the Poor where considerable improvements have been effected to provide them with greater comfort and better their living conditions. A few continue to be cared for at the Colonial Hospital.

CHILDREN DEVOID OF PARENTAL CARE

No progress has been made towards the provision of institutional care for children who because they are orphans or for other reasons are deprived of parental care. The need for such provision is becoming daily more apparent, and it is to be hoped that the adoption of measures to remedy this defect in our social services will no longer be delayed.

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 1954.

The opening of St. David's Sight Saving School on the first of March provided a milestone in the history of the Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Blindness. In this school which has been adequately equipped with the necessary modern apparatus, from twelve to fourteen children whose defective eyesight would be aggravated if educated under normal school conditions are being taught by a teacher who has undergone a period of special training for the purpose with the London County Council. Bus companies who already carry blind persons free of charge have also agreed to provide free transport to and from the school for children living at a distance.

Thirteen deaths have occurred among the blind during the year, whilst eight new registrations have been received. The total number registered now stands at about one hundred and fourteen.

Three quarters of the blind in Gibraltar are persons over sixty years of age who have lost their sight progressively with

age, and little can be done for them beyond providing some degree of comfort in their declining years. Nine whose ages range between sixteen and forty years are in gainful employment. Two who have been learning chair seating and handicrafts in La Linea will continue doing so when classes are started in Gibraltar early in 1955.

Though there is a teacher of English braille, himself blind, his services are seldom required as the majority of the blind cannot speak English. A few can read Spanish braille and are provided with literature in that language. There are only two blind children in Gibraltar, but the parents have up to the present refused to let them have any special tuition. On representations from the Society, Government has granted free medical services to all registered blind persons, and requests for increased allowances under the Public Assistance Scheme are under consideration.

Needless to say the work of the Society is to be highly commended and should receive every encouragement and support from all sections of the community.

PREVALENCE & 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, Erysipelas, Leprosy, Measles, Meningococcal Infection, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Paratyphoid Fever, Pertussis, Puerperal Fever, Rubella, Trachoma, Tuberculosis (all forms), Venereal disease.

Three hundred and eleven cases of infectious disease were notified from the civil population during the year representing an incidence of 13.4 per 1,000, and a decrease of 241 as compared with 1953 when the corresponding figures were 552 and 22.3.

The incidence is the lowest recorded since 1950.

Small outbreaks of Chicken Pox and Measles contributed 72 and 127 cases respectively, and for the second year in succession there was an unusual prevalence of Undulant Fever caused by *Brucella Melitensis* which provided twelve notifications.

Only one case of Diphtheria was notified during the year.

Deaths from infectious diseases totalled ten and were all caused by Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The following tables show the incidence of infectious diseases for the decades 1930-9 and 1945-54.

1930-9

1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	Average
393	302	1,144	290	394	241	177	419	856	93	430.9

1945-54

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	Average
102	103	168	252	181	225	836	462	552	311	319.2

Note: One hundred and nineteen 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 430 representing a crude incidence rate of 17.2 per thousand total population.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Twenty-three cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, twelve males and eleven females were notified during the year. In addition there occurred two cases, a male and a female aged 86 and 31 years respectively, which first came under the notice of the Public Health Department on certification of death rendering a corrected incidence of twenty-five. There were ten deaths. This represents an increase of two in the incidence and three in the mortality as compared with the preceding year when the corresponding figures were twenty-three and seven.

The incidence and mortality rates were 1.08 and 0.43 per thousand population respectively. The corresponding figures for 1953 were 0.92 and 0.28.

Of the total number of patients notified, a male and a female were under 15 years of age, four males and seven females were in the 15 and under 45 year groups, whilst the ages of the others ranged from 45 to over 65 years.

With the exception of two females both 31 years old, all the deaths concerned persons over 50 and included a male and a female aged 86 and 79 years respectively.

That two of the patients should as noted above have only been brought to the notice of the Health Department after death, whilst one of those notified was reported virtually at the time of the fatal termination must be viewed with concern, indicating that though concealment of the disease which was very common in the past has fortunately to a large extent ceased, there are still persons who through fear of social ostracism, financial loss or compulsory segregation, abstain from calling in the services of a local practitioner until compelled to do so by critical developments which are often the precursors of a rapidly fatal ending.

It is unfortunately true that Tuberculosis used to carry a stigma in the past, but in these enlightened days the stigma is vanishing and not only must nothing be done which may perpetuate the old misconception of the disease, but every opportunity must be taken and all means at our disposal employed to educate the public to the modern humane attitude towards the patient and his family as well as to assure the unfortunate victim of the disease that with his co-operation much can be done towards his cure and rehabilitation, and to relieve him of the fear that social embarrassment or compulsory segregation will follow notification of his illness to the Health Authorities.

Apart from the risk to their own health incurred by the individuals concerned through lack of proper treatment, such concealed cases are a greater source of danger to the community than the known tuberculous person, for by the time the former are discovered the mischief that may have been done is irremediable, whilst the latter even though at liberty can be kept under observation and treatment and subjected to such control as may be considered necessary to prevent the spread of the disease.

Facilities for free radiological examination of prospective employees on application to the Department of Labour and Welfare which were first provided under a scheme adopted in 1952 remained available throughout the year, but it is disappointing to note that few applications for such examinations have been received by that Department. These arrangements have been made principally to protect young children from being infected with Tuberculosis by nurse-maids and other servants with whom they come in intimate contact, and parents cannot be too strongly urged to avail themselves of the facilities offered.

Tables showing incidence and mortality from Pulmonary Tuberculosis in the quinquennium immediately preceding the war and the decade 1945-54 are appended.

Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis

A single case of non-respiratory Tuberculosis was notified during the year. The patient was a female aged 17 years suffering from Abdominal Tuberculosis.

Note: Sixteen cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis involving one death 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 1945-1954

Year	Cases	Deaths	Incidence per thousand	Deaths per thousand
1935	23	15	—	0.88
1936	30	19	1.90	1.20 (T.B. Officer appointed)
1937	34	21	1.74	1.08
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
1954	25	10	1.08	0.43

Enteric Fever

Three cases of Typhoid and one of Para-Typhoid Fever were notified during the year. With the exception of a hospital nurse who, notwithstanding that she had received T.A.B. inoculations a few months previously, suffered a typical mild attack of Typhoid Fever which she probably contracted in the course of her work, the source of the infection in the other patients remained undetermined, and it can only be

surmised that they acquired the disease during visits to the vicinity where the enteric fevers are known to be prevalent.

Brucellosis

Twelve isolated cases of Brucellosis distributed irregularly throughout the various town districts were notified during the year. One occurred in April, the rest between June and November. Sera from all the patients agglutinated *B. Melitensis* in high titres. With the exception of one patient who admitted having drunk fresh milk outside Gibraltar, all the persons concerned normally consumed tinned milk but had at some time or another eaten fresh goats cheese which suggests that cheese elaborated from a heavily infected herd of goats in the vicinity, probably provided the principal vehicle for the infection. Attempts to culture the organism from samples of fresh cheese however, proved unsuccessful.

This is the second year in succession that the disease has been unusually prevalent, and the public were duly warned by the Department's Inspectorate and through the Press of the danger incurred by drinking unboiled goats milk or inadequately seasoned goats cheese.

Acute Poliomyelitis

Six sporadic cases were notified during the year. Two from the civil population and four from sources with which these statistics are not concerned.

The former were two infants, one of school age, living in independent but neighbouring nissen huts in a transit centre which virtually constituted a closed community. The onset occurred within a few days of each other, and suggested the probability of a common source of infection which remained undetermined.

Thirty-four children living in the Centre together with seven direct school contacts were excluded from school and kept under surveillance for three weeks, whilst parents were advised to take the customary preventive measures applicable to the disease. No further cases occurred.

The others, two children and two young adults, were notified at different times from various districts. The two adults were both reported to be of the non-paralytic type and had been diagnosed on clinical grounds.

Scarlet Fever

Twenty cases were notified from the civil population which together with seven reported from sources outside the scope of these records provide a total of twenty-seven.

The great majority were children of school age, practically all the schools were involved and the disease appears to have been of a very mild type.

Measles

A small outbreak which occurred from February to July produced one hundred and twenty-seven notifications. Four sporadic cases of German Measles were also notified during the year.

Diphtheria

Only one case of Diphtheria was notified during the year.

This must not however be construed to provide grounds for complacency, for the proportion of the total infant population which has been protected against the disease by preventive injections is inconsiderable, and despite the unremitting efforts of the staff of the Public Health Department to persuade parents to have their children immunized, the number of infants who were treated during 1954 proved even smaller than in the preceding year — itself a negligible figure.

The occurrence of outbreaks of Diphtheria in some towns in the neighbourhood of Gibraltar at the time of writing these lines should provide food for serious thought, for owing to the intimate inter-relationship existing between our people and the communities of the towns concerned, the spread of the disease into our City is far from being a remote possibility and should it occur under the present overcrowded living conditions, it would be fraught with grave consequences.

Chicken Pox

Chicken Pox was prevalent throughout the year. Seventy-two notifications were received.

Pertussis

There has been an increase in the incidence of Whooping Cough. Thirty-one cases were notified, an increase of twenty as compared with the number recorded in the preceding year. There are however reasons to suspect that the incidence was considerably higher than represented by the notifications received.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum

Nine cases were notified during the year. Bacteriological investigations failed to establish the presence of Gonococci in any of the cases.

Trachoma

Four cases were notified during the year.

Dysentery

No notifications of Bacillary Dysentery were received. I am convinced however that this cannot be interpreted as representing the true incidence of the disease. Owing to the benign nature of the great majority of infections and the rapid response to modern therapeutic preparations, specimens of faeces are not always submitted for bacteriological examination and a considerable proportion of such infections pass undetected.

No cases of Amoebic Dysentery were notified from the civil population or landed from the Bay.

Gastro-Enteritis

An outbreak of Gastro-Enteritis amongst infants and young children occurred during September and October. As the disease is not notifiable the extent of the outbreak can only be surmised, but judging from information received from medical practitioners, it would appear to have been widespread and to have involved a considerable number of children. Four deaths in young infants were attributed to the disease. I understand from the Government Paediatricist that the disease started acutely either as a gastro-intestinal or respiratory affection, but that eventually both systems were involved in practically all cases. Laboratory investigations of excreta failed to determine any bacterial agent which together with the fact that though unaffected by sulphonamide compounds, the symptoms responded to treatment with chloromycetin and the obvious high infectivity and rapid spread would appear to indicate a virus infection.

Smallpox

No cases of Smallpox occurred in Gibraltar nor were any landed from the Bay during 1954.

Vaccinations

Number of children born	415*
Number who died before vaccination	8
Number who left Gibraltar before vaccination ...	24
Number certified as insusceptible to vaccination	2
Vaccination postponed on medical grounds	3
Number successfully vaccinated	
(Children born in 1954) ...	276

Objectors to vaccination	NIL
Outstanding	102
(*includes 27 non-residents)	

In addition one hundred and eighty-one children who for various reasons had not been vaccinated before or whose vaccination had been postponed on account of illness were also vaccinated.

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

There have been no objectors to vaccination. Of the one hundred and two outstanding, ninety had not attained the age of three months, and notices were served on the remaining twelve.

Rabies

One case of rabies occurred during the year.

The animal concerned was a duly licensed well kept and cared for alsatian dog reported never to have been outside Gibraltar who died after a few days illness having inflicted a superficial bite on its mistress who attempted to feed it. Though the symptoms were not suggestive of rabies, the brain which was examined at the Pasteur Institute, Tangier was reported to have shown the presence of negri bodies and to have caused the death from paralytic rabies of a rabbit inoculated with it.

The person bitten was subjected to a course of anti-rabic treatment.

Notwithstanding very careful investigations and searches, no other animal was reported to have been ill or to have died under suspicious circumstances and the origin of the infection remained undetermined. I would add that about that time I received information from *fide digne* sources of the occurrence of a number of cases of rabies in dogs in the neighbouring Spanish territory.

The occurrence of these unaccountable sporadic cases of rabies are a cause of grave concern to the Health authorities, and I offer no apologies for reiterating my frequent appeals to owners to refrain from taking their animals for runs in the vicinity and to urge for the strictest enforcement

of the regulations related to the importation and control of cats and dogs by the authorities concerned.

The customary annual campaign to reduce the number of ownerless, often starving and deceased cats was waged from the 9th August to the 3rd September, during which a total of 204 cats were caught and painlessly destroyed at the Quarantine Kennels.

Stray cats caught by Council cat catchers (for detention and destruction if unclaimed)...	167
Cats delivered by private individuals	25
Cats caught by the Services	12
Total number of cats delivered to the Quarantine Kennels and humanely destroyed	204

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	49
Number of stray dogs claimed by owners	6
Number of stray dogs destroyed	43
Number of dogs detained after biting persons.....	15
Number of dogs claimed by owners	13
Number of dogs destroyed	2
Number of dogs detained in transit	57
Number of dogs detained in Quarantine	1
Number of dogs humanely destroyed at owner's request ...	60
Number of stray cats admitted	95
Number of stray cats claimed by owners	1
Number of stray cats destroyed	94
Number of cats detained after scratching/biting	4
Number of cats claimed by owners	—
Number of cats destroyed	4
Number of cats detained in transit	4
Number of cats humanely destroyed	195

(Exclusive of those destroyed during the
Annual Campaign)

Influenza

No epidemic outbreak occurred during the year.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases with Age and Sex Incidence — Civil Population 1954

Notifiable Diseases	All Ages	NUMBER OF CASES														Districts			No. of cases removed to Hospital		
		Under 1 year		1 and under 5 years		5 and under 15 years		15 and under 25 years		25 and under 45 years		45 and under 65 years		65 and over		North	Central	South			
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.						
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	23	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	6	1	3	1	6	1	1	2	2	16	5	21
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	9	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Scarlet Fever	20	2	2	2	4	10	24	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	7	10	2
Chicken Pox	72	3	2	11	5	25	24	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	46	—
Measles	127	3	2	34	27	28	29	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	77	10
Pertussis	31	3	4	6	10	5	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	9	3
German Measles	4	1	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—
Trachoma	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Undulant Fever	12	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	3	1	5	—	3	1	—	—	—	2	7	—
Enteric Fever	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
Totals ...	311	16	10	53	49	71	64	2	16	9	4	9	4	1	3	23	124	164	50		

Infectious Diseases — Monthly and Quarterly Incidence — Civil Population 1954.

Disease	January	February	March	1st Qr.	April	May	June	2nd Qr.	July	August	Sept.	3rd Qr.	October	November	December	4th Qr.	Total	Deaths
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	1	—	2	—	4	—	4	1	7	5	13	2	—	2	4	23	10
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	2	1	—	2	3	2	—	—	2	9	—
Scarlet Fever	1	—	—	1	1	3	3	7	2	—	—	2	2	—	5	10	20	—
Chicken Pox	—	5	8	13	10	24	10	44	1	—	—	1	—	5	9	14	72	—
Measles	—	3	14	17	50	13	29	92	18	—	—	18	—	—	—	—	127	—
Pertussis	—	—	7	7	4	—	1	5	—	—	—	—	5	7	7	19	31	—
German Measles	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	4	—
Trachoma	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	2	4	—
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	1	—	4	5	2	3	—	5	1	1	—	2	12	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	4	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	—
TOTALS	5	9	30	44	72	45	48	165	27	11	7	45	13	20	24	57	311	10

Infectious Diseases — Monthly and Quarterly Return of Cases Landed from the Bay or Brought into Town for Treatment, 1954

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	2	2	2	6	—	1	—	1	—	6	—	6	—	1	2	3	16	1
Measles	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Trachoma	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	2	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	2	—
Totals ...	2	3	2	7	1	1	—	2	—	7	—	7	2	2	2	6	22	1

INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION OF OTHER DISEASES

INSECT VECTORS

Flies

With the exception of the genus *Fannia*, flies have not been prevalent during the year. Only a few isolated complaints of nuisances were received and these were investigated and abated.

Fannia Canicularis also known as the lesser house fly because of its house haunting habits appears to remain active over somewhat lower temperatures and to prefer cooler environments than the common house fly, but as it spends most of the time circling aimlessly within a small radius in the centre of rooms or corridors or round some hanging object and seldom settles on food, utensils or the human skin, it is less likely to constitute a source of infection than the common variety.

The routine measures for the control of flies were intensified early in Spring, pamphlets were distributed to all householders requesting their co-operation and food caterers were advised on the most appropriate measures to safeguard foods from contamination by these insects.

One thousand, one hundred and ninety-four 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 during the year.

Mosquitoes

Though owing to the mildness of the weather conditions during Autumn, mosquitoes were abnormally prevalent particularly in the North and South Districts till late December, these insects did not prove unusually troublesome during the year under review.

The normal routine control measures were supplemented by an intensified campaign carried out in co-ordination with the services sanitary staff early in Spring, in the course of which localities known from experience to provide troublesome breeding places received special attention and existing foci of infestation were destroyed.

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

Ninety-two specimens were taken for identification, the following species being found:—

<i>Culex pipiens</i>	68	(between Jan. and Dec.)
<i>Theobaldia longiareolata</i>	24	(between March and Dec.)
<i>Aedes argenteus</i>	Nil.	

For the fourth year in succession no insect of the species *Aedes argenteus* has been found among the specimens collected for identification. As this is the only indigenous mosquito in Gibraltar which is a potential vector of Yellow Fever, its extermination is of material importance to the safety of the population, particularly in view of the rapidity of modern air travel which renders it possible for an infected person to arrive in the Colony during the incubation period of the disease before symptoms have developed.

For these reasons Gibraltar has been declared a Yellow Fever Receptive Area under the provisions of the International Sanitary Regulations, which empowers the health officer to demand a valid certificate of vaccination against Yellow Fever from passengers arriving from countries where the disease is endemic or from any infected locality.

During 23,193 visits of inspection, one hundred and thirty-one breeding places were found and destroyed as follows:—

Tubs	3
Barrels	26
Miscellaneous	102

MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN 1954

Months	Visits paid to Premises	Breeding Places Found—by Districts					Totals
		Town Lower	Town Middle	Town Upper	South	North	
January	1,885	—	—	2	—	1	3
February	2,089	—	—	—	—	—	—
March	1,960	—	—	—	—	—	—
April	2,370	1	—	1	9	4	15
May	1,878	1	3	8	20	11	43
June	1,797	2	4	7	1	6	20
July	2,098	4	1	3	9	12	29
August	1,575	—	2	—	—	5	7
September	1,709	3	—	—	1	4	8
October	2,183	—	—	—	1	5	6
November	1,663	—	—	—	1	1	2
December	1,986	—	—	—	—	1	1
Totals ...	23,193	11	10	21	42	50	134

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

RODENT CONTROL

All measures adopted for the control of rodent infestation were carefully co-ordinated so as to establish the closest co-operation between the civilian and services personnel engaged in the operations, thus ensuring maximum efficiency as well as all possible economy in the use of the baits and poisons available.

The majority of the complaints received concerned nuisances by mice, and the preponderance of carcasses of these vermin which were recovered would appear to indicate that they constitute the principal factor in the rodent infestation at present. The occasional discovery however of localized rat nesting sites show that no relaxation of the rodent control measures can be contemplated if the present satisfactory level of the rat population is to be maintained.

Sewers, storm water drains and electricity and telephone pits were disinfested on several occasions with satisfactory results.

A total of 50,148 points were prebaited and 22,952 poison baits were laid in 983 premises by the combined teams during the year, from which 13,025 takes were recorded, the resultant estimated kill being 3,281.

The carcasses of 885 *Mus musculus* and 79 *Rattus rattus* were recovered in the course of these operations.

The carcasses of thirteen rats which were examined in the City Council Laboratories were reported 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 1954

Service	No. of Premises Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
					RR	RN	MM	
Civilian	500	17,869	10,776	6,600	44	—	778	1,566
Military	123	6,660	4,154	2,546	24	—	88	820
H.M. Dockyard...	236	25,149	7,645	3,614	7	—	19	745
R.A.F.	5	156	113	58	4	—	—	19
Electric Light and Telephone Pits	90	198	192	135	—	—	—	41
Sewers and Drains	29	116	72	72	—	—	—	90
Totals	983	50,148	22,952	13,025	79	—	885	3,281

RODENT CONTROL — SUMMARY OF TREATMENT OF CIVILIAN PREMISES DURING 1954

Campaign Week	Premises Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
					RR	RN	MM	
1/54 to 13/54	135	4,316	2,856	1,502	5	—	172	342
14/54 to 26/54	113	4,147	2,835	1,657	18	—	188	417
27/54 to 39/54	126	5,113	2,573	1,777	14	—	252	413
40/54 to 51/54	126	4,293	2,512	1,664	7	—	166	394
Totals ...	500	17,869	10,776	6,600	44	—	778	1,566

**RODENT CONTROL—TREATMENT OF SEWERS, DRAINS, ELECTRIC LIGHT AND TELEPHONE PITS DURING
THE YEAR 1954**

Campaign Week	Date	Manholes Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
						RR	RN	MM	
30/54	26/7/54-30/7/54	8	32	8	8	—	—	—	10
31/54	3/8/54- 6/8/54	4	16	16	16	—	—	—	20
32/54	9/8/54-13/8/54	5	20	12	12	—	—	—	15
33/54	16/8/54-20/8/54	6	24	12	12	—	—	—	15
35/54	30/8/54- 3/9/54	6	24	24	24	—	—	—	30
23/54	8/6/54-11/6/54	9	26	20	14	—	—	—	5
39/54	27/9/54-1/10/54	60	128	128	77	—	—	—	22
40/54	4/10/54-8/10/54	21	44	44	44	—	—	—	14
Totals ...		119	314	264	207	—	—	—	131

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 1954.

Number of ships entered during 1954	4,215
Number of ships visited by the Health Officer	99
Number of patients landed,	
from British Ships	89
from Foreign Ships	58

of these patients, eight were suffering or suspected to be suffering from infectious diseases.

Air

The Air Port is under the control of the Royal Air Force, and the Senior Medical Officer, who is vested with the status and powers of a Health Officer, is responsible for matters concerning the sanitation of the port and of all service aircraft.

The Colonial Government are responsible for the sanitary control, disinfection and disinsectization of Civil Aircraft. The work is carried out by a Medical Practitioner employed part-time as Air Port Medical 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 sterilized at weekly intervals. The sanitary staff are constantly on the watch for possible pollution of underground tanks. Samples from fifty-one suspected tanks were taken in 1954.

The stock of potable water at the beginning of the year was much higher than normal due to heavy rains in the latter part of 1953 but unfortunately the dry season was unusually long lasting until early November and stocks ran dangerously low. Supplies to shipping had to be restricted but it was not necessary to import water as in previous years, because the distilling plant worked from May onwards.

Yield from wells was below the average. 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 54.5 million gallons were issued during the year from various Council's sources.

Rainfall at the catchments during the calendar year 1954 totalled 27.05 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 supply free of charge was received and installed early in the year. The pump loaned by the War Department will be returned as soon as it has been overhauled.

The quantity of brackish water pumped during the year amounted to some 430,000,000 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 utmost. The rate of run off is such that during heavy rains boulders and much silt reach the sewers.

The new sewer and sewage pumps installed at North Front are working satisfactorily but investigations are proceeding to trace the source of storm water finding its way into the sewer and causing flooding in some areas off Devil's Tower Road.

The quantity of sewage and storm water pumped from low level during 1954 amounted to approximately 147,000,000 gallons.

Public Highways and Street Cleansing

The recommendations of the Colonial Liaison Officer for Road Research which were adopted by the Council in November, 1953 were implemented during 1954.

The plant recommended was received late in the year and will be put into use as soon as circumstances permit. The plant comprises a heavy diesel road roller, a mechanical binder distributor, two tailboard gritting attachments and a dual purpose asphalt mixing plant. Negotiations for a suitable site for the installation of the mixing plant are still in progress.

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

Reclamation Road was completed early in May and was officially opened to the public with great pomp and ceremony on the 10th May by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who renamed it Queensway.

The widening of Europa Road West of the Rock Hotel and a roundabout at Waterport were also completed during 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 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 until half an hour after sunset.

WORK OF THE SANITARY DEPARTMENT

The summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspectors shows that twelve thousand, four hundred and fifty-nine house-to-house and eight general inspections were carried out during the year.

These included one thousand, two hundred and seventy-nine performed at the request of the Commissioner of Lands and Works for information respecting the living conditions of applicants for accommodation in Government-owned premises, or to report on the suitability of premises occupied by applicants for permission to sublet civilian accommodation which were referred to the Public Health Department by the authorities concerned for investigation.

In the course of these inspections two thousand, nine hundred and twenty-four nuisances and defects were found and abated.

Eating houses, bakeries and other food catering establishments were inspected on one thousand, five hundred and sixty-three occasions, whilst one hundred and thirty-one visits were made to dairies and two hundred and ninety-one to mineral water factories.

One hundred and fifty-eight samples of food were taken and analyzed in the City Council Public Health Laboratories.

No legal proceedings were instituted.

Summary of Work done by the Sanitary Inspectors

Complaints received:

Written	12
Verbal	559

Premises Inspected

General inspection	8
House-to-house inspection	12,459

Statutory Notices:

Served	338
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Nuisances Found:

Defective drains	257
Obstructed drains	440
Defective W.Cs.	98
Defective W.C. fittings	412
Defective water fittings	169
Defective rainwater pipes	72
Defective eavesgutters	119
Defective roofs	122
Defective wall plaster	130
Defective floors	29
Defective yard paving	8
Dampness	22
Premises dirty	52
Defective or no dustbin	255
Other minor defects	739
Suspected pollution of water in underground tank	42
Underground tank not insect proof	3
Brackish water tank not insect proof or no cover	2
Brackish water running to waste	190
Street water fittings found defective	62
Premises disinfected for infectious disease	61
Premises disinfected for vermin, etc.	14
Articles disinfected at Disinfecting Station ...	1,213
Visits of enquiry re Infectious Disease	194
Cases removed in the ambulance:	
Local	227
Bay	59
Samples of food and drugs taken for analysis	158
Samples of water taken for analysis	51
Visits to milk shops	131

Visits to eating houses, bakeries, etc.	1,563
Visits to mineral water factories	291
Visits to premises on which notice for abate- ment of nuisance has been served and are revisited for the purpose of ascertaining if requirements are being complied with...	3,031
Vaccination notices served	379

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

The Public Markets

On the 1st day of January, 1954, by virtue of the Markets, Hawkers and Pedlars Ordinance the Market Place together with all buildings and appurtenances were vested in the City Council, and the Council were thereby constituted the market authority for and in Gibraltar vice the Colonial Government, hitherto the authority in control. As from that date the Public Markets were transferred to the Council who assumed responsibility for the administration and control.

Arrangements were made whereby the Assistant Superintendent of Markets and the Markets Inspectors retained their status as Colonial Government Officers, but were seconded to the service of the Council for duty in the Public Markets under the administrative direction of the Medical Officer of Health. As since 1929 the Medical Officer of Health for the time being in office though an officer of the Council has also performed the duties of Superintendent of Markets and Inspector of Foods for the Colonial Government, it may be said that the transfer of the Public Markets has not entailed any change in the administrative staff.

Extensive repairs and structural improvements have been effected in the Markets during the year under review. Inter alia the drains have been surveyed, repaired and new sections laid to improve the drainage of the Meat Hall and Fish Market, whilst considerable sections of the pavements have been repaired or renewed. The ventilation of the restaurant kitchen has been improved and the lighting of the Meat Hall modernized by the installation of fluorescent lamps.

The Fish Market and the fruit and vegetable stalls have also been painted throughout. Further works including the re-flooring and painting of the Meat Hall and repairing or renewing of the pavement of some of the alleys are scheduled to be completed in 1955.

Food

Supplies of food including markets produce have been adequate throughout the year. Rationing of essential articles of food which was introduced as an emergency war measure and continued to be enforced since was abolished in March.

Meat

The greater proportion of the frozen meat and offal for the use of the civil population continued to be imported

jointly with supplies for the services, stored in refrigerators by the Army authorities and issued to the butchers as and when required. Considerable quantities of these commodities were also imported directly by the butchers towards the end of the year.

The arrangement whereby the importation of fresh pork has been permitted subject to the production of a satisfactory veterinary certificate and subsequent inspection and approval by the Superintendent of Markets was made applicable to veal, and 78,128 pounds of pork and 18,858 pounds of veal were imported during the year. Small quantities of fresh meat were also imported by special arrangement from Spain and Tangiers for the exclusive use of the Hebrew Community.

Prices of frozen beef have ranged from 1/7d to 3/- per pound and of mutton from 1/- to 2/5d per pound, whilst fresh pork and veal were sold at 3/4d and 4/- per pound respectively. Supplies of poultry from Spain have been adequate, prices ranging from 2/9d to 3/- per pound. Small quantities of game have been available when in season.

Eggs

Adequate supplies have been imported from Spain and Morocco throughout the year and retailed at prices ranging from 2/8d to 5/4d a dozen.

Fruit and Vegetables

Abundant supplies of fresh fruits and vegetables mostly of excellent quality have been introduced daily from Spain throughout the year and sold in the Markets, shops in town and in the streets by itinerant licensed hawkers. The average of sixty licenses which were issued daily to itinerant vendors during the year was the same as in 1953.

Fish

The abolition of the control of prices for fish produced not only a considerable increase in the supplies brought daily for sale in the Markets, but also a marked improvement in the variety and quality. Though there has been an increase in the prices generally, these have varied with the inevitable fluctuations in supplies incidental to weather, other conditions outside the control of the Markets Authorities and the demands from the public. They have however compared favourably with those obtaining in Spain and in times of plenty have even been lower than the previous officially controlled prices.

The average amount of fish imported daily from Spain was 2,280 pounds, a considerable increase as compared with 1953 when the corresponding figure was 1,650.

Occasional 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 allowed to be taken into the streets for sale by licensed itinerant fish vendors.

The average number of licenses issued daily to itinerant fish vendors was 25, five less than the corresponding number in 1953.

Milk

An average of one hundred and forty litres of fresh cows and goats milk was imported daily from Spain which represents a small increase over the quantity introduced the previous year. Supplies may therefore be said to have been essentially tinned products — condensed or evaporated. Rationing of these products was abolished in the early part of the year.

Reconstituted milk processed locally from skimmed milk powder by the addition of edible fats and vitamins and subsequently pasteurized has also been available during the year.

All fresh milk must conform with the standards prescribed by the Milk and Dairies Bye-laws which also require that it be heated to a temperature of 200°F for twenty minutes or pasteurized in Gibraltar before it is exposed for sale to the public. Dairies were visited regularly by the Sanitary Inspectorate and frequent samples were taken and analyzed to ensure the highest standards of hygiene and cleanliness possible and strict compliance with the requirements of the bye-laws.

Groceries

Supplies of groceries imported from the United Kingdom and other sources have been adequate and of satisfactory quality.

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 these establishments were inspected by the Medical Officer of Health personally before such registration was effected.

Frequent visits were subsequently paid by the Sanitary Inspectors to advise manufacturers on measures designed to attain the highest standards of cleanliness and hygiene possible, and numerous samples were taken during the course of these visits and examined bacteriologically in the Council's Laboratories.

Only on one occasion was it found necessary to prohibit the manufacture and sale of ice-cream by a purveyor until some unsatisfactory conditions in his establishment were remedied.

Considerable quantities of ice-cream manufactured by reputable firms in Great Britain were also imported regularly during the hot season. 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 as those produced locally.

Eating Houses, Confectioneries and Cafes

All premises wherein 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 inspected regularly 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, five hundred and sixty-three 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.

Limitation of space and lack of a plentiful supply of running hot and cold water often present difficulties particularly to the proprietors of the smaller tea rooms and other such establishments, but I am not convinced that the best use is always made of the available space and facilities or that the handling of food cannot, notwithstanding such difficulties, in many instances be improved.

Food Poisoning

No notification of cases of food poisoning have been received during the year. Though this may be taken to represent truly the position with respect to the occurrence of major outbreaks of such affections, there are sound reasons to believe that either because no medical assistance is summoned or because of the benign nature of the symptoms many individual and minor familial incidents are not notified to the Public Health Department and thus escape investigation.

As is well known the symptoms in some patients infected with *Salmonella Paratyphi* may closely simulate those of acute food poisoning. Such individuals may rapidly recover from the attack but continue to harbour the organism for prolonged periods thus constituting a potential danger of infection to others, particularly if engaged in occupations concerned with the handling of food. I would therefore remind medical practitioners that they have a statutory obligation under section 19 of the Food and Drugs Ordinance to notify such cases to the Medical Officer of Health, and request their co-operation by causing remnants of the food consumed as well as other relevant material to be preserved and by furnishing any information which may help in carrying out the necessary investigations.

Condemnation of Food

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

	Health Department Inspectors	Market Inspectors
Bream	1,087	pounds
Red Mulletts	102	pounds
Soles	90	pounds
John Dory	50	pounds
Red Gurnard	175	pounds
Whiting	20	pounds
Mackerel	110	pounds
Skate	30	pounds
Anchovies	90	pounds
Conger Eel	40	pounds
Fowls	21	in number
Pig's livers	6	pounds
Pig's trotters	112	pounds
Fresh Pork	24	pounds

**Health Department
Inspectors**

**Market
Inspectors**

Cooked Ham	235½	pounds
Luncheon Meat	916	pounds
Luncheon Pork	1,187	pounds
Brawn	328	pounds
Chopped Pork	110	pounds
Jellied Veal	102	pounds
Smoked Bacon	255¼	pounds
Tinned Bacon	190	pounds
"Salami"	407½	pounds
Ox Tongue	66	pounds
Liver Paste	12	pounds
Sausages	9	pounds
Cheese	98½	pounds
Sugar	12,100	pounds
Smoked Herrings ...	158	pounds
Dried Fruit	221	pounds
Custard Powder	34½	pounds

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

Three new tenement dwellings comprising a total of fifty flats were constructed by the Government in pursuance of the Housing Scheme and put into service during 1954. Of these MacFarlane House at Willis's Road and Sandpits House at Witham's Garden include twenty and twenty-two flats respectively, whilst the third provides eight flats destined to house the Colonial Prison Warders. A second block comprising twenty-four flats has been placed under construction at Witham's Garden, and it is envisaged will be ready for occupation early in 1955.

I have commented at length in all my previous Annual Reports on the subject of housing and tedious repetition of what has been written will scarcely serve a useful purpose, suffice it therefore to say that the position still remains critical and that overcrowding continues to be the principal cause of concern to the Health Authorities. I cannot refrain however from again urging that the provision of suitable decanting accommodation be given early and serious consideration. It is hardly necessary to repeat that without such temporary alternate accommodation, which at present is not available, many repairs to existing houses cannot be efficiently carried out nor can the reconstruction be undertaken of others which, though so dilapidated as to be only fit to be demolished, are still of necessity being used for human habitation.

The system for the allocation of Government owned houses was revised in February of the year under review because certain changes were considered desirable. As no applications had been accepted since March 1951, it was evident that owing to changed circumstances many of those registered were out of date, and it was decided that all previous applications should be cancelled and that the persons concerned as well as others, who though in genuine need of accommodation had at the time been precluded from applying, be invited to tender applications to be assessed under the revised system which provides that the degree of overcrowding shall constitute the principal consideration in determining priority for the allocation of available accommodation. The implementing of this system has at times gravely taxed the resources of the Public Health Department having entailed the survey of eight hundred and fifty-three tenements occupied by applicants and subsequent reporting thereon to the Commissioner of Lands and Works. These together with

four hundred and twenty-six applications from persons seeking permission to sublet civilian accommodation which were referred to the Department for investigation by the Colonial Authorities provided a total of one thousand, two hundred and seventy-nine premises surveyed and reported on during the year.

I cannot conclude this section without again calling attention to this pernicious subletting which shows no sign of abating, and which not only seriously interferes with and frustrates the efforts of those concerned with the abatement of overcrowding, but is also causing grievous harm to many who are living under deplorable conditions.

I am indebted to the Commissioner of Lands and Works for the following information respecting the progress of the Government Housing Programme during the year 1954.

Houses Completed — permanent

MacFarlane House — Willis's Road	20 flats
Sandpits House — Witham's Garden	22 flats
Colonial Prison Warders Quarters	8 flats

Houses Under Construction — permanent

Witham's Garden 2nd Block	24 flats
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Town Planning

The Central Planning Commission appointed under the provisions of the Building (Interim Control) Ordinance continued to meet regularly during the year. At these Meetings plans for the erection of new buildings, improvements to existing structures and other constructional projects were considered. The said Ordinance does not in any way detract from the powers vested in the City Council by the provisions of the Public Health Ordinance, and seventy-two applications for permission to effect structural alterations to existing premises or to erect new buildings were considered and reported on under these powers.

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 two hundred and eighty-six cases were conveyed by the Ambulances during the year, two hundred and twenty-seven from the town and fifty-nine from the Bay.

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

	Local Cases	Bay Cases
Tuberculosis	5	1
Typhoid Fever	—	2
Dysentery	—	1
Chicken Pox	—	1
Undulant Fever	1	—
Malaria	—	1
Poliomyelitis	—	1
Cancer	3	2
Pneumonia	1	2
Maternity Cases	19	2
Mental Cases	5	2
Appendicitis	4	5
Heart Disease	20	3
Fractures and Injuries	49	11
Miscellaneous (medical and surgical cases) ...	120	25
Totals...	227	59

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 1954.

Months	Beds and Matt resses	Bolsters and Pillows	Blankets and Quilts	Sheets	Coun- ter panes	Sun- dries	Totals
January	6	4	3	4	2	12	31
February	4	7	7	3	—	1	22
March	2	2	3	3	—	5	15
April	122	39	115	5	3	4	288
May	13	15	12	23	9	11	83
June	31	33	30	45	17	80	236
July	7	10	9	10	—	9	45
August	15	16	15	6	—	12	64
September	26	8	16	19	—	18	87
October	3	6	5	3	—	8	25
November	25	24	35	10	10	18	122
December	24	26	39	28	15	63	195
Totals	278	190	289	159	56	241	1,213

MEDICAL WORK DONE FOR THE COUNCIL

One hundred and fifty-seven 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	25
February	21
March	31
April	2
May	8
June	6
July	19
August	20
September	5
October	8
November	9
December	3
Total ...	157

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 represents a brief summary of the subjects discussed and on which recommendations were made at meetings held by the Board during the year:—

Statutory control of the sale of Antibiotics and Sulphonamides.

Danger of Trichinosis from imported pork.

Declaration of the Colony a Yellow Fever receptive area under the provisions of the International Sanitary Regulations.

Isolation Hospital.

Undulant Fever.

Control of Puerperal Pyrexia and Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

General Practitioners Service

The number of medical practitioners engaged in general practice appearing on the register on the 31st December, 1954 was eight, providing a ratio of 1 to 3,000 population approximately.

The majority hold part-time appointments with the Colonial Government which promotes close co-operation between the hospitals, child welfare medical services and the general practitioner service and redounds to the benefit of both patients and doctors.

Nursing Services

The number of nurses registered under the Nurses Registration Regulations up to the 31st December, 1954 was thirteen. Two of these who are State Registered are no longer in practice, the rest hold local nursing certificates and are all employed in the Colonial Hospitals.

The number of midwives registered under the Midwives Ordinance remained at five.

These figures do not include the Colonial Nursing Sisters.

Unfortunately the Religious Order of Bon Secours who for well over half a century have done most of the domiciliary nursing in the Colony found it necessary to withdraw their Nursing Sisters from Gibraltar this year. There are reasons to believe that this is only a temporary measure, and it is hoped that they will return and continue to render their valuable services to the community in general and the poor in particular.

District Medical Services

A general medical practitioner employed part time as District Medical Officer assisted by two district nurses provides medical treatment and care for the indigent sick and aged at a special clinic which is held daily at the Exchange Buildings, and by domiciliary visits when necessary.

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

The Markets, Hawkers and Pedlars Ordinance which came into force on the 1st of January, 1954 vests the Public Markets in the City Council, and provides for the control of slaughter houses, markets, hawkers and pedlars by the Council.

The Quarantine (Aerial Navigation) (Amendment) Rules 1954 abolish personal declarations of health by passengers in agreement with the provisions of the International Sanitary Regulations (No. 2).

The Dangerous Drugs Ordinance — Orders made under this Ordinance declare Methyldesomorphine, N-Allylnormorphine and a number of other drugs as well as the salts and preparations thereof subject to the provisions of Part III of the Ordinance.

The Midwives Rules have been amended to provide for the control of Puerperal Pyrexia and Ophthalmia Neonatorum occurring in patients attended by midwives.

The Supplies (Emergency Control) Ordinance and Regulations, and the Price Control Ordinance. Certain amendments to these enactments waive the control over the importation, *inter alia*, of articles of food and rescind the maximum prices for such commodities prescribed hitherto. By these amendments the control and rationing of foodstuffs imposed as emergency measures during the war have been abolished.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

Report of the Pathologist-Analyst, Gibraltar

Seventeen thousand, eight hundred and sixty-eight investigations were carried out on specimens submitted to the Laboratories during 1954. This represents an increase of over two thousand on the previous year. A substantial proportion of this increase was furnished by work carried out for the Public Health Department in connection with the diagnosis and prevention of infectious diseases, the administration of the Food and Drugs Ordinance and the determination of purity of potable water. Investigations on specimens submitted by the Colonial Medical Services also show an increase.

Approximately four thousand of the investigations carried out for the Colonial Medical Services were in connection with the diagnosis and prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, and included Wassermann, Kahn and Widal reactions, examination of sputa for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and other tests.

In accordance with recommendations made by the Medical Research Council and approved by the Ministry of Health for the bacteriological grading of ice-cream and milk, the Methylene Blue Test has been introduced and is now being carried out as a routine procedure.

During the year several new tests have been introduced which include a battery of liver function tests; Coombs and Schumns tests; in vitro sensitivity of organisms to antibiotics; examinations of sputa and other fluids for malignant cells, prothrombin time, (Quick's one stage); Bergers Victoria Blue Test and seventeen Ketosteroids Tests. Tests already in use have also been modified and the techniques employed improved.

The following figures show the progressive increase of the number of investigations carried out in the Laboratories:

Year	Investigations
1939	5,612
1949	11,167
1950	13,632
1951	13,535
1952	15,844
1953	15,865
1954	17,868

It is obvious from the above figures that the increase has been quite substantial, and it is reasonable to envisage that investigations will continue to increase both in numbers and complexity. The bench space however, has not kept pace with the amount of work done and expansion of the Laboratories has now become a matter of the most pressing urgency.

A number of Yellow Fever inoculations were carried out at the Laboratories which are recognised as an approved centre for such purpose by the World Health Organization.

E. A. IMOSI,
City Pathologist-Analyst,
Gibraltar.

Laboratory, 19th April, 1955.

The following figures show the progressive increase of the number of investigations carried out in the Laboratories:

Year	Investigations
1939	5,612
1940	11,467
1941	12,682
1942	13,535
1943	15,444
1944	15,985
1945	17,868

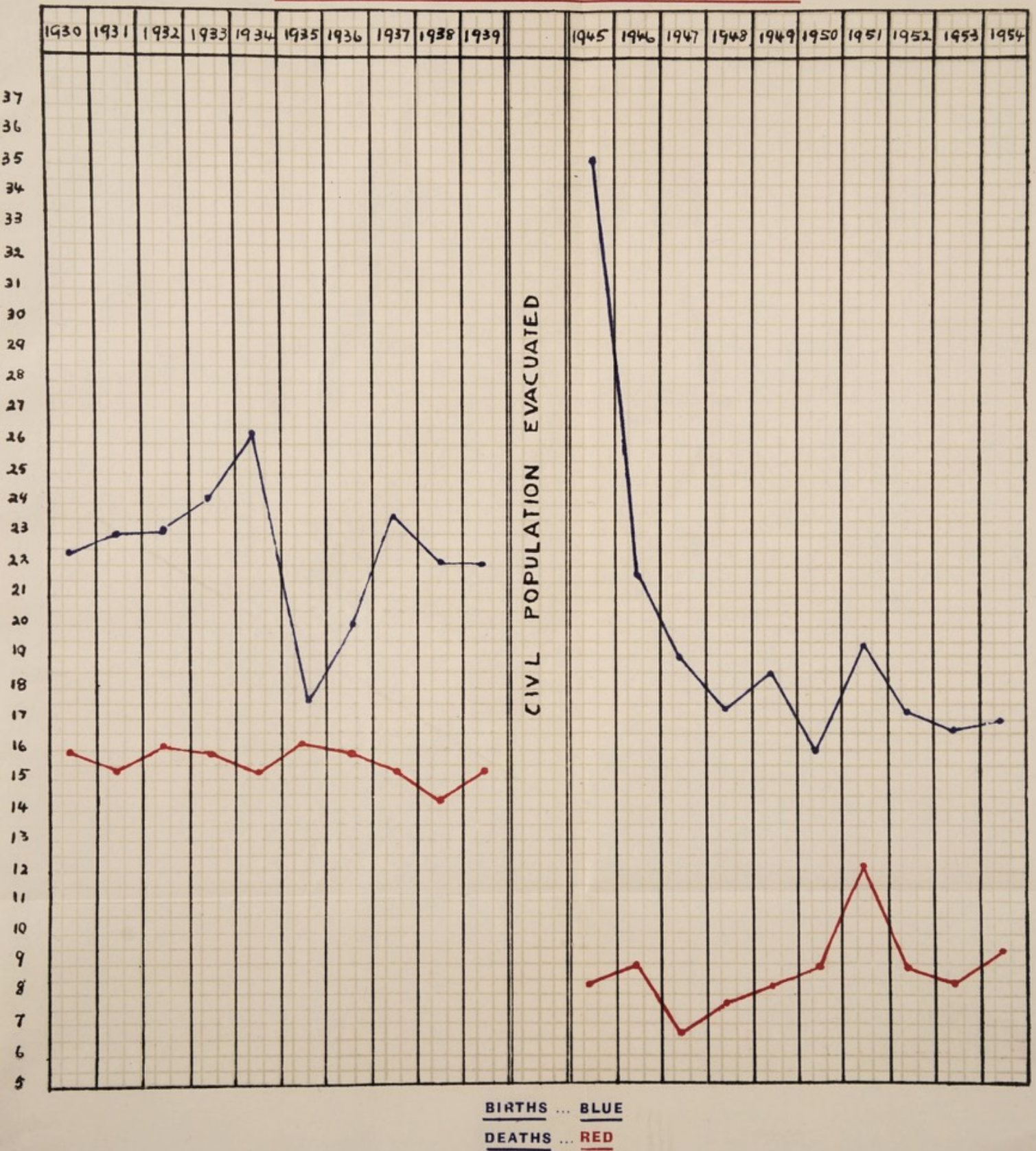
It is obvious from the above figures that the increase has been quite substantial, and it is reasonable to envisage that investigations will continue to increase both in numbers and complexity. The health care system has not kept pace with the amount of work done and expansion of the Laboratories has now become a matter of the first pressing necessity.

A number of Yellow Fever investigations were carried out in the Laboratories which are mentioned as an approved center for such purposes by the World Health Organization.

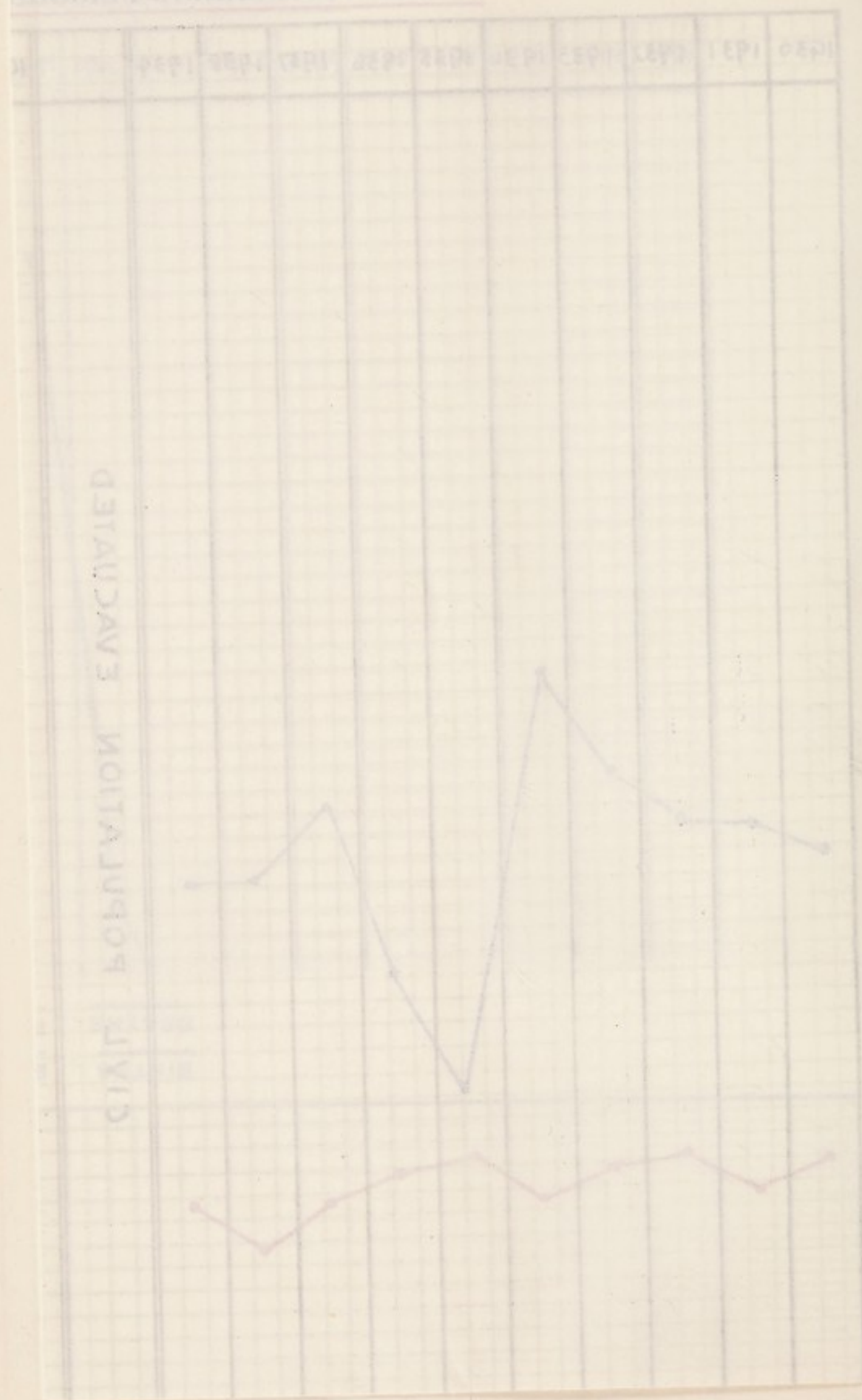
E. A. MORSE
City Pathologist, Assistant
Director

Philadelphia, 19th Feb, 1955.

COMPARATIVE CHART OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1000 CIVIL POPULATION
FOR THE DECENNIAL PERIODS 1930-1939 & 1945-1954

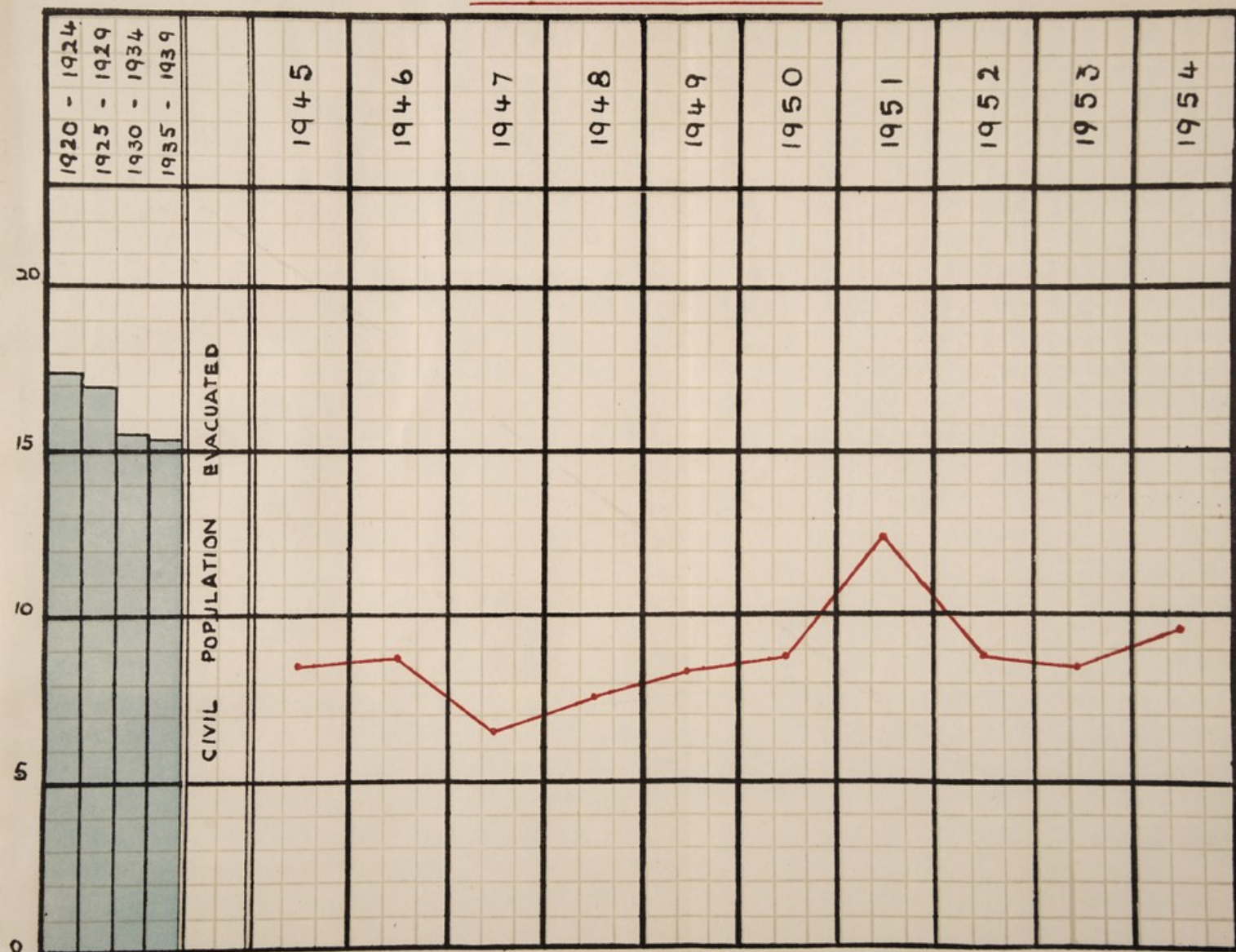


COMPARATIVE CHART OF BIRTH AND DEATH
FOR THE DECENNIAL PERIODS



DEATH RATE PER 1000 CIVIL POPULATION FOR THE DECENNIAL PERIODS

1920-1929, 1930-1939 & 1945-1954



AVERAGES

1920-1924=17.18

1925-1929=16.96

1920-1929=17.07

1930-1934=15.49

1935-1939=15.35

1930-1939=15.42

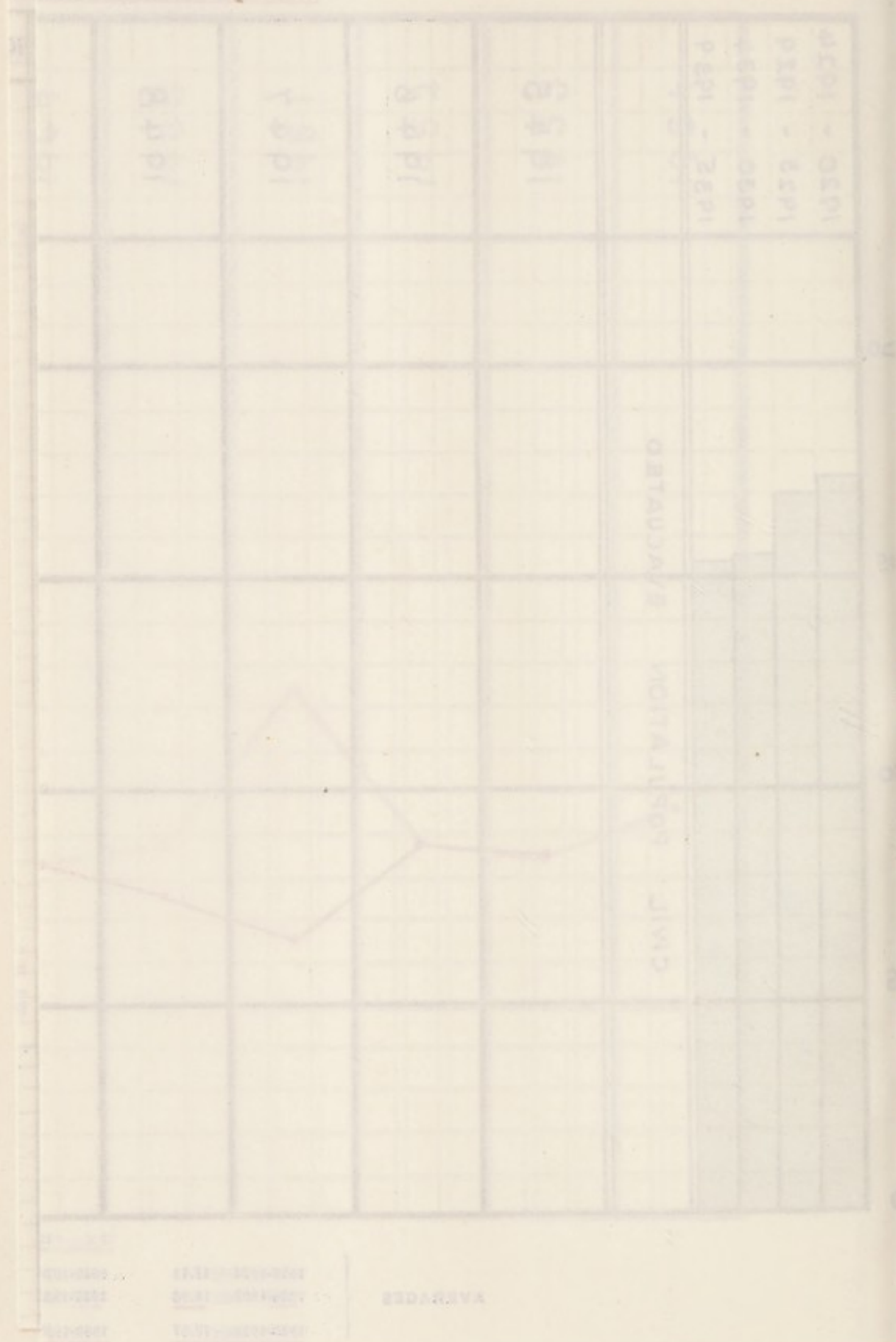
1954=9.37

1945-1949=7.92

1949-1954=9.44

1945-1954=8.68

1950-1959 1960-1969 1970-1979



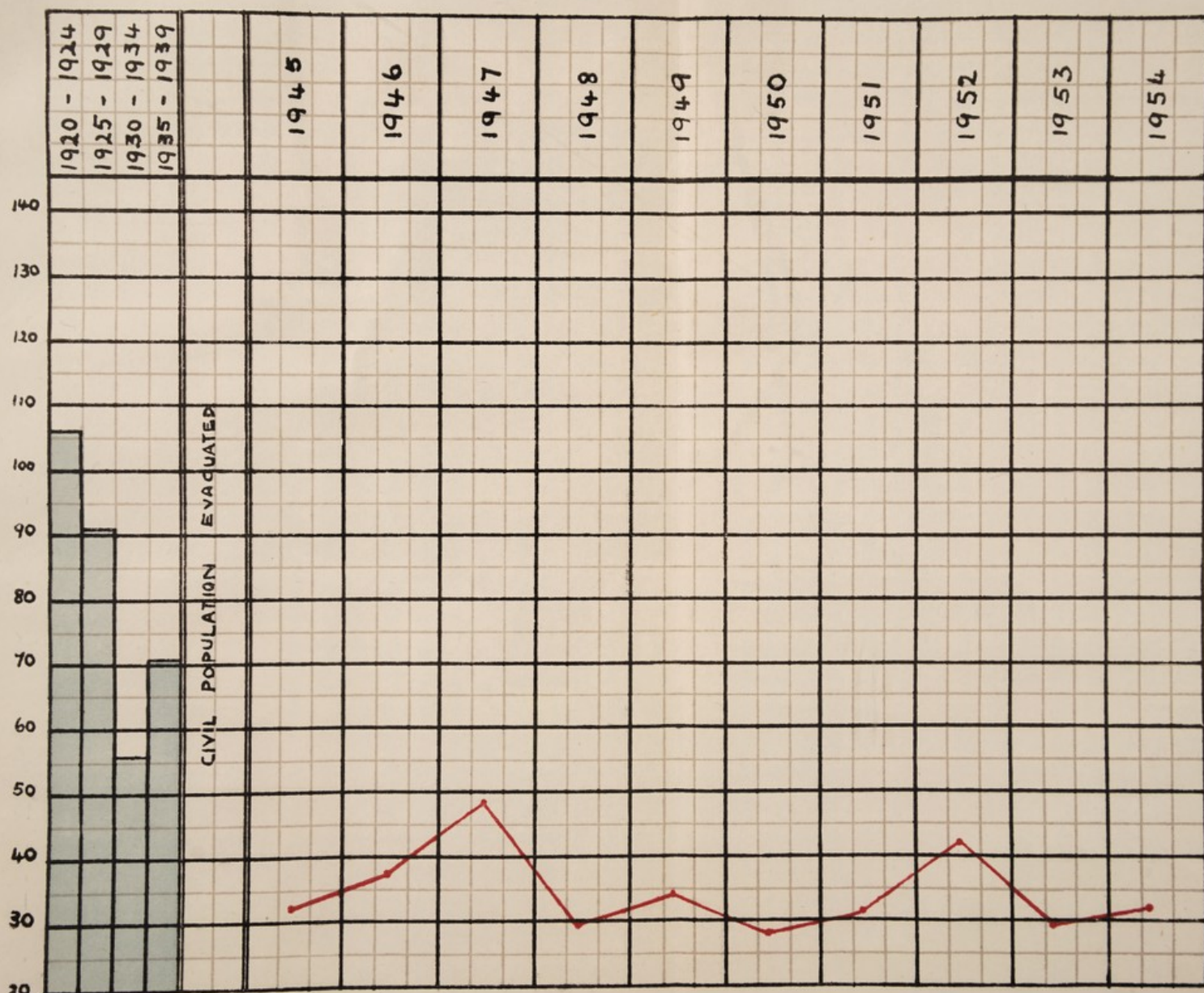
1950-1959
1960-1969
1970-1979
1980-1989

1950-1959
1960-1969
1970-1979
1980-1989

AVERAGE

INFANT MORTALITY PER 1000 BIRTHS CIVIL POPULATION FOR THE DECENNIAL PERIODS

1920-1929, 1930-1939 & 1945-1954



AVERAGES

1920-1924 = 106.9
 1925-1929 = 91.7
 1920-1929 = 99.3

1930-1934 = 57.4
 1935-1939 = 70.3
 1930-1939 = 63.4

1945-1949 = 36.0
 1950-1954 = 31.9
 1945-1954 = 33.9

1954 = 33.5



