

Annual report on the health of Gibraltar.

Contributors

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City Council of Gibraltar

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH OF GIBRALTAR

FOR THE YEAR

1955

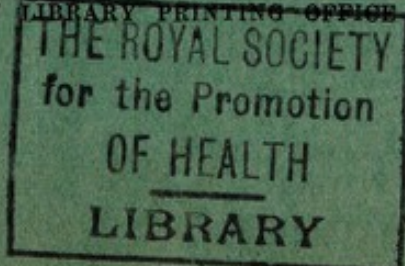
BY

**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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Assistant Superintendent of Markets :

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Market Inspectors :

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† E. J. MACEDO.

J. REYES.

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(In July 1955 the title of Royal Sanitary Institute was changed to The Royal Society for the Promotion of Health, hence the change in the designation of the Sanitary Inspectors' qualifications.)

†Certificate Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

O Certificate in General Hygiene of the Royal Institute of Public Health and Hygiene.

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J. C. CASSAGLIA, Esq., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P.S.

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Mrs. M. SOLECI, S.R.N., S.C.M.

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

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

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

ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH

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Members :

The Chief Assistant Secretary, Colonial Secretariat.

The Assistant Director of Medical Services.

The Chief Medical Officer, Colonial Government.

The Medical Officer of Health.

The Royal Naval Representative.

The Royal Air Force Representative.

The Port Medical Officer.

Secretary :

J. L. Hoare, Esq.

To His Worship the Mayor and Councillors
of the City of Gibraltar.

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health of Gibraltar for the year 1955.

Though a widespread epidemic of Whooping Cough, fortunately of a benign nature, which starting in the month of January prevailed without respite until November marred what would otherwise have been a low incidence of the common infectious diseases, the City has been free from major infections or grave epidemics and the health of the community may be considered to have remained satisfactory throughout the year under review.

Two hundred and sixteen deaths from all causes occurred during the year providing a crude death rate of 8.69 per thousand total civil population and representing a considerable decrease compared with 1954.

Sixty-two per cent of all deaths concerned persons 65 years of age or older and were attributed to diseases of the heart and circulatory system and to degenerative and other conditions incidental to senility, which proved the principal causes of death.

Thirty-eight persons died from Cancer and other malignant tumours which constituted the second principal cause of mortality and accounted for nineteen per cent of all deaths. Malignant tumours of the respiratory organs were responsible for approximately a quarter of the cancer deaths, all the persons affected being males.

The progressive increase in deaths from Cancer which is attributed mainly to the increased incidence of malignant tumours of the respiratory organs in men during the past decade has rendered the disease a major cause of mortality and contrasts strikingly with a steady decline in deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis notwithstanding that with but small fluctuations there has been no corresponding decrease in its incidence during the same period. This disease at one time reputed one of "The Captains of the Men of Death" though still a grave social problem and the cause of much suffering, disability and economic loss may now be considered to play a minor roll in the causation of death.

Only two deaths were caused by Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1955 which represents a mortality of 0.08 per thousand population, and constitutes the lowest death rate for the disease recorded in Gibraltar since 1891 when statistics are first available.

Notwithstanding a small decrease in the number of children born from the resident population, births outnumbered deaths by one hundred and seventy-three.

There was a remarkable fall in infant deaths in 1955. Seven infants died before attaining the age of one year providing the very low infant mortality rate of 18.76. Two of these died within four weeks of birth representing an outstandingly small neo-natal death rate of 5.36 per thousand. So far as I have found it possible to ascertain from statistical data available in the Public Health Department, these rates constitute the lowest infant mortality recorded in Gibraltar since 1888. Even allowing for fluctuations to which such rates are liable, these figures are most gratifying and reflect great credit on the work of all concerned with the health and welfare of children, particularly when it is appreciated that the progress which they indicate has been achieved in the face of environmental conditions which in many respects cannot always be considered to favour the promotion of child health.

Lest perhaps these achievements lead to undue complacency, I must express concern at the decrease in the number of infants who were registered at the Child Welfare Clinics and in the attendances and domiciliary visits recorded in the Child Welfare report for the year. A sharp decline in attendances first occurred in 1953 and was attributed by the Government Paediatrician to the failure of the poorer mothers to bring their children to the clinics following restrictions imposed on the issue of free or cheap milk by the Social Welfare Department that year. Attendances have since progressively decreased, those for 1955 numbering over three thousand, five hundred less than in 1952, though there has been no significant change in the birth rate. Whatever the cause may be the progressive fall in attendances appears to indicate that all is not well with this service which is the keystone of all schemes for the promotion of child health, and the circumstances warrant a careful reviewal for the purpose of adopting whatever measures may be necessary to render the clinics more attractive to mothers.

I gather from the School Medical Report that over five thousand school children were examined during the year, and it is satisfactory to note that their average health and physique remains at a very high standard.

Only one case of Diphtheria occurred during 1955, but it is disquieting to note the very small number of infants who are being immunized against Diphtheria, and though I have commented at length on the subject in the text of this report, I would add that this treacherous disease is liable to

break out in its old virulent epidemic form whenever conditions are favourable to its spread and there is no guarantee that the virtual freedom from it which our community has enjoyed during the past decade will continue.

Shortage of houses and consequent overcrowding with its adverse influence on health and happiness still constitutes the most difficult and frustrating problem confronting workers engaged in public health and Social Welfare. The large number of dwellings which have been built by the Government since the world war has only partially remedied the position and though plans for an extensive building programme involving the erection of sixty flats annually during the next five years have been approved and are about to be implemented shortly, it is questionable whether they will suffice to abate the considerable overcrowding which still exists and meet the necessities of a progressively growing population. Houses and flats which have been and are being built privately obtain such rentals as to be beyond the income of the average person seeking accommodation or are let as furnished apartments at still higher rents prohibitive to any but those who only require short term temporary accommodation.

The great demand for houses together with the limitation of space and high cost of building is also leading some house owners to build inadequately small flats which hardly offer the elementary amenities necessary, and to convert stores and other such places into small dwellings which only just conform with the minimum legal standards but which are quite unfit for the purpose and add to the number of existing undesirable tenements which but for the present critical housing position should not be tolerated. It may be said that the exigencies of the situation and financial considerations leave no alternative, in other words that we can only cut our coat according to the cloth available, but it must be admitted that such practice is a retrograde step which perpetuates low standards of hygiene and living conditions which all concerned with the promotion of health and welfare have been struggling incessantly for years to raise.

Food hygiene always a matter of deep concern to health authorities and to which much of their health officers' time and attention is normally devoted received special consideration. Though it is hardly necessary to say that food is indispensable to the maintenance of life and health, it may not be out of place here to emphasize that to serve its purpose fully it must not only be adequate in quantity and contain all the nutritive elements necessary, but should also be appetising and above all free from noxious inorganic substances or organisms which may cause disease;

briefly, it must be wholesome and clean, else it may endanger health or even cause death. To protect the public as far as possible from such dangers new Food Byelaws (in force since the 1st January, 1956) were made by the Council which prescribe measures for the prevention of food poisoning and diseases liable to be conveyed by contaminated food and to promote hygiene and cleanliness in the storing, preparation and handling of food, but it must be appreciated that however comprehensive such legislation may be and however strictly it is enforced by the health authorities, complete success in attaining the end in view is hardly possible without the goodwill and co-operation of all concerned, that is, scrupulous attention to hygiene both personal and in respect of their premises and equipment on the part of the purveyors and insistence by consumers on a high standard of cleanliness as a condition of their patronage. I venture therefore to request from all concerned the favour of such assistance as they may be in a position to give me and my staff in a matter which is of vital importance to the health of each and every member of the public.

With the passing and enforcement in October of the Social Insurance Ordinances and Regulations an important gap has been filled in the statutory legislation related to social welfare in the Colony. These enactments by providing for old age pensions, unemployment benefits, maternity grants, widows, guardians and other allowances fulfil a long standing need and will benefit not only those directly concerned and their families, but will also reflect favourably on the welfare and health of the community generally.

In conclusion I would 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 my staff for their devotion to duty and unfailing loyalty which I highly appreciate.

I have the honour to be,

Your Worship and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. DURANTE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,

City Hall,

Gibraltar, 30th April, 1956.

CITY COUNCIL OF GIBRALTAR

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Summary of Vital Statistics for the year 1955

Total area of Gibraltar Territory 1,387 acres

Area of the City 104 acres

Estimated Total Civil Population of Gibraltar 24,829 persons

Estimated Fixed Civil Population of Gibraltar 23,091 persons

*Births in Fixed Civil Population,

Males	—	192	}		373
Females	—	181			

Birth Rate per 1,000 Fixed Civil Population ... 16.15

Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Civil Population... 15.74

*Deaths in Fixed Civil Population 200

Death Rate per 1,000 Fixed Civil Population... 8.66

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 Total Civil
Population... 8.69

Infantile Mortality Rate Fixed Civil
Population... 18.76

Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... 0.08

*Vide note on Page 12.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1955

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

A very wet year with a total fall of 49.63 inches — the highest for forty years. November was an outstandingly wet month, with a fall of 18.28 inches of which 14.97 inches were concentrated in a 6 day period from midday 20th to midday 26th, unprecedented for at least a century. January, February and March were all very wet with totals of 7.61 inches, 7.79 inches and 6.07 inches. April was however dry and the rest of the year followed the normal pattern. Sunshine was deficient with a daily average of 7.46 hours (60 per cent of possible) throughout the year compared with the long term average of 8.10 hours. Only in April and September did the sun shine longer than normal, and in July with 10.05 hours and November with 3.46 hours daily, averages were nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours below normal respectively; both were the dullest months since records started in 1939. The average temperature was 66.3°F , 2.6°F above normal. This was mainly due to higher night rather than higher day temperatures. Extreme temperatures were 97°F on 31st August, the hottest day for over 6 years, and 38°F on 10th March. Humidity was about average, varying from 84 per cent in the late night to sixty-seven per cent during mid-afternoon. Over the year on the whole there were more Levanter conditions than usual. From January to March Westerly winds were predominant but except for June, October and December, Easterlies were most prevalent, although in April and November winds from the west are usually twice as frequent as from the east. Until Autumn, levanter spells tended to be of limited duration, but in September there was an almost unbroken spell 9th-30th and in November a similar spell 16th-30th. Winds were high at times, especially in the short levanter period in December, but the force was felt less in the town than at North Front.

January. Unsettled with excess of rain and deficit of sunshine. Westerlies were unusually steady. It was exceptionally mild, the average day and night temperatures of 63.7°F and 54.5°F being both almost 5°F above average, and the night figure the highest for at least twenty-five years.

February. Again unsettled mild and wet, with frequent thunderstorms from 16th onwards. The average temperature was 2° above normal, and the maximum of 75°F on 9th was the highest February temperature for at least twenty-five years.

March. Wet with thunderstorms on many days between 8th and 20th and on 31st. Conditions were mild by day but cool by night with a daily average of 1.5°F above normal and a night minimum 1.8°F below. The temperature of 38°F recorded on 10th was the lowest for at least twenty-five years.

April. Warm and dry except for thundery conditions on 23rd and 28th. The average maximum temperature was 70.3°F , 4.3°F above the March average and the highest for twenty-five years, the night minimum temperature was 57.7°F , 2.0°F above average. For the first time in 1955, sunshine was above normal with 8.83 hours compared with the average 8.34 hours.

May. Dry, rather dull and abnormally warm, with a day maximum of 77.2°F , 7.7°F above normal; the night temperatures averaged 64.3°F , 6°F above normal. Curiously the former figure was not a record, though the latter was the highest May temperature for twenty-five years at least. There were several short levanter spells.

June. Dry, rather dull and warm; sunshine totalled 10.44 hours, half an hour below the long term average, but the temperatures of 76.2°F and 45.6°F were 1.2 and 1.9°F above average. The maximum of 91° on 28th has only once been exceeded in June since 1930. There were several spells of levanter conditions which were persistent during the month.

July. A very average July except for sunshine which was very low; the average of 10.05 hours was the lowest since 1936; the average normal daily sunshine is 11.40 hours.

August. Another fairly normal month with slightly deficient sunshine (10.15 hours compared with average of 10.80) and the highest day temperature since 1949 — 97°F on 31st.

September. Warm with fog or nearby fog on several days mid-month. Sunshine was 9.31 hours, .6 hours above normal and temperature was 3°F warmer than normal. Levanter conditions were most persistent from 9th onwards, and winds of over 20 knots occurred from 28th to 30th with a gust of 30 knots.

October. Warm, cloudy with two fairly prolonged levanter periods. Rainfall was somewhat above average, and sunshine was markedly deficient, .94 hours a day below average.

November. On the whole unpleasant, particularly from mid month, with exceptionally heavy rain, very deficient sunshine and persistent and quite strong easterlies. As remarked the fall experienced in 6 days is the highest for at least a century, bearing in mind the falls in the town were appreciably higher than the 14.97 inches at North Front (City Hall 18.25 inches, Moorish Castle 17.79 inches, Convent 21.02 inches). Falls on 21st were 4.01 inches at North Front, 5.53 inches at City Hall, 5.49 at Moorish Castle and 7.02 inches at The Convent. The sun was not seen for seven days 18th to 25th.

December. Strong levanter conditions obtained 3rd-7th with winds of gale strength on many occasions. Conditions were mainly dull until 19th, but from 20th onwards there was abundant sunshine with light westerly breezes, Rainfall was rather below normal, and temperatures were above normal despite a somewhat deficient total of sunshine.

North Front. Lat. 36°09' N. Long. 05° 21' W. Barometer Height 24 Ft. Raingauge 8 Ft. Above M.S.L

YEAR 1955 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	03	09	15	21					
																			0300	0900	1500	2100	
		January	1016.5	56.7	57.4	62.6	57.3	63.7	54.5	59.1	70	21st	47	29th	39	29th	86	84	72	85	4.1	4.9	5.4
February.....	1014.3	54.2	54.9	62.3	56.1	63.6	51.5	57.5	75	9th	43	28th	36	21st	85	83	67	83	3.4	5.2	5.5	4.0	4.8
March	1013.0	53.9	56.4	62.2	56.4	64.2	51.4	57.8	75	22nd	38	10th	29	11th	82	78	65	79	4.8	5.3	5.5	4.8	2.9
April.....	1017.9	59.3	64.1	68.4	62.0	70.3	57.7	64.0	77	28th	53	11th	43	11th	85	73	65	80	3.0	4.1	3.6	3.2	2.7
May	1016.8	65.8	70.1	75.2	68.4	77.2	64.3	70.7	87	14th	60	11.26th	52	11th	80	74	62	76	3.0	3.7	3.8	3.2	2.1
June	1016.7	67.5	70.5	74.7	69.9	76.2	65.6	70.9	91	28th	61	11th	60	11th	86	78	68	83	3.0	3.8	3.0	2.7	2.6
July	1014.7	70.8	74.2	79.2	73.2	81.1	68.6	74.9	91	5th	64	14th	64	12.14th	83	73	61	76	3.0	3.2	2.5	2.1	1.7
August	1015.4	71.1	74.6	80.5	74.6	82.3	69.2	75.7	97	31st	63	15th	62	15th	81	74	61	74	2.4	3.1	1.8	2.6	3.3
September ...	1016.4	70.9	73.6	77.5	72.4	79.6	69.7	74.7	91	1st	66	6.12.14th 14th	64	12th	83	76	67	80	2.8	3.6	1.8	1.7	6.0
October	1015.3	65.1	66.5	70.7	66.6	72.4	62.7	67.5	80	7th	53	23rd	52	22nd 23rd	80	76	67	79	3.1	4.5	4.0	3.3	3.6
November.....	1016.5	61.2	61.7	64.3	62.1	65.5	59.1	62.3	72	7th	52	13th	49	13th	85	81	77	84	5.3	6.2	6.3	3.5	3.3
December	1021.0	58.2	58.2	63.2	59.8	64.1	55.8	59.9	68	26th	46	31st	42	31st	87	85	75	83	3.3	4.3	4.2	3.5	3.3
Year	1016.2	62.9	65.2	70.1	64.9	71.7	60.8	66.3	97	31/8/55	38	10/3/55	29	1/3/55	84	78	67	80	3.4	4.3	3.9	3.3	3.3

North Front. Lat. 36°09' N. Long. 05° 21' W. Barometer Height 24 ft. Rain gauge 8 ft Above M.S.L.

YEAR 1955 Month	RAINFALL			SUNSHINE		WEATHER								
	Total mm	Max in 24 hrs., 09-09	Date	Daily Mean Hrs.	o/o of Pos- sible	No. of Days of								
						Rain	Snow	Hail	Thun- der	Over- cast Sky	Clear Sky	Gales	Fog	Frost
Jan	193.4	34.5	2nd	5.11	50.9	20	0	0	2	4	0	0	0	0
Feb	197.9	38.6	16th	5.61	54.8	16	0	0	5	1	2	0	0	0
Mar	154.2	25.7	30th	5.74	47.9	16	0	0	5	4	2	0	1	0
April	38.0	35.5	22nd	8.83	67.5	2	0	0	1	1	4	0	1	0
May	8.0	4.0	23rd	9.55	67.9	3	0	0	0	1	7	0	1	0
June	7.9	4.3	11th	10.44	72.8	2	0	0	2	0	6	0	1	0
July	Trace	Trace	—	10.05	69.9	—	0	0	1	1	14	0	2	0
Aug	0.3	0.3	27th	10.15	74.9	1	0	0	0	0	8	0	4	0
Sept	0.1	0.1	16th	9.31	74.6	1	0	0	1	0	7	0	3	0
Oct	98.3	39.1	30th	6.46	56.5	12	0	0	5	3	5	0	0	0
Nov	464.6	101.8	21st	3.46	32.9	17	0	0	5	12	1	0	0	0
Dec	97.9	27.9	12th	4.79	49.2	14	0	0	0	3	5	1	1	0
Year	1200.6	101.8	21/11 /55	7.46	60.0	104	0	0	27	30	61	1	14	0

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 1955 MONTHS	FORCE					DIRECTION							
	8 or over	6-7	4-5	1-3	Calm	N.	NE.	E.	SE.	S.	SW.	W.	NW.
January	—	6	69	46	3	—	3	7	2	—	10	76	23
February	—	9	31	61	11	1	2	8	3	—	11	59	17
March	1	12	24	70	17	16	3	25	4	—	15	48	11
April	—	5	39	64	12	—	3	60	6	—	11	25	3
May	—	—	37	80	7	1	11	49	2	4	21	29	—
June	—	—	42	72	6	—	6	55	5	7	17	24	—
July	—	—	40	72	12	—	15	29	4	15	25	24	—
August	—	—	38	71	15	—	10	36	12	12	21	16	2
September	—	—	53	62	5	—	1	61	12	1	5	29	6
October	—	3	52	60	9	1	3	39	18	1	10	34	9
November	—	14	37	63	6	—	11	60	12	2	6	20	3
December	2	21	43	50	8	1	1	23	3	4	31	15	8
Year	3	70	505	771	111	20	69	452	83	46	183	429	82

VITAL STATISTICS

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

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

	Men	Women	Children		Totals
			Male	Female	
Gibraltarians	6,191	7,536	2,307	2,215	18,249
Statutory Aliens ...	1,104	1,723	1,023	992	4,842
Other Aliens	603	1,106	14	15	1,738
Totals	7,898	10,365	3,344	3,222	24,829

These figures represent an increase of 47 in the British Fixed Civil Population and a decrease of 92 in the Total Population as compared with the preceding year.

No records are available to the Department of the average number of persons entering and leaving Gibraltar daily during 1955.

The daily average for the period 1949-53 was 8,660.

The alterations in population since 1930 are shown below:—

How Estimated	British Subjects Fixed Population	Alien 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
" " " " 1955	23,091	1,738	24,829

*Deaths

Two hundred deaths, ninety-eight males and one hundred and two females were registered as having occurred in the resident British civil population during 1955 amounting to 8.66 per thousand. The corresponding figures for 1954 were 216 and 9.37 respectively. In addition there were sixteen deaths among non-resident aliens providing a total of two hundred and sixteen deaths or 8.69 per thousand total civil population. There was thus a decrease of sixteen deaths in the British population as compared with the preceding year and mortality maintained the low level established since 1945.

Of the total number of deaths, one hundred and twenty-four amounting to 62 per cent of all deaths concerned persons 65 years of age or older and were attributed principally to cardio vascular diseases, neoplasms and senility. The age group 55 and under 65 years contributed forty-one deaths.

*Vide note on Page 12.

Thus a total of one hundred and sixty-five or 82.5 per cent of all deaths occurred in persons 55 years of age or older, whilst thirty-five or 17.5 per cent concerned individuals who had not attained their fifty-fifth year.

The principal causes of death were:—

Cardio vascular diseases	76
Malignant neoplasms	38
Vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system	30
Diseases of the respiratory organs (excluding neoplasms)	12
Senility	8

Pulmonary Tuberculosis proved a negligible factor as a cause of mortality only contributing two deaths. With this exception, the distribution of causes maintained the same pattern as in the preceding seven years.

Four persons under 45 years of age, eleven in the 45 and under 55 years group and eleven in the 55 and under 65 years group died from cardio vascular diseases, the remainder were 65 years of age or older.

Diseases of the coronary arteries were predominant as the cause of deaths attributed to cardio vascular affections.

With one exception all deaths due to vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system occurred in persons 55 years of age or older.

Malignant neoplasms continued to constitute the second highest cause of mortality contributing thirty-eight or 19 per cent of all deaths. The sexes were evenly affected (nineteen males and nineteen females) and with the exception of five which fell in the 45 and under 55 years group, all the persons concerned were 55 years of age or older. Nine persons, all males, whose ages ranged from 45 to 74 years died from malignant tumours of the respiratory organs which provided 23.6 per cent of all cancer deaths.

Deaths from malignant neoplasms in 1954 totalled forty-five, whilst the yearly average for the period 1947-54 was 32.7.

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms period 1947-55

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Deaths	26	28	25	32	32	35	39	45	38

Two maternal deaths occurred, one was attributed to haemorrhage, the other to obstetric shock.

Deaths by Months and Quarters

January	18	July	14
February	30	August	19
March	25	September	11
1st Quarter...73		3rd Quarter ...44	
April	21	October	16
May	20	November	13
June	12	December	17
2nd Quarter ...53		4th Quarter...46	

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

*Births

Three hundred and seventy-three children, one hundred and ninety-two males and one hundred and eighty-one females were born from the civil population during the year 1955 providing a birth rate of 16.15 per thousand fixed British civil population which represents a small decrease compared with the preceding year when the corresponding figures were three hundred and eighty-eight and 16.83. In addition there were eighteen births to non-resident aliens constituting a total of three hundred and ninety-one births or 15.74 per thousand total civil population.

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

Colonial Hospital	344
Military Hospital	14
Private Practitioners	3
Midwives	30
	391

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

Illegitimate Births totalled eleven which represents 2.8 per cent of all births.

* Vide note on Page 12.

Illegitimate births period 1948-55

Year	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Number	10	15	13	17	13	12	8	11
Rate per cent of all births	2.69	3.69	3.66	4.29	3.2	3.05	1.9	2.8

*Infant Mortality

Seven infants died before attaining the age of one year which constitutes an infant mortality rate of 18.76 per thousand live births. Two of these children died within four weeks of birth providing a neo-natal death rate of 5.36 per thousand. These figures represent a very considerable decrease in mortality compared with the preceding year when infant deaths numbered 13 or 33.5 per thousand, whilst the neo-natal deaths were nine or 23.19 per thousand. Such a marked decline in infant deaths is most gratifying as is also the fact that so far as it has been possible to establish from tables of vital statistics dating back to the year 1888 available in Annual Health Reports in the Public Health Department the infant mortality rates for 1955 constitute the lowest ever recorded in Gibraltar.

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
Atelectasis.										
Congenital Hyaline Bronchial Membrane				1	1					1
Congenital Heart Disease						1				1
Congenital Heart Disease										
Entero Colitis							1			1
Dehydration.										
Gastro-Enteritis								1		1
Toxaemia.										
Gastritis							1			1
Bronchopneumonia.										
Inhalation of Vomitus								1		1
Totals	1			1	2	1	2	2		7

* Vide note on Page 12.

Still-births

Eight still-births were registered during the year which amounts to 20 per thousand total live and still-births and represents an increase of five over the number recorded the preceding year. The statutory registration of still-births was first enforced in 1950. Registrations in the years 1950 to 1954 were 9, 17, 8, 9 and 3.

Infantile Mortality and Neo-Natal Death Rates for 1945-55.

	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
1955	18.76	5.36

Tables of vital statistics for the periods 1930-9 and 1945-55 are appended.

NOTE:—

One hundred and seventy 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 1955 and the corresponding crude rates were therefore as follows:—

Births 561 or 22.59 per thousand total population.

Deaths 219 or 8.82 per thousand total population.

Deaths in infants under one year 10 or 17.82
per thousand total live births.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE PERIODS 1930-9 and 1945-55

Year	POPULATION			DEATHS			INFANTILE MORTALITY		BIRTHS	
	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
1930	15,526	16,448	Police Estimate	240	240	15.6	25	71.3	349	22.4
1931	16,188	17,613	Census	250	254	15.4	23	61.0	377	23.28
1932	15,143	16,609	Police Estimate	245	259	16.17	21	60.69	346	22.84
1933	15,071	16,397	"	241	245	15.99	14	39.2	357	23.68
1934	14,790	15,847	"	225	230	15.21	21	54.8	383	25.8
1935	15,735	16,865	"	255	265	16.20	18	67.4	267	16.9
1936	15,735	16,865	"	249	261	15.82	19	62.09	304	19.30
1937	16,792	19,541	"	256	292	15.24	25	68.24	381	22.69
1938	17,222	20,239	"	246	278	14.28	27	74.38	563	21.07
1939	18,125	20,440	"	276	296	15.22	30	79.36	378	20.85
Period of evacuation of civil population										
1945	17,448	19,232	"	155	162	8.88	20	32.89	608	34.84
1946	19,269	21,233	"	177	187	9.18	15	36.4	412	21.38
1947	20,316	22,532	"	146	148	7.18	18	47.24	381	18.75
1948	21,472	23,700	"	176	182	8.19	11	29.56	372	17.32
1949	22,208	24,585	"	181	185	8.15	14	34.2	408	18.37
1950	22,470	24,886	"	199	207	8.85	10	28.16	355	15.79
1951	19,739	21,100	Census)	241	255	12.2	12	31	387	19.6
			Mid-Year)							
1952	22,176	24,473	Police Estimate	191	195	8.61	16	41.55	385	17.36
1953	22,629	24,736	"	186	199	8.21	10	25.44	377	16.66
1954	23,044	24,921	"	216	227	9.37	13	33.5	388	16.83
1955	23,091	24,829	"	200	216	8.66	7	18.76	373	16.15

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. K. Edmundson, the Chief Medical Officer, for the following information regarding the progress of these services during 1955:—

Maternity Service

Ante-natal clinics were held at the Colonial Hospital twice weekly. Attendance was very good. Again the majority of mothers continued to be delivered in the Colonial Hospital. A few cases 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 were two maternal deaths.

Paediatric Service

During the year under review this service continued to function satisfactorily.

The number of out-patients was as follows:—

1955	1954
2,704	2,789

Child Welfare

Clinics were held regularly throughout the year at the three existing centres, viz. Town Clinic twice weekly, Glacis Clinic, in the North side of the town, once weekly, and South Clinic once weekly. Besides these, two special Clinics a week were held by the Paediatrician in charge, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, where children referred from other Clinics were attended.

Children who attended the Child Welfare Centre were referred to the Sick Children Department of the Colonial Hospital, for advice and treatment, when required.

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

Town Clinic

	1955	1954
Number of children registered	666	717
Attendances	7,551	8,009

South Clinic

Number of children registered	172	202
Attendances	1,948	2,219

Glacis Clinic

Number of children registered	99	113
Attendances	1,031	1,484

Special Clinics held by the Paediatrician

Number of children registered	479
Number of children seen	1,334
Number of clinics held	95

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

Town Clinic Total number on Register: 666.

Year of birth	Age Groups	Number	Percentage
1950	Over 5 years	36	5%
1951	4 — 5	55	9%
1952	3 — 4	57	9%
1953	2 — 3	100	15%
1954	1 — 2	181	27%
1955	0 — 1	237	35%

South Clinic Total number on Register: 172.

Year of birth	Age Groups	Number	Percentage
1950	Over 5 years	9	5%
1951	4 — 5	18	11%
1952	3 — 4	24	15%
1953	2 — 3	25	15%
1954	1 — 2	48	27%
1955	0 — 1	48	27%

Glacis Clinic Total number on Register: 99.

Year of birth	Age Groups	Number	Percentage
1950	Over 5 years	10	10%
1951	4 — 5	15	15%
1952	3 — 4	14	14%
1953	2 — 3	16	16%
1954	1 — 2	18	18%
1955	0 — 1	26	27%

Home Visits

Primary	350
Special	38
Ante-natal	57
Children over 1 year	1,503
Children under 1 year	470
(excluding primary visits)	
Fruitless	248
Removals	114
Total number of houses visited	1,815

Immunizations (Carried out at the Colonial Hospital).

Anti-diphtheria prophylactic Courses completed: 20.

Combined diphtheria-pertussis
prophylactic Courses completed: 31.**School Medical Report**

The number of schools on the register is now twenty, and the average health and physique of the children remains at a very high standard.

Over five thousand children were examined, and of these, no less than thirty-two had Cardiac Bruits, twenty-five having no past history of Rheumatic Fever, and of the remaining seven, there were two Rheumatic Fevers and five labelled as congenital.

Of the children seen, forty were referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon, and five hundred and four to Dental Clinics. Only three were referred to the Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

Again, one must repeat that the few children who were found to be below par were the victims, not of disease but of social conditions, co-operation with the Welfare Department was all that could be desired in this aspect.

The question of playing space in schools, and of a Sports Ground remains, as it has done since 1939, exceedingly acute.

SUMMARY OF DENTAL TREATMENT

Dental Surgeon	Sessions for Treatment	Teeth Conserved	Teeth Extracted	Attendances for Scaling and Gum Treatment
Mr. A. A. Danino...	161	803	270	99
Mr. J. J. Cochrane	24	85	134	25

[illegible]

CARE OF THE SICK AND AGED

Provisions for the institutional care of aged or infirm persons remain 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 at Beriro's Home by the Colonial Government, whilst seventeen aged men and twenty-one women are accommodated at the Little Sisters of the Poor. Though considerable improvements have been effected to this building and equipment provided to enhance the comfort and afford further amenities for the residents, the conditions cannot be considered to conform with modern conceptions regarding the housing and care of the aged, and particularly of such as are also infirm and require special attention.

A few aged and infirm women are cared for at the Colonial Hospital.

CHILDREN DEVOID OF PARENTAL CARE

There were in Gibraltar before the last war two institutions (one for girls and another for boys) administered and financed by voluntary organizations for the care of children who because they were orphans or for other reasons were deprived of parental care. Ten years have now elapsed since the repatriation of the population, yet no such provisions exist nor would it appear that the matter has received the serious consideration it deserves. Though the number of children in circumstances requiring institutional care may not be large, it is considerable enough to warrant the adoption without further delay of measures to remedy this defect in our social services.

CARE OF THE BLIND

I am indebted to the Honorary Secretary of the Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Blindness, Mrs. D. M. Ellicott, for the information about the work of the Society during the year 1955 on which this section is based.

Twelve blind persons died, two left the Colony and there were twelve new registrations during 1955 providing a total of one hundred and twelve and a decrease of two compared with the preceding year.

The following table showing the number, age and sex of registered blind at the end of the year indicates that blindness in Gibraltar is practically confined to the aged, particularly elderly females.

Ages			Males	Females	Total
0	—	10	—	—	—
10	—	20	1	1	2
20	—	30	3	—	3
30	—	40	2	4	6
40	—	50	3	3	6
50	—	60	6	9	15
Over 60			13	67	80
			—	—	—
			28	84	112
			—	—	—

These figures do not represent the true incidence for there are a number of persons known to be blind who cannot be registered because they refuse to be examined by the Government Ophthalmologist. It must also be appreciated that a number of those registered are partially sighted, in fact, eleven blind males are gainfully employed in various occupations, whilst several women contrive to run their own homes.

Most of the elderly blind are well cared for by relatives in their homes. Thirty-eight (seven men and thirty-one women) are in receipt of a weekly allowance under the Public Assistance Scheme, whilst twelve aged blind are in Government institutions and receive a small pocket money allowance.

Society visitors pay domiciliary visits to the blind and help them in various ways, and at the request of the educational authorities they also call on parents who do not co-operate in taking their children for treatment or who refuse to allow them to wear glasses. The Society pays for glasses which have been prescribed in Gibraltar to adults or children who cannot afford them.

Early in the year the Society found premises and organized classes in chair seating, but the response to this as well as to repeated offers of tuition in other useful subjects to the younger blind has been very disappointing. Much credit is due to the members of this Society who notwithstanding difficulties and frustrations persevere in their efforts to prevent blindness and to relieve the blind.

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The infectious diseases statutorily notifiable under the provisions of 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 fifty-five cases of infectious disease were notified from the civil population during the year representing an incidence of 15.3 per 1,000, and an increase of 44 compared with the preceding year when the corresponding figures were 311 and 13.4.

A wide-spread epidemic of Whooping Cough accounted for 202 of the total notifications and marred what would otherwise have been a very low prevalence of infectious diseases.

The incidence of Measles increased rapidly towards the end of the year. Out of a total of 50 notifications, 40 were received during the months of November and December. This sudden increase has proved the prelude to an epidemic outbreak of the disease.

There was a sharp fall in the incidence of Undulant Fever which had been unusually prevalent in 1953 and 1954 when 16 and 12 notifications were received respectively. Three cases were notified in 1955.

A single case of Diphtheria was notified.

Only two deaths from infectious diseases were reported and both were attributed to 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

1955 = 355

Note: One hundred 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 civilian sources therefore totalled 455 representing a crude incidence rate of 18.3 per thousand total population.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Twenty cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, nine males and eleven females, were notified during the year. There were two deaths. This represents a decrease of five in the incidence and eight in mortality as compared with 1954, when the corresponding figures were twenty-five and ten.

The incidence and mortality rates were 0.86 and 0.08 per thousand population respectively. The corresponding figures for 1954 were 1.08 and 0.43.

It is encouraging to note that with the exception of the years 1948 and 1950 when seventeen and nineteen notifications were received respectively, the incidence is the lowest since the repatriation of the civil population in 1945, and particularly gratifying that the mortality is the lowest registered since 1891 when records are first available.

Of the total number of persons concerned, three males and a female were under 15 years of age, three males and nine females were in the 15 and under 45 year groups, and three males and a female were 45 years of age or older.

The youngest patient notified was 13 months old and the oldest 70 years.

In each of four instances parent and offspring were involved, the latter having acquired the disease from the former. Two of these families were living in unsuitable and overcrowded homes and circumstances were aggravated in one of them by the bread winner having been unemployed for

a considerable time. A young female 25 years of age was probably infected by her brother who had died from the disease six months previously.

The source of infection in the other patients remained undetermined.

The two deaths which occurred concerned two male persons aged 43 and 63 years respectively.

The facilities for free radiological examination of prospective employees on application to the Director of Labour and Welfare which were first provided in 1952 remained available throughout the year, but the response cannot be considered to have been satisfactory.

I cannot again too strongly urge employers, particularly parents, to avail themselves of these arrangements which have been made principally to protect young children from being infected with tuberculosis by nursemaids and other servants with whom they may come in intimate contact.

Details of radiological screening of domestic servants for the years 1952-5 are shown in the following table which has been kindly supplied by the Director of Labour and Welfare.

Radiological Screening of Domestic Servants Period 1952-5

	1952	1953	1954	1955
New entrants to domestic service in Gibraltar	21	110	26	2
Domestic servants transferring from one employer to another	129	223	99	113
Domestic servants already in employment screened at employer's request	7	54	78	48
Total number screened	157	387	203	163
Number found unfit	Nil	3	1	Nil

Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis

No notifications of non-respiratory Tuberculosis were received in 1955.

Note: Fourteen 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 1945-1955

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
1955	20	2	0.86	0.08

Enteric Fever

Five cases of Typhoid and three of Para-Typhoid Fever were notified during the year. Two of the patients suffering from Para-Typhoid contracted the disease from a relative who was being treated in the house. The source of the other infections remained undetermined, and it can only be surmised that the persons concerned acquired the disease either during visits to places in the vicinity where enteric fevers are prevalent or from inadequately washed fruits or salads imported from such places.

Pertussis

The increase in the prevalence of Whooping Cough which occurred in the last quarter of 1954 developed into a widespread epidemic which starting early in January continued unabated until November of the year under review and produced a total of two hundred and two notifications. The disease was generally benign and there were no deaths.

There are sound reasons to consider that this figure does not represent the true incidence of the disease, for owing to the mildness of the clinical manifestations in a considerable

number of children, a doctor was not called in and thus they escaped notification. Some of these were eventually discovered because of their failure to attend school.

The control of a disease such as this where the symptoms may be so mild as to render it almost indistinguishable from a common cold and which has a considerable period of high infectivity before its true nature becomes evident, presents almost unsurmountable difficulties. The only real and practical solution to the problem would appear to be preventive vaccination of all infants at an early age, but unfortunately a protective vaccine of proven efficacy comparable to the diphtheria prophylactic vaccines now in common use and which can be adopted for a mass immunization scheme has not yet been produced. It is hoped however, that as a result of researches and large scale trials which are being embarked upon such a vaccine will become available in the not too distant future.

Measles

Fifty cases of Measles were notified during the year. Forty occurred in the months of November and December. This increased incidence has since developed into an epidemic outbreak of the disease. Five notifications of German Measles were also received.

Chicken Pox

Chicken Pox was prevalent in January. Twenty out of a total of thirty-eight notifications for the year were received during that month.

Scarlet Fever

Thirteen sporadic cases were notified.

Diphtheria

For the second year in succession only one case of Diphtheria was notified.

Notwithstanding the efforts by the Public Health Department to persuade parents to protect their children against Diphtheria by accepting the facilities offered for the purpose, the proportion of infants who are being immunized compared with the number born is insignificant, and a progressively increasing population of susceptible children is being evolved which will eventually provide fertile soil for a widespread outbreak of the disease.

It may be that the almost negligible incidence of Diphtheria in this city since the repatriation has created a sense of security or complacency amongst parents who have never experienced any of its terrors, which is quite natural and understandable, but it should be appreciated that the danger is ever present for the disease is normally endemic in the towns in the vicinity, in fact, I am informed that it has been abnormally prevalent during the year under review, and considering the close intercourse existing between our people and these communities, it is providential that Gibraltar has been spared from a serious outbreak up to date.

The following extract from a message from the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health, Sir John Charles, to Medical Officers of Health and others working in the field of Child Welfare which is included in a brochure regarding diphtheria prophylaxis in England published by the Ministry should provide convincing evidence of the effectiveness of the anti-diphtheria vaccines which are being used and may perhaps serve to encourage parents to have their children protected against this killing disease:—

“Since 1940, 11,500,000 children have been immunized against diphtheria and the incidence has fallen from a yearly average of 58,000 cases with 2,800 deaths in the years 1930-39, to 167 cases with nine deaths in 1954.”

Undulant Fever

Three notifications were received between July and September.

Acute Poliomyelitis

Two sporadic cases of paralytic poliomyelitis were notified from the civil population during the year. The patients concerned were school children, a male aged 5 years and a female aged 6 years. A case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis in a male child aged 10 years was notified from sources outside the scope of these statistics.

No secondary cases occurred.

Trachoma

Five notifications were received.

Dysentery

For the second year in succession no notifications of Bacillary Dysentery were received from the civil population.

Seven indigenous sporadic cases were however notified from sources with which these statistics are not concerned, which suggests that the absence of notifications from the civil population does not represent the true incidence of the disease, and it can only be surmised that the clinical manifestations are so benign and respond so readily to treatment with modern drugs that the true nature of the infection is not recognised in a considerable number of cases.

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

Smallpox

No cases of Smallpox occurred in Gibraltar nor were any landed from the Bay during 1955.

Vaccinations

Number of children born	391*
Number who died before vaccination	5
Number who left Gibraltar before vaccination ...	12
Number certified as insusceptible to vaccination	6
Vaccination postponed on medical grounds	7
Number successfully vaccinated	
(children born in 1955 ...)	260
Objectors to vaccination	NIL
Outstanding	101

(*includes 18 non-residents)

In addition twenty-three children from Service families, eleven children born outside Gibraltar, and one hundred and seventeen who for various reasons had not been vaccinated or whose vaccinations had been postponed on account of illness were also vaccinated.

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

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

Rabies

No cases of Rabies occurred in Gibraltar during 1955.

The brain of a cat which had died under suspicious circumstances was examined at the Pasteur Institute at Tangiers and reported clear of Rabies.

The clinical diagnosis of Rabies was confirmed histologically and by animal inoculation at the said Institute in the case of a dog which had bitten the owner (a British subject) and two other persons in Spain who were all subjected to anti-rabic treatment, whilst investigations of the brain of another suspected dog which had bitten a veterinary surgeon, also in Spain, failed to establish the presence of this disease.

The endemicity of Rabies in the neighbouring Spanish Territory renders Gibraltar particularly vulnerable to the disease and warrants the utmost vigilance and strict enforcement of control measures to prevent its introduction into the City.

The intensive customary annual four weeks campaign designed to reduce the number of stray and often diseased cats was not waged in 1955.

In its stead arrangements were made with the Gibraltar Branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals whereby the Society in consideration of a grant from the Council undertook to maintain a continuous control over the cat population by their Inspector throughout the year, and judging from the marked reduction in the number of stray mangy animals seen about the streets, it would appear that the measures adopted are proving effective.

A total of 519 cats and 33 dogs have been either surrendered by their owners or seized because they were ownerless or diseased by the Inspector and humanely destroyed in the Society's Animal Clinic during the year.

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	55
Number of stray dogs claimed by owners	17
Number of stray dogs destroyed	38
Number of dogs detained after biting persons ...	10
Number of dogs claimed by owners	9
Number of dogs destroyed	1
Number of dogs detained as contact of rabies ...	1
Number of dogs detained in transit	105
Number of dogs detained in Quarantine	7
Number of dogs humanely destroyed at owner's request	40
Number of stray cats admitted	30
Number of stray cats claimed by owners	—
Number of stray cats destroyed	30
Number of cats detained after biting/scratching	3
Number of cats claimed by owners	2
Number of cats destroyed	1
Number of cats detained in transit	18
Number of cats humanely destroyed	127

Influenza

No epidemic outbreak occurred during the year.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases with Age and Sex Incidence — Civil Population 1955

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.						
Pertussis	202	10	20	60	62	23	26	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	125	61	11
Chicken Pox	38	—	1	4	12	9	8	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	24	12	1
Scarlet Fever	13	—	—	1	2	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	5	2
Enteric Fever	8	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	3	2	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	20	—	—	1	—	2	1	1	5	2	4	2	1	—	—	4	8	8	15
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	2
Trachoma	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	1	1
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mumps	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Measles	50	1	—	9	8	19	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	21	5	1
Rubella	5	—	2	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	—
Poliomyelitis	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1
Undulant Fever	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Totals ...	355	11	23	77	86	63	53	4	10	8	7	5	6	1	1	53	200	102	40

Infectious Diseases — Monthly and Quarterly Incidence — Civil Population 1955

Disease	January	February	March	1st Qr.	April	May	June	2nd Qr.	July	August	Sept.	3rd Qr.	October	November	December	4th Qr.	Total	Deaths
Pertussis	18	16	7	41	15	24	43	82	29	24	9	62	9	8	—	17	202	—
Chicken Pox	20	4	5	29	2	2	1	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	38	—
Scarlet Fever	6	2	1	9	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	2	13	—
Enteric Fever	2	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	1	2	—	3	2	1	1	2	9	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	—	—	2	2	2	—	2	8	1	2	11	2	3	—	5	20	2
Erysipelas	2	—	2	4	2	1	—	3	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	—
Trachoma	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
Diphtheria	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Fever	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Mumps	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—
Measles	—	—	1	1	1	1	3	5	2	1	1	4	—	9	31	40	50	—
Rubella	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	2	—	1	1	2	5	—
Poliomylitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	3	—
TOTALS	50	26	17	93	22	31	48	101	43	30	14	87	12	24	38	74	355	2

Infectious Diseases — Monthly and Quarterly Return of Cases Landed from the Bay or Brought into Town for Treatment, 1955

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	1	2	5	2	—	—	2	1	1	3	5	—	1	1	2	14	1
Pertussis	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Trachoma	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals ...	2	1	3	6	3	—	—	3	1	1	3	5	—	1	1	2	16	1

INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION OF OTHER DISEASES

INSECT VECTORS

Flies

With the exception of a few isolated instances when following complaints breeding places were discovered and eliminated, flies have not proved troublesome during 1955.

Routine measures for the control of flies were intensified early in Spring and continued throughout the hot season. Pamphlets were distributed and all householders were requested to co-operate in eliminating sources of attraction to flies, whilst advice was given to food caterers on appropriate measures to safeguard foodstuffs from contamination by these insects.

Nine hundred and eighty-three gallons of a five per cent solution of D D T prepared in the Public Health Department for use in sprayers were sold to the public.

Mosquitoes

Though the central districts of the Town were comparatively free from mosquitoes, these insects were unusually prevalent and a frequent source of nuisances in the North and South Districts particularly during the Spring and Summer. Routine control measures were intensified in Spring and carried out in close co-ordination with the services sanitary personnel resulting in the destruction of troublesome breeding places and foci of infestation.

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

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

<i>Culex pipiens</i>	107	(between Jan. and Dec.)
<i>Theobaldia longiareolata</i>	43	(between Jan. and Sept.)
<i>Aedes argenteus</i>	Nil	

Notwithstanding careful searches for breeding places known to be favoured by *Aedes argenteus* in and near domestic dwellings, no insect of this species has for the fifth year in succession been found among the specimens collected for identification.

As this is the only indigenous mosquito in Gibraltar which constitutes a danger of disease to the community because of its being the vector of Yellow Fever, the continued freedom of the Town is particularly significant and gratifying.

During 21,854 visits of inspection, two hundred and fifty-five breeding places were found and destroyed as follows:—

Tubs	7
Barrels	63
Miscellaneous	185

MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN 1955

Months	Visits paid to Premises	Breeding Places Found—by Districts					Totals
		Town Lower	Town Middle	Town Upper	South	North	
January	2,156	2	—	12	11	—	25
February	1,700	—	—	—	11	3	14
March	1,649	—	—	1	5	4	10
April	1,981	2	—	4	5	28	39
May	1,722	1	—	6	5	27	39
June	1,504	5	—	5	25	22	57
July	1,959	2	6	7	14	14	43
August	1,359	—	—	—	2	7	9
September	1,807	—	—	4	4	—	8
October	2,253	2	1	—	—	7	10
November	1,798	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	1,966	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	21,854	15	7	39	82	112	255

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

RODENT CONTROL

Close co-ordination continued to be maintained throughout the year between the civilian and services personnel engaged in the planning and implementation of all measures adopted to control rodent infestation, thereby ensuring the maximum efficiency as well as the most economical use of baits and poisons.

Field trials were carried out with Warfarin and other anti-coagulant rodenticides to assess their effectiveness under local conditions compared to Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic which are normally used by the Department. The results suggest that for the treatment of some places and under certain specific environmental conditions the anti-coagulants may prove a valuable adjuvant to the poisons of proved efficacy which are in use at present, but that they are not likely to provide a substitute which can be adopted for general use in their stead. Further trials are being conducted.

Judging from the complaints received and the marked preponderance of carcasses of mice recovered, it would appear that these vermin constitute the principal factor in the rodent infestation and that the rat population is being satisfactorily controlled. This must not however be construed to justify any relaxation of the rodent control measures.

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

A total of 48,843 points were prebaited and 22,238 poison baits were laid in 920 premises by the combined teams during the year from which 12,383 takes were recorded, the estimated kill being 3,007.

The carcasses of 852 *Mus musculus* and 54 *Rattus rattus* were recovered in the course of these operations. The carcasses of eleven 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 1955

Service	No. of Premises Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
					RR	RN	MM	
Civilian	447	16,815	8,511	5,077	24	—	650	1,146
Military	122	8,222	4,900	2,819	20	—	174	802
H.M. Dockyard...	246	23,324	8,403	4,263	9	—	25	890
R.A.F.	7	204	198	65	1	—	3	17
Electric Light and Telephone Pits	59	122	122	55	—	—	—	22
Sewers and Drains	39	156	104	104	—	—	—	130
Totals	920	48,843	22,238	12,383	54	—	852	3,007

RODENT CONTROL — SUMMARY OF TREATMENT OF CIVILIAN PREMISES DURING 1955

Campaign Week	Premises Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Bait Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
					RR	RN	MM	
1/55 to 13/55	113	4,391	2,135	1,369	6	—	141	306
14/55 to 26/55	99	4,288	2,271	1,397	8	—	162	296
27/55 to 39/55	119	4,165	2,006	1,170	9	—	201	274
40/55 to 51/55	116	3,971	2,099	1,141	1	—	146	270
Totals ...	447	16,815	8,511	5,077	24	—	650	1,146

**RODENT CONTROL—TREATMENT OF SEWERS, DRAINS, ELECTRIC LIGHT & TELEPHONE PITS DURING
THE YEAR 1955**

Campaign Week	Date	Manholes Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
						RR	RN	MM	
48/55	28/11/55- 2/12/55	44	89	89	48	—	—	—	20
49/55	5/12/55- 9/12/55	15	33	33	7	—	—	—	2
30/55	25/ 7/55-29/ 7/55	9	36	28	28	—	—	—	35
31/55	2/ 8/55- 5/ 8/55	10	40	20	20	—	—	—	25
32/55	8/ 8/55-12/ 8/55	10	40	28	28	—	—	—	35
33/55	15/ 8/55-19/ 8/55	10	40	28	28	—	—	—	35
Totals ...		98	278	226	159	—	—	—	152

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 1955.

Number of ships entered during 19555,107

Number of ships visited by the Health Officer ... 138

Number of patients landed,

from British Ships 57

from Foreign Ships 71

of these patients, five 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.

In April 1955 the duties of Air Port Medical Officer which had been performed hitherto by a General Medical Practitioner employed part-time were undertaken by a full-time Colonial Hospital Medical Officer as part of his general duties and are carried out 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 one hundred and three suspected tanks were taken in 1955.

Due to heavy rains in February and March, the dry season started with reservoirs full and by running one evaporator throughout the dry season and pumping continuously from wells it was neither necessary to import water as in previous years nor to restrict supplies to merchant shipping.

Yield from wells was normal. 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.

Fifty-five million gallons were issued during the year from various Council's sources.

Rainfall at the catchments during the calendar year 1955 totalled 53.84 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 quantity of brackish water pumped during the year amounted to some 424,000,000 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.

The quantity of sewage and storm water pumped from low level during 1955 amounted to approximately 164,000,000 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 was put into use early in 1955. The plant comprises a heavy diesel road roller, a mechanical binder distributor, two tailboard gritting attachments and a dual purpose asphalt mixing plant. The mixing plant was installed at a site above Catalan Bay and manufacture of asphalt started during the latter part of the year.

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

The widening of the stretch of Europa Road lying between South Barrack Road junction and the south end of The Mount is well in hand and should be completed in 1956. Other road improvements were carried out along Glacis and Inundation Roads as a continuation of Queensway.

Flushing of streets was carried out periodically and intensified during the dry season.

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, two hundred and seventy-nine house-to-house inspections and six general inspections were carried out during the year.

These include two hundred and six investigations for the purpose of reporting on the living conditions of applicants for accommodation in Government owned premises undertaken at the request of the Commissioner of Lands and Works or because of complaints made to the Public Health Department by persons living in overcrowded homes. They also include five hundred and nine inspections to determine the fitness of premises of applicants for permission to sublet civilian accommodation which were referred for investigation to the Department by the Authorities concerned.

In the course of these inspections two thousand, seven hundred and seventy-eight nuisances were found and abated.

An epidemic outbreak of Whooping Cough and a high prevalence of Measles towards the end of the year severely taxed the Department's Inspectorate. Seven hundred and twenty-seven visits were made to investigate notified cases of these and other infectious diseases.

Eating houses, bakeries and other food catering establishments were inspected on one thousand, six hundred and seventy-seven occasions, whilst eighty visits were paid to dairies and two hundred and forty-eight to mineral water factories.

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

Legal proceedings were instituted against a purveyor and a vendor of milk which was found to have been adulterated by the addition of water, and against three house owners for non-compliance with the requirements of Notices served on them for the abatement of statutory nuisances. Judgment was obtained against the offenders in every case.

Visits to eating houses, bakeries, etc.	1,677
Visits to mineral water factories	248
Visits to barber shops	268
Visits to premises on which notice for abatement of nuisance has been served and are revisited for the purpose of ascertaining if requirements are being complied with	3,394
Vaccination notices served	367
Legal proceedings instituted	5

Food condemned as unsound:

Vide Food in Relation to Health and Disease page 53.

Lodging Houses:

There are no common lodging houses in Gibraltar.

FOOD IN RELATION TO HEALTH AND DISEASE

The Public Markets

Further improvements were effected to the Meat Hall during 1955. The only fruit and vegetable stall remaining in the Meat Hall was converted into a meat stall and the Hall is now used exclusively for the sale of meat and certain meat products. Two wash-basins with running water have been provided in the Meat Hall for the use of stall-holders and a small weighing machine installed near the Fish Market where customers can have the weight of articles bought retail checked gratis on application to the Inspector on duty.

For reasons outside the Markets Department control, it was not found possible to effect the painting and re-flooring of the Meat Hall which were scheduled to have been completed during the year, but it is anticipated that these together with painting of the poultry market and repairs or renewal of the pavement of some of the alleys will be done early in 1956.

Food

Supplies of food have been adequate throughout the year.

Meat

Frozen meat and offal continued to be imported from the United Kingdom and Australia jointly with supplies destined for the Services, stored in refrigerators by the Army Authorities and issued to the butchers as and when required. Considerable quantities were also imported privately from the same sources by the butchers.

The retail prices of frozen beef ranged from 1/7d to 3/3d a pound, according to quality and cut, mutton from 1/5d to 3/- a pound and veal from 2/9d to 3/6d a pound. Frozen pork imported from Australia was sold at 3/4d a pound.

The prices of offal ranged from 1/5d to 3/- a pound according to kind.

Substantial amounts of fresh veal and pork were occasionally imported from Spain and retailed at 3/6d to 4/- a pound and 3/4d to 3/9d a pound respectively.

Small quantities of Kosher meat were also imported by special arrangements from Spain and Tangiers for the exclusive use of the Hebrew Community.

Supplies of poultry from Spain have been adequate, prices ranging from 2/9d to 3/- a pound, and small quantities of game were available when in season. Frozen poultry and rabbits have also been imported from Australia.

Eggs

Adequate supplies have been imported from Spain and Morocco throughout the year, prices ranging from 3/2d to 5/6d a dozen.

Fruit and Vegetables

Abundant supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables mostly of excellent quality have been introduced from Spain throughout the year and sold at the Markets, shops in town or in the streets by licensed itinerant vendors. The average number of licenses issued daily during the year was fifty-eight. The corresponding figure for 1954 was sixty.

Fish

Importations of fish from Spain showed a considerable increase as compared with the preceding year. An average of 2,850 pounds were imported daily as compared with 2,280 in 1954. Supplies were varied and generally of good quality, whilst prices though subject to fluctuations incidental to the availability of supplies versus demands from the public and to weather and other conditions outside the control of the Markets Authorities, have on the whole compared favourably with those obtaining in Spain.

Substantial quantities have also been brought to the Markets by owners of local fishing boats and small amounts from Catalan Bay Village.

All fish was inspected by the Markets Inspectors before it was exposed for sale in the Markets 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 22, three less than in 1954.

Milk

Though small quantities of fresh cows and goats milk amounting on an average to about one hundred and forty litres a day were imported from Spain, supplies may be said to have been essentially tinned products — condensed or evaporated.

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.

On one occasion legal proceedings were instituted against a milk purveyor and a vendor for selling milk adulterated with water and both were convicted and fined.

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.

The manufacture and conditions of sale of ice-creams was strictly controlled to ensure the highest standards of cleanliness and hygiene possible. Frequent visits were paid regularly to establishments concerned with this trade by the Department's Inspectors, and samples taken and examined at the Council's Public Health Laboratories.

The methylene blue test recommended by the Ministry of Health and generally in use in the United Kingdom for the grading of ice-creams has now been adopted as a routine measure and the great majority of the samples taken were found satisfactory. One firm whose products failed to attain grades I and II on several occasions were warned and remedial measures instituted.

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 condi-

tional 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. One thousand, six hundred and seventy-seven visits were paid during the year in the course of which advice was given to the owners on food hygiene and on all matters concerning the storing, handling and preparation of food destined for human consumption.

Though in the majority of these establishments the standards of cleanliness may be said to be fair, in others there is still much scope for improvement; particularly is this the case in some grocery shops, small tea-rooms and snack bars where conditions and the handling of food often leave much to be desired. It may be said however, that on the whole the response of food caterers to representations made by Inspectors has been satisfactory and their attitude co-operative. Only in one instance was it found necessary to issue a stern warning to the owner of a café where snacks were being served, and where conditions in the kitchen and the handling of food were repeatedly found objectionable, before remedial measures were taken.

Food Poisoning

No notifications of food poisoning were received from the civil population during the year. This can only be interpreted as indicating the non-occurrence of a major outbreak of this condition, for there are sound reasons to believe that many individual and small familial incidents occur which escape notification.

Food Legislation — New Bye-Laws, viz. the Food (General) Bye-Laws, 1955, Markets Bye-Laws, 1955 and the Pedlars and Street Vendors Bye-Laws, 1955 were made by the Council towards the end of the year under review and were prescribed to come into operation on the 1st January, 1956.

These bye-laws which have been made under the powers vested in the Council by the Food and Drugs Ordinance and the Markets, Hawkers and Pedlars Ordinance respectively are closely interrelated and complementary. They prescribe measures to ensure hygiene and cleanliness in the storing, preparation, handling and delivery of food under all circumstances as well as for the prevention of food poisoning and of diseases liable to be spread by food. They also make provisions for the regulation of the Public Markets and the control of pedlars and street vendors whatever the nature of their wares.

Condemnation of Food

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

	Health Department Inspectors	Market Inspectors
Whiting	60	pounds
Bream	400	pounds
Sole	25	pounds
Rock Fish	186	pounds
Red Mullet	13	pounds
Red Gurnard	24	pounds
Mackerel	10	pounds
Rock Cod	10	pounds
Sea Trout	5	pounds
Sword Fish	20	pounds
Prawns	5	pounds
Lemon Fish	40	pounds
Cuttlefish	30	pounds
Cockles	80	pounds
Pork	29	pounds
Liver	32	pounds
Ducks	1	in number
Olives	15	pounds
Fowls	26	in number
Sausage Casings	500	pounds

	Health Department Inspectors	Market Inspectors
Tinned Ham ...	11,320 pounds	
Luncheon Meat	1,066 pounds	
Sausages	2,006 pounds	
Smoked Herrings	684 pounds	
Codfish	660 pounds	
Cheese	294 pounds	
Flour	140 pounds	
Dates	136 pounds	
Confectionery ...	334 pounds	
Corned Beef	18 pounds	
Jellied Veal	21 pounds	
"Salami"	15 pounds	
Pork Brawn	78 pounds	
Ox Tongue	6 pounds	
Bacon	4 pounds	
Turkey	14 pounds	
Babies Strained Foods	12 pounds	
Processed Peas .	7½ pounds	

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

A block of dwellings "Heathfield," comprising twenty-four flats which had been placed under construction at Witham's Garden in 1954 was completed and put into service during 1955, whilst the erection of a tenement building, "Tankerville," which will provide forty-eight flats was started during the year. It is envisaged that these flats will be available for occupation in 1956, and it is understood that in pursuance of the Housing Scheme the Colonial Government will continue to provide sixty flats annually for the following five years.

At the end of the year, one thousand and fifty-seven applications for accommodation in Government houses representing three thousand, one hundred and ninety persons were still outstanding. These figures, however, can only be interpreted as providing an approximate estimate of the housing needs, for all the applicants concerned are not necessarily living in overcrowded conditions, whilst families are frequently being discovered by the Sanitary Inspectorate in the course of routine investigations related to notified cases of infectious disease or for other purposes who though living in overcrowded or otherwise unsatisfactory houses have for financial or other private considerations failed to apply for improved accommodation. It must also be appreciated that the standard of accommodation amounting to fifty square feet per person (excluding corridors, sanitary accommodation and kitchens) which because of the exigencies of the housing situation has been adopted, is far from ideal and barely affords sufficient space to provide the minimum amenities necessary. It is thus evident that though much has and is being done to abate overcrowding, the position cannot be viewed with complacency and presents the most thorny problem still facing the housing and health authorities.

The problem is further aggravated by the practice of subletting which appears to be on the increase, five hundred and nine applications having been investigated and reported on by the Public Health Department compared with four hundred and twenty-six in the previous year.

The need for temporary alternate accommodation to enable necessary repairs to houses to be effected which I have referred to in previous annual reports is becoming an urgent necessity and steps to provide such accommodation should be taken without delay.

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 1955.

Houses Completed — permanent

Heathfield — 13C and D Witham's Road ...24 flats

Houses Under Construction — permanent

Tankerville48 flats

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 eighty-six 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

Two ambulances are maintained by the City Council which though primarily intended for the conveyance of persons suffering from infectious diseases, constitute the only Ambulance Service for the transport of civilian patients from Town and those landed from the Bay.

A total of two hundred and twenty-five patients were conveyed by the Ambulances during the year, one hundred and sixty-seven from the Town, and fifty-eight who had been landed from the Bay.

Ten local patients and five landed from the Bay were suffering or suspected of suffering from infectious diseases, the others had been involved in accidents or were suffering from non-infective conditions.

	Local Cases	Bay Cases
Tuberculosis	3	2
Scarlet Fever	1	—
Pneumonia	6	2
Rheumatic Fever	1	—
Typhoid Fever	—	1
Cancer	5	—
Appendicitis	4	9
Heart Disease	32	2
Maternity Cases	9	1
Mental Cases	16	2
Fractures and Injuries	19	15
Miscellaneous (medical and surgical cases)	71	24
	167	58

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 1955.

Months	Beds and Mattresses	Bolsters and Pillows	Blankets and Quilts	Sheets	Counterpanes	Water Vendors' Barrels	Sundries	Totals
January	13	23	20	20	3	200	51	330
February	5	8	6	5	2	200	9	235
March	6	12	26	12	1	200	14	271
April	15	12	10	9	3	200	24	273
May	48	18	38	6	3	213	—	326
June	7	6	8	8	1	203	—	233
July	16	12	7	15	2	200	19	271
August	6	6	4	4	3	215	—	238
September	4	4	3	4	2	200	8	225
October	2	2	1	1	—	200	—	206
November	2	2	1	1	—	200	6	212
December	3	5	7	5	1	200	9	230
Totals	127	110	131	90	21	2,431	140	3,050

MEDICAL WORK DONE FOR THE COUNCIL

One hundred and thirty-three 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 Colonial Government Medical Specialist at 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	6
February	5
March	11
April	3
May	6
June	34
July	27
August	6
September	4
October	21
November	7
December	3

Total133

OTHER MATTERS CONCERNED WITH THE HEALTH OF GIBRALTAR

Board of Health

The Advisory Board of Health is a statutory Board constituted by the Governor under the powers vested in him by the Public Health Ordinance and is the principal co-ordinating body in medical matters between the Medical Services of Her Majesty's Armed Forces, the Colonial Government Medical Service, and the Public Health Service.

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

Outbreak of Smallpox in France and French Morocco.

Hygiene in hairdressers shops.

Control of the sale of Antibiotics, Sulphonamides, and Barbiturates.

Supplies of Oxygen for medical purposes.

Designation of Gibraltar as an approved port for the issue of Deratting Exemption Certificates under the International Sanitary Regulations.

Matters concerning Yellow Fever and sanitary charges under the International Sanitary Regulations.

The safety of a water which was being imported into Gibraltar from a spring in neighbouring Spanish territory.

Exhaust fumes from Motor Vehicles.

General Practitioners Service

The number of medical practitioners engaged in general practice appearing on the register on the 31st December, 1955 was seven, representing a ratio of 1 to 3,500 population.

Four of them hold part-time appointments with the Colonial Government which promotes close co-operation between the hospitals, child welfare services and the general practitioners, 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, 1955 was twenty. 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 Hospital.

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

These figures do not include the Colonial Nursing Sisters.

There is great need for nurses who are prepared to devote themselves to domiciliary nursing and the preference of most patients, particularly the chronic infirm and aged, to be treated in their homes together with the increase in the use of drugs which must be administered hypodermically, render the need daily more apparent. The number of candidates applying for admission to the Government Nurses Training School whose educational qualifications fulfil the necessary requirements is small, and those who eventually succeed in passing the scheduled examinations and gain admission to the Register, barely suffice to meet the requirements of the hospitals and are absorbed by them; further, the uncertainty of the emoluments and the exigencies inherent to private domiciliary nursing compared with the secure salary and comparatively regular hours of work and leisure in hospitals appear to render the former less attractive, and unless the number of trainees qualifying in future exceeds that required to meet the needs of the hospitals, no improvement can be expected in a situation which affords little cause for complacency. It is highly desirable and advantageous that the nursing of our sick should be done by nurses recruited and trained from our own community, in fact, in view of the world shortage of nurses it will be virtually incumbent on Gibraltar to be self-supporting in this respect in the future, and since the facilities for training are available every effort should be made by way of judicious propaganda and education as well as by according the nurse an acceptable social status to attract the right class of candidate to the profession. I understand that the Educational Authorities are co-operating with the Medical Department in persuading girls who are about to leave school and who possess the necessary qualifications to join the nursing profession, and I trust that the seed being sown will fall on fertile ground.

District Medical Services

Since April the duties of District Medical Officer which had been hitherto carried out by a general practitioner employed part-time have been performed by a full-time Government Hospital Medical Officer as part of his general work. Assisted by two district nurses he provides medical treatment and care for the indigent sick and the aged at a special clinic which is held daily in the Exchange Buildings, and by domiciliary visits when necessary.

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

The Public Health Ordinance was amended to authorize the City Council to maintain stocks of vaccines, sera, disinfectants and insecticides, and to supply them to any person on such terms as they may think fit.

The Building Bye-Laws 1954 made by the Council under the Public Health Ordinance in that year came into operation on the 1st January, 1955.

Food (General) Bye-Laws, Markets Bye-Laws and Pedlars and Street Vendors Bye-Laws were made by the Council under the Food and Drugs Ordinance and the Markets, Hawkers and Pedlars Ordinance respectively, and appointed to come into operation on the 1st January, 1956.

The Hairdressers and Barbers (Public Health) Rules, 1955 which came into operation on the 26th May, 1955 prescribe standards of cleanliness and hygiene for Hairdressers and Barbers shops and personnel.

The Colonial Hospital Rules, 1955 which came into force on the 1st July, 1955 prescribe conditions for the admission and treatment of patients and a schedule of fees therefor.

The Colonial Hospital (Board of Visitors) Rules, 1955 prescribe the constitution, functions and powers of the Board.

The Social Insurance Ordinance, 1955 and the Non-Contributory Social Insurance Benefit Ordinance, 1955 which came into effect on the 3rd October, 1955 provide for old age pensions, maternity grants, widows' benefits, guardians' allowances, unemployment benefits and death grants.

The Young Persons Ordinance, 1955 makes provisions for the protection, custody and welfare of young persons. A young person is defined as a person under seventeen years of age.

Dangerous Drugs Ordinance.—An Order made under this Ordinance prescribes that Part III shall apply to Diethylthiambutene, 1-Methyl-4-phenylpiperidine-4-carboxylic acid isopropyl ester and Normethadone, their salts and any preparation or substance containing any proportion of the Drugs.

International Sanitary Regulations. The Port of Gibraltar has been designated and approved for the issue of Deratting Exemption Certificates under the provisions of these Regulations.

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATIONS CARRIED OUT IN THE CITY LABORATORIES

[illegible]

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES

Report of the Pathologist-Analyst, Gibraltar.

Eighteen thousand, five hundred and seventy-four investigations were carried out on specimens submitted to the Laboratories during the year 1955. This represents an increase of seven hundred and six over the total recorded the previous year. Because laboratory tests are getting more complex and time consuming as further progress is made in the practice and technique of pathology, the numerical increase in investigations over that of last year does not represent adequately the extra work put in by the Staff.

Private practitioners submitted more specimens, and the total investigations carried out for their patients were six hundred over the previous year's total. Work done for the Medical Department of the Colonial Government also showed an increase over the previous year, this was however balanced by a decrease in the number of tests carried out for H.M. Navy.

The main improvement to the laboratory equipment for the year was the purchase of an E.E.L. Flame Photometer. Modern medicine requires the prompt estimation by the laboratory of the blood electrolytes. The estimation of the serum sodium and potassium by the photometer and of the CO² combining power by the Van Slyke technique which are carried out in our laboratory now furnishes the clinician with information about their patients chemistry which is life saving in many cases.

The running of a water bath at 20°C for the Methylene Blue test for bacteriological grading of ice-creams presented a problem during the summer months when the temperature of the running water hovered around the 26°C mark. This has been satisfactorily overcome by placing a suitably lagged bath inside a refrigerator, and the test is now successfully carried out under controlled conditions.

Eighty-one persons have been inoculated against Yellow Fever during the year. This number is considerably higher than last year and includes the ship's company of two vessels which called on their way to West Africa.

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

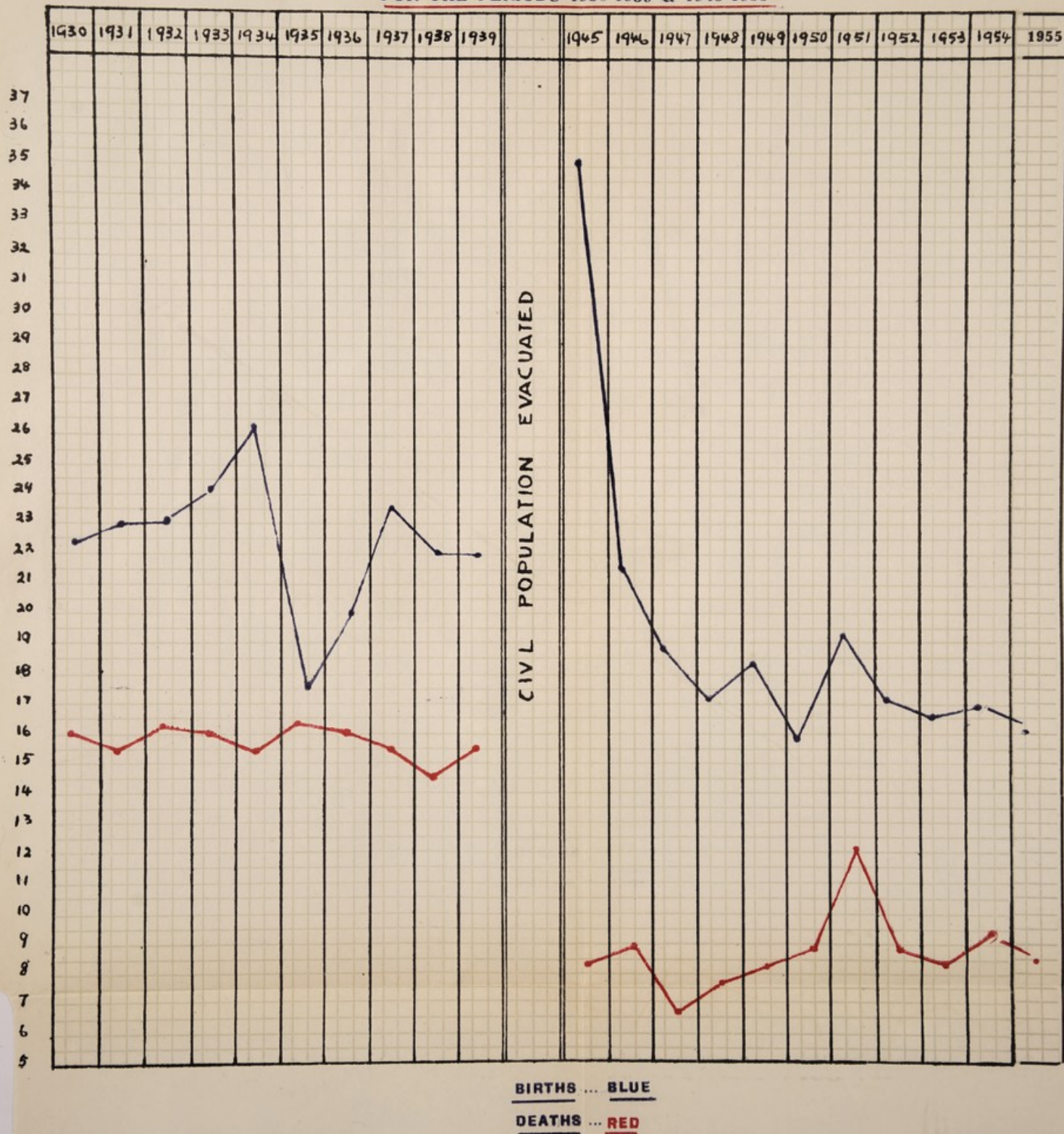
Year	Investigations
1939	5,612
1949	11,167
1950	13,632
1951	13,535
1952	15,844
1953	15,865
1954	17,868
1955	18,574

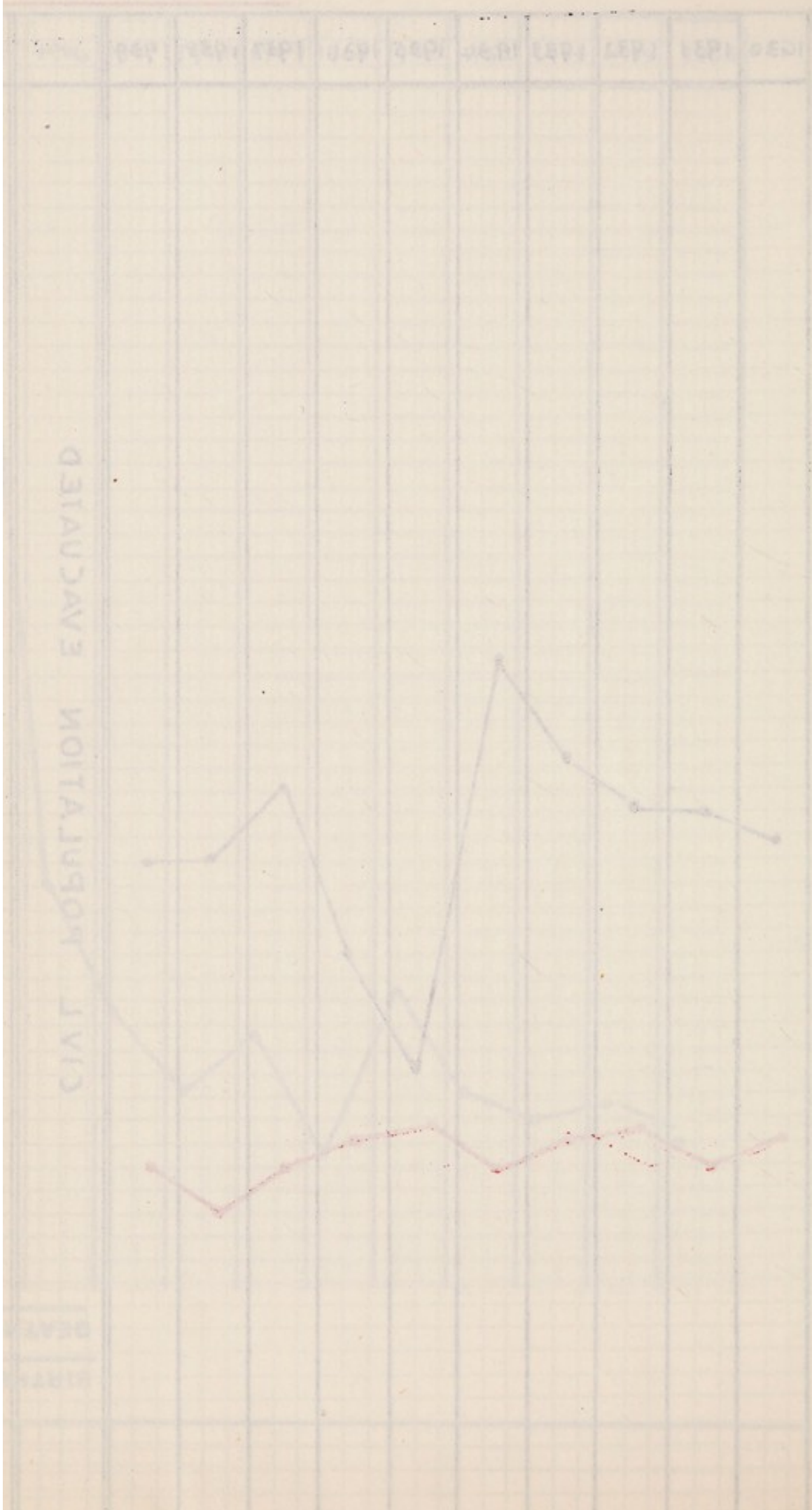
A considerable number of samples of goats and reconstituted milks and a variety of specimens of groceries were examined under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Ordinance. With the exception of one sample of goats milk which was found to contain added water and which led to a conviction in the Magistrate's Court, all the rest were found to be genuine.

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

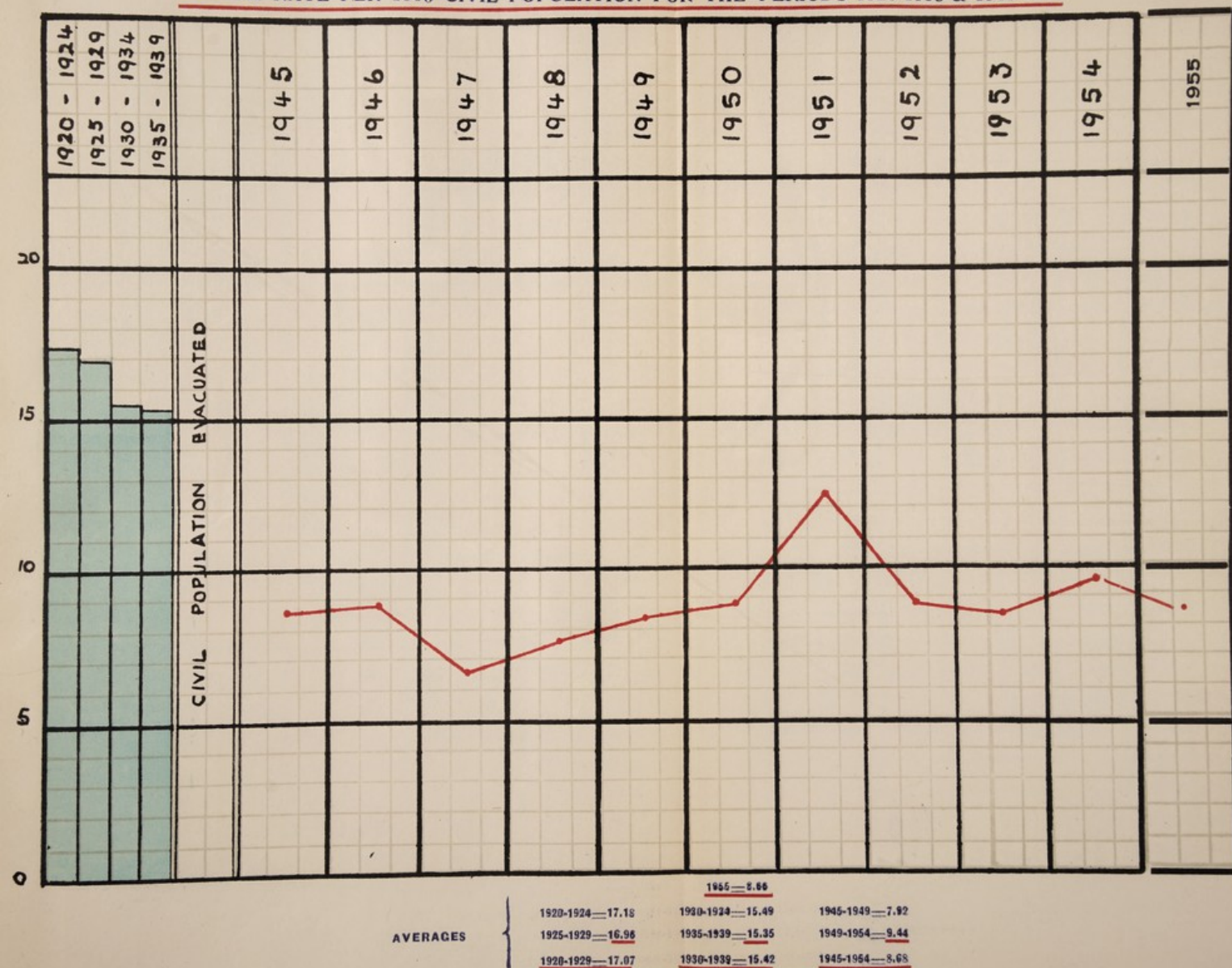
Laboratory, 30th April, 1956.

COMPARATIVE CHART OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1000 CIVIL POPULATION
FOR THE PERIODS 1930-1939 & 1945-1955





DEATH RATE PER 1000 CIVIL POPULATION FOR THE PERIODS 1920-1939 & 1945-1955

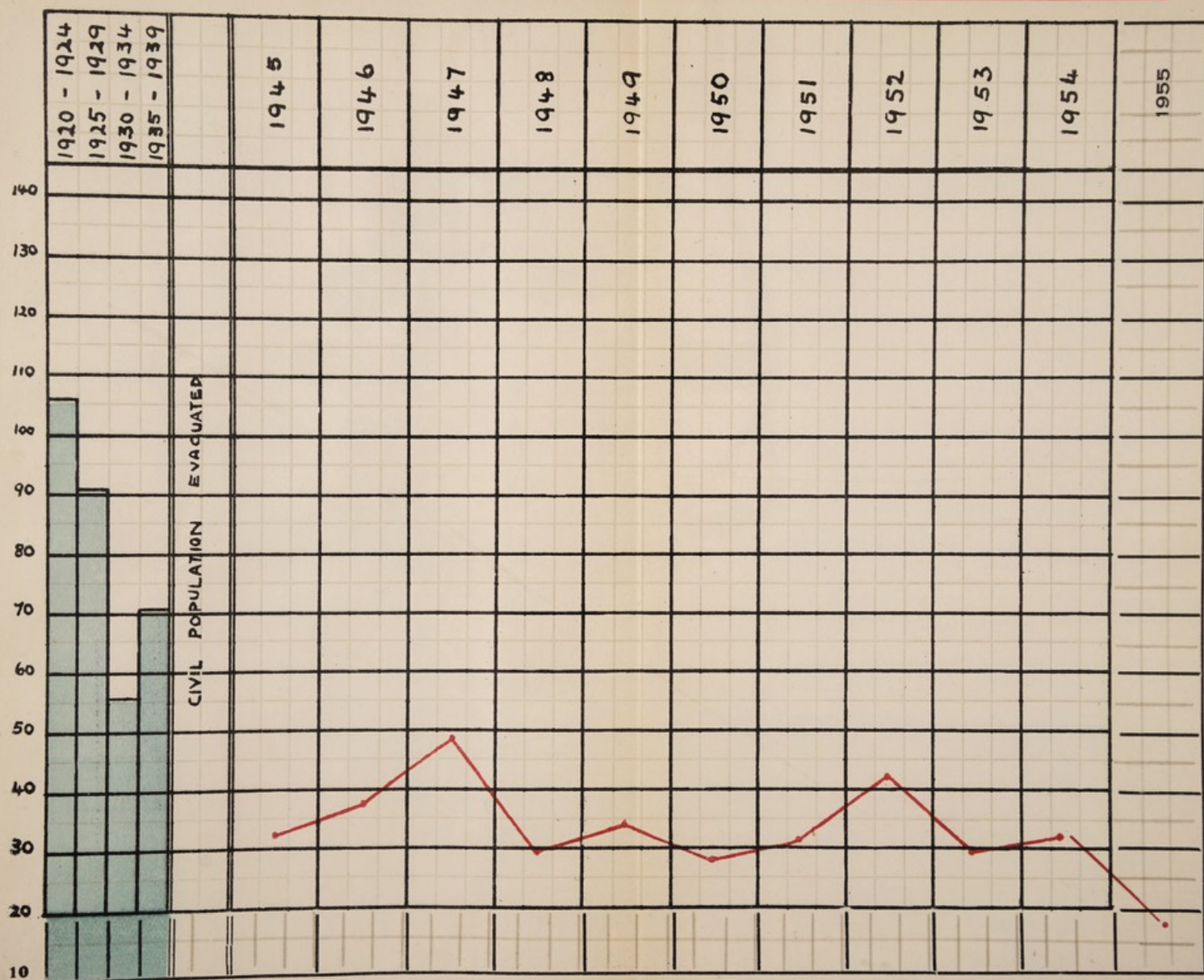


DEATH RATE PER 1000 CIVIL POPULATION



1940-1944
 1945-1949
 1950-1954
 1955-1959
 1960-1964

INFANT MORTALITY PER 1000 BIRTHS CIVIL POPULATION FOR THE PERIODS 1920-1939 & 1945-1955



AVERAGES

1920-1924 = 106.9
 1925-1929 = 91.7
 1930-1939 = 53.4

1945-1949 = 33.9
 1950-1954 = 31.9
 1955 = 18.76

1920-1924 = 57.4
 1935-1939 = 70.3
 1945-1949 = 86.0

