

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

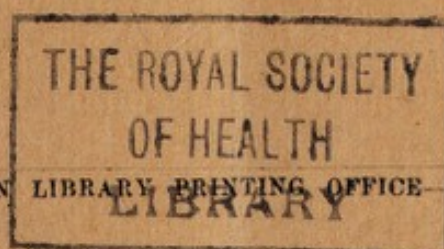
1957

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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CITY COUNCIL OF GIBRALTAR

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

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

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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:

H. T. Norris, Esq.

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

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health of Gibraltar for the year 1957.

With the exception of the epidemic of Influenza which originating in China spread in a few months to involve both hemispheres and which eventually invaded this Colony, our community was free from major infections or grave epidemics, and the general health may be said to have remained satisfactory throughout the year.

Two hundred and thirty-two deaths from all causes occurred during 1957 which represents a death rate of 9.75 per thousand fixed civil population and a considerable increase compared with the preceding year, despite which the low level of mortality established since 1945 was maintained.

The increase was due mainly to deaths in persons in the later decades of life which were caused principally by diseases of the heart and circulation, senility and malignant tumours. These conditions contributed 62.9 per cent of all deaths.

Notwithstanding the increase in deaths and a decrease which occurred in the number of children born, births again outnumbered deaths by one hundred and thirty-seven.

As has been the case in the past ten years, cancer and other malignant tumours constituted the second principal cause of mortality contributing thirty-three or 14.3 per cent of all deaths. The respiratory organs and the stomach showed the highest incidence. All the persons who died from malignant tumours of the respiratory organs were males. These tumours were responsible for approximately one fifth of all cancer deaths.

There occurred a sharp rise in infant mortality compared with the two preceding years. Nine infants died before attaining the age of one year, which represents a mortality rate of 24.39 per 1,000 live births. The corresponding figures for 1955 and 1956 were 18.76 and 13.05 respectively. The increase was due to deaths which occurred within the first week of life, and which were caused by developmental defects and injuries sustained during labour. These conditions together with still births have constituted the principal causes of loss of life in the past ten years, which

appears to indicate that any hope of attaining further improvement must rest on ascertaining and eliminating maternal circumstances hitherto unknown which may affect adversely the development of the infant and the course of labour.

The report on Child Welfare shows a considerable increase in the number of home visits made by the Health Visitor, but no significant change in attendances by mothers at the Infant Welfare Clinics. This report is restricted to statistical data in connection with the work of the clinics and provides no information on the health, state of nutrition and social and other circumstances regarding the infants which may influence their health and which are of material interest to all concerned in matters related to infant welfare. It falls however to my lot as Public Vaccinator to see virtually every baby born in Gibraltar when it is brought at about the age of three months to the Health Department for statutory smallpox vaccination, and I can say that with but rare exceptions their healthy appearance and well cared for looks reflect great credit on the devotion of the mothers and the attention bestowed on them by the staff of these clinics.

Judging from the School Medical Service report, the health of the school children would appear to have remained satisfactory. Out of one thousand, five hundred and sixty-five children examined, no less than one thousand, four hundred and thirty-seven were classified as in good health, one hundred and twenty-five in fair, and only three were considered to be in poor condition.

Despite a considerable outbreak of Whooping Cough, the incidence of the common infectious diseases was gratifyingly low. The only death reported from these diseases was caused by Diphtheria, and the child concerned had not been immunized. It is the first death attributed to this disease since 1948.

The position regarding the immunization of children against Diphtheria is a cause of much concern, for notwithstanding all the advice and encouragement given to parents, the number of infants being protected is insignificant.

It is strange that parents who may otherwise be most solicitous about the health of their children and who will clamour for injections of vitamins or tonics which often are quite unnecessary neglect to take advantage of the harmless simple means available to protect them against this dangerous disease, and I cannot but wonder whether it is just due

to complacency because the incidence has been remarkably low during the past ten years, or that a bias has been created against immunization by adverse propaganda.

For the first time in the Public Health Annals of Gibraltar, no death was caused by Pulmonary Tuberculosis, whilst the incidence of the disease not only fell by fifty per cent compared with the preceding year, but was the lowest recorded since 1945. This is an achievement of which the medical and social services may well be proud of, but it should not be interpreted as "tolling the knell" of the disease which though it may be said is now under control and hopes can reasonably be entertained that it will eventually be mastered, may well resume its former disabling and killing role should conditions favourable to its spread occur.

The year 1957 has seen substantial progress in the Government Housing Scheme, but overcrowding still remains one of the most serious problems facing the community. Though there has been considerable improvement, families living under grossly overcrowded conditions and in insanitary houses who do not appear to have applied for reaccommodation are still being discovered with greater frequency than is conducive to peace of mind.

There have been no changes in the staff of the Public Health Department in the year under review. It is however a pleasure to record that Mr. J. Alcantara and Mr. C. Power who, in accordance with the Council's Training Scheme for Public Health Inspectors, had completed periods of training in the United Kingdom, have succeeded in obtaining the Royal Society of Health Certificate for Inspectors outside England and Wales. Two other students are at present attending courses at the Royal Technical College, Salford, for the same purpose.

I avail myself of this opportunity to thank the members of the Council for their courtesy and support, to my colleagues in other departments for their valuable co-operation, and to my staff for their loyalty and unfailing help throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. A. DURANTE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
City Hall,

Gibraltar, 17th April, 1958.

CITY COUNCIL OF GIBRALTAR

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Summary of Vital Statistics for the year 1957

Total area of Gibraltar Territory	1,387 acres
Area of the City	104 acres
Estimated Total Civil Population of Gibraltar	25,403 persons
Estimated Fixed Civil Population of Gibraltar	23,783 persons
*Births in Fixed Civil Population,	
Males — 192	} 369
Females — 177	
Birth Rate per 1,000 Fixed Civil Population ...	15.51
Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Civil Population ...	15.43
*Deaths in Fixed Civil Population	232
Death Rate per 1,000 Fixed Civil Population ...	9.75
Crude Death Rate for 1,000 Total Civil Population ...	9.68
Infantile Mortality Rate Fixed Civil Population	24.39
Death Rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	NIL

* Vide Note on Page 13.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1957

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

The total rainfall of 31.07 inches was below the average, and apart from April, November and December, which together provided 20.45 inches, 1957 would have been a very dry year indeed. Exceptionally, April was the wettest month in the year with over 7 inches; it was the only month with a fall appreciably above average. The daily average sunshine of 7.79 hours over the year was fractionally below the North Front average of 7.83 hours. Conditions were bright early in the year, especially in February and March; April and May were dull, and so in the autumn were September and October. April was the only really dull month, with well over an hour's average daily deficiency. The year was cool with the average temperature 1.4°F below usual. Average daily maximum temperatures were however, 1.1°F warmer than in 1956, and average night minima 1.2°F higher. The only warm months were February, March and September, though July and August were rather close, especially at night. The year was notable for the recording for the first time of a reliable shade temperature of 100°F . The overall average humidity of 75 per cent was fractionally below average, the tendency being for night humidities to be slightly low and day humidities slightly high throughout the year. The overall wind pattern was very close to normal, with about 45 per cent easterly winds and 50 per cent from the west. There was no month clear of at least one or two levanter spells, and July to October suffered appreciably more easterly winds than usual. There were few prolonged strong winds, and an hourly speed of gale force was reached on one occasion only in December.

January. Cold though fairly bright, apart from 17th-24th during which most of the month's rainfall occurred. There was an exceptionally heavy hail shower in the town on 21st. Average temperatures were about 3°F below normal, and the extreme temperatures of 63°F and 38°F were both the lowest figures for the month for over ten years. The period 15th-19th was especially cold, with the day maximum as low as 45°F on 17th.

February. Fairly warm, dry and sunny. Practically all of the very low rainfall fell during the night of 15th/16th and on the morning of 17th. Although temperatures were only about 1°F higher than average, sunshine was .83 hours daily above normal, the period 21st to 25th being notably fine and congenial; no completely sunless day occurred.

March. Warm, dry and sunny with a small fraction of the normal rainfall (6.7 in.). Most of this fell on 4th, the evening of 5th and on the 12th, and weather was fine after 6th apart from short breaks on 11th-12th and 21st-23rd. Both extremes of temperature were much higher than usual.

April. Wet, cold and rather dull. The heavy rainfall of 7.28 in. occurred on a total of 18 days, making it the wettest April since 1922. Heavy prolonged showers on 5th-9th and 28th-30th accounted for most of the total. Sunshine was 1.20 hours daily below average, and the mean temperature was actually below that of March. The highest temperature of 70°F is the lowest April absolute maximum recorded at North Front.

May. A rather featureless month, with slightly below average temperature, rainfall and sunshine. 12th-14th was a very fine spell with an average of 12 hours sun each day, though the monthly average was .43 hours below normal. The month was cool due to low day maxima (4.2°F below average) as average minimum temperatures were only .9°F below average.

June. Cold, but otherwise very typical with sunshine, rainfall and cloud almost exactly average. Temperatures were exceptionally low, the average daily maximum temperature of 78.2°F being only fractionally below the 1957 absolute maximum of 79°F; it was the first time that a temperature of well over 80°F has not been reached in June since readings started at North Front. Wind distribution was normal, with a 30 per cent predominance of easterlies; the longest levant spell was that from 24th-30th.

July. Completely typical, with a very hot spell 10th-13th when a reliable temperature of 100°F was reached for the first time at Gibraltar. Levant conditions were persistent, and it was rather oppressive for much of the month; the average sunshine was .27 hours daily below the normal.

August. No features of particular interest. Maximum temperatures were 2°F below normal, and minima 1°F above. Sunshine was slightly above average, and levant conditions were persistent, with heavy cloud over the town throughout the day once or twice in the middle of the month.

September. Warm, close and cloudy, sunshine was .72 hours deficient daily. The average temperature of 75.3°F represented the warmest September for many years, principally due to closeness of the nights. Comparison with the cold September 1956, average temperature 69.7°F, is striking. Rain was slightly in excess of the average (1.4 in.) Levant conditions were again persistent, the longest continuous spell being 1st-10th.

October. Cold and cloudy, with well below the average rainfall of 3.2 in.; nearly all the month's fall occurred during the first in showers and in a heavy thunderstorm on the 13th. Sunshine was .47 hours daily below average, and temperatures were 2°/3°F below normal North Front figures; only once before since 1947 has a temperature of 80°F not been attained in the month. Easterly winds were much more frequent than normal, with levant conditions 6th-19th and 24th-30th.

November. Cold and rather wet though sunshine was .26 hours daily above normal. Nearly all the rain fell in three spells 5th-8th, 13th-14th and 23rd-24th; there was a violent thunderstorm with hail on the afternoon of 23rd. Temperatures were 3°F/4°F below average, and in the cold spell 9th-12th average daily maximum temperatures were below 60°F and average minima below 50°F. Easterly winds, unusually for the month, were rather more frequent than westerlies.

December. Similar in characteristics to November, with .49 hours daily of sunshine more than normal, and well above the usual 5.5 in. of rain. The mean temperature was 3°F below normal, and it was the coldest December for over ten years. Westerlies were very persistent and there were high winds on the 11th with an hourly wind of 39 kt, and a gust of 68 kt.

Summary. The year 1957 was rather cold with mainly dry conditions, except for April, until the late autumn. Summer was marked by somewhat more easterly winds than usual with close oppressive weather in the town area.

STATION GIBRALTAR (North Front).

Lat. 36° 09' N. Long 05° 21' W.

Barometer Height 24 Ft.

Raingauge 8 Ft. Above M.S.L.

YEAR 1957 Month	Mean Pres- sure at MSL	TEMPERATURE OF										RELATIVE HUMIDITY				CLOUD AMOUNT							
		MEANS					HIGHEST		LOWEST			03	09	15	21	03	09	15	21				
		Dry	Bulb		Max. A	Min. B	Mean of A & B	Max	Date	Min	Date									Min on gras	Date		
			0300	0900																		1500	2100
January	1023.8	50.2	50.7	56.7	52.1	57.5	47.5	52.5	63	3rd, 5th 31st	38	17th	25	78	78	62	77	4.1	3.9	3.0			
February.....	1022.1	54.6	55.4	61.8	58.3	63.3	52.0	57.7	71	23rd	46	1st 19th	35	86	83	68	77	4.5	4.4	3.8			
March	1018.1	57.4	59.2	64.6	59.9	66.1	55.8	60.9	77	19th	50	9th 25th	44	84	82	68	81	4.7	4.7	3.5			
April.....	1014.9	56.9	59.1	63.9	59.7	65.3	54.6	59.9	70	7th 22nd	50	15th 28th	41	79	75	62	75	4.6	4.7	3.3			
May	1015.4	60.5	63.5	67.7	63.1	69.3	58.8	64.1	82	23rd	52	1st	45	85	76	66	79	4.5	3.8	2.8			
June	1017.7	64.1	67.8	72.3	66.8	73.6	62.3	67.9	79	19th, 20th, 24th	57	2nd	50	80	72	61	76	2.8	2.6	2.3			
July	1016.5	71.9	74.8	79.8	74.2	81.4	69.8	75.6	100	10th	66	4th, 6th 7th, 10th	60	79	72	62	75	2.9	1.3	1.5			
August	1016.2	72.4	75.2	80.7	75.7	82.2	70.5	76.3	92	7th, 8th	65	23rd	63	83	80	63	77	2.8	1.4	2.1			
September ...	1017.2	72.2	74.4	78.7	74.3	80.3	70.2	75.3	89	13th 25th	65	19th	59	82	77	66	78	3.8	3.9	3.5			
October	1016.4	63.9	65.7	70.1	65.8	71.2	62.5	66.9	78	5th	52	3rd	49	83	77	67	79	5.1	4.6	3.5			
November.....	1017.3	57.7	58.6	62.0	59.1	63.6	55.5	59.5	71	19th	46	11th, 23rd	43	81	79	71	79	4.8	4.9	4.2			
December	1017.6	52.9	52.8	58.1	54.4	59.1	50.7	54.9	67	8th	42	17th	34	77	79	67	75	4.5	4.6	3.2			
Year	1017.8	61.2	63.1	68.0	63.6	69.4	59.2	64.5	100	10/7	38	17/1	25	81	77	65	77	4.1	3.7	3.1			

STATION GIBRALTAR (North Front).

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

YEAR 1957 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	Ground Frost
Jan	79.2	16.8	17th	5.76	57.6	10	0	3	3	3	7	0	0	2
Feb	16.1	5.1	17th	7.07	65.2	4	0	0	0	5	2	1	0	0
Mar	53.1	11.5	4th	6.65	55.3	12	0	0	1	5	4	0	0	0
April	184.9	37.1	9th	6.99	53.4	18	0	0	6	5	4	0	0	0
May	26.8	12.3	25th	9.41	66.8	9	0	0	1	2	3	0	1	0
June	12.9	12.5	9th	11.18	76.6	2	0	0	0	1	10	0	0	0
July	—	—	—	11.03	76.6	0	0	0	0	0	12	0	1	0
Aug	Trace	Trace	5th	10.64	78.6	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	3	0
Sept	38.9	23.7	30th	8.17	65.6	4	0	0	1	4	1	0	0	0
Oct	42.8	20.3	12th	6.43	56.8	9	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	0
Nov	176.1	42.1	14th 23rd	5.07	49.9	12	0	1	1	4	1	1	1	0
Dec	158.5	41.3	12th	5.07	52.1	11	0	0	4	4	4	1	0	0
Year	789.3	42.1	Nov.	7.79	62.9	91	0	4	19	36	60	3	6	2

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 Knots.

YEAR 1957 MONTHS	FORCE					DIRECTION							
	8 or over	6-7	4-5	1-3	Calm	N.	NE.	E.	SE.	S.	SW.	W.	NW.
January	—	11	39	60	14	1	4	40	4	—	13	34	14
February	—	7	29	62	14	—	2	27	5	3	24	33	4
March	—	5	52	62	5	1	1	38	4	5	32	36	2
April	—	—	43	69	8	2	7	26	12	8	20	29	8
May	—	3	42	72	7	1	8	29	6	2	29	35	7
June	—	—	64	54	2	—	8	32	9	8	28	33	—
July	—	1	53	66	4	—	8	63	6	10	15	17	1
August	—	—	58	60	6	2	16	54	5	8	21	12	—
September	—	3	48	61	8	—	24	39	3	10	22	14	—
October	—	—	51	67	6	3	17	44	—	5	26	20	3
November	—	17	47	52	4	2	19	39	1	7	18	29	1
December	1	8	47	63	5	2	6	25	6	2	12	50	16
Year	1	55	573	748	83	14	120	456	61	68	260	342	56

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:—

	Adults		Children		Totals
	Men	Women	Male	Female	
Gibraltarians ...	6,158	7,530	2,449	2,320=	British Subjects 23,783
Other British ...	1,150	1,867	1,157	1,152=	
Aliens	672	920	17	11=	1,620
Totals	7,980	10,317	3,623	3,483=	25,403

Compared with the preceding year these figures represent an increase of 340 in the British Fixed Civil Population (116 Gibraltarians and 224 Other British Subjects, which amounts to a general increase of 339 in the Total Population. There was no significant change in the number of Aliens.

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
" " " " 1956	23,443	1,621	25,064
" " " " 1957	23,783	1,620	25,403

*Deaths

Two hundred and thirty-two deaths, one hundred and four males and one hundred and twenty-eight females were registered as having occurred in the resident British civil population during the year amounting to 9.75 per thousand. The corresponding figures for 1956 were 194 and 8.27 respectively. In addition there occurred fourteen deaths amongst non-resident aliens providing a total of two hundred and forty-six deaths or 9.68 per thousand total civil population.

These figures represent an increase of thirty-eight deaths in the British civil population compared with the previous year which was due principally to deaths in the later decades of life. The low level of mortality established since 1945 may however be said to have been maintained.

* Vide Note on Page 13.

One hundred and forty-six deaths or 62.9 per cent of all deaths concerned persons 65 years of age or older, whilst forty-seven occurred in the age group 55 to 64 years.

Thus one hundred and ninety-three deaths or 83 per cent of the total number of deaths occurred in persons 55 years of age or older and were attributed principally to cardio-vascular diseases including those affecting the central nervous system and to malignant neoplasms.

The principal causes of death were:—

Cardio vascular diseases	77	(65)
Vascular lesions affecting the central nervous system	43	(27)
Malignant neoplasms	33	(28)
Diabetes Mellitus	17	(9)
Diseases of the respiratory organs (excluding neoplasms)	15	(16)
Senility	10	(12)

(Figures in brackets are for 1956).

No deaths were caused by Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Though excluding diseases of the respiratory organs and senility there was an increase in all the principal causes of death, the pattern of distribution remained the same as in 1956 with the exception of Diabetes Mellitus which ranked fourth as a cause of mortality in 1957. Of the seventeen deaths caused by this disease, fifteen (three males and twelve females) concerned persons over 55 years of age.

Cardio-vascular affections contributed one hundred and twenty or 51.7 per cent of all deaths, diseases of the coronary arteries predominating. Only three of the deaths caused by these conditions occurred in persons under 45 years of age.

Malignant neoplasms caused thirty-three or 14.3 per cent of all deaths and continued to constitute the second highest cause of mortality. Eighteen of the persons concerned were males, fifteen females. Two were under 45 and six between 45 and 54 years of age. All others were 55 years or older.

The stomach and respiratory organs showed the highest incidence, each contributing seven deaths.

All the persons who died from malignant neoplasms of the respiratory organs were males over 45 years of age. These conditions provided 21.2 per cent of all cancer deaths.

Deaths from malignant neoplasms in the preceding year totalled twenty-eight. The yearly average for the decennial period 1947-56 was 32.8.

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms period 1947-57

Year	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Deaths	26	28	25	32	32	35	39	45	38	28	33

There was one maternal death from eclampsia.

Deaths by Months and Quarters

January	29	July	17
February	24	August	18
March	16	September	14
1st Quarter ...	69	3rd Quarter ...	49
April	12	October	28
May	18	November	20
June	22	December	28
2nd Quarter ...	52	4th Quarter ...	76

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

*Births

Three hundred and sixty-nine children, one hundred and ninety-two males and one hundred and seventy-seven females were born from the civil population during 1957 providing a birth rate of 15.51 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-three and 16.33. In addition there were twenty-three births to non-resident aliens constituting a total of three hundred and ninety-two or 15.43 per thousand total civil population.

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

Colonial Hospital	350
Military Hospital	29
Private Practitioners	3
Midwives	10

* Vide Note on Page 13.

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

Still Births

Ten still births were registered during the year which amounts to 26.3 per thousand total live and still births. The corresponding figures for 1956 were seven and 17.2. Registrations from 1950 when statutory registration was first enforced to 1956 have been 9, 17, 8, 9, 3, 8 and 7.

Illegitimate Births numbered fourteen amounting to 3.6 per cent of all births and representing an increase of three compared with the preceding year when the corresponding figures were eleven and 2.7.

Illegitimate Births period 1948-57

Year	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Number	10	15	13	17	13	12	8	11	11	14
Rate per cent of all births	2.69	3.69	3.66	4.29	3.2	3.05	1.9	2.8	2.7	3.6

*Infant Mortality

Nine infants died before attaining the age of one year which constitutes an infant mortality rate of 24.39 per thousand live births. Eight of these infants died within four weeks of birth which provides a neo-natal death rate of 21.68 per thousand.

No less than six of these infants did not survive the first week of life which together with ten still births represent a perinatal mortality of 42.21 per thousand total live and still births.

Perinatal mortality is a term used to describe still births and deaths occurring during the first week of life, and is a measure of the loss of life due to circumstances before and during pregnancy and events during labour and delivery.

The tables which follow show that there has been a considerable increase in infant deaths in the year under review compared with 1955 and 1956. The increase has been due to deaths during the first week of life, the result of congenital malformations and injuries sustained during labour. Such deaths together with still births constitute the principal cause of loss of infant life every year, and indicate the necessity for investigations with a view to improve the supervision and care of mothers during pregnancy.

* Vide Note on Page 13.

Ages and Causes of Infant Deaths during 1957 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
Cerebral Haemorrhage related to parturition	3				3					3
Cerebral Birth Injuries Asphyxia	1				1					1
Prematurity	1	1			2					2
Congenital Heart Disease—Bronchitis									1	1
Congenital Heart Disease—Aspiration Pneumonia				1	1					1
Congenital Malformation of Foetus	1				1					1
Totals ..	6	1		1	8				1	9

PERINATAL MORTALITY PERIOD 1950-7

Year	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Combined still births & deaths under 1 week—numbers	11	19	19	14	10	9	8	16
Perinatal mortality per thousand and total births	30.2	47.0	48.3	36.2	25.5	23.6	20.5	42.21
Mortality under 1 year per thousand live births	28.16	31	41.55	25.44	33.5	18.76	13.05	24.39

INFANTILE MORTALITY AND NEONATAL DEATH RATES FOR THE PERIOD 1945-57

	Infantile Mortality	Neonatal 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
1956	13.05	10.44
1957	24.39	21.68

NOTE:—

One hundred and fifty-nine births and four 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 1957 and the corresponding crude rates were therefore as follows:—

Births551 or 21.69 per thousand total population.

Deaths250 or 9.84 per thousand total population.

Deaths in infants under one year 9 or 16.33 per thousand
total live births.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE PERIODS 1930-9 and 1945-57

POPULATION				DEATHS			INFANTILE MORTALITY		BIRTHS		
Year	Fixed	Total	How Estimated	Fixed Population No.	Total Population No.	Rate per 1,000 population		No.	Rate per 1,000 births	No.	Rate per 1,000 Fixed Population
						Fixed Population	Total Population				
1930	15,526	16,448	Police Estimate	240	240	15.6	14.5	25	71.3	349	22.4
1931	16,188	17,613	Census	250	254	15.4	14.4	23	61.0	377	23.28
1932	15,143	16,609	Police Estimate	245	259	16.17	15.59	21	60.69	346	22.84
1933	15,071	16,397	"	241	245	15.99	14.94	14	39.2	357	23.68
1934	14,790	15,847	"	225	230	15.21	14.51	21	54.8	383	25.8
1935	15,735	16,865	"	255	265	16.20	15.71	18	67.4	267	16.9
1936	15,735	16,865	"	249	261	15.82	15.47	19	62.09	304	19.30
1937	16,792	19,541	"	256	292	15.24	14.93	25	68.24	381	22.69
1938	17,222	20,239	"	246	278	14.28	13.74	27	74.38	563	21.07
1939	18,125	20,440	"	276	296	15.22	14.25	30	79.36	378	20.85
Period of evacuation of civil population											
1945	17,448	19,232	"	155	162	8.88	8.42	20	32.89	608	34.84
1946	19,269	21,233	"	177	187	9.18	8.8	15	36.4	412	21.38
1947	20,316	22,532	"	146	148	7.18	6.56	18	47.24	381	18.75
1948	21,472	23,700	"	176	182	8.19	7.67	11	29.56	372	17.32
1949	22,208	24,585	"	181	185	8.15	7.52	14	34.2	408	18.37
1950	22,470	24,886	"	199	207	8.85	8.31	10	28.16	355	15.79
1951	19,739	21,100	Census) Mid-Year)	241	255	12.2	12.08	12	31	387	19.6
1952	22,176	24,473	Police Estimate	191	195	8.61	7.96	16	41.55	385	17.36
1953	22,629	24,736	"	186	199	8.21	8.79	10	25.44	377	16.66
1954	23,044	24,921	"	216	227	9.37	9.10	13	33.5	388	16.83
1955	23,091	24,829	"	200	216	8.66	8.69	7	18.76	373	16.15
1956	23,413	25,064	"	194	221	8.27	8.81	5	13.05	383	16.33
1957	23,783	25,403	"	232	246	9.75	9.68	9	24.39	369	15.51

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 organizations concerned.

I am indebted to Dr. J. A. Cochrane, Acting Chief Medical Officer, for the following information regarding the progress of these services during 1957:—

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 was one maternal death.

Paediatric Service

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

The number of out-patients was as follows:—

1957	1956
2,028	2,803

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 Clinics two Special Clinics a week were held by the Paediatrician in charge, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and referred cases from other Clinics were attended and advised.

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

	1957	1956
Number of children registered	608	591
Attendances	5,839	5,799

South Clinic

Number of children registered	109	144
Attendances	896	1,010

Glacis Clinic

Number of children registered	48	61
Attendances	426	514

Special Clinics held by the Paediatrician

Number of children registered	482	450
Total number of attendances	1,340	1,400
Number of Clinics held	100	95

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

Town Clinic Total number on the Register: 608.

Year of Birth	Age Groups	Number
1952	Over 5 years	18
1953	4—5	31
1954	3—4	44
1955	2—3	82
1956	1—2	199
1957	0—1	234

South Clinic Total number on the Register: 109.

Year of Birth	Age Groups	Number
1952	Over 5 years	10
1953	4—5	7
1954	3—4	10
1955	2—3	8
1956	1—2	37
1957	0—1	37

Glacis Clinic Total number on the Register: 48.

Year of Birth	Age Groups	Number
1952	Over 5 years	3
1953	4—5	2
1954	3—4	8
1955	2—3	7
1956	1—2	10
1957	0—1	18

Home Visits	1957	1956
Primary Visits	352	380
Children under 1 year	715	679
Children over 1 year	3,041	2,909
Ante-natal	79	67
Special	74	60
Fruitless	335	438
Removals (Untraced)	108	108
Centres	4	2
Houses	2,973	2,949

Immunizations (Carried out at the Colonial Hospital)

Anti-diphtheria prophylactic	Courses completed: 16
Combined diphtheria-pertussis prophylactic	Courses completed: 26

School Medical Service

Number of children inspected1,565

General condition:	A	1,437
	B	125
	C	3

Dental Caries and affection of gums

Dental Caries 231

Lungs and Mediastinum

Cervical Glands	11
Bronchitis	3

Heart

Functional murmurs 7

Diseases of the skin

Impetigo	1
Urticaria	4

Eyes

Defective vision 41

Nervous System

Epilepsy 1

Spastic 1**Deformity**

Hernia 1

Referred to Clinics as result of above Medical Inspection

Number of children referred to Dental Clinic 231

Ophthalmic Clinic ... 41

Surgical Clinic 12

E.N.T. 37

Screening 27

O.P.D. 17

Orthopaedic Clinic 5

Number of Schools Inspected 11**Cleanliness Inspection**

Number of children inspected 1,295

Number of children clear 1,035

Number of children nits 260

Number of Notes to Parents 125

Number of Home Visits 2

Referred to Clinics as result of above Inspection

Ophthalmic Clinic 11

Dental Clinic 231

Eye Testing

Number of children tested 1,295

Number of children with defective vision 11

**SUMMARY OF DENTAL TREATMENT CARRIED OUT
IN THE PRIVATE SURGERIES**

Dental Surgeon	Sessions for Treatment	Teeth Conserved	Teeth Extracted	Attendances for Scaling and Gum Treatment
Mr. A. A. Danino...	163	807	346	174
Mr. J. J. Cochrane	34	116	154	24



*With the
Compliments
of the
Medical Officer of Health*

*Public Health Department,
City Hall,
Gibraltar.*



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Causes of Death in the Civil Population during 1957, according to the International Intermediate List with Age and Sex Incidence.

Cause of Death	Detailed List of Numbers	All Ages		Under 1 yr.		1 yr. & under 5		5 yrs. & under 15		15 yrs. & under 25		25 yrs. & under 35		35 yrs. & under 45		45 yrs. & under 55		55 yrs. & under 65		65 yrs. & under 75		75 yrs. & over	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
A 21 Diphtheria	055	1		1																			
A 43 All other diseases classified as infective and parasitic	098-039 049 054, 059 063-074 084-090 093 095, 096 120-122 131-138	1																					
A 44 Malignant neoplasm of buccal cavity and pharynx	140-148 151	7																					
A 46 Malignant neoplasm of stomach	162-163	1																					
A 47 Malignant neoplasm of intestine, except rectum	164	1																					
A 48 Malignant neoplasm of rectum	161	1																					
A 49 Malignant neoplasm of larynx	162-163	6																					
A 50 Malignant neoplasm of trachea, bronchus and lung, not specified as secondary	170	5																					
A 51 Malignant neoplasm of breast	171	1																					
A 52 Malignant neoplasm of cervix uteri	184-185	1																					
A 53 Malignant neoplasm of skin	175-176	7																					
A 57 Malignant neoplasm of all other and unspecified sites	178-181 182-185 186-189 190	1																					
A 58 Leukaemia and aleukaemia	200-203	1																					
A 59 Lymphosarcoma and other neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic system	205	1																					
A 60 Benign neoplasms and neoplasms of unspecified nature	210-239	1																					
A 62 Thyrotoxicosis with or without goiter	242	1																					
A 63 Diabetes mellitus	260	2																					
A 65 Anaemias	290-293	43																					
A 70 Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system	330-334	1																					
A 73 Epilepsy	335	1																					
A 80 Chronic rheumatic heart disease	410-416	48																					
A 81 Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart diseases	420-422	5																					
A 82 Other diseases of heart	430-434	12																					
A 83 Hypertension with heart disease	440-443	5																					
A 84 Hypertension without mention of heart	444-447	5																					
A 85 Diseases of arterios	450-455	5																					
A 86 Other diseases of circulatory system	460-468	1																					
A 87 Acute upper respiratory infections	470-475	1																					
A 88 Influenza	480-483	7																					
A 90 Bronchopneumonia	491	4																					
A 93 Bronchitis, chronic and unqualified	501-502	1																					
A 95 Empyema and abscess of lung	518, 521 511-517	1																					
A 97 All other respiratory diseases	520 521-527	1																					
A 99 Ulcer of stomach	540	1																					
A 102 Appendicitis	550-553	1																					
A 103 Intestinal obstruction and hernia	560, 561 570	1																					
A 104 Gastro-enteritis and colitis, except diarrhoea of the newborn	571, 572	2																					
A 105 Cirrhosis of liver	581	1																					
A 109 Chronic, other and unspecified nephritis	591-594	1																					
A 110 Infections of kidney	600	1																					
A 112 Hyperplasia of prostate	610	1																					
A 116 Toxaemias of pregnancy and the puerperium	642-652 655-656 700-716	1																					
A 126 All other diseases of skin and musculoskeletal system	731-736 738-744	1																					
A 128 Congenital malformations of circulatory system	754	2																					
A 129 All other congenital malformations	750, 752 753	1																					
A 130 Birth injuries	755-759	4																					
A 135 Ill-defined diseases peculiar to early infancy, and immaturity unqualified	760, 761	2																					
A 136 Scallity without mention of psychosis	773-776	10																					
A 137 Ill-defined and unknown causes of morbidity and mortality	780-783	4																					
AN 138 Fracture of skull	795	1																					
AN 140 Fracture of limbs	N800-N804 N810-N820	4																					
Totals		232	3	6	2	—	—	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	12	6	32	15	32	28	19	67	

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.

The Colonial Government maintain two hostels, one at Beriro's Home and the other at the Little Sisters of the Poor. They are administered by the Department of Labour and Social Security, and can accommodate a total of seventy persons. A small number of aged and infirm women are cared for at the Colonial Hospital.

CHILDREN DEVOID OF PARENTAL CARE

There are still no provisions in Gibraltar for the institutional care of children who because they are orphans or for other reasons are deprived of parental care.

I have written at length on both these subjects in all my previous Annual Reports, and beyond again pleading that they receive the urgent consideration which they undoubtedly deserve, there is little further which I can add at present which will serve a useful purpose.

CARE OF THE BLIND

I am indebted to the Hon. Secretary of the Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Blindness, Mrs. Dorothy M. Ellicott, M.B.E., for the information regarding the work of the Society during the year 1957, on which this section is based.

The number of blind persons in Gibraltar decreased considerably during 1957. Fifteen died of which thirteen were females, and all but one were over 68 years of age.

Only one new registration was made during the year, that of an elderly woman. Persons awaiting to be operated for cataracts are no longer included in the blind register.

The following table shows the number, sexes and ages

of those appearing in the register at the end of the year:—

	Males	Females	Total
Under 10 years old ...	—	—	—
10 — 20 „ „ ...	1	1	2
20 — 30 „ „ ...	3	—	3
30 — 40 „ „ ...	1	2	3
40 — 50 „ „ ...	2	4	6
50 — 60 „ „ ...	4	8	12
Over 60 „ „ ...	10	54	64
	—	—	—
Totals ...	21	69	90
	—	—	—

These figures cannot be interpreted as showing the true incidence of blindness, as there are sound reasons to believe that many have never consulted the Government Ophthalmologist about failing sight, and either accept their condition as a natural consequence of increasing age, or go to Spain for treatment.

On the recommendation of Mr. J. Wilson, O.B.E., Director of the Royal Commonwealth Society for the Blind who visited the Colony in 1956, Miss T. Williams, a Spanish speaking Home Teacher, arrived in Gibraltar in September, and has since done valuable work by visiting factories and workshops and establishing contacts with Government and leading employers of labour with a view to eventually securing suitable employment for the younger blind.

She has also persuaded some who had previously refused tuition of any kind to start learning braille, improve their knowledge of English by attending evening classes to enable them to take up employment, and to be trained in basket making and other handicrafts which they can do in their own homes. Miss Williams hopes to place one young man in employment as a telephonist and others to take up cigarette making.

Mr. Oliver, a blind man, is now actively teaching braille, whilst some of the Society's visitors have learnt handicrafts and will help with the training of the blind.

Generous gifts from various sources towards obtaining mattresses and clothing, and of a typewriter, braille books and radio sets have also helped the Society in their training scheme and in providing amenities for the blind.

A dozen children with defective eyesight continue to attend St. David's Sight Saving School.

The progress made during 1957 is most praiseworthy and encouraging, and it may be that at long last the prejudice that blind persons must be dependent on their relatives or on charity and never be expected to work has been overcome.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

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

Three hundred and fifty-three cases of infectious diseases were notified from the civil population during the year which represents an incidence of 14.8 per thousand, and a decrease of 475 compared with the preceding year, when the corresponding figures were 828 and 35.3. With the exception of 1954 these are the lowest figures recorded since 1951.

A considerable outbreak of Whooping Cough accounted for 107 of the notifications, whilst German Measles, Chicken Pox and Scarlet Fever contributed 66, 57 and 48 cases respectively.

Four notifications of Paralytic Poliomyelitis were received during the months of September and October.

Two cases of Diphtheria were notified, one of which was fatal. This is the only death attributed to the infectious diseases during the year under review, and the first to be caused by Diphtheria since 1948.

The following table shows the incidence of infectious diseases for the period 1945-56.

Year	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Numbers ...	102	103	168	252	181	225	836	462	552	311	355	828
Triennial Averages	124.3			219.3			616.6			498		

1957 = 353

Note: Seventy-four 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 427 which represents a crude incidence of 16.8 per thousand total population. The corresponding figures for 1956 were 1,042 and 41.5.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis

Eight persons, four males and four females, were notified as suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year. The ages of the males ranged from 43 to 56 years. Two of the females were school-children aged 7 and 9 years respectively, the others were young women in their twenties. The source of infection of the children was not established.

These figures represent a decrease of fifty per cent compared with the corresponding ones for the preceding year when sixteen cases were notified, and are the lowest recorded since 1938. They provide an incidence rate of 0.33 per thousand. The corresponding figure for 1956 was 0.68.

There were no deaths which establishes a record in the Public Health Annals of Gibraltar.

The facilities for free radiological examination of prospective employees on application to the Director of Labour and Social Security which were first provided in 1952 continued to be available throughout the year.

As the principal purpose of this arrangement is to protect children from being infected by nursemaids and other servants who normally are in intimate contact with them and who may be suffering from Tuberculosis in an active infectious stage, it is, to say the least, disappointing to note that the number of requests for such examinations is progressively smaller every year, and I must again urge parents and guardians to avail themselves of the facilities offered to safeguard the health of their children.

Details of radiological screenings of domestic servants for the years 1952-7 are shown in the following table which has been kindly supplied by the Director of Labour and Social Security.

Radiological Screening of Domestic Servants Period 1952-7

	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
New entrants to domestic service in Gibraltar	21	110	26	2	4	3
Domestic servants transferring from one employer to another	129	223	99	113	60	8
Domestic servants already in employment screened at employer's request	7	54	78	48	40	21
Total number screened	157	387	203	163	104	32
Number found unfit	Nil	3	1	Nil	Nil	Nil

Note: Seven cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis (one fatal) in non-residents admitted to hospital for treatment, and one notified from other sources with which these statistics are not concerned, are not included in the above data.

Incidence and Mortality from Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1935-1939 and 1945-1957

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
1956	16	1	0.68	0.04
1957	8	0	0.33	0.00

Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis

Two notifications were received representing an incidence of 0.08 per thousand population. There were no deaths. The corresponding figure for 1956 was 0.25.

Enteric Fever

Seven cases of Typhoid and one of Para-Typhoid Fever were notified during the year. They occurred sporadically at different times in various districts of the City. No common source of infection was discovered, and it can only be presumed that the infections were acquired by eating inadequately washed contaminated raw vegetables or fruit, or during visits to places in Spain where these conditions are prevalent. Two of the persons affected with Typhoid almost certainly contracted the disease from sources outside Gibraltar.

Dysentery

Thirty-one cases of Bacillary Dysentery were notified from the civil population during 1957, compared with eleven in 1956 and none in the years 1954 and 1955. This sharp rise should however not be interpreted to mean an increase in the prevalence of the disease or as representing its true incidence in the Colony which I believe is much higher than these figures indicate.

I have in past reports repeatedly expressed the opinion that a considerable number of infections by *Shigellae*, either because they are not investigated bacteriologically or because the clinical manifestations are so mild that a doctor is not called in, pass unrecognized, and it is significant that the great majority of these cases were notified by one practitioner.

All were confirmed bacteriologically. *S. Flexneri* 103 and *S. Sonnei* were found to be the most frequent infecting organisms, but *S. Flexneri*, Types W, V, and Z, *S. Newcastle*, *S. Schmitzi*, *S. "Boyd D1"* and *S. Shiga* were also isolated.

Though the bacteriological investigation of all these cases and their numerous contacts rather taxed the resources of the Laboratories, the finding of two food handlers and of a workman employed in the Council's water works who were symptomless excretors and who would otherwise have escaped unnoticed to spread the infection fully justified the work and expense entailed, besides demonstrating the importance from the preventive aspect of submitting specimens of faeces to the Public Health Laboratories from all patients suffering from diarrhoea.

Poliomyelitis

Four cases of paralytic Poliomyelitis were notified from the civil population during the months of September and October. The patients were all young infants whose ages ranged between one and five years, the disease being mild in every case. It is also probable that, though not confirmed at the time, two other children suffered from benign atypical attacks of the disease.

During the same period two young adults and two children were also notified from the Services. One of the adults, suffered a severe attack involving the respiratory muscles which necessitated the use of a respirator, the other was a non-paralytic case. The children, one of school age, lived in adjacent houses and were taken ill within three days of each other which suggests that they may have been infected from the same source.

No fatalities occurred.

These cases occurred in different districts of the City. No connection between them was established, nor was the source of infection in any one case determined, but as at the time a high increase in the incidence of Poliomyelitis was reported in several neighbouring Spanish towns, there is little doubt that either directly or indirectly the causative virus derived from these places.

As the disease is uncommon in Gibraltar and only occurs in the form of occasional sporadic cases, the unusual incidence exaggerated by rumours gave rise to considerable public alarm, to allay which the position was made clear and advice given regarding measures of prevention through the agency of the Press, and on all opportune occasions by the Public Health Inspectors in the course of their routine visits.

The advisability of advocating anti-poliomyelitis vaccination was extensively discussed and frequently reviewed at meetings of the Board of Health, enquiries were made as to the possibility of obtaining a supply of British vaccines if and when required, and a Gallup poll was also carried out at the Infant Welfare Clinics to estimate the probable acceptance rate by parents of offers of immunization for their children. The response however proved poor, and it was finally considered that as judging from the incidence and behaviour of Poliomyelitis in Gibraltar it could be reasonably assumed that by far the majority of the local child population acquire early immunity through intimate contact with Spain where the disease is always prevalent, the circumstances at the time did not warrant embarking on a mass preventive vaccination of the civilian child population.

The following tables show the incidence of Poliomyelitis in Gibraltar for the periods 1935-9 and 1945-56.

1935-9

YEAR	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
CASES (Civilians)	—	—	1	3 (2 deaths)	3
(Imported)	—	—	1	—	—
(Services)	No records available.				

1945-56

YEAR	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
CASES (Civilians)	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	2	2	1
(Imported)	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	* 1 (1 death)	—	—	—	—
(Services)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8 (1 death)	3	4	1	1

* Disease not confirmed — Caused by a blood dyscrasia.

Scarlet Fever

The outbreak of Scarlet Fever recorded in my Annual Report for 1956 continued until early March 1957, and provided thirty-four notifications out of a total of forty-eight received during the year. The disease remained benign and no deaths occurred.

Incidence of Scarlet Fever for the decades 1930-9 and 1946-55

1930-9

Year	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	Average
Cases	10	11	12	17	17	24	31	10	20	5	15.7

1946-55

Year	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Average
Cases	4	3	3	3	2	37	5	16	20	13	10.6

1956 = 96

1957 = 48

Pertussis

One hundred and seven cases of Whooping Cough were notified, the majority during the months of May, June and July.

The incidence was highest in infants under five years of age, but the disease was generally mild and caused no deaths.

Chicken Pox

Fifty-seven notifications were received, most of them from Catalan Bay Village.

Rubella

The incidence of German Measles was unusually high, particularly during the first quarter of the year. Notifications totalled sixty-six.

Measles

Only seven notifications were received.

The following table shows the incidence of Measles in the civilian population during the period 1945-57:—

Year	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Cases	12	3	61	135	20	20	692	3	100	127	50	448	7

Undulant Fever

Three sporadic cases of infection by *Brucella Melitensis* were notified.

Diphtheria

Two cases of Diphtheria in children aged ten and three years respectively were notified. The infant suffered a laryngeal attack caused by *C. Diphtheriae Intermedius* which proved fatal. Neither child had been immunized against the disease.

This is the first death from Diphtheria which has occurred since 1948. The two cases were not connected and despite careful investigations the source of the infection was not discovered in either case.

I must again deplore that notwithstanding the advice given individually to every parent bringing infants to the Public Health Department for statutory anti-smallpox vaccination, which includes virtually all infants born in the Colony, and the distribution of explanatory pamphlets recommending the protection of children against the disease, the number being immunized is insignificant.

Some three hundred children are born in Gibraltar every year, and unless parents can be roused from their apathy, (ignorance they cannot plead), this complacency will lead to the development of a large susceptible child population which will provide a fertile ground for the invasion and spread of the causative organism.

The following table shows the incidence and deaths from Diphtheria during the period 1945-57.

Years	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Cases	7	11	12	8	0	4	5	6	9	1	1	6	2
Deaths	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Meningococcal Infection

Two sporadic cases of Meningococcal Meningitis were notified.

Smallpox

There were no cases of Smallpox during the year, but the occurrence of rashes strongly suggestive of modified Smallpox in six soldiers shortly after arriving from the United Kingdom to join their unit in Gibraltar entailed the adoption of preventive administrative measures and caused considerable alarm and much inconvenience by the imposition of vaccination requirements by the Sanitary Authorities of neighbouring territories on Gibraltar residents, tourists and many who enter and leave the Colony daily. The circumstances are of sufficient interest to merit a brief summary.

On the 14th of March a soldier who together with others belonging to the same unit had arrived from the United Kingdom between the 25th and 28th February reported sick with a temperature of 99.4, and a sparse rash consisting of small papules and a few imperfect vesicles with a typical smallpox distribution, the only points against being the absence of lesions on the palms and soles and an undoubtedly successful vaccination performed five months previously. It was considered that in all probability the disease was a highly modified smallpox, and the patient together with five others exhibiting similar rashes were isolated in the Smallpox Hospital and the customary preventive administrative measures were taken, though only immediate contacts of the patients were vaccinated. As barring their exanthems these men were not ill and might have visited cinemas and other public places and as the population is well immunized against the disease through compulsory vaccination in infancy and revaccination on attaining the age of twelve years, it was anticipated that should secondary cases occur, they would probably be highly modified, and a letter was addressed by the Medical Officer of Health to all practitioners warning them of the possible occurrence of such cases.

Soon it was evident that the rashes were not evolving in the manner of smallpox rashes, even when highly modified, in fact they were not evolving at all. A few of the lesions showed a poorly developed pointed vesicle, some showed a pustular top akin to acne, whilst many continued as papules and no lesions appeared on the palms and soles in any of the suspects, indeed by the eighth day there was no doubt that the diagnosis of smallpox could not be maintained clinically. This was supported by the consistently negative results of virological and serological investigations carried out on a considerable number of specimens from all the patients, their records of recent successful vaccination (six months to a year), and the failure to trace any possible source of infection

The occurrence of smallpox during the year, but the occurrence of cases strongly suggestive of smallpox in six soldiers shortly after arriving from the United Kingdom to join their unit in Gibraltar entitled the attention of preventive administrative measures and caused considerable interest and much controversy as to the possibility of smallpox being introduced by the military authorities of the United Kingdom. The following facts are given in the *Colonial Daily*. The circumstances are of sufficient interest to merit a brief summary.

On the 14th of March a soldier who had been with the unit belonging to the regiment and arrived from the United Kingdom between the 20th and 25th was reported sick with a temperature of 98.4, and a sparse rash consisting of small papules and a few imperfect vesicles with a typical smallpox distribution, the only points against the absence of it being those on the face and neck and an indistinctly suggestive examination performed five months previously. It was concluded that in all probability the disease was a highly modified smallpox and the patient isolated with five others exhibiting similar cases were isolated in the Hospital. The patient and the constant negative bacteriological measures were taken, though only immediate contacts of the patient were quarantined. As during these examinations these men were not ill and might have tested elements and other people present and the population is well maintained against the disease, though temporary vaccination in infancy and re-vaccination on attaining the age of 15 years, it was anticipated that should secondary cases occur, they would probably be highly modified and a letter was addressed by the Medical Officer of Health to all practitioners warning them of this possible occurrence of such cases. 75-5001 bodies all given satisfactory

It is evident that the cases were not occurring in the number of smallpox cases even when highly modified in that they were not occurring at all. A few of the lesions showed a poorly developed pustular vesicle some showed in the face and neck and others in the arms and legs in any of the areas, but by the 14th day there was no doubt that the diagnosis of smallpox could not be maintained. This was supported by the consistently negative results of virological and serological investigations carried out on a considerable number of specimens from all the patients. Their results were inconsistent (six months to a year), and the failure to trace any possible source of infection

in the United Kingdom notwithstanding painstaking and widespread investigations which were carried out at all places where the men had been stationed.

The aetiology of the rashes was never definitely determined, but it is possible that they may have been unusual manifestations to mites or other insect stings in persons as yet not acclimatized to their attacks.

By the end of March all the patients being clear of lesions were discharged from Hospital and Gibraltar was declared free from infection on the 1st April. The Sanitary Authorities of Tangier waived vaccination requirements which had been imposed on travellers when the cases were notified through the World Health Organization, but unfortunately on the very day that Gibraltar was declared free, the Spanish Sanitary Authorities for some unaccountable reason considered it necessary to demand vaccination certificates from some eight thousand workmen and others who visit Gibraltar daily, from Gibraltar residents who visit Spain frequently, and from tourists entering Spain through the Colony.

Within a few hours special vaccination clinics were organized at the Public Health Department to meet the requirements of the public at which a total of one thousand, five hundred and thirty-nine persons were vaccinated, whilst a large number of vaccinations were also performed by private practitioners. Thus what was almost tantamount to a mass vaccination had to be embarked upon at considerable expense and inconvenience at a time when it had been clearly established that there was no danger of infection from the disease in question. The vaccination requirements were eventually waived by the Spanish Authorities on the 8th April.

Vaccinations

Number of children born	392*
Number who died before vaccination	7
Number who left Gibraltar before vaccination	21
Number certified as insusceptible to vaccination ...	NIL
Vaccination postponed on medical grounds	7
Number successfully vaccinated (children born in 1957) ...	247
Objectors to vaccination	NIL
Outstanding	110

(* includes 23 non-residents)

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

Thus three hundred and sixty-one children were vaccinated which together with five hundred and forty-five re-vaccinations performed on children who had attained the age of twelve years constitute a total of nine hundred and six statutory vaccinations carried out during the year, of which eight hundred and fifty-two were performed by the Public Vaccinator.

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

One thousand, five hundred and thirty-nine persons were also vaccinated either by the Public Vaccinator or at special clinics under his direction for purposes concerning the International Sanitary Regulations principally to meet vaccination requirements imposed by the Spanish Health Authorities during the smallpox scare.

Vaccinations performed for all purposes during the year totalled two thousand, four hundred and forty-five.

Rabies

Four dogs and two stray cats died from Rabies during the year, the highest number recorded since 1945.

The disease was confirmed in every case by the finding of negri bodies and inoculation of animals carried out at the Pasteur Institute at Tangiers, where the brains were sent for investigation.

Thirteen persons, the majority children, who had been bitten or scratched by the animals affected underwent anti-rabic treatment.

Wide-spread investigations were carried out, and a considerable number of dogs which were proved to have been close contacts of the animals in question were painlessly destroyed, but the source of the infections was not discovered. Measures to enforce the muzzling and control of dogs and to trap and destroy stray cats were intensified.

As I have written at length on this subject in all my Annual Reports and on many other occasions since my assuming office, repetition would only prove monotonous, but I

must again stress the necessity of controlling the excessively large number of dogs in our City by strict enforcement of the licencing, muzzling and quarantine regulations.

Incidence of Rabies in Gibraltar during the period 1945-57

Year	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
Dogs	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	4
Cats	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

The arrangement made in 1955 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 control over the cat population by their Inspector throughout the year continued during 1957.

A total of 739 stray, unwanted or seriously injured cats and 107 unwanted or seriously injured dogs were humanely destroyed by the Society's Inspector during the year. Ten rabbits considered to have been suffering from Myxomatosis were similarly disposed of.

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

Number of stray dogs admitted	50
Number of stray dogs claimed by owners	14
Number of stray dogs destroyed	35
Number of stray dogs dead in kennels	1
Number of dogs detained after biting persons	32
Number of dogs claimed by owners	21
Number of dogs destroyed	7
Number of dogs dead in kennels	3
Number of dogs in Quarantine	1
Number of dogs detained as contacts of rabies	6
Number of dogs destroyed	5
Number of dogs in Quarantine	1
Number of dogs in transit	79
Number of dogs in Quarantine	2
Number of dogs humanely destroyed at owner's request	24
Number of stray cats admitted	27

Number of stray cats claimed by owners	—
Number of stray cats destroyed	27
Number of cats detained after scratching/biting persons	7
Number of cats claimed by owners	1
Number of cats destroyed	4
Number of cats dead in kennels	2
Number of cats detained as contact of rabies	—
Number of cats in transit	3
Number of cats detained in Quarantine	2
Number of cats humanely destroyed at owner's request	44

Influenza

The epidemic of Influenza caused by a new variant of the A virus group designated for the time being as A/Asia/57 which starting in North China at the beginning of spring slowly spread to involve to a greater or lesser extent all continents eventually reached Gibraltar.

In late July and August, an unusual season for Influenza in this territory, there occurred a prevalence of acute febrile affections of the respiratory organs of varying severity, mostly mild, indistinguishable from Influenza, the true nature of which could not be definitely established in the absence of facilities for virological investigations. The return of a contingent of Boy Scouts who had visited the United Kingdom and members of a pilgrimage from Rome, a number of who had suffered and others were actually affected or recovering from Influenza like conditions was followed by an increase in the incidence in early September, and it may well be that as at the time outbreaks of the Asiatic type of Influenza were occurring in both those countries, they may have acquired the disease there and introduced it in our community, though as Gibraltar because of its maritime and air ports is very vulnerable to the introduction of infectious diseases, the possibility of its having been previously infected from other sources cannot be excluded. However, it may have been the disease did not at first spread widely and mostly involved scattered households and a number of densely populated tenement buildings in some of which a high proportion of the residents fell victims to it.

Early in September three of H.M. ships which came into port reported a high incidence of Influenza of the Asiatic type among their crews. The ships were placed in quarantine but a considerable number of the more serious cases were landed and admitted to hospital and naval sick bays for treatment. There can be little doubt however, that these cases did not play a significant part either in the introduction or spread of the disease in the Colony.

The position with respect to the civil population remained unaltered until about mid October when there occurred a sharp sudden rise in the incidence of the disease which spread widely throughout the City, but so far as could be ascertained did not cause such grave disruption of public services, workshops and offices, as on other occasions. School teachers and school children suffered a heavy incidence. About the same time towns and villages in the Spanish neighbourhood were also similarly affected. The outbreak quickly subsided in about a fortnight from the onset.

As neither Influenza nor Pneumonia is notifiable, no accurate estimation could be made of the extent of the incidence, but the behaviour of the causative virus in smouldering as it did in isolated foci for a considerable time before the final widespread outbreak, showed a striking contrast with that of the viruses involved in other Influenza epidemics in the past, particularly so that of 1950/51 which started with almost dramatic suddenness towards the end of January 1951, spread with lightning rapidity affecting from fifty to sixty per cent of the population and quickly subsided in about four weeks after the onset. (Vide my Annual Report 1951).

The disease maintained a benign character throughout, though medical practitioners reported that a considerable number of patients suffered high pyrexia and some cases of pulmonary complications occurred. Only one death was attributed to Influenza and Pneumonia in a male person over eighty years of age.

Because of reports from some countries of the occurrence of a number of fulminating fatal cases of the disease, fears were entertained at the time that the benign outbreak might be the precursor of a second wave with a high incidence of cases with fatal pneumonic and septicaemic complications such as followed a similar mild outbreak in the Influenza pandemic of 1918/20 and caused an appalling mortality, but fortunately, though relapses were reported in some persons who had been previously affected, no recrudescence of the disease occurred.

Notifications of Infectious Diseases with Age and Sex Incidence — Civil Population 1957

Notifiable Diseases	NUMBER OF CASES																Districts			No. of cases removed to Hospital
	All Ages	Under 1 year		1 and under 5 years		5 and under 15 years		15 and under 25 years		25 and under 45 years		45 and under 65 years		65 and over		North	Central	South		
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.					
Pertussis	107	7	4	32	36	10	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	67	36	—	1
Rubella	66	2	2	9	10	22	14	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	26	38	—	—
Measles	7	—	—	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	5	—	—
Chicken Pox	57	1	1	11	9	16	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	16	26	—	1
Scarlet Fever	48	—	—	4	5	13	22	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	27	19	—	1
Dysentery	31	—	—	5	4	1	4	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	23	7	—	2
Mumps	6	—	—	1	—	1	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	4	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	7	—	—	8
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Enteric Fever	8	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	6	2	2
Undulant Fever	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	3	—	2
Diphtheria	2	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Poliomyelitis	4	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	2
Meningococcal Infection ..	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Totals ...	353	10	7	68	67	68	81	8	6	15	9	5	7	—	2	29	184	140	25	25

Infectious Diseases — Monthly and Quarterly Incidence — Civil Population 1957

Disease	January	February	March	1st Qr.	April	May	June	2nd Qr.	July	August	Sept.	3rd Qr.	October	November	December	4th Qr.	Total	Deaths
Pertussis	1	1	5	7	7	22	30	59	15	7	7	29	1	6	5	12	107	—
Rubella	23	18	10	51	2	7	2	9	2	1	3	6	—	—	—	—	66	—
Measles	—	—	3	3	—	—	1	3	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	7	—
Chicken Pox	7	6	2	15	5	1	2	8	11	7	—	18	7	7	2	16	57	—
Scarlet Fever	19	10	5	34	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	1	1	4	6	11	48	—
Dysentery	—	1	—	1	3	3	2	8	2	9	2	13	6	2	1	9	31	—
Mumps	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	4	—	—	—	—	6	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	—	—	2	2	—	3	5	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	8	—
Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Enteric Fever	1	2	—	3	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	2	1	1	—	2	8	—
Undulant Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	—	1	—	1	3	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	2	—	—	2	2	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	1	—	1	4	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
TOTALS	55	40	27	122	19	35	42	96	40	26	15	81	18	22	14	54	353	1

Infectious Diseases — Monthly and Quarterly Return of Cases Landed from the Bay or Brought into Town for Treatment, 1957

Disease	January	February	March	1st Qr.	April	May	June	2nd Qr.	July	August	Sept.	3rd Qr.	October	November	December	4th Qr.	Total	Deaths
Measles	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Dysentery	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	2	3	—	2	1	3	7	1
Typhoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—
Totals ...	1	—	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	—	2	3	1	2	2	5	13	1

INVESTIGATION AND PREVENTION OF OTHER DISEASES

INSECT VECTORS

Flies

The City was remarkably free from these insects in 1957.

Routine measures for the control of flies were intensified in spring and throughout the hot season, pamphlets were distributed and particular attention was paid to the care of dust-bins and to preventing accumulations of refuse attractive to flies.

Four hundred and ninety-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

Mosquitoes were unusually prevalent and a prolific source of nuisances during the spring and summer months, particularly in the North and South Districts. One hundred and ninety-two out of a total of two hundred and fifty-four breeding places which were destroyed were found in these districts.

Measures for the control of these insects were carried out in close co-ordination with the Services sanitarians by the regular staff of the Public Health Department without the employment of extra personnel.

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

<i>Culex pipiens</i>	106	(between March and Dec.)
<i>Theobaldia longiareolata</i>	44	(between May and Nov.)
<i>Aedes argenteus</i>	NIL	

Notwithstanding careful searches in places known to be favoured by *Aedes argenteus*, no insect of this species has been identified for the seventh year in succession. This is of considerable practical importance as this mosquito is the vector of Yellow Fever, epidemics of which have in the past virtually decimated the population on two occasions.

In the course of 25,548 inspections, two hundred and fifty-four breeding places were found and destroyed as follows:—

Tubs	8
Barrels	23
Miscellaneous	223

MOSQUITO CAMPAIGN 1957

Months	Visits paid to Premises	Breeding Places Found—by Districts					Totals
		Town Lower	Town Middle	Town Upper	South	North	
January	1,834	—	—	1	1	—	2
February	1,766	—	1	—	—	—	1
March	2,471	—	1	—	4	4	9
April	1,941	—	1	1	3	2	7
May	2,167	—	—	2	4	16	22
June	2,626	10	2	13	52	32	109
July	2,227	5	2	6	39	9	61
August	2,380	1	1	—	2	—	4
September	1,896	—	—	—	—	2	2
October	1,803	—	—	1	—	5	6
November	2,529	1	1	8	13	2	25
December	1,908	2	1	1	1	1	6
Totals ...	25,548	19	10	33	119	73	254

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 was maintained throughout the year between the civilian and services staff engaged in planning and carrying out anti-rodent measures so as to ensure maximum efficiency as well as economy in the use of materials available.

Arsenic and Zinc Phosphide which have stood the test of time as effective rodenticides for Gibraltar continued to be used for all routine operations. Warfarin was also used at times to supplement these poisons and on other occasions when it was considered indicated. This poison was used exclusively in all naval premises since August.

Sewers, storm water drains and electricity and telephone pits were disinfested on several occasions, and places suspected of affording good harbourage for rats received special attention.

As in past years the carcasses of mice recovered far outnumbered those of rats, 1,180 of the former and 109 of the latter, which would appear to indicate that mice constitute the major factor in the rodent infestation. The carcasses of two rats were examined in the City Council Public Health Laboratories and found free from plague bacilli.

Eleven ships were inspected and Deratting Exemption Certificates issued under the provisions of the International Sanitary Regulations during the year.

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

The following tables show details of treatments carried out by the Rodent Control Services during the year.

RODENT CONTROL—SUMMARY OF TREATMENT BY COMBINED SERVICES DURING THE YEAR 1957.

Service	No. of Premises Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
					RR	RN	MM	
Civilian	461	17,514	11,343	5,976	75	—	1,015	1,461
Military	117	11,627	3,657	1,396	33	—	155	512
H.M. Dockyard...	153	16,886	4,719	2,360	—	—	8	478
R.A.F.	12	362	307	159	1	—	2	54
Sewers and Drains ...	103 manholes	410	280	268	—	—	—	329
TOTALS	846	46,799	20,306	10,159	109	—	1,180	2,834

RODENT CONTROL — SUMMARY OF TREATMENT OF CIVILIAN PREMISES DURING 1957.

Campaign Week	Premises Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
					RR	RN	MM	
1/57 to 13/57	112	3,695	2,447	1,411	2	—	218	300
14/57 to 26/57	106	4,320	2,910	1,516	44	—	236	361
27/57 to 39/57	131	5,022	3,122	1,592	16	—	332	427
40/57 to 51/57	112	4,477	2,864	1,457	13	—	229	373
Totals ...	461	17,514	11,343	5,976	75	—	1,015	1,461

RODENT CONTROL—TREATMENT OF SEWERS, AND DRAINS DURING THE YEAR 1957.

Campaign Week	Date	Manholes Treated	Prebait Laid	Poison Baits Laid	Total Takes	Carcasses Found			Estimated Kill
						RR	RN	MM	
22/57	27/5/57-31/5/57	10	40	20	20	—	—	—	25
23/57	3/6/57- 7/6/57	10	40	30	30	—	—	—	38
24/57	11/6/57-14/6/57	12	50	50	47	—	—	—	55
25/57	17/6/57-21/6/57	10	40	36	30	—	—	—	38
28/57	8/7/57-12/7/57	11	40	23	20	—	—	—	22
29/57	15/7/57-19/7/57	10	40	20	20	—	—	—	25
30/57	22/7/57-26/7/57	10	40	25	25	—	—	—	31
31/57	29/7/57- 2/8/57	10	40	30	30	—	—	—	38
32/57	6/8/57- 9/8/57	10	40	25	25	—	—	—	31
33/57	12/8/57-16/8/57	10	40	21	21	—	—	—	26
	Totals ...	103	410	280	268	—	—	—	329

RODENT CONTROL — SUMMARY OF WARFARIN TREATMENT OF NAVAL PREMISES DURING 1957

Period	Areas	No. of Points Laid	No. of Points Discontinued	Nil takes at:	Carcasses Found	
					RR	MM
6/8/57-30/8/57	Nos 2 and 3	157	85	4th week=63	1	6
2/9/57-20/9/57	Nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7	980	606	3rd week=364	6	34
23/9/57-11/10/57	Nos. 8, 9 and 10	1,169	447	3rd week=696	1	19
14/10/57-1/11/57	Nos. 11, 12 and 13	753	518	3rd week=235	1	—
4/11/57-22/11/57	Nos. 14, 15 and 16	508	339	3rd week=167	—	—
25/11/57-13/12/57	Nos. 1, 2 and 3	733	402	3rd week=301	—	3
Totals ...		4,300	2,397	1,826	9	62

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 1957.

Number of ships entered during 1957	8,566
Number of medical visits to ships	223
Number of ships inspected by a Health Officer, admitted to pratique or placed in quarantine.....	Nil
Number of patients landed,	
from British Ships	63
from Foreign Ships	96

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

Air

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

The Colonial Government are responsible for the sanitary control, disinfection and disinsectization of Civil Aircraft. The duties concerned are performed by a Colonial Government Medical Officer as part of his general duties under the administrative direction of the Chief Medical Officer 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 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 public health staff are constantly on the watch for possible pollution of underground tanks. Samples from one hundred and twenty-four suspected tanks were taken in 1957.

Stocks of potable water at the beginning of the year were very low and rainfall during the month of February was almost negligible, a sixth of the average for the month. In consequence the dry season started with stocks three million gallons short of full capacity notwithstanding that a tanker had discharged a cargo of over two and a half million gallons in April.

One evaporator was in operation as often as circumstances permitted, but the yield from this source was insignificant. Pumping from wells was steadily maintained at the average level but it was nevertheless necessary to import water at the end of September and, again, towards the end of November to the tune of over five and a half million gallons.

Thanks to this and to the fact that substantial rain fell in November and December, stocks at the end of the year, though below the desired figure, were reasonably good.

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.

Sixty and a half million gallons were issued during the year from various Council's sources.

Rainfall at the catchments during the calendar year 1957 totalled 30.94 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 four hundred and twenty-five million gallons.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse

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

In addition to an average of 30 tons of domestic refuse which is collected by the Council's scavenging lorries, approximately 6 tons of trade refuse, consisting of tobacco dust, wood shavings, sawdust, waste paper, coffee waste, condemned foods and other materials, are carried by private lorries to the Refuse Destructor and burnt 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 the low level during 1957 amounted to approximately 195,200,000 gallons.

Public Highways and Street Cleansing

Full use was made of the Asphalt mixing plant installed at Catalan Bay Depot, and hot and cold asphalt for resurfacing of roads, reinstatements and other purposes, was satisfactorily produced.

Road improvements along Europa and South Barracks Road, between Engineer Road junction and the south junction of King George V. Hospital were, but for the final surfacing, completed during the year, whilst improvements to South Barracks Road from the south junction of King George V. Hospital to Schonberg Cottage were started during the latter part of the year and were well advanced at the end of the year.

Improvements to Eastern Beach Road were started towards the end of the bathing season, and it is hoped to have the sea wall, promenade and car parks ready before the next bathing season starts.

Public highways were maintained in as good a condition as possible, patching and potholing being carried out as and when circumstances permitted. Several carriageways were re-surfaced.

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 throughout the year 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 Public Health Inspectors shows that besides five general inspections of premises, seventeen thousand, one hundred and forty-four house-to-house inspections were carried out in the course of which four thousand, one hundred and twenty-two nuisances were found and abated. These figures represent a considerable increase compared with the previous year when sixteen thousand, five hundred and thirteen houses were inspected, and three thousand, three hundred and ninety-four nuisances were abated.

They included two hundred and forty-nine made at the request of the Commissioner of Lands and Works for the purpose of reporting on the living conditions of applicants for accommodation in Government-owned premises or following complaints made to the Public Health Department by persons living in overcrowded homes. They also included six hundred and ninety-four investigations to determine the fitness of apartments for subletting which were referred to the Department by the authorities concerned.

Two thousand, three hundred and thirty-six visits were paid to food catering establishments and bakeries, eighty-one to dairies and two hundred and fifty-two to mineral water factories.

Ninety-five samples of food were taken and analyzed in the Council's Public Health Laboratories.

A camp where certain foreign emigrants in transit through Gibraltar are housed temporarily was visited daily by a Public Health Inspector, and on several occasions by the Medical Officer of Health.

Investigation and control of infectious diseases entailed three hundred and fifty-two visits. Four thousand, seven hundred and ninety-one articles were disinfected at the Council's Disinfection Station.

One hundred and sixty-six samples of water were taken from private underground tanks, from the Council's public fountains, and from other sources and examined bacteriologically.

Legal proceedings were instituted and judgment obtained on seven occasions against house-owners for non-compliance with the requirements of statutory notices for the abatement of nuisances.

Summary of Work done by the Public Health Inspectors

Complaints Received.

Written	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Verbal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	631

Premises Inspected:

General Inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
House-to-house inspection	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,144

Statutory Notices:

Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	516
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Nuisances Found:

Defective drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	203
Obstructed drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	445
Defective W.Cs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	82
Defective W.C. fittings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	653
Defective water fittings	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	219
Defective rainwater pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
Defective eavesgutters	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	137
Defective roofs...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	205
Defective wall plaster	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	167
Defective floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	56
Defective yard paving	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Dampness	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Premises dirty	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	108
Defective or no dustbin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	297
Other minor defects	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	946
Suspected pollution of water in underground tank	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	124
Underground tank not insect proof	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Brackish water tank not insect proof or no cover...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Brackish water running to waste	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	275
Street water fittings found defective	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Premises disinfected for infectious disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72
Premises disinfected for vermin, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	119
Articles disinfected at Disinfecting Station	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4,791
Visits of enquiry re Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	352
Cases removed in Ambulance :										
Local	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	195
Bay	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	76
Samples of food and drugs taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	95
Samples of water taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42
Visits to milk shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	81
Visits to eating houses, bakeries, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,336
Visits to mineral water factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	252
Visits to barber shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	684

Visits to premises on which notice for abatement of nuisance has been served and are revisited for the purpose of ascertaining if requirements are being complied with	4,813
Visits to Emigrants Camp	237
Vaccination notices served	632
Legal proceedings instituted	8

Food condemned as unsound:

Vide Food in Relation to Health and Disease, page 59.

Lodging Houses:

There are no common lodging houses in Gibraltar.

FOOD IN RELATION TO HEALTH AND DISEASE

The Public Markets

Work on the levelling and resurfacing of various parts of the Markets continued during the year, and it is expected that it will be completed in 1958. Other improvements and repairs were also carried out.

The reflooring of the Meat Hall was again deferred pending the results of experiments which are being made to determine the most suitable material to be used for the purpose.

Food

Supplies of food have been adequate throughout the year.

Meat

With the exception of small quantities of fresh Kosher meat imported by special arrangements from Spain and Tangier for the exclusive use of the Hebrew Community, supplies consisted of frozen beef, veal, pork and offal imported privately from the United Kingdom, Australia, Denmark and Holland by the butchers.

Retail prices varied according to kind and the country of origin.

Adequate supplies of poultry imported from Spain as well as game when in season were available throughout the year. Frozen fowls and rabbits were also imported from Australia, Northern Ireland and Denmark.

Eggs

Adequate supplies were imported throughout the year from Spain, Morocco and Holland.

Fish

With the exception of small consignments from local fishing boats, all fish was imported from Spain, and though subject to fluctuations depending on the weather and other circumstances, supplies were generally adequate and the fish fresh and of good quality. The average daily importation has been 2,760 pounds representing an increase of 760 pounds compared to 1956. The retail prices have on the whole compared favourably with those obtaining in the Spanish Markets.

All fish was inspected by the Markets Inspectors before being exposed for sale in the Markets or allowed to be sold in the streets by itinerant vendors. The amount condemned as unfit for human consumption was practically negligible.

The daily average number of licences issued to street vendors was twenty-two, the same as in the preceding year.

Fruit and Vegetables

Abundant supplies of excellent quality have been introduced daily from Spain and sold at the Markets, in shops in town and in the streets by licensed itinerant vendors. An average of fifty such licences were issued daily compared with fifty-four in 1956. There has been a small but steady decrease in the number of itinerant vendors since 1954.

Retail prices have been unduly high compared with those current in the Spanish Markets.

Milk

The amount of fresh milk consumed by the public is negligible, condensed or evaporated tinned varieties are the staple products commonly used.

An average of approximately one hundred litres of fresh milk were imported from Spain daily, which in accordance with the City Council Milk and Dairies Bye-Laws must be heated to a temperature of 200°F for twenty minutes before it is sold to the public. These bye-laws were amended in 1957 to prohibit the sale of fresh skimmed milk.

Small quantities of sterilized milk were imported tinned from the United Kingdom and reconstituted milk processed locally from skimmed milk powder by the addition of edible fats and vitamins, and subsequently pasteurized was also available during the year.

Groceries

Supplies of groceries imported from the United Kingdom and other countries 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 registration is subject to the premises and equipment being declared satisfactory by the Medical Officer of Health.

Registered premises were visited frequently by the Department's Inspectors, and samples taken and examined at the Council's Public Health Laboratories. A number of these samples failed to attain a satisfactory standard and the owners of the establishments were warned and advised regarding remedial measures to improve the quality of their products.

Considerable quantities of ice-creams manufactured by reputable firms in Great Britain were also imported regularly during the hot season. The sale of these products is conditional to their being sold in the original sealed wrappers or containers as issued by the manufacturers, and subject to the same sanitary requirements as those produced locally.

Samples of these ice-creams were taken regularly and found satisfactory on bacteriological examination.

The sale of ice-creams in the streets, sports grounds and other public places by itinerant vendors is strictly controlled. The products must be sold in the original wrappers and the vehicles used must be submitted for inspection and approval before licences are issued.

Eating Houses, Confectioneries and Cafes

All premises wherein food is prepared by any process of cooking or which are used for the manufacture or preservation of food products as well as purveyors and vendors of refreshments, confectionery, cakes, sweets and shell fish must be registered with the City Council.

All food catering establishments were inspected regularly at frequent intervals by the Department's Inspectors who paid two thousand, three hundred and thirty-six visits during the year and who availed themselves of all such opportunities to advise owners and employees on food hygiene.

Conditions in some of the smaller food catering establishments, particularly in respect of facilities for the washing of hands, only just conform with the minimum requirements of the Food Bye-Laws and leave much scope for improvement.

Two owners of fruit and vegetables shops who repeatedly failed to take steps to protect the food exposed for sale from contamination were warned and remedial measures were adopted.

Food Poisoning

No major outbreaks of food poisoning were reported during the year. A single familial occurrence was notified which involved two persons and was attributed to eating imported frozen fish. *S. Typhi-murium* was isolated from the faeces of both patients, but unfortunately no remnants of the fish were avail-

able for examination. There is little doubt that a considerable number of such familial or individual incidents occurred but were not notified.

Condemnation of Food

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

	Health Department Inspectors	Market Inspectors
Red Gurnard		10 pounds
Red Mulletts		32 pounds
Bream		225 pounds
Cockles		200 pounds
Livers		44 pounds
Tinned Ham ..	2,251 pounds	
Luncheon Meat	723 pounds	
Brawn	154 pounds	
Corned Beef	67 pounds	
Bacon	262 pounds	
Tongue	68 pounds	
Pigs' Feet	640 pounds	
Chopped Pork	210 pounds	
Chicken	12 pounds	
Geese	442 pounds	
Sausages	248 pounds	
"Salami"	64½ pounds	
Fish and Meat Pastes	2,448 tins	
Fish and Meat Pastes	360 jars	
Sugar	146 pounds	
Cheese	1,266 pounds	
Assorted Soups	2,311 tins	
Margarine	264 pounds	
Cakes	164 pounds	
Confectionery	60 pounds	
Vermicelli	649 pounds	
Tinned Fruit	73 pounds	
Tinned Vegetables	105 pounds	
Tinned Tomatoes	164 pounds	
Cod Fish	590 pounds	
Herrings	765 pounds	
Olives	2 bottles	
Pickles	2 bottles	

HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

It is envisaged that in pursuance of the Government Housing Scheme, approximately one thousand people will be housed in seven blocks of flats at Lake Chad before December 1959. Work on this project is well in hand, two blocks of eighteen flats each have been completed and put into service, whilst three others of forty, twenty-four and nine flats respectively are being constructed. These flats are intended for the use of families in the lower income groups, and will be let at rents proportionate to the means of the tenant.

In addition "Vineyard House," a block of twenty flats, was completed and occupied in 1957, and another comprising thirty-three flats is being erected in Naval Hospital Road which is due to be ready for occupation by August 1958.

North Jumper's Bastion has been rehabilitated to provide fourteen tenements which are to be used as alternative temporary accommodation to enable building projects and repairs to existing houses to be undertaken.

The number of houses built privately was comparatively small, and have been either occupied by the owners themselves or let as furnished or unfurnished accommodation at rentals prohibitive to the average person seeking accommodation.

The following table kindly furnished by the Commissioner of Lands and Works details the progress of the Government Housing Programme during the year 1957.

Houses Completed

Sheffield House, Lake Chad	18 flats
Faulkner House, Lake Chad	18 flats
Vineyard House	20 flats
	56 flats

Houses under Construction

Naval Hospital Road Site.....	33 flats
Block 3, Lake Chad	40 flats
Block 4, Lake Chad	24 flats
Block 7, Lake Chad	9 flats
	106 flats

By Rehabilitation

North Jumpers..... 14 tenements

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-eight 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

By the purchase of a new ambulance in the year under review, the number maintained by the City Council has been increased to three.

Though primarily intended for the conveyance of persons suffering from infectious diseases, they constitute the only official Ambulance Service for the transport of civilian patients from Town, those landed from the Bay, and by special arrangements from Spain.

A privately-owned and operated ambulance has also been available to the public during the year.

A total of two hundred and seventy-one patients, one hundred and ninety-five from Town and seventy-six from the Bay were conveyed in the Council's ambulances during the year.

Eighteen patients, nine from Town and nine from the Bay were suffering or suspected of suffering from infectious diseases, the others had been involved in accidents or were suffering from non-infectious conditons.

	Local Cases	Bay Cases
Typhoid Fever	—	1
Mumps	—	1
Dysentery	—	1
Diphtheria	1	—
Pneumonia	7	6
Meningitis	1	—
Appendicitis	2	12
Rheumatic Fever	1	—
Cardio Vascular Diseases	65	6
Cancer	2	2
Maternity Cases	8	—
Mental Cases	8	1
Fractures and Injuries	17	13
Miscellaneous (medical and surgical cases)	83	33
	195	76

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 1957.

Months	Beds and Mattresses	Bolsters and Pillows	Blankets and Quilts	Sheets	Counterpanes	Water Vendors' Barrels	Sundries	Total
January	30	42	46	40	13	216	43	430
February	43	44	39	34	14	216	63	453
March	9	2	10	11	2	228	16	278
April	14	20	21	16	2	290	18	381
May	10	8	18	12	—	232	—	280
June	3	—	101	—	—	232	—	336
July	93	101	222	96	34	290	178	1,014
August	4	4	4	5	—	232	3	252
September	9	10	8	9	1	232	12	281
October	8	13	12	13	—	290	18	354
November	13	16	14	18	—	232	18	311
December	3	2	3	3	—	290	120	421
Totals	239	262	498	257	66	2,980	489	4,791

MEDICAL WORK DONE FOR THE COUNCIL

Two hundred and sixteen 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	9
March	4
April	23
May	20
June	8
July	28
August	24
September	33
October	8
November	40
December	13

Total...216

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 throughout the year.

Prevalence of Poliomyelitis and the advisability of mass preventive vaccination of the child population.

Smallpox and the provision of a new Isolation Hospital for the treatment of the quarantinable diseases.

Yellow Fever documentation required from persons arriving in aircraft from certain countries.

Revised form of International Certificates of vaccination and revaccination against Smallpox.

Influenza pandemic.

Scarlet Fever outbreak 1956/57.

Danger of enteric diseases from ice manufactured in Spain, and legislation to prohibit its importation.

Nuisances caused by smoke from various sources.

Increased prevalence of rabies in dogs and cats, and measures to control these animals.

Pollution of bathing beaches by sewage and litter.

General Practitioners Service

The number of medical practitioners engaged in general practice appearing on the register on the 31st December, 1957 was nine, providing a ratio of approximately 1 to 2,700 population. The position remained the same as on the previous year.

Four hold part-time appointments with the Colonial Government. Two in connection with the Hospital Services, the others as Port Medical Officers.

District Medical Services

A medical officer of the Colonial Hospital assisted by two district nurses provides medical treatment and care for the indigent sick and the aged at a special clinic held daily in the Exchange Buildings, and by domiciliary visits when necessary.

Dentists

The number of civilian dentists appearing on the register on the 31st December, 1957 was six. Three hold qualifications obtained in Great Britain, the others have been trained and licensed to practice in Gibraltar. Two dentists are employed part-time by the Government to attend to school children.

Nursing Services

The number of nurses included in the Register under the provisions of the Nurses Registration Regulations on the 31st December, 1957 was twenty, the same as on the previous year. Of these, eleven are females and nine males. With the exception of two female nurses who are State Registered but are no longer in practice, all are 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.

With the exception of two district nurses who only attend indigent patients, there are no qualified nurses engaged in domiciliary work, though the need for them is becoming daily more pressing.

The training of recruits continues at the Government Nursing Training School, and nine are pursuing the necessary studies in the United Kingdom to obtain the state registration certificate.

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

Public Health Ordinance — important amendments were made to this Ordinance for the following purposes:—

To enforce the provision of sanitary conveniences in workplaces not subject to the Factories Ordinance, and to ensure adequate working space and ventilation in such places and freedom from dust or noxious effluvia prejudicial to health within or in the neighbourhood of premises used as workplaces.

To empower the Council to make bye-laws for the provision of sinks and waste pipes for the disposal of refuse water in dwelling houses in addition to other means of drainage.

To control the introduction of rags, old clothes, used mattresses or blankets for sale or other purposes in Gibraltar.

To prohibit the letting or occupation of new buildings, reconstructed buildings or a part of an existing building where any material changes have taken place, until a certificate of fitness has been obtained from the Council.

To empower the Council to maintain and provide stocks of vaccines, sera, disinfectants and insecticides for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases, and to supply them to any person on such terms as they think fit.

The Milk and Dairies Bye-Laws were amended to prohibit the sale of fresh skimmed milk.

Revenue Ordinance—an Order was made in September under the powers conferred by this Ordinance prohibiting the importation of ice from Spain.

The Animals and Birds Rules were amended to provide for the stricter control of dogs and cats.

Pharmacy and Medicines Rules—By an Order made on the 15th April, Amphetamines were included in Part III of these Rules which refers to poisons to which special restrictions apply.

International Sanitary Regulations—The revised form of international certificate of vaccination and revaccination against smallpox was adopted on the 1st October.

The Mental Treatment (Amendment) Ordinance 1957 repealed Section 17 of the Mental Treatment Ordinance which prescribed the notification of the death of any patient in the Hospital to the Coroner and the holding of an inquest on the body by him.

REPORT OF THE PATHOLOGIST-ANALYST, GIBRALTAR

During the year 1957 a total of twenty-two thousand, seven hundred and ninety-two investigations were carried out on specimens submitted to the Laboratories. This represents an increase of one thousand, one hundred and sixty investigations over the previous year's and of four thousand, two hundred and eighteen over 1955's total. The progressive annual increase in the work of the Laboratory illustrates the mounting importance attached to laboratory aids by the Public Health Authorities, Medical Practitioners, etc. As medicine advances and becomes more complex so the necessity for team work to solve the ever-growing problems becomes more apparent, and in this team the laboratory plays an ever-increasing part. A considerable number of tests on foods, etc., covered by the Food and Drugs Ordinance were also regularly carried out to ensure the continued good quality of goods regulated by this Ordinance. All specimens thus analysed, with the exception of one sample of butter which contained 0.22% of added boric acid as preservative, were found to be genuine.

A much greater number of specimens of faeces was submitted this year to the laboratory for bacteriological investigation for pathogenic organisms, and it is interesting to note that no less than twenty-eight cases of Bacillary Dysentery were confirmed by this method during the last six months of the year. The cases would appear to have been sporadic and although numerous contacts were investigated, only four who were positive were encountered. These could have been infected from the same source as their respective initial cases, and there was little evidence to support a general spread from person to person. The Shigellae isolated belonged to a wide range including eight cases of Sh. "Sonnei," four of Sh. "Newcastle," four of Sh. Flexneri 103," four of Sh. "Flexneri W," three of Sh. "Flexneri V," and the odd case of Sh. "Flexneri Z Schmitzi" and Sh. "Shiga." The variety in the types of pathogenic organisms of the Shigella group isolated in these cases of Dysentery would favour infection from several sources which because of geographical conditions it was not possible to trace.

Five cases out of the numerous Widal Reactions done gave positive serological agglutination reactions to the enteric group, and two to Brucella Melitensis. In one case only was a Salmonella, in this instance S. Typhi, also isolated from faeces and blood culture. It is likely that the difficulty experienced in isolating the causative Salmonellae in serologically proven cases

of typhoid and paratyphoid can be due to early antibiotic therapy, which because of the serious clinical condition of the patients concerned, may be initiated before specimens can be sent to the laboratory for bacteriological examination.

C. Diphtheriae was isolated from throat swabs of two cases out of the many investigated for this organism during the year. These two cases, one a Gravis and the other an Intermedius type, appeared to be quite unconnected.

Investigations of a general pathological nature including Chemical Pathology, Histology, Bacteriology and Haematology on specimens submitted from Colonial Government Hospitals and by General Practitioners continue to constitute a large proportion of the total work done, and as in previous years a full range of all up-to-date tests continues to keep the laboratory in step with the requirements of modern medicine and surgery.

One hundred and five inoculations against Yellow Fever were carried out during the year. This number which is considerably higher than in previous years includes the inoculation of the ships' companies of two vessels which called on their way to West Africa.

E. A. IMOSI,

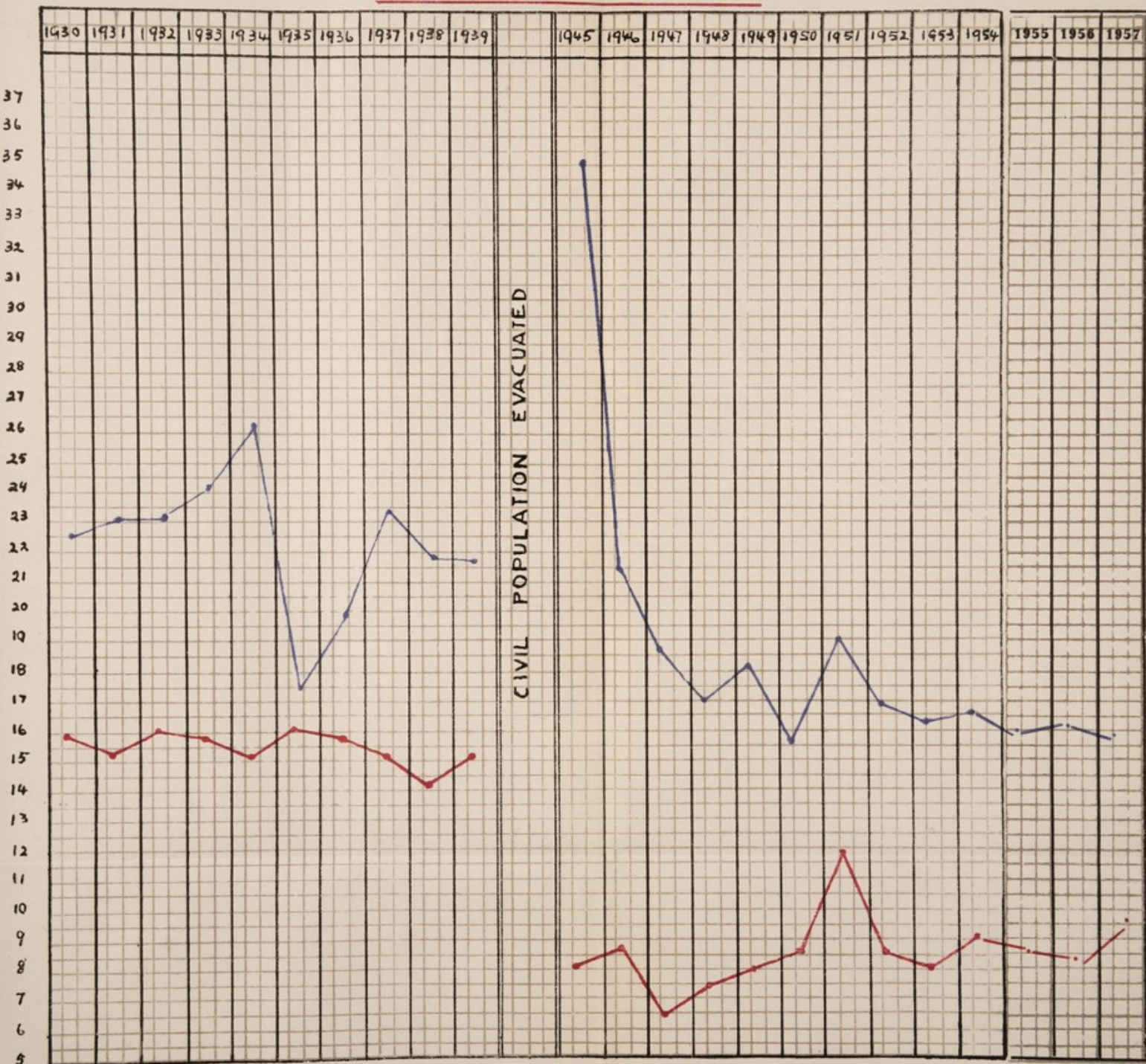
City Pathologist-Analyst.

Gibraltar.

Laboratories, 17th April, 1958.

COMPARATIVE CHART OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES PER 1,000 CIVIL POPULATION

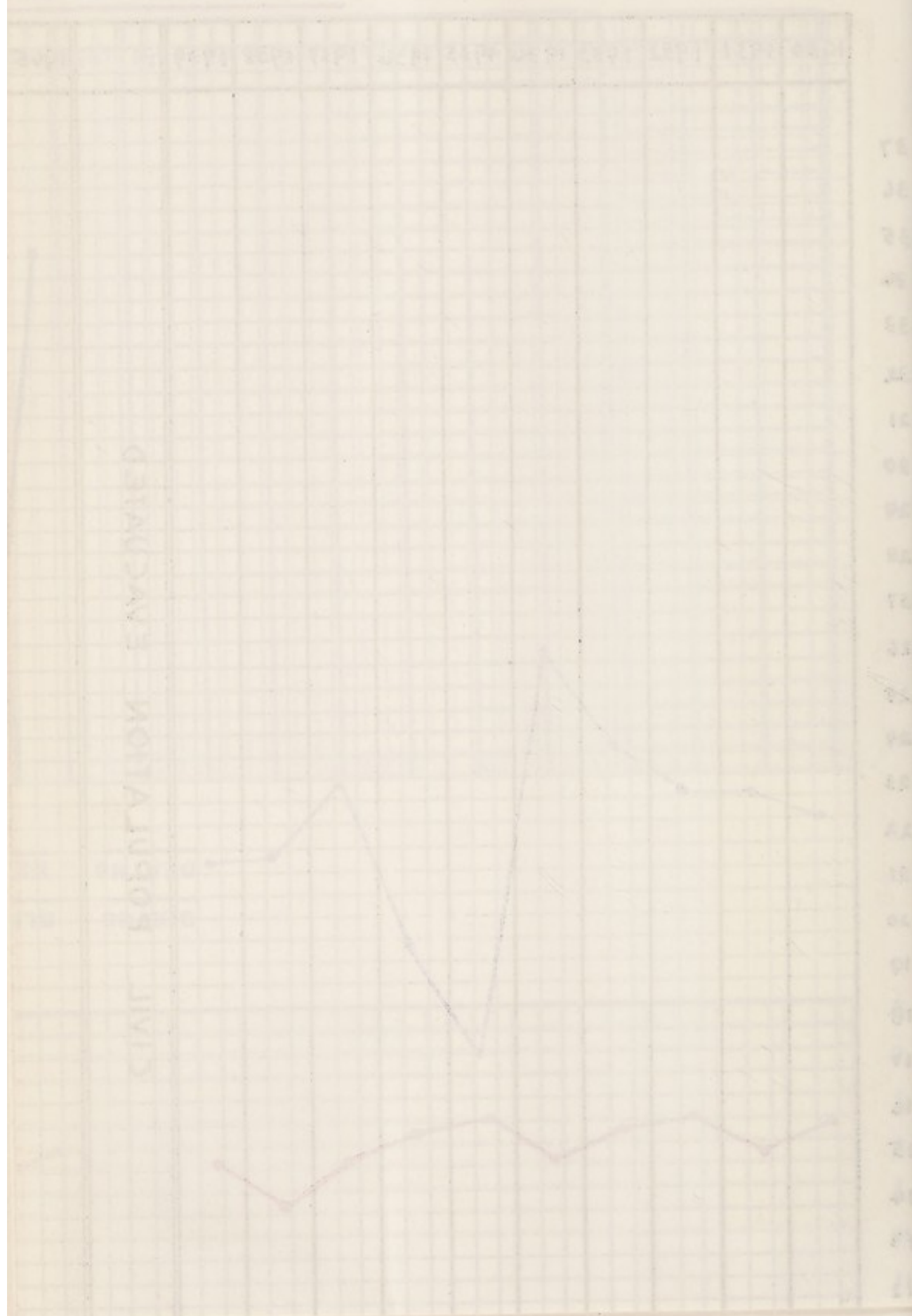
FOR THE PERIODS 1930-1939 & 1945-1957



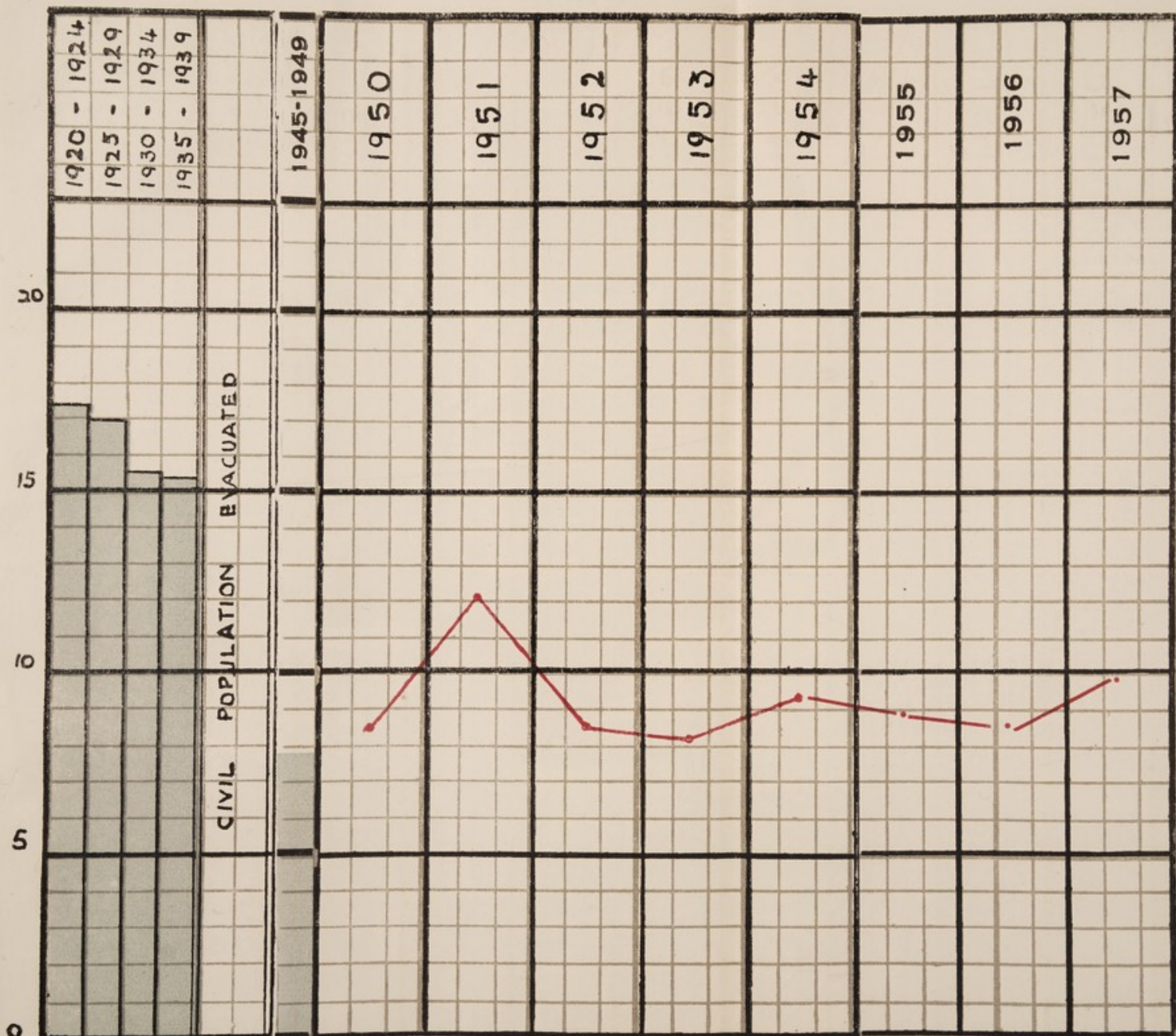
BIRTHS ... BLUE

DEATHS ... RED

FOR THE PERIODS 1901



DEATH RATE PER 1,000 CIVIL POPULATION FOR THE PERIODS 1920-1939 & 1945-1957



AVERAGES

1920-1924 = 17.18

1930-1934 = 15.49

1945-1949 = 7.92

1925-1929 = 16.96

1935-1939 = 15.35

1950-1954 = 9.44

1920-1929 = 17.07

1930-1939 = 15.42

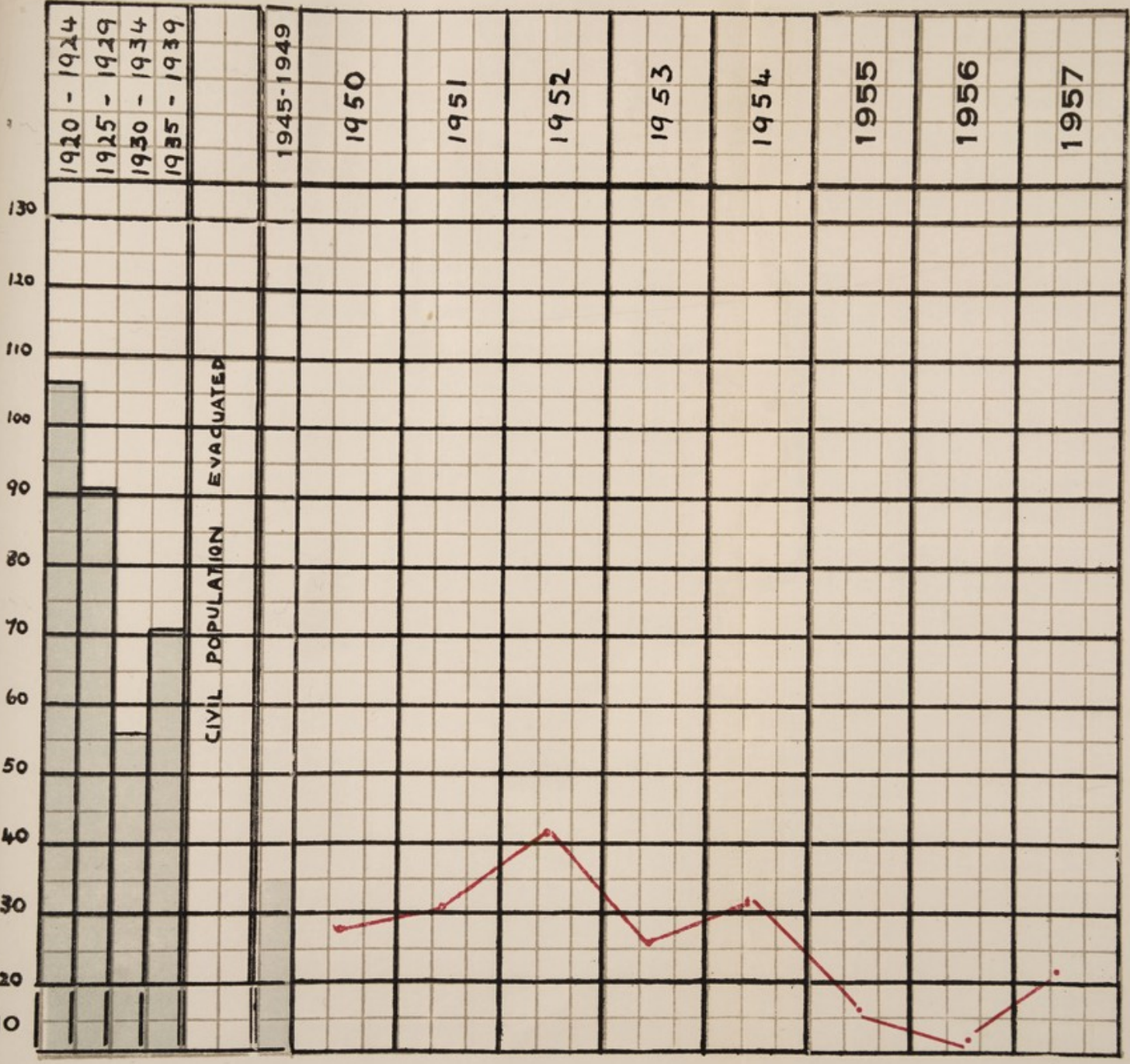
1945-1954 = 8.68

1955 = 8.66

1956 = 8.27

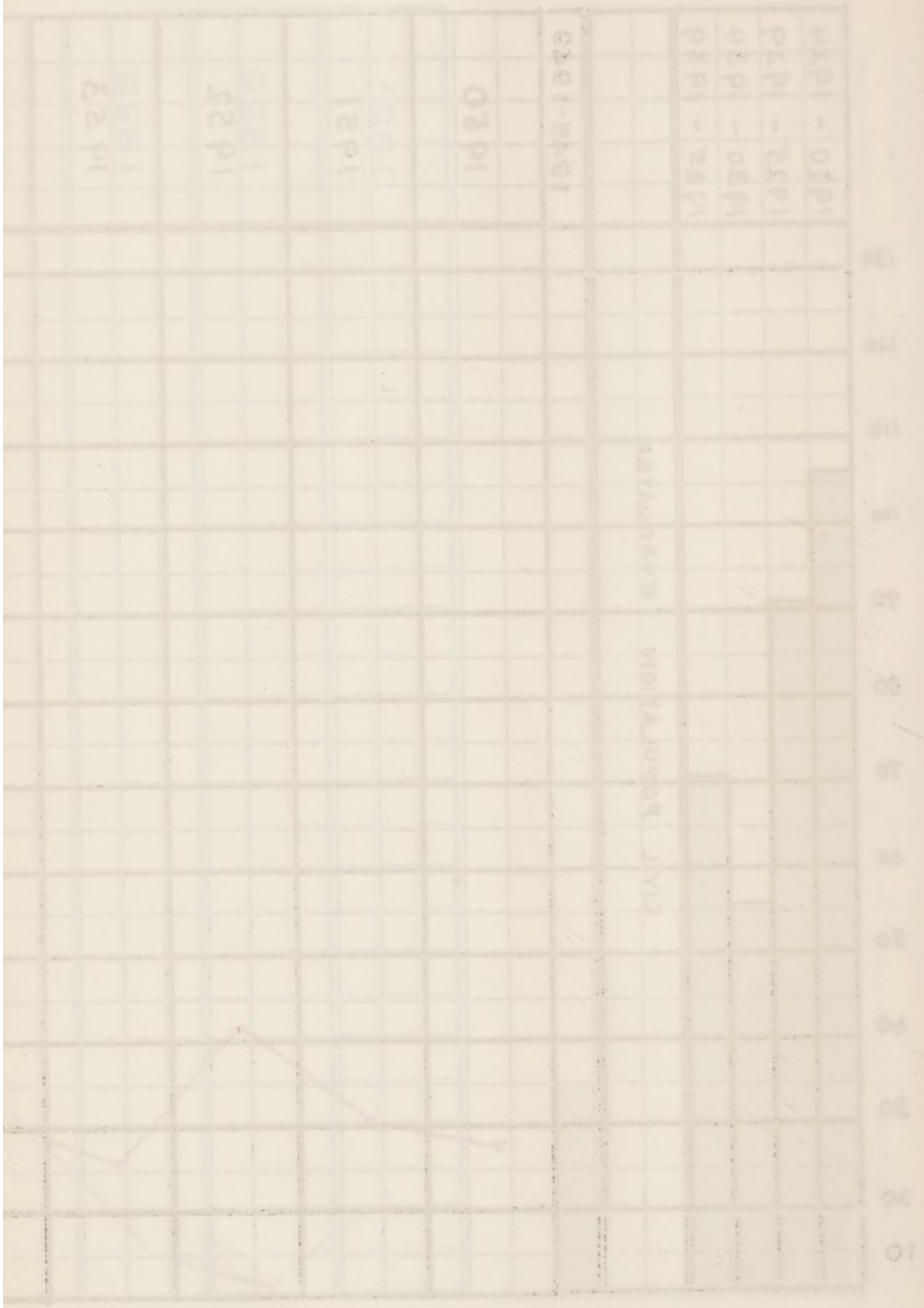
1957 = 9.75

INFANT MORTALITY PER 1,000 BIRTHS CIVIL POPULATION FOR THE PERIODS 1920-1939 & 1945-1957



AVERAGES

1920-1924	106.9	1930-1934	57.4	1945-1949	36.0
1925-1929	91.7	1935-1939	70.3	1950-1954	31.9
1920-1929	99.3	1930-1939	63.4	1945-1954	33.9
1955	18.76	1956	13.05	1957	24.39



1920-1921 1922-1923 1924-1925 1926-1927 1928-1929 1930-1931

TABLE



