

## **Annual report of the Medical and Health Department / [Government of Gibraltar].**

### **Contributors**

Gibraltar. Medical and Health Department.

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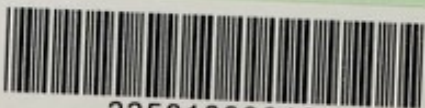


DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL AND  
HEALTH SERVICES

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ANNUAL REPORT  
**1978**

**Price 75 p**



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W. H. MURCHISON	MB
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## SENIOR STAFF AS AT 31st DECEMBER 1978

Director of Medical & Health Services	Surgeon Captain E H Murchison OBE QHS RN (Rtd) MB BCH
Pathologist/Analyst	E A Imossi MRCS FRC Path
Consultant Surgeon	D J Toomey Esq OBE MB BS FRCS(Edin)FRCS(Glas)
Consultant Anaesthetist	J A Cochrane OBE MRCS (Eng)LRCP (Lond) DA
Consultant Obstetrician/Gynaecologist	R Doherty Esq MB BS FRCOG FACS
Medical Specialist	J J Giraldi CBE MD (Brist.) FRCP(Edin)
Medical Specialist	A H Kassam LRCP LRFPs MRCP (Glas)
Group Practice Medical Scheme Doctors	A Soler MD (Malta)
"	J Sacco MB BCh DPH
"	D R Thompson MB ChB MRCCP
"	N Borge MRCS LRCP MB BS
"	A Correa BSc MB ChB
"	D Neil MB ChB DRCOG
Superintendent, Psychiatric Unit	C M Montegriffo MB BS (Lond)
Assistant Port Medical Officer	C A Isola MB BCh BAO(Dublin) LAH (Ireland)
Dental Surgeons	J J Cochrane Esq MBE LDS RCS (Eng) C E C Longdon Esq BDS
Administrator	J L Ballantine Esq
Administrative Assistant	C J Rugeroni Esq
Supervisory Officers	A Pons Esq T Smith Esq
Chief Public Health Inspector & Superintendent of Markets	A Almeda Esq MRSH
Senior Public Health Inspectors	J M Reyes Esq FRSH ARIPHH J Delgado Esq MRSH
Chief Medical Laboratory Technician & Deputy Analyst	J L Bruzon Esq LRIC AIMLT
Senior Medical Laboratory Technicians	W Darby Esq SHMLT J Pitaluga Esq AIMLS G Fromow Esq AIMLS A Montero Esq AIMLS
Head Pharmacist	E Hermida Esq
Matron	Mrs J J Giraldi MBE SRN SCM
Principal Tutor	R Durell Esq SRN RNT
Assistant Matron	Miss J T Moncur SRN SCM J Rocca Esq SRN RMN OCT MMC
Superintendent Radiographer	Miss R Gabay DSR SRR
Superintendent Physiotherapist	Mrs E Searle



## INTRODUCTION

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Rehabilitation works on the Children's Ward, Casualty Department and Porters Lodge (the K.G.VI Wing of the Hospital) were completed towards the end of the year under review. Works consisted of re-roofing, rehabilitation and internal redecoration and major repairs to the plumbing and electrical services. The results of these works have improved the services provided as well as enhancing the appearance of the Wing.

Work on the conversion of the Sisters Quarters, sited at St Bernard's Hospital, into flats and bed-sitters commenced in 1978 and completion of the project is expected to take place towards the end of 1979. This will provide excellent modern accommodation for those members of the Medical and Nursing Staff whom we still need to recruit from abroad.

There are two interesting points to make in the field of Public Health: the Course of lectures leading to the Certificate in the Hygiene and Food Retailing and Catering, offered by the Royal Society of Health, run for the first time in Gibraltar, and the structural improvements carried out at the Public Markets, further details of which can be obtained in pages 33 and 38 of this report

We must mention the continued co-operation that exists between the Medical Department and the Royal Naval Hospital. This relationship has been improving over the years and we hope this will continue into the future. The collaboration amongst the doctors of each institution has recently been highlighted by the appointment of the Consultants at St Bernard's Hospital as Honorary Consultants to the Royal Naval Hospital, Gibraltar.

## GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATOLOGICAL REPORT

### (1) GEOGRAPHY

Gibraltar is situated in latitude  $36^{\circ} 09'N$  and longitude  $5^{\circ} 21'W$  and stands out, steeply and proudly, from the adjoining low-lying Spanish territory to which it is connected by a sandy isthmus about 1 mile long and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile wide. Five miles across the Bay to the West lies the Spanish port of Algeciras and 20 miles across the Straits, to the South is Africa. The Mediterranean lies on the East. The distance to Britain is approximately 1,400 miles by sea.

The Rock runs from North to South for a length of nearly 3 miles. It is  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile wide and has a total area of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  square miles. Its highest point is 1,396 feet. The top of the Rock is a sharp knife-edge ridge extending for about a mile and a half from the North escarpment and then sloping gradually to the South for about 1 mile to terminate at the southern extremity, Europa Point, in perpendicular cliffs about a hundred feet high. The whole upper length of the Eastern face is inaccessible and the steep upper half of the Western slopes is uninhabited.

### (11) CLIMATOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS FOR THE YEAR 1978

RAINFALL: The total of 615.7mm (24.24 in.) was only 82% of the long term mean rainfall of 797.4mm (31.39 in.). Only February and December of the winter months were wetter than normal; January, September and November were all extremely dry.

TEMPERATURE: The mean temperature of the year was  $18.2^{\circ}C$  ( $64.8^{\circ}F$ ), which was near normal. February, March and December were warmer than normal - but the Spring and Summer months of April to July were colder. The highest temperature of the year,  $36.8^{\circ}C$  ( $98.2^{\circ}F$ ), occurred on 18th July - and the coldest,  $2.5^{\circ}C$  ( $36.5^{\circ}F$ ), on 15th January. The lowest gross minimum temperature -  $0.2^{\circ}C$  ( $31.6^{\circ}F$ ), occurred on 14th January.

SUNSHINE: The year as a whole was rather dull with only 2659.8 hours of sunshine, compared with the annual mean of 2804 hours. This represented a daily average of 7.3 hours, and was 58% of the possible. March with 280.6 hours broke the 30 year record for this month by over 40%. Most of the other months had lower than average amounts - especially November and December, which were extremely dull.

WIND: The average speed for the year was 13.4kt., which is 2.2 kt. greater than the long period mean. All months except March were windier than normal. January and November, both with 16.8 Kt., were the windiest months with deviations from the mean of + 4.4 and + 5.9 kt respectively.

During January and June and in December westerly winds prevailed. During late Summer and Autumn the easterlies and the associated Levanter cloud were a very persistent feature.

There were 6 days in which gales occurred, and the highest hourly wind speed in the year was 44kt on 24th February. The highest gust recorded was 72kt during a thunderstorm on 12th October

THUNDER: Thunder was recorded on 21 days, including 2 unseasonable days in August. June, July and September were free of storms.

FOG: Fog was observed on 23 days, considerably higher than normal, and occurred mainly during the easterly wind phase of July and September.

GROUND FROST: This occurred only once, on January 14th.

HAIL: Hail was observed on 24th February and 3rd March.

SUMMARY: After a dull, dry but windy start to the year, the month of March continued dry but also warm and sunny, and broke the long period record.

Most of the late Spring and Summer was cool, dull, and windier than normal. The Autumn months were dominated by leventer conditions with near average temperatures, low rainfall and high winds mainly from the east.

Tabulated below are departures from long term averages in respect of rainfall, mean air temperatures, sunshine and mean wind speed for each month and the year's average.

	Rainfall (mm)	Temperature (°C)	Sunshine (Hr)	Mean Wind Speed (kt)
January	-87.5	0.0	-41.0	+4.4
February	+31.8	+ 1.3	+7.7	+0.6
March	-54.8	+ 0.5	+85.0	-0.4
April	+ 0.3	- 0.5	-22.7	+3.5
May	+ 5.6	- 1.6	-15.8	+3.0
June	+ 7.8	- 1.6	-28.4	+3.3
July	- 0.3	- 0.3	- 4.2	+0.3
August	- 1.0	+ 0.4	- 1.7	+1.8
September	-19.0	+ 0.6	+ 2.0	+2.2
October	-17.6	0.0	-19.7	+1.4
November	-82.0	+ 0.9	-59.2	+5.9
December	+40.9	+ 1.5	-46.6	+0.3
Year	-175.8	+ 0.1	-144.6	+2.2

STATION NORTH FRONT - GIBRALTAR

Lat 36°09'N Long 05° 21'W

Barometric Height 25 ft above mean sea level

Rain gauge 10 ft above mean sea level

1978 MONTH	AIR TEMPERATURES		RELATIVE HUMIDITY				RAINFALL Maximum in 24 hours (mm)	SUNSHINE Daily Mean (hours)
	Maximum	Minimum	Highest of the six hourly periods		Lowest of the six hourly periods			
			0300 1500	0900 2100	0300 1500	0900 2100		
JANUARY	15.5	10.8	78		67		20.4	3.69
FEBRUARY	17.9	11.6	81		64		37.6	5.74
MARCH	19.2	11.3	79		57		27.1	9.05
APRIL	19.2	12.5	79		62		14.9	7.46
MAY	20.5	13.6	81		62		24.6	9.15
JUNE	23.0	16.1	78		59		6.1	9.74
JULY	27.2	19.3	81		65		-	10.98
AUGUST	28.4	20.9	81		63		0.4	10.46
SEPTEMBER	26.2	19.6	87		68		1.6	8.71
OCTOBER	22.2	16.5	81		68		35.6	6.08
NOVEMBER	18.9	14.9	82		73		18.3	3.08
DECEMBER	17.8	12.8	84		71		37.2	3.15
	21.3	15.0	81		65		37.6	7.27
							615.7	



SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE  
YEAR 1978

Total Area of Gibraltar	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,387 acres
Area of the City	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	104 acres

## \*POPULATION

	ADULTS		CHILDREN	TOTAL
	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Both Sexes</u>	
Gibraltarians	6605	7769	5085	19459
Other British (including families of members of H M Forces)	1678	2440	2324	6442
Aliens	2952	507	55	3514
	<u>11235</u>	<u>10716</u>	<u>7464</u>	<u>29415</u>
Number of Births				548
Males				312
Females				236
Birth Rate				18.63
Number of Deaths				245
Males				113
Females				132
Death Rate				8.33
Number of Stillbirths				2
Stillbirth Rate				3.65
Infant Mortality				10
Infant Mortality Rate				18.25
Neo-Natal Mortality				8
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate				14.60
Peri-Natal Mortality				8
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate				18.18

\*These figures are based on the estimated population of Gibraltar on the  
31st December 1978

## VITAL STATISTICS

## BIRTHS

There were 548 live births registered during the year from the resident population, of which 312 were males and 236 were females. This represents a crude birth rate of 18.63 per 1,000 population, which is slightly higher than last year's figure.

## LIVE BIRTHS FOR 1978

	ST BERNARD'S HOSPITAL		ROYAL NAVAL HOSPITAL	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
January	16	11	5	3
February	13	12	12	5
March	16	19	6	9
April	21	17	7	7
May	20	11	8	5
June	16	10	14	4
July	17	13	13	12
August	15	8	12	5
September	15	14	12	4
October	17	17	13	4
November	13	11	6	5
December	20	24	5	6
	199	167	113	69
	366 *		182	
	548			

\* Includes 21 boys and 4 girls delivered at Royal Naval Hospital during leave periods of Consultant Obstetrician

## STILLBIRTHS

There were 2 stillbirths during the year; both males. This represents a stillbirth rate of 3.65.

## ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

There were 13 illegitimate births of which 8 were males and 5 were females. This represents 2.37% of all births.





Date	Birth Rate	Stillbirth Rate	Illegitimate Births (as percentage of all births)
1962	23.22	17.51	0.17
1963	26.43	18.36	1.25
1964	25.69	14.01	1.11
1965	26.87	8.84	1.47
1966	23.71	11.59	1.00
1967	21.16	9.26	1.11
1968	20.04	3.68	1.29
1969	19.60	5.26	1.97
1970	19.68	8.59	1.89
1971	20.70	10.10	3.54
1972	19.86	11.90	1.36
1973	17.91	16.79	1.49
1974	19.58	8.70	3.30
1975	17.53	3.80	2.66
1976	16.90	21.61	2.94
1977	17.32	13.81	2.17
1978	18.63	3.65	2.37

## DEATHS

The number of deaths recorded was two hundred and forty-five of which one hundred and thirteen were males and one hundred and thirty-two were females. This represents a crude death rate of 8.33.

## DEATHS BY MONTHS AND QUARTERS

1st QUARTER		2nd QUARTER		3rd QUARTER		4th QUARTER	
January	21	April	10	July	21	October	20
February	31	May	27	August	20	November	18
March	23	June	15	September	14	December	25
75		52		55		63	

The majority of all deaths, ie two hundred and twenty-three or 91.02% occurred in persons over 55 years of age, whereas one hundred and eighty-four or 75.10% occurred in those over 65.

In the over 75 years old there were one hundred and seven or 43.67% of all deaths.

## PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF DEATH

Cause	Number	Percentage of Total Number	
Cardio-vascular disease (excluding cerebral)	71 (81)	28.98%	(34.91%)
Cerebro-vascular disease	53 (49)	21.63%	(21.12%)
Malignant Disease	38 (44)	15.51%	(18.96%)
Respiratory diseases (excluding neoplasm)	19 (20)	7.76%	(8.62%)

Figures in brackets are for the year 1977

As can be seen from the above table these chief causes of death accounted for one hundred and eighty-one or 73.88% of all deaths.

Arterial diseases caused 113 deaths which is 46.12% of all deaths. Ischaemic heart disease was again the highest single cause of death while cerebro-vascular disease was the second commonest. The number of people dying from malignancy was 38 being lower than last year.

#### INFANT MORTALITY

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age was ten, which gave an infant mortality rate of 18.25. Eight of these infants died within the first four weeks of birth, which represents a neo-natal mortality rate of 14.60.

#### PERI-NATAL MORTALITY

As is obvious from the foregoing, it seems to be a question of chance whether the child is stillborn or dies in the first hours of life. Hence the importance of grouping stillbirths and deaths in the first week of life as Peri-natal deaths.

The number of such deaths has been eight which represents a Peri-natal mortality rate of 18.18.

#### NEO-NATAL, INFANT MORTALITY AND PERI-NATAL RATES

1955 - 1978

Year	Neo-natal Mortality Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Peri-Natal Mortality
1955	5.36	18.76	25.5
1960	14.81	14.81	18.77
1961	29.41	34.75	27.03
1962	17.82	19.60	35.02
1963	28.00	35.80	41.35
1964	22.26	31.79	41.45
1965	14.73	20.62	23.56
1966	6.70	11.75	16.56
1967	16.82	18.69	22.22
1968	9.23	9.23	12.87
1969	19.74	26.93	19.64
1970	5.20	8.67	12.03
1971	18.52	25.25	26.67
1972	13.77	17.21	22.11
1973	26.12	26.12	16.51
1974	5.22	12.17	13.79
1975	15.23	17.12	15.23
1976	9.82	11.78	28.84
1977	7.89	7.89	21.40
1978	14.60	18.25	18.18



DETAILED ANALYSIS OF DEATH FROM MALIGNANT DISEASES

Site	List No	All Ages	30 m	34 f	35 m	39 f	40 m	44 f	45 m	49 f	50 m	54 f	55 m	59 f	60 m	64 f	65 m	69 f	70 m	74 f	75 m	79 f	80 m	84 f	85 m	85 f	85 m	85 f	Unknow
Malignant Neoplasm of :																													
Carcinomatosis																													
Prostate	197	1											1		1														
Bladder	185	1											1		1														
Breast	188	2											1		1														
Lung	174	3											2									1							
Cervix	162	9									2								3										
Kidney	180	1													1														
Stomach	189	1											1																
Bowel	151	5											1						1										
Testes	159	1												1															
Colon	186	1																	1										
Ovary	154	3																											
Pancreas	183	3																											
Pelvis	157	3													1														
Rectum	195	1																											
Leukemia	197	1																											
	208	2																		1									
TOTAL		38											5	3	4	1	1	4	6	2	3	3	1	1					

## 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, Scarletina or Scarlet Fever, Typhoid or Enteric Fever, Acute Encephalitis, Acute Poliomyelitis, Chickenpox, Epidemic Parotitis, Erysipelas, Lassa Fever, Leprosy, Measles, Meningococcal Infection, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Paratyphoid Fever, Pertussis, Puerperal Fever, Rabies, Rubella, Trachomas, Tuberculosis (all forms), Venereal Disease, Marburg Disease and Viral Haemorrhagic Fever

There were 528 cases notified from the resident civil population which represents an incidence of 17.95.

The more serious diseases notified are visited by the District Public Health Inspector who investigates and advises the family on appropriate preventive measures and concurrent disinfection if the case warrants it.

In cases of pulmonary tuberculosis an Assistant Health Visitor is available to work directly with the Tuberculosis Clinic. She works in close liaison with the Public Health Inspectors who carry out all the necessary investigations and take the necessary public health measures.

## PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

In 1978 three cases were notified as suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis. Routine X-Ray examination is carried out on new workers entering Gibraltar.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES BY AGE AND SEX - CIVIL POPULATION 1978

Diseases	Sex	All Ages	0	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & +	Age Unknown
001 Typhoid Fever	T M F	1 1 -						1 1 -					
002 Paratyphoid Fever	T M F	3 1 2			2 1 1	1 - 1							
003 Other Salmonella Infections	T M F	4 1 3	1 - 1	1 - 1					1 1 -	1 - 1			
004 Bacillary Dysentery	T M F	2 2 -		1 1 -	1 1 -								
011 Pulmonary Tuberculosis	T M F	3 3 -				3 3 -							
016 Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	T M F	2 1 1						2 1 1					
033 Whooping Cough	T M F	3 2 1		2 1 1					1 1 -				
034 Scarlet Fever	T M F	3 - 3	1 - 1	2 - 2									
035 Erysipelas	T M F	1 - 1										1 - 1	
052 Chicken Pox	T M F	23 10 13	2 1 1	9 4 5	7 5 2	2 - 2	2 - 2						1 - 1

Diseases	Sex	All ages	Age										Age unknown				
			0	1-4	5-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	75 & +					
055 Measles	T	129	16	72	36	1							1				3
	M	54	7	28									-				1
	F	75	9	44	1								1				2
056 Rubella	T	30	3	21	5												1
	M	17	1	12	3												1
	F	13	2	9	2												-
070 Hepatitis	T	2			1	1											
	M	1			1												
	F	1			-	1											
072 Mumps	T	289	5	109	149	9	9	3									3
	M	146	1	59	3	4	2	1									1
	F	143	4	50	6	5	1	2	1								2
091 Syphilis	T	7			1	3	1	1									2
	M	7			1	3	1	1									2
	F	-			-	-	-	-									-
098 Gonococcal Infection	T	26			8	4	4	5									8
	M	25			7	4	4	5									8
	F	1			1	-	-	-									-

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## INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

1949 - 1978

Year	Cases	Deaths	Incidence per Thousand	Deaths per Thousand
1949	22	8	0.89	0.32
1950	19	6	0.76	0.24
1955	20	2	0.76	0.08
1959	16	1	0.66	0.04
1960	9	4	0.36	0.16
1961	6	2	0.27	0.09
1962	14	-	0.57	0.00
1963	6	-	0.29	0.00
1964	13	-	0.54	0.00
1965	9	1	0.36	0.04
1966	5	1	0.20	0.03
1967	17	2	0.67	0.08
1968	15	2	0.56	0.07
1969	11	-	0.39	0.00
1970	6	-	0.20	0.00
1971	18	1	0.63	0.03
1972	5	2	0.17	0.07
1973	4	-	0.14	0.00
1974	3	-	0.10	0.00
1975	22	-	0.06	0.00
1976	3	-	0.09	0.00
1977	5	-	0.17	0.00
1978	3	-	0.10	0.00

NON-RESPIRATORY TUBERCULOSIS

Two cases were notified.

ENTERIC FEVER

One case of typhoid was notified.

The fact that enteric fever is endemic in the surrounding countries is a constant source of worry because of the possibility of an outbreak of it occurring here.

All foodhandlers are checked on arrival in Gibraltar, but as they commute frequently to and fro the danger is very real.

PARATYPHOID

Three cases were notified.

DYSENTERY

This year two cases of bacillary dysentery were notified but it is our belief that an appreciable number of cases do occur yearly and that because of their mildness are treated symptomatically and are not notified.

FOOD POISONING

Four cases were notified.

DIPHTHERIA

There were again no cases notified during the year under review and this means that there have been no such cases for the past 17 years. Two factors are responsible for this - the greater number of children who are being immunized against the disease as also the fact that there is less contact with the hinterland.



## VIRAL HEPATITIS

2 Cases were notified

## SCARLET FEVER

Three cases were notified

## WHOOPIING COUGH

Three cases were notified

## CHICKEN POX

Twenty-three cases were notified

## ERYSIPELAS

Two cases were notified

## MEASLES

One hundred and twenty-nine cases were notified

## RUBELLA

Thirty cases were notified

## MUMPS

Two hundred and eighty-nine cases were notified

## VENEREAL DISEASES

Our figures on these diseases must be carefully interpreted as otherwise a very erroneous picture may be deduced. The majority of these cases were contracted away from Gibraltar.

## GONORRHOEA

Twenty-six cases were notified

## SYPHILLIS

Seven cases were notified

INFECTIOUS DISEASES - MONTHLY & QUARTERLY INCIDENCE - CIVIL POPULATION 1978

Diseases	Total	Jan	Feb	Mar	1st Qr.	Apr	May	Jun	2nd Qr.	July	Aug	Sep	3rd Qr.	Oct	Nov	Dec	4th Qr.
001 Typhoid Fever	1													1			1
002 Paratyphoid Fever	3						1	1	1	1		1	2				
003 Other Salmonella Infections	4										1	2	3		1		1
004 Bacillary Dysentery	2													1	1		2
011 Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	1		1	2									1			1
016 Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	1			1									1			1
033 Whooping Cough	3						2	2	2			1	1				
034 Scarlet Fever	3	1			1									2			2
035 Erysipelas	1						1		1								1
052 Chicken Pox	23			3	3		1	2	3			2	7	3	1	6	10
055 Measles	129	24	53	51	108	3	3	2	8		7	5	7	3		3	6
056 Rubella	30	2	1	2	5	1	1		2		5	7	12	2	6	3	11
070 Hepatitis	2						1	1	1	1			1				
072 Mumps	289	53	75	81	209	46	28	2	76		1		1	1		2	3
091 Syphilis	7		4		4					1			1	2			2
098 Gonococcal Infections	26	2	3	3	8	3	-	2	5	4	4	1	9			4	4

## VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME

## VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Compulsory vaccination of children in Gibraltar at the age of three months, as well as re-vaccination at the age of twelve years has now been abolished. This service will, however, continue to be offered in the future but only on a voluntary basis.

The number of vaccinations carried out during the year was 90

No unusual complications of Smallpox Vaccination were registered.

## IMMUNIZATION

This service continued to be run very successfully from the Health Department at the Health Centre, Casemates.

The campaign based on the World Health Organization's "Immunize Your Child" theme was continued throughout the year and full use was made of the news media and health education techniques to inform the public and parents in particular of the benefits of immunization.

It should be noted that these statistics also include the active immunization schemes run by the Services for their families.

The only side effects to these vaccines were mild allergic reactions.

The following is a summary of immunization for 1978

CIVILIANS

TYPE OF VACCINE	1st DOSE	2nd DOSE	3rd DOSE	BOOSTER
Antipoliomyelitis.....	383	337	344	191
Triple Antigen.....	122	86	83	--
Diphtheria & Tetanus.....	273	237	231	144
Tetanus Toxoid.....	3	1	9	--

SERVICES

Polio .....	405
Triple Antigen .....	0
Diphtheria & Tetanus....	10

## ANIMAL CONTROL

The importation of dogs and cats is not allowed except by direct shipment from the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man or the Republic of Ireland and subject to certain conditions.

A total of 36 Import licences were issued by the Public Health Department who also undertake the registration and licensing of dogs as well as the control of strays.

Three hundred and ten dogs and 865 cats were seized during the year. Fourteen of the dogs were claimed by their owners and the rest were humanely destroyed.

When a stray dog is impounded it is kept in the pound for seven days. If at the end of this period it has not been claimed by the owner, it is humanely destroyed. If, on the other hand, the dog is claimed, the owner is required to pay for its maintenance in the pound. If any particular dog is unlicensed, unvaccinated, or unmuzzled at the time of seizure, the matter is reported to the Police for the institution of legal proceedings.

The effects of the amendments to the Animals & Birds Ordinance which made compulsory the vaccination of dogs against Rabies continue to be felt. All dogs over the age of 3 months have to be registered with the Government and the annual licence is only issued on production of a valid certificate of vaccination against Rabies. A total of 610 dogs have been registered to date.

Eight kennels are available to house stray dogs and the extra space for four further kennels acquired recently are to be converted to "on transit" kennels. The number of Biters' Kennels has been increased to five and improvements have been carried out to the general amenities of this pound. These improvements are proving a great help to the Dog Impounders in their work of collecting and controlling strays.

Gibraltar continues Rabies free since the single case imported in 1970. Despite this, all biters continue to be impounded and kept under observation for ten days, as part of the Public Health Department's constant surveillance against this disease.

We should express our appreciation to the various Veterinary Surgeons of the Royal Army Veterinary Corps for their advice and help on the problems of animals generally during their periodic official visits to the Rock.

We are also grateful to the RSPCA Inspector for his hard work and co-operation and to the Society's Honorary Secretary in Gibraltar, for supplying the following figures about the number of dogs, cats and other animals boarded and painlessly destroyed by them during the year under review:

## NO OF ANIMALS BOARDED AT THE RSPCA KENNELS

88 dogs, cats and other animals/or birds

## NO OF ANIMALS DESTROYED

84 dogs\* all sources, road accidents, strays,  
unwanted, old, etc.

221 cats+

69 other animals

374

\* Through old age, chronically sick cases & accidents  
+ wild and accidents

## CARE OF THE BLIND

During the year under review there has only been one new registration, this is no doubt due to the fact that there has been no resident Ophthalmic Surgeon for over a year. Mr D Clarke has now taken up his appointment and the Eye Department is now fully functional.

There are now 62 registered blind or partially sighted persons, forty-nine women and 13 men, most of them elderly. There is only one registered blind child who attends St Martin's School. Her head-mistress reports that she is a well adjusted child and progressing very favourably.

Twenty-two persons received supplementary benefit and eight pocket money.

The Gibraltar Society for the Prevention of Blindness is always prepared to send to England for training any one who has the misfortune to lose his sight at an early age, provided the prognosis is favourable. All cases are considered individually, and at the committee's discretion extra help is given in needed cases.

At the request of the Society, Government grants free medical attention to blind persons and a higher rate of supplementary benefit than that given to sighted persons. Free bus tickets and wireless licences can be supplied if applied for. The Society provides wireless sets for all blind persons or pays for their own sets. The Society is constantly trying to help blind persons acquire better or alternative accommodation. In spite of the shortage of housing in Gibraltar the Government whenever possible helps.

As in the past the backbone of the Society consists of fifteen visitors each allocated a district. Most visitors are consistent and dependable and some have carried out these voluntary duties unobtrusively for many years.

The Society's income is derived from Government grants, flag days (alternate years only) and donations. It is also extremely grateful to the generosity of the British Forces Broadcasting Service Wireless for the Blind Appeal, who every year make a very generous donation. The Gibraltar Housewives Association and Naval Trust also make welcome donations.

In April Mr J Colligan CBE Treasurer of the World Council for the Welfare of the Blind visited Gibraltar, met members of the committee and visited BFBS to thank them for their yearly donations to the society.

Offers of help have been received from the Lions Club Gibraltar and The Round Table have offered to train a blind person with a guide dog if any suitable person is found. Another possibility is to bring here someone qualified to train blind people to use the long cane system of walking which helps them to go about alone. However one of the Society's greatest needs today is to find people who are willing to give an hour or two of companionship to the blind each week.

The usual Christmas Party for the blind was held in Mount Alvernia as in previous years.

## MATERNITY, CHILD WELFARE AND SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICES

### MATERNITY SERVICE

The Maternity Department consists of two wards with a total of fourteen beds, two private rooms, a two bedded labour ward, nursery, admission room and ante-natal clinic.

On an average there were 28 deliveries a month, a slightly lower average than in previous years. This was due to the fact that during the leave periods of the Consultant Obstetrician and the weekends off duty, deliveries were performed at the Royal Naval Hospital. Twentyfive babies were delivered under this arrangement at the Royal Naval Hospital. Had these babies been delivered at St Bernard's the average would have remained at 30. Mothers stay in hospital 5-6 days for a normal delivery, 8-10 for forceps deliveries and 10-13 days for Caesarian Sections.

Ante-natal patients were admitted for rest and treatment staying from a few days to several weeks. This year for the first time we have been able to carry out Gestriol estimations on all patients suspected of placental insufficiency.

Post natal exercises have commenced in the Ward and the ante-natal classes and lectures have, as usual, been well attended.

### SUMMARY OF WORK IN THE DEPARTMENT

		1978		1977
Total Live Births:	Males	178		194
	Females	163	341	173
				367
Stillbirths:	Males	-		3
	Females	-	-	2
				5
Neonatal Deaths			6	4
Premature Births			25	17
Twins			4 prs	4 prs
Caesarian Sections			47	52
Toxaemias			6	4
Eclampsia			1	-

### CHILD WELFARE SERVICE

Child Welfare Clinics were held throughout the year at the Health Centre. Dr Borge holds a "Routine check-up" session for small babies on Thursday mornings between 10am and 11am.

Clinics supervised by the Health Visitor were held every afternoon from Mondays to Fridays and were well attended. Last years record has been exceeded.

Children are weighed and their general appearance, milestones and developmental progress is noted. Any slight abnormality is referred to a Doctor for further investigation. Parents continue to be vigilant about the physical well-being of their children. Mothers seem to be more interested in the management of their children and ask advice on this aspect.

A large number of mothers return to work after the baby's birth. The baby is generally cared for by a relative. Nursery schools continue to be very popular.

Routine home visiting is still carried out. A visit once in fifteen months is the most the present staff can manage. Primary visits, follow up visits, special cases and problem families are dealt with by the Health Visitor. The latter seem to be on the increase and a new element is added by the drug addiction of some fathers. The mothers in these families are very young and they seem to try to do their best for their children and keep the home together.

Civilian families with children come to reside in Gibraltar, but no notification of the arrival of these children is made to the Department so they are not visited unless found by chance. Late last year a  $3\frac{1}{2}$  year old Dutch boy was "discovered" in very unsatisfactory "home" conditions and his case presented a problem very difficult to solve. He and his mother have now left Gibraltar.

Close liaison is maintained with the Family Care Unit, Maternity and Children's Wards, the Eye Clinic, the Speech Therapy Department and the School Medical Service. The homes of the children attending St Martin's School are visited when there is a problem and information is exchanged with the Headmistress.

#### PAEDIATRICIAN'S CLINICS

	1978	1977
Number of children registered	348	336
Total Number of Attendances	405	418
Number of Clinics Held	48	42

#### HEALTH VISITORS' CLINIC

Number of children registered	1166	1131
Total number of attendances	10879	10765

#### Age Groups of the children attending the Health Visitors' Clinics

YEAR OF BIRTH	AGE-GROUP	NUMBER
1973	Reached 5 years	16
1974	4 - 5 "	91
1975	3 - 4 "	150
1976	2 - 3 "	229
1977	1 - 2 "	349
1978	0 - 1 "	335

## HOME VISITING -- NUMBER OF VISITS

	1978	1977
Primary Visits	374	405
To Children under one year	465	571
To Children over one year	1452	1508
Ante-Natal Visits - Advice given to expectant mothers	39	47
Special visits, ie to problem families and families in difficult circumstances and visits paid at Paediatrician's request	89	122
Visits paid where children were not at home or not seen for other reasons	324	301
Removals		
(i) Traced	53	68
(ii) Untraced	12	10
Home visited	1781	1733

## SCHOOL DENTAL SERVICE (HEALTH CENTRE)

Owing to the departure of the Dental Surgeon, no statistics relating to this service have been made available this year.



## SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

These services are catered for at the Health Centre by a designated Group Practice Medical Scheme doctor. Clinics were held twice weekly, most of which were held at the various schools. Twice a month a clinic was held at the Health Centre, one for special cases requiring follow-up or further assessment; the other was held in order to plan out policies and ensure the smooth running of the service.

Meetings were held at intervals with the School Counsellor and Head Teachers. These meetings were essential to smooth out differences and misunderstandings and to discuss matters of policy. The liaison that now exists will be an important foundation for further improvements in the present service.

Children suffering from acute illnesses were referred to their own private doctors but if the consent of the parent or guardian was obtained treatment was prescribed by the School Medical Officer.

A number of children were referred to hospital for consultant advice.

As part of the general medical check-up all school children are now being screened for colour-blindness.

The dental health of the school children is on the whole an improvement on previous years.

The number of children examined under the School Health Services was 711 and the general condition of the health of these children showed an improvement on previous years.

### CASES REFERRED TO THEIR OWN DOCTOR

The number referred to their own doctor was three.

### CASES REFERRED TO OTHER HOSPITAL CLINICS

These numbered fifty-three. The majority were referred to the ENT and Orthopaedic Clinics.

### CASES REFERRED TO SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC

Six hundred and forty nine cases were referred to the school dental clinic.

## OPHTHALMIC CLINICS

Threehundred and eightyfour cases referred to this clinic by the school doctor, or at their parents' request, were for refraction.

## CLEANLINESS

The number of children inspected by the School Nurse during the year was 6241. There were 123 instances of 'verminous heads' but it must be noted that this number includes a number of cases which were found to be infested on more than one occasion.

## HOME VISITS

The number of homes visited during the year was 235. These visits were directed at finding out the children's background so as to help and advise parents whose children require supportive treatment.

## IMMUNIZATION

The immunization of children continues to be carried out at the Health Centre. Rubella vaccines were given to 170 schoolgirls between the ages of 12 and 14 years.

## HEAF TESTS

A total of 123 school children were heaf tested and there were no positive results.

## ISHIARA TEST:

Sixhundred and ten tests were carried out of which 9 results were abnormal

## PORT HEALTH WORK

Maritime

The statutory function of the Service, the application of the Quarantine Ordinance including the granting of Pratique to shipping was maintained efficiently throughout the year. The system of operation is designed to cause the minimum delay in Port entry and, in the case of vessels which call for medical assistance, quick despatch.

There were 197 medical visits to ships during the year, 121 persons were landed due to illness; of these, 23 seamen were landed from British ships and 98 seamen from foreign ships. These figures do not include seamen landed from Royal Fleet Auxiliaries.

Seventythree ships called into Port solely for the purpose of receiving medical advice or treatment for members of the crew, and seven dead bodies were landed.

## REPORT BY THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

The problem of staff shortages experienced over the last few years is gradually being overcome. A further two qualified Inspectors returned from training in the United Kingdom and a trainee Inspector continues his studies there. The qualified Inspectorate is now made up of two Senior Public Health Inspectors and four Public Health Inspectors. This has permitted the re-organization of the districts with the result that Gibraltar has been divided into four districts, each under one of the qualified Inspectors, and the Public Markets, which comes under one of the Senior Inspectors. The Inspectors are supported by four locally trained Assistant Public Health Inspectors, one Senior Enforcement Officer and two Enforcement Officers, as well as the requisite clerical grades and industrial personnel.

As has been the practice for a good number of years now, all the qualified Inspectors are interchangeable and duties at the Public Markets undertaken on a roster basis to allow both the Public Health and Markets fields to be adequately covered.

The animal health aspects of the department's work, which is reported upon separately on page 20 have been carried out smoothly throughout the year despite some resistance from a few animal lovers who fail to understand the need to keep stray animals under control.

The Food Hygiene Regulations continue to be applied to all food premises. Most of the owners of food businesses written to in respect of the improvements required in their respective premises in order to bring them into line with the Regulations responded favourably, but the few more difficult ones had to be prosecuted and details of these prosecutions are given in the Legal Proceedings section which follows.

The department has been able to expand somewhat in the Health Education field as, with the return of the qualified Inspectors, it has been possible to allow one of them to concentrate more on this very important aspect of Public Health. A number of pamphlets, posters, etc related to various facets of our work were obtained from the United Kingdom Health Education Council and these dealt mainly with food hygiene, anti-smoking, prevention of rabies, immunizations etc.

In the field of legislation, the laws enforced by this department continued to be kept under constant review and resulted in the following amendments to the existing legislation:

The Animals and Birds (Amendment) Rules 1978 which revised the various charges made under the main Rules

The Bedding (Disinfection) (Amendment) Rules 1978;

The Common Lodging Houses (Amendment) Rules 1978;

The Earth Closets (Amendment) Rules 1978;

The Infectious Diseases (Burial) (Amendment) Rules 1978;

The Nuisances (Amendment) Rules 1978;

The Spitting (Amendment) Rules 1978;

The Markets (Display of Prices (Amendment) Rules 1978; which amended the respective main Rules by revising the fines which can be imposed for the various offences created by these statutory instruments.

The Notifiable Diseases (Amendment) Order, 1978, included Marburg Disease and Viral Haemorrhagic Fever in the list of notifiable diseases.

The Public Health (Revocation) Rules, 1978, revoked the Prevention of Overcrowding Rules and the Water Vendors Rules which had outlived their usefulness.

The Soft Drinks (Amendment) Regulations, 1978;

The Skimmed Milk with Non-Milk Fat (Amendment) Regulations, 1978;

The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Regulations, 1978;

The Butter and Margarine (Amendment) Regulations, 1978;

The Food and Drugs (Amendment) Ordinance, 1978, which effected extensive changes to our food laws and brought them all in line with the United Kingdom's food laws on which the originals were based. These amendments now permit specific articles of food, which are produced and sold in Great Britain but the sale of which was not allowed locally, to be imported and sold in Gibraltar.

I would like once again to take this opportunity to express the department's appreciation to the Medical Officer in charge of the Royal Naval Hospital, the present incumbent being Surgeon Captain R Lambert RN, for the help and co-operation given in the course of the year.

#### INSPECTIONS

Three thousand six hundred and twenty three inspections of premises were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during the year, in the course of which 3783 nuisances were found. These required the service of 275 Statutory Notices and 1823 re-visits were made to ensure that the nuisances reported had been effectively abated.

Four hundred and thirty four housing inspections were carried out at the request of the Housing Manager 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 poor housing conditions.

Twenty-three underground water tanks were inspected after cleansing and white-washing once the water in them had been sampled and found unfit for dietetic use.

Forty-four samples of water were also taken from swimming pools in order to assess the bacterial quality of these waters.

A further fifty-eight visits of enquiry were made in connection with the investigation and follow up of serious infectious diseases notified to this department.

Forty-four drain tests were carried out during 1978, a number of which were connected with the issue of Certificates of Fitness in respect of new or re-developed premises.

Forty-two vessels were also inspected in connection with the issue of Deratting Exemption Certificates as required by the World Health Organisation's International Sanitary Regulations.

The Department's Enforcement Officers made a total of 1052 visits of inspection of accommodation let to labour from abroad in order to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Labour from Abroad (Accommodation) Ordinance and Rules. Contraventions were normally rectified following verbal representations, but warning letters had to be sent in some cases to achieve the desired effect.

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

There were 83 court appearances during the year in connection with legal proceedings instituted by the Public Health Department. Prosecutions continued to be conducted by a senior member of the staff. The total amount imposed in fines as a result of these cases was £2153 and £65 were also awarded as costs.

Cases taken as regards the various pieces of legislation enforced by this Department were as follows:

## (1) PUBLIC HEALTH

Fortyone convictions were obtained against persons not complying with the requirements of Abatement Notices regarding defective premises and for not complying with subsequent Court Orders in respect of these Notices. £624 were imposed as fines and £65 awarded as costs in respect of these cases.

Three Prohibition Orders, prohibiting the use of premises for human habitation until such time as they were rendered fit, were also obtained as a result of the above cases.

Five Orders were also obtained under the provisions of Section 39 of the Public Health Ordinance requiring owners of dangerous premises to render them safe or to demolish the buildings.

The Public Health Department continued in its efforts to clean up and keep Gibraltar tidy, and fifteen persons were taken to Court for depositing rubbish in our streets. They were fined a total of £330.

## (2) FOOD AND DRUGS

Eleven informations were laid against eight defendants for offences against the provisions of the Food and Drugs Ordinance.

Fines totalling £105 were imposed in cases involving the sale or possession for the purpose of sale of food unfit for human consumption; £30 for the sale of food not of the quality demanded by the purchaser; and £30 for using food premises not registered under the provisions of this Ordinance.

Cases concerned with the enforcement of the Food Hygiene Regulations, passed those of the previous year and led to an increased number of prosecutions under these Regulations.

A total of eighty-five informations were proceeded with affecting 13 defendants who were fined a total of £770 for various offences under these Regulations.

## (3) MARKETS AND STREET TRADERS

Thirteen informations were laid against five defendants who were fined a total of £87 for various offences under the provisions of the Markets, Street Traders and Pedlars Ordinance and the Market Rules.

## (4) ANIMALS AND BIRDS

Three persons were taken to Court by this Department regarding seven contraventions of the Animals and Birds Ordinance. They were fined a total of £72.

The offences mainly included keeping dogs without a valid licence and without being vaccinated against Rabies.

#### (5) BUILDING RULES

For the first time ever this Department had to take persons to Court for contravening these Rules.

Two persons were prosecuted for eight offences and were fined a total of £55.

#### IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGNS

As a result of the virtual disappearance of smallpox from the World and the amendment to the Public Health Ordinance making vaccination against this disease no longer compulsory the demand for smallpox vaccinations dwindled. It continues, however, to be offered on a voluntary basis and it is, obviously, still available to those requiring it for travel purposes.

The Vaccination Campaign, organised in order to inform the public of the services offered at the Immunization Clinic, continues to be run by the Public Health Department and film strips are used as "fillers" between main programmes over our local television station.

As part of this Campaign a number of members of the staff were also interviewed over GBC Radio and Television as well as over BFBS. A number of newspaper articles on the subject also appeared and descriptive pamphlets are issued at our various clinics.

Vaccination against the following diseases are offered free to all children at the Immunization Clinic:

- Tetanus
- Diphtheria
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Polio-myelitis
- Smallpox
- Rubella (German Measles)
- Measles

Vaccination against Influenza was again offered to selected population groups with particular emphasis on our senior citizens.

Additionally, other vaccines are available for persons with special travel requirements.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

There are four environmental monitoring programmes currently undertaken by this Department. These act as general pointers and safeguards as to the quality of our environment.

The monitoring programmes deal with:

- (i) Air Quality (smoke and sulphur dioxide)
- (ii) Water Supplies
- (iii) Seawater
- (iv) Noise

#### (i) AIR QUALITY

Because of the general lack of heavy industry, the only significant source of air pollution of our environment continues to be the Generating Station.

Since October 1975, four monitoring stations have been strategically installed in different points round the Generating Station so that a true representative picture of the amount of pollution emitted can be obtained under all weather conditions.

These monitoring stations take daily samples of air which are subsequently analysed and the amounts of sulphur dioxide and smoke in our atmosphere are determined.

The following table gives a very brief summary of the situation existing locally:

POLLUTANT		WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION RECOMMENDED LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES	MEAN LEVEL FROM OUR FOUR SAMPLERS		
			1975/76	1976/77	1977/78
Sulphur Dioxide	Annual Mean	60 ug/m <sup>3</sup>	82ug/m <sup>3</sup>	100ug/m <sup>3</sup>	77ug/m <sup>3</sup>
	No. of observations below 200 ug/m <sup>3</sup>	98%	89%	87%	91%
Smoke	Annual Mean	40ug/m <sup>3</sup>	22ug/m <sup>3</sup>	22ug/m <sup>3</sup>	18ug/m <sup>3</sup>
	No of observations below 120 ug/m <sup>3</sup>	98%	100%	100%	100%

As can be seen, our present levels of Sulphur Dioxide are above those recommended as long-term objectives by the World Health Organisation. Conversely, our levels of smoke are much lower.

Detailed study of all data so far obtained shows that the combined effects from both these pollutants at their present levels are not such as to be prejudicial to the health of exposed persons.

Monitoring is to continue in order to obtain as complete a picture as possible thus ensuring that levels remain within accepted safety limits.

#### (ii) WATER SUPPLIES

Though the supply of water is not this Department's responsibility, its safety and quality are very much our concern. Because of this, samples of water are taken regularly on a routine basis from different points in the distribution network as well as when supplies may become suspect or are the cause of complaint.

During 1978 one hundred and eight routine samples were taken for bacteriological analysis and a further twenty samples were taken in connection with the chemical composition of the water. These figures include the routine sampling of water supplied to shipping.

Generally our results compare very favourably with International and English standards set out by the World Health Organisation and the Department of Health and Social Security respectively.

Water samples are also taken from underground tanks to determine the fitness of the water for dietetic use. Eighty-three such samples were taken during the year.



In the cases where the water was found unfit for such use and depending on the degree of contamination, it was either treated (involving chlorination and subsequent detasting with Sodium Thiosulphate), or arrangements were made for the emptying and cleaning of the underground tank.

#### (iii) SEAWATER

During the year 219 seawater samples have been taken and analysed from eight pre-determined points round the Rock.

The purpose of these samples is to ensure adequate standards of safety at our bathing areas, as well as to gather and compare information in connection with the Co-ordination Mediterranean Pollution Monitoring and Research Programme of the United Nations Environment Programme.

#### (iv) NOISE

Complaints of excessive noise are investigated as and when they occur but are not the subject of a monitoring programme, as is the case with other matters previously mentioned.

Several complaints were received during the year which resulted in the service of Abatement Notices under the Noise Abatement Ordinance in all cases where the complaints were justified.

#### STAFF AND TRAINING

A further two officers terminated their studies this year and obtained their Diploma in Environmental Health, thus increasing the qualified staff complement to seven. Although the Department is still under-staffed, this addition has resulted in an improvement over previous years.

There are two other Assistant Inspectors studying for their Diploma at Tottenham College of Technology (London). One will be taking his final examination in 1979 and the other was successful in his first year examination.

Following invitations received from the Italian Nutrition Foundation, the Chief Public Health Inspector and the Deputy City Analyst attended the International Symposium on Chemical Toxicology of Food which was held in Milan. Apart from the obvious benefits derived from hearing leading authorities discussing such an important and complex subject, the attendance at the Symposium served to emphasise the need to keep abreast of developments in food technology, to maintain contacts with colleagues in our respective disciplines and the over-riding necessity to keep our laws completely up-to-date to guard against Gibraltar becoming a dumping ground for unsafe foods rejected by other countries, especially since we are completely dependent on sources outside Gibraltar for our food supplies.

The Department also organised a course of lectures, conducted by one of our Senior Public Health Inspectors, leading to the Test for the Certificate in the Hygiene of Food Retailing and Catering. This was organised in conjunction with the Royal Society of Health (London) and successful candidates were awarded a Certificate issued by the Society.

There were sixteen participants in the Course from the catering, manufacturing and other sectors of the food trade. Thirteen were successful in obtaining the Certificate.

It is hoped to organise a similar Course during 1979.

## SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

## COMPLAINTS RECEIVED:

Written	173
Oral	799

## PREMISES INSPECTED:

General inspection	117
House to House inspections	3506

STATUTORY NOTICES SERVED: 275

NUISANCES FOUND: 3783

DRAIN TESTS: 44

## SAMPLES OF WATER TAKEN FOR ANALYSIS:

Fresh Water	191
Sea Water	219
Water for Chemical Analysis	20

UNDERGROUND TANKS INSPECTED: 23

SAMPLES OF FOOD AND DRUGS TAKEN FOR ANALYSIS: 117

## VISITS OF ENQUIRY:

Re Infectious Disease	58
Re Housing Conditions	434
To Food premises	706
To Hairdressers and Barber Shops	3
To Factories and Workshops	16
To premises generally to ascertain if nuisances reported have been abated	1823
Re accommodation Labour from Abroad	1052

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS INSTITUTED: 83

INSPECTION OF VESSELS  
(Deratting Exemption Certificate) 42

DISINFECTION & DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES 237

**DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION:**

All premises where acute infectious diseases occurred during the year were disinfected with Formaldehyde solution - this was the case on three occasions.

Similarly the Police ambulances were also disinfected as required following the conveyance of patients suffering from infectious diseases.

The following are details of articles disinfected at the Disinfecting Station by steam or formaldehyde gas:

Bed and mattresses:	5
Bolsters and pillows:	4
Blankets and quilts:	4
Sheets:	3
Sundries:	38
	<hr/>
Total:	55

Many commercial premises and dwellings (128 in all) were disinfested during the year owing to the presence of cockroaches, fleas or other vermin.

The range of insecticides available has been widened in order to cope more effectively and safely with the many different situations involved and species of insects and vermin encountered. D.D.T. once the most generally used insecticide, has been phased out because of its potential danger to man and wildlife.

**MOSQUITO CONTROL:**

Mosquito control was kept up during the year, with special emphasis during the warmer months.

A total of 78 breeding places were found and treated during the year. A further 294 probable breeding sites were also treated so as to prevent mosquitoes breeding in them.

In all 937 places were inspected in conjunction with the control of this sector.

As in previous years, a close liaison was maintained with the Services' Health Inspectors to ensure maximum effect of our anti-mosquito campaigns.

Fifty-nine samples of mosquito larvae were collected for identification purposes and the following varieties were identified:

Fifty-six	Culex Pipiens
Seven samples	Theobaldia Longereolata

## RODENT CONTROL

The measures adopted in recent years for the extermination and repression of this pest were continued during the year under review with very favourable results. The rodenticides at present being used are warfarin, neo-sorex, zinc phosphide, arsenious oxide, alpha-chloralose and Flucouroacteamide 1081, the latter primarily for baiting sewers. Of these, the most popular and also the safest were warfarin and neo-sorex. It is supplied free to members of the public for ordinary treatments.

Complaints received are investigated at once and the best treatment to be applied, either by the complainant himself, using the safer rodenticides mentioned above, or by the Rodent Department's team, is decided upon.

Excluding the number of rodents killed by complainants themselves, an estimated kill of one thousand and ninety eight is recorded from treatments carried out by the Rodent Section of the Public Health Department.

Under Article 54 of the International Sanitary Regulations, vessels are inspected as required for the presence of rodents, and Deratting Exemption Certificates are issued when appropriate. Forty-two vessels were inspected and certificates were issued in respect of all of them during 1978.

## SUMMARY OF TREATMENTS DURING 1978

	No of Pre Bait Laid	Bait Disc	Poison Bait Laid	Takes Recorded				Total No of takes Recorded	Carcases Recorded		Premises Treated	Poison Bait Takes	Estimated Kill	Men Employed			
				1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{1}{8}$		0	PR					RN	MM	
Premises	4892	2091	2678	267	52	451	561	516	839	1844	33	-	177	361	451bs 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ ozs	920	5 Public Health Operatives
Government Sewers	643	7	636	69	-	90	86	58	326	303	-	-	-	643 manholes	81bs 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs	178	
TOTAL	5535	2098	3314	336	52	541	647	574	1165	2147	33	-	177	1004	541bs 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ ozs	1098	

## FOOD IN RELATION TO HEALTH &amp; DISEASES

As explained previously, the enactment of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1977, has been a useful addition to the law relating to food and adequate provision is now made for the hygienic control of food production and retail in all its aspects.

## PUBLIC MARKETS

Extensive maintenance works have been put in hand in the Public Markets. These included the complete renewal of all the stalls in the Fish Market and the improvement and modernization of the Meat Hall in order to bring the whole of the Markets complex within the requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

## MEAT

All supplies of frozen beef, pork, veal, mutton and offal were imported from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Holland, Kenya, Poland, Rumania, Sweden, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uruguay and New Zealand. The total figure being 2,202,427 lbs.

A further 22,701 lbs of fresh meat and 13,692 lbs of fresh Kosher meat were imported from the United Kingdom. This was formerly imported from Morocco.

## POULTRY

This is mostly imported frozen, but some fresh poultry was also available throughout the year although this is rapidly losing ground to the frozen product.

With the exception of small consignments brought in by local fishing boats, all fish was imported from Morocco. A total of 274,310 lbs of fish was imported during the year.

## EGGS

Adequate supplies have been imported from the United Kingdom, Belgium and Holland.

## FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Supplies of fresh fruit and vegetables were imported from Morocco and a number of European countries including Great Britain although the hardier types of fruit were also imported from as far afield as Argentina, Canada and Japan.

## MILK

Sterilized homogenised milk in sealed bottles and UHT milk were imported from the United Kingdom and other approved countries. However, condensed or evaporated tinned varieties are the staple products commonly used.

## FOOD

The supplies of food have been adequate throughout the year.

## GROCERIES

Groceries imported from the United Kingdom and other countries have been adequate, and generally of satisfactory quality.

## SLAUGHTERING

There is one slaughterhouse in Gibraltar, situated in the Upper Rock. Adjoining this slaughterhouse are the piggeries, which house some 200 pigs. 44 pigs with a total weight of 3500 lbs were slaughtered during 1978. These were duly inspected (ante mortem and post mortem) by the Public Health Inspectors and passed as fit for human consumption.

## ICE CREAM

All premises where ice-cream is sold must be registered with the Government in accordance with the provisions of the Food and Drugs Ordinance. Frequent visits were paid by the Public Health Inspectors to advise on measures designed to attain the highest standards of cleanliness and hygiene possible. Eighteen samples were taken and examined bacteriologically in the Public Health and Clinical Pathology Laboratories. Quality control tests were undertaken at the same time. All the samples tested were found to be up to the approved standard.

Considerable quantities of ice-cream manufactured by reputable firms in Great Britain and Italy were also imported regularly. The sale of these products is conditional to their being sold in the original sealed wrappers or containers and subject to the same sanitary requirements as those produced locally. Soft ice-creams, which is sold both at establishments and from mobile units, is also finding an increasing market in Gibraltar.

## CATERING PREMISES, BAKERIES ETC

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, etc must be registered with the Government.

Catering establishments and food premises were inspected regularly by the Department's Inspectors. In the course of these inspections advice was given to owners on the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations and on all matters concerning the storing, handling, preparation and retailing of food for human consumption. A total of 706 food premises were inspected in this connection during the year.

SAMPLING OF FOOD

A total of 117 samples of various foods were taken under the Food and Drugs Ordinance during 1978. These were as follows:

Type of food	No. of Samples Taken	Remarks on results of Examination
Alcoholic Drinks	2	Satisfactory
Baby Foods	7	Slight defects found in tins, indicative of old stock. Similar stock withdrawn from sale.
Cheese	3	One sample satisfactory, two found to contain food poisoning organisms. Stocks withdrawn from sale.
Cod Roe	1	Foreign matter found.
Cooked foods	7	Investigation of food poisoning incident. No pathogenic bacteria isolated.
Corned Beef	1	Found to contain foreign object (2" piece of string). Representation made to manufacturers.
Frozen Foods	1	Satisfactory.
Ham	1	Satisfactory.
Ice Cream	18	All satisfactory except one whose fat content was just below the minimum authorised level. Manufacturer informed and position rectified.
Milk	29	Satisfactory
Minced Meat	2	One satisfactory, one found to contain foreign matter (pieces of skin).
Mussels	14	Varying degrees of bacterial contamination.
Oranges	8	Satisfactory
Potatoes	1	Generally affected with spraing. Resulted in legal proceedings being instituted and a £25 find being imposed.
Prunes	1	Satisfactory.
Soft Drinks	19	18 Satisfactory. One found to contain a number of foreign bodies. Legal proceedings were instituted and a £15 fine imposed.
Tuna fish	2	Satisfactory

In all cases of unsatisfactory results remedial measures were taken immediately following verbal and/or written representations.



FOOD CONDEMNED AS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OR AS UNFIT FOR SALE DURING 1978

Baby Foods	1224 jars
Baby milk	77 crtns
Bacon	4403 lbs
Bananas	22200 "
Beef	11185 "
Butter	2340 "
Cakes	110 crtns
Cereals	1346 lbs
Cheese	3207 "
Chicken	1209 "
Chocolates, sweets, candy etc	31316 pcs + 1103 lbs
Confectionery	224 lbs
Corned Beef	63 "
Eggs	7305 doz
Fish	3157 lbs
Frozen Foods	10986 "
Fruit juice	87 litres
Ham	604 lbs
Ice cream	32 litres
Lamb	130 lbs
Luncheon Meat	53 "
Meat Products (salamis, "chorizos" etc)	4705 "
Milk	2383 pints
Miscellaneous	457 lbs
Nuts	641 "
Ox Tongues	28 "
Pears	7213 "
Pork	496 "
Potato Crisps etc	69636 pkts
Rice	6442 lbs
Sausages & sausage meat	388 "
Soft Drinks	480 cans
Sugar	3768 lbs
Turkeys	1344 "

LABORATORIES OF CLINICAL PATHOLOGY AND  
PUBLIC HEALTH

REPORT BY THE PATHOLOGIST AND CITY ANALYST

The volume of work at the Laboratories continues its upward trend. This year one hundred and ninety four thousand eight hundred and seventy five investigations were carried out on specimens submitted which represents an increase of 18% on the previous year.

The Public Health Department in its programme for monitoring atmospheric pollution submitted samples collected by several apparatus in the proximity of the Electricity Generating Station. These were analysed for the presence of Sulphur dioxide and one thousand four hundred and fifty six samples were processed during the past year.

Radiimmunoassay techniques are now well established and apart from tests for thyroid function, investigations for human placental lactogen, and antinuclear factor are now undertaken routinely.

The spare parts for the Radiometer have been received and it is now fully operational. Blood gases are regularly done in the Laboratories and the apparatus is ready for immediate operation.

A survey of cases of chronic anaemia is being made at the Laboratories for the presence of haemoglobins A<sub>2</sub> and F. and a number of people with Thalassaemia trait are being discovered. The results and conclusions of the continuing survey will be published at a later date.

The sea water from off the several shore areas are regularly investigated for bacteriological contamination. A few show consistent high counts which indicate continuing pollution.

The laboratories are recognised by the World Health Organisation as a Centre for Yellow Fever Inoculations and by the Institute of Medical Laboratory Sciences for the training of technicians to intermediate level.

## INVESTIGATIONS

BLOOD

## (1) CYTOLOGICAL -

Rbcs., Wbcs., differential counts, absolute values, platelets, reticulocytes, colour index, packed cell volume, fragility of Rbcs., L.E. cells bleeding and coagulation times, Erythrocyte sedimentation rate, blood picture, malaria parasites.

75500 7160 82660

## (2) BIOCHEMISTRY -

Determination of urea, glucose, calcium, uric acid, cholesterol, triglycerides, acid and alkaline, tartrate Cabiclo phosphatase, glucose tolerance curves, total protein, albumin, globulin, A:G ratio, Van den Bergh reaction, bilirubin, thymol turbidity and flocculation, Zinc sulphate turbidity, Schumm's Test, pyruvic glutamic and lactic dehydrogenase, Total iron binding capacity and saturation, amylase, creatine, creatinine, congo red test, phosphorous, Bromsulphthalein test, prothrombin, clotting time ratio, prothrombin Thromboplastin time, Hess' test and Lithium, Imminio-globulins IgG, IgM and IgA 1

35157 3498 18655

## (3) BACTERIOLOGY -

Blood cultures for Salmonella group etc.

484 8 492

## (4) SEROLOGY -

Wassermann Reaction, Kahn test, VDRL test, Gonococcal complement fixation test, Widal agglutination tests, cold agglutinins. Paul Bannell, Latex RA Test, C Reaction protein and ASO Titre

5234 911 6145

## (5) TRANSFUSION -

ABO grouping, Rhesus factor, genotyping, cross-matching, Direct and Indirect Coomb's test, titration of antibodies, foetal cells and Alkaline denaturation tests.

14869 134 15003

## (6) ELECTROLYTES -

Sodium, potassium, chlorides, Bicarbonate.

7399 76 7475

## (7) ELECTROPHORESIS -

Serum protein, haemoglobin and Lipo-proteins

226 8 234

CEREBRO SPINAL FLUID

## (1) CYTOLOGICAL

Cells and cytological differential count

18 - 18

INVESTIGATIONS.	St Bernard's Hospital	Civil	D.O.E.	TOTAL
<b>(2) BIOCHEMISTRY -</b>				
Determination of total proteins, albumin, globulins, glucose, urea, chlorides, Lange's colloidal, gold curves, Nonne Apolt, Wassermann reaction.	180	-		180
<b>(3) CULTURES FOR MYCO TUBERCULOSIS</b>				
Neisseriae meningitidis and other organisms	18	-		18
<b>(4) DIRECT EXAMINATION -</b>				
Ziehl-Neilsen stain for Myco-bacteria, Neisseriae and other organisms	18	-		18
<b><u>HISTO-PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION</u></b>				
On specimens removed at surgical and post-mortem for micro and macroscopical examination.	658	2		660
<b><u>SMEARS FOR CYTOLOGY -</u></b>				
Cytological examinations of cervical smears and other explored epithelium	865	18		883
<b><u>SWABS - PUS</u></b>				
(1) Bacteriology - Cultures and sensitivities for different organisms.	1681	178		1859
(2) Direct Examination - Stains for Myco-bacteria, Neisseriae and other organisms.	288	44		332
<b><u>SPUTA</u></b>				
(1) CYTOLOGICAL - Malignant cells, elastic fibres and fungi.	68	10		78
(2) BACTERIOLOGY - Culture for Mycobacteria and other organisms	5846	46		5892
(3) DIRECT EXAMINATION - AFB, other organisms and sensitivities.	313	15		328
<b><u>FANCES</u></b>				
(1) CYTOLOGICAL - Rbc's, Leucocytes, epithelium, food residues, ova, cysts, crystals, parasites including flagellates.	152	52		204
(2) BIOCHEMISTRY Occult blood, stercobilin, urobilinogen, diastase and fats estimation.	271	18		289
(3) BACTERIOLOGY Cultures for Salmonella, Shigella and other pathogens, Organisms isolated from cultures from miscellaneous sources for isolation and sensitivity to various antibiotics.	3325	238		3563

INVESTIGATIONS	St Bernard's Hospital	Civil	D. Q.E.	TOTAL
<u>ASCITES, PLEURAL AND SYNOVIAL FLUIDS</u>				
(1) CYTOLOGICAL - Cells and differential counts, malignant cells, AFB and other organisms	42	-	-	42
(2) BIOCHEMISTRY - Specific gravity, Rivalta's Test, Protein contents	168	-	-	168
(3) BACTERIOLOGY - Cultures for Myco-bacteria and other organisms	42	-	-	42
<u>GASTRIC CONTENTS</u>				
(1) BIOCHEMISTRY - Pentagastrin Test Presence of pus, Rbes, mucus, bile, altered blood and pH	156	-	-	156
(2) BACTERIOLOGY - Culture and microscopical examination for Myco-Tuberculosis in gastric lavage	8	1	-	9
<u>URINES</u>				
(1) CYTOLOGICAL - Microscopical of deposit, cells, casts, crystals etc.	5765	542	-	5707
(2) BIOCHEMISTRY - Acetone, Albumin, glucose, osazone test, bile salts and pigments, blood and derivative, calcium, chlorides, urea, nitrogen, diastase, dialysis reaction pH, phosphates, specific gravity, uric acid, porphyrins, Bence-Jones bodies, Keto & Ketogenic steroids, Sodium Potassium, V.M.A, SHIAA, creatinine, Xylose and amino-acids	25825	2710	-	28535
(3) BACTERIOLOGY - Culture for Myco-Tuberculosis, E. Coli and other organisms for sensitivities.	5765	542	-	5707
(4) DIRECT EXAMINATION - For myco-tuberculosis	122	9	-	131
(5) PREGNANCY TEST - Human chorionic Gonadotropin	1543	179	-	1582
(6) RENAL CALCULI - Identification	12	3	-	15
<u>DARK GROUND INVESTIGATIONS -</u>				
For presence of Treponema Pallidum in venereal sores	12	-	-	12
<u>URETHRAL DISCHARGE -</u>				
For N. Gonorrhoea and sensitivities	1007	110	-	1117

INVESTIGATIONS	St Bernard's Hospital	Civil	D.O.E.	TOTAL
VAGINAL DISCHARGE for N. Gonorrhoea, Trichomonas Vaginitis and Monilia	1206		--	1206
SEMINAL FLUIDS Spermatozoa count, mobility, morphology etc	100	80	--	180
YELLOW FEVER INOCULATIONS				
<u>WATER</u> (1) Bacteriological examination	1554		--	1554
(2) Chemical Analysis	1709		--	1709
<u>FOODS</u> (1) Milks -- chemical examination	157		--	157
(2) Bacteriological examination on milk and other foods			--	
ICE CREAMS -- Chemical & bacteriological examination	36		--	36
SOFT DRINKS -- Chemical and bacteriological examinations	72		--	72
OTHER FOODSTUFFS " " "	280		--	280
MICROSCOPICAL EXAMINATIONS	16		--	16
CHEMICAL ANALYSES ON SAMPLES FROM AIR POLLUTION METERS				1456

## MEDICAL AND HOSPITAL REPORT

### 1. ADMINISTRATION

The Government Medical and Health Services consist of:

Hospital Services, Specialised Medical Treatment outside Government Hospitals, (where such treatment is beyond the scope of local resources); Child Welfare and School Health Services; Domiciliary and Out Patient Treatment of persons coming under the scope of the District Medical Service; Domiciliary Medical Service; Port and Airport Health Service; Public Health Inspection and Laboratories.

The Group Practice Medical Scheme enables registered persons and their dependants to obtain medical treatment in Government surgeries or in their homes if they are unable to attend the surgeries. The fee for attendance at the surgeries was abolished as from the 1 July 1978. The fee for house visits is 50 pence during normal hours and £1 outside these hours. Persons who are included in the District Medical Scheme obtain treatment free of charge.

Registered persons and their dependants can also obtain medicines prescribed by a doctor under the Scheme from Scheme Pharmacists on payment of 20 pence per item shown on the prescription. Persons included in the District Medical Scheme are exempted from the payment of any fees.

Under a reciprocal health services Agreement between Britain and Gibraltar citizens of the United Kingdom temporarily resident in Gibraltar are entitled to health care in Gibraltar on the same conditions as citizens of Gibraltar.

Citizens of Gibraltar temporarily resident in the United Kingdom are entitled to health care in the United Kingdom on the same conditions as the people of the United Kingdom.

The Agreement does not apply to persons who go from one country to the other for the express purpose of benefiting from the agreement, except that, where a citizen of Gibraltar is in need of hospital care for which adequate facilities do not exist in Gibraltar, he will receive that hospital care in the United Kingdom on the same conditions as people of the United Kingdom.

Notwithstanding this Agreement, a British Subject ordinarily resident in Gibraltar is entitled to use the Government's medical services and is charged the same fees as a Gibraltarian.

A Health Centre houses the Government Surgeries run in connection with the Group Practice Medical Scheme. The Public Health Inspectorate, the Child Welfare and School Medical Services, which include Immunisation and Vaccination and the District Clinic, are also housed in this Centre.

Mr L L Bromley, FRCS, Surgeon in Charge of the Thoracic Unit, Dr Oscar Craig, Consultant Radiologist, Dr K Granville Grossman, Consultant Psychiatrist, from St Mary's Hospital, and Mr Henry Shaw FRCS, FRCR, Nose and Throat Consultant at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London, visited Gibraltar on various occasions during the year to advise and operate in their respective specialities.

Forty-three patients were sent to various hospitals in Britain during the course of the year. As usual, the majority of these went to the Royal Marsden Hospital and to St Mary's Hospital, London. In addition patients who had previously received treatment in Britain were sent back for review during the course of the year.

Immunisation of children is under the direct control of the Director of Medical and Health Services who is also the Principal School Medical Officer. Children found to be in need of medical treatment are referred to Special Sick Children Clinic at St Bernard's Hospital or to their own doctors.

The Gibraltar League of Hospital Friends, the Albert Ferrary Trust and the Gibraltar Chamber of Commerce contributed generously to the welfare of the patients with gifts in cash and in kind. A number of other gifts and donations were received from other sectors of the community some of which would wish to remain anonymous.

#### 11 NURSING STAFF

The training of nurses continued as in previous years. There are six courses available each year.

Normally the training of a nurse can take from a minimum of 3 to 5 years. This is because the entrance age is 16 and registration age is 21

The courses are:

- Clinical Instruction 10 weeks in 3 year period
- Introductory Course 8 weeks
- Intermediate Course 5 weeks
- Senior Course 8 weeks
- Enrolment Course 5 weeks
- Registration Course 6 weeks

During the year 75 nurses were in training. Eight had to discontinue training owing to marriage, pregnancy and in some cases because they had to return to the United Kingdom.

Thirty seven nurses attended the Introductory Course, at the end of which they were examined by Matron.

Only one candidate failed the Introductory Course.

Four nurses attended the Intermediate Course. They all sat the examination and passed.

#### SENIOR COURSES

Fifteen nurses attended the Senior course, sat the examination and passed.

#### ENROLLED NURSES

Eight nurses attended the course and passed the examination.

#### FINAL EXAMINATION

The re-revision course lasted 8 weeks. Five Enrolled Nurses attended the course, passed their examination and obtained registration. All were subsequently promoted to Staff Nurses.



UNITED KINGDOM TRAINING

One Staff Nurse returned after qualifying as a midwife. One other Staff Nurse continued training for a Diploma in Nursing.

III MEDICAL STAFF

The following changes in the Medical Staff took place during the year:

NEW APPOINTMENTS:                   Dr D Neil  
  Mr D Clarke  
  Dr R S Bhopal  
  Dr I McDonald

LEFT THE SERVICE:                   Dr R S Bhopal  
  Dr I McDonald

IV LEGISLATION

Legal Notice No 19 of 1978 Amended the Group Practice Medical Scheme Regulations to enable persons within certain income limits to be exempted from the payment of the annual fee prescribed under Section 5(3) of the Ordinance.

Legal Notice No 83 of 1978 introduced another amendment which deleted the provision in these Regulations relating to the payment of the 20p fee for attendance at a Government Surgery. These Regulations were further amended by Legal Notice No 92 of 1978 which enables the Governor to remit or waive in his discretion any fees payable under these regulations in special and deserving cases.

Legal Notice No 52 of 1978 provided for a general increase of the fees laid down in the Animals and Birds Rules.

Legal Notices Nos 53 to 56 and 58, 60 and 61 of 1978 amended the Bedding (Disinfection) Rules; the Common Lodging House Rules; the Earth Closets Rules; the Infectious Diseases Rules; the Nuisance Rules, the Spitting Rules; and the Markets (Display of Prices) Rules, by providing that any contravention of those Rules would constitute an offence and that any person charged with such an offence would be liable on summary conviction to a fine of £25.

Legal Notice No 57 of 1978 provided for the addition of the following diseases as notifiable diseases under the Notifiable Diseases Order:

Marburg Disease  
Viral Haemorrhagic Fever

Legal Notice No 59 of 1978 revoked the following Rules:

Prevention of Overcrowding Rules (Booklet 12 of Cap 131)  
Water Vendors Rules (Booklet 17 of Cap 131)

Legal Notices Nos 53, 64 and 99 and Ordinance No 16 of 1978 amended the Soft Drinks Regulations, the Skimmed Milk with Non-milk Fat Regulations, the Milk and Dairies Regulations and the ice cream Sections of the Food and Drugs Ordinance respectively so as to incorporate the changes lately made to equivalent legislation in the United Kingdom. Further information on these, as well as on the Public Health and animals and birds amendments (Legal Notice 52 to 64 and 99) can be found in the Chief Public Health Inspector's report at page            herein.

Ordinance No 28 of 1978 amended the Group Practice Medical Scheme Ordinance by increasing the contributions payable from £22.88 to £26.52 per annum.

## V FINANCIAL

Fees are payable in accordance with the Hospitals (Fees & Charges) Rules. In the case of an "entitled person", ie

- (a) a British subject ordinarily resident in Gibraltar;
- (b) a British subject resident in the Campo Area who is registered as a Gibraltarian in the Register maintained by virtue of the provisions of the Gibraltarian Status Ordinance;
- (c) an alien working and residing in Gibraltar in respect of whom a permit of residence granted under the provisions of the Immigration Control Ordinance is in force, and the wife and children under twenty-one years of age of any such person, provided that such wife and children are also residing in Gibraltar under permit of residence;
- (d) a national of the United Kingdom covered by the Reciprocal Health Agreement between Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of Gibraltar; or
- (e) a national of the European Economic Community who is in possession of Form EIII issued by the competent authority of the country of the Community of which he is a national;

no charges are payable by patients who are contributors to the Group Practice Medical Scheme for in-patient treatment in General Wards. Out-patients pay a fee of 20p for each consultation other than the first consultation, which is free, provided they have been referred by a doctor under the Scheme. In the case of "entitled persons" other than those who are contributors to the Group Practice Medical Scheme or come under categories (d) and (e) above, the fee for accommodation in a General Ward continue to be related to family size and family income. The scale of fees payable ranges from NIL to 60p. Out-patients pay a fee of £1.00 for each consultation. No charge is made for medicines to any in-patient, but patients who are "entitled persons" but not registered members of the CPMS, who are accommodated in a general ward, and whose family income exceeds £35 per week, are required to pay additional charges for Operation, Anaesthetic, Accouchment, etc: "entitled persons" accommodated in a private ward, and "non-entitled persons" accommodated in either a general or private ward, irrespective of the amount of family income, have to pay additional charges for the services mentioned above.

Details of the respective fees are set out in the First, Second and Third Schedules to the Hospitals (Fees & Charges) Rules 1974.

On the 11 September 1977, Mr Derek Clardy arrived to take up the appointment of Consultant Ophthalmologist.

In addition to the services provided by the specialists mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, patients requiring refractions were referred to a local optician and a number of patients were also attended by the Charge Nurse in charge of the ward.

## VI DISTRICT MEDICAL SERVICE

The District Medical Service which forms a part of the Group Practice Medical Scheme, caters for patients in receipt of Supplementary Benefit. One of the GPMS doctors and a team of District Nurses run a daily out-patient clinic at the Health Centre and attend to domiciliary cases. Treatment, including hospital treatment, medicines and any surgical appliances that District patients may need, is provided free of charge. The District Medical Service also provides medical attention required by the residents of the John Mackintosh Homes for the aged. A total of 8,796 patients were seen at the Health Centre and 1,284 house calls were made.

## VII HOSPITALS

## (1) ST BERNARD'S HOSPITAL

St Bernard's Hospital with 192 beds, is essentially available for the resident community and the passengers and crews of ships and aircraft calling at Gibraltar, but patients from neighbouring districts are given facilities for treatment and hospitalisation. The Hospital provides a comprehensive out-patient service and in-patient treatment for acute medical and surgical cases. In addition, it has a Maternity Section and two wards for elderly sick patients.

The number of beds is made up as follows:

Napier Ward (Male Surgical)	24
Godley Ward (Female Surgical)	23
Lady Begg Ward (Geriatric)	18
Children's Ward	20
Maternity Block	17
John Ward (Male Medical)	30
Victoria Ward (Female Medical)	26
Intensive Therapy Unit	5
Private Corridor	17
Lewis Stagnetto Ward (Geriatric)	12
	<hr/>
	192
	<hr/>

The following table shows in-patient statistics for the year under review compared with 1977:

	1978	1977
Total daily bed counts	40401	42905
Average number of patients per day	110	117
Average length of stay (days)	12	13
Number of admissions	3371	3210
Number of deaths	175	171

The breakdown of operations was as follows:

	1978	1977
General Surgery	489	597
Gynaecology	268	340
Urology	181	158
Orthopaedic	179	181
Thoracic	18	16
ENT	97	142
Dental	64	42
Ophthalmic	55	32
Neurology	9	7

#### OUT PATIENT AND CASUALTY SERVICE

##### (a) CASUALTY SERVICE

The Out-patients Department provides a twenty-four hour Accident and Emergencies Service.

##### (b) CENTRAL STERILE SUPPLY DEPARTMENT

This department is responsible for the supply of sterile dressings and instruments etc to all wards and departments. It also acts as a backup to the sterile supplies handled by the Operating Theatre. A central syringe service is also run by this department.

##### (c) BLOOD COLLECTION SERVICE

A daily blood collection service is provided by a Staff Nurse specifically appointed for the purpose both for out patients and in-patients. Blood donors are also bhd by the staff of this department as well as by other nursing staff outside normal hours.

##### (d) DENTAL CLINIC

Dental Clinics continued to be held daily Mondays to Fridays, with the exception of Tuesday afternoons, for extractions only under gas or local anaesthesia. 1680 patients were seen at this clinic during the course of the year under review.

##### (a) OPHTHALMIC CLINIC

Clinics for diseases of the eye are held daily. In addition patients suffering from domestic or industrial accidents are also treated at this Clinic.

During the first eight months of the year under review, because we had been unsuccessful in engaging a replacement for Mr Suarez, who retired in 1977, the department was covered by the Ophthalmic Specialist appointed to the Royal Naval Hospital. In addition, and in order to make some inroad into the operating list, we once again engaged the services of the Consultant Ophthalmologists from the Gloucester Eye Hospital during the period July/August and the early part of September.

On the 11 September 1978, Mr Derek Clarke arrived to take up the appointment of Consultant Ophthalmologist.

In addition to the cover given by the specialists mentioned in the preceding paragraphs, patients requiring refractions were referred to a local optician and a number of patients were also attended by the Charge Nurse in charge of the unit.

Statistics for the year are appended hereunder:

### CLINICS

Patients seen by Royal Naval Consultant:	324
" " " Consultants from Gloucester Eye Hospital:	897
" " " Mr Clarke	1454 (311 School Children)
" " " Mr Benady	254
" " " Mr Borastero	2670
	<hr/>
	5599
	<hr/>

### OPERATIONS

Royal Naval Consultant	1
Visiting Consultants:	23
Mr Clarke	<u>31</u>
	55
	<hr/>

### (f) ENT CLINIC

A weekly Clinic was held throughout the year by Mr Toomey and these clinics were supplemented on three occasions in the year by those held by Mr H Shaw, the visiting Consultant. The number of patients seen at these clinics are given under the Out-patient statistics.

### PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT

The department continues to carry out in patient and out patient treatments as in previous years, patients being referred by both Health Centre and private practitioners.

Consultant orthopaedic and fracture clinics are held weekly in the department. Treatments given during the year were as follows:

	1978	1977
Total Number of in patients treated	3898	4619
Total Number of in patients	615	644
Total Number of out-patients treated	16023	18481
Total Number of out-patients	1855	2033

### CLINICS

The physiotherapy clinics are held weekly: one for patients attending for the first time, the other for 'old' patients. The number of patients attending these clinics were as follows:

	1978	1977
New Patients	705	705
Old Patients	885	885

Post-natal classes have been held by the Physiotherapist twice weekly in the Maternity Ward; an average of 15 patients have attended the ante-natal classes held every week in this Department.

The three monthly evening lectures given by the Obstetrician/Gynaecologist at the Nurses Training School have also been organised by the Department and have included a film-strip, discussion groups and coffee.

## X-RAY DEPARTMENT

The statistics for the year were as follows:

	1978	1977
Gastro Intestinal examinations	257	275
Renal examinations	179	155
Biliary examinations	286	279
Bronchography examinations	7	5
Hystero-Salpingograms	12	14
Sinograms	-	2
Cystograms	-	1
Tomographic investigations	27	36
Thoracic investigations	4600	4257
Extremities investigations	2244	2050
Abdominal investigations	757	811
Pregnancy investigations	65	74
Cranial investigations	628	666
Spinal investigations	1237	1019
Cases requiring x-ray control in the Operating Theatre	14	21
Cases requiring x-ray with mobile unit in wards	172	259
Cases x-rayed after normal working hours including week-ends and Bank Holidays	492	566
Number of patients examined	8636	8228
Private patients examined	2155	1612
Films used	17493	16157
Units	105110	102515

As can be seen, the volume of work produced by the staff of this Department has, as in previous years, risen.

Consultant Radiologists have carried out heavy work programmes on twelve visits this year. Some of the work done with these Radiologists was hindered as the Image Intensifier has of late not been working due to some faulty items in the camera and T.V. set - this is now in hand with G.E.C. technicians who hope to fly out and get this equipment fully operational.

Because of Maternity Leave the department was undermanned since June and this produced a lot of extra work for the remaining two Radiographers in order to clear the work daily.

A new small Mobile x-ray unit which will be very useful - particularly for theatre work - arrived in December and has already been used satisfactorily.

## SPEECH THERAPY REPORT

18th January to 31st December 1978

		CASELOAD	
		<u>18th January 1978</u>	<u>31st December 1978</u>
WAITING LIST		-	3
REGULAR TREATMENT		26 Children 4 Adults	18 Children 3 Adults
REVIEW		54 Children <u>5</u> Adults	41 Children <u>2</u> Adults
	TOTAL	<u>89</u>	<u>64</u>
NO OF <u>TREATMENT</u> SESSIONS		312 (including 50 at St Martin's School)	
NO OF <u>SCHOOL VISIT</u> "		21	
NO OF <u>OTHER VISIT</u> "		14	
NO OF <u>ADMINISTRATION</u> "		72 = (15 sessions spent on a Spanish course)	
TOTAL NUMBER OF SESSIONS		433	
NO OF <u>ATTENDANCES</u>	Children	838	
	Adults	240	
	Failed Appointments	154	
NO OF <u>NEW REFERRALS</u>	Children	47	
ADMITTED FOR TREATMENT	Adults	12	
NO OF <u>DISCHARGES</u>	Children	68	
	Adults	16	

These figures include MOD patients as agreement was reached early in 1978 for Service personnel to come under St Bernard's Speech Therapy Department as part of the increased collaboration with the Royal Naval Hospital.

The Department has moved twice in 1978 and is now in its permanent site. It is these moves and the unfortunate gap through no fault of the Medical Department between the previous speech therapist's departure and the arrival of the relief, which account for the large number of sessions required for administration during the year. An overlap between therapists is essential to preserve continuity and efficiency, and this is particularly so when the therapist comes from overseas.

## ST MARTIN'S SCHOOL

Sessions were held in St Martin's School for the first time, due to the number of children at the school who require speech therapy. It is hoped that the two sessions a week at the school can be increased when a second speech therapist starts in the summer.

## (2) KGV PSYCHIATRIC UNIT

KGV Hospital is the only Psychiatric Unit in Gibraltar. It has a capacity of 60 beds. Like St Bernard's Hospital it caters principally for the resident civilian community and passengers and members of crews of ships visiting Gibraltar. Patients from the armed forces and British Subjects residing in neighbouring countries are also admitted. Admission is subject to the same administrative conditions as applied at St Bernard's.

The Occupational Therapy Department forms an integral part of the Unit. Although it provides occupational and diversional therapy for patients in the other hospital who may require it, the bulk of its work is concerned with patients from the Psychiatric Unit, some 20 to 30 of whom attend the Department twice daily. More details of this Department are given below.

An out-patient clinic is held every Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, with the Superintendent, Dr C M Montegriffo in attendance, who also attends to the in-patients in the Unit every morning, and answers emergency calls. Dr Granville-Grossman, the Consultant Psychiatrist from the United Kingdom visited the hospital at 3 monthly intervals when he examined in-patients. Out-patients clinics were also held in consultation with the Superintendent.

A welfare and district service is very efficiently run by the Mental Welfare Officer, whose office is housed at the Health Centre. His duties consist of attending all clinics, to be on call at all hours of the day and night when his services are required by any doctor, Police or relatives of discharged patients. He visits patients at their homes and sees them at his office and at their places of work. Working in conjunction with the Superintendent he has been able to find jobs and accommodation for patients during the course of the year. Due to his work a large proportion of discharged and out-patients are able to live a compatible life with the community. The work of the Mental Welfare Officer has proved very profitable in the field of Welfare and District Service and is reaping very rewarding results.

## RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Patients attended the Cinema, social functions at the G.Y.A. complex and were taken on outings accompanied by members of the staff. During the summer they were taken to the beach, for walks around the Alameda Gardens and for rides around Gibraltar. Annual parties were given on St Joseph's Day and on Christmas Day. Patients were also taken on a picnic on the upper rock organised by the League of Hospital Friends. Sporting activities included table tennis, darts, basket ball and volley ball. The equipment was kindly donated by the G.Y.A.

As in previous years, members of the Jewish Hospital Committee supplied cakes for high teas and distributed sweets and also cigarettes to all the patients on all their Feast Days. Each patient received a Christmas present from the Red Cross, one each from the League of Hospital Friends and from the Matron at the Christmas Party. Soft drinks and cigarettes were also supplied by members of the League of Hospital Friends at parties organised by them.

On several occasions during the year a local firm supplied quantities of cigarettes for the patients. They also supplied soft drinks at Christmas.

## LEAGUE OF HOSPITAL FRIENDS

This organisation has given great satisfaction to both patients and the staff with their help and support during the course of the year. To give details of all their work and activities would be an endless task. Their gifts included venetian blinds, curtains, knee rugs etc. Ice cream is supplied to the Hospital every fortnight.

A member of the League visited the Unit every week and with the help of youngsters of both sexes from the Legion of Mary distributed sweets and cigarettes to all the patients.



The Gibraltar Youth Association presented the patients with a stereo three-in-one music centre as well as the sports equipment mentioned earlier.

Members of the Cursillo also visited the unit on a weekly basis distributing sweets, biscuits and cigarettes to the patients.

Various other organisations also presented the patients with gifts and some donated money for the use of the unit.

The patients were entertained to various Christmas Parties, which were organised by the Hospital, members of the Cursillo, Rotary Club and the League of Hospital Friends.

The Department is greatly indebted to all its benefactors, who presented the Hospital with gifts in cash and in kind and to those who gave their services free to organize recreational activities for the patients.

#### IN PATIENTS STATISTICS

The following table shows the in-patients statistics for the year under review:

Average number of patients per day	50
Number of admissions during the year	114
Number of discharges	104
Number of deaths	4

Thirteen patients had courses of electro-convulsive therapy receiving a total of 80 shocks in all.

#### DISEASES TREATED

Subnormality	16
Schizophrenia	49
Manic Depressive Illness	14
Mania	6
Psychotic Depressive	19
Alcoholism	12
Organic(Senile) Dementia	14
Drug related illness	8
Epilepsy	5
Others	9

The number of specified diseases treated varied with the admissions and discharges during the year.

#### OUT PATIENTS STATISTICS

The total number of attendances at the out-patients clinic in the Unit was nine hundred and six.

Four patients had courses of electro-convulsive therapy receiving a total of 24 shocks in all.

#### OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY DEPARTMENT

As previously stated between 20 to 30 patients attend this Department daily. Under the supervision of Miss B Bruzon, who is assisted by Mrs C. Garcia, they perform many types of work. These consist mainly of cane work, tapestry, making of articles

water colour painting, drawing, painting, picture framing etc. This work is done in the mornings, mostly by the male patients. The female patients are engaged in sewing, knitting etc. In the afternoons they usually tackle the unfinished jobs from the morning and finish the day playing games. The patients attend from 9a.m. to 12 midday and from 1 to 5p.m. daily from Monday to Friday every week except on Public Holiday

## OUT PATIENT STATISTICS

Clinic	Days Held	Attending Doctor	Number of Attendances	
			1978	1977
Fracture & Orthopaedic Clinic	Monday & Tuesday afternoons	Surg Capt EH Murchison	2169	2471
Ear, Nose & Throat	Wednesday afternoon	Mr H Shaw Mr D J Toomey	838	945
Diabetic	Tuesday afternoons	Dr A Kassam	265	376
Special Clinic	Monday mornings Tuesday afternoons	Dr A Kassam	461	449
Ante Natal Booking	Wednesday mornings	-	336	369
Gynaecological Clinic	Monday mornings Tuesday mornings	Mr Doherty	1202	1250
Ophthalmic Clinic	Monday mornings to Friday Mornings	(Mr Joyce) (Mr Walters) (Miss Magauran)	2356	2659
Medical Boards	Friday mornings (Service) (Insurance)	- -	12 38	20 40
Employment Test	Friday afternoons		589	698
General Surgical	Friday mornings Monday afternoons	Mr D J Toomey	2111	2383
Special Preparatory	Thursday afternoons	Dr J J Giraldi	304	322
Medical Clinic	Wednesday mornings	Dr J J Giraldi	309	384
Dental Clinic	Monday to Friday morning & afternoon	Mr J J Cochrane	1680	1318
Dental Clinic	Monday to Friday mornings (Health Centre)	Mr C Langdon		334
Morning Clinic	Monday to Saturday mornings	General Doctor		679



