

**Report of the Commission of Public Health to the Minister of Public Health /
Department of Public Health, Victoria.**

Contributors

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VICTORIA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

THIRTYNINTH REPORT
of the
COMMISSION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
to the
MINISTER OF HEALTH.



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THIRTYNINTH REPORT OF THE
COMMISSION OF PUBLIC HEALTH - 1960 - 1961.

To the Honorable Ronald Mack, M.L.C.

Sir,

We have the honour to submit, in accordance with Section 23(3) of the Health Act, 1958, our report for the year ended 30th June, 1961.

The Commission continues to be concerned with the prevalence of certain of the infectious diseases, and, in particular, attention is directed to infective hepatitis which has shown the second highest prevalence since this disease was first made notifiable in 1952. Mention was made in last year's report of claims made that the virus had been isolated but such reports have not yet been confirmed. Recent information on this subject from America appears hopeful that the causal virus will be isolated and there then is a possibility of producing an efficient vaccine. In the meantime, the Commission must re-emphasize that to control the spread of this disease, attention must be paid to personal hygiene with particular reference to sanitation in schools and, in this regard, notes with satisfaction the decision of the Government of Victoria to proceed with septic sewerage in all State Schools.

The Commission desires to again emphasize the need for continued immunization against those diseases for which immunizing materials are available and wishes to record its appreciation of the co-operation of municipalities throughout the whole State in conducting immunization campaigns.

The position today in regard to diseases such as diphtheria and poliomyelitis must be largely attributed to the success of the immunization campaigns throughout the State and represents a considerable saving in life and hospital costs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infective Hepatitis:

In 1960, 2,385 cases were notified and up to 30th June, 1961, a further 1,737 cases were reported.

Notifications each year of the last five years and the first

INTERIM REPORT OF THE
COMMISSION OF ENQUIRY - 1950 - 1951

To the Honorable Ronald Mack, M.L.C.

Sir,

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd of the month of May, 1950, and in reply to inform you that the report for the year ended

30th June, 1951.

The Commission continues to be concerned with the prevalence of certain of the infectious diseases, and, in particular, attention is directed to infectious hepatitis which has shown the second high-est prevalence since this disease was first made notifiable in 1947. Mention was made in last year's report of claims made that the virus had been isolated but such reports have not yet been confirmed. Recent information on this subject from various reports suggests that the virus will be isolated and there then is a possibility of producing an effective vaccine. In the meantime, the Commission must emphasize that to control the spread of this disease, attention must be paid to personal hygiene with particular reference to sanitation in schools and, in this regard, notes with satisfaction the decision of the Government of Victoria to proceed with steps necessary in all State schools.

The Commission desires to again emphasize the need for continued investigation against those diseases for which existing materials are available and wishes to record its appreciation of the co-operation of municipalities throughout the State in conducting immunization campaigns.

The position today in regard to diseases such as diphtheria and poliomyelitis must be largely attributed to the success of the immunization campaigns throughout the State and represents a considerable saving in life and hospital costs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Infectious Hepatitis

In 1950, 2,352 cases were notified and up to 30th June, 1951, a further 1,757 cases were reported.

Notifications each year of the last five years and the first

half of 1961 were as follows:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Number of Cases.</u>
1956	3056
1957	1384
1958	1053
1959	1452
1960	2385
1961 (six months.)	1737

POLIOMYELITIS.

Incidence:-

In the Commission's report for the year 1959/60, reference was made to the virtual absence of poliomyelitis during the first half of 1960. However, there was a significant rise in incidence towards the latter part of the year when a total of 22 cases was reported during the period July to December, 1960. A further 58 cases were notified during the first half of 1961 making a total of 80 cases including three deaths over the period under review. At first, the disease was confined to the metropolitan area, but, during the early months of 1961, became endemic throughout the State and no particular area had a preponderance of cases; 40 cases were in the metropolitan area and 40 cases in the country. Poliomyelitis Type III virus was isolated from 53 of these cases and Type I from two cases. The great majority of cases notified occurred in the unvaccinated.

The following table will enable comparison of the number of cases reported over the past five years:

1956	252
1957	12
1958	60
1959	30
1960	22
For 6 months to 30th June, 1961	58

It will be observed that there has been a dramatic fall in cases since 1956, in the latter half of which year Salk vaccination commenced.

After Care:

There are 1,705 patients under treatment at the present time

half of 1961 were as follows:-

Year.	Number of Cases.
1956	205
1957	150
1958	100
1959	100
1960	100
1961 (six months)	175

DISCUSSION

Introduction:-

In the Commission's report for the year 1955/56, reference was made to the virtual absence of poliomyelitis during the first half of 1956. However, there was a significant rise in incidence towards the latter part of the year when a total of 12 cases were reported during the period July to December, 1956. A further 55 cases were notified during the first half of 1961 making a total of 67 cases including three deaths over the period under review. At first, the disease was confined to the metropolitan area, but during the early months of 1961, sporadic cases occurred throughout the State and no particular area had a preponderance of cases. In 1956 some 100 poliomyelitis cases and 10 cases in the country. Poliomyelitis Type III virus was isolated from 25 of these cases and Type I from two cases. The great majority of cases notified occurred in the metropolitan area.

The following table will enable comparison of the number

of cases reported over the past five years:

1956	205
1957	150
1958	100
1959	100
1960	100
For 6 months to 30th June, 1961	175

It will be observed that there has been a dramatic fall in cases since 1956, in the latter half of which year 54th vaccination commenced.

After Cases:

There are 1,705 poliomyelitis cases reported at the present time

and this still includes many who contracted the disease during epidemic years.

A constant and increasing number of patients suffering from Multiple Sclerosis and other chronic neurological diseases are being referred for physiotherapy and medical attention.

During the period under review, 2,313 consultations were made at 75 country clinics as compared with the 1955/56 figures of 1,698 consultations at 85 country clinics.

There are, at present, twenty-one physiotherapists and nine physiotherapy assistants on the staff of this Division who visit patients in country and metropolitan areas between clinics.

During the year, there were 373 admissions to the Lady Dugan Red Cross Home for periods of up to six weeks for treatment, and, in some cases, home relief. Admission to this Home is confined to females of all ages and male patients up to six years of age.

In addition, there were 1,000 out-patient treatments carried out during the past twelve months at the above home.

During the year, five wheelchairs were purchased by the Department; these are on temporary loan to patients.

Salk Vaccine:

Considerable apprehension arose owing to the breakdown in the supply of Salk Vaccine which occurred in December 1960, and no further supplies have been available for the remainder of the year under review. Prior to this breakdown in supply, the vaccination status of the Victorian community was determined at:

0-14 years	72.11%
14-44 years	12.73%

Concern is expressed at the low vaccination status of the adult population and of the failure of this section of the community to take advantage of facilities offered for immunization.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The year 1960 showed very little change regarding the tuberculosis situation in Victoria as indicated in the accepted methods of control and the statistics for the year. There were 863 cases of tuberculosis in all forms notified for the year

and this still included many who contracted the disease during epidemic years.

A constant and increasing number of patients suffering from Multiple Sclerosis and other chronic neurological diseases are being referred for physiotherapy and medical attention during the period under review, 3,313 consultations were made at 75 country clinics as compared with the 1955/56 figures of 1,698 consultations at 35 country clinics.

There are, at present, twenty-one physiotherapists and nine physiotherapy assistants on the staff of this Division who visit patients in country and metropolitan areas between clinics. During the year, there were 275 admissions to the Lady Dugan Red Cross Home for periods of up to six weeks for treatment, and, in some cases, home relief. Admission to this Home is confined to females of the age group 16-65 years.

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Considerable expenditure was made during the year in the supply of Bulk Vaccines which occurred in December 1960, and no further supplies have been available for the remainder of the year under review. Prior to this expenditure on supply, the vaccination status of the Victorian community was determined as follows:

0-14 years	73.3%
15-64 years	12.7%

Concern is expressed at the low vaccination status of the adult population and of the failure of this section of the community to take advantage of facilities offered for vaccination.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The year 1960 showed very little change regarding the tuberculosis situation in Victoria as indicated in the accepted 863 cases of tuberculosis in all forms notified for the year

compared with 862 for 1959 giving an overall rate of 29.50 per 100,000 compared with 30.32 per 100,000 in 1959.

A review of the notifications over the past ten years shows a steady decline in the incidence for people aged 15 to 24 years, the figures for 1951-52 being over 200 new cases notified and in the last three years less than 100 cases for each year. The reason for this is not known but it is interesting to note that this is the age group which has been offered prophylactic B.C.G. vaccination before leaving school over the last ten years.

Year	Population	Notifications	Morbidity rate per 100,000	Deaths	Mortality rate per 100,000
1951	2,299,538	1,006	44.76	407	17.70
1952	2,366,719	1,013	42.81	346	14.61
1953	2,416,035	1,121	46.39	279	11.55
1954	2,480,877	1,143	46.09	245	9.87
1955	2,555,021	974	38.12	222	8.69
1956	2,632,623	885	33.62	194	7.37
1957	2,700,635	813	30.11	145	5.37
1958	2,770,919	776	27.65	145	5.23
1959	2,842,903	862	30.32	153	5.38
1960	2,925,533	863	29.50	138	4.7

Notifications included 95 cases of non pulmonary forms of tuberculosis. This relatively high figure gives an indication of the ready acceptance by private medical practitioners of services provided by the State two years ago for these forms of tuberculosis.

Year	Pulmonary T.B.		Non-Pulmonary T.B.	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Notification of				
New Cases	485	283	40	55
Notification of deaths	97	28	8	5

There were 138 people reported to have died of Tuberculosis in some form, giving a rate of 4.7 per 100,000 deaths compared with 153 deaths at a rate of 5.3 per 100,000 for 1959. An analysis of these deaths shows that the average age at death was a little over 60 years and that less than 40% of these people actually died of active tuberculosis.

Tuberculosis case finding continued along established lines

compared with 1951 giving an overall rate of 29.5% per 100,000 compared with 30.7% per 100,000 in 1951.

A review of the notifications over the past ten years shows a steady decline in the incidence for people aged 15 to 24 years, the figures for 1951-52 being over 500 per 100,000 notified and in the last three years less than 100 cases per 100,000. The reason for this is not known but it is interesting to note that in the age group which has been affected proportionally 2.5%, vaccination before leaving school over the last ten years.

Year	Population	Notifications per 100,000	Notification rate per 100,000	Notification rate per 100,000
1951	4,250,000	30.7	30.7	30.7
1952	4,250,000	29.5	29.5	29.5
1953	4,250,000	28.3	28.3	28.3
1954	4,250,000	27.1	27.1	27.1
1955	4,250,000	25.9	25.9	25.9
1956	4,250,000	24.7	24.7	24.7
1957	4,250,000	23.5	23.5	23.5
1958	4,250,000	22.3	22.3	22.3
1959	4,250,000	21.1	21.1	21.1
1960	4,250,000	19.9	19.9	19.9
1961	4,250,000	18.7	18.7	18.7
1962	4,250,000	17.5	17.5	17.5
1963	4,250,000	16.3	16.3	16.3
1964	4,250,000	15.1	15.1	15.1
1965	4,250,000	13.9	13.9	13.9
1966	4,250,000	12.7	12.7	12.7
1967	4,250,000	11.5	11.5	11.5
1968	4,250,000	10.3	10.3	10.3
1969	4,250,000	9.1	9.1	9.1
1970	4,250,000	7.9	7.9	7.9

Notifications for 1971 show a decline of 7.9% from the 1970 level of 10.3% per 100,000. This is similar to the decline in notifications of the past ten years and the overall percentage of notification provided by the State has been 100% for these years of notification.

Year	Population	Notifications per 100,000	Notification rate per 100,000	Notification rate per 100,000
1971	4,250,000	7.9	7.9	7.9
1972	4,250,000	6.7	6.7	6.7
1973	4,250,000	5.5	5.5	5.5
1974	4,250,000	4.3	4.3	4.3
1975	4,250,000	3.1	3.1	3.1
1976	4,250,000	1.9	1.9	1.9
1977	4,250,000	0.7	0.7	0.7
1978	4,250,000	0.5	0.5	0.5
1979	4,250,000	0.3	0.3	0.3
1980	4,250,000	0.1	0.1	0.1

There were 155 people reported as being dead of Tuberculosis in 1970, giving a rate of 3.7 per 100,000 people compared with 157 deaths at a rate of 3.8 per 100,000 for 1969. In 1970 of these deaths about 100 were aged 15 years and over and 55 were under 15 years and less than 10% of these people were aged over 60 years and less than 10% of these people were aged under 15 years.

Tuberculosis cases falling on children aged 15 years and under

mass x-ray surveys, tuberculin testing of contacts of notified cases and in schools, as well as routine health, hospital and practitioner services throughout the State.

During 1960, 393,498 persons attended the services provided by the Division of Mass X-ray Surveys of whom 194 were referred for investigation as having active or possibly active tuberculosis, 1,188 were regarded as having healed or quiescent tuberculosis and 1,852 had abnormalities that were considered non-tuberculous.

It must be emphasised that a study of these cases shows a high rate of tuberculosis in people aged over 40 years and particularly males in the 55 to 60 year age group. It is also noted that attendance for chest x-rays in this group is very disappointing. A summary of some groups of interest is as follows:-

Occupation or Group	Number X-Rayed	Proved or Possibly Active Tuberculosis.
Hairdressers	3,704	11
Pensioners	1,693	9
Hotel Trades	1,817	15
Food Handlers	-	8
Ante Natal	8,398	1

The survey of hairdressers commenced in 1959 was completed during the year and 6,540 hairdressers were invited by letter to have an X-ray; 3,704 attended of whom 11 had active or possibly active tuberculosis. There are still 2,742 hairdressers of whom the Department has no record of attending for X-ray.

During the year a survey for tuberculosis of the Western District Group of Country Roads Board employees was undertaken. This resulted in the discovery of 6 cases of active tuberculosis all of whom have responded well to treatment. It is planned to extend this field of investigation to other areas.

It is disappointing that in the metropolitan area less than 25% of the population considered eligible for mass x-ray surveys attended for x-ray.

In the year 1960, admissions to sanatoria and chalets and approved tuberculosis beds at hospitals number 1,176 (Males 694, females 482) of whom 203 were migrants). These figures include 19 males and 25 females treated for non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

The average duration of hospitalization was as follows:-

Gresswell Sanatorium.....Males.....143 days

Heatherton Sanatorium.....(Males.....221 days
(Females.....182 days

Austin Hospital, Thoracic Unit Males and
Females..... 80 days

Country Chalets..... Males and

Females.....132 days.

A ward of 22 beds at the Heatherton Sanatorium continued to be available to the Prince Henry's Hospital for the accommodation of female convalescent patients.

Treatment has continued along lines established in recent years. Prolonged rest in bed is now receiving much less emphasis than previously. Streptomycin, Para-aminosalicylic acid and Isoniazid, used in varying combinations, are still the drugs of choice, and this drug treatment is continued for one or two years after the patients are discharged from sanatorium. Where resistance to these drugs has become established without control of the disease, the more recently developed but less effective drugs are being employed.

This regime has produced better results and there is now a very low relapse rate amongst patients who co-operate in their treatment.

Tuberculosis Allowances being paid at the 31st December, 1960 numbered 444, compared with 504 at the end of 1959 and 2,049 in February, 1952.

With a more satisfactory means of treatment of tuberculosis at our disposal the role of the clinic in supervision of patients and their contacts is receiving more emphasis in tuberculosis control. This has resulted in greater demands for the services provided throughout the State. There has also been an extension of the use of isoniazid prophylactic therapy amongst contacts and patients who have disease which is thought to be possibly unstable. There has also been an increased demand from the public for B.C.G. vaccination.

The average duration of hospitalization was as follows:-

Grasswell Sanatorium.....	145 days
Hasterton Sanatorium.....	121 days
(Hasterton Sanatorium).....	121 days
County Hospital, Thirsk and Hasterton.....	80 days
County Hospital, Thirsk and Hasterton.....	132 days

A ward of 12 beds at the Hasterton Sanatorium devoted to be available to the Thirsk and Hasterton Sanatorium for the accommodation of female convalescent patients.

The ward was converted along lines established in recent years. Prolonged rest in bed is now receiving much more emphasis than previously. Respiratory, para-arterioleptic and sedative, used in varying combinations, are still the drugs of choice, and this drug the ward is continued for one or two years after the patients are discharged from hospital. There resistance to these drugs has become established without control of the disease, the more recently developed but less effective drugs are being employed.

This regime has produced better results and there is now a very low relapse rate amongst patients who are treated in their treatment.

Tuberculosis Allowances being paid at the 1st December, 1960 numbered 141, compared with 204 at the end of 1959 and 210 in February, 1952.

With a more satisfactory means of treatment of tuberculosis at our disposal the role of the clinic in supervision of patients and their contacts is receiving more emphasis in tuberculosis control. This has resulted in greater demands for the services provided throughout the State. There has also been an extension of the use of isoniazid prophylaxis therapy amongst contacts and patients who have disease which is thought to be possibly curable. There has also been an increased demand from the public for F.C.C. vaccination.

	Attendances	Number of X-rays	Mantoux tested	B.C.G. Vaccinat- ed.
Central Chest Clinic	41,042	31,624	5,642	2,320
Prahran Chest Clinic	8,240	6,700	337	226
Bendigo Chest Clinic	3,491	1,772	736	165
Ballarat Chest Clinic	2,359	840	120	67
Geelong Chest Clinic	3,249	3,170	496	41

Evening appointments to attend clinics at the bureaux are in increasing demand and provide suitable times for a large number of working people.

Country services with chalets attached to 10 base hospitals continue to give good service as in previous years. The Clinics held at the Community and District Hospitals in the Latrobe Valley and Wonthaggi have shown increased activity and resulted in the diagnosis of a number of people with active tuberculosis. The cooperation of the medical practitioners in these areas is most encouraging.

Training of 18 Nursing Aides (Tuberculosis) continued at the Sanatoria and 9 trained nurses completed the post graduate course in tuberculosis nursing during the year.

RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS.

Whooping cough was particularly prevalent during the first half of 1961 and, in addition, isolations of several viruses causing respiratory symptoms have been reported from the Epidemiological Research Unit at Fairfield Hospital.

Virus B Influenza:

This virus was present in parts of the Metropolitan area over a period of three months. Although the investigations are not complete, there is some evidence to indicate that the large majority of cases occurred in children who had not received the polyvalent influenza vaccine.

Syncytial Virus:

This virus causes bronchiolitis in very young children - 75% were under 12 months of age and all were under 5 years, so it

is essentially an infantile disease. Research workers at Fairfield Hospital have given several papers on this subject at scientific meetings and will shortly publish a report on this work.

DIPHTHERIA.

During 1960 there were only 8 cases of this disease and not one case reported for the whole State during the period January to June 1961.

Twenty years ago there were 2,704 cases of diphtheria including an appreciable number of deaths. The figure for 1931 was 7,322 cases.

TYPHOID FEVER.

This disease is now uncommon but some Mental Hospitals still hold a number of old typhoid carriers who are liable to infect new admissions.

Following the discovery of two new cases in Ballarat Mental Hospital, an extensive investigation was undertaken by the District Health Officer in conjunction with the Public Health Laboratory, in order to locate unknown typhoid carriers in the institution.

Over 500 specimens were examined and 14 carriers were isolated. These were either transferred to another hospital where there were better facilities for isolation or subjected to surgical treatment.

ANTHRAX.

The Commission's report for 1960 shows three cases of this infection associated with the handling of goat hair imported from Pakistan. Subsequent investigations revealed that one patient had been engaged carting goods from a berth at Victoria Dock where goat hair had been unloaded, and the other two patients became infected while handling a consignment of hair under quarantine for sterilization. The sterilization process used is considered effective but there is some risk to employees who come in contact with the raw product. This risk has been reduced by the use of a private Gamma Radiation sterilization plant installed at Dandenong. Another safeguard for people who handle goat hair and other imported animal products is the use of an anthrax vaccine. A limited quantity of this material has been made available to the Public Health Laboratory.

is essentially an infectious disease. However, reports at Fair-
field Hospital have given several papers on this subject as
epidemic meningitis with shortly followed a report on this work.

DISCUSSION

During 1930 there were only 5 cases of this disease and not
one case reported for the whole State during the period January to
June 1931.

Twenty years ago there were 1,700 cases of diphtheria in New-
York and an approximate number of deaths. The figure for 1931 was 7,300
cases.

HYPOPHARYNGEAL

This disease is now uncommon but some recent reports with
hold a number of old records certainly are not likely to reflect the
actualities.

Following the discovery of the new cases in Fairfield Hospital
Hospital, an extensive investigation was conducted by the District
Health Officer in connection with the Public Health Laboratory, in
order to locate other possible sources in the vicinity.

Over 500 specimens were examined and 12 patients were found
ed. These were either transferred to another hospital where they
were better facilities for treatment or subjected to surgical treat-
ment.

CONCLUSIONS

The Committee's report for 1930 shows three cases of this
infection associated with the handling of goat hair imported from
England. Subsequent investigation revealed that one patient had
been exposed during 1929 to a goat at Victoria Beach where goat
hair had been unloaded, and the other two patients became infected
while handling a consignment of hair under quarantine for export-
ation. The sterilization process used in commercial practice
but there is some risk to exposures who come in contact with the
raw product. This risk has been reduced by the use of a suitable
sterilizing sterilization agent installed at the factory. However
although the people who handle goat hair and other imported animal
products in the case of an infected person. A limited number of
material has been made available to the Public Health Laboratory.

IMMUNIZATION.

Inoculation material used in major municipal campaigns is made available free of charge each year by the Commonwealth Government. This material is distributed by the Department of Health to municipal councils and smaller quantities are used directly by Departmental medical officers.

Salk Vaccine and Quadruple Antigen are now available to Public Hospitals and private medical practitioners.

B.C.G. Vaccine for protection against Tuberculosis is used extensively by the B.C.G. Section of the Tuberculosis Branch.

Influenza Vaccine:

The Consultative Council on Influenza advised that there was a strong possibility of an epidemic of Asian influenza during the winter of 1961, and recommended that children aged from six months to four years should be protected by immunization. The Commission supported this recommendation to the Honourable the Minister and the Government made funds available to purchase the vaccine which was specially designed for use with young children. Most Municipal Councils cooperated in this campaign and some 317,000 doses of polyvalent vaccine were distributed.

Victoria was the only State to conduct such a campaign. The expected invasion of the Asian influenza did not eventuate but another strain, Type B, was found to be present. The polyvalent vaccine used would have provided a measure of protection against this type and would have assisted in limiting the spread of the disease.

Salk Vaccine:

Due to difficulties in production at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, supplies of Salk vaccine have not been available since December, 1960.

It is expected that the first batch of the Laboratories' vaccine will be released shortly and that immunisation campaigns will be under way again during the latter half of 1961.

IMMUNIZATION

Immunization material used in major municipal campaigns is made available free of charge each year by the Commonwealth Department of Health. This material is distributed by the Department of Health to municipal health departments and health officers and used directly by Department medical officers.

Smallpox and diphtheria antigens are now available to Public Health and private medical practitioners. B.C.G. Vaccine for protection against tuberculosis is used extensively by the B.C.G. Section of the Tuberculosis Branch.

Influenza Vaccine:

The Consultative Council on Influenza advised that there was a strong possibility of an epidemic of Asian Influenza during the winter of 1961, and recommended that children aged three and under to four years should be protected by immunization. The Commission reported this recommendation to the Honorable the Minister and the Government made funds available to purchase the vaccine which was specifically designed for use with young children. Four hundred thousand doses were ordered in this campaign and some 250,000 doses of polyvalent vaccine were distributed.

Victoria was the only State to conduct such a campaign. The expected invasion of the Asian Influenza did not materialize but another strain, Type B, was found to be present. The polyvalent vaccine had been provided a measure of protection against this type and would have assisted in limiting the spread of the disease.

Saliv Vaccine:

Due to difficulties in production at the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, supplies of Saliv Vaccine have not been available since December, 1960.

It is expected that the first batch of the Laboratories vaccine will be released shortly and that immunization campaigns will be under way again during the latter half of 1961.

Quadruple Antigen:

The problems associated with the curtailment of Salk Vaccine were to some extent alleviated by the introduction of Quadruple Antigen in March, 1961.

Administration of the mixed antigen is limited to children under two years of age, but it has enabled immunisation of a proportion of infants who would otherwise have increased the numbers of those requiring Salk.

Distribution of Immunising Material:

The total quantity distributed during 1960-61 is as follows, figures for the corresponding period 1959-60 are shown for comparison:

<u>Agent.</u>	<u>Doses</u> <u>1959-60</u>	<u>Doses</u> <u>1960-61</u>	<u>Protection</u> <u>Provided.</u>
Salk Vaccine	816862	375539	Poliomyelitis (supplies interrupted)
Quad. Antigen	Not Available	43711	(Polio, Pertussis, { Diphtheria and { Tetanus.
Triple Antigen	173638	152265	(Pertussis, Diphtheria { and Tetanus.
C.D.T.	93766	74946	(Diphtheria and { Tetanus
P.T.A.P.	8276	5040	Diphtheria
P.T.T.	51276	37466	Tetanus
Small Pox Vaccine	21755	22199	Small pox.
Tuberculin	46760	44739	Tuberculosis
B.C.G. Vaccine	38550	35431	
Influenza Vaccine		317000	Influenza. Special Product.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Clinic has now completed its first full year in new premises in Gertrude Street, Fitzroy. It was thought at one time that the transfer to a less central site might effect the number of attendances, but there has been only a slight drop in the number of

Concurrent Activities

The problem associated with the curtailment of Bulk Vaccine was to some extent alleviated by the introduction of Concurrent Activities in March, 1961.

Administration of the mixed antigen is limited to children under two years of age, but it has enabled administration of a proportion of infants who would otherwise have increased the number of those requiring Bulk.

Distribution of Immunisation Material

The total quantity distributed during 1960-61 is as follows, figured for the corresponding period 1957-60 are shown for comparison:

Activity	1957-60	1960-61	Proportion Provided
Bulk Vaccine	81588	37538	Poliovaccines (supplies interrupted)
Quadrant Antigen	Not available	8711	Polio, Tetanus, Diphtheria and Typhus
Triple Antigen	17638	12288	Tetanus, Diphtheria and Typhus
C.T.T.	23788	7888	Diphtheria and Tetanus
P.T.A.P.	8878	2080	Diphtheria
P.T.T.	21278	3788	Tetanus
Small Pox Vaccine	21758	22198	Small Pox
Tuberculin	16780	6478	Tuberculin
M.C.G. Vaccine	38580	38421	
Influenza Vaccine		21700	Influenza Special Product

Vaccination Statistics

The Office has now completed its first full year in new premises in Gertrude Street, Histon. It was thought at one time that the transfer to a new central site might affect the number of attendances, but there has been only a slight drop in the number of

males seeking attention (2434 as against 2792 in 1959-60) and practically none with the females (502 compared to 515).

Notifications:

The total notifications of venereal disease have dropped since last year.

Figures for the two years are as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Syphilis</u>	<u>Gonorrhoea</u>
1959-60	225	910
1960-61	137	976

Treatment:

There has been no major change in treatment methods during the year, but a new type of penicillin incorporating an anti-histamine has aided in the continuance of treatment of syphilitic patients who might be exhibiting some allergy to penicillin.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY.

Diphtheria:

There was only one positive isolation of a virulent strain of Diphtheria bacillus during the year: It was grown from a child contact of a case in Fairfield Hospital, and was an un-typable strain of Corynebacterium mitis. This follows the first year in which not a single virulent strain was encountered.

Salmonella:

The Salmonella isolations fell from 61 in 1959 to 46, and 125 cultures were typed for other laboratories against 195, as a study of serotypes covering the past four years shows that the general pattern remains much the same with Salm. typhi-murium by far the commonest followed by Salm. bovis-morbificans and Salm. derby. There were 4 strains of Salm. cambridge, 2 of Salm. oranienburg and Salm. muenchen, and one each of Salm. warregul and Salm. waycross which did not appear in the previous year.

The only strain of Salm. paratyphi B was phage type Beccles from Tasmania: inquiry revealed no connection with a previous case of this type in 1959 from Hobart.

which showed a reaction (2/2) as against 2/25 in 1955-56) and practically none with the females (50% compared to 2/2).

Notifiable:

The total notification of venereal disease have dropped since last year.

Figures for the two years are as follows:

Year	Gonorrhoea	Syphilis
1955-56	252	270
1956-57	127	270

Treatment:

There has been no major change in treatment methods during the year, but a new type of penicillin incorporating an anti-bacterial has aided in the treatment of gonorrhoea. Patients who might be exhibiting some allergy to penicillin.

Public Health Laboratory

Diagnosis:

There was only one positive isolation of a venereal strain of *Chlamydia trachomatis* during the year. It was given from a child contact of a case in the hospital, and was an atypical strain of *Chlamydia trachomatis*. This follows the first year in which no atypical venereal strain was encountered.

Isolation:

The *Chlamydia trachomatis* fell from 51 in 1955 to 25, and 255 cultures were typed for other laboratory against 195, as a study of serotypes covering the past four years shows that the general pattern remains much the same with *Chlamydia trachomatis* for the commonest followed by *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Chlamydia trachomatis*. There were 2 strains of *Chlamydia trachomatis*, 2 of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Chlamydia trachomatis*, and one each of *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Chlamydia trachomatis* which did not appear in the previous year. The only strain of *Chlamydia trachomatis* was from type B from *Chlamydia trachomatis*; typing revealed no connection with a previous case of this type in 1955 from *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

Typhoid:

Fourteen new infections were encountered, five from cases of typhoid fever and nine from carriers.

Following the detection of a case who had been infected in Ballarat Mental Hospital where there were already five known carriers in a separate isolation unit, a search was made in the female ward from which this patient came. Among the 140 inmates of this ward, 9 previously unknown carriers were detected. The search for carriers was extended to certain other wards and the staff of the Institution, so that in all 496 patients were screened, but no further carriers were found. Although a total of 9 patients showed a Vi antibody reading in excess of 1/10, repeated faecal and urine cultures on these were negative.

In addition, cultures of Salm.typhi from 4 sporadic cases in Victoria were typed during the year.

On the advice of the Director of the International Enteric Reference Laboratory in London, 6 cultures previously classed as type 38 were reclassified as type 46, which appears to be endemic on the Iberian Peninsula.

Shigella:

The number of the various Shigella species isolated shows an increase in Sh.sonnei infections for which smouldering institutional outbreaks at the Children's Welfare Department, the Foundling Home and St. Joseph's Nursery were responsible. The control of bowel infections in places where small children live a communal life is notoriously difficult, and the Laboratory has given as much assistance as possible to the staffs of these institutions in their attempts to solve this problem, though unfortunately complete success cannot be claimed.

General:

In association with an officer of the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission a number of samples of effluent from a new patent chemical water closet were examined to determine whether this machine would be suitable for use on vessels on inland reservoirs; it was found that the claims of the manufacturer,

Results:

Fourteen patients were examined, five from cases of typhoid fever and nine from others.

Following the detection of a case who had been infected in

England, Hospital records were already five known patients in a separate hospital unit, a search was made in the records of this unit, 5 patients were detected. The search for patients was extended to certain other units and the staff of the hospital, and in all 193 patients were secured, but no further cases were found. Although a total of 5 patients showed a 71 antibody reading in excess of 1:10, repeated fecal and urine cultures on these were negative.

In addition, patients of Hospital from a separate case of typhoid were typed during the year.

On the basis of the history of the International Enteric Reference Laboratory in London, 5 patients previously obtained in type 30 were re-examined in type 30, which appears to be similar to the latter organism.

Summary:

The number of the various Shigella species isolated shows an increase in Shigella infections for which Shigella infections were reported at the Children's Hospital Department, the following have been reported: Shigella were responsible. The control of these infections is given where Shigella infections have occurred. It is noteworthy that the laboratory has given as much assistance as possible to the staff of these institutions in their attempts to solve this problem, though unfortunately complete success cannot be attained.

Summary:

In association with an outbreak of the Shigella and Shigella infection a number of samples of Shigella from a new source, Shigella were obtained to determine whether this Shigella could be attributed to the outbreak of Shigella infection. It was found that the strain of the Shigella was

that it was quite safe and satisfactory, could not be substantiated.

One case of quartan malaria was diagnosed in October. The patient had returned from the Solomon Islands during the previous six months and had ceased to take antimalarial drugs two months previously.

A survey of the level of agglutinins to *Brucella* and the endemic *Leptospira* species (*L. icterohæmorrhagiae*), *pomona* and *mitis* among inhabitants of the Corryong district, mostly farmers or farm hands, was carried out. One hundred and sixty sera were received; of these 16, or 10 per cent., showed antibody to *Brucella* at a titre of 1/80 or higher, and a further 27 at 1/40: none showed any antibody to the *Leptospira*. The findings are to be analysed in relation to the individual histories.

The hope expressed in last year's report for a new School of Microbiology is taking shape and planning has begun, so that in 1963 space may become available for further development of the Public Health Laboratory Service.

ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS 1957 - 1960.

	1957	1958	1959	1960
<u>Diphtheria:</u>				
Cultures	3,796	3,771	2,892	2,975
Animal Inoculations	45	10	-	6
Vincent's Organisms	8	5	1	1
<u>Streptococcal Infection:</u>				
Cultures	4,037	4,984	4,072	3,783
Grouping	957	1,205	830	745
Antistreptolysin Titre	751	713	976	722
<u>Enteric Infections:</u>				
Cultures	(3,307	4,556	3,524	3,610
Identifications				429
Widal Agglutinations	See Serology			687
<u>Other Serology:</u>				
<i>Brucella</i>	{	1,502	1,471	780
Glandular Fever				316
Typhus Fever				56
Toxoplasma				163
<i>Leptospira</i>				172
Anthrax antibodies				100
Miscellaneous				41
<u>Generals:</u>				
Cultures	881	1,127	1,124	1,015
Drug Sensitivities	2,769	4,163	3,709	2,766
<u>Gonorrhoea:</u>				
Direct Examination	887	846	758	632
Cultures	3,558	2,852	1,597	1,741
<i>Trichomonas</i> & <i>Monilia</i>	40	41	21	19

Annual Examinations (cont'd)

	1957	1958	1959	1960
<u>Medical Mycology:</u>				
Microscopic & Culture	-	-	796	424
<u>Waters:</u>				
Bacteriological Analyses	224	264	224	247
<u>Research Projects:</u>				
Brucella	-	-	249	386
	23,178	26,039	22,244	21,816

CHEMICAL LABORATORY.

The Health Section of the State Laboratories has functioned satisfactorily during the past year. A large range of samples, almost 2,000 in number, was submitted to the laboratory. More than four-fifths of these comprised food samples submitted under the Food and Drug Regulations, and, of these, about 14 per cent failed to comply with requirements, as compared with 16 per cent. in 1959-60, and 13 per cent in 1958-59.

Owing to the great advances which have been made in food technology, the Department has now appointed the Senior Chemist to the dual position of Food Technologist and Senior Chemist, and an additional position of Chemist has been created in view of a certain amount of chemical work being relinquished by the Senior Chemist.

Comments regarding a number of aspects of the work carried out during the year are as follows:

Dairy Products:

The number (15) not complying with the Regulations was unexpectedly high. One sample of milk contained 16 per cent of added water. The position is summarised thus:

<u>Dairy Product</u>	<u>Number Submitted</u>	<u>Number not complying.</u>
Milk	397	9
Cream	17	1
Butter	2	2
Cheese	7	3

Meat and Meat Products:

These foods again exhibited by far the highest proportion of adulterated samples. However, except in the case of tripe, an overall improvement in standard has occurred.

Figures are as follows:

<u>Food</u>	<u>Number of samples submitted</u>	<u>Number not complying with Regulations</u>	<u>Proportion not complying.</u>	
			<u>1960-1</u>	<u>1959-60</u>
Meat-Fresh	107	21	20%	41%
Meat-Chopped	305	80	26%	33%
Meat- Manufactured	46	6	13%	20%
Sausages & Sausage meat	345	59	17%	18%
Tripe	7	7	100%	50%
Meat Pies	19	10	53%	65%

Other adulterated foods:

A sample of olive oil and a sample of brandy failed to meet requirements.

Coal Tar Dyes:

The addition of colouring contrary to the provisions of the Regulations was detected in one sample of soft drink, one sample of cider, two samples of frankfurts, and five of imported "smoked" fish (annatto is the only colouring permitted in this food.) Non-permitted dyes were detected in colouring materials intended for use in food.

Formaldehyde:

This preservative which is permitted only in "smoked" fish, has again been detected in imported frozen fish. Although overseas literature suggests that it is a natural constituent of such food, it has not been found in any samples of fresh or frozen Australian fish examined in the laboratory.

Lead:

A bottle cleaned with lead shot prior to use for holding an alcoholic beverage, contained an appreciable quantity of lead.

Lead in excess of the accepted safe limit has been found

West and West Fisheries:

These fish are considered by the highest authorities of scientific opinion. However, except in the case of fish, an overall improvement in standard was necessary.

Figures are as follows:

Year	Number of specimens collected	Number of specimens with histological examination	Percentage of specimens examined
1934-1935	107	21	19.6
1935-1936	103	20	19.4
1936-1937	46	6	13.0
1937-1938	243	20	8.2
1938-1939	7	7	100.0
1939-1940	19	19	100.0

Other specimens:

A sample of olive oil and a sample of honey failed to meet requirements.

Final Test:

The results of collecting specimens to the provisions of the regulations was obtained in the sample of salt fish, and sample of olive oil, two samples of honey, and five of imported "mashed" fish (sample in the only collection reported in this field). Non-permitted fish were detected in collected specimens intended for use in food.

Conclusions:

This preliminary work is limited only to "mashed" fish, has again been detected in imported frozen fish. Although only from specimens suggested that is a normal constituent of such food, it has not been found in any sample of fresh or frozen specimens fish examined in the laboratory.

Notes:

A bottle cleaned with fish oil was not used for holding an alcoholic specimen, examined as a specimen of fish. Lead in excess of the suggested limit has been found.

in one Western District school water supply where lead piping is used. This investigation is continuing.

Eight samples of Japanese pencils and crayons were submitted by the Education Department in connection with possible approval for use in schools. Four contained substantial proportions of lead. The metal was present in the external paint coating on two of the pencils. Lead was also a principal constituent of the tube used to contain a colouring material from the same source.

Miscellaneous:

A comprehensive investigation into the cleanliness of rags and flock being used in Victoria was undertaken, and the results forwarded to the appropriate committee.

Tests have been carried out to determine the relative inflammability of clothing material.

CONTAMINATED DESICCATED COCONUT.

For nearly 10 years bacterial contamination of coconut has been of world wide concern. The importance to this State is the intermittent arrival of consignments of coconut chiefly from Ceylon. Many thousands of bags may be unloaded and distributed to wholesalers in good faith; yet the time consuming bacterial examinations may eventually show infection of the coconut with the food poisoning Salmonella organisms. Sometimes paratyphoid germs are found and the danger of the more serious frank typhoid contamination must be kept in mind.

An Officer of the Commonwealth Department of Health was invited to visit Ceylon during 1961, concerning precautions to be taken in the preparation of desiccated coconut and it will be some time before his advice is implemented. In the interim, sampling and condemnation if necessary of imported coconut will continue.

FOOD CONTROL.

Two new types of meat have become available in Victoria.

The first is boned out kangaroo meat from N.S.W. which is used for human consumption and dog food. As the kangaroo is classed as game, it is not subject to the Meat Supervision Regulations.

in connection with school water supply where lead piping
is used. This investigation is continuing.
Eight samples of Japanese pencils and erasers were submitted
by the Education Department in connection with possible approval
for use in schools. First contained substantial proportions of
lead. The metal was present in the external paint coating on two
of the pencils. Lead was also a principal constituent of the type
used to contain a coloring material from the same source.

Miscellaneous:

A comprehensive investigation into the cleanliness of eggs
and flocks being used in Victoria was undertaken, and the results
forwarded to the appropriate committee.
Tests have been carried out to determine the relative influ-
ence of clothing material.

CONTAMINATED WATER SUPPLY

For nearly 10 years bacterial contamination of coconut has
been of world wide concern. The importance to this State is the
intermittent arrival of consignments of coconut chiefly from
Ceylon. Many thousands of bags may be landed and distributed in
wholesalers in good faith; yet the time consuming bacterial
examinations may eventually show infection of the coconut with the
food poisoning Bacillus organism. Bacterial paratyphoid fever
are found and the danger of the more serious French typhoid enter-
fection must be kept in mind.

An Officer of the Commonwealth Department of Health was
invited to visit Ceylon during 1931, concerning proposals to be
taken in the preparation of essential coconut and it will be
some time before his advice is implemented. In the interim,
sampling and condemnation if necessary of imported coconut will
continue.

POOD CONTROL

Two new types of meat have become available in Victoria.
The first is known as kangaroo meat from N.S.W. which is
used for human consumption and dog food. As the kangaroo is clean-
ed as game, it is not subject to the same supervision regulations.

Conditions surrounding the shooting of the animals and subsequent preparation for market were found at times to be substandard but it was not possible to separate the pet food supply from that destined for humans. The chief safeguard in the long run seemed to be that the kangaroo did not acquire in its natural state any diseases communicable to man and all meat for human consumption has to be prepared in registered food premises. The supply is intermittent and limited.

Buffalo meat from Northern Territory has become available in considerable quantity in the frozen state. The boned out consignments are subject to inspection at the Metropolitan Meat Inspection Depots. It is used to a limited extent in the preparation of small goods.

PROPRIETARY MEDICINES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

Since the Proprietary Medicines legislation came into operation in February, 1948, 11,967 applications for registration have been received. Of this number, 9,758 have been registered and, of the remainder, a large number have been withdrawn. Some 300 are still the subject of negotiations or have been deferred pending receipt of clinical or scientific information to justify the claims made.

The work of the Committee is proceeding smoothly. Applications are being received at an average rate of 60 per month, but despite this number every application is seen by the Committee within several weeks of date of lodgment so that at any one time there is no great number of applications which have not been dealt with.

During the year an Act entitled the Health (Proprietary Medicines) Act. 1961, was passed giving power to the Chief Health Officer to review the registration of proprietary medicines at the expiration of ten years from the date of registration.

THE HOME HELP SERVICE.

The Home Help Service continues to expand. An additional seven services are now operating, while in the 6 months period ending 31st December, 1960 a total of 6,035 households received

home help as compared with 5,234 for the same period the previous year, an increase of 801.

The following subsidies were granted during the 1960/61 financial year:-

Maintenance subsidies for new services:	8
Special grants for individual cases:	3
Special grants for transport: (Three of the grants for transport were reviews).	11
Number of services at present operating:	97
Home Helps engaged 870	{ Full time 271 Part time 339 Hourly Basis 260

Total number of householders assisted for 6 months period ending 31st December 1961: 6,035

24% of the above cases were elderly.

Total cost to the Government for 12 months = £168,982.

ELDERLY CITIZENS' CLUBS.

During the last twelve months, many of the club premises were completed for clubs granted subsidies in previous years. These clubs have now been able to greatly extend their activities.

During the twelve months ending 30th June, 1961, the following subsidies were granted:-

15 Capital Grants	{ 7 new Clubs 8 Additional Grants
10 Maintenance Subsidies	{ 1 new Club 9 Clubs already granted (Capital Subsidies.

Total number of clubs now granted Capital and/or Maintenance Subsidies:- 75

Total Capital Grants Approved:- 71

Total Maintenance Subsidies Approved:- 52

The Capital Expenditure for 1960/61 £52,359.

Capital Commitments at 30th June, 1961 £33,735

Maintenance Expenditure for 1960/61 £23,952

Total Cost to Government for 1960/61 £76,312

This represents an increased expenditure of £26,000 compared to 1959/1960.

how help is compared with 2,221 for the same period the previous year, an increase of 501.

The following activities were granted during the 1960/61

financial year:-

8	Maintenance subsidies for new arrivals:
3	Special grants for individual cases:
11	Special grants for transport (Third of the grants for transport were refused).
27	Number of arrivals at present operating:
271	Home help engaged 670 (Half time)
133	(Part time)
280	(Hourly basis)

Total number of households assisted for 6 months period ending 31st December 1961: 6,033

1% of the above sums were refused.

Total cost to the Government for 12 months = £158,582.

EXPLANATION OF CHANGES

During the last twelve months, many of the old premises were completed for other projects and in previous years. These clubs have now been able to greatly extend their activities. During the twelve months ending 30th June, 1961, the following

the following were granted:-

15 Capital Grants	(1 new club)
20 Maintenance Subsidies	(2 additional grants)
	(1 new club)
	(1 club already granted)
	(Capital Subsidies)

Total number of clubs now granted Capital and/or Maintenance Subsidies:- 75

Total Capital Grants Approved:- 71

Total Maintenance Subsidies Approved:- 52

The Capital expenditure for 1960/61 = £25,752

Capital Expenditure in 30th June, 1961 = £27,752

Maintenance Expenditure for 1960/61 = £23,932

Total cost to Government for 1960/61 = £49,684

This represents an increased expenditure of £25,000 compared

The present position regarding the subsidised clubs is as follows:-

43 Clubs are situated in the Metropolitan Area.

32 Clubs are situated in Country Towns.

57 Clubs are now operating in their own premises, while 9 others have received approvals for grants towards the provision of permanent club rooms. The remaining 9 clubs are operating in temporary club rooms which, in most cases, the clubs find adequate and for which small Capital Grants have been approved.

SKIN CANCER.

Medical Officers of this Department continued their investigations mentioned in last year's report into the prevalence of skin cancer in Victoria. Reflectometer tests on some 900 University students were carried out to see if there was any pigmentary relationship over a wide range of skin checks. The work is not yet complete but, so far, except as a racial discriminator, nothing new has been disclosed.

INSECT AND VERMIN INFESTATION.

During 1960-61 many complaints were received by the Department concerning insect infestation.

The undue presence of flies in the metropolitan area directed attention to all aspects of the disposal of putrescible material. It was held that uncovered garbage would provide extensive areas for fly breeding. However, such a factor, important as it may be, did not wholly account for the invasion of the small flies.

The Commission decided to appoint an expert Committee to examine and advise on the problem.

In the meantime the Commission advises that the elimination of breeding places and attention to hygiene and sanitation are the prime measures for the control of flies.

Mosquito breeding has given rise to considerable annoyance to residents and hospital patients in the Collingwood - Fairfield area between the Merri Creek and the Yarra River. The main species

The present position regarding the mentioned clubs is as follows:-

13 Clubs are situated in the Metropolitan area.

14 Clubs are situated in County Down.

15 Clubs are now operating in their own premises, while 9

others have received approval for grants towards the provision of

permanent club rooms. The remaining 9 clubs are operating in

temporary club rooms which, in most cases, are also used for

and for which small Capital Grants have been approved.

SKIN CANCER

National Officers of this Department notified these eleven

clinics mentioned in last year's report that the provisions of

this order in Victoria, Wellington, and on some 100 other

city clinics were carried out to see if there was any possibility

of extending over a wide range of skin cancer. The work is now

being carried out, for, except on a small scale, nothing

has been done.

THE VETERAN INVESTIGATION

During 1960-61 many inquiries were received by the Depart-

ment concerning recent legislation.

The main purpose of this in the Metropolitan area is to

draw attention to all aspects of the disposal of post-war material.

It was said that unrecorded papers would provide extensive material

for the present. However, such a factor, important as it may be,

did not wholly account for the removal of the said files.

The Commission decided to appoint an expert Committee to

examine and advise on the problem.

In the meantime the Commission advised that the elimination

of pressing papers was attention to highest and earliest the

the prime measures for the control of files.

Specialist handling has given rise to considerable increases

in residents and hospital patients in the Collingwood - Victoria

area between the West Coast and the North River. The main reason

concerned is found to be *Culex molestus*, a vigorous night biting mosquito, that breeds in stagnant waters, drains and the like.

Irritation to campers and residents on the Mornington Peninsula due to the activity of *molestus* has been reported as well.

There seems to be little possibility of eliminating all the breeding places on the Peninsula but some efforts towards control in Collingwood and on the Yarra Bend National Park produced good results. Apart from this, personal protection with mosquito repellent, mosquito proofing homes and the use of insecticides is the main hope in achieving limited control.

Rat infestation has once again become sufficiently obvious in Melbourne to cause the Advisory Committee on Rat Control to bring the matter to the attention of the Commission. It is difficult to determine whether rats are in fact more numerous. The most likely explanation is that the demolition of old City buildings, slum reclamation and large scale drainage works have forced the rats out into the open. If this is so, the infestation could be claimed to be temporary, nevertheless, Public Authorities and Municipal Councils were advised to step up rat control activity.

INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE.

Interdepartmental Committee on Pesticides.

This Committee has met on four occasions during the year.

It is chiefly concerned with matters of industrial hygiene or occupational health; but its scope extends beyond this to matters of interest to other Branches of the Department and includes pesticide residues on foodstuffs, hazards of household fly sprays, etc.

Fumigation of Wheat.

The Grain Elevators Board has adopted the method of using phosphine for the fumigation of wheat and early this year this Division was asked to advise on safety precautions. This request followed the death of an employee of the Board who had been exposed to phosphine and whose death was thought at the time to be possibly due to this gas. Shortly afterwards another death occurred in a

foreman who had been working on ships loading fumigated wheat.

The method of fumigation of wheat arriving at the terminal had been investigated by the Division some years previously and was considered quite safe. However, until such time as the actual cause of death was determined in both cases referred to above the Division agreed to a request by the Grain Elevators Board to carry out regular safety checks of all trucks of fumigated wheat arriving at the depot and in addition, for the testing of concentrations of the gas in the holds of ships and in the storage area. These investigations and tests did not disclose concentrations of phosphine likely to be dangerous.

Certain improvements to the safety measures of the fumigation procedures at the above storage area were suggested to and adopted by the Board, the most important of which was the provision of suction exhausts to the bins undergoing fumigation.

Inquests into the causes of deaths referred to above were held and the Coroner's findings recently announced were that death in both cases was due to natural causes.

Irradiating Apparatus and Radio-Active Substances Regulations.

For the year ended June, 1961, there were a total of 977 licences issued under these regulations which may be summarized as follows:-

Irradiating Apparatus:

Medical	400
Dental	343
Industrial	31
Chiropractor	29
Chiropodist	1
Educational	7
Veterinary	<u>2</u>
	<u>813</u>

foreman who had been working on ship's loading facilities when the accident occurred. The method of investigation of the accident had been investigated by the Division some years previously and was considered quite safe. However, until such time as the actual cause of death was determined in both cases referred to above the Division agreed to a request by the Grain Elevators Board to carry out regular safety checks of all trucks of loaded grain arriving at the depot and in addition, for the testing of concentration of the gas in the holds of ships and in the storage area. These investigations and tests did not disclose concentrations of phosphine likely to be dangerous.

Certain improvements to the safety measures of the loading facilities at the above storage area were suggested in and adopted by the Board, the most important of which was the provision of suitable experts in the field of phosphine investigation. In regard to the matter of deaths referred to above were held and the necessary findings were accordingly announced that death in both cases was due to natural causes.

Investigation of the Accident at the Grain Elevators Board.
For the year ended June, 1961, there were a total of 217 accidents involving these regulations which may be summarized as follows:-

<u>Investigation of the Accident</u>	
Medical	100
Dental	20
Industrial	31
Occupational	29
Chiropractic	1
Neurological	7
Veterinary	1
<u>217</u>	

Radio-Active Substances.

Medical	55
Industrial	89
Educational	<u>12</u>
	<u>156</u>
<u>Transport</u>	8

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The number of approvals of plans and specifications of public buildings was slightly lower at 940 than for the previous year. The figure for new buildings was 524 and for alterations and additions 416. Included in these numbers were 128 new pre-schools and infant welfare centres and 17 extensions to existing pre-schools and infant welfare centres.

Day inspections of public buildings remained at the high level of 4,879 for the year but during public occupation was somewhat reduced to a figure of 765. No instances of overcrowding of a picture theatre were reported, attendances generally being poor.

SEWERAGE.

Several new provincial sewerage schemes were commenced during the year together with a number of extensions to existing sewage treatment plants. A number of proposed provincial sewerage schemes were also investigated.

OFFENSIVE TRADES AND STREAM POLLUTION.

Several new abattoirs were erected in country meat areas together with numerous extensions to both large and small abattoirs in country and metropolitan meat areas.

Complaints regarding stream pollution (particularly from butter factories) were investigated and action taken to rectify the source of nuisance. A number of approvals were issued for the disposal of trade waste from new industries to streams after adequate pretreatment of the wastes.

Public-Active Substances

Medical	25
Industrial	32
Domestic	12
<u>Total</u>	<u>69</u>
Transports	2

Public Buildings

The number of approvals of plans and specifications of public buildings was slightly lower in 1935 than for the previous year. The figure for new buildings was 528 and for alterations and additions 410. Included in these numbers were 145 new pre-schools and infant welfare centres and 17 extensions to existing pre-schools and infant welfare centres.

By comparison of public buildings completed in the high level of 1,679 for the year 1934 public buildings were completed at a figure of 1,551. The number of alterations of existing buildings was reported as 1,200.

General

Several new provincial sewerage schemes were commenced during the year together with a number of extensions to existing sewerage treatment plants. A number of proposed provincial sewerage schemes were also investigated.

Quarantine Stations and Public Buildings

Several new quarantine stations were erected in country and town together with numerous extensions to both large and small stations in country and metropolitan areas.

Complaints regarding air pollution (particularly from motor factories) were investigated and action taken to rectify the source of nuisance. A number of approvals were issued for the disposal of trade waste from new industries to streams after adequate treatment of the waste.

SWIMMING POOLS.

The investigation of swimming pools by a Departmental Chemist has extended throughout the State. Many of these pools now have safer and more pleasant water due to advice on chlorination and chemical dosage. Circulars were sent to municipal councils regarding hazards of chlorination, faulty equipment, plant location and respirators in an endeavour to reduce the risk of handling chlorine gas. On the advice of the Commission, the Local Government Department now requires that Health Department recommendations on safety and testing equipment be a condition of pool subsidy approval. Detailed information was obtained during the year on recent American investigations of pool sterilization with iodine. The information indicates that this method of sterilization is still in the experimental stage.

AIR POLLUTION.

The Commission's Research Officers engaged on air pollution research and control expanded the deposit gauge survey to 35 stations, all new gauges being sited in the following metropolitan municipalities: Altona (2), Broadmeadows (2), Footscray (3), Heidelberg (2), and Williamstown (3). In addition to these measurements of monthly particulate fallout, sulphur dioxide and smoke monitors have been established in 5 municipalities: City of Melbourne, Brunswick, Collingwood, Footscray, and Richmond. These instruments give daily average readings of the concentration of sulphur dioxide and of suspended particulate matter in the atmosphere. The ready co-operation of municipal councils and their health inspectors in this work is gratefully acknowledged. Equipment is also in hand for the assembly of a further 7 monitors and for the measurement of meteorological factors.

Numerous complaints in the metropolitan area and in provincial cities were investigated, necessitating over 300 inspections as well as discussions with owners of plant and suppliers of equipment. Increasing attention was paid to boiler plant and other furnaces burning both solid and liquid fuels. Special problems in-

SWIMMING POOLS.

The investigation of swimming pools by a Department of Health has extended throughout the State. Many of these pools now have water and more pleasant water due to chlorine disinfection and chemical dosage. Chlorine was sent to municipal sanitarians regarding hazards of chlorination, facility equipment, plant location and respiratory is an endeavor to reduce the risk of handling chlorine gas. On the advice of the Commission, the Local Government Department now requires that Health Department recommendations on safety and testing equipment be a condition of pool safety approval. Detailed information was obtained during the year on recent American investigations of pool sterilization with iodine. The information indicates that this method of sterilization is still in the experimental stage.

THE COMMISSION.

The Commission's Research Division engaged in air pollution research and control. Reports of the Research Division survey to 1934-1935, all new results being filed in the following metropolitan municipalities: Atlanta (2), Brownsville (2), Porterville (2), Heidelberg (2), and Williamsport (2). In addition to these researches of monthly particulate fallout, sulphur dioxide and ozone monitors have been established in 2 municipalities: City of Baltimore, Brownsville, Collingswood, Porterville, and Richmond. These instruments give daily average readings of the concentration of sulphur dioxide and of suspended particulate matter in the atmosphere. The ready co-operation of municipal sanitarians and their health inspectors in this work is gratefully acknowledged. Equipment is also in hand for the analysis of a further 7 monitors and for the measurement of meteorological factors.

Extensive complaints in the metropolitan area and in surrounding cities were investigated, necessitating over 300 inspections as well as discussions with owners of plants and suppliers of equipment. Interesting attention was paid to boiler plants and other industrial plants using sulfur and liquid fuels. Special emphasis in-

cluded fumes from anodizing and hot dip galvanizing operations and odours from acetylene manufacture. Noteworthy is the increasing tendency of industry generally to consult with the Department's Officers before the installation of new plant and management's recognition of the need for effective air pollution control at the source. Proposals to establish minimum standards for the height of industrial chimneys and the abatement of smoke and soot nuisance from the ceramic industry received special attention.

Sections of the Clean Air Regulations 1961, requiring the submission of plans and specifications of all new industrial furnaces and chimneys for approval by the Commission with a view to minimizing the emission of air pollutants, came into force in June. It is expected that examination of such plans will occupy a steadily increasing portion of the time of officers engaged in air pollution control.

LEGISLATION.

During the year, the following consolidating legislation was given Royal Assent:-

Health (Tuberculosis Arrangement) Act 1960 (No. 6707).

This Act continues the participation of both the Commonwealth and State Governments in the tuberculosis campaign.

Health (Amendment) Act 1960 (No. 6732)

This amendment raised to Four pounds the maximum fee which a municipality may by by-law fix for the examination of septic tank plans and for the inspection of the site and installation. It also changed to a monthly basis Meat Inspectors' returns which were previously forwarded to the Commission annually.

Clean Air (Sub-Committees) Act 1961 (No. 6768).

Health (Proprietary Medicines) Act 1961 (No. 6756).

The main provision in this amendment is for the review of the registration of any proprietary medicine after the expiration of not less than 10 years from its initial registration.

The following regulations were approved:-

Amending Cleanliness (Food, Drugs and Substances) Regulations 1960.

These amendments prohibit the receipt for cleansing of soiled clothes, materials, etc. by any person engaged in the handling of food.

Fluoroacetate Regulations 1960.

These regulations provide for the methods to be used in the preparation, laying and disposal of baits containing '1080' used in vermin destruction programmes.

Amending Infectious Diseases Regulations 1961.

These amendments include completely revised exclusion tables for patients and contacts.

Clean Air Regulations 1961.

These regulations include the requirements to be met by occupiers of industrial premises or land on which is installed industrial plant.

Amending Food Premises Regulations 1961.

These amendments provide for the installation in Butchers', Fish and Poultry Shops of an adequate fly-repellant air current as an alternative to a fly proof door.

Amending Meat Supervision Regulations 1961.

These amendments require the submission of monthly reports by Meat Inspectors instead of annual ones as previously.

Proclamations and orders - in - Council.

Separate New Meat Areas were gazetted for the whole of the Shires of Ripon and Barrabool and the whole of the Penshurst Riding in the Shire of Mount Rouse. The existing Meat Area covering a portion of the Shire of Corio was also extended to include the whole of the Shire.

A prohibited area for certain offensive trades in a locality in the Borough of Echuca was proclaimed and the offensive Trades Provisions of the Health Act (so far as those provisions are applicable to piggeries) were extended to an area of 3 miles radius in the Shire of Seymour.

The following regulations were approved:

Regulation No. 1 (Food, Drink and Sanitation) 1950.

These regulations prohibit the receipt for disposal of
solid refuse, garbage, etc. by any person engaged in the
handling of food.

Regulation No. 2 (Food, Drink and Sanitation) 1950.

These regulations provide for the methods to be used in the
preparation, serving and disposal of refuse containing '1950' used in
various domestic purposes.

Regulation No. 3 (Food, Drink and Sanitation) 1951.

These regulations provide completely revised sanitation
for patients and contacts.

Regulation No. 4 (Food, Drink and Sanitation) 1951.

These regulations include the requirements to be met by
occupies of industrial premises on food or which is installed
industrial plant.

Regulation No. 5 (Food, Drink and Sanitation) 1951.

These regulations provide for the installation in patients',
kitchen and laundry blocks of an adequate fly-repellent air current as
an alternative to a fly screen door.

Regulation No. 6 (Food, Drink and Sanitation) 1951.

These regulations require the submission of monthly reports
by local inspectors to the Director of Health as previously.

Regulations and orders - in - General.

Regulation No. 7 (Food, Drink and Sanitation) 1951. These
regulations provide for the disposal of refuse and the whole of the
island of Bonaire and the whole of the Bonaire Island
is the island of Bonaire. The island of Bonaire covers a
portion of the island of Bonaire and also extends to include the whole
of the island.

A provision was for certain animals to be a liability
in the island of Bonaire was prohibited and the offensive trades
Provisions of the Health Act (as far as those provisions are ap-
plied to Bonaire) were extended to an area of 5 miles radius in
the island of Bonaire.

GENERAL.

During the period under review, Dr. W.J.Stevenson, Senior District Health Officer, was granted a National Health and Medical Research Council travelling fellowship and Mr. J.F.McDonnell, Chief Engineer, proceeded overseas to study, in particular, trade waste disposal.

In September, 1960, Mr G.W.Rogan who had been Secretary of the Commission since October, 1958, was promoted to the position of Secretary to the Mental Hygiene Authority and Secretary of the Mental Hygiene Branch.

The Commission also records its regret at the death in September, 1960, of the Assistant Secretary, Mr. F.P.Madden.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED.

.....KEVIN BRENNAN	} MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION.
.....WALTER SUMMONS	
.....FRANK J.CUTTS	
.....A.S.THOMSON	
.....T.R.FLOOD	
.....H.McLORINAN	
.....A.K.LINES	

.....
A.T.GARDNER,
Secretary,
Melbourne, 19th September, 1961.

GENERAL

During the period under review, Dr. W. J. Stevenson, Senior District Health Officer, was granted a National Health and Medical Research Council travelling fellowship and Mr. J. P. Macdonald, Chief Engineer, proceeded overseas to study, in particular, trade waste disposal.

In September, 1960, Mr. G. W. Hogan who had been Secretary of the Commission since October, 1958, was promoted to the position of Secretary to the Medical Hygiene Authority and Secretary of the Medical Hygiene Branch.

The Commission also recently moved to the house in Sydney-

way, 1960, of the Assistant Secretary, Mr. P. P. Wilson.

RECENTLY SUBMITTED

- J. P. Macdonald
- J. P. Macdonald
- J. P. Macdonald
- J. P. Macdonald
- J. P. Macdonald
- J. P. Macdonald
- J. P. Macdonald
- J. P. Macdonald



.....
 A. T. SALMON,
 Secretary,
 Melbourne, 15th September, 1961.