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CYPRUS

MEDICAL & SANITARY REPORT

1941

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MEDICAL AND SANITARY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1941

CHAPTER I.—ADMINISTRATION.

(A) FINANCIAL.

The expenditure of the Medical Department was :—

	1938	1939	1940	1941
Personal Emoluments	£26,426	£27,744	£26,232	£25,803
Other Charges	£35,515	£41,006	£47,909	£53,588
Total	£61,941	£68,750	£74,141	£79,391

This represents 5.80% of the total expenditure of the Colony during 1941, i.e. £1,367,633.

The total revenue of the Department amounted to £7,482 as against £6,670, in 1940. Details are as follows :—

	£
1. Sale of medicines	2,512
2. Hospital receipts	3,495
3. Other	689
4. Analytical and bacteriological fees	114
5. Registration of diplomas	47
6. Quarantine dues and health certificates	625
Total	7,482

Revenue from holders of Mukhtars' certificates was £3,169 as against £3,161 during 1940.

(B) LEGISLATION AFFECTING PUBLIC HEALTH ENACTED DURING THE YEAR 1941.

None.

SUBSIDIARY LEGISLATION.

The Dangerous Drugs Laws, 1925 to 1932 :

Order made under section 13 authorizing certain members of the Medical Department staff to enter premises and inspect books, etc.

The Defence Regulations, 1940 to (No. 6) 1941 :

Notices under clause 13 of the Defence (Control of Sale Prices of Scheduled Articles) Consolidation Order, 1940, regarding drugs, proprietary medicines, chemical products and pharmaceutical preparations.

The Public Health Regulations, 1941.

The Quarantine Law, 1932 :

The Quarantine (Public Health) Amendment Regulations, 1941.

The Sale of Food and Drugs Law, 1938 :

The Sale of Food and Drugs (Amendment) Regulations, 1941.

CHAPTER II.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

(A) GENERAL REMARKS.

A good deal of extra work was necessarily thrown upon the Department during the year under review. This work had, *inter alia*, to do with the arrival of refugees, the evacuation of some of the civilian population from towns to rural areas, the wide dispersal of medical stores as a safety measure, the organization of medical A.R.P. and casualty units, the training of personnel, the arrival of considerable numbers of His Majesty's Forces and the increased work caused thereby at the various ports. In spite of this, the general health of the Colony continued to be good and, with the exception of a slight increase in the number of diphtheria cases and two cases of mild typhus exanthematicus, no dangerous diseases were recorded.

(i) STATISTICS.

The following table shows the main causes of morbidity in relation to (i) in-patients, and (ii) out-patients (first attendances only) at hospitals, dispensaries and other centres :—

	(i) In-patients.	(ii) Out-patients.
(a) General systemic diseases :		
(1) Digestive system	1,505	24,497
(2) Eye	100	18,335
(3) Skin diseases	354	12,067
(4) Respiratory system	467	8,700
(5) General and other diseases	3,334	30,316
(6) Nervous system	170	7,313
(7) Organs of locomotion	135	1,021
	6,065	102,249
(b) Communicable diseases :		
(1) Malaria	240	4,417
(2) Influenza	120	8,523
(3) Other diseases	577	1,604
(4) Tuberculosis	151	136
(5) Gonorrhoea	19	1,062
(6) Syphilis	13	482
(7) Meningitis	8	7
	1,128	16,231
Total	7,193	118,480
Total (a) and (b)	125,673.	

(ii) NUTRITION.

Nutrition experiments in the more intensive feeding of under-nourished infants and children of elementary schools were continued in the Cyprus Mines Corporation area, at the home demonstration centre at Akaki which serves ten villages in that part of the Nicosia district, and to a less extent in the rural development area at Arminou in Paphos district. This was made possible through generous funds donated for the purpose by the Cyprus Mines Corporation and utilized by their own medical men and social workers, and by a balance of funds remaining from the Carnegie Grant given to the Colony through the Near East Foundation.

During the year cases of Pellagra (Vitamin B2 deficiency) appeared both in Government and district hospitals. The history of cases shows that sufferers are from the poorest families in the community served. From the number of cases presenting it is possible that the poorer people in the rural areas of Cyprus verge on diet deficiency and that through conditions brought about by the war certain numbers of the public are suffering from frank deficiency.

(iii) TRADES AND INDUSTRIES (REGULATION) LAW, 1937.

The improvement in sanitary and health conditions connected with trades and industries mentioned in the annual report for 1940 was maintained although, owing to the war, materials for structural alterations are becoming more difficult to obtain. For this reason it was not always possible to insist upon changes considered necessary.

(iv) CONTROL OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.

The number of permits issued for the local transfer of dangerous drugs between authorized persons was 137. During the year no prosecutions were launched under the Dangerous Drugs Laws and Regulations.

(B) DISEASES.

I. GENERAL SYSTEMIC AND COMMUNICABLE DISEASES TREATED IN GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS.

The figures for these are given above under Statistics.

II. COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

(a) Insect-borne diseases.

MALARIA.

Malaria showed a marked decrease during the year. This was, to some extent, due to the dry conditions prevailing, but it is safe to say that the main reason was the intensive work of control carried out, a continuation of a programme started some four years ago. Extensive drainage operations were commenced at Akrotiri, Limassol district, and in the Syrianokhori Marshes, Nicosia district. These measures, when completed and after the swamp area drained has thoroughly dried out, will result in eliminating altogether the breeding of *anopheles elutus* which has been responsible for high malaria rates in villages within the flight range of the mosquito in the two areas. Through these drainage schemes malaria will therefore tend to disappear and the economic position of the inhabitants will be greatly improved. Anti-malarial measures progressively maintained in the Tilliria area of the Nicosia district, in Paphos and Limassol districts, and over all malarious areas of the other districts have been of great value both economically and from a health point of view. What may be expected in other places can now be seen in the Tilliria area where intensive control has been maintained since early 1938 and where malaria has ceased to be a disease of public health importance. During 1937 the malaria rate in this area was 69.9%, in 1938 41.7%, in 1939 16.5%, in 1940 12.1% and in 1941 6.1%.

The number of malaria cases reported by all Government medical officers also showed a very considerable reduction. Only 4,657 cases were reported in 1941 as compared with 8,461 in 1940, 11,183 in 1939, 11,361 in 1938 and 18,273 in 1937.

The distribution of free quinine continued, but owing to the intensive work of control referred to above, quinine issued during the year was far less than that mentioned in previous reports. Out of the 302,700 tablets available under the scheme the demand was only for 120,338 tablets.

As briefly mentioned last year, registered importers of quinine were unable to obtain supplies and Government approved the importation of large stocks by the Medical Department.

(b) Infectious diseases.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

This disease which existed in epidemic form during 1937 and 1938 has practically disappeared. Only 13 cases appeared during 1941 as compared with 16 in 1940.

TRACHOMA.

The Trachoma programme reported upon last year continued to function in a satisfactory manner. New cases reported during 1941 amounted to 1,565 as compared with 1,950 during 1940.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Although the work was seriously handicapped by war conditions, the tuberculosis scheme continued to advance. The tuberculosis officer was partly engaged on general public health work in connection with emergency conditions.

Tuberculosis dispensaries in Nicosia, Larnaca and Limassol were established under a sub-committee of the Cyprus Anti-Tuberculosis League. 347 new patients attended during the year of whom 100 were found to have tuberculosis. A health visitor was trained for each dispensary and these girls, in addition to their own duties, performed useful work in their respective emergency hospitals. 526 visits were made to patients' houses entailing a total mileage of 5,728. Most of the travelling was done by village buses.

Collapse therapy was continued at Athalassa sanatorium and phrenic nerve operations and adhesion sections were performed at the Nicosia General Hospital. Unfortunately when air raids were frequent a number of patients left the sanatorium before their treatment had been completed.

The number of tuberculosis cases notified in 1941 amounted to 191 as compared with 202 in 1940.

Athalassa sanatorium.

STATISTICS.

	Males	Females	Total	
Remaining at end of 1940	31	22	53	
Admitted	39	26	65	
				118
Discharged	22	17	39	
Deaths	18	8	26	
				65
Remaining at end of 1941	31	22	53	
				53



VENEREAL DISEASES.

The following tables set out in brief the work done in venereal diseases clinics throughout the Island:—

Attendances.

	1941.	1940.
Nicosia	55,648	31,051
Larnaca	11,337	8,995
Limassol	45,102	28,375
Famagusta	24,547	6,130
Paphos	4,933	3,106
Total	141,567	77,657

The increase in attendances during the year under review as compared with 1940 was due to the intensive work of treatment and prophylaxis being carried out in all venereal diseases clinics with local prostitutes. It is satisfactory that these women attended daily and so are carrying out their treatment to finality. A good many of them are being entirely cleared of venereal disease.

New cases.

Out of 4,486 civilian patients attending all venereal diseases clinics during the year 1941, 2,853 were new patients (1,750 male and 1,103 female).

	Nicosia	Larnaca	Limassol	Famagusta	Paphos	Total
<i>(a) Male :</i>						
Gonorrhoea only	161	35	86	56	25	363
Syphilis only	135	12	35	18	7	207
Gonorrhoea & syphilis	5	3	—	2	1	11
Other venereal diseases	375	41	122	73	3	614
Non-venereal diseases	178	37	66	36	10	327
Skin diseases	204	—	1	11	—	216
Examination not completed	2	6	2	2	—	12
Total	1,060	134	312	198	46	1,750
<i>(b) Female :</i>						
Gonorrhoea only	200	25	78	59	23	385
Syphilis only	54	5	11	21	1	92
Gonorrhoea & syphilis	44	4	20	28	3	99
Other venereal diseases	17	2	6	5	—	30
Non-venereal diseases	114	26	37	30	23	230
Skin diseases	255	—	—	—	6	261
Examination not completed	2	1	2	1	—	6
Total	686	63	154	144	56	1,103
Total (a) & (b)	1,746	197	466	342	102	2,853

TYPHOID.

820 cases of this disease were reported as compared with 983 in 1940. Considerable work of prevention was carried out in conjunction with the evacuation scheme in villages which tended to become crowded. This resulted in a new type of latrine slab being put into use, which constitutes an advance of outstanding importance in public health work in Cyprus. It is a marmara latrine slab which can be supplied from various quarries at a fraction of the cost of a concrete slab. 1,905 of these were sold at a small price, distributed and utilized in the construction of pit latrines. 15,260 persons were protected by immunization utilizing T.A.B. vaccine, 18,194 others receiving 1 injection only. As a result of this work, which still continues, it is considered that the incidence of enteric fever and allied diseases will be steadily reduced year by year.

OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No cases of small-pox, cholera or plague occurred.

Bacillary dysentery.—The total number of cases reported during 1941 was 134 as compared with 80 cases in 1940.

Diphtheria.—This disease did not appear in epidemic form, but 343 cases were notified against 100 in 1940. These figures appear alarming, but it should be noted that military cases are included, the total being made up of 93 civilian and 250 military cases. Diphtheria anti-toxin was increasingly difficult to obtain, and a day arrived when island stocks were exhausted. On that day however a case containing 5,000,000 units of anti-toxin was delivered to Cyprus by air having been given free of charge by the Cairo Branch of the American Red Cross.

Whooping cough.—The number of cases notified was 15 as compared with 9 in 1940.

(c) Helminthic diseases.

Cestoda (Taenia)	60 cases.
Ascaris	175 ..
Oxyuris	764 ..

(c) VITAL STATISTICS.

RETURN OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN THE SIX DISTRICTS.

(Including the six principal towns.)

District	(For the year ended 31st December, 1941.)					
	Estimated population on 30th June, 1941	Births		Deaths		Infantile mortality per 1,000 births
		No. of births	Rate per 1,000	No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000	
Nicosia	126,519	3,473	27.4	1,637	12.9	107.6
Larnaca	49,617	1,262	25.4	588	11.8	107.7
Limassol	61,404	1,884	30.6	842	13.7	108.2
Famagusta	79,319	2,476	31.2	984	12.4	91.6
Paphos	45,234	1,521	33.6	406	8.9	119.0
Kyrenia	23,718	786	33.1	334	14.0	133.5
Total	385,811	11,402	29.5	4,791	12.4	107.6

RETURN OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN THE SIX PRINCIPAL TOWNS.

Town	(For the year ended 31st December, 1941.)					
	Estimated population on 30th June, 1941	Births		Deaths		Infantile mortality per 1,000 births
		No. of births	Rate per 1,000	No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000	
Nicosia	28,857	460	15.9	416	14.4	84.7
Larnaca and Scala	14,010	197	14.0	137	9.7	45.6
Limassol	17,426	403	23.1	228	13.0	71.9
Famagusta and Varosha	13,031	262	20.1	116	8.9	80.1
Paphos and Ktima	4,924	65	13.2	46	9.3	92.3
Kyrenia	2,371	83	35.0	44	18.5	96.3
Total	80,619	1,470	18.2	987	12.2	76.1

(D) HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

REFUGEES.

The increasing number of refugees and the indiscriminate landings on the shores of this Colony have been a cause of much anxiety.

In dangerously overcrowded conditions men, women, children, aged and sick, arrive on small caiques and fishing boats in an extremely verminous and dirty state; of these many suffer from exhaustion through shortage of water and food and from exposure during their perilous voyage lasting from 4 to 20 or more days.

The problem of providing these unfortunate victims of war with medical care, food, clothing and shelter after preliminary delousing and cleansing has been a very heavy strain on the medical and sanitary staff.

In addition to the principal quarantine station at Dhekelia, the smaller station at Limassol had to be equipped and opened.

So far no infectious disease has been introduced into the Colony.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME AREAS.

The efforts of the sanitary staff in both the Nicosia and Paphos areas were mainly directed towards malaria control with satisfactory results.

CHAPTER III.—PORT HEALTH WORK AND ADMINISTRATION.

Nine hundred and thirteen visits were made by the medical and sanitary staff to ships and aircraft (excluding H. M. ships and aircraft) arriving at Cyprus ports and aerodromes, respectively.

During the year epizootic plague was notified as occurring in Haifa and on account of the traffic at Famagusta port and the speed necessary for the disembarkation of troops and military supplies, Government approved a programme of intensive rat destruction for the port area at Famagusta. This included the appointment of additional rat-catchers and the organization of a general campaign. Rats were caught by traps and destroyed by poison baits and all rat harbourage places discovered in various Government stores were removed or otherwise dealt with. Rat guards were placed on all the mooring ropes and careful inspections were carried out in respect of all ships arriving in Famagusta port.

Smears from rats captured on vessels or land at Famagusta were sent to the Government laboratory for examination and all specimens examined proved to be negative for *Bacillus Pestis*.

CHAPTER IV.—MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE.

MATERNAL WELFARE.

The training of midwives continued. There is one Government midwife at Nicosia and two honorary midwives stationed at Limassol and Famagusta.

After a course of instruction examinations were held, and 15 pupils who attended the classes passed the local examination.

The Government and honorary midwives with their pupils attended 244 confinements during the year as follows:—

Nicosia, 118; Limassol, 81; Famagusta, 45.

Under the Midwifery Law of 1932, one midwife holding a diploma of a recognized school and 15 trained in Cyprus were registered.

MATERNITY WARDS.

Cases—

(1) Normal	290
(2) Complicated	65
	355

Deaths—

(1) of mothers	8
(2) of infants born alive	9
(3) Still births	40

Sex of infants—

Male	194
Female	168

Operations—

Instrumental delivery	29
Hysterectomy due to ruptured uterus (on admission)	3
Cæsarian section	19
Removal of placenta	2
Internal versions	2

Diseases and complications affecting mother—

Heart disease	3
Albuminuria	9
Anæmia	6
Lacerated perineum	58
Placenta prævia	16
Post-Partum hæmorrhage	14
Ante-Partum hæmorrhage	8
Puerperal fever	3
Toxaemia of Pregnancy	6

Diseases and complications affecting the infant—

Asphyxia	18
Deformed feet	1

CHILD WELFARE.

Child welfare centres continued to operate in a modified way at all the principal towns, and attendances were kept up at their normal standard. It is desired particularly to place on record the excellent work done by Mrs. E. H. White, the Social Worker of the Cyprus Mines Corporation, both at Mavrovouni, Skouriotissa and Xeros. Progress reports of these activities were circulated to the Heads of Departments concerned each month and, through the excellent work done, made interesting reading. Mrs. White also did excellent work with mothers and infants at the home demonstration centre at Akaki. This work was voluntarily undertaken and was a great source of satisfaction to the Medical Department and the villagers of the district served.

CHAPTER V.—HOSPITALS, DISPENSARIES, CLINICS AND LABORATORIES.

HOSPITALS.

There was a very considerable increase in work at all hospitals during 1941, but this particularly applied to the Nicosia General Hospital where specialist treatment was carried out for military personnel referred by R.A.M.C. officers throughout the island. 3,828 military attendances were recorded at the Nicosia General Hospital alone and the Limassol Government Hospital and State-aided hospitals dealt with cases in proportion to the beds available. As a result revenue benefited considerably, £2,313. 10s. 3p. having been collected at Nicosia alone.

Four senior medical students, who are unable to complete their final year at the University of Athens, were taken on as clinical assistants in the medical division of the Nicosia hospital.

The policy of selecting Cypriot girls with the required educational background for training as nurses at the School of Nursing, American University of Beirut, resulted in four Cypriot girls graduating from that school with good places in their classes, following which they returned to Cyprus and assumed duty as Sisters at the Government Hospitals, Nicosia and Limassol. At the close of the year seven Cypriot Sisters were doing duty with the Department. They did excellent work.

CASUALTY HOSPITALS.

Over 500 beds were available for civilian casualties in the main Government hospitals, aided hospitals, and mining hospitals, and in war emergency hospitals situated at Nicosia, Limassol, Famagusta, Ktima, Polis, Larnaca and Kyrenia. The above number of beds could be rapidly and substantially increased by utilizing empty space at all hospitals should this become necessary. The highly trained staff of voluntary workers at all hospitals was almost entirely depleted when compulsory evacuation was ordered in Cyprus. Government then approved the payment of nurses and orderlies for emergency hospitals and trained staffs are again available for all emergency hospitals. These nurses and orderlies each month become more efficient through concentrated training which includes lectures and practical work in the general hospital. They have proved their value in actual air raids at Limassol, Famagusta and Nicosia where earlier in the year casualties presented for treatment. As far as possible the staffs of all emergency hospitals were trained in their hospitals by the admission of actual cases of illness and injury. At the Nicosia war emergency hospital the theatre staffed by V.A.Ds. has been utilized on many occasions for surgical operations of the type they ordinarily would be called upon to attend to.

First-Aid and Home Nursing Courses.—Intensive work of training for first-aid and home nursing was carried out during the year, and certificates were issued during 1941 to 75 men, including police, and 50 women. 467 individuals, most of whom are now on the island, have their certificates from the St. John's Ambulance Association, while 75 women have their certificates in home nursing from the same Association. In addition, a large class of secondary school boys at the English School, Nicosia, received their certificates and a smaller group at the secondary school at Ktima. This work of training continues.

MENTAL HOSPITAL.

Statistics.—On the 31st December, 1941, there were 269 mental patients (179 males, 90 females), whilst on the 31st December, 1940, there were 265 patients (176 males, 89 females), showing a small increase of 4 patients (3 males and 1 female).

Admissions.—During the year 59 patients were admitted; of these 43 were males and 16 females. Of the foregoing numbers 13 males and 4 females were cases of re-admission.

Discharges.—Total number 34, divided as follows: Discharged recovered 20 males, 8 females; discharged improved 3 males, 1 female; discharged not improved 1 male, 1 female.

Absent on parole.—On the 31st December, 1941, 1 male patient was on parole under the care and responsibility of his relatives at Larnaca.

Escapes.—There was 1 escape during the year of a male patient who was recaptured after one hour.

Religious services.—Seven were held during the year. Two for the Greek Orthodox patients, three for Moslem patients and two for Armenians.

Deaths.—During the year under review 22 patients (16 males, 6 females) died.

The general health of the inmates and staff was good, no serious illnesses occurring. Patients were kept occupied during the year.

On account of the increased number of patients three new blocks, two in the male and one in the female division, were erected.

LEPER FARM.—Statistics.

Number of lepers in the farm on 31st December, 1940	121
Admitted during 1941	13
	134
On parole	16
Died	5
	21
Remaining on 31st December, 1941	113

A quantity of diphtheria toxoid was imported into the Colony for experiments in the treatment of leprosy and this work is being continued and will be reported upon in detail in future reports. At this stage, however, results tend to be disappointing which is probably due to the fact that cases treated are perforce all advanced cutaneous lepers. No longer does one see the typical early cases which would be more suitable for treatment.

DISPENSARIES.

There are 6 district dispensaries, one attached to each hospital, and 18 rural dispensaries scattered over the whole island.

The following figures show the work carried out by these 24 dispensaries :—

Number of new cases	137,706
Number of old cases	153,489
Number of dressings	50,993
Number of prescriptions executed	387,476

EYE CLINICS.

The work done in connection with these institutions both at the hospitals and by the travelling oculists is recorded in the table of diseases.

There are four travelling oculists on the staff who attended the following patients during the year :—

	Larnaca	Limassol-Paphos	Nicosia-Kyrenia	Famagusta
New cases	3,727	2,971	3,136	2,997
Secondary treatments	8,432	2,796	3,809	5,168
Trachoma	1,201	186	406	419
Operations	74	30	11	9

The honorary oculists attended the following :—

	Nicosia	Limassol	Famagusta
New cases	1,624	1,476	292
Secondary treatments	922	4,618	113
Trachoma	134	449	—*
Operations	3	22	22

* Included in the 419 new cases of trachoma attended by the travelling oculist, Famagusta.

DENTAL SERVICE.

The total number of attendances at schools, hospitals, dental clinics, central and Athalassa prisons, mental hospital, sanatorium, leper farm, internees camp, Polish refugees was 36,402. 20,725 extractions, fillings and other treatment were carried out.

During the year the services of Government dentists have been extended to 332 village schools and 18,420 pupils were examined and treated.

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINICS.

[See VENEREAL DISEASES IN CHAPTER II—(b) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.]

ATHALASSA SANATORIUM.

[See under TUBERCULOSIS IN CHAPTER II—(b) INFECTIOUS DISEASES.]

GOVERNMENT AND STATE-AIDED HOSPITALS.

STATISTICS.

Hospital	Year	In-patients	Out-patients	Operations
Nicosia	1940	2,340	26,876	1,591
	1941	2,312	29,686	1,294
Limassol	1940	894	10,149	504
	1941	880	10,644	459
Larnaca	1940	1,086	8,652	377
	1941	840	7,481	191
Famagusta	1940	968	8,051	494
	1941	830	12,978	346
Paphos	1940	528	3,305	147
	1941	552	3,311	115
Kyrenia	1940	617	4,794	87
	1941	515	7,402	61

GOVERNMENT PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

During 1941 the total number of specimens examined, excluding medico-legal ones and autopsies, was 13,407, as compared with 11,336 in 1940.

GOVERNMENT CHEMICAL LABORATORY.

The total number of samples analysed was 1,153 compared with 1,534 of the previous year. This decrease is partly accounted for by the smaller number of food and drugs samples and partly by the fact that samples of milk of sheep and goats sent from Athalassa in previous years were not submitted for analysis in the year under review.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS.

The total number of exhibits examined in connection with criminal cases was 130.

WATERS.

The number of 63 samples of water examined during the year shows an increase compared with 42 samples of the previous year. Of these samples, only 25 were found to be chemically satisfactory; all the others were either contaminated with organic impurities, hard, saline, or a combination of these.

CUSTOMS.

Eighteen samples were submitted for analysis including samples of foodstuffs which were sent for conformity to the Regulations made under the Food and Drugs Law, 1938. A few samples of petroleum products were also sent for their flash points, and some piece goods for their composition.

SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION.

The usual examination for the Government Certificate in Chemistry was held from the 13th to the 17th January, 1941. Nineteen candidates presented themselves, twelve of whom passed the examination and were awarded the Government Certificate. The sum of £38 was collected.

OTHER DUTIES.

Analytical work or work of an advisory nature not mentioned under any of the above headings was undertaken for the Postal Censor, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Treasurer, Officer Commanding Cyprus Volunteer Force, Legal Department, Director of Agriculture, Director of Public Works, District Medical Officer, Nicosia, Tuberculosis Officer and Health Officer, Nicosia.

Experiments on the dehydration of alcohol by azeotropic distillation were continued in the earlier part of the year. The experiments were carried out in a copper still of about 2 gallons capacity, the design of which was the same in principle as the small glass still used the previous year. With this apparatus a motor spirit containing 25-30% dehydrated alcohol, stable at freezing point was finally prepared. It was computed that the heat required to dehydrate alcohol at about 95½% sufficiently for this purpose would be 2½ to 3 times the amount of heat required for a simple distillation of the alcohol. Running tests with this mixture in a car indicated that its anti-knock character was excellent and that its efficiency as a fuel was about equal to pre-war petrol, but the cost of producing it on a commercial basis proved prohibitive.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH WITH TOTALS IN GOVERNMENT AND STATE-AIDED HOSPITALS.

(a) GENERAL SYSTEMIC DISEASES.

	<i>No. of deaths</i>
(1) Digestive system	55
(2) Respiratory system	31
(3) General and other diseases..	156

(b) COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

	<i>No. of deaths</i>
(1) Diphtheria	11
(2) Other diseases.. ..	77
(3) Tuberculosis	27
(4) Meningitis	4

CHAPTER VI.—TRAINING OF LOCAL MEDICAL AND HEALTH PERSONNEL.

During the year classes of intensive training were organized as a Medical Department activity for non-commissioned officers of R.A.M.C. personnel stationed in Cyprus. Two classes were held at which from 10 to 12 non-commissioned officers were trained in work of malaria control as carried out in Cyprus. The course, conducted by Mr. M. Aziz, M.B.E., Chief Sanitary Inspector, consisted of lectures and demonstrations at headquarters, work of control in the field, tours of inspection to the more malarious districts of Cyprus, and finally control work carried out by the students themselves under supervision by health staff. The course was followed by examination both written and oral. This course of training was apparently much appreciated by the A.D.M.S. and the military authorities and resulted in better work of control in and about military camps throughout the island.

Fifteen pupil midwives were registered after an examination held by the Department. Six chemists and druggists were registered.

ERROLL A. NEFF,

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