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CYPRUS

MEDICAL & SANITARY REPORT

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MEDICAL AND SANITARY REPORT FOR 1942

CHAPTER I.—ADMINISTRATION.

(A) FINANCIAL.

	1939	1940	1941	1942
Expenditure :				
Personal Emoluments	£27,744	£26,232	£25,803	£25,576
Other Charges	£41,006	£47,909	£53,588	£64,451
Total	£68,750	£74,141	£79,391	£90,027

The 1942 figure represents 5.14% (5.80%)* of the Colony's expenditure for 1942.

	1939	1940	1941	1942
Revenue	£6,092	£6,670	£7,482	£10,802

Of the 1942 total £4,813 (£3,169) was collected from holders of Mukhtars' certificates.

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

Law No. 24—The Trades and Industries (Regulation) (Amendment) Law, 1942.

Orders and Regulations.—Sixteen orders were made affecting procedure under named Laws, and affecting the control and sale of drugs especially quinine.

CHAPTER II.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

(A) GENERAL REMARKS.

The general health of the Colony may be regarded as having been satisfactory. Factors that might have disturbed it were the further influx of refugees and the congestion of large numbers of labourers on special works. Quarantine measures prevented any adverse influence through the former, but the latter had some slight effect in spreading communicable disease.

(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 :—

	1940		1941		1942	
	(i) I-p.	(ii) O-p.	(i) I-p.	(ii) O-p.	(i) I-p.	(ii) O-p.
(a) General systemic diseases :						
(1) Digestive system	1,776	23,184	1,505	24,497	1,811	28,285
(2) Eye	109	21,293	100	18,335	54	17,742
(3) Skin diseases	409	9,917	354	12,067	400	12,019
(4) Respiratory system	408	7,871	467	8,700	579	8,866
(5) General & other diseases	3,311	24,355	3,334	30,316	3,390	28,471
(6) Nervous system	174	8,079	170	7,313	187	10,362
(7) Organs of locomotion	139	1,027	135	1,021	123	1,425
	6,326	95,726	6,065	102,249	6,544	107,170
(b) Communicable diseases :						
(1) Malaria	350	8,122	240	4,417	305	7,435
(2) Influenza	60	5,783	120	8,523	97	6,239
(3) Other diseases	564	1,262	577	1,604	894	4,072
(4) Tuberculosis	234	311	151	136	197	347
(5) Gonorrhoea	16	1,280	19	1,062	16	979
(6) Syphilis	14	491	13	482	10	586
(7) Meningitis	12	6	8	7	64	6
	1,250	17,255	1,128	16,231	1,583	19,664
Total	7,576	112,981	7,193	118,480	8,127	126,834
Total (a) and (b)	120,557		125,673		134,961	

(ii) NUTRITION.

The experiments in giving extra food to undernourished children were continued by the Cyprus Mines Corporation.

(iii) TRADES AND INDUSTRIES.

The progress mentioned last year continued.

(iv) CONTROL OF DANGEROUS DRUGS.

Permits issued for local transfer of these drugs numbered 122. Two persons were prosecuted by the Police for offences against the Law.

(B) DISEASES.

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

The figures for these are given above under Statistics.

* Figures in parentheses refer to the year 1941.



II. COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

(a) *Insect-borne diseases.*

MALARIA.

An increase in the number of cases of malaria was noticed in certain parts of the island. Total cases in 1942 were 7,740 compared with 4,657 in 1941 and 8,461 in 1940. The principal causes for this were :—

- (a) Increased rainfall as compared with the previous year.
- (b) Difficulty in obtaining suitable labour for anti-malarial field work.
- (c) Necessary economy in the issue of quinine.
- (d) The creation of extensive mosquito-breeding areas arising from defence measures.
- (e) Difficulty in obtaining larvicides and other equipment.
- (f) Transport difficulties.

The military authorities contributed £5,200 to supplement funds spent on anti-malarial measures and also assisted in the purchase of larvicides, etc.

As regards quinine, although adequate stocks were available in the Colony for therapeutic use, the greatest economy had to be exercised and substitute drugs used wherever possible.

The yearly blood and spleen examination carried out in 92 villages in the 4th quarter of the year had to be postponed owing to transport difficulties. It will be completed before the beginning of the 1943 malarial season.

(b) *Infectious diseases.*

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

The subjoined table of notifiable diseases shows a marked increase in cases of this disease, which occurred sporadically.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The year was marked by the opening in March of the King George V Jubilee Sanatorium at Kyperounda. Owing to the demand for treatment and to Athalassa sanatorium having been taken over for other purposes, 52 patients were accommodated instead of 36. As a result of the combined work of the sanatorium and the tuberculosis dispensaries there is a growing tendency for earlier cases to seek admission. Out of 67 new patients admitted in the year, collapse therapy was attempted on 33 of them.

Another step forward was the introduction of major surgery in the form of thoracoplasty and extra pleural pneumothorax for the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis.

The work in the 3 tuberculosis dispensaries continued to increase. These dispensaries are organized by a Committee of the Cyprus Anti-Tuberculosis League. The League employs a medical officer who works under the general supervision of the Government Tuberculosis Officer. 384 (347) new patients attended the dispensaries during the year and in spite of present transport difficulties 785 visits by health visitors were made to tuberculous patients in their homes and villages.

The number of tuberculosis cases notified in 1942 amounted to 253 as compared with 191 in 1941 and 202 in 1940.

Kyperounda sanatorium.

STATISTICS.										
					Males		Females		Total	
Remaining at end of 1941	..	..	..	..	31	..	22	..	53	
Admitted	..	..	..	..	37	..	34	..	71	
										124
Discharged	..	..	..	..	31	..	19	..	50	
Deaths	..	..	..	..	14	..	11	..	25	
										75
Remaining at end of 1942	..	..	..	..	23	..	26	..	49	
										49

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The following table shows the new cases treated :—

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
Gonorrhoea	599	603	522	401	322
Syphilis	186	161	178	185	148
Soft chancre	231	186	143	557	232
		1940	1941	1942	
Total attendances		77,657	141,567	154,090	

The increased attendance is due to intensive treatment and prophylaxis carried out in all the clinics. New cases show a steady decline since 1939.

TYPHOID.

There was an increase in the number of cases of typhoid fever, 1,186 compared with 820 in 1941 and 983 in 1940. The disease did not appear in epidemic form. It was attributed to fly transmission and the insanitary habits of the villagers. Improvement can and must be obtained by increased public health propaganda and the more general use of properly constructed latrines. Much work has already been done in this direction by special sanitary measures taken in a large number of villages, and preparations are proceeding for continuation of these during 1943. An extensive inoculation campaign was carried out during the year and a large number of persons were protected. Further supplies of the vaccine have been ordered.

OTHER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

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

Measles.—There was a wide-spread epidemic of measles. Over 900 cases were notified. The increased death and infant mortality rates are attributable to complications resulting from this disease.

Diphtheria.—A marked drop in the number of cases to 60 from 343 in 1941 and 100 in 1940.

Mumps.—An epidemic started in the last quarter of the year and spread rapidly throughout the island. 438 cases were recorded amongst civilians during that period.

(c) *Helminthic diseases.*

	1940	1941	1942
Cestoda (Taenia)	44	60	71
Ascaris	234	175	183
Oxyuris	553	764	631

The following table shows the cases of notifiable diseases for the past three years :—

	1940	1941	1942
Chicken pox	369	283	193
Diphtheria	100	343	60
Scarlet fever	10	6	9
E.C.S. Meningitis	16	13	100
Typhoid	983	820	1,186
Dysentery	80	134	302
Tuberculosis	202	191	253
Measles	20	12	900
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	1	11	3
Trachoma	1,950	1,565	1,234
Leprosy	7	6	15
Whooping cough	9	15	49
Anthrax	6	1	2
Relapsing fever	—	5	73

(c) VITAL STATISTICS.

RETURN OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN THE SIX DISTRICTS OF THE ISLAND.

(Including the six principal towns.)

District	(For the year ended 31st December, 1942.)					
	Estimated population on 30th June, 1942	Births		Deaths		Infant mortality per 1,000 births
		No. of births	Rate per 1,000	No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000	
Nicosia	128,141	2,825	22.0	2,302	17.9	191.5
Larnaca	50,345	1,085	21.5	836	16.6	188.0
Limassol	61,754	1,589	25.7	1,010	16.3	168.6
Famagusta	80,090	1,849	23.0	1,335	16.6	142.2
Paphos	45,378	1,338	29.4	794	17.4	238.4
Kyrenia	23,822	535	22.4	470	19.7	201.8
Total	389,530	9,221	23.6	6,747	17.3	184.6

RETURN OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS IN THE SIX PRINCIPAL TOWNS

Town	(For the year ended 31st December, 1942.)					
	Estimated population on 30th June, 1942	Births		Deaths		Infant mortality per 1,000 births
		No. of births	Rate per 1,000	No. of deaths	Rate per 1,000	
Nicosia	29,366	511	17.4	499	16.9	178.0
Larnaca and Scala	14,220	262	18.4	235	16.5	156.4
Limassol	17,630	509	28.8	302	17.1	131.6
Famagusta and Varosha	13,331	264	19.8	152	11.4	79.5
Paphos and Ktima	4,964	90	18.1	67	13.4	200.0
Kyrenia	2,394	72	30.0	49	20.4	125.0
Total	81,905	1,708	20.8	1,304	15.9	144.6

(d) HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

SANITARY MEASURES.

A scheme started in 1941 to instal latrine accommodation for each household in selected areas was completed, and 1,905 houses equipped. In the spring of 1942 the scheme was extended to other areas and an additional 6,614 houses were dealt with. Two further areas were selected and installations are being carried out.

32,214 people were vaccinated against smallpox.

REFUGEES.

Over 9,000 Greek and 179 Roumanian refugees were handled by the Medical Department at the quarantine stations of Dhékalia, Limassol, Lambousa, Mavrovouni and Skouriotissa. The Roumanian refugees being enemy aliens were accommodated in hotels in a special area under Police supervision. These unfortunate people usually arrived in an emaciated and verminous condition and had to be cleansed, fed and clothed by the Department and subsequently dispersed to various towns and villages. It is highly satisfactory to note that no cases of dangerous infectious diseases occurred amongst them. It was considered advisable to concentrate the refugees into two of the largest camps each able to accommodate 1,200 persons. These camps, formerly occupied by troops are very suitable for the purpose. They are well laid out and situated in healthy areas on the sea-shore. Good hospitals were established in both places with resident medical and nursing staffs and provision was also made for ophthalmic and dental treatment. The Medical Department was greatly indebted to the Cyprus Mines Corporation for the valuable assistance rendered in connection with the quarantine work in respect of refugees. Had it not been for the facilities provided by the Corporation it would have been extremely difficult to deal with them effectively on first arrival.

CHAPTER III.—PORT HEALTH WORK.

Effective quarantine precautions at the ports prevented the importation of any dangerous infectious disease. Five hundred and eighty-four 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.

CHAPTER IV.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Government and honorary midwives attended 247 (244) confinements.

MATERNITY WARDS.

Cases—	1940	1941	1942
(1) Normal labour	417	290	316
(2) Complicated	110	65	74
	527	355	390
Deaths—			
(1) Mothers	7	8	4
(2) Infants born alive	8	9	27
(3) Still births	57	40	39

The training of midwives continued.

Two midwives holding diplomas of recognized schools and the seven locally-trained were registered.

CHILD WELFARE.

Welfare centres functioned at all the chief towns except Limassol. They are financed and managed by voluntary effort assisted by grants from municipal councils. 6,587 attendances were recorded.

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

HOSPITALS.

A small increase of work was recorded at most hospitals chiefly due to the return of inhabitants from the country to the towns after the evacuation of the previous year. This increase would have been more marked but for the numbers of military cases attending in 1941 until adequate independent military facilities were available.

It was found difficult to obtain the required number of probationer nurses owing to more attractive and remunerative employment found elsewhere under war conditions.

GOVERNMENT AND STATE-AIDED HOSPITALS.

STATISTICS.

Hospital	In-patients			Out-patients			Operations		
	1940	1941	1942	1940	1941	1942	1940	1941	1942
Nicosia	2,340	2,312	2,704	26,876	29,686	29,852	1,591	1,294	1,267
Limassol	894	880	1,006	10,149	10,644	10,431	504	459	513
Larnaca	1,086	840	1,059	8,652	7,481	8,543	377	191	320
Famagusta	968	830	884	8,051	12,978	7,380	494	346	491
Paphos	528	552	483	3,305	3,311	3,231	147	115	101
Kyrenia	617	515	551	4,794	7,402	6,256	87	61	45

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

(a) GENERAL SYSTEMIC DISEASES.

	No. of deaths		
	1940	1941	1942
(1) Digestive system	53	55	43
(2) Respiratory system	30	31	32
(3) General and other diseases	148	156	205

(b) COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

	No. of deaths		
	1940	1941	1942
(1) Diphtheria	14	11	3
(2) Other diseases	51	77	24
(3) Tuberculosis	31	27	25
(4) Meningitis	2	4	11

CASUALTY HOSPITALS.

The position remained as in 1941 and the training of the staff was continued.

In Nicosia a new and well equipped reception station was constructed under the new hospital. A complete blood transfusion unit was started and trained. All Government officials and Police were blood grouped. In Limassol the emergency hospital was removed from an old building into a new and more suitable school building.

MENTAL HOSPITAL.

Statistics.—On the 31st December, 1942, there were 263 (269) mental patients, 166 (179) males and 97 (90) females, showing a small decrease of 6 patients in total population.

Admissions.—During the year 73 patients were admitted; 47 being males and 26 females. Of these, 32 males and 21 females were first admissions and 15 males and 5 females were re-admissions. The total number treated during the year was 342, 226 being males and 116 females.

Discharges.—Total number 50, divided as follows: Recovered: 24 males, 9 females; a total of 33. Improved: 8 males, 1 female; a total of 9. Not improved: 4 males. On parole: 2 males, 2 females; a total of 4.

Deaths.—33 (22) patients, 24 (16) males and 9 (6) females, died.

Escapes.—One male patient escaped during the year but was recaptured on the same day.

Religious services.—Five were held during the year. Two for the Greek-Orthodox patients, two for the Moslem and one for the Armenian patients. Attendances were satisfactory.

Cases of injury.—9 by accident, 2 self-inflicted and 16 by other patients, all of a minor nature.

The general health of the patients and staff was good, no serious illnesses occurring with the exception of the Head Warder, who died on the 15th July, 1942, after an operation for laryngeal tumour. Patients were kept occupied according to their capacity and skill.

LEPER FARM.—Statistics.

Number of lepers in the farm on 31st December, 1941	..	..	..	113	
Admitted during 1942	..	..	..	13	
					126
On parole	..	..	..	7	
Died	..	..	..	11	
					18
Remaining on 31st December, 1942	..	..	..		108

The dietary was increased and an extra monetary allowance was granted to the inmates to meet the increased cost of living. The treatment with diphtheria antitoxoid was discontinued owing to shortage of supply.

DISPENSARIES.

The following figures show the work carried out by the six district and eighteen rural dispensaries:—

	1940	1941	1942
Number of new cases	128,701	137,706	143,449
Number of old cases	158,333	153,489	143,655
Number of dressings	51,329	50,993	53,197
Number of prescriptions executed	366,354	387,476	377,830

OPHTHALMIC CLINICS.

The following table shows the work done by travelling oculists at ophthalmic clinics. The new cases are included in those recorded under statistics in chapter II.

	1940	1941	1942
New cases	12,715	16,223	15,187
Secondary treatment	28,630	25,858	23,422
Trachoma	3,091	2,795	2,559
Operations	661	171	269

DENTAL CLINICS.

The total number of attendances at schools, hospitals, clinics, prisons, leper farm and refugee camps was 32,340. 20,136 extractions, fillings and other treatments were carried out.

During the year the services of the five honorary dentists were extended to 303 village schools at which 15,104 pupils were examined and treated.

GOVERNMENT PATHOLOGICAL LABORATORY.

The number of specimens examined excluding medico-legal cases and autopsies was 14,016 (13,407). Fees amounting to £695. 6s. 2p. were paid into revenue.

GOVERNMENT CHEMICAL LABORATORY.

The number of samples examined or analysed was 973 (1,153) of which 107 (130) were connected with criminal cases.

Analytical work or work of an advisory nature was also undertaken for the Postal Censor, Controller of Supplies, Director of Agriculture, Director of Public Works, Tuberculosis Officer, District Medical Officer, Health Officer, Nicosia, Royal Engineers, Royal Army Service Corps and for representatives of private firms.

SCIENTIFIC EDUCATION.

The usual examination for the Government certificate in chemistry was held on 12th to 14th February, 1942. Seventeen candidates presented themselves, twelve of whom passed the examination and were awarded the Government certificate.

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

Lectures and practical demonstrations in first aid work were given at various centres for the training of Police and A.R.P. personnel.

Refresher courses were also held in connection with A.R.P. personnel.

Lectures and demonstrations in home nursing were given at the Nicosia emergency hospital for which certificates were granted.

The lectures to midwives were continued as part of their training for the examination held yearly.

WILLIAM E. GLOVER,
Director of Medical Services.