

## **Annual report of the Medical Department / Colony of Seychelles.**

### **Contributors**

Seychelles. Medical Department.

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SEYCHELLES.

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ANNUAL REPORTS

ON THE

**MEDICAL DEPARTMENT IN SEYCHELLES**

FOR THE YEAR

1902.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

## Of the Chief Medical Officer on the Sanitary condition of Seychelles during the year 1902.

### CHAPTER I.

#### VITAL STATISTICS.

**Total Estimated population for 1902.** 1. The estimated population on December 31st, 1902, shows an increase over that of December 31st, 1901, of 429.

This increase was greater by 97 than that of 1901, but does not yet bring the population of the Colony up to 20,000 the total being 19,772.

**The birth-rate.** 2. The birth rate is 35.72 per thousand, giving an increase of 3.11 per thousand in comparison with that of the previous year.

**The death-rate.** 3. The death rate is 16.49 per thousand, a decrease of 2.26 per thousand, and is below the average for the last five years which is 17.21.

**Ages at which death occurs.** 4. Of the 319 persons who died during the year, no fewer than 122 died before reaching the age of five years, 172 died between the ages of 5 and 70, and 25 persons passed the age of 70.

Seventy five children died before attaining the age of one year.

**Still births.** 5. The number of still births was fifty three. Not quite so many as last year, but there is still room for improvement.

### CHAPTER II.

#### METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

**Temperature.** 1. The mean temperature for the year was 79.125 F. The average for the five years 1898-1902 inclusive being 79.075.

**Rainfall.** 2. The year was noticeable chiefly for the dry weather which prevailed during the months of April, May, June, and July when only 7.40 inches of rain fell. The average for these four months being 14.75 inches.

To make up for this, however, rain fell on 51 days during October, November, and December, whilst between November 7th and December 7th there were only three days on which rain was not registered; the rain which fell for this period of 31 days amounted to 19.39 inches.

The total rainfall for this year was 87.81 inches, the average for the last five years being 99.65 inches.



The South East trade wind.

3. The monsoon promised well. It began early in April but never blew with any strength for any length of time, and when it died away, as it did towards the end of September, the thermometer at once went up, and the last four months of 1902 were rather hotter than usual.

### CHAPTER III.

#### PREVALENCE OF SICKNESS AT DIFFERENT SEASONS.

##### Epidemics.

1. There were a few cases of chicken pox during the year, but they did not occur in sufficient numbers to constitute an epidemic. This disease occurs at intervals and is endemic in the Colony.

Two cases of typhoid fever were reported by the Assistant Medical Officer of South Mahé. They occurred in people who had never left the Colony. It is impossible to say where or how they contracted the disease as they live in a very lonely and inaccessible place and seldom leave it.

Both persons recovered and I have not received notification of any other cases.

##### Beri-beri

2. Several cases of *Beri-beri* occurred during the year, and the disease appears to be becoming more common. It is not confined to any particular district but appears to have become generally endemic. The theory that rice diet is responsible for the disease has not been born out in the cases which have come under my notice. Rice is certainly the staple food of the inhabitants and all those who have contracted the disease have been rice eaters, by this I mean persons whose food consists chiefly of rice; but their friends and relations who are also rice eaters have escaped, and the sick persons have in most cases recovered although of necessity rice has continued to form the greater part of their food.

A change of residence has usually proved the starting point of convalescence, and relapses, when they have taken place, have always done so when the sufferer has returned to the place where he contracted the disease before he was really well enough to do so.

All the cases which were brought to me came from houses built on the ground, and the disease is much more common in the wet than in the dry season.

##### Diarrhoea.

3. Diarrhoea is without doubt the cause of the death of most of the children and a good many adults. It is usually due to one or other of the intestinal parasites which are found in the Colony.

The most commonly noticed (probably because it is the largest) is the *Ascaris lumbricoides*. It is found in all the children and the administration of a few grains of Santonin to most adults is certain to bring away one or two specimens.

The next most common one is the *Tricocephalus Dispar*. Usually this parasite does not produce many bad symptoms but I have seen cases of obstinate diarrhoea which have ceased when the ova or worms themselves have disappeared from the stools.

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1902

The *Anchylostomum duodenale* is not common, but it exists and is more often found in adults than in children.

I have seen specimens of the *Tenia Nana*; they do not seem to cause much trouble, and all the specimens I have seen have come from children. I have not yet been able to detect the *Filaria Sanguinis* but from the presence of *Elephantiasis* amongst the natives of the place their presence may be suspected. It is difficult to get an opportunity of examining these cases. The sufferer thinks that he is suffering from leprosy and is afraid that he will be sent to the Leprosy Asylum at Round Island.

It is an interesting fact that whilst the ordinary bug (*cimex lectularius*) is very common and can be found in almost every house, the *pulex irritans*, or common flea, is very rare.

Other Disease.

4. Apart from the above the year many be said to have been a healthy one.

## CHAPTER IV.

### SANITARY CONDITION OF VICTORIA TOWN.

Night Soil Service.

1. I am sorry that I cannot report any improvement in the night soil service. The present system has not proved much better than the old one.

The latrines are emptied more regularly but the method of removing the tubs is a great source of complaint and the night soil carts are a positive nuisance and render the main streets of the Town unusable whilst they are about. Unfortunately owing to the flatness of the low lying part of the Town round Bazaar street, and the large expanse of mud (exposed at low tide) which lies along the whole foreshore, the work of carrying out a complete and efficient system of drainage could only be undertaken at very great expense.

Water Supply.

2. The supply of water has been to a certain extent improved by the cleansing of the main and by certain alterations at the Rochon reservoir. The need for a larger reservoir was felt towards the end of the long drought when the water had to be periodically shut off from the main to allow the reservoir to refill.

## CHAPTER V.

### THE ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Dr Bradley's Report.

1. I beg to draw Your Honour's notice to the report of the Assistant Medical Officer for South Mahé.

It has been compiled with great care and speaks well for the zeal and intelligence with which Dr. Bradley performs his duties as Assistant Medical Officer.

The Assistant Medical Officer, Praslin.

2. Dr Laidlaw arrived in the Colony early in February and took over his duties at Praslin before the end of the month. I enclose his report on the Sanitary Condition of the district under his care.

The Assistant Medical Officer, Victoria.

3. Dr de Gruchy carried out the work of Assistant Medical Officer Praslin until Dr Laidlaw's arrival.



His presence at Mahé has been of great assistance to me. Surgical cases which used formerly to be obliged to await the arrival of a Man-of-War are now operated upon at once, and I am enabled to devote more time to my other duties.

His help has been more valuable because his work has always been done in a painstaking and conscientious manner.

## CHAPTER VI.

### VACCINATION.

The year under consideration has been an experimental one as far as vaccination has been concerned.

At the commencement of the year we had ice and the lymph kept fairly well.

In July however the supply of ice stopped and the results fell off.

Now however with the pulp lymph and Renner's the results are better again.

The results of the vaccination carried out at the Victoria Hospital were as follows:

|                     |     |     |     |     |            |
|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Successful 1st time | ... | ... | ... | ... | 229        |
| „ 2nd „             | ..  | ... | ... | ... | 67         |
| „ 3rd „             | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12         |
| Unsuccessful        | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23         |
| Total...            |     |     |     | ... | <u>331</u> |

## CHAPTER VII.

### QUARANTINE SERVICES.

The Quarantine Stations were not used during the year. The disinfector is kept in order by the Government blacksmith, who visits it once a month, and gets up steam and repairs any little thing which may have gone wrong.

Various small alterations to ensure the better working of the machine have been carried out during the year.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE VICTORIA HOSPITAL.

Inpatients during 1902. 1. Two hundred and three males and sixty three females were treated during the year.

There were fourteen deaths, giving a mortality of 5.32 per cent.

Outpatients during 1902. 2. 2,340 persons received free out patient treatment during the year.

This number was composed as follows :

|               |     |     |     |     |       |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| New males ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 112   |
| Old „ ...     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 326   |
| New females   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 456   |
| Old „ ...     | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1446  |
|               |     |     |     |     | <hr/> |
|               |     |     |     |     | 2340  |
|               |     |     |     |     | <hr/> |

Most of the cases when not due to Venereal diseases were due in the adults to dyspepsia and minor gastric troubles. To Anaemia in the younger and growing females and to worms and various parasites among the children.

Nursing.

3. I have again the pleasant duty of thanking the Sisters of St Joseph de Cluny for the work and kind assistance during the year. Your Honour has had frequent opportunities of seeing the result of their labours during your visits to the hospital, and you have always afforded them great pleasure by noticing the clean and efficient state of the wards under their charge.

ROBERT DENMAN,

31. May, 1903.

Chief Medical Officer.





TABLE I.

VITAL STATISTICS 1902.

|   | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---|--------|----------|--------|
|   | 9,897  | 9,446    | 19,343 |
| Population on December 31st. 1901           | ...    | ...      | ...    |
| Increase by births during 1902              | 363    | 326      | 691    |
| " " arrivals                                | 425    | 66       | 491    |
| TOTAL Increase 1902                         | ...    | ...      | 1,182  |
| Decrease by deaths during 1902              | 171    | 148      | 319    |
| " " departures during 1902                  | 352    | 82       | 434    |
| TOTAL decrease during 1902                  | ...    | ...      | 753    |
| Net Increase                                | ...    | ...      | 429    |
| Estimated Population on December 31st. 1902 |        |          |        |
|   | ...    | ...      | ...    |
| Still births during 1902                    | 34     | 19       | 53     |
| Birth rate for 1902                         | ...    | ...      | ...    |
| Death rate for 1902                         | ...    | ...      | ...    |
| Deaths under 5 years of age                 | ...    | ...      | 122    |
| " over 5 years and under 70 years           | ...    | ...      | 172    |
| " " 70 years                                | ...    | ...      | 25     |
|   | ...    | ...      | 319    |

R. DENMAN,  
Chief Medical Officer.

TABLE II.

| 1902.      |     | Temperature.   |                   |                |                |        |       | Rainfall.         |                    | Winds.     |        | Deaths.           |
|------------|-----|----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------|-------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|--------|-------------------|
| Months.    |     | Solar Maximum. | Minimum on Grass. | Shade Maximum. | Shade Minimum. | Range. | Mean. | Amount in Inches. | Depth of Humidity. | Direction. | Force. | Deaths per month. |
| January    | ... | 147.           | 72.0              | 84.4           | 71.8           | 12.6   | 78.35 | 15.44             | 5.6                | N. N. W.   | 7.3    | 36                |
| February   | ... | 155.           | 72.0              | 86.7           | 71.8           | 15.6   | 79.25 | 14.72             | 6.60               | N.         | 6.2    | 31                |
| March...   | ... | 157.5          | 73.0              | 87.0           | 72.5           | 14.5   | 79.6  | 9.87              | 6.44               | N. N. W.   | 4.6    | 28                |
| April ...  | ... | 155.           | 73.6              | 88.0           | 72.8           | 15.2   | 81.2  | 1.76              | 7.48               | S. S. E.   | 4.7    | 24                |
| May ...    | ... | 155.           | 73.               | 86.8           | 72.2           | 14.6   | 80.4  | 3.96              | 5.55               | S. E.      | 8.9    | 25                |
| June ...   | ... | 151.           | 69.6              | 84.4           | 68.0           | 16.4   | 78.15 | 0.76              | 5.84               | S. S. E.   | 10.6   | 26                |
| July ...   | ... | 145.5          | 69.0              | 83.2           | 68.3           | 14.9   | 78.1  | 0.92              | 2.14               | S. S. E.   | 10.7   | 29                |
| August ... | ... | 147.           | 70.0              | 84.1           | 69.7           | 15.4   | 77.95 | 4.11              | 5.79               | S. E.      | 11.9   | 24                |
| September  | ... | 150.5          | 73.0              | 84.8           | 71.6           | 13.2   | 78.8  | 2.51              | 5.99               | S. E.      | 12.0   | 31                |
| October    | ... | 154.           | 70.0              | 86.1           | 69.7           | 16.4   | 79.1  | 8.60              | 3.21               | S. S. E.   | 7.1    | 27                |
| November   | ... | 155.           | 72.0              | 86.2           | 71.7           | 12.5   | 79.1  | 10.53             | 7.37               | N. N. W.   | 4.5    | 20                |
| December   | ... | 149.           | 72.0              | 86.0           | 71.5           | 14.5   | 79.1  | 14.63             | 5.7                | N. W.      | 8.2    | 18                |
|            |     |                |                   |                |                |        |       |                   |                    |            |        | 310               |

R. DENMAN,  
Chief Medical Officer.





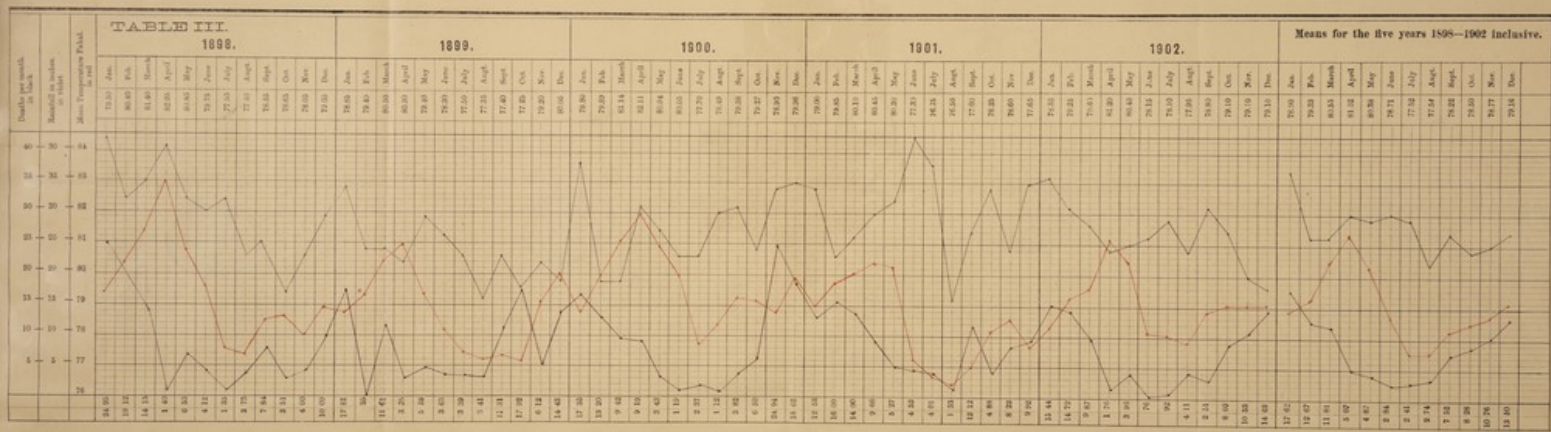




TABLE IV.

| Diseases.                                  |     |     |     | Remaining in Hos-<br>pital on 1st Jan.<br>1902. | Cases admitted<br>during 1902. | Deaths. | Total Cases. | Remaining in Hos-<br>pital on Dec. 31st<br>1902. |
|--|-----|-----|-----|---|--------------------------------|---------|--------------|--|
| <i>General Diseases.</i>                   |     |     |     |   |                                |         |              |  |
| Abscess                                    | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 2                              | ...     | 2            | ...  |
| Anæmia                                     | ... | ... | ... | 1   | 9                              | ...     | 10           | ...  |
| Adenitis                                   | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| Confinement                                | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 3                              | ...     | 3            | ...  |
| Debility                                   | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 10                             | 1       | 10           | ...  |
| Elephantiasis                              | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| Fistula                                    | ... | ... | ... | 1   | 4                              | ...     | 5            | ...  |
| Gonorrhœa                                  | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 20                             | ...     | 20           | ...  |
| Hæmorrhoids                                | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| Hysteria                                   | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | 1  |
| Hernia                                     | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| Imbecile                                   | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 2                              | ...     | 2            | ...  |
| Malarial Fever                             | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 5                              | ...     | 5            | ...  |
| Necrosis                                   | ... | ... | ... | 1   | 5                              | ...     | 6            | ...  |
| Rheumatism (sub acute)                     | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 14                             | ...     | 14           | 3  |
| Syphilis                                   | ... | ... | ... | 1   | 20                             | ...     | 21           | 1  |
| Tonsillitis                                | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 2                              | ...     | 2            | ...  |
| Ulcers                                     | ... | ... | ... | 2   | 11                             | ...     | 13           | ...  |
| <i>Diseases of the Nervous System.</i>     |     |     |     |   |                                |         |              |  |
| Beri beri                                  | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 8                              | 2       | 8            | 1  |
| Peripheral Neuritis                        | ... | ... | ... | 1   | ...                            | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| Sciatica                                   | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| Hemiplegia                                 | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | 1       | 1            | ...  |
| <i>Diseases of the Eye.</i>                |     |     |     |   |                                |         |              |  |
| Cataract                                   | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| Conjunctivitis                             | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| Iritis                                     | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 2                              | ...     | 2            | ...  |
| Ophthalmia                                 | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| <i>Diseases of the Circulatory System.</i> |     |     |     |   |                                |         |              |  |
| Heart                                      | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 4                              | ...     | 4            | ...  |
| Pericarditis                               | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| <i>Diseases of the Respiratory System.</i> |     |     |     |   |                                |         |              |  |
| Asthma                                     | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 2                              | ...     | 2            | ...  |
| Bronchitis                                 | ... | ... | ... | 1   | 12                             | 1       | 13           | ...  |
| Broncho pneumonia                          | ... | ... | ... | 1   | ...                            | 1       | 1            | ...  |
| Phthisis                                   | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 3                              | ...     | 3            | ...  |
| Pleurisy                                   | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 3                              | ...     | 3            | ...  |
| Pneumonia                                  | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 2                              | ...     | 2            | ...  |



TABLE IV—Continued.

| Diseases.                                 |     |     |     | Remaining in Hos-<br>pital on 1st Jan.<br>1902. | Cases admitted<br>during 1902. | Deaths. | Total Cases. | Remaining in Hos-<br>pital on Dec. 31st<br>1902. |
|---|-----|-----|-----|---|--------------------------------|---------|--------------|--|
| <i>Diseases of the Urinary System.</i>    |     |     |     |   |                                |         |              |  |
| Bright's Disease                          | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 2                              | 1       | 2            | ...  |
| Enlarged Prostate...                      | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 2                              | ...     | 2            | ...  |
| Dropsy                                    | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 8                              | 1       | 8            | ...  |
| Retention Urine                           | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| Stricture                                 | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 2                              | ...     | 2            | ...  |
| <i>Diseases of the Generative Organs.</i> |     |     |     |   |                                |         |              |  |
| MALE                                      |     |     |     |   |                                |         |              |  |
| Hydrocele                                 | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 5                              | ...     | 5            | ...  |
| Orchitis                                  | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 4                              | ...     | 4            | ...  |
| FEMALE                                    |     |     |     |   |                                |         |              |  |
| Amenorrhœa                                | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| Metrorrhagia                              | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 2                              | ...     | 2            | ...  |
| <i>Diseases of the Alimentary System.</i> |     |     |     |   |                                |         |              |  |
| Constipation                              | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 3                              | ...     | 3            | ...  |
| Diarrhœa                                  | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 5                              | 1       | 5            | ...  |
| Dysentery                                 | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 3                              | ...     | 3            | ...  |
| Congestion of Liver                       | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 24                             | 4       | 24           | 2  |
| Syphilis                                  | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| Worms (ascaris lumbricoides)...           | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| <i>Injuries.</i>                          |     |     |     |   |                                |         |              |  |
| Burns                                     | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| Contusions                                | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 6                              | ...     | 6            | ...  |
| Fractured Arm                             | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 2                              | ...     | 2            | ...  |
| "    Finger                               | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| "    Thigh                                | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 4                              | ...     | 4            | ...  |
| "    Tibia & Fibula                       | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 3                              | ...     | 3            | ...  |
| "    Gt. Toe...                           | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| Injury to Back                            | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| Various Wounds                            | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 10                             | ...     | 10           | ...  |
| <i>Diseases of the Skins.</i>             |     |     |     |   |                                |         |              |  |
| Urticaria                                 | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 1                              | ...     | 1            | ...  |
| <i>New Growths.</i>                       |     |     |     |   |                                |         |              |  |
| Malignant                                 | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 6                              | 1       | 6            | ...  |
| Non Malignant                             | ... | ... | ... | ...   | 3                              | ...     | 3            | ...  |

R. DENMAN,  
Chief Medical Officer.

TABLE V.

## SUMMARY OF CASES TREATED AT THE VICTORIA HOSPITAL SEYCHELLES DURING 1903.

| Sexes.         | Remaining<br>in<br>Hospital<br>at<br>31st Dec.<br>1901. | Admitted<br>during<br>1902. | Total<br>Treated. | Cured. | Relieved. | Unrelieved. | Died. | Remaining<br>in<br>Hospital<br>on<br>Dec. 31st<br>1902. | Totals. |
|----------------|---|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------|-----------|-------------|-------|---|---------|
|                |   |                             |                   |        |           |             |       |   |         |
| Males ... ..   | 7   | 196                         | 203               | 148    | 30        | 10          | 8     | 7   | 203     |
| Females ... .. | 2   | 61                          | 63                | 28     | 13        | 13          | 6     | 3   | 63      |
| TOTALS ... ..  | 9   | 257                         | 266               | 176    | 43        | 23          | 14    | 10  | 266     |

R. DENMAN,  
Chief Medical Officer.





## Medical Report of the Assistant Medical Officer, South Mahé for the year 1902.

### First Annual Report.

1. I have the honour to forward my first Annual Report of South Mahé First Division.

### Health of the District and the more common diseases.

2. Before going into statistics I intend to give a short report on the general health of the District.

The bulk of the population are either black or mulatto, with a small sprinkling of white people in the district, the population taken as a whole are clean in their habits.

### Ignorance of child Feeding.

3. Amongst all classes there is a great ignorance even of the most elementary principles of infant feeding. In the great majority of cases the mother wants to hand feed the child, often a few days after birth, thus producing diseases of the alimentary and digestive tracts, and on this account infant mortality is pretty high.

### Midwives.

4. The treatment of lying in women leaves much to be desired. The native midwife is lacking in skill, has not even a principal of antiseptic precautions, and the only way she learns her profession is what she can pick up on the subject from another mid-wife often as ignorant as her pupil.

### Phthisis.

5. I am pleased to report that so far I have met no case of this disease in South Mahé, and this proves that if Phthisis does exist in Mahé it must be in a very small percentage of cases.

### Dangerous Diseases Pneumonia.

6. The most dangerous disease for the natives I consider is Pneumonia, and this I believe to be due to defective nursing, the elementary principles of nursing not being sufficiently understood even by the better educated classes.

### Syphilis and Gonorrhœa.

7. Syphilis is, so far as my experience goes, not a common disease; only once or twice have I met symptoms of primary syphilis, while on the other hand I find Gonorrhœa and its accompanying or allied disorders most prevalent, at least from 80 to 90 percent of the male population over 16 years having suffered from it at one time or another.

### Malarial Fever.

8. I find that no case of Malarial fever has arisen here *de novo*; all cases of this disease that have come under my notice have been contracted outside the islands, usually Madagascar or Mauritius; the natives, when they complain of fever in the great majority of cases, suffer from what should be called a Heat or Jungle Fever; simply a rise of temperature with the accompanying thirst, usually with marked constipation, and in most cases a purgative and not Quinine is the treatment called for.

### Leprosy.

9. I am sorry to report that Leprosy is pretty prevalent in the district, and whether or not fish eating has anything to do with the disease as some authorities state, I find that the bulk of the people here are great fish eaters, in fact fish being the principal food with rice and manioc.



Elephantiasis.

10. This disease is prevalent, but after a time it could be well kept under or in fact nearly stamped out, if the natives could be made to understand the nature of the disease, and that it is a disease propagated by mosquitos.

Dysentery.

11. Dysentery is a prevalent disease, and is often accompanied by a good deal of diarrhoea, the diarrhoea and dysentery alternating; it yields however favourably to treatment, as shown by the fact that during the year a great number of people suffered with the disease yet there were only three deaths from this cause.

Typhoid Fever.

12. I had two cases during the past year that clinically followed the course of this fever; the two cases occurred in the same family, the daughter first contracting the fever, and during her convalescence the mother was attacked, the daughter had the fever about 40 days, and the mother was ill for close on 7 weeks.

Both patients recovered.

Diseases of Children.

13. In alluding once more to the children, I must state that they are all during the first couple of years of their life more or less suffering from colic, diarrhoea, or gastritis, the greater number of which diseases are fairly preventable. These diseases are due to irregular and incorrect feeding of the children, the mothers do not pay attention how to hand feed the children, and as to preparing food for hand fed children it is almost an impossibility to make them understand that a child has not the same digestive organs as the adult.

## CHAPTER II.

### MORTALITY RATE FOR SOUTH MAHÉ DURING 1902.

Cannot give comparative Estimate.

1. This being the first year that a tabular statement of deaths has been made out, I regret I cannot give a comparative estimate for the past five years.

Mortality of children.

2. I would like to draw attention to the number of deaths of children under 5 years of age; by consulting the mortality table it can be seen that 9 cases had no medical attendance, and the parents have stated that seven died of fever and two of tetanus, in all probability they have died of gastritis and colitis due to improper feeding, and this bears out my remarks under "Ignorance of child feeding" and "Diseases of children".

It is a sad case of affairs to have 28 deaths of young children out of a total of 58 deaths for the District.

Death rate per thousand.

3. The death rate all included for the year is low and compares very favourably even with European Countries.

According to last census the population of Sections 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 which make up South Mahé is 4,203 and this works out a death rate of 14 per thousand for the district. Two deaths were due to accidental drowning which if omitted from the ordinary cause of death would still more lower the death rate.

Deaths due to Pneumonia.

4. By the cause of death there are seven deaths due to Pneumonia. This is too high in that disease and I attribute it to bad nursing.



## Still Births.

5. During the year there were 11 still births in the district; this is a pretty high average, and in my opinion the bulk of these cases is due to the fact that the parents are the subjects of specific disease.

## Births.

6. During the year there were 157 births, deaths being 59, giving an increase in population of 98.

## CHAPTER III.

## DISPENSARY AT ANSE ROYALE.

## Days of attendance at Anse Royale Dispensary.

1. A dispensary was opened at Anse Royale at the commencement of the year on three days per week viz, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

## Number of patients treated.

2. There were during the year 448 consultations and 153 patients.

## VACCINATION.

## Results of Vaccination.

3. Vaccination is performed every Tuesday at 9 a.m., and in all cases calf lymph is used.

There were during the year 165 children vaccinated.

|                        |     |     |          |       |
|------------------------|-----|-----|----------|-------|
| Successful 1st time... | ... | ... | ..       | 102   |
| „ 2nd „ ...            | ... | ... | ...      | 33    |
| „ 3rd „ ...            | ... | ... | ...      | 29    |
| Unsuccessful ...       | ... | ... | ...      | 1     |
|                        |     |     |          | <hr/> |
|                        |     |     | Total... | 165   |
|                        |     |     |          | <hr/> |

## CHAPTER IV.

## SURGEONS WORK IN POLICE CASES.

## Number of Assaults.

1. During the year there were 28 police cases at Anse Royale of Wounds and Blows, and 5 cases from Anse Boileau. A great number of these cases were trivial, but in a few cases there were some dangerous wounds to life. All cases recovered.

## Acute Alcoholic Poisoning.

2. I visited this case and examined the body. I found the cause of death as stated.

## Accidental Drowning.

3. There were three men drowned during the year, 2 men at Anse Boileau being lost in a small boat, one body was recovered, the other I expect was eaten by sharks. One man was drowned in a small river in Anse Royale. In both cases I examined the bodies and I found death was due to drowning, which circumstances proved was accidental.

JOHN THOS. BRADLEY,

Asst. Medical Officer  
Anse Royale.

6th February, 1908.



TABLE OF DISEASES CAUSING DEATH IN SOUTH MAHÉ  
DURING THE YEAR 1902.

| Cause of death                                 | Under 1 year | Under 5 years | Under 20 years | Under 30 years | Under 40 years | Under 50 years | Under 60 years | Under 80 years | Under 90 years | Remarks and Total. |
|--|--------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Acute Alcoholic Poisoning ...                  | ...          | ...           | ...            | 1              | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1                  |
| Asthma ...                                     | 1            | 2             | ...            | 1              | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 4                  |
| Accidental Drowning ...                        | ...          | ...           | ...            | 2              | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 2                  |
| Aneurism of Thoracic Aorta...                  | ...          | ...           | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1              | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1                  |
| Bronchial Asthma ...                           | ...          | 1             | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1                  |
| Cancer of Uterus ...                           | ...          | ...           | ...            | ...            | 1              | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1                  |
| Cardiac disease ...                            | ...          | ...           | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1              | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1                  |
| Dysentery ...                                  | 1            | 2             | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 3                  |
| Eclampsia ...                                  | ...          | ...           | ...            | ...            | 1              | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1                  |
| Gastritis ...                                  | 2            | ...           | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 2                  |
| Hernia ...                                     | ...          | ...           | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1              | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1                  |
| Hemiplegia ...                                 | ...          | ...           | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1              | 1              | ...            | 2              | 4                  |
| Infantile Marasmus ...                         | 2            | ...           | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 2                  |
| Leprosy ...                                    | ...          | ...           | ...            | 1              | ...            | 1              | ...            | ...            | ...            | 2                  |
| Meningitis ...                                 | ...          | ...           | ...            | 1              | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1                  |
| Peritonitis ...                                | ...          | 2             | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1              | ...            | ...            | 3                  |
| Pleurisy ...                                   | ...          | ...           | ...            | 1              | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1                  |
| Pneumonia ...                                  | 1            | ...           | 1              | 1              | 1              | 1              | 2              | ...            | ...            | 7                  |
| Rickets ...                                    | ...          | 1             | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1                  |
| Senile Decay ...                               | ...          | ...           | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1              | 1              | 2                  |
| Stricture of Urethra ...                       | ...          | ...           | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1              | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1                  |
| Syphilis ...                                   | ...          | ...           | ...            | 1              | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1                  |
| Sunstroke ...                                  | ...          | 2             | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 2                  |
| Rheumatism ...                                 | ...          | ...           | ...            | ...            | 1              | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 1                  |
| <i>Unclassified cause given by Relations :</i> |              |               |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                    |
| Fever ...                                      | 7            | 2             | ...            | ...            | 1              | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 10                 |
| Tetanus ...                                    | 2            | ...           | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | ...            | 2                  |
| <i>Total number of deaths for year :</i>       |              |               |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                    |
|  | 16           | 12            | 1              | 9              | 5              | 7              | 4              | 1              | 3              | 58                 |

THE FOLLOWING WERE THE COMPLAINTS  
TREATED AT THE ANSE ROYALE DISPENSARY.

| Disease                       | Number of patients. | REMARKS.  |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Anæmia ... ..                 | 6                   |   |
| Asthma ... ..                 | 3                   |   |
| Asthmatic Bronchitis. ... ..  | 2                   |   |
| Abscess of Ear ... ..         | 1                   |   |
| „ Mouth ... ..                | 1                   |   |
| Aneurism ... ..               | 1                   |   |
| Bronchitis Chronic ... ..     | 1                   |   |
| „ Acute ... ..                | 1                   |   |
| Constipation ... ..           | 7                   |   |
| Cystitis ... ..               | 4                   |   |
| Cataract double ... ..        | 1                   |   |
| Cyst in eyelid... ..          | 1                   |   |
| Catarrh ... ..                | 1                   |   |
| Conjunctivitis ... ..         | 2                   |   |
| Diarrhoea Chronic ... ..      | 1                   |   |
| Dysentery Acute ... ..        | 2                   |   |
| „ Chronic ... ..              | 1                   |   |
| Dental Abscess ... ..         | 4                   | Had marked inflammation of the throat in all cases. |
| Debility ... ..               | 9                   |   |
| Dyspepsia ... ..              | 7                   |   |
| Doubtful ... ..               | 1                   | Never returned.                                     |
| Endocarditis ... ..           | 3                   | 2 Mitral, 1 Double Aortic.                          |
| Epilepsy ... ..               | 2                   |   |
| Eczema ... ..                 | 1                   |   |
| Fibroid of Uterus ... ..      | 2                   |   |
| Fever Symptoms ... ..         | 2                   |   |
| Gastritis ... ..              | 5                   |   |
| Gonorrhoea ... ..             | 11                  |   |
| „ Warts ... ..                | 2                   |   |
| Gonorrhoeal Rheumatism ... .. | 1                   |   |
| Glossitis ... ..              | 1                   |   |
| Hydrocele ... ..              | 1                   |   |
| Hysteria ... ..               | 3                   |   |

THE FOLLOWING WERE THE COMPLAINTS  
TREATED, &c.—(Continued.)

| Disease                  | Number of patients. | REMARKS.  |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Hernia... ..             | 5                   |   |
| Hemiplegia ... ..        | 1                   |   |
| Hepatitis ... ..         | 1                   |   |
| Injury to arm ... ..     | 1                   |   |
| „ foot ... ..            | 6                   |   |
| Leprosy ... ..           | 1                   |   |
| Laryngitis ... ..        | 1                   |   |
| Lumbago ... ..           | 3                   |   |
| Migraine ... ..          | 1                   |   |
| Malarial fever... ..     | 1                   | Patient a native of Mauritius.                            |
| Neurotic ... ..          | 1                   |   |
| Osteitis ... ..          | 1                   |   |
| Orchitis ... ..          | 1                   |   |
| Prickly Heat ... ..      | 1                   |   |
| Perimetritis ... ..      | 1                   |   |
| Rheumatism ... ..        | 15                  | A good many could be classed under Gonorrhœal Rheumatism. |
| Syphilis Tertiary ... .. | 6                   |   |
| Sciatica ... ..          | 2                   |   |
| Stomatitis ... ..        | 1                   |   |
| Tonsilitis ... ..        | 1                   |   |
| Torticollis ... ..       | 2                   |   |
| Ulcer Tropical ... ..    | 2                   |   |
| „ Syphilitic ... ..      | 1                   |   |
| Worms ... ..             | 2                   |   |
| Wounds of arm ... ..     | 2                   |   |



## General Report on the Public Health and Medical Institutions in the Praslin District for 1902.

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**Freedom from Epidemic Disease.**

1. The Community of the Praslin District enjoyed good health throughout the entire year.

No epidemic disease of any moment was seen.

A few relapses from Malarial infection caught in Africa, India, or Mauritius have been witnessed, but no case of Malarial fever primary to Seychelles has occurred.

At Anse Consolation, and four months later, at Anse la Farine, both in Praslin Island, a few Sporadic cases Chicken pox appeared. The disease did not spread, and the primary source of infection was not discoverable.

**No time found for Microscopic work:**

2. No time has been found for microscopic work in the examination of the numerous mosquito forms abounding in Baie St. Anne.

The prevalence of intestinal Worms (chiefly *Ascaris Lumbricoides*), is the most widespread and general of all the complaints which prevail.

After a vermifuge twenty to thirty worms are not infrequently passed. This prevalence is due I believe to some lack of care in the preparation of food, but the numerous duties centreing in the person of the Medical Officer quite prevent the laborious microscopic work needful to the detection of this probable dietetic error. Yet till this is done, and the fact of some grand negligence demonstrated, no effective prevention is possible.

**Prevailing types of Disease.**

3. Renal, Cardiac, and Pulmonary diseases of a grave character have been uncommon, but Anæmia and its allies, with dyspepsia and Rheumatism, have been tolerably frequent.

Incised and contused wounds have been common; and a few fractures have occurred.

**Dispensary work.**

4. The Dispensaries at Grand' Anse, La Digue, and at Baie St. Anne have been open throughout the year, and the gratuitous relief which they have afforded has been much appreciated.

Dispensary Statistics are appended in a Tabular Form.

Vaccination in the latter half of the year has been more successful, apparently through the use of better Vaccine lymph.

In the first half of the year it was only after the third,

fourth, or fifth time that a success was recorded, and sometimes not even then.

**Lepers and Paupers.**

5. The Leper House and Pauper Camp have been both efficiently conducted by the Overseer; and the inmates have been contented and comfortable, as far as can be secured in their circumstances.

R. LAIDLAW,

Assistant Medical Officer,  
Praslin.

10th January, 1903.



DISPENSARY STATISTICS—PRASLIN DISTRICT  
YEAR 1902.

| Month.    |     |     | New. | Old. | Total. |
|-----------|-----|-----|------|------|--------|
| January   | ... | ... | 12   | 7    | 19     |
| February  | ... | ... | 10   | 5    | 15     |
| March     | ... | ... | 36   | 33   | 69     |
| April     | ... | ... | 55   | 39   | 94     |
| May       | ... | ... | 13   | 8    | 21     |
| June      | ... | ... | 5    | 8    | 13     |
| July      | ... | ... | 16   | 5    | 21     |
| August    | ... | ... | 4    | 4    | 8      |
| September | ... | ... | 10   | 6    | 16     |
| October   | ... | ... | 9    | 9    | 18     |
| November  | ... | ... | 9    | 7    | 16     |
| December  | ... | ... | 6    | 4    | 10     |
| Total...  |     |     | 185  | 135  | 320    |

| Sexes.   |     |     | New. | Old. | Total. |
|----------|-----|-----|------|------|--------|
| Females  | ... | ... | 129  | 106  | 235    |
| Males    | ... | ... | 56   | 29   | 85     |
| Total... |     |     | 185  | 135  | 320    |

E. LAIDLAW,

Asst. Medical Officer  
Praslin.

10th January, 1903.





