

Annual report of the Medical Department / Colony of Seychelles.

Contributors

Seychelles. Medical Department.

Publication/Creation

Victoria, Seychelles : G.P.O., [1909]

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/kcwzbh3y>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution license.

This licence permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

SEYCHELLES.



ANNUAL REPORTS



OF THE

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

FOR THE YEAR

1909.

MAURITIUS

THE CENTRAL PRINTING ESTABLISHMENT.—28, CHURCH STREET.

1910.

| WELLCOME INSTITUTE LIBRARY | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Coll. | weIMOmec |
| Call | + |
| No. | Anky |
| | WAZ |
| | .LS5 |
| | S51 |

1909



22501399929

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
FOR THE YEAR 1909.

CHAPTER I.
Vital Statistics.

Estimated population. 1. The estimated population of the Colony on December 31st. 1909 was 22,409, and increase of 427 on 1908.

2. Annexure I, shows the number of arrivals and departures from the Colony, the number of births and deaths during the year.

Birth rate. 3. The birth rate was 33.60 higher than that of 1908 which was 32.20.

Death rate. 4. The death rate was 15.48 lower than that of the preceding year which was 16.24.

Infantile mortality. 5. The number of children who died under the age of 5 years was lower this year viz : 110, last year the number was 127.

The percentage of infantile mortality is over 31 o/o of the total amount of deaths of the whole Colony.

There were 46 still-births and 14 twin births.

CHAPTER II.

METEOROLOGICAL STATISTICS.

Mean temperature. Annexure II shows the monthly temperature, rainfall, and death rate.

2. The mean temperature, for the year was 79.3, lower than 1908 which was 80.6. April was the hottest, and August the coolest month of the year.

Rainfall. 3. The total amount of rain that fell during the year was 79.95 inches. January shows 18.70 inches, and August only 0.33. January, February, April, November gave between them 56.14.

The amount of rainfall in 1908 was 81.22 inches.

CHAPTER III.

DISEASES PREVALENT DURING THE YEAR.

Epidemic diseases. The most important medical event during the year was an

outbreak of small pox among some native passengers at the Quarantine Station and the occurrence of an isolated case in the town of Victoria.

The D.O.A.L. Steamer *Reichstag* arrived from Bombay on Feb. 4th with 28 native passengers for this port. The vessel bore a bill of Health annotated Sporadic Small Pox, she was placed in Quarantine and the passengers were sent to the Quarantine Station at Long Island.

Three days afterwards a case of small pox was discovered among one of these passengers, steps were immediately taken to isolate this case in order to prevent the spread of the disease, and all other people at the station were vaccinated; but in spite of these precautions 11 other cases broke out.

All of the cases were of a mild type and there was no fatality. The epidemic died out and Quarantine was raised on March 16th. On February 22nd a case was discovered in the centre of the town of Victoria, it occurred in a man who had arrived two months previously from Madagascar, it was impossible to establish any connection whatsoever between this case and the outbreak at the Quarantine Station, the case was of a somewhat severe type.

The man was living right in the midst of the most crowded part of the town, and great fears were entertained that other cases would occur.

A small island situated quite close to the Quarantine Island was taken over as a second Quarantine Station and the man was immediately removed there with suitable guardians.

The house in which the patient lived was situated in a sort of courtyard and other houses were built round this courtyard, the occupants of all these houses were considered to be contacts, they were all removed to an isolation camp which was instituted on a piece of Government ground situated at about 1½ miles from the centre of the town and known as Plaisance Camp, and all were vaccinated. Entry into the court yard where the case occurred was forbidden to the general public, and all the houses in it were subjected to sulphur fumigation for several days.

Five special Sanitary Inspectors were appointed to pay daily visits to all quarters of the town to look out for other further cases. Fortunately there were no further cases.

The Assistant Medical Officer, Dr Power, was put on special duty to look after the cases at the Quarantine Station and also the case from town.

Other diseases.

The general health of the population during the year was good, except for the two mild epidemics of Influenza there was nothing noteworthy.

Beri beri.

Ten cases of Beri beri were admitted to the Victoria Hospital during the year, they all came from St Pierre Island, and were mild in type.

Tuberculosis.

There were several cases of pulmonary tuberculosis during the year but the rapid increase in the number of cases which

had been noted during the previous two years does not seem to have been maintained.

CHAPTER IV.

STATE OF THE TOWN OF VICTORIA.

Water supply.

The new water supply which has been brought from *Le Niel* has been working since the month of March. This has greatly increased the amount of water available and has proved thoroughly satisfactory.

The Night soil service.

The night soil service has been satisfactorily performed.

CHAPTER V.

REPORTS OF THE ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICERS.

Attached are the medical reports of the Assistant Medical Officers of South Mahé and Praslin.

I am glad to find that the Assistant Medical Officer of South Mahé has found in his District, as I have found in the Central District, that the increase in the number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis which had been noted in former years was not maintained in 1909.

I am of opinion that the amount of dyspepsia that the Assistant Medical Officer Praslin has found in his District is rather due to Anæmia caused by Ankylostomiasis than to the food the people eat.

I also annex the report of the Medical Superintendent of the Lunatic Asylum, which is situated at Anse Royale, and under the charge of the Assistant Medical Officer of South Mahé.

CHAPTER VI.

VACCINATION.

The lymph has given very good results. 348 children were vaccinated in the Central District with only two failures.

Revaccination of the whole population was undertaken, but the measure has not yet been carried out in the South District, and the outlying Islands.

The total number of persons re-vaccinated was 7,265, and the percentage of successes was 71.

CHAPTER VII.

QUARANTINE.

The quarantine station was used on several occasions during the year. The Recks Steam Disinfector was removed from the Quarantine Station, and was placed on Hodoul Island (an island in the inner harbour of Victoria). In its new position it is very much more useful.

CHAPTER VIII.

HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARIES.

During the year the Victoria Hospital was very greatly improved and put on the lines demanded by modern science.

The most important addition was an operating theatre. Previously to this all operations had to be performed on the verandah and it frequently happened that operations had to be postponed on account of bad weather, the only alternative to the verandah being a very badly lighted room.

For the purpose of making the theatre two rooms one of which was used as a laboratory and the other as a store room were knocked into one and thus a good room obtained, the walls and floor were cemented, top and side lights arranged for and the necessary furniture obtained from England. The result is highly satisfactory.

Operations can now be undertaken with confidence which formerly were attended with much risk.

The third class ward was thoroughly repaired, the old wooden floor was taken up and replaced by cement and the whitewashed walls covered with cement and painted.

The old rope beds were replaced by iron beds, bed-lockers were provided and the ward was ceiled and now leaves nothing to be desired.

A store room for drugs was built behind the Government Pharmacy thus setting free a room which was used for this purpose at the hospital. The dividing wall between this room and a room next to it which was formerly a dirty badly ventilated room known as the prison was removed and these two rooms together were ceiled, cemented and floored and a bright airy ward of six beds thus made.

The female ward was treated on the same lines as the third class ward and is greatly improved.

Bath rooms were provided for the patients.

The Post-mortem room was rebuilt in a new and more convenient position and provided with a cement table.

It is hoped that when funds are available something may be done to provide better first class quarters and to repair the second class ward, but as these wards are not much used in comparison with the other wards the matter is not pressing.

2. Annexure III gives the monthly return of outpatients treated at the Victoria Hospital, and the District Dispensaries,

Outpatients.

3. The number of patients who have received free treatment as outpatients, at the Victoria Hospital was 3,584 a large increase on that of the preceding year which amounted to 3,006.

Inpatients.

4. The inpatients treated at the Victoria Hospital were 338, an increase of 9 when compared with the preceding year. There were 26 deaths giving a percentage of 6.7, and lower than 1908.

Staff.

5. Dr. J. G. Masson-Martin arrived in the Colony on March 12th. and proceeded to take charge of the Praslin District.

The Asst. Medical Officer, South Mahé, returned from leave on May 11th. and resumed charge of his District.

Dr. Power, the Asst. Medical Officer Victoria, replaced the above Medical Officers during their absence.

Nursing staff.

A much needed addition was made in the Nursing Staff, in the shape of a new thoroughly trained nursing Sister.

The health of one of the Sisters who has been in the Colony for 13 years left a good deal to be desired, a change to Europe was indicated but no funds for the passage were obtainable and of course the Sister could not afford to pay her own.

I think it highly necessary both from a health and proficiency point of view that some arrangements should be made in order that after a certain number of years the nursing Sisters should be enabled to leave for Europe to recoup both their healths and their knowledge.

Of the three original nursing Sisters one has been at the Hospital for 34 years, another 20, and the third 13 without any sort of change.

J. B. ADDISON,

Chief Medical Officer.

Seychelles,

March 2nd., 1910.

ANNEXURE I.

Estimated population.

| | | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---|-----|--------|---------------------|--------|
| On December 31st. 1908. ... | ... | 11,236 | 10,746 | 21,982 |
| Births during 1909 ... | ... | 392 | 361 | 753 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Arrivals during 1909 ... | ... | 11,628 | 11,107 | 22,735 |
| | | 287 | 63 | 350 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Decrease by deaths ... | ... | 11,915 | 11,170 | 23,085 |
| | | 186 | 161 | 347 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Decrease by departures ... | ... | 11,729 | 11,009 | 22,738 |
| | | 255 | 74 | 329 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Estimated population on December 31st, 1909 ... | ... | 11,474 | 10,935 | 22,409 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Net increase during 1909 ... | ... | 232 | 195 | 427 |
| | | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Birth rate during 1909 ... | ... | ... | 33.60 per thousand. | |
| Death " " " ... | ... | ... | 15.48 " " | |

Ages at which Death has occurred during the year 1909.

| Under 1 year. | | 1 to 5 years. | | 5 to 70 years. | | 70 to 100 years. | | Over 100 years. | | TOTAL. | |
|---------------|----|---------------|----|----------------|----|------------------|----|-----------------|----|--------|-----|
| M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 36 | 21 | 23 | 30 | 108 | 91 | 19 | 18 | ... | 1 | 186 | 161 |
| <hr/> | | <hr/> | | <hr/> | | <hr/> | | <hr/> | | <hr/> | |
| 57 | | 53 | | 199 | | 37 | | 1 | | 347 | |

ANNEXURE II.

METEOROLOGICAL RETURN FOR THE YEAR 1909.

| | Temperature. | | | | | | Rainfall. | | Winds. | | Deaths. | Remarks. |
|-----------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|--------|-------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------|----------|
| | Solar Maximum. | Minimum on Grass. | Shade Maximum. | Shade Minimum. | Range. | Mean. | Amount in Inches. | Degree of Humidity. | General Direction. | Average Force. | | |
| January | 148.7 | 72.6 | 82.6 | 76.1 | 6.5 | 79.3 | 18.70 | 74.6 | N.W. | 6.5 | 30 | |
| February | 143.7 | 72.6 | 82.9 | 76.9 | 6.0 | 79.9 | 16.65 | 74.8 | N.W. | 4.9 | 25 | |
| March | 148.5 | 73.0 | 84.5 | 77.8 | 6.7 | 81.1 | 1.39 | 75.2 | N.W. | 5.1 | 31 | |
| April | 155.8 | 73.6 | 85.7 | 78.0 | 7.7 | 81.8 | 10.33 | 76.2 | S. | 4.2 | 31 | |
| May | 147.1 | 72.7 | 83.4 | 77.4 | 6.0 | 80.4 | 2.97 | 74.1 | S.E. | 8.7 | 29 | |
| June | 146.4 | 72.2 | 81.6 | 76.6 | 6.8 | 79.1 | 1.43 | 73.1 | S. | 9.8 | 22 | |
| July | 144.7 | 66.1 | 80.3 | 75.0 | 6.6 | 77.6 | 1.43 | 72.2 | S.E. | 11.9 | 31 | |
| August | 145.3 | 73.6 | 79.8 | 74.9 | 5.4 | 77.3 | 0.33 | 71.0 | S.E. | 12.6 | 27 | |
| September | 148.3 | 73.0 | 81.4 | 76.4 | 3.4 | 78.9 | 1.62 | 72.9 | S.E. | 13.4 | 15 | |
| October | 148.4 | 66.3 | 81.9 | 76.2 | 5.2 | 79.0 | 5.63 | 73.3 | S.E. | 10.5 | 27 | |
| November | 140.9 | 71.8 | 82.3 | 75.3 | 6.6 | 78.8 | 10.46 | 74.7 | S.E. | 5.1 | 32 | |
| December | 143.0 | 72.7 | 83.1 | 75.8 | 7.3 | 78.4 | 9.01 | 74.0 | N.W. | 3.5 | 47 | |

ANNEXURE III.

RETURN OF PATIENTS TREATED AT THE PUBLIC DISPENSARIES.

| Month. | Victoria Hospital. | | Anse Royale. | | Anse Boileau. | | Praslin. | |
|------------------|--------------------|-------|--------------|-----|---------------|-----|----------|-----|
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| January | 63 | 132 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| February | 80 | 166 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| March | 75 | 186 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| April | 65 | 160 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 | 15 |
| May | 76 | 265 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 15 |
| June | 70 | 221 | 15 | 21 | ... | ... | 4 | 12 |
| July | 81 | 238 | 12 | 22 | ... | ... | 3 | 9 |
| August | 79 | 238 | 20 | 29 | ... | ... | 12 | 10 |
| September | 58 | 182 | 27 | 27 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 8 |
| October | 85 | 316 | 26 | 31 | 2 | 4 | 10 | 4 |
| November | 90 | 299 | 22 | 16 | ... | ... | 11 | 8 |
| December | 89 | 270 | 19 | 20 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 2 |
| Total... .. | 911 | 2,673 | 141 | 166 | 5 | 14 | 73 | 78 |

RESULT OF CASES TREATED AT THE VICTORIA HOSPITAL.

| Sexes. | | Remaining in Hospital at the end of 1908. | Admitted during 1909. | Total treated. | Cured. | Relieved. | Unrelieved. | Died. | Remaining at the end of 1909. | Total. | Remarks. |
|----------|-----|---|-----------------------|----------------|--------|-----------|-------------|-------|-------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Males | ... | 20 | 286 | 306 | 213 | 45 | 16 | 19 | 13 | 306 | |
| Females | ... | 1 | 81 | 82 | 49 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 82 | |
| Total... | ... | 21 | 367 | 388 | 262 | 54 | 26 | 26 | 20 | 388 | |

RETURN OF DISEASES AND DEATHS IN 1909 AT THE
VICTORIA HOSPITAL.

| Diseases. | Remaining in Hospital end of 1908. | Yearly total. | | Total cases treated. | Remaining in Hospital end of 1909. | Remarks. |
|--|--|---------------|---------|-------------------------|--|----------|
| | | Admissions. | Deaths. | | | |
| GENERAL DISEASES. | | | | | | |
| Alcoholism | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | |
| Anæmia | 1 | 5 | ... | 6 | ... | |
| Beri-beri | ... | 10 | ... | 10 | 1 | |
| Cancer | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | ... | |
| Debility | ... | 10 | ... | 10 | ... | |
| Dysentery | 1 | 9 | ... | 10 | ... | |
| Erysipelas | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Fever | 1 | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | |
| Gonorrhœa | ... | 6 | ... | 6 | ... | |
| Influenza | ... | 13 | ... | 13 | ... | |
| Malingering | ... | 4 | ... | 4 | ... | |
| Old age | 1 | 18 | 6 | 19 | 1 | |
| Pyrexia | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Rheumatism | ... | 10 | ... | 10 | ... | |
| Syphilis | 2 | 6 | ... | 8 | ... | |
| Tetanus | ... | 2 | 2 | 2 | ... | |
| LOCAL DISEASES. | | | | | | |
| <i>Diseases of the Nervous System.</i> | | | | | | |
| Apoplexy | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Asphasia | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Chorea... .. | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Epilepsy | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Hemiplegia | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Meningitis | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Neuralgia | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 1 | |
| Paraplegia | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Paralysis | ... | 2 | 1 | 2 | ... | |
| Tabes Dorsalis | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 1 | |
| <i>Diseases of the Eye.</i> | | | | | | |
| Conjunctivitis... .. | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Ophthalmia | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | |
| Suppuration of eye | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Traumatic eye | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| <i>Diseases of the Ear.</i> | | | | | | |
| Otitis Media | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Carried over ... | 6 | 118 | 11 | 124 | 4 | |

RETURN OF DISEASES AND DEATHS IN 1909 AT THE
VICTORIA HOSPITAL.—(Contd.)

| Diseases. | Remaining in Hospital end of 1908. | Yearly total. | | Total cases treated. | Remaining in Hospital end of 1909. | Remarks. |
|--|--|---------------|---------|-------------------------|--|----------|
| | | Admissions. | Deaths. | | | |
| Brought forward ... | 6 | 118 | 11 | 124 | 4 | |
| <i>Diseases of the Circulatory System.</i> | | | | | | |
| Aneurism | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | |
| Cardiac | 1 | 17 | 5 | 18 | 3 | |
| Oedema | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | |
| Pericarditis | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| <i>Diseases of the Respiratory System.</i> | | | | | | |
| Bronchitis | ... | 5 | ... | 5 | 1 | |
| Phthisis | 1 | 9 | 1 | 10 | 2 | |
| Pleurisy | ... | 10 | ... | 10 | ... | |
| Pneumonia | ... | 5 | 1 | 5 | ... | |
| <i>Diseases of the Digestive System.</i> | | | | | | |
| Ascites | ... | 6 | ... | 6 | 2 | |
| Carcinoma of Stomach | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Constipation | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Duodenal Ulcer | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Dyspepsia | ... | 10 | ... | 10 | ... | |
| Gastritis | ... | 4 | ... | 4 | ... | |
| Hernia | 1 | 4 | ... | 5 | 1 | |
| Hepatitis | ... | 3 | ... | 3 | ... | |
| Intestinal obstruction | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | |
| Jaundice | 1 | 2 | ... | 3 | ... | |
| Peritonitis | ... | 2 | 2 | 2 | ... | |
| Tubercular ulcer of stomach | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| „ Peritonitis | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Vomiting | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | |
| <i>Diseases of the Lymphatic System.</i> | | | | | | |
| Glands | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | |
| <i>Diseases of the Urinary System.</i> | | | | | | |
| Cystitis | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Nephritis | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | |
| Stricture | ... | 7 | ... | 7 | ... | |
| Carried over ... | 10 | 219 | 21 | 229 | 14 | |

RETURN OF DISEASES AND DEATHS IN 1909 AT THE
VICTORIA HOSPITAL.— (Contd.)

| Diseases. | Remaining in Hospital end of 1908. | Yearly total. | | Total cases treated. | Remaining in Hospital end of 1909. | Remarks. |
|---|--|---------------|---------|-------------------------|--|----------|
| | | Admissions. | Deaths. | | | |
| Brought forward ... | 10 | 219 | 21 | 229 | 14 | |
| <i>Diseases of the Generative System.</i> | | | | | | |
| (Male.) | | | | | | |
| Bubo ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | |
| Epidydmitis ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Hydrocele ... | ... | 5 | ... | 5 | ... | |
| Orchitis ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | |
| (Female organs.) | | | | | | |
| Abortion ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Confinement ... | ... | 4 | ... | 4 | ... | |
| Endometritis ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | |
| Malignant disease of Ovaries ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | |
| Fibroids ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | |
| Placenta Prævia ... | ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | ... | |
| Pregnancy ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | |
| Puerperal Septicæmia ... | ... | 3 | 2 | 3 | ... | |
| Retained membrane ... | ... | 3 | ... | 3 | ... | |
| Salypigitis ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| <i>Diseases of Locomotion.</i> | | | | | | |
| Caries of bone... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| " " spine ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 3 | 1 | |
| Crushed foot ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | |
| Synovitis ... | 2 | ... | ... | 2 | ... | |
| <i>Diseases of Connective Tissue.</i> | | | | | | |
| Abscesses ... | 5 | 54 | ... | 59 | ... | |
| Elephantiasis ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Ulcers ... | ... | 3 | ... | 3 | ... | |
| Hæmatoma ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | |
| Septic knee ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| " foot ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | 2 | |
| " hand ... | ... | 3 | ... | 3 | 1 | |
| <i>Diseases of the Skin.</i> | | | | | | |
| Cyst ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | |
| Carried over ... | 18 | 321 | 25 | 339 | 19 | |

RETURN OF DISEASES AND DEATHS IN 1909 AT THE
VICTORIA HOSPITAL.— (Contd.)

| Diseases. | Remaining in Hospital end of 1908. | Yearly total. | | Total cases treated. | Remaining in Hospital end of 1909. | Remarks. |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------|---------|-------------------------|--|----------|
| | | Admissions. | Deaths. | | | |
| Brought forward ... | 18 | 321 | 25 | 339 | 19 | |
| <i>Injuries. — General.</i> | | | | | | |
| Burns ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Bruise ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | |
| Cuts ... | ... | 9 | ... | 9 | ... | |
| Dog bite ... | ... | 2 | ... | 2 | ... | |
| Pig " ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Various wounds ... | ... | 10 | ... | 10 | ... | |
| <i>Local.</i> | | | | | | |
| Broken rib ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Concussion of spine ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Crushed finger ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Dislocated carpus ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| Fractures—Colles ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | |
| " Metatarsal ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| " Ribs ... | ... | 3 | ... | 3 | ... | |
| " Skull compound... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | |
| <i>Malformations.</i> | | | | | | |
| Hare lip ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | 1 | |
| <i>Parasites.</i> | | | | | | |
| Ascaris lumbricoides ... | ... | 5 | ... | 5 | ... | |
| Ankylostomiasis ... | 1 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 1 | |
| Jiggers ... | ... | 3 | ... | 3 | ... | |
| Total ... | 21 | 367 | 26 | 388 | 20 | |

MEDICAL REPORT

OF THE

ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER OF SOUTH MAHÉ

FOR THE YEAR 1909.

Seventh Annual Report. I have the honour to forward my seventh annual report on South Mahé, First and Second Divisions :

Health of the District during 1909. The health of the district during 1909 was good, and compares favourably with that of other years, there was no infectious disease prevalent except influenza, which caused one death, and disease of the intestinal tract were not prevalent there being only one death from dysentery and three from gastritis.

Health of the children. The health of little children suffered a good deal, and as in past years a good deal of the suffering of little children is due to the ignorance of the mothers and nurses, who neglect the simplest precautions with regard to the proper preparation of infant's food, and children are often reared on food quite unsuitable to their years. Thirteen children under one year of age died during the year, and seven under five years, i.e. more than one-third of the deaths in the district occurred in children under five years of age.

Victoria Hospital. The Victoria Hospital, with its new operating theatre, is a great help to country patients, with roads which are in good condition, transport is easily carried out, so that within three hours any grave accident can be forwarded for operation and treatment.

Tuberculosis. In nearly every report I have alluded to this disease, formerly I drew attention to the great inroads it was making, and that the creole population seemed very susceptible to the disease, during the year 1909 there were six deaths from phthisis, that is one person in nine that died in South Mahe was suffering from this dread disease. I am however of opinion that the disease is not spreading as rapidly as it was in former years, and that with people precautions the disease can be kept in check.

Syphilis. For a good many years this disease was not common, lately it seems to have displaced Gonorrhoea from its "pride of place" and as the disease is one that seriously affects the vitality and health of the population, it is one that I think it necessary to draw special attention to.

Anaemia and ankylostomiasis.

In passing through the country districts one is impressed with a great number of people, suffering from anaemia. There may be no loss of weight, but if they are white people they have a peculiar waxy-yellow complexion, with well marked anaemia. From a long series of examinations of the faeces I find that all these peoples are suffering from anaemia due to ankylostomum duo denale.

As in country districts, there is little or no sanitation, and taking into account the great danger to the health of the community from this parasite, steps should be taken to point out the nature of the disease and a few simple directions given as to the best manner to combat it.

Native medicines with a few plants and their applications.

The native of African origin, and at times his white neighbour, uses a good deal of native drugs, the plants have certain therapeutic effects, and I have endeavoured during the past few years to get their names as well as the diseases for which they are employed.

The following is a short list of the principal plants employed.

| Creole Name. | Natural orders vide Baker Flore of Mauritius and Seychelles 1877. | Diseases in which they are employed. |
|------------------------|---|--|
| Afouche rouge ... | Marcæ Ficus rubra ... | Dysentery. |
| Ananas vert ... | Bromeliaceæ ... | to procure abortion. |
| Badamier ... | Combretaceæ terminalia ca- tappa. | Dysentery. |
| Bambous Fenilles ... | Gramineæ, bambusa arundi- nacea. | Worms. |
| Resine Bois Takamaka. | Gkttifereæ, Calophyllum ino- phyllum. | ulcerated legs. |
| Café Marron ... | Meliaceæ Quivisia oppositifolia. | Gonorrhœa. |
| Canellier feuilles ... | Lauraceæ, Cinnamomum ... | Fever. |
| Casse Puante ... | Leguminosac Cassia occiden- talis. | Leaves for a poultice to ulcers, for worms internally. |
| Citronnelle ... | Gramineæ andropogon schœ- nanthus. | Fevers of all sorts. |
| Cocotier ... | Palmeæcocos nucifera... | Roots :— cystitis Gonorrhœa Shell :— when burnt for toothache. |
| Gingembre ... | Zingiberaceæ ... | Colic. |
| Herbe Cochon ... | Commelynaceæ ... | a cooling drink, and for cys- tilis. |
| Herbe Chatte ... | Euphorbiaceæ ... | attacks due to nervous dis- orders. |
| Herbe dure ... | Malvaceæ, Sida cordifolia ... | Most common plant used for making poultices, |

The following is a short list of the principal plants employed :—(Contd.)

| Creole Name. | Natural orders vide Baker Flore of Mauritius and Seychelles 1877 | Diseases in which they are employed. |
|---------------------------------|--|---|
| Langue de Bœuf ... | Filices asplenium nidus ... | Coughs, influenza. |
| Madam Tombé ... | Labiatae leucas aspera... | Bronchitis and coughs. |
| Barbe de mais (Stig- mates). | Gramineae Zea Mays ... | Gonorrhœa, cystitis. |
| Manioc ... | Euphobiaceae, Manihot utilis- sima. | the flour is much appreciated, as it makes an excellent poultice. |
| Papayer ... | Passifloraceae carica papaya... | Worms. |
| Poc-poc ... | Sapindaceae ... | As a cooling and refreshing drink. |
| Stramonium ... | Solanaceae Datura ... | Asthma. |
| Racine Vetiver ... | Gramineae. Andropogon muri- catus. | Stimulant and as a refresh- ing drink. |

PART II.

Vital Statistics.

Comparative tables.

As in past reports I have attached tables showing a comparison of the births, deaths, Still-births, and marriages for a period of five years viz: 1905 to 1909. I have also attached a table showing the diseases that caused death during 1909.

Estimated Population of South Mahé for 1909.

The births for the year were 160, the deaths 54, there being an increase in population of 106, this increase added to the increases from 1902 to 1908 gives a net increase of 837 during the past eight years.

| | | | |
|-------|--|------------|---------|
| 1901. | Census of that year | Population | ...4203 |
| 1902. | Estimated population to 31st December 1902 | | ...4301 |
| 1903. | do. | do. 1903 | ...4404 |
| 1904. | do. | do. 1904 | ...4496 |
| 1905. | do. | do. 1905 | ...4611 |
| 1906. | do. | do. 1906 | ...4716 |
| 1907. | do. | do. 1907 | ...4700 |
| 1908. | do. | do. 1908 | ...4797 |
| 1909. | do. | do. 1909 | ...4800 |

In order to avoid errors as there are several score of labourers at present working in the outlying islands, for statistical purposes I have fixed approximately the population for 1909 at 4800.

Death rate for thousand. With an estimated population of 4800 the death-rate for 1909 was 11.25, leaving out the deaths of children under five years, we have a good many people who died at a respectable old age, there being nine deaths over eighty years of age, and one over ninety. Compared with 1908 there has been a diminution of five in the number of deaths viz : 59 deaths in 1908, and 54 in 1909.

Principal diseases causing death during 1909. The principal diseases causing death are as follows, Anemia probably secondary to ankylostomiasis 3. Asthma 5. Endocarditis 2. Gastritis 3. Infantile Marasmus 8. Leprosy 2. Phthisis 6. Senile Decay 5. Syphilis 2 and Tetanus 2.

Still Births.

In 1907 there were fifteen still births which at the time I considered quite abnormal and probably due to faulty midwives, for 1908 the number is six, and for 1909 it is five. This may be regarded as normal, and calls for little or no criticism.

Births.

The birth-rate for 1909 was fairly well maintained being 33.33 per thousand of estimated population. There is no doubt that there is a slight diminution of the birth-rate, commencing in this district the population is steadily increasing, yet since 1906 the birth-rate is commencing to decline. In 1903 there were 169 births, in 1904 there were 155, and instead of an upward tendency due to an increased population there is a tendency for the birth-rate to remain stationary and even commence to drop slightly.

Marriages

The number for 1909 viz : thirty three marriages was quite abnormal, and I attribute it to an increase in prosperity due to the vanilla and coco-nuts selling well in 1909. The result being that several young people got married on the idea that they could easily keep house with the extra increase in wages.

PART III.

Dispensaries of Anse Royale and Anse Boileau.

Medical Assistance as in past years was afforded to the poor of the district at Anse Royale on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and at Anse Boileau on Tuesdays. In this report I have not included the attendance at Anse Boileau as it only comprises about fifteen persons for the months of October, November and December.

| Months. | Old. | | New. | | Total. |
|---------------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | |
| January ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| February ... | 3 | ... | 2 | ... | 5 |
| March ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| April ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| May ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| June ... | 8 | 12 | 7 | 9 | 36 |
| July ... | 10 | 11 | 2 | 11 | 34 |
| August ... | 14 | 24 | 6 | 5 | 49 |
| September ... | 23 | 24 | 4 | 3 | 54 |
| October ... | 22 | 23 | 4 | 8 | 57 |
| November ... | 11 | 17 | 11 | ... | 39 |
| December ... | 8 | 18 | 11 | 2 | 39 |

Vaccination.

Every Tuesday at the Anse Royale Dispensary there is free vaccination ; the quality of the lymph supplied was satisfactory and gave results as follows. The number of children vaccinated was 136.

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|-----|-----|-----|
| Successful | 1st. time | ... | ... | 134 |
| Do. | 2nd. „ | ... | ... | ... |
| Do. | 3rd. „ | ... | ... | ... |
| Unsuccessful | | ... | ... | 2 |
| Total... | | | | 136 |

PART IV.

Surgeons Work in Police Cases.

There were no important Police cases during the year, a few slight assaults and those of a trivial nature. There were eight cases at Anse Royale and three at Anse Boileau.

Sudden deaths.

I had no sudden or accidental deaths during 1909.

JOHN THOS. BRADLEY,
24th. February 1910.

Assistant Medical Officer,
South Mahé.

TABLE OF DISEASES CAUSING DEATH IN SOUTH MAHÉ
1ST. AND 2ND. DIVISIONS DURING 1909.

| Causes 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. | Over 90 years. | Total. | Remarks. |
|---|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|--------|----------|
| Apoplexy ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Anæmia ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | |
| Ascites ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Asthma ... | 1 | 2 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 5 | |
| Abscess Cerebral | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Drowning ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Dysentery ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Endocarditis ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | |
| Gastritis ... | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | |
| Hæmorrhage due to child birth | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Hemiplegia ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Influenza... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Infantile Marasmus | 7 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 | |
| Leprosy ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | 2 | |
| Phthisis Pulmonary | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 4 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | |
| Pneumonia ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Senile Decay ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 1 | ... | 5 | |
| Septicæmia ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Stricture Urethral | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | |
| Syphilis ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | |
| Tetanus ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | 2 | |
| Unclassified cause given by relatives as Fever. | 4 | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | |
| Total ... | 13 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 1 | ... | 54 | |

COMPARATIVE TABLES OF THE AGES AT WHICH DEATH OCCURED
DURING THE YEARS 1905, 1906, 1907, 1908 AND 1909.

| Years. | 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. | Over 90 years. | Total and Remarks. |
|----------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 1905 ... | 16 | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | ... | 7 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 51 deaths during 1905 |
| 1906 ... | 14 | 18 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 62 „ „ 1906 |
| 1907 ... | 10 | 12 | 8 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 58 „ „ 1907 |
| 1908 ... | 5 | 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 14 | 4 | 2 | 59 „ „ 1908 |
| 1909 ... | 13 | 7 | 4 | 7 | 7 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 1 | ... | 54 „ „ 1909 |

COMPARATIVE TABLES OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND
STILL-BIRTHS DURING THE YEARS
1905, 1906, 1907, 1908 AND 1909.

| Years. | Births. | Deaths. | Still-Births. | Remarks. |
|----------|---------|---------|---------------|----------|
| 1905 ... | 166 | 51 | 4 | |
| 1906 ... | 167 | 62 | 7 | |
| 1907 ... | 145 | 58 | 15 | |
| 1908 ... | 156 | 59 | 6 | |
| 1909 ... | 160 | 54 | 5 | |

BIRTHS, DEATHS, STILL-BIRTHS AND MARRIAGES FROM 1905 TO 1909.

| Years. | Births per 1,000 | Deaths per 1,000 | Still-Births per 1,000 | Marriages per 1,000 | Remarks. |
|----------|------------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1905 ... | 36.00 | 11.08 | .86 | 4.51 | 21 marriages in 1905 |
| 1906 ... | 35.41 | 13.15 | 1.48 | 2.75 | 13 „ „ 1906 |
| 1907 ... | 30.85 | 12.34 | 3.19 | 3.82 | 18 „ „ 1907 |
| 1908 ... | 32.52 | 12.32 | 1.25 | 3.75 | 18 „ „ 1908 |
| 1909 ... | 33.33 | 11.25 | 1.04 | 6.87 | 33 „ „ 1909 |

SEYCHELLES LUNATIC ASYLUM

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT FOR 1909.

Third Annual Report.

I have the honour to forward my third annual report, as to the condition of the Asylum, and the health of its inmates.

New Lunatic Asylum.

The new Lunatic Asylum was finished in 1909, and it gives me pleasure to report that both male and female departments are airy and well built, and are situated in the midst of well kept gardens and grounds. There is every modern convenience in the Asylum, a good and liberal supply of pure mountain water, laid on with pipes to bath-room and kitchen, the Sanitary arrangements are good and in all cases the comfort and convenience of the patients has been consulted. As regards the building itself it is built in stone, with large chambers, which are well ventilated and compares very favourably with buildings of the same style and model in Europe.

I am certain that not only the patients but their relatives and friends will highly appreciate having such an institution in their midst, instead of as formerly when patients had to be sent to Mauritius, hundred of miles of distance from their homes and families; with perhaps a separation for years or for ever; the patients are now treated in the midst of familiar surroundings, they are visited by their relatives and friends; all this unites to keep up their interest in outside affairs, and keeps intact that tie with their family and the world, which is so important once a patient is discharged and takes his place as a member of the general community.

Health of the inmates.

The health of the inmates was good during the year, there were no deaths nor infectious diseases in the Asylum, and in almost all cases there was a marked improvement physically in the health of the patients.

Admissions and discharges.

During the year there were twelve males and two females admitted to the Asylum, this includes three males transferred from Mauritius in December. Four males were discharged, three as cured and one patient was discharged under Sec. 44 of Ord. No. 3 of 1906. In addition at the end of the year there were two males, and one female out on trial which is the state preliminary to that of discharge, so that for 1909 six males and one female may be looked upon as recovered, a good percentage when the number of patients in the Asylum is taken into account.

Amusements of patients.

Steps have been taken to awaken the interest of the patients to the surroundings, this consists in a weekly dance, and one day in the week a magic lantern performance, in addition trips to objects of interest in the neighbourhood supervised by the attendants are carried out once a week. The male patients are

encouraged to grow flowers and plant vegetables and other agricultural products in the grounds, while the female patients are employed in straw-plaiting and in sewing. On wet days and when the sun is too strong, patients are encouraged to amuse themselves indoor when they have dominoes, draughts, and other games to keep their attention employed.

Dieting.

Instead of contracting for dieting as in past years arrangements have been made from 1st January 1910 to do all the cooking in the Asylum. This is a good deal more satisfactory besides being more economical, as the individual tastes of the patient can be consulted and the quality of the food supplied can be better controlled.

Conduct of Attendants.

In both male and female departments, the head and sub-attendants have discharged their duties with satisfaction, and have shown that they take an interest in the welfare of the patients. The Head-Attendant male Department has discharged the duties of his post with tact and intelligence, and his attention to the welfare of the patients has much contributed to their comfort, and he has worked hard to brighten the lives and bring a ray of happiness into those minds, which are so often behind a cloud.

JOHN THOS. BRADLEY, M.D.,

Medical Superintendent of the
Lunatic Asylum.

25th. February 1910.

STATISTICAL TABLES SHOWING THE ADMISSIONS,
READMISSIONS, DISCHARGES AND DEATHS DURING
THE YEAR ENDING 31ST. DECEMBER 1909.

| | Males. | Females. | Total. | Males. | Females. | Total. |
|---|--------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|
| In Asylum 1st. January 1909 including those out on trial ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| <i>Cases admitted during 1909.</i> | | | | | | |
| First admission ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 | 2 | 14 |
| Second admission... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| <i>Total cases under care during the year ...</i> | | | | | | |
| ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 | 7 | 24 |
| <i>Cases discharged during 1909.</i> | | | | | | |
| Recovered ... | 3 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Relieved ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Not improved ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| Died ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |
| <i>Total cases discharged and died during the year ...</i> | | | | | | |
| ... | 4 | ... | 4 | ... | ... | ... |
| Remaining in the Asylum 31st. December 1909, including those out on trial ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 | 7 | 20 |

TABLE SHOWING CONDITION AS TO MARRIAGE, PROBABLE CAUSE
OF INSANITY, MENTAL DISEASE AND OCCUPATION
OF PATIENTS.

| Condition in reference to marriage. | Males. | Females. | Probable causes of Insanity. | Males. | Females. | Form of Insanity. | Males. | Females. | Occupation. | Males. | Females. |
|--|--------|----------|--|--------|----------|---------------------------|--------|----------|------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Married ... | 5 | 5 | Moral ... | 5 | 2 | Mania ... | 7 | 4 | Clerk ... | 2 | ... |
| Single ... | 8 | 1 | Physical... | 1 | 2 | Melancholia.. | 2 | 1 | Labourer | 9 | ... |
| Widow ... | ... | 1 | Parturi- tion or the puer- peral state ... | ... | 1 | Puerperal Insanity ... | ... | 1 | Sailor ... | 1 | ... |
| Widower ... | ... | ... | | ... | ... | Folie Circu- laire ... | 1 | ... | Washer- woman... | ... | 4 |
| | | | Alcohol ... | ... | 1 | Imbecile ... | ... | 1 | Proprietor or Mer- chant ... | 1 | 1 |
| | | | Heredity... | 1 | 1 | Epileptic ... | ... | ... | | ... | ... |
| | | | Syphilis... | 2 | ... | Dementia ... | 3 | ... | No profes- sion ... | ... | 2 |
| | | | Unknown. | 4 | ... | | ... | ... | | ... | ... |
| | 13 | 7 | | 13 | 7 | | 13 | 7 | | 13 | 7 |

MEDICAL REPORT

for Praslin District for 1909.

The following notes date from the end of March 1909 when I took up my duties here.

The districts under my charge may be divided into :

1. Praslin Island.
2. La Digue Island.
3. Round Island Pauper Camp & Leper Asylum.

Health &c., of Whole District. The Health of the Whole District has been remarkably good no epidemics of any sort having prevailed during the year.

Influenza. The only disease in this district which could be stated to be of an epidemic nature is influenza. A few cases of this disease are always cropping up but nothing like an epidemic has occurred.

Leprosy. One case of Leprosy was discovered in Praslin and was caused to be isolated by relatives under the terms of the new Ordinance.

It is difficult to find if this disease is very prevalent or otherwise as it is always hidden away as effectually as possible by the sufferer himself and by his friends.

As regards the theory of its being caused by an exclusive diet of rice and salted or indifferently preserved fish, which is the staple food of the people here, it seems to me that this diet being an innutritious one may predispose to the disease but not be the actual cause of it.

If any other diet equally lacking in nourishment were substituted leprosy would probably be as prevalent as ever whereas if the diet were improved the constitution would have a greater chance of resisting the microbe when it attacked the system.

The present methods of isolation and segregation ought however to aid materially in the stamping out of this disease.

Malaria. No cases of malaria which originated in Seychelles were met with. A few cases of recurrent attacks of this disease were met with in Indians who had contracted it elsewhere.

Dyspepsia. By far the most common disease of the inhabitants of this district is Dyspepsia caused by the eating of large quantities of indigestible, innutritious food. This in turn leads to decomposition in the intestine and so great distention with constant excessive internal abdominal pressure which I think may be one of the causes of hernia which is very prevalent.

Dysentery. Dysentery is not common. Only one true case of dysentery in the adult was met with and a few doubtful cases of diarrhoea in children.

Intestinal parasitic disease.

This next to dyspepsia is the most common ailment especially among children very few not being affected with round worms.

Ankylostomiasis also prevails especially at La Digue.

Tuberculosis.

Three cases of Pthisis were noted two in Chinese shopkeepers and one in a Creole.

All these cases occurred in Praslin.

Tabes mesenteria, or tuberculosis of the intestinal glands is common in children at La Digue.

Reference to the death registers shows that a good number of the deaths of children in La Digue were due to this disease in former years.

Asthma.

Asthma is prevalent especially among the black population very few cases having been met with in half-castes or whites.

Rheumatism.

Chronic Rheumatism is prevalent especially in the aged probably on account of the damp nature of the climate.

A few cases of rheumatic fever have also been noticed.

Pneumonia.

Only two cases were noted both at La Digue.

Hospital.

All serious cases and those requiring operative interference were sent to Mahé for treatment at the hospital in Victoria, there being no hospital in this district.

The voyage to Mahé over a sea which is generally very rough—probably in an open sailing boat which may take any time from 6 hours to 4 or 5 days, under a blazing sun or pouring rain, to reach its destination—naturally militates greatly against the sufferers chance of recovery and points to the need of the erection of a small hospital at Praslin, a need which increases every year with the growth of the population.

Vaccination.

The lymph sent from the Government Dispensary Mahé was invariably fresh and active and kept in good condition for several weeks.

It is, however, used as soon as possible after its receipt.

During the year 106 children were successfully vaccinated from the 1st vaccination.

The numbers vaccinated at the different dispensaries were as follows :

| | Male. | Female. | Total. |
|--------------------|-------|---------|--------|
| Baie Ste. Anne ... | 17 | 8 | 25 |
| Grand' Anse ... | 17 | 15 | 32 |
| La Digue ... | 23 | 26 | 49 |

Praslin Island

Physical features and
general characters of
district.

The Island is 9,700 acres in extent and is very hilly. All the flat land which extends from the sea to the hills is marshy. In these marshes coconut trees are grown and on the hills timber trees such as cedar, takamaka etc. The hills consist mostly of red earth which is very barren.

The presence of marshes accounts for the prevalence of mosquitoes which abound in the low lands.

No anopheles have been discovered among these however. There are two villages one at Baie Ste Anne, and one at Grand Anse both of which are served by a dispensary, that at Baie Ste Anne, near which the medical officer's quarters are situated, is open to pauper patients 3 times a week. Last year 54 patients obtained relief at Baie Ste Anne Dispensary.

That at Grand'Anse is open to pauper patients once a week. It relieved 90 patients last year.

Gratuitous vaccination is performed at these dispensaries once a month.

The two villages are not very well populated however, the population being scattered all over the island.

House accommodation.

The people are housed for the most part in leaf huts the few wooden houses being Indian shops or belonging to the big landowners.

The floor of the leaf huts consists generally of a coating of clean sea sand which is removed and renewed when required. They are thus kept in a fairly cleanly condition.

Excrement and house
refuse disposal.

This is the most primitive method possible but on account of the thinness of the population and in most cases the proximity of the house to the sea, it does not seem to interfere with the health of the inhabitants. It may, however, account for the prevalence of helminthic disease.

Water Supply.

The natural water supply of Praslin is excellent. There are many streams of good water all over the island.

There is only one public pump on Praslin. It is situated at Baie Ste Anne on the sea-shore. No water is at present laid on to each house separately but steps are being taken to establish a service at Baie Ste Anne, and a pump will probably be erected this year at Grand'Anse.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.

The population has been estimated for the years since the census in 1901 by adding the excess of birth over deaths as shown by the Civil Status figures and adding the result to the population of the year before.

This is a fairly accurate method as the increase of the

population is almost entirely natural, the artificial increase or increase by immigration being practically nil. The loss by emigration may also be disregarded, Praslin population by census in 1901= 1621.

| | | |
|--|------|-----------|
| Praslin population by estimation on Dec. 31st. | 1902 | ... 1,653 |
| " " " " | 1903 | ... 1,675 |
| " " " " | 1904 | ... 1,724 |
| " " " " | 1905 | ... 1,769 |
| " " " " | 1906 | ... 1,803 |
| " " " " | 1907 | ... 1,841 |
| " " " " | 1908 | ... 1,866 |
| " " " " | 1909 | ... 1,912 |

The only fallacy in the above figures is that the deaths in Round Island are included in the death returns for Praslin. As the death rate in Round Island is high and all the inhabitants of this island come from Mahé the population of Praslin is slightly larger than is shown above.

Birth rate.

The number of births for 1909 was 74 showing an increase of 22 over last year.

This gives a birth rate of 38.70 per 1000 which is the highest birth rate since the census was taken in 1901.

Of the 74 births for last year, 42 were males and 32 females, and excess of 10 male births.

Still-births.

The still-births for last year were 8, an increase of 6 over 1908.

Death rate.

The number of deaths which occurred in Praslin during 1909 was 19, a slightly smaller number than last year. This gives a death rate of 9.93 per 1000 which is for the tropics extremely low.

In the Table given below for comparison with former years the death rate of Round Island is included in the figures. This naturally raises the death rate materially. If Round Island is included the death rate for last year would be 14.67 slightly higher than 1908.

Of the 19 deaths 12 were males and 7 females, an excess of 5 males deaths.

Infantile mortality.

The number of deaths which occurred under 5 years of age in 1909 was 6 which gives an infantile mortality rate of 3.13 per 1000.

NUMBER OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND STILL-BIRTHS (INCLUDING ROUND ISLAND) 1905-1909.

| Years. | Births. | Deaths. | Still-Births. | Remarks. |
|----------|---------|---------|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1905 ... | 64 | 21 | 3 | Figures not available |
| 1906 ... | 63 | 29 | 2 | |
| 1907 ... | 71 | 33 | — | |
| 1908 ... | 52 | 27 | 2 | |
| 1909 ... | 74 | 28 | 8 | |

BIRTHS, DEATHS AND STILL-BIRTHS PER 1000
(INCLUDING ROUND ISLAND) 1905-1909.

| Years. | Births per 1000. | Deaths per 1000. | Still- Births. per 1000. | Remarks. |
|----------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1905 ... | 36.17 | 10.74 | 1.69 | Figures not available. |
| 1906 ... | 34.38 | 16.08 | 1.10 | |
| 1907 ... | 38.51 | 17.92 | — | |
| 1908 ... | 27.85 | 14.46 | 1.07 | |
| 1909 ... | 38.70 | 14.67 | 2.09 | |

TABLE OF DEATHS IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY
OCCURRED DURING 1909 AT PRASLIN

| No. | Age. | Sex. | Cause. | Remarks. |
|-----|--------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | 30 years... | Male ... | Insanity ... | Cause given by relatives. |
| 2 | 3 years... | Male ... | Worms ... | " " |
| 3 | 1 month... | Female... | Vomiting ... | " " |
| 4 | 75 years... | Male ... | Senility ... | " " |
| 5 | 6 " ... | Female... | Diarrhoea ... | " " |
| 6 | 2 days ... | Male ... | Fever ... | " " |
| 7 | 100 years.. | Female.. | Senility ... | |
| 8 | 6½ days... | Male ... | Fever and vomiting. | Cause given by relatives. |
| 9 | 32 years... | Female... | Puerperal fever. | At Grand'Anse. |
| 10 | 46 " ... | Male ... | Phthisis ... | |
| 11 | 29 hours... | Female... | Premature birth | Cause given by relatives. |
| 12 | 56 years... | Male ... | Cancer ... | Of the month. |
| 13 | 8 days ... | Female... | Debility ... | Cause given by relatives. |
| 14 | 70 years ... | Male ... | Senility ... | " " |
| 15 | 49 years ... | Male ... | Tetanus ... | " " |
| 16 | 60 years ... | Male .. | Hemiplegia ... | |
| 17 | 38 years ... | Female.. | Worms and debility. | Cause given by relatives. |
| 18 | 66 years ... | Male ... | Heart disease... | |
| 19 | 60 years... | Male ... | Paralysis ... | |

It will be noted in the above table that the cause of death is generally given by the relatives only which is often no doubt erroneous and never exact.

METEOROLOGICAL

Monsoons

The South East monsoon blows into Baie Ste Anne and thus renders it cool but during the North West monsoon it is completely sheltered by hills and is very hot.

Rainfall and temperature

A raingauge and record of rainfall has been kept at the police station at Baie Ste Anne since February and a record of the daily maximum and minimum shade temperature at the A. M. O's quarters since August :—

| Month. | Mean daily maximum | Mean daily minimum | Range | Rainfall | Rain days | Deaths |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|----------|-----------|--------|
| January ... | — | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| February... | — | — | — | 8.94 " | 14 | 2 |
| March ... | — | — | — | .30 " | 4 | 2 |
| April ... | — | — | — | 6.37 " | 11 | 1 |
| May ... | — | — | — | 1.62 " | 5 | 1 |
| June ... | — | — | — | .59 " | 7 | 2 |
| July ... | — | — | — | .82 " | 10 | 4 |
| August ... | 80.7 ° F | 74.8 ° F | 5.9 ° | .24 " | 4 | 3 |
| September. | 83.7 ° F | 76.4 ° F | 7.3 ° | 2. " 12 | 8 | 2 |
| October ... | 85. ° F | 76.5 ° F | 8.5 ° | 7. " 30 | 5 | 3 |
| November.. | 87.3 ° F | 75.8 ° F | 11.5 ° | 5. " 31 | 12 | 2 |
| December... | 85.7 ° F | 75 ° F | 10.7 ° | 10. " 01 | 16 | 5 |

It will be seen that the rainfall at Praslin is less than at Mahé but the temperature is higher. Too much reliance must not be placed on the temperature figures however as the thermometers are not kept in a Stevenson's screen but in a room in the A. M.O's quarters. These quarters are tin roofed and situated in a hollow so that the temperature is higher than it would be on the seashore or if taken on the end of a pier as in Mahé. It may be taken however that the mean maximum temperature is higher at Praslin than in Mahé and the mean minimum the same or slightly lower.

La Digue Island.

Physical Features &c. The Island is 2,500 acres in extent. It is not so hilly as Praslin.

The hills do not consist of the same barren red earth. The soil is rich, coconut trees grow well almost all over the Island. On account of its fertility La Digue is much more densely populated than Praslin. There is a village at Grande Passe which is served by a Dispensary which is open to the public once a week. The attendance at this Dispensary is meagre as there are very few Paupers at La Digue. Gratuitous vaccination is performed once a month.

La Digue is not so healthy as Praslin probably on account of the density of its population. The inhabitants also are richer and are thereby enabled to indulge their appetite for alcohol, more than their Praslin neighbours.

Venereal disease is rather common.

House Accommodation. There are better houses in La Digue than in Praslin. The proportion of wooden and iron roofed houses being much higher. Shops are also proportionately more numerous.

Excrement disposal. The same primitive methods prevail as in Praslin which probably has a worse effect on account of the greater density of the population and doubtless accounts for the prevalence of ankylostomiasis and its consequent anaemia.

Water Supply. The natural water supply is good there being several streams.

La Digue however is not as well watered as Praslin. There is a reservoir built near the village which feeds a public pump on the shore opposite the Police Station. A water service is also laid on to the "Yards" of the houses the occupants paying a quarterly rent for this privilege.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population. The population has been estimated in the same way as Praslin : 1272

| Population by Census in | | | | 1901 | ... | ... | 1074 |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|------|-----|-----|------|
| " " Estimation in Dec. 31st. | | | | 1902 | ... | ... | 1098 |
| " " " " | | | | 1903 | ... | ... | 1111 |
| " " " " | | | | 1904 | ... | ... | 1127 |
| " " " " | | | | 1905 | ... | ... | 1157 |
| " " " " | | | | 1906 | ... | ... | 1191 |
| " " " " | | | | 1907 | ... | ... | 1224 |
| " " " " | | | | 1908 | ... | ... | 1238 |
| " " " " | | | | 1909 | ... | ... | 1272 |

Birth rate. The number of births for 1909 was 55 an increase of 20 over 1908.

This gives a birth rate of 43.23 per 1000. An increase of 14.89 over 1908. Of these 55 births 28 were male and 27 female an excess of 1 male birth.

Still Births

There were no Still Births during this year.

There was one during 1908.

Death rate.

There were 18 deaths during 1909 which gives a death rate of 14.15 per 1000. This is a lower rate than in 1908, when there were 24 deaths and a death rate of 19.43. Of these 18 deaths 10 were male and 8 female an excess of 2 male deaths.

Infantile mortality.

The number of deaths which occurred under 5 years of age in 1909 was 9 which gives an infantile mortality of 7.07 per 1000 over twice as high as that of Praslin.

NUMBER OF BIRTHS, DEATHS AND STILL-BIRTHS
LA DIGUE 1905-1909.

| Year. | Births. | Deaths. | Still-births. | Remarks. |
|----------|---------|---------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1905 ... | 55 | 23 | 7 | Figures not available. |
| 1906 ... | 52 | 20 | 1 | |
| 1907 ... | 50 | 17 | — | |
| 1908 ... | 35 | 24 | 1 | |
| 1909 ... | 55 | 18 | 0 | |

BIRTHS, DEATH AND STILL-BIRTH RATES PER 1,000
IN LA DIGUE 1905-1909.

| Year. | Births. | Deaths. | Still-births. | Remarks. |
|----------|---------|---------|---------------|------------------------|
| 1905 ... | 47.45 | 19.84 | 6.03 | Figures not available. |
| 1906 ... | 43.66 | 16.79 | .83 | |
| 1907 ... | 40.84 | 14.70 | — | |
| 1908 ... | 28.34 | 19.43 | .80 | |
| 1909 ... | 43.23 | 14.15 | 0 | |

TABLE OF DEATHS IN THE ORDER IN WHICH THEY
OCCURRED DURING 1909 AT LA DIGUE.

| No. | Age. | Sex. | Cause. | Remarks. |
|-----|-----------------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | 40 years ... | Female... | Diarrhœa ... | Cause given by re- latives. |
| 2 | 2 years & 7 months | Male ... | Fever ... | " " |
| 3 | 56 years... | Male ... | Dysentery ... | " " |
| 4 | 2 months. | Female... | Asthenia ... | |
| 5 | 26 years.. | Female... | Fever ... | Cause given by re- latives. |
| 6 | 2 years... | Female... | Asthma ... | " " |
| 7 | 4½ years... | Female... | Dysentery ... | |
| 8 | 45 minutes | Male ... | Cardiac failure. | |
| 9 | 85 years... | Male ... | Senility ... | |
| 10 | 39 years... | Male ... | Gastric ulcer... | |
| 11 | 8 years... | Female... | Tuberculosis ... | |
| 12 | 71 years... | Male ... | Senility ... | |
| 13 | 3 months. | Male ... | Fever ... | Cause given by re- latives. |
| 14 | 17 months. | Female... | Enteritis ... | |
| 15 | 80 years... | Male ... | Senility ... | |
| 16 | 51 years... | Male ... | Apoplexy ... | |
| 17 | 1 month. | Male ... | Convulsions ... | Cause given by re- latives. |
| 18 | 8 months. | Female... | Fever ... | " " |

Round Island.

The Pauper Camp and Leper Asylum are located on Round Island.

It is a small Island situated in the mouth of Baie Ste. Anne near the Northern shore.

It is well planted with Coconuts.

Water Supply.

There is unfortunately no stream or well on Round Island. There is a reservoir however for rain water which supplies water during the wet season. During the dry season water is carried daily from the pump at Baie Ste. Anne in barrels.

When the weather is rough water is obtained at a spring at Anse La Farine which is much nearer than Baie Ste. Anne, but the water here is not so plentiful or good.

Leper Asylum.

The Leper Asylum is situated near the side of the Island facing La Digue. It is placed on the seashore.

Various remedies have been tried for the disease but none have shown any lasting success partly owing perhaps to the unwillingness of the Patients to submit to treatment.

An amputation of the hand was performed on a Leper in the early part of the year by Dr. M. S. Power before my arrival. It must have been difficult to perform owing to the absence of skilled assistance and the lack of a proper operating room. It was perfectly successful however and gave the sufferer great relief.

The inhabitants seem as contented as their condition permits and amuse themselves by fishing and gardening. They all have been sent from Mahé at irregular intervals.

Pauper Camp.

The Camp is situated on a plateau at the side of the Island nearest the mainland,—Praslin. It is sheltered by trees but is kept cool by breezes which can reach it on account of its lofty position.

The inhabitants are destitute negroes, for the most part old liberated african slaves sent from Mahé.

A good many of them are suffering from some incurable disease.

On the whole they seem happy and contented. They are housed in the usual leaf huts with white sea-sand floors.

Both the Pauper Camp and the Leper Asylum are kept in a very cleanly condition and the patients owe a great deal of their comfort to the care with which the Overseer carries out the duties of his post.

The causes of death at the Pauper Camp during 1909 were as follows.

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-----|---|
| Cardiac disease | ... | ... | 1 |
| Paralysis | ... | ... | 1 |
| Senility... | ... | ... | 6 |

RETURN OF PATIENTS TREATED AT THE PAUPER AND LEPER ESTABLISHMENT
ROUND ISLAND DURING THE YEAR 1909.

| IN-PATIENT DEPARTMENT. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|-----|---------|-----|----------------|---|---------------------|---|
| | Remaining from last year. | | Admitted during the year. | | Discharged during the year. | | Deaths. | | Total treated. | | Total remaining. | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Pauper Establishment ... | 9 | 6 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 19 | 9 | 12 | 5 |
| Leper Establishment ... | 6 | 2 | 2 | ... | ... | ... | 1 | ... | 8 | 2 | 7 | 2 |

Outlying Islands.

Number These are 8 in number, Curieuse, Félicité, the two Sisters, Marianne, Aride, Cousin and Cousine.

General characteristics. The topography and general Characteristics of them all are the same—hills in the centre surrounded by a belt of marsh land which extends almost to the sea-shore. They have nearly all one camp generally situated at the part of the Island which is nearest the safest landing place. This Camp is inhabited by the Manager of the Island and the men who work under him with their wives and children. On them all, the staple industry is the growing of coconuts and their conversion into Copra, with vanilla growing. No births, deaths, or marriages occurred on any of the Islands during 1909.

A few details of each will be given below.

They are all healthy.

CURIEUSE.

Area. Area 900 acres. Date of visit 22nd Oct. 1909.
The largest Island of the Praslin Group after La Digue.
Water supply. The Water supply is very good. A stream has been conducted to the yard of the lessee's house.
Population. Population—Adult males 24. Adult females 12. Children 31.—Total 67.

FÉLICITÉ.

Area. Area—800 acres. Date of visit 14th Jan. 1910.
Water supply. Water supply. There is a plentiful supply of good water obtained from streams.
Population. Population—Adult males 19. Adult females 15. Children 5. Total—39.

MARIANNE.

Area. Area—150 acres. Date of visit 14th Jan. 1910.
Water supply. The water supply is good but not plentiful. There is a spring and a well near the camp. The water in the well however is not fit for human consumption and is used only for agricultural purposes.

The water of the spring is good but it filters from the ground very slowly. It never fails however even during the dry season.

Population. Adult males, 16. Adult females 6. Children 5. Total—27.

ARIDE.

Area. Area—80 acres. Date of visit, 15th Dec. 1909.

This Island contains much guano,

Water supply. Water is obtained from a well at some little distance from the camp. The water is somewhat brackish but potable. There are no mosquitoes on the Island.

Population. Adult males 8. Adult females 3. Children 2. Total—13.

THE TWO SISTERS

Big Sister Area. Area 250 acres approximately. Date of visit, 14th Jan. 1910.

Water supply. The water is good and plentiful and is obtained from a well.

Population. Adult males 9. Adult females 5. Children 5. Total—19.

Little Sister Area. Area about 50 acres.

Water supply. The water is good and is obtained from a stream.

Population. Adult males 2. Adult females 2. Children 1. Total—5.

COUSIN.

Area. Area 67 acres. Date of visit, 15th Feb. 1910.

Water supply. The drinking water is obtained from a well some distance from the camp. It contains a good deal of sediment and suspended matter but is potable.

Other wells have been sunk from which water for agricultural purposes is obtained.

Population. Adult males 8. Adult females 3. Children 3. Total—14.

COUSINE.

Area. Area 52 acres. Date of visit, 15th Feb. 1910.

Water supply. Obtained from a well. Plentiful but contains much suspended matter and has a brackish taste.

Population. Adult males 3. Adult females 2. Total—5.

G. J. MASSON-MARTIN,

20.2.1910.

A.M.O., Praslin.



