

Report of the Director of Medical Services / British Guiana.

Contributors

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British Guiana.

REPORT

OF THE

DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL SERVICES,

FOR THE YEAR

1939.

Printed by the Authority of His Excellency the Governor.

GEORGETOWN, DEMERARA :

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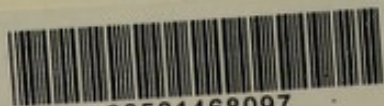
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Summary of the Annual Report of the Central Medical Laboratory, Georgetown.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
GEORGETOWN, DEMERARA.
31st July, 1940.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit, for the information of His Excellency the Governor and the Legislative Council and for transmission to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the medical report on the health and sanitary conditions of British Guiana for the year 1939, together with the returns, etc., appended thereto. Many maps, tables, graphs, etc., have been omitted from this report in accordance with instructions as a war economy measure.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

NORMAN M. MACLENNAN,
Director of Medical Services.

The Honourable
THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

BRITISH GUIANA.

ANNUAL MEDICAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st
DECEMBER, 1939.

I.—ADMINISTRATION.

A.—*Legislation.*

Ordinances, Regulations, etc.

1. The following ordinance was passed during the year :—The Colonial Medical Service (Consolidation) (Amendment) Ordinance, No. 39 of 1939, being an Ordinance to amend the Colonial Medical Service (Consolidation) Ordinance, Chapter 186, so as to restore the right to practise to those unregistered persons who were practising dentistry for a specified period prior to the fifth day of July, 1924 ; to make further provision for the control of midwives, and in certain other particulars.

2. The following regulations were passed during the year :—

- (a) The Raw Opium and Cocoa Leaves Regulations, 1939—Regulations for controlling and restricting the importation, exportation, possession, transit, sale and distribution of raw opium and cocoa leaves.
- (b) The Medical Board (Election) Regulation, 1939—Regulations to amend the Medical Board (Election) Regulations, 1937.
- (c) The Districts By-Laws, 1939—By-Laws relating to districts under the superintendence of the Local Government Board.
- (d) The Dentists Registration (Special Exemption Groups) Regulations, 1939—
Regulations prescribing the manner in which applications for registration are to be made in accordance with the provisions of the Colonial Medical Service (Consolidation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1939.
- (e) The Dentists (Prescribed Examination) Regulations, 1939—Regulations prescribing the manner in which applications for sitting for the prescribed examination are to be made in accordance with the provisions of the Colonial Medical Service (Consolidation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1939.

B.—Financial.

3. The following is a comparative statement of Revenue and Expenditure for the years 1937, 1938, and 1939.

(a) Revenue—Medical Department.

1937.	1938.	1939.
\$38,048.40 (includes \$2,286.52 for rent of quarters occupied by Medical Officers).	\$47,332.30 (includes \$2,222.86 for rent of quarters occupied by Medical Officers).	\$61,003.57 (includes \$3,033.43 for rent of quarters occupied by Medical Officers).

(b) Expenditure—Medical Department, including Public Health Department.

1937.	1938.	1939.
\$570,233.00	\$621,778.14	\$669,530.80

4. The percentage of actual expenditure on Medical and Public Health Services to actual revenue of the Colony was:—

1937.	1938.	1939.
10.4%	9.8%	10.7%

II.—VITAL STATISTICS.

5. The population on the 31st December, 1939, as estimated by the Registrar-General was 341,237 (males 170,579 ; females 170,658).

6. There were 9,599 births and 6,728 deaths. The natural increase of population was 2,871.

7. The number of immigrants (9,345) exceeded the number of emigrants (8,500) by 845.

8. The actual increase in the population for the year was 3,716 as compared with 482 in 1938.

9. *Births.*—9,599 births (5,000 males and 4,599 females) were registered. This is equivalent to a birth rate of 28.1 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 29.7 in 1938.

10. The number of still-births registered was 499 which was in proportion of 5.2 per 100 children born alive. The corresponding figure for 1938 was 5.7.

11. *Deaths.*—6,728 deaths (3,479 males, 3,249 females) were registered giving a crude death rate of 19.7 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 25.8 in 1938.

12. *Infant Mortality.*—The number of deaths under 1 year of age was 1,149, which equalled a rate of 120 per 1,000 registered births as compared with 166 per 1,000 in 1938.

TABLE I.
CHIEF CAUSES OF INFANT MORTALITY.—WHOLE COLONY.

International List No. 1929.	Cause of Deaths.	1938.		1939.	
		No.	%	No.	%
158	Congenital Debility ...	424	26	306	27
159	Premature Birth ...	284	17	212	18
38	Malaria and Undefined Fevers ...	317	21	192	17
11, 106-109	Respiratory Infections ...	230	14	169	15
13, 119-120	Intestinal Infections ...	189	11	108	9
	Other causes of death ...	187	11	162	14
	Total Infant Deaths ...	1661	100	1149	100
	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 births ...		166		120

13. *Maternal Mortality.*—The maternal mortality rate was 12 per 1,000 births as compared with 15 in 1938.

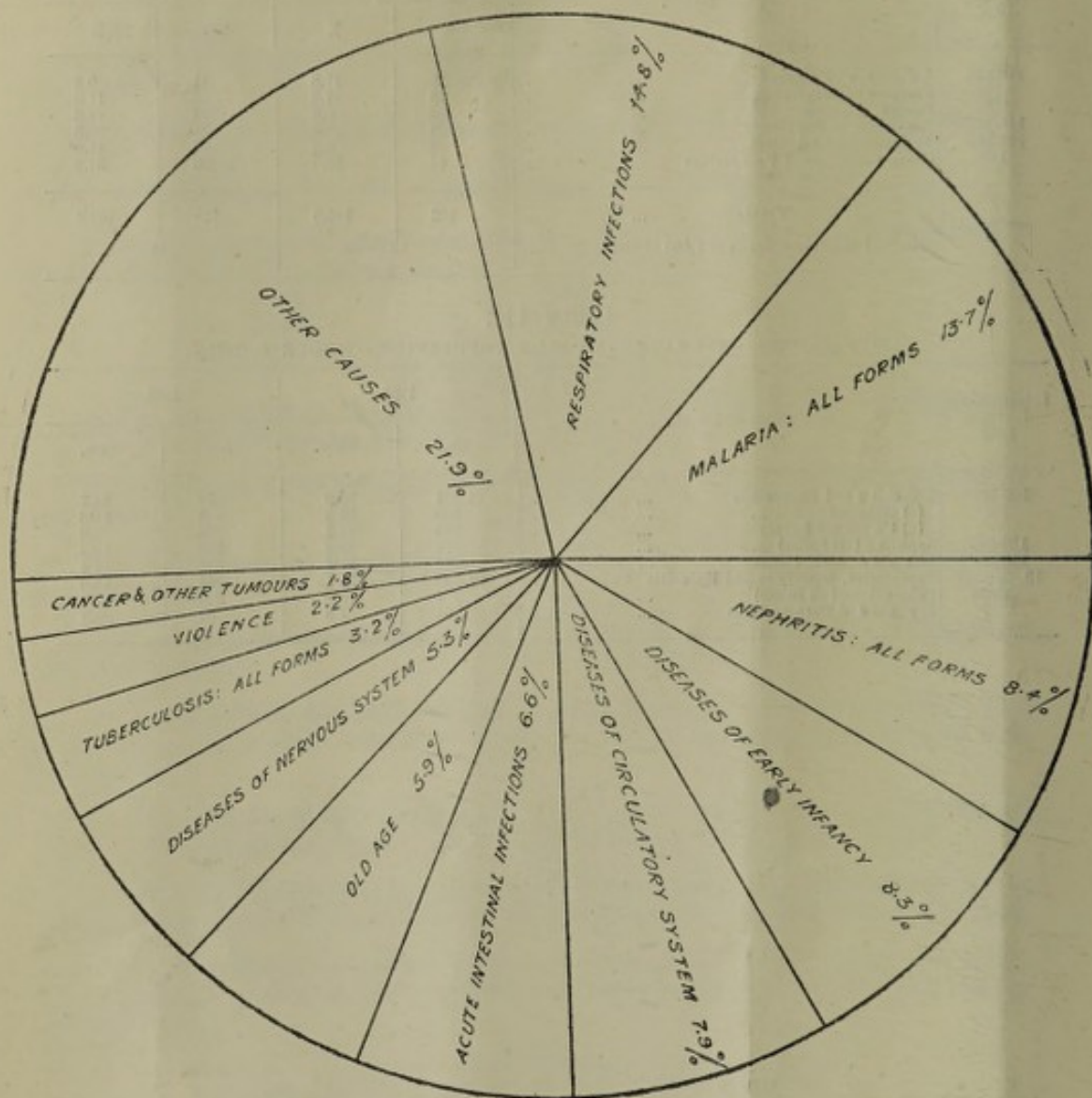
TABLE II.
CAUSES OF MATERNAL MORTALITY.—WHOLE COLONY.

International List No. 1929.	Cause of Death.	1938.		1939.	
		No.	%	No.	%
140-143	Accidents of Pregnancy	27	17.8	11	9.2
144	Puerperal Haemorrhage	18	11.8	13	11.0
145	Puerperal Sepsis	13	8.6	12	10.2
146-147	Toxaemias of Pregnancy	38	25.0	31	26.3
148-149	Accidents of Childbirth	19	6.6	13	11.0
150	Other conditions of Puerperium	45	30.3	38	32.2
	Totals	152	100.0	118	100.0
	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 births		15		12

TABLE III.
CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATHS PER 10,000 POPULATION.—WHOLE COLONY.

International List No. 1929.	Cause of Death.	1938.		1939.	
		No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.
106-109	Bronchitis and Pneumonia	1,234	36.6	978	28.7
38	(a) Malaria	989	29.3	612	18.8
	(b) Undefined Fevers	346	10.3	269	7.9
130-132	Nephritis (all forms)	673	19.9	562	16.5
158-161	Diseases of early infancy	732	21.7	559	16.4
13, 119-120	Dysenteries, Diarrhoea and Enteritis	733	21.7	444	13.0
23-32	Tuberculosis (all forms)	277	8.2	215	6.3
1-2	Typhoid and Paratyphoids	61	1.8	80	2.3

GRAPH I.
CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATHS.
BRITISH GUIANA.
1939.



III.—PUBLIC HEALTH.

A.—General Remarks.

14. A notable event in the history of the Colony was the visit of the West Indies Royal Commission early in the year. A special memorandum on the work of the department and providing a statistical summary was presented to the Commission, and, in addition a delegation of senior officers gave evidence to the Commission in public session in Georgetown. Every endeavour was made to interest members of the Commission in the medical and health problems of the Colony, and excursions to enable members to obtain first hand knowledge of these problems were made to various parts of the country.

15. The Commission for the relief of Jewish refugees also visited the Colony, early in the year, and the department was instrumental in providing them with much health information in respect of possible settlement.

16. Drs. Washburn and Crawford of the Rockefeller Foundation paid a visit in August to discuss the inauguration of the Yellow Fever and Malaria Research Services which were initiated with the assistance of the Colonial Development Fund, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Sugar Producers' Association of British Guiana.

17. Much useful co-operative work was done and both services were put into operation on a practical basis. It is hoped that a programme of co-operative health work with the Rockefeller Foundation may be secured and maintained for the future. A representative medical officer of the Foundation was stationed in the Colony to supervise the work of these two Services in collaboration with the Medical Department.

18. The three voluntary health agencies, viz., the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association, the Infant Welfare and Maternity League and the British Guiana Society for the prevention and treatment of Tuberculosis continued their valuable work normally during the year.

19. The only disease which obtained epidemic proportion during the year was measles, reference to which is made in its respective section of this report.

B.—General Diseases.

20. *Nephritis*.—The total number of deaths was 562 which gave a rate of 1.6 per 1,000 in 1939 compared with an average of 553 deaths and a mean rate of 1.7 during the years 1929-1938.

21. *Respiratory Diseases*.—Pneumonia (lobar and undefined pneumonia) was responsible for 363 deaths throughout the Colony with a rate of 1.06 per 1,000 compared with 455 deaths with a rate of 1.3 per 1,000 in 1938 and 385 and 1.1 in 1937.

22. *Bronchitis and Broncho-pneumonia* caused 615 deaths which is equivalent to a rate of 1.8 per 1,000. During the previous ten years the number of deaths averaged 614 with a mean rate of 1.9 per 1,000.

23. *Diseases of the Heart*.—There were 457 deaths registered in the Colony from all forms of heart disease (excluding diseases of the arterial, venous and lymphatic systems). 434 cases were treated in Public Hospitals with 124 deaths.

24. *Bowel Diseases (excluding the Enterics and Dysenteries)*.—The number of deaths registered in 1939 was 331 as compared with 568 in 1938. The average number of deaths during the previous ten years was 414, while the mean rate per 1,000 was 1.2 compared with .9 in 1939.

25. *Cancer and other malignant tumors*.—The total number of deaths from cancer in the Colony during 1939 is given by the Registrar-General as 123 as against 144 in 1938. The number of deaths and the death-rate per 1,000 were 123 and 0.36 respectively as compared with 144 and 0.36 respectively in 1938.

26. The average annual number of deaths during this decade was 112 representing a mean annual rate of .34 per 1,000 of the population.

27. 170 cases (new and old) of malignant diseases with 40 deaths were treated in public hospitals.

28. The following table gives the different forms of malignant growths (new cases) recorded in public hospitals together with the racial incidence:—

TABLE IV.

	Carcinoma.		Sarcoma.		Epithelioma.		Rodent Ulcer.		Endothelioma.		Unclassified.		TOTAL.	
	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939
	European (other than Portuguese)	...	1	1
European (Portuguese)	5	8	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	6	8
East Indian	26	22	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	27	26
African	55	40	9	6	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	8	65	75
Mixed	12	10	2	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	15	12
Chinese	1	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
Aboriginal Indian	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
	100	106	12	7	2	3	1	2	...	...	...	11	115	129

29. The following table furnishes a comparative statement of diseases treated, with deaths, in Government Hospitals during the years 1938 and 1939:—

TABLE V.

	Hospital Returns.				Deaths Registered.	
	1938.		1939.		1938.	1939.
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.		
Malaria	2,458	148	1,756	104	1,335*	911*
Blackwater Fever	10	4	7	3	9	7
Dysentery	194	27	168	13	168	113
Enteric Fever (including Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers)	155	39	202	50	61	80
Diarrhoea and Enteritis and Colitis	490	114	301	59	568	331
Filariasis (and Filarial Bubo)	336	14	315	19	52	43
Heart Disease (all forms)	505	116	434	124	469	457
Nephritis (including Uraemia)	446	143	446	124	673	562
Pneumonia	265	135	239	72	455	363
Broncho-pneumonia	133	70	108	51	300	214
Bronchitis	766	65	709	63	479	401
Tuberculosis (including Phthisis)	483	163	437	128	277	215

*Malaria and Undefined Fevers.

30. The diseases responsible for the highest number of deaths for the whole Colony during the years 1938 and 1939, arranged in quarterly periods, are shown in the following table:—

TABLE VI.

	March Quarter.		June Quarter.		September Quarter.		December Quarter.		Total.	
	1938.	1939.	1938.	1939.	1938.	1939.	1938.	1939.	1938.	1939.
Malaria	190	178	156	134	317	162	326	168	939	642
Undefined Fevers	79	88	68	55	105	48	94	78	346	269
Pneumonia and Bronchitis	259	202	292	220	382	198	301	258	1,234	978
Kidney Diseases	183	164	181	125	166	134	153	139	686	562
Diseases of Early Infancy (including Premature Birth, Infantile Debility, etc.)	219	153	138	108	171	131	204	187	732	559
Bowel Complaints (including Dysentery, Diarrhoea, Enteritis, &c.)	212	...	203	...	175	...	200	...	790	...
Dysentery, Diarrhoea, Enteritis	...	135	...	94	...	94	...	131	...	444
Phthisis & other forms of Tuberculosis	71	51	58	61	84	50	64	53	277	215
Diseases of the Circulatory System	129	144	121	137	134	118	122	133	526	532
Diseases of the Nervous and Sense Organs	128	98	103	76	111	96	114	86	456	356
Rainfall in Inches	42.20	21.20	32.29	23.58	29.55	15.69	14.96	5.24	119.00	63.71

C.—Communicable Diseases.

31. *Malaria*.—The importance of this disease as a cause of death is borne out by the section on Vital Statistics. The number of admissions to the combined Public Hospitals indicates that Malaria is the cause for which 7.6 per cent. of all in-patients are admitted.

32. Of the 1,756 cases diagnosed in hospital, 7 cases of Blackwater Fever are included. 467 cases (26.6 per cent.) were classified as to parasite species; of these, 188 (40.3 per cent.) were benign tertian, 271 (58.0 per cent.) subtertian, 8 (1.7 per cent.) quartan. No epidemic of this disease occurred during the year.

33. The Registrar-General reports 642 deaths from malaria throughout the Colony together with 269 deaths from undefined fevers. Prior to 1935 no differentiation was recorded. Taking these figures together (as 911) for the purposes of comparison with previous years, the average annual number of deaths from Malaria for the past quinquennium (1935–1939) was 1,063—the same figure as for the previous five years (1930–1934). The average annual population of the Colony for the two quinquennia was 317,670 and 335,383 respectively.

34. As a result of co-operation with Government on the part of the International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation and the British Guiana Sugar Producers' Association, a Malaria Research Unit was established in July under the direction of Dr. G. Giglioli.

35. As in previous years, large quantities of quinine products were issued to Government hospitals, Dispensaries, and Departments and to schools and mission stations. In addition, large quantities of synthetic antimalarial specifics were used in the Public Hospitals.

36. *Influenza*.—10 cases were treated in Public Hospitals with no deaths. The deaths registered as due to the same disease throughout the Colony were 11. There was no epidemic prevalence during the year.

37. *Tuberculosis (all forms)*.—Below is a table showing the cases notified and deaths registered in the City of Georgetown and the Colony as a whole for the years 1938 and 1939:—

TABLE VII.

Year.	City of Georgetown.			Whole Colony.		
	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate per 1000.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate per 1000.
1938	121	77	1.19	318	277	0.83
1939	92	54	0.83	286	215	0.63

38. These figures are in each respect the lowest recorded since the disease was made notifiable in 1912.

39. The British Guiana Society for the Prevention and Treatment of Tuberculosis continued its activities as in previous years and also embarked on After-Care.

40. *Enteric Fever (including Typhoid and Paratyphoids)*.—There were 344 cases with 80 deaths as compared with 293 cases with 61 deaths in 1938.

41. *Chicken Pox*.—There were 124 cases as compared with 11 cases in 1938.

42. *Diphtheria*.—There were 40 cases with 7 deaths as compared with 31 cases and 8 deaths in 1938.

43. *Anthrax*.—No cases or deaths from Anthrax were reported during the year.

44. *Anterior Poliomyelitis*.—There were 12 cases as compared with 6 cases in 1938.

45. *Puerperal Fever*.—There were 15 cases notified during the year with 12 deaths.

46. *Smallpox*.—No case of smallpox or alastrim occurred in this Colony during the year. No increased prevalence was reported in neighbouring countries. The usual quarantine restrictions were maintained against non-convention countries.

47. The following table shows the number of vaccinations performed :—

TABLE VIII.

	1938.	1939.
Total Vaccinations ...	8,243	8,532
Total verified successful ...	6,616	7,203
Per cent. verified successful ...	80.3	84.4

48. *Trachoma*.—There were 8 cases as compared with 10 cases in 1938.

49. *Tetanus*.—34 cases were treated in Public Hospitals with 23 deaths, compared with 35 cases and 17 deaths in 1938.

50. *Yaws*.—16 cases were treated in Public Hospitals compared with 17 cases in 1938. There were no deaths. 33 cases were treated in the out-patient departments as against 30 in 1938.

51. *Ancylostomiasis*.—169 cases were treated in Public Hospitals with 6 deaths compared with 115 cases and 5 deaths in 1938. 146 cases were treated in out-patient departments as against 138 in 1938. The deaths registered as due to the same disease throughout the Colony were 7 as compared with 10 in 1938.

52. *Venereal Diseases*.—The following table gives the number of venereal diseases treated as in-patients in Public Hospitals for the last two years :—

TABLE IX.

Year.	SYPHILIS.					Soft Chancre.	Gonorrhoea and its Complications.	Granuloma Venereum.
	Primary.	Secondary.	Tertiary.	Hereditary.	Stage not Indicated.			
1938 ...	83	18	388	59	...	45	678	106
1939 ...	119	22	579	38	15	41	568	104

53. The number of Novarsenobillon and other injections given for Syphilis at the Public Hospitals was 29,252 compared with 24,769 in 1938.

54. The table below furnishes a statement classified in age-incidence periods of in-patients treated for venereal diseases in Public Hospitals during the year 1939 :—

TABLE X*

	SYPHILIS.												Acute Gonorrhoea.			Chronic Gonorrhoea.			Chaneroid.			Granuloma Pudendi.			Lympho-Granuloma Inguinale.			
	Primary.				Secondary.				Tertiary.				Hereditary.															
	M.	F.	T.		M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Under 1 year
1—under 5 yrs...
5 .. 10
10 .. 20 ..	19	7	17	1	3	4	17	18	30	19	18	28	27	22	49	13	16	23	4	1	5	5	4	9	...	...	...
20 .. 30 ..	47	14	61	5	3	8	87	107	194	1	2	3	163	49	212	69	39	99	24	...	24	25	18	43	14	...	...
30 .. 40 ..	32	3	35	2	2	4	103	78	181	...	...	...	70	16	86	48	19	67	6	1	7	11	6	17	5	7	12
40 .. 60 ..	11	1	12	2	1	3	129	81	210	...	...	...	52	6	58	56	6	62	3	...	3	11	4	15	2	3	6
60 years and over.	1	...	1	...	...	...	27	18	45	...	...	...	4	...	4	16	...	16	2	...	2	2	1	3	1	...	1
Total ...	101	25	126	19	9	19	363	392	665	19	35	54	335	110	445	292	65	267	39	2	41	54	33	87	22	14	36	

* NOTE.—The totals in this table differ from those in the Table IX. in that cases of double infection are here included.

55. The table below furnishes a statement classified in age-incidence periods of out-patients treated for venereal diseases at Public Hospitals, Government Dispensaries, and Prisons during the year 1939 :—

TABLE XI.

	SYPHILIS.												Acute Gonorrhoea.			Chronic Gonorrhoea.			Chancroid.			Granuloma Pudendi.			Lympho-Granuloma Inguinale.		
	Primary.			Secondary.			Tertiary.			Hereditary.																	
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	2	3	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1—under 5 yrs.	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	4	4	...	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 " 10 "	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	5	10	15	8	8	16	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 " 20 "	37	24	61	8	6	14	17	47	64	45	24	69	149	59	205	10	30	40	3	3	6	5	4	9	...	...	...
20 " 30 "	183	35	218	22	11	33	176	226	402	13	7	20	537	79	616	163	75	238	31	6	37	29	16	45	...	...	...
30 " 40 "	88	11	99	15	11	26	204	215	417	4	...	4	295	42	337	137	49	186	17	2	19	18	9	25	...	...	...
40 " 60 "	42	5	47	7	4	11	214	182	396	2	...	2	111	8	119	94	24	122	19	2	12	7	10	17	...	...	...
60 years and over.	...	...	...	1	...	1	35	21	56	...	...	...	14	2	16	31	22	53	...	...	...	3	...	3	...	...	...
Total	350	76	426	53	33	86	646	692	1338	70	47	117	1114	206	1320	442	200	642	61	13	74	60	39	99	...	...	...

56. The following shows the number of cases of venereal diseases treated on sugar estates for the past two years :—

	1938.	1939.
Gonorrhoea	...	...
Chancroid	...	...
Syphilis (including tertiary)	...	...
Granuloma Venereum & Pudendi	...	...
	145	275
	7	46
	196	201
	5	1

VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC, PUBLIC HOSPITAL, GEORGETOWN.

57. *Syphilis*.—1,241 new cases were admitted for treatment as compared with 759 in 1938. The increase was principally in Primary Syphilis.

58. *Gonorrhoea*.—There were 1,027 new admissions for Gonorrhoea. The ratio of acute or recent Syphilis to acute Gonorrhoea was 1 : 2.7.

59. *Defaulting*.—There was a defaulting incidence of 27.7 per cent.

60. *Attendance*.—29,452 patients (males 17,308, females 12,144) attended the Clinic during the year.

61. *Dismissals*.—359 patients were discharged of whom 107 were cured, and 252 were diagnosed as non-venereal.

62. *Propaganda*.—Leaflets are distributed at the clinics and talks are given to individual new cases. The Medical Officer gave two public lectures during the year.

TABLE XII.

NEW CASES ADMITTED DURING 1939 COMPARED WITH 1938.

	Sy. (1).	Sy. (2).	Sy. (3).	Sy. (H).	Acute Gonorrhoea.	Chronic Gonorrhoea.	Chancroid.	Granuloma P.	Un- diagnosed.	N.V.D.	
1939	...	254	36	807	91	782	241	54	30	668	212
1938	...	105	25	604	25	604	259	27	24	818	99

TABLE XIII.

CASES (NEW AND OLD)—MALE AND FEMALE—TOTAL 4,826 CASES.

	New Cases.			Old Cases.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Syphilis 1	224	30	254	106	23	129
Syphilis 2	29	7	36	26	8	34
Syphilis 3	417	440	857	244	404	648
Syphilis H.	47	44	91	18	34	52
Acute Gonorrhoea	637	145	782	278	80	358
Chronic Gonorrhoea	161	80	241	122	69	191
Chancroid	43	11	54	23	6	29
Granulema Pudendi	25	14	39	25	12	37
Non V.D.	116	96	212	13	27	40
Undiagnosed	390	368	668	22	82	104
Total	1,999	1,235	3,234	877	715	1,592

TABLE XIV.

TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES: 4,534.

	New.		Old.		Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
No. of cases with V.D.	1,565	722	723	569	3,510
Do. Non V.D.	116	96	15	27	252
Do. undiagnosed	300	368	22	82	772
Total Male Cases	1,921	...	738	...	2,679
Total Female Cases	...	1,186	...	669	1,855
Total Cases	3,107		1,427		4,534

TABLE XV.

DISMISSALS FROM CLINIC: 339.

A. CURED.

Diseases.	Male.	Female.	Totals.
Syphilis	9	2	11
Chancroid	19	4	23
Gonorrhoea	64	3	67
Granulema Pudendi	4	2	6
Total	96	11	107

B. NON-VENEREAL DISEASE.

Males	...	129
Females	...	123
Total	...	252

63. *Leprosy*.—The number of new admissions to the Leprosy Hospital was 45 (29 males and 16 females). There were 24 deaths (13 males and 11 females), a death rate of 4.2 per cent. of the total number of inmates.

64. At the end of 1939 there were 24 boys and 11 girls in the Bishop Galton Home and 10 boys and 14 girls in the Lady Denham Home making a total of 59 children in both homes.

65. Treatment consists mainly of the intradermal and subcutaneous injection of the esters of Hydnocarpus Oil pure and iodized. In addition, use is made of external applications, *e.g.*, trichloroacetic acid and solid carbon dioxide in selected cases.

66. 63 operations were performed.

67. 245 sessions were held in the electro-therapeutic department and 2,254 treatments were administered to 67 male and 22 female patients.

68. The following laboratory investigations were made :—

Examination of smears from nasal mucosa for M.L.	...	160
do. do from skin...	...	75
do. of urine ...	...	101
do. of faeces for ancylostoma ova	...	9
do. of sputum for Tuberculosis	...	32
Blood sedimentation test	...	2
Examination of blood for malarial parasites	...	78
Conjunctival smear ...	...	1
Examination of urethral smear for gonococcus	...	1

69. 202 clinics were held in the three counties at which 743 patients were treated.

TABLE XVI.

SHOWING NUMBER OF PATIENTS TREATED AND PERCENTAGE MORTALITY, 1939.

	M.	F.	T.
Number of patients on 31st December, 1938	260	157	417
New admissions during 1939	29	16	45
Re-admitted once in 1939	37	40	77
Re-admitted twice in 1939	6	9	15
Non-leper	1	...	1
Births	8	2	10
Total number treated during 1939	341	224	565
Died in Leprosy Hospital during 1939	13	11	24
Daily average number treated	202.7	150.9	413.6
Death rate	3.8	4.9	4.2
Highest number of patients, 1939	272	161	433
Lowest number of patients, 1939	252	146	398

TABLE XVII.

SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF PATIENTS ACCORDING TO DISTRICT, FORM OF LEPROSY AND OCCUPATION.

County of Demerara.	M.	F.	T.	County of Berbice.	M.	F.	T.	County of Essequibo.	M.	F.	T.	Form of Leprosy.	M.	F.	T.
Georgetown ...	89	49	138	New Amsterdam ...	6	4	10	North Essequibo ...	6	3	9	Cutaneous ...	105	65	170
East Coast, Demerara.	46	34	80	Corentyne Berbice ...	25	10	35	South Essequibo ...	6	2	8	Neural ...	136	74	210
West Coast, Demerara.	19	9	28	East Bank, Berbice ...	10	3	13	Pomeroon ...	11	3	14	Mixed ...	22	9	31
East Bank, Demerara.	13	18	26	West Bank, Berbice ...	2	1	3	Bartica ...	4	1	5	Minor Tuberculoïd ...	2	6	8
West Bank, Demerara.	11	5	14	West Coast, Berbice ...	4	4	8	North-West Dis'ric' ...	1	1	2	Major Tuberculoïd ...	1	...	1
Demerara River ...	8	7	10	Canjo ...	4	5	9	Berbice River ...	3	2	5	Non-Leper ...	2	...	2
Total ...	186	115	301	Total ...	54	29	83	Total ...	28	10	38	Total ...	268	154	422

Occupation.	M.	F.	Total.
Labourers ...	164	46	210
School children ...	46	30	76
Domestics ...	...	40	40
Seamstresses ...	...	8	8
Unemployed ...	8	2	10
Teachers ...	4	1	5
Housewives ...	...	17	17
Hucksters ...	...	2	2
Farmers ...	8	4	12
Shop-assistant ...	...	1	1
Washer ...	...	1	1
Basket Maker ...	...	1	1
Estate Hospital Nurse ...	...	1	1
Salesmen ...	3	...	3
Shoemakers ...	3	...	3
Cartman ...	1	...	1
Chauffeurs ...	4	...	4
Cook ...	1	...	1
Boiler Maker ...	1	...	1
Printer ...	1	...	1
Electricians ...	2	...	2
Tailors ...	4	...	4
Woodcutter ...	1	...	1
Baker ...	1	...	1
Porters ...	2	...	2
Carpenters ...	4	...	4
Mechanic ...	1	...	1
Clerks ...	2	...	2
Milk-vendor ...	1	...	1
Fishermen ...	2	...	2
Messenger ...	1	...	1
Sailor ...	1	...	1
Bookbinders ...	2	...	2
Total ...	268	154	422

TABLE XVIII.

SHOWING CLASSIFICATION OF PATIENTS ACCORDING TO AGE, RACE, AND SEX.

	EUROPEANS.				EAST INDIANS.				Chinese.	Aboriginal Indians.	Mixed.	Blacks.	Total.	Grand Total.	
	Other than Portuguese.		Portuguese.		Immigrants.		B.G. East Indians.								
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.							
1 to 5 years ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
6 to 10 " ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	4	...	...	2	...	5	3	4
11 to 20 " ...	...	...	3	2	...	...	15	4	2	1	...	4	11	22	31
21 to 30 " ...	1	...	5	...	...	...	18	2	...	...	...	11	8	31	46
31 to 40 " ...	...	1	2	2	1	...	9	5	2	...	...	9	6	35	66
41 to 50 " ...	...	...	3	...	11	5	7	1	...	...	...	3	1	15	59
51 to 60 " ...	...	...	...	...	13	9	6	1	...	1	...	1	10	7	39
61 to 70 " ...	1	...	...	1	6	6	...	...	...	...	...	1	10	3	19
71 to 80 " ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	4	10
81 to 90 " ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	6
Total ...	2	1	14	6	32	20	56	14	4	3	...	30	27	130	268

70. *Filariasis*.—43 deaths (15 males and 28 females) were registered from this disease. 505 cases were treated in the out-patient departments of the Public Hospitals.

71. *Erysipelas*.—5 cases were notified as compared with 2 in 1938.
72. *Ophthalmia neonatorum*.—52 cases were reported as compared with 57 in the previous year.
73. *Quarantinable Diseases*.—No cases of the quarantinable diseases occurred during the year.
74. *Measles*.—An epidemic of Measles occurred during the year. The disease was first reported at Mabaruma in April and subsequently spread throughout the Colony reaching its peak in October and then declining. There were 2,335 notifications from August when the disease was made notifiable. Attacks were mild and complications rare. There were two deaths.

IV.—HYGIENE AND SANITATION.

75. The Central Board of Health held ten meetings during the year. The Board dealt with 965 building applications, 85 plans for the lay-out of land for building purposes (section 135 (1), Public Health Ordinance, 1934), 124 certificates under section 135 (4).

76. Under section 95, 26 coconut oil factories were approved.
 5 do. do. were not approved.
 1 tannery was approved.

The Board also issued certificates of approval to 189 rice mills (under the Rice Factories Ordinance, No. 28 of 1939) and granted permission for the establishment of one school (see section 60 (1) of the Public Health Ordinance, 1934), 8 burial grounds (section 64 (1) and 1 slaughter-house (section 105)), besides other miscellaneous matters.

77. A sub-committee of the Board was appointed in August to consider and report on the working of Part XII of the Public Health Ordinance. This Committee was still in session at the end of the year.

78. An extraordinary meeting of the Board was held on the 8th September to meet Drs. B. E. Washburn, P. J. Crawford and A. W. Burke, the representatives of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation in connection with the establishment of the Yellow Fever Service and the Malaria Investigation Project.

79. The Health (Yellow Fever Control) Regulations were made by the Board on 20th December under sections 21 and 69 of the Public Health Ordinance and submitted to the Governor in Council for approval.

80. In pursuance of section 19 of the said Ordinance the Board on 16th August by resolution declared Measles to be an infectious disease within the meaning of Part III of the Ordinance.

81. On the 16th August the Board recommended the Lancaster-Manchester-Liverpool Country District for exclusion from the operation of section 135 of the Public Health Ordinance for one year in view of the defective main drainage of the area. This was approved by the Governor in Council.

82. A survey and repartition of the back lands of lot No. 64 Corentyne, Berbice, was carried out by the Land Surveyor seconded to the Government Health Department.

83. *Special Preventive Measures*.—During the year the Department continued the bonification of the Thomas Lands in Georgetown and gave financial assistance to the New Amsterdam Municipality for extending their street drains. Assistance was also continued in erecting new latrines for schools and various small

bonification works were undertaken in connection with several Government compounds in the rural areas.

84. *Precautions against Jungle Fever.*—371 persons were immunized against Yellow Fever. Travellers are advised to be immunized before proceeding to the interior in view of Jungle Fever hazard, and arrivals from the interior are requested to report for medical inspection. The personnel of the Airways have been immunized.

V.—PORT HEALTH WORK AND ADMINISTRATION.

PORT OF GEORGETOWN.

85. During the year the visiting of vessels and granting of pratique were performed by the Deputy Port Health Officer.

86. Quarantine was maintained during the year as follows:—

- (a) Permanently against all South and Central American Ports (except British, French and Dutch) for Yellow Fever, Plague, Smallpox, Cholera, and Typhus Fever.
- (b) Against the ports of New Orleans, Mobile, Tampa (U.S.A.) for Typhus Fever.
- (c) In the case of ships coming from St. Thomas, St. Croix, Puerto Rico, and Santo Domingo, arrangements are in force to ensure the notification of any occurrence of quarantinable disease in these ports.

87. *Vessels visited by the Port Health Officer.*—During the year 142 vessels were visited by the Port Health Officer under the Quarantine Ordinance tabulated as under with fees chargeable in each case:—

Month.	Gratis.	\$4 00	\$6 50	\$9 00	\$5 00 Fumigation.	\$2 00 (Revisit).
January ... ..	...	7	...	...	...	...
February	2	12	1	...	...	...
March ... ..	...	7	1	...	...	...
April ... ..	...	9	...	1	...	...
May ... ..	...	12	...	...	...	...
June ... ..	...	10	...	...	...	...
July ... ..	...	12	...	...	...	...
August	1	8	1	1	...	...
September	2	11	...	2	...	...
October ... ..	...	11	...	1	...	...
November ... ..	...	12	2	...	...	...
December	1	15	...	...	...	...
Total	6	\$64	\$32 50	\$45	...	...

88. Passengers were placed under surveillance by the Port Health Officer as follows:—

For Small-pox	...	...	...	11
For Cholera	...	...	...	Nil.
For Yellow Fever	...	...	...	Nil.
For Plague	...	...	...	Nil.
For Typhus	...	...	...	Nil.

89. Vessels consigned to the Demerara Bauxite Company, Mackenzie, Demerara River, with crews, were placed under surveillance by the Port Health Officer, and were allowed to proceed to their destination. In each case the Medical Officer of the Bauxite Company was entrusted to keep all members of the crew of each vessel under surveillance until the Quarantine period had expired, and to report at the expiration of the period.

90. *Vessels visited by the Port Sanitary Inspector.*—The number of vessels visited are as under;—

Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
Ocean Steamers ...	230	Schooners ...	155
Coasting Steamers ...	44	Other Craft ...	408
Total ...	<u>274</u>	Total ...	<u>563</u>

Total number of vessels—837.

91. The total number of visits paid to vessels are as follows:—

Steamers.		Sailing Vessels.	
Ocean Steamers ...	379	Schooners ...	464
Coasting Steamers ...	361	Other Craft ...	747
Total ...	<u>740</u>	Total ...	<u>1211</u>

Total number of vessels—1951.

The above visits include routine inspection of Government steamers.

92. *Notices served on Masters of Vessels lying in port.*—During the year no notices were served on Masters of vessels by the Port Sanitary Inspector. Nuisances occurring on board vessels were abated according to verbal instructions issued.

93. *Care of Merchant Seamen.*—64 sick seamen were sent to the Public Hospital, Georgetown, for treatment during the year from ocean-going vessels.

94. *Vessels fumigated and disinfected by the Port Health Authorities.*—No vessel was fumigated during the year. The cabins, sanitary conveniences, and articles used by sick seamen on four ships were disinfected with formalin—two for a case of tuberculosis, in each one for pyrexia of unknown origin and one for a case of bacillary dysentery. Precautions were enforced on vessels lying alongside the Port of Georgetown or at Mackenzie, Demerara River.

95. *Disinfection and Fumigation Machines.*—

(1) *Clayton Fumigator.*—This machine is kept at the Public Hospital, Georgetown. It was not employed for fumigation purposes during the year, but was subject to a quarterly test and gave satisfaction on each occasion. The new hose ordered during the year for this machine has arrived.

(2) *Washington Lyons Steam Disinfector.*—This machine is at the Quarantine Station, Best, West Coast, Demerara. It was subjected to a quarterly test and on each occasion worked satisfactorily.

(3) *Clayton Rat-gassing Machine.*—This machine is kept in the storeroom of the Quarantine Station, Best, West Coast, Demerara. It was subjected to a quarterly test and on each occasion worked satisfactorily.

96. *Trapping and Extermination of Rats.*—During the last quarter of the year a rat-catcher was employed to trap rats at the port. 536 rats were trapped—343 *R. norvegicus*, 127 *R. rattus*, and 66 *Mus musculus*. 533 were trapped on wharves and 3 on board colonial steamers. Of these, 460 were examined for plague infection. The results were all negative.

97. *Quarantine Station, Best, West Coast, Demerara.*—Regular attention has been directed to the keeping of this station compound in a satisfactory condition including the weeding of grass, bushing, and the maintenance of proper drainage.

98. *Remarks.*—Cablegrams were interchanged as heretofore between the Health Officer of this and other Convention ports, giving notice of passengers under surveillance on board vessels about to sail.

99. The total amount of revenue accruing to Government from sanitary measures in the Port of Georgetown in 1939 is \$581.50.

100. No shrimping was carried out in the prohibited area of the Port of Georgetown.

VI.—INFANT WELFARE AND MATERNITY.

101. Infant Welfare and Maternity work in the Colony operates under the control of the Infant Welfare and Maternity League and during the year under review the work was well maintained. The field staff consisted of 2 Inspectors of Midwives, 8 Health Visitors and 39 subsidised midwives.

102. Except in the case of necessitous persons, attendants at the clinics are expected to become members of the League upon payment of one shilling. Membership consists of expectant mothers and infants born to them as well as other infants whose mothers have failed to take advantage of the available pre-natal facilities. The League is financed from an annual subvention from Government of \$13,324, and in addition, membership fees, of which one-half is paid into general funds and the remainder is utilised to assist in the provision of milk and other necessary relief for needy mothers and infants.

103. *King George V Silver Jubilee Fund.*—The total amount expended from the Fund to the end of the year was \$2,230, leaving a balance of \$1,315.

104. Couch-cabinets to the number of 24 were provided at the various centres from the fund. These cabinets have been useful in meeting the need for privacy at clinics which were not designed for this purpose, and it is regretted that the lack of housing accommodation precluded a larger number of these cabinets from being installed.

105. *King George V Silver Jubilee Maternity Home, - Ida Sabina.*—The activities of the League in the Upper Berbice River District were well maintained during the year. The League Midwife, who is provided with residential accommodation in the Home, conducted 35 deliveries during the year and with the co-operation of the Government dispenser, conducted pre-natal and infant clinics at the various points which are regularly served up and down the river. Two visits of inspection were paid to the district by the Inspector of Midwives for the County of Berbice, when opportunity was taken by her to visit a number of clinics and to meet women resident in the district. Two visits of inspection were also paid by a Government Medical Officer of Health from New Amsterdam.

106. *Clinics.*—Clinics were conducted by Government Medical Officers within their districts and in the more remote areas by Government Dispensers. Supervision and advice were given to expectant mothers and in the case of infants, regular examination with medical treatment when necessary were made available. 64 such clinics were so conducted, exclusive of those on sugar estates.

107. Although it has not yet been possible to finance the appointment of a League midwife for Crabwood Creek, Corentyne, the Government Medical Officer, Springlands, has continued to conduct regular clinics with the assistance of a private midwife resident in the area.

108. New clinics were opened during the year at Hollandia, Hopetown, and Bush Lot, West Coast, Berbice.

109. Clinics at Bartica continued to be operated at the Public Hospital, with the voluntary assistance of the members of the branch committee. It has not yet been found possible to provide a Health Visitor for this district through lack of funds, though the need for such an appointment has the full appreciation of the Central Committee.

110. Infant and ante-natal clinics were held on sugar estates, many of the estate hospitals being now provided with maternity wards where confinements are conducted by midwives employed by the estate authorities under the supervision of the Government Medical Officers.

111. A memorandum on Infant and Maternity Work was presented to the West Indies Royal Commission which visited the Colony in February, 1939. In addition, Dr. Mary Blacklock, a member of the Commission, met the Committee informally and discussed with them various aspects of the work.

112. The Inspectors of Midwives supervised the work of the Health Visitors and midwives stationed in their various districts. Visits of inspection were regularly paid by these officers to the districts under their charge and opportunity was taken to give health instruction to the mothers meeting at the various centres. The work of inspection of midwives generally was strengthened by an amendment to the Colonial Medical Service (Consolidation) Act, Cap. 186, by means of which more effective methods of inspection of midwives will be made possible.

113. *Statistical Analysis.*—The infant mortality rate for the whole Colony was 120 per 1,000 births. The League midwives delivered 1,831 living infants, approximately 19.1 per cent. of all infants born in 1939. Of these, 69 died, an infant mortality rate of 37.7 per 1,000 births, in contrast with the Colony's experience of 120 per 1,000. There were 75 stillbirths. Amongst this group 12 mothers died, being a maternal mortality rate of 6.6 per 1,000 births compared with the Colony's rate of 12 per 1,000. Both these rates are lower than those of the League's experience in 1938 when the infant and maternal mortality rates were respectively 51.3 and 8.4 per 1,000 births.

114. There are maternity wards in each of the five principal hospitals at Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Suddie, Mabaruma, and Bartica.

115. The accommodation in the Public Hospitals and maternity returns for 1939 are shown in Table XIX.

TABLE XIX.

	Number of Beds.	Deliveries.	Deaths (Maternal).	No. of Births.	No. of Still-births.
Public Hospital, Georgetown	46	1,084	34	949	97
do. Berbice	8	175	7	171	18
do. Suddie	12	120	8	107	13
do. Mabaruma	2	40	...	38	2
do. Bartica	*	37	...	35	2

* There are 19 beds in the female ward which are available for maternity cases.

VII.—SCHOOL MEDICAL AND DENTAL SERVICES.

116. *Medical.*—No regular school medical inspection is undertaken. Occasional inspection is made of Queen's College at the request of the Principal.

117. *Dental treatment of children attending primary schools.*—Two part-time school dental officers serve in Georgetown, one in New Amsterdam, and one of the Georgetown officers also serves at Kitty, East Coast, Demerara. A sum of \$1,600 was voted on the 1939 Estimates to cover this provision. This was allocated as follows: Georgetown \$960; New Amsterdam \$480; Kitty \$240.

118. In Georgetown 1,779 children (877 boys and 902 girls) attending 25 schools received treatment. Of these 534 children (269 boys and 265 girls) received complete treatment. Emergency treatment consisted mainly of extractions. 1,245 children (608 boys and 637 girls) attending 23 schools received this treatment.

119. In New Amsterdam 260 children (121 boys and 139 girls) attending 4 schools received treatment. Of these 190 received complete treatment. In addition 44 pupils received emergency treatment.

120. In Kitty 248 children (140 boys and 108 girls) of one school received treatment. In addition 163 children (78 boys and 84 girls) attending 2 schools received emergency treatment.

121. The work done at the schools was as follows:—

Prophylactic treatment	...	...	447
Extractions	...	...	2,698
Amalgam fillings	...	...	512
Porcelain or cement fillings	...	...	72
Abscess Attendances	...	...	66
Root Canal treatment	...	...	16

VIII.—NUTRITION.

122 The Nutrition Committee continued their activities during the year and very valuable reports were submitted to Government. The investigation carried out included:

- (1) Milk Distribution Experiment in Schools.
- (2) Enquiry into the Relative Consumption of Raw and Condensed Milk in Government Institutions.
- (3) Chemical Analysis of Milk supplied to the Public Hospital, Georgetown.
- (4) Analysis of the Diets of the Government Institutions throughout the Colony.
- (5) Dietary Survey among families in Georgetown and environs restricted to families of the children concerned in the Milk in School Experiment.

IX.—HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

A.—The Public Hospitals.

123. The Public Hospitals in the Colony (7) provide 954 beds. The nominal bed strength of estate hospitals was 1,495. "Colonna House" (a private nursing home in Georgetown) provides for about 50 cases and Mackenzie Hospital (Demerara Bauxite Company, Limited,) has accommodation for about 67 cases.

124. The daily average number of patients in the Government hospitals (excluding Potaro and Kamakusa) was:—

	1937.	1938.	1939.
Public Hospital, Georgetown	... 588	613	622
do. New Amsterdam	... 146	137	140
do. Suddie	... 56	74	70
do. Bartica	... 24	35	41
do. Mabaruma	... 22	22	25

125. *Public Hospital, Georgetown.*—The erection of the new maternity wing which was commenced during the previous year is not yet completed.

126. The total number of patients admitted to Government hospitals was 21,165 as compared with 21,609 in 1938 and 19,494 in 1937.

127. The table below shows the number of new admissions to hospital during the year and furnishes approximate figures of admissions of the same patients on one

or more occasions. The total thus furnishes in truer perspective the actual amount of sickness occurring in the Colony and treated at the Public Hospitals.

TABLE XX.

Hospital.	Total admissions during the year.	Persons admitted on one occasion (approx.)	Persons admitted on two occasions.	Persons admitted on more than two occasions (approx.)
Public Hospital, Georgetown ...	14,443	13,161	503	92
Public Hospital, Berice ...	3,284	3,110	63	6
Public Hospital, Suddie ...	2,078	1,722	127	34
Public Hospital, Bartica ...	744	674	26	6
Public Hospital, Maharuma ...	537	484	22	3
Public Hospital, Kamakusa ...	64	62	1	...
Public Hospital, Potaro ...	15	15	...	...
Total ...	21,165	19,238	742	141

128. The number of patients who sought treatment at the out-patient department of Public Hospitals is as follows :—

1938 ...	...	...61,392
1939 ...	...	...62,996

129. Two classes of patients are treated at the out-patient department—“poverty” patients, who are required to pay 24 cents (1/-), and “pauper” patients who receive free treatment.

130. The principal diseases treated in Government hospitals were :—

	Cases.	Deaths.
Malaria (including blackwater fever)	...1,756	104
Dysentery ...	... 168	13
Enteric Fever ...	... 202	50
Bowel Diseases ...	... 301	59
Pneumonia (all forms)...	... 347	123
Tuberculosis (all forms)	... 437	128
Bronchitis ...	... 799	63
Nephritis ...	... 446	124
Diseases of the Heart (all forms)	... 434	124
Venereal Diseases ...	...1,486	43
The Puerperal State ...	...2,118	58

131. In spite of the shortage of senior staff, the training of nurses was continued at the Government hospitals in Georgetown, New Amsterdam and Suddie. The following were the results of the examinations held :—

(a) Preliminary Examination—Probationer Nurses and Midwifery Students :—

	Entered.	Passed.	Failed.
April ...	24	17	7
September ...	14	13	1

(b) Final Examination for Graduate Nurse's Certificate :

	Entered.	Passed.	Failed.
June ...	19	18	1

(c) Midwives' Final Examination.

	Entered.	Passed.	Failed.
September ...	17	16	1

132. Table XXI shows the accommodation, number of patients and deaths, average stay, percentage of mortality on number treated, and number of out-patients in each hospital.

133. Table XXII gives the classes of in-patients and out-patients treated and the number of prescriptions dispensed.

134. Table XXIII is a return of the surgical operations performed.

135. The number of in-patients treated was 22,025 as compared with 22,420 in 1938.

136. The cost per caput per diem of patients treated, exclusive of medical-officers' salaries, was :

	1937.	1938.	1939.
	cents.	cents.	cents.
Public Hospital, Georgetown ...	61.6	65.5	72.3
Public Hospital, New Amsterdam...	61.7	72.1	83.9
Public Hospital, Suddie ...	94.7	75.4	84.7
Public Hospital, Bartica ...	70.1	77.9	75.6
Public Hospital, Mabaruma ...	74.1	123.3	104.4

TABLE XXI.
PUBLIC HOSPITALS.

	Georgetown.			New Amsterdam.			Suddie.			Bartica.			Mabaruma.			Kamakua.			Potaro.			
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	
Accommodation ...	345	277	622	92	69	161	45	47	92	25	10	35	15	15	30	7	1	8	6	...	6	
Patients remaining in Hospital—1st January, 1939 ...	324	237	561	82	65	147	37	37	74	26	14	40	14	14	28	...	...	...	...	...	...
Patients admitted during the year ...	7,911	6,532	14,443	1,906	1,378	3,284	1,132	946	2,078	543	201	744	284	233	517	61	3	64	10	...	15	
Total ...	8,245	6,769	15,014	1,988	1,443	3,431	1,169	983	2,152	569	215	784	298	267	565	61	3	64	16	...	15	
Patients discharged—cured ...	1,522	1,750	3,272	709	524	1,233	116	32	148	207	133	340	66	54	120	19	...	19	3	...	3	
" " not relieved ...	4,439	3,168	7,607	810	519	1,329	880	754	1,634	131	50	181	180	167	347	10	2	32	7	...	7	
" " not sick ...	1,168	963	2,131	196	146	342	38	48	86	7	5	12	5	5	10	...	...	10	3	...	3
" " died ...	190	141	331	32	27	59	11	29	40	1	3	4	10	17	27	...	...	...	...	...	...
Patients remaining in Hospital—31st December, 1939 ...	591	476	1,067	170	127	297	87	77	164	45	17	62	26	15	41	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total Patients treated ...	344	281	625	71	50	121	39	43	82	28	7	35	7	9	16	...	...	...	...	...	1
The daily average number in Hospital during 1939 ...	8,245	6,769	15,014	1,988	1,443	3,431	1,109	983	2,102	569	215	784	298	267	565	61	3	64	16	...	15	
Average stay in days of patients discharged during 1939 ...	338	284	622	82	58	140	33.9	35.7	69.6	31.4	9.8	41.2	14.0	11.0	25.0	17	0.1	18	0.4	...	0.4	
Average stay in days of patients remaining on 31st December, 1939 ...	15	15	15	16	16	16	11.0	13.9	13.3	18.6	17.7	18.4	17.7	16.7	17.2	8.0	4.0	10.9	6.1	...	6.1	
Average stay in days of patients died ...	56	46	52	22.2	23.7	23.7	15.8	18.0	16.9	40.3	3.3	33.1	10.7	22.0	17.0	...	...	...	...	...	3.0
Percentage of Mortality on number treated ...	22.5	26	24	9.8	13.0	11.1	4.2	4.6	4.4	23.4	11.5	20.1	19.7	5.4	13.4	...	...	...	...	...	5.0
Number of Out-Patients (exclusive of attendances for repeat medicines) ...	7.2	7.3	7.1	8.6	8.8	8.7	7.4	7.7	7.6	7.9	7.9	7.9	8.7	4.9	6.9	3.3	33.3	46.9	6.7	...	6.7	
Total ...	18,500	17,695	36,195	4,759	3,967	8,726	3,055	4,064	7,119	1,968	1,169	3,137	1,028	1,040	2,068	1,077	267	1,284	341	96	...	437

TABLE XXII.

IN-PATIENTS DEPARTMENT, PUBLIC HOSPITALS, FROM 1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER, 1939.

Class of Patients Treated.	Georgetown.	New Amsterdam.	Suddie.	Bartica.	Mabaruma.	Kamakusa.	Potaro.
Seamen	64	...	...	...	2	...	...
Pay Patients	2,545	474	142	139	33	7	...
Police-men	319	38	6	1	1	2	6
<i>Race :</i>							
Europeans (other than Portuguese)...	179	22	6	11	1	...	...
Europeans (Portuguese)	548	31	26	13	6	...	1
Mixed	1,382	268	156	298	163	12	...
East Indians	4,699	1,418	1,252	117	58	4	...
Chinese	127	18	6	2	...	...	...
Blacks	7,379	1,650	604	320	96	44	12
Aboriginal Indians	129	24	102	93	239	4	2
Total	14,443	3,431	2,152	781	565	64	15

OUT-PATIENTS DEPARTMENT.—PUBLIC HOSPITALS.

	Georgetown.	New Amsterdam.	Suddie.	Bartica.	Mabaruma.	Kamakusa.	Potaro.
Number of Out-Patients attended to with Pauper Certificates	20,154	5,613	6,484	2,455	118	...	...
Number of Out-Patients attended to with Poverty Certificates	13,269	4,313	635	712	...	...	...
Number of Out-Patients and casualties without Certificates	2,772	2,800	...	...	1,950	1,214	469
Number of Out-Patients treated during the year (exclusive of repeats)	35,195	12,726	7,119	3,167	2,068	1,214	469
Number of Government Employees attended to as Out-Patients	1,463	238	140	36	49	50	12
Number of Prescriptions dispensed for In-Patients	95,992	23,495	3,176	1,709	3,756	157	32
Number of Prescriptions dispensed for Out-Patients	53,940	17,258	9,484	4,510	2,883	1,284	583

TABLE XXIII.

RETURN OF SURGICAL OPERATIONS.

Operations.	Public Hospital, Georgetown.		Public Hospital, New Amsterdam.		Public Hospital, Suddie.		Public Hospital, Bartica.		Public Hospital, Mabaruma.		Public Hospital, Kamakusa.		Public Hospital, Potaro.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
Head and Neck	242	2	50	...	16	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Upper Extremity	83	...	68	...	20	...	4	...	6	...	...	...	...	...
Lower Extremity	106	4	74	...	25	...	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
Thorax	37	1	7	...	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Abdomen	533	30	99	2	46	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Back and Vertebrae	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Genito-Urinary System	1,034	16	116	...	28	1	21	1	3	...	...	...	...	...
Total	2,087	53	414	2	139	4	30	1	17	1	...	...	...	...

OPHTHALMIC DEPARTMENT.

137. 5,640 patients were treated during the year as against 5,675 for the previous year. The following table shows the distribution:—

TABLE XXIV.

Public Hospital.	IN-DOOR PATIENTS.						OUT-DOOR PATIENTS.					
	Paying.			Pauper.			Paying.			Pauper.		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Georgetown	40	43	83	149	130	279	703	695	1,398	1,669	1,792	3,461
New Amsterdam	3	1	4	8	4	12	85	69	154	87	80	167
Suddie	1	...	1	1	3	4	14	10	24	28	26	53
Total	44	44	88	158	137	295	802	774	1,576	1,784	1,897	3,681

138. The following major and minor surgical operations were performed :--

TABLE XXV.

	Public Hospital, Georgetown.	Public Hospital, New Amsterdam.	Public Hospital, Suddie.
Senile Cataract	168	...	...
After Cataract	17	...	...
Congenital Cataract	12	...	...
Traumatic Cataract	6	...	...
Endophthalmitis	1	...	...
Pterygium	27	6	2
Glaucoma	11	...	...
Tarsal Cyst	...	4	...
Foreign body	...	1	...
Leucoma of Cornea	2	...	...
Corneal Ulcer	1	...	...
Dacryocystitis	2	...	...
Prolapse of Iris	5	...	...
Phthisis Bulbi	4	...	...
Cellulitis of Eyelid	1	...	...
Orbital Cyst	1	...	...
Papilloma of Conjunctiva	5	...	...
Total	263	11	2

139. In addition, 122 minor operations were performed at the out-patient department of the Public Hospital, Georgetown.

140. The revenue derived from all sources was \$1,262.11 as compared with \$1,255.88 in 1938.

141. The number of cases refracted and received prescriptions for glasses was 401.

142. A number of cases was treated at the Leprosy Hospital and two cataract operations were performed.

143. A visit was paid to the Public Hospital, Bartica, when a fair number of cases was treated, but as there is no available dark room for refraction and diagnostic purposes subjective examinations carried out cannot be supported ophthalmologically.

144. 10 cases of trachoma and 16 cases of Ophthalmia neonatorum were notified.

DENTAL DEPARTMENT.

Public Hospital, Georgetown.

145. The clinic was open to the public daily in the afternoon except on Sundays and Public Holidays.

146. The number of out-patients treated was 7,187 as compared with 7,416 in 1938. 4,304 were pauper cases (1,420 males and 2,884 females) and 2,883 poverty cases (1,468 males and 1,415 females).

147. The revenue collected amounted to \$412.58 compared with \$379.80 the previous year.

Public Hospital, New Amsterdam.

148. The clinic at this hospital is conducted by Dr. G. M. Gonsalves, dental surgeon, as part-time dental surgeon, assisted by a junior nurse.

149. The clinic was held thrice weekly.

150. 1,543 extractions were done.

151. The revenue collected amounted to \$218.40.

X-RAY AND ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT.

Public Hospital, Georgetown.

152. Throughout the year the weekly clinic for the Tuberculosis Society was continued.

153. *Radiographic and Radioscopic Examinations.*—The total number of patients examined during the year was 3,878, being 124 more than the previous year. Of these 216 were examined at the request of private practitioners and Government Medical Officers in districts. 1,060 cases were examined for the Tuberculosis Society and 17 cases for the Infant Welfare Centre. The total number of radiosopic examinations was 2,119.

154. The following table gives some indication of the type of examinations made:—

Barium Meals	...	...	809 (166 cases).
Barium Enemas	...	...	48
Chests	...	...	1,810
Accessory Sinuses	...	...	362
Urinary Tracts	...	...	92
Gall Bladders	...	...	180
Teeth	...	...	183
Miscellaneous	...	...	2,357

155. *X-Ray Treatment.*—The conditions treated were as follows:—

Dermatitis	...	...	22
Ringworm	...	...	6
Rodent Ulcer	...	...	4
Carcinoma	...	...	3
Eczematous Eruption	...	...	3
Epithelioma	...	...	2
Cheloid	...	...	2
Splenomegaly	...	...	6
Tumour	...	...	2
Ground Itch	...	...	2
Epidermomycosis	...	...	2
Splenic Anaemia	...	...	1
Verrucular Plantaris	...	...	1
Sycosis Barbae	...	...	1

156. *Electrical Treatment.*—378 patients were treated during the year, being 153 more than the previous year. In all 5,537 treatments were given.

157. The revenue collected during the year was \$1,714.62 as against \$1,693 in 1938.

Public Hospital, New Amsterdam.

158. 243 radiographic examinations were made. The nature of these examinations were as follows:

Cranium	...	...	3
Jaws	...	...	2
Teeth	...	...	3
Upper Extremity:			
Shoulder and Axilla	...	...	11
Upper Arm	...	...	19
Elbow	...	...	14
Forearm	...	...	32
Wrist	...	...	11
Hand	...	...	24
Finger	...	...	4
			<hr/> 115

Carried forward ...

123

	Brought forward	...	...	123
Lower Extremity :				
Hip	...	...	8	
Thigh	...	...	7	
Knee	...	...	12	
Leg	...	...	12	
Ankle	...	...	14	
Foot	...	...	18	71
			Total	243
Chest	...	...	...	21
Ribs	...	...	...	5
Abdomen	...	...	...	5
Back and Vertebrae	...	...	...	8
Pelvis	...	...	...	7
Kidney	...	...	...	3

159. No cases were treated by X-Rays.

160. The revenue collected was \$40.55 as against \$66.07 for 1938.

B.—The Mental Hospital.

161. The following information is derived from the annual report of the Medical Superintendent of the Mental Hospital.

162. The daily average number of patients was 611 (males 363, females 248) compared with 634 in 1938. There were 134 admissions (males 68, females 66) as against 99 in 1938. With the 628 patients (367 males, 261 females) remaining on January 1st a total of 762 cases was treated during the year. The admissions from the three counties were :—

County.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Demerara	48	49	97
Berbice	14	14	28
Essequibo	6	3	9
Total	68	66	134

163. The admissions classified as to the countries of origin were :—

Country.	Males.	Females.	Total.
British Guiana	60	63	123
India	3	2	5
Barbados	...	1	1
China	1	...	1
Trinidad	1	...	1
St. Lucia	1	...	1
Grenada	1	...	1
Surinam	1	...	1
Total	68	66	134

164. There were 36 discharges (males 24, females 12) compared with 28 in 1938, and the total number of patients under treatment at the end of the year was 19 less than at the end of 1938.

165. The number of deaths was 115 (51 males and 64 females) compared with 150 in 1938, and the mortality rate was 15.09 per cent. as against 18.6 per cent. the previous year.

166. The principal causes of death were dysentery, myocarditis, chronic nephritis, lobar pneumonia, and pulmonary tuberculosis.

167. The chief diseases treated were malaria, pneumonia, pulmonary tuberculosis and other lung diseases, filariasis, diarrhoea, dysentery, general debility, influenza, myocarditis, nephritis, anaemia, arthritis, and chickenpox.

168. The expenditure for the year was \$73,071.49 compared with \$68,923.82 in 1938, and the revenue \$2,014.81 compared with \$2,088.88 in 1938.

169. The per caput cost per diem was 31.7 cents as against 28.9 cents in 1938.

170. About 46 per cent. of the patients were engaged in some form of occupation and the value of their labour in such occupations as baking, gardening, tailoring, shoemaking, washing, printing, carpentry, woodcutting, etc., was estimated at \$22,765.25.

171. The table below furnishes the accommodation in the various wards of the hospital with classification as to type of patient:—

TABLE XXVI.

Division.	No.	Name of Block.	Accommodation.		Class of Patients.		
			Authorised.	Actual Number of Patients.			
Male	417	Ward 1	23	17	Trusted.		
		Wards 2, 3, and 4	82	83	Dangerous and refractory.		
		Ward 5	71	67	Chronic Creole.		
		Ward 6	74	42	Chronic East Indian.		
		Ward 7	38	35	Quiet East Indian.		
		Ward 8	41	36	Quiet East Indian.		
		Wards 9 & 10	55	55	Sick and infirm.		
		Ward 11	...	...	...
		Ward 12	33	24	Criminal.		
		Female	348	Ward A	67	43	Chronic Creole.
				Ward B	66	39	Chronic East Indian.
				Ward C	52	27	Dangerous and dirty.
Ward E	81			82	Doubtful and dirty.		
Wards F and G	54			32	Sick and infirm.		
Cottage	28			27	Convalescent and trusted.		
765	765			609			

172. *Georgetown Psychological Clinic for Out-Patients.*—Commencing in April, the Medical Superintendent has visited Georgetown on the first Wednesday in each month to hold this Clinic at the Public Hospital.

173. *Clinical Changes.*—The new policy of "hospitalization" (or de-asylumisation) has been still further pursued; more freedom has been given to patients wherever possible and continued attempts to introduce a homely atmosphere and further contacts with the outside public.

174. Nearly 100 patients have had parole of the grounds and 20 outside; small groups of parole patients have been permitted to visit cinemas in the town and other entertainments in the neighbourhood (the females however in the charge of nurses) and no untoward incidents have occurred. Only one patient absconded and he was not under parole.

175. *Convulsion Therapy for Schizophrenia.*—Von Meduna's practice of inducing fits for the radical cure of this erstwhile incurable disease has been successfully followed with a recovery rate of 20% and an improvement rate of 50%.

176. *Entertainment.*—Entertainment included cricket and football matches, attendance at the local cinemas by kind invitation of the Managers, and dances, the music being provided by the staff band. A cinema has been provided from funds collected throughout the Colony.

C.—Public Dispensaries.

177. In addition to the out-patient dispensaries attached to the Public Hospitals in Georgetown, New Amsterdam, Suddie, Bartica, Mabaruma, Kamakusa, and Potaro, and the Government public dispensary at George Street, Georgetown,

there are fourteen Government dispensaries in the charge of qualified sicknurses and dispensers, situate in remote, yet populous river districts, and in the diamond and gold-bearing areas. In the majority of these outlying dispensaries the work done by the nurse-dispenser is supervised by the Government Medical Officer of the adjoining district.

178. The following table gives the number of cases treated, with expenditure and revenue :—

TABLE XXVII.

Dispensary.	Paying Patients.			Police Patients.			Pauper Patients.			Expenditure.	Revenue.
	New Cases.	Repeats.	Total.	New Cases.	Repeats.	Total.	New Cases.	Repeats.	Total.		
No. 1 Dispensary, Charlestown	315	526	841	27	...	27	4,019	12,396	16,385	\$ 1,634 62	\$ 201 84
Demerara River (Christianburg)	386	847	1,233	22	5	27	769	369	1,138	1,305 73	349 70
Canal No. 1 Polder	898	36	934	...	...	...	16	2	18	*	263 53
Canal No. 2 Polder	1,163	33	1,196	...	...	...	84	3	87	1,311 17	272 64
Berbice River (Ida Sabina)	567	12	579	...	...	...	1,745	69	1,814	1,201 26	152 63
Mara	49	12	61	26	3	29	856	126	982	1,422 99	19 85
Leguan	2,156	252	2,408	73	3	76	798	103	901	1,363 00	705 62
Parika	101	12	113	20	3	23	51	19	70	+	28 56
Wakenaam	1,692	68	1,760	47	7	54	1,478	42	1,520	1,106 62	463 96
Essequibo River (Supenam)	1,600	216	1,816	3	2	5	1,265	254	1,519	1,649 74	585 54
Anna Regina	807	39	846	23	7	30	7,189	1,347	8,536	1,484 62	293 64
Pomeroon River (Charity)	1,549	78	1,627	4	1	5	3,533	294	3,737	1,447 26	570 64
Moruca River (Acquero)	22	...	22	...	...	...	2,531	3,126	5,657	1,447 62	6 32
Enachu	176	...	176	21	...	21	982	...	982	‡ 840 00	185 00
Kurupukari (Rupununi)	1	...	1	10	...	10	341	...	341	480 00	1 22

* Supplies are obtained from Canal No. 2 Polder.

+ Supplies are obtained from Leguan Dispensary.

‡ Salary, etc., of Dispenser.—Supplies are obtained from the Public Hospital, Kamakusa.

X.—PRISONS.

Georgetown Prison.

179. The general health of the prisoners was satisfactory.

180. The sanitary arrangements, ventilation and drainage were satisfactory; the water supply was adequate and the food supplies adequate and of good quality.

181. Thirty-five cases came under medical observation, *i.e.*, 32 males and 3 females. Of these 13 males and 1 female were transferred to the Mental Hospital.

182. Injections administered during the year were as follows :—

Anti-Tetanus	...	...	...	4
Fouadin	...	...	...	41
Manganese Butyrate	...	...	...	13
N.A.B.	...	...	...	151
Tartar Emetic	...	...	...	24

183. The number of venereal cases treated during the year was :—

Males.	Females.	Total.
111	—	111

184. Fifty-one blood specimens for Kahn's test were sent to the laboratory for examination, and of these, thirty-four (66.6%) were found to be positive and seventeen negative. These specimens were all of convicted prisoners and were classified as under :—

Syphilis	...	...	...	34
Chancroids	...	...	...	17
Granuloma	...	...	...	12
Gonorrhoea	...	...	...	48

185. In addition to the above, the following cases of remand prisoners were also treated during the year :—

Chancroids	...	4
Urethritis	...	8

186. There were 80 sittings for dental extractions and 95 teeth were extracted.

187. Reading glasses were supplied to six prisoners and dentures were supplied to three prisoners during the year.

New Amsterdam Prison.

188. The general health of the prisoners was good.

189. The sanitary arrangements and drainage were satisfactory. The water supply was good. Potable water was stored in screened tanks and vats. There was also a good supply of creek water for sanitary requirements.

190. Food supplies were adequate and of good quality.

191. The number of cases of venereal diseases treated was as follows :—

Gonorrhoea	...	9
Granuloma	...	5
Syphilis	...	2

192. The number of injections given was as follows :—

Anti-Tetanus	...	2
Tartar Emetic	...	8
N.A.B.	...	20

193. Dental extractions were as follows :—

Male.	Female.	Total.
11	6	17

194. The following table shows the hospitalization, etc., of prisoners in the Georgetown and New Amsterdam Prisons :—

Prison.	Average daily number of prisoners.	Average daily number in prison hospital.	Total number of admissions.	Number of deaths.	Number transferred to Public Hospital.	Number transferred to Mental Hospital.
Georgetown ...	215.12	10.14	161	...	10	14
New Amsterdam...	59.9	0.18	6	...	1	...

195. The principal diseases treated were acute and chronic bronchitis, urethritis, albuminuria, venereal diseases, malaria, influenza, asthma, debility, and granuloma.

196. The total number of out-patient attendances was 15,077 compared with 10,350 in 1938.

XI.—ALMS HOUSE.

197. Accommodation is provided for 808 inmates—514 males and 294 females --the number of inmates on 1st January, 1939, was 536 males and 314 females. The number admitted during the year was 545—365 males and 180 females—while the daily average was 852.

198. There are five infirmary wards providing accommodation for 316 patients. 1,124 cases were treated in the infirmary wards—789 males and 335 females. The daily average number of infirmary patients was 229 males and 165 females. The principal diseases treated were—Bright's disease, diseases of the heart, ulcers, chronic bronchitis, granuloma, cancer, malnutrition, diarrhœa, hemiplegia, debility, asthma, dementia, pneumonia, and filariasis.

199. The number of ulcer cases at the end of the year was 144—101 males and 43 females.

200. 114 minor operations were performed—97 males and 17 females.

201. 240 injections were given during the year :—

Tartar emetic	...	40
Fouadin	...	193
Billon	...	7

202. The total number of deaths was 275—174 males and 101 females—the death-rate being 19.7 per cent. of the total number of inmates, compared with 20.5 per cent. in 1938.

203. The number of inmates remaining in the institution on 31st December, 1939, was 839—524 males 315 females—the chief causes of detention being senility diseases of the heart, Bright's disease, blindness, and ulcers.

204. The following table shows the admissions, deaths, etc., for the last two years :—

TABLE XXVIII.

Year.	Total Deaths.	Total persons in Aims House during the year.	Death-rate per cent.	Number of cases of Diarrhœa.	Number of cases of Dysentery.	Number of deaths from Diarrhœa and Dysentery.
1938	313	1,525	20.5	61	...	24
1939	275	1,395	19.7	14	1	6

205. *General Remarks.*—The wards, offices and grounds were kept in a good condition throughout the year and the sanitary arrangements were satisfactory.

XII.—THE ONDERNEEMING INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

206. The following information is derived from the report of the Medical Officer, which is published with that of the Headmaster.

207. The number of boys in the school at the end of the year was 54 and their health was uniformly good. No epidemic of any kind occurred and cases referred to the Public Hospital, Suddie, were 21 in number, cellulitis, incised wounds, chronic nephritis, ulcers and malaria fever being the chief causes for transfer. 72 cases were treated in the sick bay of the school for malaria fever, rheumatic arthritis, chronic ulcers, and influenza, including bronchitis.

208. The following table shows the statistical figures for the years 1937, 1938 and 1939 :—

	1937.	1938.	1939.
Daily average number of boys in school ...	77	50	54
Daily average number of boys sick ...	0.8	0.14	0.3
Percentage of sick to daily average number of boys ...	1.1	0.3	0.5

209. 13 boys were admitted to, and 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ boys were discharged from, the institution during the year. No boys died during the year.

210. There were 19 cases of malaria of which 9 were recurrences. There was one case of filaria. Prophylactic treatment for tetanus was given in six cases.

211. The grounds have been well kept and the drains maintained in good order.

XIII.—SUGAR ESTATES.

212. There was no change during the year in the arrangements for the medical and sanitary care of sugar plantations.

213. On a majority of the plantations, members of the staff and their families are attended by private practitioners whilst the Government Medical Officer of the district is in charge of the hospital, the labourers and the sanitation of the compound.

214. Twenty-two out of thirty-one plantations provide and maintain hospitals and dispensaries for their labourers.

215. The total number of births was 2,029 as against 2,055 in 1938. The infant mortality figure was 91.1 as against 140.1 in 1938. There were 1,149 deaths as compared with 1,635 in 1938. The principal causes of deaths were :—

CAUSES OF DEATHS.	NUMBER OF DEATHS.
1. Malaria ...	89
2. Chronic Bronchitis ...	71
3. Lobar Pneumonia ...	63
4. Bright's Disease ...	48
5. Broncho-Pneumonia ...	42
6. Infantile Debility, Icterus and Sclerema ...	41
7. Premature Birth ...	33
8. Asthma ...	26
9. Diarrhoea and Enteritis ...	25
10. Enteric Fever ...	20
11. Acute Nephritis ...	18
12. Diseases peculiar to Infancy ...	16
13. Other general diseases ...	12
14. Dysentery ...	11
15. Influenza ...	10

216. The total number of patients admitted to estate hospitals was 23,569 as compared with 30,563 in 1938. There were 698 deaths as against 1,056 in 1938. 13,278 patients were treated at the dispensaries of these hospitals as against 10,157 in 1938.

217. *Malaria*.—8,963 cases were treated in hospitals with 89 deaths. The average annual figures for the previous five years were 9,999 cases and 122 deaths. The distribution in counties during 1939 was :—

County.	Cases Malaria.	Deaths Malaria.
Berbice	2,745	32
Demerara	6,218	57

218. *Bowel Diseases.*—The following table shows the number of cases and deaths from enteric fever and other intestinal diseases (dysentery, diarrhoea and enteritis) during the years 1938 and 1939 :—

TABLE XXIX.

Year.	Enteric Fever.		Other Intestinal Diseases.	
	Cases.	Deaths.	Cases.	Deaths.
1938	115	16	1,151	82
1939	130	20	1,013	47

219. The number of reported cases of all forms of pneumonia was 526 with 125 deaths, as compared with 553 cases and 188 deaths in 1938.

220. The Central Medical Research Laboratory, operating under the aegis of the contributing members of the British Guiana Sugar Producers' Association, continues to extend its very valuable work amongst the large section of the population employed in this industry. It is a pleasure to record the cordial relations that exist between this Laboratory and the Medical Department, from which unquestionable benefits for the whole Colony cannot fail to accrue.

XIV.—MINING.

A.—Mazaruni Diamond Fields.

221. The hospital of eight beds, with dispensary, is situated at the headquarters station, Kamakusa. An out-station dispensary under the charge of a dispenser is maintained at Enachu. The senior and junior dispensers continued to make routine inspections of their districts.

222. The average population of the district during the year was 4,382.

223. The health of the district was good throughout the year. No disease assumed epidemic form. Malaria was still the prevailing disease and 341 cases (277 males, 64 females) were treated during the year, with 7 deaths (males). The importance of quinine prophylaxis was stressed and totaquina tablets freely distributed.

224. Fresh vegetables, poultry, and beef are very scarce and difficult to obtain at all points in the district. Marmite is stocked in many of the shops and is in great demand.

225. The treatment of cases of venereal diseases entering the district and of those infected within the district is still palliative only. All infected persons are advised to travel to the Public Hospitals, Bartica and Georgetown, for effective treatment.

226. The dispenser at Enachu pays weekly visits alternating fortnightly at important points above Enachu; when possible, the senior dispenser pays weekly visits to Eping-Perenong and intermediate points. Quarterly tours were made to all the navigable areas by the senior dispenser. On these tours, which lasted ten to fourteen days, the junior dispenser at Enachu performed duty at Kamakusa. The weekly visits of the senior dispenser depend on the absence of bed-cases at the hospital.

227. All logies and dwellings were inspected at regular intervals and their occupants advised to have their respective surroundings cleaned and cleared of all broken bottles, empty tins, refuse, etc. Inspections of foodstuffs were also carried out.

228. One birth was registered during the year.

229. The number of deaths registered was 30 compared with 37 in 1938. The cases were malaria fever 7, drowning 8, Bright's disease 2, malnutrition 2, other causes 9, unknown 2.

B.—Potaro Hospital and Dispensary.

230. The hospital-dispensary is situated at 11½ miles, Potaro, and has accommodation for 6 beds. The staff consists of a sicknurse-dispenser, a nurse (as occasion arises), a porter, a boat-captain and a boat-hand.

231. The health of the district was fair. The prevailing diseases were malaria, bronchitis, and dyspepsia. 15 cases (male) were treated in hospital with no deaths. The number of out-patients treated was 469 (361 males and 108 females).

232. The usual periodic visits were paid to Garraway Stream, Tumatumari, Kangaruma and Amatuk.

C.—Mackenzie Hospital.—Demerara Bauxite Co., Ltd.—Demerara River.

233. The staff consists of :—

Hospital—

- 1 Medical Officer.
- 2 Dispensers (1 at Three Friends and Trevern Mines).
- 4 Nurses (1 male).
- 4 Probationers.
- 3 Attendants.
- 6 Ward Maids.
- 2 Cooks.

Mines.—1 Dispenser.

Exploration.—2 Dispensers.

234. The number of beds available in the hospital is 67.

235. 728 cases, with 27 deaths, were treated in hospital during the year. The daily average number of patients was 23. The number of out-patients treated was 15,243.

236. The principal diseases treated were malaria, venereal diseases, dysentery, enteritis and colitis, pneumonia, bronchitis, enteric fever, measles, ancylostomiasis, nephritis and abscesses. A large number of cases was also treated for wounds, injuries, contusions, abrasions and fractures.

237. The following is a return of the work done in the Pathological laboratory :—

Blood Counts	...	...	...	5
Haemoglobin	...	...	...	8
Widals	...	...	...	13
Wassermanns	...	...	...	5
Blood films for malaria...	...	...	...	381
do. for filaria ...	...	...	...	27
do. Miscellaneous	...	...	...	6
Urine analyses	...	...	...	1,306
Stool examinations for amoebae	...	...	...	159
Sputum examinations for Tuberculosis	...	...	...	36
Pus smears	...	...	...	71
C.S.F. deposit	...	...	...	2

238. Poverty and pauper cases from the surrounding areas are admitted and treated in the Company's Hospital. By arrangements with Government a fee of 30 cents per diem is paid for in-patients and 6 cents per attendance for out-patients. The amount so paid during 1939 was \$172.26.

D.—British Guiana Consolidated Gold Fields—108 Miles. Potaro.

239. The resident staff consists of a medical officer and a sicknurse-dispenser.

240. A "casualty post" is maintained for the treatment of in-patients.

241. 1,140 cases were treated during the year made up as follows :—

Members of the staff ...	...	25
In-patients ...	...	80
Out-patients ...	...	1,035

There were 6 deaths.

242. The principal diseases treated were malaria, influenza, and pneumonia. A number of cases of injuries were also attended to.

243. General conditions were fair.

244. Articles of food and drink were examined regularly and found to be fair.

245. Water supply and drainage were satisfactory.

246. Anti-mosquito and anti-malarial measures were carried out regularly and latrines were oiled thrice weekly.

XV.—HINTERLAND SETTLEMENTS.

247. Free medicines were supplied to a number of Aboriginal Indian Stations and Mission Stations at a cost of \$102.88. Recognition is given to the willing and free medical attention paid to the inhabitants of these hinterland areas, particularly at Mission Stations, by those in charge, who in the course of years have acquired a very practical and valuable knowledge of elementary therapy, both medical and surgical, and in whom the native places a trust and confidence perhaps not otherwise obtainable.

248. Periodical visits are made by the Government Medical Officer, Skeldon, to a settlement at Orealla, up the Corentyne River, by the Government Medical Officer (Suddie Hospital) to the Wakapoa Mission in the Pomeroon, by the Government Medical Officer, North West District, to the Santa Rosa Mission in the Moruca, and by a Government Dispenser to Santa Mission, Kamoonie Creek, Demerara River.

249. In order to afford some measure of medical aid to residents in the Rupununi, a Government dispensary was established at Kurupukari in September, 1937, and a dispenser stationed at this point with a suitable supply of drugs and medical comforts. This dispenser also teaches in a primary school established at this post, and performs duty as cattle-trail clerk. During school holidays, he is expected to undertake short tours on first-aid duty to the settlements in this area.

250. The whole question of organised medical services for Aboriginal Indians is under consideration and it is hoped that a scheme of this nature will become operative in the near future.

XVI.—METEOROLOGICAL.

251. The rainfall during the year, as registered at the Botanic Gardens (Georgetown) was 65.71 inches as against 119.00 inches in 1938, and the mean percentage of humidity was 79.8 as against 82.6 in 1938.

252. The mean of the four recording stations in Georgetown was 67.64 inches as against 118.43 in 1938.

253. The following report is appended :—

Appendix I—Summary of the Annual Report of the Government Central Medical Laboratory.

NORMAN M. MACLENNAN,
Director of Medical Services.

APPENDIX 1.

SUMMARY OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CENTRAL MEDICAL LABORATORY,
GEORGETOWN, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1939.

The new laboratory was completed during the year and the old building vacated in September. The new premises are moderately well equipped but the site of the building is unfortunate.

ROUTINE EXAMINATIONS.

The total number of routine examinations done was 21,400 the following being a short summary of the most important. Reference should be made to the type-script report for full details.

Blood.—

1. *Parasitological.* 2,878 films were examined of which 2,253 were negative. 283 showed sub-tertian malaria parasites, 262 benign tertian, 11 quartan and 63 micro-filaria. 6 mixed infections of benign and sub-tertian parasites were recorded.
2. *Cultural.* 364 samples were received for culture of which 314 were negative. *Bact. typhosum* was isolated from 49 and *streptococcus pneumoniae* from one.
3. *Hæmatological.* Total blood counts were done on 288 cases of which 4 were leukaemia, one monocytic, one myeloblastic, and two lymphatic. Differential counts alone were done on 62 cases, sedimentation rate on 53 and various examinations on 15. Blood grouping for transfusion was carried out on 120 individuals and direct matching of donor against recipient in 28.
4. *Serological.* The Khan test was done on 7,566 cases and Widal on 462. By far the most common organism agglutinated was *bact. typhosum*.
5. *Biochemical.* A total of 266 examinations was done comprising Glucose Tolerance Tests, Blood Sugar, Blood Urea, etc.

Faeces.—

1. *Microscopical.* Negative findings were 893 out of a total of 1,501 specimens received. *Ancylostoma* accounted for 517 of the positive findings and *entamoeba histolytica* for 31.
2. *Cultural.* The vast bulk of cultural examinations were on specimens received from patients convalescent from the enteric infections in the isolation wards. Of 526 samples received *bact. typhosum* was isolated from 12 and *bact. flexneri* from 1.
3. *Biochemical.* 12 samples were received to be tested for occult blood and two for split and unsplit fats.

Sputum.—

1. Tubercle bacilli were present in 195 specimens out of a total of 1,103 received.

Urine.—

1. *Microscopical* 433 samples examined.
2. *Cultural* 233 " "
3. *Chemical.* 519 " "
4. *Kidney Function Tests* 80.

Various Examinations.—

1. *Throat Swabs.* *C. diphtheria* was present in 50 out of 249 specimens.
2. *Autopsies.* 118 were performed.
3. *Histological examinations.* 114 specimens examined.
4. *Vaccines.* 44 sets of autogenous vaccines were made during the year as well as the usual stock of T.A.B., streptococcal and staphylococcal vaccines.

5. *Medico-Legal.* 8 exhibits were examined for the police, 12 autopsies done for the Coroner and 5 exhumations for the same authority.
6. *Urethral, Vaginal and Prostatic Smears.* *N. gonorrhoeae* was present in 549 out of a total of 3,246 received.

Many other minor examinations were carried out but not reported in this summary.

P. A. CLEARKIN,
Government Bacteriologist and Pathologist.

Medical Dept. ...
of the ...
of the ...
of the ...

Also other minor examinations ...

R. A. ...
Government ...