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SIERRA LEONE



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical and Health Services

FOR THE YEAR

1943

Price : 1s. 6d.

FREETOWN:

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1945



Annual Report of the Medical and Health Services, 1943



I—ADMINISTRATION

Staff.—There were four new appointments to the Colonial Medical Service. One was posted as Port Medical Officer; one to the Sleeping Sickness Service and another (the Medical Entomologist) to malaria control. A Senior Medical Officer (Health) on secondment from Nigeria took over charge of malaria control.

The shortage of staff continued especially in the early part of the year when the Assistant Director of Medical Services (Area) kindly assisted with the loan of Medical Officers (R.A.M.C.).

Four Nursing Sisters (Colonial Nursing Service) were appointed to replace those transferred to other colonies.

Three Sanitary Superintendents were appointed for duty with malaria control and two for work in the Protectorate.

Two Medical Officers (Sierra Leone) were appointed but had not assumed duty by the end of the year.

One Senior Staff Nurse was promoted to Nursing Sister (Sierra Leone) and two appointments as Nursing Sisters (Sierra Leone) were made, but the holders had not assumed duty.

One Medical Officer (Colonial Medical Service) was invalided, one Medical Officer (Sierra Leone) died, and one Sanitary Superintendent retired on pension.

Regrading of subordinate staff came into effect with the result that many nurses, dispensers and sanitary inspectors who had previously been on the maximum of their grade for long periods received promotion.

One male appointment as Senior Staff Nurse was made, as a beginning towards putting the nursing staff on a footing equal to that of dispensers.

The scheme of training of staff at Bo is awaiting the completion of the new extension to the hospital and the requisite training staff.

The first batch of native administration sanitary headmen returned to the various native administrations for duty.

Finance.—Since 1942 the “Medical” and “Health” estimates have been combined under one head “Medical Services” which for 1943 comprised a total of £140,564 an increase of £16,503 over the combined figures for 1942. Relative expenditure between medical and health branches are in the neighbourhood of 72 per cent and 28 per cent respectively.

Grants for special services showed a small reduction of £872 leaving £16,600 for allocation (a) to the Trypanosomiasis Campaign (£9,600 as against £9,000 for the previous year), and (b) £7,000 for Malaria Investigation and Control (£4,500 for Freetown, excluding Kissy, £2,500 for the Kissy Bullom Area).

LEGISLATION

The following were enacted:—

1. Proclamation—The Dogs Ordinance, 1924 (Cap. 54) Public Notice No. 4 of 1943.
2. Proclamation—The Dogs Ordinance, 1924 (Cap. 54) Public Notice No. 52 of 1943.
3. Proclamation—The Dogs Ordinance, 1924 (Cap. 54) Public Notice No. 65 of 1943.

LEGISLATION—*continued.*

4. Proclamation—The Dogs Ordinance, 1924 (Cap. 54) Public Notice No. 81 of 1943.
5. The Defence (Lunatics Removal West African Colonies) Regulations, 1943. (Public Notice No. 96 of 1943).
6. The Hastings Slaughterhouse Order in Council, 1943 (Public Notice No. 105 of 1943).
7. The Defence (Quinine and Anti-Malarial Drugs) Order 1943 (Public Notice No. 115 of 1943).
8. The Inoculation against Yellow Fever Order in Council, 1943 (Public Notice No. 123 of 1943).

MEDICAL STORES

The bulk indent scheme added considerably to the work of this branch and strained the available accommodation to the utmost, but the scheme was carried out successfully.

II—PUBLIC HEALTH

The main statistical returns for 1943 are summarised below, and compared with those for the previous year.

(a) CONNAUGHT HOSPITAL (COLONY).

	1942	1943
In-patients	3,064	3,539
Out-patients (exclusive of European)		
New cases	26,007	26,530
Subsequent attendances	89,491	45,326

(b) VENEREAL DISEASES CLINIC.

(i) Seamen's clinic		
Total attendances	2,152	2,616
(ii) General clinic		
New cases	1,092	1,262
Subsequent attendances	2,136	3,067

(c) EUROPEAN HOSPITAL.

In-patients	564	569
Out-patients		
New cases	162	141
Subsequent attendances	331	402

(d) DISPENSARIES (COLONY).

New cases	31,293	37,980
Subsequent attendances	116,357	120,393

(e) PROTECTORATE HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

In-patients	2,718	3,162
Out-patients		
New cases	122,187	145,848
subsequent attendances	360,053	478,509

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

(a) The following statistical summary compares 1942 with the year under review :—

Ante-Natal Clinic.

	1942	1943
New cases	1,500	1,674
Subsequent attendances	9,838	9,917
Home visits	4,128	3,443

Post-Natal Clinic.

	1942	1943
New cases	716	825
Subsequent attendances	962	958

Infant Welfare Clinic.

New cases	761	837
Subsequent attendances	14,375	15,776
Home visits	15,136	10,042

(b) The fall in the number of home visits was due to shortage of staff during the year. Additional staff has now been provided.

(c) Satisfactory progress has been made in the scheme for training native administration and chieftom midwives. Pupils at the Bonthe training centre are with the co-operation of the Education Department also now taught to read and write in the vernacular. Results so far are very promising and the scheme shows signs of having far reaching results.

The maternity and child welfare centre at Pujehun was not completed, owing to difficulties with labour and materials.

III—COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The following is a summary:—

Malaria.—From hospitals and dispensaries in the Colony and Protectorate 20,960 cases were reported, as against 29,181 in 1942. The temporary control measures instituted in Freetown and vicinity have produced good results. The control of peridomestic breeding has been reorganised and placed under the control of the entomologist appointed during the year. Towards the latter end of the year a Senior Health Officer was appointed to take charge of all malaria control measures. The position on the Bullom Shore is less satisfactory and hoped for agricultural development has not materialised to any extent. The engineering side of the programme is in the hands of the Irrigation and Drainage Engineer who has prepared a scheme for Kissy and has schemes for the Cline Town and Brookfields areas under preparation. A special report has already been submitted by the officer-in-charge.

The most important points in the anti-malarial campaign in and around Freetown for protection of shipping and Service personnel which continued increasingly throughout the year, were:—

- (a) The research carried out by Dr. Muirhead Thomson on the bionomics of *A. Gambiae* var *melas* and his delineation of their breeding places, thus indicating what promises to be an effective method of control.
- (b) The annual explosive increase in the breeding of *A. Gambiae* in the early rains was redoubled by the immense number of man-made small breeding places resulting from large service works construction. In this respect Dr. Muirhead Thomson demonstrated the predilection of *A. Gambiae* for ovi-depositing in pools in newly-made depressions in earth.
- (c) The intensification and regrouping of larvæ spotting.
- (d) The establishment of the fact that the majority of mosquitoes infesting houses at Wellington and the Bullom Shore were salt water and not fresh water breeders as previously thought.
- (e) The steep decline in the numbers of cases of quartan malaria, concomitant with the almost complete elimination of *A. funestus*.

The Mosquito Control Board met on several occasions, but malaria control was not afforded sufficient degree of priority as a Service work, in spite of the Board's recommendation.

Trypanosomiasis.—The work of the sleeping sickness teams continued, yaws being treated at the same time. Three dispensaries for the follow up of these diseases were established, and proved to be very popular, the attendances at one of them being higher than those at a neighbouring Government dispensary of many years standing. These dispensaries also treated other diseases.

The figures are:—

	1942	1943
Population examined	91,307	99,540
Sleeping sickness cases	2,751	1,143
Other diseases (dispensaries)	—	6,558
<i>Yaws.</i> —Treated at Government hospitals and dispensaries	36,136	39,596
Yaws cases treated in course of sleeping sickness work	6,531	10,828

Yellow Fever.—No cases were reported

Tuberculosis.—The increase in pulmonary tuberculosis is probably more apparent than real as many cases are induced to seek treatment on account of facilities now provided on a limited scale at the Connaught Hospital where special ward accommodation has been set aside for such cases. Figures for 1943 from April 14th when the special clinic was opened, are as follows:—

Total number of persons examined	—	206
Contacts	—	80
Cases of pulmonary tuberculosis	—	88
Operations performed	—	132
Cases followed up	—	120

Of the remaining cases not followed up forty-five were found to be in good health, whilst forty-one were not able to be traced. The operations included artificial pneumothorax, lung abscess, phrenic evulsion, pericardotomy, pharyngotomy, empyema and exploratory thoracotomy. Notifications for tuberculosis numbered 161 during 1943 as against an average of sixty-four during the years 1938 to 1940.

Plague.—No cases occurred during the year. Of 4,957 rats caught, 3,285 were examined and found negative (in 1942 the figures were 6,389 and 3,287 respectively). Rat species were as follows:—

<i>R. rattus</i>	—	3,411
<i>R. norvegicus</i>	—	1,327
Various mice, shrews, etc.	—	219
Total	—	4,957

Fleas from 987 live rats examined numbered 3,124, giving a flea index of 3.1. Fleas were identified as follows:—

<i>Xenopsylla cheopis</i>	—	1,228
<i>Xenopsylla braziliensis</i>	—	1,896
Total	—	3,124

Rabies.—Of 2,245 dogs caught, 2,039 were destroyed. Negri bodies were found in twelve out of thirty-three postmortems. 414 licensed dogs were inoculated. No case of human rabies occurred.

IV—GENERAL MEASURES OF SANITATION

The disposal of Freetown refuse by controlled tipping progressed satisfactorily, a crop of maize, etc., was grown on the tip as a first crop. 23,562 tons of refuse were disposed of.

There was no change in the other general measures in the Colony and the Protectorate.

V—VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

District.	1941			1942			1943		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Freetown ...	743	762	1,505	809	810	1,619	905	976	1,881
Rest of Colony ...	544	528	1,072	502	479	981	572	557	1,129
	1,287	1,290	2,577	1,311	1,289	2,600	1,477	1,533	3,010

DEATHS.

District	1941			1942			1943		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Freetown ...	1,271	862	2,133	1,330	871	2,201	1,175	741	1,916
Rest of Colony ...	949	493	1,622	940	641	1,581	686	535	1,221
	2,220	1,355	3,755	2,270	1,512	3,782	1,861	1,276	3,137

Births and deaths notified in the Protectorate were:—

				Births	Deaths.
Male	...	...	...	984	889
Female	...	...	...	1,058	721

Infant Mortality.—Of 1,881 births in Freetown 314 deaths under one year were registered giving an infant mortality rate of 167. The figures for the last five years are:—

1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
190	180	207	193	167

Of the 314 deaths under one year 182 or 58 per cent died in the first month of life and a considerable number of them, and also still births, may be ascribed to malnutrition of the mothers.

VI—SCHOOL HYGIENE

The state of the schools in Freetown has improved very little. Various schools in the Protectorate were inspected and advised on health matters.

VII—LABOUR CONDITIONS

The gross overcrowding of Freetown caused in great part by the influx of labourers working on Service works has decreased, but bad overcrowding still persists.

VIII—HOUSING AND TOWN PLANNING

Rules regulating building construction in the Sherbro Judicial District (Bonthe and York Island) and in the Colony Rural Areas were amended by Public Notices Nos. 32 and 82 of 1943, respectively. The latter provided for the control of the erection of temporary buildings which were springing up as a result of the acute housing shortage. Public Notice No. 32 was subsequently amended by No. 111 to clarify certain points. The draft of Rules to amend the Building Rules in force in the Protectorate was prepared and is now under active consideration.

IX—PORT HEALTH WORK AND ADMINISTRATION

The lack of suitable launch transport hampered the work of the Port Health Officer and the Port Medical Officer. The latter was seconded to the Ministry of War Transport for treatment of merchant seamen. The Health and medical work was divided between the two officers to avoid duplication of visits, of which 1291 were made during the year.

One fatal case of Smallpox in a European soldier was brought ashore, there were several ships with outbreaks of the milder infectious fevers. Both officers co-operated with Surgeon Commander Wilson and with the Officer in-charge, Malaria Control.

X—PRISONS

Daily average of prisoners	...	...	...	...	499.46
Admitted to hospital	...	...	...	...	269
Out-Patients :—					
New cases	...	...	...	...	4,602
Subsequent attendances	...	...	...	...	27,837

Overcrowding is still the unfortunate feature of this institution. The goal was built for a maximum of 240 prisoners.

KISSY LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Admissions	...	...	...	...	...	56
Discharges	...	...	...	...	...	39
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	17
Average number of inmates	...	...	...	...	...	103.

W. P. H. LIGHTBODY,
Director of Medical Services.

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT,
FREETOWN.

RETURN OF DISEASES AND DEATHS FOR THE YEAR 1943.
(HOSPITALS ONLY)

No.	Diseases.	EUROPEANS						AFRICANS					
		In-Patients.		Deaths.		Out-Patients.		In-Patients		Deaths.		Out-Patients	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1.	(a) Typhoid fever ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	23	7	8	—	2	—
	(b) Paratyphoid fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Typhus ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	9	2	—	—	—	—
3.	Relapsing fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Undulant „ ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
6.	Measles ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	50	67
7.	Scarlet fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Whooping cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	7	—	—	181	192
9.	Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Influenza :—												
	(a) with respiratory complication ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(b) without respiratory complication ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
11.	Cholera ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
12.	Dysentery :—												
	(a) Amœbic ...	5	—	—	—	1	—	29	18	3	—	67	78
	(b) Bacillary ...	11	2	—	—	1	—	35	12	8	3	10	1
	(c) Unclassified ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	53	19	5	2	183	200
13.	Plague :—												
	(a) Bubonic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(b) Pneumonic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(c) Septicæmic ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14.	Acute poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2
15.	Encephalitis lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16.	Cerebro Spinal fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	1	8	—	1	—
17.	Rabies ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Tetanus ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	16	14	8	16	9
19.	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	5	—	—	—	5	—	81	43	19	10	72	41
20.	Other tuberculosis diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	4	3	—	10	9
21.	Leprosy ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	114	89
22.	Venereal diseases :—												
	(a) Syphilis ...	11	—	—	—	5	—	69	7	3	1	237	182
	(b) Gonorrhœa ...	8	—	—	—	8	—	101	32	1	—	1,602	474
	(c) Other venereal diseases ...	6	—	—	—	14	—	76	36	1	5	759	305
23.	Yellow fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Malaria :—												
	(a) Benign ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	4	—	—	—	—
	(b) Subtertian ...	145	11	2	—	27	4	145	156	3	1	756	247
	(c) Quartan ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	5	1
	(d) Unclassified ...	47	1	—	—	71	5	273	124	6	6	4,497	2,715
25.	Blackwater fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
26.	Kala-azar ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27.	Trypanosomiasis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	2	1	—	142	119
28.	Yaws ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	34	16	—	—	12,354	9,427
29.	Other protozoal diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—
30.	Ankylostomiasis ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	34	14	—	—	289	204
31.	Schistosomiasis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	7	—	—	95	66
32.	Other Helminthic diseases ...	3	—	—	—	2	—	28	48	1	5	2,054	2,263
33.	Other infectious or parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—	—	2	—	15	4	—	—	250	154
34.	Cancer and other tumours :—												
	(a) Malignant ...	4	—	1	—	—	—	10	6	—	—	6	4
	(b) Non-malignant ...	2	1	—	—	5	—	10	54	3	1	14	16
	(c) Undetermined ...	1	2	—	—	—	—	12	6	3	—	22	22
35.	Rheumatic conditions ...	8	2	—	—	13	—	82	42	—	—	3,744	2,494
36.	Diabetes ...	2	—	—	—	2	—	7	2	—	—	1	1
37.	Scurvy ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
38.	Beriberi ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	1	1	—	10	6
39.	Pellagra ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40.	Other diseases :—												
	(a) Nutritional ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	43	55	—	4	2,172	883
	(b) Endocrine glands and general ...	3	—	—	—	1	—	10	11	4	1	32	16

2172

883

15

16

3055

30
21
8
31

No.	Diseases.	EUROPEANS.						AFRICANS.					
		In-Patients.		Deaths.		Out-Patients.		In-Patients.		Deaths.		Out-Patients.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
41.	Diseases of the blood and blood forming organs	—	—	—	—	2	1	28	20	2	—	541	501
42.	Acute and chronic poisoning	2	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	3	—	24	11
43.	Cerebral hæmorrhage ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	18	4	5	2	1	2
44.	Other diseases of the nervous system...	2	—	—	—	23	5	51	28	—	—	447	199
45.	Trachoma ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	18	33
46.	Other diseases of the eye and anexa ...	7	—	—	—	27	2	57	22	—	—	979	499
47.	Diseases of the ear and mastoid sinus ...	5	—	—	—	49	3	17	8	—	—	523	342
48.	Diseases of the circulatory system ...	4	1	1	—	3	1	85	39	21	10	217	155
	(a) Heart ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(b) Other circulatory diseases ...	8	—	—	—	10	1	16	10	5	1	82	58
49.	Bronchitis ...	11	—	—	—	19	1	95	72	2	3	2,558	1,652
50.	Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(a) Broncho-pneumonia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	49	31	8	8	78	63
	(b) Labor-pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	235	72	16	6	76	38
	(c) Otherwise defined ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	48	19	9	4	68	26
51.	Other diseases of the respiratory system ...	11	1	—	—	44	4	69	20	10	1	2,516	1,262
52.	Diarrhœa and enteritis:—	—	—	—	—	4	3	12	14	5	3	275	314
	(a) Under two years of age	—	—	—	—	4	3	12	14	5	3	275	314
	(b) Over two years of age	13	2	—	—	22	1	61	25	8	—	984	503
53.	Appendicitis ...	17	—	—	—	4	—	17	3	1	—	8	—
54.	Hernia intestinal obstructions	5	—	—	—	5	—	485	22	21	16	826	55
55.	Cirrhosis of the liver ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	2	—	—	12	3
56.	Other diseases of the liver and biliary passages	14	—	—	—	8	1	58	22	6	—	73	23
57.	Other diseases of the digestive system ...	27	—	1	—	69	5	136	62	17	2	3,703	1,970
58.	Nephritis:—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	5	4	1	24	13
	(a) Acute ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	5	4	1	24	13
	(b) Chronic ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	35	19	8	1	33	33
59.	Other non-venereal diseases of the genito urinary system ...	22	3	—	—	15	7	261	143	14	3	713	1,133
60.	Diseases of pregnancy, childbirth and puerperal:—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58	—	—	—	93
	(a) Abortion ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58	—	—	—	93
	(b) Ectopic gestation ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—
	(c) Toxæmias of pregnancy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	244	—	3	—	235
	(d) Other conditions of puerperal state ...	—	1	—	—	3	—	16	903	—	5	—	163
61.	Diseases of the skin, cellular tissue, bones and organs of locomotions ...	47	6	—	—	221	10	617	295	—	—	10,316	4,684
62.	Congenital malformation and diseases of early infancy:—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(a) Congenital debility ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	1	1
	(b) Premature birth ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	19	—	—	—	—
	(c) Injurious birth ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
63.	Senility ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	9	15
64.	External causes:—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(a) Suicide ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	(b) Other forms of violence	52	—	—	—	107	11	609	125	38	10	3,766	605
65.	Ill-defined ...	29	1	1	—	39	8	88	64	26	6	1,407	1,064
	Total ...	554	36	6	—	829	77	4,523	3,149	324	132	60,062	36,035