

## Trinidad and Tobago.

THE annual report of the Surgeon-General for the year ending March, 1911, contains reports of the different medical institutions in the colony—namely, the Colonial Hospitals, the Lunatic Asylum, the Leper Asylum, and the District and Yaws Hospitals.

### PUBLIC HEALTH.

The reports of the district medical officers show steady improvement in the health conditions of their districts. Educational efforts have been continued, and the diminished prevalence, more especially of the graver forms, of malaria indicates a more general and intelligent appreciation of the subject of prophylaxis and treatment. Many of the district medical officers direct special attention to the increasing prevalence of ankylostomiasis and the high infantile mortality. An ordinance has recently been introduced in the Legislature giving larger powers of control over the former disease, and a scheme for the provision of district nurse midwives in certain districts, submitted by the Medical Board, for dealing with the latter condition, is under the consideration of the Government. The death-rate in Port of Spain was 28.52.

In the different hospitals and asylums in the colony 13,649 patients were admitted during the year, and there were 17,677 out-patients.

### PLAGUE.

Twelve cases of plague were reported during the year; 9 cases proved fatal. A large number of rats and mice were destroyed, and out of 19,839 rats caught and bacteriologically examined 11 were found to be plague-infected.

### LEPER ASYLUM.

The number of cases of leprosy treated during the year was 338; of these, 31 were discharged and 34 died.

Regarding the presence of the bacillus of leprosy in these cases, out of 80 anaesthetic cases a positive result was only obtained in 9, while out of 105 tubercular cases the bacillus was found in all of them. These figures agree very closely with those of Professor Deycke. The Medical Superintendent of the Leper Asylum (Dr. F. A. de Verteuil) therefore says that it can be laid down as a general rule that the leprosy bacillus is invariably found in the nasal mucous membrane of all patients suffering from tubercular leprosy. The presence of the bacillus is of great practical importance. It affords a ready and valuable diagnosis in all doubtful cases; and it shows that nasal hygiene should be an essential part in the treatment of all leper patients, more especially when these patients are not thoroughly segregated and are living in contact with others. Regarding the treatment by nastin, improvement consists in previously anaesthetic cases becoming sensible—ulcers healing—the muscles of the forearm improve in tone, and the gait in some cases becomes more natural. In tubercular cases the tubercles assume a bronze or brown colour, get softer and smaller, and disappear. The patients feel stronger and their general health improves. Besides the nastin treatment, 9 patients were injected with 0.6 gram of salvarsan; slides taken from these patients showed, as a rule, bacteriolysis; in some of the cases it was very marked indeed; the degenerative process began from ten to fourteen days after the injection. As some of the patients also showed some clinical improvement, there is sufficient reason to give this drug a larger and more extensive trial. Radium has also been tried in 3 cases; Dr. de Verteuil says that it is difficult to formulate any very definite statement, but it seemed to him that radium had a marked influence on the leprotic manifestations. After a couple of applications in one of the cases there was a sensible change in the size of the nodulated infiltration. The application of radium may be of use in removing any disfiguring nodule or infiltration from the face. The 34 deaths reported were mostly due to diseases of the alimentary and respiratory systems.

Appended to the report are a large number of statistical tables showing the number of cases in the various institutions throughout the colony; these are of very little clinical value, and as they occupy about sixty pages of the report could be dispensed with.

## Gibraltar.

### PUBLIC HEALTH FOR 1910.

THE annual report of the medical officer of health for Gibraltar (Major Fowler, R.A.M.C.) has been issued.

### Statistics.

The population returns of the census taken in the latter end of 1910 form the basis for calculating the various rates connected with the vital statistics of the civil community of Gibraltar. The data connected with the military population are not included in the report. The returns show a total civil population of 18,134, in comparison with 18,351 at the end of 1909.

In 1910 there were 390 births, as against 436 in 1909, giving a birth-rate of 25.2 per 1,000. The total births are by far the lowest as yet recorded in the colony, and the birth-rate has only once been lower, in 1907.

The general death-rate works out at 18 per 1,000 living, as compared with 15.09 in 1909. There were 53 deaths amongst children under 1 year of age, equivalent to an infant mortality of 135 per 1,000 births.

### Zymotic Diseases.

Measles and scarlet fever were prevalent during the year, but both were of a mild type. Diphtheria prevailed to a slight extent, 13 cases being notified, while there were 14 cases of small-pox. There were 25 cases of enteric fever; there was no common factor which could be accused of giving rise to this disease. The disease nearly always appears during the hot months of July, August, and September.

### Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

There were 28 deaths from phthisis during 1910; the cases notified amounted to 66, as against 46 in the previous year. It is probable, judging by these figures, that there are at least 300 persons of the population affected with the disease. With reference to the treatment of phthisis, Major Fowler suggests the establishment of dispensaries for the treatment of patients in the early stage of the disease, as well as the erection of a sanatorium. A committee has been appointed to inquire into and report on the whole subject of consumption in Gibraltar.

### Sanitary Conditions.

The general sanitary condition of Gibraltar is satisfactory taking into consideration how closely aggregated the houses are to each other, and the fact that the large majority of the houses are of the tenement order. There are areas in certain districts which would greatly benefit the community at large by being demolished and opened out.

## MALTA.

### ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1910-11.

### Vital Statistics.

THE annual report of the Public Health Department for 1910-11 states that the civil population enumerated on April 2nd was 211,473, to which should be added the military families, 1,922; in all, 213,395. The birth-rate was 36.12, as against 36.07 for the previous year. The average birth-rate for the past twelve years was 38.26. The death-rate for the year was 21.42—slightly under 1909-10, which was 22.57. The average rate for the past twelve years was 24.58.

The death-rate of children under one year per 1,000 was 242.46 in 1909-10, while that for 1910-11 was 236.93.

The report states that out of 69 cases of leucocytæmia during the year 66 occurred in children below 5 years of age.

### Zymotic Diseases.

The deaths from infectious diseases reported during the year numbered 269. There were 41 cases of small-pox; these were all due to imported cases. Diphtheria cases amounted to 63, with 12 fatal. Enteric fever accounted for 25 deaths out of a total of 95 cases. There were 297 cases of Mediterranean fever with 35 deaths, as against 463 cases and 53 deaths the previous year. The regulations