

Para. 188. The licensed houses have, on the whole, been properly conducted during the year.

Particulars of these are as follows:—

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Hotels | 73 |
| Bottle Stores | 31 |
| Wholesale Dealers | 11 |
| Clubs | 8 |
| Railway Refreshment Rooms | 4 |
| Distillers | 4 |
| Police Canteen | 1 |
| Brewers | 1 |

STOCK THEFT.

Para. 189. Details of stock reported as lost and subsequently recovered are given below:—

| | Lost. | Recovered. |
|-----------------|-------|------------|
| Horses | 175 | 106 |
| Mules | 21 | 10 |
| Donkeys | 749 | 114 |
| Cattle | 2,106 | 1,037 |
| Sheep | 4,017 | 706 |
| Goats | 1,045 | 527 |
| Camels | 9 | 3 |
| Pigs | 5 | 1 |

As has been stated before, these figures do not reflect the true position. In many cases strayed stock are reported as having been stolen and subsequent recovery is not brought to the notice of the Police.

SUPPLIES.

Para. 190. The system of control continues to be satisfactory and a saving of £1,748 on issues to Police animals was effected during the year, particulars of which are appended —

| | Entitled to. | Value. | Actual Issues. | Value. |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|
| Grain | 936,225 lbs. | £4,602 3 1 | 813,298 lbs. | £3,998 14 4 |
| Lucerne | 969,075 „ | 3,351 8 6 | 643,282 „ | 2,224 13 10 |
| Salt | 15,170 „ | 33 8 4 | 6,840 „ | 15 2 1 |
| | | £7,986 19 11 | | £6,238 10 3 |

The value of forage issued to other Departments totalled £2,282 19s. 6d., as compared with £1,468 during the previous year.

CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT.

Para. 191. The clothing supplied under contract for the European members of the Force has proved satisfactory, and the position with regard to requisitions disposed of during the year is as follows:—

| | |
|---|-------|
| Items supplied from Divisional Headquarters Stores | 1,456 |
| Items supplied from South African Police Stores | 55 |
| Requisitions for arms and ammunition supplied from Divisional Headquarters Stores | 262 |
| Total | 1,773 |

ANIMALS.

Para. 192. The percentage of losses during the last four years, which is given in the sujoined table, shows a gratifying decrease in the mortality among horses. The death rate among mules has again increased, though there is no appreciable change as regards camels:—

| | 1924. | 1925. | 1926. | 1927. |
|----------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|
| Horses | 26·18% | 29·79% | 21·4% | 12·11% |
| Mules | 7·89% | 23·68% | 8·6% | 12·34% |
| Camels | 5·30% | 6·42% | 6·2% | 5·83% |

As the result of an experiment, the number of births at the Camel Depot has been increased by approximately 300 per cent.

POLICE PROVIDENT FUND.

Para. 193. In order to safeguard dependents of members of the Force from immediate financial embarrassment, in the event of the death of such member, a Police Provident Fund has been established. The Fund is being well supported, and at the end of the year it showed a credit balance of £196 10s. 3d.

XVII. POSTS, TELEGRAPHS AND TELEPHONES.

Para. 194. The business transacted during the year under review again shows a most gratifying advance.

The revenue improved to the following extent :

| | 1925. | 1926. | 1927. |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Postal | £28,753 | £31,742 | £41,735 |
| Telegraph | 18,300 | 18,114 | 19,560 |
| Telephone | 14,527 | 16,220 | 16,960 |
| Miscellaneous | 1,049 | 2,642 | 2,848 |
| | £62,629 | £68,718 | £81,103 |

These increases are the more satisfactory when the reductions made within the past two years in Postal, Telegraph and Telephone rates are borne in mind.

No credit is taken in the foregoing figures for work performed in connection with Customs collections, revenue stamp sales, embossing of cheques, postage on official correspondence, private boxes, private bags and telegraph indicators. Revenue stamp collections reveal an increase of £1,484 over that for the previous year. Of this amount £1,578 6s. 6d. represents the embossing of 378,798 cheque forms. Customs collections decreased by £22 as compared with the previous year.

A total of 11,737 overseas parcels and 2,636 Customs dutiable articles were assessed during the year, for which the Department received £359 6s. 6d. as clearance fees.

The expenditure for the year amounted to £58,093, thus leaving a surplus of £23,010 of revenue over expenditure.

Full details of the operations of the Department are contained in the subjoined comparative schedule :—

| | 1926. | 1927. | Decrease. | Increase. | Percentage. |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Postal Revenue | £31,742 | £41,735 | — | £9,993 | 31 |
| Telegraph Revenue | £18,114 | £19,560 | — | £1,446 | 8 |
| Telephone Revenue | £16,220 | £16,960 | — | £740 | 4·5 |
| Miscellaneous | £2,642 | £2,848 | — | £206 | 7·8 |
| Revenue Stamp Collections | £11,019 | £12,503 | — | £1,484 | 13·5 |
| Customs | £6,753 | £6,731 | £22 | — | ·32 |
| Expenditure | £61,438 | £58,093 | £3,345 | — | 5·4 |
| Offices Opened | ·97 | 101 | — | 4 | 4·0 |
| Posting Receptacles | 14 | 14 | — | — | — |
| Mail Matter Posted | 3,470,636 | 3,712,904 | — | 242,268 | 7 |
| Mail Matter Delivered | 4,505,280 | 5,393,856 | — | 888,576 | 18·75 |
| Private Bags | 269 | 326 | — | 57 | 21·5 |
| Main Posts | 6 | 6 | — | — | — |
| Branch Posts | 32 | 32 | — | — | — |
| Cost of Inland Mails | £9,306 | £9,705 | — | £399 | 4·2 |
| Cost of Ship Letter Mails | £1 | £5 | — | £4 | 400 |
| Undelivered Articles | 15,267 | 8,840 | 6,427 | — | 42 |
| Money Orders Issued | 47,674 | 52,762 | — | 5,088 | 10·75 |
| Amount | £298,692 | £297,757 | £935 | — | ·31 |
| Money Orders Paid | 18,833 | 19,962 | — | 1,129 | 6 |
| Amount | £177,690 | £173,058 | £4,632 | — | 2·75 |
| Postal Orders Issued | 63,211 | 71,620 | — | 8,409 | 12·3 |
| Amount | £31,962 | £35,030 | — | 3,068 | 9·6 |
| Postal Orders Paid | 23,683 | 26,362 | — | 2,679 | 11·3 |
| Amount | £11,563 | £12,914 | — | £1,351 | 11·8 |

| | 1926. | 1927. | Decrease. | Increase. | Percentage. |
|--|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| <i>Union Loan Certificates—</i> | | | | | |
| Issues : | | | | | |
| Sales | 806 | 907 | — | 101 | 12·5 |
| Units | 7,281 | 4,025 | 3,256 | — | 44·6 |
| Value | £5,825 | £3,220 | £2,605 | — | 44·7 |
| Repayments | 85 | 62 | 23 | — | 27 |
| Units | 4,006 | 4,022 | — | 16 | ·4 |
| Value | £3,506 | £3,531 | — | £25 | ·7 |
| <i>Savings Bank—</i> | | | | | |
| Accounts opened | 3,860 | 4,242 | — | 382 | 9·34 |
| Due to Depositors | £136,922 | £159,995 | — | £23,073 | 16·89 |
| No. of Deposits | 10,484 | 10,736 | — | 252 | 2·42 |
| Amount | £135,321 | £136,857 | — | £1,536 | 1·1 |
| No. of Withdrawals | 5,449 | 5,739 | — | 290 | 5·3 |
| Amount | £109,024 | £113,812 | — | £4,788 | 4·02 |
| <i>Telegraph Offices—</i> | | | | | |
| Open | 82 | 85 | — | 3 | 3·6 |
| Inland Telegrams forwarded | 178,905 | 198,171 | — | 19,266 | 10·7 |
| Received | 146,807 | 163,879 | — | 17,072 | 10·7 |
| Transmitted | 369,176 | 388,832 | — | 19,656 | 5·3 |
| <i>Radio Traffic—</i> | | | | | |
| Telegrams | 10,649 | 5,386 | 5,263 | — | 49·44 |
| Words | 132,690 | 67,102 | 65,588 | — | 49·56 |
| <i>Cables—</i> | | | | | |
| Number | 7,704 | 8,102 | — | 398 | 5·12 |
| Value | £7,499 | £6,321 | £1,178 | — | 14·28 |
| Telegraph Capital Account | £42,217 | £42,240 | — | £23 | ·06 |
| Telephone Capital Account .. | £71,436 | £83,092 | — | £11,656 | 16·22 |
| Miles Telegraph Wire Working | 1,399 | 1,399 | — | — | — |
| Miles Telegraph-Telephone Wire Working | 2,411 | 2,558 | — | 147 | 6·2 |
| Miles Rural Telegraph and Telephones | 629 | 629 | — | — | — |
| Miles Telegraphs Super-imposed | 1,161 | 1,169 | — | 8 | ·7 |
| Miles Farm Lines | 828 | 979 | — | 151 | 18·2 |
| Miles of Exchange System .. | 856 | 975 | — | 119 | 13·70 |
| Miles of Exchange System Spare | 260 | 206 | 54 | — | 20·20 |
| Public Call Offices | 87 | 100 | — | 13 | 15 |
| Telephone Exchanges | 37 | 38 | — | 1 | 2·26 |
| <i>Exchange Lines—</i> | | | | | |
| No. of Direct Subscribers .. | 641 | 722 | — | 81 | 12·40 |
| No. of Extensions | 175 | 198 | — | 23 | 13·25 |
| No. of Government Extensions .. | 42 | 48 | — | 6 | 14·32 |
| No. of Government Connections .. | 189 | 197 | — | 8 | 4·44 |
| Free Services | £2,555 | £3,013 | — | £458 | 17·23 |
| Full-time Staff | 95 | 103* | — | 8 | 8·40 |
| Leave to Staff—days | 2,697 | 2,471 | 226 | — | 8·10 |

* Nine vacancies.

EXTENSION OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPH FACILITIES.

Para. 195. During the year under review 57 new services have been inaugurated, including four Post Offices and three Telegraph Offices. There now exist 326 private bags which serve the purpose of minor postal agencies. There are close upon 400 points in the Territory where the distribution of mail matter is undertaken for the benefit of the farming community.

MONEY ORDERS AND POSTAL ORDERS.

Para. 196. The revenue derived from these sources increased slightly over that taken during the preceding year. The number of orders issued and paid shows a fairly substantial improvement.

In consequence of the diamond depression there has been a considerable falling off in the amount of money remitted which is mainly due to a reduction in the white and coloured

workers employed on the mines as the majority of these employees have in the past utilised the Post Office to remit funds.

SAVINGS BANK.

Para. 197. This section of the Department's activities shows slight increases. The rate of interest granted, however, is rather low and the Administration is contemplating increasing this to enable the Bank to compete with the more attractive investments obtainable in other directions.

CASH ON DELIVERY SERVICE.

Para. 198. Cash on delivery traffic continues to increase. 11,722 articles, representing a revenue of £441 10s. 1½d., were delivered over the year under review. Of this number 1,889 articles, returning £109 12s., originated and were for delivery within the Territory; whilst 10,035 on which this Administration received £331 18s. 1½d. came from the Union.

OVERPRINTING OF STAMPS.

Para. 199. With the introduction of pictorial stamps by the Union Government, a difficulty arose how to arrange overprinting without destroying the scenic effect of these issues as it was found the full overprint considerably encroached on the views. After careful consideration it was decided to adopt the lettering "S.W.A.", which also serves a trilingual purpose; this has been so arranged that the pictorial design is in each instance avoided.

BUILDINGS.

Para. 200. New Post Offices are in the course of erection at Otjiwarongo and Usakos, and are expected to be ready for occupation towards the close of the fiscal year.

TELEPHONES.

Para. 201. On the 1st April, 1927, a reduction in the telephone tariff was undertaken. Concurrently with this concession the tariff for trunk line conversations was revised and placed upon a measured rate principle. The Administration's action involved an immediate surrender of approximately £600 in revenue. The result since the new tariff came into operation has been most encouraging. The Department has gained 117 new connections, after making allowance for surrendered subscribers, whilst the revenue collected shows an increase of £740 or 4·5 per cent improvement over the preceding year.

TELEGRAPHS.

Para. 202. Telegraph revenue reveals an increase of £1,446. The number of forwarded telegrams increased by 19,266, or 10·7 per cent. over the preceding year. The charges for official telegrams decreased from £2,521 0s. 2d. to £1,993 17s. 3d.

The introduction of 1s. telegrams has justified the experiment of reverting to pre-war tariff for this class of business.

Cables increased by 398, or 5·12 per cent., and the revenue derived therefrom by £50. On the other hand, the Cable Company has received £1,178 5s. 11d. less than over the corresponding period for the previous year in spite of the increase referred to above.

The Beam Wireless service has been the means of effecting big cuts in the cable rates. It has provided a fast, reliable and in every respect efficient service.

RADIO ACTIVITY.

Para. 203. The operations of the coastal wireless station at Walvis Bay have been curtailed, and as compensation for loss of traffic a subsidy of £3,000 per annum is received from the Union Department of Posts and Telegraphs.

Over the last twelve months an average day range of 2,300 and 3,000 miles at night, as the crow flies, has been maintained from Walvis Bay; add to this data the distance of Walvis Bay from Cape Town, roughly 700 miles, it will then be realised a traveller from the time he sets foot on a steamer leaving Cape Town for Southampton need never be out of touch with his business should necessity arise.

In commenting on Walvis Bay range, reference in regard to distances is two-way, viz:—signals are exchanged both ways without relaying. The ranges quoted have been taken from monthly averages and do not represent long distance records under abnormal conditions. Generally speaking, the mail steamers sailing from Cape Town for Southampton can be kept in touch with for twelve days of the voyage, but the station at times has been able to exchange two-way traffic with them from the time of sailing from Cape Town until the time of anchoring or docking at Southampton.

ENGINEERING.

Para. 204. The Windhoek exchange system has been thoroughly overhauled and many of the open wire routes recovered and replaced by cable. The old German cable where faulty has been renewed.

Swakopmund and Walvis Bay telephone exchange networks have been cabled and placed underground to reduce maintenance costs which are heavy in that locality. Karibib and Tsumeb exchange systems have been reconstructed throughout. A new metallic trunk between Windhoek and Karibib has been completed.

RURAL LINES AND EXTENSIONS.

Para. 205. A cross country route of 132 miles of wire has been erected between Okahandja and Bassermann. A new route of $15\frac{3}{4}$ miles with $31\frac{1}{2}$ miles of wire has been erected between Bassermann and the Omataka Ranch.

A new pole route of $39\frac{1}{2}$ miles with 79 miles of wire has been erected for party line purposes from a point on the Okahandja-Bassermann route to Liebig's Ranch at Guntersau. In the Otjiwarongo district, 5 miles of new pole route, and $47\frac{1}{4}$ miles of wire have been provided to meet the requirements of the farming community. In the Grootfontein district $8\frac{1}{2}$ miles of new pole route, with $17\frac{1}{2}$ miles of wire have been erected to provide settlers with telephonic convenience. Altogether 24 new farm line connections have been provided—all on a metallic basis.

The Outjo-Okaukueyo line of 72 miles has been overhauled and 12 miles of this route rebuilt.

At Luderitz, Swakopmund and Walvis Bay new apparatus has been substituted on all subscriber lines.

The apparatus at the coast needed thorough overhauling, and with the expansion of telephone subscribers it was necessary to provide further switchboards and telephones, consequently it was deemed advisable to instal this apparatus at the coast exchanges on arrival from Overseas and to withdraw the old equipment for re-conditioning in the Windhoek workshop and subsequent re-issue to inland exchanges.

The switchboard capacity at Aus, Kalkfeld and Mariental was increased to meet expansion.

At Windhoek a new Creed Perforator has been installed, replacing the obsolete type which has served its purpose and needed renewal.

Six main line stations have been equipped during the year with new testing panels.

The following changes were effected during the year :—

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-----|
| Public Call Offices established | | 15 |
| Public Call Offices dismantled | | 2 |
| New Exchanges established | | 1 |
| New Exchange Connections provided | | 147 |
| New Exchange Extensions provided | | 44 |
| Dismantlements | | 74 |

At Walvis Bay Radio Station a new prime mover has been installed. The old engine was merely a makeshift until such time as a machine which could properly charge the Accumulator Battery could be provided. The Battery has been overhauled and reset and the station is now in thoroughly good order.

In consequence of the installation of electric light at Keetmanshoop by the Municipality it was found necessary to deviate a number of Post Office routes, so as to avoid danger from telephone wires coming into contact with electric lighting power lines.

The Department erected 12 miles of new trunk route and 48 miles of wire along the new railway extension from Ondekaremba to Seeis for the South African Railways.

The old Gobabis line for 40 miles has therefore been recovered, and the service to that point will now be free from such faults as occurred in the past due to damage and interference by transport wagons.

The following lines were overhauled during the year :—

- (a) Seeis—Gobabis.
- (b) Windhoek—Neuheusis.
- (c) Windhoek—Claratal.
- (d) Mariental—Maltahöhe.
- (e) Bassermann—Waterberg—Otjiwarongo.

XVIII. PRISONS.

ADMINISTRATION.

Para. 206. The number of gaols and lock-ups in the Territory remain 11 and 8 respectively.

PRISONERS IN CUSTODY.

Para. 207. The following table shows the number of prisoners in custody at the various gaols on the 31st December, 1927, as compared with the number at the close of 1926 :—

| Centre. | Males. | | Females. | | Totals. | Compared with 1926. |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|---------|---------------------|
| | Euro-peans. | Coloured. | Euro-peans. | Coloured. | | |
| Gibeon | — | 11 | — | — | 11 | 10 |
| Gobabis | — | 9 | — | — | 9 | 16 |
| Grootfontein | 2 | 25 | — | — | 27 | 31 |
| Karibib | — | 8 | — | — | 8 | 10 |
| Keetmanshoop | — | 28 | — | — | 28 | 45 |
| Luderitz | 3 | 19 | — | 1 | 23 | 52 |
| Omaruru | — | 12 | — | — | 12 | 16 |
| Outjo | — | 5 | — | — | 5 | 1 |
| Swakopmund | 1 | 18 | — | 2 | 21 | 22 |
| Warmbad | — | 13 | — | — | 13 | 4 |
| Windhoek | 5 | 189 | — | 2 | 196 | 156 |
| Totals | 11 | 337 | — | 5 | 353 | 363 |

The total relative figure in respect of Lock-ups was 51 as compared with 30 on the 31st December, 1926.

The daily average number of prisoners and other detained persons in custody at the various gaols during 1927 as compared with 1926 is shown in the following table :—

| Centre. | Males. | | | Females. | | Totals. | Compared with 1926. |
|----------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|---------|---------------------|
| | Europeans. | Coloured. | Asiatics. | Europeans. | Coloured. | | |
| Gibeon | .57 | 13.90 | — | — | .09 | 14.56 | 15.51 |
| Gobabis | — | 10.82 | — | — | .18 | 11.00 | 15.38 |
| Grootfontein | .53 | 27.76 | — | — | .73 | 29.02 | 18.12 |
| Karibib | .11 | 7.98 | — | — | .32 | 8.41 | 6.37 |
| Keetmanshoop | 1.01 | 38.51 | — | — | .01 | 39.53 | 24.30 |
| Luderitz | 1.96 | 26.48 | — | .01 | .90 | 29.35 | 31.98 |
| Omaruru | .16 | 10.96 | — | — | .26 | 11.38 | 9.04 |
| Outjo | .12 | 4.25 | — | — | — | 4.37 | 5.07 |
| Swakopmund | .76 | 14.57 | .01 | — | .76 | 16.10 | 21.70 |
| Warmbad | .02 | 10.77 | — | — | — | 10.79 | 4.81 |
| Windhoek | 10.23 | 188.67 | — | — | 3.53 | 202.53 | 128.99 |
| Totals | 15.57 | 354.67 | .01 | .01 | 6.78 | 377.04 | 281.27 |

The total relative figure in respect of lock-ups was 47.03 as compared with 30.67 in 1926.

DEATHS AND ACCIDENTS.

Para. 208. The number of deaths which occurred among prisoners during the year was nine (natives). These deaths were attributed by the Medical Officers to :—

| Cause. | 1927. | 1926. |
|--------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | — | 1 |
| Influenza | 4 | 2 |
| Nephritis | — | 1 |
| Pneumonia | 4 | — |
| Chronic Syphilis | 1 | — |
| | 9 | 4 |

No serious accidents occurred during the year 1927.

[U.G. 31—'28.]

HEALTH OF PRISONERS.

Para. 209. The health of prisoners has been uniformly good during the year. This heading is dealt with in the chapter on Public Health.

ESCAPES.

Para. 210. The number of escapes effected during the year was *eighteen*. Eight of these prisoners have been recaptured, while ten were still at large at the close of the year.

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT.

Para. 211. The following table shows the number of lashes applied at the gaols mentioned during 1927 as compared with the figures for the previous year :

| Centre. | No. of lashes applied in 1927. | No. of lashes applied in 1926. |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Gibeon | 183 | 205 |
| Gobabis | 130 | 252 |
| Grootfontein | 116 | — |
| Karibib | 50 | 22 |
| Keetmanshoop | 313 | 141 |
| Luderitz | 28 | 31 |
| Omaruru | 80 | 105 |
| Outjo | 15 | 29 |
| Swakopmund | 24 | 54 |
| Warmbad.. .. . | 30 | 32 |
| Windhoek | 293 | 191 |
| Totals | 1,262 | 1,062 |

EXECUTIONS.

Para. 212. One execution (native) took place at the Windhoek Gaol during 1927, and no sentences of death were commuted by the Governor-General. During 1926 one execution (native) was carried out and two sentences of death were commuted.

REMISSION OF SENTENCES.

Para. 213. The following table gives particulars of remission reports dealt with in terms of Prison Service Regulation No. 506 during 1927, as compared with 1926 :—

| Year. | Total No. of reports dealt with. | No. of cases in which remission was granted. | Total No. of days remission granted. | No. of cases in which no remission granted. |
|-------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1927.. .. . | 227 | 191 | 13,443 | 36 |
| 1926.. .. . | 133 | 113 | 6,281 | 20 |

BOARD OF VISITORS.

Para. 214. During the year the Prison Board of Visitors visited the Windhoek Gaol twice, viz., on the 12th July, and 6th December, 1927, and dealt with 71 cases, as compared with 17 cases in 1926.

DISCIPLINE (Prisoners).

Para. 215. The discipline in the gaols has been uniformly satisfactory during the year. No serious offences have been recorded.

CIVIL DEBTORS.

Para. 216. The following table shows the number of civil debtors detained in the gaols mentioned during 1927, as compared with 1926 :—

| Centre. | 1927. | 1926. |
|----------------------|-------|-------|
| Gibeon | 1 | — |
| Gobabis | — | — |
| Grootfontein | — | — |
| Karibib | 4 | 3 |
| Keetmanshoop | 1 | 2 |
| Luderitz | 2 | 6 |
| Omaruru | — | 1 |
| Outjo | — | — |
| Swakopmund | 6 | 4 |
| Warmbad | — | — |
| Windhoek | 6 | 8 |
| Totals | 20 | 24 |

CONCENTRATION OF PRISONERS.

Para. 217. All long sentence prisoners are still being concentrated at Windhoek where they are usefully employed by Branches of the Administration. Female prisoners serving life sentences are detained at Swakopmund owing to the lack of suitable accommodation at Windhoek.

PRISON INDUSTRIES.

Para. 218. Instruction in this direction continues to have a very beneficial effect in that many prisoners acquire sufficient knowledge to carry on a trade of some description, and they are therefore not only enabled but also encouraged to earn an honest livelihood.

PRISON LABOUR.

Para. 219. The demand for prison labour still continues to exceed the supply. As Branches of the Administration are given preference in this connection a comparatively small number of prisoners are available for hire to the general public.

In order to assist Municipalities to improve their towns the rate chargeable for prison labour has been reduced from 1s. 6d. to 1s. per unit per diem in their case. Branches of the Administration are charged at the reduced rate of 1s. per unit per diem for prison labour.

The following table shows the amount of prison labour supplied during 1927 at the centres indicated to the various Branches of the Administration and private bodies mentioned :

| Centre. | Public Works. | S.W.A. Police. | Posts and Telegraphs. | Water Boring Branch. | Justice (Gratis.) | Public Health. | Education Department | Residency (Gratis). | Administration (Gratis) | Municipality. | Meteorological Branch. | S.A. Railways. | Private Individuals Clubs, Associations, etc. |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------|---|
| Gibeon | 315 | 163 | — | — | 137 | 40 | — | 297 | — | — | — | — | 838 |
| Gobabis | — | 43 | — | — | — | — | — | 180 | 176 | — | — | — | 888 |
| Grootfontein | 431 | 503 | — | 8 | 185 | — | 249 | 407 | 524 | — | — | — | 1,448 |
| Karibib | 112 | 126 | 11 | — | 136 | — | 2 | 102 | 7 | 288 | — | — | 699 |
| Keetmanshoop | 36 | 137 | — | 10 | 465 | — | 9 | 256 | — | 5,378 | — | 142 | — |
| Luderitz | 132 | 214 | 6 | — | — | 69 | 4 | 112 | — | 2,648 | — | — | 246 |
| Omaruru | 31 | 45 | — | — | 106 | — | — | 385 | — | 467 | — | — | 301 |
| Outjo | 12 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 32 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Swakopmund | 321 | 3 | — | — | 152 | — | 24 | 156 | — | 35 | — | — | 204 |
| Warmbad | 20 | 74 | — | — | 127 | — | — | 279 | — | — | — | — | 102 |
| Windhoek | 2,832 | 361 | — | 3,280 | — | — | — | — | — | 4,984 | 384 | 264 | 2,884 |
| Totals | 4,242 | 1,669 | 17 | 3,298 | 1,308 | 109 | 288 | 2,206 | 707 | 13,800 | 384 | 406 | 7,610 |

The total amount derived from prison labour during 1927 was £1,371 compared with £925 for the year 1926.

[U.G. 31—'28.]

It may be mentioned here that, in addition to the units of prison labour supplied during the year, as reflected in the foregoing table, 23,875 units of prison labour have been supplied free of charge to the Public Works Branch in connection with the lay-out of the Botanical Gardens at the Government Buildings, Windhoek.

GAOL GARDENS.

Para. 220. Gaolers are being encouraged, whenever the nature of the soil and climatic conditions warrant a reasonable hope of success, to lay out gardens and to grow vegetables for the use of the prisoners and the Government School Hostels, etc. The following table shows the centres at which gardens have been laid out up to the present and the approximate quantity of vegetables produced at each centre during the year :—

| Centre. | Production for 1927. | Production for 1926. |
|-----------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Gibeon | 5488 lbs. | 6,264 lbs. 8 ozs. |
| Gobabis | 3,487 lbs. | 1,984 lbs. |
| Karibib | 961 lbs. 6 ozs. | 221 lbs. 4 ozs. |
| Omaruru | — | 529 lbs. 1 oz. |
| Outjo | 665 lbs. 8 ozs. | 2,085 lbs. 8 ozs. |
| Warmbad | 68,251 lbs. | 3,794 lbs. |
| Totals | 78,852 lbs. 14 ozs. | 14,878 lbs. 5 ozs. |

JUVENILE OFFENDERS.

Para. 221. During the year *two* European and *three* Native juveniles were removed to reformatories in the Union. The total number of juveniles removed to reformatories in the Union since the promulgation of Proclamation No. 20 of 1922 is, therefore, Europeans *nine* and Natives *eleven*. No juvenile offenders were released on licence during 1927.

DIVINE SERVICES.

Para. 222. Divine services have been conducted during the year in the gaols at Gibeon, Luderitz, Warmbad and Windhoek by clergymen of the various denominations.

XIX. PUBLIC HEALTH.

GENERAL.

Para. 223. There was no change in the personnel of the Public Health Branch during the year under review.

Para. 224. Under the provisions of the Public Health Act local authorities are responsible for the sanitary and other measures necessary to safeguard and promote the public health in their respective areas. In certain matters such as dealing with outbreaks of infectious disease, the provision and equipment of isolation hospitals, the treatment of venereal diseases, etc., they receive financial assistance on a well-defined basis from the Administration. There are thirteen such local authorities, viz. : the Municipalities of Windhoek, Swakopmund, Luderitz, Keetmanshoop, Karibib, Omaruru and Okahandja and the Village Management Boards of Walvis Bay, Gibeon, Aus, Warmbad, Mariental and Usakos. Municipalities have power under the provisions of the Municipal Proclamation (No. 22 of 1920) to levy rates and taxes and to make regulations on various matters, including those relating to the maintenance of the health of the public within their respective areas. Village Management Boards on the other hand do not have such wide powers, but under the provisions of the Village Management Boards Proclamation (No. 2 of 1925) the Administrator is empowered to make regulations on such matters as sanitation, etc., in respect of the areas controlled by them. All the local authorities with the notable exception of Swakopmund, Keetmanshoop and Okahandja, have introduced regulations as to nuisances, removal and disposal of refuse, slaughter houses, etc. In the case of Swakopmund, regulations will be promulgated as soon as a scheme for re-organising the sanitary service and the housing of natives in the location has been put into operation. Local regulations dealing with public health and other matters have been issued by the Administrator in respect of all Village Management Board areas. In addition to the action taken under the abovementioned Proclamations regulations applicable to the whole Territory have been promulgated under the provisions of the Public Health Act on

the following subjects, namely: the notification of infectious diseases, vaccination against smallpox, lay vaccinators, closure of schools and exclusion from school on account of infectious diseases, rodent infestation of buildings and premises in urban areas, offensive trades, slaughter houses and meat inspection.

Para. 225. It is most encouraging to be able to record that the increasing interest and attention directed by the public and local authorities during recent years to matters relating to the public health and welfare have been maintained during the year under review. Subjects such as augmentation and protection of water supplies, supervision of food supplies, the combating of preventable diseases by improvements in sanitation and housing and other measures, medical inspection of school children and so forth which in previous years evoked but little interest on the part of the public are now receiving serious consideration. Considerable interest and activity are also being displayed by local benevolent societies in such matters as maternity and child welfare. The Municipalities of Windhoek and Swakopmund are effecting certain very necessary improvements in sanitation from loan funds obtained from the Administration. The Municipality of Swakopmund is completely re-organising and improving the housing of the natives in its location from pass fees handed over to it for the purpose by the Administration. In Windhoek a Commission was appointed jointly by the Administration and by the Municipality in 1926 for the purpose of investigating and reporting upon the control and management of the Windhoek location—its lay-out, housing conditions and other essential matters. The Commission came to the conclusion that the condition of affairs in the location was most unsatisfactory and that it should be remedied as soon as possible. In view, however, of the situation of the location in too close proximity to the town and of the very considerable outlay which its re-organisation would involve, the Commission recommended that a new location be established on a suitable site. This recommendation has been accepted by the Municipality. The new location is estimated to cost about £30,000 and the Municipality is in communication with the Administration at present with a view to obtaining the necessary loan. Though the scheme is being held up by want of funds, various improvements are being made in the existing location in the meantime.

In most localities sanitary supervision still leaves much to be desired. The want of progress in this direction is due mainly to the difficulty which is being experienced in obtaining properly qualified sanitary inspectors. The rat-proofing regulations are enforced by all urban authorities in respect of new buildings. Little action has, however, been taken with regard to existing premises. Rodent destruction is being carried out systematically by the Railway Administration on railway premises along the line and in port areas. Municipalities on the other hand are not taking a sufficiently active interest in the matter. Regulations to control the sale of milk are urgently required in all Municipal and Village Management Board areas. The water supply of Windhoek is causing serious concern to the Municipality. The supply from underground sources has reached its maximum but is inadequate, especially in times of drought, for the requirements of the steadily increasing township. Investigations have been instituted with a view to augmenting the present supply by means of the conservation of rain water.

Para. 226. The appointment of district nurses in the more densely populated rural areas has met with very little success. Although provision was made for four such nurses in the Estimates for the current year in only one instance was the public prepared to support the scheme. Even in this case the services of the nurse had ultimately to be dispensed with as the promised support did not materialise. It is hoped, however, that the system of training European girls from rural areas, which was instituted during 1926, may in course of time help to solve the problem of supplying skilled nursing in outlying districts. Applicants for a course of training are required to be at least 18 years of age and to have passed Standard VI. One year's preliminary training is given in the Windhoek Hospital for the purpose of determining as far as possible their suitability or otherwise for the nursing profession, after which the selected candidates are required to proceed to recognised teaching institutions in the Union for the necessary qualifying course. In necessitous cases financial assistance is given by the Administration.

Para. 227. The question of supplementing the European medical service among the native population by means of trained native assistants is one of considerable difficulty towards the solution of which a great deal of thought and attention have been directed for some years. The main obstacle to progress in this direction is the attachment to custom and tradition which at present remains as strong among the detribalised as among the rest of the native population. Experience in the various parts of the Territory has shown that, in spite of the facilities for treatment offered at the various Government and other institutions, native methods are almost invariably resorted to in the first instance in nearly all cases of sickness and in maternity work. Treatment in such cases is carried out by the older members of the group or family against the wisdom of whom the methods and experience of younger members trained under European supervision are not tolerated for a single moment. When the customary

measures fail or when complications arise it is time enough to seek European advice. The result is that the more intelligent young men and women, apart from preferring the comparatively free and easy life offered by domestic and other service, are disinclined to seek employment which may possibly bring them in conflict with family tradition.

Para. 228. This problem of providing an adequate and trained native personnel is of greater importance to a native territory like Ovamboland than to the rest of the country throughout which ample provision has been made for the medical needs of the natives. The population of Ovamboland is roughly 150,000 and is scattered over an area of 17,000 square miles. Less than one-third of the population has come under the influence of the various missions and even among the members of the missions the tendency is, as already pointed out, to cling tenaciously to tribal tradition for relief. As an instance of this may be mentioned the fact that in 1925 during the course of an extensive and severe prevalence of Influenza in Ovamboland numerous deaths occurred in immediate proximity to Mission Stations without the missionaries becoming aware of the situation until notified by the Medical Officer to the Administration who had been sent from Windhoek to investigate and deal with the outbreak. The position is further complicated by the tribal divisions of which there are eight, each of which has to be provided for separately as the members of each tribe are bound by custom to resort to their own tribal institutions in the case of need. In 1926 the Administration approached the Finnish Mission with a view to establishing a training school for medical assistants and midwives in connection with its hospitals. The reply from Dr. Selma Rainio, who has been resident mission doctor for many years and has an intimate knowledge of the people, was as follows:—

“The natives themselves treat many patients and are able to diagnose many diseases. If in addition they were to receive a course of training they could be utilized for the purpose of distributing medicines and of visiting serious cases. On the other hand, many of them still cling to their heathen tradition which prohibits them from devoting themselves to the treatment of the sick, this duty devolving entirely on the relatives of the patient. It is for this reason that we have not been able to induce a single native to take up nursing as a profession. The same applies to midwives. The women could easily be trained to do everything in this respect according to instructions, but I am of opinion that there will be no demand for their services and that their sphere of usefulness would be very small indeed on account of family traditions. Confinements are conducted according to native custom and though the majority of them terminate successfully they are often accompanied by severe lacerations.”

As a result of these and other investigations which were concluded recently it is felt that the appointment of additional doctors who would simply be ignored by the natives or the establishment of hospitals which would be shunned by them would not materially advance the position even if the necessary funds were available. It has accordingly been decided to appoint an additional District Surgeon to carry out the examination of labour recruits at Ondongua. The additional post has been advertised and as soon as the appointment has been made the District Surgeon will be transferred to the Ukuanyama district for purely medical and propaganda work. He will be required to devote all his time to travelling about among and establishing personal contact with the various tribes, especially the wilder elements among them, for the purpose of investigating the nature and prevalence of endemic diseases, administering treatment at convenient centres and distributing medicines for the more prevalent diseases through the agency of headmen and other influential and reliable natives in each tribal area and generally carrying out educative propaganda work. This work will be performed in close co-operation with the local officials on whose prestige with the native success is largely dependent. It has also been decided to give additional support to the medical work of the missions in the shape of grants-in-aid. A sum of £300 is being provided on the estimates for the ensuing year for this purpose.

Para. 229. A disinfecting plant consisting of a high pressure steam disinfector and a fumigating chamber has just been completed at Walvis Bay in connection with the port health work at that port. A similar plant is required at Luderitz. Isolation accommodation is available at Luderitz but at Walvis Bay there are no facilities of any description for dealing with infectious diseases. The removal of patients to Swakopmund is not advisable, the hospital at the latter place being situated right in the centre of the town.

The question of the adhesion of this Territory to the new International Sanitary Convention was recently considered by the Executive Committee. The Committee resolved that, owing to the financial condition of the country and the expenditure which adhesion to the Convention would involve, the matter be allowed to stand over for a year.

Another question of utmost importance to South-West Africa is that of the establishment of a pathological laboratory. In view of the financial stringency this matter has also been allowed to remain in abeyance and all specimens will, as has hitherto been done, be forwarded

to the Union Government's laboratories for examination, until such time as it becomes possible to make the necessary provision in the Territory.

Para. 230. Arrangements for the medical inspection of school children have been completed. A start is to be made during the course of the ensuing year.

Para. 231. The importation of habit-forming drugs is governed by Act of the Union Parliament, No. 35 of 1922, and the Regulations framed thereunder and published under Proclamation No. 181 of 1922. Habit-forming drugs may not be imported except on a permit issued by the Administration. Permits are issued to registered chemists and druggists only. Control of importation of such drugs is carried out through the Customs Department by whom unauthorised imports are detained. The quantity of habit-forming drugs imported during 1927 was very small indeed. There is no reason to believe that any illicit traffic in these drugs is going on in South-West Africa.

Para. 232. The mammal survey undertaken by Captain Shortridge is nearing completion. During the year under review a survey of the Kaokoveld was carried out by him. Only the Okavango region now remains for investigation.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Para. 233. Vital statistics are included under demographic statistics in Chapter IV. of this Report.

REGISTRATION OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS, DENTISTS AND CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS.

Para. 234. The registration of medical practitioners, dentists and chemists and druggists is governed by Proclamation No. 3 of 1920. In December, 1926, the Union Government on representations from the Administration consented to the insertion of a clause in the Medical and Pharmacy Bill then before the Union Parliament, providing for its extension to South-West Africa and for the appointment of *locum tenens* and successors to pre-war German practitioners who were still in practice in the Territory. Owing to the slow progress made with the Bill in Parliament a Proclamation (No. 35 of 1927) embodying the provisions of the above-mentioned clause was issued by the Administrator in December in order to meet, in the meantime, the case of a medical practitioner who had died during the year and of certain others who wished to retire from practice. The ultimate extension of the provisions of the Bill to South-West Africa is essential in order to remedy the very unsatisfactory position with regard to the control of medical, dental and pharmacy matters, especially the sale of poisons, etc.

Para. 235. The total number of persons who had been registered under the provisions of Proclamation No. 3 of 1920 up to the 31st December, 1927, is as follows: medical practitioners, 52; dentists, 12; chemists and druggists, 12. Eight medical practitioners, 1 dentist and 2 chemists and druggists were registered during 1927 as against 6, 2 and 2 respectively during 1926. The number of registered persons actually in practice at the end of the year under review was as follows: medical practitioners, 25; dentists, 8; chemists and druggists, 7. One practitioner died during the year.

Para. 236. The number and distribution of district surgeons remained the same as during the previous year. Provision is being made in the estimates for the ensuing year for the appointment of a district surgeon at Stamprietfontein in the Gibeon district.

HOSPITALS.

A. State-aided Hospitals:

Para. 237. An amendment of the Hospital and Charitable Institutions Proclamation (No. 5 of 1922) has become necessary in order to remedy certain defects in the existing law, especially with regard to the administration and financing of hospitals. A draft ordinance embodying as far as practicable the recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry appointed by the Minister of Public Health in 1924 has been prepared and will be introduced during the next session of the Legislative Assembly.

Para. 238. No further hospitals were opened during the year. In January of the present year the district of Walvis Bay was established a hospital district. A provisional hospital board has been appointed and the building of a cottage hospital is being proceeded with. At Windhoek a maternity block is being added to the hospital.

Para. 239. 636 Patients were admitted to State-aided hospitals during the year as compared with 526 in 1926. The number of deaths in hospital was 26. The daily average number of patients was 19.32 and the average duration of treatment 11.09 days.

[U.G. 31-'28.]

Para. 240. The following amounts were paid by way of subsidy during the past three years :—

| | | | | | | | |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------|
| 1925 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £3,227 |
| 1926 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,977 |
| 1927 | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3,887 |

B. Mission Hospitals :

Para. 241. (1) *Roman Catholic Mission*.—The Catholic Mission maintains three hospitals, namely : at Windhoek, Gobabis and Swakopmund respectively. The hospitals at Gobabis and Swakopmund provide accommodation for both Europeans and natives. During the year under review 898 Europeans and 451 natives were treated in these institutions. Of these 32 Europeans and 23 natives died in hospital. The daily average number of patients was as follows :—

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Europeans | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 35·24 |
| Natives | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 32·55 |

The average duration of treatment was 14·32 days in the case of Europeans and 26·35 days for natives.

In Ovamboland the Catholic Mission has established a station at Shikuki in the Ukuambi district and another in the Ombalantu district.

Information regarding the medical work of this Mission has not been received up to the present.

Para. 242. (2) *Finnish Mission*.—The main hospital of this Mission is situated at Onandjokwe in Ondonga district and is under the charge of Dr. Selma Rainio. Branch hospitals are maintained at Engela in the Ukuanyama district and at Tjunda in the Ukualuthi district. Out-patient work is carried on by the missionaries in charge of the stations at Olukonda, Onajena and Oshigambo among the Ondonga tribe and at Ongandgera and Ombalantu.

During 1927, 1,038 natives were treated in the hospitals of the Mission as compared with 806 during 1926.

Deaths in hospital numbered 48 as against 43 during the previous year. The daily average number of patients was 72·95 and the average duration of treatment was 25·65 days. The corresponding figures for the previous year are 42·02 and 18·78 days respectively. The number of out-patients was 17,859 as compared with 8,339 during 1926.

Para. 243. (3) *St. Mary's Mission*.—The Main station of this Mission is situated at Odimbo in the Ukuanyama district. In September last Dr. Philip arrived from England and took charge of the medical work of the Mission. A few *Ondudas* with accommodation for three patients have been provided for hospital purposes up to the present and the Mission intends to proceed with the erection of additional hospital accommodation as soon as building operations become possible during the course of the ensuing winter.

During 1927 the medical activities of this Mission consisted mainly of out-patient work at Odimbo and at a branch station close to the Angola border in Inharwa's area in the eastern Ukuanyama district.

The number of patients treated in hospital was 74. The daily average number of patients was 2 and the average duration of treatment was 9·73 days. Five patients died in hospital. Out-patients numbered 1,430 and the number of attendances was 6,231.

Para. 244. In addition to the activities of the missions in the above-mentioned centres the Catholic and Rhenish Missions are carrying on medical work at Gibeon and Rehoboth. Very useful work is being done by the nursing sister attached to the Rhenish Mission at the latter place, especially in connection with the treatment of natives suffering from venereal disease.

The Catholic Mission also has several stations on the Okavango River.

Issues of the more commonly used drugs for ordinary complaints, of quinine for malaria, and of the drugs required for the treatment of venereal disease and leprosy, are made by the Administration free of charge to all missions. Drugs to the value of £1,059 10s. were issued in this manner during the year under review.

C. State-owned Native Hospitals :

Para. 245. The total number of patients treated in these institutions during 1927 was 1,128 as compared with 1,339 during the previous year. The daily average number of patients was 121·37 and the average duration of treatment was 39·27 days as compared with 121·22 and 33·19 days respectively, during 1926. The number of out-patients was 3,320 and the total number of attendances 6,822 as against 2,902 and 7,028 respectively for the previous year.

Para. 246. The total expenditure on maintenance was £4,347 6s. 9d. as compared with £4,234 17s. 6d. during 1926. The daily average cost per patient was 2s. 1·06d. as against 1s. 10·11d. in 1926.

Para. 247. The total expenditure incurred in connection with the treatment of natives was as follows:—

| | |
|---|-------------|
| (1) Maintenance of Native Hospitals | £4,347 6 9 |
| (2) Maintenance of patients suffering from Tuberculosis, Venereal and other diseases in Mission Hospitals | 765 4 9 |
| (3) Maintenance of Venereal Compounds | 454 6 6 |
| (4) Expenditure on drugs for Venereal disease and general purposes .. | 1,543 16 11 |
| (5) Maintenance of Mental Patients in Institutions in the Union .. | 412 7 6 |
| (6) Expenditure on hospital equipment | 222 0 11 |
| (7) Expenditure on repairs to buildings | 50 2 1 |
| | £7,795 5 5 |

The corresponding figure for 1926 was £6,556 18s. 5d.

In addition to the above expenditure a sum of £351 2s. 3d. was spent in completing the new native hospital at Windhoek.

An amount of £111 2s. was collected in fees from patients during the year.

D. Maternity Homes.

Para. 248. (1) *Elizabeth House, Windhoek.*—This institution was founded and is being maintained by a charitable organization in Germany for the benefit of the women in South-West Africa.

The following are particulars of the patients treated during the year:—

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number admitted | 113 |
| Number of deaths | Nil |
| Number of confinements | 74 |
| Number of miscarriages and abortions .. | 21 |
| Number of still births | Nil |
| Number of deaths of infants | 7 |

Para. 249. (2) *The Kenelly Nursing Home* is a private nursing home which is maintained with the support of the Municipality at Omaruru.

The number of patients dealt with during the year is as follows:—

| | |
|---|-----|
| Number admitted | 15 |
| Number of deaths | 1 |
| Number of confinements | 7 |
| Number of miscarriages and abortions .. | 1 |
| Number of still births | Nil |
| Number of deaths of infants | Nil |

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE HEALTH OF THE POPULATION.

Para. 250. The health of the European population was remarkably good during the year under review. With the exception of influenza which was generally of a mild type there was no undue prevalence of infectious disease. Sporadic cases of the latter were notified as follows:—

Anthrax—one case from Swakopmund.

Diphtheria—two cases from Grootfontein and one from Windhoek.

Enteric Fever—five cases from Swakopmund, eleven cases with one death from Windhoek, and one case from Karibib.

Puerperal Fever—two cases with two deaths from Windhoek and two cases from Grootfontein.

Scarlet Fever—two cases from Grootfontein, thirteen cases with one death from Windhoek and one case from Karibib.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis—one case from Grootfontein, two cases with one death from Swakopmund and six with one death from Windhoek.

Undulant Fever—eight cases with two deaths from Swakopmund, one case from Gobabis and four from Windhoek.

Respiratory and other diseases were not unduly prevalent and owing to the small rainfall at the beginning of the year the incidence of malaria was very small.

[U.G. 31—'28.]

Para. 251. The principal diseases for which admission was sought to the European hospitals during 1927 and the mortality from them are shown in Schedule 1.

Para. 252. The health of the natives in the various reserves was likewise good during the year under review. Influenza was prevalent during June, July, August and September and except in the Waterberg Reserve in which 12 persons died from this cause, was generally of a mild type. There were no epidemic outbreaks or undue incidence of infectious diseases in the reserves.

Among a population of 10,489, 102 births and 84 deaths were registered by the Superintendents. The deaths were caused principally by respiratory complications following influenza and by conditions associated with old age.

Para. 253. Among the rest of the native population in the rural and urban areas health conditions also were very favourable. The incidence of infectious disease was low and the mortality therefrom small. Influenza as usual was prevalent during the winter months but except in the case of Tsumeb did not reach epidemic proportions and was not accompanied by any considerable mortality.

Para. 254. The principal diseases which came under treatment in the various Government, public and Mission hospitals are shown in Schedules 2 and 3.

Para. 255. The health of the labourers recruited for the mines during 1927 is dealt with in a separate section of this report.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

Para. 256. A summary of the infectious diseases which were notified during the year is furnished in the following table:—

| | Europeans. | | Natives. | |
|---|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| | No. of cases. | No. of deaths. | No. of cases. | No. of deaths. |
| Anthrax | 1 | — | 75 | 12 |
| Diphtheria | 3 | — | — | — |
| Enteric Fever | 20 | 1 | 28 | 14 |
| Leprosy | — | — | 12 | — |
| Meningitis—epidemic cerebrospinal | — | — | 36 | 26 |
| Puerperal Fever | 4 | 2 | 3 | — |
| Scarlet Fever | 16 | 1 | — | — |
| Smallpox | — | — | 1 | — |
| Tuberculosis | 9 | 2 | 250 | 96 |
| Undulant Fever | 13 | 2 | 162 | 4 |
| | 66 | 8 | 567 | 152 |

Anthrax.—In 1926 sporadic cases of this disease occurred in the Oshigambo and Onandjokwe areas of the Ondonga district in Ovamboland. During the latter half of the past year 75 cases were reported from Okokola and Onajene in the same district. Among 43 cases treated in hospital there were no deaths. In the outlying parts, however, 12 deaths are known to have occurred. Preventive measures are seriously handicapped by the ignorance and apathy of the natives who in spite of the instructions issued through chiefs and headmen for the prompt destruction of the carcasses of all animals dying from disease cannot be induced to discontinue the practice of eating the meat and dressing the skins of such animals.

Diphtheria.—Only three cases were reported, namely, 2 from Tsumeb and one from Windhoek. All occurred among Europeans. There were no deaths.

Enteric Fever.—Sporadic cases of this disease occurred during the late summer and autumn. There were 14 cases with one death among Europeans and 28 cases with 14 deaths among natives. Eleven cases with one death among Europeans were reported from Windhoek, 5 from Swakopmund and 1 from Karibib. Twenty of the 28 cases among natives occurred on the Luderitz diamond fields, 4 at Swakopmund and 4 in Ovamboland. There were 13 deaths at Luderitz and 1 in Ovamboland.

Leprosy is met with only among the native population of Ovamboland and the Okavango River. It was unknown in Ovamboland until towards the end of the last decade. A considerable movement of Ovambos from north to south occurred for the first time during the famine of 1915 when people from all the tribes, even the distant tribes in the northern parts of Southern Angola flocked to the south. Many perished on the way; some settled in Ondonga where some food was available and others moved south into Damaraland. It is believed that during this movement a considerable number of lepers found their way into Ovamboland. The first case of leprosy was recorded from Ondonga in 1919 or 1920 in a woman who was still alive in 1924. She had been resident all her life in the Ondonga and Ukuanyama districts. No further cases were reported until March, 1924, when three cases were met with, namely:—one in Ondonga and two at Engela in the Ukuanyama district. Since that time 26 further cases have been notified; of these 14 cases came from Angola and the remainder from Ovamboland, namely:—Ukuanyama 14 and Ondonga 2. The number of cases recorded during the year under review is 10, of these three are from Angola, six from Ukuanyama and one from Ondonga. There is good reason to believe that the disease is more prevalent than is generally considered to be the case. During the course of a recent visit to Ovamboland the Medical Officer to the Administration detected two new cases among about 5,000 natives examined by him. The prevalence of the disease will be further investigated during the course of the present year by the District Surgeon whom it is proposed to station in the Ukuanyama district and a treatment centre will be established in the vicinity of his headquarters.

Malaria.—Owing to the small amount of rain which fell during the last rainy season there was no undue prevalence of this disease. The number of deaths which came under notice from this cause was very small.

Meningitis—epidemic cerebrospinal.—During 1927 there were no cases among Europeans. Of the 36 cases met with among natives 26 died. Of these 18 cases with 13 deaths occurred on the Luderitz diamond mines; 8 cases with 4 deaths at Tsumeb and 7 fatal cases at Windhoek. The remaining cases were reported from the following centres:—

| | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|---------------------------------|
| Ovamboland | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 case with 1 death. |
| Keetmanshoop | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 case with 1 death. |
| Swakopmund | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1 case which ended in recovery. |

Most of the cases occurred during the early part of the year and during the winter.

Rabies.—The examination of the head of the suspected dog which was forwarded by the Principal Veterinary Officer from Ovamboland to the Onderstepoort Laboratory in 1926 yielded negative results. Instances of children bitten by so-called mad dogs are of not uncommon occurrence in Ovamboland. In none of the cases, however, which came under notice during the past year did symptoms of hydrophobia develop. Over the rest of the territory no suspected case of the disease, either among man or animal has been brought to notice up to the present.

Scarlet Fever.—Sporadic cases occurred throughout the year, 16 cases with one death being reported, namely: 2 from Grootfontein; 1 from Omaruru and 13 with 1 death from Windhoek. The disease was generally of a mild type.

Smallpox.—Isolated cases of smallpox were reported from various parts of Angola during the past year. In June last a case was recorded from Ngiva which is only 16 miles from Namakunde. Owing to the risk of spread of the disease to Ovamboland, the vast majority of the population of which is unvaccinated, the Medical Officer to the Administration visited the various tribes during September and October for the purpose of inquiring into matters on the spot and of determining whether the natives would be likely to offer any resistance to vaccination. Vaccination was carried out at Namakunde, in the neutral zone and at various centres along the border, namely: 18 in Ukuanyama; 3 in Ombalantu and 3 in Onkolonkathi and Eunda. It was carried out at two centres in Ukualuthi, one in Ongandjera and two in Ukuambi as well. Except for a stampede among the pupils at the Finnish Mission in Ongandjera and among the wilder elements at Engona's kraal the natives, though at first very suspicious, came forward very readily after once having witnessed the process.

The total number of persons vaccinated during the course of the tour was 5,286. In addition to these 1,353 were vaccinated by the District Surgeon and missionaries in the Ondonga and Ukuanyama districts during the course of the year. Advantage was taken of the opportunities offered by this visit to instruct the officials and mission staff at the various

stations in the technique of vaccination with a view to enabling them to act as lay vaccinators in case of emergency.

Owing to the approach of the rainy season the large distances to be covered and the difficulty in maintaining a regular supply of fresh lymph from Cape Town, general public vaccination of the territory was postponed until the coming winter.

In October a case of smallpox—the first to be recorded in South-West Africa since the occupation—was reported from Keetmanshoop. Measures for preventing the spread of the disease were promptly taken with the result that no further cases occurred. General vaccination was carried out in Keetmanshoop district and 761 Europeans and 1,774 natives were vaccinated.

Tuberculosis.—The number of cases which were reported during 1927 was as follows: Europeans, 9; natives, 250. Two Europeans and 96 natives died. The figures for 1926 were: Europeans, 5; natives, 136 with 2 and 77 deaths respectively. Of the 250 cases recorded among natives 54 cases with 25 deaths occurred on the Luderitz Diamond Fields; 44 with 32 deaths at Tsumeb; 28 with 14 deaths at Windhoek; 24 with 12 deaths at Swakopmund and 76 with 11 deaths in Ovamboland. Among the cases reported from Tsumeb 24 with 21 deaths, including 15 in which the disease supervened in victims of the influenza epidemic, occurred among natives employed on the mine. Of the cases from Swakopmund only 3 with 2 deaths originated in the township, the remainder having been sent from Walvis Bay, Usakos and other places for treatment in the Antonius Hospital. The cases reported from Ovamboland include a number of persons who had contracted the disease while employed on the mines and had been repatriated.

The above figures include all patients who came under treatment in the various mine, Government and mission hospitals and may be taken as a fairly accurate index of the prevalence of tuberculosis among the natives of this Territory. The increase in the number of patients dealt with in Ovamboland is due mainly to the extension of the facilities for hospital treatment by the Finnish Mission. Grants-in-aid to the Mission towards the treatment in hospital of tuberculous patients amounted to £190 10s. in 1927 as compared with £114 2s. 3d. in 1926. The number of tuberculous and other patients transferred since 1924 from the Luderitz diamond fields for treatment in the native hospital at Windhoek is as follows:—

| Year. | Tuberculosis. | | Other Diseases. | |
|-------|------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| | No. of patients. | No. of deaths. | No. of patients. | No. of deaths. |
| 1924 | 17 | 3 | — | — |
| 1925 | 41 | 4 | — | — |
| 1926 | 66 | 8 | 6 | — |
| 1927 | 58 | 6 | — | — |
| | 182 | 21 | 6 | — |

The results obtained from these transfers have been remarkably good. In a large percentage of the cases febrile and chest symptoms disappeared entirely, the pulse rate returned to the normal and the patients regained their original weight, in some instances putting on as much as 32 lbs. in weight during their stay in hospital.

Undulant Fever.—Thirteen cases with 2 deaths were reported among Europeans, viz.: 8 with 2 deaths from Swakopmund; 1 from Gobabis and 4 from Windhoek. The Swakopmund cases were among persons who had become infected in the interior and had gone to the coast for treatment and recuperation. Among the natives of the farming districts the disease is only occasionally met with. In Ovamboland on the other hand it would appear to be increasing in frequency, 162 cases with 4 deaths having come under observation during the past year as compared with 79 in 1926. It is doubtful, however, whether all the recorded cases actually suffered from Undulant Fever. Owing to the absence of laboratory facilities the diagnosis was based entirely on clinical grounds and in at least one case in which a European was suspected to be suffering from the disease the condition was ultimately proved to have been Enteric Fever. For economic as well as for health reasons the subject is one of great importance to South-West Africa and one which calls for thorough investigation.

Venereal Disease.—The number of patients who came under treatment during the years 1925 to 1927 inclusive is as follows:—

| | 1925. | | 1926. | | 1927. | |
|---|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|
| | Syphilis. | Gonorrhoea. | Syphilis. | Gonorrhoea. | Syphilis. | Gonorrhoea. |
| (1) <i>At State-Owned Native Hospitals.</i> | | | | | | |
| Number remaining from previous year .. | 40 | 1 | 28 | 7 | 31 | 4 |
| Number admitted | 215 | 46 | 376 | 43 | 233 | 27 |
| Daily average number | 37·37 | 5·14 | 49·26 | 6·22 | 33·30 | 3·61 |
| Average duration in treatment (in days) .. | 47·77 | 39·97 | 44·50 | 45·46 | 46·05 | 42·48 |
| Outpatients : | | | | | | |
| Number | 283 | 20 | 245 | 29 | 307 | 24 |
| Number of attendances | 1,981 | 300 | 1,482 | 462 | 1,860 | 370 |
| Number of intravenous injections of salvarsan, etc. | 3,124 | — | 5,835 | — | 4,528 | — |
| (2) <i>By District Surgeons.</i> | | | | | | |
| (a) <i>At Venereal Compounds :</i> | | | | | | |
| Number remaining from previous year .. | — | — | — | — | 50 | 8 |
| Number admitted | 389 | 33 | 584 | 36 | 513 | 53 |
| Daily average number | — | 41·90 | — | 67·20 | 50·30 | 6·11 |
| Average duration of treatment | — | 26·24 | — | 35·81 | 34·73 | 36·56 |
| Number of intravenous injections | 3,330 | — | 4,845 | — | 4,449 | — |
| (b) <i>Other Districts :</i> | | | | | | |
| Number treated | 192 | 48 | 559 | 56 | 275 | 58 |
| Number of intravenous injections | 1,208 | — | 2,639 | — | 2,486 | — |
| (3) (a) <i>By Missions in Ovamboland.</i> | | | | | | |
| Number treated | 434 | 66 | 485 | 27 | 1,031 | 100 |
| Number of intravenous injections | 727 | — | 1,020 | — | 2,216 | — |
| (b) <i>By Rhenish Mission, Rehoboth.</i> | | | | | | |
| Number treated | — | — | — | — | 143 | — |
| Number of intravenous injections | — | — | — | — | 1,218 | — |

The total expenditure on the treatment of venereal disease among natives during the year under review was as follows:—

| | |
|--|--------------------|
| Drugs | £881 5 0 |
| Maintenance of patients in— | |
| (a) State-owned native hospitals | 1,406 18 3 |
| (b) Venereal compounds | 454 6 6 |
| (c) Mission hospitals | 465 1 3 |
| Total | £3,207 11 0 |

The total expenditure for 1926 was £3,505 4s. 10d.

From the above figures it will be seen that 2,195 cases of syphilis and 238 of gonorrhoea were dealt with in 1927 as compared with 2,004 and 162 respectively in 1926 and 1,230 and 193 respectively in 1925. The number of intravenous injections given in 1927 was 14,897 as against 14,339 in 1926 and 8,389 in 1925. In centres like Windhoek, Keetmanshoop, Karabib and Grootfontein at which treatment has been carried out systematically for a period of years there are indications of the disease becoming less prevalent among the native population. In the remaining districts, especially Gobabis, Rehoboth and Ovamboland, an increasing disposition to avail themselves of the extended facilities for free treatment offered by the Administration is being shown by the natives, and every encouragement is being given to them to report venereal disease and to submit to treatment. It is gratifying to be able to report that the number of those coming forward voluntarily is steadily increasing.

HEALTH OF THE RECRUITED WORKERS. MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF LABOUR RECRUITS.

Para. 257. The labour requirements for the Luderitz Diamond Mines are met by the recruitment of native labourers partly in the Union of South Africa and partly in Ovamboland. The copper, vanadium and tin mines, on the other hand, are dependent entirely upon local sources of supply which is derived mainly from the Ovamboland and Okavango regions. Labourers recruited in the Union are examined at the place of recruitment by medical officers who are fully conversant with the standard of physical fitness laid down for the Luderitz mines. On arrival at Luderitz all recruits are subjected to a rigid examination by the various mine medical officers and those whose physical condition does not meet requirements are rejected by them.

[U.G. 31—'28.]

Labourers recruited in Ovamboland are examined by the District Surgeon at Ondongua. During the year under review 4,211 natives from Ovamboland and 1,403 from Angola presented themselves for examination, the total number seeking work thus amounting to 5,614. Of this number 5,564 were found fit for work and 50 were rejected as unfit for any kind of work.

For practical purposes recruits are classified by the District Surgeon into three categories according to their standard of fitness, namely :—

Class A.—Those fit for any class of work, e.g., on the Luderitz diamond fields and for underground work on the copper and vanadium mines in the Grootfontein district.

Class B.—Those found unfit for Class A., but fit for the lighter surface work such as ore dressing on the copper mines.

Class C.—Those unfit for labour on the mines but suitable for farm work such as the herding of cattle and for training as domestic servants.

In the following table a summary of the classification of natives found fit for work during each month of the year under review is given :—

| Year. | Class A. Diamond Fields. | | Class B. O.M.E.G., etc. | | Class C. Farms, etc. | | Total. |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | |
| January | 354 | 76·6 | 40 | 8·7 | 68 | 14·7 | 462 |
| February | 503 | 79·8 | 51 | 8·0 | 77 | 12·2 | 631 |
| March | 1,044 | 81·8 | 115 | 9·1 | 115 | 9·1 | 1,274 |
| April | 352 | 77·2 | 45 | 9·9 | 59 | 12·9 | 456 |
| May | 412 | 78·9 | 62 | 11·9 | 48 | 9·2 | 522 |
| June | 343 | 76·9 | 52 | 11·7 | 51 | 11·4 | 446 |
| July | 368 | 73·6 | 71 | 14·2 | 61 | 12·2 | 500 |
| August | 310 | 70·6 | 59 | 13·4 | 70 | 16·0 | 439 |
| September | 162 | 72·0 | 40 | 17·8 | 23 | 10·2 | 225 |
| October, | 146 | 70·9 | 35 | 16·9 | 25 | 12·2 | 206 |
| November | 106 | 68·8 | 20 | 13·9 | 28 | 18·2 | 154 |
| December | 181 | 72·7 | 37 | 14·9 | 31 | 12·4 | 249 |
| Total | 4,281 | 76·2 | 627 | 11·2 | 656 | 11·7 | 5,564 |

Notwithstanding the considerable fluctuation in the numbers who came forward for examination during the different months the percentage of those passed as fit for work remained fairly constant when compared with previous years, namely :—76·2 per cent. of the total number of those examined for Class A ; 11·2 per cent. for Class B and 11·7 per cent. for Class C.

The causes which led to rejection for Class A and inclusion under B and C, were as follows :

| | Class B. | Class C. |
|--|------------|------------|
| (1) Age | 196 | 535 |
| (2) Minor constitutional defects | 85 | 51 |
| (3) After effects of diseases and injuries to eyes | 244 | 22 |
| (4) After effects of external injuries | 55 | 22 |
| (5) Other diseases | 47 | 26 |
| | 627 | 656 |

Age.—For Class A a minimum age of 18 years is insisted upon. Under Class B are included boys from the age of 14 years upwards who are physically fit for the lighter surface work such as ore dressing. Class C consists of mainly young individuals (piccanins) who are suitable for herd boys on farms and for training as domestic servants.

Minor constitutional defects, which render recruits unfit for service under Class A include such conditions as poor physique, inguinal hernia, scurvy, etc. Scurvy is generally met with only towards the end of the dry season when food has become scarce and wild fruits such as marula, embe, omuandi, etc., are not available. It is usually of a mild degree. Experience has shown that the condition disappears very rapidly under the improved conditions of nourishment offered by work in the Grootfontein district.

The causes for rejection for all kinds of work were as follows :—

| | |
|--|----|
| (1) Almost total blindness | 11 |
| (2) Venereal disease | 9 |
| (3) Contagious skin disease | 9 |
| (4) General weakness | 5 |
| (5) Deafmutism | 4 |
| (6) Diseases of internal organs | 4 |
| (7) Contagious eye diseases | 3 |
| (8) Leprosy | 1 |
| (9) Other diseases and infirmities | 4 |

—
50
—

The leper came from the Humbe district, Angola.

In the subjoined table a summary is given of the results of the medical examination of recruits from the various tribes.

| Tribe. | Number examined during year. | Number. (1) Passed as Fit. | | | | | | Number. (2) Rejected as Unfit. | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------|-------------------|------|--------|------|-----------------------------------|-----|
| | | Diamond Fields. | | O.M.E.G. S.W. Co. | | Farms. | | No. | % |
| | | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | | |
| Ondonga | 1,032 | 756 | 73·4 | 110 | 10·8 | 152 | 14·4 | 14 | 1·4 |
| Ukuanyama | 2,263 | 1,722 | 76·1 | 239 | 10·5 | 287 | 12·7 | 15 | 0·7 |
| Ukuambi | 346 | 262 | 75·7 | 36 | 10·4 | 45 | 13·0 | 3 | 0·9 |
| Ukualuthi | 186 | 138 | 74·1 | 21 | 11·3 | 26 | 13·9 | 1 | 0·6 |
| Onkolonkathi | 67 | 53 | 79·2 | 6 | 8·9 | 8 | 11·9 | — | — |
| Ongandjera | 150 | 107 | 71·3 | 25 | 16·7 | 17 | 11·2 | 1 | 0·7 |
| Omkalantu | 167 | 127 | 76·1 | 23 | 13·7 | 17 | 10·2 | — | — |
| Angolan | 1,403 | 1,116 | 79·5 | 167 | 11·9 | 104 | 7·4 | 16 | 1·2 |
| Total | 5,614 | 4,281 | 76·2 | 627 | 11·2 | 656 | 11·7 | 50 | 0·9 |

HEALTH CONDITIONS ON THE MINES.

Para. 258. The average number of natives employed on the various mines in South-West Africa during 1927 was 10,082 as compared with 12,155 during the previous year. The total number of deaths was 402, giving a mean mortality of 39·83 per thousand per annum. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 265 and 21·80 per thousand per annum respectively. The mortality from the principal causes of death was as follows :—

| | No. of Deaths. | Mortality per 1,000 per annum. |
|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Pneumonia | 95 | 9·42 |
| Tuberculosis | 31 | 3·07 |
| Influenza | 198 | 19·63 |
| Cerebrospinal Meningitis | 15 | 1·48 |
| Enteric fever | 16 | 1·58 |
| Other diseases | 41 | 4·06 |
| Injuries | 6 | ·59 |
| Total | 402 | 39·83 |

From the above it will be noted that influenza was responsible for half of the total death rate during the year under review. The majority of the deaths from this cause took place during the course of an outbreak which occurred in the Grootfontein district during August, September and October, the most formidable local outbreak which has been experienced since the pandemic of 1918. A detailed account of this outbreak is given in the section of this report which deals with the copper mines.

Para. 259. (1) *Luderitz Diamond Fields.*—The average number of natives employed on these fields was 6,500 as compared with 8,658 during 1926 and 6,619 during 1925. The [U.G. 31—'28.]

total number of deaths was 171 as against 214 in 1926 and 223 in 1925. The mean death rate was 26·30 as against 24·71 in 1926 and 33·69 in 1925.

The mortality per thousand per annum from the principal causes of death during the years 1925-1927 inclusive, was as follows:—

| | 1925. | | | 1926. | | | 1927. | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| | C. | D. | M. | C. | D. | M. | C. | D. | M. |
| Pneumonia | 251 | 43 | 6·49 | 427 | 76 | 8·77 | 409 | 63 | 9·69 |
| Other respiratory diseases | 617 | 2 | ·30 | 809 | 8 | ·92 | 522 | 3 | ·46 |
| Tuberculosis | 37 | 34 | 5·13 | 76 | 41 | 4·73 | 54 | 25 | 3·85 |
| Influenza | 1,049 | 40 | 6·04 | 693 | 27 | 3·11 | 186 | 13 | 2·00 |
| Scurvy | 126 | — | — | 202 | 1 | ·11 | 130 | — | — |
| Cerebrospinal Meningitis .. | 50 | 25 | 3·77 | 32 | 23 | 2·65 | 18 | 13 | 2·00 |
| Enteric Fever | 73 | 40 | 6·04 | 19 | 10 | 1·15 | 20 | 13 | 2·00 |
| Other diseases | 2,340 | 37 | 8·30 | 1,467 | 25 | 2·88 | 2,217 | 37 | 5·69 |
| Injuries | 383 | 2 | ·30 | 353 | 3 | ·34 | 351 | 4 | ·62 |
| Total | 4,926 | 223 | 33·68 | 4,078 | 214 | 24·71 | 3,907 | 171 | 26·31 |

NOTE.—C. = No. of cases; D. = No. of deaths; M. = mortality per 1,000 per annum.

Para. 260. The incidence of and mortality from the principal diseases on the fields among the labourers employed by the various mining companies are given in the subjoined table:—

| | Namaqua Diamonds. | | | | | | | | | Other Companies. | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|------------|-----------|--------------|------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|----------|--------------|
| | | | | South. | | | North. | | | | | |
| | C. | D. | M. | C. | D. | M. | C. | D. | M. | C. | D. | M. |
| Pneumonia | 256 | 44 | 9·18 | 115 | 10 | 9·45 | 31 | 7 | 15·38 | 7 | 2 | 10·05 |
| Other Respiratory diseases | 429 | 1 | ·21 | 10 | 1 | ·94 | 81 | 1 | 2·20 | 2 | — | — |
| Tuberculosis | 25 | 21 | 4·38 | — | — | — | 28 | 3 | 6·58 | 1 | 1 | 5·02 |
| Influenza | 7 | 2 | ·42 | 102 | 9 | 8·50 | 66 | 2 | 4·39 | 11 | — | — |
| Scurvy | 77 | — | — | — | — | — | 48 | — | — | 5 | — | — |
| Cerebrospinal Meningitis .. | 18 | 13 | 2·71 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Enteric Fever | 20 | 13 | 2·71 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Other Diseases | 1,783 | 27 | 5·63 | 234 | 8 | 7·56 | 157 | 1 | 2·20 | 43 | 2 | 10·05 |
| Injuries | 339 | 3 | ·63 | 11 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Total | 2,954 | 124 | 25·87 | 472 | 28 | 26·45 | 411 | 14 | 30·75 | 70 | 5 | 25·12 |
| Average number employed | 4,788 | | | 1,058 | | | 455 | | | 199 | | |

NOTE.—C = No. of cases; D = No. of deaths; M = mortality per 1000 per annum; C.D.M. = Consolidated Diamond Mines.

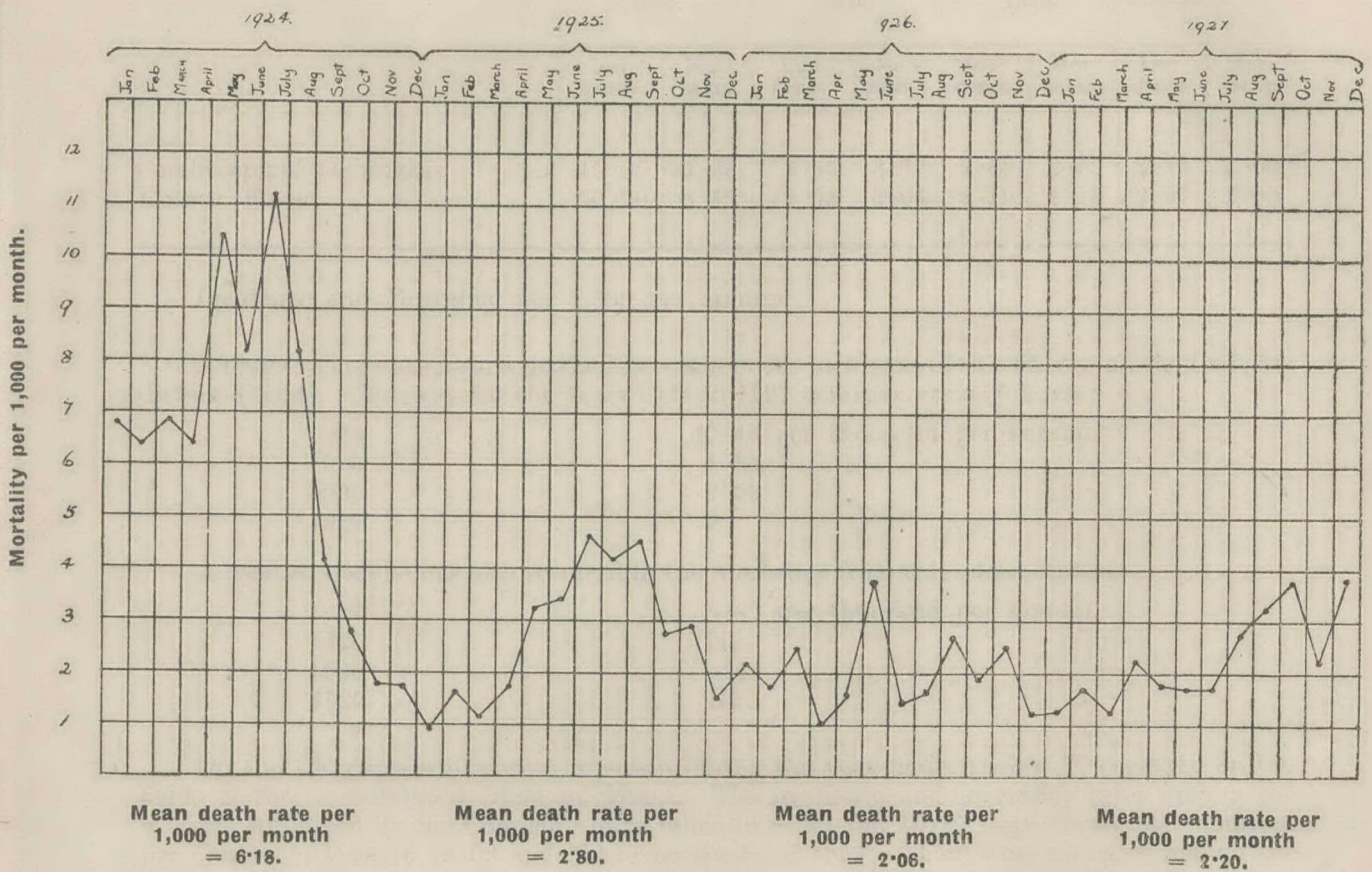
Para. 261. The mortality from the principal causes of death among the various tribes was as follows:—

| | Bechuana. | | Union Natives. | | Ovambo and Okavango Natives. | | Other S.W.A. Natives. | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------------|--------------|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| | D. | M. | D. | M. | D. | M. | D. | M. |
| Pneumonia | 13 | 7·85 | 4 | 2·92 | 46 | 14·08 | — | — |
| Other respiratory diseases | — | — | — | — | 3 | ·92 | — | — |
| Tuberculosis | 9 | 5·43 | 4 | 2·92 | 12 | 3·68 | — | — |
| Influenza | — | — | 1 | ·73 | 10 | 3·05 | — | — |
| Cerebrospinal Meningitis .. | 3 | 1·81 | 2 | 1·46 | 7 | 2·14 | — | — |
| Enteric Fever | 6 | 3·62 | 3 | 2·19 | 6 | 1·84 | 1 | 4·76 |
| Other diseases | 8 | 4·83 | 7 | 5·11 | 17 | 5·20 | 5 | 23·81 |
| Injuries | 1 | ·06 | 2 | 1·46 | 1 | ·30 | — | — |
| Total | 40 | 24·14 | 23 | 16·79 | 102 | 31·21 | 6 | 28·57 |
| Average number employed | 1,656 | | 1,366 | | 3,268 | | 210 | |

NOTE.—D = No. of deaths; M = mortality per 1,000 per annum.

MORTALITY CURVE OF RECRUITED NATIVE LABOUR ON THE DIAMOND FIELDS.

January, 1924—December, 1927.



The somewhat high mortality among the Ovamboland and Okavango natives as compared with that among the other tribes is due to the prevalence of influenza of a rather severe type and coincident respiratory disease during the early summer months, on certain of the fields worked by Ovambo labour. The mean mortality from all causes among labourers employed during the years 1924 to 1927 inclusive is shown in the accompanying graph "A."

Influenza as usual was prevalent on certain fields during the winter months. Only a few cases of a mild type were met with among the employees of the C.D.M. On the fields of the Namaqua Diamonds at Charlottental and Conception Bay on the other hand its prevalence was more pronounced and cases of more severe type occurred during September, October, and November, a total of 168 cases with 11 deaths coming under treatment. On the whole, however, there was a slight decrease in the mortality from influenza, pneumonia and other respiratory diseases, namely: 12.15 per 1,000 per annum, as compared with 28.34 in 1924; 12.84 in 1925 and 12.80 in 1926.

A slight decrease is also shown in the incidence of and mortality from tuberculosis. In 1924 the incidence rate was 16.97 and the mortality 13.58 per thousand per annum; in 1925, 5.59 and 5.13; in 1926, 8.77 and 4.73, and in 1927, 8.30 and 3.85 respectively.

The position with regard to the prevalence of and mortality from cerebrospinal meningitis and enteric fever per thousand per annum since 1924 is shown in the accompanying table:—

| | 1924. | | 1925. | | 1926. | | 1927. | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Inci- dence. | Mor- tality. | Inci- dence. | Mor- tality. | Inci- dence. | Mor- tality. | Inci- dence. | Mor- tality. |
| Cerebrospinal Meningitis .. | 10.35 | 5.26 | 7.55 | 3.77 | 3.69 | 2.65 | 2.77 | 2.00 |
| Enteric Fever | 20.20 | 8.65 | 11.03 | 6.04 | 2.19 | 1.15 | 3.07 | 2.00 |

Incidence and Mortality per 1,000 per annum.

Scurvy.—There has been a marked decrease in the incidence of this disease on the Luderitz diamond fields. The rates for the years 1924 to 1927 inclusive are as follows:—

| | | |
|--------------|-------|-------------------------|
| 1924 | 50.46 | per thousand per annum. |
| 1925 | 1.88 | ” ” ” |
| 1926 | 2.33 | ” ” ” |
| 1927 | 2. | ” ” ” |

A marked decline has also resulted in the mortality from this cause, namely:—

| | | |
|--------------|------|-------------------------|
| 1924 | 8.82 | per thousand per annum. |
| 1925 | Nil. | |
| 1926 | .115 | ” ” ” |
| 1927 | Nil. | |

On the 130 cases which were reported during the year under review 77 occurred on the fields of the Consolidated Diamond Mines. The incidence and mortality rates among the workers employed by the Company have fallen from 56 and 10.97 respectively per thousand per annum in 1924 to 16.08 and Nil respectively in 1927. There were no cases among the labourers employed by the Namaqua South Company. At Conception Bay 48 cases were met with among the average complement of 455. Owing to the strict supervision exercised by the Company's officials these cases were detected in an early state and speedily recovered under appropriate treatment. The Conception Bay fields are situated in the arid Namib region about 90 miles south of Walvis Bay and are difficult of access by both land and sea. Until recently it was impossible for the Company to maintain regular and adequate supplies of fresh vegetables to these fields. Vegetable gardens, have, however, been established at Meob and from these plentiful supplies are available at present.

The housing and hospital accommodation and the arrangements for feeding the labourers on the Luderitz diamond fields call for little comment. All the companies have provided adequate housing and hospital accommodation of approved type. On the 31st December last the C.D.M. had housing accommodation for 2,258 natives in excess of requirements and [U.G. 31—'28.]

its hospital accommodation amounted to 7.33 per cent. of its labour strength. Various improvements have been effected in the sanitary arrangements, especially on the fields of the Consolidated Diamond Mines, on which the older methods of night-soil disposal have been largely replaced by biological processes.

Para. 262. (2) Copper Mines, O.M.E.G.—The average number of natives employed on the Tsumeb Mine during 1927 was 2,534. Of these, 2,091 were engaged in actual mining work, and 443 in timber cutting, building and other operations, etc., in connection with the Mine. The total number of deaths was 202, giving a mean mortality of 79.71 per thousand per annum. The mortality per thousand per annum from the principal causes of death during the years 1923-1927 inclusive, was as follows:—

| | 1923. | | 1924. | | 1925. | | 1926. | | 1927. | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | D. | M. | D. | M. | D. | M. | D. | M. | D. | M. |
| Pneumonia | 14 | 7.86 | 6 | 2.93 | 15 | 6.26 | 15 | 6.65 | 7 | 2.76 |
| Tuberculosis | 8 | 4.49 | 8 | 3.91 | 3 | 1.25 | 4 | 1.78 | 6 | 2.37 |
| Enteric Fever | 15 | 8.42 | 1 | 0.49 | — | — | 2 | 0.89 | — | — |
| Dysentery | — | — | 1 | 0.49 | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Scurvy | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Influenza | 3 | 1.68 | 41 | 20.06 | 36 | 15.02 | 61 | 27.06 | 179 | 70.64 |
| Cerebrospinal Meningitis .. | — | — | 4 | 1.96 | 2 | 0.83 | 15 | 6.65 | 3 | 1.18 |
| Other diseases | 14 | 7.86 | 10 | 4.89 | 1 | 0.42 | 3 | 1.33 | 5 | 1.97 |
| Injuries | — | — | 11 | 5.38 | 2 | 0.83 | 1 | 0.44 | 2 | 0.79 |
| Total | 54 | 30.31 | 82 | 40.11 | 59 | 24.61 | 101 | 44.80 | 202 | 79.71 |
| Average number employed | 1,781 | | 2,044 | | 2,397 | | 2,254 | | 2,534 | |

It will be seen that during 1927 influenza was responsible for 179 out of a total of 202 deaths, *i.e.*, for a mortality of 70.64 as compared with 9.07 per thousand per annum from all other causes. With the exception of a small number of isolated cases the first half of the year was remarkably free from the disease, only 10 deaths being recorded. During the month of August, however, the most formidable epidemic which has been met with in any locality in South-West Africa since the pandemic of 1918 broke out among the natives employed on the Mine at Tsumeb. In July the usual winter prevalence, of a mild nature at first and unaccompanied by any considerable mortality manifested itself. This prevalence gradually increased in extent and severity during the unseasonable weather conditions which were experienced from the 10th July until about the 11th September. During this period most extraordinary variations in atmospheric pressure and in temperature were accompanied by frequent changes in the direction of the prevailing winds, and almost extreme degrees of hot and cold alternated periodically with each other. The diurnal variations in temperature ranged from a minimum of 3.4° to a maximum of 27.5° C. The number of patients under treatment rose from 45 on the 1st to 75 on the 18th August, and pulmonary complications of moderate severity were met with somewhat more frequently. There were no fresh cases on the 19th and 20th August, and the position at that time did not give cause for serious concern. On the 22nd August, however, the north-westerly winds, which had been blowing for some time, suddenly veered to the south, and two days later the temperature fell rapidly from a minimum of 10.9° to 13.4° during the preceding week to a minimum of 3.4° C. This sudden change was immediately followed by a marked alteration in the character of the outbreak, which subsequently developed with great rapidity and soon reached very serious epidemic proportions. Of approximately 650 patients who came under treatment from this time onwards fully two-thirds suffered from most acute and rapidly fatal pulmonary complications, a large proportion of the cases showing signs of a virulent toxæmia with early cyanosis and delirium. Other complications of extraordinary variety and degree of severity were also met with. Among these may be mentioned acute mania, epistaxis, otitis media, parotitis, empyema, arthritis, iritis, enteritis, etc. The epidemic reached its maximum within a week, and thereafter rapidly subsided. Its effects, however, are still being felt, a considerable number of the patients being still under treatment on account of various complications. But few fresh cases were met with after the middle of September, by which time the unsettled weather conditions had more or less returned to normal.

The progress of the epidemic during August and September is shown in the subjoined table :—

| | | | | | No. of new cases. | No. under treatment. | No. of Deaths. |
|-----------|-----------|----|----|----|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| August | 1-7th | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 49 | — |
| | 8th-14th | .. | .. | .. | 17 | 59 | 7 |
| | 15th-21st | .. | .. | .. | 32 | 78 | 7 |
| | 22nd | .. | .. | .. | 19 | 98 | 1 |
| | 23rd | .. | .. | .. | 14 | 111 | 1 |
| | 24th | .. | .. | .. | 18 | 128 | 1 |
| | 25th | .. | .. | .. | 101 | 229 | — |
| | 26th | .. | .. | .. | 100 | 328 | 1 |
| | 27th | .. | .. | .. | 30 | 328 | 1 |
| | 28th | .. | .. | .. | 80 | 352 | 1 |
| | 29th | .. | .. | .. | 36 | 388 | — |
| | 30th | .. | .. | .. | 35 | 420 | 3 |
| | 31st | .. | .. | .. | 2 | 420 | 4 |
| September | 1st | .. | .. | .. | 28 | 424 | 4 |
| | 2nd | .. | .. | .. | 16 | 420 | 5 |
| | 3rd | .. | .. | .. | 14 | 414 | 10 |
| | 4th | .. | .. | .. | 6 | 400 | 3 |
| | 5th | .. | .. | .. | 15 | 368 | 6 |
| | 6th | .. | .. | .. | 9 | 338 | 6 |
| | 7th | .. | .. | .. | 7 | 320 | 6 |
| | 8th | .. | .. | .. | 10 | 315 | 5 |
| | 9th | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 301 | 7 |
| | 10th | .. | .. | .. | 8 | 300 | 8 |
| | 11th | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 296 | 7 |
| | 12th | .. | .. | .. | 12 | 252 | 1 |
| | 13th | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 253 | 2 |
| | 14th | .. | .. | .. | 5 | 226 | 6 |
| | 15th | .. | .. | .. | 9 | 229 | 3 |
| | 16th | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 230 | 1 |
| | 17th | .. | .. | .. | 5 | 221 | 2 |
| | 18th | .. | .. | .. | — | 221 | — |
| | 19th | .. | .. | .. | 14 | 195 | 2 |
| | 20th | .. | .. | .. | 4 | 195 | 2 |
| | 21st | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 194 | — |
| | 22nd | .. | .. | .. | 9 | 194 | 1 |
| | 23rd | .. | .. | .. | 11 | 190 | 2 |
| 24th | .. | .. | .. | 8 | 192 | 1 | |
| 25th | .. | .. | .. | 1 | 193 | — | |
| 26th | .. | .. | .. | 10 | 190 | 1 | |
| 27th | .. | .. | .. | 3 | 181 | 1 | |
| 28th | .. | .. | .. | 7 | 179 | 1 | |
| 29th | .. | .. | .. | 7 | 176 | 1 | |
| 30th | .. | .. | .. | 11 | 186 | — | |

Up to the 31st December 169 deaths had taken place as the result of the epidemic, namely : 11 in July ; 23 in August ; 94 in September ; 23 in October ; 9 in November and 9 in December. Among the earlier cases in August death generally occurred from the 3rd to the 5th day after the onset of symptoms and among the later cases in September from the 10th to the 14th day. In a considerable number of the victims tuberculosis supervened and ultimately caused death. Fourteen of the 41 deaths which resulted in October, November and December were due to this cause.

All sections of the community were affected by the epidemic. Among Europeans the cases, though few in number, were in a good many instances very acute, and three deaths resulted. Among the natives the Hereros, Hottentots, Bushmen and Klipkaffirs, who had the advantage of having been resident in Tsumeb with their families for many years and having been more or less permanently in the employ of the Company, did not suffer to any extent. Of 45 cases three died, giving a mortality of 14·15 per thousand per annum from influenza out of a total mortality of 18·87 per thousand per annum among them from all causes. The main incidence of the disease fell on the Ovambo and other tropical natives. Among an average of 1,879 employed during the year there were 1,031 cases with 176 deaths,

[U.G. 31—'28.]

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