

MEDICAL AND DENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The staff at 31st March, 1946, consisted of one European medical officer, one Native medical practitioner (on loan from Western Samoa), one European matron, one European District Nurse, three Niuean nurses, and two Niuean dental officers.

All medical and dental treatment, including hospitalization, is provided free of charge to Natives.

The following is a comparative table showing amounts expended on health services over the last five financial years:—

—	1941-42.	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.
Amount expended	£3,050	£3,755	£3,900	£3,656	£5,305
Population	4,468	4,434	4,242	4,200	4,289
Amount per head of population	13s. 8d.	16s. 11d.	18s. 5d.	17s. 5d.	£1 4s. 9d.

A summary of the work performed at the hospital and during the weekly and other visits to villages is set out below:—

—	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.
(1) Infectious diseases—					
(a) Tuberculosis ..	20	30	28	11	26
(b) Gonorrhoea ..	21	45	107	21	44
(c) Yaws ..	905	939	863	713	1,038
(d) Pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia	4	7	178	25	29
(e) Conjunctivitis ..	103	128	156	17	104
(f) Ringworm ..	109	133	418	37	146
(g) Varicella ..	2	7	16	1	25
(h) Typhoid ..	1	27	33	15	13
(i) Leprosy ..	2	2	2	1	1
(j) Infectious jaundice ..	..	..	..	78	112
(k) Puerperal fever ..	..	..	..	..	3
(l) Intestinal parasites ..	..	..	..	..	150
(m) Scabies ..	..	..	..	..	166
(2) Endemic diseases—					
(a) Filariasis ..	Very prevalent	Very prevalent	Very prevalent	207	181
(b) Myositis tropica ..	6	3	10	6	6
(3) Hospital and dispensary—					
Admissions for year ..	173	118	116	76	71
Average number of days in hospital per patient	28.98	123.39	32.5	28	11.29
Daily average bed state	13.94	39.88	9.95	8.13	4.55
District out-patients ..	19,814	21,422	29,062	29,811	} 23,024
Dispensary out-patients	2,794	2,365	1,802	2,984	
Special visits ..	613	1,661	4,421	2,124	2,205
Operations ..	30	10	Nil	75	369
Dental extractions ..	131	136	134	130	221
Injections, N.A.B., T.A.B., &c.	4,527	3,869	10,159	844	4,301
Confinements ..	23	15	18	23	20
Anæsthetics—					
General ..	23	8	10	..	2
Local ..	116	120	220	149	315

On 30th June, 1945, a visit was paid to Niue by a party of medical officers, including Dr. M. H. Watt, Director-General of Health, and Dr. J. C. R. Buchanan, Inspector-General of South Pacific Medical Services. A complete tour of the island was made, and the party inspected medical facilities and Native living conditions and discussed local health problems.