

The examination of vessels entering the Group was carried out in the usual manner. The entry of children under sixteen years was restricted earlier in the year because of the spread of whooping-cough, and later on, with the increase in poliomyelitis in New Zealand, the restriction was extended to all children up to eighteen years of age. Concurrently, periods of surveillance were imposed on all adult persons entering the Group. All incoming aircraft were inspected and disinfected.

Statistics of the Rarotonga Hospital for the past five years are tabulated hereunder :—

—			1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.
In-patients	..	..	570	446	469	638	664
Out-patients	..	..	8,574	8,603	6,895	9,029	8,812
Visits	..	..	1,382	1,374	1,145	2,016	2,241
Anæsthetics—							
General	..	..	42	52	30	99	73
Local	..	..	152	336	377	53	*
Operations—							
Major	..	..	9	101	26	43	43
Minor	..	..	254	467	440	109	119
Confinements	..	..	30	63	43	29	30
X-rays	..	..	31	39	77	248	*

* Not available.

The daily average number of patients at the hospital was 29·5 and the average length of stay 16·7 days. There were 36 admissions to the sanatorium and the daily average number of patients was 10·8.

12. DENTAL SERVICES

This Department is operated by a European Dental Officer and two Native dental nurses. During the year, all the schools in the Lower Group islands were visited and the children examined. In practically every school, treatment over a period was given. Some of the schools in the outer islands had not been visited by a Dental Officer for two years and a considerable amount of work was necessary. In order to provide regular dental services in the outer islands, the dental staff is now being expanded by bringing cadets to Rarotonga for training. At 31st March three cadets were in training, and a further two were due to commence training early in the new year. To handle the training programme an additional building is being converted for use as a clinic and extra equipment has been obtained. Dental health education has commenced with the issue of pamphlets in Maori and English.

Comparative statistics for the last five years as set out below indicate the expansion in the dental service :—

—			1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.
Extractions	..	..	1,130	1,533	1,713	828	2,482
Fillings	..	..	1,964	1,382	915	489	1,893
Miscellaneous—prophylactic and miscellaneous treatments, cleaning, scaling, &c.			37	38	239	1,622	2,266

13. COST OF HEALTH SERVICES

The expenditure on all health services during the past five years has been as follows :—

—			1943-44.	1944-45.	1945-46.	1946-47.	1947-48.
Amount expended	..	..	£10,116	£16,202	£31,429	£25,176	£29,398
Population	..	..	14,150	14,506	15,005	14,821	14,456
Amount per head	..	..	14s. 4d.	£1 2s. 4d.	£2 1s. 11d.	£1 14s. 0d.	£2 0s. 8d.