

Return of Imports and Exports for the Twelve Years 1915 to 1926, inclusive.

Year.					Imports.	Exports.	Total Value.
					£	£	£
1915	..	..	..	..	65,590	63,057	128,647
1916	..	..	..	..	58,478	68,146	126,624
1917	..	..	..	..	80,061	60,190	140,251
1918	..	..	..	..	99,632	82,708	182,340
1919	..	..	..	..	142,925	127,729	270,654
1920	..	..	..	..	177,911	94,697	272,608
1921	..	..	..	..	112,974	69,301	182,335
1922	..	..	..	..	116,726	125,802	252,528
1923	..	..	..	..	131,590	118,710	250,300
1924	..	..	..	..	138,202	154,554	292,756
1925	..	..	..	..	130,609	151,939	282,548
1926	..	..	..	..	134,473	138,588	273,061

MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

On the whole, general health conditions in all the islands have been satisfactory during the year.

All the alterations and additions at the Rarotonga Hospital were completed early in the year, and this institution should now be sufficient to meet requirements for some years.

In May last Dr. E. P. Ellison assumed the position of Chief Medical Officer, and in July Dr. B. G. Thompson was appointed Assistant Medical Officer, *vice* Dr. J. P. Donald, who retired to take up private practice in New Zealand. It is satisfactory to note that the medical services are now on a sound and progressive basis.

As anticipated, the report of Dr. S. M. Lambert, of the International Health Board (Rockefeller Foundation), which was printed as an appendix to last annual report, has proved most valuable in dealing with our various problems in regard to tropical diseases.

Mass treatment for hookworm and yaws has been undertaken in several of the islands, and it is anticipated that this work will be completed during the coming year.

Valuable work in regard to leprosy has been undertaken by the Chief Medical Officer. In May of last year the Government steamer "Hinemoa" removed forty leper patients to the Fijian Leper Station at Makogai, where they are receiving up-to-date treatment, with every prospect that the majority will be cured and, in course of time, be able to return to these islands. It is anticipated that the remainder of our leper patients will be similarly removed from the Group during the current year.

The Medical Department is continuing its policy of training Native probationer nurses at the local hospital with a view to their being able to efficiently carry out the duty as nurses here and in the Group islands. With advancing education the service should soon be in a position to secure a better class of trainee.

The following are extracts from the annual report of the Chief Medical Officer:—

"During the early part of this year substantial additions and alterations were made to the hospital, and improvements effected outside. In May Her Excellency the Lady Alice Fergusson opened this new building, comprising a dispensary and storeroom, a dressing-room, an office and laboratory, and a dental surgery. The hospital should now serve the wants of the Group for many years to come.

"Pratique has been granted to fifty-one vessels. During the height of the small-pox outbreak in California, and especially Los Angeles, it was thought advisable on one occasion not to grant full pratique till further information was gleaned. A labour gang alone, previously vaccinated, was allowed aboard. To prevent the possible introduction of leprosy from the Northern Group all vessels touching on these islands are strictly inspected.

"It has been our endeavour from the outset to concentrate our attention on the medical needs of the islands outside Rarotonga, which no doubt have received, and will continue to receive, the lion's share. In a scattered group like this it has entailed much travelling. Much of it, too, is somewhat unsatisfactory, for the time ashore is often insufficient to attend properly to the physical welfare of the people. To meet this, and help in our aims and ideals for their betterment, while bearing in mind also the limited finances and staff at our disposal, it was thought advisable to commence a lecturing campaign and so persuade the Natives to come forward voluntarily and, with the help of their respective Resident Agents, assist to bring about a lower infantile and general death-rate by the formation of Baby and Children's Welfare Committees and Sanitation Committees respectively. Such a campaign has been carried on throughout the Groups both south and north, and, it is hoped, will fill the hiatus between the previous state and the day when nurses or Native medical practitioners, or both, will be stationed on each of the outer islands.

"The movement has been extended to Rarotonga, and each village has its committees and is doing splendid work and achieving good results. The women's committees are coached in pre-natal and post-natal care; in the conduct of labour; in weaning; in the many often fatal ailments a baby is heir to; and simple drugs are at their disposal. It is hoped to start a clinic of these committees in the out-patients department, Rarotonga.