

NATIVE MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.

Last June one Native medical practitioner was sent to the Central Medical School at Suva for a post-graduate course. He returned in January. Two new graduates, after a four years' course, also returned with him.

Three boys were sent to Suva to commence their studies. One student will be returning to Samoa next January on the completion of his four years.

Native medical practitioners have been stationed at the new dispensaries at Falealili, Fagamalo, and Sala'ilua.

In December all Native medical practitioners were brought to Apia and given a refresher course for one week. During this time all teachers of the Education Department were also brought to Apia and the opportunity was taken to give them lectures in health matters and first aid so that they could instruct the school-children thereon.

Programmes have now been made out for the ensuing year for Native medical practitioners to inspect all Government and many mission schools and give free treatment for yaws, scabies, conjunctivitis, helminthic diseases, and sores, and give health lectures to children. All teachers are to be given health lectures and first-aid instruction regularly. By this means it is hoped to educate the younger generation in health matters so that good habits will gradually become natural to them. The Medical and Education Departments are co-operating very closely in this matter. Prepared health lectures are incorporated in the school syllabus, and it is expected that the influence in the villages of the Native medical practitioners, where it is proposed that they should enter into the closest possible relations with the chiefs and with the women, should have a distinct effect on health matters generally, and particularly on sanitation.

VISITS.

In May of last year Dr. Heiser and Dr. Lambert of the Rockefeller Foundation visited Samoa. Their visit was much appreciated and Dr. Heiser's advice, with his vast experience of tropical diseases and problems, was of great use to the Administration.

In October, Dr. Watt, New Zealand Director-General of Health, accompanied by Dr. Lambert, visited Samoa. Dr. Watt carried out a careful and valuable survey of the territory, and a number of suggestions are being put into operation with a view to improving the medical services. In addition, the Chief Medical Officer has been sent to New Zealand for a twelve-months' "refresher," and in order to enable him to obtain further experience in public health activities, while for this period he is being replaced by a Public Health expert from the Department of Health in New Zealand. At the same time steps are being taken to combat the heavy infant mortality by special instructional methods through the Native medical practitioner system and by a general health campaign.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths (Samoans) at Different Ages.

	Number of Deaths.			Percentage of Total Deaths.		
	1932.	1933.	1934.	1932.	1933.	1934.
Under 1 week	20	18	32	3.74	3.70	7.24
From 1 week to 1 month	16	24	17	2.99	4.94	3.85
From 1 month to 3 months	13	31	17	2.43	6.38	3.85
From 3 months to 6 months	26	41	20	4.86	8.44	4.53
From 6 months to 12 months	79	55	65	14.77	11.32	14.70
From 1 year to 2 years	36	33	42	6.73	6.79	9.50
From 2 years to 3 years	27	19	12	5.05	3.91	2.72
From 3 years to 4 years	14	16	11	2.60	3.29	2.48
From 4 years to 5 years	7	12	5	1.31	2.47	1.13
From 5 years to 10 years	24	16	14	4.49	3.29	3.17
Over 10 years	273	221	207	51.03	45.47	46.83
Totals	535	486	442	100.00	100.00	100.00

The infant-mortality rates, per 1,000 registered births, have been as follow :—

Year.		Year.		Year.		Year.	
1923	.. 200	1926	.. 106	1929	.. 70	1932	.. 121
1924	.. 153	1927	.. 101	1930	.. 61	1933	.. 114
1925	.. 186	1928	.. 58	1931	.. 111	1934	.. 104.8

The rate is still high and is likely to continue so until sufficient time elapses for the community to benefit from the instructional work now proceeding. The figures for the years 1928-30 are of little value, owing to the non-notification of births and deaths during this disturbed period.