

Miss Butler, Matron, who had been in indifferent health during several months of the year, left on furlough on 7th January, 1939. Recent reports indicate that her present condition, following a major operation, is such that she will be unable to resume duties.

Sister McPhail during the early months of the year attended district work, including schools and child welfare. Her general district work was dislocated during the measles epidemic, when, however, she was able to give invaluable assistance in the campaign and in the control of the temporary hospitals. From 1st January she relieved Miss Butler in the hospital.

Native Medical Practitioners.—There are four Native Medical Practitioners attached to the Administration, and three students are in training in the Suva Central Medical School.

Public Health.—Bakeries have been inspected periodically.

Village Inspection: A thorough house-to-house inspection was made throughout in November and December by medical officers.

Child Welfare: This is the most important health movement on the Island, judging from the results thereof. The infantile death-rate per 1,000 live births was 60 for the year. The school roll is rapidly increasing, due to the increment from those becoming of school age. The child-welfare movement is extending to the Outer and the Northern Groups.

School Inspection: All schools were inspected during October and November. Where anæmic, debilitated children were noted, cod-liver oil and an iron tonic were provided. The card system as used in New Zealand is adopted, and tropical diseases are noted.

X-rays: There were eighty-five exposures during the year, and the X-ray proved an invaluable adjunct to diagnosis.

Leprosy.—In September last the Chief Medical Officer proceeded to the Northern Group to superintend the transportation of lepers to Makogai, Fiji, by the chartered schooner "Tui Cakau." In all, forty-three lepers from the Cook Islands were admitted to Makogai, as follows—

Manihiki: Two women, one man, one girl, four boys: Total, 8.

Rakahanga: One boy.

Penrhyn: Five women, ten men, nine boys, ten girls: Total, 34.

The high figure for Penrhyn is due to the fact that lepers from the Group had been concentrated there pending transfer to Makogai.

Hospital—

In-patients	307
Out-patients	9,465
Treatment:—	
(a) Injections—	
(1) Antitetanic serum	51
(2) Bicrool	8
(3) Colloidal calcium	179
(4) Gonococcol vaccine	67
(5) Novaisenobinzol	393
(6) Antityphoid bacillus	40
(7) Staphylococcol vaccine	12
(8) Solganol	8
(9) Sodium uorrhuate	8
(b) Anaesthetics—	
(1) General	49
(2) Local	402
(c) Operations—	
(1) Major	46
(2) Minor	676
(d) Confinements	57
(e) Artificial pneumothorax	22
(f) X ray	85
(g) Visits	1,463

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Estimated Population, 31st March, 1938.			Births for Year ending 31st March, 1939.		Deaths for Year ending 31st March, 1939.		Arrivals and Departures Year ending 31st March, 1939.				Estimated Population, 31st March, 1939.			Marriages for Year ending 31st March, 1939.
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Arrivals.		Departures.		M.	F.	Total.	
								M.	F.	M.	F.				
Rarotonga ..	2,798	2,475	5,273	116	101	63	42	83	94	66	65	2,868	2,563	5,431	36
Aitutaki ..	958	886	1,844	45	44	17	16	..	..	..	..	986	914	1,900	23
Mangaia ..	812	740	1,552	25	35	12	19	..	..	..	..	825	756	1,581	8
Atiu ..	591	529	1,120	29	16	16	11	..	..	..	..	604	534	1,138	5
Mauke ..	374	317	691	16	21	10	7	..	..	..	..	380	331	711	9
Mitiaro ..	152	127	279	11	7	..	1	..	..	..	..	163	133	296	1
Penrhyn ..	255	239	494	6	12	4	7	..	..	..	..	257	244	501	2
Manihiki ..	261	277	538	7	9	2	4	..	..	..	..	266	282	548	2
Rakahanga ..	153	154	307	9	6	4	6	..	..	..	..	158	154	312	2
Pukapuka ..	351	328	679	10	11	7	4	..	..	..	..	354	335	689	6
Total ..	6,705	6,072	12,777	274	262	135	117	83	94	66	65	6,861	6,246	13,107	94