

rangement. For the sake of convenience, the fee is paid through this Vice-Consulate and an official receipt given therefor. Should a shipmaster refuse to accept this arrangement, and a man fell ill, he would not be able to secure a competent qualified doctor's services for less than 5r. a visit, in view of the port being nearly three miles distant from the residential quarter of this town. If more than one man required attendance, the fee would be still higher. It should be understood that this is a mutual private arrangement between the doctor and the shipmaster, and therefore a master who refuses to accept it on one voyage, on the grounds of having no sickness on board or the ship's stay being very short, risks not being able to profit by it on another voyage, when it would be advantageous to the ship to do so. This arrangement is carried out by two doctors nominated by this Vice-Consulate."

Calcutta Health Report.

The report of the health officer of Calcutta (Dr. T. Frederick Pearse) for the year 1910, recently published, is a document of very considerable interest, for it brings home to those who live in this country the very different conditions of life which exist in certain parts of our Indian Empire. The population of the city of Calcutta at the census taken this year was 890,493, an increase of about 42,000 over that recorded in 1901. This increase is much less than has occurred in previous decades, and is entirely due to immigration, for although the births in the ten-year period 1901-1910 numbered over 150,000, there were during the same time nearly 300,000 deaths. It is true the method of birth registration has admittedly been not altogether satisfactory, even though peripatetic registrars have been employed to search out the occurrence of births with a view to their registration, but this does not account for the enormous disparity between the number of births and deaths. Since October, 1910, these registrars have been disbanded and their work has been done by the vaccinators, with the result that the last quarter of 1910, unlike the other quarters of that year, has shown an increase in the number of births registered compared with similar periods in previous years.

The death rate in 1910 was the lowest recorded for over 20 years. It was 26.7 per 1,000, and, compared with the previous year, showed a saving of no less than 5,000 lives. In one district the death rate was 30.5, and in another it was 33.3 per 1,000. In every district, however, there was a lessened mortality, a circumstance which Dr. Pearse attributes to the fewer deaths from plague and smallpox. While this result may be considered satisfactory, it is disquieting to find that the number of deaths from other diseases has not been materially lessened. Dr. Pearse divides the city into three areas according to their remoteness from the centre, with the result that in urban Calcutta the death rate was 24.8 per 1,000 in 1910, compared with 31.4 per 1,000 in 1909; in suburban Calcutta it was 38.0 per 1,000 in 1910 and 42.1 per 1,000 in 1909, and in the fringe area it was 17.2 per 1,000 in 1910, compared with 28.2 per 1,000 in 1909. This striking reduction in the fringe area is thought to be due to displacement of the population as well as to the more healthy conditions prevailing there.

The infantile mortality rate was 273 per 1,000 births, and in some parts even this high rate was increased, for in six separate wards it varied from 350 per 1,000 to 447 per 1,000. There was a remarkable difference in the infantile mortality rate among the different nationalities. Among the Hindus it was 252 per 1,000, among Mohammedans 343 per 1,000, among non-Asiatics 141 per 1,000, among mixed races 260 per 1,000, and among other classes 238 per 1,000. The high rate among the Mohammedans, it is thought, may possibly be due to the defective registration of births among these people.

Since the year 1905 there has been a distinct decline in the number of deaths from malaria in Calcutta, and it is gratifying to find that in 1910 this decline was maintained. The deaths which did occur were chiefly in the cooler months of the year, and were considerably fewer than during the period of the monsoon. The mosquito brigades are employed in Calcutta during the six months from October to March, and are doing good work, not the least being that the visits of the inspectors act as an incentive to cleanliness.