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Health-Year-Book 1925
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LATVIA

BY

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(1872-?)

1925

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I. GENERAL INTRODUCTION.

1. Area.

65,791 square kilometers.

2. Population.

1,844,805 inhabitants.

The racial distribution of the population was shown in the *International Health Year-Book* for 1924.

There are in Latvia 38 towns, 31 of which have more than 2,000 inhabitants, forming 32.8 per cent of the total population of the country. The population of the towns, which in 1914 amounted to 40.3 per cent of the total population, in 1920 amounted to only 23.5 per cent.

(a) DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION ACCORDING TO SEX.

There is a considerable preponderance of the female sex :

In 1897	1,039	women to	1,000	men
In 1920	1,211	"	"	"
In 1925	1,145	"	"	"

This excess of women, although less than in 1920, is still higher than in any other country, with the exception of Russia.

(b) DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION ACCORDING TO RELIGION.

	Per cent
Lutherans	57.20
Catholics	22.59
Orthodox	9.08
Jews	5.19
Old Believers	4.84
Protestants of various persuasions	0.84
Unclassified	0.26

(c) DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION BY AGE-GROUPS.

A normally constituted population may be represented by a pyramid formed of strokes placed one above the other representing the various age-groups and having for its base the stroke which represents the youngest age-group. The figures of the census taken in 1897 on the present Latvian territory shows a pyramid of almost perfect symmetry, the base of which formed by the age-group from 0-4 years represents 11.1 per cent of the total population of the country. For 1920 this age-group only represented 6.4 per cent of the total population ; in 1925 it had arisen to 8.7 per cent. This phenomenon shows perhaps better than any other indication that life in Latvia is resuming its normal course.

*Distribution of the Population into Three Age-Groups : Childhood,
Working Age, Old Age, 1920-25.*

Age	Men		Women		Total	
	1920 Per cent	1925	1920 Per cent	1925	1920 Per cent	1925
0 to 15 years (childhood) ..	31.25	26.36	25.49	22.83	28.09	24.48
15 to 60 years (working age) ..	56.37	62.57	61.07	64.37	58.95	63.53
60 years and over (old age) ..	12.38	11.07	13.44	12.80	12.96	11.99

As among all the nations which took part in the world war the working age-group (15-60 years) has considerably increased since 1920, this sudden increase, which exceeds 6 per cent for men, is the result of the entrance into this group of a relatively high number of individuals born after 1900 and spared by the war because of their age. The childhood group (0-15), on the other hand, has diminished, probably as a consequence of unemployment, which will no doubt tend to disappear in the next ten years and the effects of which will be mitigated by the fact that the proportion between individuals of productive age and the amount of work available will be more favourable.

(d) DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION ACCORDING TO THE CIVIL REGISTER
IN 1925.

	Men		Women	
	1920 Per cent	1925	1920 Per cent	1925
Bachelors	57.61	56.24	52.89	50.59
Married men and women	38.46	40.33	33.54	35.96
Widowers and widows ..	3.73	3.14	13.32	13.03
Divorced men and women	0.20	0.29	0.25	0.42
	100	100	100	100

3. *Birth and Death Rates* (total figures and rate per 1,000 inhabitants).

(a) GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

Provinces	Live Births				Deaths				Excess of births	
	1924		1925		1924		1925		1924	1925
	Absolute figures	Rate per 1,000	Absolute figures	Rate per 1,000	Absolute figures	Rate per 1,000	Absolute figures	Rate per 1,000		
Riga.	5,278	15.63	5,356	15.74	4,555	13.49	4,562	13.42	2.14	2.32
Livonia.	6,494	16.04	6,650	16.40	5,753	14.21	5,619	13.86	1.83	2.54
Courland	5,825	20.32	5,699	19.83	4,470	15.59	3,832	13.32	4.73	6.52
Zemgale	5,778	20.94	5,956	21.51	4,249	15.40	4,033	14.56	5.54	6.95
Latgale	17,797	32.98	17,653	32.47	9,372	17.37	9,637	17.72	15.61	14.75
Latvia.	41,172	22.32	41,314	22.31	28,399	15.39	27,683	14.95	6.93	7.36

(b) SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION.

Months	Live Births				Deaths			
	1924		1925		1924		1925	
	Absolute figures	Percentage of births for the year	Absolute figures	Percentage of births for the year	Absolute figures	Percentage of deaths for the year	Absolute figures	Percentage of deaths for the year
January	4,065	9.9	3,852	9.3	2,877	10.1	2,410	8.7
February	3,533	8.6	3,340	8.1	2,653	9.3	2,505	9.1
March	3,966	9.6	3,572	8.7	2,945	10.4	2,772	10.0
April	3,656	8.9	3,438	8.3	2,557	9.0	2,558	9.2
May	3,524	8.6	3,320	8.0	2,531	8.9	2,431	8.8
June	3,261	7.9	3,248	7.9	2,108	7.4	2,184	7.9
July	3,243	7.9	3,438	8.3	2,036	7.2	2,096	7.6
August	3,087	7.5	3,419	8.3	2,216	7.8	2,076	7.5
September	3,226	7.7	3,358	8.1	1,949	6.9	1,851	6.7
October	3,048	7.4	3,384	8.2	2,104	7.4	2,102	7.6
November	3,384	8.2	3,565	8.6	2,138	7.5	2,155	7.8
December	3,179	7.7	3,380	8.2	2,285	8.1	2,543	9.1
Total	41,172	100	41,314	100	28,399	100	27,683	100

(c) DISTRIBUTION OF MORTALITY BY AGE-GROUPS.

Age-Groups	Deaths in 1924		Deaths in 1925	
	Absolute number	Rate per 1,000 persons of the same group	Absolute number	Rate per 1,000 persons of the same group
0 to 1 year	4,152	110.2	4,430	117.6
1 to 4 years	2,183	17.7	2,321	18.8
5 to 9 years	473	4.2	466	4.1
10 to 14 years	459	2.7	513	3.0
15 to 19 years	686	3.8	684	3.8
20 to 24 years	974	5.7	984	5.7
25 to 29 years	781	5.6	834	6.0
30 to 34 years	772	6.2	730	5.8
35 to 39 years	766	6.3	716	5.9
40 to 44 years	906	7.7	819	6.9
35 to 49 years	1,042	9.2	1,039	9.2
50 to 54 years	1,449	13.4	1,359	12.6
55 to 59 years	1,585	18.7	1,462	17.2
60 to 64 years	2,110	25.7	2,057	25.1
65 to 69 years	2,065	37.9	1,969	36.2
70 to 74 years	2,414	59.2	2,208	54.5
75 to 79 years	1,940	88.3	1,919	87.3
80 to 84 years	1,709	156.8	1,503	143.9
85 to 89 years	928			
90 to 94 years	436	239.3	393	207.3
95 to 100 years	178			
100 and over	120	452.8	99	373.6
Age unknown	271	14.2	177	9.3
Total	28,399	15.39	27,683	14.95



(d) DISTRIBUTION OF MORTALITY IN RIGA ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH (1923)¹.

Causes of Death	1923	
	Number of deaths	Rate per cent
1. Tuberculosis	633	16.4
2. Diseases of the circulatory system	635	16.4
3. Acute infectious diseases and septicæmia	301	7.8
4. Diseases of the respiratory organs	342	8.8
5. Cancer and other malignant tumours	454	11.7
6. Diseases of the nervous system	381	9.8
7. Diseases of conformation	395	10.2
8. Diseases of the digestive and genito-urinary organs	323	8.4
9. Violent deaths	145	3.8
10. Suicide	95	2.5
11. Other causes of death and unknown causes	164	4.2
Total	3,868	100

¹ These data are only available for the city of Riga.

(e) DISTRIBUTION OF LIVE BIRTHS ACCORDING TO LEGITIMACY AND CREED IN 1924 AND 1925.

Creed	Live births 1924		Illegitimate births per 100 births	Live births 1925		Illegitimate births per 100 births
	Legitimate	Illegitimate		Legitimate	Illegitimate	
Lutheran	16,693	1,328	7.37	16,760	1,435	7.89
Catholic	12,118	609	4.79	12,310	622	4.81
Greek Orthodox	4,419	282	6.00	4,313	277	6.03
Old Believers	3,320	314	8.64	3,216	323	9.13
Jews	1,804	36	1.96	1,713	41	2.34
Other denominations and unknown	207	42	16.87	208	56	21.22
Total	38,561	2,611	6.34	38,520	2,794	6.76

(f) GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF STILL-BIRTHS IN 1924 AND 1925.

Districts	Number of births	Still-births	Still-birth rate	Number of births	Still-births	Still-birth rate
	1924			1925		
City of Riga.	5,422	144	2.66	5,523	167	3.02
Livonia	6,593	99	1.50	6,755	105	1.56
Courland.	5,937	112	1.89	5,813	114	1.96
Zemgale	5,579	89	1.60	5,816	69	1.19
Latgale	6,894	29	0.42	7,637	28	0.37
Latvia	30,425	473	1.55	31,544	483	1.53

Note.—This table shows only the 30,425 births registered in the offices of the Civil Registry in 1924 and the 31,544 registered in 1925. According to the data of the Statistical Office of the State, the number of live births amounted to 41,172 in 1924 and 41,314 in 1925. This difference is due to the fact that the Catholic clergy still refuses to supply the data required by the Civil Registrars.

4. *Infant Mortality.*

(a) NUMBER OF DEATHS AND RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS 1924-25.

	Number of deaths	Rate per 1,000 births
1924	4,152	100.8
1925	4,430	107.2

(b) DISTRIBUTION BY AGE-GROUPS.

1924	Number of deaths	Rate per 1,000 births	Percentage of mortality
0 to 1 month	1,185	28.8	28.5
1 to 2 months	847	20.6	20.4
3 to 11 months	2,120	51.5	51.1
Total	4,152	100.8	100.0
1925	Number of deaths	Rate per 1,000 births	Percentage of mortality
0 to 1 month	1,249	30.2	28.2
1 to 2 months	889	21.5	20.1
3 to 11 months	2,292	55.5	51.7
Total	4,430	107.2	100.0

(c) SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION 1924-25.

Month	Deaths in 1924		Deaths in 1925	
	Absolute figure	Rate per 100	Absolute figure	Rate per 100
January	330	7.9	372	8.4
February	305	7.3	424	9.6
March	356	8.6	471	10.6
April	311	7.5	366	8.3
May	320	7.7	340	7.7
June	310	7.5	351	7.9
July	335	8.1	460	10.4
August.. .. .	518	12.5	444	10.0
September	416	10.0	326	7.4
October.. .. .	358	8.6	272	6.1
November	297	7.2	281	6.3
December	296	7.1	322	7.3
	4,152	100.0	4,430	100.0

(d) DISTRIBUTION OF INFANT MORTALITY ACCORDING TO LEGITIMACY IN RIGA 1922-25.

Year	Legitimate			Illegitimate			Total		
	Live births	Number of deaths	Rate per 1,000 births	Live births	Infant mortality		Live births	Infant mortality	
					Number of deaths	Rate per 1,000 births		Number of deaths	Rate per 1,000 births
1922	4,294	321	74.76	464	99	213.36	4,758	420	88.28
1923	4,463	291	65.20	544	134	246.32	5,007	425	84.88
1924	4,635	368	79.40	643	200	311.04	5,278	568	107.62
1925	4,655	350	75.19	701	150	213.98	5,356	500	93.35

**(e) INFANT MORTALITY IN RIGA BY AGE-GROUPS AND ACCORDING TO LEGITIMACY
1922-25.**

Age-Group	1922						1923					
	Legitimate children		Illegitimate children		Total		Legitimate children		Illegitimate children		Total	
	Number of deaths	Rate per cent	Number of deaths	Rate per cent	Number of deaths	Rate per cent	Number of deaths	Rate per cent	Number of deaths	Rate per cent	Number of deaths	Rate per cent
0 to 8 days ..	66	20.6	32	32.3	98	23.4	76	26.1	32	23.8	108	25.4
8 to 14 days ..	18	5.6	4	4.1	22	5.2	25	8.3	10	7.5	34	8.0
15 days to 1 month ..	25	7.8	3	3.0	28	6.7	21	7.2	11	8.2	32	7.5
1 month ..	39	12.2	17	17.1	56	13.4	19	6.5	13	9.7	32	7.5
2 months ..	28	8.7	14	14.2	42	10.0	22	7.2	14	10.4	35	8.2
3 months ..	22	6.8	3	3.0	25	5.9	16	5.5	19	14.2	35	8.2
4 months ..	19	5.9	9	9.1	28	6.7	18	6.2	10	7.5	28	6.6
5 months ..	21	6.5	4	4.1	25	5.9	25	8.6	6	4.5	31	7.3
6 months ..	8	2.5	2	2.0	10	2.4	14	4.8	6	4.5	20	4.7
7 months ..	20	6.2	4	4.1	24	5.7	6	2.1	7	5.2	13	3.1
8 months ..	15	4.7	2	2.0	17	4.0	18	6.2	2	1.5	20	4.7
9 months ..	15	4.7	2	2.0	17	4.0	10	3.4	2	1.5	12	2.9
10 months ..	14	4.4	1	1.0	15	3.6	9	3.1	1	0.75	10	2.4
11 months ..	11	3.4	2	2.0	13	3.1	14	4.8	1	0.75	15	3.5
First year ..	321	100.0	99	100.0	420	100.0	291	100.0	134	100.0	425	100.0

Age-Group	1924						1925					
	Legitimate children		Illegitimate children		Total		Legitimate children		Illegitimate children		Total	
	Number of deaths	Rate per cent	Number of deaths	Rate per cent	Number of deaths	Rate per cent	Number of deaths	Rate per cent	Number of deaths	Rate per cent	Number of deaths	Rate per cent
0 to 8 days ..	82	22.3	29	14.5	111	19.5	94	26.9	29	19.3	123	24.6
8 to 14 days ..	18	4.9	6	3.0	24	4.2	23	6.6	3	2.0	26	5.6
15 days to 1 month ..	23	6.3	11	5.5	34	6.0	25	7.1	12	8.0	37	7.4
1 month ..	30	8.2	22	11.0	52	9.2	31	8.9	16	10.7	47	9.4
2 months ..	27	7.3	30	15.0	57	10.0	23	6.6	15	10.0	38	7.6
3 months ..	25	6.8	25	12.5	50	8.8	21	6.0	9	6.0	30	6.0
4 months ..	21	5.7	10	5.0	31	5.5	15	4.3	16	10.7	31	6.2
5 months ..	16	4.3	12	6.0	28	4.9	26	7.4	5	3.3	31	6.2
6 months ..	29	7.9	15	7.5	44	7.8	18	5.1	11	7.3	29	5.8
7 months ..	24	6.5	13	6.5	37	6.5	15	4.3	13	8.7	28	5.6
8 months ..	18	4.9	7	3.5	25	4.4	16	4.6	7	4.7	23	4.6
9 months ..	17	4.6	8	4.0	25	4.4	13	3.7	5	3.3	18	3.6
10 months ..	18	4.9	6	3.0	24	4.2	13	3.7	5	3.3	18	3.6
11 months ..	20	5.4	6	3.0	26	4.6	17	4.8	4	2.7	21	4.2
First year ..	368	100.0	200	100.0	568	100.0	350	100.0	150	100.0	500	100.0

(f) SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF INFANT MORTALITY IN RIGA 1922-25.

	Infant Mortality							
	1922		1925		1924		1923	
	Number of deaths	Rate per cent	Number of deaths	Rate per cent	Number of deaths	Rate per cent	Number of deaths	Rate per cent
January	35	8.4	36	8.5	48	8.5	44	8.8
February	39	9.3	30	7.2	54	9.5	43	8.6
March	39	9.3	43	10.1	35	6.2	47	9.4
April	46	10.9	42	9.9	47	8.3	38	7.6
May	37	8.8	34	8.0	38	6.6	46	9.2
June	32	7.5	25	5.9	52	9.1	41	8.2
July	38	9.1	36	8.5	69	12.1	47	9.4
August	38	9.1	41	9.6	64	11.3	48	9.6
September	36	8.6	31	7.2	27	4.7	32	6.4
October	26	6.2	42	9.9	48	8.5	35	7.0
November	24	5.7	33	7.8	47	8.3	36	7.2
December	30	7.1	32	7.5	39	6.9	43	8.6
Total	429	100.0	425	100.0	568	100.0	500	100.0

(g) DISTRIBUTION OF INFANT MORTALITY IN RIGA ACCORDING TO LEGITIMACY AND THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH 1922-25.

Causes of Death	Infant Mortality							
	Legitimate children	Illegitimate children	Total	Rate per cent	Legitimate children	Illegitimate children	Total	Rate per cent
	1922				1923			
1. Debility and congenital deformities	73	26	99	23.6	84	40	124	29.2
2. Diseases of the respiratory organs . . .	60	15	75	17.9	50	25	75	17.6
3. Diarrhœa and enteritis.	39	14	53	12.6	39	16	55	12.9
4. Diseases of the nervous system	21	4	25	6.0	22	5	27	6.4
5. Meningitis (except tubercular meningitis)	16	2	18	4.3	21	2	23	5.4
6. Tuberculosis	14	2	16	3.8	17	8	25	5.9
7. Acute epidemic diseases, including congenital syphilis and septicæmia	28	7	35	8.3	12	8	20	4.7
8. Other diseases	13	4	17	4.0	11	6	17	4.0
9. Violent death and starvation	3	13	16	3.8	3	11	14	3.3
10. Unknown or unascertained causes . . .	54	12	66	15.7	32	13	45	10.6
Total	321	99	420	100.0	291	134	425	100.0

(g) DISTRIBUTION OF INFANT MORTALITY IN RIGA ACCORDING TO LEGITIMACY AND THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH 1922-25 (continued).

Causes of Death	Infant Mortality							
	Legitimate children	Illegitimate children	Total	Rate per cent	Legitimate children	Illegitimate children	Total	Rate per cent
	1924				1925			
1. Debility and congenital deformities			143	25.2			113	22.6
2. Diseases of the respiratory organs . .			113	19.9			72	14.4
3. Diarrhoea and enteritis			92	16.2			79	15.8
4. Diseases of the nervous system			30	5.3			42	8.4
5. Meningitis (except tubercular meningitis)			27	4.7			25	5.0
6. Tuberculosis			35	6.2			24	4.8
7. Acute epidemic diseases, including congenital syphilis and septicæmia			66	11.6			66	13.2
8. Other diseases			21	3.7			36	7.2
9. Violent death and starvation			8	1.4			4	0.8
10. Unknown or unascertained causes . .			33	5.8			39	7.8
Total			568	100.0			500	100.0

5. Budget.

	Lats ¹
General Budget for the fiscal year 1925-26	160,949,256
Budget of the Ministry of Social Welfare	9,464,798
Veterinary service	298,511
Medical service of State railways	437,834
Principal items in Health Budget :	
Salaries, upkeep of offices and laboratories, etc.	484,754
Repairs to buildings and new constructions	6,574
Upkeep of State hospitals and repairs to hospitals	1,520,332
Upkeep of quarantine station of Liépaja (Libau)	11,517
Campaign against rabies	2,500
Campaign against venereal diseases	1,000
Campaign against infectious diseases	5,000
Subsidy to the Anti-Tuberculosis Society	4,000
Subsidy to the Association for Mother and Child Welfare	7,000
Pensions to disabled soldiers and their families	2,466,000
Pensions of officials and army pensions, etc.	76,000
Subsidies to the sick benefit clubs (2 per cent of salary)	2,745,600
Medical attendance of State officials	556,600
Upkeep of infants and children's homes	389,340
Institutions for the blind	102,479
Installation of sanatorium for tuberculous officials	200,000

¹ One lat equals one Swiss franc.

II. RECENT REFORMS IN HEALTH ADMINISTRATION AND LEGISLATION.

1. *Organisation of the Public Health Service* (see graph on the following page).
2. *Principal Laws and Regulations enacted in 1925.*

Instructions regarding compulsory vaccination against smallpox (January 23rd).
Regulation regarding the installation and service of private clinics (January 23rd).
Sanitary regulations regarding the cleaning of streets and open spaces in the Riga district (June 23rd).

Instructions concerning the export of cattle abroad (January 5th).

Instructions for the application of the law for the campaign against alcoholism (April 20th).

Regulations concerning the declaration of infectious diseases (August 3rd).

Law regarding the amalgamation of the Department of Public Health with the Ministry of Social Welfare (August 8th).

Decree regarding the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease.

Decree regarding the duties of the police in the campaign against foot-and-mouth disease and the declaration of cases of this disease (November 7th).

Prohibition of importation of horses, of large and small cattle and of provender from Lithuania on account of foot-and-mouth disease (November 7th).

Ratification of the Health Convention concluded on July 7th, 1922, between Latvia and Poland (May 5th).

Entry into force of the Protocol regarding veterinary traffic between Latvia and Czechoslovakia (June 25th).

III. EPIDEMIC AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES ¹.

Typhus fever : 96 cases reported. As in the previous year, the majority of these cases were noted near the Russian and Lithuanian frontiers and at Riga. In 1924 : 290 cases.

Relapsing fever : 997 cases reported (405 at Riga). In 1924 : 1,547 cases (608 at Riga).

Dysentery : 150 cases. In 1924 : 276 cases.

Diphtheria : 665 cases. In 1924 : 594 cases.

Whooping-cough : 919 cases. In 1924, 495 cases.

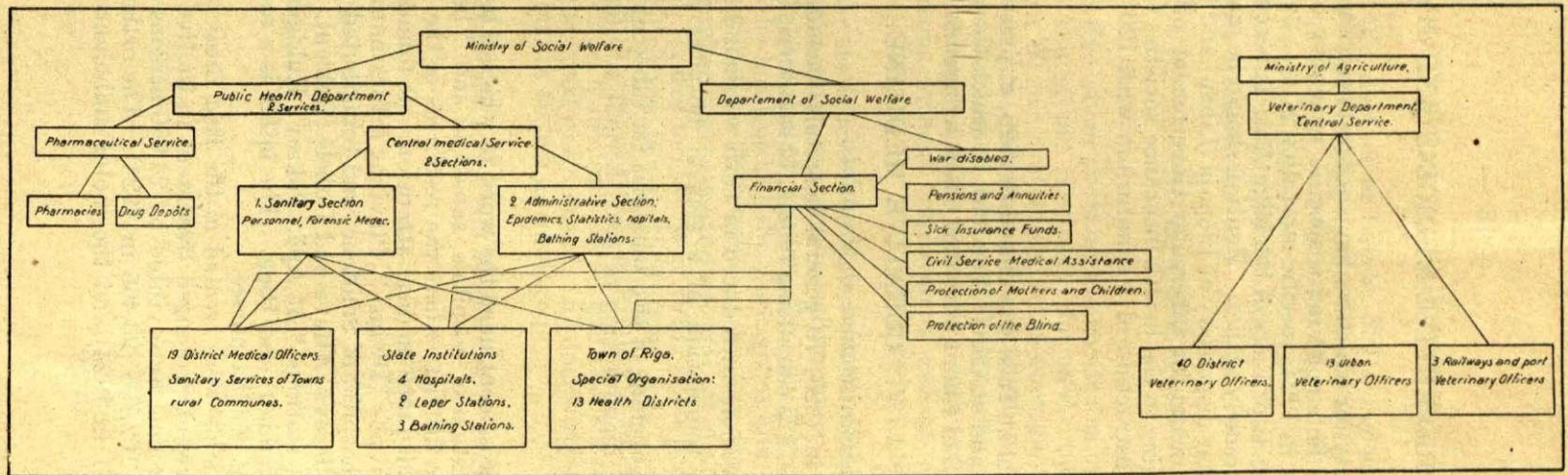
Scarlet fever : 2,767 cases reported. In 1924 : 1,450 cases.

Smallpox.—Thanks to compulsory vaccination, which is very strictly enforced, only 17 cases of smallpox have been observed, the majority in Latgale, in districts close to the Russian frontier.

Rabies shows no decrease. Three hundred and seventy persons suffering from suspected bites underwent anti-rabies treatment at the Pasteur Institute at Riga.

¹ A table showing the number of cases of notifiable diseases reported in Latvia in 1925 is to be found in *Epidemiological Intelligence*, No. 10, page 132.

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IV. PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND HYGIENE.

1. *Tuberculosis.*

At Riga, the only city for which we have accurate statistical data, 730 deaths from tuberculosis have been noted, giving a specific mortality of 21.5 per ten thousand inhabitants (690 deaths in 1924, specific mortality 21.4).

The anti-tubercular dispensary of the Riga Anti-Tuberculosis Society and all the sanatoria have been extremely active. Mention should be made of the opening in 1925 of the new anti-tubercular dispensary at Liépaja (Libau) and the opening at the beginning of 1926 of a sanatorium for tubercular Government officials at Weidomen, and of a sanatorium belonging to the health insurance societies at Predaine. The city of Riga has begun the construction of a sanatorium with 120 beds at Bickerniki (near Riga).

2. *Leprosy.*

As the leper hospital at Talsi was closed in 1925, at present there only remain the leper hospitals at Riga and at Cēsis (Wenden), in which there were, at the end of the year 1925, 198 lepers, 13 of whom were new cases (as against 215 in 1924).

V. CURATIVE MEDICINE.

1. *Organisation and Administration of Hospitals.*

Latvia contained, in 1925, 79 general hospitals, including four lunatic asylums maintained by the State, 125 consulting rooms, 12 sanatoria, four thermal stations and two leper hospitals.

Amongst the innovations introduced in 1925 we should mention :

- (a) The foundation of a general hospital at Riga for the Jewish community ;
- (b) The opening of two sanatoria for tuberculosis ;
- (c) The inauguration of two thermal stations at Kandava (Kandau) and at Baté.

2. *The Red Cross.*

In 1925, the Red Cross continued the work to which it has devoted itself since its foundation—the installation of hospitals, sanatoria and “ health stations ” (consulting rooms), especially in districts where the resources of the State or communes were insufficient to supply adequate medical attention. It founded six hospitals at Riga, Jelgava (Mitau), Daugavpils (Dvinsk), Plavinas (Stockmannshof), Irlava and Ergli, and quite recently the hospital of Smiltene, and contributed to the installation of the communal hospitals of Jecava, Atlava and Dobelē (Doblen). In 1925, it also inaugurated six new “ health stations ” at Apé, Pokrov, Kuldīga (Goldingen), Ventspils (Windau), Kandava (Kandau) and Riga. The latter is a model consulting-room for the technical training of district nurses.

In 1925, 5,902 patients were treated in the Red Cross hospitals (4,928 in 1924), and 838 patients underwent prolonged treatment in its five sanatoria (637 in 1924). The eleven consulting-rooms were visited by 24,960 persons (24,500 in 1924) and the “ health stations ” by 102,735 (93,466 in 1924). The orthopædic workshops made 646 artificial limbs (581 in 1924) and the motor ambulances carried 2,595 patients (1,924 in 1924).

VI. HEALTH PERSONNEL.

In 1925, there were 951 doctors in Latvia, 557 being at Riga ; that is to say, there were 5.2 doctors per 10,000 inhabitants, or 1 to 1,939 for the whole country, and 16.46 doctors per 10,000 inhabitants, or 1 to 610 at Riga. Their distribution over the country is therefore somewhat unequal.

There were 519 dentists, including 345 at Riga ; 885 midwives, including 388 at Riga ; 185 assistant doctors (*feldschers*).

VII. GENERAL QUESTIONS.

1. Unemployment.

Latvia now possesses five labour exchanges in the towns of Riga, Jelgava (Mitau), Ventspils (Windau) and Daugavpils (Dvinsk), the most important of which is that of Riga, where more than 60 per cent of the total unemployed are registered. The Statistical Bureau of Riga has undertaken to establish a distinction between the unemployed properly so-called—that is to say, skilled artisans out of work—and the numerous persons who, although totally unfamiliar with industrial labour (domestic servants, educated persons without employment seeking any position, unskilled workers and apprentices), have so far been registered as unemployed in the labour exchanges.

Up to the present, the statistics of the labour exchanges give the number of applications for work but not the number of persons without work, and as it often happens that the same person is registered in the exchange five, six or even ten times per month—that is to say, whenever he has finished the work given him—these statistics are far from giving an accurate idea of the situation, whence the necessity of adopting statistics based on the number of persons and not on that of applications for work.

A comparison of the figures for the year 1924, published in the previous Year-Book, with those obtained by this new method shows that the number of unemployed is far less disquieting than the earlier statistics led one to suppose. In 1925, the total hardly exceeded 2,000, while if unemployment had reached the same proportions in Latvia as in Germany (2,000,000 unemployed, *i.e.*, one thirty-third of the population) there would be from 50,000 to 60,000 unemployed.

Number of Unemployed Industrial Workers at Riga, 1924 and 1925.

	1924		1925
	Old method	New method	New method
January.. .. .	3,717	1,404	1,706
February	2,783	1,450	2,153
March	3,183	1,220	1,692
April	2,408	1,371	1,485
May	1,794	835	1,283
June	1,102	496	650
July	1,079	403	680
August	1,053	289	430
September	1,181	296	496
October.. .. .	1,563	354	486
November	2,186	650	910
December	2,277	1,082	1,532

However, there has been a certain increase in unemployment in 1925. The monthly average from May 1st to October 1st, 1925, was 671 unemployed as against 447 in 1924, which represents a 50 per cent increase. From January 1st to April 1st, 1925, this average was 1,759 unemployed as against 1,356 during the corresponding period of 1924, giving an increase of 30 per cent. During the months of November and December 1925, this increase amounted to 41 per cent.

Public works have been undertaken to relieve the unemployed. In 1925, the municipality of Riga employed 4,569 and the State 2,268.

2. *Cost of Living.*

The cost of living at Riga has not changed materially. The index figures in lats calculated according to the method indicated in the previous Year-Book are as follows :

	1925	1926		1925		1925
January	131.53	138.21	May	141.88	September	132.40
February	140.84	140.56	June	139.27	October	126.63
March	143.12	141.03	July	140.33	November	126.20
April	137.79	136.76	August	134.72	December	131.77

VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY.

In addition to the works mentioned under the same heading in the Year-Book for 1924, the reader should consult the following publications :

1. *Statistical Year-Book of Latvia, 1924.* Published by the Government Statistical Bureau, Riga, 1925 (Tables with French text).
2. *Statistical Year-Book of the City of Riga, 1923-24.* Published by the Statistical Bureau of the City of Riga, 1926 (Latvian and French).
3. *Second Census of the Population of Latvia taken on February 10th, 1925,* edited by M. Skujeniēks. Published by the Government Statistical Bureau, Riga. Sections I, II, III, IV and V, 1925-26 (Tables with Latvian and French texts).
4. *Latvian Red Cross Review, 1925* (in Latvian).

July 1926.
