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No. 55.

BRITISH GUIANA.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1891.

(For Report for 1890 see Colonial Report [Annual] No. 25.)

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1893.

LEPER ASYLUMS.

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There were 371 inmates (288 males and 83 females), in the leper asylums of the Colony on the 31st December, 1891, classified as 156 Natives, 23 Islanders, 16 Africans, 146 East Indians, 6 Chinese, and 24 Portuguese.

During the year, 99 patients were admitted (75 males and 24 females), and 11 re-admitted; the admissions being 31 in excess of those of the previous year. The death roll numbered 62.

The daily average number of patients employed at agriculture and gardening was 67, at various trades 7, and at household work 120.

The following table gives the inmates classified under the different phases of the disease, omitting 9 children who are not leprous, but who are in the institution with their mothers:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Anæthetic - - - - -	174	49	223
Jutercular - - - - -	59	15	74
Mixed - - - - -	55	10	65
	288	74	362

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPH.

With the development of the country the Postal Department keeps pace. There were, on the 31st December, 61 post offices in the Colony. Of these 37 were telegraph offices, 26 money order offices, and 10 savings banks. Ten years ago there were 49 post offices of which 15 were money order offices.

The estimated number of letters, newspapers, and books posted, was 1,547,565, being an increase of over 15,000 on the estimated number for the previous year. The correspondence with the outer world continues to increase. 1,854 bags of mail matter were received during the year, and 1,448 bags despatched by the Royal Mail Steamers, compared with 1,355 bags and 575 bags respectively in the previous year.

The inland money order business increased from 18,212*l.* in 1890 to 19,157*l.* in 1891. There was a falling off, on the other hand, in the money order service with the United Kingdom, from 47,582*l.* in 1890 to 41,361*l.* in 1891, and in the service to the West India Islands of 479*l.*, the several sums remitted to these islands amounting to 6,017*l.*

The parcels by the parcel post, received and despatched, increased by 448 and 268 to 5,538 and 1,334 respectively.

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The length of the telegraph lines throughout the Colony is 260 miles approximately, and during the year 75,429 messages were transmitted over them. The Telephone Exchange in Georgetown consists of a 200-wire switch board, with 189 miles of wire, the longest wire being 15 miles, connecting one of the sugar estates with the Telephone Exchange. Within a radius of $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles of the Exchange the annual rental for business premises is 5*l.*, and for private residences 2*l.* 10*s.*

For the twelvemonths the revenue of the Post Office was:—

	£	s.	d.
Sale of stamps, &c. - - -	7,957	3	0
Commission on money orders - - -	607	10	8
Receipts in telegraph branch - - -	3,534	11	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
	<u>£12,099</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

a decrease of 104*l.* on the revenue of the previous year.

The expenditure amounted to 23,516*l.* 2*s.* 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* made up of

	£	s.	d.
Salaries of the department - - -	10,359	3	11
General expenses - - -	2,015	14	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
Conveyance of mails under contract - - -	8,678	4	8
Renewals and extension of telegraph lines	2,462	19	1
	<u>£23,516</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5$\frac{1}{2}$</u>

an increase of 2,852*l.* on the expenditure of the year 1890, mainly due to the renewals and extension of the telegraph lines.

With regard to the item of conveyance of mails under contract, this provides also, in most cases, a stage coach for the convenience of the travelling public, but a far more inexpensive service would answer for the conveyance of mail matter alone, so that in considering the figures a large credit should be allowed this item.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

The rain-fall for the year, as recorded at the Botanic Gardens, was 100·60 inches: the rain-fall for 1890 was 122·68.

The heaviest rain-fall for any one month was 32·38 inches in the month of December, when 5·90 inches fell on the 3rd; the lowest rain-fall was in July, 0·01 of an inch recorded.

The longest duration of sunshine was recorded in August when the sun was visible for 9 hours and 4 minutes, and the shortest in December, 4 hours and 6 minutes.

The following table gives the mean readings per diem of the barometer, thermometer, wind gauge and sun recorder, with the actual rain-fall for each month throughout the year:—