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M E D I C A L H I S T O R Y

BAHRAIN HEALTH SERVICES

1925 - 1965

GOVERNMENT OF BAHRAIN

MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

HISTORY

BAHRAIN GOVERNMENT PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

(1925 - 1965)

PERIOD BEFORE HOSPITALS. 1925 - 1940.

Outside the Government two hospitals existed:-

- (1) American Mission with 110 beds, and
- (2) Victoria Memorial with 10 beds, both from 1900.

The latter was run by a Govt. of India doctor, who was also Quarantine M.O. - Doctor Holmes; with a Quarantine Station opposite R.A.F. Jetty till 1929, and then switched to Fort bu Maher Island, off Muharraq; still existing.

Later, Bapco built their own hospital in the mid-1930s.

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- 1925 First Government doctor, Bhandarkar, appointed for Muharraq dispensary, situated in a shop: gave 30 years service. Also in charge of Hospital Launch for 25,000 pearl divers and crews, and which cruised monthly before returning to port for further supplies.
- 1931 Trained Indian Midwife for Muharraq.
- 1933 Trained Indian Midwife for Manama.
- 1927 - Baladiya filling in all swamps in Qazabiya and South
1936 Manama with rubbish, sand, and later oiling.
- 1936 Suk-ul-Khamis Dispensary built, still in use.
Dr. Lakra appointed.
- 1937 Baladiya Clinic and house nearby for maternity Inpatients
South East Manama.
Also a new Clinic South Naim, and for isolation women
Inpatients.
Child Welfare Clinic at Fort.
A Clinic at Hedd under Behzad.
Total all Clinics - 6.

- 1937 Plan for hospital for men and women, 120 beds. Site chosen on Naim sea shore, bought from Qosaibi brothers, and reclamation started.
Malaria Survey carried out by Major Afridi I.M.S. from Malaria Institute, Delhi.
- 1938 Hospital building commenced.
School examinations started.
Dr. Davenport Jones appointed as first State Medical Officer.
Malaria Report received:
- (a) Showed 20% incidence and Spleen rate: 15% Manama 5.5% Muharraq and 70% villages.
 - (b) Chief dangers - house wells and jars, gardens and swamps.
 - (c) Measures - Oil and Parisgreen, Town water supply, drainage, filling, and fish (Asphania Dispar).
 - (d) Malaria vector - A.Stephensi - common throughout the Gulf. Also proved in Muscat in a 1916 survey.
 - (e) Worst areas Manama - Naim and the Fort. Worst outside - Sanad and Sitra.
- 1939 Dr. McDowall D.P.H., M.R.C.O.G. appointed as Senior Lady Medical Officer.
Miss Harbottle as Matron.
Total staff 30, with 4 doctors. Budget B.D.13,600.
New hospital first block with main outpatients opened for use.
Naim Clinic Hospital now used for Police only.
Clinics expanded to Badaya, Karazahan, Sitra and Rifa'a.
84 confinements, with 79 having Atresia.
Anti-Malaria Committee formed from Baladiya with Political Agent and Adviser.
Three Indian experts sent to launch the campaign.
Artesian well circuit started in Manama with three wash houses.
- 1940 Dr. Snow replaced Dr. Davenport Jones.
In May - Women's section of Hospital opened by Shaikha Ayesha.
In June - first 2 wards men's hospital taken over, and remainder by end of year.
8 Indian nurses enlisted, with 3 arrived.
Total staff 62. First major operations commenced.

1940
(Contd.)

Police Hospital changed for T.B. and V.D. for isolation purposes.

Two Health Visitors for Manama and Muharraq.

One home-made Ambulance - total transport.

Air Raid Precautions scheme, because of October Italian abortive air raid, on Refinery.

Heavy rains caused severe, abnormal total flooding of Manama for weeks.

SUMMARY FIRST 15 YEARS:

All work was among outpatients, with clinics expanding to main villages, including a Pearl Diving seaborne Clinic.

No major epidemics, but Smallpox annually endemic, and vaccination becoming slowly accepted. Original Vaccinator, an Arab Hakim of the East Coast of Bahrain who inoculated straight from the cow, as Jenner did in England. Scarring from Smallpox noted in 22% of town schools, and 50% in villages.

Patients sometimes went by launch to B.I. ship's doctors.

Chief Diseases were Malaria and Trachoma, which were rampant, causing death in the former and blindness in the latter. Amoebic Dysentery - prevalent, also anaemia and all stages of Venereal Disease. Atresia was practically in all women after the first child, and has now died out.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis was fairly high average in incidence.

The island of Sitra was notorious for disease. Pearl divers suffered chiefly from transient lung congestion and tympanic membrane trauma.

In 1925 a cyclone caused untold destruction of the pearling fleet, with a loss, conservatively estimated, of 5,000 out of 25,000.

THE NEXT 25 YEARS.

1941 - 1965

1941

Staff augmented to 17 trained Indian nurses and 4 Indian doctors.

Last block of hospital nearing completion, and new laboratory and X-ray in action.

Epidemic of smallpox from Muharrar, August to December, with patients camped in the Quarantine Station.

Male school doctor appointed.

A second Bagdad trained Bahraini nurse (Fatima Zayani) appointed. Now an Assistant Matron.

Malaria ~~Severe~~ due to the 1940 floods.
Government price control of foodstuffs.

First Census 89,970.

1942

Death of Shaikh Hamad, the Ruler, on February 20th at Romaitha, from Cerebral Thrombosis complicated by Diabetes.

A.R.P. measures intensified with "black-outs" and rationing.

Purchase of foodstuffs from World markets centralised in the Government, owing to food shortage and some village starvation.

British and Indian troops installed for the first time, and 25 inpatient beds were allotted for their medical care, commencing in June. 120 were admitted that year, chiefly for heat exhaustion, Jaundice and Malaria.

Despite warnings, British gunner camps established round the Refinery in the worst malaria area and in the Autumn malignant sub-tertian season. Although a large anti-malaria staff of 200, mostly Government, in action, the malaria toll was 14% out of 350 men, with cerebral forms and one death.

Later the camps moved further South.

The Government Hospital liaised with R.A.F. Medical H.Q. Habaniyah, who supplemented our staff with one doctor and 4 sisters.

It was fortunate the hospital was fully completed by May (Total cost B.D.70,000.)

Dr. Doeg replaced Dr. McDowall as in charge of the Women's Hospital, and stayed for 18 years. An Assistant Matron also appointed.

Anti-malaria drainage and filling schemes continued, and house well closure.

Child Welfare, Health visiting and Maternity now well appreciated.

1943

Strict Rationing. Basic food wheat, barley, cereals, dates, sugar and limited meat - often goat. Rice very scarce.

Starvation with concomitant diseases serious April-June only, and mostly relieved by November. Deaths from this small, compared to the Trucial Coast. Food distribution Centres established.

Epidemics. Smallpox negligible. Typhus feared from South Iran ? via Russia, but only one case diagnosed.

Malaria control taking effect, with good reduction.

Quinine stocks were built up in 1940, to be sufficient for 5 years.

Malnutrition oedema and starvation cases admitted were 70, with 21 deaths, representing only a percentage of the total.

Girls schools medical work increased.

Heat exhaustion and hyperpyrexia always a serious menace. among foreigners, chiefly ships and the Services. Air conditioning extremely limited, and practically non-existent in Manama.

Dhobie Ghat erected on North East boundary land of hospital.

1944

The first Matron, Miss Harbottle, resigned to be married.

Miss Maguire enlisted as Sister Tutor, and Miss Ellson as Acting Matron.

Experimental trachoma clinic tried out on hostel boys.

A small outbreak of smallpox. Venereal disease increase to 1,194. Malaria reduced 50% from 1940, and R.A.F. took over own control.

Ophthalmia still the leading outpatient disease.

Public Health plans for after the war.

Good improvement in nutrition of the population.

1945

General public health measures and inoculations now accepted, and not considered of doubtful value.

Prejudice overcome. Smallpox reached its lowest annual figure of 14, and Dysentery, a major disease, is declining.

The 'Services' inpatient scheme to terminate in January 1946, and 1,330 inpatients were treated. The R.A.F. will have their own hospital.

Miss Maguire appointed as Acting Matron.

Expenditure Budget 1941 B.D.24,200: 1945 B.D.45,300.

1946

Miss Adamson appointed Matron, and succeeded by Miss Maguire.

A Public Health and Welfare Committee set up, composed of Heads of hospitals, education and Baladiyas, to study - Maternity and Infant Welfare, Sanitation, Town Cleanliness, Trachoma and V.D., T.B. and Leprosy, etc.

Bahrain Medical Society established, meeting in all three hospitals.

Sir Henry Holland, eye specialist, came and operated for ten days.

Two private wards were added to the Men's Hospital.

Rationing and Price Control continued.

Penicillin and D.D.T. introduced, by priority concession 1945.

1947

Miss Millson appointed as Theatre Sister and Miss Allsop to Supervise the Women's Hospital.

Dr. Mary Abraham enlisted as the first Indian Lady Doctor.

Shaikha Ayesha's house Muharraq converted into a 16-bed Maternity Hospital, and daily dispensary.

New East Rifa'a Women's Dispensary converted from a house.

Malaria reduced to 7% and D.D.T. spraying commenced.

Trachoma survey showed a higher incidence in villages, and in first decade of life.

Health Committee decisions for - An untrained supervised midwives scheme.

A maternity film to discourage Atresia (now died out);

six Manama town latrines (so abused had to be closed); and markets' renovation and control.

Price Control on almost all goods lifted.

1948

An appeal to Bahrain to consider training for indigenous doctors and nurses.

First English Health Visitor installed, chiefly for local midwife training.

Cholera, feared from the Egypt epidemic, kept from Bahrain.

In the second year, no smallpox, but a short, sharp increase of Typhoid.

Dr. Sayed Ahmad appointed as Medical Officer, and is now a permanent Bahraini citizen of distinction.

Imported malaria from dhows with breeding in water tanks a problem.

Total cost of malaria control B.D.7990/- = £6,000.

Venereal Disease. Over 200 all stages in Isolation Hospital, and 1,287 Outpatients. H.H. and Belgrave with all Heads of hospitals launched a compulsory free treatment scheme, and deportation of some numbers of foreign prostitutes; successful response. Total under control about 650

Increasing influx of patients from surrounding countries cramping the hospital, particularly for ophthalmia.

1948
(Contd.)

Municipal Lunatic Asylum incorporated into the Medical Department to become a mental hospital of 14 beds. A mental trained Indian nurse installed, the buildings refurbished and the 19th century atmosphere abolished. (The same nurse, now Asst. Matron there, controls 120 beds.)

The Bahrain Medical Society held its first Arabian Gulf Medical Congress with 18 outside doctors attending.

Quarantine brought into line with W.H.O. requirements. A Clinic was opened for Sitra port, and a Health Inspector for Airport.

Auspices now under H.M.G., having reverted from Govt. of India.

Lt.Col. Moody, F.R.C.S. from I.M.S. was appointed Chief Quarantine M.O. Arabian Gulf to set up modern Quarantine Stations.

Major Grant I.M.S. apptd. to Bahrain in place of Capt. Steele I.M.D.

The Victoria Memorial Hospital was closed except for Outpatients.

1949

First expansion of buildings since 1942.

- 1) Ground floor 4 male private ward block on dhobie site.
- 2) New Dhobie Ghat in S.W. Mental Hospital grounds.
- 3) Ground floor 6-room block for male T.B. West of Mental Hospital.
- 4) Block of 18 beds for Women's T.B. built west of Male Isolation Hospital.
- 5) Block of 3 floors on N.E. Hospital sea road for 14 staff.
- 6) British Sisters 2-floor block erected S.W. of Men's Hospital.
- 7) Modern Laboratory on roof of operating theatre block.
- 8) Kitchens for main hospital, and also for Mental.
- 9) Hedd Women's Hosp. and Clinic converted from a house. (3 beds.)

Manama Town Water Supply opened, greatly aiding anti-malaria.

Chloromycetin. First stocks arrived, some donated by Yousuf al Moayyed. Five Typhoids, one moribund, immediately treated, and all were cured.

Rationing still retained. Alcohol liquor infiltration being noted.

Sharp burst of Smallpox in Hora, from S.Arabia. 22,000 vaccinated, and 81 cases admitted to Quarantine Island, with 5 deaths only.

Apart from Muharraq, village visiting dispensaries only in Hidd, Sitra, the Rifa'as and Suk-ul-Khamis.

Schools Girls only, and boys attend Hospital or clinics.

Quarantine H.M.G. still consolidating measures before handing over to B.Govt.

Port Health Office established Manama pier, and Marine Airport closed.

B. Govt. took over charge of Quarantine Island.

Persian Gulf Med. Soc. 2nd Congress held in Kuwait, with 13 outside doctors.

1950

2nd Census 109,650. showed an increase of 23%.
Smallpox from 1949 took 8 months to eradicate.
Venereal Disease declining.

New drugs on trial - Gammexane, Sulphetrone and Streptomycine.

T.I.F.A. insecticidal fog machine bought on trial for mosquitoes and flies.

Two Air France crash disasters in the sea off Sitra, with 83 deaths by drowning, and 13 survivors resuscitated. Quarantine now fully under Bahrain Govt. with Major Grant I.M.S. as Quarantine Medical Officer in Charge.

First 2 Bahraini A.U.B., B.A. graduates.

Iraq B.M.A. Meeting revived, and now to be called B.M.A. Middle East Branch.

First floor added to Men's Private block.

1951

Public Health Building started, with flat first floor for Q.M.O.

Mental Hospital pulled down and rebuilt larger for 30 beds for men and women.

Men's T.B. Isolation block had one floor added to make 13 rooms.

Streptomycin and P.A.S. adopted as routine T.B. treatment.

Serious advanced disease sent to Miraj Sanatorium in India at State aided expense, and from other charities.

T.I.F.A. machines increased to five, reducing mosquito breeding in towns and environs by 300%.

Also successful with fly control, thereby reducing Dysentery incidence.

Third P.G.M.S. Congress held in Bahrain with 30 outside doctors.

Opening ceremony presided by H.H., the P.R., and Belgrave in the Bab al Bahrain Council Chamber.

No Smallpox reported, but exceptional hot summer for three months with many heat exhaustion patients from ships, and 28 Bahraini Arabs, of which 5 died, which was very unusual.

1952

Health Services divided into .-

Medical - Hospitals and Dispensaries.

Public Health - for preventative medical measures. Both to continue under the same administration as heretofore.

Dr. Grant, formerly Quarantine M.O. was instituted as M.O.H. in charge of Public Health, which now embraced - Port and Quarantine: Anti-Malaria: Sanitation and Hygiene: and Boys' Schools.

The 1939 first Malaria Supervisor retired, replaced by Mr. Hanvey.

Three out of four Ports have health offices.

Exception-Muharraq town.

Seven T.I.F.A. machines in operation, spraying and fogging Manama and Muharraq twice a month.

Malaria reduced from 6 to 2.8%.

No Smallpox seen since 1949.

1952
(Contd.)

Mecca Pilgrims. Returning Mecca Pilgrims staying in Bahrain in transit awaiting ships raises an increasing health problem of accommodation for 1500-2000.

Dr. Holm, Head of T.B. Section W.H.O. surveyed Bahrain for T.B. control, proposing a Chest Clinic, Hospital of 50 beds and mass B.C.G.

Outlying Medical work. In addition to Muharraq and Hidd, both Rifa'as, Suk-ul-Khamis, A'ali, Sitra and Karazakan. An Indian doctor, resident in Rifa'a West, was also responsible for the last 3 villages.

Mr. Wilkins F.R.C.S. first surgical specialist apptd.

Miss Morrissey first Asst. Matron, and Dr. Crowden as M.O. for general medicine, anaesthetics and T.B. Plans and ideas for a separate new Women's Hospital discussed.

Karazakan dispensary built, and also East Rifa'a.

1953

Mr. Havey enlisted as Supt. Radiographer, and the old X-Ray machine replaced by a Watson. Anaesthetic machines brought up to date, and the first E.C.G. unit installed.

An ante-natal clinic started for Manama.

New Markets in Qosaibiya built, but not appreciated.

Public Health progress. Dr. Mathew enlisted as Port Health M.O.

Dr. Mustafa to restart a Boys' school Medical Service.

Mr. Burgin replaced Hanvey as Public Health Inspector.

Anti-malaria extended to embrace the remainder of Bahrain, with Bapco doing their own sphere of operations. Residual spraying of houses in town and villages started. No Smallpox reported.

1954

Gregorian calendar year adopted.

T.B. The W.H.O. survey scheme, involving a team of experts, too expensive to implement. An amended plan put into operation, and the Chest Clinic built West of the Mental Hospital. An R.4. Watson X-Ray installed, and also a laboratory. This the first phase.

Meanwhile, until the Sanatorium was built, a 16-bed block for male T.B. was added to the original Isolation hospital.

New Women's Hospital commenced November, after 4 years of planning and discussions.

Dr. Shannon recruited as an Assistant to Dr. Doeg, Senior L.M.O.

Mobile Dispensary donated by Bapco.

Persian Gulf Medical Congress was the third to be held in Bahrain. H.H. The Ruler presided at the opening, and lent his new Palace for the meetings.

60 delegates attended, including a W.H.O. T.B. expert. Medical Residential block for 13 British Sisters and two flats for doctors built on the main road West of Public Health.

Sister Weymes, Senior Health Visitor recruited to start a Child Welfare Dept.

1954
(Contd.)

Ophthalmia, the most predominating disease, has improved to the extent of being second to respiratory disease. The latter usually heads the list in world statistics. Public Health. Again no Smallpox or other epidemics. Health education is stressed as vital.

Main Markets, Manama. Vegetable and fruit markets rebuilt by H.H. with residential first floors.

From 1938 they were open sheds, becoming deplorably unhygienic.

Before 1938 they were a series of barasti huts, which fortunately were destroyed by fire.

1955

New vegetable and fruit markets rebuilt in Muharraq, of open shed design.

New markets similarly constructed for Suk-ul-Khamis. Consultant Engineer's Sewerage project turned down financially.

A start was made by P.W.D. in Ras-ul-Raman B.O.A.C. area and South Jufair road by Power House, with two successful main drains.

London Specialists. Two out of four distinguished medical experts visiting Bahrain were-Duke Elder promoting the planned St. John's Jordan Ophthalmic Hospital, with trachoma research laboratory, & Mackenzie of Min. of Health and U.K. W.H.O. chief delegate, gave valuable public health advice.

Blood Transfusion Service Inaugurated.

Staff First Middle East recruitment-2 nurses, 1 doctor.

First trained anaesthetist enlisted-Dr. Youngman D.A.

First T.B. trained doctor with T.D.D., apptd. to supervise the new T.B. centre-Dr. Hoda.

Dr. Bhandarkar of Muharraq retired after 30 years service.

Village Dispensary Visiting - This was doubled and expanded to 11 villages twice a week, using the Mobile Dispensary Unit, treating 21,000 patients. The Rifa'a group increased to 5, treating 13,000, and The Women's section for 5 villages also, treating 25,000.

Child Welfare-launched the first Island campaign in main towns and 29 villages.

Public Health. Trained Sanitary Inspectors for Manama Municipality refused: continuing to use old experienced untrained Bahraini staff.

1956

Despite the serious March and November riots the Dept. carried on well, and was relatively unmolested and respected. Multiple daily punctures from road nails never stopped the transport, thanks to Police and Bapco's nightly repairs. Casualty procedure effective. Total deaths 5.
T.B. Sanatorium of 50 beds opened by H.H. and at once filled.

Hedd Hospital and Clinic enlarged to 12 beds, and modernised.

Old T.B. Block converted, and utilised as a Men's Isolation Hospital.

Private Block Mens extended South for an Eye Clinic ground floor, and doctor's consulting rooms, and C.M.Os. office first floor.

New Power House running on Bapco waste gas, and electricity planned for villages. Waste gas envisaged for new hospital kitchens and laboratory.

Cummins financial and economic survey, including medical orthodox pay scales.

Key Staff

First Hospital Secretary - Mr. Hardie for 2 years, now Director, King Edward's Fund.

Dr. Tidy replaced Dr. Crowden.

Dr. Lourie replaced Dr. Shannon.

Dr. Youngman D.A. also instituted the blood bank with a donor register of 80% European and 20% Asiatics under B.D.2/- payment.

Miss Hemingway replaced Miss Weymes for child welfare.

Dr. Nasr recruited as part time dentist to start a Dept.

Visitors - Duke Elder and Mackenzie again, and Prof. Wells Head' of Surgery, Liverpool, who later supplied locum surgeons during leaves.

Public Health

Smallpox, after 6 years, from S. Arabia, infected Damistan and Maq Sha villages, spreading to Naim, where it was halted. Total 68 with 12 deaths, mostly babies and children. Estimated that 85% of previous vaccinations of the population helped to confine this short epidemic.

Central Boys School Clinic building planned.

B.C.G. trial in 3 schools. 373 boys, inclusive.

Disinfestation Consultants England carried out an anti-rat survey and outlined measures which were immediately adopted.

1957

Sir Charles Belgrave retired after 32 years, and was rushed to London suddenly for extirpation of anaplastic cancer of bladder by Badenock, with complete and lasting success.

His departure was bitterly regretted by H.H. and the older generation. For that period of B-hrain's development his advisory service was richly fulfilled. He was noted for his extreme patience and courage over reforms, his great courtesy, and his intimate friendship with two Rulers. This partnership produced steady, carefully planned progress, and great security.

1957 Public Health

(Contd.) Boys' School Clinic built close to Sec. School, and a second doctor installed.
Rat campaign successfully launched.
Shaikh Atyatullah apptd. Director of Rural Affairs for caretaking all villages as regards amenities and health linked with P.H. Dept.
A plea for eradication of slums and cesspits, and better co-operation from the Municipalities.
Town main drains extended.
No epidemics except Asiatic 'Flu June-August, which involved a quarter of the population with some mortality of old age groups.
Mr. Nambiar, Supervisor of Anti Malaria, died, to be replaced by Ayub Khan, already of long service.
Heat Exhaustion-Ships. Discussions with the C.M.O. Port of London, & Dr. Kelly, Minister of Transport, to alleviate ships conditions, are now likely to take effect over air conditioning.

New Buildings:

Maternity Hospital 68 beds, first phase of Women's Hospital, opened by H.H.
Sitra Dispensary and also Sitra Municipality under Shaikh Hamad b. Abdulla.
T.B. Workshops donated by Health Council for chronic patients.
Reconstruction of Naim outpatients centre.

New Key Staff.

Miss Underhill F.R.C.S. to supplement Mr. Wilkins F.R.C.S.
Dr. Kuraisy D.L.O. installed as first Police Surgeon to separate their work from the Medical Dept.
Mr. Vickery - Hospital Engineer.
One Asst. Matron and 7 European Sisters, and 10 Medical Officers.
To install a 24 hourly medical service and the staff for the new Women's Hospitals, an increase from 550 to 950 - staff essential.
Therefore budget expenditure now B.D.610,000/- compared with B.D.45,300/- in 1945.

First Health Council 1956 - 1959

Nominated 1956, went into full action this year with fortnightly meetings. Many future improvements were proposed, the two chief ones being Pharmacists control involving price control and inspections; and Vital Statistics.

The following members (7) were nominated by H.H. under the Presidency of Shaikh Mubarak b. Hamad:

Members: Shaikh Abdul Rahman b. Mohd.
Shaikh Abdulla b. Khalid.
Haji Khalil Kanoo. Ahmad Kanoo:
Hussain Yateem: Sayed Yosha:
Abdulla Amin:

to represent Hidd and Muharraq.

1957 Training In England
(Contd.) Mohamed Rahma - 6 month hosp. administration Course - London
Jaffar Muharrag went on a similar course - hospital
stewardship and supplies.

1958 Jid Hafs Baladiya inaugurated under Shaikh Rashid b.
Khalifa.
Fish Market rebuilt by Shaikh Daij b. Hamad.
Male T.B. Inpatient accommodation (50 beds) insufficient.
Malignant Cancer not frequent, but more noticeable.
Centralisation of essential medical service in Manama
again urged, versus district dispensary expansion.

Key Staff

Dr. B. Bevan first M.R.C.P. Consultant Physician apptd.
Dr. Blake D.A. R.C.S. replaced Youngman as Chief
Anaesthetist.
Dr. Kuraisy, Police Surgeon, also held an E.N.T.
Clinic at Naim. Later sent on a Forensic Medicine
Course at Glasgow.
Mr. Wilkins left, and replaced by a locum Mr. Tinckler.
F.R.C.S. from Liverpool.
Specialists still further urged by Health Council.
Mr. Hardie left, having laid foundation of hospital
Secretary procedure.

Public Health.

Child Welfare increased by 2 British Sisters, so that
3 teams operate.
Dysentery and Typhoid declining.
M.O.H. urged modern P. Health legislative powers, and
greater preventative campaigns versus curative estab-
lishments.
Air conditioning for ships improving.
"Seistan" (Strick Line) explosion at Sitra resulting
in 15 casualty survivors, out of a crew of 68.
One Smallpox case on B.I. "Sirdhana", quarantined on
board, with no infection spread.

1959 New Women's Hospital completed and opened in April by
H.H. Shaikh Salman.
Total all buildings with Nurses Hostel cost B.D.1,350,000.
= just over £1. million, not including equipment.
Total time to build $4\frac{1}{2}$ years. Total beds 220.
Architect - Major Hills P.W.D.
New Dispensaries built for Hidd (Mens), Jidhafs, and
A'ali. Bapco had previously donated for 2 at Tubli
and Budaya.
Total district dispensaries now 11.
Rifa'a Shargi Maternity Hospital (12 beds) opened by
Shaikh Isa.
Persian Gulf Med. Society annually meet by rota in
Kuwait, Aramco and Bahrain, and later Iran.

1959 3rd Census 143,135: a 31% increase over 109,650 of 1950.

(Contd.)

H.H. Shaikh Salman - First coronary attack in June. Dr. Hayward (Barts.) visited and outlined 6 months graded treatment. H.H. was able to resume normal life November.

Public Health:

Further drains laid down Manama and Muharraq.

Anti-malaria new depot in Muharraq.

No epidemics, but smallpox reported in neighbouring countries.

A mild summer, and a change of residual spraying caused a sharp recurrence of malaria Oct.-Dec. - the incidence of 0.61% of 1958 increasing 5.16%.

2nd Health Council under the same Presidency.

Members: Khalil Ibrahim Kanoo: Ahmed Yousuf Fakhroo:
Abdulla Amin: Mohd. Rafi'a al-Mahmood
Shaikh Abdulla bin Khalid:
Shaikh Khalifa bin Moh: Sadiq Al-Baharna.

Hamad and Habib (1940 Dressers) sent for 2 years Asst. Nurses training course, London, which they eventually passed.

Mr. L.C. Bell F.R.C.S. apptd: to succeed Wilkins as Senior Surgeon in charge, with Miss Underhill F.R.C.S.

Bahraini Female Nurses Training School opened with 7 students under Miss Amaya Kowabi, a qualified Sister Tutor.

1960

Shaikh Khalifa b. Sulman apptd. as Govt. Head of Finance.

Hussain Mattar as Director Water Supply Dept. separated off from P.W.D.

A water scheme set up for Rifa'a.

Govt. observers sent to U.N.E.S.C.O. Regional Conference Cairo.

Free National Health Service inaugurated by H.H. With exception of Private Ward rentals, all treatment free for Bahrainis, foreigners and visitors. Private Practice ceased, except for a few non-European M.Os. on the staff. All other doctors and future recruits to have augmented salaries instead.

Administration Survey by Sir Eric Pridie, ex-C.M.O.

Colonial office and ex-D.M.S. Sudan, and Dr. Hamza of considerable Middle East experience. These two laid down a framework for future recruiting to strengthen the present overtaxed, understaffed administration: to increase Asst. Directors; Matrons; Medical Heads of sections and specialists; and a separate administration Headquarters.

Buildings:

Naim Hospital adapted wholly for men.

Extra wing of 34 beds added to male T.B. Sanatorium.

Child Welfare headquarters and clinic completed, and Manama anti-malaria centre transferred-both incorporated in Public Health grounds.

Casualty centre started in Naim.

1960
(Contd.)

Four Village Hospitals for Maternity - each 12 beds. H.H. specifically wished 2 to be built in Sitra and Malchiya in 1961, and 2 for 1962 in Badaya and Sanad Nuwaidrat area. Only the first two eventually materialised.

Key Staff:

Dr. Doeg age 60, retired after 18 years of hard devoted pioneering service as Senior L.M.O. of the Women's Medical Dept.

Dr. J. Pym D.G.O. replaced her.

Dr. Menk D.O. Germany, replaced Sabah-ud-Din as Head of Ophthalmic Department.

Gastro-Enteritis in infants increased sharply with the severe hot weather, with 168 inpatient deaths.

Specialised Paediatric section formed.

Injuries and hazards increased by 90%.

Middle East Doctors and Nurses recruited.

Public Health:

Malaria retreated again to below 1%, and a Malaria Control Ordinance came into action.

The M.O.H. regretted little progress in slum clearance and sanitation, but saw hope in the Rural Affairs Department's work.

Air Conditioning for ships now becoming the rule.

Spleen Rate Comparisons (Villages)

1938-70% : 1953-18% : 1960-1.3% :

Child Welfare section administered by Public Health Dept.

Ladies voluntary service (Arab and English) for Child Welfare.

Meat market rebuilt by H.H.

Dr. Barnes M.R.C.P. recruited as additional Medical Specialist.

1961

Death of H.H. Shaikh Salman - Nov. 2nd in his garden house at Safra. After two years fair health from his first coronary attack, a second occurred in September and a third in October, for which Dr. Hayward came twice. Shaikh Khalifa, Hayward and our medical team were by him when suddenly he died. Bahrain was plunged into grief for the loss of a great and progressive Ruler, who reigned for 19 years and did so much for his country.

1st Accession Day for H.H. Shaikh Isa took place on December 16th.

New Doctors and Key Staff:

1960 & 1961 - First 6 Egyptian M.Os. 3 male & 3 female, chief among whom was Dr. Izhak.

Dr. Rifa'at was posted as Resident M.O. for Rifa'a.

Dr. Kette D.L.O. Germany to run the new E.N.T. Dept.

Dr. Ali Fakhro M.D. Beirut, first Bahraini Medical Specialist.

Dr. Giacoman (1960) the first whole time dental surgeon.

Mr. Jenkins Laboratory Suptd.

1961
(Contd.)

Male School of Nursing instituted under the teaching of Habib and Hamad, lately returned from England.

New Buildings:

First Manama dispensary (1930s) pulled down, and rebuilt for female T.B.

New Muharraq Maternity Hospital (30 beds) adapted from 4 blocks of flats.

Final alterations to Hiad Maternity Hospital, increased to 12 beds.

Air Port opened December, with an adjoining Pilgrims compound for 120 under the P.H. Dept.

Trachoma:

Dr. Menk reported a 70-80% incidence, and 65% in schools. A third doctor was added to his team.

Dr. Bevan published an article surveying Gastro-Enteritis in children under 2, with a mortality of 30%.

Injuries from roads, industrial and domestic accidents totalled 10,000.

Domiciliary midwifery service urged by Dr. Pym.

Inpatients Nationalities showed 68% Bahrainis, and 32% foreigners, the latter from the Trucial Coast, nearby countries and ships.

Public Health:

Three reforms for villages are rubbish disposal, latrines and wash houses.

A successful experiment for burning rubbish in the Karazakan group.

Latrines to be domestic, and not public ones. Wash house drains essential.

No epidemics, but a Typhoid increase (not serious).

Legal adoption instituted.

Malaria lowest recorded figure of 0.12%.

Girls Schools Clinics successfully organised by Dr. Mfs. Brain.

Polio Inoculation (Salk) inaugurated.

Dr. Grant, Medical Officer of Health for 13 years, retired and left a well established, progressive Public Health Dept.

Persian Gulf Medical Society at Aramco under the Presidency of Bahrain.

Chief Speakers: Proff. Wells, Liverpool; Forkner, New York; and Wilson, Beirut. 1962 Conference will be in Iran. Its future after 1962 is uncertain, owing to the title of "Persian", and "Gulf M.S." not acceptable!!
Veterinary Surgeon apptd. (Agric. Dept) with a temporary hospital.

1962

Key Staff:

Dr. Ibrahim Yacoob, M.D. Beirut, the second qualified Bahraini doctor, arrived with paediatric training to be in charge of that Department.

Dr. Rashid Filaifil M.D. Beirut, a third Bahraini with T.B. training came to assist Dr. Hoda as a specialist in that Dept.

Dr. Blake returned with his Fellowship in anaesthetics to take over charge in place of Dr. MacIntyre.

Dr. Derawy with E.N.T. training apptd. as Assistant to that Dept.

Miss Morrissey Deputy Matron with 10 yrs. service retired.

1962
(Contd.)

Administration Centre. Dr. Grant's flat over P. Health Dept. taken over for this purpose half-way between the 2 hospitals. D.M.S. acting as M.O.H. also. Health Council now experienced, and a great support. Pharmacists Ordinance inaugurated after 5 years, with price controls, labelling of medicines and 6-monthly inspections. Also annual licences for 14 Pharmacies. Births & Deaths Ordinance still in draft stage. Senior Staff Committee re-introduced.

First two trained Bahraini nurses passed. Diplomas presented by Shaikha Hassa.

H.H. The Ruler did a tour of all hospitals.

Clinics for Diabetes and Cardiac hypertension specialities. Physiotherapy to be modernised. Police Clinic and sickbay established fully and separately from the Medical Dept., who recruited an Indian M.O. to assist the new English S.M.O.

Mortuary A whole time Superintendary senior nurse technician apptd. Burials of foreigners sent to Bahrain are now prohibited.

Outpatients now number 800,000 in all clinics.

Public Health

B.I. "Dumra" carrying a Pakistani smallpox case, caused all 254 Bahrain disembarking passengers to be quarantined. No infection resulted.

Severe hot weather produced 225 heat exhaustion cases from ships, of which 4 died. The A.C. medical centre Sitra pier successfully treated many.

18% of passengers entering Bahrain were vaccinated because of no certificates-mostly from Dhows. Total 23616.

Deep Sea Pier & Port (Mina Salman) opened by H.H., and Medical Centre and Quarantine Office established.

Schools now have two M.Os. each who also give health lectures.

Polio oral vaccine Sabin substituted for Salk. Over 3,000 given to children under 10.

Child Welfare. Miss Winch recruited to work with Mrs. Hadad. A third Health Visitor awaited.

Two qualified Sanitary Inspectors recruited, and handed over to Manama Municipality.

1963

Specialists and M.Os. were increased by 20, among whom Dr. Voelgar D.O. Germany and Dr. Abraham D.O. for Ophthalmic: Miss Christian and Mr. Lyons both F.R.C.S. for Surgery: and Dr. Sidiki M.R.C.P. for Medical unit. Miss Underhill and Dr. Kette both left.

Dr. Ali Fakhro left for 3 years higher training American Board.

Maternity specialists understaffed, and rectified by loan of an R.A.F. obstetrician for 6 ^{weeks} months until Dr. McKewan D.G.O., the new Senior L.M.O. arrived. Later Dr. Shannon D.R.C.O.G. re-joined the Dept. on a permanent basis.

Ante Natal Clinics expanded to six weekly. Good continuity between maternity, post-natal, paediatric and child welfare in follow up of babies.

Gastro-enteritis reduced in infants to 18% mortality out of 289 admissions.

1963
(Contd.)

Buildings:

Mental extension dormitory of 50 beds. Total now 120.
Women's T.B. Sanatorium completed with 62 beds.
Extra casualty accommodation improvised.
Surgical O.Ps. moved into vacated Ophthalmic centre.
Ophthalmic and E.N.T. sections took over Asst. Matron's block in Naim temporarily.
A special fracture clinic instituted.
H.H. donated two buses to the Transport Dept.
St. John's Ophthalmic Hospital, Jordan, opened with a trachoma research laboratory for the Middle East.
Combined emergency scheme of all hospitals inaugurated to deal with major disasters.

Public Health:

Cleanliness improving in villages.
Sabin oral vaccine given to 21,000 infants.
Typhoid showed a total of 257.
Malaria reduced down to 0.06%
Heat Exhaustion declined to 5 cases with 1 death.
Trade Fair Public Health in all aspects well displayed in 2 stalls, winning a second prize.

1964

New Buildings:

Sitra Maternity Hospital (12 beds) opened by H.E. Shaikh Khalifa.

Malchiya Maternity Hosp. (12 beds) ready for use but not occupied through lack of staff. A clinic also attached there.

Maternity Annexe Salmaniya (28 beds) opened & occupied.

Private Ward Block " (10 beds) also opened.

Over the last 2 years there is an overall increase of 198 beds, now totalling 751.

New Dispensary East Rifa'a for men and women.

Buildings under construction.

Large modern Clinics Salmaniya for Paediatrics: Eye and E.N.T. Laundry building south of hospital.

Key Staff:

Dr. Rashid Abdulla al Rashid M.D. Beirut, Paediatric Specialist & Haematologist was the 4th Bahraini recruit.

Dr. Butler M.R.C.P. Consultant Medical Specialist.

Dr. Murphy D.L.O. took over in charge of E.N.T.

Dr. Voelger took charge of Ophthalmic Dept.:

Dr. Menk leaving after 4 years extremely valuable service

Dr. Shannon took over charge as Senior L.M.O. in place of Dr. McEwan who left.

Mr. Whatley took over from Mr. Jenkins as Lab. Suptd. which had increased its work to nearly a quarter million tests.

Miss Hawkins-Health Visitor apptd. to Child Welfare. Efforts continue to recruit 3 remaining Specialists, difficult to procure, namely

A Radiologist: Pathologist and Psychiatrist.

Two additional Anaesthetists. appointed.

Two Bahraini trainees in Radiography returned after a year's course in Beirut.

Maternity annual births approaching 4,500.

Men's Casualty now stabilised with 2 whole time Casualty M.Os.

1964
(Contd.)

First Haj Medical Team inaugurated by H.H. consisting of 20 staff led by 2 doctors. Dr. Rashid Filaifil led the team, and its success has made it an annual feature. Serious emergencies continue to be sent from the Trucial Coast by air. Electricity and water supply schemes to all leading villages have greatly improved their outlook. The severest winter on record took place in January, touching 32° once. Bitter winds ensued, and quantities of dead fish came ashore.

SUMMARY 1940 - 1965

The high standard now of maternity and abolition of Atresia. Freedom from epidemics and eradication of Smallpox. Malaria negligible. Great decline in Dysentery and V.D. Sporadic Polio. halted. Good progress in prevention of total blindness. The raised health of schools. Nearly all Specialities represented. Steady increase of Bahraini doctors and specialists, and Bahraini trainees. Chief defects to overcome-Eradication of Trachoma & T.B. and prevention of anaemias: respiratory disease: gastro-enteritis & otorrhoea. Bahrain is fortunate in the great interest and support shown by three Rulers; in the temperament of the Bahraini as a patient, and in the discipline of the Island.

	(all) <u>OUTPATIENTS</u>	<u>INPATIENTS</u>	<u>OPERATIONS</u>	<u>STAFF</u>	<u>B.D. EXPENDITURE</u>
<u>1942</u>	155,907	2,535	3,852	113	32,915
<u>1964</u>	1,333,202	13,575	35,690	1,465	1,743,549

	<u>No. HOSPITALS</u>	<u>No. BEDS</u>	<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>STILL BIRTH MORTALITY</u>	<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY</u>
<u>1942</u>	1	110	123	187 per 1000	per 61.6
<u>1964</u>	12	751	4,383	19 per 1000	per 0.44

1942 = first completed hospital year. Public Health Staff omitted.

SUMMARY 1965 - 1968

Remaining Specialists apptd. for Radiology: Pathology and Psychiatry. Dr. Ali Fakhro returned 1966 with American Board in Cardiology to be a Consultant, and also Asst. to D.M.S. Emphasis on increased paramedical training for Bahrainis, and new Nurses Training Schools. Public Health to be expanded with full time M.O.H. and Vital Statistics Registry. 4th Census 1965 showed a 27.4% increase from 143,135 to 182,203. Long term planning for a phased new men's hospital alongside the women's, to make an integrated whole.

Ruz. Suow. R.S.
4.7.1968