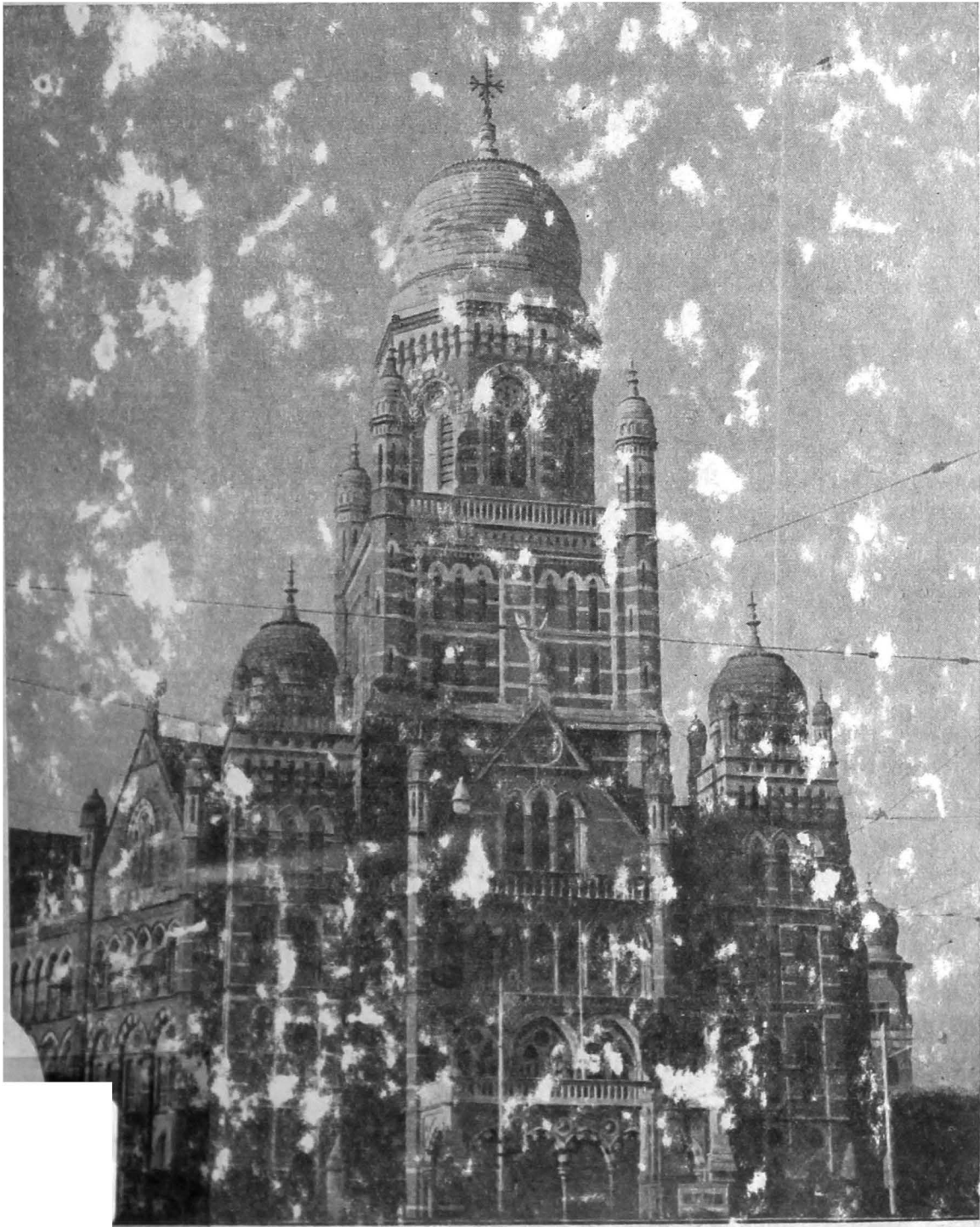


**ADMINISTRATION REPORT
OF THE
MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER
FOR
GREATER BOMBAY
FOR THE YEAR
1954-55**



BOMBAY
PRINTED AT THE MUNICIPAL PRINTING PRESS
1955

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**REVIEW OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT
OF THE MUNICIPAL COMMISSIONER FOR GREATER BOMBAY
FOR THE YEAR 1954-55.**

The Administration Report, submitted by the Municipal Commissioner, gives in detail the working of various Municipal Departments for the year 1954-55.

2. Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel was elected Mayor of Bombay for the year under report. Smt. Sulochana M. Modi, M.A., was the Chairman of the Standing Corporation. Committee ; Shri P. U. Upadhyaya was the Chairman of the Improvements Committee and Shri H. D. Gaokar, M.Sc., T.D. (LOND.) was the Chairman of the Education Committee throughout the year.

3. Shri P. R. Nayak, I.C.S., continued to hold the office of the Municipal Commissioner practically throughout the year, except for the period from 1st July 1954 to 15th August 1954, when he was on leave. During Shri Nayak's absence on leave, Shri V. L. Gidwani, I.C.S., was appointed to act as Municipal Commissioner.

4. The financial transactions have resulted in a surplus of Rs. 36.31 lacs at the end of the year instead of an anticipated deficit of Rs. 46.08 lacs. This was due to the fact that the actual income increased by Rs. 16.90 lacs over the Budget Estimate, while the expenditure was reduced by Rs. 65.49 lacs over the budgeted amount. The strain on Municipal finances continues unabated and if progress is to be maintained in keeping with the City's position as the premier city in the sub-continent, the Corporation will have to provide funds for a large number of amenities which the city lacks at present and for which the possibility of additional sources of income will have to be explored. The prospects in the latter direction, however, appear to be dim under the existing conditions. Available sources of revenue have been utilized almost to the maximum extent possible and are incapable of yielding better returns. The only alternative, therefore, appears to be reductions on the expenditure side which might possibly result in the deterioration of health and other civic services. It is not understood to what extent additional sources of income would be made available as per the recommendations of the Taxation Enquiry Commission and till the Government's decision thereon are known, nothing definite can be said. In the meanwhile, efforts are no doubt being made by the Corporation by the appointment of experts for the reorganization of different Municipal Departments and their labours have already resulted in a considerable reduction on establishment charges which had tended to grow out of proportion during recent years. If the process is continued with zeal by the executive without impairing efficiency, there are definite indications of appreciable savings not only under establishment but also on other items of expenditure which might enable the Corporation to make both ends meet at least for the time being.

5. In preparing the Budget Estimates for the year under report, an Opening Cash Variations in Income. Balance of Rs. 94.00 lacs was estimated. On the final closing of accounts for the year 1953-54, the actual Opening Balance for the year under report amounted to Rs. 95.80 lacs, which was more by Rs. 42.98 lacs than the actual Opening Balance of Rs. 52.82 lacs for the previous year. The total income budgeted for was Rs. 902.09 lacs, while the actual realizations amounted to Rs. 918.99 lacs, showing an increase of Rs. 16.90 lacs over the budgeted amount and also an increase of Rs. 40.84 lacs over the actuals of the previous year, viz., Rs. 878.15 lacs. On the Expenditure Side, the amount budgeted for was Rs. 948.18 lacs which exceeded by Rs. 88.11 lacs the actual of Rs. 860.07 lacs of the previous year. However, the actual expenditure at the close of the year was reduced to Rs. 882.69 lacs which was less than the Budget Estimate (Rs. 948.18 lacs) by Rs. 65.49 lacs. The anticipated deficit of Rs. 46.08 lacs was thus turned into a surplus of Rs. 36.31 lacs against the surplus of Rs. 18.08 and Rs. 22.96 lacs in the previous two years. The financial transactions of the year ended with Closing Balance of Rs. 91.90 lacs.

A detailed study of the Income Side reveals a net increase of Rs. 16.90 lacs, compared with the original estimates, comprising of gross increases amounting to Rs. 45.12 lacs counter balanced by decreases to the extent of Rs. 28.22 lacs. There were increases almost under every major head.

The main decreases in income were under General Tax proper, Rs. 21.31 lacs, Grants-in-aid in respect of fines Rs. 3.50 lacs, Roads, etc., Rs. 1.02 lacs, and miscellaneous decreases under certain other heads Rs. 2.39 lacs.

6. As against the final sanctioned grants (including renewed and additional grants) which aggregated to Rs. 1057.69 lacs, the actuals amounted to Rs. 882.69 lacs, leaving an unexpended balance of Rs. 175.00 lacs at the close of the year. Against this, an amount of Rs. 108.21 lacs was required to be renewed for expenditure in the following year and the balance of Rs. 66.79 lacs was allowed to lapse as savings.

The actual expenditure for the year, *viz.*, Rs. 882.69 lacs, compared with that of the previous year, *viz.*, Rs. 860.07 lacs, showed a net increase of Rs. 22.62 lacs, *i.e.*, gross increases of Rs. 40.62 lacs less decreases of Rs. 18.00 lacs, the main increases being under Water Works Rs. 11.77 lacs; Medical Relief, etc., Rs. 5.11 lacs; Street Cleansing, etc., Rs. 2.87 lacs; Roads, S. W. Drains, etc., Rs. 7.59 lacs; Contribution to Budgets 'B', 'D' and 'E' Rs. 2.63 lacs, Rs. 0.57 lac and Rs. 6.57 lacs, respectively; Provident Fund Rs. 1.70 lacs; Dearness Allowances Rs. 1.05 lacs and minor increases under certain other heads Rs. 0.76 lac. The main decreases were under Mechanical Rs. 0.65 lac; Buildings Rs. 12.45 lacs; Fire Brigade Rs. 1.41 lacs; Licensing Rs. 0.39 lac; Gardens and Open Spaces Rs. 0.67 lac; Markets Rs. 0.88 lac; Rent of Buildings Rs. 0.52 lac and under certain other heads Rs. 1.03 lacs. Additional grants sanctioned during the year aggregated to Rs. 93.50 lacs against Rs. 31.90 lacs in the previous year.

7. The Opening Balance on 1st April 1954, on account of Loan Funds (excluding the Trust Fund) was nil. Loans aggregating to Rs. 473.99 lacs were raised during the year including an amount of Rs. 200.00 lacs received from the Government of India for financing the Vaitarna-cum-Tansa Scheme. The Standing Committee would once again like to place on record their sincere thanks to the Central Government for their timely assistance which has no doubt helped the Corporation to put through the Scheme more expeditiously than otherwise could have been possible.

The total Loan Funds available for expenditure during the year were Rs. 473.99 lacs. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 17.40 lacs was reserved for the purchase of Capital Stock. The net amount thus available for expenditure during the year was Rs. 456.59 lacs. The total expenditure incurred during the year was Rs. 435.88 lacs including repayment of an amount of Rs. 2.30 lacs taken as an advance from Surplus Cash Balance and Rs. 2.07 lacs being the amount of repayment of loan, leaving a balance of Rs. 20.70 lacs at the close of the year.

The actual expenditure of Rs. 426.47 lacs on Capital Works fell short of Budget Estimates of Rs. 575.60 lacs by 26 per cent. but the percentage had gone up to 43 when compared with the Revised Estimates of Rs. 753.11 lacs.

At the close of the preceding year, the total amount of Municipal Loan outstanding including advances from the various Special Funds was Rs. 24,13.79 lacs. This was increased to Rs. 26,29.42 lacs at the close of the year under review. A loan of Rs. 473.98 lacs was raised during the year while an amount of Rs. 258.36 less was repaid during the year under report. Total Debt Charges for payment of interest, Sinking Fund, etc., amounted to Rs. 214.72 lacs.

8. The book value of investments of the Sinking Fund at the close of the year amounted to Rs. 421.88 lacs. Valuing the Municipal and Improvement Trust Debentures at par, the market value of Sinking Fund Investments at the end of the year stood at Rs. 407.20 lacs. This, together with the amount of interest accrued upto 31st March 1954, *viz.*, Rs. 2.20 lacs, and cash of Rs. 121, brought the total amount of Sinking Fund to Rs. 409.40 lacs, which more than covered the amount of Rs. 397.37 lacs at which the Fund should have accumulated at the close of the year. The excess in the Fund was thus Rs. 12.04 lacs against Rs. 25.54 lacs at the end of the previous year. Even with this heavy fall in the excess accumulation, the position can be regarded as quite satisfactory having regard to the fact that a sum of Rs. 52.45 lacs stands to the credit of the Net Premia Fund which is intended as a reserve for making good any deficit in the Market value of Sinking Fund Investments.

9. The total income for the year, *viz.*, Rs. 127.35 lacs, showed a net increase of Rs. 6.30 lacs over that of the preceding year, *viz.*, Rs. 121.05 lacs. This was made up of increases in (i) Rent and other proceeds of properties Rs. 3.70 lacs; (ii) Contribution from Budget 'A' Rs. 2.63 lacs and (iii) Miscellaneous Receipts Rs. 0.17 lac, counter-balanced by decreases in Interest and Profit on Investments Rs. 0.19 lac.

The total expenditure for the year, *viz.*, Rs. 123.74 lacs, showed an increase of Rs. 2.59 lacs over that of the previous year, *viz.*, Rs. 121.14 lacs. This was mainly due to increase in the cost of maintenance of Properties and Streets—Rs. 2.80 lacs and counterbalanced by a decrease of Rs. 0.20 lac under Debt Charges.

Loan liabilities of the *ex-Trust* at the commencement of the year were Rs. 15,26.50 lacs against Rs. 15,33.60 lacs in the previous year. No new loan liability was incurred during the year, while the debt was reduced by Rs. 7.34 lacs, which amount was repaid to Government on the basis of equated payments. The outstanding loan liabilities at the close of the year thus stood at Rs. 15,19.17 lacs of which the actual liability to Government was Rs. 315.23 lacs.

The year began with an Opening Balance of Rs. 109.44 lacs. In the course of the year receipts on account of sale proceeds of Lands and Buildings amounting to Rs. 14.84 lacs were credited to this Account. In addition, a sum of Rs. 5 lacs was received from the Government of Bombay as non-recurring grant-in-aid for acquisition of land for squatters colonies at Mankhurd and Jogeshwari. The Standing Committee are grateful to the State Government for their substantial assistance. The total funds thus available were Rs. 129.28 lacs, out of which an amount of Rs. 23.81 lacs was spent on different works. The surplus in the General Account for the year amounted to Rs. 3.61 lacs and was transferred to the Capital Account. There was thus left an unspent balance of Rs. 109.08 lacs at the close of the year.

The amount of Sinking Fund on 31st March 1955 was Rs. 549.33 lacs including cash of Rs. 215 with the Imperial (now State) Bank of India. Valuing the Municipal and Trust debentures at par, the market value of Sinking Fund Investments at the end of the year under review amounted to Rs. 5,50.91 lacs. This, together with interest accrued upto 31st March 1955 of Rs. 1.17 lacs and cash of Rs. 215 with the Imperial (now State) Bank of India brought the total amount of Sinking Fund to Rs. 552.08 lacs against Rs. 505.90 lacs, at which the Sinking Fund should have accumulated at the close of the year. The excess in the fund thus amounted to Rs. 46.18 lacs.

The total amount of loans raised for Improvement Schemes and outstanding on 31st March 1955, was Rs. 15.19 lacs. Out of this Rs. 3.09 lacs were borrowed from Government, and the balance of Rs. 12.10 lacs represented loans raised by issue of debentures. Out of Rs. 12.10 lacs a sum of Rs. 4.76 lacs was borrowed from Government and Rs. 7.34 lacs from the public.

The gross Capital liabilities of the Improvement Schemes stood at Rs. 15,66.75 lacs at the close of the year under review and the assets at Rs. 28,53.98 lacs including the book value of lands comprised in Schedules 'W' and 'X' which has resulted in surplus of Rs. 12,87.23 lacs.

The total income for the year amounted to Rs. 149.67 lacs (including Rs. 112.46 lacs being the contribution from Budgets 'A' and 'D') against the Budget Estimates of Rs. 150.79 lacs and the Revised Estimates of Rs. 149.77 lacs showing a decrease of 1.12 lacs on Budget Estimates and of Rs. 0.11 lac on the Revised Estimates. The decrease of Rs. 1.12 lacs was made up of Rs. 2.08 lacs in contribution from Budgets 'A' and 'D' and Rs. 0.17 lac in Miscellaneous Receipts, counter-balanced by an increase of Rs. 0.60 lac in Fees and Fines from Municipal Schools and Rs. 0.53 lac in other Miscellaneous Revenue. The final sanctioned grants amounted in the aggregate to Rs. 1,66.32 lacs (including the unexpended grant for the previous year and the additional grants.).

The total expenditure booked was Rs. 138.16 lacs and the total unexpended grants amounted to Rs. 23.15 lacs. Out of this, grants renewed in 1955-56 aggregated to Rs. 10.60 lacs, leaving a balance of Rs. 12.55 lacs to be lapsed as savings.

The expenditure booked during the year on the Capital Works was Rs. 8.99 lacs leaving a balance of Rs. 8.03 lacs to be carried to the following year. The expenditure booked during the year out of Trust Funds amounted to Rs. 0.64 lac leaving a balance of Rs. 0.31 lac at the close of the year. A loan of Rs. 15 lacs was raised by public subscription during the year for Budget 'E'. The loan liability under the Education Fund during the year, therefore, increased to Rs. 25 lacs, against which the Sinking Fund stood at Rs. 1.23 lacs.

The opening balance of the Education Fund at the beginning of the year was Rs. 10.75 lacs. The transactions for the year resulted in a surplus of Rs. 11.50 lacs. The balance at the close of the year was Rs. 22.25 lacs. There was an increase of Rs. 1.12 lacs in the amount reserved for meeting the revenue expenditure for 1954-55 and the previous years to be incurred during 1955-56 over that of the previous year. Thus the balance at the close of the year stood at Rs. 20.55 lacs.

10. During the year under report, the rates of taxation remained the same as in the previous year, *i.e.*, General Tax (including Fire Tax) at 17 3/4 per cent. Water Tax at 3-3/4 per cent. and Halalkhore Tax at 3 per cent. Tax on vehicles and animals was levied at the maximum rates mentioned in

Schedule G. Rates charged for the supply of water by meter measurement also remained the same as in the previous year and ranged from As. 12 to Rs. 2-6-0 per 1,000 gallons, according to the class of properties, the minimum rate being charged to Government and the maximum to the Race Course premises.

On the Assessment Register at the close of the year there were 54,527 properties against 54,157 and 54,079 during the previous two years. 46,659 properties against 46,268 properties in the previous year were assessed to General Tax ; while 2,021 properties against 2,292 in the previous year were exempted and 2,115 properties as in the previous year were not taxed being very small plots and 2,607 as in the preceding year were Municipal plots.

Properties newly erected, enlarged and demolished during the year numbered 845, 475 and 874, respectively, against 858, 780 and 998 in the previous year. At the end of the year single-room tenements, double-room tenements and flats or blocks numbered 2,72,820, 69,369 and 48,185, respectively against 2,61,006, 71,335 and 54,723 in the previous year.

Rateable value of all properties in the City at the end of the year amounted to Rs. 24,98.48 lacs against Rs. 23,43.85 lacs and Rs. 21,99.09 lacs in the preceding two years. The rateable value *per capita* was Rs. 107-6-8 as against Rs. 100-12-0 and Rs. 94-8-0 in the previous two years. In 1,075 cases, the rateable value was increased by more than Rs. 2,000 in each case.

The total number of vehicles and animals taxed during the year (including those taxed under the Public Conveyance Act, *viz.*, 1,890) was 43,600 as against 41,582 and 37,224 in the previous two years. Of this total number, the maximum number in any one group was of 24,102 for motor cars (including 3,034 taxis) and the smallest numbers were 6 for trollies and 62 for trailers.

During the year under report, Wheel Tax for hack-victorias, labour-carts and hand-carts (without pneumatic tyres) leviable, respectively at Rs. 112, Rs. 40 and Rs. 8 per annum was compounded for the year 1955-56 at Rs. 100, Rs. 35 and Rs. 6, respectively, as they had to pay the tax for the whole year in advance instead of quarterly as in the case of other vehicles.

During the year under review, bills numbering 1,55,805 and 1,14,232 were issued, respectively, for Property and Wheel Tax. The amounts collected against net total demands of Rs. 837.48 lacs and Rs. 55.64 lacs were Rs. 647.30 lacs and Rs. 39.21 lacs which worked out to 77.29 and 70.47 per cent. of the net demands, respectively. The percentage of the net total recovery to the total demand worked out to 76.87. The total outstanding at the end of the year was Rs. 206.61 lacs. Outstandings against private rate payers stood at Rs. 68.98 lacs at the end of the year. The figure is exclusive of the amount of Rs. 91.48 lacs involved in complaints against rateable values, which were pending at the close of the year on account of revision proposals under Section 167 of the Act issued in the last month of the year due to new constructions, additions, alterations, etc. Out of total outstanding of Rs. 68.98 lacs from private properties, an amount of Rs. 7.81 lacs was involved in suits filed, Rs 4.72 lacs were payable by the Court Receiver and Official Assignee and an amount of Rs. 11.67 lacs was the outstanding representing taxes on buildings having flats on ownership basis. This leaves a balance of Rs. 44.78 lacs which is equivalent to 5.01 per cent. of the net demand, as against 2.47 per cent. in the previous year. The Standing Committee view with dismay the increase in the percentage of outstandings and hopes that strenuous efforts will be made to reduce the same to the barest minimum.

The total amount of exemption from General Tax allowed in respect of different properties during the year was Rs. 30.50 lacs as against Rs. 29.09 lacs and Rs. 28.58 lacs in the previous two years.

The number of claims received for drawback and refund was 59 and 4,114 respectively, against 56 and 3,064 and 21 and 2,972 in the previous two years. Of these only 2,328 refund claims were admitted involving an amount of Rs. 4.13 lacs. Seven drawback claims were admitted and the amount of drawback allowed was Rs. 727-14-0 only against one such claim involving an amount of Rs. 71-6-0 in the previous year.

During the year 6,808 complaints were received against revision assessment amounting to Rs. 844.61 lacs against 1,473 complaints involving an assessment amounting to Rs. 170.45 lacs in the previous year. 33 appeals for rateable values were received in the year. Of these 11 were settled out of Court, 1 was decided, 6 were withdrawn, 1 was dismissed and 14 were pending.

13 suits against 35 suits in the previous year were filed against ratepayers for recovery of taxes and decrees in 7 cases were obtained.

An amount of Rs. 49,756-1-9 was collected as Riot Tax in the year under report.

During the year under report, the dispute between the Central Government and the Corporation about the payment of General Tax at a rate higher than the rate prevailing immediately before 1st April 1937 was referred to the High Court and in the meanwhile the Central Government agreed to pay the tax at the enhanced rate from 1st April 1948 instead of from 1st April 1954 as agreed to by them previously.

As regards the properties which came into existence on or before the 1st April 1937, the Central Government have now agreed to pay from 1st April 1954, the charges for the specific services rendered by the local authorities and have directed the State Government to fix a percentage of such charges. The matter is now under correspondence with the State Government.

During the year under report, under Section 10-c of the Bombay Rents, Hotel and Lodging Houses Rates Control Act, 1947, (as amended), landlords were permitted to increase rents of their premises from 1st April 1954, at the rates prescribed therein. Consequently, the rateable values of about 25,000 properties, against the average number of 2,000 properties per year, were revised from that date, under Section 167 of the Bombay Municipal Corporation Act. The staff of this Department had to put in extra time and labour to cope up with this heavy work, which again had to be completed within a short time. They were, however, compensated by grant of adequate Duty Allowances.

Tax amounting to Rs. 6,369-4-0 on 481 race horses for the period from November 1954 to March 1955 was recovered from the Royal Western India Turf Club Ltd., as against Rs. 6,476-6-0 for the preceding year.

The tax collected on hand-carts and bullock-carts during the year amounted to Rs. 86,203-5-0 as against Rs. 73,359-4-0 for the preceding year.

It is reported that the Standards Officer appointed to implement the recommendations of Messrs. Ibcn Ltd., was gradually effecting retrenchment and out of 143 posts recommended for abolition, 68 were reduced upto 31st March 1955, from a Department having a personnel of 556 plus 50 leave reserves, thus effecting a gross saving of Rs. 3.97 lacs as against Rs. 2.80 lacs in the preceding year.

A retired officer of the Department, who was appointed to scrutinise the accounts of the Railway properties to determine their assessment, for the quinquennium 1949-54, submitted his report and the matter is under correspondence with the Railway authorities.

The assessment of the Bombay Port Trust properties for the quinquennium period 1944-49 according to Justice Lokur's Report, is still pending.

In the classification of properties according to user, it is found that out of 54,527 properties with an approximate rateable value of Rs. 24,98.48 lacs, 36,283 properties only are used for residential purposes with an approximate rateable value of Rs. 1,402.98 lacs.

From the classification of properties according to rateable values, it is found that as many as 46,764 properties come within the rateable value of Rs. 20,000, leaving only 1,963 properties having rateable value between Rs. 20,001 and Rs. 3,50,000 and above. These figures do not include properties belonging to the Bombay Port Trust and the Railways, which are assessed in lump.

11. The rates of taxation continued to be the same as in the previous year, viz., 5 per cent. in the case of buildings and lands the rateable values of which were above Rs. 2,000 in each case and 2 1/2 per cent. in the case of buildings and lands the rateable values of which were Rs. 2,000 and below in each case but not less than Rs. 500. Properties having rateable value of less than Rs. 500 per annum continued to be exempted. During the year under review, the demand in respect of the tax was Rs. 107.28 lacs. As against this demand the collection amounted to Rs. 83.26 lacs, while Rs. 24.02 lacs remained outstanding at the close of the year. Out of arrears of Rs. 30.50 lacs, an amount of Rs. 18.71 lacs was collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 11.79 lacs at the close of the year. The total collection of the Tax during the year amounted to about Rs. 101.97 lacs.

12. During the year, the rates of Town Duties continued to be the same as prevailing in the previous year. The gross collections from Town Duties amounted to Rs. 93.49 lacs as against Rs. 93.86 lacs and Rs. 92.95 lacs in the previous two years. There was an increase in the net receipts from grain, tea, iron and steel. There was a decrease in receipts from sugar, charcoal and edibles. The consistent decrease in revenue from sugar could be attributed to imports by the Central

Government without paying Town Duties. The amount refunded during the year under review was Rs. 15.73 lacs as against Rs. 19.67 lacs and Rs. 20.19 lacs in the previous two years. Town Duties gave a net revenue of Rs. 77.75 lacs as against Rs. 74.19 lacs and Rs. 72.76 lacs in the previous two years. The total number of claims for refunds was 29,123 as against 36,608 and 34,564 in the preceding two years. The number of claims for refund during the year was less by 7,485 than in the previous year and the amount of refund was less by Rs. 3.94 lacs.

Fees for stamping sugar bags, tea-cases, etc., amounted to Rs. 0.64 lac as against Rs. 0.84 lac and Rs. 1.01 lacs in the preceding two years.

Town Duties collected at Bhandup and Jogeshwari in respect of articles coming by roads amounted to Rs. 7.85 lacs as against Rs. 6.03 lacs and Rs. 6.92 lacs in the preceding two years. Town Duties on dutiable parcels imported by air amounted to Rs. 0.10 lac which figure is the same as for the preceding year.

- 13. Supplementary Election Roll containing 131 names was published on 20th December 1954, in accordance with the provisions of Section 21-B of the Bombay Municipal Corporation Act.**

Elections.

During the year there were two By-Elections for filling casual vacancies for Ward No. 6 and Ward No. 24, and Shri Salebhoy Abdul Kader and Dr. Ravindranath Narayan Kulkarni were elected from the respective Wards.

The preliminary work in connection with the preparation of a *de novo* Municipal Election Roll for the General Election of 1956 commenced in January 1955 and was in progress at the end of the year.

- 14. The Planning Section of the Engineering Department prepared plans and estimates for seven School buildings with 267 class rooms for 12,000 students. Similarly, plans and estimates for additional floors for 3 existing Schools providing 55 additional class rooms for 2,300 students were completed.**

Planning.

This branch also prepared plans and estimates for numerous other works as detailed in the report.

Plans and estimates for certain roads and for Love Grove Pumping Station and sewerage scheme for Colaba area were also prepared by this branch.

An intensive investigation into the causes of flooding of low-lying areas in the City was carried out during the year. A proposal to install battery pumps to pump out storm water at Love Grove as a radical cure was under investigation at the close of the year.

A comprehensive programme for the Second Five Year Plan was drawn up during the year under report. It comprises of a total expenditure of Rs. 3,929 lacs for the City and Rs. 619 lacs for the Suburbs. An ambitious programme for slum clearance has been included in the programme for the Second Five Year Plan submitted to Government. During the year under report, the work of clearance of Municipal slums at Palton Road and Haines Road was taken in hand. A survey of the conditions of the Kamathipura slum area was also commenced. The Standing Committee hope that these works will be attended to promptly and completed without undue delay.

- 15. The total number of properties both Municipal and ex-Trust, maintained by the Maintenance Branch during the year was 3,213 which was more by 20 and 57 than the number of properties, viz., 3,193 and 3,156, respectively, in the previous two years. The increase was due to new buildings having been handed over for maintenance. The work of up-keep and maintenance of buildings was carried out partly by contract and partly by departmental agency. The Budget provision for the said purpose was Rs. 27.56 lacs against which the expenditure incurred amounted to Rs. 19.28 lacs. Corresponding figures of the Budget grant and expenditure for the last two years were Rs. 23.53 lacs and Rs. 15.43 lacs and Rs. 24.56 lacs and Rs. 22.64 lacs., respectively. Out of the total expenditure, works to the extent of Rs. 7.35 lacs were carried out departmentally and Rs. 1.68 lacs through the Petty Works Contractors as against Rs. 10.68 lacs and Rs. 3.94 lacs, respectively, in the previous year. In addition, repairs to school buildings under Budget 'E' were also carried out at a total expenditure of Rs. 0.43 lac in the year under report.**

Municipal Properties.

New Works and Special Repairs Works were carried out at a total expenditure of Rs. 3.94 lacs as against Rs. 3.83 lacs in the previous year. The total Budget grants for carrying out Special Repairs to Municipal properties and ex-Trust Chawls and properties were

Rs. 5.96 lacs and Rs. 10.55 lacs, respectively, as against Rs. 4.00 lacs and Rs. 7.96 lacs, respectively, in the previous year, against which actual expenditure incurred during the year amounted to Rs. 1.96 lacs and Rs. 8.24 lacs, respectively, as against Rs. 1.09 lacs and Rs. 5.23 lacs, respectively, in the previous year.

Works on the five years' programme of heavy repairs and improvement of water supply to the *ex-Trust* Chawls, conversion of D.C. electric supply into A.C. system and providing additional points, at the *ex-Improvement Trust* Building, were continued and in several cases completed.

The cost of maintenance of Municipal and *ex-Trust* buildings continued to show an upward trend, largely due to the continuous deteriorating condition of the properties consequent upon old age and overcrowding due to prevailing housing shortage.

During the year under report, tenders were invited in connection with the following important construction works :—

(i) Construction of a Dormitory at Palton Road Estate ; (ii) Construction of a Clinic and Maternity Home at Naigaum ; (iii) Conversion of 'F' Ward stables into an Isolation Hospital for T. B. patients at Dadar Main Road ; and (iv) Convalescent Home with 120 beds with staff quarters at Hospital Avenue Road.

During the year under report, the following works of construction of tenements for housing the Conservancy Staff of the Public Health Department were either in progress or were completed :—

(i) Construction of the remaining 96 tenements at Rajwadkar Street, Colaba ; (ii) Construction of 144 tenements out of 244 tenements at Bapty Road Yard were completed ; (iii) The work of 'Housing Municipal Staff' which is proposed to be utilised in carrying out the work of replacement of 'Patra Chawls' at Mahalaxmi by storeyed building comprising of 410 tenements and 10 shops, was in progress ; (iv) 60 tenements at Shanti Nagar, Arthur Road, and (v) 14 tenements at Chinchpokli.

During the year, in summer months, it was extremely difficult to maintain the full supply level at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Olympic Swimming pool at Shivaji Park. This heavy loss of water was, among other things, due to leakage in walls and floors of the Pool. The Pool was, therefore, closed to the public in the middle of June 1954 to investigate into the matter thoroughly. After carrying out the necessary repairs, the Pool was refilled when the leakage was found to have come down to the permissible minimum. The Pool was then brought into commission after about one and a half months and was well patronised by the public at large. Estimates amounting to Rs. 47,11,866 for various works to improve the condition of the Pool were prepared during the year and were under consideration of the Corporation.

16. During the year 4,600 applications against 5,052 and 5,437 in the previous two years were received from the construction of new buildings or additions and alterations to the existing ones. The number of buildings covered by these applications was 2,051 against 2,067 and 1,689 in the preceding two years. It is significant to note that there was a considerable fall in the number of new tenements constructed during the year which was 1,696 against 1,996 and 2,568 in the preceding two years. Out of 1,696 tenements, 155 were one-room tenements, 360 two-room tenements and 1,181 larger tenements. The corresponding figures for the previous two years were 291, 662 and 1043 and 303, 597 and 1665, respectively. Of the newly constructed tenements, the highest number was 679 in F Ward consisting of 35 one-room, 151 two-room and 493 larger tenements. The total number of buildings constructed by private enterprise during the year was 383 of which 133 were residential and 250 non-residential. 9 buildings were constructed by Co-operative Societies and 11 by employers for their employees. According to the above statistics, the new building activity did not even touch the fringe of the problem looming large since a long time. A fillip to this industry is very essential, if adequate housing accommodation is to be provided to the citizens within some reasonable range of time.

The number of tenements demolished during the year was 540 against 580 in the previous year. Of these 474 were one-room tenements, 37 two-room tenements and 29 were larger tenements. Of the demolished buildings, the highest number was 134 in B Ward in which 131 one-room tenements, 2 two-room tenements and 1 larger tenement were demolished. Such demolitions tend to aggravate the existing acute housing shortage. This is, however, inevitable in the interest of those who occupy such buildings. The Standing Committee have no doubt that the Executive get themselves convinced about the ruinous condition of a house before resorting to this extreme measure of demolition.

During the year, action for removal of unauthorised works was taken vigorously to check the growing tendency on the part of law breakers to put up such structures without proper permission and in contravention of the provision of the Act and the Building Bye-laws. Most of such structures were inadequately lighted or ill-ventilated or were deficient as regards open spaces required under the Building Bye-laws. Sanction of the Standing Committee was obtained in 404 cases, for the removal of unauthorized works. In addition, there were 80 cases pending at the close of the last year giving a total of 484 unauthorized structures. Of these 137 works were removed by the parties while 83 cases were removed departmentally. Out of the remaining 263 cases, in 19 cases the works were regularised and 245 cases were pending at the close of the year. The argument that removal of unauthorized works would result in displacement of persons should not, in the opinion of the Committee, deter the executive from enforcing the legal provisions.

Action for the removal of a stall board projections and show cases on public streets was continued through the Stall-board Removal Staff. In all 943 notices were issued against 2,142 in the previous year. Out of these, 798 notices were complied with, and 145 were pending at the close of the year as against 1,653 and 489, respectively, in the previous year. During the year 1,036 projections were removed by the parties of their own accord and 1,684 were removed departmentally.

1,184 stall-board projections and 993 weather-framed projections, 82 rolling shutters were allowed to be retained on payment of fees against 763, 911 and nil, respectively, in the preceding year. The net income derived from temporary projections, such as, stall-boards, etc., amounted to Rs. 4.12 lacs against Rs. 3.48 lacs and Rs. 2.32 lacs in the preceding two years, while the expenditure incurred on the establishment, etc., charge for the control of such projections was Rs. 0.99 lac as against Rs. 0.97 lac and Rs. 0.90 lac in the preceding two years.

In the case of dilapidated houses, the issue of notices and the launching of prosecutions continued as before. In all 7,265 notices were issued during the year for removal of unsafe buildings against 5,036 in the previous year. Out of these, 5,673 were complied with and 1,592 were pending at the end of the year. In some cases, where the owners failed to comply with the requisitions in spite of convictions, and where the tenants approached the authorities to force the land lords to carry out the repairs, authorizations under Section 499 of the Act were given to them to carry out repairs works and to recover the reasonable expenses incurred by them from the rents.

In some cases, departmental action had to be taken to pull down unsafe portions of buildings in the interest of public safety, as the owners failed to carry out municipal requisitions. In some cases, the owners deposited the amount towards the expenses of such demolitions. The recent amendment to the Rent Restriction Act, permitting the landlords an increase over standard rents upto 5 per cent. of actual costs of repairs did not improve the housing situation worth the name, as there were not many owners who took advantage of this amendment for carrying out heavy repairs. It is also for consideration whether major repairs should be allowed in case of all buildings, which will necessitate a survey of old buildings in the City. The question was under consideration of the authorities at the close of the year.

The prevailing acute housing shortage hampered the improvement and widening of narrow streets in congested localities. Lands coming within the setback lines prescribed on a majority of such streets could not be demanded for want of alternative accommodation for the persons likely to be dishoused. The question of providing Transit Accommodation for tenants affected by set-back proposals and also for families dishoused by house collapses, was under consideration of the authorities.

The collapse of a building known as 'Neville House' at the Ballard Estate during the year was a peculiar one. The building was of R. C. C. construction and half of it collapsed completely without any sign of warning from the 4th floor downwards leaving only the external walls intact. An unofficial Committee which made enquiries in the case attributed the cause to the faulty design, as the building was constructed in 1922 when the R. C. C. design was in its infancy.

17. *Dadar Purification Works.*—The Sewage Purification Works at Dadar functioned satisfactorily throughout the year under report. The total volume of **Drainage and Sewerage.** sewage received at the Plant during the year amounted to 4,162.98 million gallons, *i.e.*, an average of 11.41 million gallons per day, against the total quantity of 3,746.43 and 4,073.53 million gallons received at the Works in the previous two years giving daily averages of 10.26 and 11.16 million gallons, respectively. The total quantity of sludge gas generated during the year was 44.12 million cubic feet almost 0.99 million cubic feet less than the last year, *viz.*, 45.11 million cubic feet, while the daily production was 1,20,871 cubic feet as against 1,23,603 cubic feet per day last year. The decrease was due to one of the auto digestion tanks being out of commission during the last quarter of the year. From the experience

gained, it can be said that the distribution of sludge gas for domestic consumption was both economical and simple. The total revenue realized during the year by sale of gas amounted to Rs. 1.23 lacs as against Rs. 1.11 lacs and Rs. 0.78 lac in the previous two years. The total expenditure on power, stores, laboratory, establishment, etc., charges for the Purification Plant, Digestion Tanks Sewerage Pumping Station, etc., amounted to Rs. 2.06 lacs as against Rs. 2.70 lacs in the previous year.

Sewage installation at Love Grove worked satisfactorily throughout the year. The average sewage level during the year was about 71.08 T.H.D. against 71.48 T.H.D. in the previous year. The total expenditure on the maintenance of the installation was Rs. 2.81 lacs as against Rs. 3.03 lacs and Rs. 2.46 lacs during the previous two years. The new Detritus Tanks forming part of the works under the first stage of the proposed Love Grove Purification Works were put into commission during the year under report.

The sewage purification works at Dharavi worked satisfactorily during the second year of its operation. The total volume of sewage received at the plant during the year was 1,139.81 million gallons, *i.e.* an average of 3.13 million gallons per day. The total quantity of sludge gas generated during the year was 39.87 lacs cubic feet. The total revenue realized during the year amounted to Rs. 6,814-14-0 and the total expenditure on power, stores, laboratory, establishment, etc., amounted to Rs. 3,473.

The sewerage system of the City depends upon the satisfactory working of Pumping and Compressor Stations. Sewage from the sewerage system of the City was pumped through 13 Pumping Stations, 6 of which, *viz.*, Globe Mill Passage, Love Grove, Dadar, Matunga, Mahim, Jacob Circle and Tulsi Pipe Line Road, are major stations and the remaining are secondary ones. The Globe Mill Passage Pumping Station, which was put into commission in September 1954, was a new addition to the list of Pumping Stations. However, with the closure of the Parel Poibavdi Pumping Station in January 1955, the number of pumping stations at the close of the year remained the same as in the last year. All the Pumping Stations worked satisfactorily throughout the year.

18. During the year, 457 motor vehicles were in commission against 448, 454 and 344 in the previous three years. During the year, 9 new vehicles were purchased. One new Bull-Dozer was also added at a cost of Rs. 35,680 for levelling refuse heaps dumped at different refuse dumping grounds. The use of the Bull-Dozer, besides expediting the work, has shown considerable saving as no manual labour is now employed for such work. The expenditure incurred on the maintenance of the motor transport amounted to Rs. 18.33 lacs against Rs. 15.20 lacs, Rs. 10.15 lacs and Rs. 9.57 lacs in the previous three years.

The execution of the scheme for constructing a Central Garage near Worli for housing all vehicles at a central place sanctioned by the Corporation in 1949 was further deferred due to financial stringency.

Owing to addition of a large number of vehicles, the Transport Branch which was under the control of Mechanical Engineer till lately was put in charge of a newly created post of an Assistant Engineer, 1st Grade, styled as Transport Superintendent. It is expected that this will result in better efficiency, greater output and reduced breakdowns which in the past were often responsible for dislocation of essential health services, particularly refuse removal.

During the year under report, the work of conversion of 23 Leyland Moving floor lorries into Fixed floor lorries with hydraulic tipping arrangement was taken up and 4 vehicles were converted and put into operation. The conversion is giving good results as the fixed floor lorries do not get damaged as often as the moving floor lorries used to get.

In order to augment the fleet, 6 Scammel Horses were purchased during the year under report. Similarly, conversion of 30 out of 45 moto carts into Trailers which had become unserviceable was taken up in hand and majority of the work was completed during the year.

Messrs. Ibcn Ltd., who were entrusted with the re-organization of this Department, submitted their report during the year and their recommendations were under consideration.

19. The total mileage of roads in the City limits at the end of the year was 2,74,056 miles against 273,606, 280.89 and 270.717 miles in the preceding three years. The cost of adding to roads the set back lands acquired in the different parts of the City amounted to Rs. 37,116. The total area thus added to the road during the year was 1,364 square yards.

During the year, about 10,507 square yards of area of road surfaces were renewed with 3" sheet asphalt at a total cost of Rs. 1.21 lacs. No roads were renewed by 'Recondo Process' during the year. The work of maintenance of roads and footpaths was generally satisfactory throughout the year. A total area of 1.98 lac square yards of the different types of the road surfaces was improved during the year. The work of asphaltting foot-paths was continued during the year and foot-paths of 24 roads covering an area of 51,668 square yards were asphalted at a cost of Rs. 0.99 lac.

Traffic Islands were provided at important inter-sections and the total number of such islands at the close of the year as 104. Out of this 5 Traffic Islands were provided during the year under report.

The work of construction of a Pedestrian Sub-way across Queen's Road near Churchgate Railway Station, the plans and estimates for which were approved by the Corporation in December 1954, was taken up in hand before the close of the year. The Committee understand that this has since been completed and has contributed greatly to relieve traffic congestion in that area.

During the year a sum of Rs. 0.96 lac was realised on road opening fees, ground rents or fees for temporary occupation of roads and foot-paths.

During the year under report, the Schedule of Fees for occupation of roads and foot-paths was revised by the Corporation, incorporating therein penalty for unauthorized occupation of roads and foot-paths at double the usual rates. The Corporation also approved of the levy of fees of As. 2 per sq. yd. per diem from the stall-holders at different recognised fairs held in the City.

Total number of street lamps in the City at the end of the year was 12,164 as against 11,885, 11,638 and 11,619 in the previous three years. An expenditure of Rs. 18.58 lacs was incurred for lighting and maintenance of street lamps. An additional expenditure of Rs. 1.87 lacs was incurred on erection of new lamps, maintenance, miscellaneous works, etc.

Since the year under report, 'All in Hire Scheme' for mercury vapour and fluorescent electric lamps has been introduced, under which all such lamps already installed and to be installed will be owned by the B. E. S. & T. Undertaking, the capital expenditure in respect of these lamps being borne by the Undertaking. Only the maintenance cost for the lamps is to be paid by the Corporation to the Undertaking. This has resulted in improving the lighting of streets to an appreciable extent. The long standing public demand for providing the statue of the late Lokamanya Tilak with flood-lights was accepted by the Corporation during the year under report and the statue was flood-lit from 1st August 1954, on the occasion of the death Anniversary of that great Patriot.

20. As in the past, the major portion of the refuse was as usual transported to Deonar Removal of Town in railway wagons. The remaining refuse was dumped into low-lying Refuse. lands in the City, viz., Hornby Vellard, Haines Road Cometary, near Love Grove Pumping Station, Sion-Kurla Creek, Dadar-Purification Works and Dharavi, which sites were required to be filled in.

The arrangement of running three refuse trains per day introduced in 1950-51 was discontinued from 15th July 1954 and only two trains consisting of an average of 30 wagons each were run. A light engine was engaged to remove the empty train at Chembur to Mahalaxmi siding as soon as the train was unloaded and the loaded train from Mahalaxmi siding was brought to Deonar by the same engine. By this arrangement, the empty train was available at Mahalaxmi Siding for loading purposes before the loaded rake was taken away to Deonar.

The total number of wagons sent to Deonar during the year under report was 21,511 as against 23,465, 25,421 and 26,433 during the previous three years. The decrease is mainly due to the shortage of rolling stock and irregular working of the trains. The total quantity of refuse removed to Deonar was about 3.66 lac tons as against 3.99 lac, 4.07 lac and 4.49 lac tons during the previous three years. The total expenditure on account of removal and disposal of refuse amounted to Rs. 7.18 lacs as against Rs. 7.82 lacs, Rs. 8.87 lacs and Rs. 8.90 lacs in the preceding three years. The total cost of unloading refuse wagons amounted to Rs. 3.34 lacs against Rs. 3.64 lacs, Rs. 3.98 lacs and Rs. 4.06 lacs in the previous three years. The work of unloading refuse wagons was carried out wholly by contract. The cost of haulage and unloading per ton amounted to Rs. 1-15-5 approximately as against Rs. 1-15-5, Rs. 2-7-10 and Rs. 2 per ton in the previous three years. The decrease in expenditure was due to less number of wagons received at Deonar.

The position of the rolling stock required for work was far from satisfactory. The rolling stock including 25 wagons lying 'sick' in the Railway Workshop at Mahalaxmi siding and at Deonar at the end of the year was 90 as against 106 in the previous year. The decrease was due to 16 wagons being condemned during the year under report. Old wagons had to be condemned but no new wagons could be had for several years in spite of the efforts made in this direction. The matter was under prolonged correspondence with the Railway authorities for the supply of 50 new wagons but to no avail. Efforts are also being made to purchase them through private agencies.

The Corporation have approved of a proposal by the close of the year to transfer the entire conservancy services under the City Engineer and to create a new post of 'Public Health Engineer', to supervise the working of these services. As a result of this, the Head Supervisor of the Conservancy Department and his staff who were formerly working under the Executive Health Officer were transferred under the City Engineer. It is to be hoped that with this centralization of the Conservancy Services under unitarial control better results would accrue which were not formerly available under the system of executive "dyarchy".

21. The Master Plan for the Greater Bombay region was approved by the Corporation in 1948. In regard to control of the user of land, provisions of amended Bye-laws being inadequate, further legislation to introduce zoning was under consideration of the Executive for the last few years. A Draft Zoning legislation was prepared and forwarded to Government who have, however, replied that as the recent amendments to the Town Planning Act embodied therein the Zoning Districts contemplated by the Corporation, need for a separate legislation did not exist. The matter is further pursued with Government and in the meanwhile establishment of factories was controlled under Section 390 of the Bombay Municipal Corporation Act, thereby ensuring a partial zoning control.

The work of issuing factory permits was transferred for administrative convenience under the City Engineer by creating a new Branch called 'Factory permits Branch'.

Development of Trombay Island.—The work of the Eastern Express Highway made further strides during the year. The work of widening old roads and constructing new ones in the area started in the previous year was nearing completion. Tentative layouts for utilising Chembur and Kole-Kalyan areas for industrial purposes were prepared. The work of re-location of Anik village was nearing completion.

Investigations in connection with the waste low-lying areas lying idle, in the Suburbs, due to tidal inundation were continued during the year under report and further meteorological data was collected for working out a scheme for reclamation of these lands by providing Peniheral bunds, storage reservoirs and pumping stations. As a prelude to a larger Scheme, encompassing larger areas, a pilot Scheme, for a portion of Dharavi area was being worked out during the year. Similarly, to study the topography and the condition of the creek basin, a proposal to provide gates at the span of the Mahim Causeway to back out tides was under contemplation during the year under report.

No further progress in respect of shifting of the Slaughter House from Bandra to Deonar was made except providing an embankment for a part of the access road.

The work of the aerial survey of Greater Bombay region was completed and remaining set of photo enlargement was received. The actual cost of the work amounted to Rs. 1,21,849 against the estimated cost of Rs. 75,200.

The total expenditure booked in connection with the preparation of the Master Plan from the commencement, viz., 1st January 1947 to 31st March 1955, amounted to Rs. 2.61 lacs.

The question of making available a portion of Government land at Juhu beach for a Holiday Centre, plans for which were already prepared, was taken up with the Government during the year.

Town Planning Scheme.—In all 4 Town Planning Schemes for Bombay City were approved by the Corporation and the State Government upto 31st March 1955. The areas under all the four Town Planning Schemes were kept under vigilant control with a view to preventing constructions in contravention of the provisions of the Town Planning Act.

The Mandvi and Elphinstone areas which were devastated by dock explosions and subsequent fires in April 1944 comprised of Town Planning Schemes, Bombay City No. 1.

The Mahim area covered by the provisions of the Bombay Town Planning Act, 1915, was divided into three Schemes, viz., Schemes Nos. 2, 3 and 4.

During the year under report, the final scheme in respect of Town Planning Scheme No. 1 as drawn up by the Arbitrator was approved by the Corporation and forwarded to the Government for their sanction, which is awaited.

As regards Scheme No. 2, the Arbitrator completed his arbitration proceedings and his Award was awaited. Arbitration proceedings in respect of Scheme No. 3 were in progress and those in respect of Schemes No. 4 were not taken up by the close of the year.

The total expenditure incurred in connection with the preliminary works of the proposed Town Planning Schemes for the areas from the commencement upto the end of the year under report was Rs. 10.02 lacs, and the expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 1.65 lacs.

22. The Department continued to look after the work of acquisition of lands and Estates and Land preparation of layouts, etc., as before. The Special Land Acquisition Management Officer submitted his Award in respect of temple property in Case No. 374, Scheme 5, to the Government who directed the parties to come to a settlement. The work is being attended to. As regards the area of land along the foreshore of the Worli Village in Scheme 62, there being stiff opposition from the villagers for fear of being dispossessed of their ancestral properties, a new scheme which would meet their objections and also enable the Corporation to carry out improvement in that locality was under consideration and the City Engineer was requested to prepare a layout showing the development of the locality. The matter was pending till the close of the year. Government land in Scheme 77, "Housing for fishermen of Mahim Foreshore", was acquired for providing a recreation ground as well as for housing fishermen.

Document in respect of Government land in Scheme 6, Sion-Matunga Estate, which was taken over for the purpose of Municipal housing was executed during the year and fresh agreement in respect of the scheme for widening the 1st Marine Street, Dhobi Talao, was still under preparation. The revised layout of Haji Ali Park, Hornby Vellard, received Government sanction during the year under report. The Corporation also approved of the re-development and layout of land on which Mahalaxmi semi-permanent sheds are situated.

Out of the total area of 139.36 lac sq. yds. (about 2,879 acres) vested in or acquired by the ex-Trust, about 37.3 per cent. remained to be developed and out of the developed area, 3.5 per cent. remained to be leased, including an area of 1,64,680 sq. yards reserved for Municipal purposes, such as, schools, markets, etc. At the end of the year, the area of undeveloped land was the same as in the previous year, viz., 51.97 lac. sq. yds., the cost of acquisition of which is Rs. 1,87.09 lacs as reported in the previous year.

During the year under report only one Municipal plot admeasuring 1,286 sq. yds., was disposed of, while the number of plots disposed of in the previous three years were 1, 3 and 2, respectively.

The area of Trust land disposed of on permanent basis during the year showed a decrease over that for the last year but the value realised thereon is comparatively more, viz., 4,288 sq. yds., and Rs. 3.50 lacs, as against 11,871 sq. yds. and Rs. 6.69 lacs, respectively, in the preceding year.

During the year, in all 10 plots covering a total area of 8,879 sq. yds. and valued at Rs. 4.51 lacs were leased. The corresponding figures for the last two years were 21 plots, 16,371 sq. yds. and Rs. 7.82 lacs and 11 plots, 14,923 sq. yds., and Rs. 5.86 lacs, respectively. The total number of plots disposed of upto the end of the year of report was 4,233 taking into account 3 plots surrendered during the year under report, with an area of 59.68 lac sq. yds. valued at Rs. 12,33.05 lacs as against 4,226 plots with an area of 59,63,611 sq. yds. valued at Rs. 12,29.55 lacs, respectively, in the previous year. Commutation of ground rent in respect of plots leased on long term basis is being discouraged as the same is not considered advantageous to the Corporation.

Of the 10 plots leased during the year, 9 were leased on rental basis and 1 on premium basis, as against 21 plots during the preceding year out of which 5 plots were leased on rental basis and 16 on premium basis. The total annual rental to be derived from 9 plots was estimated at Rs. 17,769 as against for 5 plots estimated at Rs. 23,855 in the preceding year. Of the plots leased during the year, the highest number was 6 in Scheme 52, Worli Estate.

During the year under review an amount of Rs. 14.29 lacs was received by way of commutation of ground rent, premium, etc., as against Rs. 12.86 lacs, Rs. 9.68 lacs and Rs. 10.12 lacs in the preceding three years.

At the commencement of the year, the Department had in its charge 571 acquired or surrendered buildings against 568 in the preceding year. These contained 5,023 tenements. At the end of the year there were 568 buildings with 5,064 tenements the difference being due to demolition of 10 structures and acquisition of 7 structures during the year. New residential accommodation comprising 497 tenements became available in the apartments constructed by lessees during the year.

To provide shelter to the City's pavement dwellers construction of a Dormitory to accommodate 300 persons at a time was started on Plots Nos. 9 and 10, Palton Road Estate, on Sabu Siddick Road, near the Carnac Bridge during the year under report by laying foundation stone on 31st March 1955. The Dormitory will cost about Rs. 4.03 lacs. The Standing Committee hope that this belated amenity provided by the Corporation will receive due support from the public and its construction will be prelude to numerous others in different parts of Greater Bombay.

At the present rate of rents of Municipal tenements, losses are being incurred by the Corporation every year and to compensate that loss the Commissioner had placed before the Corporation a proposal for increase in rents of *ex-Trust* Chawls built prior to II World War by 50 per cent. in respect of residential rooms and 60 per cent. for shops and godowns and for creation of Amenity Fund and Rent Equalisation Fund. The proposal was under consideration of the Corporation during the year under report.

The monthly rent charged for one-room, two-room and three-room tenements in permanent *ex-Trust* Chawls ranged, respectively, from Rs. 4-15-0 to Rs. 10-13-0 from Rs. 18-8-0 to Rs. 25 and from Rs. 30-13-0 to Rs. 36-1-0 and Rs. 8 for larger rooms with partition, remained the same as in the previous year. 194 tenements at Sewri were charged rent at Rs. 25 per tenement per mensem. These rents were about 30 per cent. less than the economic rent and were in fact still lower when compared with the existing trend of rents of private premises, while the maintenance cost on account of sanitation and repairs was far higher to the Corporation than incurred by private landlords. The average population in the chawls during the year was 62,042 as against 62,008 and 61,217 in the previous two years, while the corresponding figures for semi-permanent sheds including Labour Camp were 29,900, 29,088 and 26,629, respectively. The death rate in the chawls during the year was 2.5 per 1,000 against 3.6 and 4.5 in the preceding two years. The decrease in the death-rate is an index to better living conditions obtaining in Municipal chawls.

With a view to relieving housing shortage in the City, the Corporation have permitted construction of an additional floor on buildings on plots in *ex-Trust* and Shivaji Park Estates. In accordance with this policy, additional floors on 47 buildings were sanctioned to be constructed during the year on payment of extra premium of Rs. 0.82 lac and an annual extra ground rent of Rs. 5,909. Construction of 36 motor garages on the compulsory open spaces of plots in these Estates was also sanctioned during the year on payment of extra premium amounting to Rs. 0.55 lac and extra ground rent amounting to Rs. 1,422. With a view to encouraging construction of larger number of additional floors, the Corporation lowered the rates of extra premium from Rs. 2 and Rs. 4 to Rs. 1-8-0 and Rs. 3 in respect of lessees who will complete construction before 31st March 1960.

With the object of maintaining sanitation, etc., in the Municipal chawls and buildings the enforcement of Bye-laws framed by the Corporation was continued along with the propaganda work and the supervision of the inspecting staff, during the year, as a result of which fines amounting to over Rs. 310-14-0 were recovered. The amount of fines realized is utilized for providing First Aid sets and sick-room requisites, such as thermometers, hot water bottles, etc., at 8 Chawl Centres, Matunga Labour Camp, Dharavi and Mankhurd Colony.

On the declaration of the Award of the Collector of Bombay in connection with 38 plots in Scheme 57, Sewri-Wadala Estate, in favour of the Municipality as the sole and only interested party, the matter regarding the reconveyance of the plots was referred to the Municipal Solicitor for advice which is awaited.

During the year under report, acquisition proceedings of the sites of Manbudruk and Majas Villages, requisitioned in 1951 and 1952, were continued. Out of 58 acres of land in Manbudruk Village, about 46 acres of land was awarded at Rs. 1,67,230 by the Special Land Acquisition Officer, the remaining land admeasuring about 15 *gunthas* was denotified being unsuitable.

During the year under report, compensation to the extent of Rs 1.19 lacs as per Collector's Award in respect of the land at Jogeshwari was paid. The possession of land was taken and a new Squatters' Colony was opened at that place. The Government of Bombay was opened at that place. The Government of Bombay was pleased to make a non-recurring grant of Rs. 5 lacs to the Corporation to meet the cost of acquisition of the land and constructing colonies for squatters at Mankhurd and Jogeshwari.

During the year 1,922 ejectment suits were filed against the tenants for sub-letting rooms as also for recovery of arrears of rent, taxes, etc., as against 1,516 and 1,300 in the previous two years. Four claim suits were filed during the year. An expenditure of Rs. 21,604-2-0 was incurred for filing these suits during the year and a sum of Rs. 17,656-3-6 was recovered towards Court costs.

23. The rainfall during the year was above normal. The Tansa Lake, the principal source of City's water supply over-flowed continuously for four weeks. The Tulsi Lake also over-flowed for about seven weeks. The Vehar Lake, which had ceased over-flowing since 1938, over-flowed for about four weeks during this year. It is pertinent to note that the Vehar Lake had not overflowed since the year 1938, in spite of the fact that water was transferred to the lake from the Tansa Lake and the fact that it also received the over-flow of the Tulsi Lake. The average daily supply to the City during the year under report was about 133.76 millions gallons against 120.41 million gallons, 119.31 million gallons and 119.98 million gallons in the previous three year .

During the year, the quantity of water supplied to the City and the Suburbs was 48,822.40 million gallons against 43,949.50 million gallons, 43,553.00 million gallons and 43,926.00 million gallons in the previous three years. Out of the above quantity, supply to the Thana Municipality was 140.85 million gallons against 144.35 million gallons in the previous year. Water supply to bodies outside the limits of Greater Bombay was 270.59 million gallons against 289.70 million gallons in the preceding year. Of the total supply, a quantity of 34,364.60 million gallons or 70.20 per cent. was for domestic purposes against 21,052.92 million gallons or 47.90 per cent. in the previous year which registers an appreciable increase. The average daily supply (for all purposes) per head on the basis of the population of 28.42 lacs as per the Census Report of 1951 was 47.06 gallons, while that for domestic purposes only worked out to 33.00 gallons. Percentage of total supply for domestic and other purposes worked out at 70.20 and 29.80, respectively. Total quantity of water supplied by meter measurement for domestic purposes was 3,955.42 million gallons and that for trade purposes was 8,294.70 million gallons of which 3,634.64, million gallons were consumed by mills, *i.e.*, 8.30 per cent., 602.20 million gallons were consumed by the Bombay Port Trust, *i.e.*, 1.38 per cent., 3,173.00 million gallons of water or 7.23 per cent. were wasted due to leaks and other losses through Municipal mains, etc.

There was only one major burst, 27 major leaks, 2,649 minor leaks on trunk mains and 164 leaks on the duct line and 197 leaks on syphon mains. All the leaks were promptly repaired. Water from the three lakes was sterilized by chloramine treatment. Supply from the Tulsi Lake was sterilized after pre-treatment of potasium permanganate and filtration.

The total calls received from the Fire Brigade Department was 1,081 as against 1,247, 986 and 1,071 in the last three years. They were promptly attended to. The total quantity of water used on fires by the Fire Brigade was about 2 million gallons as against 3 million gallons in the previous year. In order to enable the staff to attend the fires promptly, two fire vans were permanently maintained for 24 hours, one at the Babula Tank Office and the other at 'F' Ward Office. Similarly, one such van was maintained at night only at 'G' Ward Office.

10 Gardens in the Outside City Division were maintained during the year. The number of visitors to the Tansa and the Vehar lakes on Sundays and holidays was about 60,000 and 2,00,000, respectively, against 10,000 and 80,000 respectively, during the previous year. Additional amenities in the shape of a children's park, boat house, giant's castle, etc., were fully utilized by the public.

The number of complaints about short supply, etc., decreased to 13,629 during the year, as against 23,245, *i.e.*, a decrease of 41.7 per cent., over that in the previous year. 5,265 notices were issued on owners of houses for defects in water fittings on their premises, as against 3,887 notices in the past year.

During the year under report, works in connection with the laying of 96" main and making cross connections with trunk mains necessitated isolation of the mains at frequent intervals which resulted in reduction of water supply to the City, resulting in increase in short supply complaints during such periods. However, the system of dealing with short supply complaints was overhauled and each complaint was classified by Wards or Zones and reports were obtained from the Inspectors by fixed date and on receipt of such report action was taken by the Department. In cases of acute shortage where landlords adopted dilatory tactics, the tenants were asked to apply to the Municipal Commissioner for authority under Section 499 of the Bombay Municipal Corporation Act to carry out the notice work at the owner's cost.

The work of house to house inspection of leaky taps and fittings throughout the City had been discontinued in the previous year due to curtailment of staff. However, due to large number of cases of wastage due to leaky taps it appeared necessary to revive this work and

proposals in that respect were under consideration by the end of the year. Anti-waste campaign by exhibiting cinema slides and posters was continued during the year with full vigour. Out of 3.15 lac taps inspected 49,313 taps were rewashered and 1,093 taps were renewed. The corresponding figures in the previous year were 3.46 lac taps inspected, 50,639 rewashered and 1,359 taps renewed.

8,833 meters of various sizes were maintained during the year as against 8,576 in the previous year. The revenue derived from the supply of water by meter measurement during the year amounted to Rs. 134.07 lacs as against Rs. 145.36 lacs in the last year for the City only.

The total number of water connections in the City was 60,761 as against 59,606; 58,595 and 57,402 during the preceding three years. During the year 1,256 new connections were made. The figures for the previous year were 1,186. 1,111 cases were reported to the Standing Committee for severing water connections during the year as against 732 in the previous year. Of these in 264 cases water connection was cut off but subsequently restored, in 49 cases it was cut off and in the remaining cases orders were not carried out as the consumers complied with Municipal requisitions.

With a view to preventing undue wastage of water and short supply complaints on upper floors, the programme of fixing meters was pursued in order to minimise wastage and to prevent excessive use of water. 236 new properties were metered during the year.

During the year 1,282 cases of compounded water charges for water used for construction purposes were framed with a revenue of Rs. 6.03 lacs as against 1,007 cases with a revenue of Rs. 2.79 lacs in the previous year.

The work of maintenance of gardens along the slopes of Gibbs and Ridge Roads (known as Hanging Gardens), Sir Paeroseshah Mehta Gardens on the top of the Malabar Hill Reservoir, Joseph Baptista Gardens on the top of the Bhandarwada Hill Reservoir, the Ladies' and Children's Gardens at Ridge Road and the Kamala Nehru Park, was under the control of this Department. The work of providing electric lights at the Kamala Nehru Park at Malabar Hill was nearing completion at the end of the year and when that is completed the Park will be kept open till 9 P.M. for the convenience of the public. To afford further convenience to the visitors, the Corporation approved of a proposal to construct a sanitary block at the Sir Paeroseshah Mehta Gardens. Construction of the Powai Park at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,29,895 on a 43 acres picturesque country-side plot of land near the Powai Lake was sanctioned, during the year and work costing Rs. 45,000 was completed by the end of the year.

Similarly, as with the growing popularity of Tansa Lake and due to increased transport facilities, the number of visitors and picnickers to the lake had increased in the past, to provide them with adequate facilities a pavilion was constructed at the lake and lawns were laid out and drinking water and sanitary arrangements were provided at a cost of Rs. 30,000.

The work of laying two outlets from the Malabar Hill Reservoir to serve the Kalbadevi and the Fort areas was continued during the year. The Kalbadevi outlet was put into commission upto Dr. Viegas Street on 18th March 1954. The work of laying 30" steel main in Thakurdwar Road was taken in hand.

During the year the Corporation approved of an estimate of Rs. 70.00 lacs for the work of protection of steel mains by patch-plating and guniting them and 1,048 R.ft., of the 57" mains were patch-plated and gunited by the end of the year. Similarly, the Corporation also approved of an estimate of Rs. 42.58 lacs for the work of providing concrete blocks under steel mains with a view to protect them from corrosion due to soil contact and also to facilitate painting work. The work of providing such blocks for a length of 6 miles was given by contract at a cost of Rs. 3.34 lacs.

During the year, Section 173 of the Bombay Municipal Corporation Act was amended to enable the owners to recover the difference between water charges paid by them by meter measurement, resulting from the new policy of metering domestic supply. Similarly, Section 276 of the Act was also amended to permit the tenants to have their own meters subject to rules to be approved by the Commissioner. These rules were under preparation by the end of the year.

The Standards Branch continued to function for the department during the year under report. The total reduction effected upto the end of the year was 499 men from the City and 33 men from Suburbs, resulting in a saving of Rs. 4.83 lacs per annum.

The total expenditure incurred on water works amounted to Rs. 1,71.23 lacs including Rs. 1,31.24 lacs for Sinking Fund charges, etc., for loans raised for water works. The total revenue derived was Rs. 1,95.79 lacs, the excess of income over expenditure thus being Rs. 24.72 lacs.

24. During the year under report, the work of excavations of the foundations of the Dam, Guide Walls and Aprons, etc., was completed. The work of providing a grout curtain at the upstream face of the Dam was carried out by drilling 1 3/4" diameter holes along the length of the Dam through the foundation gallery and grouting the same with cement at 150 lbs. per square inch. The total depth of such holes drilled and grouted came to 10,200 R.ft. 7 thermometers were installed in the body of the Dam to study the temperature gradients from time to time and in all 94 instruments have been embedded. A total quantity of 55.72 lacs C.ft. of concrete was laid during the year, and the total work done upto the end of the year was about 194 lacs C.ft. During the year under report, the Corporation also sanctioned the work of supplying, erecting and setting to works four electrically operated and four buoyancy operated Tainter Gates. This work is in progress. The lubricating oil filter put into operation last year so as to effect economy in the use of oil worked for 1,478 hours and 6,448 gallons of lubricating oil were filtered and re-used.

Tunnels between Vaitarna and Tansa with ancillary works, such as, construction of R.C.C. Intake Tower, construction of Bifurcation Chamber, etc., were completed in all respects on 28th July 1953. The work of formation for laying 120" dia. pipe line and road from Tunnel face No. 6 to Tansa was completed on 12th June 1954. The work of formation and laying pipe lines continued during the year under report and out of 20 miles of pipe-line to be laid under the first stage, practically full length was completed at an approximate cost of Rs. 1.26 crores and side by side, work under second stage was also started and 5 miles of pipes were fabricated and 3/4 miles laid in position. The cost of the second stage works completed upto the close of the financial year was Rs. 4.65 lacs.

During the year under report, the work of construction of the structure to house the new Chlorination Plant required for sterilising the additional supply was taken in hand departmentally.

A number of works, such as, preparing trenches, providing anchor blocks, etc., were carried out departmentally and the total cost of such works completed during the year came to Rs. 10.29 lacs.

Land Acquisition.—Out of the total area of 3,991 acres involving 671 holdings of private, Inam and Government lands, awards of compensation amounting to about Rs. 6.75 lacs in respect of 435 holdings were declared.

The land acquisition reference filed by the Inamdar of Tembha was decided during the year and he was awarded an additional compensation of Rs. 2,26,000 against his fantastic claim of Rs. 85 lakhs. The other three references filed by him were dismissed with costs. Out of the total area of 35 acres of private, Government, Railway and Aerodrome land comprising 150 holdings acquired for the work of laying 96" diameter pipe line from Powai to Mahim, awards of compensation amounting to Rs. 0.13 lac, in respect of 15 holdings were declared during the year under report. Further proceedings were in progress.

General.—Various amenities at the Vaitarna Camp for facility of work and for recreation, to the staff engaged on the site, such as, water supply, transport, telephone, communication, medical aid, primary school, post and telegraph service, etc., functioned satisfactorily. 10 Rain gauging stations were established in the Catchment Area of Vaitarna and data of rainfall was collected. The average rainfall in the catchment area was about 138 inches.

October 6, 1954, was a memorable day in the history of the V. T. Scheme on which day, the Vaitarna waters were first transferred to the Tansa Lake on completion of the first phase of the Scheme. The Inauguration Ceremony was performed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, at a grand function for which a special grant of Rs. 26,000 had been allotted. The event marked a decisive stage in the progress of the scheme, viz., stabilization of Tansa Lake supply.

The total expenditure booked upto 31st March 1955 for the various items of the Scheme came to about Rs. 11,52.13 lacs.

The work of strengthening the Tansa Dam was completed on the 20th March 1955, at a cost of Rs. 50.94 lacs against the contract amount of Rs. 58.96 lacs which is indeed a matter for gratification.

25. During the year, the total number of Fire Stations remained the same as in last year, viz., 11 in the City proper and 1 in the Suburbs, at Andheri, which started functioning from 1st March 1954. To provide fire services for distant merged areas, a provision for two new Fire Stations—one at Chembur and the other between Ghatkopar and Vikhroli—has been made in the Budget Estimates for 1955-56.

The Fire Brigade received, during the year 1,286 calls against 1,247, 1,154 and 1,729 calls during the preceding three years. Out of these, 902 calls were for actual fires as against 657, 608, and 634 calls during the preceding three years. 212 calls were false alarms of which as many as 71 were due to mischievous interference with fire alarms, as against 347 and 124, respectively, in the preceding year. The number of false calls appears to be on the decline which is encouraging and is an evidence of better civic sense prevailing in the minds of unsocial elements. 172 calls against 115 and 83 in the preceding two years were for special services. Of these, 129 were in respect of fallen buildings and 43 for rescue work, etc.

During the year under report, one new Fire Engine with extension ladder and two trailer fire-pumps and two Fire Tenders were added to the existing appliances in the City proper. The newly opened Fire Station at Andheri was fully equipped with necessary appliances including a Fire Engine, Motor Ambulance, CO₂, and Foam Crash Tender. The Foam Crash Tender is primarily meant to meet any emergency arising out of an air crash in the Air Port areas.

The City was served by 206 fire alarm posts (including private ones) as against 208 and 204 in the preceding two years. These were connected to 12 Fire Stations. About 50 per cent. against 55 per cent. and 57 per cent. in the last two years, of the total calls received for fires, etc., were transmitted through this system.

During the year under report, the Brigade got two persons arrested for malicious interference with Hydrants and Fire Alarms. They were fined Rs. 5 and Rs. 10, respectively, by the Court. The fines inflicted do not appear to be deterrent so as to prevent recurrence of such abuse of Municipal emergency services.

There were 6 major fires in each of which the estimated loss exceeded rupees one lac. The estimated total loss to property damaged or destroyed by fire was about Rs. 31.25 lacs as against Rs. 28.12 lacs Rs. 53.7 lacs and Rs. 59.32 lacs, during the previous three years. The annual losses have thus been gradually brought down from about Rs. 94 lacs in 1948-49, due to the revised code of fire precautionary measures adopted by the Department for manufacture, storage, etc., of hazardous and combustible articles and the strict vigilance exercised in respect thereof by the inspectorial staff. The value of insurance of property affected by fire was about Rs. 20.20 lacs and the total value of property involved was about Rs. 11,12.85 lacs.

Casualties by fire, during the year under report, included 21 persons who were burnt to death, 39 persons who were severely injured and died subsequently in hospitals and 91 persons who received minor injuries but recovered ultimately. Corresponding figures of the last two years were 16 ; 22 and 81 and 9 ; 19 and 61, respectively.

The approximate quantity of water used in extinguishing fires was 22.49 lacs gallons of which 20.17 lacs gallons were drawn from Municipal mains, as against 30.77 lacs gallons and 27.47 lacs gallons, respectively, for the preceding year and the rest from the sea, tanks and wells.

Issue of licences for storage of cinematograph films with nitrate base continued to be controlled by the Government of India but all cases of cinematograph films with safety base, however, continued to be referred to this department to ascertain the suitability or otherwise of premises for their storages. This department had also to inspect storages of dangerous petroleum, fire works, etc., before licences were recommended to be issued by the Commissioner of Police. 179 such storages were inspected before licences were issued by the department during the year, as against 155 and 108 in the preceding two years. 5,962 sites proposed for establishment of hazardous trades, etc., were inspected by the department and necessary precautions against fire were recommended in each case.

As no case for such storages licenced by the Inspector of Explosive, West Circle, Bombay, was referred to the Department for recommending suitability or otherwise, Government of India was approached for their co-operation in the matter. It is sincerely to be hoped that Government will realize the danger involved to life and property of citizens in the absence of a co-ordinated policy in matters of granting such licences and will give their assistance to the Municipality in this behalf.

During the year under report, one candidate deputed by semi-Government institutions was entertained for training in fire fighting, for a full term course of three months. Two Security Inspectors were deputed by the B. E. S. & T. Undertaking for training in short term course of one month.

The total number of calls within the limits of Greater Bombay received during the year was 6,388 of which 1,367 were for accidents, 1,729 for maternity cases and Ambulance Service. 3,292 for hire cases, removing in all 6,254 persons as against the corresponding figures of 6,172 ; 1,387 ; 1,913 ; 2,872 and 6,049 in the preceding year.

The total mileage covered by ambulance vehicles during the year was 50,655 as against 47,035 and 47,790 in the previous two years. The total receipts on account of hire cases amounted to Rs. 31,928 including arrears of the previous year as against Rs. 18,858, Rs. 18,778 and Rs. 18,296 in the preceding three years.

26. During the year under report, the Department maintained 95 sites for public recreation, consisting of 19 Gardens, 4 Fountains, 3 Band Stands, 7 Traffic Islands, 5 Open spaces, 52 Recreation grounds, 1 Statue and 4 Ornamental Box Hedges. Four new sites, *viz.*, (1) Recreation Ground at Plot C, Bhulabhai Desai Road, (2) Recreation Ground near St. General Hospital, (3) Play-ground at Sayani Road, and (4) a new site at the junction of DeLisle Road and Arthur Road, for Recreation Ground, were taken over by this Department during the year. A large number of music programmes for public entertainment was arranged during the year, as in the past and the number of persons attending them is an indication of their popularity. There were 18 Band Programmes, 28 Indian Vocal Music Programmes. 56 Orchestra Programmes and 424 Recorded music programmes at different places, in addition to this, music broadcast by the All India Radio was relayed every day in the Victoria Gardens between 5 P.M. and 7-30 P.M. through the Radio-Set installed thereat.

An Amusement Park was established during the year in the north-east corner of the Victoria Gardens. The Joy Rides introduced at a nominal fee of annas 3 per adult and anna one per child attracted the fancy of a large number of visitors and not less than 3,50,000 people availed of the rides. Besides, the Elephant and Camel Rides arranged inside the Victoria Gardens and Pony Rides for children provided a welcome added attraction.

Directed Children's Centre at the Victoria Gardens under the supervision of the Bombay Presidency Women's Council, and Directed Play Centers at Various Places, continued to be popular as in the previous years. Play apparatus were provided at 9 centres and special repairs and some new works were carried out at the Victoria Gardens and other public gardens at a total cost of Rs. 75,100.

During the year under report, a new scheme was adopted in respect of maintenance of Traffic Islands. Islands were allowed to be maintained by private parties and in return they were allowed to put up small boards stating the name of the parties maintaining the Island on payment of advertisement fees. The scheme proved very successful without involving any extra cost to the Corporation and the Islands looked prettier and more attractive than before.

Victoria Gardens.—During the year the number of visitors to the Gardens was 49,31,407 as against 54,28,836 and 55,12,299 in the previous two years. The decrease in the number of visitors as compared with the previous years' figures is attributed to the heavy monsoon during the year. Even then the number of visitors per day worked out to 13,510.

During the year about 4,000 square yards low-lying plots in the Victoria Gardens were levelled and laid out with lawn and flower beds. Classes to train students in important Horticultural Operations were held at the request of students of various colleges, twice a week, and were largely attended. A plot of land was also reserved for students where they carried on Horticultural Operations under the guidance of the garden staff.

During the year, the live stock in the Zoo decreased by about 3.8 per cent. The total figure included new births, purchases or exchanges made and presents received. Important acquisitions were 5 lion cubs, 1 tigress, 2 chimpanzees, 2 gelada babboons, 1 small riding pony for children, 3 king horn bills and 2 crowned cranes.

During the year, 427 animals and birds were treated and 67 specimens of patho-bacteriological interest were examined at the Bombay Veterinary College Laboratory free of charge.

The expenditure of the Gardens Department amounted during the year to Rs. 5.45 lacs as against Rs. 5.20 lacs and Rs. 4.79 lacs during the last two years, while the income by sale of flowers and plants, etc., was Rs. 38,052 as against Rs. 38,100 and Rs. 25,357 during the last two years.

The Vegetable, Fruit and Flower Show held during the year attracted a large crowd of about 50,000 visitors.

The Victoria Gardens was adjudged as the best public garden in the City. Many prizes were won in Flower and Plants Sections. The prize-money was distributed amongst the Malis, who had produced the exhibits as an incentive to better results.

27. The Museum was kept open to the public for 302 days as against 305, 305 and 299 days in the preceding three years. The total number and the daily average of visitors during the year was 11.65 lacs and 3,859, respectively, against 10.25 lacs and 3,362 of the preceding year. During the year, 12,606 pupils from Primary and Secondary Schools in the City visited the Museum, as against 14,077 during the preceding year. The practice of keeping the Museum open on Wednesdays for ladies, children and parties of students only, was continued during the year.

Victoria and Albert
Museum.

During the year under review, the Propaganda Branch of the Public Health Department, put up 6 life-size models with cases and a new gallery named 'Civic Sense Gallery' was opened in the Museum. Similarly, the Estate Agent and Land Manager lent two models showing development of Dadar-Matunga Estate and Bellasis Road Chawls. All these proved of much interest to visitors.

18 Books were added to the Museum Reference Library, which continued to be popular with students of Art and History.

The amounts realized by the levy of an admission fee of half anna per visitor above 12 years of age on Fridays, Sundays and public holidays (except Wednesdays) on 110 ticket days and by sale of 3,200 copies of the Victoria and Albert Museum Brochure, came to Rs. 8,825-10-0 and Rs. 200-0-0, respectively. These amounts were credited to the Special Fund called the Victoria and Albert Museum Fund. The total expenditure on the maintenance of the Museum during the year was Rs. 38,500 as against Rs. 39,146 in the previous year.

28. During the year under report, the number of Libraries and Reading Rooms maintained was 18, as against 14 in the previous year. The increase was due to the merger of three Suburban Libraries into City Libraries, viz. Libraries at Kurla, Ghatkopar and Vile-Parle, and the opening of a new Municipal Library at Sewri.

Municipal Free
Reading Rooms and
Libraries.

With the approval of the Book Selection Committee, in all 804 books on various subjects and in different languages were purchased at an aggregate cost of Rs. 2,514-9-3 as against 352, 521 and 721 books at a cost of Rs. 1,065, Rs. 1,572, and Rs. 2,048-11-0, respectively in the preceding three years. It is reported that more books could not be purchased for want of accommodation in the Library premises. The Standing Committee would suggest that efforts should be made to locate Municipal Libraries in more commodious premises wherein a sufficient number of books can be maintained for the benefit of the readers visiting the institutions. The total number of visitors to the Reading Rooms and Libraries during the year was 2.33 lacs, as against 2.27 lacs, 2.49 lacs and 2.66 lacs during the preceding three years.

The Department which was under the Curator, Victoria and Albert Museum, was brought from July 1954, under an independent Officer designated as Chief Librarian. Three Libraries in the Suburbs also were given under the charge of this Officer. Further to implement the re-organization scheme approved by the Corporation, the replacement of Librarians by Library Attendants was partially carried out during the year. In January 1955, a new Library was also opened at Sewri in the new Municipal tenements.

The cost of conducting the Libraries during the year amounted to about Rs. 49,886 and the Income of the Department was about Rs. 1,210 as against Rs. 46,119 and Rs. 48,003 and Rs. 1,349 and Rs. 1,890, respectively, during the preceding two years. The expenditure for running the three Libraries in the Suburbs during the year amounted to Rs. 5,033 and the income derived in respect thereof was Rs. 682.

29. Tenders were invited for the purchase of stores during the year in 136 cases as against 170, 169 and 157 in the previous three years and the number of contracts entered into for the various scheduled articles was 292 against 167, 141 and 143 in the preceding three years. Besides these contracts, large quantities of materials like cement, iron and steel products, food-grains, etc., were secured at controlled rates from authorized stockists. The value of stores and other materials purchased during the year amounted to Rs. 65.69 lacs against Rs. 58.87 lacs, Rs. 68.30 lacs and Rs. 59.15 lacs during the previous three years. The increase was mainly due to the purchase of cast iron and hume pipe and iron materials. Of the total purchases made, stock of the value of Rs. 62.45 lacs was of Indian manufacture and the balance, viz., Rs. 3.24 lacs represented the value of foreign goods. During the year, 12 Import Licences were received for Fire Fighting Hose, Sluice Valves and spares parts for Crushers, the total purchase of which amounted to about Rs. 4.6 lacs.

Central Stores.

During the year about 17,375 tons of cement worth about Rs. 18.93 lacs were purchased. Likewise, 2,233 tons of Iron Materials worth about Rs. 11.26 lacs were also purchased. It is reported that the quantities of pipes and steel materials purchased during the year were more than those purchased last year but comparative figures of value or volume of purchases are not given in the report. With the lifting up of controls, this department was entrusted with the work of supplying foodgrains to the various Municipal medical institutions. Wheat and rice weighing about 4,651 Bengal maunds were purchased at a value of about Rs. 0.84 lac.

3,855 orders for the purchase of stores against 4,943 ; 5,279 and 5,311 in the preceding three years were placed with contractors and other dealers. Against these purchases and stock on hand, the consuming departments submitted 42,268 indents and sales memos as against 44,388, 44,418 and 46,061 in the preceding three years. The total turnover of the department, viz., receipts and issues of stores, during the year was Rs. 138.78 lacs, as against Rs. 119.49 lacs, Rs. 125 lacs and Rs. 114.35 lacs in the preceding three years. At the close of the year, the department had on hand stores of the value of Rs. 29.34 lacs, as against Rs. 36.75 lacs, Rs. 38.49 lacs and Rs. 26.88 lacs in the preceding three years.

As in the preceding years, mixed scrap and other unserviceable articles received from different departments were sold by public auction but cast iron scrap as also brass and other non-ferrous scraps were reserved for the Municipal Foundry. The total amount realized by sale of scrap, etc., came to Rs. 0.32 lac as against Rs. 0.44, Rs. 0.35 and Rs. 0.49 lac in the last three years.

Since the last three years, this Department is under observations of Messrs. Ibccon, Ltd. Against the potential reduction of 32 per cent. of staff recommended, so far a reduction of only 12 per cent. has been effected as against 8 per cent. and 7 per cent. effected during the last two years. The retrenched staff has been absorbed in leave vacancies and in posts falling permanently vacant due to retirement, etc. With the slow progress of implementation of reorganization proposals, it is not understood when the total reductions envisaged by Messrs. Ibccon Ltd. will be realized. It is possible that in years to come with the growth of development it may not be possible to achieve the reduction in staff ; but on the contrary there may be a necessity for an additional staff. In that case, how will it be possible to gauge the benefits expected from the reductions suggested by Ibccon,

During the year under report, Messrs. Ibccon Ltd., were entrusted with the work of Inventory Control and General Stores Expenses for a period of 4 months from 28th September 1954 to 27th January 1955. Reports submitted on this scrutiny are placed before the Corporation for their information and steps will be taken as far as possible to implement various suggestions made in the matter.

30. During the year 36,721 licences and permits were issued against 36,672 and 36,649 in the previous two years. The amount of fees recovered therefrom came to Rs. 9.99 lacs during the year under report as against Rs. 10.29 lacs and Rs. 10.25 lacs in the preceding two years. At the end of the year, an amount of Rs. 97,896 was outstanding in respect of 1,63 Notices of Demand, against outstandings of Rs. 75,780 and Rs. 1,20,310, respectively, for 1,558 and 1,959 notices for the previous two years. Against a negligible outstanding of Rs. 9,177 for 1951-52, the outstandings during the three following years appear to be enormous and require to be seriously watched and scrupulously reduced. The Standing Committee fail to realise the reason or reasons for this mounting outstandings in the absence of any explanation therefor in the report. The departmental administration should strive hard not only to reduce but also to completely wipe out these outstandings. The loss of revenue incidental to disuse or demolition of old licensed places amounted to Rs. 0.40 lac as against Rs. 0.46 lac., Rs. 0.52 lac and Rs. 0.38 lac in the preceding three years.

The total number of permits issued for exhibiting sky-signs, advertisements, etc., was 3,645 realising Rs. 4.16 lacs as revenue. The corresponding figures for the last three years were 3,592, 2,908 and 3,358 and the amount of fees collected came to Rs. 4.80 lacs., Rs. 2.91 lacs and Rs. 4.13 lacs, respectively.

The Department instituted 6,693 prosecutions for offences under Sections 328, 328-A, 394 and 412-A of the Bombay Municipal Corporation Act, as against 4,015 ; 2,535 and 2,802 during the previous three years. The total amounts of fines inflicted was Rs. 0.20 lac only as against Rs. 0.41 lac, Rs. 0.28 lac and Rs. 0.84 lac in the previous three years, respectively.

The reasons for an increase in the number of prosecutions and the decrease in the amount of fines inflicted are not explained in the report. The Standing Committee note from Appendices to the report that increase in the number of prosecutions instituted under Sections 328 and 328A show a marked rise of 4,508 against 1,757, and 567 in the preceding two years.

It is significant to note that against 6,693 prosecutions instituted during the year, 4,884 were withdrawn on compliance with law.

The total revenue of the Department during the year was Rs. 20.23 lacs against Rs. 20.94 lacs, Rs. 18.89 lacs, and Rs. 18.92 lacs in the previous three years.

The number of squatters and hawkers licences issued during the year was 26,202 and the earnings therefrom amounted to Rs. 4.30 lacs against 30,392, 35,985 and 43,761 for similar licences issued during the previous three years which had then realised Rs. 3.75 lacs, Rs. 3.89 lacs and Rs. 3.47 lacs, respectively.

On going through the report, it is observed that the amount outstanding from squatter licence fees on 31st March 1955 was only Rs. 0.16 lac and the loss of revenue incidental to the cancellation of Reserved Areas was nil, as against Rs. 0.55 lac and Rs. 1.20 lacs in the previous two years. In the report, a summary mention has been made of the measures taken to have an improved working of the Encroachment Section so as to weed out unauthorized traders and to give relief to the public from the nuisance otherwise caused by them.

31. The total number of establishments under the various categories excluding Theatres, etc., on 31st March 1955, were 86,129, as against 82,348 and 78,732 in the previous two years.

Administration of Shops and Establishments Act of 1948.

2,177 complaints were received in addition to 232 pending from the preceding year, out of which 2,387 were investigated, leaving 22 complaints pending at the close of the year. 367 mass raids, against 200 and 270 in the preceding two years, were carried out upto the end of the year. The number of visits and revisits paid to different types of establishments was 60,108 of which 48,447 were to shops, 6,600 to commercial establishments, 4,760 to restaurants, and 184 to residential hotels. The corresponding figures for the previous year were, 67,510, 52,768, 7,869, 6,438 and 326, respectively.

At the beginning of the year 478 prosecutions were pending, while 3,796 new prosecutions were instituted during the year, making up a total of 4,274. Of these prosecutions, 3,463 resulted in convictions, 20 in acquittals while 83 cases were withdrawn. The number of cases pending at the end of the year was 708. The total amount of fines realized was Rs. 1,17,518 giving an approximate average of Rs. 33-14-8 per case as against Rs. 1,27,481 and Rs. 32-11-2, respectively, in the previous year.

Total expenditure incurred in administering the Act in 1953-54 was Rs. 2,76,948, against which the Government grant-in-aid was Rs. 1,27,481. The corresponding figures in the previous year were Rs. 2,86,571 and Rs. 86,169, respectively.

In spite of various efforts made to secure an increased grant, Government is not prepared to do anything in the matter and has shelved the issue on one pretext or another. In the opinion of the Standing Committee, the only way to get out of this recurring financial burden on Municipal Fund is to hand over the entire administration to the State Government who were primarily responsible for enacting this piece of social legislation.

The total income from the Registration fees and fines realized during the year under report was Rs. 13,963 and Rs. 1,17,518, respectively, as against Rs. 13,501 and Rs. 1,27,481, respectively, in the previous year.

The total revenue of this Department during the year under report was Rs. 5.55 lacs against Rs. 5.07 lacs, Rs. 7.07 lacs and Rs. 4.81 lacs in the previous three years. Reduction of 9 posts of Inspectors from 1st December 1953 on account of reorganization of the Department, resulted in a fall in the numbers of visits to Establishments by 7,402. However, there was no appreciable fall in the number of prosecutions launched during the year.

The administration of Theatre Tax Section continued to function under the control and supervision of the Chief Inspector, Shops and Establishments, for purposes of recovery of the Theatre Tax. The total number of establishments under this category on 31st March 1955, was 74, as against 74,73 and 71 in the previous three years. The total number of visits and revisits paid to Theatres, etc., was 117 as against 109, 157 and 208 in the previous three years. The reasons for a reduced number of visits and revisits during the last two years are possibly due to reduction in staff.

The rates sanctioned by the Corporation for the levy of Theatre Tax for the year 1954-55 were the same as for the previous year. A rebate of 12 1/2 per cent. and 20 per cent. for Class I and Class II Cinema Theatres, respectively, was allowed on certain conditions, as before. Similarly, the tax was recovered in respect of Dramas, Dances, Variety Entertainment Programmes, etc., held at different Halls and Theatres or places hired out for the purpose where admissions were on payment. Exemption from payment of the Theatre Tax was granted in respect of performances held for the benefit of *bonafide* charities or for the uplift of cultural and educational

activities. The total income derived during the year was Rs. 5.39 lacs against Rs. 4.91 lacs, Rs. 6.89 lacs and Rs. 4.66 lacs in the previous three years.

During the year under report a new Rule No. 3A was incorporated in the Theatre Tax Rules, which empowered the Commissioner to grant rebate of 12.1/2 per cent. and 20 per cent. to Class I and Class II Cinema Theatres, provided the Theatre Tax for the month was paid in advance within first five days of the month. It further empowered the Commissioner to grant rebate with the sanction of the Standing Committee, not exceeding 20 per cent., subject to the same conditions of advance payment, etc., in respect of circus, carnivals, fete, Gramas, etc.

32. Total receipts of the department during the year amounted to Rs. 37.01 lacs against Rs. 36.14 lacs in the previous year, showing an increase of Rs. 0.87 lac, which was mainly due to increase in receipts from stallage charges, squatters fees and the Arthur Crawford Market Scale-shed fees.
- Markets.

Revenue from the Municipal markets would normally show a further upward trend if the authorities were to take effective measures to eliminate unauthorized hawkers and squatters in the vicinity of these markets. Similar observations were made by the Committee on this issue last year, but it appears that no effective measures have been taken by the authorities to secure to the Corporation its legitimate revenue by eliminating unauthorised squatters, etc.

The number of Municipal markets during the year was 21 (*i.e.* the same number as in the previous year) including two Squatters' Areas at Nowroji Hill Road and Parel Village and also the Plantain Market at Byculla recently taken over by the Corporation. The net receipts amounted to Rs. 18.62 lacs as against Rs. 17.03 lacs in the preceding year, thus showing an increase of Rs. 1.59 lacs, which was mainly due to increase in receipts from the Arthur Crawford Market, the Erskine Road Market, the Gopi Tank Market and the Gold Mohur Castle Market. The average percentage of vacant stalls per quarter was 7.86 against 7.51; 7.07 and 6.0, respectively, in the preceding three years. The total receipts from stallage charges, squatter fees, licence fees, etc., in respect of all Municipal markets amounted to Rs. 26.02 lacs, as against Rs. 24.81 lacs, Rs. 25.23 lacs and Rs. 23.24 lacs in the preceding three years. During the year under report, works of repairs, improvements, extensions, etc., to several Municipal markets were carried out. The work of collecting fees at the Arthur Crawford Scale-shed continued to be carried out departmentally and the revenue collected therefrom amounted to Rs. 5.49 lacs as against Rs. 4.59 lacs, Rs. 4.66 lacs and Rs. 3.25 lacs, realized in the preceding three years.

The number of private markets during the year was 21 against 22, 21 and 20 in the previous three years. A private market at Grant Road popularly known as the Dr. Hakim's Market was closed during the year. There was only one private Slaughter House. The licence fees realised therefrom was Rs. 0.76 lac as against Rs. 0.82 lac, Rs. 0.72 lac and Rs. 0.78 lac in the preceding three years. The licence fee in respect of two Private Markets remained to be realized, as the matter was still under negotiations.

The number of outside meat shops was 189 as against 188, 185 and 186 in the previous three years. An amount of Rs. 0.14 lac was realized by way of fees as against Rs. 0.12 lac in each of the preceding two years.

Special efforts were made to detect and prevent the smuggling of animals and contraband meat and unauthorized slaughter as also sanitation and congestion in market.

During the year, the total quantity of unwholesome articles of food, such as, meat, fish, fruits, vegetables, etc., including contraband meat seized and destroyed was 4.37 lac lbs., as against 5.01 lac lbs., 6.81 lac lbs. and 6.36 lac lbs. in the previous three years. The fall in the total quantity of unwholesome food-stuff destroyed is very remarkable but it is not known whether it is due to laxity in the inspection of food-stuffs or to sudden development of civic consciousness among traders to serve only wholesome edibles to customers which is rather difficult to believe. This fall appears to be progressive since the last four years. The Standing Committee would desire to have an explanation of this statistics.

The total number of animals brought to the fair ground at the Bandra Slaughter Houses during the year was 14.71 lacs as against 14.11 lacs, 14.31 lacs and 14.66 lacs in the previous three years. Of these animals, 8,594 against 8,025, 9,605 and 8,027 in the previous three years were rejected as unfit on *anti-mortem* examination.

The approximate weight of dressed carcass meat of buffaloes, cows and bullocks was 7,274 tons as against 8,182 tons in the previous year, while that of sheep and goats was 9,177½ tons against 8,883 tons in the last year. Of these 21 tons and 12 tons, respectively, against 24 tons and 12 tons in the previous year, were condemned, giving percentage of 0.29 and 0.13, respectively, against 0.30 and 0.15 of the previous year.

The total amount of slaughter and removal fees realized was Rs. 5.66 lacs as against Rs. 6.04 lacs, Rs. 5.96 lacs and Rs. 6.02 lacs during the previous three years.

The total number of animals slaughtered during the year was 13.80 lacs, against 13.22 lacs, 13.27 lacs and 13.47 lacs in the previous three years.

During the year under report high level conferences were held with Government representatives and others with a view to regulating the fruit and vegetable trade in the City. As a result certain improvements were effected.

The Superintendent of Markets, in his capacity as a member of the Bombay State Fruit and Vegetable Market Committee, visited important vegetable producing centres, such as, Ahmedabad, Poona, Belgaum, etc., where he explored the possibilities of importing more and more consignments of vegetables into the City from the producing centres.

During the year, at the request of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, New Delhi, arrangements were made to market over 30,000 defertilized eggs received from Travancore State. Similarly, a big producer in Gwalior was helped in marketing over 500 baskets of green peas.

At the instance of the Government of India, a few consignments of graded mangoes were despatched by air to British Industrial Fair, London, with a view to finding a new market for Alphonso mangoes.

During the year owing to persistent demand, nearly 1,000 porters were licenced to work in different markets and were given new metal armlets for the purpose of their identification.

With a view to implementing the recommendations of the Masani Committee for the improvements of the Slaughter Houses, action was taken to remove the *Kena* sellers from within precincts of Slaughter Chambers. Another improvement was the removal of offals from day to day at night time and it considerably mitigated the vulture nuisance at the Bandra Slaughter Houses.

33. Outstanding Activities.—(i) An epidemic of Small Pox was declared in the City in the middle of March 1954. Anti-Small Pox measures, such as, mass vaccination with propanganda vans as well as disinfection, publicity, etc., helped to check the incidence of this disease which took a toll of 623 lives.

(ii) The incidence of Poliomyelitis was on increase during the monsoon. Out of 207 cases notified, 37 proved fatal, which was much lower as compared with that in the year 1949 when 389 attacks were reported of which 65 proved fatal.

Births and birth rate.—The number of live births recorded during the year was 63,072 which was more by 346 than the number for the previous year (62,726). However, it was 4,850 above the average of the decennium (1944-53). Of the registered births, 32,264 were males and 30,808 females, giving a proportion of 105 males to 100 females. The birth rate was 27.1 per 1,000 of the population as against 26.9 in the preceding year. The number of still births was 2,963 or 4.8 per cent. of live births.

Deaths and death rate.—The total number of deaths registered from all causes during the year was 32,008 as against 33,927 and 34,337 in the previous two years. It was less by 5,499 than the average annual mortality of the last ten years and by 3,257 than the mean mortality of the preceding five years. According to the Census population, the death rate per 1,000 living persons worked out to 13.7 against 14.6 and 14.8 in the last two years. Of the total 32,008 deaths, 18,063 were among males and 13,945 among females. The death rate among females was, however, higher than among males, the male death rate being 12.2 and the female death rate 16.4 against 12.9 and 17.5 respectively, in the preceding year. As in the previous years, the diseases of the respiratory system were responsible for the highest death rate of 3 per 1,000 of the population. A large proportion of deaths from respiratory diseases occurred among children and infants under 5 years of age. Congenital debility and diseases of early infancy constituted the next most fatal group, giving a death rate of 1.7. The causes coming next on the list for the year were old age (1.4) and Tuberculosis (0.9).

Deaths among infants under one year of age was 8,534 against 9,000 and 1,169 less than the annual average of the previous decennium. The infant mortality rate for the year was 135.3 per 1,000 of live births as against 143.5 in 1953.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—During the year under report the main clinics at the five maternity homes were kept open thrice a week instead of twice to cope with the rush at these

Centres. The ten subsidiary clinics were kept open twice a week as before. Aid was given to the poor mothers in the form of jaggery, ghee, milk, etc. Milk distribution scheme was continued with the object of giving aid to poor and undernourished women attending Municipal maternity homes. The number of cases admitted in these Homes was 11,308 against 10,908 and 10,697 in the preceding two years, while the number of confinements was 9,622 as against 9,343 and 9,188 in the previous two years. Of the confined cases 1,786 were *prima parae*, against 1,786 and 1,709 in the last two years.

Social services in the shape of ante-natal care, care at birth, care during infant and pre-school life were rendered to the public through the five Maternity Homes under the charge of lady Medical Officers with a staff of 25 nurses and 20 Health Visitors. The maternity unit at Dharavi was in charge of two trained Health Visitors. The Health Visitors paid 43,173 visits in various districts against 40,383 and 58,072 in the previous two years. The Health Visitors also attended 45 cases of confinements at homes as against 38 in the preceding year, while the Medical Officers personally visited 2,381 cases as against 2,781 cases in the previous year.

With a view to controlling material and infant mortality, advice and instructions, in spacing births were given confidentially by qualified lady-doctors to married women strictly on medical grounds at the 17 Family Planning Clinics. The total number of attendance at the Clinics was 6,782 as against 6,322 and 4,306 in the preceding two years and in all 4,353 women as against 3,923 and 1,939 women in the preceding two years were given free supply of the required appliances. It is gratifying to note that this scheme is becoming more and more popular among the women particularly of the low-income group.

The Maternal mortality rate recorded during the year was 1.1 as against 1.3 in the previous two years. Investigation into maternal mortality was completed during the year.

Infectious Diseases.—The total number of cases of infectious diseases reported during the year was 14,549. This figure is indeed alarming as compared to 5,401 and 4,925 for the previous two years. Some explanation was necessary for this sudden increase which, however, is lacking in the Report. Of these 14,468 (99.4 per cent.) as against 5,298 (98.1 per cent.) in the previous year were from the District Registrar and 81 (0.6 per cent.) against 104 (1.9 per cent.) in the last year from medical practitioners. There was no case of Plague. Cholera caused 1 attack which recovered. Small-pox caused 1,816 attacks (including 60 imported) and resulted in 623 deaths, and Enteric Fever caused 2,215 attacks (including 122 imported) with 232 deaths. Diphtheria caused 2,333 attacks (including 166 imported) and 140 deaths. Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis caused 207 attacks (41 imported) and 37 deaths.

During the year 87 persons were inoculated against Plague, 18,268 against Cholera and 2,23,903 against Enteric Fever as against 367, 1,29,837 and 2,39,333, respectively, in the preceding year. Primary Vaccination and revaccination against Small-pox done during the year were 72,941 and 16,05,135, respectively, as against 61,006 and 5,37,630, respectively, in the preceding year. In all 298 primary and 10,939 revaccination, was done under 'Pilot Scheme' introduced in April 1954, under which vaccinators went door to door to carry out vaccinations.

General Sanitation.—The principal causes contributing towards the insanitary conditions in some parts of the City were insufficiency of sewers, continuance of the basket privy system and high density of population per acre. There are some practical difficulties, such as absence of proper accesses, etc., in the way of rendering adequate conservancy service as regards collection, removal and disposal of refuse and also of shortage of water supply. There were 899 basket privies to be still converted on full-flushing system which, it is reported, were kept pending due to impending Town Planning Schemes. The routine inspection of dwellings to find out sanitary defects was made by the Medical Assistants and Sanitary Inspectors under the general supervision of Assistant Health Officers. During the year under report 246 insanitary huts were demolished as against 684 in the preceding year. 2,372 milch cattle in 12 stables in E, F and G Wards were yet to be removed to the Government milk colony at Aarey. The Standing Committee hope that steps would be taken to remove them outside Greater Bombay as early as possible.

Control of rat pest.—The total number of rats caught and destroyed during the year was 9.39 lacs as against 10.27 lacs in the previous year and rats examined were 461 as against 2,509 in the previous year. No rat was found infected with Plague.

Control of stray Dogs.—The work of destroying stray dogs and of licencing dogs was carried out as in the previous years. 11,774 stray dogs were caught as against 12,727 and 11,114 in the previous two years. Out of those stray and ownerless dogs caught, 10,152 were destroyed 1,009 were returned to the owners, 87 sent to hospitals for experimental purposes, 181 died or escaped and 105 were detained at the Kennel at the Mahalaxmi Refuse siding. 13,262 dog bite cases were reported during the year as against 12,338 and 10,380 in the preceding two years.

7,931 dogs were licensed under the Dog Licensing Act, as against 8,065 and 7,893 in the preceding two years. The total income by way of dog licensing fees, etc., was Rs. 41,012-4-0 as against Rs. 43,643-8-0 in the previous year. It is not understood why only 7,931 dogs were licensed when as many as 11,774 stray dogs were caught. A vigorous propaganda and strict vigilance in this direction appears necessary.

Health Education and Propaganda.—Health Education was carried out among children by Medical Officers and School Health Nurses, which aimed at inculcating healthy habits among children. Routine health talks on simple personal hygiene were often given to the children in schools. During the year 225 and 892 talks were given by Medical Officers and School Health Nurses, in order to achieve the above object.

Ailing children were visited and revisited at their homes by the School Health Nurses as per directions of the Medical Officers, when they imparted instructions wherever found necessary to parents of ailing children as regards their care, diet, etc. 1,975 visits and 690 re-visits were paid during the year. In this way the possibility of recurrence of disease was minimised.

Conservancy.—Roads, footpaths and house gullies were swept twice daily as a normal routine. Some of the main roads were attended to with increasing frequency as was found necessary. House gullies were flushed and main roads were washed periodically. Refuse gathered by sweeping roads, footpaths and house gullies was collected and either carried to the nearest dust bin shed or removed in travelling carts or lorries to the place of disposal, at least twice daily. Refuse taken to the Mahalaxmi Refuse Siding was transported to Deonar daily in special refuse train. Dry refuse was sent for filling in low lying land at Hornby Vellard, Haines Road, Matunga, Railway lines and Dharavi. Domestic refuse was collected in galvanised sanitary bins with proper covers provided by the owners and was deposited in Municipal travelling carts and lorries or to the nearest dust-bin sheds.

Insecticidal Service.—Due to vigorous steps taken to control fly-nuisance by regular spraying and dusting of actual and potential fly-breeding places, the nuisance from flies was further reduced during the year. The use of 'Tifa' Unit was continued during the year and the insecticide fogging operations were carried out in about 241 lanes and by-lanes in the City. 15,196 houses were fogged during the year. Insecticides worth Rs. 1,52,292-5-6 were utilized during the year as against Rs. 91,728-1-3 and Rs. 74,799-11-0 in the previous two years. The work of private treatment on payment of fees was extended and the squads operated in all Wards of the City making the scheme popular. A sum of Rs. 47,569-10-0 was received as against Rs. 49,815-13-0 in the previous year for rendering insecticide service in private places.

Malaria.—Malaria was registered as the cause of 16 deaths as against 17 and 41 in the preceding two years. 12 deaths were ascribed to Ague and Remittent Fevers as against 3 in the preceding year. The number of clinical cases treated at the Municipal dispensaries was 48 as against 67 and 276 in the previous two years. Out of 2,138 wells in the City on 1st January 1954, 1,660 were hermetically cement concrete covered and 471 were open or partially opened wells. Out of these, 424 were retained, 38 were 'Jack' wells and remaining 16 were under action. Campaign against *Aedes Aegypti* mosquitoes, the Vector of Yellow Fever was continued throughout the year. The stegomia index did not show anything more than 2 per cent. which was considered as safe. Anti-malaria drugs were made freely available to the public through the Municipal dispensaries. Notices were issued against the owners to keep their compounds free from mosquito breeding as a precaution against the disease.

34. The number of new cases treated at the 24 dispensaries and one mobile dispensary was 3,36,519 (1,92,661 males and 1,43,858 females) as against 3,23,384 and 2,88,047 in the previous two years. The total attendance was 15,05,316 against 14,30,870 and 12,98,128 in the previous two years. In addition to the above dispensary work, women's and children's clinics were conducted by three part-time lady doctors at 6 Municipal dispensaries in the City thrice a week. The number of new cases treated at these dispensaries was 7,432 (5,824 women and 1,608 children) as against 8,334 in the previous year. The total attendance at the clinics was 88,311. These figures include the visits of lady doctors to patients at their homes.

The Municipal Eye Dispensary and Hospital at Kamathipura were attended by two Honorary Medical Surgeons by turns throughout the year. The hospital has an accommodation for 6 beds each for males and females with an operation theatre and a full-time Resident Nurse. The total attendance of patients was 83,113 as against 87,333 and 84,430 in the preceding two years. The total number of new cases treated was 11,583 as against 12,128 and 11,704 in the previous two years. The number of indoor patients among the new cases treated and total attendance of indoor patients were 234 and 3,372 respectively. The question of increasing bed accommodation at this hospital requires urgent consideration.

Leprosy.—The control of Leprosy in the City was exercised as before through the Acworth Leprosy Home, Matunga. In the absence of a Municipal institution for the isolation and treatment of cases suffering from this disease, this Home has been doing invaluable work for over 50 years. In addition to this, the institution conducts a well equipped out-patients clinic. Almost the whole cost of the maintenance of this clinic is borne by the Corporation.

The average daily attendance of patients was 251 and the total number of new cases treated at the clinic was 6,038 as against 220 and 214, 2,294 and 1,812, respectively, in the previous two years. The accommodation of 396 beds (284 for males and 112 for females) for the isolation of leprosy patients was the same as in the previous year.

The Seven Health Visitors, one appointed by the Home and 6 by the Municipality (including 1 for Suburbs) gave 1,859 talks on leprosy and paid visits to the houses of patients, first 851 and subsequently 7,538, as against 4,009, 905 and 6,861 respectively in the preceding year. The Medical Assistants in charge of Municipal free dispensaries attempted detection of early cases of leprosy for which they have been specially trained. The number of such cases detected and treated at Municipal dispensaries free was 24. A leprosy clinic was started at dispensary at Worli.

35. There were three T.B. Clinics for outdoor patients and a group of T. B. Hospitals. **Group of T.B. Hospitals.** at Sewri where cases in primary and advanced stages received institutional treatment. The total number of beds at these hospitals was 348 (183 for males and 165 for females) against 315 in the previous year, 33 beds having been added during the year. Each clinic is managed by well-qualified staff and is equipped with appliances necessary for treatment of patients. The total number of patients in various stages of Pulmonary Tuberculosis treated during the year was 2,610 (including 326 of the previous year) as against 2,412 during the previous year. The largest number of admissions was within the age groups between 20 and 30 years. The total number of surgical operations performed on patients was 541, as against 412 in the previous year.

The follow up of discharged patients and giving them A. P. and P. P. refills were continued as before. The total number of such A. P. and P. P. refills given during the year were 1,488 and 23,018 against 2,498 and 23,181 respectively in the preceding year. Some of the patients attended the Hospitals for follow up continuously for over 3 years. There were 1,001 new admissions to the out-door A. P. and P. P. refill Department during the year against 825 in the previous year. Tuberculosis took a toll of 2,184 lives and the death rate per 1,000 from T. B. was 0.9 as against 2,427 deaths and 1.0 death rate in the previous year.

The total expenditure incurred during the year was Rs. 7.84 lacs approximately as against Rs. 8.08 lacs in the previous year. The average cost per patient per day was Rs. 6-6-0 as against Rs. 6-8-0 in the previous year.

The Poor Box Collections including fees for medical certificates issued during the year amounted to Rs. 6,442-7-9, and a sum of Rs. 2,434-5-9 was spent on medicines, injections, etc., administered to poor patients. A regular monthly donation of Rs. 100 from the British India Steam Navigation Company, Ltd., was continued during the year. The Standing Committee, while thanking the Company for their donation, sincerely hope that more donations of this type would be forthcoming to supplement Municipal efforts in eradicating this disease.

36. For combating Venereal Diseases, free medical facilities both preventive and curative were continued as in the preceding year. During the year 18,281 **Venereal Diseases.** cases were treated at the Clinics as against 18,126 and 17,838 in the previous two years. Of these 15,360 were males and 2,921 were females. For prophylaxis 20,565 attended the eight Prophylactic Centres as against 17,929 and 16,457 in the previous two years.

Personal prophylaxis was given at eight municipal free Prophylactic Centres. The Centre at Bellasis Road was kept open day and night and others from 6-30 P. M. to 2-30 A. M. The average daily attendance at the Clinic was 695.3 as against 687.8 and 671.3 in the previous two years.

The Medical Officer in charge of Ante-Natal and Post-Nata Clinics sent 1,215 samples of blood (818 A. N. C. and 397 P. N. C.) for investigation of syphilis. Out of these 255 gave positive results for Kahn or Meinick's Test and out of these 255 cases 162 attended the Clinic for treatment during the year.

Medical persons who attended the Clinic were given training in diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases.

37. Health propaganda drive was intensified both in the City and the Suburbs through all the popular and modern publicity media. During the year, the Health Propaganda section organised important activities such as Health Weeks and Cleanliness campaigns in different wards. Municipal schools were sent the itinerary exhibits. It also helped the vaccination and inoculation staff of the Health Department with microphonic talks persuading people to accept vaccination and inoculation, etc. It also attended to the work of preparing and distributing health education material in the shape of posters, show-cards, leaflets, models and other types of exhibits. A Health Stall was also arranged by this Section in the Civic Exhibition in March 1954 whereat health education and film shows were shown. It maintained the sizeable Public Health Museum at the Princess Street Clinic and health stalls including 'Civic Sense gallery' at the Victoria and Albert Museum at the Victoria Gardens. Other publicity work of the department included press notes, slide releases, talks from mobile vans and displays arranged in Municipal maternity homes.

38. During the year in all 43,026 children (23,582 boys and 19,444 girls) attending Municipal Schools and Classes as against 43,589 in the previous year were medically examined. Of those examined, 35,227 were found suffering from one or more physical ailments and reports about their ailments were sent to their parents or guardians. The Standing Committee note with satisfaction that the parents of all these 35,227 children responded to the intimations sent to them. This is indeed encouraging as against last year's figures when out of 34,995 intimations sent to parents only 28,876 responded. Out of these 30,522 parents consented to allow treatment to their children or wards while 4,705 declined to give treatment to their children even at the Municipal School Clinic. The Medical Officers interviewed 586 parents and explained to them the necessity of rectifying the defects in their wards by attending clinics and dispensaries.

Minor ailments among the children were treated at the nearest Municipal dispensaries, while cases with major ailments were treated at the School Clinic at the K. E. M. Hospital which is now found quite inadequate, for treatment of more than 2,000 children annually. Only 1,065 new and 6,829 old cases requiring immediate attention were, therefore, taken up and 504 children were treated at the out-patient department of the Hospital. 391 schools and classes were supplied with emergency outfit, 56 children suspected to have leprosy infection were directed to the Acworth Leprosy Home. Of them 9 were found positive and were prevented from attending schools, one such child was, however, allowed to attend the school but was kept under observation. 79 children with errors of refraction were supplied with spectacles free of charge. 492 children suffering from scabies, ring-worm and boils were treated in the schools by the school medical officers. 129 tonsil and other operations were performed at the School Clinics. 50 out of 56 suspected cases of T. B. were screened at the Princess Street T. B. Clinic. 227 children with dental defects were treated at the Nair Hospital Dental College. 255 and 892 health talks in subjects of simple personal hygiene were given to pupils, respectively, by the Medical Officers and the School Health Nurses, in order to inculcate healthy habits. The latter also visited and revisited 1,975 and 690 ailing children, respectively, at homes and gave necessary instructions to their parents as regards their care and diet.

Due to vacation and short supply, the scheme for the supply of free milk to undernourished needy children did not function from 21st April 1954 to 7th July 1954. Certified undernourished children ranging from 22,560 to 36,960 in all were given pasteurised toned milk each 8 oz. on every school working day at 311 milk distributing centres in Municipal schools. Snacks in the form of either *chiki* (toffee) or fruits (*chiku* or orange) were also given to these children to supplement the milk diet.

The total expenditure incurred on (1) Medical inspection and treatment of school children and (2) on the milk scheme were approximately Rs. 1,05,475 and Rs. 8.28 lacs, respectively. Besides, Rs. 4 lacs were sanctioned for supply of snacks to the milk recipients.

39. The Hospitals have a total accommodation of 314 beds, of which 172 are in the City Fever Hospitals. Small-pox unit, 128 in the General Unit, while 14 mosquito proof beds (Ward No. 8) were reserved for Yellow Fever cases. Except Tuberculosis and Leprosy, patients suffering from other infectious diseases are admitted in the Hospitals. The total number of patients admitted during the year was 12,304 as against 9,802, 6,883 and 6,726 in the preceding three years, the daily average of admission being 453 as against 356, 229 and 218 in the preceding three years. Of the total number of patients, 2,387, 1,444 and 2,588, respectively, suffered from Enteric Fever, Small-pox and Diphtheria. The cost per patient per day was Rs. 7-8-4 as against Rs. 8-3-0 in the preceding year.

The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 12.42 lacs as against Rs. 10.65 lacs and Rs. 7.88 lacs in the preceding two years.

40. The bed accommodation in the Hospital continued to be the same as in the past year, viz., 550. The 550 beds were distributed amongst men, women and children patients as 365, 145 and 40 respectively. The accommodation was fully occupied throughout the year and on several occasions extra patients had to be accommodated on the floor. Throughout the year an excess of 140 patients over the scheduled number of beds in the Hospital was a normal feature. The total number of in-patients admitted during the year was 20,895 against 19,257, 19,674 and 19,148 in the previous three years. The daily average number of in-patients was 692 against 636.68, 610.25 and 603.16 of the previous three years. The maximum number of in-patients on a single day was 740, making their nursing and medical care extremely difficult. The average number of days each patient was resident was 11.71 against 12.03, 11.02 and 11.50 in the last three years. The total number of operations performed on in-patients was 9,734 against 8,186, 8,955 and 8,874 in the previous three years. The total number of patients treated during the year was 21,561 including 666 of the previous year as against 19,871 in the preceding year. Of these in-patients, 6,734 were cured, 8,101 were discharged or relieved, 4,258 left the hospital against medical advice or were otherwise discharged and 1,780 died (exclusive of 2 stillborn) leaving a balance of 688 at the end of the year. The average cost per in-patient per day was Rs. 8-8-2 as against Rs. 8-12-6, Rs. 8-15-11 and Rs. 8-4-11 in the previous three years. The average cost per in-patient admission showed a slight decrease being Rs. 102-10-10 as against Rs. 108-0-4, Rs. 102-1-2 and Rs. 95-12-4 in the preceding three years. Out of 1,780 deaths as many as 773 died within first 24 hours of admission.

The above statistics reveal the extreme congestion in the Hospital in spite of other medical institutions provided by the Corporation. Patients are accommodated on the floor as a matter of routine in most of our hospitals and the required hospital accommodation in the City is far below the normal requirements, resulting in inordinate congestion. The Standing Committee feels that intensive thought is required to be devoted to hospital construction and management so as to provide beds, nursing service, medical attention, surgical care, etc., according to pathological needs. The Standing Committee hopes that medical service will find a high priority in the near future planning programme of the Corporation.

The total number of new out-patients treated was 1,82,265 against 1,75,995, 1,66,812 and 1,56,888 in the preceding three years, showing an increase of 6,270; 15,453 and 25,377 patients, respectively. The daily average number of new out-patients was 681.2 against 657.6, 620.5 and 590.2 in the previous three years, while the daily average number of out-patient attendance worked out to 2,145 against 1,955, 1,919.3 and 1,890.2 in the previous three years. The total number of out-patients attendance including casualty patients during the year came to 6,37,637 against 5,79,505, 5,70,742 and 5,59,901 in the previous three years. The highest number of out-patients attendance on any one day was 3,016 as against 2,571, 2,601 and 2,649 in the previous three years, while new out patients admitted on a single day was 799, as against 703, 691 and 692 in the previous three years. The total number of operations on out-patients during the year was 26,578 against 20,339, 23,147 and 20,347 in the previous three years. The average cost per out patient attendance during the year was Rs. 1-4-2 against Rs. 1-5-10, Rs. 1-5-8 and Re. 0-14-0 in the previous three years, while the average cost per out-patients admission was Rs. 3-3-2 against Rs. 3-1-3, Rs. 3-14-0 and Rs. 3-4-6 in the preceding three years.

The Poor Box Charity Fund from which relief was rendered to poor patients continued to give relief and comforts to deserving patients which ordinarily could not be given out of the Municipal Fund. An amount of Rs. 41,907-10-6 as against Rs. 33,734-11-0, and Rs. 36,547-9-0 in the previous two years was spent for affording relief to poor patients out of the Charity Fund. The total contributions during the year by way of collections from the out-patients ward boxes, donations, etc., amounted to Rs. 36,811 as against Rs. 44,721 and Rs. 41,700-6-9 in the previous two years.

The Gift Shop started for the convenience of patients continued to receive steady support. Similarly, the Physiotherapy Centre and School, Occupational Therapy Centre and School, Prophylactic immunization Centre, Family Health Centre, Pharmacological Laboratory, Ambulance Division and the Co-operative Credit Society, carried on their work in their respective spheres satisfactorily.

On 3rd September 1954, the Medico Social Service Department was opened in the Hospital. The Department will form an integral part of the medical care arrangement of the hospital and will help in finding social, economic and environmental factors associated with the onset of disease as to how they affect the final rehabilitation of the patients, etc. Follow up of patients after completion of treatment to find out the progress in improvement was carried out by this Department. The Standing Committee feels that the opening of this Department marks a great advance in the field of Municipal Medical aid.

41. The bed accommodation in the Hospital continued to be the same as in the last year, viz. 300 beds (250 non-paying and 50 paying). 15,528 patients were admitted during the year as against 14,018, 12,002 and 9,426 during the preceding three years. The highest number of in-patients on a single day was 426. The daily average number of in-patients was 372.2 as against 350.5, 339 and 291 in the preceding three years. Average number of days each patient was resident was 8.7 days as against 9.5, 10.3 and 12.6 in the preceding three years.

The total number of in-patients treated was 15,837 including 309 of the previous year. Of the 15,837 in-patients, 9,769 were treated for medical and surgical complaints and 6,068 for maternity and gynaec complaints.

The total number of operations performed on in-patients was 4,518 as against 4,013, 2,641 and 2,139 in the preceding three years. The average cost per in-patient on diet per diem was Re. 0-14-6 against the R ₹ . 0-15-5 and Re. 0-15-6 in the preceding two years.

The total number of new out-patients was 77,718 with a daily average of 249.8 as against 70,014 and 228.8, respectively, in the preceding year and 62,195 and 212.7 in the year preceding the last. The total number of out-patients attendance was 4.26 lacs with a daily average of 1,369.2 as against 3.26 lacs and a daily average of 1,065.5 in the preceding year and 2.25 lacs and a daily average of 825.2, respectively, in the year preceding the last. The largest number of out-patients attendance on a single day was 2,452 as against 2,297 and 1,940 in the preceding two years. The total number of operations performed on out-patients was 7,489 as against 4,499 and 3,220 and 2,348 in the preceding three years. 17,300 accident and other emergency cases were treated in the Casualty Department as against 16,931 and 10,560 in the preceding two years.

The Paying Bed Scheme was started from 1st September 1951 and is working satisfactorily. More and more patients take advantage of the same, as will be seen from the fact that 1,413 patients were admitted in the General and Special rooms as against 1,337 ; 921 and 390 in the previous three years. 175 major and 298 minor operations were performed on paying patients, as against 189 and 238, respectively, in the previous year.

The Pathological and Bacteriological investigations in respect of 44,791 in-patients and 27,215 out-patients were carried out in the Laboratory of the Hospital against 31,520 ; 17,730 and 12,172 ; 9,784 ; respectively in the previous two years. 197 autopsies were also performed during the year.

The Research Department started in 1951 continued to work very satisfactorily. During the year enquireies with the problem of Anaemia continued and 4,140 patients were investigated in that disease.

The Hospital has an up-to-date library with latest publications of modern medical science, etc. 65 additional books on various subjects were purchased bringing the total to 422 books.

The Poor Box Fund at the close of the last year was Rs. 74,804 as against Rs. 55,580 in the previous year. During the year, a sum of Rs. 34,686 was collected in the Charity Boxes and by way of donations, etc., and the expenditure amounted to Rs. 24,541. A balance of Rs. 84,949 remained in the Poor Box Fund at the close of the year.

Nurses Training School.—28 students were admitted for course of training in midwifery and all were declared successful.

This Hospital has been attached to the Topiwalla National Medical College for clinical instructions to under-graduate students. The Hospital is also affiliated to the University of Bombay for post-graduate as well as under—graduate students. Post-graduate students are admitted for hospital practice on payment of a fee of Rs. 15 per mensem.

During the year under report, Departments of Skin and Venereal Diseases and Ophthalmology were started from 1st July 1954.

42. The Hospital has an accommodation for 330 beds distributed among men, women and children patients as 171, 126 and 33, respectively, as in the last year. The accommodation was fully occupied throughout the year—at times more than fully, when to afford relief to patients requiring immediate medical or surgical attention, beds had to be provided on the floor of the wards. This no doubt placed extra pressure of work on the nursing staff and others, but is helped to afford the much needed relief to several urgent cases. The total number of in-patients

admitted was 12,767 against 12,113 and 11,450 in the previous two years. The daily average number of in-patients was 348.13 against 233.27 and 295.22 in the previous two years. The highest number of in-patients treated on a single day was 394 against 363 in the previous year. On an average each patient was resident for 9.69 days against 9.7 and 9.25 in the previous two years. The total number of in-patients treated was 13,104 including the balance of 337 of the previous year of whom 7,991 were cured, 2,197 were relieved, 797 died, 1,772 were otherwise discharged and 347 remained at the close of the year. The average cost per in-patient per day was Rs. 7-8-9 against Rs. 8-6-4, Rs. 8-2-10 and Rs. 8-3-6 during the preceding three years.

The total number of out-patients treated was 2,63,107 against 2,43,429 and 2,15,259 in the previous two years and the average number of out-patients' attendance per day was 882.38 against 814.87 and 719.36 in the previous two years. The highest out-patients attendance on a single day was 1,394 against 1,250 and 1,078 in the previous two years. The average cost per out-patient per day was Re. 0-11-7 against Rs. 1-4-9, Rs. 1-0-0 and Re. 0-15-4 during the preceding three years. During the year 4,849 and 4,820 operations were performed, respectively, on in-patients and out-patients against 4,501 and 4,235, respectively, during the last year.

The total expenditure incurred on the maintenance of the hospital amounted approximately to Rs. 13.69 lacs against Rs. 12.29 lacs and Rs. 13.01 lacs in the preceding two years.

The total amount spent out of the Poor Patients' Fund in giving relief, which could not ordinarily be given out of the Municipal Fund, came to Rs. 10,703-13-9, while the contributions amounted to Rs. 1,136-6-0 by way of donations and Rs. 15,088-1-6 by way of collections from the boxes kept in wards and out-door patients' departments.

Equipment required for the Blood Bank has been already purchased and the staff for the Blood Bank appointed from July 1954. However, collection of blood from donors could not be started as the space allotted to the Blood Bank was occupied by the Bacteriology and Bio-Chemistry Sections due to demolition of the third floor of the college building. The Standing Committee hope that this branch of modern medical relief will soon start functioning in an alternative space suitable for the purpose till the above sections are shifted to the College Building and the Blood Bank is housed in its allotted quarters.

During the year blood transfusion was provided for 266 cases out of which 253 cases were given blood of paid donors to whom payment was made from the Poor Patients' Fund.

The Midwifery Class continued to work with the strength of 10 student nurses undergoing training.

During the year under report, Shri M. V. Pai donated a sum of Rs. 25,000 for starting a Gastro-Entereology Department at the Hospital in the name of Shri Mangalore Ramnath Vaman Pai and it is hoped that the Department will soon come into operation. The Psychiatry Department was newly started with an Electro-Encephalograph costing about Rs.27,200.

The Corporation sanctioned in the year under report the second stage of the Cardiology Department and accordingly arrangements were made to purchase equipments worth Rs. 62,550 for use of that Department. Having regard to the fact that the Hospital has gained popularity after it was taken over under Municipal management, the question of its expansion needs earnest consideration. The Standing Committee understand that proposals in this behalf are well under way.

43. During the year under report, 85 fresh admissions were made all of whom were single. Besides, 3 Licentiates were admitted for the condensed M.B.,
Seth G. S. Medical College. B.S., course. Of the 666 students on the roll against 635 in the previous year, 133 were lady students and 171 post-graduate and research students, against 135 and 146, respectively, in the previous year. Out of 593 students sent up for various examinations, 355 passed the whole examination against the corresponding figure of 492 and 288 of the previous year.

Number of male students residing in the Hostel during the year was 147, while the number of lady students accommodated in the Lady Students Hostel was 28 as in the previous year. Income derived from the College and the Hostels by way of tuition fees, hostel rent, etc., was Rs. 1.77 lacs against Rs. 1.90 lacs and Rs. 1.78 lacs in the previous two years, while the total expenditure amounted to Rs. 5.03 lacs (including payment of Dearness Allowance of Rs. 0.85 lac) against Rs. 5.06 and Rs. 4.83 lacs in the preceding two years. The income derived from and the expenditure incurred on the Hostels were Rs. 21,324 and Rs. 35,043, respectively, as against Rs. 24,814 and Rs. 25,873 in the previous year. The gross and net cost per student worked out at Rs. 1,015.8 and Rs. 658.2, respectively, as against Rs. 1,034.4

and Rs. 644.08 in the previous year. The amount of fees received from the post-graduate students was Rs. 23,870 as against Rs 23,770 in the previous year.

The Co-operative Society carried on its work satisfactorily with a share capital of Rs. 1.50 lacs.

The different departments of the College and the Hospital had, in addition to their normal teaching and departmental work, made some investigations under the auspices of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

It is gratifying to note that the Ministry of Education, Government of India, have given a grant-in-aid amounting to about Rs. 10,000 for the purchase of Flame Photometer with accessories for the Pharmacology Department. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have also given a substantial grant for establishing a Pharmacological Research Unit.

The progress of other activities, like Library, Museum, Gymkhana, etc., was satisfactory.

44. The College had 373 undergraduate students on the roll at the close of the year out of whom 63 were lady students. Besides, there were 56 post-graduate students including 8 lady students. During the year, 60 students were admitted including 14 lady students. 5 students were admitted for condensed M.B.B.S. course. Out of 389 students sent up for various examinations, 228 passed during the year under report. The number of male students residing in the College Hostel was 62. For want of accommodation, admission to the Hostel had to be refused to a large number of students. To overcome this difficulty plans and estimates for a hostel building at Haji Ali Park with accommodation for 120 students were passed by the Corporation. The construction work will be taken up shortly. Arrangements were made to accommodate female students at the Grant Medical College Hostel, as no Hostel is attached to this College for them. The total expenditure incurred on the maintenance of the College amounted to Rs. 3.59 lacs against Rs. 3.78 lacs in the previous year. A grant of Rs. 2.02 lacs was received from the State Government for the year 1952-53 against the grant of Rs. 2.18 lacs in the preceding year. Government paid grant to this Institution from 1946 to 1950-51. The Government have decided that the grant should be reduced progressively by 1/5 per annum so that after the next five years, i.e., from the year 1955-56 no grant would be paid to the College. The Corporation will, therefore, have to foot the bill of expenditure for the College *in toto*. The total income by way of tuition fees, etc., received amounted to Rs. 1.24 lacs against 1.32 lacs in the previous year.

45. During the year under report, the College had 87 Dental Chairs, 46 Dental Units, 2 Dental X-Ray Machines as against 75 Dental Chairs, 24 Dental Units and 1 X-Ray Machine in the previous year. Besides, the College had other equipments to give dental treatment and tuition in dentistry on modern lines. There were 137 students including 19 lady students on the roll as against 111 and 17 respectively, in the previous year. 22 students including 3 lady students appeared and passed the Diploma Examination as against 26 and 7, respectively, in the preceding year. The College Diploma is recognized not only by the State and the Union Government but also by leading Institutions in the line in U.S.A. U.K., and other foreign countries. The College also runs a Dental Clinic where all types of dental treatment, silver, gold and cement fillings, artificial sets of teeth, regulation of teeth is done by charging nominal fees. During the year 64,154 patients (34,952 males, 18,139 females, 9,063 children) were treated as against 62,283 and 51,247 in the preceding two years, which is an indication of the growing popularity of the Institution. The total expenditure incurred was Rs. 1.17 lacs as against Rs. 1.64 lacs, Rs. 1.52 lacs and Rs. 1.40 lacs in the previous three years and the total realisations by way of fees from students and patients was Rs. 78,824 as against Rs. 73,266 ; Rs. 63,015 and Rs. 48,133, during the previous three years.

The Academic Council looked after the academic affairs of the College and the Advisory Board which conducts Final L. D. Sc. Diploma Examination, etc., continued to function during the year under report, as before. Since June 1954, the College is affiliated to the Bombay University for B. D. S. Degree in Dentistry. Almoner service was done from the Poor Box Fund to poor deserving patients in the shape of supplying sets of artificial teeth, vitamin and penicilin injections, etc.

46. At the close of the year there were 1,96,862 pupils in 447 schools and 64 classes in Greater Bombay, the number in the City being 1,63,718 pupils in 351 schools and 40 classes and in the Suburbs, 33,144 pupils in 96 schools and 24 classes. The corresponding figures for the previous year were 1,81,927 pupils in 443 schools and 53 classes in Greater Bombay, which was made up of 1,54,293 pupils in 350 schools and 34 classes in the City and 27,634 pupils in 93 schools and 19 classes in the Suburbs. Thus, during the year, there was a net increase of 14,935 pupils in Municipal schools. The highest

number on roll was 2,09,078 at the end of September 1954. The number came down to 1,96,862 at the end of March 1955. The average number of pupils throughout the year was 1,97,432—1,64,463 in the City Schools and 32,969 in Suburban Schools. The total number of teachers in Greater Bombay at the end of the year was 5,289 of whom 5,040 were ordinary and 249 special teachers, as against 4,782 teachers of whom 4,645 were ordinary and 227 special teachers in the preceding year. Out of 5,040 ordinary teachers, 4,260 were permanent and 780 were temporary, as against 4,645 ordinary teachers, of whom 3,954 were permanent and 691 temporary in the previous year. The percentage of trained teachers was 87.8 in the City and 83.2 in the Suburbs, as against 87 in the City and 82 in the Suburbs in the preceding year.

The 'Class Room Formula' to determine the number of teachers which was adopted in the preceding year was continued during the year under report. It was decided to fix the number of teachers according to number of class rooms in actual use (including rooms used twice in double session schools) so as to ensure one teacher for each class. The prevailing basis of granting additional teachers to larger schools was also revised, so that only one additional teacher was given to a school having an average attendance of 500 or more pupils. The provision of leave reserves was also reduced from 10 per cent. to 7½ per cent. The 'Class Room Formula' is now being examined by a Sub-Committee of the whole of the Education Committee in all its aspects and the matter is still under their consideration.

At the suggestion of Shri H. D. Gaokar, Chairman of the Education Committee for the year under report, a novel scheme was introduced temporarily and on an experimental basis for the improvement of a group of schools. For this purpose, the Worli area was selected and 8 Marathi schools with a total of 5,397 pupils and 117 teachers were covered. The Schools were put in charge of an Inspector, guided by a General Committee and assisted by a Consultative Committee of Head Teachers of the schools selected. A close check on the day to day work of the categorized teachers of the schools was kept and a record of their work was also maintained. Regular guidance was given to teachers showing low efficiency by means of 'model lessons' and 'Teachers' meetings' for discussing problems of division of syllabus, class management, methods of questioning, retarded children, use of text books, rapid readers, etc. Special attention was given to all pupils grouped below normal. With a view to co-operatively tackling the problem of discipline and inculcating habits of obedience, order, cleanliness, courtesy etc., Prefect System, First Aid and *Safai* Corps were introduced. School debating societies, inter-school debates, co-operative stores, school magazines, planned excursions and nature study visits, scouting and games were encouraged and were followed up by follow up work in oral or written composition. For fostering healthy competition amongst students of these selected schools, 'School Parliament' and 'House' system were introduced. Though the effects of the above are yet to be assessed, the schools of the area showed a marked improvement.

As usual the syllabus of studies was divided up month by month and distributed to the schools, Teaching aids were supplied to Schools and additional teaching aids, such as, maps, charts and models, were prepared by the teachers themselves. Instead of fortnightly tests, monthly tests were introduced for Standards IV to VII and weekly tests for Standards I to III. The rules for Double Promotion examination were revised this year, so as to encourage really extra-ordinarily bright pupils. In a Double Promotion examination in all 421, i.e., 79.7 per cent. pupils out of the total of 528 who appeared, were successful and promoted from 1st August 1954.

In all 10,039 pupils (8,802 from City and 1,237 from suburbs) from Municipal schools, appeared for the Primary School Certificate Examination 1954 and 46 per cent. of them (47 per cent. from City Schools and 34 per cent. from Suburban Schools) were declared successful.

Some of the main factors which hampered *inter alia* the progress of pupils were largeness of certain classes, lack of suitable buildings, inadequate facilities to pupils to study at home and economic conditions of the parents.

Schools with big class rooms sometimes had 60 to 65 pupils in a class rendering it unwieldy and un-manageable for the teacher. The standard of education thus suffers and especially it is so in case of schools run in hired residential premises. The evils of double shifts, etc., raise the question of adequate accommodation for schools, and it is hoped that an exhaustive programme of new building construction which has now been taken up, would improve the situation to a large extent in a few years.

The existing curriculum for Standards I to VII has been revised by Government and the new one has come into force from June 1955.

Three Refresher Courses for teachers of Marathi, Gujarati and Urdu schools were conducted during January-March 1955 so as to provide facilities to Municipal teachers which would enable them to get acquainted with the modern methods and practice of teaching which

vary with progressive ideas of education. This benefit was taken by 112 teachers on the three sides.

The number of Municipal owned buildings at the end of the year was 63 of which 30 were in the City and 33 in the merged areas, as in the last year, which increased to 65 at the end of the year (31 in the City and 34 in the Suburbs) accommodating about 40,000 pupils in all. The rest were housed in rented buildings.

The unsatisfactory conditions of rented buildings continued to be a great handicap especially for want of proper and timely repairs on the part of the reluctant landlords thereof. Though the Department is alive to the urgency of the problem, much still requires to be done in this direction and the Standing Committee hopes that better results will be shown in this matter in the next few years.

Besides imparting education in the three Rs the Corporation also imparts vocational education. There were 22 Municipal Vocational Upper Primary Schools, which prepared pupils for Primary School Certificate Examination with the subject of craft as one of the compulsory subjects. Carpentry and tailoring are also taught in these schools. Other subjects taught are sewing, embroidery, tailoring, printing, binding, repairing of clocks, sign-board painting and carpet weaving. In all 3,111 pupils were attending these classes, out of whom 2,728 received instruction in Carpentry and Tailoring.

At the close of the year there were 290 Aided schools in Greater Bombay (228 in the City and 62 in the Suburbs) as against 291 and 283 in the previous two years. The number of pupils in these aided schools was 67,345 as against 73,771 and 69,552 in the previous two years. The number of recognized schools not receiving grant-in-aid was 43 with 8,452 pupils as against 29 and 31 with 6,082 and 4,805 pupils in the previous two years.

The total number of teachers in Aided schools including 471 special teachers was 2,615 as against 2,862 and 2,663 in the previous two years. The total amount of grants recommended to Aided schools was Rs. 5.95 lacs for the City schools and Rs. 1.51 lacs for the Suburban schools, as against Rs. 3,37,993 and Rs. 1,14,998 and Rs. 3,57,793 and Rs. 1,06,829, respectively, for the previous two years.

The average cost per pupil calculated on the total number of pupils on the rolls in the Aided Schools worked out to Rs. 71.5 in the city and Rs. 65.7 in the suburbs, as against Rs. 70.4 and Rs. 54.7 in the last year. The average cost per pupil to the Corporation by way of grant was Rs. 7.5 and Rs. 9.1 for the City and Suburbs, respectively, as against Rs. 12.9 and Rs. 7.9, respectively, in the preceding year.

A revised Grant-in-Aid Code has been prepared and the same is being considered by the Education Committee.

Unlike last year, as required by Rules 5 of the Rules framed by Government under Section 18 of the City of Bombay Primary Education Act of 1920, as amended upto-date, a Census of non-attending children of school going age was taken from 4th January to 3rd February 1955. The census revealed 33,500 non-attending children of compulsory age, and 12,623 children below 6 years of age.

Physical Education was imparted in almost all schools on the lines of the curriculum laid down by Government. The number of pupils taking physical education was 1,88,987 out of 1,96,862 as against 1,76,246 and 1,81,927 in the previous year. Four Mass Drill displays were also held in which more than 10,000 children from 126 schools participated. Annual sports were also held as usual.

The Municipal Boy Scout and Girl Guide Associations continued their activities vigorously as heretofore. The usual activities, such as, week-end camps, social work, etc., were carried out during the year. It is proposed to have a separate Divisional Organization of Municipal scouts and guides. The necessary constitution and bye-laws have been framed and submitted to the National Head quarters, Bharat Scouts and Guides, for approval, which is awaited. Though this matter is under consideration since 1951 nothing fruitful has since emerged. The Standing Committee requests the Commissioner to impress upon the authorities the necessity of approving the same at an early date. The National Scout Week and the Annual Scouts Sports and Rally were also held as usual.

A unique feature of the Education Department is the Central Library for city teachers only. During the year the library contained 18,089 books as against 18,046 in the previous year and a good number of teachers took advantage of the same. The daily average attendance in the library was satisfactory.

The School Health Service under the Executive Health Officer was continued as before for the benefit of the children of Municipal Primary schools. Medical examination of 43,026 pupils reading in Standards I and III as well as those from Standards II and IV not examined in the previous year, was taken by the Medical Inspection Department during the year. Free medical treatment was given at the Municipal Dispensaries and at the Central School Clinic at the K. E. M. Hospital and at the various vaccination centres. Free milk was supplied to about 36,000 under-nourished children in the year. The Milk Scheme was extended to the children of suburban schools during the year from July 1953, and the benefit of milk feed was extended to 6,270 to 8,880 children of suburban schools, during the year.

Various extra-curricular activities, such as, Vacation Libraries in summer vacation, Sharad Utsav, School anniversaries, excursions, Co-operative stores and Exhibitions were carried on as usual during the year under report.

The average yearly cost per pupil in the City schools calculated on the number of pupils on rolls was Rs. 72.1 as against Rs. 73.8 and Rs. 74.9 in the previous two years and the average cost per pupil on rolls in the suburban school was Rs. 55.9 as against Rs. 61.2 and Rs. 60.4 in the previous two years.

The Income Side of the Education Fund is more or less fixed. The Corporation's contribution is restricted and so also the Government grant. Other sources contribute a very negligible amount to the total receipts of the Educational Fund. Hence, with inelastic sources of revenue on one hand and ever increasing demands for more and better equipped schools and educational facilities for the increasing population on the other, the Corporation find it very difficult day by day to cope with even the urgent needs of the Primary Education Department. Unless, therefore, the Income Side is substantially augmented by increased contributions either by the Corporation or the Government, there will be no alternative but to consider seriously the proposal of levying an Educational Cess for effecting a substantial increase in the revenue.

47. During the year under report the Department placed an order for 93 tons of both bleached and unbleached paper and the full supply was received under Government release orders. In addition, the Press purchased locally 39 tons of foreign bleached paper required for specialised jobs. Besides execution of the increasing printing work of all Municipal Departments, the Press also undertook numerous printing jobs of the B. E. S. & T. Undertaking at a total cost of Rs. 1.05 lacs. Total quantity of paper consumed was 176 1/2 tons against 174 1/2 tons and 153 3/4 tons in the previous two years.

The total number of jobs executed during the year was 8,538 as against 8,067 in the previous year. The total number of pages printed were 33,993 as against 31,985 in the preceding year.

The transactions of the Press for the year closed with a surplus of Rs. 3,403 on the total turnover of Rs. 8.39 lacs, against the surplus of Rs. 8,589 and Rs. 2,895 over the turnover of Rs. 8.33 lacs and Rs. 8.12 lacs for the previous two years. The labour staff as on 28th February 1955 consisted of 236 workers against 220 and 223 on the same date in the last two years.

A notable feature of the year was the printing of the two volumes entitled 'Legal Opinions' and 'Court Decisions' on different Sections of the Bombay Municipal Corporation Act, comprising of 220 and 996 pages, respectively. This work was executed at a total cost of Rs. 4,000 and Rs. 13,000, respectively.

In addition to this, copies of two volumes of the Report on 'Modern Trends in Medical Education in U.S.A., U.K. and Holland' by Dr. S. G. Vengsarkar, were printed at a total cost of Rs. 1,410.

'The Bombay Civic Journal' continued to be printed and published by the Press every month. A Special Annual Number with many art plates was also printed to mark the completion of the first year of the Journal.

During the year, a Standards Officer was appointed to implement the recommendations of Messrs. Ibcon Ltd., on the re-organization of the Press.

48. During the year under report the department continued to attend to contested matters and other legal proceedings in the High Court, City Civil Court, Legal Department, Small Causes Court and Police Courts as also to other legal matters. During the year, the department received 7,416 files, against 7,791 and 6,945 files in the previous two years, addressed 1,390 letters against 3,051 and 1,719 letters in the previous two years to

outside parties or their legal advisers and gave opinions on different departmental matters and advices on 162 documents against 136 and 165 documents, in the last two years. The report contains figures of High Court suits, as well as number of documents, such as, conveyances, leases, etc., that were completed.

The income by way of costs recovered amounted to Rs. 28,124-3-0 and the expenditure to Rs. 77,247-14-0 as against Rs. 38,148-7-10 and Rs. 75,365-14-7, respectively, in the preceding year.

49. As in the previous year, 10 Trade Unions represented Municipal employees with a total membership of 12,892 against 12,492 in the preceding year. The total number of labour staff employed was 26,302 against 29,015 persons in the previous year. Slight decrease in the labour staff is due to the implementation of the recommendations of Messrs. Ibcon Ltd. The Standing Committee is happy to note that during the year labour relations remained quite cordial and congenial indeed—an index of the humane treatment meted out by the Corporation to its labour staff and of the reciprocity by the labour staff volunteering service for a civic cause.

During the year under report, two more Joint Councils, one for the Water Works Department and the other for the Printing Press, were established in addition to the nine joint Councils already existing. All these eleven Joint Councils functioned satisfactorily during the year more or less on the lines of the Whitley Councils of Great Britain. The sphere of work of these Councils was flexible enough to allow discussions and recommendations on all matters pertaining to conditions of service and that considerably helped to maintain cordial relations between the Administration and the Labour.

The Labour Officer dealt with 1,773 complaints against 1,681 in the previous year, regarding service conditions, promotions, transfers, etc. Of these complaints, 1,011 were redressed, 606 found not genuine and 156 were pending at the close of the year.

The recreational, educational, hygienic and other cultural activities indoor as well as out-door organized by the Welfare Branch of the Department for the benefit of Municipal workers and their dependents were conducted vigorously at 22 Labour Welfare Centres and 2 sub-centres. The maternity unit attached to the Chembur Welfare Centre continued to do its useful work under a qualified lady doctor and medical treatment, wherever necessary, was given by the Welfare Organization. 4,717 cases were treated at the Unit during the year under report as against 2,848 and 3,626 in the preceding two years.

Implementation of the two Labour Welfare Schemes, in the shape of granting (i) scholarships to children of Municipal employees and (ii) medical assistance to them, sanctioned by the Corporation has been entrusted to the Labour Department. Out of 159 applications received for scholarships, 103 eligible scholars were awarded scholarships at a total cost of Rs. 12,000. 199 applications were received for medical assistance and help aggregating Rs. 8,200 was given in 177 deserving cases. The remaining cases were rejected being not eligible under the rules.

In addition, the minor dependents of deceased Municipal employees were helped in getting death and heirship certificates in order to enable them to collect the Provident Fund and other dues of the deceased relatives.

50. The two Ward Officers (one for the South and the other for the North of the City) during the year under report attended to and dealt with complaint pertaining to drainage, conservancy, water supply, buildings, sanitation, as also with other complaints connected with encroachments, markets, gardens, fires, etc. Whatever sanitary and other defects were noticed by them in the course of their rounds were reported to the respective heads of departments for necessary action. The total number of complaints received during the year was 7,819 as against 5,675 in the previous year. The number of such references in respect of buildings was 2,072, drainage 770, sanitation 2,613, water supply 2,042 and miscellaneous 322. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 1,279 ; 431 ; 2,175 ; 1,577 and 213, respectively.

51. The Bombay Civic Journal, a new venture in the history of the Corporation and their accredited organ completed one year of its publication at the end of February 1955.

The Journal has been publishing regular features as also special articles from prominent citizens and authorities on various topical subjects in pursuance of its policy of promoting civic progress and enlightenment and the ideal of active, intelligent and creative citizenship.

The main features of the material published in the Journal are objective recording of deliberations and activities of the Corporation and its Departments as also of the B. E. S. & T. Undertaking and associated institutions, citizens' view points on subjects of civic interest and on current issues before the Corporation, new plans or projects sponsored by the Corporation, glimpses of old Bombay and a summary of activities of local bodies all over the country, etc.

A special 100 page issue, containing eight art plates and authoritative articles on the origin and progress of the Vaitarna-cum-Tansa Scheme was brought out on the occasion of the inauguration of the first phase of the Scheme by Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in October 1954. From the technical and human angles, this issue can be said to have appealed to both the specialist and the layman.

The Journal has come to establish itself as a useful medium for the dissemination of information on civic matters, constructive discussion of problems relating to local bodies and the institution of Local Self-Government and stimulation of public interest in civic affairs.

It is hoped the financial aspect of the publication will be given greater thought and the present deficit is wiped out in a few years.

MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OFFICE,
BOMBAY, 14th December 1955.

G. B. MAHASHABDE,
Chairman, Standing Committee.

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