

There were 2,252 deaths from respiratory diseases among the Chinese, as compared with 2,537 in 1913. Pulmonary Tuberculosis and Phthisis claimed 742 Chinese victims, while other forms of Tuberculosis represent an additional 312 deaths, making a total of 1,054 or 11·3 per cent. of the total deaths among that community.

Beri-beri was responsible for 399 deaths, as compared with 339 during 1913 and 231 in 1912. During the past few years circulars have been distributed to all large employers of coolie labour calling their attention to the fact that Beri-beri is produced by the consumption of white rice as the staple article of diet without a sufficiency of other foods, and advising that beans should be supplied with the rice, when fresh meat or fresh fish cannot be afforded.

The influx of thousands of strangers from the neighbouring provinces is a sufficient explanation of the temporary rise in the number of deaths from this disease.

A tabular statement of the principal causes of death is appended.

(c.)—CLIMATE.

The mean shade temperature for the year at the Royal Observatory, Kowloon, (108 feet above mean sea level), was 73°·4, 1°·5 higher than in 1913, and 1°·3 higher than the mean for the past 10 years. The maximum temperature was 94°·0 on the 31st August and the minimum 47°·4 on the 1st January. The hottest month was August, with a mean temperature of 82°·3 and the coldest, January, with a mean temperature of 62°·8.

The temperature at the high levels of the Peak District is from 3° to 8° less than at the Observatory. At Victoria it is practically the same. The rainfall and humidity are considerably greater at the Peak than at Victoria, the Observatory, or Tai Po (New Territories).

The total rainfall for the year was 100·21 inches, as compared with an average of 82·73 inches during the ten preceding years. The wettest month was July with 26·30 inches, the driest, January, when no rain fell. The greatest amount of rain which fell on any one day was 5·25 inches on the 22nd June while no rain fell on 219 days of the year. The mean relative humidity of the atmosphere for the year was 78%, or the same as for the ten preceding years. The average daily amount of sunshine was 5·6 hours, being 46% of the possible duration.

X.—POSTAL SERVICE.

The total revenue from the Postal Service in 1914 amounted to \$398,426·38 being \$41,573·62 less than the amount estimated.