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REPORT OF THE CHEMICAL EXAMINER TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SIND FOR THE YEAR 1941.

No. 5019 OF 1942.

CHEMICO-BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORY,

Karachi, 20th May 1942.

From

Dr. O. M. AKBANI,
M.B.,B.S., D.P.H. (Lond.), J.P.
CHEMICAL EXAMINER
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SIND,
KARACHI.

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
GENERAL DEPARTMENT,
Karachi.

Through

THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH, SIND,
Karachi.

Sir,

I have the honour to submit the following annual report for the year 1941.

2. The work done during the year under report may thus be summarised :—

The number of articles examined in connection with medico-legal cases	...	...	1,336
Samples of Government Stores and miscellaneous articles	...	...	5
Samples from Excise Department	...	...	920
Miscellaneous	...	...	2
Total			<u>2,263</u>

3. In the following table are shown the analyses under all heads during the past five years :—

Class.	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Medico-legal examination	1,302	1,375	1,371	1,414	1,336
Government Stores, Miscellaneous and Excise	798	711	991	1,163	931
Other Miscellaneous	8	7	3	6	6
Total	2,108	2,093	2,365	2,583	2,273

SECTION I.—MEDICO-LEGAL.

4. The Medico-legal cases examined during the year under report were received from Sind and Baluchistan, and are arranged in classes as under :—

Class I.—Cases of suspected human poisoning ...	104
Class II.—Cases of suspected animal poisoning ...	1
Class III.—Stain cases (Blood and Semen) ...	300
Class IV.—Miscellaneous ...	14
Total ...	419

The following table gives the corresponding number of cases examined during the last five years :—

Class.	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Suspected human poisoning ...	101	98	106	113	104
Suspected animal poisoning ...	1	2	5	3	1
Stain cases (Blood and Semen) ...	278	282	315	272	300
Miscellaneous ...	10	10	7	22	14
Total ...	390	392	433	410	419

419 Medico-legal cases and 2273 articles were examined during the year under report, as against 410 cases and 2583 articles in the year 1940.

5. *Class I.—Cases of suspected human poisoning.*—One hundred and four cases of this class were received for examination and report during the year. These cases, include not only those of poisoning of human beings but also cases in which the Medical Officers were unable to give any definite opinion as to the cause of death and hence were sent here for the investigation exclude any poison.

Out of the total one hundred four cases of suspected human poisoning, poison was detected in 37 cases as shown in Table No. II. The poisons commonly used were Dhatura, Opium and Arsenic. The details of these cases and the comparative figures for the quinquennium ending 1941 are given in the following table :—

Nature of poison.	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
Opium ...	18	33	18	4	9
Dhatura ...	5	11	12	13	11
Arsenic ...	9	9	9	9	5
Other poisons ...	10	8	16	11	12
Total, Poisons ...	42	61	55	37	37
No poison ...	59	37	51	76	67
Total, Poison cases ...	101	98	106	113	104

Sixty-seven cases in which poison was not detected can be divided in three groups :—

- (a) Cases in which some particular poison was suspected from the history, the symptoms during life or from *post mortem* examinations, but the analysis failed to confirm the suspicion.

Details of such cases are :—

Mydriatic	...	...	...	1
Intoxicants	...	...	...	3
Opium	...	...	...	1
Arsenic	...	...	...	2
Irritant	...	...	...	1
Copper Sulphate	...	...	...	1
			Total	9

- (b) Cases in which the cause of death had been provisionally determined, yet viscera, etc., were sent to confirm such provisional diagnosis by excluding poisoning.

Details of such cases are given below :—

Malaria	...	...	...	1
Heart failure	...	...	...	6
Drowning	...	...	...	5
Injury	...	...	...	5
Jaundice	...	...	...	2
Hanging	...	...	...	3
Asphyxia	...	...	...	2
Leprosy	..	...	...	1
			Total	25

- (c) In the remaining thirty three cases, there had been no definite evidence of any poisoning nor any other provisional cause of death could be determined on account of the death being unexpected or the body being found on a roadside and no definite cause of death being revealed at the *post mortem* examination.

6. *Class II.—Cases of suspected animal poisoning.*—One case under this class was examined during the year and poison was detected, *viz.*, juice of *calotropis gigantea*.

7. *Class III.—Stain cases.*—Three hundred cases of this class were received for examination and reported during the year, of which 219 cases were suspected of having blood stains alone and the remaining 81 cases were suspected of having semen or semen and blood. Out of 219 cases suspected of having blood stains, blood was detected in 196 cases. During the year, 564 stains were forwarded to the Imperial Serologist, Calcutta, who reported that 467 were of human blood, 6 of ruminant animals, 1 of bird and the remaining 90 disintegrated.

Of the remaining 81 cases, 64 were of semen and 17 of semen and blood. These are classified as follows:—

Sodomy	...	...	...	31
Rape	...	...	...	24
Bestiality	...	...	...	11
Under Sections 367, 366, 304 and 393	...	...	...	15
			Total	81

Out of the 81 cases, semen was detected in 22 cases, blood and semen in 5 cases and only blood in 9 cases.

8. *Class IV.—Miscellaneous cases.*—Fourteen cases under this head were received for examination and report. These included all cases falling outside Classes I, II and III. The details of cases examined under this class are given below:—

(i) Explosives	...	..	...	4
(ii) Dangerous Drugs Act	...	..	...	2
(iii) Cheating and Criminal Breach of trust	...	...	...	2
(iv) Attempt to murder	...	...	...	1
(v) Punjab Pure Food Act	...	...	...	1
(vi) Bombay Prevention of Adulteration Act, 1925	...	...	...	2
(vii) Miscellaneous	...	...	...	2
			Total	14

9. *Details of some interesting cases.*—(i) The Civil Surgeon, Sukkur, sent viscera of a female with *post mortem* signs indicating the death due to strangulation. Pupils were stated to be normal. Opium was however detected in the viscera and stomach contents.

(ii) Viscera were sent for examination by the District Medical Officer, Dadu, with the history that the mucus membrane of the bladder and kidney were highly congested and the death was probably due to Uremia, but on examination Arsenic was detected in the viscera.

(iii) At Hyderabad an unknown person was found dead near River Indus with bruises all over the body. The *post mortem* notes indicated that the death was due to Asphyxia but examination revealed Hydrocyanic Acid in the stomach and its contents.

(iv) The viscera of an unknown person found dead in the jungle near River Indus, was sent by the Civil Surgeon, Hyderabad, to exclude any poison. The body was in a highly decomposed state and no history was available, yet the examination revealed Arsenic in the viscera.

SECTION II.—GOVERNMENT MISCELLANEOUS.

10. *Miscellaneous*.—Eleven samples were forwarded by the following officers:—

The Deputy Commissioner, Salt and Excise, Sind.

The Director of Public Health, Sind.

The samples were—

Drugs:—

Liq. Morphia	...	...	1
Tr. opium	...	...	1
Pulvis Ipecac	...	...	1
Tr. Cannabis Indica	...	...	1
Salt	...	...	1
Quinine	...	...	5
Stone in bladder	...	...	1

Total ... 11 (included in Table V)

SECTION III.—EXCISE ANALYSIS.

11. 920 articles were examined for the Excise Department:—

The samples were—

Medicinal preparations	...	...	333
Medicinal preparations for B. P.	...	...	34 ¹
Denatured spirits	...	...	117
Essences	...	...	5 ⁰
Toddy	...	...	29
Opium	...	...	10
Hydrometers and thermometers	...	...	6
Liquors	...	...	15
Molasses	...	...	2
Balagolies	...	...	13
Wash	...	...	1
Restricted drugs	...	...	3

Total ... 920

SECTION IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

12. Six samples of this class were examined during the year under report.

The samples were:—

Cardamun	...	...	1
Gripe water	...	...	1
Liquorice root	...	...	1
Beer	...	...	2
Salt	...	...	1
Total	...	6	(included in Table V).

* WORKING OF THE LABORATORY.

13. Mr. H. C. Hiranandani was in charge of the laboratory from 1st January 1941 to 31st December 1941.

The work has been satisfactory.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

O. M. AKBANI,
Chemical Examiner
to the Government of Sind, Karachi.

TABLE No. I.

Summary of work done.

	1940.		1941.		
	Number of cases investigated.	Number of articles examined.	Number of cases investigated.	Number of articles examined.	
1	2	3	4	5	
MEDICO-LEGAL ANALYSIS, &C. {	Human poisoning cases (<i>a</i> in Table No. II).	113	404	104	365
	Animal poisoning cases (<i>b</i> in Table No. II).	3	5	1	1
	Stain cases (<i>c</i> in Table No. II).	272	887	300	878
	Miscellaneous Medico-legal cases (<i>d</i> in Table No. II).	22	118	14	92
Total ...	410	1,414	419	1,336	
General analyses and other work.	...	1,169	...	937	
Grand Total ...	410	2,583	419	2,273	

TABLE NO. II.

Showing results of Medico-legal Analysis according to cases.

Nature of exhibits.		1940.			1941.			
		Total number of cases investigated.	Number of cases detected.	Total number of articles examined.	Total number of cases investigated.	Number of cases detected.	Total number of articles examined.	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	
HUMAN POISONING (a).	General.	1. Cases in which viscera and contents were tested for poison.	70	16	245	61	19	216
		The viscera of individuals 61						
		Poison detected in 21						
		Poison not detected in 40						
		2. Cases in which tissues, other than viscera, were tested for poison.
		3. Cases in which excreta, dejecta, vomit and stomach contents received without viscera were tested for poison.	28	15	54	27	9	42
		4. Cases in which miscellaneous articles were received.	15	6	41	16	9	49
		5. Cases in which miscellaneous articles were received with cases under entries 1, 2 and 3.	64	58
Abortion.	6. Cases in which viscera or contents were examined.	...	...	...	...	..	...
	7. Cases in which only miscellaneous articles were received.	...	...	...	...	...	...
	8. Cases in which miscellaneous articles were received with cases under entry 6.	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total (a) ...	113	37	404	104	37	365	
ANIMAL POISONING (b).	9. Cases in which viscera from horned cattle were tested for poison.	1	...	1	...	...	...
	10. Cases in which viscera and contents from animals, other than horned cattle were tested for poison.	2	...	4	...	...	...
	11. Cases in which animal tissues, other than viscera, were tested for poison.	...	...	...	...	...	...
	12. Cases in which animal excreta, dejecta or stomach contents forwarded without viscera were tested for poison.	...	...	...	...	...	...
	13. Cases of animal poisoning in which only miscellaneous articles were received.	...	...	...	1	1	1
	14. Cases in which miscellaneous articles were received with cases under entries 9, 10, 11 and 12.	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Total (b) ...	3	...	5	1	1	1

TABLE No. II—*contd.*

Nature of exhibits.		1940.			1941.		
		Total number of cases investigated.	Number of cases detected.	Total number of articles examined.	Total number of cases investigated.	Number of cases detected.	Total number of articles examined.
1		2	3	4	5	6	7
STAIN (c).	15. Blood-stain cases other than No. 16 ...	187	165	639	219	197	722
	16. Blood-stain, rape and un-natural crime cases. ...	...	...	...	...	..	...
	17. Seminal stain cases	71	36	195	64	16	} 166
	18. Mixed blood and seminal stain cases ...	14	13	53	17	15	
	19. Other stain cases ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Total (c) ...	272	214	887	300	228	878
MISCELLANEOUS (d).	20. Cases in which human bones, hairs, &c., were received.	22	13	118	14	3	92
	Total (d) ...	22	13	118	14	3	92
	GRAND TOTAL ...	410	264	1,414	419	269	1,336

TABLE No. III.

Showing the nature of poisons detected according to articles received under Head Nos. 1 to 14 of Table No. II.

Nature of poisons.	Human poisoning.				Cattle poisoning.			
	In viscera and contents.	In tissues other than viscera.	In vomits and faeces.	In miscellaneous articles.	In viscera and contents.	In tissues other than viscera.	In excreta and dejecta.	In miscellaneous articles.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. Dhatura ...	12	...	14	12	...	...	...	...
2. Arsenic ...	11	...	2	3	...	...	...	...
3. Opium ...	14	...	5	4	...	...	...	...
4. Hydrocyanic acid ...	7	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
5. Copper Sulphate ...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
6. Strychnine ...	8	...	1	2	...	...	...	...
7. Lead oxide ...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
8. Mercury Salts ...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...
9. Calotropis gigantea ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total number of articles in which poison was detected ...	52	...	26	28	...	...	...	1
Total number of articles in which poison was not detected ...	165	...	27	67	...	...	...	...
GRAND TOTAL ...	217	...	53	95	...	...	...	1

TABLE NO. IV.

Showing the places from which cases in which viscera were tested for poison have been received during the year 1941.

1	Districts.			Human poisoning.		Cattle poisoning.	
				Total number of cases examined.	Total number of cases in which poison was detected.	Total number of cases examined.	Total number of cases in which poison was detected.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Sind and Baluchistan.	Karachi	12	2	...	...
	Hyderabad	13	7	1	1		
	Sukkur	7	2	...	...
	Larkana	5	2	...	...
	Dadu	1	1	...	...
	Upper Sind Frontier	2	...	...	...
	Nawabshah	3	1	..	...
	Thar Parkar	12	5	...	...
	Baluchistan	3	...	...	...
	Native States	3	...	...	...
	Total	61	20	1	1		
Number of cases in which poison was not detected.	...	41	...	...	
Grand Total, 1941 ..	61	61	1	1			
Grand Total, 1940 ...	70	70	1	1			

TABLE No. V.

General Analysis For Government Departments, etc.

Received from	Nature of substance.	Number of examination.	Increase or decrease over previous year.
1	2	3	4
Government (Stores and Miscellaneous).	...	11	+ 8
Excise Department	920	-240
Miscellaneous	6	...
Total, 1941	937	-232
Total, 1940	1,169	...

