It was hoped that the consolidation and rationalization of teaching would enable greater emphasis to be placed on research particularly directed to investigation of health problems in the Region.

As a temporary measure, until departments of preventive and social medicine had been firmly established in medical colleges, it was considered that the Institute should contribute to training teachers of preventive and social medicine, but only after establishing working relationships with the undergraduate medical colleges of Calcutta. The Institute should also develop an epidemiological training centre designed to produce epidemiologists to serve the needs of the country.

The staff of the Institute and the consultant group found the assignment mutually stimulating. The report should furnish useful guidelines for developing the work of the Institute in accordance with modern teaching trends and the needs of the country.

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Cardiac Surgery
(Jan. 1959)

**Aim of the project.** To improve the organization and development of thoracic surgery units.

**Assistance provided by WHO during the year.** A short-term consultant.

**Work done.** During January 1959 the consultant spent a few days at each of the main thoracic surgery units in India. As a member of a WHO specialist team he had visited most of these units in 1953 and was therefore able to assess the progress achieved since his last visit. The short time at his disposal did not allow a comprehensive study; however, discussions which he had with national staff, as well as lectures and demonstrations, provided a useful stimulus. The impressions formed by the consultant provided a basis for comparison of the present status of thoracic surgery in India with that to be achieved. The standard is variable. In particular, he found that the thoracic surgery units of the K.E.M. Hospital and Seth G.S. Medical College, Bombay, promised to develop to a very high level.

5. INDIA - FORMER FRENCH SETTLEMENTS

Nothing to report.