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Department of Preventive, Social and Industrial Medicine,
Faculty of Medicine, Ain Shams University - Cairo, U.A.R.

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ARABIC SUMMARY.

INTRODUCTION

The noble target of medicine through its various specialized branches is to promote health, to prevent disease occurrence and to prolong life.

The well being of any community is to provide a healthy standard of living by all or most of its individuals.

The World Health Organization gives an ideal definition to positive health which states "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well being, not merely the absence of disease or infirmity".

It was quite clear that Iraq progress so much in medical field from the time of independency till present time, but it is quite clear also that many health problems still exist and need sincere efforts to face it, these problems are mostly a public health one.

Iraq, as any other developed countries should maintain a great effort to overcome the old and new health defects which comes into picture with the wave of industrialization and migration from rural to urban communities.

It is desirable and essential that the medical man in Iraq should have some acquaintance with the growth and development of public health administration in other countries so that he may be able to appreciate how these have grown and developed and in what direction they are now progressing. In this way he will take a keener interest both in helping to frame and to develop health activities in Iraq in the most accurate manner.

It is now accepted that the duty of the State is to look after every individual of the community from the very moment of his birth or even before throughout his whole life, and that he should get every opportunity to keep good health.

When I first decided to carry on writing about the picture of health and disease in Iraq, I thought that the matter is so easy, on the contrary this type of work was a very hard one indeed because I have had no any idea about the so much difficulties which I face it during the work, these difficulties was of many folded, such as lack of accurate statistics which is really the corner-stone in any scientific work, and those figures which are available are underestimated and many errors

could be noticed from the first moment, adding to this that these statistics are actually out of date because the last Vital and Health Statistics which was published by the Ministry of Health in Iraq was issued in 1962, this statistic deals only with urban areas neglecting the rural areas which is the good source of diseases for its bad environmental and health conditions.

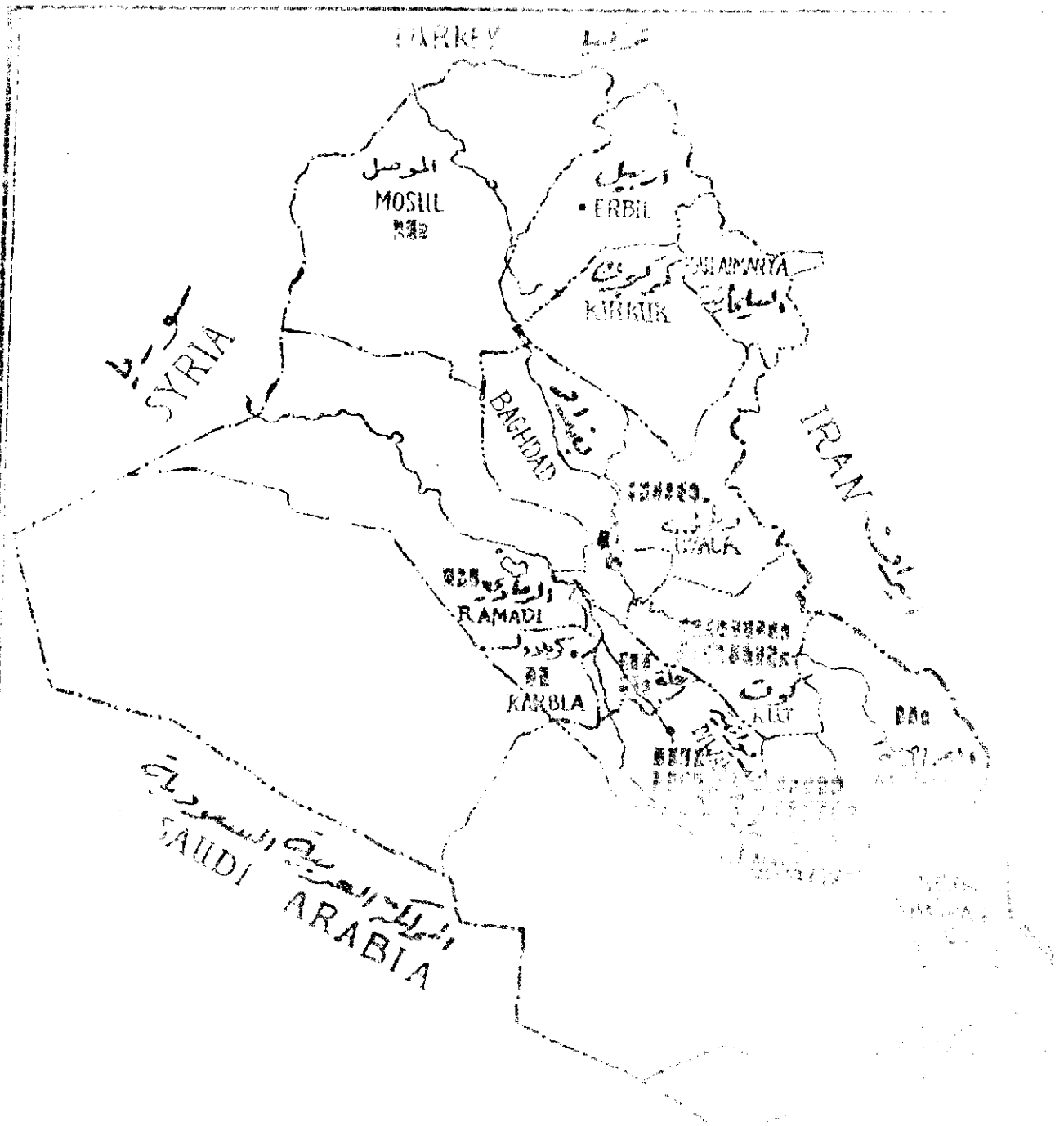
After all I did my best to draw the picture of health and disease in Iraq as near as the truth. I hope that the future will solve most of the problems which I met it during the work, and I hope also that this picture will be more brilliant and healthy by the efforts of the State and by public health men.

Dr. Nazar Yahya Nazhat
Mosul Medical College-Iraq.

CHAPTER I

Iraq, the Country and the People

Map of Iraq



CHAPTER I

Iraq, the Country and the People

1. Total area :

Iraq, with a total surface area of 171.599 square miles including 91.112 square miles for 14 settled provinces (liwas) and 80.487 square miles for three deserts provinces.

2. Topography :

Geographically Iraq may be divided into three regions which correspond with the geological structure of the land; these are :

A. The Southern and the Western deserts ending at the Euphrates escarpment;

B. The Central lowland comprising the Delta lands South of Baghdad and the Jazira (i.e., island) between the Tigris and Euphrates north to Baghdad with the north-eastern plain and foothills;

C. The mountainous region of Iraq.

3. The Rivers :

(1) The Tigris: arising in Turkey runs through Iraq in a Southeasterly direction for 770 miles. It joins

Euphrates at Kurna. It has three main tributaries: The Great Zab, The Small Zab and the Diala rivers.

(2) The Euphrates : runs through Turkey, Syria and Iraq. Its course is roughly parallel to that of Tigris and is 750 miles long. South of Baghdad it divides into Shatt Al-Hindiya and Shatt Al-Hilla. Further South, these branches re-unite and the river running through the Hammar lake, and lastly joins the Tigris to form Shatt Al-Arab.

(3) Shatt Al-Arab : formed by the union of the twin rivers at Kurna runs for an odd 100 miles to a Delta in the Arab Gulf.

4. The Climate :

There are three climatic regions which are identical with the geographical regions mentioned above, these are:

1. The southern region and Western deserts.
2. The central plains.
3. The mountainous districts of the north.

Throughout the country there are two pronounced seasons, the summer and the winter. Summer begins in May and lasts until October. During these months the sky is cloudless, the atmosphere dry and rain extremely rare.

The prevailing northwest wind, the shamal, brings relief because of its dryness. The rainfall in Iraq is a seasonal one in winter and spring, it is about 32 days per year in the plain area, more than 50 days in the north region and more than 60 days in the mountainous area per year. This rainfall density is shown in graph 1,2.

The quantity of rain water in the south region is about 10 cms, and in the mountainous region is about 20-40 cms, this is shown in table 1.

Table 1
Rainfall in Iraq (mms.)

Year	Baghdad (mms)	Mosul (mms)	Basra (mms)
1957	336.3	459.9	224.9
1958	125.7	208.2	68.9
1959	170.4	331.7	113.8
1960	78.4	315.0	113.1
1961	213.4	317.4	174.4
1962	176.5	605.5	90.6
1963	155.0	270.3	100.2
1964	92.3	271.8	31.9
1965	136.4	361.8	85.0
1966	129.6	294.9	98.8

Source: Annual Statistical Abstracts.