

patients at sanatoria, hospitals, and nursing homes for children, in case the patients themselves or those on whom they are dependent are too poor to defray the expenses. Under these circumstances the expenses are borne by the treasury, to which, in consequence, the districts and towns concerned have to contribute 2 krónur per every resident, or a lump sum not exceeding two-thirds of the expenditure incurred by the State in connexion with the treatment in consumptive hospitals of the patients they are liable for.

A sanatorium (60 beds) was built in northern Iceland in 1927, partly for private means and partly at the expense of the State. In the neighbourhood of Reykjavík a small convalescent home for tuberculous patients (built by a private society) was opened in 1926.

The following table will show the State budget for tuberculosis under the act of 1921:

1922 .	131 thousand krónur	1926 .	492 thousand krónur
1923 .	281 — —	1927 .	861 — —
1924 .	332 — —	1928 .	912 — —
1925 .	503 — —		

### HOUSING

The Great War brought a very large increase in the costs of building houses and a consequent diminution in output. Therefore the demand for housing accommodation, especially in Reykjavík, where the population rose rapidly through influx from outside, was confronted with a complete lack of supply of free dwellings. The municipal authorities of Reykjavík had a few houses built as an emergency measure, which, however, failed to bring any noticeable relief. And as Reykjavík was most severely affected by the housing shortage, a special act was passed in 1917 prohibiting all unnecessary raising of rents. Under this act, too, the right of giving notice was legally restricted, and made subject to the legitimate interest of the landlord (personal requirement) or offences committed by the tenant (arrears in payment of rent, disturbances of peace, etc.). A rent committee was set up, to which landlords and tenants might apply for rent fixation. The act remained in force till 1926, but in spite of all these restrictive measures, rents went on rising steadily, though not at the same rate as the building costs, which for Reykjavík were estimated to have increased five-fold by 1920 as compared with the prices ruling at the outbreak of the war, whereas the average rent had but trebled or scarcely even that. Thenceforward there has on the whole been a gradual de-