

DIVISION OF TUBERCULOSIS

The general activities of the year have been mainly concerned with improving the accuracy of the district registers of notified cases. Planning of hospital and sanatorium accommodation have occupied much time, and a chest-surgery policy for New Zealand hospitals has been defined. The Director visited the South Pacific in September, and in special reports has advised the Government of Fiji and the Island Territories Department on tuberculosis control in their respective areas of administration.

The returns for the year 1946 as obtained from the notifications by general practitioners, hospital clinics, and the Department's case-finding scheme disclose the known position as at 31st December, 1946, as under :—

Stated Morbidity of Tuberculosis, Maori and European, in New Zealand, as at 31st December, 1946, compared with the years 1944 and 1945 :—

	Pulmonary.			Non-pulmonary.			Total, 1946, all Forms.
	1944.	1945.	1946.	1944.	1945.	1946.	
North Island	5,038	6,116	6,234	507	546	653	6,887
South Island	1,722	2,055	2,315	259	360	415	2,730
Totals for New Zealand ..	6,760	8,171	8,549	766	906	1,068	9,617*

* Total Maori morbidity for 1946 in the above total = 2,485.

The increase in morbidity during the last three years is more likely to be due to intensified case-finding and better notification than to a marked increase in prevalence.

New cases (actual or suspected) notified during 1946 numbered 2,320, as compared with 2,572 in 1945 and 2,254 in 1944.

Of the 2,320 notified cases, pulmonary cases numbered 1,973, (1,530 Europeans, 443 Maoris) and non-pulmonary 347 (Europeans, 290, Maoris, 57).

The known incidence rates for all forms of tuberculosis are : European, 4.32 per 1,000 ; Maoris, 24.56 per 1,000 ; and combined cases, 5.48. Of the 9,617 cases on the register at 31st December, 1946, 3,304 were returned as being in the " active " state, " infectious," or " potentially infectious."

The 1946 mortality returns for tuberculosis, as supplied by the Government Statistician, are scheduled as follows :—

	Pulmonary Forms.					Other Forms.					Total Deaths, 1945.	
	European.		Maori.		Totals, Pulmo- nary.	European.		Maori.		Totals, other Forms.	E.	M.
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.			
North Island	159	128	124	160	571	33	29	51	49	162	376	358
South Island	97	75	4	4	180	25	15	..	3	43	225	15
Total, New Zealand ..	256	203	128	164	751	58	44	51	52	205	601	373