

POLIOMYELITIS IN AUCKLAND, 1947-49: AN EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY

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FOREWORD

IN conjunction with its predecessor published last year, this report records an attempt—perhaps the first of its kind—to trace the course of an epidemic of poliomyelitis in all its manifestations, subliminal and overt. The Auckland district was ideal for the purpose. It has now been recognized that very large scale studies involve so many doubtful factors of time and local circumstance that their epidemiological value is small. There is therefore a definite place for intensive field investigations of limited scope. The present inquiry is concerned with a population of about 350,000, in which there were nearly 350 positive cases, and perhaps 100,000 cases never definitely diagnosed. In its concentration on these last lies the chief interest of this inquiry.

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