Although 15,905 infants (under one year) were lost to the colony by death during the decade, and including those 20,309 children under five, the third table shows much more satisfactory results for this colony than for New Sonth Wales or Victoria in the matter of the preservation of infant life. Dealing with averages of five years, in New Zealand only 76 infants under one year are found to die out of every 1,000 born, against 97 in New South Wales and 96 in Victoria.

Year.	Proportion of Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age to every 1,000 Births.		
	New Zealand.	New South Wales.	Victoria.
1901	76·3	103·7	102·9
1902	82·9	109·7	108·6
1903	81·1	110·4	106·4
1904	71·0	82·4	77·6
1905	67·5	80·6	83·3
Means of five years	75·8	97·4	95·8

European countries show still higher average mortality of infants than the principal Australian States: England and Wales, 138 (under one year) to every 1,000 births; France, 144; Italy, 168; Hungary, 212. Sweden (99) and Norway (83) are notable exceptions.

The principal causes of mortality in children under one year for New Zealand are given, with the numbers of deaths for five years from such causes. Premature birth stands first in order of importance, marasmus or debility coming next.

Deaths under One Year.—Principal Causes.

Principal Causes of Deaths of Infants.	1	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.
Miasmatic diseases	92	191	36	20	43
Diarrhœal diseases	176	122	152	92	65
Premature birth	303	301	291	360	337
Convulsions	82	103	95	96	90
Bronchitis, pneumonia, pleurisy	235	241	149	208	170
Enteritis	154	167	231	193	167
Marasmus, &c.	294	270	273	258	267

A table is added to show that higher mortality obtains in the large towns than in New Zealand as a whole and two States of Australia.

Year.	Wellington and Suburbs.			Sydney and Suburbs.			Melbourne and Suburbs.		
	Total Births.	Deaths of Infants under 1 Year.	Proportion of Deaths of Infants under 1 Year to 1,000 Births.	Total Births.	Deaths of Infants under 1 Year.	Proportion of Deaths of Infants under 1 Year to 1,000 Births.	Total Births.	Deaths of Infants under 1 Year.	Proportion of Deaths of Infants under 1 Year to 1,000 Births.
1901	1,326	133	100·3	12,601	1,517	120·4	12,375	1,536	124·1
1902	1,321	172	130·2	13,002	1,457	112·1	12,498	1,590	127·2
1903	1,520	141	92·8	12,749	1,483	116·3	12,012	1,493	124·3
1904	1,479	141	95·3	13,215	1,300	98·4	11,886	1,102	92·7
1905	1,715	165	96·2	13,769	1,230	89·3	11,944	1,133	94·8
Means of five years	1,472	150	102·2	13,067	1,397	106·9	12,143	1,371	112·9