

ENTERIC FEVER.

The notifications of cases of enteric fever recorded throughout the health district for the past five years have been—

1902-3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	217
1903-4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	231
1904-5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	180
1905-6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	172
1906-7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	153

I have again to express satisfaction with diminishing records now extending over three years.

There has usually been some locality where during the departmental year an outbreak of enteric occurs to swell the list. This year there was such an outbreak in Bay of Islands County (twenty-six cases), again in Whakatane County (ten cases), and to a lesser degree at Hamilton. Otherwise the record is a very satisfactory one, and the result, as exhibited in the accompanying charts, is a very regular curve, showing a larger case-record December to June, with a maximum in April, and low figures July to November, with a minimum in September. The atmospheric conditions to note in this regard present a somewhat difficult problem. Reference to the meteorological tables appearing earlier in this report shows that, unlike the previous year, when the continuous record of low rainfall and low temperature was held to account for fewer cases of enteric, this year exhibits rainfall a little above the average, and mean temperature but slightly below the average. But if the tables referred to be studied, it is observed that low temperatures prevailed during the first three months of the departmental year, that in no part of the year did high temperature and drought occur, and that though the average rainfall was exceeded this took the form frequently of heavy rain over brief periods, which had the effect of washing away accumulations of germ-laden matter. The higher temperature and heavy rains of January and February, 1907, might be expected to result in a heavier enteric case-rate, and this, as the record for March shows, has been so. Still, results seem to indicate that the work of the Department, supplemented by that of the local authorities, and exhibited in awakened public interest in sanitation, is bearing fruit.

The accompanying Chart A exhibits in graphic form the curves made by the rainfall, temperature, and enteric case-rates, with their averages for comparison.

Chart B shows how the case-rate for the year is above or below a line indicating the mean of the previous five years in the whole district, and in Auckland City alone.

DISTRIBUTION OF CASES ACCORDING TO LOCALITY.

Auckland and Suburbs.

The notifications (40) vary only slightly from the previous year, the record of which was exceptionally low as compared with previous years. The deaths (5) exhibit a very low death-rate per 1,000 living. In Auckland City I am glad to note that, however much or little may result from departmental and local effort, the following satisfactory progress is observable:—

	Cases.
1903-4	77
1904-5	49
1905-6	34
1906-7	27

I am again able to adduce the example of Devonport as showing how this progression towards an ideal may be helped forward by a complete and modern drainage system. Devonport in 1902-3 had 10 cases of enteric. After installation of its drainage system its record has been:—

1903-4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
1904-5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
1905-6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
1906-7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.

Its population is 5,073, or for those four years 20,222 persons enjoying the benefit of drainage have experienced only 2 cases. At this rate Auckland's 38,677 persons should have less than 4 cases, instead of the above 27.

Parnell again has but 1 case (and that not arising in the borough) in three years.

Mount Eden.—The record here is distinctly bad:—

	Cases.
1901-2 (part of)	14
1902-3	8
1903-4	8
1904-5	5
1905-6	2
1906-7	7

Situated as *Mount Eden* is, much of it on high scoria ground, exposed to healthy southern and western winds, and with a well-to-do population, this ought not to be. It is to be feared, too, that the entire fever record does not fully express the mischief arising from lack of drainage.

Onehunga gets off with 2 cases of enteric—an improvement to no small degree effected by the unremitting energy of the local Sanitary Inspector.

One-tree Hill has 5 cases, which number is out of proportion to its population. Here again we can safely anticipate a Devonport-like diminution once the drainage so long talked of is inaugurated.