

## MARRIAGES.

The marriages for 1908 show an increase on the number for the previous year. The number was 8,339, or 147 more than in 1907. The rate per 1,000 of the population was 8·82 as against 8·91 in 1907. It is shown by the table following that there has been considerable increase in the marriage-rate, which has been above the standard during each of the last thirteen years :—

*Marriages, Number and Rate.*

Year.	Total Number of Marriages registered.	Marriage-rate.		Year.	Total Number of Marriages registered.	Marriage-rate.	
		Per 1,000 of Population.	Compared with Rate in 1882-86 taken as 100.			Per 1,000 of Population.	Compared with Rate in 1882-86 taken as 100.
1882-86	3,663	6·68	100	1897	4,928	6·83	102
				1898	5,091	6·91	103
1887	3,563	5·97	89	1899	5,461	7·28	109
1888	3,617	5·97	89	1900	5,860	7·67	115
1889	3,632	5·93	89	1901	6,095	7·83	117
1890	3,797	6·12	92	1902	6,394	8·01	120
1891	3,805	6·04	90	1903	6,748	8·23	123
1892	4,002	6·23	93	1904	6,983	8·26	124
1893	4,115	6·22	93	1905	7,200	8·28	124
1894	4,178	6·15	92	1906	7,592	8·48	127
1895	4,110	5·94	89	1907	8,192	8·91	133
1896	4,843	6·85	103	1908	8,339	8·82	132

The total number of marriages solemnised (8,339) does not include marriages where both parties are of the aboriginal native race, such persons being exempted from the necessity of complying with the provisions of the Marriage Act, although at liberty to take advantage thereof. Twenty-five marriages in which both parties were Maoris were contracted in 1908 in terms of the Act: 14 by Registrars, 3 by clergymen of the Church of England, 3 by Roman Catholic ministers, and 5 by ministers of the Church of the Latter-day Saints.

*Ages of Persons married.*

Of the persons married in 1908, 177 bridegrooms and 1,338 brides were under 21 years of age. Of the bridegrooms, four were between 17 and 18, and ten between 18 and 19. Of the brides, one was under fifteen, seven were between 15 and 16, and thirty-four between 16 and 17 years of age. The proportion of men married is greatest at the ages of 25 to 30, and of women at from 21 to 25 years.

## DEATHS.

The deaths in 1908 numbered 9,043, a rate of 9·57 in every 1,000 persons living, as against 10·95 in 1907. This is slightly below the average of the previous ten years, 9·93 per 1,000.

*Comparative Death-rate for the Period 1898 to 1908*

Country.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
New Zealand ...	9·84	10·24	9·43	9·81	10·50	10·40	9·57	9·27	9·31	10·95	9·57
Queensland ...	12·66	12·07	11·73	11·88	12·08	12·38	10·11	10·47	9·56	10·35	10·34
New South Wales ...	12·48	11·82	11·16	11·75	11·97	11·65	10·65	10·16	9·92	10·58	10·16
Victoria ...	15·94	14·28	12·75	13·22	13·40	12·90	11·92	12·10	12·42	11·66	12·53
South Australia*	13·06	12·14	10·64	11·11	11·79	10·71	10·22	10·14	10·34	9·72	9·84
Western Australia	16·05	13·76	12·92	13·36	13·63	12·60	11·91	10·83	11·87	11·17	10·86
Tasmania ...	13·51	12·25	11·05	10·52	11·00	11·92	11·04	10·29	11·24	11·14	11·71
England and Wales	17·5	18·2	18·2	16·9	16·2	15·4	16·2	15·2	15·4	15·0	...
Scotland ...	18·0	18·1	18·5	17·9	17·2	16·6	16·9	15·9	16·0	16·2	...
Ireland ...	18·2	17·7	19·6	17·8	17·5	17·5	18·1	17·1	17·0	17·7	...
Denmark ...	15·5	17·3	16·8	15·8	14·6	14·7	14·1	15·0	13·5	14·2	...
Norway ...	15·2	16·7	15·8	14·9	13·8	14·8	14·3	14·8	13·7	14·2	...
Sweden ...	15·1	17·7	16·8	16·1	15·4	15·1	15·3	15·6	14·4	14·6	...
Austria ...	24·9	25·6	25·3	24·0	24·7	23·8	23·7	25·0	22·5	...	...
Hungary ...	28·0	27·2	26·9	25·4	27·0	26·1	24·8	27·8	24·8	25·2	...
Switzerland ...	18·3	17·7	19·3	18·0	17·2	17·6	17·8	17·9	17·0	...	...
German Empire ...	20·5	21·5	22·1	20·7	19·5	20·0	19·6	19·8	18·2	...	...
Netherlands ...	17·0	17·1	17·8	17·2	16·3	15·6	15·9	15·3	14·8	14·6	...
France ...	20·9	21·1	21·9	20·1	19·5	19·2	19·4	19·6	19·9	20·2	...
Italy ...	22·9	21·9	23·8	22·0	22·2	22·4	21·1	21·9	20·8	20·8	...

\* Excluding the Northern Territory.