

The following table shows the causes of deaths of children under one year of age during the past five years :—

Deaths of Children under One Year—Causes—1911-15.

Causes.	Number of Deaths from each Cause.					Percentage of Total.				
	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Whooping-cough	12	6	87	53	50	0·81	0·43	5·26	3·64	3·58
Convulsions	89	51	71	51	55	6·00	3·62	4·29	3·50	3·95
Bronchitis and pneumonia	161	126	157	115	127	10·85	8·94	9·50	7·90	9·11
Diarrhoea and enteritis	244	178	214	163	115	16·44	12·63	12·95	11·19	8·25
Malformations	51	117	89	98	132	3·43	8·30	5·38	6·73	9·47
Premature birth	337	398	418	420	397	22·71	28·25	25·29	28·85	28·48
Congenital debility	283	254	296	246	211	17·72	18·03	17·91	16·90	15·14
Other causes	327	279	321	310	307	22·04	19·80	19·42	21·29	22·02
Totals	1,484	1,409	1,653	1,456	1,394	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

The following table shows the number of deaths from the most prevalent infectious diseases during the past five years :—

Cause.	Number of Deaths.					Proportion per 10,000 of Mean Population.				
	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.
Typhoid fever	67	46	60	48	52	0·66	0·44	0·56	0·44	0·47
Measles	41	15	26	33	64	0·41	0·14	0·24	0·30	0·58
Scarlet fever	9	7	11	22	44	0·09	0·07	0·10	0·20	0·40
Whooping-cough	17	10	128	74	80	0·17	0·10	1·20	0·68	0·73
Diphtheria	62	46	61	78	99	0·61	0·44	0·57	0·72	0·90
Influenza	63	65	56	63	110	0·62	0·63	0·52	0·58	1·00
Pulmonary tuberculosis	584	567	656	576	562	5·75	5·46	6·14	5·28	5·11
Other forms of tuberculosis	154	149	156	152	131	1·52	1·43	1·46	1·39	1·19

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious disease notified throughout the Dominion during the year 1915 :—

Disease.	Number of Cases.			Rate of Incidence per 10,000 of the Population.		
	1915.	1914.	1913.	1915.	1914.	1913.
Scarlet fever	2,312	1,506	1,614	21·03	13·81	15·10
Diphtheria	1,420	1,095	747	12·92	10·04	6·99
Enteric	825	859	863	7·50	7·88	8·08
Tuberculosis	1,019	957	1,018	9·27	8·78	9·53
Blood-poisoning	140	162	118	1·27	1·49	1·10
Chicken-pox	401	1,123	1,137	3·65	10·30	10·64
Smallpox	1	63	470	..	0·58	4·40
Polio-myelitis	10	268	..	0·09	2·46	..
Cerebro-spinal meningitis	85	..	..	0·77	..	..
Hydatids	18	..	..	0·16	..	..
Totals	6,231	6,033	5,967	56·67	55·33	55·84

DANGEROUS INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Smallpox.—One case was notified to the District Health Officer, Auckland, during the year, but it was open to doubt whether it was a true case. All precautions were, however, taken, and all contacts vaccinated. All former contacts were followed up, but no traces of illness could be found before or after contact with the patient.

Plague.—It is again satisfactory to report absence of plague in man or rodent. 16,189 rats were purchased from various sources by the District Health Officer, Auckland, and were examined for symptoms of plague infection.

Leprosy.—The conditions with regard to this disease remain the same, there being still two active cases at the quarantine station, one of whom, owing to blindness, is unable to look after himself, and has been receiving attention from the Maori, who had recovered from the disease. Further swabs have been taken from the Maori, but all with negative results.

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

During the year complaints having been made regarding the sale of light-weight butter and bread, a surprise sampling was, by your instructions, undertaken throughout the Dominion. The result showed that the great majority of the samples weighed complied with the requirements of the Act. A number of prosecutions were initiated and convictions obtained.