

TUBERCULOSIS (ALL FORMS), 699 .

The following table indicates the course of this disease since 1872 :—

Tuberculosis (all Forms) in New Zealand, 1872-1928.

Year.	Number of Deaths from Tuberculosis.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis per 10,000 of Mean Population.	Year.	Number of Deaths from Tuberculosis.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis per 10,000 of Mean Population.
1872	346	12.66	1901	775	9.96
1873	296	10.50	1902	802	10.05
1874	391	12.26	1903	769	9.38
1875	561	15.63	1904	799	9.46
1876	488	12.59	1905	678	7.79
1877	512	12.68	1906	720	8.04
1878	513	12.20	1907	856	9.31
1879	587	13.10	1908	840	8.89
1880	645	13.60	1909	803	8.26
1881	680	13.80	1910	731	7.36
1882	611	12.00	1911	733	7.27
1883	700	13.23	1912	716	6.89
1884	718	12.99	1913	812	7.60
1885	698	12.25	1914	728	6.67
1886	705	12.11	1915	793	6.30
1887	734	12.31	1916	742	6.74
1888	647	10.69	1917	755	6.87
1889	649	10.61	1918	832	7.54
1890	650	10.47	1919	762	6.71
1891	663	10.53	1920	851	7.21
1892	700	10.90	1921	793	6.48
1893	729	11.02	1922	821	6.56
1894	752	11.07	1923	792	6.21
1895	761	10.99	1924	736	5.67
1896	680	9.62	1925	684	5.14
1897	763	10.57	1926	727	5.37
1898	769	10.44	1927	668	4.86
1899	795	10.60	1928	699	5.02
1900	752	9.85			

New Zealand has the lowest death-rate from tuberculosis in the world. In common with that of many other countries, including Great Britain, it has steadily reduced in the last half-century. Last year's rate was remarkably low, and this year's is consistent with the general falling tendency. Tuberculosis, however, still takes fifth place as a cause of death in New Zealand, and disables temporarily or permanently many more than it kills.

Of 699 deaths from tuberculosis last year, 569 were assigned to pulmonary tuberculosis and 130 to other forms of this disease, comprising tuberculous meningitis and peritonitis, and tuberculosis of the bones, joints, glands, &c.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Last year's increase in deaths was wholly in pulmonary cases, which are regarded by most authorities as conveyed from human sources. There were 1,512 notifications of fresh cases during the year, and although during the last few years the number has steadily increased, while that of the deaths has reduced, there is reason to believe all are not yet notified. In the South Island particularly there is a growing tendency for special institutional treatment to be undertaken in the early course of the disease.

A distressing feature of this disease of adult—often early adult—life, and one which frequently assumes economic importance owing to the involvement of breadwinners in the process, is the protracted convalescence. Modern sanatorium practice is to retain cases in such an institution for long periods, owing to the frequency of relapses following short courses of treatment.

New Zealand has not yet embarked upon a colony to accommodate tuberculous adults with their families and enable them to earn a little under medical supervision at suitable occupations before they are fitted to engage independently in full-time occupation. If the Hospital Boards continue to develop sanatoria, some such provision will probably be found advisable.

Other Forms of Tuberculosis.

The 130 deaths last year from other forms of tuberculosis were made up as follows :—

Tuberculosis of meninges and central nervous system	..	..	..	58
Tuberculosis of intestines and peritoneum	..	..	..	28
Tuberculosis of vertebral column	..	..	..	17
Tuberculosis of bones	..	..	..	1
Tuberculosis of genito-urinary system	..	..	..	10
Tuberculosis of other organs	..	..	..	2
Disseminated tuberculosis	..	..	..	14

130

A small proportion only of these latter deaths, particularly those of children, are deemed by recognized authorities to be possibly due to infection from the cow, and bacteriological tests of milk-supplies in New Zealand have shown the milk-supply to be remarkably free from bovine tubercle.