

It will be seen from this that New Zealand's puerperal death-rate, unlike her general death-rate, is relatively high, due less to puerperal-septicæmia deaths than to deaths from other puerperal causes, such as puerperal albuminuria and convulsions, puerperal hæmorrhage, and other accidents of labour. It will be seen also that several other countries believed to possess skilled midwifery service, which show a relatively high puerperal death-rate, also owe their relatively high rate more to these other puerperal causes than to puerperal septicæmia. I instance Northern Ireland, Australia, Canada, Scotland, and the United States of America. In previous reports, by graphs and tables, I have demonstrated that in New Zealand these other puerperal causes are less fatal to women residing in the fourteen principal urban areas than to women in the rural areas and the smaller towns. It is probable that not only in New Zealand, but also in the several other countries to which I have referred, this higher death-rate is in some measure attributable to the scattered distribution of population rendering ante-natal care and the procurement of skilled midwifery service more difficult of attainment.

Another factor which should be taken into account is that we have reason to believe that the collection of statistics is more accurately performed in New Zealand than in many European countries. The notification of puerperal septicæmia in New Zealand is so thorough as to have occasioned comment overseas, and the questionnaire of medical practitioners by the New Zealand Government Statistician regarding female deaths is searching.

SECTION 2.—THE COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

INFLUENZA (ALL FORMS), 242.

Number of Deaths from Influenza in New Zealand, 1923-28.

Year.	Number.	Year.	Number.
1923	403	1926	288
1924	90	1927	131
1925	86	1928	242

PNEUMONIC INFLUENZA.

Pneumonic influenza, the deaths from which are included in influenza (all forms), is a form of influenza which is compulsorily notifiable.

Pneumonic Influenza in New Zealand, 1923-28.

Year.	Notifications.		Deaths.	
	Number.	Rate per 10,000 of Mean Population.	Number.	Rate per 10,000 of Mean Population.
1923	1,144	8.98	223	1.75
1924	180	1.39	32	0.25
1925	69	0.52	23	0.17
1926	641	4.73	132	0.98
1927	176	1.28	43	0.31
1928	354	2.55	100	0.72

DIPHTHERIA, 72.

Diphtheria in New Zealand, 1924-28.

Year.	Notifications.		Deaths.*	
	Number.	Rate per 10,000 of Mean Population.	Number.	Rate per 10,000 of Mean Population.
1924	2,717	20.84	82	0.63
1925	1,518	11.42	52	0.40
1926	1,975	14.59	66	0.49
1927	1,446	10.52	58	0.42
1928	1,600	11.51	72	0.52

* Figures include deaths from croup.