

THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following table gives the main causes of deaths last year in their order of magnitude, and the actual number of deaths therefrom.

TOTAL DEATHS IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1930, 12,199.						Actual Deaths.
Causes.						
Heart-disease (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	2,897
Cancer	..	..	..	..	..	1,452
Chest-disease—						
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	429
Pneumonia secondary to influenza, whooping-cough, and measles	..	..	..	..	..	87
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	268
Broncho-pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	218
						— 1,002
Violence	..	..	..	..	..	977
Tuberculosis (all forms)	..	..	..	..	..	649
Apoplexy or cerebral hæmorrhage	..	..	..	..	..	659
Kidney or Bright's disease	..	..	..	..	..	567
Senility	..	..	..	..	..	418
Disease of the arteries	..	..	..	..	..	432
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	223
Diseases and accidents of childbirth (<i>i.e.</i> , maternal mortality)	..	..	..	..	..	136
Hernia and intestinal obstruction	..	..	..	..	..	95
Appendicitis	..	..	..	..	..	99
Diarrhœa and enteritis	..	..	..	..	..	77
Epilepsy	..	..	..	..	..	56

Common Infectious Diseases.

Influenza (all forms, including pneumonic)	..	..	..	..	..	131
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	58
Scarlet fever	..	..	..	..	..	16
Typhoid fever	..	..	..	..	..	7
Whooping-cough	33
Measles	2

Infant Mortality.

Infant deaths (under one year), all causes	924
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THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH ITEMIZED.

Cause.	Year.		
	1930.	1929.	1928.
Heart-diseases (all forms)	2,897	2,533	2,315
Apoplexy or cerebral hæmorrhage	659	634	643
Diseases of the arteries	432	428	394
	3,988	3,595	3,352

These diseases of the heart and arteries accounted for 3,988, or 32 per cent., of the total deaths. In 1929 they accounted for 29 per cent., and in 1928 28 per cent. of the total. Quite a proportion of these deaths apply to persons under sixty years of age. This appears to present a field worthy of special investigation by the Department.

CANCER, 1,452.

The following table, taken from the "New Zealand Official Year-book," shows the cancer death-rate in the Dominion for the last five years:—

Number of Persons who died from Cancer, the Proportion per 10,000 Persons living, and the Percentage of all Deaths, 1926–30.

Year.	Deaths from Cancer.	Total Deaths, all Causes.	Deaths from Cancer per 10,000 of Living Persons.	Deaths from Cancer per 100 of all Deaths.
1926	1,341	11,819	9.91	11.35
1927	1,324	11,613	9.63	11.40
1928	1,374	11,811	9.87	11.63
1929	1,467	12,314	10.43	11.91
1930	1,452	12,199	10.19	11.90