

TYPHOID OR ENTERIC FEVER, 8.

The position as regards this disease for the period 1927–31 is shown in the table below :—

Enteric Fever in New Zealand, 1927–31.

Year.	Notifications.		Deaths.	
	Number.	Rate per 10,000 of Mean Population.	Number.	Rate per 10,000 of Mean Population.
1927	270	1.96	11	0.08
1928	290	2.09	16	0.12
1929	278	1.98	22	0.16
1930	149	1.04	7	0.05
1931	161	1.11	8	0.06

It is also of interest to state that the death-rate from typhoid fever (average) for the last five years was approximately forty times less than a similar average taken fifty years ago.

SECTION 3.

INFANT MORTALITY, 856.

The infant-mortality rate for 1931 was 32.15 per 1,000 births.

Infant Mortality in New Zealand, 1927–31 (per 1,000 live Births).

Year.	Under One Month.	One Month and under Twelve Months.	Total under Twelve Months.	Year.	Under One Month.	One Month and under Twelve Months.	Total under Twelve Months.
1927 ..	25.83	12.91	38.74	1930 ..	24.03	10.45	34.48
1928 ..	25.41	10.77	36.18	1931 ..	22.69	9.46	32.54
1929 ..	23.26	10.84	34.10				

It will be seen from the above table that there was a substantial reduction last year in the death-rate of infants, and those under one month of age shared in this reduction.

Analysis of Deaths of Infants under One Month of Age, 1931.

The following table gives the causes of these deaths during the year :—

Cause of Death.	Under One Day.	One Day and under One Week.	One Week and under Two Weeks.	Two Weeks and under Three Weeks.	Three Weeks and under One Month.	Total.
Influenza .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Syphilis .. ..	..	..	1	..	2	3
Meningitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions .. ..	..	3	2	..	..	5
Broncho-pneumonia	1	4	4	2	2	13
Pneumonia .. ..	..	2	2	..	..	4
Diarrhoea and enteritis .. ..	..	..	..	2	3	5
Congenital malformations	17	41	13	5	2	78
Congenital debility	5	9	7	3	..	24
Injury at birth.. ..	20	47	6	4	1	78
Premature birth	121	120	23	15	7	286
Other diseases	21	38	10	3	..	72
Accidental mechanical suffocation	1	..	..	1	..	2
Other causes	4	17	5	4	4	34
Totals, 1931	190	281	73	39	21	604
Totals, 1930	224	288	74	35	23	644

Thus 471 of a total of 604 infant deaths in the first month of life occurred during the first week, and may be regarded as mainly due to pre-natal influences. It is also of interest to record that well over half of the infant deaths (in the first twelve months of life) occurred in this first week—i.e., 471 in a total of 856.