

1933.
NEW ZEALAND.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF HEALTH.

Presented in pursuance of Section 100 of the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act, 1926.

HON. J. A. YOUNG, MINISTER OF HEALTH.

CONTENTS.

Reports of—	PAGE
Director-General of Health	1-6
Director, Division of Public Hygiene	7-19
Director, Division of School Hygiene	19-27
Director, Division of Hospitals	27-29
Director, Division of Dental Hygiene	29-33
Director, Division of Nursing	34-37
Inspector of Private and Maternity Hospitals	37-41

APPENDIX: Investigation into Cases of Typhoid Fever traced to the eating of Polluted Shell-fish; Bacteriological Control of Milk Supplies, East Cape Health District; The Ice-cream of Gisborne—Bacteriological Control and Sterilization of Factory Equipment.

REPORTS.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF HEALTH to the Hon. the MINISTER OF HEALTH, Wellington.

I HAVE the honour to lay before you the annual report of the Department for the year 1932-33.

PART I.—GENERAL SURVEY.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Death-rate.—1932 was remarkable for its death-rate—viz., 8.02 per 1,000 mean population, the lowest rate so far recorded in New Zealand. A falling death-rate is a feature of our vital statistics, but the present level of the rate is lower than would have been considered possible a few years ago, more particularly in view of the altered age constitution of our population and the ever-increasing number of people of advanced years in our midst.

Birth-rate.—The birth-rate, which was 17.09 per 1,000 mean population, shows a further fall as compared even with the low rate for the preceding year. The falling proportion of married women of child-bearing ages has been a distinct factor affecting this rate.

Infant Mortality.—Infant mortality has shown a steady improvement during the last twenty years, the rate for 1932 being the record low figure of 31.22 per 1,000 live births.

Still-births.—The still-birth rate was 30 per 1,000 live births, a slight reduction on the previous year's rate of 30.4.