

THE MEDICAL STATE OF THE PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN—*continued*

Number of defects found— <i>continued</i>					Number.	Per Cent.
Ears—						
Otorrhoea	..	..	..	..	29	0.39
Deafness	..	..	..	..	17	0.23
Phimosis	..	..	..	..	38	0.51
Undescended testicles	..	..	..	..	67	0.91
Hernia	..	..	..	..	33	0.45
Habit abnormalities—						
Bad food habits	..	..	..	..	736	10.01
Other bad habits	..	..	..	..	496	6.74
Bowel action abnormality	..	..	..	..	91	1.23
Eneuresis	..	..	..	..	421	5.73
Insufficient daytime rest	..	..	..	..	371	5.04
Insufficient sleep	..	..	..	..	326	4.43

In these pre-school children subnormal nutrition remains practically at the same level as last year (8.86 per cent. in 1945). Poor posture, showing a lack of body tone, with which sleep and diet have much to do, appears in 4.71 per cent. Much the same percentage have too little sleep and rest—not enough daytime rest in 5.04 per cent. and too late to bed at night in 4.43 per cent. Ten per cent. of the toddlers give trouble at meal-times, showing the need for more education of parents in child-management.

IMMUNIZATION AGAINST DISEASE

Whooping-cough: Complete course of vaccine, 1,082.

Diphtheria: Complete course of vaccine, 66,533.

Health District.	Babies, 3–12 Months.	Pre-school, 1–5 Years.	School, 5–15 Years.	Total.
North Auckland	929	1,343	497	2,769
Auckland	1,013	10,441	5,697	17,151
South Auckland	183	2,928	4,640	7,751
East Cape	37	1,609	1,638	3,284
Taranaki	475	2,161	446	3,082
Wellington - Hawke's Bay ..	1,519	3,218	1,614	6,351
Wellington-Wairarapa ..	614	4,093	1,970	6,677
Nelson-Marlborough ..	161	665	822	1,648
Canterbury - West Coast ..	991	3,913	3,934	8,838
South Canterbury	16	565	991	1,572
Otago	159	1,938	2,691	4,788
Southland	159	1,379	1,084	2,622
Totals	6,256	34,253	26,024	66,533

DIVISION OF NURSING

The year presented many adjustment difficulties so common throughout the world as a result of the war. However, the nursing service of the Dominion has been maintained through the close co-operation of those responsible.

The outstanding fact this year has been the very great increase in New Zealand's birth-rate, which has made considerable demands on hospital beds and staff. At the same time, there has been a wastage of nurses due to a large increase in the number of marriages with the return of our servicemen, the number of married nurses employed decreased, and with the lifting of Man-power Regulations and travelling restrictions a large number of nurses have left New Zealand with the desire to see something of the world. Over a period of six months no less than 88 nurses notified my office that they were leaving New Zealand, so that probably the number who have actually left is considerably larger.