

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1947 :—

	European.	Maori.	Combined.
Population, mean	1,696,188	106,449	1,802,637
Birth-rate per 1,000 population ..	26.42	46.86	27.63
Death-rate per 1,000 population ..	9.38	14.45	9.68
Infant-mortality rate per 1,000 live births ..	25.04	73.18	29.86
Death-rate, tuberculosis, all forms, per 10,000 population	3.09	32.88	4.85

This table shows at a glance the main difference between the Europeans and the Maoris in respect of vital statistics.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH

(Europeans only)

The following table gives the main causes of death for the year 1946, and the death-rates therefrom per 10,000 of mean population for that year and the preceding four years. Owing to the difficulty of obtaining detailed statistics so early in the year, no attempt has been made, as in previous years, to supply this information for the year immediately past. The corresponding figures for 1947 will appear in next year's annual report :—

Cause.	1946.		1945 : Rate.	1944 : Rate.	1943 : Rate.	1942 : Rate.
	Number.	Rate.				
Heart-disease (all forms)	5,783	34.86	35.48	33.49	33.68	36.41
Cancer	2,268	13.67	13.88	14.02	13.85	13.13
Violence	871	5.25	4.92	5.37	6.06	5.76
Pneumonia	233	1.40	1.39	1.32	1.41	1.52
Pneumonia (secondary to influenza, whooping-cough, and measles)	56	0.34	0.20	0.31	0.17	0.81
Bronchitis	153	0.92	1.14	1.14	1.40	1.36
Broncho-pneumonia	328	1.98	1.78	1.82	1.67	2.11
Tuberculosis (all forms)	560	3.38	3.78	3.81	3.72	3.94
Kidney, or Bright's, disease	451	2.72	2.62	2.80	2.83	3.19
Apoplexy or cerebral hemorrhage	1,597	9.63	10.26	9.28	9.79	9.90
Diseases of the arteries	194	1.17	1.57	1.23	1.22	1.22
Senility	323	1.95	2.90	2.94	3.17	3.02
Diabetes	338	2.04	2.00	2.10	2.16	2.28
Hernia and intestinal obstruction	101	0.61	0.78	0.74	0.65	0.74
Diseases and accidents of childbirth (puerperal mortality)	86	0.52	0.52	0.58	0.44	0.55
Appendicitis	52	0.31	0.38	0.50	0.47	0.44
Diarrhoea and enteritis	73	0.44	0.78	0.64	0.58	0.50
Epilepsy	44	0.27	0.28	0.30	0.46	0.53
Common infectious diseases—						
Influenza (all forms, including pneumonia) ..	111	0.67	0.33	0.40	0.42	1.61
Diphtheria	49	0.30	0.26	0.19	0.21	0.16
Whooping-cough	1	0.01	0.05	0.29	0.11	0.03
Scarlet fever	1	0.01	0.08	0.17	0.01	0.01
Typhoid and paratyphoid	7	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.05
Measles	16	0.10	0.06	..	0.05	0.20

Poliomyelitis.—In November, 1947, a number of cases occurred in Auckland, and the disease became epidemic in that area in December. By 31st March, 1948, it had spread to most North Island districts, but with only a few cases in the South Island. The epidemic has not yet declined and therefore a full report is not yet possible.

The opportunity was taken in Auckland to carry out some field investigations, and in the Appendix will be found a contribution to the epidemiology of poliomyelitis as experienced in that area.