

Disease Category.	Total.	
	Males.	Females.
<i>Diseases of the Nervous System and Sense Organs, Including Mental Disorders—</i>		
Residuals of other and unspecified paralysis	232	202
Mental deficiency	944	1,206
Epilepsy	202	264
Diseases of the organs of vision	324	161
Other diseases of the nervous system and sense organs, including mental disorders	478	568
<i>Diseases of the Circulatory System—</i>		
Diseases of the heart	637	454
Diseases of the arteries	63	31
Varicose veins and hæmorrhoids	16	19
Other diseases of the circulatory system	14	10
<i>Diseases of the Respiratory System—</i>		
Bronchitis	78	46
Asthma	178	131
Other diseases of the respiratory system	42	19
<i>Diseases of the Digestive System—</i>		
Ulcer of the stomach and intestines	35	8
Hernia	11	9
Other diseases of the digestive system	47	57
<i>Diseases of the Genito-urinary System</i>	43	55
<i>Diseases of the Skin</i>	25	23
<i>Diseases of the Bones and Organs of Movement—</i>		
Arthritis and rheumatism	384	385
Other diseases of the bones and organs of movement	155	117
Other deformities due to previous disease or injury, including amputations ..	89	64
<i>Congenital Malformations</i>	131	104
<i>Other and Ill-defined Diseases</i>	32	61
<i>Injuries and Poisoning</i>	85	33
Totals	5,188	4,930

MINERS' BENEFITS

During the year 25 new grants were made. The number of benefits in force decreased by 25, from 685 as at 31st March, 1948, to 660 as at 31st March, 1949. This includes 85 benefits paid to widows whose husbands died while in receipt of miners' benefit.

The expenditure for the year increased by £3,553, from £110,106 for the year ended 31st March, 1948, to £113,659 for the year ended 31st March, 1949.

RECIPROCAL BENEFITS

RECIPROCITY WITH AUSTRALIA

Under the Age and Invalids' Benefits (Reciprocity with Australia) Act, 1943, the Social Security Commission was empowered to grant age and invalids' benefits to persons living in the Dominion not eligible for benefits under the Social Security Act, 1938, but who immediately before taking up residence in New Zealand were resident in Australia. The rate of reciprocal benefit was not to exceed the rate payable in the country with the lower maximum benefit. The basic rate of Australian age and invalids' pensions was increased from £97 10s. to £110 10s. a year from the 21st October, 1948.

Negotiations which extended over a considerable period between Australia and New Zealand resulted in the passing by the New Zealand Parliament on 2nd December, 1948, of the Social Security (Reciprocity with Australia) Act, 1948. This Act ratified a new reciprocal agreement with Australia.

The new agreement, which comes into operation on 1st July, 1949, extends the scope of reciprocity to cover age, invalids', widows', family, unemployment, and sickness benefits. The former requirement that benefits be subject to the more restrictive conditions of either country has not been incorporated in the new agreement.