

Developmental Diseases (at Four Chief Centres).

There were 283 deaths in this class, of which 110 were from premature births, 157 from old age, and 16 from other causes.

Local Diseases (at Four Chief Centres).

Deaths in this class were 52 more than in 1904, the figures being 1,275, against 1,223. Diseases of the circulatory system were the most fatal of this class, amounting to 302. Diseases of the nervous system show 283 deaths—102 from apoplexy. Diseases of the respiratory system show 279 deaths for 1905, against 272 in the former year. Bronchitis, pneumonia, congestion of the lungs, pleurisy, and allied diseases form this group.

Under the head of "Diseases of the Digestive System" there were 251 deaths at the four centres, including 94 from enteritis; peritonitis, 14; gastritis, 19; cirrhosis of liver, 14; jaundice and liver-disease, 21; and dentition, 9. From appendicitis 15 deaths are particularly noted.

Diseases of the urinary system caused 109 deaths. The remaining deaths were: 4 disease of organs of special sense, 10 of the lymphatic, 31 of the reproductive systems, 2 of the organs of locomotion, and 4 of the integumentary system.

Violent Deaths (at Four Chief Centres).

There were 139 violent deaths, 109 of which were classed as accidental. Seven of these latter were caused by fractures, and 19 by falls. In 11 cases deaths resulted from the deceased being run over by a cart, tram, train, &c. Nine deaths were from burns or scalds, 16 by drowning, 6 by suffocation, 3 by poisoning, 9 by injuries to head, spine, hip, &c.; besides 9 from accident at birth, and 20 others.

One death was classified as homicide. Of 28 suicides, 7 were by shooting, 2 by cutting throat, 7 by poison, 7 by hanging, 3 by drowning, 1 by suffocation (gas), and 1 by jumping from a house.

Vital Statistics of Australasian Capitals, 1904.

The vital statistics of the chief cities, *with their suburbs*, of Australasia, show that the death-rate in Wellington (N.Z.) for 1904 was lower than that of any other of the principal towns for the same year.

Capital Cities (including Suburbs).	Estimated Mean Population.	Births.		Deaths.		Excess of Births over Deaths.
		Total Number.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Total Number.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.	
Melbourne ...	504,960	11,886	23.54	6,558	12.99	5,328
Sydney ...	514,800	13,215	25.67	5,675	11.02	7,540
Adelaide...	169,397	4,016	23.71	2,022	11.94	1,994
Brisbane*	125,068	3,301	26.40	1,433	11.46	1,868
Perth ...	48,400	1,780	36.78	823	17.00	957
Hobart ...	34,888	999	28.64	555	15.91	444
Wellington ...	55,618	1,479	26.59	580	10.43	899

* Ten mile radius.

AVERAGE AGE AT DEATH, AND EXPECTATION OF LIFE.

The average age at death of persons of either sex, in each of the ten years 1896–1905, was as follows:—

		Males.	Females.			Males.	Females.
1896 ...	...	36.80 years	32.41 years.	1901 ...	...	41.64 years	37.68 years.
1897 ...	...	38.80 "	34.77 "	1902 ...	...	41.07 "	34.88 "
1898 ...	...	39.29 "	35.69 "	1903 ...	...	39.56 "	35.43 "
1899 ...	...	37.73 "	33.54 "	1904 ...	...	41.47 "	38.44 "
1900 ...	...	40.31 "	36.14 "	1905 ...	...	43.03 "	39.13 "

The average expectation of life at each year of age has been compiled from a table given in a paper on the rates of mortality in New Zealand which was published by Mr. George Leslie. This is the best and most up-to-date information procurable, but it is not guaranteed by the authorities of the Government Life Insurance Department.

The table shows, on comparison with New South Wales figures (Coghlan's) that at birth the expectation of life to the male infant in New Zealand is considerably greater than in that State, the figures being 54.44 years (N.Z.), against 49.60 (N.S.W.), and for females 57.26 and 52.90.

At 21 years of age the expectation in New Zealand for males is 43.77 years, against 41.35 (N.S.W.), and for females 45.59, against 43.62.

At age 45 the comparison is, for males, 25.23 years (N.Z.), 23.27 (N.S.W.); females, 27.46 years (N.Z.), against 25.34 (N.S.W.).

At the age of 70, the limit of a normal life, the figures for New Zealand are—males 9.48 years, females 10.23, against 8.64 for both sexes in New South Wales.

Throughout the comparison is in favour of this country.