

TABLE showing the Number of Deaths from Cancer registered in each Provincial District of the Colony of New Zealand during the Years 1902-5.

Provincial Districts.	1902.			1903.			1904.			1905.		
	Under 5 Years.	Over 5 Years.	Total.	Under 5 Years.	Over 5 Years.	Total.	Under 5 Years.	Over 5 Years.	Total.	Under 5 Years.	Over 5 Years.	Total.
Auckland ...	...	115	115	...	117	117	1	114	115	...	110	110
Taranaki ...	...	24	24	...	21	21	...	21	21	...	20	20
Hawke's Bay ...	...	15	15	...	26	26	...	25	25	...	16	16
Wellington ...	...	95	95	1	107	108	...	113	113	...	106	106
Marlborough ...	...	7	7	...	6	6	...	5	5	...	6	6
Nelson ...	...	33	33	...	28	28	...	32	32	...	25	25
Westland ...	...	19	19	...	35	35	...	16	16	...	10	10
Canterbury ...	...	98	98	...	105	105	...	109	109	...	112	112
Otago ...	...	130	130	...	136	136	1	134	135	1	160	161
Totals ...	...	536	536	1	581	582	2	569	571	1	565	566

The death-rates for cancer in respect of each sex are given for each of ten years, selected to show the position as from 1886 to 1905:—

DEATHS FROM CANCER in every 10,000 Persons of each Sex living in New Zealand.

Year.	Males.	Females.	Year.	Males.	Females.
1886 ...	3·69	3·67	1901 ...	6·48	6·77
1890 ...	4·72	4·79	1902 ...	7·05	6·35
1894 ...	6·65	5·27	1903 ...	7·51	6·63
1898 ...	6·77	5·98	1904 ...	7·23	6·23
1899 ...	6·85	5·56	1905 ...	6·79	6·18
1900 ...	6·12	5·09			

The mortality was higher among the males than among the females (with the exception of 1890 and 1901), which is the reverse of English experience, where the rate was 7·32 per 10,000 of males and 10·03 of females for the year 1903. In the United Kingdom, however, the rate of increase is so much higher among males than with females that the Registrar-General calculates equilibrium will be reached in about the year 1932, and thereafter the rate among males would exceed the rate among females.

The increase in the numbers for the sexes together for England and New Zealand is represented in the proportions below:—

DEATHS FROM CANCER in every 10,000 Persons living.

Year.	New Zealand.	England.	Year.	New Zealand.	England.
1881 ...	2·69	5·20	1899 ...	6·24	8·29
1886 ...	3·68	5·90	1900 ...	5·63	8·28
1891 ...	4·68	6·92	1903 ...	7·10	8·71
1896 ...	5·50	7·64			

The actual number of deaths of persons of either sex and all ages registered in New Zealand during the last fifteen years was:—

	Males.	Females.	Totals.		Males.	Females.	Totals.
1891 ...	154	141	295	1900 ...	246	184	430
1892 ...	173	134	307	1901 ...	265	250	515
1893 ...	188	144	332	1902 ...	296	240	536
1894 ...	240	168	408	1903 ...	325	257	582
1895 ...	208	175	383	1904 ...	323	248	571
1896 ...	205	184	389	1905 ...	313	253	566
1897 ...	210	185	395				
1898 ...	263	208	471				
1899 ...	271	197	468	Totals ...	3,680	2,968	6,648

MORTALITY FROM DEVELOPMENTAL DISEASES.

The total of deaths from developmental diseases was 979, or 11·25 per 10,000 persons living. The mortality from premature birth comprised 360 deaths, and that from atelectasis, cyanosis, and other congenital defects 41 deaths. The proportion of deaths from premature birth varies from 11 to 15 out of every 1,000 births, and that from congenital defects from 2 to 4 per 1,000 births. Particulars for ten years exhibit the annual rates:—

Number and Proportions per 1,000 Births.

Year.	Deaths from Premature Birth.		Deaths from Congenital Defects.	
	Number.	Proportion per 1,000.	Number.	Proportion per 1,000.
1896 ...	230	12·36	46	2·47
1897 ...	211	11·26	52	2·78
1898 ...	251	13·24	54	2·85
1899 ...	261	13·86	47	2·50
1900 ...	276	14·12	55	2·81
1901 ...	264	12·88	63	3·07
1902 ...	303	14·66	79	3·82
1903 ...	301	13·79	67	3·07
1904 ...	291	12·78	58	2·54
1905 ...	360	15·20	41	1·73