

Causes of Death.

Zymotic Diseases.—Auckland and suburban boroughs, 103 deaths. For the last five years: 1903, 86; 1904, 52; 1905, 45; 1906, 42; 1907, 103.

These 103 deaths were from—

Diarrhoeal diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Typhoid fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Other zymotic diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
							103

The deaths under this head from diphtheria, whooping-cough, and measles are unusually high; otherwise the figures follow those of the previous year. The comparatively large number of deaths from measles and whooping-cough, which unfortunately are diseases often lightly viewed by the public, warrants the prosecution of the present crusade to educate the mothers in the rearing and nursing of children, in addition to the important question of feeding. Good results are already being seen from the great attention recently given by the public to this matter.

Hydatids.—1 death at Hamilton. This disease is much less frequent than formerly.

Cancer.—50 deaths.

Phthisis and other Tubercular Diseases.—66 deaths.

Diseases of the Respiratory Organs.—102, against 78 for the previous year. The Registrar-General notes a very considerable increase under this head also in Wellington and Christchurch. No doubt this is accounted for by the exceptionally wet weather. In Auckland we had 42 in. of rain during the first nine months of the year.

N.B.—From this point statistics cover the period of the departmental year—1st April, 1907, to 31st March, 1908.

Infectious-disease Notifications.

Notifications of infectious diseases made from every part of the health district are in excess of those of the past five years:—

	Totals.
1903-4	777
1904-5	620
1905-6	616
1906-7	642
1907-8	1,071

The increases over 1906-7 for the last year are,—

Auckland City	...	...	...	...	...	109
Suburban boroughs	...	...	...	...	...	66
Road districts	...	...	...	...	...	33
Country districts	...	...	...	...	...	208
Auckland Hospital, Mental Hospital, Gaol, and shipping	...	...	...	...	...	13
						429

Compared with 1906-7, the notifications show,—

	1906-7.	1907-8.	Increase or Decrease, Present Year.
Enteric fever	153	353	+ 200
Scarlet fever	268	277	+ 9
Diphtheria	103	165	+ 62
Tuberculosis	96	198	+ 102
Blood-poisoning, including suspected plague	22	76	+ 54
Plague	...	2	+ 2
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The increase in notifications, more especially with regard to tuberculosis, may be due in some measure to the administration with regard to notification having been vigorously carried out. There was a notable increase after a medical practitioner had been mulcted in a fine of £7, and costs.