

deaths; diphtheria next, with 439 deaths; scarlet fever, with 265 deaths; and puerperal fever, with 220 deaths:—

Diseases.	1898.	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.
Measles	56	137	9	6	134	143	10	8	12	101
Scarlet fever and scarlatina	2	...	10	17	39	131	13	10	18	25
Diphtheria	45	58	63	44	54	23	27	35	35	55
Whooping-cough	6	123	90	9	83	204	35	3	26	307
Influenza	219	135	181	219	117	56	113	70	132	223
Diarrhœal diseases	275	298	199	139	275	184	193	128	97	314
Enteric or typhoid fever...	120	93	68	95	53	61	73	45	48	53
Puerperal fever	19	15	24	20	25	28	21	21	18	29

The mortality from measles for 1898 was not very great, but rose to 137 deaths in 1899, falling again to 9 deaths in 1900 and 6 deaths in 1901, again rising to 134 in 1902, and further to 143 deaths in 1903. During 1904, 1905, and 1906 this disease was not epidemic in the Dominion, and caused only ten, eight, and twelve deaths respectively, but in 1907 there was an outbreak which caused 101 deaths. From scarlet fever and scarlatina there were only 25 deaths last year, as compared with 131 in 1903. The mortality from diphtheria, which was 45 deaths in 1898, rose to 55 deaths in 1907, the figures for the intervening years not presenting any striking features.

Whooping-cough in 1898 caused only 6 deaths. In 1899 the mortality sprang up to a total of 123 deaths, against 90 in 1900, 9 in 1901, and 83 in 1902. In 1903 the mortality was heavy, the number of deaths being 204, but in 1904 only 35 deaths are recorded from this complaint, while in 1905 and 1906 the number was further reduced. Last year this complaint was epidemic, and 307 deaths were recorded.

The deaths from influenza numbered 223 in 1907, as against 132 in the previous year. The figures for the eight previous years ranged from 56 to 219, the last being for the years 1898 and 1901.

From diarrhœal complaints the deaths in 1907 were 314, the highest number observed in the decennial period, as against 97 in 1906; while in 1896 the mortality reached the height of 334 deaths, and in 1889 was even higher (355), with a much smaller population than in 1907.

Enteric or typhoid fever was slightly more fatal in 1907 than in 1906, the figures being 53 deaths, against 48. The highest mortality during the decennium was in 1898, when the deaths numbered 120.

PARASITIC DISEASES.

There were 16 deaths from parasitic diseases, the proportion per 10,000 living being 0·17. Deaths from hydatids numbered 15 in 1907.

DIETETIC DISEASES.

Under the class "Dietetic diseases" are included 36 deaths from intemperance. But these cannot be said to represent the full extent of the mortality really caused by the abuse of alcoholic liquors. Many deaths of intemperate persons are attributed to disease of the liver, kidneys, &c., in the medical certificates.

CONSTITUTIONAL DISEASES: PHTHISIS, CANCER, ETC.

The deaths from constitutional diseases in 1907 numbered 1,730, or 18·82 per 10,000 of population, and 17 out of every 100 deaths from all causes. This class of disease is more fatal than any other except that defined as "Local diseases," on account of the great numbers of deaths from cancer and phthisis, with other tubercular complaints, which are classed as "Constitutional."

The number of deaths from phthisis was 612, and was in the proportion of 6·66 in every 10,000 persons living, against 6·21 in the previous year.

Figures for ten years are quoted, showing that the total number of deaths from this disease in 1902 was the highest recorded during the decennium, though the rate was higher in two of the previous years.

Year.	Deaths from Phthisis.	Rate per 10,000.	Year.	Deaths from Phthisis.	Rate per 10,000.
1898	597	8·11	1903	570	6·95
1899	593	7·91	1904	598	7·08
1900	577	7·56	1905	496	5·70
1901	596	7·66	1906	556	6·21
1902	617	7·73	1907	612	6·66

Of the persons dying from phthisis in New Zealand during 1907, more than one-half were born in the Dominion. The numbers are: total of deaths from phthisis, 612; 372 of them having been New-Zealand-born. The proportion is 61 per cent.

At the census of 1906 the New-Zealand-born were shown to be 68 per cent. of the population, which would give the approximate average number of the same in 1907 as 627,400. The death-rate from phthisis amongst these persons was, judging from the numbers in the table annexed, 5·93 per 10,000 living.

The death-rate from phthisis in England and Wales is stated by the Registrar-General to be at the rate of 11·50 per 10,000 living for the year 1906.