

Considering the numbers of persons dying at the different age-periods, the following table of ten years' results shows the age of 30 years to be the time of life at which deaths from cancer begin to be numerous (it is really 35 for males and 30 for females). The maximum of deaths is reached at the period of 60 to 65 for males, and 55 to 60 for females. These remarks are given without reference to the numbers of persons living at the various ages.

Deaths from cancer, it will be observed, are very rare among children under 5 years, and not frequent in those above that age.

Deaths from Cancer.—Decennial Return.—Table showing the Number of Persons (Males and Females) at Different Ages registered as having died from Cancer in New Zealand during the Ten Years 1898 to 1907.

Year.	Under 1 Year.				Total under 1 Year.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	Total under 5 Years.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 45.	45 to 50.	50 to 55.	55 to 60.	60 to 65.	65 to 70.	70 to 75.	75 to 80.	80 and upwards.	Total 5 Years and over.	All Ages.
	Under 1 Month.	1 to 3 Months.	3 to 6 Months.	6 to 12 Months.																								
1898	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	1	2	2	5	5	8	17	36	47	47	77	79	69	35	30	9	469	471
1899	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	3	3	..	1	4	6	15	21	42	48	82	64	87	45	27	19	467	468	
1900	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	..	6	2	2	5	8	7	16	40	35	75	78	59	51	31	20	428	430
1901	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	2	..	4	5	5	8	20	31	53	60	65	80	74	63	33	11	514	515	
1902	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	5	5	7	22	35	49	50	72	88	86	67	31	15	536	536	
1903	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	4	1	2	6	10	9	20	37	47	68	69	87	96	72	38	15	581	582	
1904	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	2	3	1	3	2	9	6	15	25	35	57	72	99	99	79	31	33	569	571	
1905	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	3	1	9	10	15	26	39	58	67	84	96	99	38	19	565	566	
1906	..	1	1	..	2	1	1	..	4	..	..	3	3	9	8	25	29	48	57	70	102	107	82	50	26	619	623	
1907	..	1	..	1	2	..	2	1	5	1	1	1	2	7	11	24	45	49	62	74	101	104	100	65	22	669	674	

The numbers of deaths of persons from cancer in each provincial district are given in another table, according to age-groups, but the result merely shows the disease to be one found everywhere throughout the Dominion—at least, there is not sufficient evidence of climatic conditions affecting the mortality to a great extent in any particular part of the country.

Table showing the Number of Deaths from Cancer registered in each Provincial District of the Dominion of New Zealand during the Years 1904-7.

Provincial Districts.	1904.			1905.			1906.			1907.		
	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 ...	1	114	115	...	110	110	...	127	127	1	146	147
Taranaki ...	...	21	21	...	20	20	...	25	25	...	30	30
Hawke's Bay ...	...	25	25	...	16	16	...	33	33	...	32	32
Wellington ...	...	113	113	...	106	106	2	122	124	1	113	114
Marlborough ...	...	5	5	...	6	6	...	15	15	...	15	15
Nelson ...	...	32	32	...	25	25	...	26	26	...	20	20
Westland ...	...	16	16	...	10	10	...	19	19	...	16	16
Canterbury ...	...	109	109	...	112	112	...	114	114	2	153	155
Otago ...	1	134	135	1	160	161	2	138	140	1	144	145
Totals ...	2	569	571	1	565	566	4	619	623	5	669	674

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 1907:—

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	1903	7·51	6·63
1890	4·72	4·79	1904	7·23	6·23
1894	6·65	5·27	1905	6·79	6·18
1898	6·77	5·98	1906	7·10	6·79
1901	6·48	6·77	1907	7·41	7·25

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 7·94 per 10,000 males and 10·32 of females for the year 1906. 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.