

Seventy-five out of every thousand of male children born, and sixty of every thousand females, are found to have died before attaining the age of one year. The mortality was thus one in thirteen of male children and one in seventeen of females in New Zealand, where conditions are far more favourable to infant life than in Australia, at least as far as relates to the cities.

It will also be seen from the figures that the chances of living during the first year of age are greater for female than for male infants. Thus, during the year 1908 there were—

100 deaths of males to 74 deaths of females under 1 month of age ;
100 " 86 " from 1 to 3 months of age ;
100 " 74 " from 3 to 6 months of age ;
100 " 95 " from 6 to 12 months of age ;
100 " 80 " under 12 months of age.

Dealing with the results for ten years, the deaths of infants under one year are in the large proportion of three-fourths of the total deaths under five, as might be expected, the first year being the tenderest period. (See notes to tables.)

Deaths of Infants under One Year, and Proportion to Births.

Year.	Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age. (Totals for each Year, and Means of 10 Years.)					Total Births registered in each Year, and Mean of 10 Years.	Proportion of Deaths of Infants under 1 Year to every 1,000 Births.
	Under 1 Month.	1 Month and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 12 Months.	Total under 12 Months.		
1899 	619	389	378	420	1,806	18,835	95·9
1900 	607	288	293	281	1,469	19,546	75·2
1901 	610	272	292	289	1,463	20,491	71·4
1902 	665	344	313	390	1,712	20,655	82·9
1903 	692	346	367	365	1,770	21,829	81·1
1904 	669	260	356	331	1,616	22,766	71·0
1905 	714	285	290	310	1,599	23,682	67·5
1906 	717	247	244	298	1,506	24,252	62·1
1907 	763	446	500	519	2,228	25,094	88·8
1908 	810	242	347	362	1,761	25,940	67·9
Means of ten years ...	687	312	338	356	1,693	22,309	75·9

NOTE.—The total number of deaths of infants for the period included in the table is 16,930.

The principal causes of mortality in children under one year for New Zealand are given, with the numbers of deaths for five years from such causes. Diarrhœa and enteritis stand first in order of importance, premature birth next, followed by marasmus or debility. Here it is seen how much mortality is attributed to these causes according to the medical certificates.

Deaths of Children under One Year.—Causes, 1904 to 1908.

Causes.	Number of Deaths from each Cause.					Percentage of Total.				
	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
Whooping-cough ..	27	2	17	207	31	1·67	0·13	1·13	9·29	1·76
Convulsions ..	95	96	90	84	76	5·88	6·00	5·98	3·77	4·32
Bronchitis and pneumonia	148	207	170	269	148	9·16	12·95	11·29	12·08	8·40
Diarrhœa and enteritis	383	285	232	557	418	23·70	17·82	15·40	25·00	23·74
Premature birth ..	291	360	337	359	388	18·01	22·51	22·38	16·11	22·03
Marasmus, &c. ..	273	258	267	303	264	16·89	16·14	17·73	13·60	14·99
Other causes ..	399	391	393	449	436	24·69	24·45	26·09	20·15	24·76
Totals ..	1,616	1,599	1,506	2,228	1,761	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00	100·00

The proportions of deaths of children under one year of age to every 100 births at the chief centres are,—

	1907.	1908.
Auckland (including suburbs) ...	9·72	8·19
Wellington " ...	11·78	8·17
Christchurch " ...	12·62	6·78
Dunedin " ...	9·54	7·45

Again, the percentage of deaths of children under 5 to the total number of deaths is—Auckland, 28·89 ; in Christchurch, 23·32 ; in Wellington, 30·70 ; in Dunedin, 21·92.