

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL to the Hon. the MINISTER IN CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR THE CARE OF MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

SIR,—

Wellington, 24th June, 1914.

I have the honour to present, pursuant to section 78 of the Mental Defectives Act, 1911, the report for the year ended 31st December, 1914.

The number of patients on the Mental Hospitals Register at the beginning of the year was 3,964 (m., 2,332; f., 1,632), and at the end 4,111 (m., 2,408; f., 1,703), an increase of 76 males and 71 females. The total number under oversight, care, or control was 4,856 (m., 2,858; f., 1,998), as against 4,805 (m., 2,816; f., 1,989) in the previous year, an increase of 51 (m., 42; f., 9); while the average number resident in our institutions during the year was 3,950 (m., 2,309; f., 1,641), as against 3,849 (m., 2,252; f., 1,597) in 1913, or 101 more in the year under review.

Distribution.

The 4,111 patients on the register at the end of the year were distributed as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Auckland	558	359	917
Christchurch	338	324	662
Dunedin (Seacliff and Waitati)	528	388	916
Hokitika	190	62	252
Nelson	84	108	192
Porirua	519	422	941
Tokanui	94	...	94
Ashburn Hall (private mental hospital)	21	23	44
Absent on probation on 31st December, 1914	76	17	93
	2,408	1,703	4,111

Ratio to Population.

The following calculations show the ratio of patients on the register at the end of the year to the estimated general population, both exclusive and inclusive of the Native race. The number of Maoris on the register was 27 only (m., 19; f., 8).

The proportion of total mentally defective to the total population was,—

Exclusive of Maoris	37.26 per 10,000, or 1 in 268
Inclusive of Maoris	35.88 " 1 in 279

The proportion of mentally defective males to the male population,—

Exclusive of Maoris	42.05 per 10,000, or 1 in 238
Inclusive of Maoris	40.50 " 1 in 247

The proportion of mentally defective females to the female population,—

Exclusive of Maoris	32.11 per 10,000, or 1 in 311
Inclusive of Maoris	30.90 " 1 in 324

In England and Wales the number of notified insane persons on the 1st January, 1914, stood to the estimated population (mean) in the proportion of 1 to 267, or 37.4 per 10,000, and in Ireland 1 to 175, or 57.1 per 10,000.

Admissions.

Exclusive of 24 patients (m., 17; f., 7) transferred from one institution to another, the admissions numbered 868 (m., 509; f., 359), or 84 (m., 43; f., 41) in excess of the admissions during 1913. Of the 868, those admitted for the first time to any mental hospital in New Zealand numbered 734 (m., 440; f., 294), and those not admitted for the first time 134 (m., 69; f., 65). To the first admissions 13 immigrants, who became insane within a year of landing, contributed. Of these, 6 men and 2 women came from the United Kingdom; 3 men and 1 woman (one of each sex had been previously insane) came from the Commonwealth; and there was 1 foreigner, who had been insane before. In addition, 2 New-Zealanders were admitted shortly after their return from residence abroad.

Ratio of Admissions to Population.

Excluding the Native race (10 male and 1 female) and all transfers, the proportion of admissions (whether first or not) and first admissions to the estimated general population (mean) stands respectively at 7.86 and 6.67 per 10,000; or, in other words, every 1,272 persons in the general population contributed an admission, and every 1,500 a first admission.

Year.	Ratio to 10,000 of Population of		Number of Persons in Population contributing	
	Admissions.	First Admissions.	One Admission.	One First Admission.
Quinquennial average, 1904-8	7.01	5.71	1,426	1,751
Quinquennial average, 1909-13	7.50	6.15	1,333	1,627
Decennial average, 1904-13	7.27	5.94	1,375	1,683
1914	7.86	6.67	1,272	1,500

In England and Wales during 1913 every 10,000 of the general population contributed 4.98 first admissions and 6.04 total admissions (idiot establishments excluded); in Scotland the ratio for total admissions was 7.78, and in Ireland 7.89.