

SESSION II.
1918.
NEW ZEALAND.

MENTAL HOSPITALS OF THE DOMINION

(REPORT ON) FOR 1917.

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

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

MY LORD,—

Wellington, 1st November, 1918.

I have the honour to submit to Your Excellency the report of the Inspector-General of Mental Defectives for the year 1917.

I have, &c.,

G. W. RUSSELL,

Minister in Charge of Department for the Care of
Mental Defectives.

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

SIR,—

Wellington, 29th June, 1918.

I herewith present the report for the year ended 31st December, 1917.

A summary and analysis of the statistical tables in the appendix shows that the number of patients on the register at the beginning of the year was 4,375 (m., 2,555; f., 1,820); at the end 4,515 (m., 2,611; f., 1,904)—an increase of 140 (m., 56; f., 84). The total number under care during the year was 5,260 (m., 3,062; f., 2,198), being 125 (m., 46; f., 79) more than in 1916, while the average number resident, 4,368 (m., 2,543; f., 1,825), was 117 (m., 60; f., 57) in excess.

The ratio of patients on the register to population, exclusive of Maoris, was 40·64 per 10,000 (m., 47·96; f., 33·62), or 1 patient in 226 (m., 209; f., 297); including Maoris—their number on the register is 54 only—the figures are 39·33 per 10,000 (m., 46·31; f., 32·62), or 1 in 254 (m., 216; f., 307).

The admissions (excluding transfers—m., 37; f., 4) numbered 844 (m., 470; f., 374); the male admissions were 48 lower and the female 13 higher than in the previous year. Among these admissions are included 24 immigrants (6 with a history of previous attacks) who had been here for less than a year.

Of the 844 cases admitted, one-sixth were of patients who had previously been treated to recovery in our institutions, leaving the number of first admissions 709 (m., 411; f., 298), a decrease of 38 males and an increase of 10 females compared with 1916.

The ratio of admissions to population (excluding Maoris) was 7·52 per 10,000, and for first admissions 6·37, or, in other words, every 1,329 persons in the general population contributed an admission, and every 1,570 a first admission. The previous decennial average was 7·47 and 6·13.

The total number of patients discharged (excluding transfers) was 386 (m., 209; f., 177), of which 323 (m., 171; f., 152) were discharged as recovered. The remaining 63 (m., 38; f., 25), though not recovered, were sufficiently well to be placed under the care of relatives or friends.

The percentage proportion of recoveries on admissions was 38·27 (m., 36·38; f., 40·64), as against 37·66 (m., 30·89; f., 47·37) in the previous year, and 39·66 (m., 37·17; f., 43·33) in the average for all years since 1876.