

SESSION II.
1918.
NEW ZEALAND.

PUBLIC HEALTH
AND
HOSPITALS AND CHARITABLE AID.

REPORT THEREON BY THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF HOSPITALS AND CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS AND CHIEF HEALTH OFFICER.

Presented in pursuance of Section 76 of the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act, 1918.

REPORT.

The INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF HOSPITALS to the Hon. MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

Department of Public Health, Hospitals, and Charitable Aid,
Wellington, 30th October, 1918.

SIR,—

I have the honour to lay before you the report of the Department for the year ending 31st March, 1918.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

The number of births registered in the Dominion during 1917 was 28,239, or 25·69 per 1,000 of the mean population, as against 28,509 in 1916, or 25·94 per 1,000 of the mean population.

The deaths numbered 10,528, or 9·58 per 1,000 of the mean population, as against 10,596 in 1916, or 9·64 per 1,000 of the mean population.

Deaths from the more prevalent infectious diseases were as follows :—

Disease.	Number of Deaths.		Proportion per 10,000 of Mean Population.	
	1917.	1916.	1917.	1916.
Typhoid fever	41	37	0·37	0·34
Scarlet fever	30	52	0·27	0·47
Diphtheria	237	163	2·16	1·48
Pulmonary tuberculosis	597	591	5·43	5·38

The deaths of children under one year of age were as follows :—

Cause.	Number of Deaths.		Percentage of Total.	
	1917.	1916.	1917.	1916.
Whooping-cough	29	63	2·13	4·36
Convulsions	56	74	4·12	5·12
Bronchitis and pneumonia	96	123	7·06	8·50
Diarrhoea and enteritis	146	164	10·74	11·34
Malformations	120	108	8·82	7·47
Premature birth	380	381	27·94	26·35
Congenital debility	208	215	15·29	14·87
Other causes	325	318	23·90	21·99
Total	1,360	1,446	100·00	100·00