TABLE B.—SHOWING THE MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1920.

Month.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Tuberculosis.	C.S. Meningitis.	Poliomyelitis.	Puerperal Septicæmia.	Influenza.	Pneumonic, Fulminant, and Septicæmic Influenza.	Pneumonia.	Measles.	Variola.	Varicella.	Unclassified Septicæmia.	Lethargic Encephalitis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Erysipelas.	Tetanus.	Hydatids.	Trachoma.	Beriberi.	Anthrax.	Actinomycosis.	Totals.
Jan.	115	186	36	104	5	2	6	1,606	..	143	68	..	..	..	3	4	9	..	4	1	..	..	..	2,292
Feb.	84	186	22	77	1	1	4	6,074	..	76	59	..	..	1	7	7	6	1	1	..	..	..	..	6,607
Mar.	93	249	40	146	6	..	10	3,930	..	98	24	..	..	..	3	3	11	..	3	4	..	..	1	4,621
April	135	289	25	84	5	17	9	5,621	..	126	23	..	5	2	5	..	24	2	3	1	..	..	..	6,376
May	152	283	33	101	6	14	10	10,013	..	137	52	19	128	11	..	9	20	2	4	..	..	..	..	10,994
June	151	277	35	96	10	7	13	2,684	..	125	115	22	88	4	2	3	19	4	3	1	..	1	..	3,660
July	131	283	45	120	5	5	14	..	138	213	729	22	103	4	2	4	16	2	5	..	..	..	..	1,841
Aug.	107	159	34	120	9	2	10	..	119	284	1,527	15	48	2	8	2	8	..	3	..	1	..	..	2,458
Sept.	88	151	36	121	11	5	12	..	101	262	..	14	47	2	4	4	16	..	1	..	..	..	..	875
Oct.	55	145	26	122	7	10	14	..	52	175	..	3	40	1	1	4	10	1	4	1	..	..	..	671
Nov.	68	118	28	97	6	4	14	..	41	158	..	..	29	2	5	4	9	..	5	..	..	..	..	588
Dec.	69	116	29	117	8	9	8	..	19	136	..	..	21	1	2	4	8	3	9	2	..	..	..	561
Totals	1,248	2,442	389	1,305	79	76	124	29,928	470	1,933	2,597	95	509	30	42	48	156	15	45	10	1	1	1	41,544

The following additional comments may be made upon these tables :—

PUERPERAL SEPTICÆMIA.

Puerperal septicæmia shows an increase in comparison with recent years. The following table gives the numbers of notifications and deaths due to this condition, and their rates per 1,000 live births, for the period 1917–20 :—

Puerperal Septicæmia in New Zealand, 1917–20.

Year.	Notifications.		Deaths.	
	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.
1917	62	2·19	59	2·09
1918	76	2·94	48	1·86
1919	79	3·23	52	2·12
1920	124	4·14	67	2·24

An important feature of the year under review, and one exemplifying the increased virulence of the micro-organisms producing this disease, was the number of outbreaks in maternity hospitals. Amongst others, serious institutional epidemics in Napier, Blenheim, Palmerston North, and Christchurch were investigated by the Department, and appropriate action taken to limit the spread of the disease.

Erysipelas.—It is interesting to record that the notifications for erysipelas also show a marked increase for 1920, 156 cases of this disease being reported in the latter year, as against 73 in 1919. Various medical writers have pointed out that puerperal septicæmia, erysipelas, and rheumatic fever exhibit a similar periodicity. Certainly the New Zealand experience of 1920 confirms this statement, so far at least as puerperal septicæmia and erysipelas are concerned.

INFLUENZA.

Influenza again came into prominence in 1920, but fortunately the disease did not exhibit any marked tendency towards malignancy. An attempt was made in the early stages of the outbreak to limit its spread by means of notification, isolation, &c., but this proved useless. As a result, notification of simple influenza was discontinued in June, and the only types of the disease over which administrative control was exercised were the pneumonic, septicæmic, and fulminant varieties. As the tables show, the prevalence of these forms of influenza rapidly diminished towards the end of the year.

MEASLES.

Measles first became epidemic in Dunedin about the middle of the year, and, despite earnest attempts to limit its spread by means of notification, isolation, &c., soon spread north. When it was apparent that the disease had broken bounds, notification, &c., was discontinued.