

Table B.—Deaths from Puerperal Causes in various Countries.

Country.	Death-rate per 1,000 Births from		
	Puerperal Septicæmia.	Other Puerperal Causes.	All Puerperal Causes.
Denmark	1·07	0·99	2·06
Netherlands	0·82	1·76	2·58
Italy	1·04	1·71	2·75
Uruguay	1·75	1·13	2·88
Japan	1·27	2·17	3·44
England and Wales	1·45	2·50	3·95
South Africa	1·77	2·40	4·17
Australia	1·69	3·27	4·96
New Zealand	1·75	3·26	5·00
Irish Free State	2·11	2·91	5·02
Germany	2·78	2·26	5·04
Jamaica	1·09	4·08	5·17
Northern Ireland	1·95	3·30	5·25
Spain	3·38	1·96	5·34
Switzerland	2·82	2·60	5·42
Canada*	1·41	4·12	5·53
Belgium	2·52	3·16	5·68
Scotland	1·89	4·38	6·27
United States†	2·56	5·02	7·58
Chile	2·24	6·00	8·24
British Guiana	2·85	11·48	14·33
Ceylon	8·23	11·69	19·92

* Exclusive of Quebec.

† Registration area.

A glance at the above table (B), which covers a quinquennial period, indicates that New Zealand owes her relatively high maternal-mortality rate less to deaths from puerperal septicæmia than from other puerperal causes.

Analysis of Maternal Deaths from all Puerperal Causes.—During the decennium 1916–25 the average annual number of deaths from all puerperal causes was 149·5, made up as follows :—

Table C.

Puerperal septicæmia	53·2
Puerperal albuminuria and convulsions	34·2
Puerperal hæmorrhage	20·8
Accidents of pregnancy	16·8
Other accidents of labour	12·4
Puerperal phlegmosia, alba-dolens, embolis, sudden death	9·9
Following childbirth not otherwise defined	2·2

149·5

Puerperal Septicæmia (Fever).—The following table (D) shows the course of this disease for the quinquennium 1921–25 :—

Table D.—Puerperal Fever in New Zealand, 1921–25.

Year.	Notifications.		Deaths.	
	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Live Births.
1921	178	6·23	48	1·68
1922	262	9·03	52	1·79
1923	176	6·93	52	1·86
1924	308	10·99	52	1·86
1925	336	11·93	42	1·49

This is a remarkable improvement upon the experience of former years. The increase in the number of notifications is definitely due not to an increase in the incidence of puerperal fever, but to much freer notification by medical practitioners. The number of deaths has been greatly reduced, the average for the preceding ten years having been 53.