

Table B.—Deaths from Puerperal Causes, Urban Areas and Rest of Dominion, 1922–26.

Cause.	Urban Areas.						Rest of Dominion.					
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	Total.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	Total.
Puerperal septicæmia	26	25	13	18	17	99	26	27	39	24	22	138
Puerperal albuminuria and convulsions ..	18	9	12	13	7	59	17	25	24	19	24	109
Puerperal hæmorrhage	6	8	8	15	1	38	16	18	11	9	8	62
Accidents of pregnancy	9	8	9	1	11	38	4	9	6	9	9	37
Other accidents of labour	3	1	1	1	4	10	10	3	5	6	5	29
Puerperal white-leg, embolus, sudden death	2	4	5	1	4	16	10	4	6	13	7	40
Following childbirth, not otherwise defined	..	..	1	2	1	4	2	2	..	..	..	4
Total deaths	64	55	49	51	45	264	85	88	91	80	75	419

The following table (C) gives the death-rate from puerperal causes in various countries (a quinquennial average). It will be seen from this that New Zealand's puerperal death-rate, unlike her general death-rate, is still relatively high, due less to puerperal septicæmia deaths than to deaths from other puerperal causes, such as puerperal albuminuria and convulsions, puerperal hæmorrhage, and other accidents of labour. It will be seen also that several other countries believed to possess skilled midwifery service which show a relatively high rate also owe their relatively high rate more to these other puerperal causes than to puerperal septicæmia. I instance Northern Ireland, Australia, Canada, Scotland, and the United States of America.

Since, as seen from table (B), these deaths in New Zealand occur less frequently with urban dwellers than with those residing in the country districts and the smaller towns, it is possible that in all these countries the higher rate is due not to lack of skill, but to scattered distribution of population rendering ante-natal care and the procurement of skilled midwifery service more difficult of attainment. That is to say, we in New Zealand can considerably reduce our puerperal death-rate, but the distribution of our population makes that task more difficult.

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

Country.	Period.	Death-rate per 1,000 Births from		
		Puerperal Septicæmia.	Other Puerperal Causes.	All Puerperal Causes.
Denmark	1920–24	1·10	1·16	2·26
Netherlands	1921–25	0·72	1·72	2·44
Sweden	1918–22	1·21	1·40	2·68
Italy	1920–24	1·08	1·73	2·81
Uruguay	1919–23	1·75	1·13	2·88
Japan	1920–24	1·28	2·11	3·39
Hungary	1918–22	1·52	1·90	3·42
England and Wales	1921–25	1·40	2·50	3·90
Northern Ireland	1921–25	1·55	3·21	4·76
Spain	1920–24	2·99	1·80	4·79
New Zealand	1922–26	1·67	3·16	4·83
Irish Free State	1921–25	2·10	2·88	4·98
Germany	1920–24	2·77	2·27	5·04
Jamaica	1921–25	1·09	4·10	5·19
Australia	1922–26	1·70	3·51	5·21
Switzerland	1918–22	2·82	2·60	5·42
Canada*	1921–25	1·46	4·09	5·55
Belgium	1920–24	2·65	3·11	5·76
Scotland	1921–25	1·86	4·41	6·27
United States†	1920–24	2·54	4·36	6·90
Chile	1919–23	2·24	6·00	8·24
Trinidad	1923–25	3·58	5·68	9·26
British Guiana	1922–25	2·68	11·55	14·23
Ceylon	1921–25	8·15	11·94	20·09

* Exclusive of Quebec. † Registration area.