

1928.
NEW ZEALAND.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.
ANNUAL REPORT OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF HEALTH.

Presented in pursuance of Section 100 of the Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Act, 1926.

HON. J. A. YOUNG, MINISTER OF HEALTH.

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REPORTS.

The DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF HEALTH to the Hon. the MINISTER OF HEALTH, Wellington.
I HAVE the honour to set forth in this, the twenty-first year of my administration, the annual report of the Department for the year 1927-28.

PART I.—GENERAL SURVEY.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The crude (actual) death-rate of the Dominion for the past year was 8·45 per 1,000 of the mean population. In 1926 that death-rate was 8·74. The infantile-mortality rate was 38·74 per 1,000 births, as against 39·76 for 1926.
The birth-rate of 20·29 per 1,000, however, is not satisfactory, being the lowest birth-rate yet recorded in this country. This is a matter for grave concern. I have no sympathy with advocates of birth-control, who appear to be overjoyed by the fact that relatively fewer children are being born in a country so favoured as New Zealand, for, as stated in a previous report, “there is no doubt that our population is best replenished and our empty spaces best filled by our own natural increase. The new-born infant, in other words, is our best immigrant.”