

Deaths.

During the year 219 deaths were registered, giving a death-rate per 1,000 of mid-year population of 5·53, whereas during 1927 and 1926 the deaths numbered 495 and 723, with death-rates of 12·82 and 19·36 respectively. The falling-off in the number of deaths is believed to be due to non-registration. In view of the fact that no epidemic had prevailed during the year under review it is surely a feasible argument that such a low death-rate should show a correspondingly increased birth-rate.

In the Apia, Tuasivi, Safotu, and Aleipata Hospitals 44 deaths were recorded for the year 1928.

DEATHS OF SAMOANS, WESTERN SAMOA, 1928.

				Males.	Females.	Total.	Total Estimated Population, 31/12/1928.
Upolu	..	..	..	69	71	140	26,223
Savai'i	..	..	..	45	34	79	13,655
Total for Western Samoa				114	105	219	39,878

HOSPITAL AND DISPENSARY STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1928.

	Hospitals.				Total, including Dispensaries and Travelling Units.	Dispensaries.			Nationality of In-patients.			
	Apia.	Tuasivi.	Aleipata.	Safotu.		Stations.	Date opened or closed.	Number of Attendances.	—	Europeans.	Samoaans.	Chinese.
(a) In hospital, 1/1/28 ..	29	7	2	4	42	Fagaloa ..	..	1,596	(a)	1	33	8
(b) Admitted during year	1,382	72	174	90	1,718	Fasitootai ..	Jan. 4*	1,401	(b)	295	1,051	372
(c) Discharged during year	1,319	58	165	87	1,629	Fagamalo† ..	..	1,605				
(d) Died during year ..	33	4	6	1	44	Fusi ..	Oct. 31*	594	(c)	277	994	358
(e) Remaining, 31/12/28	59	17	5	6	87	Gagaemalae ..	..	1,845	(d)	4	33	7
Out-patients attendances, including dressings	36,340	2,655	3,536	2,103	69,591	Lefaga ..	Nov. 30*	2,492				
Treatment for hookworm	43	10	450	61	564	Lotofaga..	..	828	(e)	15	57	15
Treatment for yaws (N.A.B.)	4,121	1,197	488	809	6,615	Lufilufi ..	Mar. 31*	773				
Operations—						Malua ..	April 30*	1,300				
Major	256	8	52	37	353	Manono† ..	July 15‡	1,017				
Minor	656	22	167	28	873	Mulifanua ..	Aug. 1‡	2,017				
						Satalo† ..	..	2,839				
						Sataua† ..	..	2,754				
						Samataitai ..	April 30*	990				
						Satupaitea ..	Dec. 28*	2,951				

* Closed, due to shortage of trained Native nurses.

† Returns incomplete owing to isolation and other difficulties.

‡ Opened.

The above figures do not include children seen in our child-welfare work, cases attended to at mission stations where no nurse is stationed, or the numbers visited by members of the European staff.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

GRADE II SCHOOLS (MISSION).

There are now thirty-one of these schools—twenty-six London Missionary Society and five Methodist Mission. The total number of pupils attending these schools is reported as 2,208.

The schoolhouses and sites are arranged for by the respective missions, whilst the Administration is responsible for the supervision, training, and payment of teachers.

The schools are placed at convenient centres, and have been established to meet the needs of the village life, the curriculum being arranged accordingly. As these schools form the root of the system of education in Samoa, it is essential that the teaching should be chiefly in the vernacular, in order that the children should become proficient in their own language first.

Considerable improvement has been noticed in the teaching skill of the Native teachers and in the ability of pupils promoted from these schools to the Government District Schools at Vaipouli and Avele. This has amply revealed the worth of the teacher-training undertaken by the Department for the last three years.

Refresher courses for teachers were held at Malifa in the month of January. The successful Native candidates from the New Zealand Proficiency Examination were in attendance, and, when the course was completed, were appointed as teachers in the village schools, replacing weaker teachers, who were readmitted to Malifa School for a further course of study. By this system it is hoped that an able teaching staff will be secured.

DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

Pupils who graduate from the Grade II schools to the higher District Schools of Avele and Vaipouli have the advantage of being taught by European and well-trained Native teachers. The result is that the senior school, Malifa, which forms the apex of the system of schools, is receiving more proficient pupils at a lower age than formerly.