

KIDNEY OR BRIGHT'S DISEASE, 455.

Since 1900, unlike heart-disease, apoplexy, and diseases of the arteries, the death-rates from which have greatly increased, that from kidney or Bright's disease has shown little variation.

DIABETES, 167.

There has been little variation in the death-rate from diabetes in recent years.

DISEASES AND ACCIDENTS OF CHILDBIRTH, 134.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

The following table shows the number of deaths from puerperal causes, and the rate of such deaths per 1,000 births for the five-yearly period 1924-28 :—

Deaths from all Puerperal Causes, 1924-28.

Year.	Number of Deaths from			Death-rate per 1,000 Live Births from		
	Puerperal Septicæmia.	Other Puerperal Causes.	All Puerperal Causes.	Puerperal Septicæmia.	Other Puerperal Causes.	All Puerperal Causes.
1924	52	88	140	1·86	3·14	5·00
1925	42	89	131	1·49	3·16	4·65
1926	39	81	120	1·37	2·88	4·25
1927	70	67	137	2·51	2·40	4·91
1928	56	78	134	2·06	2·87	4·93

In last year's report I included a graph showing the periodic rises in maternal mortality, which have tended to recur every nine or ten years. The puerperal septicæmia rate, although lower than last year's, is still an epidemic rate, and the rate from other puerperal causes has risen.

Puerperal Septicæmia, 56.

This disease usually accounts for approximately one-third of the maternal deaths, but during the epidemic of the last two years, now apparently waning, it has been responsible for nearly half the maternal deaths.

Local Distribution of Puerperal Septicæmia Deaths.

The following table gives the actual number of deaths from puerperal septicæmia in each hospital district during the three years 1926-28 inclusive :—

Hospital District.	Puerperal Septicæmia.			Hospital District.	Puerperal Septicæmia.		
	1926.	1927.	1928.		1926.	1927.	1928.
<i>North Island.</i>				<i>North Island—continued.</i>			
Mangonui	..	..	..	Wellington	4	4	6
Whangaroa	..	..	..	Wairarapa	1	1	1
Hokianga	..	1	..		26	51	41
Bay of Islands ..	..	..	..	<i>South Island.</i>			
Kaipara	..	..	..	Wairau	..	..	1
Whangarei	..	..	1	Picton	..	..	..
Auckland	13	25	13	Nelson	..	1	1
Waikato	5	3	4	Buller	..	..	..
Taumarunui	..	..	..	Inangahua	..	..	..
Thames	1	..	..	Grey	..	1	1
Waihi	..	1	1	Westland	..	..	..
Coromandel	..	..	..	North Canterbury ..	7	6	6
Tauranga	..	1	1	Ashburton	2	1	..
Bay of Plenty ..	..	..	..	South Canterbury ..	..	1	2
Opotiki	..	1	..	Waitaki	..	..	..
Cook	..	1	2	Otago	1	5	..
Wairoa	..	..	..	South Otago	..	..	..
Hawke's Bay	..	4	1	Vincent	..	..	1
Waipawa	..	2	..	Maniototo	..	..	..
Dannevirke	1	..	..	Southland	2	4	3
Taranaki	1	2	4	Wallace and Fiord ..	1	..	..
Stratford	..	2	1		13	19	15
Hawera	..	1	2	Total for New Zealand..			
Patea	..	..	..		39	70	56
Wanganui	..	1	2				
Palmerston North ..	..	1	2				