

Tuberculosis other than of the Respiratory System.—The 95 deaths last year so assigned were distributed as follows (the figures for 1936 being given in parentheses) :—

Tuberculosis of the meninges and central nervous system	..	..	34	(51)
Tuberculosis of intestines and peritoneum	..	..	17	(21)
Tuberculosis of vertebral column	..	..	13	(10)
Tuberculosis of bones and joints	..	..	1	(6)
Tuberculosis of lymphatic system	..	..	1	(2)
Tuberculosis of genito-urinary system	..	..	7	(18)
Tuberculosis of other organs	..	..	2	(1)
Disseminated tuberculosis	..	..	17	(31)
Tuberculosis of skin	..	..	3	(..)
				95 (140)

Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.—In the previous year (1936) there was a setback regarding this form of tuberculosis, the number of deaths (540) being 69 more than in 1935, and the question was raised in the annual report as to whether this might not be a result of the recent depression experienced, or only a more marked annual fluctuation than usual. The figures for 1937 show a definite decrease over those of the previous year, and the rate per 10,000 of mean population (3·28) is the third lowest recorded, the years showing better rates being 1935 (3·17) and 1933 (3·24).

The crude death-rate from this form of tuberculosis during the period 1901–5 averaged 7·02 per 10,000 of mean population. For the period 1933–37 the average crude rate was 3·33 per 10,000, a decrease of over 50 per cent.

Tuberculosis other than of the Respiratory System.—The number of deaths assigned to this heading (95) was the lowest experienced, and for the first time since 1874 was under 100. For 1936 the number of deaths was 140, 35 more than in 1935.

For the period 1901–5 the average annual crude death-rate per 10,000 of mean population was 2·30 ; for 1933–37 it was 0·82.

For all forms of tuberculosis the tribute we pay to the tubercle bacillus in the form of deaths is to-day (1933–37) 4·15 per 10,000 of mean population, whereas at the beginning of the century (1901–5) it was 9·32.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants numbered 812 and the infant-mortality rate was 31·21 per 1,000 live births, compared with 30·96 in 1936, the lowest rate on record.

Infant Mortality in New Zealand, 1930–37 (per 1,000 Live Births).

Year.	Under One Month.	One Month and under Twelve Months.	Total under Twelve Months.	Year.	Under One Month.	One Month and under Twelve Months.	Total under Twelve Months.
1930 ..	24·03	10·45	34·48	1934 ..	22·86	9·25	32·11
1931 ..	22·69	9·46	32·15	1935 ..	22·03	10·23	32·26
1932 ..	21·30	9·92	31·22	1936 ..	22·31	8·65	30·96
1933 ..	22·81	8·79	31·64	1937 ..	22·22	8·99	31·21

Analysis of Deaths of Infants under one Month of Age, 1937.

The following table gives the causes of these deaths during the year :—

Cause of Death.	Under One Day.	One Day and under One Week.	One Week and under Two Weeks.	Two Weeks and under Three Weeks.	Three Weeks and under One Month.	Total.
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whooping-cough	..	..	..	..	..	..
Influenza	..	..	1	1	..	2
Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions	..	4	..	..	..	4
Broncho-pneumonia	..	2	3	..	..	5
Pneumonia	..	1	..	..	..	1
Diarrhoea and enteritis	..	..	..	1	..	1
Congenital malformations	24	37	16	4	4	85
Congenital debility	10	5	..	3	..	18
Injury at birth	16	33	5	3	..	57
Premature birth	174	94	19	8	3	298
Other diseases of early infancy	17	55	5	2	2	81
Accidental mechanical suffocation	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other causes	3	8	10	4	1	26
Totals, 1937	244	239	59	26	10	578
Totals, 1936	227	219	65	26	17	554