

The area includes the counties of Rodney, Waitemata, Eden, Great Barrier, Manukau, and Franklin. Population and increases in the last ten-year period are shown in the following table:—

County.					European.	Maori.	Total Population.	Increase.
								Per Cent.
Rodney	..	..	..	..	5,391	242	5,633	31·67
Waitemata	..	..	..	..	42,652	449	43,101	18·12
Eden	..	..	..	..	173,941	1,517	175,458	8·92
Great Barrier	..	..	..	..	335	119	454	24·04
Manukau	..	..	..	..	20,791	498	21,289	27·30
Franklin	..	..	..	..	16,576	1,205	17,781	19·41
Totals	..	..	..	..	259,586	4,130	263,716	21·40

Thus it is seen that there is in this Board's district a population of 263,716, including 4,130 Maoris, and the number of persons has increased by over 49,000 in the last decade.

The largest centre of population is Auckland City, which with its surrounding suburbs contains 212,159 persons. This includes the boroughs on the north side of the harbour, Devonport (population 9,771), Takapuna (7,270), Northcote (2,369), and Birkenhead (3,397).

Other large suburbs are Mount Eden (18,515), Mount Albert (19,721), One Tree Hill (8,027), and Onehunga (11,082).

Statistics showing the density of population reveal the fact that Eden County, in which Auckland City is situated, contains 723·6 persons to the square mile, a number more than twice as high as any other district in New Zealand.

Outside the urban area the following are the main centres of population :—

Warkworth	..	..	630	Pukekohe	..	..	2,536
Helensville	..	..	961	Waiuku	..	..	832
Papakura	..	..	1,793				

AUCKLAND CITY.

Public-hospital Facilities.—Public-hospital facilities are provided by a St. Helens Hospital under the control of the Department of Health. St. Helens Hospital contains thirty-two beds and is the largest St. Helens in the Dominion, but is now inadequate to meet the increasing demands made upon it.

Intended primarily for the training of midwives, as well as for the attendance of those whose means will not permit of reasonable comfort and skilled attention in their confinements, the position now is that this hospital provides practically the only public maternity hospital service for a population of over 212,000 persons.

Complaints which have been made that St. Helens is situated in an unsuitable place because of the noise were found to be fully justified. It is built right on a main street—Pitt Street—down which trams are running, and every variety of motor traffic passes in a constant and noisy stream almost the whole day and night.

Next door is the main fire-station, and both patients and staff complain of the noise of the siren and the loss of sleep caused by the activities of the fire-engines. In addition to this, the site is very restricted, with no space to develop recreational facilities for the nurses, who lack most of the amenities provided for them in a general hospital.

The Nurses' Home is located in the old wooden building which was the original hospital. Accommodation is overtaxed, and almost all the nurses have to share rooms.

The kitchen is in the basement of the Nurses' Home and is a primitive, old-fashioned place, with a coal range and a very low ceiling. It is extremely hot in summer and quite unsuited to modern requirements.

There is no accommodation for domestic staff, all of the maids living out, although it might be desirable for a number to live in. They have no common-room, nor is there accommodation for them when they are off duty. The only provision for their clothing is in a small locker.

There is no waiting-room for relatives or visitors of patients, who have to use the entrance lobby for this purpose. There is no sitting-room for patients when they are up. They may sit on a veranda if fine, or else in the ward or nursery.

There is no room for the medical students, who have to write their case notes, &c., in the medical staff room, size 8 ft. by 8 ft., which is used by the three Medical Officers on the staff as well.

The lecture-room is a glassed-in veranda and quite inadequate for the purpose.

There are only four single-bed wards, and more are required as waiting wards for patients in labour and also for special cases such as pre-eclamptics, or those suspected of sepsis, &c.

As with the other St. Helens Hospitals, the hospital is a "closed" one. There is a part-time Medical Superintendent and two assistants.