

In Wellington, from 1st January, 1890, to 30th June, 1892, exactly 400 cases of typhoid fever were treated in the Wellington Hospital.

In 1938 there were 57 cases of typhoid fever and 7 of paratyphoid fever notified for the whole Dominion, Maoris excluded.

The accompanying table shows the average annual crude death-rate per 10,000 of population for quinquennial periods since 1874.

Typhoid Fever Death-rates, 1874-1938.

Period.				Average Annual Death-rate.	Period.				Average Annual Death-rate.
1874-78	..	..	..	4.78	1909-13	..	..	..	0.57
1879-83	..	..	..	3.32	1914-18	..	..	..	0.38
1884-88	..	..	..	2.22	1919-23	..	..	..	0.31
1889-93	..	..	..	1.94	1924-28	..	..	..	0.12
1894-98	..	..	..	1.58	1929-33	..	..	..	0.08
1899-1903	..	..	..	0.95	1934-38	..	..	..	0.05
1904-08	..	..	..	0.69					

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of infants numbered 971, and the infant-mortality rate was 35.63 per 1,000 live births, compared with 31.21 in 1937.

Infant Mortality in New Zealand, 1931-38 (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.
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
1934 ..	22.86	9.25	32.11	1938 ..	24.15	11.48	35.63

Analysis of Deaths of Infants under one Month of Age, 1938.

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
Syphilis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Convulsions	..	..	..	..	4	3	1	..	8
Broncho-pneumonia	..	..	..	..	5	3	3	4	15
Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	3	3	1	1	8
Diarrhoea and enteritis	..	..	..	..	2	1	2	1	6
Congenital malformations	..	..	..	20	58	21	9	3	111
Congenital debility	..	..	..	3	5	2	1	..	11
Injury at birth	..	..	..	30	65	6	3	3	107
Premature birth	..	..	..	147	102	20	10	2	281
Other diseases of early infancy	..	..	..	21	55	7	3	1	87
Accidental mechanical suffocation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other causes	..	..	..	1	8	4	1	9	23
Totals, 1938	..	..	..	222	307	71	34	24	658
Totals, 1937	..	..	..	244	239	59	26	10	578

Investigation is at present being made into the marked rise in the infant-mortality rate, a rise which makes it higher than in any year since 1928. A few comments, are, however, possible.