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(No. 2.)

1926.

TASMANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1925

BY

E. J. TUDOR

SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command



Tasmania:

JOHN VAIL, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, HOBART

1926



Presented by

The Secretary for Public Health

September 1926



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ANNUAL REPORT, 1925.

Public Health Department,
Hobart, 18th May, 1926.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the annual report of the Department of Public Health for the year ended the 31st December, 1925.

Following the practice adopted during the past few years, this report, for reasons of economy, is principally confined to statistical information bearing upon the ramifications of the Department; comment and explanation being eliminated as far as possible.

The most important movement in public health during the year was the appointment, by the Commonwealth Government, of commissioners to inquire into and report upon public health as a matter for legislation and administration by the Commonwealth, in conjunction with the States where necessary, and more particularly with respect to:—

- (a) The co-ordination of medical services of Commonwealth departments in regard to all matters affecting public health;
- (b) The co-operation of Commonwealth and State health authorities;
- (c) The prevention of the outbreak, development, or spread of disease in the Commonwealth;
- (d) The prevention of venereal disease and the exercise of control over, and the treatment of, persons suffering from venereal disease;
- (e) Uniform legislation with regard to purity of food and drugs;
- (f) Maternity hygiene and child welfare;
- (g) Industrial hygiene;
- (h) The encouragement and development of research work;
- (i) The relationship which should exist between public health authorities and medical practitioners in regard to the prevention of disease;
- (j) The relationship which should exist between public health authorities and other public authorities rendering medical services; and
- (k) The publications of information relating to matters concerning public health.

A copy of the report of the commissioners has already come to hand and contains very valuable data. If the recommendations outlined therein are adopted, they will have a very important bearing upon the future policy of health administration in this State.

During the year legislation was passed providing that the person for the time being occupying the position of Secretary of the Department of Public Health may exercise and perform all or any of the powers and duties of the Director of Public Health, during any period that the office of such Director is vacant. This action was the outcome of the decision arrived at by the Government to defer filling the position of Director of Public Health until such time as a conference was held for the purpose of considering the co-ordination of health work throughout the State.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following are the diseases which come under this heading:—*Typhus fever*, enteric fever, scarlet fever, *small-pox*, diphtheria, puerperal fever, *bubonic plague*, *cholera*, leprosy, consumption of the lungs and throat, malaria, hæmaturia, lethargic encephalitis, pneumonic influenza, bilharzia, infantile paralysis, cerebro-spinal meningitis, ophthalmia neonatorum, anthrax. Those in italics are dangerous infectious diseases, within the meaning of this Act.

The subjoined Table A shows the number of cases notified during the year 1925, whilst Table B gives the decreases and increases of the cases reported in local authorities' districts compared with the previous year.

Diphtheria.—Four hundred and seventy-three persons were notified as suffering from this disease. The corresponding figures were:—

Year.	No. of Cases.
1921	2,055
1922	1,618
1923	870
1924	597

No less than thirteen municipalities were free of any infection.

The deaths totalled 13; giving a death rate per 10,000 of population of .609; and a death rate per 100 cases of the disease of 2.74.

Scarlet Fever.—The number of cases notified during the year was 288, which shows a decreased incidence in comparison with former years, viz:—

Year.	No. of Cases.
1921	598
1922	981
1923	604
1924	376

There were only 3 deaths from this disease during the year.

Typhoid Fever.—The following statistics show that there has been a continuing appreciable decrease in the incidence of this disease during the past few years, viz.:—

Year.	No. of Cases.
1922	139
1923	91
1924	78
1925	50

It is worthy of note that, during the period under review, no cases of this disease were notified from thirty-five municipal districts.

Tuberculosis (Lung and Throat).—The number of notifications received in respect of this disease

totalled 183, of which 64 were reported from the district of Hobart, and 33 from Launceston.

As pointed out in previous reports, it is futile undertaking any organised effort for the prevention and control of this disease until the social and economic problems involved are overcome.

Puerperal Fever.—Cases of this disease were only reported from nine municipal districts. Altogether 16 notifications were received, including 6 from the district of Hobart. In continuation of the policy adopted in the past, the midwife, if any in attendance upon these cases was suspended from further practice for a period of twenty-eight days, with a view of preventing the spread of infection.

TABLE A.

RETURN showing Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases Reported to Department of Public Health during the Year ended December, 1925.

Municipality.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Phthisis.	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.	Infantile Paralysis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Lethargica Encephalitis.	Total.
1 Beaconsfield	4	4	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	10
2 Bothwell .....	...	3	8	2	...	...	...	...	...	13
3 Brighton .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4 Bruny .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
5 Campbell Town	3	...	6	2	...	...	...	...	...	11
6 Circular Head	31	...	5	3	...	...	...	...	...	39
7 Clarence	11	...	5	5	1	...	...	1	...	23
8 Deloraine	17	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
9 Devonport	17	2	20	2	...	...	...	...	...	41
10 Emu Bay	22	1	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	29
11 Esperance	7	...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	11
12 Evandale	1	...	8	3	...	...	...	...	...	12
13 Fingal	7	1	1	2	...	1	...	...	...	12
14 Flinders .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
15 Gormanston	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
16 Glamorgan	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
17 George Town .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
18 Glenorchy	6	1	21	12	1	...	...	1	...	42
19 Green Ponds	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
20 Hamilton	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	4
21 Hobart	44	4	80	64	6	...	...	3	...	201
22 Huon	7	...	2	3	...	...	1	...	...	13
23 Kentish	2	...	20	2	...	...	...	...	1	25
24 Kingborough	1	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	5
25 King Island .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26 Latrobe	2	...	16	1	...	1	...	...	...	20
27 Launceston	154	7	28	33	1	1	1	...	...	225
28 Leven	11	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	...	16
29 Lilydale	3	...	6	2	...	...	...	...	...	11
30 Longford	11	1	8	2	1	...	...	...	...	23
31 New Norfolk	4	6	20	9	1	...	...	...	...	40
32 Oatlands	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	5
33 Penguin	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
34 Port Cygnet	4	...	9	3	...	...	...	...	...	16
35 Portland .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
36 Queenstown .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
37 Ross	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	3
38 Ringarooma	1	11	1	3	1	...	...	...	...	17
39 Richmond	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	4
40 Spring Bay	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
41 St. Leonards	24	...	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	29
42 Scottsdale .....	...	6	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
43 Sorell .....	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
44 Strahan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 Tasman .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
46 Table Cape	6	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	7
47 Waratah .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
48 Westbury	33	...	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	38
49 Zeelands	10	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	13
50 Overseas .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
TOTAL CASES.....	473	50	288	183	16	4	2	5	1	1022

TABLE B

A Comparative Table of Infectious Diseases reported in each Municipal District during the Years 1924 and 1925, and showing Decreases and Increases.

Local Authority.	1924.	1925.	Increase.	Decrease.
1. Beaconsfield	18	10	...	8
2. Bothwell	3	13	10	...
3. Brighton	4	...	...	4
4. Bruny	2	2	...	...
5. Campbell Town	11	11	...	...
6. Circular Head	14	39	25	...
7. Clarence	24	23	...	1
8. Deloraine	11	18	7	...
9. Devonport	114	41	...	73
10. Emu Bay	22	29	7	...
11. Esperance	51	11	...	40
12. Evandale	17	12	...	5
13. Fingal	20	12	...	8
14. Flinders Island	2	1	...	1
15. Gormanston	25	12	...	13
16. George Town	1	1	...	...
17. Glamorgan .....	...	2	2	...
18. Glenorchy	86	42	...	44
19. Green Ponds	2	2	...	...
20. Hamilton	4	4	...	...
21. Hobart	252	201	...	51
22. Huon	38	13	...	25
23. Kentish	7	25	18	...
24. Kingborough	11	5	...	6
25. King Island .....	...	...	...	...
26. Latrobe	23	20	...	3
27. Launceston	237	225	...	12
28. Leven	46	16	...	30
29. Lilydale	19	11	...	8
30. Longford	15	23	8	...
31. New Norfolk	54	40	...	14
32. Oatlands	9	5	...	4
33. Penguin	7	6	...	1
34. Port Cygnet	47	16	...	31
35. Portland .....	...	1	1	...
36. Queenstown	8	1	...	7
37. Ross	2	3	1	...
38. Ringarooma	13	17	4	...
39. Richmond	3	4	1	...
40. Spring Bay .....	...	2	2	...
41. St. Leonards	20	29	9	...
42. Scottsdale	16	7	...	9
43. Sorrell	2	3	1	...
44. Strahan	1	...	...	1
45. Tasman	4	2	...	2
46. Table Cape	9	7	...	2
47. Waratah .....	...	2	2	...
48. Westbury	27	38	11	...
49. Zeehan	5	13	8	...
50. Overseas	1	2	1	...
TOTAL	1307	1022	118	403

Gross Decrease 403

Gross Increase..... 118

Net Decrease 285

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The total number of notifications of venereal diseases received during the year was 460, comprising 328 males and 132 females. These figures do not indicate any diminution in the disease.

Two hundred and six cases, representing approximately 45 per cent. of total, were notified from public hospitals, where facilities are provided for the free maintenance and treatment of patients, in accordance with an agreement made between the Commonwealth and State Govern-

ments, under the terms of which the former subsidises our efforts on the £ for £ basis up to £1000 per annum.

Additional facilities are urgently required at the Hobart Public Hospital for the treatment of out-door patients. The Commonwealth Government, which was asked to increase our subsidy to admit of provision being made for this purpose, deferred a decision in the matter, pending the report of the Royal Commission on Health.

Tables C to E are appended showing the source of notifications, the sex and age distribution, also the marital status of the individuals concerned.

TABLE C.
 RETURN showing Source of Venereal Disease for each month of the year 1925.

	Jan.		Feb.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.		August.		Sept.		Oct.		Nov.		Dec.		Total.		Grand Total.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Gonorrhoea—																											
Hospital Clinics	10	3	5	2	5	3	13	5	7	11	14	11	6	7	1	20	3	7	6	5	9	5	6	1	114	56	170
Private Doctors	16	1	9	3	23	4	15	9	26	9	5	4	10	2	26	3	18	15	5	2	13	2	8	2	174	56	230
Gleet—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Primary—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Secondary—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Congenital—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Congenital—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Soft Chancre—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhoea & Syphilis—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhoea & Syphilis—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhoea & Chancre—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis and Chancre—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhoea, Ophthalmia—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total.....	26	5	15	7	34	10	35	16	39	19	24	20	23	8	41	6	40	22	14	8	23	7	14	4	328	132	460

TABLE E.

Return showing Marital Status of Cases of Venereal Disease reported to Department of Public Health for Year 1925.

	Married.		Single.		Total.		Grand Total.
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Gonorrhoea	81	38	207	74	288	112	400
Gleet	9	...	2	...	11	...	11
Syphilis	11	9	15	9	26	18	44
Soft Chancre	1	...	1	...	2	...	2
Gonorrhoea and Syphilis .....	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
Syphilis and Chancre .....	...	...	1	1	1	1	2
Gonorrhoea and Ophthalmia .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	102	48	226	84	328	132	460

LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

Sanitary surveys of municipal districts made during the year by officers of this Department reveal a commendable degree of activity on the part of many local authorities in performing the functions devolving upon them under the Public Health Act. In some instances, however, sanitary neglect is most apparent, and it is only after constant reminders from this Department, subsequent to the carrying out of a sanitary survey, that anything approaching reasonable conditions is established. Having regard to the fact that the Public Health Act is carefully designed to interfere as little as possible with local administration of affairs within its cognisance, except in case of slackness or defects in that local administration, when effective remedies may be applied by this Department, it certainly behoves all councils to function properly, not only in their own interest, but also for the benefit of the people who elect them for this particular purpose. It is not only cities and large towns which require active

sanitary administration, although here the need for it is intensified by the crowding of population on a small area. The local authority of the most scattered district can confer a vast amount of benefit on its people by overcoming indifference and correcting ignorance so far as the public health is concerned.

HOSPITALS ACT.

Public Hospitals.—During the year consideration was given to the matter of introducing an amended system of hospital administration and control, in substitution of the law at present in operation in this regard. A definite policy, however, in regard to these institutions has yet to be determined before an amending bill can be submitted to Parliament.

A scheme, providing that supplies for public hospitals should be obtained through the medium of the Supply and Tender Board, was brought into operation during the year, and should be the means of effecting a considerable saving in the cost of administering these institutions. Hitherto, each individual board bought chiefly in its own local market.

On the 30th July, 1925, a new public hospitals district was constituted, comprising the municipalities of Devonport, Kentish, and Latrobe, and the Devon Hospital declared the hospital within such district, with the management, maintenance, and regulation whereof the board of such hospitals district shall be charged.

Private Hospitals.—There were, at the close of the year, 92 licensed private hospitals in the State. Legal proceedings were successfully instituted against one individual for conducting unlicensed premises, in spite of a warning given previously by the Department.

All private hospitals have been regularly inspected at periodic intervals. Generally speaking, these inspections disclosed a satisfactory state of affairs.

Details of applications received and other items of interest under this heading are subjoined. (Tables F-I.)

TABLE F.

NUMBER of Licences Issued and Number Existing at 31st December, 1925.

	Number of Applications.	Licences Issued.	Number Existing at 31st Dec., 1925.	No. of Prosecutions.
Hobart	17	17	14	...
Launceston	14	14	10	...
Country	61	61	51	1
Total	92	92	75	1

TABLE G.

CLASSIFICATION.

	Medical, Surgical, and Lying-in Hospitals.	Medical and Surgical Only.	Lying-in Only.	Total.
Hobart	3	1	13	17
Launceston	2	2	10	14
Country	9	...	52	61
Total	14	3	75	92

TABLE H.
CLASSIFICATION according to Number of Beds.

	1.	2.	3.	4-5.	6-10.	11-20.	Over 20.	Total.
Hobart	1	1	1	3	5	4	2	17
Launceston.....	...	1	1	4	4	3	1	14
Country	16	14	13	9	9	...	...	61
Total	17	16	15	16	18	7	3	92

TABLE I.
CLASSIFICATION of Resident Managers.

	Medical Practitioners.	Qualified Nurses.	Unqualified Persons.	Total.
Hobart .....	...	17	...	17
Launceston	1	13	...	14
Country	7	54	...	61
Total	8	84	...	92

MIDWIVES ACT.

A total of 192 midwives took out certificates entitling them to practise midwifery during the year. The districts in which these midwives operated are set out in Table J.

The names of twelve midwives were added to the register, four by passing the examination of the Midwives Board, and the remaining eight in virtue of possessing hospital certificates recognised for purposes of registration in this State.

Very few cases of unqualified practice were reported during the year under review.

On the 26th June, 1925, Dr. W. E. L. Crowther, the nominee of the Medical Council of Tasmania, was appointed a member of the Midwives Registration Board, vice Dr. E. L. Crowther resigned. The latter had acted as a member of the Board since its inception in 1918.

During the year, reciprocal relations in the registration of midwives were established with Victoria. This reciprocity, however, is limited to those midwives who have completed the prescribed course of training and passed the Board's examination.

TABLE J.

Number of Midwives who have Taken out Certificates for the Current Year, Grouped under Local Authorities.

Beaconsfield	3
Bothwell	1
Brighton	1
Bruny	—
Campbell Town	1
Circular Head	3
Clarence	5
Deloraine	11
Devonport	4
Emu Bay	7
Esperance	3

Evandale	—
Fingal	1
Flinders Island	—
Gormanston	—
George Town	—
Glamorgan	—
Glenorchy	10
Green Ponds	—
Hamilton	—
Hobart	56
Huon	7
Kentish	3
Kingborough	3
King Island	—
Latrobe	—
Launceston	26
Leven	5
Lilydale	—
Longford	4
New Norfolk	5
Oatlands	3
Penguin	1
Port Cygnet	—
Portland	—
Queenstown	—
Ross	1
Ringarooma	4
Richmond	4
Spring Bay	1
St. Leonards	1
Scottsdale	1
Sorell	3
Strahan	2
Tasman	1
Table Cape	3
Waratah	1
Westbury	4
Zeehan	3
Total	192

CHILD WELFARE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The reports submitted by child welfare nurses are again very satisfactory. The attendances at the clinics are still on the increase, as well as the visits made by the nurses to mothers and babies in their homes. The latter function is an essential link in the chain of child welfare services, as no mother can be compelled to bring her children to a centre for advice, and, moreover, a great many mothers are either unwilling or unable to do so.

Courses of instruction in mothercraft and infant hygiene, to classes of girls from State schools, have been continued throughout the year with satisfactory results. The nurses report that

the children display an intelligent interest in the lectures and demonstrations given for their benefit.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age in 1925 was 287, as against 296 in the preceding year. The mortality rate, however, is the same, viz., 55 per 1000 births, which must be regarded as satisfactory, as it is the second lowest on record.

The Mothercraft Home, established by the Child Welfare Association, was opened on the 30th August last, and has already proved a most valuable asset to mothers and babies in need of special nursing attendance and care.

Tables K-M, containing statistical data in regard to infantile mortality, are appended.

TABLE K.

INFANTILE Mortality.

Number of Deaths under 1 Year in Tasmania for the last 20 Calendar Years.

	Year.																			
	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Deaths.....	487	438	426	361	569	403	393	417	431	422	423	281	321	343	374	451	324	326	296	287

Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths per 1000 Births).

Year.	Tasmania.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	West Australia.	New Zealand.	Commonwealth.
1905.....	80	80.6	83.3	75.5	73.0	104.2	67.5	...
1906.....	91	74.5	92.9	74.7	75.9	110.0	62.1	...
1907.....	82	88.5	72.6	77.7	66.6	97.5	88.8	...
1908.....	76	75.2	86.1	70.7	69.5	84.7	67.9	...
1909.....	65	73.9	71.4	71.5	60.9	78.0	61.6	...
1910.....	101.9	74.7	76.9	62.9	70.2	78.2	67.7	...
1911.....	74.1	69.5	68.7	65.4	60.6	76.0	56.3	...
1912.....	66.6	71.0	74.5	71.7	61.7	82.1	51.2	...
1913.....	70.7	77.8	70.5	63.4	69.9	70.3	59.2	...
1914.....	71.6	69.3	78.3	63.9	75.8	68.1	51.4	...
1915.....	72.2	67.7	68.8	64.3	67.0	66.5	50.1	...
1916.....	75.0	67.2	74.6	70.3	73.2	66.2	50.7	...
1917.....	52.8	56.9	56.8	53.9	53.1	57.1	48.2	...
1918.....	60.8	59.0	61.8	56.7	51.3	57.1	48.4	...
1919.....	64.6	71.8	67.9	71.9	64.0	61.1	45.3	...
1920.....	65.2	60.8	73.8	63.24	67.1	66.1	50.6	...
1921.....	78.4	62.9	72.7	54.1	65.4	78.3	47.8	65.7
1922.....	55.7	53.6	53.4	50.4	47.5	55.6	41.9	52.7
1923.....	57.6	60.7	65.7	54.0	60.3	56.0	43.8	60.5
1924.....	55.0	58.9	61.3	51.2	51.3	49.9	40.2	57.0
1925.....	55.0	55.0	57.0	45.2	46.1	56.6	40.0	53.4

TABLE L.
TASMANIA.

TABLE showing the Principal Causes of Deaths of Children under 1 Year of Age in Tasmania, in each Year from 1901 to 1925.

Causes of Deaths.	1901.	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
7. Measles	1	...	...	2	...	1	1	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...
8. Scarlet Fever, &c.
9. Whooping Cough
10. Diphtheria and Croup
Other Epidemic Disease
29. Tetanus
32. Tubercular Meningitis
38. Syphilis
80. Convulsions
99. Bronchitis
100. (a) Broncho-pneumonia
101. Pneumonia
113. (b) Gastro-Enteritis
Diarrhoea and Enteritis
Other Diseases of Stomach
159. Congenital Defects
161. (c) Premature Birth
160. Debility, Marasmus
162. Diseases Early Infancy
Other Diseases
Total	439	402	563	480	424	487	438	426	361	569	403	393	417	431	422	423	281	321	343	374	451	324	326	296	287
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1000 Births)	89	79	111	91	80	91	82	76	65	101.9	73.7	66.6	70.7	71.6	72.2	75.0	52.3	60.8	64.6	65.2	78.4	55.7	57.6	55.0	55.0
Total Births	4930	5085	5080	5292	5237	5333	5291	5615	5500	5586	5437	5853	5386	6017	5845	5642	5376	5280	5310	5740	5755	5817	5657	5383	5218

TABLE M.

(Showing ages and causes of death under 1 year—1925.)

Causes of Death.	Under 1 month.	1 month and under 3 months.	3 months and under 6 months.	6 months and under 1 year.	Total under 1 year.
Whooping Cough	2	7	9	5	23
Croup .....	...	...	...	1	1
Influenza .....	...	...	1	...	1
Erysipelas .....	...	2	1	...	3
Tuberculosis of—					
Nervous System .....	...	...	...	1	1
Respiratory System .....	...	...	...	1	1
Intestines .....	...	...	1	...	1
Disseminated Tuberculosis .....	...	...	2	1	3
Syphilis .....	...	...	1	2	3
Septicæmia	1	...	...	...	1
Disease of Thyroid Gland	1	...	...	...	1
Disease of Thymus Gland	1	...	...	1	2
Other General Diseases	1	...	...	...	1
Simple Meningitis .....	...	...	...	1	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	1	...	...	...	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	2	...	...	...	2
Cerebral Embolism and Thrombosis .....	...	...	1	...	1
Convulsions	3	2	2	...	7
Endocarditis	1	...	...	1	2
Bronchitis .....	...	1	...	2	3
Broncho-Pneumonia	2	4	3	6	15
Pneumonia	4	5	7	4	20
Gastritis .....	...	...	1	...	1
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	1	9	9	10	29
Intestinal Obstruction .....	...	...	...	1	1
Diseases of Intestines .....	...	...	1	...	1
Peritonitis	1	...	...	...	1
Diseases of Scalp .....	...	...	1	...	1
Malformations	13	4	3	...	20
Congenital Debility	21	16	3	3	37
Prematurity	74	6	1	...	81
Injury at Birth	8	...	...	...	8
Other Diseases of Early Infancy	8	...	...	...	8
Want of Care .....	...	1	...	...	1
Accidental Mechanical Suffocation	1	...	...	1	2
Infanticide	1	...	...	...	1
Unknown	1	...	...	...	1
Total	148	51	47	41	287

BUSH NURSING.

Upon reference to the report of the supervisory nurse, which is contained in Appendix III., it will be noted that a considerable increase of work has been shown in most centres. Although, in a few instances, the demand for the services of the nurse is not sufficient to keep her employed during the whole of the year, nevertheless the extreme isolation of the people in these particular districts warrants the retention of such an official.

Despite repeated advertisements for bush nurses in the mainland and local press, considerable difficulty has been experienced in securing suitable applicants for vacancies in various centres. The position has become so acute that I am afraid, at no distant date, it will be necessary to endeavour to secure nurses from England to meet our requirements in this regard.

A new centre comprising the Lakes District, one of the most isolated parts of the State, was opened in June last, following representations made as to the urgent necessity of a nurse being located there. The Southern Division of the Bush

Nursing Association assumed the responsibility for that portion of the salary of the nurse, the payment of which usually devolves upon the local authority or committee of the district in which the nurse operates. At a subsequent date Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth, and Company, contractors for the Hydro-Electric Shannon River Scheme, employed the nurse, and generously allowed her to attend to outside cases when her services were not needed at their works.

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT ACT.

The provisions of this law have been generally well observed during the year.

Following representations made regarding the stringency of the regulation in force under the Act regarding smoking in places of public entertainment the following amending regulation was brought into operation on the 30th October, 1925:—

“36—(1) No proprietor, or other person acting on his behalf, shall permit any person to smoke within the auditorium of any place of public entertainment at any time when such place is open to the public.

“(2) No proprietor, or other person acting on his behalf, shall permit any person to smoke in any building, tent, or erection in use as a place of public entertainment, at any time when such place is open to the public, except in those parts thereof which are separated from the auditorium.

“(3) No person shall smoke in any part of any such place as aforesaid, at any time when such place is open to the public, except where lawfully permitted by the proprietor or some person on his behalf to do so.

“(4) This regulation shall not apply to any place while the same is in use for the purposes of an entertainment in the nature of a smoke concert; nor to any open-air place of public entertainment; nor to smoking on the stage or platform as part of, or incidental to, any performance thereon.

“(5) The proprietor may prohibit smoking in any part of his place of public entertainment, and any person knowing of such prohibition who neglects or refuses to refrain from smoking therein shall be deemed guilty of a breach of this regulation, and shall be punishable accordingly.”

Picture Censor Board.—On the 21st January, 1925, the following persons (whose term of office had expired) were re-appointed as members of the Picture Censor Board:—The Secretary for Education, the Secretary of the Police Department, and Mesdames Waterworth and Taylor.

The Board held 38 meetings during the year, and issued certificates of registration in respect of 623 films, for which £117 5s. in fees was received. The members viewed 3 private screenings and, in one instance, excised certain undesirable features prior to issuing a certificate of registration.

Cinematograph Operators' Licences.—The Minister issued 60 cinematograph operators' licences during the year. The fees received for these licences totalled £41 7s. 6d.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Due attention has been directed to the administration of this law, which has for its object the control and protection of the food supply. It is satisfactory to record, also, that evidence of increased activity in the administration of the law is shown by many local authorities, notably Hobart and Launceston, which must tend to a lessened incidence of adulteration.

Particular attention has again been directed to the milk supply, and the Department can claim to have achieved excellent results so far as this important food is concerned. By frequent visitations and advice to dairymen, the latter themselves are becoming more ready to see the advantages of cleanliness in milk production.

Food Sampling.—One hundred and fifty-eight samples of foods and drugs were procured and submitted for analysis by officers of this Department. Proceedings were instituted against 10 persons for breaches of the law, and in 9 cases the Department was instrumental in securing convictions, for which penalties and costs aggregating £17 4s. 3d. were imposed.

Mutton Bird Industry.—In continuation of the policy adopted for some years past, an officer of the Department was deputed to visit Flinders Island, for the purpose of exercising supervision over the current mutton bird season. This supervision has been productive of excellent results in the manner in which the birds are prepared and packed for human consumption.

Food Standards Committee.—This Committee met during the year for the purpose of expressing its views upon various matters submitted by the Public Health Departments of the other Commonwealth States.

COMMONWEALTH QUARANTINE.

No active quarantine existed during the year.

The number of vessels fumigated at various ports in this division totalled 21, comprising Overseas 1; Interstate 16; and Intrastate 4.

Frequent inspections were made in connection with shipping, particularly in connection with overseas vessels, with the view of seeing that the regulations were being complied with.

The Department, acting as agents for the sale of the products of the Commonwealth Serum Laboratories, disposed of vaccines and sera to the value of £728 6s. 4d.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, I desire to acknowledge with respectful appreciation the earnest and sympathetic attention which you, sir, have extended to the Department's work, and to the recommendations placed before you from time to time.

I also desire to record my thanks for the loyal services rendered by officers of the Department, and for the courteous assistance given, from time to time, by officers of other Government departments, notably the Commissioner of Police, the Government Statistician, and those attached to the Crown Law Office.

I have, &c.,

E. J. TUDOR,

Secretary for Public Health.

The Honourable the Chief Secretary.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

REPORT OF CHIEF INSPECTOR.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 7th April, 1926.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report of the work performed by the inspectorial staff of the Department for the year ended the 31st December, 1925.

Visits of inspection have been made to the following municipal districts:—Beaconsfield, Bothwell, Brighton, Bruni Island, Campbell Town, Circular Head, Clarence, Deloraine, Emu Bay, Esperance, Evandale, Fingal, Flinders Island, George Town, Glamorgan, Glenorchy, Gormanston, Green Ponds, Hamilton, Hobart, Huon, Kentish, Kingborough, King Island, Latrobe, Launceston, Leven, Lilydale, Longford, New Norfolk, Oatlands, Penguin, Portland, Port Cygnet, Queenstown, Ringarooma, Richmond, Ross, Sorell, St. Leonards, Scottsdale, Spring Bay, Strahan, Table Cape, Tasman, Waratah, Westbury, and Zeehan. It will be noted that every municipality has been visited. This is the first time for many years that every outlying district (including King and Flinders Islands) has received attention from the inspectorial staff in the one year. The staff (now reduced to three inspectors) has, of necessity to spend long periods in field work in carrying out the numerous duties connected with the Public Health, Food and Drugs, Places of Public Entertainment, Hospitals, Commonwealth Quarantine, and Dairy Produce Acts; and important work in regard to the Navigation Act.

Sanitary Surveys.

As far as time permitted, sanitary surveys of municipal districts were carried out, also follow-up inspections. The survey includes inspections and reports on water supplies, drainage, sanitary, and garbage services, offensive trades, public buildings, licensed premises, dairies, &c. There is urgent necessity to continue these sanitary surveys, as the local inspector (owing to his many duties) rarely has sufficient time to devote to a complete survey of his district. Generally speaking, the visits of State health inspectors are welcomed by the local authorities, and it is certain that such visits are productive of good results.

Several new local inspectors have been appointed during the year, and in each instance arrangements were made to visit the districts and instruct him in his duties; special attention being given to the drafting of orders under the acts for abatement of nuisances, and system of reports to local authority.

In outbreaks of infectious disease every assistance has been given to the local authorities concerned. Prompt measures to enforce isolation, disinfection of premises, and other measures have been generally sufficient to limit the spread of the disease.

Inspection of Dairies.

The regular and systematic inspection of dairies in towns and country districts has been continued, as opportunity offered, throughout the year. The progress of this work in many instances is slow, and tact combined with discrimination is necessary to obtain good results.

It is now universally recognised that, however satisfactory the premises may be, also the equipment, clean milk cannot be produced unless the milkers are clean in their habits, and conform strictly to the regulations drafted for securing cleanliness and freedom from contamination of milk. Excellent work has been carried out during the year in connection with bacteriological examination of the milk supply of Hobart and suburbs. Inspectors of the City Council and this Department, by arrangement with the Government Microbiologist, are able to advise the dairymen of the number of bacteria and leucocytes per cubic centimetre in each sample of milk, within 24 hours after samples are procured. With this information, advice can be given to enable dairymen to improve their produce, and in many instances diseases such as mammitis can be traced to a particular animal in the herd. It is proposed, with the co-operation of the Agricultural Department, to extend similar operations to other towns in the State, as opportunity offers.

Sanitation of Osmiridium Field.

During the month of September, owing to the opening up of Osmiridium Fields at Adams River, it was found necessary to send an officer to report on the sanitary condition of the camps, where 700-800 men were located. All camps were visited, and occupiers advised in regard to camp sanitation, protection of water supplies from pollution, and other measures to prevent epidemics of infectious disease.

Printed canvas notices (with specific instructions how to prevent diseases arising in camps) were posted at various public buildings and other conspicuous places.

Regular inspections are being continued, and, as a township is now in course of erection, permanent buildings are replacing the camps, and, with more settled conditions, stricter attention can be given to the general sanitation of the district.

Rat Extermination.

Returns furnished by the rat-catcher show that 87,550 poisoned baits were laid on the foreshores and under the wharves, piers, and other structures and buildings in and around the river frontages in Hobart. The following summary indicates the varieties of baits:—

Phosphorus and bread	42,625
Phosphorus and fish	44,925
	<hr/>
	87,550

Rejected baits numbered 24,993 approximately 28 per cent.

It is difficult to estimate the number of rats destroyed by poison baits, as the rodents, after partaking of the poison, return to their burrows. After making due allowance for deterioration of poison, a reasonable estimate would be that between 50 and 60 per cent. of the baits are effective.

Traps to the number of 11,415 were set, and 4580 rats accounted for.

Food and Drugs Act.

The work in this division has been curtailed owing to the reduced staff; Inspector Clark, who usually devotes full time to this important work, having been employed on other duties.

One hundred and fifty-eight samples of foods and drugs were purchased for analysis, fourteen of which were found to be adulterated. Prosecutions were undertaken in ten (10) cases; nine persons being convicted. Penalties aggregated £17 4s. 3d. One case was dismissed on a point of law regarding division of sample, and four persons received warnings.

The necessary alterations in the regulations and standards, recommended at the last Food and Drug conference, are now being enforced.

The following samples of foods and drugs were submitted for analysis:—

Milk	79
Butter	11
Vinegar	2
Cream of tartar	5
Rice	2
Whiskey	3
Melbourne Beer	1
Cascade Beer	1
Red Label Beer	1
Green Label Beer	1
Tooth paste	1
Cream	17
Breakfast meals	3
Honey	2
Raspberry fruit cordial	1
Orange crush	1
Tamar Cider	1
Ginger stout	1
Rex Luncheon Cheese	1
Pomona Tonic Wine	1
Rosella Tomato Soup	1
Hoadley's Cocoa	1
Olive oil	1
Self-raising flour	1
Chocolate and milk	1
Tomato sauce	1

Bloater paste	1
Hop ale	1
Lemon syrup	1
Sago	1
Clare Compound Cordial	1
Flaked rice	1
Cocoa	1
Pepper	1
Water	2
Rum	2
Bay Rum	1
Tea	1
Coffee and chicory	1
Vinegar essence	1
Soda carbonate	1
Total	158

Fumigation of Vessels.

In compliance with the requirements of the Commonwealth quarantine regulations, inspectors have been employed from time to time, in connection with the fumigation and disinfection of overseas and interstate steamers at the ports of Hobart, Launceston, Devonport, and Burnie. The holds of such vessels are subject to sulphur fumigation as prescribed, for the destruction of rats, mice, and other vermin; hydrocyanic acid gas being used for saloons, quarters, cabins, and similar spaces.

Places of Public Entertainment and Public Buildings.

Plans, with accompanying specifications, of forty-two buildings were submitted for approval under the provisions of Section 13 of the "The Places of Public Entertainment Act," and Section 106 of "The Public Health Act."

Launceston Housewives' Health Exhibition.

A section was arranged at the Health Exhibition in Launceston, illustrating the various activities of the Department. Inspector Clark also delivered a lecture entitled "Housewives' and Health Inspectors" during the progress of the Exhibition.

Mutton Bird Industry.

The annual inspection of the Mutton Bird Rookeries at Flinders Island was made, and disclosed improvements in the sanitary conditions of birding huts and birders' quarters.

Conclusion.

I desire to record appreciation of the manner in which the inspectorial staff have carried out their arduous, and at times unpleasant, duties.

I have, &c.,

J. RILEY, Chief Inspector.

The Secretary for Public Health.

APPENDIX II.

REPORT OF GOVERNMENT BACTERIOLOGIST.

Department of Public Health,
Bacteriological Laboratory,
Hobart, 30th January, 1926.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit the following report of the work performed at the Department's Laboratory during the year ending 31st December, 1925.

The total number of specimens, forwarded from all parts of the State, was 3754.

Diphtheria again claimed principle attention, 2655 swabs being received for bacteriological investigation. Numerous specimens of suspected tuberculosis, typhoid, and gonorrhoea, as well as many of various other diseases, were examined and reported upon.

A tabular statement of the specimens examined during the year will be found appended.

I have, &c.,

GEORGE HADDOW,
Government Bacteriologist.

The Secretary for Public Health.

Table Showing Particulars of Specimens Examined at Laboratory during the Twelve Months ended 31st December, 1925.

Disease Suspected.	Nature of Specimen	Number.	Positive.
Diphtheria	Throat swabs	2655	168
Tuberculosis	Sputum	781	387
"	Urine	4	1
Typhoid	Widals	73	29
"	Fæces	14	—
"	Urine	14	—
Gonorrhoea	Smears of pus	191	40
Miscellaneous	.....	21	—
Autogenous vaccine	.....	1	—
Total		3754	625

Diphtheria Swabs from Schools.

Name of School.	Number.	Positive.
Glen Dhu School, Launceston	47	1
State School, Burnie	48	—
State School, Bracknell	68	—
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Hobart	59	—
Total	222	1

Miscellaneous.

Nature of Specimen.	Number.
Blood culture for bacillus typhosus	1
Blood for examination	1
Cerebro-spinal fluid for organisms	2
Fallopian tubes	1
Fluid from chest for hydatids	1
Fæces for dysentery bacillus	1
Milk for diphtheria bacillus	1
Sea-water for bacillus coli communis	2
Smear for cocci	1
Swab for organisms	1
Swab from puerperal uterus for organisms	1
Urine for gono-cocci	2
Urine for pus	1
Urine for pus, blood albumen	1
Urine for examination	1
Water for bacteriological examination	1
Water for bacillus typhosus	2
Total	21

Materials Supplied.

Materials.	Number.
Diphtheria swabs	3000
Wright's blood tubes	100
Tubes for typhoid specimens	50
Media in tubes	100
Micro-slides	150
Wassermann tubes	150
Sputum pots	850

The above materials were prepared and supplied to medical practitioners, hospitals, and municipal councils throughout Tasmania.

APPENDIX III.

BUSH-NURSING REPORT, 1925.

Public Health Department,
Hobart, 1st March, 1926.

SIR,

During the year 1925 a considerable increase of work has been shown in most centres. Some difficulty was experienced at the later end of the year in keeping the centres supplied with nurses. Rosebery, in particular, has been waiting for some time; it being found impossible to find anyone suitable to fill the position.

The Lakes Centre opened in June, Sister Storey being appointed; the Southern Bush Nursing Association bearing the responsibility of finance. An arrangement was made with Messrs. Armstrong, Whitworth (contractors for the Hydro-Electric Shannon River Scheme), who required a nurse for the men on their works, to employ Sister Storey. They have generously allowed her to attend outside cases when not employed by them; this concession being very beneficial to an isolated community.

A summary of the work performed in each centre is contained in the following table.

Centre.	Visits to Nurse.	Visits to Patients.	Nursing Days.	Child Welfare.	Midwifery Cases.	Mileage.	Fees Received.		
							£	s.	d.
Avoca	57	341	5	217	4	845	29	11	6
Blessington	16	72	67	109	6	2609	31	4	6
Bruy	84	166	23	178	5	1832	45	5	3
Burnie .....	...	38	181	266	16	890	62	16	0
Lakes	18	36	39	8	1	545	No fees.		
Lilydale	21	255	107	41	27	2059	93	4	9
Maria Island	974	568	84	116	1	527	No fees.		
Marawah	172	263	154	189	11	2084	104	6	8
Swansea	57	641	89	31	21	842	72	9	9
Tasman	14	175	391	154	17	2714	160	11	11
Tullah	678	971	66	421	1	2447	No fees.		
Tyenna	123	408	18	141	19	2056	119	13	0
Ulverstone .....	...	132	97	236	19	1022	66	18	10
	2214	4066	1321	2120	148	21,082			

D. D. RICHMOND, Supervisory Nurse.

APPENDIX IV.

CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION.

HOBART CENTRE.

Nurses' Report for Year Ended December, 31st, 1925.

Hobart, 31st March, 1926.

Visits paid by nurses totalled 4816 and comprised—

Visits paid to newly born infants 839

Visits paid subsequently to mothers and

babies in their homes 3803

Visits paid to expectant mothers 68

Miscellaneous visits 106

At Bellerive 22 visits were paid to mothers and babies,

and at Lindisfarne, 10.

There were 8832 attendances at the clinic, including 198

by expectant mothers.

Individual babies visited by nurses, 1125; individual

babies who have attended the clinic, 1080.

Drs. W. I. Clark and Stuart Gibson have given honorary

medical attention to babies whose parents were unable to

pay medical fees and were not on lodges.

Statistics of the feeding of babies during the first 9

months of life were obtained for the City Health Officer.

These cover a period of 12 months, and show:—

80 per cent. wholly or partially breast fed for 3 months.

66 per cent. wholly or partially breast fed for 6 months.

61 per cent. wholly or partially breast fed for 9 months.

These figures are only approximate, as a shifting popu-

lation precludes the possibility of obtaining an exact

record.

A course of instruction in mothercraft and infant hygiene has been given at the clinic to four classes of girls from the City State schools.

The course consists of five weekly lessons of one hour each terminating with a written examination in the sixth week.

Country Correspondence.—One hundred and twenty-one letters received and answered.

All country mothers whose babies are born in Hobart received invitations to attend the clinic when in town, to rest, attend to baby, and receive advice if required; many mothers have availed themselves of these invitations.

Weekly articles on the Child Welfare have been published in the "Illustrated Mail." These were supplied by the nurses and letters from correspondents who desire individual advice show that they are widely read.

Milk has been supplied free of charge or at a reduced price by the Child Welfare Association to mothers of young babies in poor circumstances. The Government Microbiologist tests this milk daily for bacteria.

The use of the New Zealand Emulsion is constantly extending, 660 lbs. having been distributed. This emulsion supplies the extra fat required when ordinary milk is modified to make it suitable for baby and simplifies the preparation of the milk mixture.

The Mothercraft Home was opened on August 13th, and has already proved its value. This is manifested by the fact that since its inception the accommodation has been taxed to its utmost and many have had to be refused admission.

The establishment of this home has been an important factor in Child Welfare as it is possible to give practical demonstrations there of the things we have been endeavouring to teach for years.

Staff.—Miss Hinds who was granted 6 months leave of absence to take a post graduate course of training in obstetrics, resumed duty in August. Miss White was on duty during her absence.

The interest of the public in all matters pertaining to Child Welfare is steadily increasing. The co-operation of the Education Department and of the medical and nursing profession is gratefully appreciated by the staff.

I have, &c.,

C. BONNILY, Child Welfare Nurse.

The Secretary Public Health Department.

MOONAH AND NEW TOWN CENTRE.

Report of Nurse for the Year ended 31st December, 1925.

Moonah, 31st March, 1926.

Visits paid by nurses during the year totalled 1970 and comprise:—

Visits to newly born infants 295

Visits paid to mothers and babies in their

homes 1557

Visits paid to pre-natal cases 89

Miscellaneous Visits 29

There were 2189 attendances at the clinic, including:—

2145 feeding and care; 38 pre-natal cases; and 6 miscel-

laneous.

One hundred and ninety-five individual mothers and

babies have attended the clinic during the year.

The Moonah and New Town Branch of the Child Wel-

fare Association have completed nearly five years work

in the districts of New Town, Moonah, Derwent Park,

Lutana, and Lenah Valley.

This branch has made steady progress throughout the

year, although several families have left this centre for

other parts of the Commonwealth.

Mothercraft and infant hygiene lessons commenced

in March to the State school children of this district.

One class from New Town, and two from Moonah have

taken a course.

The students from "Mothercraft Home" train in dis-

trict work at this centre. Students have been coming

regularly since 14th September, 1925, for a course of three

weeks.

The committee have been very active raising funds for

the upkeep of the clinic.

The nurse desires to thank all who kindly helped in

every way during the past year.

A. H. CAVE, Child Welfare Nurse.

The Secretary Public Health Department.

GLENORCHY BRANCH.

Nurses' Report for Year ended 31st December, 1925.

Hobart, 31st March, 1926.

Visits paid by nurses during the year totalled 426, and comprised:—

50 to newly born infants.

281 subsequent visits to mothers and babies in their homes.

29 to pre-natal cases.

66 miscellaneous visits connected with clinic work.

Individual mothers and babies visited were 62.

The attendances at the clinic were 418.

Individual mothers and babies attending clinic were 52.

The Glenorchy branch of the Child Welfare Association has now completed its third year of work, and we are pleased to record continued progress. A nurse from the central clinic spends one day each week in the district visiting mothers and babies in the morning, and in attendance at the clinic in the afternoon. Many mothers come for advice from adjoining districts. I wish to thank all those who have helped with the work during the year.

N. E. HINDS, Child Welfare Nurse.

The Secretary Public Health Department.

APPENDIX V.

Return of Samples of Food, Drugs, &c., Examined in Government Laboratory in 1925.

Butter and cheese	12
Cereals and self-raising flour	9
Condiments, salts, sauces, &c.	3
Confectionery, ice cream	4
Cream	18
Cream of tartar, baking powder, &c.	15
Drugs and chemicals	10
Essences	26
Fish and meat pastes	30
Jam, fruit pulp, dessert fruit	61
Milk, cow's	308
Milk, human	15
Oils and fats	46
Poisons	64
Spirits, wines, and cordials	113
Tea, Cocoa, coffee and coffee essence	6
Vinegar	3
Water	41
Effluents and drainage	7
Sundries	12
Total	803

Cereals and Flour.

A breakfast cereal contained web and several grubs identified by the Government Entomologist as those of the Mediterranean Flour Moth. The flours were "self-raising," and were all of satisfactory quality.

Condiments and Sauces.

A Cayenne pepper was moist, mouldy, and deficient in "Ether Extractives" to the extent of 46.6 per cent.

Confectionery.

"Liqueur Chocolates" so called, contained a quite insignificant proportion of alcohol.

Cream.

Two samples were deficient in milk-fat to the extent of 11.5 and 40 per cent. respectively. The latter contained only 21 per cent. of fat (the minimum allowed being 35), while others ranged up to 45 per cent. One sample contained 52 grains of boric acid per pint, the legal maximum being 25 grains; the excess calculating to 108 per cent.

Cream of Tartar and Baking Powder.

Systematic examination appears to have checked the importation of cream of tartar containing marked proportions of lead, so that metal was not found in excess in any sample.

Drugs and Chemicals.

"Tonic Wine" contained 35 per cent. of proof spirit, or about the average proportion in Port and Sherry. It appears to be consumed not infrequently as an intoxicant, rather than as a tonic, and in one case excess was supposed to have contributed to death.

Milk.

Thirty-seven samples, representing 12 per cent. of the total number examined, were found to be more or less adulterated, while many others were so near the minimum limit as to suggest strongly that they had been reduced with water so as to just reach the standard minimum.

The greatest deficiencies found were:—

	Per Cent.
Milk-fat	45.5
Solids, not fat	25.8
Total solids	22.4

These figures represent removal of about half the cream and addition of one part of water to three parts of milk.

Assuming that throughout the year an average of only one per cent. was added to the whole City supply, this would represent 35,260 quarts of water sold as milk, and it would seem that dishonest vendors might be required to contribute more of the profits from this to public funds.

In a recent prosecution for 27 per cent. "deficiency," which means at least that proportion of added water, the total fine was £1, whereas a former police magistrate levied £1 for each one per cent. of added water which tended to moderate the amount of dilution.

Milk, Human.

Fifteen samples were examined for the Child Welfare Association.

Tests for Poisons.

Sixty-four suspected foods, drugs, &c., were examined, of which 26 were in connection with a murder case which resulted in a conviction. These included the whole of the abdominal viscera from the exhumed body of the victim, and various medicines, clothing, &c., and entailed an enormous amount of work.

In a case where poison was suspected, salicylic acid was found in marked quantity. No details were received, but this acid probably was derived from Aspirin or similar drugs, the use or rather the abuse of which appears to be excessive and on the increase.

Cocaine and caffeine were found in other cases.

Half a grain of strychnine was recovered from the stomach contents in another case.

Liver, lung, and flesh of sheep, which sometime previously had been dosed with arsenic for fluke, were tested, but no arsenic could be detected.

Arsenic was found in quantity in part of contents of a horse's stomach.

Much apparently unfounded suspicion of poisoning appeared to have been started by the murder case above-mentioned, judging by the number of foods, &c., sent for examination in which no poison could be detected.

Raspberry Vinegar and Cordial.

A raspberry vinegar contained 55 per cent. of acetic acid in excess, and a "cordial" was a "vinegar" coloured with an aniline dye.

Sago.

A sample was tapioca.

Spirits.

Three samples were deficient in strength by about 4 to 6 per cent., and one was flavoured slightly with creosote.

Water.

Three samples, from tanks at Lindisfarne, were tested for sulphur dioxide from Zinc Works, with negative results.

Sulphates were present in small quantity, the highest being equivalent to 0.75 grain sulphur dioxide per gallon, and zinc was present in all three samples, but no information was supplied as to conditions of collection and storage, or material of roofs, or tanks, so that no definite conclusion could be reached as to source of sulphates or zinc. Two of the three samples of this rain-water contained more solid matter than the Hobart supply.

Other samples tested were from Ocean Pier and Victoria Dock, as to effect from drainage outfall; from River Jordan, Kingston, Huonville, Ulverstone, Triabunna, and King Island.

Effluents.

Seven samples were fully examined to determine the efficiency of treatment of sewerage in the septic tanks of various public institutions.

A water suspected on account of the proximity of a cemetery yielded no proof of contamination from that source.

W. F. WARD, Government Analyst.

The Secretary for Public Health.

APPENDIX VI.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Statistical and General.

Population—

Estimated on the 31st December, 1925:—

Males	108,047
Females	108,985
Total	217,032

Mean population, 1925 (for whole year)—

Males	106,344
Females	107,126
Total	213,470

Mean population, 1924 (for whole year) .. 214,687

Decrease for the year 1,217

The population of the State, as shown by the figures, reveals a decrease of 1217.

Commonwealth Birth-rate for the Year 1925 per 1000 Persons Living.

(As compared with the previous year, and a year in the previous decade.)

	1915.	1924.	1925.
New South Wales	28-02 ..	24-11 ..	24-01
Victoria	24-45 ..	22-01 ..	21-49
Queensland	29-08 ..	23-87 ..	23-82
South Australia	26-42 ..	21-88 ..	21-06
West Australia	28-09 ..	23-09 ..	22-23
Tasmania	29-78 ..	25-07 ..	24-45
Commonwealth	27-05 ..	23-24 ..	22-89

Death-rates for 1925 per 1000 Persons Living.

(As compared with the previous year, and a year in the previous decade.)

	1915.	1924	1925.
New South Wales	10-37 ..	9-35 ..	9-16
Victoria	11-05 ..	10-05 ..	9-47
Queensland	10-90 ..	8-87 ..	8-86
South Australia	10-51 ..	9-19 ..	9-15
West Australia	9-32 ..	9-08 ..	9-00
Tasmania	10-27 ..	9-89 ..	9-35
Commonwealth	10-59 ..	9-47 ..	9-20

Deaths in Relation to Disease.

The following return, from data supplied by the Government Statistician, shows the number and causes of deaths during the year 1925, also death-rate per 10,000 persons living (mean population 213,470), as contrasted with the previous year 1924 (mean population estimated at 214,687).

Cause of Death.	Number of Deaths, 1925.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.	Number of Deaths, 1924.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.
General Diseases—				
Typhoid Fever	6	·3	8	·4
Malaria .....	...	...	...	...
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...
Measles .....	...	...	4	·2
Scarlet Fever	3	·1	3	·1
Whooping Cough	27	1·3	14	·7
Diphtheria and Croup	13	·6	20	·9
Influenza	8	·4	19	·9
Dysentery	1	...	...	...
Syphilis	6	·3	16	·7
Tubercular Diseases	137	6·4	164	7·6
Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism and Gout	8	·4	11	·5
Cancer, all forms	197	9·2	197	9·2
Dietic Diseases and Industrial Poisoning	4	·2	1	·1
Other General Diseases	98	4·6	71	3·3
Total General	508	23·8	528	24·6
Local Diseases—				
Diseases of Nervous System	217	10·2	204	9·5
Diseases of Circulatory System	309	14·5	318	14·8
Diseases of Respiratory Organs	211	9·9	271	12·6
Diseases of Digestive Organs	141	6·6	123	5·7
Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	103	4·8	110	5·1
Diseases of Puerperal Origin	30	1·4	24	1·1
Diseases of the Skin	8	·4	17	·8
Diseases of Bones and Malformations	24	1·1	34	1·6
Diseases of Early Infancy	135	6·3	152	7·2
Total Local Diseases	1178	55·2	1253	58·4
Deaths Produced by External Causes—				
Accident or Negligence	98	4·6	106	4·9
Homicide	6	·3	4	·2
Suicide	22	1·0	15	·7
Total External Causes ..	126	5·9	125	5·8
Ill-defined—Not Specific Diseases—				
Old Age	164	7·7	187	8·7
Ill-defined Diseases	20	·9	30	1·4
Total Ill-defined Diseases ..	184	8·6	217	10·1
Total Deaths, All Causes ..	1996	93·5	2123	98·9

Typhoid Fever.

Year 1925.

No. of cases notified	50
No. of deaths (1925—calendar)—	
Males	1
Females	5
Total	6

Diphtheria.

Year 1925.

No. of cases notified	473
No. of deaths (1925—calendar)—	
Males	6
Females	8
Total	14

DEATHS from Tuberculosis during the last Ten Years.

	Number.										Death Rate per 100,000 Persons Living									
	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System (No. 31)	No. 118	No. 96	No. 93	No. 121	No. 104	No. 132	No. 108	No. 138	No. 127	No. 111	61	49	47	59	49	62	50	64	59	52
Other forms of Tuberculosis (Nos. 32-37)	No. 45	No. 26	No. 31	No. 32	No. 32	No. 24	No. 41	No. 26	No. 37	No. 23	23	13	16	16	15	11	19	12	17	12
Totals	No. 163	No. 122	No. 124	No. 153	No. 136	No. 156	No. 149	No. 164	No. 164	No. 137	84	62	63	75	64	73	69	76	76	64

RETURN Showing Number of Deaths from Typhoid during the last Ten Years under Age Groups.

Year.	Under 5.		5-10.		10-15.		15-20.		20-25.		25-30.		30-35.		35-40.		40-45.		45-50.		50-55.		55-60.		60-65.		65 and over.		Total.	Persons.		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			M.	F.
1916.....	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	2	1	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
17.....	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
18.....	2	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
19.....	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
20.....	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
21.....	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	2	1	1	...	...	3	4	...	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
22.....	1	2	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
23.....	1	...	1	1	...	1	2	2	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
24.....	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
25.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
26.....	6
Totals....	...	1	3	7	4	8	11	9	8	6	9	4	5	4	5	9	10	4	4	3	5	2	4	2	3	3	...	4	71	66	137	

Scarlet Fever.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate per 10,000 population.	Cases per 1000 per- sons living	Deaths per 1000 cases notified	Death % of cases.
1902-3	—	22	1.3	—	—	—
1903-4	—	26	1.5	—	—	—
1904-5	—	4	.2	—	—	—
1905-6	50	1	.1	—	—	2.0
1906-7	—	—	—	—	—	—
1907-8	18	—	—	—	—	—
1908-9	11	—	—	—	—	—
1909-10	91	2	.1	—	—	2.2
1910-11	177	3	.2	—	—	1.7
1911-12	83	—	—	44	—	—
1912-13	159	2	.1	83	12.6	1.3
1913-14	225	—	—	1.15	—	—
1914-15	223	1	.1	1.14	4.5	0.4
1915-16	138	2	.1	.71	14.5	1.4
1916-17	63	2	.1	.33	31.7	3.2
1917-18	60	—	—	.31	—	—
1918-19	32	4	.2	.16	125.0	12.5
1919-20	—	—	—	.14	—	—
1920-21	368	2	.1	1.74	5.4	0.5
1921	598	6	.3	2.79	10.0	1.0
1922	981	7	.3	4.57	7.1	0.7
1923	604	3	.1	2.80	5.0	0.5
1924	376	3	.1	1.75	8.0	0.8
1925	288	3	.1	1.35	9.6	0.8

Diphtheria.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate per 10,000 population.	Cases per 1000 per- sons living	Deaths per 1000 cases notified	Death % of cases.
1907-8	151	8	.4	—	—	5.3
1908-9	205	11	.6	—	—	5.4
1909-10	252	11	.6	—	—	4.4
1910-11	404	16	.8	—	—	4.0
1911-12	941	17	.90	4.96	18.1	1.8
1912-13	1156	35	1.82	6.01	30.3	3.0
1913-14	937	38	1.95	4.80	40.6	4.1
1914-15	931	25	1.28	4.75	26.9	2.7
1915-16	988	36	1.85	5.06	36.4	3.6
1916-17	850	30	1.55	4.39	35.3	3.5
1917-18	759	32	1.63	3.88	42.2	4.2
1918-19	737	17	.85	3.67	23.1	2.3
1919-20	772	25	1.20	3.71	32.4	3.2
1920-21	1734	45	2.13	8.21	26.0	2.6
1921	2055	61	2.9	9.60	30.2	3.0
1922	1616	58	2.7	7.52	35.9	3.6
1923	870	32	1.5	4.04	36.8	3.7
1924	597	20	.9	2.78	33.5	3.4
1925	473	13	.6	2.21	27.5	2.7