

## **Annual report / Department of Public Health, Tasmania.**

### **Contributors**

Tasmania. Department of Public Health.

### **Publication/Creation**

Hobart : Govt. Printer, [1929]

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(No. 8.)

1930

TASMANIA

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1929

BY

E. J. TUDOR

SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

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

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TASMANIA:

JOHN VAIL, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, HOBART.

1930



*Presented by*

*The Secretary for Public Health*

*September 1930*



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SALUS POPULI SUPREMA LEX.

## ANNUAL REPORT, 1929.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public Health Department for the year 1929.

I am able to record many developments in our public health service during the period under review. The long deferred Public Health Bill, with its many important provisions, became law. Special regulations for controlling the practice of midwifery nurses were brought into operation. New model by-laws under the Public Health Act have been framed, and local health authorities will be asked to adopt the same. Offensive trades regulations have been drafted, and will be brought into force at an early date. Preliminary arrangements have been made towards the establishment of a chemical laboratory under the Department. A visit from Dame Janet Campbell, Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare, British Ministry of Health, has stimulated interest in maternity and child welfare work. Additional bush nursing centres have been established. It has been possible to devote more time and attention to the administration of the Food and Drugs law, with beneficial results to the public food supplies. Preliminary arrangements, providing for the adequate inspection and supervision of the meat and milk supplies, are under consideration. The education of the people on various matters appertaining to the public health has received attention, through the medium of the press and by means of broadcasting. Increased facilities have been provided at the Hobart Public Hospital for the treatment of persons suffering from venereal diseases. The control and prevention of tuberculosis is receiving attention. A detailed reference to many of these matters is made under appropriate headings in this report.

The Federal Health Council of Australia held its third session at Canberra from the 27th February to the 1st March, 1929. The Assistant Health Officer (Dr. J. F. Gaha) was in attendance as the official representative of this State. The principal matters brought forward for discussion at this meeting were those relating to the control of tuberculosis and venereal diseases in Australia. Most valuable and comprehensive reports on these subjects were prepared by the Director of Tuberculosis and Venereal Diseases, Commonwealth Department of Health, for the information and guidance of the Council in formulating their resolutions for dealing with the problems involved.

The meeting of the Federal Health Council was preceded by a conference of its members with the principal medical officers of the State Departments of Education on health problems of the school child. Dr. Ethel M. Hawkins, of the Education Department, was in attendance at this conference.

The arrangements under which the Public Health Department carried out the administration of the Commonwealth Quarantine Act, and acted as agents for the storage and distribution of the products of the Commonwealth Health Laboratories, were terminated by the Commonwealth Government at the end of June, consequent upon the establishment of a Federal Health Laboratory at Launceston and the appointment of the medical officer-in-charge as Chief Quarantine Officer (General) for the State.

By courtesy of the Director-General of Health of the Commonwealth, arrangements were made for the Director of the Commonwealth Division of Public Health Engineering to visit this State during the month of April last for the purpose of reporting upon various public health problems, including (1) the sewage pollution of the River Tamar at Launceston, (2) the water-supply of Deloraine, and (3) the Westbury water-supply. The Public Health Department and the various local health authorities concerned much appreciate the advice and assistance always readily forthcoming from the Commonwealth Department in these and other matters upon which expert advice is both desirable and necessary.

The Public Health Bill, which had been submitted to the legislature on two or three occasions during recent years, has eventually become law. The provisions of this Act should be the means of raising the general standard of the public health without imposing any hardship or burden on the people. As in the principal enactment, so in the amending law, the principle of local government has been generally recognised; the theory being that all that can should be done by the local authorities without interference by the Public Health Department, in whom is vested the responsible sanitary administration of the Act for the whole State. It is only in cases of default in local administration that effective remedies may and can be applied by the central administration. Section 2 of the new Act provides an amended definition for "infectious disease" in accordance with the recommendations of the Federal Health Council. The same section also authorises a local authority to effect the immunisation of persons against any



infectious or other disease. In the past, local authority had no power to incur expenditure for this purpose, although medical science has provided the means for securing to the individual a considerable measure of protection against certain diseases. Clauses dealing with the keeping and feeding of swine also have an important bearing upon the public health. Hitherto the feeding of swine was controlled by the Food and Drugs law. The Act also repeals Section 88 of the principal measure, dealing with nuisances, and provides a more definite and comprehensive section in lieu thereof. Another clause authorises the Governor to make regulations controlling noxious trades with the object of minimising the offensiveness generally associated with same. Regulations have already been framed, and will be brought into operation at an early date. The Act also provides for the supervision and control of the bacteriolytic tank system of sewage disposal, which is becoming popular in unsewered areas. This is a most important provision, for, unless the design of tank be correct in principle and efficient supervision be exercised over its installation, serious nuisances prejudicial to the public health may arise. Another clause under the Act provides for the framing of more comprehensive model by-laws for adoption by local authorities. Some twenty-five years have elapsed since the by-laws at present in existence were framed, and it has been deemed advisable and necessary to issue a new edition, which will be more in conformity with modern practice. The clause in question also facilitates the adoption of such by-laws by a local authority.

#### LOCAL ADMINISTRATION.

Local authorities, with perhaps a few exceptions, have taken a keen interest in the administration of the Public Health Act and kindred laws throughout the year, so much so that I maintain the standard of sanitation throughout the major portion of the State was never higher than it is at the present time.

The Leven Council is to be commended for its action in appointing a full-time qualified inspector in lieu of a part-time official. The district controlled by this Council is a large and important one, and the new arrangement should provide for the more effectual administration of the public health laws by the local authority.

The floods, which created such devastation in Launceston and other northern districts during the month of April, threw a tremendous amount of work upon the local authorities concerned, in order to safeguard the public health. I am able to record that the various problems which presented themselves in this regard were dealt with in an expeditious and satisfactory manner by those directly concerned, with the co-operation and support of officers of this Department and other municipal districts.

For some considerable time past, endeavour has been made to induce certain local authorities to provide adequate and satisfactory sanitary accommodation at beaches frequented by the public during the summer months. Unfortunately, the efforts made in this regard have not been productive of good results. As a consequence, complaints have been received from time to time as to nuisances arising through the absence of such conveniences. Now that the Department has been empowered by statute to enforce the provision of such accommodation, it is intended to proceed in the matter forthwith.

Whilst on this subject, I would like to take the opportunity this report affords of commending the Tasman local authority for the excellent conveniences it has provided at Port Arthur, an example that might well be followed by other councils.

I note, with pleasure, that the Devonport Municipal Council is directing attention to the matter of instituting a sewerage scheme for the town of Devonport, one of the largest centres in the State, and a favourite tourist resort. I feel assured the local authority and ratepayers will be amply repaid for any expenditure they may incur in bringing about this system of disposal of sewage, with its many advantages and safeguards so far as the public health is concerned.

The water-supply of Deloraine still remains in an unsatisfactory state, despite persistent representations to the Council on the subject. The Director of the Division of Public Health Engineering of the Commonwealth Department of Health reported on the matter in April; this officer's conclusions and recommendations being submitted to the council for early consideration and attention on the 26th of the same month. So far no action has been taken to give effect to these recommendations, although advice has been received from the Council that an engineer reported on the proposed site for the new intake, and further that the matter had been submitted to the ratepayers, and the poll resulted in fifty voting in favour of the Council's borrowing the sum of £2500 to complete the scheme and forty-nine against. As a two-thirds majority was not obtained, the Council cannot proceed with the scheme for a period of twelve months.

At the request of various local authorities and other public bodies, an exhaustive investigation was made of the South Esk river and contributory streams, forming the water-supply for many districts, consequent upon repeated examinations of the waters revealing that the same were dangerously near the limit of pollution for usability. The result of this inquiry revealed the existence of many conditions responsible for pollution. The attention of those concerned was directed to these conditions, and a request made that active measures be taken to deal with the sources of contamination.

#### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The infectious diseases notifiable under the Public Health Act, 1903, as amended by the Public Health Act, 1929, are as follows:—Typhoid fever (including paratyphoid fever), scarlet fever, diphtheria, epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis, acute anterior poliomyelitis, plague, leprosy, small-pox, tuberculosis in all forms, Asiatic cholera, yellow fever, typhus fever in all forms, lethargic encephalitis, bilharziasis, malaria, puerperal fever, relapsing fever, ankylostomiasis, amoebic dysentery, bacillary dysentery, filariasis, and anthrax. Although many of these diseases are foreign to this State, they were made notifiable in accordance with a resolution of the Federal Health Council in order that uniformity might obtain throughout the Commonwealth.

Tables are appended, showing:—

A—Cases of all diseases notified during the year 1929.

B—Age and sex incidence of notified cases of diphtheria, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, and tuberculosis (lung and throat), for each month of the year 1929.



C—Comparative figures in respect of cases reported in each municipal district during the years 1928 and 1929.

D—Comparative figures of all diseases notified during the past five years.

It will be observed from Table C that there was a marked decrease in notifications in 1929 compared with 1928; the fewer cases being due principally to a decline in diphtheria.

*Scarlet Fever.*—This disease was more prevalent than during 1928; 314 cases and 2 deaths being notified, compared with 190 cases and one death in the first-mentioned year. Of the total cases reported, 128 were from the district of Hobart.

*Diphtheria.*—There were 488 cases and 18 deaths notified, whilst in the previous year the notifications recorded were 908 and the deaths 18. An outbreak of this disease occurred at the Hobart Public Hospital during the month of August. As the result of investigations made by officers of the Department, the hospital authorities were requested to comply with various requirements in order to control the spread of the disease. The absence of an isolation block at the institution made it difficult for patients to be effectually isolated. At the time, the accommodation at Vacluse was taxed to the utmost, which necessitated some of the cases which arose at the Hobart Public Hospital remaining there for treatment.

*Typhoid Fever.*—Only 49 cases were notified. There were 13 deaths.

*Tuberculosis (Lung and Throat).*—There were 176 cases notified. The deaths from all forms of tuberculosis totalled 126.

By arrangement with the Government of Victoria, the services of Dr. Bell Ferguson, the State

Director of Tuberculosis, have been made available to report upon the control and prevention of tuberculosis in this State. Prior to taking up his present position, Dr. Bell Ferguson was for many years engaged in similar work in Great Britain. He should be well qualified, therefore, to advise the Government as to the measures which should be adopted to deal with the problem in this State.

*Puerperal Fever.*—There were 25 cases of this disease notified, including 12 from the district of Launceston. The midwifery nurses in attendance upon the patients were suspended from further practice for a period of fourteen days, in accordance with the requirements of the Nurses' Registration Board. Other necessary measures were also taken towards preventing the spread of the infection.

*Infantile Paralysis.*—Several cases of this disease were notified from districts in the southern portion of the State during the month of December. In view of this outbreak an advisory committee, consisting of Doctors Shugg and Sweetnam (representatives of the Tasmanian Branch of the British Medical Association) and officers of this Department, was constituted for the purpose of investigating and advising as to the treatment of cases which came under notice. The attention of medical practitioners was directed, by circular, to the incidence of the disease, and their co-operation with the Department was sought in order to safeguard the public health and to provide for treatment and control. Arrangements were made for the Department to be supplied with serum for the treatment of cases in the pre-paralytic stage.

*Cerebro-spinal Meningitis, Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Malaria, and Lethargic Encephalitis.*—The notifications received in respect of these diseases were 4, 2, 3, and 2 respectively.



TABLE A.

*RETURN showing Number of Cases of Infectious Diseases Reported to Department of Public Health during the Year, 1929.*

Municipality.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Pthiasis.	Puerperal Fever.	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.	Infantile Paralysis.	Ophthalmia Neonatorum.	Malaria.	Lethargic Encephalitis.	Total.
1 Beaconsfield .....	1	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
2 Bothwell .....	3	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
3 Brighton .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
4 Bruny .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2
5 Campbell Town .....	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
6 Circular Head .....	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
7 Clarence .....	9	...	8	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
8 Deloraine .....	12	1	12	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	34
9 Devonport .....	11	...	12	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
10 Emu Bay .....	8	1	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
11 Esperance .....	17	...	5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
12 Evandale .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13 Fingal .....	9	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	11
14 Flinders .....	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
15 George Town .....	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
16 Glamorgan .....	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
17 Glenorchy .....	45	2	30	11	3	1	...	...	...	...	92
18 Gormanston .....	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
19 Green Ponds .....	10	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
20 Hamilton .....	9	5	5	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	21
21 Hobart .....	189	5	128	60	...	1	5	1	3	...	392
22 Huon .....	12	2	13	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
23 Kentish .....	4	2	5	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	14
24 Kingborough .....	12	...	9	4	...	...	2	...	...	...	27
25 King Island .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
26 Latrobe .....	11	1	7	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	22
27 Launceston .....	30	11	36	33	12	...	3	1	...	1	127
28 Leven .....	21	12	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
29 Lilydale .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
30 Longford .....	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
31 New Norfolk .....	13	2	8	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	28
32 Outlands .....	5	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	9
33 Penguin .....	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
34 Port Cygnet .....	10	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
35 Portland .....	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
36 Queenstown .....	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5
37 Richmond .....	5	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
38 Ringarooma .....	4	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
39 Ross .....	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
40 Scottsdale .....	...	1	3	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	8
41 Sorell .....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
42 Spring Bay .....	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
43 St. Leonards .....	9	2	4	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
44 Strahan .....	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
45 Table Cape .....	5	...	1	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
46 Tasman .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
47 Waratah .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
48 Westbury .....	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	3
49 Zeehan .....	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2
50 Overseas .....	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
TOTAL CASES.....	488	49	314	176	25	4	12	2	3	2	1075



TABLE B.

TABLE showing Age and Sex Incidence of Notified Cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, and Phthisis (Lung and Throat), for each Month of the Year 1929.

Month, 1929.	Age Period.	Diphtheria.			Typhoid Fever.			Scarlet Fever.			Phthisis.		
		M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
January	All ages	27	35	62	3	2	5	5	3	8	7	7	14
	Under 1 year												
	1-4	10	6	16				5	2	7			
	5-14	10	8	18	1		1		1	1			
	15-24	6	15	21	1	1	2				2	4	6
	25-34	1	3	4							2	2	4
	35-44		1	1		1	1				2	1	3
	45-54				1		1				1		1
	55-64		1	1									
	65 and over		1	1									
	Age not stated												
February	All ages	13	18	31	3	2	5	5	7	12	9	11	20
	Under 1 year							1		1			
	1-4	3	1	4				1	1	2			
	5-14	8	6	14				1	3	4		2	2
	15-24	1	5	6				2	1	3	2	4	6
	25-34	1	2	3	1		1		1	1	4	2	6
	35-44		3	3	1	1	2				2		2
	45-54					1	1						
	55-64		1	1	1		1				1	1	2
	65 and over												
	Age not stated							1	1		2		2
March	All ages	19	29	48	6	1	7	11	9	20	6	9	15
	Under 1 year												
	1-4	1	7	8				1	1	2			
	5-14	14	12	26	1		1	8	5	13	1		1
	15-24	2	7	9	3		3	1	2	3		5	5
	25-34	1	2	3	1		1		1	1			
	35-44				1		1				1		1
	45-54					1	1				2	2	4
	55-64										1	2	3
	65 and over												
	Age not stated		1	1				1		1	1		1
April	All ages	21	27	48	10	5	15	8	31	39	7	6	13
	Under 1 year												
	1-4	5	5	10					2	2			
	5-14	10	11	21	1		1	6	19	25			
	15-24	4	7	11	1	3	4	1	7	8	2	2	4
	25-34		2	2	4		4	1	3	4	3	3	6
	35-44				1	1	2						
	45-54	2	2	4	2		2				1	1	2
	55-64					1	1				1		1
	65 and over												
	Age not stated				1		1						
May	All ages	12	17	29	3	3	6	16	9	25	7	2	9
	Under 1 year												
	1-4	3	2	5				5	1	6			
	5-14	3	8	11		2	2	8	7	15			
	15-24	3	4	7							1		1
	25-34	1	1	2	1		1	2	1	3	4		4
	35-44							1		1	2	1	3
	45-54	2	1	3	2	1	3				1		1
	55-64												
	65 and over												
	Age not stated		1	1									
June	All ages	13	19	32	4	2	6	9	23	32	6	5	11
	Under 1 year												
	1-4	3	1	4				3	2	5			
	5-14	6	13	19				5	14	19			
	15-24	2	3	5	3	2	5	1	4	5	2	1	3
	25-34	1	2	3					1	1	1	1	2
	35-44								1	1	1	3	4
	45-54	1		1	1		1				2		2
	55-64												
	65 and over												
	Age not stated							1	1				







TABLE C.

*Comparative Table of Infectious Diseases showing Increase and Decrease.*

Municipality.	1928.	1929	Increase.	Decrease.
1. Beaconsfield .....	5	4	...	1
2. Bothwell .....	2	5	3	...
3. Brighton .....	4	1	...	3
4. Bruny .....	3	2	...	1
5. Campbell Town .....	2	4	2	...
6. Circular Head .....	23	4	...	19
7. Clarence .....	17	22	5	...
8. Deloraine .....	45	34	...	11
9. Devonport .....	36	24	...	12
10. Emu Bay .....	13	15	2	...
11. Esperance .....	17	23	6	...
12. Evandale .....	7	...	...	7
13. Fingul .....	20	11	...	9
14. Flinders .....	1	4	3	...
15. George Town .....	3	3	...	...
16. Glamorgan .....	...	6	6	...
17. Glenorchy .....	87	92	5	...
18. Gormanston .....	4	5	1	...
19. Green Ponds .....	4	12	8	...
20. Hamilton .....	8	21	13	...
21. Hobart .....	524	392	...	132
22. Huon .....	43	29	...	14
23. Kentish .....	19	26	7	...
24. Kingborough .....	10	15	5	...
25. King Island .....	...	...	...	...
26. Latrobe .....	9	22	13	...
27. Launceston .....	202	127	...	75
28. Leven .....	28	36	8	...
29. Lilydale .....	13	2	...	11
30. Longford .....	16	4	...	12
31. New Norfolk .....	30	28	...	2
32. Oatlands .....	1	9	8	...
33. Penguin .....	13	6	...	7
34. Port Cygnet .....	30	11	...	19
35. Portland .....	4	2	...	2
36. Queenstown .....	20	5	...	15
37. Richmond .....	2	6	4	...
38. Ringarooma .....	15	5	...	10
39. Ross .....	2	1	...	1
40. Scottsdale .....	33	8	...	25
41. Sorell .....	8	1	...	7
42. Spring Bay .....	1	2	1	...
43. St. Leonards .....	18	19	1	...
44. Strahan .....	...	2	2	...
45. Table Cape .....	12	12	...	...
46. Tasman .....	...	2	2	...
47. Waratah .....	3	2	...	1
48. Westbury .....	16	3	...	13
49. Zeelan .....	16	2	...	14
50. Overseas .....	7	4	...	3
TOTAL .....	1396	1075	105	426

Gross Decrease.....	426
Gross Increase .....	105
Net Decrease.....	321

TABLE D.

*Comparative Figures of all Diseases notified during the Years 1925-1929.*

Disease.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Diphtheria .....	473	347	507	908	488
Typhoid Fever .....	50	80	77	53	49
Scarlet Fever .....	288	188	91	190	314
Phthisis .....	183	178	171	208	176
Puerperal Fever .....	16	11	21	21	25
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ..	4	8	3	7	4
Infantile Paralysis .....	2	3	...	5	12
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	5	4	3	2	2
Malaria .....	...	...	...	...	3
Lethargic Encephalitis .....	1	1	2	2	2
Hematuria .....	...	1	...	...	...



## VENEREAL DISEASES.

Statistics are appended giving data under this heading for the period under review.

The notifications closely correspond to those in respect of the previous year, and indicate that, whilst venereal diseases are not on the increase, there is no marked decrease in the incidence. The Assistant Health Officer, in commenting upon the matter, states:—"As expressed in last year's report, the same factors operate, viz., the difficulty in inducing females to come up for treatment and insufficient means of determining cure, once the disease has apparently cleared up. Indeed, diagnosis in the female is often difficult.

Another factor that our investigations have led us to believe might be a cause for dissemination is the absence of pain early in disease. Formerly, much pain was experienced, whilst the disease ran a more acute course. Nowadays, it would seem that the disease is less acute. The effect of this is that it is not detected sufficiently early, and often only after others have been already infected. The newly erected venereal disease clinic at the Hobart Public Hospital, with its up-to-date equipment, will greatly increase the opportunities for early diagnosis, and should be a big addition to adequate treatment, and subsequent reduction, of the disease."

TABLE E.  
RETURN showing Source of Notifications of Venereal Diseases for each Month of the Year 1929.

	Jan.		Feb.		March.		April.		May.		June.		July.		Aug.		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 .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	84
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	257
Gleet—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Primary—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Syphilis, Secondary—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Congenital—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis, Congenital—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Soft Chancre—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhoea & Syphilis—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Syphilis and Chancre—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Gonorrhoea & Ophthalmia—																											
Hospital Clinics .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Private Doctors .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Total.....	8	1	27	9	17	3	38	1	34	7	17	5	22	9	48	11	41	3	14	6	13	2	38	12	317	69	386



TABLE F.

RETURNS showing Sex and Age Distribution of Cases of Venereal Diseases reported to the Public Health Department for the Year 1929.—Metropolitan and Extra-Metropolitan.

[illegible]



TABLE G.

RETURN showing Marital Status of Cases of Venereal Diseases reported to the Public Health Department for the Year 1929.

	Male.		Female.		Total.
	Married.	Single.	Married.	Single.	
Gonorrhoea .....	73	211	23	34	341
Gleet .....	1	5	...	...	6
Syphilis .....	9	15	7	3	34
Chancre .....	...	1	...	...	1
Gonorrhoea & Ophthalmia .....	1	1	...	2	4
Total .....	84	233	30	39	386

## THE HOSPITALS ACT.

*Public Hospitals.*—Grants aggregating £60,783 were provided under the Appropriation Act, 1929-30, towards the cost of administration and maintenance of public hospitals. This sum included special grants to the amount of £2138 5s. 6d. for the carrying out of repairs, painting, &c., at various institutions.

Hospital boards in general, and in particular those controlling the Hobart and Launceston Public Hospitals, are finding it increasingly difficult to meet their financial obligations without seeking additional assistance from the Government. The payment of increased salaries and wages to various employees was the chief reason responsible for this position arising. At the Hobart Public Hospital an additional financial burden was imposed owing to the necessity for employing additional warders and female assis-

stants in order to give effect to a working week of 48 hours in six days, as agreed upon between the Hospital Board and the Hobart Branch of the Hospital, Dispensary, and Asylum Employees' Union of Australia.

Additional accommodation has been provided at the Vacluse Infectious Diseases Hospital: the expense involved being met by the Government. The lack of accommodation at this hospital, prior to the erection of the additional buildings, was emphasised during the course of an epidemic of diphtheria during the year, when a number of cases could not be admitted to the institution. Although this hospital is controlled by the Corporation of Hobart, it serves all the municipal districts in the southern portion of the State.

The Scottsdale public hospital district was abolished by order-in-council on the 5th June, and the Scottsdale and Ringarooma hospitals district constituted in lieu thereof. The inclusion of the Ringarooma Municipality in this hospitals district has created a wider interest in the North-Eastern Soldiers' Memorial Hospital at Scottsdale.

The report submitted by Mr. R. J. Love on the Hospitals Act, 1918, and the hospital system in force thereunder came to hand in July last. I purposely refrain from commenting upon this report, as the recommendations contained therein are under consideration in connection with proposals for improving the hospital services of the State.

*Private Hospitals.*—At the close of the year, 69 private hospital licences were in operation. These hospitals are inspected from time to time by officers of the Department with the object of ascertaining if they are being conducted in compliance with the requirements of the law.

Details of applications received, and other items of interest under this heading, are subjoined.

TABLE H.

NUMBER of Licences Issued and Number Existing at 31st December, 1929.

	Number of Applications.	Licences Issued.	Number Existing at 31st Dec., 1929.	No. of Prosecutions.
Hobart .....	13	13	13	...
Launceston .....	10	10	10	...
Country .....	46	46	46	...
Total .....	69	69	69	...

TABLE I.  
CLASSIFICATION.

	Medical, Surgical, and Lying-in Hospitals.	Medical and Surgical Only.	Lying-in Only.	Total.
Hobart .....	1	3	9	13
Launceston .....	2	1	7	10
Country .....	7	2	37	46
Total .....	10	6	53	69

TABLE J.

CLASSIFICATION according to Number of Beds.

	1.	2.	3.	4-5.	6-10.	11-20.	Over 20.	Total
Hobart .....	...	...	1	4	3	2	3	13
Launceston .....	...	...	...	6	2	1	1	10
Country .....	10	6	7	12	10	1	...	46
Total .....	10	6	8	22	15	4	4	69



TABLE K.  
CLASSIFICATION of Resident Managers.

	Medical Practitioners.	Qualified Nurses.	Unqualified Persons.	Total.
Hobart .....	...	13	...	13
Launceston .....	...	10	...	10
Country .....	12	34	...	46
Total .....	12	57	...	69

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The reports submitted by the child welfare nurses, dealing with their work during the year, are again very satisfactory. The officers concerned are to be commended for their services, likewise the voluntary workers for their active co-operation and support.

Provision was made in the Appropriation Act for the current year, to enable the Baby Health Association, Launceston, to engage another child welfare nurse for the district of Launceston, where it is proposed to establish an additional clinic. A grant of £30 was also made to the Ulverstone Branch of the Red Cross committee towards the expenditure involved in establishing a baby clinic at Ulverstone. It is just as essential to have these clinics located in country districts as in the cities, and it is the policy of the Department to offer every encouragement to this end.

The Commonwealth Government, under an arrangement with the British Government, secured the services of Dame Janet Campbell, Senior Medical Officer for Maternity and Child Welfare, Ministry of Health England, for the purpose of reporting upon maternal and child welfare in Australia. Dame Campbell visited this State in October, and was afforded every

facility in connection with her investigations here; meeting those responsible for the work, both in the cities and country districts. Dame Campbell's visit has been the means of stimulating interest in this important question. Her report will be awaited with much interest.

During the course of the year, a memorandum on the conduct and scope of ante-natal clinics, prepared by the Maternal Mortality Committee in England, which appeared in the annual report of the Chief Medical Officer of the British Ministry of Health, was circulated for the information and guidance of those concerned in this State.

The infantile mortality rate for the year was 53.1, which is a substantial improvement on the rate, viz. 63.9, for the previous year. Of the 255 deaths recorded, 154 were under one month, 44 between first and third months, 25 from three to six months, and 32 between six months and one year. The principal causes of death were as follows:—Prematurity, 62; malformations, 31; congenital debility, 30; pneumonia, 27; diarrhoea and enteritis, 21; broncho-pneumonia, 12; whooping cough, 11.

Tables (Nos. L to O), containing various statistical data of interest under this heading, are set out hereunder:—

TABLE L.  
INFANTILE Mortality.

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

	Year.																			
	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Deaths.....	569	403	393	417	431	422	423	281	321	343	374	451	324	326	296	287	232	256	300	255

Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths per 1000 Births).

Year.	Tasmania.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queensland.	South Australia.	West Australia.	New Zealand.	North. Territory.	Federal Cap. Ter.	Co'monwealth.
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.....	64.0	71.8	67.9	71.9	64.0	61.1	45.3	...	...	...
1920.....	65.2	69.8	73.8	63.2	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
1926.....	46.5	57.6	55.7	50.7	44.3	49.3	39.8	...	...	54.0
1927.....	53.0	54.9	56.1	54.5	53.4	45.9	38.7	...	...	54.5
1928.....	63.9	54.9	55.6	45.5	47.5	48.1	36.2	60.24	116.67	53.0
1929.....	53.1	56.6	47.2	46.1	40.9	56.2	34.1	18.87	19.61	51.1



TABLE M.

## TASMANIA.

TABLE showing the Principal Causes of Deaths of Children under 1 Year of Age in Tasmania in each Year from 1905 to 1929.

Causes of Deaths.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.	1910.	1911.	1912.	1913.	1914.	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
7. Measles .....	...	1	...	...	2	...	1	1	2	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	3	...
8. Scarlet Fever, &c. ....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Whooping Cough .....	...	...	37	14	...	35	8	...	...	...	...	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10. Diphtheria and Croup .....	3	...	1	1	2	2	...	2	4	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Epidemic Disease .....	1	7	2	2	1	1	13	4	3	2	4	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
29. Tetanus .....	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
32. Tubercular Meningitis .....	3	4	5	4	1	6	2	3	1	1	6	7	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
33. Syphilis .....	3	4	4	5	...	3	2	...	7	3	8	2	3	15	18	14	16	11	4	6	6	3	1	...	...
80. Convulsions .....	54	36	30	30	25	22	19	25	20	20	11	11	13	5	5	5	6	7	9	9	7	3	5	7	4
96. Bronchitis .....	21	15	24	11	11	8	13	13	15	18	15	6	5	15	18	9	4	6	4	10	5	3	1	5	1
100 (a). Broncho-pneumonia .....	10	17	16	11	8	15	20	16	17	12	17	18	10	8	13	22	33	12	20	20	19	15	11	15	12
101. Pneumonia .....	17	17	20	10	21	18	23	11	18	9	17	22	8	25	9	22	27	20	23	24	24	13	14	24	27
110. Gastro-Enteritis .....	28	67	42	55	29	108	45	38	46	119	40	81	29	33	24	73	113	37	35	16	29	30	31	37	21
113. Diarrhoea and Enteritis .....	27	52	14	60	20	60	13	21	...	...	21	30	19	15	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
112. Other Diseases of Stomach .....	4	9	2	2	1	7	5	3	4	4	7	1	7	4	7	5	4	4	4	9	1	...	...	...	...
139. Congenital Defects .....	11	7	11	14	12	27	19	16	25	14	17	17	17	19	10	19	29	36	29	28	20	19	17	17	31
161. Premature Birth, and Injury at Birth .....	72	63	80	76	103	95	80	93	153	89	124	93	63	80	105	138	126	132	132	97	89	91	101	101	72
163. Delirium, Marasmus .....	75	87	67	74	64	86	64	65	...	...	54	55	48	55	68	...	...	...	...	47	37	29	26	34	30
162. Diseases Early Infancy .....	24	13	10	8	1	9	6	15	13	26	20	19	16	14	21	29	24	25	17	17	8	13	22	14	17
Other Causes .....	70	84	73	48	54	64	70	64	70	43	43	37	29	26	36	31	41	26	29	22	29	20	16	20	25
Total .....	424	487	438	426	361	569	403	393	417	431	422	423	281	321	343	374	451	324	326	296	287	282	256	300	255
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1000 Births) .....	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	46.5	53.0	63.9	53.2
Total Births .....	5257	5333	5291	5615	5500	5586	5437	5853	5886	6017	5845	5642	5376	5280	5310	5740	5755	5817	5657	5383	5218	4988	4838	4691	4797



TABLE N.

(Showing Ages and Causes of Death under 1 year—1929.)

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.
Whooping Cough .....	1	4	4	2	11
Tubercular Meningitis .....	...	...	...	1	1
Syphilis .....	...	1	...	1	2
Disease of Thymus Gland...	1	...	...	...	1
Other General Diseases .....	4	1	1	2	8
Encephalitis .....	1	...	...	...	1
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis...	...	...	1	1	2
Convulsions .....	1	...	...	...	1
Endocarditis .....	1	...	...	...	1
Other Diseases of Circulatory System .....	2	...	...	...	2
Bronchitis .....	1	...	...	...	1
Broncho-Pneumonia .....	2	4	3	3	12
Pneumonia .....	4	11	5	7	27
Pleurisy .....	...	...	...	1	1
Diseases of Stomach .....	...	...	1	1	2
Diarrhoea and Enteritis .....	2	7	5	7	21
Intestinal Obstruction .....	1	1	1	...	3
Nephritis .....	1	...	...	...	1
Other Diseases of Kidneys .....	...	...	1	...	1
Diseases of Skin, &c. ....	1	...	...	...	1
Malformations .....	21	5	2	3	31
Congenital Debility, &c. ....	23	6	...	1	30
Premature Birth .....	58	4	...	...	62
Injury at Birth .....	10	...	...	...	10
Other Diseases of Early Infancy .....	17	...	...	...	17
Accidental Mechanical Suffocation .....	1	...	...	...	1
Other External Violence ..	1	...	1	2	4
Total .....	154	44	25	32	255

TABLE O.

Comparative Figures of Principal Causes of Deaths under One Year during 1925-29.

Causes of Death.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.
Whooping Cough .....	23	1	...	19	11
Convulsions .....	7	5	7	4	1
Bronchitis .....	3	1	5	5	1
Broncho-pneumonia .....	15	5	11	15	12
Pneumonia .....	20	13	14	24	27
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	29	30	31	37	21
Congenital Debility .....	37	29	26	34	30
Syphilis .....	3	1	...	3	2
Malformations .....	20	19	17	17	31
Prematurity .....	81	78	88	89	62
Other Diseases of Early Infancy .....	8	13	22	14	17

## PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT ACT.

Regular and systematic inspections of buildings coming within the purview of this law have been made by officers of the Department with the object of enforcing the provisions of the Act, which, in the main, provide for the safety, health, or convenience of the public, performers, and employees. As the result of these inspections, it has been found necessary, from time to time, to serve orders for the enforcement of various requirements, particularly at small halls in country districts.

The Act provides that no place of public entertainment shall be altered or extended without the approval of the Chief Health Officer. In view of the tendency to disregard this provision at some of the main theatres throughout the State, the proprietors were warned that a recurrence of the offence would lead to the institution of legal proceedings.

Prosecutions for overcrowding of theatres were more numerous than hitherto. Both the proprietors and the general public should realise that the safety of the audience is likely to be imperilled by overcrowding, especially if some untoward circumstance such as a fire outbreak should occur. The reports of recent distressing happenings in other countries should awaken in all concerned a serious endeavour to respect at all costs the provisions of the Act concerning overcrowding, and not leave the matters entirely to the vigilance of Government or other officials. It should not be overlooked that the overcrowding of places of public entertainment adds greatly to discomfort of the audience as a whole and increases the dangers of infection and other disabilities that arise from impure air. If due consideration were given to the safety of the public, as well as to one's own responsibility to safeguard public and personal health, recurrences of breaches of the Act relating to overcrowding would be unthinkable. In my opinion, flagrant recurring offences of this nature should be punishable other than by a fine, which in many cases is only a moiety of the additional revenue derived from such a practice on the part of the management. Whilst dealing with this subject, I would point out that it is an offence for any member of the public to obstruct any gangway or passage-way at a place of public entertainment. As a means of deterring this particular breach, serious consideration will have to be given to the institution of proceedings against persons contravening the law in this way.

With the object of making known to patrons the means of egress from theatres, the following new regulation under the Act has been enforced at the principal places of public entertainment throughout the State:—

"Every proprietor of a place of public entertainment shall, if ordered by the Chief Health Officer, cause to be depicted or projected upon the safety curtain or film-screen, for a period of fully five minutes of time immediately before the beginning of every performance, a diagram showing in bold outline the relative positions of the stage and the stalls floor, and circle and gallery, and, numbered in progressive serial order, the positions of the various exits leading from the building at each such floor level, with a prominent intimation that 'Red Lights Indicate Exits' over the words of advice 'Observe Now the Exit Nearest to Your Seat.'"

The picture Censor Board, which is constituted under the Act, held 43 meetings during the year, and dealt with 626 applications for the registration of films. Nine films were viewed by members of the Board at private screenings. Four of these films were registered after the excision of certain undesirable scenes, whilst in one instance registration was refused outright. It is appropriate to mention under this heading that the difficulties associated with the censoring of films have been considerably increased by the advent of talking pictures. Members of the Board now find it necessary to witness many more private screenings, in order that they may properly discharge their functions under the law.



In view of the fact that many short films are now screened, it was deemed equitable that the scale of fees for registration should be revised. Acting on the recommendation of the Board, the existing regulation was rescinded and the following prescribed in substitution therefor:—

"Each application for registration shall be accompanied by a fee of Five Shillings in respect of each film of 5000 feet in length and over, and in respect of a film of less than 5000 feet in length a fee of Two Shillings; but no fee shall be payable for the registration of any film which represents or describes—

- (a) World topics (commonly known as "gazettes").
- (b) Landscapes and other scenic pictures (pictograph).
- (c) Industrial subjects.
- (d) Pictures illustrating industrial and social conditions of people of countries abroad (travelogue).
- (e) Cartoons and any comic representations made with mechanical figures.
- (f) Vaudeville items.
- (g) Vocal and instrumental items.
- (h) Addresses and speeches."

The Board was reconstituted on the 12th November, in accordance with the requirements of the law, the existing members being reappointed for a further term of twelve months. The personnel of the Board is as follows:—

Secretary for Education (Mr. R. H. Crawford); Secretary, Police Department (Mr. E. P. Andrewartha); Secretary, Public Health Department (Mr. E. J. Tudor); Mrs. V. L. Rowland; Mrs. A. Brough; and Mr. R. H. Parkes (Secretary).

The fees received during the year for the registration of films totalled £135 13s.

Eighty-two licences (full 69, provisional 13) were issued to persons, authorising them to act as cinematograph operators. The fees received from this source amounted to £57 19s.

#### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

**Legislation.**—The Principal Act of 1910 was further amended during the year by the repeal of Section 13 and the substitution therefor of the following new section:—

"(1) No person shall—

- I. Sell any milk which is adulterated by the addition thereto of any substance as set forth in Paragraph 1. of Section 5 of this Act:

Penalty: Minimum, Ten Pounds; maximum, Fifty Pounds.

- II. Sell any milk which does not comply with the prescribed standard.

Penalty: Minimum, Two Pounds; maximum, Fifty Pounds.

(2) Upon the conviction of any person for a third or subsequent offence against Paragraph 1. of Sub-section (1) of this section, the magistrate may order that the licence under which such person is entitled to sell milk be cancelled.

(3) No person shall sell any article of food, or any drug, which is adulterated or falsely described, or which is packed or enclosed for sale in any manner contrary to the provisions of this Act."

The provisions of this enactment should be the means of protecting the milk supply, with beneficial results to the consumers. During the past years, milk has been one of the most commonly adulterated foods, and, in my opinion, would have continued to be so as long as the fines inflicted were such as to make adulteration a profitable undertaking.

**Food Sampling.**—The report of the Chief Inspector (Appendix I.) contains particulars of foods purchased for analytical examination and other data in regard thereto. It is appropriate to mention under this heading that particular attention was directed to butter in view of complaints received regarding the presence of excessive moisture. With the object of protecting the retailer, samples were taken, as far as practicable, at the place of manufacture or from the wholesale agent.

**Soda Water from Soda Fountains.**—Several samples of soda water from soda fountains were found to contain most unwholesome proportions of lead. A complete survey of the State, in so far as this matter was concerned, was subsequently carried out in conjunction with the local health authorities, and adequate measures taken to prevent cases of lead poisoning.

**Uniform Inspection of Milk and Meat.**—Arising out of a conference convened by the Hon. the Minister to discuss matters under this heading, proposals were formulated, and are under consideration at the present time.

**Uniform Standards.**—The Food Standards Committee gave further consideration to this matter, and decided not to adopt the amended code of regulations passed at the last conference, in view of the fact that it was impossible, at the present juncture, to bring about uniformity throughout the States of the Commonwealth.

**Premises Used for Preparation, Sale, and Storage of Food.**—During the course of sanitary surveys of municipal districts by members of the inspectorial staff, a large number of inspections have been made of premises used for, or in connection with, the preparation, sale, or storage of food. Orders were served, where necessary, for structural alterations and repairs to these premises.

**Mutton Bird Industry.**—An officer of the Department again visited Flinders Island for the purpose of exercising supervision over the mutton bird industry during the 1929 season. Continuous supervision has been productive of excellent results in the conditions under which the birds are prepared and packed for human consumption.

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

#### BUSH NURSING.

There was a further extension of the bush nursing scheme during the year, centres being established at Stanley, Port Cygnet, and Triabunna. The centre at Maria Island closed in November, owing to the Portland Cement Company's operations ceasing there.

The northern and southern divisions of the Tasmanian Bush Nursing Association have sanctioned the employment of a permanent relieving nurse, and, as soon as the terms of appointment have been decided upon, steps will be taken to fill the position. The principal function of this official will be to relieve bush nurses during annual leave.

The rules and regulations, and other data dealing with the bush nursing scheme, are in course of revision for printing in booklet form for the information and guidance of all concerned.



The report of the supervisory nurse (Appendix III.) contains a summarised statement of the work performed in the various centres in which bush nurses operated during the year.

#### RAT EXTERMINATION.

Routine measures for the destruction of rats were carried out during the year with satisfactory results (*vide* Appendix I.). In addition to his work on the wharves and other places, the town area in the city of Hobart has been systematically trapped by the rat-catcher. Householders can do much towards assisting the Department's activities in suppressing and controlling the rat population by individual effort so far as their own premises are concerned. In an endeavour to awaken public interest in this matter, arguments for the elimination of the rat and methods for its destruction were published in the press and broadcast by the Department.

#### CHEMICAL LABORATORY.

In March last I attended a conference convened by the Hon. the Minister for the purpose of discussing the proposal for centralising all laboratory work connected with the activities of the Government. It was determined by this conference that it was only possible to make provision for centralising the work involved by amalgamating the functions of the Government analyst and the agricultural chemist attached to the Department of Agriculture. As the responsible officers concerned were agreeable to the amalgamation, a scheme providing for the estab-

lishment of a central laboratory under the control of the Public Health Department was submitted to, and approved by, the Minister. The scheme, whilst less costly than the existing arrangements, will place this particular service on a more satisfactory footing and enable the Department to provide for the more effectual administration of the Food and Drugs Act. It is proposed to provide accommodation for the officers who will comprise the staff of the chemical laboratory in the building at present used by the Government Bacteriologist. Financial provision has been made for the additional floor space, equipment, &c., that will be required. The Government Bacteriologist and his assistant, although remaining under the control of the Public Health Department, will be accommodated at the Hobart Public Hospital. It is anticipated that the new scheme will operate some time during the ensuing year.

#### CONCLUSION.

I conclude this report with grateful thanks for the valuable services rendered by officers of the Department. I also desire to express gratitude for the advice and assistance received on many occasions from officers of the Crown Law, Police, and other Departments.

I have, &c.

E. J. TUDOR,  
Secretary for Public Health.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.



## APPENDICES.

## APPENDIX I.

Department of Public Health.  
Hobart, 6th May, 1930.

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, 1929:—

Visits have been made to the following districts:—Beaconsfield, Bothwell, Brighton, Campbell Town, Circular Head, Clarence, Deloraine, Devonport, Emu Bay, Esperance, Evandale, Fingal, Flinders, Glamorgan, Glenorchy, Gormanston, Hamilton, Hobart, Huon, Kentish, Kingborough, Latrobe, Launceston, Leven, Lilydale, Port Cygnet, Queenstown, Ringarooma, Richmond, Sorell, Scottsdale, Spring Bay, Strahan, Table Cape, Waratah, Westbury, and Zeehan.

## SANITARY SURVEYS.

Complete sanitary surveys were carried out in the majority of local authorities' districts, and, where practicable, follow-up inspections arranged to ascertain if the recommendations of the Department had been carried out. It is gratifying to report that, without exception, the local officers welcome the State health inspectors to their districts, and endeavour to have any necessary works carried out as expeditiously as possible. Many of these inspectors are only employed on a part-time basis, and, as they must, of necessity, devote considerable time to other municipal duties they have little time to spare for carrying out complete sanitary surveys.

Officers usually find numerous problems awaiting them, as it is the practice for many local inspectors to defer dealing with important matters concerning drainage, pollution of water-supplies, condemnation of dilapidated and insanitary dwellings, &c., until the State health inspector arrives.

In connection with these surveys, 143 public buildings were inspected in order to ascertain if the regulations regarding lighting, ventilation, exits, fire-escapes, fire-extinguishing appliances, &c., were in order, and if adequate measures were taken to ensure public safety.

Septic tanks to the number of 115 were inspected and reports furnished regarding the plans and specifications, which are submitted to the Department for approval before the work of installation is taken in hand. Ten drainage schemes were investigated, and reports furnished thereon. One hundred and eleven offensive trades premises were inspected, the majority being private slaughterhouses. The other trades included tanneries, manure manufacturing works, chemical works, premises used for the drying and storage of skins, and for blood and offal treating, &c.

Licensed premises inspections numbered 108, and nine special reports on water-supply schemes were furnished to local authorities. Two hundred and sixteen State schools were visited, and reports submitted to the Education Department regarding the sanitation and structural conditions prevailing. A special survey of all secondary schools in the City of Hobart was also carried out in order to ascertain if sufficient privy accommodation was available. Special attention was paid to the sanitary conditions of cattle saleyards in country districts, and considerable improvements effected, special orders being served in 13 instances.

## Sanitary Services.

Officers gave considerable time endeavouring to locate suitable sanitary disposal grounds in various districts, and during the year special reports were furnished regarding 27 particular sites. It is regrettable to have to report that, despite all the help and assistance rendered, several important towns are still dependent on the single-pan sanitary system. Attempts have been made to induce the local authorities concerned to inaugurate double-pan sanitary services, but so far only spasmodic efforts, with no progress, have followed. Except in one instance, no real difficulty exists in regard to the inauguration of such schemes. The sanitary service at Catamaran (owing to the reopening of the coal mine) was reorganised, with 70 services. Conditions were found generally satisfactory at the annual inspection. It is expected that this number will be increased as the mine develops.

The town of Ranelagh is to be served by a double-pan sanitary service, arrangements having been made to carry out the service in conjunction with that at Huonville, and the same sanitary depot to be utilised.

## Mutton-Bird Industry—Flinders Island.

The annual inspection of the buildings, &c., utilised in connection with the mutton-bird industry was carried out by Inspector Parker. There were fewer condemnations than usual, whilst it is noted that the structural condition of buildings is becoming more satisfactory each season.

## Hop-Pickers and Small-Fruit Orchards.

During the respective seasons, inspections were made of hop and fruit pickers' dwellings in order to ascertain if requirements concerning suitability of dwellings, water-supplies, disposal of nightsoil, garbage collection, and protection of food supplies were being observed. A marked improvement was noted in the majority of properties visited.

## Rat-Extermination Operations.

The official records show that the ratcatcher employed by the Department set traps to the number of 15,740 and that 3049 rats were accounted for. Poisoned baits to the number of 77,100 were laid on and under the wharves, piers, and other places on the river frontage at Hobart. The following summary indicates the variety of baits:—

Phosphorus and bread	38,400
Phosphorus and fish	38,700
Total	77,100

Rejected baits numbered 29,794, approximately 38 per cent.

Early in the year, an organised scheme for systematic trapping of rats was inaugurated, and operations were commenced in the central or business portion of the City of Hobart. The ratcatcher visits warehouses, factories, shops, and general business premises regularly, and sets at least three baited traps in each place. The number of rodents caught by this means has justified continuation of activities, and it is reasonable to assume that these measures of rat-extermination will benefit traders and others who manufacture or store foodstuffs on their properties.

## Places of Public Entertainment and Public Buildings.

Plans, with accompanying specifications, of the following places of public entertainment and public buildings were submitted for approval, under the provisions of Section 13 of the Places of Public Entertainment Act and Section 106 of the Public Health Act:—

- Municipality of Campbell Town.—Public Hall, Cleveland.
- Municipality of Deloraine.—Church of England Hall, Moltema.
- Municipality of Emu Bay.—Parish Hall and Burnie Theatre.
- Municipality of Fingal.—Public Hall, Cornwall.
- Municipality of Glenorchy.—Public Hall, 26 Main-road, Moonah.
- Municipality of Hamilton.—Public Halls, Ellendale and Ouse.
- I.O.O.F. Hall, Hobart.
- R.S.S.I.L.A. Hall, Hobart.
- Municipality of Kingborough.—Public Hall, Gordon.
- Municipality of Latrobe.—Oddfellows' Hall, Latrobe.
- Church, corner of Gunn and Bedford streets, Launceston.
- Public Hall, Bathurst-street, Launceston.
- Dancing Hall, York-street, Launceston.
- St. Aidan's Parish Hall, Launceston.
- Municipality of Longford.—Masonic Hall, Longford; Skating Rink, Cressy.
- Municipality of Port Cygnet.—Gospel Hall, Gardner's Bay.
- Municipality of St. Leonards.—Public Halls, Myrtle Park Ground and Nunamara.
- Municipality of Zeehan.—Proposed Church, Rosebery.



*Food and Drugs.*

The following samples of foods and drugs were submitted for analytical examination by officers of the Department:—

Milk	65
Butter	70
Cream of tartar	5
Bloater paste	3
Pepper	1
Whisky	10
Jam	1
Tinned cream	1
Honey	4
Ginger beer	1
Orange cup	1
Sausages	6
Coffee and chicory	8
Rum	8
Marmite	1
Self-raising flour	2
Sugar	1
Tomato sauce	6
Tomato and chutney sauce	1
Kraft cheese	3
Sardines	3
Salmon fish paste	1
Anchovette	1
Sandwich meat	1
Cheese	2
Arrowroot	1
Condensed milk	2
Cornflour	1
Cream honey	1
Beer	1
Cocoa	6
Savory paste	1
Ox-tail soup	1
Breakfast meal	1
Vinegar	4
Mushroom catchup	1
Olive oil	3
Burnbank cheese	1
Custard powder	2
Pepper	2
Mustard	1
Gin	1
Fruit saline	1
Lemon juice cordial	1
Baking powder	1
Salmonelle	1
Pineapple compound cordial	1
Curry powder	1
Malted wheat extract	1
Anchovy paste	1
Soda waters	78
Creamoata	1
Kadi	1
Cream	7
Total	331

Seventy-eight samples of soda-water were procured from hotels, soda fountains, and aerated-water fountains throughout the State, with a view of ascertaining the presence of lead or other deleterious matter in the fluid. This work was necessary, owing to a high percentage of lead being found in a sample of sodawater submitted to the Government Analyst. As a result of the analyst's report, certain firms were ordered to instal new piping and couplings, and also to refrain from serving liquid that had remained in the pipe beyond a certain specified time.

Sixteen samples of other foods were found to be adulterated. Eight prosecutions ensued, convictions being obtained in seven cases, and in one instance the case being dismissed. Fines and costs aggregating £26 3s. 6d. were inflicted. Eight firms received warnings for minor offences. It was also found necessary to issue warnings to three firms for non-compliance with the regulations regarding labelling.

Several consignments of foodstuffs were seized and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Owing to numerous complaints regarding excess moisture in butter, special attention was given to this dairy product; and altogether 70 samples were procured and submitted for analysis. The said samples were purchased and obtained from butter factories, wholesale stores, and retail shops throughout the State. Complaints were found to be justified in numerous cases, and

prosecutions or warnings followed. The attitude of the Department in regard to this product has resulted in an improved standard of butter being available for human consumption.

*Conclusion.*

In concluding this report, I desire to thank council clerks and local health inspectors for their assistance and co-operation. The inspectorial staff have carried out their numerous and important duties very conscientiously.

I have, &c.,

J. RILEY, Chief Inspector.

The Secretary for Public Health.

*APPENDIX II.*

Department of Public Health,  
Bacteriological Laboratory,  
Hobart, 6th February, 1930.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report of the work performed at the Department's laboratory during the year ending 31st December, 1929.

The total number of specimens forwarded from all parts of the State was 8687.

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 the Laboratory during the Twelve Months ended 31st December, 1929:—*

Disease Suspected.	Nature of Specimen.	Number.	Positive.
Diphtheria	Swabs	7,255	1,251
Tubercular	Sputa	1,021	443
	Urine	7	—
	Pleuritic fluid	1	—
Meningitis	Cerebro-spinal fluid	1	—
	Swabs	2	—
Typhoid	Widals	69	24
	Fæces	18	—
	Urine	17	—
Gonorrhœa	Smears	238	27
	Eye smears	2	—
	Urine	3	—
Vaccines		4	—
Miscellaneous		20	—
Pathology		29	—
Total		8,687	

*Miscellaneous.*

Nature of Specimen.	Number.
Swab from uterus	1
Urine for bacillus coli communis	3
Urine for examination	1
Urine for pus and organisms	2
Semen for sterility	1
Smear for tubercular bacillus	2
Tissue from vagina	1
Fæces for tubercular bacillus	1
Swab for examination	1
Swab for culture	1
Fæces for entamoeta or dysentery bacillus	1
Sputum for hydatids	2
Nasal smear for gonorrhœa	1
Nasal smear for syphilis	1
Smear vaginal for spermatozoa	1
Total	20



*Swabs from Schools for Diphtheria Bacillus.*

Name of School.	Number.	Positive.
St. Virgil's (Junior)	42	—
Goulburn Street	67	4
Moonah	52	1
Macquarie Street	118	1
Lansdowne Crescent	1	—
Campbell Street	81	1
Princes Street	1	—
Elizabeth Street	174	1
Bowen Road	357	7
Boys' Welfare School	14	—
Albuera Street	1	—
New Town	138	—
Total	1,046	15

*Vaccines.*

Urine for vaccine	1
Swab of pus for vaccine	1
Pus from boil for vaccine	1
Swab for vaccine	1
Total	4

*Materials Supplied.*

	Number.
Diphtheria swab	7,500
Blood tubes	75
Tubes for typhoid specimens	45
Micro-slides	150
Sputum pots	1000

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

## APPENDIX III.

Public Health Department,  
Hobart, 6th February, 1930.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report of Bush Nursing work performed during the year ended 31st December, 1929.

The number of centres operating at the close of the year were 16. One centre closed and three new ones were established during the period under review.

Owing to the Portland Cement Works ceasing operations at Maria Island and the majority of residents leaving, the First Aid Committee decided to discontinue the services of their nurse. This was done in November.

The Port Cygnet centre opened in March, Sister Irene Cameron being appointed in charge thereof.

The Spring Bay centre opened in May, with Sister Linda Paul in charge. The nurse's headquarters in this district are situated at Triabunna.

The Stanley centre opened in November, Sister Jessie Short being appointed. The headquarters of the nurse are at the doctor's house in Stanley. This is a temporary arrangement allowed until the local committee are able to procure suitable rooms for accommodation.

The centres Burnie and Ulverstone are both fairly large town centres, but the nurses in charge are instructed to encourage people in the outlying districts to utilise their services. Town cases are attended to if the country work is slack enough to allow it. In each of these centres the nurse devotes one afternoon each week to a child welfare clinic, which has been firmly established and is developing very rapidly.

Staff changes have taken place in the following centres.

Blessington.—Sister N. D. Reddan resigned in June.

Sister K. J. Briggs appointed.

Burnie.—Sister E. A. Cameron resigned in February.

Sister A. C. Mackenzie appointed.

Ouse.—Sister M. A. Potts resigned. Three nurses were there before Sister J. Luke was appointed in June.

Rosebery.—Sister I. Combes resigned in October.

Sister J. K. Bampton appointed.

Ulverstone.—Sister Andrewartha resigned at end of December. Sister T. R. A. Connors appointed.

It will be noted from the summary of work that the demand for the services of the nurse is not so great in some centres as in others. This is due principally to the fact that some of the centres are in isolated and sparsely populated districts, where the absence of trained nursing attention in emergency or necessitous cases may cause much hardship to the residents.

In some instances medical practitioners are opposed to the idea of co-operating with the bush nurse on the grounds that she interferes with his living. This is to be regretted, as the people have not that feeling of safety which exists in centres where the doctor and sister work amicably together. There are many instances in which the nurse is able to advise that a patient see a doctor early, thus obviating a serious illness or removal to hospital. The nurse feels more secure if she is sure that the doctor will attend patients when she sends them to him. The doctor also secures work he would not otherwise obtain by the nurse impressing upon those responsible the need for medical treatment. It is well known that many people will go for a long time without medical help, which is not sought because the importance of speedy treatment is not realised.

Thanks are due to the various bush nurses for the meritorious services rendered by them during the year.

*SUMMARY of Work done during the Year ending 1929.*

Centre.	Visits to Nurse.	Visits to Patients.	Nursing Days.	Midwifery.	Child Welfare.	School Visits.	Mileage.	Fees.	Remarks.
Adamsfield	507	103	86	1	45	No School	234	£ s. d. No fees	Hospital. 2 beds
Avoca	65	333	15	8	100	7	561	45 14 0	...
Blessington	16	70	31	2	90	7	1916	20 0 0	...
Bruny	14	113	8	2	87	3	1158	27 5 7	...
Burnie	8	125	153	14	665	2	2851	65 12 0	...
Cygnet	6	137	75	11	57	19	634	43 1 6	Opened 11/3/29
Lilydale	190	617	1	12	163	2	3298	180 13 0	...
Maria Island	1591	803	40	4	38	4	1324	No fees	Closed 28/11/29
Marrawah	119	425	82	4	163	14	3331	93 7 0	...
Ouse	195	347	190	12	67	9	1036	135 10 11	Hospital 1 bed
Rosebery	2475	1920	11	7	201	1	2350	No fees	2 beds
Spring Bay	26	86	46	6	96	6	306	47 0 5	Opened 27/5/29
Stanley	9	7	47	1	...	...	...	16 7 6	Opened 15/11/29
Swansea	62	447	28	11	74	1	374	49 17 6	1 bed
Tasman	64	253	201	17	235	4	4430	156 5 8	4 beds
Tullah	1244	681	...	2	285	...	315	No fees	2 beds
Ulverstone	10	387	119	20	873	4	4380	94 4 6	...
Total	6601	6854	1133	134	3211	83	28,498	...	...

I have, &c.,

The Secretary for Public Health.

C. ALICE STAMMER, Supervisory Nurse.



## APPENDIX IV.

Department of Public Health,  
Hobart, 10th February, 1930.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to subjoin the following reports of the work performed by the nurses attached to the Child Welfare Clinics during the year ended 31st December, 1929.

I have, &amp;c.,

C. BONNILEY, Senior Nurse.

The Secretary for Public Health.

## HOBART CENTRE.

Report for Year ended the 31st December, 1929.

Visits paid by nurses from this centre totalled 3685, and comprised:—

Visits to newly-born infants . . . . .	362
Subsequent visits to mothers and babies in their homes . . . . .	3,193
Visits to expectant mothers . . . . .	92
Miscellaneous visits . . . . .	38

Total attendances at the clinic, including 163 pre-natal, were 8267. Individual attendances totalled 991 (from country, 243; from city and suburbs, 748).

The honorary medical officers, Drs. W. I. Clark, and Stuart Gibson have attended babies when necessary.

Records of infant feeding for the first nine months are as follows:—

Babies wholly or partially breast-fed for 3 months, 86 per cent.
Babies wholly or partially breast-fed for 6 months, 71 per cent.
Babies wholly or partially breast-fed for 9 months, 61 per cent.

A course of lessons on mothercraft and infant hygiene were given to two classes of girls from the State schools. A weekly series of "child welfare chats" have been given over the wireless from 7ZL. Articles on child welfare have been published weekly in the "Illustrated Tasmanian Mail." One hundred and twenty-one pamphlets of advice were posted to mothers of newly-born babies living in the country, whilst 118 letters were received from parents desirous of further advice.

Mothers and babies have been supplied with fresh milk, free of charge, and babies of mothers in poor circumstances have been helped with clothing.

The articles of food prepared by the Karitane Products Society are in constantly extending use. They comprise "Kariol" emulsion, which is used to supply the extra fat; and "Karillac," the extra sugar required when ordinary milk is modified to make it suitable for babies, i.e., to "humanise" it; and "Kariol" Emulsion for older children. These products are prepared according to the formulæ of Sir Truby King.

Following on arrangements made between the Child Welfare Association and the Hobart City Council, the building of new premises for the Hobart centre is in progress. The present congestion at the Murray-street centre makes this provision very desirable.

The following changes took place in the staff:—Miss Hinds resigned, after five years' of excellent work, in order to travel abroad. Miss Gallus has been transferred to the North Hobart and Glenorchy centres. Miss Marsh assumed duties at the Hobart centre on the 21st January, 1929, and was transferred to the Moonah centre on the departure of Sister Hinds. Miss Young commenced duty at the Hobart centre on the 7th May.

The Mothercraft Home continues to do excellent work, and, although a larger number of babies have been admitted during the past year, it is not possible to receive all who require special care and observation. In addition to the care of babies, the training of child welfare and mothercraft nurses is undertaken, as well as the establishment of breast-feeding. Each mother, whose baby has been an inmate, receives instruction in the care, management, and feeding of her baby, in order to enable her to continue with the same methods when she returns to her own home.

The assistance given by the medical and nursing profession, the members of the association, and all others who have helped during the year has been much appreciated.

I have, &amp;c.,

C. BONNILEY, Senior Nurse.

The Secretary for Public Health.

## NORTH HOBART CENTRE.

Report for Year ended the 31st December, 1929.

Visits paid by the nurse during the year totalled 1875, and comprised:—

Visits to newly-born infants . . . . .	316
Subsequent visits to mothers and babies in their homes . . . . .	1,500
Visits to pre-natal cases . . . . .	32
Miscellaneous visits . . . . .	27

The visits paid to individual mothers and babies totalled 460.

Total attendances at the clinic, including 13 pre-natal, were 2209. Individual attendances totalled 253.

The work in this district has shown substantial growth throughout the year; the mothers appreciating the convenience of a clinic within walking distance of their homes.

Lectures on infant hygiene and mothercraft were given to the senior girls from Elizabeth Street and Goulburn Street State Schools.

Mothers in poor circumstances, who have young children, have been helped with fresh milk, "Karillac," and "Kariol" free of charge. Clothing has also been given in necessitous cases.

I have, &amp;c.,

E. D. GALLUS, Nurse-in-Charge.

The Secretary for Public Health.

## GLENORCHY CENTRE.

Report for Year ended the 31st December, 1929.

Visits paid by the nurse during the year totalled 334, and comprised:—

Visits to newly-born infants . . . . .	33
Subsequent visits to mothers and babies in their homes . . . . .	241
Visits to pre-natal cases . . . . .	7
Miscellaneous visits . . . . .	56

The visits paid to individual mothers and babies totalled 51.

Total attendances at the clinic, including six pre-natal cases, were 412. Individual attendances totalled 49.

The numbers compare satisfactorily with the number of mothers and babies living in the district.

A class of senior girls from the Glenorchy State School were given a course of lectures on infant hygiene and mothercraft.

The nurse from the North Hobart centre has spent every Wednesday in this district, as in previous years.

I have, &amp;c.,

E. D. GALLUS, Nurse-in-Charge.

The Secretary for Public Health.

## MOONAH CENTRE.

Report for Year ended the 31st December, 1929.

Visits paid by the nurse during the year totalled 1912, and comprised:—

Visits to newly-born infants . . . . .	188
Subsequent visits to mothers and babies in their homes . . . . .	1,576
Visits to pre-natal cases . . . . .	80
Miscellaneous visits . . . . .	68

The visits paid to individual mothers and babies totalled 353.

Total attendances at the clinic, including 59 pre-natal, were 2395. Individual attendances totalled 254.

Classes from State schools have been instructed in mothercraft and infant hygiene.

Dr. Elliott has kindly attended any babies whose parents were not on medical lodges and who were unable to pay private fees.

Several families have been helped with clothing for their children, and fresh milk has been supplied through the Hobart centre to mothers and babies free of charge. "Kariol" and "Karillac" have been given to a few necessitous cases.



This centre has almost completed nine years' work in the districts of New Town, Lenah Valley, Moonah, Derwent Park, and Lutana.

I have, &c.,

R. MARSH, Nurse-in-Charge.

The Secretary for Public Health.

#### SUMMARY OF VISITS AND ATTENDANCES AT ALL CENTRES FROM THE 1ST JANUARY TO THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1929.

No. of attendances at Hobart centre . . . . .	8,267
No. of attendances at Moonah centre . . . . .	2,395
No. of attendances at North Hobart centre . . . . .	2,209
No. of attendances at Glenorchy centre . . . . .	412
Total attendances at the centres . . . . .	13,283
No. of individual babies brought to Hobart centre . . . . .	991
No. of individual babies brought to Moonah centre . . . . .	254
No. of individual babies brought to North Hobart centre . . . . .	253
No. of individual babies brought to Glenorchy centre . . . . .	49
Total individual babies brought to the centres . . . . .	1,547
No. of visits paid to mothers and babies in their homes by nurses from Hobart centre . . . . .	3,685
No. of visits paid to mothers and babies in their homes by nurses from Moonah centre . . . . .	1,912
No. of visits paid to mothers and babies in their homes by nurses from North Hobart centre . . . . .	1,875
No. of visits paid to mothers and babies in their homes by nurses from Glenorchy centre . . . . .	334
Total visits paid by nurses . . . . .	7,806
No. of individual babies visited by nurses from Hobart centre . . . . .	558
No. of individual babies visited by nurses from Moonah centre . . . . .	353
No. of individual babies visited by nurses from North Hobart centre . . . . .	460
No. of individual babies visited by nurses from Glenorchy centre . . . . .	51
Total individual babies visited . . . . .	1,422

#### APPENDIX V.

##### Return of Samples of Foodstuffs, &c., Examined in the Government Laboratory during 1929.

Butter . . . . .	410
Bread and cereals . . . . .	15
Confectionery, honey, and sugar . . . . .	32
Cream and condensed milk . . . . .	36
Cheese . . . . .	6
Cream of tartar and fruit salines . . . . .	10
Drugs and chemicals . . . . .	58
Essences . . . . .	1
Fish in tins . . . . .	25
Fruit (for arsenic) . . . . .	62
Fruit, fresh . . . . .	79
Fruit (preserved), pulp, and jam . . . . .	51
Meat (preserved) and sausages . . . . .	19
Milk (cows) . . . . .	359
Milk (human) . . . . .	23
Oils and fats . . . . .	15
Poisons (police tests) . . . . .	63
Pepper, salts, and sauces . . . . .	17
Spirits, wine, beer, and cordials . . . . .	135
Tea, coffee, and cocoa . . . . .	14
Vinegar and vinegar essence . . . . .	8
Thermometers . . . . .	179
Waters . . . . .	16
Soda-waters and tin pipe . . . . .	117
Total . . . . .	1750

#### Notes on Various Results of Analyses.

##### Butter.

Twenty samples contained too much water. The worst case showed thirty-five and three tenths (35.3) per cent. excess, calculated on the legal limit of 16 per cent. Eight butters were deficient in milk fat up to 5.5 per cent.

##### Bread and Cereals.

Samples of so-called "gluten" bread contained 46 to 52 per cent. of starch and other carbohydrates. Ordinary bread may contain less than 50 per cent. of carbohydrates. There was, therefore, no justification for claiming that the samples were "gluten" bread, implying that they were of special value to sufferers from diabetes.

##### Confectionery, Honey, and Sugar.

Cerelose submitted for test as to its suitability for jam making was found to be a preparation of glucose, the use of which is allowed in marmalade; not in jams, condensed milk, &c.

##### Cream and Condensed Milk.

Two creams were deficient in milk fat, 3.1 and 5.7 per cent. respectively.

##### Cream of Tartar and Fruit Saline.

A cream of tartar was found to contain added starch.

##### Drugs and Chemicals.

An Indian remedy stated to be "infallible and harmless" contained both arsenic and strychnine, but neither poison was mentioned on the label, which made extravagant claims as to healing properties.

##### Fruit (for Arsenic).

In no case was the limit of 1/100 grain of arsenic per pound of fruit exceeded.

##### Meat and Sausages.

Seven samples of sausages averaged 70 per cent. of starch in excess of the maximum proportion allowed. The highest being 108.3, and the lowest 23.5 per cent. excess.

##### Milk (Cows).

Twenty-three samples or 6.4 per cent. of those examined were found to be more or less adulterated. This compares favourably with 8.04 in 1928, 9.85 in 1927, 18.00 in 1926.

Average percentages of deficiency were, fat 12.7; solids, not fat, 6.36; and total solids, 4.64 per cent. Highest deficiencies were fat, 32.13; solids, not fat, 6.36; and total solids 14.64.

	Minimum Standard.	Mean of all the Year's Samples.
Fat . . . . .	3.3	4.3
Solids, not fat . . . . .	8.5	8.8
Total solids . . . . .	12.0	13.1

##### Milk (Human).

Twenty-three samples were examined gratis in connection with child welfare work.

##### Poisons, &c.

Sixty-three samples were tested in all. Strychnine was found in nine samples, and arsenic in five samples connected with the deaths of human beings or domestic animals. The destruction of growing vegetables by poison was also detected.

##### Pepper, Sauces, &c.

A pepper contained foreign starchy matter; a tomato sauce was artificially coloured, and a mushroom catsup was unusable.

##### Spirits, Wine, and Cordials.

The greatest deficiency in alcoholic strength of spirits as retailed was 5.8 per cent. of proof spirit in a whisky. Two home-made wines contained 12.3 and 14.9 per cent. of proof spirit. A so-called "pine-apple" cordial was artificially coloured and flavoured, and was an imitation cordial only.

##### Soda Water.

Several more or less severe cases of lead poisoning appeared to be traceable to soda water, and, on examination, appalling amounts of lead were found in the water from a soda fountain. Special attention was called to



this danger, and samples were taken from soda fountains throughout the State. One hundred and forty-six (146) waters were taken in all, and 21 of these contained lead in proportion ranging from 0.07 up to 3.5 grains per gallon, and many others showed traces of lead. Only 1/100 of a grain per gallon is permissible in aerated waters, and on this point a recent authority says, "All lead contamination is objectionable and no degree of it can be considered safe. Lead is an accumulative poison and affects some persons powerfully in the smallest quantities. It is not so much the quantity of lead taken in any case which determines the symptoms of lead poisoning as its continued introduction."

The whole of these tests, and also analysis of ten samples of tin pipe were made without the usual fee payable in such cases, in order to avoid as much delay as possible in combating this danger. In the worst case lead pipe had been used for repair. A tin pipe contained 2.5 per cent of lead.

#### Waters.

Sixteen samples were examined. Three were polluted with organic matter. Four contained excess of mineral matter, and two were of more or less doubtful quality. Water from a mineral spring contained much magnesium chloride.

#### Thermometers.

Eighty-one thermometers out of a total of 176, imported for dairy purposes, were found to be inaccurate, from 3 to 9 degrees. These were all of German make. British made thermometers imported later were all practically correct.

Special attention must be called to the ease with which deadly poisons are obtainable in large quantities on the plea of dealing with pests, animal, or vegetable. This undoubtedly facilitates poisoning, criminal, suicidal, or accidental.

I have, &c.,

W. F. WARD, Government Analyst.

11th July, 1930.

#### APPENDIX VI.

Public Health Department,  
Hobart, 28th January, 1930.

SIR,

#### THE NURSES' REGISTRATION ACT, 1927.

WE beg to submit the following report bearing upon the administration of the Nurses' Registration Act, 1927, for the year 1929:—

#### Nurses' Registration Board.

Number of meetings held during the year, 6.

Personnel of Board.—In February last Miss E. Oakes tendered her resignation as a member of the Board. Miss M. E. Newman, who succeeded Miss Oakes as matron of the Launceston Public Hospital, was appointed to fill the vacant position.

The term of two years for which certain members of the Board were appointed expired on the 8th December. Under Section 3 (3) of the Act, the members in this State of the Australian Trained Nurses' Association nominated the following persons for appointment as members of the Board:—

- Miss A. A. Gluyas, Public Hospital, Hobart.
- Miss M. E. Newman, Public Hospital, Launceston.
- Miss E. M. Hall, Queen Victoria Hospital, Launceston.
- Dr. T. Butler, Macquarie-street, Hobart.

Summary of Work.—During the year the Board dealt with the training and examination of pupil-nurses, the registration of nurses, matters relating to training schools, and general business pertaining to the Act.

#### Training Schools.

Applications received for registration of hospitals as training schools for pupil-nurses	2
Applications refused	2

Every effort is being made to ensure that training schools are conducted according to the regulations prescribed by the Act.

The supervisory nurse of the Public Health Department pays frequent visits of inspection to training schools throughout the State, and her reports are submitted for the consideration of the Board.

#### Trainees.

##### Applications for training:—

In general nursing	37
In midwifery nursing	34
Total	71

Of these 13 completed the prescribed period and 45 are still in training.

Total number of trainees who completed training during the year	74
Resignations received	13

As the result of a communication from the matrons of the smaller training schools in Hobart, dealing with the difficulty of obtaining the requisite number of lectures for the trainees of these institutions, arrangements have been made whereby candidates for examination from any training school in Hobart may attend lectures and demonstrations given at the Public Hospital.

#### Examinations for Pupil-Nurses.

Examinations for registration, held during the year	2
---	---

These examinations were conducted simultaneously in centres appointed, viz.: Hobart and Launceston. Applications for same were as follows:—

For examination in general nursing	40
For examination in midwifery nursing	33
For deferred examination	9
Total	82

##### Deferred Examination:

Applications accepted	9
Applications refused	—
Applications withdrawn	1

##### General Nursing:

Applications accepted	38
Applications refused	2
Applications withdrawn	3

##### Midwifery Nursing:

Applications accepted	33
Applications withdrawn	1

##### Results of Examinations:

General Nursing.—Passed, 30; failed, nil; failed in one section, 5.

Midwifery Nursing.—Passed, 27; failed, 5.

##### Deferred Examination:

Passed, 4 (general), 2 (midwifery); failed, 2.

#### Examinations for Intending Trainees.

Applications for educational examination	14
(Under the provisions of Section 14 (6) (c).)	

##### Results of Examinations:

Passed, 11; failed, 2; application withdrawn, 1.

#### Registration of Nurses.

Applications from general nurses	131
Applications from midwifery nurses	71
Applications granted:	
General nurses	129
Midwifery nurses	70
Applications for renewal of registration:	
General nurses	115
Midwifery nurses	227
Applications for renewal of registration granted:	
General nurses	115
Midwifery nurses	227



*Trained Nurses' Badges (Issued on Application).*

General nurses' badges .....	25
Midwifery nurses' badges .....	21
Midwifery nurses' bars .....	8

*Reciprocal Registration.*

During the year reciprocal registration has been arranged between this State and New South Wales, West Australia, New Zealand, England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and the Nursing Council for Scotland has requested a similar agreement.

In regard to reciprocal registration, the board is of the opinion that the present agreements existing between the Commonwealth States do not afford sufficient protection to those nurses who qualified for registration by reason of having passed the examination prescribed by recognised nursing associations prior to State registration.

It has been suggested that a conference on the subject, between representatives of the Nurses' Registration Boards of the various States, be arranged to take place at an early date, when it is expected that the matter will be settled on a more beneficial basis.

*Alterations and Additions to Act and Regulations.*

By special regulations, approved by His Excellency the Governor in Council, the Board has been given authority to control the practice of midwives. Midwifery nurses, their hospitals, equipment, and conduct of cases are now under the direct supervision of this Department. Frequent inspections by the supervisory nurse, whose duty it is to attend to this branch of the work, enables the Board to insist on the standard of nursing required being maintained. Midwives are also compelled, by this addition to the Act, to notify still-births and deaths occurring in their practice. The conduct of cases is recorded in a book, of Form 13, prescribed by the Act for this purpose, and can be examined by the supervisory nurse for any information required.

Form 8, in the regulations of the Act, has been altered to read as follows:—

## FORM 8.

## TASMANIA.

*The Nurses' Registration Act, 1927.**Certificate of Registration as a Nurse.*

THIS is to certify that.....  
of....., has been registered as a  
general  
midwifery nurse in the State of Tasmania, under the  
provisions of Section\* 10 (1), (3), (4), (5) of the Nurses'  
Registration Act, 1927.

Dated at Hobart, this.....day of....., 19.....

.....Chairman } Nurses'  
.....Registrar } Registration  
Board.

Signature of Nurse.....

\* Strike out subsections which do not apply.

*Relating to the Practice of Midwifery.*

Visits of supervisory nurse to midwives ..	392
Visits of supervisory nurse to private maternity hospitals ..	87
Visits of supervisory nurse to public hospitals ..	13
Investigations regarding cases of puerperal fever ..	11
Number of still-births reported ..	29
Number of deaths reported ..	8

*In Contravention to the Act.*

Notices have been issued to 120 unregistered persons practising in midwifery throughout the State. Considerable difficulty has been experienced in dealing with these

women, and the situation is complicated by reason of the fact that opposition has been forthcoming from a section of the community from whom the Board might reasonably have expected co-operation. It is frequently reported that members of the medical profession encourage employment of unregistered women.

I have, &c.,

J. FRANK GAHA, Chairman.

E. J. TUDOR, Secretary.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

## APPENDIX VII.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

*Statistical and General.*

## Population:

Estimated on the 31st December, 1929:—

Males .....	108,473
Females .....	110,593
Total .....	219,066

Mean population, 1929 (for the whole year)—

Males .....	106,077
Females .....	107,686
Total .....	213,763

Mean population, 1928 (for the whole year) 211,944

Increase for the year .....

The population of the State, as shown by the figures, reveals an increase of 1819.

*Commonwealth Birth-rate for the Year 1929 per 1000 Persons Living.*

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

	1919.	1928.	1929.
New South Wales .....	24.27	22.60	21.37
Victoria .....	21.47	19.70	18.99
Queensland .....	25.85	21.76	19.99
South Australia .....	23.62	19.76	18.40
West Australia .....	21.68	21.79	22.00
Tasmania .....	25.91	22.13	22.47
Northern Territory .....	22.78	19.73	12.69
Federal Capital Territory .....	11.68	14.90	18.25
Commonwealth .....	23.53	21.33	20.31

*Death-rates for 1929 per 1000 Persons Living.*

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

	1919.	1928.	1929.
New South Wales .....	13.17	9.34	9.99
Victoria .....	13.15	10.11	9.45
Queensland .....	12.24	8.77	8.98
South Australia .....	11.69	8.92	8.70
West Australia .....	11.22	9.11	9.55
Tasmania .....	10.68	10.06	10.19
Northern Territory .....	18.26	16.88	15.56
Federal Capital Territory .....	7.79	5.84	4.65
Commonwealth .....	12.69	9.45	9.55

*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 1929, also death-rate per 10,000 persons



living (mean population 213,763), as contrasted with the previous year, 1928 (mean population estimated at 211,944).

Cause of Death.	Number of Deaths, 1928.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.	Number of Deaths, 1929.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.
<b>General Diseases—</b>				
Typhoid Fever .....	6	·3	13	·6
Malaria .....	...	...	...	...
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...
Measles .....	15	·7	1	...
Scarlet Fever .....	1	...	2	·1
Whooping Cough .....	23	1·1	14	·7
Diphtheria and Croup .....	18	·8	18	·8
Influenza .....	22	1·0	31	1·5
Dysentery .....	2	·1	...	...
Syphilis .....	6	·3	5	·2
Tubercular Diseases .....	138	6·5	126	5·9
Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism, and Gout .....	14	·7	17	·8
Cancer, all forms .....	166	7·8	204	9·6
Dietic Diseases and Industrial Poisoning .....	3	·1	1	...
Other General Diseases .....	71	3·4	83	3·9
<b>Total General .....</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>22·8</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>24·1</b>
<b>Local Diseases—</b>				
Diseases of Nervous System...	206	9·7	214	10·0
Diseases of Circulatory System	367	17·3	382	17·9
Diseases of Respiratory Organs .....	276	13·0	274	12·8
Diseases of Digestive Organs	143	6·7	115	5·4
Diseases of Genito-Urinary System .....	79	3·7	102	4·8
Diseases of Puerperal Origin...	32	1·5	16	·7
Diseases of the Skin .....	10	·5	13	·6
Diseases of Bones and Malformations .....	28	1·3	41	1·9
Diseases of Early Infancy .....	149	7·0	119	5·6
<b>Total Local Diseases .....</b>	<b>1290</b>	<b>60·7</b>	<b>1276</b>	<b>59·7</b>
<b>Deaths Produced by External Causes—</b>				
Accident or Negligence .....	93	4·4	131	6·1
Homicide .....	...	...	8	·4
Suicide .....	25	1·2	20	·9
<b>Total External Causes ...</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>5·6</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>7·4</b>
<b>Ill-defined—Not Specific Diseases—</b>				
Old Age .....	215	10·1	205	9·6
Ill-defined Diseases .....	24	1·1	20	·9
<b>Total Ill-defined Diseases</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>11·2</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>10·5</b>
<b>Total Deaths, All Causes</b>	<b>2132</b>	<b>100·3</b>	<b>2175</b>	<b>101·7</b>

#### *Typhoid Fever.*

##### *Year 1929.*

No. of cases notified .....	49
No. of deaths (1929—calendar)—	
Males .....	9
Females .....	4
<b>—</b>	<b>13</b>

#### *Diphtheria.*

##### *Year 1929.*

No. of cases notified .....	488
No. of deaths (1929—calendar)—	
Males .....	12
Females .....	6
<b>—</b>	<b>18</b>

#### *DEATHS from Tuberculosis during the last Ten Years.*

Number.	Death Rate per 100,000 Persons Living
1920	45
1921	50
1922	57
1923	52
1924	52
1925	59
1926	64
1927	50
1928	62
1929	49
1930	96
1931	107
1932	120
1933	109
1934	111
1935	127
1936	138
1937	108
1938	132
1939	132
1940	104
<b>Totals .....</b>	<b>136</b>

Tuberculosis of Respiratory System (No. 31) .....

Other forms of Tuberculosis (Nos 32-37) .....



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.				
	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.	Persons		
1920.....	...	...	...	...	3	2	2	2	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	11	16
21.....	...	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	2	1	1	...	...	1	...	3	4	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	13	26	
22.....	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	1	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	8	7	
23.....	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	3	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	5	13	
24.....	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2	8	
25.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	6	
26.....	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	8	
27.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	4	5	9	
28.....	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	5	1	6	
29.....	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	9	4	13	
Totals...	...	3	4	3	8	12	9	5	8	5	3	4	3	1	6	9	3	4	3	4	3	6	3	3	4	1	3	4	62	58	120		



## Scarlet Fever.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate per 10,000 population.	Cases per 1000 persons living.	Deaths per 1000 cases notified.	Death % of cases.
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	10.4	1.0
1926	188	1	.05	0.89	5.3	0.5
1927	91	2	.1	0.43	22.0	2.2
1928	190	1	.05	0.89	5.3	0.5
1929	314	2	.1	1.47	6.4	0.6

## Diphtheria.

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate per 10,000 population.	Cases per 1000 persons living.	Deaths per 1000 cases notified.	Death % of cases.
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	—
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
1926	347	6	.3	1.66	17.1	1.7
1927	507	10	.5	2.41	19.7	2.0
1928	908	18	.8	4.29	19.8	2.0
1929	488	18	.8	2.28	36.9	3.7



