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TASMANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR

1934

BY

E. J. TUDOR

SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES, &c.

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



TASMANIA:

WALTER E. SHIMMINS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, HOBART

1935

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT

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REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1934

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SALUS POPULI SUPREMA LEX.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1934.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 7th February, 1935.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to present the Annual Report of the Department of Public Health for the year 1934. The delay which has occurred in presenting the report has been due to the fact that the vital statistics embodied therein were not available until the first week in June.

Legislation.—The Department is principally concerned with the administration of the following laws:—Public Health, Food and Drugs, Hospitals, Places of Public Entertainment, Nurses' Registration, Wages Boards, Factories, Workers' Compensation, and Shops. Amendments of the Wages Boards, Factories, and Workers' Compensation Acts were passed during the last session of Parliament, as well as an Act to make provision for the establishment, maintenance, and conduct of crematories, and to provide for and regulate the cremation of human remains.

Federal Health Council.—The Seventh Session of this Council was held at Canberra from the 20th to the 22nd March, when many important public health problems received attention. An interesting feature of this conference was a summary of progress in public health in New South Wales during the period 1898 to 1933, by the Director-General of Public Health of that State.

Conference of Instruction for Health Inspectors.—With the approval of the Minister, the Department held a conference of instruction for health inspectors at Launceston during the week commencing the 8th October for the purpose of assisting these officers, and, incidentally, local authorities, in the performance of their functions under the Public Health Act and kindred laws. Lectures and practical demonstrations dealing with advances made during recent years in important phases of communal health constituted the principal features of this conference. It was very gratifying to the Department to have such a large number of inspectors in attendance. During past years it had been the practice to hold these conferences biennially, but, as an economic measure, they had been discontinued since 1928.

Installation of Bacteriolytic Tanks.—The action of the Government in providing for the installation of bacteriolytic tanks in many State schools located in rural areas where no recognised method of disposal of nightsoil was in operation calls for favourable comment. The useful purpose served

by these tanks is also being appreciated by private householders, judging by the increasing number of applications being received for their installation.

Sanitation of Road Construction Camps.—Attention has been directed to the sanitation of road construction camps in various parts of the State with the object of protecting the health of the workers against the dust nuisance and the dangers associated with the disposal of excremental matter otherwise than in accordance with recognised practice.

Sanitation of Hotels and Boarding-houses.—In accordance with instructions received from the Minister, special attention has been directed to the sanitation of hotels and boarding-houses in view of the important part played by these establishments towards popularising the State as a tourist resort. In the absence of specific legislation, so far as boarding-houses are concerned, it is not competent for the Department to regulate and control these particular establishments as is considered desirable and necessary. The law should provide for the registration of boarding-houses, which would be the means of eliminating the use of certain premises for the purpose if they did not conform to reasonable requirements.

Water-supply of Hobart.—From the viewpoint of the public health it is important to note that attention has been directed to the problem associated with supplementing the water-supply of Hobart, and, at the same time, making some satisfactory provision for a safe and adequate supply for the inhabitants of some of the rural districts located on the eastern shore of the River Derwent.

It is a well-known fact that times of drought have served to demonstrate that the margin of safety in the City of Hobart is not great, whilst in the other areas mentioned, and in many other districts throughout the State, the people who rely principally on roof catchment for their domestic supply periodically become the victims of scarcity. The important relationship that a good water-supply bears to the health and prosperity of the people does not need to be emphasised. It is to be hoped that the authorities concerned will realise that, if future needs are to be provided for and safeguarded, a broader outlook will require to be taken of the problem of water-supplies and, as an economic measure, every possible endeavour made towards the grouping of areas for water-supply purposes.

Destruction of Rats.—With the approval of the Minister, systematic rat destruction work at Hobart, which was discontinued in 1932, will again operate on the same basis as hitherto; the cost involved being shared by the Government, Hobart Corporation, and Marine Board. During recent years many complaints have reached the Department as to increased rat infestation, and it was with much concern that the Department viewed the decision to discontinue the work.

LOCAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

With a few exceptions, local authorities are to be commended for the attention directed to local health administration, as revealed by the visitations of Departmental officers. Much credit is due to the local inspector, upon whom falls the main responsibility, for the initiative and enterprise displayed in the execution of his duties. These officers are always anxious and willing to co-operate with the officials of the Department in the furtherance of health work. During recent years many changes have taken place in the personnel of local inspectors, and, in accordance with recognised practice, it is the policy of the Department to give the newly-appointed inspector first-hand information on the duties devolving upon him under the Public Health Act and kindred laws, thus laying a foundation on which to build further knowledge.

During the course of the year the attention of the Hobart City Council was directed to the offensive odours arising from the disposal of garbage at Macquarie Point, Hobart, which constituted a serious nuisance in the neighbourhood. As the result of a conference with representatives of the Council and the Marine Board, ways and means were devised to minimise the offensiveness associated with this method of disposal of refuse. Periodic inspections, which have since been made by officers of the Department, have revealed the existence of greatly improved conditions at the "tip." The continued use of this site for the required purpose will not be countenanced unless reasonable safeguards are taken to deal with the refuse in accordance with recognised practice.

Representations were made to a few local authorities to inaugurate a nightsoil removal service in various centres to replace disposal by individual householders. The efforts made by the Department in this regard proved futile. In one instance the council stated the present system of disposal, which is by the householder, has so far given rise to no nuisance, as proved by the absence of any filth disease in the town for many years. It can only be said that the council is unmindful of its obligations to the ratepayers by perpetuating a practice with which is associated a definite health hazard.

The action of the Burnie Council in appointing an uncertificated person as health inspector calls for adverse comment. In such a large and important centre as Burnie, the services of a trained official are considered essential for the proper performance of the local authority's functions under the Public Health Act and kindred laws. Before the appointment was made the attention of the Council was directed to the importance of having a qualified official, and it is very discouraging to the Department, which

has been striving for years to raise the standard of sanitation in the State, to receive such unsympathetic consideration in a matter of this nature. Unfortunately it is not competent for the Department to veto the action of the Council.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The infectious diseases notifiable under the Public Health Act are:—Diphtheria, typhoid fever (including paratyphoid fever), scarlet fever, tuberculosis in all forms, puerperal fever, epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis, acute anterior poliomyelitis, lethargic encephalitis, bacillary dysentery, amœbic dysentery, malaria, anthrax, plague, leprosy, smallpox, Asiatic cholera, yellow fever, typhus fever in all forms, bilharziasis, relapsing fever, ankylostomiasis, and filariasis. Tables are appended showing:—

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

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

Diphtheria.—The cases notified totalled 491; the number for the previous year being 706. There were 22 deaths. The death percentage of cases was 4.5.

Immunisation against diphtheria has been initiated in a few municipal districts, and it is hoped that councils generally will at least make an attempt to inaugurate a similar campaign. During the occurrence of epidemic waves of the disease in various districts, the councils concerned made a move towards the adoption of immunisation, but, as the incidence of the disease lessened, until only sporadic cases arose, the effort was not sustained, and consequently no action resulted. The endemic nature of the disease in the Glenorchy Municipality has caused concern for some years past. On many occasions officers of the Department have co-operated with the local authority in its efforts to combat the infection. In order that the fundamental principles of prevention might be applied with the least possible delay, medical practitioners were asked to notify cases of the disease by telephone supplementary to the usual notification.

Typhoid Fever.—Nineteen cases were notified, including eight from the district of New Norfolk. There were three deaths. In none of the cases was any information obtainable indicating the source of infection.

Scarlet Fever.—Notifications under this heading totalled 362. The mild nature of the disease is evidenced by the fact that there were only four deaths.

Tuberculosis (all forms).—Compared with the previous year there was a distinct decrease in the number of notifications of this disease. One hundred and eighty-eight cases (including nine non-pulmonary) were notified during 1933, whilst for the period under review 157 notifications (including seven non-pulmonary) were received. The deaths from the disease numbered 112, giving a death rate of 49 per 100,000 persons living. Of the 150 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, 55.3 per cent. received institutional treatment.

The admissions to the Tasmanian Sanatorium totalled 114 (58 males and 56 females). Statistical information with respect to these cases and those which were in residence at the beginning of the year is set out hereunder:—

Bed Accommodation.

Bed accommodation for 71 patients (39 male and 32 female).

Patients Treated.

	Male.	Female.
Remaining in on 1.1.34	24	28
Admitted during year	58	56
	82	84
	—	—
Discharged—	Male.	Female.
Much improved	8	8
Improved	44	29
Stationery	8	4
Worse	1	—
	—	—
	61	41
Died	9	13
Remaining in on 31.12.34	12	30
	—	—
	82	84
	—	—

During the latter end of April the services of Dr. Bell Ferguson, the State Director of Tuberculosis for Victoria, were obtained to investigate the incidence of tuberculosis in trainees

at the Launceston Public Hospital. His report on the subject embodied important recommendations designed to safeguard the institution against any undue incidence of the disease.

Puerperal Fever.—Fifteen cases were notified, including eight from the Launceston District. Each case of the disease was investigated by an officer of the Department, and recognised measures were taken to prevent the spread of infection.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.—The notifications of this disease numbered 32. They were reported from 11 districts, including 11 cases from the City of Launceston. There were two deaths. The records of the Department, with respect to the remaining 30 cases, show their condition to be as follows:—

Cured	13
Temporary disability	7
Possibly some permanent disability	7
Permanent disability	3

Lethargic Encephalitis.—Two cases were notified.

Bacillary Dysentery.—Although 18 cases of this disease were reported, the Departmental Medical Officers states that, in the absence of bacteriological aid in diagnosis, no significance can be attached to such notifications.

TABLE A.

Return Showing Number of Cases of each Notifiable Infectious Disease Reported to the Department of Public Health during the Year 1934, together with Comparative Figures of the Aggregate of all such Diseases for the Years 1933 and 1934.

Municipality.	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Tuberculosis (all forms).	Puerperal Fever.	Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.	Lethargic Encephalitis.	Bacillary Dysentery.	Total 1934.	Total 1933.
1 Beaconsfield	1	...	1	4	1	...	...	3	10	7
2 Bothwell .....	...	...	2	...	...	1	...	...	3	6
3 Brighton	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	4	11
4 Bruny .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
5 Burnie	15	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	22	44
6 Campbell Town	1	1	8	1	1	...	...	...	12	5
7 Circular Head	3	...	2	2	1	...	...	...	8	9
8 Clarence	8	...	4	5	...	1	...	...	18	11
9 Deloraine	7	...	5	5	...	...	...	...	17	47
10 Devonport	17	...	11	3	1	...	...	...	32	17
11 Esperance	12	2	6	2	2	...	...	9	33	25
12 Evandale .....	...	...	5	...	...	3	...	...	8	3
13 Fingal	1	...	5	3	...	...	...	...	9	9
14 Flinders .....	...	...	2	1	...	4	...	...	7	1
15 George Town .....	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	9
16 Glamorgan .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17 Glenorchy	75	...	6	6	...	...	...	1	88	122
18 Gormanston .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19 Green Ponds	2	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	3	2
20 Hamilton	4	...	10	1	...	...	...	...	15	13
21 Hobart	129	4	48	54	1	6	2	5	249	315
22 Huon	13	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	15	22
23 Kentish	50	...	5	1	...	...	...	...	56	96
24 Kingborough	6	...	3	4	...	...	...	...	13	17
25 King Island .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
26 Latrobe	3	...	10	1	...	...	...	...	14	15
27 Launceston	32	...	81	25	8	11	...	...	157	145
28 Leven	3	...	20	2	...	...	...	...	25	21
29 Lilydale	8	1	9	...	...	2	...	...	20	8
30 Longford .....	...	1	3	3	...	1	...	...	8	12
31 New Norfolk	40	8	25	4	...	1	...	...	78	40
32 Outlands	5	...	3	2	...	...	...	...	10	9
33 Penguin	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
34 Port Cygnet .....	...	...	6	2	...	...	...	...	8	10
35 Portland .....	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	4
36 Queenstown	3	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	9	2
37 Richmond .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
38 Ringarooma	10	...	16	1	...	...	...	...	27	51
39 Ross .....	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
40 Scottsdale	5	...	28	2	...	...	...	...	35	31
41 Sorell	1	...	5	1	...	1	...	...	8	1
42 Spring Bay .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
43 St. Leonards	4	...	6	2	...	...	...	...	12	14
44 Strahan .....	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	...
45 Table Cape	17	...	9	3	...	...	...	...	29	98
46 Tasman .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	4
47 Waratah	10	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	11	4
48 Westbury	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	27
49 Zeehan	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	4	13
50 Overseas .....	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	3	4
TOTAL CASES.....	491	19	362	157	15	32	2	18	1096	1320

Venereal Diseases.—The notifications received under this heading totalled 358. Approximately 58 per cent. of the cases were reported from the public hospitals at Hobart and Launceston, where clinics are established for treatment.

Eight notices were received from medical practitioners of the failure of patients to continue treatment, as required by the law. Six persons suffering from the disease made statutory declarations as to the source of their infection.

It was anticipated that legislation would be the means of reducing the incidence of this disease, but experience over a period of years does not

show this to be the case. Notification is incomplete and irregular, and in a few cases only do sufferers make known the source of their infection—the only means by which the Department is enabled to require the persons concerned to seek examination and treatment. This and other obstacles need to be overcome to reduce the incidence of the disease, and it is highly important that an effort should be made to combat them.

Statistical information with respect to the notifications received during the year is appended (Tables C-E).

Return showing Age and Sex Incidence of Notified Cases of Diphtheria, Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, and Tuberculosis (all forms) for each Month of the Year 1934.

Month and Age Period.	Diphtheria.			Typhoid Fever.			Scarlet Fever.			Phthisis.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
January—												
All ages	15	19	34	1	1	2	8	15	23	8	7	15
Under 1 year												
1-4	6	1	7					2	2			
5-14	4	7	11				3	7	10	1		1
15-24	3	7	10				3	4	7	1	4	5
25-34	1	2	3				1	1	2	2	1	3
35-44	1		1							1		1
45-54		1	1	1		1		1	1	2	1	3
55-64		1	1		1	1				1		1
65 and over											1	1
Age not stated							1		1			
February—												
All ages	7	16	23	1	1	2	6	11	17	9	7	16
Under 1 year								1	1			
1-4		1	1					1	1			
5-14	3	10	13	1		1	3	6	9	2	1	3
15-24	3	2	5				2	1	3	3	3	6
25-34	1		1		1	1	1	2	3	2	3	5
35-44		2	2							1		1
45-54		1	1							1		1
55-64												
65 and over												
Age not stated												
March—												
All ages	19	40	59	3	1	4	19	21	40	4	2	6
Under 1 year												
1-4		3	6				2	4	6			
5-14	11	27	38	2		2	13	10	23		1	1
15-24	3	6	9	1		1	3	3	6	1		1
25-34		2	2		1	1	1	2	3	2	1	3
35-44	2		2					1	1			
45-54		2	2					1	1	1		1
55-64												
65 and over												
Age not stated												
April—												
All ages	22	27	49	1		1	19	20	39	4	8	12
Under 1 year	1		1							1	1	2
1-4	4	1	5				3	3	6			
5-14	12	15	27				12	13	25			
15-24	3	4	7	1		1		1	1		4	4
25-34	1	4	5				2	3	5	3	2	5
35-34	1	2	3				2		2			
45-54		1	1									
55-64											1	1
65 and over												
Age not stated												
May—												
All ages	21	22	43	3		3	16	31	47	5	2	7
Under 1 year							1		1			
1-4	2	2	4				3	5	8			
5-14	14	12	26	1		1	6	16	22			
15-24	3	5	8	1		1	4	6	10	2		2
25-34		1	1				2	3	5	1		1
35-44	2	2	4							2	1	3
45-54												
55-64				1		1		1	1			
65 and over												
Age not stated											1	1
June—												
All ages	14	30	44	1		1	17	18	35	6	5	11
Under 1 year		2	2				2		2			
1-4	2	3	5				2	6	8			
5-14	9	14	23				6	5	11		1	1
15-24	1	7	8				6	2	8	2	1	3
25-34	2	2	4				1	4	5	3	1	4
35-44		2	2					1	1			
45-54				1		1						
55-64											1	1
65 and over										1	1	2
Age not stated												

TABLE B.—continued.

Month and Age Period.	Diphtheria.			Typhoid Fever.			Scarlet Fever.			Phthisis.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
July—												
All ages	30	33	63	1		1	17	12	29	7	10	17
Under 1 year												
1-4	4	7	11				6	3	9			
5-14	19	17	36				8	4	12			
15-24	3	4	7				1	2	3	2	6	8
25-34	4	2	6	1		1	1	3	4	1	2	3
35-44		1	1				1		1	3	1	4
45-54		2	2							1		1
55-64												
65 and over										1		1
Age not stated												
August—												
All ages	28	23	51	2	1	3	16	15	31	9	10	19
Under 1 year	1		1				1		1			
1-4	2	4	6				3	2	5			
5-14	13	11	24				7	8	15	1	1	2
15-24	6	5	11	1		1	3	3	6	2	1	3
25-34	5	2	7	1		1	1	2	3	4	5	9
35-44	1	1	2				1		1	1	3	4
45-54										1		1
55-64					1	1						
65 and over												
Age not stated												
September—												
All ages	14	29	43	1		1	9	20	29	11	7	18
Under 1 year												
1-4	2	5	7				1	2	3			
5-14	8	12	20				7	13	20	1	1	2
15-24	3	6	9	1		1		4	4	3	1	4
25-34		3	3							3	2	5
35-44	1	1	2							3	1	4
45-54		2	2				1	1	2	1	1	2
55-64										1		1
65 and over												
Age not stated												
October—												
All ages	9	14	23				13	16	29	7	5	12
Under 1 year												
1-4		4	4				2		2			
5-14	5	6	11				8	8	16		1	1
15-24	2		2				1	5	6	1	2	3
25-34	1	2	3				2	3	5	1		1
35-44	1	1	2							2		2
45-54		1	1							1		1
55-64										2	2	4
65 and over												
Age not stated												
November—												
All ages	13	15	28				9	13	22	6	6	12
Under 1 year							1	1	2			
1-4	5	1	6				2	4	6			
5-14	5	7	12				6	4	10			
15-24	1	4	5					1	1	1		1
25-34	1	1	2					2	2	2	2	4
35-44										2	1	3
45-54								1	1		2	2
55-64										1		1
65 and over	1		1									
Age not stated		2	2								1	1
December—												
All ages	15	16	31		1	1	8	13	21	4	8	12
Under 1 year												
1-4		2	2				1	1	2			
5-14	10	8	18				6	11	17			
15-24	3		3					1	1		3	3
25-34		2	2				1		1		5	5
35-44	1	2	3		1	1				1		1
45-54	1	2	3							2		2
55-64												
65 and over												
Age not stated										1		1

TABLE D.

RETURN showing Marital Status of Cases of Venereal Diseases reported to the Public Health Department for the Year 1934.

	Male.		Female.		Total.		Grand Total.
	Married.	Single.	Married.	Single.	Married.	Single.	
Gonorrhœa	48	126	20	37	68	163	231
Gleet	1	6	...	...	1	6	7
Syphilis	40	18	42	14	82	32	114
Gonorrhœa and Syphilis	1	...	...	...	1	...	1
Gonorrhœa and Ophthalmia .....	...	...	2	...	2	...	2
Syphilis and Chancre .....	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum .....	...	...	2	...	2	...	2
Total	90	151	62	55	152	206	358

TABLE E.
RETURN showing Number of Cases of Venereal Disease reported to Department of Public Health during Each Year since the Inception of the Act in 1918.

Year.	No. of Cases	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
		356	488	419	473	357	384	516	460	413	376	300	386	324	242	229	274	358

HOSPITALS ACT.

Public Hospitals.

Legislation.—From time to time adverse criticism is made with respect to the law controlling public hospitals. I wish to make it clear that the unsatisfactory nature of the Act has been recognised for a lengthy period, and that a new measure is needed to provide for more effectual supervision and control. It is pleasing to know that the Government is giving consideration to the matter.

Proposed Erection of New Public Hospitals at Hobart and Launceston.—It has been noted with much satisfaction that the Government proposes to give consideration to the erection of new public hospitals at Hobart and Launceston to replace the existing institutions, which fall far short of present-day requirements. During recent years there has been a universal advance in hospital construction in order to keep pace with the newly devised methods which are constantly being put in practice. Appropriate housing is an essential requirement to facilitate these achievements.

General.—Most of the public hospitals throughout the State were visited on at least one occasion during the year for purposes of inspection and as a means of obtaining first-hand information regarding requests for special grants for repairs and maintenance of buildings.

Private Hospitals.—At the close of the year there were 71 licensed private hospitals throughout the State, detailed information in respect of which will be found appended (Table F). These hospitals have been inspected from time to time for the purpose of seeing that they were being conducted in accordance with the requirements of the law.

With a few exceptions, where, to meet the exigencies of an isolated district, various concessions have been granted, private hospitals are required to be in strict conformity with the law, both structurally and so far as management is concerned.

On a previous occasion it has been pointed out that, whilst to some extent private hospitals are in competition with the hospital services of the State, it must be admitted that they serve a most useful purpose and make much needed provision, which it would be difficult to secure in any other way without the expenditure of a large sum of money on the part of the State.

TABLE F.

RETURN of Private Hospital Licences Issued during the Year 1934.

	No. of Licences Issued.	Medical, Surgical, & Lying-in.	Medical & Surgical Only.	Lying-in Only.
Hobart	11	1	2	8
Launceston	10	...	2	8
Country	50	11	1	38
	71	12	5	54

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE AND INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Those voluntary organisations, whose services are devoted to maternal and child welfare, continue to pursue an active policy in the furtherance of their work. The Government, through the Public Health Department, has proffered those concerned every encouragement by financial aid to the extent of some £3000 per annum. Although excellent results have been achieved through the years, it is felt, from the information in the possession of the Department, that further improvement on behalf of motherhood

and child life may be anticipated by the development of a wider and more comprehensive field of service.

Reports submitted by the nurses in charge of the Hobart and Launceston welfare centres are detailed in Appendix III., whilst reference to the work performed by bush nurses is contained in Table K.

Infantile Mortality.—The registered number of deaths of children under one year was 189, giving an infantile mortality rate (deaths per thousand births) of 42.3. Tables G-J, containing statistical data in regard to infantile mortality, are appended.

TABLE G.
INFANTILE Mortality.

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

	Year.																			
	1915.	1916.	1917.	1918.	1919.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
Deaths.....	422	423	281	321	343	374	451	324	326	296	287	232	256	300	255	242	219	185	187	189

Infantile Mortality Rate (Deaths per 1000 Births.)

Year.	Tasmania.	N.S.W.	Victoria.	Queens-land.	South Australia.	West Australia.	New Zealand.	Nor th. T'tory.	Federal Cap. Ter.	Co'mon-wealth.
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	60.2	116.7	53.0
1929.....	53.1	56.6	47.2	46.1	40.9	56.2	34.1	18.9	19.6	51.1
1930.....	50.6	49.8	46.5	40.2	48.3	46.7	34.5	70.4	24.4	47.2
1931.....	46.0	43.5	44.5	36.6	36.5	41.5	32.2	83.3	37.3	42.1
1932.....	41.2	41.1	43.0	40.3	36.6	44.6	31.2	n	n	n
1933.....	41.1	39.3	40.4	42.6	31.9	36.8	31.6	94.6	53.4	39.5
1934.....	42.3	46.4	44.6	40.6	35.6	40.9	32.1	68.18	7.46	43.6

TABLE H.

TABLE showing the Principal Causes of Deaths of Children under 1 Year of Age in Tasmania in each Year from 1925 to 1934.

Causes of Deaths.		1925.	1926.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
7. Measles .....	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8. Scarlet Fever, &c .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Whooping Cough	23	1	...	19	11	3	8	3	4	7	...
10. Diphtheria and Croup	1	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Other Epidemic Diseases	1	1	2	...	2	...	1	1	1	1	...
22. Tetanus .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
24. Tubercular Meningitis	1	2	...	2	1	1	2	1	1	...	2
34. Syphilis	3	1	...	3	2	1	1	1	1	...	1
86. Convulsions	7	5	7	4	1	2	3	3	3	2	5
106. Bronchitis	3	1	5	5	1	3	1	2	...	...	1
107. Broncho-pneumonia	15	5	11	15	12	4	13	20	18	17	...
108, 109. Pneumonia	20	13	14	24	27	12	8	4	3	3	...
118. Other Diseases of the Stomach	1	...	3	1	2	1	1	1	...	...	1
119. Gastro-Enteritis, Diarrhoea, and Enteritis	29	30	31	37	21	23	12	8	9	19	...
157. Congenital Defects	20	19	17	17	31	28	23	14	24	11	...
159, 160. Premature Birth and Injury at Birth	89	91	101	101	72	100	86	69	73	85	...
158. Debility, Marasmus	37	29	26	34	30	25	16	20	13	21	...
161. Diseases of Early Infancy	8	13	22	14	17	20	14	20	20	11	...
Other Causes	29	20	16	20	25	18	30	18	19	15	...
Total	287	232	256	300	255	242	219	185	187	189	...
Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1000 Births)	55.0	46.5	53.0	63.9	53.1	50.6	46.0	41.2	41.1	42.3	...
Total Births	5218	4988	4833	4691	4797	4785	4762	4491	4553	4470	...

TABLE I.
(Showing Ages and Causes of Death under 1 year—1934.)

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.
9. Whooping Cough.....	...	5	1	1	7
22. Tetanus .....	...	...	...	1	1
24. Tuberculosis of the Meninges and Central Nervous System .....	...	...	...	2	2
34. Syphilis	1	...	...	...	1
36. Purulent Infection and Septicæmia .....	...	...	1	...	1
78a. Cerebral Abscess .....	...	...	1	...	1
82a. Cerebral Hemorrhage ..	1	...	...	...	1
86. Convulsions	3	1	...	1	5
92b. Chronic Endocarditis (Mitral) .....	...	...	1	...	1
103. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	1	...	...	...	1
106b. Chronic Bronchitis .....	...	1	...	...	1
107a. Broncho-Pneumonia .....	...	6	2	6	16
107b. Capillary Bronchitis	1	...	...	...	1
108. Lobar Pneumonia .....	...	2	...	1	3
117b. Ulcer of Duodenum .....	...	1	...	...	1
118. Other Diseases of the Stomach .....	...	1	...	...	1
119. Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	2	3	4	10	19
122b. Intestinal Obstruction .....	...	1	...	2	3
130. Acute Nephritis	1	...	...	...	1
152. Cellulitis (Acute Abscess) ..	1	...	...	...	1
157. Congenital Malformations ..	7	1	2	1	11
158. Congenital Debility.....	13	2	...	1	16
159. Premature Birth	59	3	...	...	62
160. Injury at Birth.....	7	...	...	...	7
161a. Atelectasis.....	7	...	...	...	7
161b. Icterus Neonatorum	5	...	...	...	5
161d. Sclerema and other Diseases of Early Infancy	8	1	...	...	9
172. Infanticide.....	2	...	...	...	2
182. Accidental Mechanical Suffocation .....	...	1	...	...	1
186i. Accidental Injury by Fall .....	...	...	...	1	1
Total	121	29	12	27	189

TABLE J.
Comparative Figures of Principal Causes of Deaths under One Year during 1930-1934.

Causes of Death.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.
Whooping Cough	3	8	3	4	7
Convulsions.....	2	3	3	3	5
Bronchitis	3	1	2	...	1
Broncho-pneumonia	4	13	20	18	17
Pneumonia	12	8	4	3	3
Diarrhoea and Enteritis ..	23	12	8	9	19
Congenital Debility	25	16	20	13	16
Syphilis	1	1	1	...	1
Malformations	28	23	14	24	11
Prematurity and Injury at Birth	100	86	69	73	69
Other Diseases of Early Infancy	20	14	20	20	21

PLACES OF PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT ACT.

The provisions of Section 5 (2) of this law, which provide for various exemptions in respect of buildings used by religious bodies and educational institutions, have not proved satisfactory in administration. Unless all such buildings be licensed, it is obvious that they are not subjected

to the supervision deemed necessary to provide for the safety, health, and convenience of the people using them for purposes of entertainment. The repeal of the clause will be recommended.

With the exception of one picture theatre, where structural alterations are pending, the seating accommodation of these places of public entertainment throughout the State has been brought into conformity with the requirements of the regulation on the subject.

Departmental officers have exercised supervision over places of public entertainment in the City of Hobart, with the object of preventing overcrowding. In other parts of the State this function is carried out by local health inspectors and officers of the Police Department.

Under Ministerial direction, the Film Censor Board constituted under the Act ceased to function on the 26th June. Up to the time of its suspension, the Board had dealt with applications for the registration of 265 films, as hereunder:—

261 were registered unconditionally.

2 were registered subject to the excision of certain features.

1 was registered subject to the condition that all advertisements contained the words "Not suitable for general exhibition."

1 was refused registration.

In the consideration of these applications, the Board viewed private screenings of 18 films.

Cinematograph Operators.—Seventy-one of these licences (61 full and 10 provisional) were issued during the year.

Offences.—Four prosecutions were instituted with success against the proprietors of various places of public entertainment for the following breaches of the law:—

No.	Nature of Breach.	Penalty. £ s. d. (in each case)
2	Overcrowding	5 17 0
1	Absence of fire extinguishing appliances in the operating enclosure	1 8 0
1	Unlicensed persons operating cinematograph machine	1 8 0

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

Departmental officers have supplemented the activities of local authorities in exercising supervision over premises used for the preparation, sale, or storage of food; action being taken where necessary to enforce the maintenance of sanitary conditions.

Butter.—As the result of representations made to the Director of Agriculture, the practice of sticking equalisation stamps on butter-wrappers has been discontinued. In some cases the method employed in affixing stamps could not be defended from the viewpoint of the public health.

A warning was issued to a wholesale firm for enclosing an imported butter in a wrapper containing a statement that the article was manufactured in a local factory.

Declaration of certain Drugs.—It was ascertained by investigation that, in some instances, the labelling requirements of the regulation were not being complied with in one or more of the following respects—the declaration in the form prescribed and the size and class of type used on the labels. The Pharmacy Board was asked to direct the attention of pharmacists to the requirements of the law.

Spiritous Liquors.—The Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchants' Association of Tasmania brought to notice the practice of certain persons who fill bottles purporting to contain well-known brands of liquor with a cheaper and inferior spirit. The request was made that action should be taken by the Department to prevent the defrauding of the public by this means. Initial steps have been taken to deal with this matter by providing the Government Analyst with the apparatus needed for the purpose of making the necessary check of individual brands of the liquor.

One thousand two hundred and ninety-seven tests of spiritous liquors sold at hotels and public-houses were made by inspectors. Prosecutions were instituted in those cases where it was revealed by analytical examination that the samples failed to reach the standard of strength.

Mutton-bird Industry.—The usual supervision was exercised over the mutton-birding season of 1934, with the object of ensuring that the food was placed on the market in a wholesome condition.

Advice to Food Handlers.—A leaflet, containing advice to food handlers, was printed and circulated through local authorities to food establishments throughout the State.

Food Sampling.—Detailed information as to the work carried out by officers under this heading is contained in Appendix I.

Offences.—Thirty-two prosecutions were instituted with success against retailers for selling food not in accordance with prescribed standards. The fines imposed and costs received totalled £79 2s. 6d.

BUSH NURSING.

Whilst there has been no expansion of bush nursing during the period under review, it is felt that the scheme has become more firmly established in view of the splendid services which continue to be rendered by the nurses. During the course of the year a new centre was established at Rossarden, a mining field in the Fingal district, whilst the Tullah centre was reopened in July. At the 31st December, 17 centres were functioning.

Five nurses resigned their position during the year, and others were appointed in their stead. In accordance with the direction of the Association, every effort has been made to fill the vacancies from Tasmanian nurses, but unfortunately some difficulty has been experienced in this regard. In one instance a nurse had to be secured from the mainland, and it would seem that this field will need to be resorted to from time to time for the purpose of filling other vacancies.

In seven centres provision is made for the accommodation of one or more patients in the building in which the nurse is domiciled. This facility is a valuable adjunct to the work of a centre, particularly in those places remote from medical and hospital services. It should be the aim of those interested to provide hospital accommodation at all centres other than those established in towns where hospitals are already existent.

The Government now provides free railway passes for nurses assuming bush nursing appointments and also for relieving nurses travelling to and from centres.

The conditions under which the nurses were insured were reviewed in July last, when it was decided that the Department would assume the financial responsibility for insuring the nurses under the Workers' Compensation Act; the insurance for sickness to be left to the discretion of each nurse to take such action as may be desired.

During the year the constitution of the Bush Nursing Association was revised and printed in booklet form. The amended constitution should be the means of enabling the Association to conduct its business much more effectually than hitherto.

This report would be incomplete without reference to the splendid assistance received at all times from the Northern and Southern Divisions of the Association. The Department has endeavoured to do its utmost to carry out the scheme in accordance with the wishes of those responsible for bush nursing in the State.

A summarised statement of work performed in each of the centres during the year is subjoined (Table K).

TABLE K.
BUSH NURSING.—Summary of Work performed during the Year ended 31st December, 1934.

Centre.	Visits to Nurse.	Visits to Patients.	Nursing Days.	Maternity Cases.	Child Welfare.	School Visits.	Mileage.	Fees Earned.
								£ s. d.
Adamsfield	294	236	78	1	85	...	434	6 0 0
Avoca	290	591	17	3	207	6	1178	56 3 0
Bruny	11	36	64	4	66	19	758	26 14 0
Burnie .....	...	217	160	15	1166	...	1495	80 18 0
Cygnat	75	279	154	16	457	24	2166	88 0 0
Flinders Island	180	109	120	5	32	5	1491	77 17 6
Lilydale	189	838	4	7	302	12	5111	134 14 7
Marrawah	393	346	138	3	194	5	2891	116 18 5
Ouse	432	230	207	17	156	7	1126	118 18 3
Rosebery	1041	1778	8	...	29	13	1746	...
Rossarden*	253	267	...	1	3	2	210	...
Southport	25	311	60	6	102	21	1153	51 2 6
Swansea	479	502	...	14	417	...	765	76 1 7
Tasman	82	149	164	16	59	13	5103	119 0 0
Tullah†	1032	480	59	2	43	9	849	...
Ulverstone .....	...	653	33	26	983	16	2690	95 10 3
Waratah	518	691	9	20	7	...	1217	58 7 0
Total	5294	7713	1275	156	4308	156	30,383	1106 5 1

* Rossarden opened in July.

† Tullah reopened in June.

FACTORIES ACT.

Registration of Factories.—At the end of December, 1934, there were 1221 registered factories throughout the State, an increase of 18 over the preceding year. The registration fees amounted to £424 6s. 6d.

Employees in Factories.—Persons numbering 8821 (6778 males and 2043 females) were employed in registered factories, compared with 8805 (6670 males and 2135 females) during the preceding year.

Horsepower of Machinery Used in Factories.—Machinery used in the various factories throughout the State equalled 79,030 horsepower.

Inspection.—Although every local authority is empowered and required to cause regular and proper inspection of all factories to be made and generally to enforce the provisions of the Act, it would seem, as the result of inspections made by officers of this Department, that sufficient atten-

tion is not being directed to the performance of this work in many districts, and it has devolved upon my Department of its own initiative to require occupiers to remedy defects existing in their factories. It is very necessary, as a means of overcoming conditions injurious to the health of workers, that factories in general, and in particular those premises where dust is generated in the trade process, should be subjected to systematic and regular inspection. Unless an improved service on the part of many local authorities may be anticipated, it is felt that the importance of this work will demand the closest attention of this Department.

Notices.—Ninety-six requisitions were served upon occupiers of factories to carry out various works. These requisitions were complied with.

Statistics.—A table containing statistical data with respect to factories registered by the Department during the year 1934 is subjoined.

TABLE L.

Compiled from Applications for Registration of Factories Received from 1st January, 1934, to 31st December, 1934, and Showing Tasmanian Factories in Analysed Sections, Together with the Number of Employees, their Ages and Hours of Work.

Class of Factory.	No. of Factories.	Employers Engaged in the Trade.	Ages (Male Employees).									Ages (Female Employees).									Total Male Employees.	Total Female Employees.	Hours of Work per Week.	
			14 years.	15 years.	16 years.	17 years.	18 years.	19 years.	20 years.	21 years and over.	14 years.	15 years.	16 years.	17 years.	18 years.	19 years.	20 years.	21 years and over.						
SECTION 1.—Treating Raw Material.																								
1. Abattoirs	3	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33	...	40-48
2. Tanneries	2	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	4	46	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	59	...	48
3. Wool-scouring, &c.	8	3	1	1	3	4	2	1	2	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64	...	48
4. Bark Mills	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16	...	48
Total	16	6	2	3	4	6	5	2	8	142	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	172	...	...
SECTION 2.—Oils and Fats.																								
5. Soap, candles, acid, and soda	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	17	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	48
SECTION 3.—Processes in Stone, Clay, &c.																								
6. Bricks, Tiles, Concrete Pipes, and Pottery	13	...	1	1	4	3	4	3	3	125	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	144	...	48
7. Stone-crushing	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	48
8. Stone-dressing	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	44
Total	23	2	1	1	4	3	4	4	3	170	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	190	...	...
SECTION 4.—Working in Wood.																								
9. Joiners and Builders	52	31	2	1	8	9	5	4	13	142	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	184	...	44
10. Sawmills	166	95	4	8	12	18	19	14	21	896	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	992	...	48
11. Wood and Coal Yards	114	119	1	3	4	6	5	3	1	39	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	62	...	48
12. Wood-turning, Bending, and Woodworking	6	6	1	...	4	10	3	2	3	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	32	...	48
13. Tool Handles	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	48
14. Tennis Racquets, &c.	1	...	7	18	19	9	11	11	11	69	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...	155	8	48	
15. Wood-wool	7	5	...	...	1	2	1	3	1	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	48
16. Clothes-pegs	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	2	29	...	4	5	7	5	2	3	14	...	35	40	...	
Total	348	256	15	30	48	54	46	39	53	1213	...	4	5	7	5	3	3	16	...	1498	43	...		
SECTION 5.—Metal Works, Machinery, &c.																								
17. Engineering	37	16	3	3	10	8	10	15	15	162	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	226	...	44-48
18. Motor-garages	63	27	3	7	9	13	9	10	20	130	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	201	...	44-48
19. Foundries (Brass)	5	5	...	...	3	1	1	1	...	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	48
20. Railway and Tramway Shops	5	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	5	252	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	260	...	44
21. Tinsmith and Plumbing	11	4	...	1	1	5	4	4	4	48	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	67	...	44-48
22. Other Metal Works	4	6	...	1	5	2	...	1	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29	...	44-48
23. Electrical Engineering	5	3	...	1	1	2	2	2	1	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	48
24. Razor Blades	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	6	2	2	13	...	2	24	...	
Total	131	61	6	13	29	33	27	34	45	633	...	...	1	...	6	2	2	13	...	820	24	...	
SECTION 6.—Trades connected with Food and Drink.																								
25. Bacon-curing	5	4	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	48
26. Butchers (Smallgoods)	94	56	1	4	7	2	5	7	14	97	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	137	...	48
27. Biscuits	3	3	7	8	16	7	2	3	3	36	6	8	8	4	3	3	1	8	...	82	41	48		
28. Bakers	197	134	4	6	13	11	24	15	10	236	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	319	5	48
29. Confectionery, &c.	3	...	4	12	11	7	...	5	2	97	6	27	23	17	6	...	6	56	...	138	141	44-48		
30. Flourmillers	6	6	...	1	2	...	1	3	...	67	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	74	2	48	
31. Jam-making, Fruit-pulping, and Fruit-preserving	7	...	13	16	22	26	38	30	16	424	4	5	8	7	4	10	11	161	...	585	210	48		
32. Fruit and Vegetable Drying	7	3	...	1	5	...	8	4	5	27	...	1	1	3	6	3	...	31	...	50	45	48		
33. Cider	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	48	
34. Aerated Waters and Cordials	12	6	...	...	2	4	1	...	1	33	...	1	...	1	2	...	1	2	...	41	7	48	
35. Breweries	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	70	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72	...	48	
36. Condiments	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	2	...	1	5	48	
37. Ice and Refrigerating	6	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	48	
38. Egg Pulp	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	4	48	
39. Pickles and Sauce	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	48	
40. Self-Raising Flour	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	48	
41. Sausage Casing	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	48	
42. Grain Crushing & Cleaning Cakes and pastry	75	68	...	...	...	2	...	2	3	10	1	3	1	1	2	3	2	17	...	13	1	48	
Total	430	283	30	48	78	61	81	72	54	1178	17	45	42	33	23	21	22	290	...	1602	493	...		

Tasmanian Factories in Analysed Sections.—continued.

Class of Factory.	No. of Factories.	Employers Engaged in the Trade.	Ages (Male Employees).								Ages (Female Employees).								Total Male Employees.	Total Female Employees.	Hours of Work per Week
			14 years.	15 years.	16 years.	17 years.	18 years.	19 years.	20 years.	21 years and over.	14 years.	15 years.	16 years.	17 years.	18 years.	19 years.	20 years.	21 years and over.			
SECTION 7.—Clothing and Textile Fabrics, &c.																					
43. Woollen Mills and Spinning, &c.	5	3	11	12	21	22	20	12	10	145	14	17	35	32	21	12	10	136	253	277	45-48
44. Boot-manufacturing	10	10	...	1	2	3	1	2	2	26	1	...	5	...	2	2	1	12	37	23	44
45. Tailors	15	9	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	28	...	1	...	...	5	2	1	34	30	43	44
46. Dresses and Millinery	19	4	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	4	1	8	2	13	11	3	46	7	95	45
47. Knitted Goods, &c.	4	6	8	13	7	13	12	8	9	220	1	15	30	43	60	36	49	392	290	626	45
48. Shirts and Clothing	7	5	1	...	2	...	3	...	1	36	12	13	21	19	13	13	14	98	43	203	45
49. Tents, Tarpaulins, &c.	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...
Total	62	38	20	28	32	38	36	23	24	465	29	54	93	107	112	76	78	715	666	1267	...
SECTION 8.—Books, Printing, &c.																					
50. Printing	23	22	1	6	14	15	14	17	14	329	1	4	5	1	13	4	11	52	410	91	42-48
SECTION 9.—Vehicles, Saddlery.																					
51. Coaches and Waggon and Motor Bodies	25	25	...	2	9	7	2	4	5	59	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	88	...	48
52. Cycles and Motors	8	7	2	1	...	1	2	...	1	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	19	...	48
53. Saddlery	4	4	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	10	1	48
Total	37	36	3	3	9	8	6	4	6	78	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	117	1	...
SECTION 10.—Shipbuilding.																					
54. Ship and Boat Building	4	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	44
SECTION 11.—Furniture, Bedding, &c.																					
55. Bedding and Flocks	3	2	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	48
56. Furniture	53	42	3	5	12	8	11	11	13	133	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	11	196	14	48
Total	56	44	3	5	13	10	11	12	13	137	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	11	204	14	...
SECTION 12.—Drugs, Chemicals, and By-products.																					
57. Chemicals	5	2	1	2	...	1	...	...	2	11	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	17	4	47-48
58. Fertilisers	10	4	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	27	...	48
Total	15	6	1	3	...	2	...	...	2	36	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	44	4	...
SECTION 13.—Timepieces, Jewellery, &c.																					
59. Jewellery	3	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...	44-48
SECTION 14.—Heat, Light, and Power.																					
60. Electric Light and Power	13	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	47	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	51	...	48
61. Gas Manufacture	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	71	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72	...	44-48
Total	15	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	118	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	123	...	...
SECTION 15.— (not elsewhere included).																					
62. Brooms, Brushware, &c.	4	1	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	48
63. " " (Chinese)	10	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
63. " " (European)	3	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	1	2	2	2	1	13	3	21	44-48
64. Dyer and Cleaner	6	4	1	...	...	2	...	...	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	10	4	48
65. Rubber Works	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	48
66. Produce	3	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	31	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	34	...	48
67. Paint Manufacturing	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	44
68. Tyre Vulcanizing	8	5	...	1	3	...	...	6	3	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	...	48
69. Other Minor Wares	20	11	...	2	...	2	2	3	3	34	...	...	2	4	3	...	3	17	46	20	44-48
Total	57	39	3	4	3	5	2	11	9	97	...	...	3	6	5	2	4	34	134	54	...
GRAND TOTAL	1221	796	86	145	234	237	232	219	237	4644	48	107	149	154	167	110	121	1135	6034	1991	...

WAGES BOARDS ACT.

Amendment of Legislation.—The Principal Act was amended during the last session of Parliament by the repeal of Part IV., which authorised agreements being entered into between certain employers and their employees as to rates of wages and terms and conditions of employment. The amending Act also contains the following provision:—

"Subject as hereinafter provided, all agreements entered into under the provisions of Part IV., and which were in operation at the commencement of this Act, shall, from and after such commencement, cease to operate: Provided, however, that where in any trade in respect of which any such agreement as aforesaid was in operation at the time of such commencement, and there was not then existing any determination of a Board applicable to such trade, such agreement shall continue to operate until its expiry or until a determination of a Board shall be sooner made in respect of that trade, and in the meantime the provisions of the said Part shall apply to such agreement as if such Part had not been repealed."

Wages Boards.—Fifty-four wages boards were existent at the 31st December, 1934. A new determination was made by each of the following boards:—

Designation of Board	Date Determination came into Operation.
City Councils	14.2.34
Country Municipal Councils ..	1.7.34
Furniture-makers	3.1.35
Insurance	14.8.34
Ironmongers	5.11.34
Laundrymen	9.3.34
Street Cleansers	15.9.34
Textile	26.7.34

The following boards were re-constituted during the year:—

Bakers.
Barristers and Solicitors.
Chemists.
City Councils.
Country Municipal Councils.
Drapers.
Furniture-makers.
Grainmillers.
Insurance.
Ironmongers.
Jam-makers.
Laundrymen.
Mechanical Engineers.
Street Cleansers.
Textile.
Threshers.

Chairman of Wages Boards.—Mr. R. J. Meagher, in his capacity as Chairman of Wages Boards, has again rendered meritorious service. His intimate knowledge of the law, combined with the strictly impartial manner displayed towards both sides of representation, has facilitated the framing of determinations to a very considerable extent.

Policing of Determinations.—In accordance with instructions received from the Minister, active measures have been taken to enforce the provisions of the law by policing the determinations of wages boards made thereunder. An additional inspector, with extensive experience in industrial work, was appointed to the staff to assist in carrying out the duties involved. The results achieved in the interests of workers have fully justified the activities of the Department in this field of service. Inspections disclosed a considerable number of breaches, which employers adjusted without recourse to legal proceedings. A serious view will be taken in those cases where recurring offences come under notice.

Licences Granted to Aged, Slow, or Infirm Workers.—Twenty-six licences were issued under this heading in accordance with Section 27 of the Act.

Apprentices.—Twenty-two licences were issued to apprentices who were unable to complete their term of apprenticeship before attaining the age of 21 years.

Improver's Licences.—Nine licences were issued under this heading.

Arrears of Wages.—Arrears of wages secured by the Department to employees during the year without having recourse to legal action amounted to £667 12s. 11d.

Offences.—Three prosecutions were instituted for various breaches of this law. Convictions were recorded in each case. Penalties amounted to £9 3s. 9d. in addition to orders being secured for the payment of £10 9s. 3d. arrears of wages.

SHOPS ACT.

Legislation.—Various trade interests have continued to level adverse criticism against certain provisions of the Shops Act, which it is alleged are responsible for unfair competition among shopkeepers. I should like to see the law amended to remove obvious anomalies and to make its provisions more workable and satisfactory to those persons affected by the legislation.

Small Shops.—Small shops to the number of 719 were registered during the year, a decrease of 19 in comparison with the previous year. Fees amounting to £342 10s. were received on account of these registrations.

Small Shop Assistants.—Two hundred and twenty-six licences were issued to assistants in small shops. The sum of £53 15s. was received in fees under this heading.

Tobacco Licences.—The number of licences issued to persons to sell tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes totalled 1722. An amount of £835 7s. 6d. was received in respect of such licences.

Newsvendors' Licences.—Seventy-four licences were issued to persons to sell newspapers, magazines, periodicals, and stamps. Fees amounted to £34 10s.

Offences.—Legal proceedings were instituted against two shopkeepers for breaches of Section 21 (2) of the Act. A fine of 12s. 6d. was imposed upon one defendant, whilst the other case was dismissed.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT.

The active administration of this law has added materially to the responsibilities and work of the Department. A considerable number of claims for the payment of compensation, as the result of personal injury by accident arising out of and in the course of employment, have been investigated and adjusted on behalf of workers. In only one instance was it necessary to resort to legal proceedings to effect settlement, the Department being successful in the case.

Compulsory Insurance.—The compulsory insurance clause of the law came into force on the 1st April, 1934, and, since the Department was vested with authority to inspect policies, every effort has been made to have the law in this regard complied with by employers. Inspections revealed that many employers had failed to indemnify themselves against their liability under the Act. Those concerned readily agreed to insure after their attention had been directed to the matter.

Exemption from Compulsory Insurance.—In accordance with the powers vested in the Chief Inspector, exemption from compulsory insurance was granted to forty-six employers, who either had adequate resources or had made other sufficient arrangements for the payment of compensation under the Act.

CONCLUSION.

In concluding this report, I desire to record my appreciation of the valued support and co-operation received from officers of the Department during the year. I also desire to express my gratitude for the advice and assistance received from the Crown Law, Police, Public Works, Statistician's, and other Government Departments in connection with various phases of public health work.

I have, &c.,

E. J. TUDOR,

Secretary for Public Health and Chief Inspector of Factories.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 4th March, 1935.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report of the work performed by the Inspectorial Staff (Health Division) of the Department during the year ended 31st December, 1934.

Staff.

The Staff consists of the following officers:—Chief Health Inspector J. Riley, M.R.S.I., and Inspector H. H. Parker, A.R.S.I., stationed at Hobart; and Inspector D. S. Clark, Cert.R.S.I., and Inspector T. Orr, Cert.R.S.I., stationed at Launceston.

Routine Sanitary Surveys and General Inspections.

The majority of municipalities throughout the State were visited during the year, and routine sanitary surveys carried out. A number of special inspections were made at the request of local authorities, and follow-up inspections were found to be necessary to ascertain if action had been taken to carry out the recommendations of the Department.

Numerous technical matters were brought under the notice of departmental officers, and it is gratifying to know that the local inspectors are appreciative of the advice and assistance rendered. Many letters of commendation have been received from local authorities.

Details of inspections made in the course of sanitary surveys and general and special inspections under the Public Health Act, Food and Drugs Act, and kindred laws administered by the Department are set out as follows:—

Butchers' shops and other food premises	309
Places of public entertainment and public buildings, including plans of new buildings and alterations to existing buildings	201
Bacteriolytic tanks, sites, plans, &c.	169
Collection of tobacco licences	168
Hotels and licensed premises	159
Abattoirs, slaughter-houses, and offensive trades	141
Schools (public and private)	130
Bakeries	108
Dairying premises	105
Factories	90
Wages Board determinations	84
Domestic inspections	81
Garbage depots and services	62
Boarding-houses	48
Hospitals (public and private)	45
Racecourses, showgrounds, &c.	39
Sanitary depots and services	33
Weighing of bread	33
Small-fruit orchards and hop-grounds	26
Drainage disposal, installations and defects	26
Infectious diseases, outbreaks of	23
Water supplies and pollution of same	22
Cemeteries and burial-grounds	22
Piggeries	19
Insanitary buildings	14
Wharves, jetties, and river frontages (not under the control of local authorities)	14
Sewage disposal in rivers and streams	8
Water sampling	7
Butter-factory ventilation	3

Food and Drugs.

During the year two hundred and thirty-two samples of foods and drugs were purchased from various firms throughout the State and forwarded to the Government Analyst. Prosecutions were instituted successfully in thirty-two cases for selling foodstuffs not in accordance with prescribed standards, and fines and costs amounting to £79 2s. 6d. were inflicted. Warnings were issued in six cases. The majority of prosecutions were in regard to adulterated spirits.

A complete list of the samples taken is shown hereunder:—

Baking powder and self-raising flour	5
Butter	31
Cheese	4
Cocoa	9
Coffee and chicory	8
Cordials	2
Cornflour	1
Cream	15
Cream of tartar	6
Custard powder	2
Disinfectants	1
Essences	10
Honey	4
Meat and fish pastes	20
Milk	40
Miscellaneous	12
Oils	3
Pepper	2
Sausage	14
Spirits	35
Vinegar	4
Water	1
Wood alcohol	3
Total	232

Testing and Sampling of Spirits.

Officers were engaged almost continuously throughout the year in testing spirits at all hotels and public-houses. Altogether 1297 samples of spirits were tested, and all doubtful ones were forwarded to the Government Analyst for final examination.

Condemnation of Foods.

Condemnation orders were issued in regard to certain classes of food found to be adulterated and unwholesome. At the request of the Supply and Tender Board, samples of food supplied under contract to Government institutions were procured and forwarded for analytical examination.

Health Inspectors' Conference.

A conference and class of instruction for health inspectors and other officers of local authorities was held at Launceston during the week ending 13th October. Nearly every local authority was represented at the conference, which was opened officially by the Minister for Health. It was generally acknowledged that the officers attending received much benefit from the lectures and demonstrations given. Many congratulatory letters were received, with requests that a conference should be held every year.

Investigations and Special Reports re Water Supplies.

With the advent of cheap electrical power, it has been possible to inaugurate many new systems of water supplies. Numerous samples of water have been procured for analysis, and special reports have been made in regard to the possibilities of obtaining domestic water supplies from rivers and streams.

Pollution of Domestic Water Supplies.

Several investigations and reports were made in connection with the pollution of rivers and creeks through sawdust from timber mills discharging into such streams which are utilised for domestic water supplies.

I have, &c.,

J. RILEY, Chief Health Inspector.

APPENDIX II.

Bacteriological Laboratory,
Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 19th February, 1935.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report of the work performed at the Department's laboratory during the year ended 31st December, 1934.

The total number of specimens forwarded from all parts of the State was 12,757.

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

I have, &c.,

GEORGE HADDOW,
Government Bacteriologist.

The Secretary for Public Health.

	No. of Specimens.	No. Positive.
Swabs for diphtheria bacillus	9,413	548
Sputum for tubercular bacillus	1,471	427
Urine for tubercular bacillus	79	—
Fæces for tubercular bacillus	2	—
Cerebro-spinal fluid for tubercular bacillus	9	—
Pleural fluid for tubercular bacillus	3	—
Pus from wounds for tubercular bacillus	10	1
Blood for Widal's test	75	9
Fæces for typhoid or para. A. & B. bacillus	15	—
Urine for typhoid or para. A. & B. bacillus	18	—
Urine for pus, &c.	82	—
Urine for coliform bacillus	233	—
Urine for organisms	2	—
Urine for quantitative sugar test	2	—
Fæces for occult blood	2	—
Fæces for entamoeba histolytica	1	—
Smears for gonococcus	1,262	130
Eye smears for gonococcus	22	1
Urine for gonococcus	1	—
Material to culture for organisms	9	—
Blood to culture for organisms	6	—
Cerebro-spinal fluid to culture for organisms	1	—
Sputum for hydatids	4	—
Cerebro-spinal fluid for hydatids	1	—
Sputum for lung tissue	1	—
Seminal fluid for spermatozoa	2	—
Pus for streptococcus	1	—
Pus for organisms	1	—
Water for quantitative analysis	1	—
Smear for Vincent's angina	1	—
Pathological	23	—
Vaccines	4	—
Total	12,757	

APPENDIX III.

Child Welfare Association,
Hobart, 28th March, 1935.

SIR,

THE following report gives a brief account of the work of the nurses for the year, 1934:—

Visits paid by the nurses and attendances at the clinics are summarised hereunder:—

SUMMARY of the Work of the Nurses.

Centre.	Visits to Individual New-born Babies.	Subsequent Visits to Mothers.	Visits to Expectant Mothers.	Individual Babies Attending.	Total Attendances by Babies.	Total Attendances by Expectant Mothers.
Hobart Centre	315	3270	60	995	7320	127
North Hobart	291	1596	66	372	3795	67
Moonah	143	1616	68	357	3720	65
Glenorchy	66	307	12	65	341	5
Georgetown	1	19	—	50	363	—
Total	816	6808	206	1839	15,539	264

Record of Feeding.

Babies wholly or partially breast fed for 3 months, 87 per cent. (previous year, 83 per cent.).

Babies wholly or partially breast fed for 6 months, 74 per cent. (previous year, 68 per cent.).

Babies wholly or partially breast fed for 9 months, 65 per cent. (previous year, 63 per cent.).

Classes.

Seven classes of girls from the State schools have attended a course of lessons in mothercraft and infant hygiene.

Two classes of girl guides have been given instructions for their Child Nurse Badge.

Correspondence.

Letters, numbering 96, have been received from mothers living in the country, and 202 leaflets of advice were posted to mothers of new-born babies living beyond our visiting area.

General.

Students (14) from the Mothercraft Home attended at the centres during their training to gain experience in district work.

Milk has been supplied to 53 mothers with young children.

Creches were held as usual at the Hobart Regatta and the Show.

I have, &c.,

C. BONNILY, Sister-in-Charge.

The Secretary for Public Health.

Baby Health Association,

Launceston, 15th February, 1935.

SIR,

The following figures report our work for the year, 1934:—

Number of attendances at the Launceston Clinic	9,879
Number of attendances at the Invermay Clinic	1,321
Number of attendances at the Newstead Clinic	1,326

Total visits to Clinics	12,526
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Number of new babies at the Launceston Clinic	444
Number of new babies at the Invermay Clinic	75
Number of new babies at the Newstead Clinic	34

Total new babies at Clinics	553
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Number of visits paid to homes by the sisters	2,795
Number of new babies visited in their homes	693
Number of expectant mothers at the Clinics	181
Number of expectant mothers visited in the homes	60

New Babies.—There were 553 new babies, of which 457 were wholly or partially breast-fed and 96 were artificially fed when first brought to the Clinics; 346 were normal healthy babies, 52 were premature, and the others consisted of babies who were undernourished (49), or suffering from overfeeding, indigestion, and other minor upsets.

Letters.—One hundred and sixty-one letters (with literature enclosed) have been written to mothers who have sought our advice re the feeding and care of their babies or their own health, and letters have been received from all parts of the State. An article dealing with Child Welfare has been published for us each week in the "Weekly Courier."

Literature.—Pamphlets dealing with the feeding of babies and older children, the prevention of infantile diarrhoea, suggestions for expectant mothers, &c., have been freely distributed. Mothercraft and baby's weight books, also patterns for baby clothes, have been sold when required.

Mothercraft Lectures.—Lectures and examinations have been given to schoolgirls from the following colleges and State schools:—Methodist Ladies' College, Broadland House Church of England Girls' Grammar School, Wellington Square State School, Glen Dhu, Invermay, Charles Street, and East Launceston. These lectures include instruction in the feeding and care of the baby, the bathing and clothing of baby, and infant hygiene, and should be of the greatest possible value to the students as a preparation for the duties of motherhood. Lectures have also been given to Mothers' Unions, Young People's Associations, Girl Guides, &c., during the year.

I have, &c.,

O. M. GREEN, Sister-in-Charge.

The Secretary for Public Health.

APPENDIX IV.

Government Analyst's Laboratory,
Hobart, 9th May, 1935.

Return of Samples of Foodstuffs Examined in the Government Laboratory During the Year 1934.

Cereals and baking powder	16
Beer and cordials	2
Butter	217
Cheese	4
Confectionery, honey, sugar	8
Cream and condensed milk	20
Drugs and chemicals	18
Essences	20
Fish, in tins	12
Milk (cows')	310
Milk (human)	32
Oils and fats	9
Poisons, tests for	27
Sausages and preserved meat	23
Sauces and condiments	8
Spirits and wine	82
Tea, coffee, and cocoa	18
Vinegar and vinegar essence	7
Water	40
Sundries	7
Total	880

Butter.

Of 187 samples examined for export, 37 contained over 16 per cent. of water, as did 4 out of 30 for local consumption.

Cordials.

A lemon squash contained only about 1/24 of the acidity of a genuine sample.

Cream.

Out of 17 samples, 4 were deficient in milk-fat, and one contained a small excess of boric acid.

Chemicals, Baking.

A cream of tartar contained 30 per cent. of cornflour. A "carbonate of soda" contained a considerable proportion of cream of tartar.

Essences.

The use of artificial benzaldehyde was commented on in connection with two samples of essence of almond.

Fish in Tins.

A slight excess of tin was found in sardines in two cases only, viz., 2.9 and 2.3 grains per lb.

Milk.

Thirty-five were deficient, representing 11.3 per cent. of those examined, as compared with 9.5 per cent. the previous year. Seven contained added water, the three worst containing 22 per cent., 19 per cent., and 18 per cent.

Poisons.

Strychnine was found in chaff in two cases of animal poisoning. Arsenate of lead in excess of the maximum allowable was found on two samples of apples, and a quantity of the same compound was found in the remaining small portion of a bottle of milk.

Sausages and Preserved Meats.

Of 14 samples, only two showed a small excess of starch. An average protein content of 12.5 per cent. seems to indicate some improvement in quality.

Four samples of meat paste did not comply with labelling provisions.

Spirits.

Of 65 spirits, 28 were deficient in proof spirit; a whisky containing only 43.4 per cent. and a rum 47.6 per cent.

Coffee and Chicory.

Two samples of one brand, which were asserted to contain 65 per cent. of coffee, contained only 54 per cent.

Water.

River waters from the North-West Coast were found to be very pure.

Water from Cambridge, intended for stock, contained an ounce of solids to the gallon, and it was pronounced unfit for use.

Water from the Victoria Dock, which was supposed to be causing the death of fish, was examined, but without providing an explanation. In a similar case in the George River, finely divided and suspended mineral matter appeared to be the cause.

E. WARD, Government Analyst.

The Secretary for Public Health.

APPENDIX V.

Department of Public Health,
Hobart, 15th April, 1935.

THE NURSES' REGISTRATION ACT, 1927.

SIR,

We have the honour to present the annual report of the Nurses' Registration Board for the year 1934.

Personnel of Board.

The personnel of the Board is as follows:—

Dr. W. Inglis Clark (Chairman).
Surgeon Superintendent, Hobart Public Hospital.
Medical Superintendent, Launceston Public Hospital.
Dr. T. C. Butler.
Matrons G. H. Lade, A. M. Hall, and C. E. Rout.

The four last-mentioned members were reappointed for a further term on the 13th April, 1934.

Meetings of Board.

The Board held four meetings during the year for the transaction of its business. A sub-committee of the Board met on three occasions for the purpose of approving of applications submitted by candidates for examination.

Training Schools.

Nineteen hospitals are recognised as training schools—fifteen for general nurses and four for midwifery nurses.

Pupil Nurses.

Pupil nurses to the number of 303 (265 general and 38 midwifery) were in training during the year.

Examinations.

The Board conducted four examinations for registration as general and midwifery nurses—two at Hobart and two at Launceston.

Forty-five persons presented themselves for examination in general nursing. Of these, 34 passed the necessary examination and 11 failed. In the midwifery section, 27 persons presented themselves for examination. Twenty-four passed and three failed.

Educational examinations for intending trainees were arranged on four occasions. Twenty-four applications were received for these examinations, and of these candidates, 14 passed and ten failed.

Applications for Registration.

General Nurses—	
Number of applications	82
Number accepted	82
Midwifery Nurses—	
Number of applications	45
Number accepted	45

Applications for Renewal of Registration.

General nurses	316
Midwifery nurses	293

Inspections.

The Supervisory Nurse attached to the Department of Public Health carried out 339 inspections in connection with the practice of midwifery nurses.

Amendment of Regulations.

Regulations Nos. 16, 28, and 44 were amended during the year. The first-mentioned regulation, as amended, now provides that the period of training in a training school for midwifery nurses shall be not less than eighteen months; whilst, in the case of a nurse registered by the Board as a general nurse, the period shall be not less than nine months.

A new regulation (No. 70), approved on the 26th March, provides that every midwifery nurse shall forthwith notify the Board of her attendance upon any case of pyrexia with a temperature above 100 degrees F. of 48 hours' duration. The attention of medical practitioners was directed by circular to the requirements of this regulation.

We have, &c.,

W. INGLIS CLARK, Chairman.
E. J. TUDOR, Secretary.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

APPENDIX VI.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Statistical and General.

Population:

Estimated on the 31st December, 1934—

Males	116,996
Females	114,457
Total	231,453

Mean population 1934 (for whole year)—

Males	115,887
Females	113,280
Total	229,167

Mean population 1933 (for the whole year)

year)	228,440
Increase for the year	727

The population of the State, as shown by the figures, reveals an increase of 727.

Commonwealth Birth-rate for the Year 1934 Per 1000 Persons Living.

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

	1922.	1933.	1934.
New South Wales	25.67	16.98	16.52
Victoria	23.10	15.59	15.20
Queensland	25.59	18.13	18.16
South Australia	23.71	15.32	14.50
West Australia	23.94	17.95	17.66
Tasmania	27.08	19.93	19.51
Northern Territory	19.16	15.20	17.80
Federal Capital Territory	11.37	14.47	14.47
Commonwealth	24.69	16.78	16.39

Death Rates for 1934 Per 1000 Persons Living.

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

	1922.	1933.	1934.
New South Wales	8.92	8.58	8.95
Victoria	9.65	9.59	10.18
Queensland	9.16	8.83	8.57
South Australia	9.11	8.44	9.26
West Australia	9.32	8.64	9.23
Tasmania	9.30	9.60	10.25
Northern Territory	16.42	12.53	12.14
Federal and Capital Territory	2.13	4.20	3.35
Commonwealth	9.22	8.92	9.32

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 1934, also the death-rate per 10,000 persons living (mean population 229,167), as contrasted with the previous year, 1933 (mean population estimated at 228,440).

Cause of Death.	Number of Deaths, 1933.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.	Number of Deaths, 1934.	Death Rate per 10,000 persons.
General Diseases—				
Typhoid Fever	4	.2	3	.1
Malaria .....	...	...	...	...
Smallpox .....	...	...	...	...
Measles .....	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	4	.2	4	.2
Whooping Cough	7	.3	11	.5
Diphtheria and Croup	16	.7	22	1.0
Influenza	23	1.0	62	2.7
Dysentery .....	...	...	2	.1
Syphilis	5	.2	13	.6
Tubercular Diseases	127	5.6	112	4.9
Rheumatic Fever, Rheumatism, and Gout	9	.4	8	.3
Cancer, all forms	250	10.9	259	11.3
Dietic Diseases and Industrial Poisoning .....	...	...	3	.1
Other General Diseases	88	3.8	93	4.0
Total General	533	23.3	592	25.8
Local Diseases—				
Diseases of Nervous System	185	8.1	189	8.2
Diseases of Circulatory System	591	25.9	700	30.5
Diseases of Respiratory Organs	235	10.3	255	11.1
Diseases of Digestive Organs	136	6.0	128	5.6
Diseases of Genito-Urinary System	110	4.8	125	5.4
Diseases of Puerperal Origin	22	1.0	18	.8
Diseases of the Skin	3	.1	6	.3
Diseases of Bones and Malformations	42	1.8	22	1.0
Diseases of Early Infancy	106	4.6	107	4.7
Total Local Diseases	1430	62.6	1550	67.6
Deaths Produced by External Causes—				
Accident or Negligence	112	4.9	101	4.4
Homicide	2	.1	10	.4
Suicide	18	.8	18	.8
Total External Causes	132	5.8	129	5.6
Ill-defined—Not Specific Diseases—				
Old Age	78	3.4	68	3.0
Ill-defined Diseases	19	.9	6	.3
Total Ill-defined Diseases	97	4.3	74	3.3
Total Deaths, All Causes	2192	96.0	2345	102.3

Typhoid Fever.

Year 1934.

Number of cases notified 19
Number of deaths, year 1934 (calendar)——Males 2
Females 1*Diphtheria.*

Year 1934.

Number of cases notified 491
Number of deaths, year 1934 (calendar)——Males 9
Females 13*Scarlet Fever.*

Year.	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate per 10,000 population.	Cases per 100 persons living.	Deaths per 100 cases notified.	Death % of cases.
1922	981	7	·3	4·55	7·1	0·7
1923	604	3	·1	2·79	5·0	0·5
1924	376	3	·1	1·74	8·0	0·8
1925	288	3	·1	1·34	10·4	1·0
1926	188	1	·05	·88	5·3	0·5
1927	91	2	·1	·43	22·0	2·2
1928	190	1	·05	·88	5·3	0·5
1929	314	2	·1	1·44	6·4	0·6
1930	485	8	·4	2·20	16·5	1·6
1931	265	.....	.....	1·18	.....	.....
1932	417	5	·2	1·84	12·0	1·2
1933	370	4	·2	1·61	10·9	1·1
1934	362	4	·2	1·58	11·0	1·1

Diphtheria.

Year	Cases.	Deaths.	Death rate per 10,000 population.	Cases per 100 persons living.	Deaths per 100 cases notified.	Death % of cases.
1922	1616	58	2·7	7·50	35·9	3·6
1923	870	32	1·5	4·02	36·8	3·7
1924	597	20	·9	2·76	33·5	3·4
1925	473	13	·6	2·19	27·5	2·7
1926	347	6	·3	1·62	17·1	1·7
1927	507	10	·5	2·38	19·7	2·0
1928	908	18	·8	4·21	19·8	2·0
1929	488	18	·8	2·24	36·9	3·7
1930	573	20	·9	2·59	34·9	3·5
1931	589	19	·8	2·62	32·3	3·2
1932	455	17	·8	1·96	37·4	3·7
1933	706	16	·7	3·14	22·3	2·2
1934	491	22	·9	2·14	44·8	4·5

year) the whole