

The following is a summary of the disabilities from which ex-service personnel of the 1939-45 war were suffering at the time of application for pension :—

Class of Disability or Disease.	Type of Service.		
	Overseas.	New Zealand.	Total.
(1) Infections and infestations	133	12	145
(2) Nervous system	256	31	287
(3) Eye, ear, and nose	231	32	263
(4) Circulatory and blood systems	88	22	110
(5) Metabolism	19	5	24
(6) Lungs	225	45	270
(7) Breast
(8) Digestive system	192	26	218
(9) Generative system	17	5	22
(10) Gunshot wounds and accidental injuries to bones, joints, and soft tissues	426	99	525
(11) Skin	150	14	164
(12) Areolar tissue
(13) Tumours and neoplastic growths	10	2	12
(14) Malformations	2	3	5
(15) Amputations	10	1	11
(16) Urinary tract	38	8	46
(17) Sundry minor disabilities	6	1	7
Application for pension (no disability)	101	11	112
	1,904	317	2,221

The War Pensions Board dealt with 65,505 cases during the year ended 31st March, 1948, under the following categories :—

(1) Claims for pension on account of disablement	2,856
(2) Claims for economic pension	2,622
(3) Claims for dependant's pension	1,709
(4) Cases submitted for renewal and review	41,062
(5) Cases submitted for reconsideration	8,726
(6) Cases where the question of entitlement was considered in respect of personnel discharged from the Forces on medical grounds, but who did not apply for pension	936
(7) Claims for war veterans' allowances	601
(8) Sundry claims and reviews and cases adjourned for further consideration and decision	6,943
	65,505

Following the trend noted last year, there has been a further reduction in new applications for disablement pensions. Current applications are largely in respect of recurrences of war-time illnesses from which recovery had been made, and with disabilities where there is no direct relation to war service. With the presumption of attributability operating in the applicant's favour, it has been possible to deal with these applications expeditiously and with a minimum of inconvenience to applicants.