

improved since the hospital at Rarotonga has been established under the Drs. Craig, both of whom are able men and up to date in their profession. Unfortunately, we have no statistical data on which we can rely, except from Aitutaki, where the native population are notoriously diseased. For some years the ministers of the London Missionary Society kept an almost perfect record of the births, deaths, and marriages in each island; but, for some reason unexplained, the late Resident placed the registration of these matters in the hands of the Arikis, who naturally began to charge fees, with the very unsatisfactory result that the people avoided registration whenever it was possible to do so, and therefore it is that there is no reliable record except from Aitutaki, which, as I have said, cannot be accepted as a fair instance of the general health of this group.

RECORD OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, AND MARRIAGES IN THE ISLAND OF AITUTAKI FOR THE PAST FOURTEEN YEARS, the Population being 990 in 1886.

Year.					Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.
1886	...	...	...	...	40	42	18
1887	...	...	...	...	33	61	17
1888	...	...	...	...	35	46	7
1889	...	...	...	...	28	41	6
1890	...	...	...	...	33	52	20
1891	...	...	...	...	21	33	8
1892	...	...	...	...	31	28	14
1893	...	...	...	...	36	31	16
1894	...	...	...	...	29	18	27
1895	...	...	...	...	24	32	6
1896	...	...	...	...	27	23	18
1897	...	...	...	...	27	27	13
1898	...	...	...	...	33	35	17
1899	...	...	...	...	24	30	7
					421	499	194

By this table it will be seen that in fourteen years the deaths exceeded the births by seventy-eight, and during the same period the number of children baptised was only 336, or eighty-five less than the actual births. In other words, eighty-five infants died, mostly from tetanus, before they were old enough to be baptised.

I submit Tables I to IV, in which the shipping trade and revenues of the Cook Islands are set forth :—

TABLE I.—RETURN of SHIPPING for the PORT of RAROTONGA for the Year ending 31st December, 1899.

	Inwards.								Outwards.							
	Sailing.		Steam.		Men-of-war.		Total.		Sailing.		Steam.		Men-of-war.		Total.	
	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
British ..	1	287	28	19,491	1	2,575	30	19,778	1	287	27	18,724	1	2,575	29	19,586
American ..	3	402	..	..	..	..	3	402	3	402	..	..	..	..	3	402
French ..	5	219	..	..	..	..	5	219	5	219	..	..	..	..	5	219
Native ..	37	1,829	..	..	..	..	37	1,829	38	1,997	..	..	..	..	38	1,997
Totals 1898 ..	46	2,737	28	19,491	1	2,575	75	22,228	47	2,905	27	18,724	1	2,575	75	22,204

TABLE II.—EXPORTS.

This table sets forth in detail the exports from the Cook Islands for the year ending the 31st December, 1899. The value of the produce in question for the past eight years has been as follows :—

Year.	Cook Islands.		Foreign.	Total Value.
	Value.	£	Value.	£
1892	15,394	4,943	20,337
1893	18,703	905	19,668
1894	18,937	1,728	20,665
1895	19,084	1,054	20,138
1896	15,486	1,333	16,819
1897	21,751	2,381	24,132
1898	11,209	1,408	12,617
1899	11,199	3,020	14,219

The decrease in the exports for the past two years is due solely to partial failure in the orange- and coffee-crops, which are the staple articles of produce in these islands.