

Seven children out of every hundred born in 1906 are shown to have been successfully vaccinated in that year. This is a falling-back to a position even lower than that which obtained in 1901 as regards vaccination of infants.

Thirteen thousand eight hundred and forty-six exemption certificates were issued from the 13th October, 1900, when the Act came into force, to the end of the year 1906. Of these 2,667 belong to the year 1906, when, as before stated, the successful vaccination of children under one year of age amounted to 1,810, or 7·47 per cent. of births.

Only eight children out of every hundred born in 1907 would appear to have been successfully vaccinated. Soon New Zealand will have the unenviable distinction of being the least protected of all countries.

PHTHISIS.

The death-rates from this disease increased slightly last year—from 6·21 to 6·66 per 10,000. This increase is, I think, of little significance. Provision is gradually being made for sufferers from this disease, and when we can say to every indigent sufferer, "Here is a shelter, come in," as much will have been effected in this direction as can be expected of a State.

ADMISSIONS REFUSED.

During the past year twelve persons were refused admission to the Dominion on account of either mental defects, tuberculosis, or syphilis.

CANCER.

Once again the Registrar-General records an increase in the death-rate from this disease. In 1906, with a mean population of 895,594, there were 623 deaths; in 1907, with a mean population of 919,105, there were 674—an increase of 0·37 per 10,000 persons living.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered during 1907 was 25,094, or 27·30 in every 1,000 persons living. The number of births is 842 in excess of that for the year 1906, an increase of 3·47 per cent. From 1882 until the year 1899 there was a regular fall in the birth-rate. The number of births registered in a year reached 19,846 in 1884, and, after falling to 17,876 in 1892, has risen to 25,094 in 1907 as stated above.

The number of male children born during 1907 was 12,835, and of female children 12,259.

The figures for each year from 1882 are worthy of notice, especially in connection with the subsequent particulars given as to marriages solemnised and the growth of population:—

Year.		Number of Births.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.	Year.		Number of Births.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
1882	...	19,009	37·32	1895	...	18,546	26·78
1883	...	19,202	36·28	1896	...	18,612	26·33
1884	...	19,846	35·91	1897	...	18,737	25·96
1885	...	19,693	34·35	1898	...	18,955	25·74
1886	...	19,299	33·15	1899	...	18,835	25·12
1887	...	19,135	32·09	1900	...	19,546	25·60
1888	...	18,902	31·22	1901	...	20,491	26·34
1889	...	18,457	30·07	1902	...	20,655	25·89
1890	...	18,278	29·44	1903	...	21,829	26·61
1891	...	18,273	29·01	1904	...	22,766	26·94
1892	...	17,876	27·83	1905	...	23,682	27·22
1893	...	18,187	27·50	1906	...	24,252	27·08
1894	...	18,528	27·28	1907	...	25,094	27·30

The marriages have increased numerically, and the population of the Dominion also.

Year.		Number of Marriages.	Mean Population (excluding Maoris).	Year.		Number of Marriages.	Mean Population (excluding Maoris).
1882	...	3,600	509,309	1895	...	4,110	692,417
1883	...	3,612	529,292	1896	...	4,843	706,846
1884	...	3,800	552,590	1897	...	4,928	721,609
1885	...	3,813	573,362	1898	...	5,091	736,260
1886	...	3,488	582,117	1899	...	5,461	749,984
1887	...	3,563	596,374	1900	...	5,860	763,594
1888	...	3,617	605,371	1901	...	6,095	777,968
1889	...	3,632	612,716	1902	...	6,394	797,793
1890	...	3,797	620,780	1903	...	6,748	820,217
1891	...	3,805	629,783	1904	...	6,983	845,022
1892	...	4,002	642,245	1905	...	7,200	870,000
1893	...	4,115	661,349	1906	...	7,592	895,594
1894	...	4,178	679,196	1907	...	8,192	919,105

The average number of children to a marriage may be ascertained by comparing the number of legitimate births for a series of years with the marriages, but commencing with the marriages in the year preceding that for which the first number of births is taken.