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Considering the range of this statement New Zealand is conspicuous as showing the lowest death-The rates for the principal Australian States are a little higher, but, generally speaking, far below

those for the United Kingdom or the European Continental States mentioned in the table.

Perfect accuracy in comparing one country with another can only be attained by the use of what is termed an "index of mortality." The proportions of the living vary in regard to the different age-groups, and the ordinary death-rate—which is calculated on the population as a whole—does not afford a true means of judging of the relative healthiness of the places compared. But by taking a population like that of Sweden, and applying the percentage at each age-group to the death-rates, a standard of health or index of mortality can be arrived at. This has been done for New Zealand, in accordance with a resolution of the Statistical Conference held at Hobart in 1902, and the result is expressed in tabular form.

Index of Mortality in New Zealand for 1908.

Ages.	Estimated	Number	Death-	Percentage of	Index of
	Mean	of	rate	Population	Mortality in
	Population,	Deaths,	per 1,000,	of Sweden, 1890	New Zealand
	1908.	1908.	1908.	(Standard).	per 1,000.
Under 1 year 1 and under 20 years 20 and under 40 years 40 and under 60 years 60 years and upwards	23,721	1,761	74·24	2·55	1·89
	347,594	975	2·80	39·80	1·11
	357,328	1,477	4·13	26·96	1·11
	149,698	1,520	10·15	19·23	1·95
	66,722	3,310	49·61	11·46	5·61
Totals	945,063	9,043	9.57	100.00	11.67

A similar calculation for the States of the Australian Commonwealth has been made for 1907. The results, when compared with the actual rates, exhibit to what degree the age-constitution of the population affects the death-rate. The figures for New Zealand are also given.

						Index.	Actual.
Queensland						14.60	10.39
	•••					14.31	10.58
New South Wales	•••	•••	•••	•••	• • • •	14.40	11.74
Victoria	•••	• • •	•••	• • •	•••	13.33	9.93
South Australia	• • •		• • •	•••	• • •		
Western Australia		•••	•••			15.66	$11 \cdot 17$
Tasmania						14.87	11.14
New Zealand						13.35	10.95
	•••	•••	•••	•••		11.67	9.57
" (1908)	• • •	• • •	•••	•••		11 01	J 01

For the purpose of considering the mortality in New Zealand more closely than can be done by means of crude death-rates, it is desirable to ascertain the rates at different age-periods of the population. The abnormally high rate in 1907, due to prevalence of epidemic diseases, is strikingly illustrated by comparison with the average for the previous five years. The rate for 1908 at all ages is slightly below the average, but the same as for the middle year of the period 1902-6.

Ages at Death. The deaths occurring during 1908 are tabulated below in single ages up to five years, and from thence in groups, showing males and females separately :-

Ages. Under 1 month							Males.	Females.	Total. 810
1 month with the					••		205	142	347
3 months 6 ,,	,,	12 ,,	• •	· · ·	••		191	171	362
 m . 1 - 1 - 1					-	1,007	754	1,761	
	100	pai anaoi .	ı your				135	96	231
1 year	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •	59	44	103
2 years	• •	• •	• •	• •	• •		$\frac{35}{37}$	51	88
3 ,,			• •	• •	• •	•••		19	45
4 ,,	• •	• •	• •	••	• •	••	26 	19	
Total under 5 years							1,264	964	2,228
5 years an			• • •				92	77	169
	ia anaer	1 F			• •		75	76	151
		Ω Λ	• •		• •		104	84	188
		or .	• •	• •			186	159	345
		90	• • •	• •	• •	1	210	216	426
		30 ,,	• •	• •	• •	• •	181	150	$3\overline{3}1$
		35 ,,		• •	• •		213	162	375
		40 ,,	• •	• •	• •	•••	$\frac{213}{202}$	124	326
0 .		45 ,,	• •	• •	• •	••	$\begin{array}{c} 202 \\ 238 \end{array}$	151	389
5,	,,	50 ,,				• •	<i>4</i> 36	101	909