| Year. | | | | | Marriages. | Legitimate Births. | Proportion of Births to every Marriage solemnized in the Preceding Year. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1904 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6,983 | 21,737 | 3·22 |
| 1905 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7,200 | 22,600 | 3·24 |
| 1906 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7,592 | 23,120 | 3·21 |
| 1907 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8,192 | 23,937 | 3·15 |
| 1908 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8,339 | 24,835 | 3·03 |
| 1909 | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8,094 | 25,301 | 3·03 |
| 1910 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24,822 | 3·07 |

If the average result be taken out for the ten years 1891–1900, it will be found to represent 4·08 births to a marriage. Dealing similarly with the figures for 1901–10, the result is an average of 3·18, so that regarded annually or decennially there is a decided fall to be observed.

New Zealand had in 1880 the highest birth-rate in Australasia (40·78); in 1900 the case was reversed; but in 1910 the New Zealand rate was higher than that of Victoria and South Australia. The movement over ten years is calculated as under :—

*Birth-rates per 1,000 of Population.*

| Country. | 1901. | 1902. | 1903. | 1904. | 1905. | 1906. | 1907. | 1908. | 1909. | 1910. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Queensland ... ... | 28·53 | 27·89 | 24·62 | 27·13 | 25·92 | 26·31 | 26·98 | 26·99 | 27·52 | 27·58 |
| New South Wales ... | 27·78 | 27·20 | 25·41 | 26·81 | 26·79 | 27·12 | 27·22 | 26·86 | 27·26 | 27·56 |
| Victoria ... | 25·77 | 25·23 | 24·46 | 24·65 | 24·83 | 25·14 | 25·16 | 24·71 | 24·55 | 24·12 |
| South Australia | 25·39 | 24·85 | 23·43 | 24·70 | 23·82 | 23·54 | 23·82 | 24·59 | 24·57 | 25·08 |
| Western Australia | 30·34 | 30·27 | 30·26 | 30·33 | 30·29 | 30·01 | 29·40 | 29·25 | 28·06 | 27·17 |
| Tasmania ... | 28·60 | 29·23 | 28·62 | 29·60 | 29·33 | 29·82 | 29·50 | 30·90 | 29·86 | 30·26 |
| New Zealand ... | 26·34 | 25·89 | 26·61 | 26·94 | 27·22 | 27·08 | 27·30 | 27·45 | 27·29 | 26·17 |

*Sexes of Children born.*

The figures show that during each year there has been a preponderance of births of male children. It would appear, however, that this excess of male births is not sufficient to compensate for the heavier mortality which occurs among that sex. Of the total population in 1871 there were 70·52 females to every 100 males, but in 1910 the proportion of the females to 100 males had risen to 89·21.

| Year. | | | | Number of Births of | | Proportion of Births of Males to every 100 Females. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Males. | Females. | |
| 1888 | .. | .. | .. | 9,641 | 9,261 | 104·1 |
| 1889 | .. | .. | .. | 9,514 | 8,943 | 106·4 |
| 1890 | .. | .. | .. | 9,293 | 8,985 | 103·4 |
| 1891 | .. | .. | .. | 9,377 | 8,896 | 105·4 |
| 1892 | .. | .. | .. | 9,101 | 8,775 | 103·7 |
| 1893 | .. | .. | .. | 9,310 | 8,877 | 104·9 |
| 1894 | .. | .. | .. | 9,472 | 9,056 | 104·6 |
| 1895 | .. | .. | .. | 9,493 | 9,053 | 104·9 |
| 1896 | . | .. | .. | 9,511 | 9,101 | 104·5 |
| 1897 | .. | .. | .. | 9,600 | 9,137 | 105·1 |
| 1898 | .. | .. | .. | 9,615 | 9,340 | 102·9 |
| 1899 | .. | .. | .. | 9,724 | 9,111 | 106·7 |
| 1900 | .. | .. | .. | 10,107 | 9,439 | 107·1 |
| 1901 | .. | .. | .. | 10,471 | 10,020 | 104·5 |
| 1902 | .. | .. | .. | 10,653 | 10,002 | 106·5 |
| 1903 | .. | .. | .. | 11,217 | 10,612 | 105·7 |
| 1904 | .. | .. | .. | 11,762 | 11,004 | 106·9 |
| 1905 | .. | .. | .. | 12,109 | 11,573 | 104·6 |
| 1906 | .. | .. | .. | 12,397 | 11,855 | 104·6 |
| 1907 | .. | .. | .. | 12,835 | 12,259 | 104·7 |
| 1908 | .. | ..* | .. | 13,369 | 12,571 | 106·3 |
| 1909 | .. | .. | .. | 13,502 | 13,022 | 103·7 |
| 1910 | .. | .. | .. | 13,442 | 12,542 | 107·2 |

*Twin Births.*

There were 288 cases of twin births (576 children) and 2 cases of triplets registered in 1910. The number of children born was 25,984; the number of mothers was 25,692 : thus, on an average, one mother in every 98 gave birth to twins, against 99 in 1909, 90 in 1908, 102 in 1907, 114 in 1906.