

## (14.) VACCINATION.

TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO WERE SUCCESSFULLY VACCINATED IN EACH QUARTER OF THE YEAR 1913.

Health District.	March Quarter.		June Quarter.		September and December Quarters.	Total for Year 1913.	
	Under 1 Year.	Over 1 Year.	Under 1 Year.	Over 1 Year.	All Ages.	All Ages.	Exemptions granted.
Auckland .. .. .	5	93	4	0	132,700	132,800	1,037
Wellington - Hawke's Bay - Nelson	12	4	4	4			1,220
Canterbury-Westland .. .. .	17	7	16	21	6,300	6,450	881
Otago .. .. .	32	11	43	15			364
Totals .. .. .	66	115	67	40	139,000	139,250	3,502

NOTE.—Between the 13th October, 1900 (the date on which the Public Health Act, 1900, came into operation), and the 31st of December, 1913, 46,519 certificates of exemption from liability to vaccinate children had been issued by Registrars of Births, who register vaccination certificates under the present law, to parents or custodians.

Owing to an epidemic during the latter part of last year vaccination was carried out on an unusual scale. In most cases only names and numbers of vaccinees were available. Further small returns are probably still outstanding.

## (15.) MIDWIVES ACT, 1908.

The District Health Officer, Auckland, reports:—

It has not been necessary to suspend any registered midwives on account of the occurrence of puerperal septicæmia in patients attended by them, but three unregistered women have been warned not to attend any cases for the usual period of suspension.

The District Health Officer, Wellington, reports:—

No special action was necessary under the provisions of this Act.

The District Health Officer, Christchurch, reports:—

In several cases of puerperal septicæmia midwives were temporarily suspended for the usual period. One unregistered midwife practising at Blackball was prosecuted. One license for a maternity hospital was revoked in Christchurch.

## (16.) THE SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

The District Health Officer, Auckland, reports:—

The regulations under this Act came into force on the 1st April, and a large amount of work resulted, as we were daily in communication with manufacturers on the subject of labelling. The year of grace enabling stock in hand to be used up prevented any legal action being taken in this respect, but in any case the majority of the manufacturers and importers have shown themselves eager to comply with the requirements. The amount of attention which should have been devoted to this work was unfortunately limited owing to the more pressing matter of the smallpox epidemic, so that in some cases matters in doubt had to be allowed to stand over: thus we cannot hope to have all the new provisions in operation at the end of the period of exemption. That several important modifications in the regulations are still required has been revealed by the practical efforts to follow the regulations during the year. We cannot expect to get such far-reaching alterations in trade affairs accomplished in so brief a time. But great advances have been made, one of the most important being the labelling of all packages of goods with the net weight of the contents and the declaration of the maker or agent on the label.

While in Australia I was able to get some useful information from the authorities there as to their experience with these regulations, which is the more important to us as we are to a great extent obliged to follow Australia's lead in so far as imported articles are concerned at least; and in America I secured a complete set of the regulations in force generally for the States and in Massachusetts.

A circular was issued to butter-packers dealing with the requirements as regards labelling. An important point in regard to this commodity, which these regulations have raised, is the presence of small amounts of carbonate of soda—a result of the too liberal acceptance by factory-managers of home-separated cream, which has been kept till excessive acidity has developed. The practice has been to counteract this acidity with soda bicarbonate, and, though a butter of reasonably sound appearance results, it has been found to be deficient in keeping qualities. That this practice has had its influence on the quality of butter exported I learned from conversations with authorities in England, who had noticed a deterioration in quality of some brands, and were fully aware of the cause. If it be unavoidable to accept unsound cream in isolated districts, it would seem at least reasonable to require that butter subject to such drawbacks should be labelled differently from butter made wholly from fresh cream. In any case, so far as the retail trade is concerned, the presence of bicarbonate must be regarded as a breach of the regulations.