

Other factors may be adduced to explain the selective affinity, but undoubtedly the most potent is inherited mental instability. Hereunder Table XIII is restated in percentage proportions of the principal causes :—

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Heredity	7.55	11.19	9.29
Congenital and mental deficiency	9.39	13.18	11.20
Predisposed by previous attack	6.87	12.19	9.43
Critical periods	4.12	7.71	5.84
Senility	12.13	11.19	11.68
Mental stress	11.90	9.20	10.61
Alcohol	9.61	2.49	6.20
Syphilis	10.07	0.75	5.60
Epilepsy	5.72	2.74	4.29
Influenza	3.44	5.72	4.53
Other assigned causes	6.61	12.94	9.65
Unknown	12.59	10.70	11.68
	100.00	100.00	100.00

Such statistical returns tend to be fairly uniform, the ups and downs of one year being balanced by the figures of the next. The above proportions, compared with the average, show a marked reduction in the incidence ascribed to heredity and alcohol, and an increase in congenital cases and to mental disorder associated with syphilis. There is also an increase of about 2 per cent. in the incidence of mental stress, which is very little during a period of economic unrest and when it is remembered that this factor includes the special anxieties and worries incidental to the war, whether direct or indirect, and whether on the part of the soldier or the civilian.

The influenza epidemic which visited the country towards the latter end of the year did not spare the mental hospitals. None escaped, but the epidemic manifested itself in varying extent and severity in different institutions. For easy reference the facts are placed hereunder in tabular form, and in studying these, while still a lively recollection exists of the visitation as a disturbing element in the general community, some conception may be possible of the anxieties of those controlling the smaller and special communities resident in mental hospitals. In this connection I wish to record my appreciation of the faithful services of the staffs during a very trying time.

INFLUENZA.—MENTAL HOSPITALS.

Table showing the Daily Average Number of Patients and Staff (respectively), the Number attacked, and the Proportion in which the Malady proved fatal.

Mental Hospital.	<i>Patients.</i> Daily Average Number of Patients (and Boarders) resident during Epidemic.			Number attacked by Influenza.			Number died from Influenza.			Percentage of Deaths of those attacked.
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	
Auckland	657	397	1,054	46	56	102	0	1	1	1.00
Christchurch	319	359	678	52	146	198	1	0	1	0.5
Seacliff	617	447	1,064	153	106	259	10	8	18	6.95
Hokitika	195	71	266	2	14	16	..	..	..	..
Nelson	97	109	206	0	1	1	..	..	..	..
Porirua	578	448	1,026	306	104	410	16	6	22	5.36
Tokanui.. .. .	114	43	157	41	0	41	4	0	4	9.75
Totals	2,577	1,874	4,451	600	427	1,027	31	15	46	4.47
<i>Staff.</i> Daily Average Number of Staff during Epidemic.										
Auckland	70	37	107	36	25	61	0	1	1	1.64
Christchurch	75	54	129	28	32	60	1	0	1	1.66
Seacliff	109	70	179	75	42	117	3	1	4	3.42
Hokitika	23	12	35	7	5	12	1	0	1	8.33
Nelson	22	19	41	2	2	4	..	..	..	..
Porirua	88	52	40	54	29	83	..	..	..	..
Tokanui.. .. .	28	11	39	22	7	29	1	0	1	3.45
Totals	415	255	670	224	142	366	6	2	8	2.16