Mortality among Natives.

Table IX shows that 1,232 deaths from acute cataarhal diseases took place during 1918, of which 1,160 were during the months of October, November, and December. As the average Native deaths per year from all causes is about 750, the above figures show the heavy toll which influenza took among the Maoris. It is not at present possible to give the exact figures for influenza. It is significant that whereas in 1917 there were in September thirteen deaths from respiratory diseases, in September, 1918, there were twenty-nine such deaths, and we know from the medical officers' reports that influenza was prevalent among the Natives at this time, but we cannot estimate the actual figures for the first wave of infection with any degree of accuracy. There is less doubt as to the second wave. Comparing the figures for the last three months of the year in 1917 with those of 1918 we find in the former year twenty-seven deaths, as against 1,160 in 1918. It is safe to assume that about 1,130 of these deaths were due to influenza, yielding the high total death-rate of approximately 2·26 per cent. for the Native population

Excluding cases whose deaths during an attack of influenza might be attributed to other causes, the secondary wave of influenza, reckoned as from the 1st October to the 31st December, resulted in the following death-rates in the Dominion :—

					Deaths.	Deaths at per 10,000 of the Mean Population.
European	...	...	...	...	5,471	49·60
Native	...	...	...	...	1,130	226·00

The excess death-rate per 10,000 of population in the larger towns in America during the epidemic period was 50·0, so that the New Zealand rate for Europeans does not appear unduly high. In Cape Province, South Africa, it was 335·0, but this included many Native cases. In Natal it was 114·7.

Case Death-rate.

We have no figures showing the case mortality for the general population. In the military camps during the second wave about 4·5 per cent. of the total number infected died. Pneumonic complications arose in about 11 per cent. of the cases, and this was the chief cause of death. In addition to this, there were ten deaths from cerebro-spinal fever among the convalescents.

The case mortality in South Africa was given as 2·57 per cent. for Europeans of all ages and 5·9 per cent. for Natives. As the population of the camps in New Zealand was made up of males of most susceptible age the case death-rate of 4·5 is not excessive. In Maryland, U.S.A., the case death-rate for males between twenty-five and twenty-nine is given as 4·8 per cent., and between the ages twenty and forty as 3·6 per cent.

Influence of Age, Sex, and Race.

It is the general experience that males are more susceptible to influenza than females, and that in the present epidemic those of adult years were most severely affected. That this was the case in New Zealand is well shown in the following table :—

Table XIII.—European Deaths occurring during Epidemic in Age-groups

Age-group.	Males.			Females.			Both Sexes.		
	Number of Deaths.	Death-rate per 10,000 of Male Population.	Proportion of Population of each Age-group to Total.	Number of Deaths.	Death-rate per 10,000 of Female Population.	Proportion of Population of each Age-group to Total.	Number of Deaths.	Death-rate per 10,000 of Population.	Proportion of Population of each Age-group to Total.
Under 5	117	16·92	12·81	117	17·55	11·84	234	17·23	12·31
5 and under 10 ..	24	3·75	11·86	25	4·02	11·05	49	3·88	11·46
10 „ 15 ..	32	5·61	10·58	35	6·33	9·82	67	5·96	10·19
15 „ 20 ..	162	35·35	8·49	95	19·89	8·48	257	27·46	8·48
20 „ 25 ..	295	110·30	4·96	193	38·09	8·55	488	65·16	6·79
25 „ 30 ..	546	152·28	6·64	341	68·21	8·87	887	103·32	7·78
30 „ 35 ..	678	163·69	7·67	332	67·80	8·67	1,010	111·92	8·18
35 „ 40 ..	602	144·57	7·72	220	48·22	8·10	822	94·20	7·92
40 „ 45 ..	390	117·03	6·17	152	43·59	6·19	542	79·48	6·18
45 „ 50 ..	252	74·36	6·28	111	38·86	5·07	363	58·11	5·66
50 „ 55 ..	142	57·54	4·57	116	53·44	3·85	258	55·62	4·21
55 „ 60 ..	72	37·47	3·56	62	38·52	2·86	134	37·95	3·20
60 „ 65 ..	56	33·83	3·07	47	36·30	2·30	103	34·91	2·67
65 „ 70 ..	44	38·23	2·13	35	35·44	1·75	79	36·94	1·94
70 „ 75 ..	45	52·66	1·58	29	41·09	1·25	74	47·43	1·41
75 „ 80 ..	30	48·38	1·15	30	64·69	0·82	60	55·33	0·98
80 „ 85 ..	10	33·69	0·55	16	78·20	0·36	26	51·04	0·45
85 „ 90 ..	7	74·47	0·17	7	94·85	0·13	14	83·43	0·15
90 „ 95 ..	1	67·57	0·03	..	..	0·03	1	32·26	0·03
95 and over ..	1	333·33	0·01	2	590·00	0·01	3	428·57	0·01
Totals.. ..	3,506	64·96	100·00	1,965	34·88	100·00	5,471	49·60	100·00