

SECTION 4.—QUARANTINE AND PORT SANITARY WORK.

During the year under review considerable time was devoted to the preparation of a set of up-to-date regulations relating to quarantine. These finally became operative as from the 1st December, 1921.

The occurrence of plague in Australia necessitated extreme precautions in order to guard the Dominion against the invasion of this disease. Up to the time of writing (May, 1922) these measures have been successful, and it is hoped that the most serious risks are now passed. This opportunity is taken of acknowledging the courtesy of the Federal and New South Wales Departments of Health in supplying full and prompt information concerning the course of the disease in Australia, and the measures so successfully applied to limit its spread.

* Details concerning the port health inspection of overseas ships are contained in the next table.

PORT HEALTH INSPECTION OF OVERSEAS VESSELS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1921.

Port.	Number of Vessels inspected.	Remarks as to Cases of Infectious Diseases on Board or Persons not allowed to land.
Whangarei	3	1 case infectious disease reported.
Auckland	300	7 cases infectious disease reported; 42 infirm and 36 prohibited immigrants reported.
Thames	1	
Whakatane	2	
Gisborne	11	
Napier	11	
Waitara	1	
New Plymouth	8	
Wanganui	16	
Wellington	164	28 cases infectious and 11 cases contagious disease reported. 37 infirm and 19 prohibited immigrants reported.
Pietermaritzburg	2	
Nelson	1	
Westport	4	
Greymouth	5	
Lyttelton	61	3 cases infectious and 3 cases contagious disease reported.
Timaru	11	
Oamaru	2	
Port Chalmers	36	2 cases infectious disease reported.
Bluff	25	
Total	664	

SECTION 5.—BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES.

The facilities available in the Dominion for the bacteriological investigation of disease are being gradually extended. Two new branch laboratories were opened during the year at Whangarei and Hamilton respectively. Apart from the main laboratories in the four centres, there are now six branch laboratories established in connection with the public hospitals of the subsidiary centres of the Dominion.

The table below, which summarizes the work of a definite public-health nature performed in these laboratories, shows the importance and wide range of the examinations undertaken in these institutions.

WORK IN BACTERIOLOGICAL LABORATORIES.

Table showing Public-health Work performed in Bacteriological Laboratories during the Year ended 31st December, 1921.

Disease.	Number of Examinations.															
	Positive.								Negative.							
	Whangarei.	Auckland.	Gisborne.	Napier.	Palmerston North.	Wellington.	Christchurch.	Dunedin.	Invercargill.	Whangarei.	Auckland.	Gisborne.	Napier.	Palmerston North.	Wellington.	Christchurch.
Diphtheria diagnosis ..	1	452	7	44	147	791	554	299	65	12	1,179	35	394	559	2,079	2,737
Diphtheria clearance ..	7	..	5	162	158	..	1,486	774	121	3	..	23	111	300	..	5,317
Tuberculosis—																
Sputum	13	127	11	135	32	216	64	118	62	58	674	59	346	191	617	517
Cerebro-spinal fluid ..	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	1	2	..	1	1	14	15	26	10
Urine	3	1	1	10	13	6	10	20	3	9	9	4	111	62	71	125
Pleuritic fluid .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	16	..	19	5
Fæces	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	..	5	2
Other material	1	..	1	2	1	10	3	5	1	3	4	9	26	16	48	27
Typh'd-fever diagnosis—																
Agglutination tests ..	3	35	14	11	17	47	12	1	..	2	72	16	96	30	402	64
Blood-culture .. ..	..	4	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	4	7	1	4	..	1	12
Fæces .. ..	..	..	..	11	..	7	7	..	..	2	43	26	57	17	40	296