

being 1,792 in 1912 with an estimated population of 34,239, and 1,701 in 1923. It is interesting to note that the large number of births in 1912 followed epidemics of dysentery and measles in 1911, in which year there were 1,827 deaths, and the record number in 1924 followed an epidemic of dysentery in 1923, with 1,398 deaths.

The birth-rate for 1924 was 55·38 per thousand of mean population : the rates for 1922 and 1923 being respectively 48·52 and 50·49 per thousand. (NOTE : Still-births, of which 32 were registered during the year, are not included either as births or as deaths in the various numbers and rates given in this report.)

Births of Samoans, Western Samoa, 1924.

					Males.	Females.	Total.
Upolu	..	..	..	..	645	616	1,261
Savai'i	..	..	..	..	319	320	639
Totals, Western Samoa	..	..	..	..	964	936	1,900

DEATHS.

The number of deaths registered during 1924 was 766, as compared with 1,398 in 1923 and 899 in 1922. Last year's figures were abnormally high, owing to an epidemic of dysentery (bacillary). This year the number of deaths is considerably below the average. With a birth-rate of 55·38 per thousand it was to be expected that there would be an increase in the number of children dying in the first year of life. That such did not happen is shown by the infant-mortality rate being only 155 per thousand births, a figure considerably below the average, and one which compares favourably with many more advanced communities. Since the chief loss of life in Western Samoa occurs between the ages of six months and two years, it is anticipated that the coming year will not be as satisfactory as this one, but steps are being taken to reduce the wastage at this period of life. This is referred to more fully under "Child Welfare." The death-rate was 22·29 per thousand of mean population.

HOSPITAL STATISTICS FOR PERIOD 1ST APRIL, 1924, TO 31ST MARCH, 1925.

	Hospitals.					Dispensaries.						
	Apia.	Tuaivai.	Aleipata.	Mulifanua.	Safotu.	Gagamalae.	Satupaitea.	Maha.	Lufi Lufi.	Vaiala.	Travelling Units.	Totals.
In hospital, 1st April, 1924	47	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52
Admitted during year	941	72	166	36	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,215
Discharged during year	922	70	159	38	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,189
Died in hospital	34	5	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	44
Remaining in hospital on 31st March, 1925	30	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	32
Outpatient attendances, including dressings	24,489	6,828	10,353	1,363	4,758	3,777	2,513	4,034	3,583	1,186	280	63,164
Treatment for hookworm	87	1,816	4,770	736	1,659	..	..	..	..	..	7,491	16,559
Treatment for yaws (injections of N.A.B.)	5,843	2,589	4,017	39	2,123	..	..	..	..	..	6,611	21,222
Operations—												
Major	170	3	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	190
Minor	215	68	157	2	110	..	..	..	..	..	..	550
Visits paid during period to patients in their homes	784	107	73	134	22	15	15	233	134	101	..	1,330

Nationality.

	Europeans.	Samoans.	Chinese and Melanesian Labourers.
In hospital, 1st April, 1924	5	35	12
Admitted during year	130	773	277
Discharged during year	122	761	263
Died in hospital	4	32	8
Remaining in hospital on 31st March, 1925	9	15	8

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

Education problems in connection with Natives have certain common principles. The education of the Native must be such as to fit him to play his part in his own life and in developing the resources of his country, and all Native educational systems must be tested in that way. Education must aim at developing the character and natural abilities of the pupil.

The education policy of Samoa aims at the making of good citizens inspired with a love for their country and a determination to work for its advancement. With this object in view a Board of Education, which acts in an advisory capacity, has been set up, consisting of representatives of the missionary bodies (London Missionary Society, Methodist Mission, Roman Catholic Mission, and Latter-Day Saints Mission), the Secretary for Native Affairs, the Superintendent of Schools, and a representative of the Samoan race.

The various schools concerned in the general education of the Natives have been classified as follows :—