

SUMMARY OF 67,389 COMPLETE EXAMINATIONS.

Number of children examined .. ..	67,389	Percentage of children, &c.— <i>continued.</i>	
Percentage found to have defects ..	79.51	Nose and throat—	
Percentage with defects other than dental	54.23	Nasal obstruction .. ..	3.62
Percentage of children showing evidence		Enlarged tonsils .. ..	18.01
of—		Enlarged glands .. ..	12.19
Subnormal nutrition .. ..	7.06	Goitre—	
Pediculosis .. ..	1.75	All degrees .. ..	13.97
Uncleanliness .. ..	1.5	Incipient .. ..	11.33
Skin—		Small .. ..	2.38
Impetigo .. ..	1.93	Medium .. ..	0.23
Scabies .. ..	1.6	Large .. ..	0.03
Ringworm .. ..	0.2	Eye—	
Other skin-diseases .. ..	0.8	External eye-disease .. ..	1.62
Non-vaccination .. ..	66.01	Total defective vision .. ..	3.32
Heart—		Corrected .. ..	1.49
Organic disease .. ..	0.69	Uncorrected .. ..	1.83
Functional disturbance .. ..	0.96	Ear—	
Respiratory disease .. ..	0.73	Otorrhœa .. ..	0.33
Total deformities of trunk and chest ..	15.81	Defective hearing .. ..	0.4
Mouth—		Defective speech .. ..	0.73
Deformity of jaw or palate, including		Mental—	
irregularity .. ..	5.04	Feeble-mindedness .. ..	0.31
Dental caries .. ..	51.73	Epilepsy .. ..	0.03
Extractions of permanent teeth ..	6.81	Other nervous defects .. ..	0.26
Fillings .. ..	31.46	Tuberculosis—	
Perfect sets of teeth .. ..	4.11	Total .. ..	0.05
		Pulmonary .. ..	0.03
		Other tissues .. ..	0.02

It is satisfactory to note an increase in the amount of work actually accomplished. Not only have more children been examined and a greater number of parents interviewed than in previous years, but the scope of the work has been widened, attention having been given to special aspects concerning which more information is given below.

The percentage of defects noted differs very little from that in previous years, the general tendency, however, being to show a slight decrease.

Further evidence with reference to the improved physical condition of New Zealand pre-school and school children is to be found in the last issue of the Official Year-book as follows :—

“ The pronounced fall in New Zealand’s infant-mortality rate during the last two decades has not been accompanied by an increase in the death-rate of children between the ages of one and ten years. There has, on the contrary, been a substantial fall, as is shown by the following figures covering the last thirty-five years, the numbers and rates given refer to annual averages for the quinquennia mentioned :—

Quinquennium.	1 and under 5.		5 and under 10.	
	Number of Deaths.	Rate.*	Number of Deaths.	Rate.*
1894–1898 .. ..	440	68	185	22
1899–1903 .. ..	504	76	194	23
1904–1908 .. ..	444	37	172	19
1909–1913 .. ..	447	49	193	18
1914–1918 .. ..	547	53	266	22
1919–1923 .. ..	465	44	245	19
1924–1928 .. ..	403	38	203	15

\* Per 10,000 children at ages shown.

SCHOOL NURSES.

The returns indicate also a definite increase in the amount and scope of the work accomplished by the school nurses.

The work of the school nurses is of vital importance to the success of the School Medical Service. The number of home visits paid by them during the last year equals 15,529, a slight increase on the year previously. This ensures greater parental co-operation, better treatment returns, and wider health education.