

Table III.—Ante-natal Clinics.

Year.	Number of Clinics.	New Cases.	Total Attendances.	Average Number of Attendances by each Patient.	Outfits sterilized.
1925 .. ..	16	2,289	7,816	3.0	..
1926 .. ..	20	3,238	12,554	3.8	401
1927 .. ..	20	3,919	15,406	4.5	515
1928 .. ..	21	5,050	20,740	4.11	728
1929 .. ..	24	5,177	17,555	3.39	924
1930 .. ..	25	6,027	22,078	3.66	1,106

PUBLIC ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

Table III shows the comparative attendances for each year from 1925 to 1930 with the average number of visits per patient. I regret to say it is a record of increased work, apparently with little, if any, result upon the death-rate from eclampsia for New Zealand as a whole, which remains deplorably high, as will be shown when discussing maternal mortality. The question of how to obtain better results from the large amount of work done in these clinics will be a matter for special inquiry and special endeavour during the coming year.

The increased advantage taken of the facilities for obtaining sterilized labour and puerperium outfits as shown by the increased number sterilized each year in these clinics has no doubt helped to reduce the puerperal-sepsis rate for New Zealand which will be referred to elsewhere.

INQUIRIES INTO PUERPERAL SEPTIC CASES.

Of the 157 cases of puerperal sepsis notified in 1930, 140 cases were investigated by the Medical Officers of Health of New Zealand by means of special inquiry forms supplemented when possible by personal investigation. The result shows that 22, or 15.71 per cent., of these cases died and 84.29 per cent. recovered. The case mortality for the 157 cases notified was 17.20 per cent., some of these not being included in the inquiry. The total days' illness resulting from the 140 cases investigated was 2,441, an average of 17.44 days per week. This by no means represents the full period of illness in each case, as it was not found practicable to obtain particulars of the days' illness beyond twenty-eight days for any one case. Labour was returned as normal in 57.15 per cent. of cases and abnormal in 42.86 per cent. In 35.71 per cent. of the cases the infant was delivered artificially, and in 17.86 per cent. of the cases delivery of the placenta was manual. Vaginal examinations were made in 47.14 per cent. of the cases. At present I am unable to draw any definite conclusions from these reports regarding the causes of these cases. The causes in many cases are necessarily obscure, and in still more cases are difficult to determine owing to fear on the part of those concerned that complete frankness with regard to matters being investigated may lead to the person questioned being perhaps blamed. My personal investigation of a considerable number of cases convinces me that a very large majority of them are preventable. This is borne out by the conclusions of practically all independent observers, and by the results already obtained.

PUERPERAL MORTALITY.

Table IV. — Showing Comparable Death-rate per 1,000 Live Births for the Years 1927–30, classified according to the International Classification.

				1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.
NEW ZEALAND.							
Accidents of pregnancy .. ..	Total	7	11	12	13		
	Rate	0.25	0.40	0.45	0.49		
Hæmorrhage and accidents of labour ..	Total	27	19	18	18		
	Rate	0.97	0.70	0.67	0.67		
Puerperal septicæmia—Ordinary .. ..	Total	56	42	30	27		
	Rate	2.01	1.54	1.12	1.01		
Abortion septicæmia (not including criminal abortion)	Total	14	14	19	30		
	Rate	0.50	0.51	0.71	1.12		
Thrombosis, phlegmasia, and embolism ..	Total	6	9	14	15		
	Rate	0.22	0.33	0.52	0.56		
Toxæmia, albuminuria, and eclampsia ..	Total	26	38	34	33		
	Rate	0.93	1.40	1.27	1.23		
Following childbirth (not otherwise defined)	Total	1	1	2	..		
	Rate	0.04	0.04	0.07	..		
Totals .. ..		137	134	129	136		
Puerperal-mortality rate, all causes ..		4.91	4.93	4.82	5.08		
Puerperal-mortality rate, excluding septic abortion		4.41	4.42	4.11	3.96		
ENGLAND AND WALES.							
All puerperal causes .. ..	Rate	4.11	4.42	4.33	*		
Septic abortion only .. ..	Rate	0.33	0.34	0.37	*		
All causes, excluding septic abortion ..	Rate	3.78	4.08	3.96	*		

\* 1930 figures not yet available.