

VITAL STATISTICS.

The following table shows the births and deaths in each island of the Group for the year :—

Name of Island.	Births.		Deaths.		Marriages.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Rarotonga	102	111	49	31	25
Aitutaki	48	40	14	9	16
Mangaia	28	27	15	15	9
Atiu	23	18	10	9	5
Mauke	5	4	2	1	8
Mitiaro	4	6	..	2	2
Manihiki	10	3	1	1	4
Rakahanga	5	5	1	8	1
Penrhyn	9	6	1	5	2
Pukapuka	15	19	12	8	2
Palmerston
Total	249	239	105	89	74

Of the deaths recorded fifty-one were under the age of one year, as compared with thirty-eight last year.

MIGRATION.

The following returns show the migration to and from Rarotonga for the period 1st April, 1931, to 31st March, 1932 :—

Arrivals.—Europeans : 91 males, 50 females. Natives : 54 males, 39 females.

Departures.—Europeans : 77 males, 45 females. Natives : 30 males, 35 females.

EDUCATION.

There are eighteen schools in the Cook Islands, eleven being in Rarotonga and the Lower Group Islands, and seven in the Northern Group. Roll numbers total 2,139, as follows : Rarotonga and Lower Group, 1,774; with average attendance of 1,583. Northern Group, 365; with average attendance of 310.

Last year's report sets out the more important work being undertaken in education in these islands. Satisfactory progress is being made in all schools.

The 1931 hurricane, which swept the island of Aitutaki, destroyed many of the food crops. The whole island set to work on an extensive campaign of replanting essential food-supplies, and the school was closed for some time to allow the children to assist in the work.

Elementary Woodwork.—This subject receives attention in all the schools, and a good deal of useful work has been done. General upkeep of school furniture and repair work occupies a good deal of the time. All kinds of school furniture have been mended, while new desks, seats, wall and gymnastic apparatus have been made.

Schools.—The local schools were visited during the year by the Education officer. Native teachers were doing satisfactory work and earnestly carrying out their school duties. The headmasters maintained efficient organization and management, while the order and discipline in each school are good.

Curriculum.—Throughout the year regular instruction has been given in all school subjects. Special classes in agriculture were held weekly for all teachers and student teachers on the island. Senior pupils, too, were allowed to attend these classes. This instruction is given by the Director of Agriculture.

Buildings and Equipment.—The Public Works Department has kept the buildings in good repair. All necessary school supplies have been forwarded regularly to schools throughout the Group.

Native Teachers.—In all schools the work of Native teachers is supervised with care, and every assistance is given where difficulties arise. In order to develop better results in the art of practical teaching, classes for Native teachers are held regularly by the European teachers.

Student Teachers.—These receive a special training and are chosen from the brightest and most promising pupils attending the schools. The programme of work involves all school subjects as well as instruction in the methods of teaching. Demonstration lessons are given by European teachers, and students are allowed to take a class for lessons that have been thoroughly prepared beforehand.

Dental.—Pupils continue to receive dental treatment. All children attending the Avarua School have passed through the hands of the dental nurse, who is now examining and treating pupils belonging to the outlying schools.

Medical.—The Chief Medical Officer has inspected the following schools : Mauke, Mitiaro, Atiu, Aitutaki, Ngatangia, and Titikaveka, and reports that, except for minor troubles, the general health of the children is good.