

The rise in the average age at death has been noted at p. 178. Causes of death that affect children and young adults mainly have declined. Diphtheria, for example, has been almost wiped out and tuberculosis has been greatly reduced. On the other hand, the ageing of the population increases the proportion of deaths from the causes that affect older people mainly. Thus, cancer, nephritis and diseases of the heart now account for a substantially larger proportion of all deaths than formerly.

26.—Deaths and Rates per 100,000 Population, by Principal Causes, 1946-48

(Exclusive of the Territories)

International List No. ¹	Cause of Death	Numbers of Deaths			Rates per 100,000 Population		
		1946	1947	1948	1946	1947	1948
1, 2	Typhoid fever, including paratyphoid....	91	62	52	0.7	0.5	0.4
8	Scarlet fever	58	42	38	0.5	0.3	0.3
9	Whooping cough	231	232	155	1.9	1.8	1.2
10	Diphtheria	227	140	86	1.8	1.1	0.7
13	Tuberculosis, respiratory system	4,818	4,616	4,016	39.2	36.8	31.2
14-22	Tuberculosis, other organs	1,003	833	757	8.2	6.6	5.9
33	Influenza	1,601	1,099	911	13.0	8.8	7.1
35	Measles	235	134	235	1.9	1.1	1.8
45-55	Cancer and other malignant tumours	14,767	15,615	16,258	120.2	124.3	126.4
61	Diabetes mellitus	2,409	2,484	2,607	19.6	19.8	20.3
73	Anæmias	311	321	316	2.5	2.6	2.5
83	Intracranial lesions of vascular origin	9,486	9,583	10,177	77.2	76.3	79.1
86	Convulsions (under 5 years of age)	119	107	91	1.0	0.9	0.7
90-95	Diseases of the heart	29,854	32,050	33,901	243.1	255.2	263.6
96, 97, 99, 102, 106	Diseases of the arteries	2,230	2,374	2,349	18.2	18.9	18.3
107-109	Bronchitis	378	363	402	3.1	2.9	3.1
107-109	Pneumonia	5,657	5,688	5,700	46.1	45.3	44.3
119, 120	Diarrhoea and enteritis	1,873	1,988	1,799	15.2	15.8	14.0
121	Appendicitis	551	470	482	4.5	3.7	3.7
122	Hernia, intestinal obstruction	854	864	865	7.0	6.9	6.7
130-132	Nephritis	6,822	6,568	6,805	55.5	52.3	52.9
137	Diseases of the prostate	820	841	796	6.7	6.7	6.2
140-150	Puerperal causes	595	554	510	4.8	4.4	4.0
157	Congenital malformations	2,338	2,483	2,327	19.0	19.8	18.1
158-161	Diseases peculiar to the first year of life	7,053	7,415	7,045	57.4	59.0	54.8
162	Senility	1,584	1,489	1,320	12.9	11.9	10.3
163, 164	Suicides	1,002	948	1,000	8.2	7.5	7.8
166-198	Violent deaths (suicides excepted)	7,195	7,666	7,958	58.6	61.0	61.9
	Other specified causes	9,995	9,890	9,783	81.4	78.8	76.1
	Totals, Specified Causes	114,157	116,919	118,741	929.4	931.0	923.4
199, 200	Unspecified or ill-defined causes	774	806	643	6.3	6.4	5.0
	Totals, All Causes	114,931	117,725	119,384	935.7	937.5	928.4

¹ 1938 (5th) Revision of the International List of Causes of Death.

Subsection 2.—Infant Mortality

International Comparisons.—New Zealand for many years has had the lowest rate of infant mortality. In 1948 the rate was 22 per 1,000 live births, compared with 68 in 1905, 51 in 1920 and 34 in 1930. Iceland also had a rate of 22 per 1,000 in 1947. In England and Wales the rate declined from 128 per 1,000 in 1905 to 60 in 1930 and 34 in 1948. In the United States the rate was reduced