The inclusion of the suburban boroughs lowers the death-rate at Auckland, Wellington, and Dunedin.

	Death-rates per 1,000 of Population.	
Auckland City	0·99	
" and seven suburban boroughs		0·89
Wellington City	0·82	
" and four suburban boroughs		0·80
Christchurch City	0·70	
" and five suburban boroughs		0·73
Dunedin City	1·06	
" and three suburban boroughs		0·94

Including the suburbs, the rate at Dunedin is the highest, and at Christchurch the lowest.

Compared with December, 1914 and 1915, the results are—

	1914.	1915.	1916.
Auckland and suburbs	0·74	1·01	0·89
Wellington and suburbs	0·87	0·88	0·80
Christchurch and suburbs	0·77	0·79	0·73
Dunedin and suburbs	1·03	0·90	0·94

The total births in the four chief cities and their suburban boroughs amounted to 619, as against 534 in November—an increase of 85. The deaths in December were 273—an increase of 40 as compared with the previous month. Of the total deaths males contributed 163, females 110. Forty-two of the deaths were of children under five years of age, being 15·38 per cent. of the whole number; 33 of these were under one year of age.

There were 103 deaths of persons of 65 years and upwards in the four chief cities and their suburban boroughs, as against 83 in November. The following table shows the classification:—

Age.	Auckland		Wellington.		Christchurch.		Dunedin.		Total.	
	Males.	Females.	Males	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males	Females.	Males.	Females
65	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	2
66	2	..	..	1	..	..	2	..	4	1
67	..	1	1	..	..	1	1	1	2	3
68	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	2
69	2	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	4	..
70	1	2	2	1	1	1	..	..	4	4
71	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2	1
72	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
73	1	..	1	..	1	1	..	1	3	2
74	..	1	1	1	1	..	1	1	3	3
75	..	4	..	..	..	..	..		..	4
76	2	..	..	..	1	2	2	1	5	3
77	..	..	1	..		1	..	..	1	1
78	2	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	3	2
79	1	2	1	..	..	..	1	1	3	3
80	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	3	4	3
81	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	2	1	4
82	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1
83	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1
84	..	..	1	..	1	1	1	..	3	1
85	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	3
86	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
87	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..
88	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	1
89	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..
91	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
95	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Totals ..	16	19	10	5	12	12	16	13	54	49

TABLE showing the Causes of the Deaths of Persons at the Four Centres registered during December, 1916.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Auckland and Suburban Boroughs.		Wellington and Suburban Boroughs.		Christchurch and Suburban Boroughs.		Dunedin and Suburban Boroughs.		Total.
	Under 5 Years.	5 Years and over.	Under 5 Years.	5 Years and over.	Under 5 Years.	5 Years and over.	Under 5 Years.	5 Years and over	
I.—General Diseases.									
(a.) Epidemic Diseases.									
1. Enteric Fever	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
6. Measles	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
7. Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	4
9. Diphtheria	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	2
14. Dysenteric Diarrhœa	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
(b.) Other General Diseases.									
20. Septicæmia	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	2
28. Pulmonary Tuberculosis.. ..	..	3	..	2	..	3	..	5	13
29. Acute Miliary Tuberculosis ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
30. Tubercular Meningitis	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	5
31. Tubercular Peritonitis	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
34. Tubercular Sinus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1