

TABLE showing the Causes of the Deaths in the Four Chief Cities and their Suburbs registered during the Year, 1916—continued.

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.	
XII.—OLD AGE.									
154. Senility	92	..	33	..	58	..	79	262
XIII.—VIOLENCE.									
155. Suicide—By Poison	3	..	4	..	1	..	..	8
156. " By Asphyxia	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
157. " By Strangulation	3	..	1	..	2	..	1	7
158. " By Drowning	2	..	..	..	1	3
159. " By Firearms	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	4
160. " By Cutting or Piercing Instruments	1	..	..	..	3	..	5	9
162. " By Crushing	1	1
163. " By Burning	1	1
165. Accident—Poisoning	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	3
167. " Burns and Scalds	2	1	2	..	1	..	..	2	8
168. " Suffocation	1	..	1	1	1	3	2	4	13
169. " Drowning	7	..	6	..	6	..	6	25
170. " Firearms	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
171. " Cutting and Piercing Instruments	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
172. " Fall	7	..	1	..	3	..	4	15
173. " In Mines and Quarries	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
174. " With Machinery	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
175. " Crushing (Vehicles, &c.)	6	..	12	..	5	1	2	26
179. Effects of Heat	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
181. Accident—Electrocuted	1	..	..	1
182. Homicide by Firearms	1	..	..	..	..	1
184. " Strangulation	1	..	..	..	..	1
184. Homicide	1	..	..	1
185. Fractures	4	..	3	..	4	..	3	14
186. Other External Violence	5	..	5	..	..	..	1	11
Totals	4	44	3	38	2	31	3	34	159
XIV.—ILL-DEFINED DISEASES.									
187. Ill-defined Organic Disease	1	1
188. Sudden Death	4	..	..	4
189. Not specified or Ill-defined	12	..	6	1	2	..	9	30
Totals	12	..	6	1	6	..	10	35
General Totals	204	794	180	578	140	626	112	641	3,275

BIRTHS AND BIRTH-RATES.

Up to and including 1912, all births occurring in the four centres were treated as belonging to the centres. Owing chiefly to the fact that many women living in country districts go to the cities to enter public or private maternity homes, it was found that the birth-rates for the centres were usually well above the rate for the whole Dominion. For the past three years information as to domicile of parents has been obtained, and the births allocated accordingly, the result being that many births which in former years would have been included in the municipalized area are now excluded, the rates being reduced accordingly. No proper comparison is therefore possible as between these four years and previous years, the apparent decrease being due not to any actual falling-off in numbers but to the alteration in system explained above. The rates for 1913, 1914, 1915, and 1916 are, of course, quite comparable with each other.

The total number of births registered as occurring in the four chief cities and suburban boroughs in 1916 was 7,544, as against 7,209 for the previous year.

The birth-rates for last year were,—

	Birth-rates per 1,000 of Population.
Auckland City	23.26
" and seven suburban boroughs	23.35
Wellington City	24.08
" and four suburban boroughs	24.31
Christchurch City	23.13
" and five suburban boroughs	23.39
Dunedin City	23.11
" and five suburban boroughs	23.34

By the inclusion of the suburbs the rate is raised in the case of all four centres. Excluding the suburbs, it will be observed that Wellington has the highest rate, Auckland next highest, Christchurch and Dunedin following.