

VITAL STATISTICS.

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Vital Statistics by Provinces.—In Canada the registration of births, marriages, and deaths is under provincial control, and at present divergent methods, with, in certain provinces, entire lack of statistics, render impossible the deduction for any series of years of annual birth-, marriage-, and death-rates for the Dominion as a whole. In Nova Scotia the publication of annual vital statistics was only begun in 1910, and for the province of New Brunswick no returns of the kind are yet available.

Table 29 shows, however, by provinces (New Brunswick excepted) the number of births, marriages and deaths in the years 1911, 1912 and 1913, according to the latest returns of the provincial registrars. Using the census figures of population for 1911, and estimates of the Census and Statistics Office for 1912 and 1913, crude birth-, marriage-, and death-rates per 1,000 of the population living have been calculated for each year, as well as the excess of births over deaths. For Prince Edward Island no data for the year 1912 are available. The figures by provinces in this table are not strictly comparable, owing to the unfortunate diversity of practice which at present prevails as between the different provincial registrars. Not only is the statistical year not uniform for all the provinces, but there is no uniformity in the practice as regards the inclusion or exclusion of still-births. Thus, in Nova Scotia, Quebec and Ontario still-births are eliminated from the calculations; but in Prince Edward Island, the Northwest provinces and British Columbia they are included, and for these provinces the numbers of still-births, which are too small to affect materially the birth- and death-rates calculated, are given in a note at the foot of the table.

Vital Statistics of Cities.—The data given in Tables 40 and 41 on pages 101 and 102 of the Year Book of 1913 are not repeated this year; but an effort has been made in Table 30 to record the number of births, marriages and deaths by principal cities for the year 1912 in continuation of Table 40 in the edition of 1913. In this new table the natural increase per 1,000 of the population is based upon the estimated population of 1912 for Ontario; in other cases the population of the Census of 1911 is used, and the fact is indicated by the use of italics. The data available since 1912 are at present too incomplete to allow of the construction of the table for any later year. It should be noted that for seven of the cities in Quebec the births and marriages are given as for the Roman Catholic population only, whilst the deaths are those of the whole population. It is consequently impossible to calculate for these cities—in some of which the non-Roman Catholic population is relatively numerous—the excess of births over deaths and the natural increase per 1,000 of the population.