

Perhaps the most impressive testimony regarding this decline in the death rate is furnished by the mortality statistics of Sweden, where vital statistics have been kept with great accuracy for the whole nation ever since 1750. There the crude death rate declined from an average of 35.67 per 1,000 in the decade 1751-60 to 14.29 in the decade 1911-20, and to 12.78 (preliminary figure) in 1922.

Similarly, in England, the crude death rate, which was 22.6 per 1,000 in the 60's and 21.3 in the 70's and 18.2 in the 90's of the last century, declined to 15.5 in 1906, 13.8 in 1913 and 12.1 in 1921. In Scotland, again, the rate was 22.1 in the 60's, 21.8 in the 70's, 18.5 in the 90's, 16.4 in 1906 and 13.6 in 1921.

Of course, the preceding statements are not to be taken to mean that every year will show a decline in the death rate as compared with the preceding year. There will always be years of specially high mortality, as for instance 1918, when the death rate in Ontario, the most populous of the provinces included in the registration area of Canada, was 15.3 per 1,000 as against 12.0 in 1917 and 11.9 in 1919. Over a decade, however, these idiosyncrasies of individual years are reduced to negligibility, and it remains true that from decade to decade there is, generally speaking and under normal conditions, a decline in the crude death rate of the countries of the white world.

As for Canada, there is little doubt but that the decline in the death rate which has been observed in other countries has also occurred among ourselves, though on account of the improved registration in recent years the diminution of the death rate is not apparent from the statistics collected. In Quebec, however, where the same methods of registration have been employed for many years, the mortality has shown a decline in recent years from 17.89 per 1,000 in 1910 to 14.15 per 1,000 in 1921, largely on account of the reduction in infant mortality.

The total deaths and death rates are given in Table 50 for the registration area of Canada, by provinces. It is worthy of note that the total deaths in 1921 and 1922 (preliminary figures for the latter year) show a considerable decline as compared with 1920, the first year in which the statistics are available on a comparative basis for the area.

50.—Deaths and Death Rates by Provinces, 1920, 1921 and 1922.

Provinces.	Population (in thousands).			Total Deaths.			Crude death rate per 1,000 population.		
	1920 estim.	1921 census.	1922 estim.	1920.	1921.	1922.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Prince Edward Island.....	89	89	88	1,279	1,209	1,089	14.4	13.6	12.4
Nova Scotia.....	520	524	528	7,563	6,420	6,616	14.5	12.3	12.5
New Brunswick.....	384	388	392	5,628	5,410	5,129	14.7	13.9	13.1
Ontario.....	2,889	2,934	2,981	40,410	34,551	33,969	14.0	11.8	11.4
Manitoba.....	598	610	626	6,511	5,388	5,747	10.9	8.8	9.2
Saskatchewan.....	735	757	786	5,918	5,596	6,016	8.0	7.4	7.7
Alberta.....	570	588	611	5,674	4,940	5,115	10.0	8.4	8.4
British Columbia.....	511	525	539	4,739	4,208	4,494	9.3	8.0	8.3
Canada (registration area)	6,296	6,415	6,551	77,722	67,722	68,175	12.3	10.6	10.4
Quebec.....	2,323	2,361	-	40,686	33,433	-	17.5	14.2	-
Canada (exclusive of Territories).....	8,619	8,776	-	118,408	101,155	-	13.7	11.5	-

Mortality by Sex.—According to Table 51, the number of male children born in 1921 in the registration area exceeded the total male deaths for the year by 50,723, while the gain in the female population during the same period was 50,534.