

Marriage Rates in Various Countries.—For comparative purposes, the crude marriage rate per 1,000 of population in various countries of the world and in the provinces of Canada is shown for the indicated years in Table 17.

17.—Crude Marriage Rates of Various Countries in Recent Years.

Countries.	Years.	Crude Marriage Rate.	Countries.	Years.	Crude Marriage Rate.
Bulgaria.....	1921	12.4	Finland.....	1923	7.3
Belgium.....	1923	10.5	South Australia.....	1923	7.3
Rumania.....	1922	10.4	Spain.....	1924	7.2
Serbia.....	1911	10.3	Queensland.....	1923	7.2
Czechoslovakia.....	1923	9.3	British Columbia.....	1924	7.2
Hungary.....	1924	9.0	Germany.....	1924	7.1
Japan.....	1922	8.9	Canada (Registration Area)	1924	7.0
Korea.....	1921	8.9	Western Australia.....	1923	6.8
Portugal.....	1921	8.7	Argentina.....	1921	6.8
Austria.....	1923	8.6	Scotland.....	1924	6.6
Estonia.....	1923	8.6	Alberta.....	1924	6.5
Italy.....	1923	8.4	Chile.....	1923	6.5
Latvia.....	1923	8.2	Manitoba.....	1924	6.4
Victoria.....	1923	8.2	Quebec.....	1924	6.3
Lithuania.....	1924	8.1	Northern Ireland.....	1923	6.2
Denmark.....	1924	8.0	Sweden.....	1924	6.2
New South Wales.....	1923	8.0	Norway.....	1924	6.0
Ontario.....	1924	7.9	Saskatchewan.....	1924	5.9
Russia (European).....	1909	7.9	Greece.....	1921	5.8
New Zealand.....	1923	7.9	Ceylon.....	1922	5.7
Australia.....	1923	7.8	Nova Scotia.....	1924	5.6
Netherlands.....	1924	7.8	Uruguay.....	1923	5.3
Union of South Africa.....	1922	7.8	Irish Free State.....	1923	4.9
England and Wales.....	1924	7.6	Iceland.....	1923	4.9
Switzerland.....	1923	7.6	Prince Edward Island.....	1924	4.6
New Brunswick.....	1924	7.4	Salvador.....	1923	3.4
Tasmania.....	1923	7.4	Venezuela.....	1922	2.9
British Isles.....	1923	7.4	Guatemala.....	1922	2.6

4.—Deaths.

Within the past century and more especially within the past generation there has occurred generally throughout the countries of the white world a notable decline in the death rate, except where man has brought death upon himself through wars and the aftermath of wars. How far this decline has been due to advances in medical science, how far to better sanitation and how far to the improvement in the general conditions of living as a result of the increase in the productive power of humanity, is in dispute, but concerning the facts there is no doubt.

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 12.0 in 1924.

Similarly, in England, the crude death rate, which was 22.6 per 1,000 in the 60's, 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 12.2 (England and Wales) in 1924. 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 14.4 in 1924.

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