

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, while the period elapsed since the introduction of complete and comprehensive vital statistics in 1920 has been too short for the establishing of a definite downward trend, there is nevertheless evident a rather extraordinary reduction in the death rate in the short period of four years. In Quebec, 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 13.63 per 1,000 in 1923, largely on account of the reduction in infantile mortality.

1.—General Mortality.

Total deaths and death rates in recent years are given in Table 18 for the registration area of Canada, by provinces. The decline in the absolute number of deaths from 77,722 in 1920 to 70,063 in 1923 and 65,682 (provisional figure) in 1924, and the drop in the death rate from 12.4 in 1920 to 9.8 (provisional figure) in 1924, are notable phenomena. Quebec figures are added from provincial sources.

18.—Deaths and Death Rates, by Provinces, 1920-1924.

Provinces.	Total Deaths.					Crude death rate per 1,000 population.				
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924. ¹	1920.	1921.	1922.	1923.	1924. ¹
P.E. Island.....	1,279	1,209	1,113	1,142	954	14.4	13.6	12.6	13.0	10.8
Nova Scotia.....	7,563	6,420	6,679	6,858	6,523	14.5	12.3	12.6	12.9	12.2
New Brunswick.....	5,628	5,410	5,158	5,006	4,902	15.6	14.2	13.2	12.6	12.3
Ontario.....	40,410	34,551	34,034	35,637	33,034	14.0	11.8	11.4	11.8	10.8
Manitoba.....	6,511	5,388	5,751	5,330	5,020	10.9	8.8	9.2	8.4	7.8
Saskatchewan.....	5,918	5,596	6,119	6,151	5,735	8.1	7.4	7.8	7.7	7.0
Alberta.....	5,674	4,940	5,264	4,984	4,756	10.0	8.4	8.6	8.0	7.5
British Columbia.....	4,739	4,208	4,907	4,955	4,758	9.3	8.0	9.1	8.9	8.6
Canada (Registration Area).....	77,722	67,722	69,028	70,063	65,682	12.4	10.6	10.5	10.6	9.8
Quebec.....	40,686	33,433	33,459	35,148	-	17.5	14.1	13.3	13.6	-
Canada (exclusive of territories).....	118,408	101,155	102,487	105,211	-	13.7	11.6	11.3	11.4	-

¹ 1924 figures are subject to revision.

Age Distribution of Decedents.—The number of those dying in the registration area in 1921, 1922 and 1923 is given by single years up to 5 years and in 5-year groups up to 80 years in Table 19, while the percentage of the total number of deaths which occurred in each age-group in each of these years is given in Table 20. It is noteworthy that the deaths at the lower ages are yearly constituting a decreasing proportion of the total. In 1921, 22.03 p.c. of all deaths were those of infants under 1 year, in 1922, 20.70 p.c., in 1923, 19.73 p.c. and in 1924 (provisional figure) 18.70 p.c. Similarly, deaths under 5 years of age fell from 28.29 p.c. of the total in 1921 to 26.51 p.c. in 1922 and 25.37 p.c. in 1923.

One rather curious result of this is that the median age at death in the registration area (*i.e.*, the age at death of the person who had as many die older than he as died younger than he) advanced from 42.46 years in 1921 to 48.79 years in 1923.