

30.—Rate of Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Living Births in Various Countries of the World in Recent Years.

Countries.	Year.	Rate of Infantile Mortality.	Countries.	Year.	Rate of Infantile Mortality.
New Zealand.....	1924	40.2	Finland.....	1923	92.4
Western Australia.....	1924	49.9	Belgium.....	1923	93.1
Queensland.....	1924	51.1	Nova Scotia.....	1924	94.8
Netherlands.....	1924	51.2	France.....	1923	96.1
South Australia.....	1924	51.3	Scotland.....	1924	98.0
Norway.....	1922	53.5	New Brunswick.....	1924	101.8
British Columbia.....	1924	54.5	Uruguay.....	1923	103.4
Tasmania.....	1924	55.0	Newfoundland.....	1923	104.7
Australia.....	1924	57.0	Argentina.....	1915	105.2
New South Wales.....	1924	59.4	Germany.....	1924	108.0
Sweden.....	1924	59.6	Bulgaria.....	1919	109.0
Victoria.....	1924	61.3	Esthonia.....	1923	113.6
Switzerland.....	1922	70.0	Prussia.....	1922	129.1
Irish Free State.....	1924	71.2	Quebec.....	1923	131.7
Union of South Africa (Whites).....	1924	73.7	Egypt.....	1922	140.0
Prince Edward Island.....	1924	74.3	Spain.....	1922	141.0
England and Wales.....	1924	75.0	Czechoslovakia.....	1923	147.1
Manitoba.....	1924	75.8	Jamaica.....	1923	171.0
Ontario.....	1924	76.4	Italy.....	1918	184.5
Saskatchewan.....	1924	76.9	Hungary.....	1924	195.0
United States.....	1923	77.1	Austria.....	1921	205.8
British Isles.....	1924	77.3	Rumania.....	1922	207.2
Canada (Registration Area).....	1924	78.9	Ceylon.....	1923	212.0
Denmark.....	1923	82.8	Costa Rica.....	1923	222.1
Alberta.....	1924	84.3	Japan.....	1923	251.2
Northern Ireland.....	1924	84.5	Chile.....	1923	283.0
Latvia.....	1923	88.4			

Infantile Mortality in Cities.—In former times cities were considered to be “the graveyards of population.” The number of deaths, consequent upon the rapid spread of infectious diseases, was generally greater than the number of births, and it was the prevailing opinion that cities would naturally come to an end if they were not being constantly reinforced by fresh young life from the prolific countryside. The unhealthiness of cities was especially destructive of infant life, and it is one of the greatest triumphs of our time that city life is in our days, if not as healthy, yet not necessarily more dangerous to human life and especially to infant life, than life in the country as a whole.

To give particular examples, the rate of infantile mortality in London, England, was in 1924, 69 per 1,000 living births as compared with a rate for England and Wales of 75 per 1,000. New York experienced in 1924 an infantile mortality of 68 per 1,000 as against a rate of 77.1 per 1,000 for the registration area of the United States in the previous year. The department of the Seine (Paris) had in 1924 an infantile mortality of 88 per 1,000 living births, as compared with 96.1 for the 77 departments of France for which the vital statistics were collected in 1923.

In Canada, our experience, except in the province of Quebec, has also been rather favourable to the cities. Montreal had in 1923 an infantile mortality of 157 per 1,000 living births as compared with 131 for the province of Quebec. On the other hand, Toronto had in 1923 an infantile mortality of 76.7 per 1,000 living births as against 84.9 for the province of Ontario, and this is typical of the other larger cities of the Dominion.