

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

Countries.	Years.	Crude Marriage Rate.	Countries.	Years.	Crude Marriage Rate.
Ukraine.....	1923	11.2	Chile.....	1924	7.2
Belgium.....	1924	10.4	West Australia.....	1924	7.2
Rumania.....	1924	9.3	Spain.....	1925	7.2
Czechoslovakia.....	1924	9.2	British Isles.....	1924	7.2
Hungary.....	1924	9.1	Tasmania.....	1924	7.1
Japan.....	1923	8.8	Germany.....	1924	7.1
Austria.....	1923	8.7	Canada (Registration Area).....	1925	6.9
Estonia.....	1923	8.6	United Kingdom.....	1924	6.9
Union of South Africa.....	1925	8.5	Finland.....	1923	6.8
Italy.....	1923	8.4	Alberta.....	1925	6.7
Latvia.....	1924	8.4	Manitoba.....	1925	6.7
Victoria.....	1924	8.1	Quebec.....	1924	6.7
New South Wales.....	1924	8.1	Scotland.....	1924	6.6
Denmark.....	1923	8.0	Sweden.....	1924	6.2
New Zealand.....	1924	7.9	Norway.....	1924	6.0
Australia.....	1924	7.9	Northern Ireland.....	1924	5.9
Netherlands.....	1924	7.8	Saskatchewan.....	1925	5.9
South Australia.....	1924	7.8	Nova Scotia.....	1925	5.4
England and Wales.....	1924	7.6	Uruguay.....	1923	5.3
Queensland.....	1924	7.6	Iceland.....	1923	5.0
British Columbia.....	1925	7.5	Prince Edward Island.....	1925	4.7
Ontario.....	1925	7.4	Irish Free State.....	1924	4.7
Switzerland.....	1924	7.3	Salvador.....	1924	3.0
New Brunswick.....	1925	7.2			

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 not 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 11.7 in 1925.

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 1925. 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 13.4 in 1925.

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, while the period elapsed since the introduction of complete and comprehensive vital statistics in 1920 has been too short for the establishing