

Violent Deaths.—Violent deaths in the registration area of Canada accounted for 4,454 out of the grand total of 66,419 deaths reported in 1925 (provisional figures). When this figure of 4,454 is compared with 4,205 in 1924, 4,371 in 1923, 4,134 in 1922 and 4,097 in 1921, it is evident that violent deaths are showing a tendency to increase. The rates per million persons resident in the registration area were 639 in 1921, 631 in 1922, 659 in 1923, 624 in 1924, 652 (unrevised figure) in 1925. Of the 4,205 violent deaths in 1924, 3,190 were those of males and 1,015 those of females. This difference, together with the difference in the rate of infant mortality, practically accounts for the higher general death rate among males.

The general term "violent deaths" includes many causes of death, some of which are showing a tendency toward increased mortality, while others show a decline. Some of the more significant of these causes of death may be briefly studied.

Deaths from Railways and Automobile Accidents.—Accidents resulting from the operation of steam and electric railways resulted in 312 deaths during the year 1924, as compared with 319 in 1923, 259 in 1922 and 228 in 1921, the 1924 figure being at the rate of 4.6 per 100,000 population. Deaths from automobile accidents have increased from 197 in 1921 to 237 in 1922, 355 in 1923 and 340 in 1924, or at the rate per 100,000 population of 3.1 in 1921, 3.6 in 1922, 5.4 in 1923 and 5.0 in 1924. Deaths from railway and automobile accidents combined thus amounted in 1921 to 425, in 1922 to 496, in 1923 to 674 and in 1924 to 652, or at the rates per 100,000 population of 6.6, 7.6, 10.2 and 9.7 respectively. In England and Wales the rate per 100,000 of deaths resulting from railways and vehicles (including automobiles) increased from 9.7 in 1914 to 10.1 in 1920 and 11.4 in 1924. In the United States the number of deaths due to automobiles increased from 7,525 to 14,411 between 1918 and 1923, the latter figure being at the rate of 14.9 per 100,000 of population.

Suicides.—Suicides, most often caused by firearms or strangulation, accounted for 431 deaths in 1921, 487 in 1922, 538 in 1923, 535 in 1924 and 586 in 1925 (provisional figure), an increase in four years of 36 p.c., being out of all proportion to the increase in population. The number of male deaths from suicide in 1924 was 399, as compared with 136 deaths of females. The figures for the registration area of England and Wales record but slight changes in the number of suicides in the period 1914 to 1924.

Drownings.—Accidental drownings numbered 678 in 1921, 618 in 1922, 654 in 1923 and 632 in 1924, or at the rate per 100,000 population of 10.6, 9.4, 9.9 and 9.4 respectively. Such a rate is high in comparison with rates in other countries, but is no doubt accounted for by the unusually large extent to which natural water courses are used in Canada as transportation routes and fields of recreation.

Comparative Crude Death Rates of Different Countries.—In Table 26 will be found a comparative statement of the crude death rates of various countries and provinces for the latest available year. It is worthy of note that three Canadian provinces have the lowest death rates in the list, and that the registration area of Canada has a lower death rate than any other leading countries except Australia, New Zealand, South Africa (whites) and the Netherlands. The low death rates in the Prairie Provinces are in all three cases due in part to a favourable age distribution of population.