

2.—Infantile and Maternal Mortality.

In recent years a great part of the energy devoted by the medical profession and sanitarians to effect a decline in the death rate has gone to reduce infantile mortality, and in this field a large measure of success has been attained. In Canada, both the Dominion, provincial and municipal health authorities have taken part in the struggle to reduce infantile mortality, and usually, in the absence of epidemics, each year is showing an improvement. Even in the six years for which the figures are available for the former registration area, there is evident a very considerable decline in infantile mortality. In 1920 more than 10 p.c. of all children born died in the first year of life; in 1921 the proportion dropped to 8.8 p.c. or 14,893 deaths in a total of 168,979 births; in 1922 the infantile death rate showed a further betterment, dropping to 8.7 p.c. or 14,256 deaths in 164,194 births, while in 1923 it showed a slight increase to 8.8 p.c. In 1924, however, there was a considerable improvement, the rate falling to 7.85 p.c. and increasing but slightly in 1925 to 7.86 p.c., while the provisional figures for 1926 are 8.00 p.c. The number of infant deaths in 1926, however, is the lowest on record, being 164 lower than the 1925 total. Deaths of children under one year of age constituted 18.3 p.c. of all deaths in 1925, as compared with 20.7 p.c. in 1922. Table 27 summarizes the statistics for the former registration area and for Canada exclusive of the territories for the years 1922-26, the figures for the latest year being provisional.

27.—Infantile Mortality, by Provinces, together with the rate per 1,000 Living Births, 1922-1926.

Provinces.	Infant Deaths.					Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Births.				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926. <sup>1</sup>	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926. <sup>1</sup>
	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.					
Prince Edward Island.....	153	176	133	116	121	70.8	89.0	71.6	69.3	69.1
Nova Scotia.....	1,239	1,139	1,118	887	881	97.6	97.5	94.7	77.8	80.6
New Brunswick.....	1,194	1,185	1,098	1,096	1,095	103.3	106.0	102.5	100.1	106.3
Ontario.....	5,921	5,950	5,418	5,530	5,295	82.9	84.9	75.8	78.9	78.5
Manitoba.....	1,669	1,411	1,173	1,184	1,122	94.4	85.7	75.9	79.6	76.5
Saskatchewan.....	1,913	1,925	1,634	1,662	1,678	85.6	91.9	75.9	80.8	81.6
Alberta.....	1,475	1,418	1,227	1,125	1,223	91.3	94.2	84.1	75.4	85.3
British Columbia.....	692	668	574	569	580	68.1	66.8	56.7	55.0	58.6
<b>Canada (Registration Area).....</b>	<b>14,256</b>	<b>13,822</b>	<b>12,375</b>	<b>12,169</b>	<b>12,005</b>	<b>86.8</b>	<b>88.1</b>	<b>78.5</b>	<b>78.6</b>	<b>89.0</b>
Quebec <sup>2</sup> .....	11,297	11,011	10,334	10,141	11,668	127.8	131.7	118.9	115.8	142.0
<b>Canada (exclusive of the Territories).....</b>	<b>25,553</b>	<b>24,833</b>	<b>22,709</b>	<b>22,310</b>	<b>23,671</b>	<b>101.2</b>	<b>103.2</b>	<b>92.9</b>	<b>92.0</b>	<b>101.9</b>

<sup>1</sup> 1926 figures are subject to revision. <sup>2</sup> Provincial figures 1922-25.

**Infantile Mortality by Causes of Death.**—Thirteen principal causes of death accounted in the years 1921 to 1924 for about 85 p.c. of the infantile mortality experienced in the registration area, as is shown in Table 28. It is noteworthy that three causes present at birth, *viz.*, premature birth and injuries at birth, congenital debility and congenital malformations, accounted for more than 46 p.c. of the infant deaths of 1925. Indeed, in that year 51.54 p.c. of all infants dying were less than one month old, and 37.0 p.c. less than one week old, as is shown in Table 29.