

**Infantile Mortality in Various Countries.**—The rate of infantile mortality to living births has been greatly reduced in civilized countries by the recent advances in medical science and in sanitation. The low record is held at the present time by New Zealand, where in 1926 the rate of infantile mortality was only 39.8 per 1,000 living births as compared with 68 in 1905. Queensland, with an infantile mortality rate of 45.4 in 1925, made a remarkable record for a sub-tropical country, while Norway and Sweden, with rates of 50.3 and 57.1 in the latest available years, were the lowest among European countries.

As showing the improvement in recent years, it may be stated that the rate of infantile mortality in England and Wales has been reduced from 128 per 1,000 living births in 1905 to 70.2 in 1926, while the rate in Germany has declined from 196 in 1904 to 101.0 in 1926. In the Netherlands, again, the rate has declined from 131 per 1,000 living births in 1905 to 60.9 in 1926. Statistics are given by leading countries and by provinces in Table 31.

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

Countries.	Years.	Rate of Infantile Mortality.	Countries.	Years.	Rate of Infantile Mortality.
New Zealand.....	1926	39.8	Alberta.....	1926	85.3
South Australia.....	1926	45.0	Latvia.....	1926	87.9
Queensland.....	1925	45.4	France.....	1925	88.0
Tasmania.....	1926	47.0	Belgium.....	1925	93.7
Norway.....	1924	50.3	Germany.....	1926	101.0
Australia.....	1926	54.0	Canada.....	1926	101.9
New South Wales.....	1925	54.9	Prussia.....	1925	104.3
Western Australia.....	1925	56.8	Newfoundland.....	1923	104.7
Victoria.....	1925	57.0	New Brunswick.....	1926	106.3
Sweden.....	1926	57.1	Estonia.....	1923	107.0
British Columbia.....	1926	58.6	Uruguay.....	1924	107.6
Netherlands.....	1926	60.9	Austria.....	1925	118.0
Switzerland.....	1924	62.1	Italy.....	1925	119.4
Union of South Africa (Whites).....	1926	64.8	Spain.....	1926	125.5
Prince Edward Island.....	1926	69.1	Japan.....	1925	139.6
England and Wales.....	1926	70.2	Egypt.....	1922	140.0
United States.....	1926	72.8	Quebec.....	1926	142.0
Irish Free State.....	1926	73.0	Salvador.....	1925	146.0
Manitoba.....	1926	76.5	Czechoslovakia.....	1926	155.2
Denmark.....	1925	77.7	Hungary.....	1926	168.5
British Isles.....	1924	77.8	Ceylon.....	1925	172.0
Ontario.....	1926	78.5	Jamaica.....	1925	173.6
Nova Scotia.....	1926	80.6	British India.....	1924	189.0
Northern Ireland.....	1926	80.7	Rumania.....	1924	200.6
Saskatchewan.....	1926	81.6	Costa Rica.....	1923	222.1
Scotland.....	1926	83.0	Chile.....	1925	257.8
Finland.....	1925	84.9			

**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 64 per 1,000 living births in 1926, as compared with a rate for England and Wales of 70.2 per 1,000. New York experienced in 1925 an infantile mortality