

Death Rates by Age-Groups.—The death rate per 1,000 persons living in each group were shown in a table on p. 175 of the 1927-28 Year Book for the years 1921-24. The calculations were made on the assumption that the age constitution of the estimated population of the later years was the same as that of the ascertained population of the census year.

In this table there was indicated a declining death rate at the earlier ages, a stationary death rate between 35 and 55, and an increasing death rate after 55. While the Canadian period of observation is too short to establish these as general conclusions, the experience of other countries tends to confirm them as being common to the civilized countries of the world.

When the death-rate by sexes in various age-groups was considered it was evident that in most age-groups the female death-rate was lower than that of males, though there are significant exceptions. In 1924, the female death-rate was lower in the groups up to 20 and above 55. In the groups from 20-24 and 45-54 it was the same as that for males, but in the groups from 25 to 44 it was distinctly higher.

Adjusted Death Rate.—While the crude death rate gives the actual mortality per 1,000 of population, the differing age constitution of the population in different communities and the high mortality among infants and elderly people makes the crude death rate no true test of the relative expectation of life in such communities. Where the age constitution of a particular group is particularly favourable to low mortality, as, for example, in an army in peace time, the crude death rate will be lower than elsewhere.

When comparisons of the rates of mortality in several communities are made by age-groups as is done for the eight provinces in Table 21 on p. 162 of the Canada Year Book, 1925, the effects of differences in age constitution between these communities are eliminated, but by a rather cumbrous process, which does not bring together and express as a single figure the facts of the situation. It has therefore been considered desirable to adopt a particular community as a standard, and to find what the death rates of other communities would have been if the age and sex constitution of their population had corresponded to those of the community taken as a standard. The "standard" population chosen for this purpose in England and Wales and the United States is the "standard million", based on the age and sex distribution per million of the population of England and Wales at the census of 1901. This age and sex distribution was as follows:—

Age-groups.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
All ages.....	1,000,000	483,543	516,457
Under 5 years.....	114,262	57,039	57,223
5-9 years.....	107,209	53,462	53,747
10-14 years.....	102,735	51,370	51,365
15-19 years.....	99,796	49,420	50,376
20-24 years.....	95,946	45,273	50,673
25-34 years.....	161,579	76,425	85,154
35-44 years.....	122,849	59,394	63,455
45-54 years.....	89,222	42,924	46,298
55-64 years.....	59,741	27,913	31,828
65-74 years.....	33,090	14,691	18,399
75 years and over.....	13,581	5,632	7,949