

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

Countries.	Years.	Rate of Infantile Mortality.	Countries.	Years.	Rate of Infantile Mortality.
Italy.....	1925	119.5	Hungary.....	1926	167.5
Austria.....	1926	123.1	Jamaica.....	1925	173.6
Spain.....	1926	125.6	Ceylon.....	1926	174.1
Quebec.....	1927	129.3	British India.....	1925	174.4
Japan.....	1926	137.5	Romania.....	1925	191.8
Egypt.....	1922	140.0	Costa Rica.....	1923	222.1
Salvador.....	1925	155.0	Chile.....	1925	257.8
Czechoslovakia.....	1926	155.2			

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 of 64 per 1,000, as against a rate of 73.3 per 1,000 for the registration area of the United States in 1926. The department of the Seine (Paris), on the other hand, had in 1926 an infantile mortality of 98 per 1,000 living births, as compared with 89.0 for France in 1925. Again, Berlin in 1926 had an infant mortality of 93 per 1,000 living births, as compared with 101 in Germany, and Vienna an infant mortality in 1924 of 99 per 1,000 living births, as compared with 123 for Austria in 1926.

In Canada, our experience, except in the province of Quebec, has also been rather favourable to the cities. Montreal had in 1927 an infantile mortality of 132 per 1,000 living births as compared with 129 for the province of Quebec. On the other hand, Toronto had in 1927 an infantile mortality of 70.8 per 1,000 living births as against 71.1 for the province of Ontario, and this is typical of the other larger cities of the Dominion.

The infant mortality in the cities of Canada has been greatly reduced in the years since the inauguration of Dominion vital statistics. Thus the rate for Toronto has fallen from 90 in 1921 to 71 in 1927, that for Winnipeg from 77.5 to 60.6, for Vancouver from 58 to 52, for Hamilton from 83 to 65, for Ottawa from 130 to 95, for London from 92 to 79, for Edmonton from 89 to 58, for Halifax from 134 to 83, for Saint John from 147 to 89. Altogether, in the 10 cities of 40,000 population and over in the former registration area of Canada, there were 38,488 living births in 1921 and 3,541 infant deaths, being a rate of 92 per thousand living births. In 1927 in these same cities there were 32,438 living births, but only 2,491 infant deaths, or a rate of 76.8 per 1,000 living births.