birth rates, for instance) as among the provinces unfair and misleading. For instance, in British Columbia in 1921 there were only 773 females of ages 15 to 44 to every 1,000 males of these ages, while in Quebec there were 1,017 and in Prince Edward Island 986. Evidently, in view of the great disproportion between the sexes in British Columbia, the crude birth rate per 1,000 of population in that province cannot properly be compared with the crude birth rate in Quebec, Prince Edward Island or New Brunswick. Again, in consequence of different age distributions of population in the different provinces—the Prairie Provinces, for instance, have a very young population because of the healthy young immigrants whom they attract—a comparison of crude death rates of the provinces is misleading. In the Prairie Provinces, taken together, only 126 per 1,000 of the 1911 population and 149 per 1,000 of the 1921 population had passed 45 years of age, while in Quebec 178, in Ontario 233 and in Prince Edward Island 264 per 1,000 of the population were in 1921 over 45 years of age. These latter provinces, having a much larger proportion of persons of advanced ages, will inevitably have a higher crude death rate per 1,000 of population than the Prairie Provinces. A table showing the death rates as adjusted on the basis of the English "standard million" of 1901 has therefore been included (Table 21).

The natural increase of the population of Canada is first dealt with, followed by detailed tables of births, marriages and deaths in the order named.

Section 1.—Natural Increase.

Summary statistics of the births, marriages, deaths and natural increase per 1,000 of population are given for the years 1923 to 1928 by provinces in Table 1. The figures for 1928 are subject to revision.

The province of Quebec has one of the highest rates of natural increase per 1,000 of population in any civilized country, 23·4 in 1921, 21·8 in 1922, 18·6 in 1923, 22·0 in 1924, 20·9 in 1925, 17·6 in 1926, 18·0 in 1927 and 17·8 in 1928. This brings the average for Canada (exclusive of the Territories) up to 17·8 per 1,000 in 1921, 16·5 in 1922, 14·7 in 1923, 15·8 in 1924, 15·2 in 1925, 13·3 in 1926, 13·5 in 1927 and 13·2 in 1928.

In Australia the rate of natural increase in 1927 was 12·2 per 1,000, in New Zealand in 1927 12·1, in England and Wales in 1927 5·0, in Scotland in 1927 6·3, and in the Irish Free State 5·5, so that Canada compares quite favourably with other British countries.

The rates of natural increase per annum per 1,000 of mean population for other countries in the latest years are as follows, the figures being for 1927:—Denmark 8·0; Japan 13·8; Netherlands 12·9; Norway 7·2; Finland 6·7; Italy 11·2; Switzerland 5·1; Sweden 3·4; Spain 9·7; France 1·6; Belgium 5·4; United States (registration area) 9·2; Union of South Africa (whites) 16·2.

The natural increase of the population of Canada has shown some tendency to decline in recent years. On the basis of the vital statistics of the country, it declined from 156,573 or 17·8 per 1,000 of the population in 1921 to 150,084 or 16·5 per 1,000 in 1922, to 135,146 or 14·7 per 1,000 in 1923, to 145,972 or 15·8 per 1,000 in 1924, to 143,611 or 15·2 per 1,000 in 1925, to 125,296 or 13·3 per 1,000 in 1926, and to 128,896 or 13·5 per 1,000 in 1927. A slight decrease to 127,255 is