

## 12.—Crude Birth Rates of Various Countries in Recent Years.

Countries.	Years.	Crude Birth Rate.	Countries.	Years.	Crude Birth Rate.
Egypt.....	1926	43.2	Manitoba.....	1928	22.1
Russia (European).....	1923	42.6	Western Australia.....	1927	22.0
Chile.....	1927	41.5	Latvia.....	1927	22.0
Costa Rica.....	1927	40.7	Australia.....	1927	21.7
Ceylon.....	1927	39.5	Northern Ireland.....	1927	21.3
Salvador.....	1927	36.0	Ontario.....	1928	21.2
Roumania.....	1926	35.1	Finland.....	1927	21.1
Jamaica.....	1927	34.7	Prince Edward Island.....	1928	21.0
Japan.....	1927	33.6	United States (Reg. Area).....	1927	20.6
Quebec.....	1928	31.6	Denmark.....	1926	20.5
Spain.....	1927	28.6	New Zealand.....	1927	20.3
Italy.....	1927	27.0	Victoria.....	1927	20.3
Panama.....	1926	26.2	Irish Free State.....	1927	20.3
Union of South Africa (Whites)....	1927	26.0	South Australia.....	1927	20.1
Hungary.....	1927	25.7	Nova Scotia.....	1928	19.9
Newfoundland.....	1928	25.0	Scotland.....	1927	19.8
Saskatchewan.....	1928	24.8	Prussia.....	1927	18.4
Uruguay.....	1927	24.6	Belgium.....	1927	18.4
Canada.....	1928	24.5	Germany.....	1927	18.3
Alberta.....	1928	24.5	Norway.....	1927	18.2
New Brunswick.....	1928	24.2	France.....	1927	18.1
Czechoslovakia.....	1928	23.3	Estonia.....	1928	18.0
Netherlands.....	1927	23.1	Austria.....	1927	17.8
Tasmania.....	1927	23.0	British Columbia.....	1928	17.7
New South Wales.....	1927	22.7	Switzerland.....	1927	17.4
Queensland.....	1927	22.2	England and Wales.....	1927	16.6
			Sweden.....	1927	16.1

## Section 3.—Marriages and Divorces.

## Subsection 1.—Marriages.

About a century ago it was observed in the United Kingdom that the number of marriages tended to be high when the price of wheat was low and to be low when the price of wheat was high. This was quite naturally the case among a population, the majority of which was living at a comparatively low standard of comfort, and where the staple food was thus the chief factor in the cost of living.

More recently, the curve showing marriage rates in the United Kingdom and other English-speaking countries has ceased to bear any constant relation to the price of the staple food of the people, though it still does so in poorer countries. Its place in influencing the marriage rate has, however, been taken by the general level of prosperity. Marriages in such countries as the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada and Australia tend to increase in "good times" and to diminish in "hard times", when great numbers of those who are contemplating marriage are led to postpone such marriage until the advent of better industrial conditions.

Even in the short period covered by the vital statistics of Canada, the truth of the above statement is supported by the evidence. In 1920, a year of great prosperity, the marriages taking place in the nine provinces numbered 80,931 or 9.4 per 1,000 of population; in 1921 they declined to 69,732 or 8.0 per 1,000; in 1922 to 64,420 or 7.2 per 1,000 population, largely owing to the industrial depression in those years; in 1923, a more prosperous year, they showed an increase to 66,463 or 7.4 per 1,000 of population. Again in 1924 and 1925 the rates fell to 7.1 and 7.0 per 1,000 population respectively, while in 1926 to 1928 the rates rose again to 7.1, 7.3 and 7.7 per 1,000 respectively, probably influenced by the return of prosperity. It should be mentioned, of course, that there doubtless occurred as late as 1921 a number of deferred marriages, which under more normal conditions would