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 59 per 1,000 living births in 1927, as compared with a rate for England and Wales of 69·7 per 1,000. New York experienced in 1925 an infantile mortality of 56 per 1,000, as against a rate of 64·6 per 1,000 for the registration area of the United States in 1926. Paris on the other hand, had in 1927 an infantile mortality of 86 per 1,000 living births, as compared with 83·7 for France. Again, Berlin in 1927 had an infant mortality of 92 per 1,000 living births, as compared with 96·8 in Germany, and Vienna an infant mortality in 1924 of 99 per 1,000 living births, as compared with 123·7 for Austria in 1926.

In Canada, Montreal had in 1928 an infantile mortality of 144 per 1,000 living births as compared with 124 for the province of Quebec. Toronto, too, had in 1928 an infantile mortality of 72·4 per 1,000 living births as against 71·3 for the province of Ontario, while Winnipeg and Vancouver had a lower infantile mortality than their respective provinces.

30.—Rate of Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Living Births in Great Cities of the World in Recent Years.

Cities.	Years.	Rate of Infantile Mortality.	Cities.	Years.	Rate of Infantile Mortality.
Auckland	1927	38	Halifax	1928	72
Amsterdam	1927	41	Toronto	1928	72
Vancouver[1]	1928	43	Hamburg	1927	74
Wellington	1927	44	Moncton	1928	77
Oslo	1926	48	Antwerp	1927	78
Victoria, B.C.	1928	48	La Plata	1920	78
London, Ont.	1928	53	Edinburgh	1927	80
Frankfort-on-Main	1926	54	Saskatoon	1928	80
Hobart	1927	56	Manchester	1927	82
New York	1927	56	Paris	1927	86
Sydney, N.S.W.	1927	56	Munich	1927	87
Brisbane	1927	57	Cork	1926	88
Perth, W. Australia	1927	57	Sheffield	1927	89
Copenhagen	1927	58	Dresden	1927	90
London, Eng.	1927	59	Liverpool	1927	91
Stockholm	1927	59	Berlin	1927	92
Winnipeg	1928	61	Leipzig	1927	93
Calgary	1928	62	Saint John	1928	95
Melbourne	1927	62	Vienna	1924	99
Regina	1928	62	Cologne	1927	100
Chicago	1927	63	Prague	1925	100
Hamilton	1928	63	Johannesburg	1927	106
Adelaide	1927	64	Glasgow	1927	107
Edmonton	1928	64	Breslau	1927	112
Cape Town	1927	65	Montreal	1927	144
Brandon	1928	69	Quebec	1928	174
Washington	1927	71	Madras	1927	230
Birmingham, Eng.	1927	72	Bombay	1927	316

[1] Includes Point Grey and South Vancouver.