22.—Quartile and Decile Ages of Decedents by Sex, 1927-29.

Position in Array by Age.	Both Sexes.			Male.			Female.		
	1927.	1928.	1929.	1927.	1928.	1929.	1927.	1928.	1929.
First quartile..... years of age	2·58	4·67	4·45	1·80	3·34	3·15	3·96	6·82	6·30
Second quartile..... "	45·94	49·01	48·99	46·04	48·92	48·86	45·83	49·12	49·17
Third quartile..... "	70·32	71·32	71·25	69·69	70·52	70·47	71·07	72·29	72·22
First decile.....months of age	0·99	1·27	1·43	0·71	0·94	1·03	1·49	1·77	1·96
Second decile..... "	10·09	14·28	15·48	7·87	10·64	11·25	14·64	19·92	21·00
Third decile..... years of age	9·78	16·07	15·42	6·76	13·31	12·52	13·70	18·45	18·03
Fourth decile..... "	29·37	34·30	33·85	28·16	33·80	33·21	30·56	34·75	34·41
Fifth decile..... "	45·94	49·01	48·99	46·04	48·92	48·86	45·83	49·12	49·17
Sixth decile..... "	58·28	60·13	60·20	57·89	59·60	59·48	58·74	60·70	61·12
Seventh decile..... "	66·89	68·06	68·19	66·25	67·31	67·37	67·59	68·90	69·07
Eighth decile..... "	73·73	74·48	74·39	72·97	73·64	73·61	74·67	75·44	75·28
Ninth decile..... "	80·56	81·00	80·91	79·65	80·00	80·19	81·60	82·20	81·89

Death Rates by Age Groups.—The death rates 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.

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, for example in an army in peace time, the crude death rate will be lower than elsewhere.

The desire to eliminate from summary rates the effects of differences in age constitution between communities whose mortality is being compared has led to the use of "standardized" or "adjusted" death rates, constructed by applying rates for the individual age groups, or age and sex groups to some population chosen as a standard. On p. 157 of the Canada Year Book 1931, will be found a series of such adjusted rates for the provinces of Canada up to the year 1928, the standard population chosen for the purpose being that of England and Wales at the census of 1901.

In view, however, of the changes in age distribution which may have taken place in the Canadian population since the census of 1921, it has been decided to discontinue this series. When the population by age groups according to the census of 1931 is known, a revised series will be constructed covering the period between the two censuses. This series it is hoped to include in the Year Book for 1933.

Causes of Death.—More than 85 p.c. of deaths recorded in the present registration area in the years 1928 to 1930 were due to the 30 causes specified in Tables 23 and 24. Attention may be drawn to the decline in the number of deaths from ill-defined diseases as showing the increasing accuracy of diagnoses and of the resulting statistics (Table 23).

Total deaths in 1930 showed a substantial reduction from the high level of 1929 and were more comparable to the 1928 figures. The influenza epidemic of 1929 accounted for the temporarily high increase in the total, but the deaths from this cause were fewer in 1930 than they have ever been since figures were made available for the whole of Canada. It is significant, however, that cancer, tuberculosis, diseases of the heart and arteries, and appendicitis are increasingly important causes of death in spite of all efforts to control these diseases. Suicides, and violent deaths apart from suicides, also show persistent increases—a condition not characteristic of Canada alone but common to most modern civilizations.