

Infantile Mortality in Various Countries.—The rate of infantile mortality to live births has been greatly reduced in civilized countries by the recent advances in medical science and in sanitation. The low record is held at the present time by New Zealand, where in 1932 the rate of infantile mortality was only 31.2 per 1,000 live births as compared with 68 in 1905. The Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and Sweden with rates of 46.3, 46.8, 51.0 and 51.2 in the latest available years, (1932) are the lowest among European countries.

As showing the improvement in recent years, it may be stated that the rate of infantile mortality in England and Wales has been reduced from 128 per 1,000 live births in 1905 to 65.0 in 1932 while the rate in Germany has declined from 196 in 1904 to 79.2 in 1932. In the Netherlands, again, the rate has declined from 131 per 1,000 live births in 1905 to 46.3 in 1932. Statistics are given in Table 32 by leading countries and by provinces.

32.—Infantile Mortality per 1,000 Live Births in Various Countries of the World and Provinces of Canada in Recent Years.

Country or Province.	Year.	Rate of Infantile Mortality.	Country or Province.	Year.	Rate of Infantile Mortality.
New Zealand.....	1932	31.2	New Brunswick.....	1933	81.8
South Australia.....	1932	36.6	Northern Ireland.....	1932	83.0
Queensland.....	1932	40.2	Prussia.....	1931	83.8
New South Wales.....	1932	41.0	Scotland.....	1932	86.2
Tasmania.....	1932	41.2	Panama.....	1931	86.3
Australia.....	1932	41.3	Latvia.....	1932	89.3
Victoria.....	1932	43.0	Belgium.....	1932	93.6
Western Australia.....	1932	44.6	Quebec.....	1933	94.5
Iceland.....	1932	45.0	Estonia.....	1932	96.8
British Columbia.....	1933	45.8	Uruguay.....	1930	99.7
Netherlands.....	1932	46.3	Austria.....	1932	106.2
Norway.....	1932	46.8	Italy.....	1932	110.5
Switzerland.....	1932	51.0	Spain.....	1930	117.1
Sweden.....	1932	51.2	Japan.....	1932	117.5
United States (Reg. Area).....	1932	57.6	Newfoundland.....	1932	119.7
Ontario.....	1933	59.8	Salvador.....	1932	132.9
Alberta.....	1933	59.9	Greece.....	1931	133.8
Prince Edward Island.....	1933	60.6	Czechoslovakia.....	1930	137.5
Saskatchewan.....	1933	61.1	Jamaica.....	1932	140.0
Manitoba.....	1933	63.4	Ukraine.....	1929	150.4
England and Wales.....	1932	65.0	Costa Rica.....	1932	155.6
Union of South Africa (Whites).....	1932	68.6	Bulgaria.....	1931	156.2
British Isles.....	1932	68.6	Egypt.....	1931	160.0
Finland.....	1932	70.9	Ceylon.....	1932	162.3
Nova Scotia.....	1933	70.9	Straits Settlements.....	1932	166.4
Irish Free State.....	1932	72.2	British India.....	1932	168.7
Canada.....	1933	73.1	Hungary.....	1932	183.7
France.....	1932	76.4	Roumania.....	1932	184.6
Germany.....	1932	79.2	Russia.....	1929	205.6
Denmark.....	1931	81.4	Chile.....	1932	235.0

Infantile Mortality in Great Cities of the World.—In former times cities were considered to be “the graveyards of population”. Deaths, consequent upon the rapid spread of infectious diseases, were generally more numerous than 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 day, if not as healthy, yet not necessarily more dangerous to human nor to infant life than the average living conditions in the country as a whole.