

Adjusted Death Rates.—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 make the crude death rate no true test of the relative expectation of life in such communities. Where the age and health constitution of a particular group is particularly favourable to low mortality, for example among the selected lives of soldiers in peace time, the crude rate will naturally be lower than elsewhere.

When comparisons of the rates of mortality in several communities are made by age groups the effects of differences in age constitution between these communities are eliminated, but by a rather cumbrous process which does not bring together and express as a single figure the facts of the situation. It has therefore been considered desirable to adopt a particular community as a standard, and to find what the death rates of other communities would have been if the age and sex constitution of their population had corresponded to those of the community taken as a standard. The "standard" population chosen for this purpose in England and Wales and the United States is the "standard million", based on the age and sex distribution per million of the population of England and Wales at the Census of 1901. That age and sex distribution was as follows:—

Age Group.	Both Sexes.	Males.	Females.
All ages.....	1,000,000	483,543	516,457
Under 5 years.....	114,262	57,039	57,223
5-9 years.....	107,209	53,462	53,747
10-14 years.....	102,735	51,370	51,365
15-19 years.....	99,796	49,420	50,376
20-24 years.....	95,946	45,273	50,673
25-34 years.....	161,579	76,425	85,154
35-44 years.....	122,849	59,394	63,455
45-54 years.....	89,222	42,924	46,298
55-64 years.....	59,741	27,913	31,828
65-74 years.....	33,080	14,691	18,389
75 years and over.....	13,581	5,632	7,949

Regarding the standard million of England and Wales the Registrar General says: "As the population of this country in 1901 included relatively few infants and old people it forms a standard exceptionally favourable to low mortality". The relative fewness of old people in the population is presumably due to the great increase in English population during the 19th century; the relative fewness of infants, to the marked reduction of the birth rate between the 1870's and the end of the century.

The process above described has been applied to the population of the eight provinces, the former registration area of Canada, for the years 1921-33 and to the population of Quebec for the years 1926-33 in Table 25. Of the rates there given, those for 1921 and 1922 have been calculated directly, the proportion of the population in each sex and age group according to the Census of 1921 being assumed to hold true for 1922 also; similarly the rates for 1930, 1931 and 1932 have been calculated directly from the proportions shown in each sex and age group at the Census of 1931. For the intervening years 1923-29, for which estimates of total population but not of population by age groups were available, the following method was adopted. The proportions which the adjusted rates of 1921 and 1922 (correct to three decimal places) bore to the crude were averaged, similarly those of 1930 and 1931, and the change was assumed to have taken place in an arithmetical progression during the intervening seven years. Quebec not having been in the registration area in the year 1921, an adjusted rate was not available for that year or for 1922, but as the proportion of the adjusted rate to the crude depends primarily on the sex and age distribution of the population, and as this distribution was known for