

Comparative Crude Death Rates of Different Countries.—In Table 29 will be found a comparative statement of the crude death rates of various countries and of the provinces of Canada for the latest available year. It is worthy of note that three Canadian provinces show the lowest death rates in the list. New Zealand, the Netherlands, Australia, South Africa and Canada are the only countries with death rates under 10·0 per 1,000 of population. The low death rates in the Prairie Provinces are in all three cases due in part to a favourable age distribution of population.

29.—Crude Death Rates of Various Countries in Recent Years.

| Country or Province. | Year. | Crude Death Rate. | Country or Province. | Year. | Crude Death Rate. |
|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Saskatchewan..... | 1934 | 6·1 | British Isles..... | 1933 | 12·5 |
| Alberta..... | 1934 | 6·9 | Panama..... | 1931 | 12·7 |
| Manitoba..... | 1934 | 7·1 | Finland..... | 1933 | 12·9 |
| New Zealand..... | 1933 | 8·0 | Austria..... | 1933 | 13·2 |
| South Australia..... | 1933 | 8·4 | Scotland..... | 1933 | 13·2 |
| New South Wales..... | 1933 | 8·6 | Belgium..... | 1933 | 13·3 |
| Western Australia..... | 1933 | 8·6 | Irish Free State..... | 1933 | 13·5 |
| British Columbia..... | 1934 | 8·8 | Latvia..... | 1933 | 13·6 |
| Netherlands..... | 1933 | 8·8 | Czechoslovakia..... | 1933 | 13·7 |
| Queensland..... | 1933 | 8·8 | Italy..... | 1933 | 13·7 |
| Australia..... | 1933 | 8·9 | Poland..... | 1933 | 14·2 |
| Union of South Africa (Whites).... | 1933 | 9·3 | Northern Ireland..... | 1933 | 14·3 |
| Canada..... | 1934 | 9·4 | Estonia..... | 1933 | 14·7 |
| Tasmania..... | 1933 | 9·6 | Hungary..... | 1933 | 14·7 |
| Victoria..... | 1933 | 9·6 | Bulgaria..... | 1933 | 15·5 |
| Ontario..... | 1934 | 9·9 | France..... | 1933 | 15·8 |
| Norway..... | 1933 | 10·2 | Spain..... | 1932 | 16·4 |
| Iceland..... | 1933 | 10·3 | Greece..... | 1933 | 16·9 |
| Uruguay..... | 1933 | 10·3 | Ukraine..... | 1929 | 17·6 |
| Denmark..... | 1933 | 10·6 | Japan..... | 1933 | 17·8 |
| Quebec..... | 1934 | 10·6 | Roumania..... | 1933 | 18·7 |
| Prussia..... | 1932 | 10·6 | Jamaica..... | 1933 | 19·4 |
| United States (reg. area)..... | 1933 | 10·7 | Palestine..... | 1933 | 20·1 |
| New Brunswick..... | 1934 | 11·0 | Russia..... | 1929 | 20·6 |
| Germany..... | 1933 | 11·2 | Costa Rica..... | 1933 | 20·8 |
| Sweden..... | 1933 | 11·2 | Ceylon..... | 1933 | 21·2 |
| Switzerland..... | 1933 | 11·4 | Salvador..... | 1932 | 21·2 |
| Nova Scotia..... | 1934 | 11·5 | British India..... | 1933 | 22·4 |
| Prince Edward Island..... | 1934 | 11·6 | Straits Settlements..... | 1933 | 24·3 |
| Newfoundland..... | 1933 | 11·9 | Egypt..... | 1933 | 26·5 |
| England and Wales..... | 1933 | 12·3 | Chile..... | 1933 | 26·8 |

Subsection 2.—Infantile and Maternal Mortality.

In recent years a great part of the energy devoted by the medical profession and sanitarians to effect a decline in the death rate has gone to reduce infantile mortality, and in this field a large measure of success has been attained. In Canada, the Dominion, provincial and municipal health authorities have all taken part in the struggle to reduce infantile mortality, and usually, in the absence of epidemics, each year is showing an improvement. In the fourteen years for which the figures are available there is evident a very considerable decline in infantile mortality. In 1921 the infant death rate for Canada (using figures from provincial sources for Quebec) was 102 per 1,000 live births. This rate had been reduced to 72 in 1934. Table 30 gives figures for the whole of Canada for the years 1931 to 1934 and averages for the five-year periods 1921-25 and 1926-30. The infant mortality in Quebec exceeds that in any other province, although a study of the rates shows that steady improvement has been made in the nine-year period during which the province has been included in the registration area. In Canada as a whole over 6,000 infant lives were preserved in 1934 which, under conditions prevailing in 1926, would probably have been lost.