

Comparative Crude Death Rates of Different Countries.—In Table 22 will be found a comparative statement of the crude death rates of various countries for the latest available year. Those of the provinces of Canada are also given for comparison. The Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia, 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.

22.—Crude Death Rates of Various Countries and of the Provinces of Canada in Recent Years.

Country.	Year.	Crude Death Rate.	Country or Province.	Year.	Crude Death Rate.
Country—			Country—concluded.		
New Zealand.....	1935	8·2	Bulgaria.....	1935	14·5
Netherlands.....	1935	8·7	Estonia.....	1935	14·9
Australia.....	1935	9·5	Greece.....	1935	14·9
Canada.....	1936	9·7	Hungary.....	1935	15·3
Norway.....	1935	10·3	Spain.....	1935	15·3
Union of South Africa (whites).....	1935	10·5	France.....	1935	15·7
Uruguay.....	1935	10·6	Japan.....	1935	16·8
United States (reg. area).....	1935	10·9	Jamaica.....	1935	17·7
Denmark.....	1935	11·1	Palestine.....	1935	18·6
Sweden.....	1935	11·7	Roumania.....	1935	21·1
England and Wales.....	1935	11·7	Costa Rica.....	1935	21·8
Germany.....	1935	11·8	British India.....	1935	23·6
Panama.....	1934	11·9	Salvador.....	1934	24·3
Finland.....	1935	12·0	Chile.....	1935	25·0
British Isles.....	1935	12·1	Straits Settlements.....	1935	25·1
Switzerland.....	1935	12·1	Egypt.....	1935	26·7
Iceland.....	1935	12·2	Ceylon.....	1935	36·6
Belgium.....	1935	12·9			
Scotland.....	1935	13·2	Province of Canada—		
Newfoundland.....	1935	13·4	Saskatchewan.....	1936	6·8
Czechoslovakia.....	1935	13·5	Alberta.....	1936	8·0
Austria.....	1935	13·6	Manitoba.....	1936	8·7
Italy.....	1935	13·9	British Columbia.....	1936	9·6
Irish Free State.....	1935	14·0	Ontario.....	1936	10·2
Lithuania.....	1935	14·0	Quebec.....	1936	10·3
Poland.....	1935	14·0	New Brunswick.....	1936	11·0
Latvia.....	1935	14·2	Nova Scotia.....	1936	11·0
Northern Ireland.....	1935	14·4	Prince Edward Island.....	1936	11·1

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 sixteen 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 66 in 1936. Table 23 gives figures for the whole of Canada for the years 1931 to 1936 and averages for the five-year periods 1921-25, 1926-30, and 1931-35. The infantile mortality in Quebec still exceeds that in any other province, although a study of the rates shows that steady improvement has been made in the ten-year period during which the province has been included in the registration area. In Canada as a whole over 9,000 infant lives were preserved in 1936 which, under conditions prevailing in 1926, would probably have been lost.