

Some of the effects of the ageing of the population can be observed by the comparison of crude and standardized mortality rates for individual causes of death in 1921 and 1931, since standardized rates are calculated in order to eliminate the effects of changes in sex and age composition of the population. Cancer provides a pronounced example of the ageing effect. The crude rate for cancer was 75.3 in 1921 and in 1931 it was 95.8. The increase was thus 27 p.c. The standardized rate, however, was 72.7 in 1921 and 81.4 in 1931, an increase of only 12 p.c.\* It may be stated, therefore, that roughly more than half of the increase in the crude cancer death rate between 1921 and 1931 was accounted for by the ageing of the population. Nevertheless, cancer shows a persistent increase over the years in spite of all efforts to control its spread. Diseases of the heart and arteries are two other important causes which affect people of advancing years and which have shown substantial increases. In the case of diseases of the heart, the crude rate showed an increase of 25.5 p.c. between 1921 and 1931, but, again, the standardized rate increased by only 9 p.c.\* The crude rate for diseases of the arteries advanced by no less than 71 p.c. and the standardized by 50 p.c.\* over the decade. For nephritis, a disease which falls in the same general class, the increase in the crude rate was 28.5 p.c. and in the standardized, 12.5 p.c.\* Pneumonia is particularly fatal among those of advanced years and among infants; the same influences as have been mentioned have, no doubt, affected the figures for this disease.

\* More accurate diagnosis should not be overlooked as a factor in changing death rates from these diseases.

#### 19.—Deaths in Canada, by Principal Causes, 1933-37.

Int. List No. <sup>1</sup>	Cause of Death.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
1, 2	Typhoid fever.....	291	293	273	256	330
7	Measles.....	170	188	490	376	837
8	Scarlet fever.....	157	226	242	244	269
9	Whooping-cough.....	552	875	892	594	763
10	Diphtheria.....	239	232	264	258	369
11	Influenza.....	4,019	2,004	3,392	3,113	5,260
16	Poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis (acute).....	73	84	64	97	200
17	Lethargic or epidemic encephalitis.....	58	47	54	52	50
18	Epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis.....	109	84	112	103	93
23	Tuberculosis, respiratory system.....	5,664	5,290	5,466	5,528	5,497
24-32	Tuberculosis, other organs.....	1,275	1,141	1,131	1,235	1,172
45-53	Cancer.....	10,653	10,581	11,156	11,694	11,963
59	Diabetes mellitus.....	1,287	1,321	1,459	1,442	1,565
71	Anæmia.....	736	612	650	646	623
82 a, b, c	Cerebral hæmorrhage, embolism or thrombosis.....	2,639	2,577	2,105	1,890	1,653
82d	Paralysis without specified cause.....	559	547	415	358	322
83	Convulsions (under 5 years of age).....	263	261	234	200	195
90-95	Diseases of the heart.....	15,455	16,352	16,069	16,424	16,840
96, 97, 99, 102	Diseases of the arteries.....	6,950	7,379	8,302	9,112	9,009
106	Bronchitis.....	367	380	303	342	328
107-109	Pneumonia.....	6,487	6,530	7,411	7,313	7,731
119, 120	Diarrhoea and enteritis.....	3,395	3,730	2,767	2,378	4,216
121	Appendicitis.....	1,455	1,578	1,491	1,428	1,410
122	Hernia, intestinal obstruction.....	1,029	1,074	1,121	1,050	1,074
130-132	Nephritis.....	5,516	5,843	6,176	6,402	6,530
137	Diseases of the prostate.....	926	944	1,089	1,157	1,255
140-150	Puerperal causes.....	1,111	1,167	1,093	1,233	1,071
157	Congenital malformations.....	1,374	1,361	1,423	1,439	1,474
158-161	Diseases of early infancy.....	7,337	6,936	6,850	6,605	6,644
162	Senility (old age).....	2,637	1,882	1,932	1,691	1,741
163-171	Suicides.....	823	927	995	928	978
173-193	Violent deaths (suicides excepted).....	5,294	5,542	5,993	6,555	6,380
	Other specified causes.....	12,546	12,857	13,391	14,216	14,589
	Totals, Specified Causes.....	100,975	100,645	104,805	106,339	113,051
199, 200	Ill-defined diseases.....	993	987	762	711	773
	Totals.....	101,968	101,632	105,567	107,050	113,824

<sup>1</sup> The numbers given in this column refer to the International List of Causes of Death, as revised in 1929 by the International Commission on the Classification of Diseases and Causes of Death. This classification, in its detailed, intermediate, or abridged form, is accepted in almost all civilized countries.