

gradually passing up the age scale. Further, due to the improvements in sanitation and health conditions generally, the average age at which death takes place has been pushed gradually higher. All these factors tend to thrust those causes that are commonly associated with advancing years to the fore.

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 that affect people of advancing years and that 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 that falls in the same general class, the increase in the crude rate was 28.5

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

19.—Deaths in Canada, by Principal Causes, 1934-38.

Int. List No. ¹	Cause of Death.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
1, 2	Typhoid fever.....	293	273	256	330	207
7	Measles.....	188	490	376	837	250
8	Scarlet fever.....	226	242	244	269	202
9	Whooping-cough.....	875	892	594	763	496
10	Diphtheria.....	232	264	258	369	434
11	Influenza.....	2,004	3,392	3,113	5,260	2,362
16	Poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis (acute).....	84	64	97	200	83
17	Lethargic or epidemic encephalitis.....	47	54	52	50	45
18	Epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis.....	84	112	103	93	86
23	Tuberculosis, respiratory system.....	5,290	5,466	5,528	5,497	5,057
24-32	Tuberculosis, other organs.....	1,141	1,131	1,235	1,172	1,069
45-53	Cancer.....	10,581	11,156	11,694	11,963	12,038
59	Diabetes mellitus.....	1,321	1,459	1,442	1,555	1,545
71	Anæmia.....	612	650	646	623	650
82 a, b, c	Cerebral hæmorrhage, embolism, or thrombosis.....	2,577	2,105	1,890	1,683	1,693
82d	Paralysis without specified cause.....	547	415	358	322	323
86	Convulsions (under 5 years of age).....	261	234	200	195	161
90-95	Diseases of the heart.....	16,352	16,069	16,424	16,840	17,372
96, 97, 99, 102	Diseases of the arteries.....	7,379	8,302	9,112	9,609	9,970
106	Bronchitis.....	380	363	342	328	325
107-109	Pneumonia.....	6,530	7,411	7,313	7,731	7,432
119, 120	Diarrhœa and enteritis.....	3,730	2,767	2,378	4,216	2,590
121	Appendicitis.....	1,578	1,491	1,428	1,410	1,297
122	Hernia, intestinal obstruction.....	1,074	1,121	1,050	1,074	1,065
130-132	Nephritis.....	5,643	6,176	6,402	6,530	6,492
137	Diseases of the prostate.....	944	1,089	1,157	1,255	1,297
140-150	Puerperal causes.....	1,167	1,093	1,233	1,071	968
157	Congenital malformations.....	1,361	1,423	1,439	1,474	1,445
158-161	Diseases of early infancy.....	6,936	6,850	6,605	6,644	6,598
162	Senility (old age).....	1,882	1,932	1,691	1,741	1,764
163-171	Suicides.....	927	905	928	978	948
173-198	Violent deaths (suicides excepted).....	5,542	5,993	6,535	6,380	6,258
	Other specified causes.....	12,857	13,391	14,216	14,589	13,683
	Totals, Specified Causes.....	100,645	104,805	106,339	113,051	106,205
199, 200	Ill-defined diseases.....	937	762	711	773	612
	Totals.....	101,582	105,567	107,050	113,824	106,817

¹ 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.