

Male mortality is heavier throughout life. This is particularly true at age 0; 62 out of every 1,000 boys born die before one year of age, but only 49 out of every 1,000 girls. In 1931 male mortality dropped below female through the child-bearing ages of life but in 1941 this did not happen. The expectation of life of a boy who reaches working age, say 15, is 54 years, and of a girl, 56 years. Expectation of life at age 25, a common age of marriage, is 45 years for males and 47 years for females. The average expectation of life of persons at age 70, (when eligibility for old-age pensions is attained) is 10 years for males and 11 years for females.

The expectation of life at age 0 is less than that at age 1; males who have passed through the hazardous first year of life may anticipate 66 years on the average, and females 69 years.

### Section 1.—Births

The history of birth rates in most countries in the years just prior to the War was one of decline, although consequent reductions in the rates of natural increase have been partly offset by synchronous declines in the death rates. Since 1939, however, available statistics would seem to indicate that the rapid and consistent decline in birth rates generally has been arrested.

The crude birth rate for England and Wales, for example, was 25.1 in 1910 and, though it rose to 25.5 in 1920, it fell quite rapidly by almost continuous stages to 14.4 in 1933. The lowest figure recorded was 14.2 in 1941, since then it has risen to 15.8 in 1942 and 16.5 in 1943.

In France the crude birth rate moved from 19.6 in 1910 to 21.4 in 1920, 18.0 in 1930 and 13.0 in 1941. It is rather surprising that there the rate rose to 14.3 in 1942 and 16.0 in 1943.

In Germany the crude birth rate was 29.8 in 1910, 25.9 in 1920, 17.6 in 1930. Following the rise of Nazi domination the birth rate rose quite sharply and in 1940 the rate was 20.0 per 1,000 population. In 1941 it dropped to 18.6 and in 1942, the latest year for which figures are available, it had slumped to 14.9. (The rate given for 1943 was for the Greater Reich and included Austria, Sudeten Territory, Memel and Danzig and was 16.1).

In the United States the crude birth rate was 23.7 in 1920, 18.9 in 1930 and in 1933 reached the low point of 16.6. It rose to 17.9 in 1940 and to 21.9 in 1943.

In Canada when the registration area was established in 1921, the crude birth rate was 29.4; by 1931 the rate had declined to 23.2 and by 1937 to 20.2. In 1941 and 1942 the rate stood at the comparatively high figures of 22.2 and 23.4, respectively, and in 1943 increased slightly to 24.0. The recovery during the past few years has been fairly general in all provinces, with variations ranging from the low rate in British Columbia of 20.9 to the high rates of 28.3 in New Brunswick and 28.6 in Quebec in 1943.

The relative positions occupied by Canada and its individual provinces among various countries of the world with respect to crude birth rate (the annual number of births per 1,000 of population) are given in Table 1.