

old age pensions, the expectation of life is 10 years for males and 11 years for females. In 1930-32 male mortality was lower than female mortality through the child-bearing ages of life (15-50 years), but in 1940-42 this was not the case.

Section 2.—Births

The history of birth rates in most countries of Europe and in North America was one of decline during the years between 1919-39. In the countries of north-western Europe, in fact, this decline had already set in fifteen to thirty years before the War of 1914-18. It has been partly offset, in its immediate effects on the natural increase of the population, by a simultaneous decline in death rates. Since 1939, available statistics show that in those countries that were not occupied by the enemy, the rapid and consistent decline in birth rates has, for the time being, ceased. In Canada and the United States there has been a real 'boom' in births since the outbreak of the War of 1939-45.

The birth rate for England and Wales was 29.9 per 1,000 population during the years 1891-1900 and 27.3 per 1,000 during the years 1901-10. It continued to fall to 16.5 per 1,000 in 1926-30, and to 14.4 in 1933. The lowest figure recorded was 14.2 in 1941. Since then it has risen to 15.8 per 1,000 in 1942, 16.5 in 1943 and 18.0 in 1944.

In France, the birth rate began to decline almost a hundred years ago. It fell from 24.4 per 1,000 population during the years 1891-1900 to 20.9 per 1,000 during 1901-10, and after the War to 18.2 in 1926-30. It was 15.3 per 1,000 in 1935 and 14.6 in 1939. No accurate figures can yet be obtained for later years.

In Germany, the decline of the birth rate began much later than in France or England and was steeper. From 36.1 per 1,000 population during the years 1891-1900, it fell to 33.0 per 1,000 in 1901-10 and to 18.4 in 1926-30. The lowest figure, 14.7 per 1,000 was recorded in 1933. After the Nazi dictatorship came to power, the birth rate rose quite sharply to 18.9 per 1,000 in 1935 and 20.0 in 1940. In 1941, no doubt as a result of the War, it dropped to 18.6 and in 1942, the last year for which figures are available, it had slumped to 14.9.

In the United States, the birth registration area has included all States since 1933. In 1920, in the registration area of that year (24 states, comprising the great majority of the population) the birth rate was 23.7 per 1,000. In 1926-30 it was 19.7 per 1,000 and fell to 16.6, the lowest figure, in 1933. From 16.9 per 1,000 in 1935, it rose to 17.9 in 1940, 21.9 in 1943 and was 20.2 in 1944.

In Canada, when the registration area (of the eight provinces) was established in 1921, the birth rate stood at the comparatively high figure of 29.4 per 1,000 population. Since a rate of 35 per 1,000 is very high for modern countries of western civilization, the Canadian birth rate probably had not fallen very far, or for very long, before then. However, as can be seen from Table 2, it declined continually and steeply until 1937, when it was 20.0 per 1,000. Since then, following the economic recovery and during the War of 1939-45, a sharp rise has taken place. In 1940 the birth rate was 21.5 per 1,000, in 1943 it was 24.0 and in 1944, 23.8. The same general trend of a continuous fall during the 1920's and early 1930's followed by a more or less pronounced rise can be observed in all the provinces except the Maritimes; there the decline had already been arrested before 1930. The decline during the depression and the subsequent rise have been greatest in the highly industrialized provinces of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia.