

A comparison of the two life tables shows a striking reduction during the ten years in the mortality rates for both males and females. Mortality rates for males are higher at all ages than for females, particularly in infancy. Infant mortality in 1940-42 was 62 per 1,000 live births for males compared to 49 per 1,000 for females. Because infant mortality is still so high, the expectation of life at birth is less for both sexes than at age 1. Males who have survived their first year have an expectation of life of 66 years and females of 69 years. The expectation of life of a boy at age 15 is 54 years, and of a girl 56 years. At age 25, it is 45 years for men and 47 for women. At age 70, when people become eligible for old age pensions, it is 11 years for men and 11 years for women. In 1930-32 mortality rates for female from 25 to 40 years of age were higher than those for males. In 1940-42, however because of the reduction in maternal mortality, this was not so.

Section 2.—Births

Birth rates in most countries of Europe and in North America fell between 1920 and 1939. In many countries of northwestern Europe, this fall had already set in many years earlier. Its immediate effect on the natural increase of the population was partly offset by a simultaneous fall in the death rate. Available statistics show that since 1939, the fall in the birth rate has, for the time being, ceased. In Canada and the United States there was a great increase in births during the war period.

The birth rate for England and Wales was 29.9 per 1,000 in 1891-1900 and 27 per 1,000 in 1901-10. It fell to 16.5 in 1926-30, to 14.4 in 1933, and to its lowest figure of 14.2 in 1941. Since then it has risen to 15.8 in 1942, 18.0 in 1944, 16.4 in 1945.

In France, the birth rate began to fall almost 100 years ago. It fell from 24.4 per 1,000 in 1891-1900 to 20.9 per 1,000 in 1901-10 and 18.2 in 1926-30. It was 15.3 in 1935, 13.3 in 1940 and 16.4 in 1945.

In Germany the fall in the birth rate began later than in France and England and was faster. From 36.1 per 1,000 in 1891-1900 it fell to 33.0 in 1901-10, to 18.4 in 1926-30, and to its lowest figure of 14.7 in 1933. After the Nazis came to power, it rose to 18.9 in 1935 and to 20.0 in 1940. In 1941, no doubt owing to the War, it fell to 18.6 and in 1942, the last year for which figures are available to 14.9.

In the United States, birth registration has included all States since 1933. In 1920, in the registration area of that year (24 States with the great majority of the population) the birth rate was 23.7 per 1,000. In 1926-30 it was 19.7 and fell to 16.6 in 1933. It was 16.9 in 1935, 17.9 in 1940, 21.9 in 1943, 19.8 in 1945.

In Canada, in 1921, the birth rate was 29.4 per 1,000. Since a rate of 35 per 1,000 is very high for countries of modern western civilization, the Canadian birth rate had probably not fallen far or for long before then. But it fell continuously until 1937, when it was 20.0 per 1,000. Since then, owing to economic recovery and the War it rose to 21.5 in 1940, to 24.0 in 1943 and to 23.9 in 1945. The birth rate in the provinces followed the same general trend, though in the Maritime the fall stopped before 1930. The fall during the depression and the subsequent rise was greatest in the industrial provinces of Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia.