

**Maternal Deaths by Causes.**—Table 31 shows, by causes, the numbers and rates of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. Until recently, puerperal sepsis and toxæmias of pregnancy were by far the most important causes. Since the introduction of sulpha drugs in 1936, the rates from these two causes have decreased by 50 p.c.

**31.—Maternal Mortality and Rates per 100,000 Live Births, by Causes of Death, 1945-47**

Inter- national List No.	Cause of Death	Numbers of Deaths			Rates per 100,000 Live Births		
		1945	1946	1947	1945	1946	1947
140	Abortion with mention of infection.....	52	41	43	18.0	12.4	12.0
141	Abortion without mention of infection....	18	39	36	6.2	11.8	10.0
142	Ectopic gestation.....	23	28	15	8.0	8.5	4.2
143	Hæmorrhage of pregnancy—death prior to delivery.....	12	8	4	4.2	2.4	1.1
144	Toxæmias of pregnancy—death prior to delivery.....	32	32	27	11.1	9.7	7.5
145	Other diseases and accidents of preg- nancy—death prior to delivery.....	18	35	24	6.2	10.6	6.7
146	Hæmorrhage of childbirth and the puer- perium.....	124	103	136	42.9	31.1	37.9
147	Infection during childbirth and the puer- perium.....	178	122	93	61.6	36.9	25.9
148	Puerperal toxæmias — death following delivery.....	94	88	81	32.6	26.6	22.6
149	Other accidents of childbirth.....	65	61	57	22.5	18.4	15.9
150	Other and unspecified conditions of child- birth and the puerperal state.....	44	38	38	15.2	11.5	10.6
	<b>Totals, All Causes.....</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>595</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>228.6</b>	<b>179.9</b>	<b>154.3</b>

## Section 5.—Communicable Diseases

The national reporting of communicable diseases in Canada was undertaken, in 1933, by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, at the request of the Federal Department of Pensions and National Health in co-operation with the Provincial Departments of Health. Since then, the Vital Statistics Section of the Bureau has been responsible for the weekly compilation and analysis of communicable diseases except for a short period during 1939-40, when the work was transferred to the Department of Pensions and National Health. The reports of cases of venereal diseases are included in the current analyses and a standard report form is used by all the provinces.

Table 32 shows the number of cases of certain communicable diseases reported to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics by the Provincial Departments of Health in 1947. The reporting of two diseases, dysentery and rubella, is not compulsory in all provinces. The totals for Canada, therefore, should be accepted with caution.