

# CHAPTER V.—VITAL STATISTICS\*

## CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

This Chapter of the Year Book is intended to provide a broad summary of the main trends in the registration of births, marriages, and deaths in Canada during the past 30 years, to compare the principal Canadian vital statistics rates or indices with those for other countries and to provide lay readers and students of demography, public health, sociology and other related fields with basic Canadian vital statistics data. Detailed data are available from regular DBS annual reports, notably *Vital Statistics* (Preliminary Report) and *Vital Statistics of Canada*. Certain unpublished data are also available on request. The history of the collection of vital statistics in Canada is covered in the 1948-49 edition of the Year Book, pp. 185-188.

Births and deaths are classified by place of residence (births are classified according to the residence of the mother) and marriages by place of occurrence.

The population data upon which the rates shown in this Chapter are computed are contained in Chapter III (Population) and in the several DBS reports relating to census and intercensal estimates of population.

In comparing the birth, death and marriage rates by provinces, it is important to bear in mind that part of the differences observed may be caused by differences in the sex and age distribution of their populations. Similarly, changes in these rates may be owing partly to changes in this distribution. These remarks apply also to international comparisons of birth, death and marriage rates.

### Section 1.—Summary of Vital Statistics

Table 1 gives a summary of the principal vital statistics of the provinces of Canada from 1921 when the system of collection of national statistics was initiated and Table 2 shows certain vital statistics for urban centres having at least 10,000 population at the date of the 1951 Census.

\* Revised in the Vital Statistics Section, Health and Welfare Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.