

**Causes of Death.**—Table 14 shows the deaths in Canada grouped according to the International Abbreviated List of 50 Causes. About 80 p.c. of the deaths are caused by diseases of the heart and arteries, cancer, accidents, diseases of early infancy, the respiratory diseases—tuberculosis, pneumonia and influenza—and nephritis.

The rise in the average age at death has already been noted (p. 210). Causes of death that mainly affect children and young adults have declined. Diphtheria for example has been almost wiped out and tuberculosis has been greatly reduced. On the other hand the aging of the population increases the proportion of deaths from certain causes that affect older people. Thus cancer and diseases of the cardio-vascular-renal systems now account for a substantially larger proportion of all deaths than formerly.

These trends indicate the remarkable success that has attended the attack by health authorities on the infective and contagious diseases which in the past have constituted such a great hazard in the early and young adult years of life. They have similarly served to emphasize the emergence of the chronic and degenerative conditions of later life as the targets towards which the public health programs of the future will be directed. In effect, Canada has shared the experience of most western nations in exchanging a high mortality in younger life for high morbidity in older age groups.

The Chart on p. 213 shows death rates for the major cause groups from 1931-56.

**14.—Deaths and Rates per 100,000 Population according to the International Abbreviated List of 50 Causes 1954-56**

International List No.		Cause of Death	Numbers of Deaths			Rates per 100,000 Population										
Abbreviated List	Detailed List		1954 <sup>1</sup>	1955	1956	1954 <sup>1</sup>	1955	1956								
B 1	001-008	Tuberculosis of respiratory system...	1,299	1,223	1,079	8.6	7.8	6.7								
B 2	010-019	Tuberculosis, other forms.....	263	180	177	1.7	1.1	1.1								
B 3	020-029	Syphilis and its sequelæ.....	179	187	209	1.2	1.2	1.3								
B 4	040	Typhoid fever.....	7	10	9	1	0.1	0.1								
B 5	043	Cholera.....	—	—	—	—	—	—								
B 6	045-048	Dysentery, all forms.....	27	20	29	0.2	0.1	0.2								
B 7	050, 051	Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat.....	31	26	24	0.2	0.2	0.1								
B 8	055	Diphtheria.....	18	15	8	0.1	0.1	2								
B 9	056	Whooping cough.....	96	137	118	0.6	0.9	0.7								
B10	057	Meningococcal infections.....	102	80	84	0.7	0.5	0.5								
B11	058	Plague.....	—	—	—	—	—	—								
B12	080	Acute poliomyelitis.....	157	36	51	1.0	0.2	0.3								
B13	084	Smallpox.....	—	—	—	—	—	—								
B14	085	Measles.....	118	179	177	0.8	1.1	1.1								
B15	100-108	Typhus and other rickettsial diseases.....	—	1	1	—	2	2								
B16	110-117	Malaria.....	—	—	—	—	—	—								
B17	030-039, 041, 042, 044, 049, 052-054, 059-074, 081-083, 086-096, 120-138	All other diseases classified as infective and parasitic.....	393	386	386	2.6	2.5	2.4								
	B18								140-205	Cancer (all malignant neoplasms) <sup>2</sup> .....	19,694	20,309	20,868	129.8	129.4	129.8
									(201)	Cancer <sup>1</sup> .....	18,719	19,274	19,818	123.3	122.8	123.2
									(202)	Hodgkin's disease.....	208	195	215	1.4	1.2	1.3
									(204)	Leukæmia and aleukæmia.....	767	840	855	5.1	5.4	5.2
B19	210-239	Benign and unspecified neoplasms.....	366	362	356	2.4	2.3	2.2								
B20	260	Diabetes mellitus.....	1,607	1,716	1,320	10.6	10.9	11.3								
B21	290-293	Anæmia.....	323	334	355	2.1	2.1	2.2								
B22	330-334	Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system.....	13,732	14,148	14,447	90.5	90.1	89.8								

<sup>1</sup>For footnotes, see end of table, p. 212.