

of 36,620 or 5.6 p.c.; during this period 24,099 male children died during their first year compared with 18,118 female children, that is, 5,981 more. The excess of males at one year of age was thus reduced to 30,639 or 4.9 p.c.

As indicated in Tables 1 and 15 infant mortality rates vary considerably from province to province and from one locality to another. One of the principal causes of these variations appears to be the different proportions of births that take place in hospital or under proper medical care (see also p. 202). Along with increased hospitalization has come better and more widespread prenatal and postnatal care. Many other factors have also been important, particularly the supervision of water supplies, improved sanitation, the pasteurization of milk, the use of antibiotics, more and better pædiatric services, improved obstetrical and hospital nursing room services, improved home environment because of generally improved living standards and, in recent years, the lower age of mothers.

