

The rise in the average age at death has already been noted (p. 209). 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 cardiovascular 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. 211 shows death rates for the major cause groups from 1931-57.

13.—Deaths and Rates per 100,000 Population, according to the International Abbreviated List of 50 Causes, 1956 and 1957

International List No.		Cause of Death	Numbers of Deaths		Rates per 100,000 Population	
Abbreviated List	Detailed List		1956	1957	1956	1957
B 1	001-008	Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....	1,079	1,035	6.7	6.2
B 2	010-019	Tuberculosis, other forms.....	177	148	1.1	0.9
B 3	020-029	Syphilis and its sequelæ.....	209	190	1.3	1.1
B 4	040	Typhoid fever.....	9	12	0.1	0.1
B 5	043	Cholera.....	—	—	—	—
B 6	045-048	Dysentery, all forms.....	29	25	0.2	0.2
B 7	050, 051	Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat..	24	25	0.1	0.2
B 8	055	Diphtheria.....	8	20	1	0.1
B 9	056	Whooping cough.....	118	63	0.7	0.4
B10	057	Meningococcal infections.....	84	86	0.5	0.5
B11	058	Plague.....	—	—	—	—
B12	080	Acute poliomyelitis.....	51	26	0.3	0.2
B13	084	Smallpox.....	—	—	—	—
B14	085	Measles.....	177	108	1.1	0.7
B15	100-108	Typhus and other rickettsial diseases.....	1	—	1	—
B16	110-117	Malaria.....	—	1	—	1
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.....	386	348	2.4	2.1
	140-205					
	(201)					
	(204)					
	210-239					
B18	140-205	Cancer (all malignant neoplasms) ²	20,868	21,390	129.8	128.9
		Cancer ²	19,818	20,266	125.2	122.2
		Hodgkin's disease.....	215	234	1.3	1.4
		Leukæmia and aleukæmia.....	835	800	5.2	5.4
B19	210-239	Benign and unspecified neoplasms.....	356	349	2.2	2.1
B20	260	Diabetes mellitus.....	1,820	1,866	11.3	11.2
B21	290-293	Anæmias.....	355	328	2.2	2.0
B22	330-334	Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system.....	14,447	15,151	89.8	91.3
B23	340	Non-meningococcal meningitis.....	242	205	1.5	1.2
B24	400-402	Rheumatic fever.....	110	116	0.7	0.7
B25	410-416	Chronic rheumatic heart disease.....	1,448	1,609	9.0	9.7

For footnotes, see end of table.