

24,388 male children died during their first year compared with 18,412 female children, that is, 5,976 more. The excess of males at one year of age was thus reduced to 31,559 or 4.8 p.c.

As indicated in Tables 1 and 14, 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. 204). 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 services, improved home environment because of generally higher living standards and, in recent years, the lower age of mothers.

