

complication of delivery, 28 from a post-delivery complication and 27 from abortive delivery. There has been an encouraging drop in maternal deaths caused by toxæmia during the past three or four years.

Age at Death.—Table 25 shows the distribution of maternal deaths by age group; the average age at death is about four years higher than the average age of all mothers at the time of childbirth. Until recent years, the risk of mortality at childbirth was directly related to the age of the mother—in other words, for all mothers of over 20 years the rate rose with increasing age. While death rates for all age groups of mothers have been declining, there have been rather significant changes in the rates. Formerly, the rate for mothers in the age group 30-34 was twice or three times as high as the rate for the 20-24 group, but recently mortality rates for the four age groups of mothers under 35 years of age have not been far apart, although after age 35 a sharp rise occurs.

