

Multiple Births in Canada.—During the fourteen-year period 1926-39, out of a total of 3,277,892 recorded confinements, 39,345 or one in 83·3 were multiple confinements. Of these 38,966 were twin and 375 were triplet confinements, while one, in British Columbia in 1931, was a quadruplet confinement from which all the children died within a few hours of birth. A multiple confinement resulted in the birth of quintuplets in 1934. In 1937 there were 2 quadruplet confinements in Quebec, all children being born alive.

In 1939 one in every 86 confinements was a twin confinement, a proportion that is fairly representative for the other years as well. There were only 16 triplet confinements in 1939. Of the children born alive or dead, one in every 44 resulted from a multiple confinement. For children born alive the proportion was one in 45 and for children stillborn one in 22. In the multiple confinements stillborn children formed 5·6 p.c. of the total children born as against 2·6 p.c. in single confinements.

4.—Live Births and Stillbirths Classified as Single and Multiple, by Sex, 1935-39

NOTE.—For statistics from 1926 to 1934, see p. 162 of the 1938 Year Book.

Year and Sex	Total Births		Single Births		Twins			Triplets		
	Born Alive	Still-born	Born Alive	Still-born	Total	Children		Total	Children	
						Born Alive	Still-born		Born Alive	Still-born
No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	
1935—										
Totals.....	221,451	6,449	216,482	6,136	2,590	4,872	308	34	97	5
Male.....	113,293	3,646	110,763	3,468	-	2,473	175	-	57	3
Female....	108,158	2,803	105,719	2,668	-	2,399	133	-	40	2
1936—										
Totals.....	220,371	6,350	215,377	6,051	2,600	4,913	287	31	81	12
Male.....	113,289	3,605	110,722	3,433	-	2,528	162	-	39	10
Female....	107,082	2,745	104,655	2,618	-	2,385	125	-	42	2
1937—										
Totals.....	220,235 ¹	6,275	215,276	5,959	2,599	4,890	308	23	61	8
Male.....	113,143 ¹	3,573	110,632	3,392	-	2,477	180	-	29	1
Female....	107,092 ¹	2,702	104,644	2,567	-	2,413	128	-	32	7
1938—										
Totals.....	229,446	6,426	224,315	6,129	2,681	5,068	294	22	63	3
Male.....	117,862	3,694	115,235	3,527	-	2,597	166	-	30	1
Female....	111,584	2,732	109,080	2,602	-	2,471	128	-	33	2
1939—										
Totals.....	229,468	6,365	224,336	6,077	2,686	5,092	280	16	40	8
Male.....	117,594	3,596	114,980	3,426	-	2,598	164	-	16	6
Female....	111,874	2,769	109,356	2,651	-	2,494	116	-	24	2

¹ Including two sets of quadruplets, all born alive (five males and three females).

Ages of Parents.—The fathers and mothers in each of the years shown in Table 5, are arranged according to age and then divided into four equal groups. Each point of age at which a separation comes is called a quartile. To obtain these points of age it is assumed that those in the same year of age are evenly distributed from its lower to its upper limit. In similar manner the deciles divide fathers or mothers in each year into ten equal groups.

In 1938 one-quarter of the married fathers were under 27·73 years of age, one-half under 32·17 years and three-quarters under 37·97 years. One-quarter of the married mothers were under 23·95 years of age, one-half under 28·07 years and three-quarters under 33·19 years. Nine-tenths of the fathers were under 43·63 years and nine-tenths of the mothers under 38·01 years. It will be noted that in