

gration has been very much curtailed and its effect on age distribution of population is illustrated by the movement of what may be termed the "immigration hump" (that increment of population due to extensive immigration before 1913). This is gradually passing up the age scale. Further, due to the improvements in sanitation and health conditions generally, the average age at which death takes place has been pushed gradually higher. All these factors tend to thrust those causes that are commonly associated with advancing years to the fore.

Some of the effects of the ageing of the population can be observed by the comparison of crude and standardized mortality rates for individual causes of death in 1921 and 1931, since standardized rates are calculated in order to eliminate the effects of changes in sex and age composition of the population. Cancer provides a pronounced example of the ageing effect. The crude rate for cancer was 75.3 in 1921 and in 1931 it was 95.8. The increase was thus 27 p.c. The standardized rate, however, was 72.7 in 1921 and 81.4 in 1931, an increase of only 12 p.c.\* It may be stated, therefore, that roughly more than half of the increase in the crude cancer death rate between 1921 and 1931 was accounted for by the ageing of the population. Nevertheless, cancer shows a persistent increase over the years in spite of all efforts to control its spread. Diseases of the heart and arteries are two other important causes that affect older people and that have shown substantial increases.

\* More accurate diagnosis should not be overlooked as a factor in changing death rates from these diseases.

#### 19.—Deaths in Canada, by Principal Causes, 1935-39

Int. List No. <sup>1</sup>	Cause of Death	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
1, 2	Typhoid fever.....	273	256	330	207	180
7	Measles.....	490	376	837	250	197
8	Scarlet fever.....	242	244	269	202	167
9	Whooping-cough.....	892	594	763	496	541
10	Diphtheria.....	264	258	369	434	336
11	Influenza.....	3,392	3,113	5,260	2,362	3,955
16	Poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis (acute)....	64	97	200	83	56
17	Lethargic or epidemic encephalitis.....	54	52	50	45	47
18	Epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis.....	112	103	93	86	84
23	Tuberculosis, respiratory system.....	5,466	5,528	5,497	5,057	4,944
24-32	Tuberculosis, other organs.....	1,131	1,235	1,172	1,069	1,033
45-53	Cancer.....	11,156	11,694	11,963	12,038	12,399
59	Diabetes mellitus.....	1,459	1,442	1,555	1,545	1,712
71	Anæmia.....	650	646	623	650	699
82 a, b, c	Cerebral hæmorrhage, embolism, or thrombosis	2,105	1,890	1,683	1,693	1,740
82d	Paralysis without specified cause.....	415	358	322	323	320
86	Convulsions (under 5 years of age).....	234	200	195	161	171
90-95	Diseases of the heart.....	16,069	16,424	16,840	17,372	18,562
96, 97, 99, 102	Diseases of the arteries.....	8,302	9,112	9,609	9,970	10,884
106	Bronchitis.....	363	342	328	325	311
107-109	Pneumonia.....	7,411	7,313	7,731	7,432	6,596
119, 120	Diarrhœa and enteritis.....	2,767	2,378	4,216	2,590	2,375
121	Appendicitis.....	1,491	1,428	1,410	1,297	1,208
122	Hernia, intestinal obstruction.....	1,121	1,050	1,074	1,065	1,016
130-132	Nephritis.....	6,176	6,402	6,530	6,492	6,538
137	Diseases of the prostate.....	1,089	1,157	1,255	1,297	1,298
140-150	Puerperal causes.....	1,093	1,233	1,071	968	967
157	Congenital malformations.....	1,423	1,439	1,474	1,445	1,530
158-161	Diseases of early infancy.....	6,880	6,605	6,644	6,598	6,174
162	Senility (old age).....	1,932	1,691	1,741	1,764	1,614
163-171	Suicides.....	905	928	978	948	978
173-198	Violent deaths (suicides excepted).....	5,993	6,535	6,380	6,258	6,195
	Other specified causes.....	13,391	14,216	14,589	13,683	13,528
	Totals, Specified Causes.....	104,805	106,339	113,051	106,205	108,355
199, 200	Ill-defined diseases.....	762	711	773	612	596
	Totals.....	105,567	107,050	113,824	106,817	108,951

<sup>1</sup> The numbers given in this column refer to the International List of Causes of Death, as revised in 1929 by the International Commission on the Classification of Diseases and Causes of Death. This classification, in its detailed, intermediate, or abridged form, is accepted in almost all civilized countries.