

rates here given will undoubtedly, in the case of some of the provinces at least, require considerable revision. In a new country like Canada, where people move readily from place to place and from province to province, it is almost impossible to secure accurate information concerning the fluctuations of population, especially when so long a period has elapsed since the last census.

Secondly, in spite of considerable improvements recently effected, registration generally, and the registration of births in particular, is not universally carried out in most of the provinces. The great extent of the country, and the isolation of many of its inhabitants, partly account for this unsatisfactory situation.

Finally, the great differences in the age and sex distribution of the population in different provinces make comparisons (of birth rates, for instance), as among the provinces, unfair and misleading. Thus, for instance, in British Columbia in 1911, there were only 428 females of ages 15 to 49 to every 1,000 males of these ages, while in Quebec there were 972 and in Prince Edward Island 1027. (See table 9, p. 103). Evidently in view of the enormous disproportion between the sexes in British Columbia, the crude birth rate per 1,000 of population in that province could not properly be compared with the crude birth rate in Quebec or Prince Edward Island. Again, in consequence of different age distributions of population in the different provinces—the Prairie Provinces, for instance, have a very young population because of the healthy young immigrants whom they attract—a comparison of crude death-rates of the provinces is misleading. In the Prairie Provinces, taken as a unit, only 126 per thousand of the 1911 population and 137 per thousand of the 1916 population had passed 45 years of age, while in Quebec 176, in Ontario 218 and in Prince Edward Island 249 per thousand of the population were in 1911 over 45 years of age. These latter provinces, having a much larger number of persons of advanced ages, will inevitably have a higher crude death rate per thousand of population than the Prairie Provinces, but this does not at all prove the superior healthfulness of the climate of the Northwest, nor would it justify insurance companies in charging lower premium rates in the Western provinces.

The results of the census of 1921, with regard to age and sex distribution of population, as well as improving registration and the earlier and more accurate compilation of vital statistics made possible under the new arrangement between the Dominion and the Provinces, will, it is hoped, enable corrected birth and death rates, capable of comparison as among the Provinces, to be secured in the comparatively near future.

Vital Statistics by Provinces.—Table 15 shows by provinces (New Brunswick excepted) the number of births, marriages and deaths in each of the years 1911 to 1919 (where possible), according to the latest returns of the provincial registrars. Using the census figures of population for 1911, and estimates of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics for the years 1912 to 1919 (the census figures of 1916 for the three Prairie Provinces), crude birth, marriage, and death