

CHAPTER V.—VITAL STATISTICS*

CONSPECTUS

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NOTE.—The interpretation of the symbols used in the tables throughout the Year Book will be found facing p. 1 of this volume.

The history of the collection of vital statistics in Canada is covered in the 1948-49 edition of the Year Book, pp. 185-188. This Chapter of the Year Book is intended to provide a broad summary of the main trends in Canadian vital statistics during the last 30 years, to compare the principal Canadian rates with those for other countries and to provide lay readers and students of demography, public health, sociology and other related fields with basic Canadian vital statistics data. Detailed data are available from regular DBS annual and quarterly reports, notably *Vital Statistics* (Preliminary Report) and *Vital Statistics of Canada*. Certain unpublished data are also available on request.

Births and deaths are classified by place of residence (in the case of births, according to the residence of the mother) and marriages by place of occurrence.

Section 1.—Summary of Vital Statistics

Table 1 gives a summary of the principal vital statistics of the provinces of Canada for the years since 1921 when the system of collection of national statistics was initiated.

In comparing the birth, death and marriage rates of the provinces, it is important to bear in mind that part of the differences observed may be due to differences in the sex and age distribution of their populations. Similarly, changes in these rates may be due partly to changes in this distribution. These remarks apply also to international comparisons of birth, death and marriage rates.

* Revised in the Vital Statistics Section, Health and Welfare Division, Dominion Bureau of Statistics.