

Infant Mortality in Urban Centres.—Because of the relatively small numbers of infant deaths in individual cities and towns the rates for these centres usually vary widely from year to year. As is evident from Table 2, pp. 202-203, many cities and towns have maintained consistently low rates as compared with the national rate or the rate for the province in which they are situated.

Causes of Infant Deaths.—There were 14,764 infant deaths in 1953 and 13,841 in 1954. Of the 1954 deaths congenital malformations accounted for 2,137, immaturity 2,062, pneumonia among infants over four weeks of age 1,577, postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis 1,507 and injury at birth 1,386—or over 62 p.c. of the total. The Chart opposite shows the relative importance of the major causes of infant deaths from 1931-54, and the Chart following shows the comparative numbers of children dying at each month of age during the first year of life. Table 15 gives the causes of infant deaths for the years 1952-54.

