

1939 it was 10·3 and 10·4, respectively. On the whole, however, improvement has been in evidence since 1926, and latterly Quebec has shown a lower rate than any of the provinces farther east.

Subsection 1.—General Mortality

As shown in Table 32, p. 106, the absolute number of deaths and the death rates for Canada were lower for 1938 than for either of the two previous years. The death rate was 9·5 for 1938 and 9·6 for 1939 which was a very definite improvement over the 10·2 of 1937. Compared with 1938, the death rate for 1939 shows an increase for each province except Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

Age Distribution of Decedents.—The quartile and decile ages of decedents for the years 1926, 1937, and 1938 are given for the two sexes combined and for each sex in Table 17. The fifth decile and second quartile (or the median) both mark the middle points of the arrays, and the deciles, dividing each half into five groups, give a more detailed picture of the age distribution in each half than do the quartiles. It is shown very definitely that the average ages of decedents have been increasing steadily. The method of construction and interpretation of this table is given at p. 77 in connection with a similar one showing quartile and decile ages of married fathers and mothers.

Standardized Death Rates.—While the crude death rate gives the actual mortality per 1,000 of population, the differing age constitution of the population in different communities and the high mortality among infants and elderly people make the crude death rate no true test of the relative expectation of life in such communities. Where the age constitution of a particular group is especially favourable to low mortality, for example among the selected lives of soldiers in peace time, the crude rate will naturally be lower than elsewhere.

16.—Distribution of Deaths in Canada, by Sex and Age Groups, 1938-39

Age Group	Numbers				Percentages			
	Males		Females		Males		Females	
	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939
Under 1 year of age.....	8,311	8,039	6,206	5,900	14·1	13·4	12·9	12·0
1.....	903	889	791	724	1·5	1·5	1·6	1·5
2.....	506	398	407	340	0·9	0·7	0·8	0·7
3.....	338	307	265	273	0·6	0·5	0·6	0·6
4.....	282	259	244	202	0·5	0·4	0·5	0·4
Totals, Under 5 years of age...	10,340	9,892	7,913	7,439	17·6	16·5	16·5	15·2
5-9.....	985	915	836	717	1·7	1·5	1·7	1·5
10-14.....	831	735	657	606	1·4	1·2	1·4	1·2
15-19.....	1,127	1,112	912	913	1·9	1·9	1·9	1·9
20-24.....	1,285	1,217	1,186	1,063	2·2	2·0	2·5	2·2
25-29.....	1,261	1,232	1,215	1,215	2·1	2·1	2·5	2·5
30-34.....	1,230	1,176	1,199	1,191	2·1	2·0	2·5	2·4
35-39.....	1,380	1,402	1,317	1,309	2·3	2·3	2·7	2·7
40-44.....	1,736	1,668	1,492	1,384	3·0	2·8	3·1	2·8
45-49.....	2,383	2,240	1,694	1,716	4·1	3·7	3·5	3·5
50-54.....	3,241	3,271	2,155	2,276	5·5	5·5	4·5	4·6
55-59.....	3,912	4,123	2,674	2,714	6·7	6·9	5·6	5·5
60-64.....	4,589	4,826	3,140	3,371	7·8	8·1	6·5	6·9
65-69.....	5,236	5,600	3,868	4,095	8·9	9·4	8·1	8·4
70-74.....	5,925	6,136	4,761	4,918	10·1	10·3	9·9	10·0
75-79.....	5,766	6,077	5,056	5,279	9·8	10·2	10·5	10·8
80-89.....	6,595	7,172	6,628	7,427	11·2	12·0	13·8	15·1
90 or over.....	951	1,069	1,289	1,402	1·6	1·8	2·7	2·9
Totals Stated Ages.....	58,773	59,863	47,992	49,035	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0
Ages not stated.....	44	44	8	9	-	-	-	-
Totals All Ages.....	58,817	59,907	48,000	49,044	-	-	-	-