

Infantile and Maternal Mortality.

In recent years a great part of the energy devoted by the medical profession and sanitarians to bring about a decline in the death rate has gone to reduce infant mortality, and in this field a large measure of success has been attained. In Canada both the Dominion, provincial and municipal health authorities have taken part in the struggle to reduce infantile mortality, and usually, in the absence of epidemics, each year is showing an improvement. Even in the three years for which the figures are available for the registration area, there is evident a considerable decline in infantile mortality. While in 1920 more than 10 p.c. of all children born died in the first year of life, in 1921 the proportion dropped to 8·8 p.c. or 14,893 deaths in a total of 168,979 births, and in 1922 the infantile death rate showed a further betterment, dropping to 8·6 p.c. or 14,069 deaths in a total of 162,552. Deaths of children under one year of age constituted 20·6 p.c. of all deaths in 1922, as compared with 21·9 p.c. in 1921, and 21·4 p.c. in 1920. Table 56 shows that in nearly every province the infant death rate per 1,000 living births is lower in 1922 than it was in the two preceding years.

56.—Infantile Mortality by Provinces, together with the rate per 1,000 Living Births, 1920, 1921 and 1922.

Provinces.	Infant Deaths.			Infant Death Rate per 1,000 Births.		
	1920.	1921.	1922.	1920.	1921.	1922.
Prince Edward Island.....	184	180	150	80·0	83·5	73·0
Nova Scotia.....	1,536	1,311	1,225	116·5	100·7	97·3
New Brunswick.....	1,454	1,299	1,188	134·9	113·3	103·7
Ontario.....	7,497	6,768	5,910	103·7	91·2	82·9
Manitoba.....	1,882	1,533	1,666	102·7	83·0	94·2
Saskatchewan.....	1,958	1,814	1,874	85·7	80·6	85·6
Alberta.....	1,545	1,391	1,430	93·5	84·0	90·0
British Columbia.....	638	602	626	60·8	56·5	64·6
Canada (registration area).....	16,694	14,893	14,069	100·1	88·1	86·6
Quebec.....	14,134	11,387	-	163·7	128·3	-
Canada (exclusive of the territories).....	30,828	26,280	-	121·8	102·0	-

NOTE.—The figures for 1922 are subject to revision.

Infant Mortality by Sex.—Table 57 shows that while male births in 1921 exceeded female births by 5,289, yet owing to the greater mortality among male infants, their net advantage at the end of the year was only 3,066. For the registration area, the ratio of deaths to 1,000 births was 98 for males, as against 77 for females, and 88·1 per 1,000 births both sexes.