VITAL STATISTICS.

The present official system of compulsory registration

Registration of Births, Deaths, and

of births, deaths, and marriages in Victoria has been in force since 1853, and the registers-framed on the best Marriages. models-are replete with all necessary information bearing on the family history of the people. The statutory duties under the Registration Acts are performed by the Government Statist, who has control over the local registrars of births and deaths, and the registrars of marriages, and (so far as regards their registration duties) over the clergymen who celebrate marriages. Copies of entries certified by him or by the Assistant Government Statist are primâ facie evidence in the Courts of Australia of the facts to which they relate. At the head office in Melbourne there is kept for reference a complete collection of all registrations effected since 1st July, 1853, as well as originals or certified copies of all existing church records relating to earlier periods, as far back as 1837.

Applicants for searches or certificates of births, deaths, or marriages should, in applying to the Government Statist, furnish particulars of the date and place of the event; also the names of the parties in the case of a marriage, and the name, age (if a death), and parentage in the case of a birth or death. The fee for a search in the Official Records, or an extract of an entry, is 2s. 6d., and for a certificate, including the cost of search, 7s. 6d. (except where the case appears in the records of the current quarter, when 5s. only is charged). For a search in the early church records, prior to 1st July, 1853, the fee is only 1s., a further sum of 1s. being payable if a certificate is required.

As evidence of the extent by which the information in the records is availed of, the number of transactions which took place in 1926 was 40,562, yielding £4,973 revenue. Included in the above number were 5,694 free ordinary searches and 413 free certificates.

The Year-Book for 1916-17 contains on pages 301 to 303 a statement of the law relating to marriages and the registration of births and deaths in Victoria. Since 1915, when the Acts were consolidated, minor validating and other Acts (Nos. 2775, 2998, 3127, and 3282) have been passed.

MARRIAGES.

Marriages-Marriages in Victoria in 1926 numbered 13,405. This Numbers and was the third highest number for one year in the history Rates. of the State, being 1,493 less than the greatest number previously recorded-that for 1920.

9354.---**9**

The ordinary marriage rate—per 1,000 of the total population like birth and death rates similarly estimated, is somewhat unreliable in comparatively newly settled countries like Australia, especially in earlier periods, but it affords a ready and approximate comparison between years not widely separated.

The numbers and rates relating to Victoria are given in the following table for different periods since 1879 :---

MARBIAGES IN VICTORIA--NUMBERS AND RATES, 1880 TO 1926.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Marriages.	Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.	Period.	Average Annual Number of . Marriages.	Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
188 0–84 188 5–89 1890–94 1895–99 1900–04 1905–09	6,296 8,208 7,945 7,627 8,201 9,209	$7.07 \\ 8.04 \\ 6.88 \\ 6.44 \\ 6.78 \\ 7.36$	$\begin{array}{c} 1910-14 \dots \\ 1915-19 \dots \\ 1920-24 \dots \\ 1925 \dots \\ 1926 \dots \end{array}$	$11,244 \\10,908 \\13,598 \\13,370 \\13,405$	8 · 29 7 · 62 8 · 64 8 · 00 7 · 90

The highest number of marriages in the history of the State-14,898, and also the highest rate per 1,000 of the population-9.85, were recorded in 1920. This was mainly due to the marriages of a large number of returned soldiers who had settled down to ordinary civilian life.

Marriage rates The subjoined statement shows the marriage rate in Australasia. per 1,000 of the population in the various Australian States, the Commonwealth of Australia, and New Zealand, in quinquennial periods for the years 1910 to 1924, and for the years 1925 and 1926 :---

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queens- land.	Scuth Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1910–14 1915–19 1920–24 1925 1926	$ \begin{array}{r} 8 \cdot 29 \\ 7 \cdot 62 \\ 8 \cdot 64 \\ 8 \cdot 00 \\ 7 \cdot 90 \end{array} $	9.177.968.558.148.28	$8.54 \\ 7.59 \\ 7.80 \\ 7.60 \\ 7.34$	9.387.948.537.828.06	$ \begin{array}{r} 8 \cdot 22 \\ 6 \cdot 62 \\ 7 \cdot 60 \\ 7 \cdot 46 \\ 7 \cdot 58 \end{array} $	$7 \cdot 94 \\ 6 \cdot 90 \\ 7 \cdot 93 \\ 7 \cdot 05 \\ 6 \cdot 79$	$ \begin{array}{r} 8 \cdot 72 \\ 7 \cdot 75 \\ 8 \cdot 38 \\ 7 \cdot 91 \\ 7 \cdot 92 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} 8 \cdot 51 \\ 7 \cdot 30 \\ 8 \cdot 44 \\ 7 \cdot 85 \\ 7 \cdot 90 \end{array} $

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 OF MEAN POPULATION IN AUSTRALASIA, 1910 TO 1926.

The marriage rate in England and Wales in 1926 was 7.15.

The marriages in Australia for 1926 numbered 47,865, as against 46,899 in 1925, 45,869 in 1924, 44,541 in 1923, 44,731 in 1922, and 46,869 in 1921. Of the total for 1926, 13,405 took place in Victoria, 19,219 in New South Wales, 6,428 in Queensland, 4,503 in South Australia, 2,844 in Western Australia, 1,435 in Tasmania, 14 in the Northern Territory, and 17 in the Federal Capital Territory.

Marriages to marriageable men and Women.

The marriages in proportion to the population, to the unmarried men and widowers aged 21 to 55, and to the unmarried women and widows aged 18 to 50, in each census year, 1857 to 1921, are given in the following table :---

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION AND OF SINGLE MEN AND WOMEN, 1857 TO 1921.

-		Exc	lusive of Ch	inese and A	borigines.		
Year of		Number of and W	Unmarried idowed.	Í	Propor	tion of Marri 1,000 of the-	ages per
Census.	Enumerated Population.	Men (aged 21 to 55).	Women (aged 18 to 50).	Marriages.	Popula- tion.	Unmarried and Widowed Men (aged 21 to 55).	Unmarried and Widowed Women (aged 18 to 50).
1857 1861 1871 1881 1891 1901 1911 1921	383,668 513,896 712,263 849,438 1,130,463 1,193,340 1,309,950 1,531,280	$\begin{array}{c} 88,456\\ 98,665\\ 77,078\\ 77,250\\ 133,576\\ 123,691\\ 132,642\\ 136,569\end{array}$	$18,128 \\ 24,009 \\ 40,836 \\ 75,098 \\ 113,276 \\ 137,267 \\ 158,556 \\ 163,488 \\$	4,465 4,528 4,715 5,732 9,007 8,468 10,984 14,009	$11.64 \\ 8.81 \\ 6.62 \\ 6.75 \\ 7.97 \\ 7.10 \\ 8.39 \\ 9.15$	$50 \cdot 48 \\ 45 \cdot 89 \\ 61 \cdot 17 \\ 74 \cdot 20 \\ 67 \cdot 43 \\ 68 \cdot 46 \\ 82 \cdot 81 \\ 102 \cdot 57$	$\begin{array}{c} 246 \cdot 30 \\ 188 \cdot 60 \\ 115 \cdot 46 \\ 76 \cdot 33 \\ 79 \cdot 51 \\ 61 \cdot 69 \\ 69 \cdot 28 \\ 85 \cdot 69 \end{array}$

NOTE.-The figures in this table relate to the twelve months of which the date of census is the central point.

Factors in marriage rates.

An examination of the figures for the eight census periods shows how the crude marriage rate is affected by the proportion of marriageable persons in the community. maximum marriage rate (per 1,000 of population), which occurred in 1857, was co-incident with the highest proportion of marriageable

persons, while the minimum rate—in 1871—was associated with the lowest proportion of such persons. A further examination of the figures shows that the ordinary marriage rate is more directly affected by the proportion of eligible men than by that of eligible women in the population. Thus, the percentage of single women aged 18 to 50 rose from 4.7 in 1857 to 10.7 in 1921, while that of single men aged 21 to 55 fell from 23 to 8.9 in the same period. After allowing for the more uniform distribution of males and females of marriageable ages in the later years, the decrease in the percentage of marriageable men coincides fairly closely with the decline in the ordinary marriage rate. The female marriage rates show that, of females aged 18 to 50, the proportion entering wedlock each year fell from about 1 in 4 in 1857, and nearly 1 in 5 in 1861, to 1 in 16 in 1901, 1 in 15 in 1911, and nearly 1 in 12 in 1921.

The large number of discharged soldiers, who were settling down to civilian life, was responsible to a great extent for the high crude marriage rate recorded in 1921. This factor, however, only partially accounts for the very high proportion of marriageable men and women who entered wedlock in that year in comparison with the years 1901 and 1911, as, quite apart from the effect produced by the marriages of discharged soldiers, the improvement in the rate shown in 1911 became more prominent in the next decennial year.

Marriages to marriageable males asia. The following statement shows for the period 1900-02 and for the years 1911 and 1921 the number of marriages per 1,000 marriageable males in Victoria, the other States of Australia, and New Zealand. It has been assumed that marriageable males are unmarried men and widowers aged 21 to 55 :---

- 	•		1900-02.	1911.	1921.	Increase per cent. in 20 Years.
Victoria New South Wales Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania New Zealand	· · · · · · · · · · ·	··· ·· ·· ·· ··	$56.0 \\ 58.3 \\ 41.6 \\ 56.8 \\ 41.9 \\ 65.7 \\ 55.7 \\ 55.1$	$67 \cdot 3 \\ 68 \cdot 0 \\ 54 \cdot 9 \\ 81 \cdot 3 \\ 45 \cdot 8 \\ 69 \cdot 3 \\ 64 \cdot 7 \\ 58 \cdot 8 \\$	$81 \cdot 7 \\73 \cdot 9 \\62 \cdot 1 \\88 \cdot 7 \\62 \cdot 5 \\81 \cdot 9 \\77 \cdot 2 \\78 \cdot 9$	$\begin{array}{c} 45 \cdot 9 \\ 26 \cdot 8 \\ 49 \cdot 3 \\ 56 \cdot 2 \\ 49 \cdot 2 \\ 24 \cdot 7 \\ 38 \cdot 6 \\ 43 \cdot 2 \end{array}$

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 MARRIAGEABLE MALES IN AUSTRALASIA.

In each State the proportion of marriageable men who married during the year 1921 was greater than that for the period 1900-02 or for 1911, the excess over the proportion for the earlier period, expressed as a percentage, being 56 in South Australia, 49 in Western Australia, 49 in Queensland, 46 in Victoria, nearly 27 in New South Wales. and nearly 25 in Tasmania. The comparatively low marriage rates for men in Western Australia and Queensland were due to the unequal distribution of marriageable men and women. At the 1921 census, to every 1,000 unmarried and widowed women aged 18 to 50 the numbers of bachelors and widowers between 21 and 55 years of age in each State and Australia were as follows :-- Victoria, 837; New South Wales, 1,015; Queens-South Australia, 892; Western Australia, 1,330; land, 1,230; Tasmania, 889; and Australia, 984.

Marriageable persons in Metropolis and Country.

An examination of the sex distribution of persons residing in Greater Melbourne and the rest of the State discloses the fact that, whether the comparison be made

for all ages or for marriageable ages only, there is a great preponderance of women over men in the metropolis, while in the remainder of the State the men are in excess. In Greater Melbourne in 1921 there were 63,337 marriageable men aged 21 to 55, as compared with 95,024 marriageable women aged 18 to 50. In the rest of the State the eligible men and women at those ages numbered 73,232 and 68,464 respectively. It is thus seen that, while there was a surplus of 31,687 marriageable females in the metropolis as compared with males, there was a deficiency of 4,768 in the country.

The number of such males per 1,000 marriageable females in the metropolis was 667, while in the rest of the State the corresponding number was 1,070.

The following statement shows the proportions of marriageable men and women per 1,000 of the respective populations in Greater Melbourne and the rest of the State :---

MARRIAGEABLE MEN AND WOMEN PER 1,000 OF POPULATION IN GREATER MELBOURNE AND THE REST OF THE STATE, 1921.

District.	Males.	Females.		
Greater Melbourne Rest of the State	 $\begin{array}{c} 82 \cdot 6 \\ 95 \cdot 8 \end{array}$	$124 \cdot 0 \\ 89 \cdot 5$	-	

Marriage rate in age groups. age groups at each of four census periods, and are shown in the following table :--

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 MARRIAGEABLE MEN AND WOMEN IN AGE GROUPS.

• Age Group—	·	Me	en.		Women.				
	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	
15-21 21-25* 25-30 30-35 35-40 40-45 45-50 50 and upwards	$\begin{array}{c}\\ 44\cdot 3\\ 85\cdot 9\\ 75\cdot 2\\ 51\cdot 1\\ 33\cdot 4\\ 25\cdot 9\\ 9\cdot 1\end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{c}\\ 44 \cdot 6\\ 90 \cdot 5\\ 82 \cdot 1\\ 62 \cdot 6\\ 39 \cdot 9\\ 29 \cdot 8\\ 9 \cdot 1 \end{array} $	$55 \cdot 2$ 118 · 6 101 · 1 72 · 9 44 · 7 34 · 9 12 · 1	$\begin{array}{c} 64 \cdot 9 \\ 148 \cdot 2 \\ 126 \cdot 0 \\ 91 \cdot 1 \\ 50 \cdot 5 \\ 35 \cdot 0 \\ 12 \cdot 8 \end{array}$	$23.6 \\ 106.0 \\ 100.5 \\ 66.4 \\ 46.4 \\ 27.7 \\ 17.8 \\ 4.2 \\ 4.2$	$ \begin{array}{r} 18 \cdot 8 \\ 87 \cdot 2 \\ 84 \cdot 7 \\ 57 \cdot 9 \\ 37 \cdot 2 \\ 22 \cdot 3 \\ 14 \cdot 3 \\ 2 \cdot 4 \end{array} $	$23 \cdot 3 \\ 105 \cdot 6 \\ 112 \cdot 1 \\ 66 \cdot 0 \\ 43 \cdot 0 \\ 20 \cdot 7 \\ 5 \cdot 5 \\ 2 \cdot 6$	$\begin{array}{c} 25 \cdot 7 \\ 129 \cdot 8 \\ 135 \cdot 3 \\ 79 \cdot 6 \\ 43 \cdot 3 \\ 22 \cdot 2 \\ 13 \cdot 5 \\ 3 \cdot 1 \end{array}$	

* In the case of men, 20-25.

Marriage rates of bachelors, widowers, spinsters, and widows. The probabilities of bachelors and spinsters marrying and of widowers and widows re-marrying have been obtained by comparing their marriages at specified ages with the respective numbers in the community at those ages at the census of 1921. The marriages per 1,000 of the above-mentioned persons are given in the following table for the year mentioned —

MARRIAGES PER 1,000 BACHELORS, WIDOWERS, SPINSTERS, AND WIDOWS, 1921

	1 ()				Marriages to	o every 1,000	-
· · ·	Age Gro	oup.	-	Bachelors.	Widowers.	Spinsters.	Widows.
	<i>,</i>					95.7	
15-21	••	••	••			25.7	
21 - 25*				$64 \cdot 8$	i 14·3	129.5	179.4
25_30				147.4	165.2	134.1	$132 \cdot 2$
20 25	•••	••		123.3	170.4	77.5	84.4
95 40		••	••	85.4	129.4	37.5	64.8
30-40	••	••	••	40.0	105.6	18.0	31.3
40-45	••	•••	. • •	40.8	105.0	10 0	10.0
45 - 50	•••	••	···••	25.7	- 71.5	10.0	18.9
50 and w	ewards			6.7	20.2	3.3	$2 \cdot 9$

* In the case of men, 20-25.

The figures show that the probability of a widower marrying within a year is greater than that of a bachelor of similar age, and further, that the difference in favour of the former is much greater at ages

over 30 than at earlier ages. Comparing the marriage rates for widows with those for spinsters it is seen that at every age under 50, except the age group 25-30, the chance of a widow marrying is considerably greater than that of a spinster of the same age. As 78 per cent, of both widowers and widows are over 50 years—a period of life when the chance of re-marrying is small—and the great majority of the bachelors and spinsters are under that age—a period when the probability of marrying is much greater—it was to be expected that the rates for the two former would be much lower than those for the two latter sections In proportion to their respective numbers, the marriages of widowers were only slightly more than half as numerous as those of bachelors, and the marriages of widows were less than one-fourth of those of spinsters.

Ages of bridegrooms and brides.

The ages of bridegrooms and brides who were married in 1926 are shown in combination for various groups in the table which follows :---

	_				• • · · · ·				Age	s of B	rides.									
Ages of Bride- grooms.	12.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 25.	25 to 30.	30 to 35.	35 to 40.	40 to 45.	45 to 50.	50 to 55.	55 to 60.	6v to 65.	65 to 70.	70 and over.	Total Bridegrooms.
16 17 18 19 20 21 to 25 25 to 30 30 to 35 35 to 40 40 to 45 45 to 50 50 to 55 55 to 60 60 to 65 65 to 70 70 to 75 75 and over	1	i i i ···		1 1 7 10 9 44 13 1 2 1 1 1 	 5 15 27 35 112 49 10 3 2 	 21 43 50 259 121 25 6 1 2 	 2 10 31 42 338 177 43 9 2 	 10 17 49 368 239 46 16 2 2 2 	$\begin{array}{c} \dots & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & $	 4 8 479 1,721 837 331 82 37 9 5 2 	 1 62 340 482 296 124 60 27 100 5 3 	 8 68 149 191 111 65 35 27 12 3 	$\begin{array}{c} \dots \\ \dots \\ \dots \\ 1 \\ 9 \\ 28 \\ 54 \\ 75 \\ 76 \\ 36 \\ 29 \\ 12 \\ 8 \\ 1 \\ 1 \end{array}$		$ \begin{array}{c} $:	······································	 1 2 1 2 4 5 1		$\begin{array}{c} 2\\ 111\\ 75\\ 177\\ 282\\ 3,563\\ 4,757\\ 2,182\\ 1,074\\ 468\\ 299\\ 1766\\ 147\\ 97\\ 54\\ 300\\ 11\end{array}$
Total Brides	.1	4	20	90	253	528	654	751	4,794	3,515	1,410	670	833	169	89	56	— 31	16	 16	13,405

AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN COMBINATION, IN VICTORIA, 1926.

Although age inequalities among contracting parties were relatively few, they were striking in degree. Thus four men between 45 and 50, and three men between 55 and 60, married women under 21, while sixteen women between 40 and 50 were married to men who were

under 30 years. The great majority of the parties. were, however, of suitable ages. Of every 1,000 men married during the year, 705 were older and 191 younger than their brides, and 104 were of the same age as their partners.

Proportion of marriages at various ages. The proportions of both sexes marrying in the various age groups are shown in the succeeding table for the periods 1881-90 and 1911-20, and the year 1926:-

PROPORTIONS OF MALES AND FEMALES MARRYING AT DIFFERENT AGES, 1881-90, 1911-20, AND 1926.

			· .	Prop	ortion per 1	,000 of total		
Ag	e Group.		В	ridegrooms			Brides.	······································
			1881-90.	1911-20.	1926.	1881-90.	1911–20.	1926.
Under 15				·		.15	-07	37
15 to 16	••••					1.12	•75	1.49
16 to 17			•03	•16	.12	6.53	3.79	6.71
17 to 18			·29	$\cdot 62$	$\cdot 82$	20.32	12.65	19.25
18 to 19			1.46	3.81	5.59	42.94	29.53	39-39
19 to 20			5.62	9.53	13.20	65.03	44.34	48.79
20 to 21			15.19	16.82	21.04	73.84	54.41	56.02
21 to 25			321.02	255.25	265.80	432.34	360.34	357.62
25 to 30			365.48	356.68	354.87	223.83	286.34	262.22
30 to 35			134.57	166.37	162.78	62.07	105.01	105.19
35 to 40	•	•	58.29	84.52	80.15	29.53	50.44	4 9 · 98
40 to 45		• • • •	32.54	42.03	34.91	17.10	24.21	24.84
45 to 50			24.77	28.21	22.30	12.23	15.13	12 61
50 to 55			18.40	16.55	13.13	6.74	6· 6 0	6.64
55 to 60		• •••	11.49	9.65	10.97	3.40	3.29	4.18
60 and ove	er		10.85	9.80	14.32	2.78	3.10	4.70
Not state	1							·
Tot	al	•••	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	1 ,000 .00

Of every 1,000 women who were married during 1926, 530 were under 25 years, and 262 were aged 25-30, as against 506 and 286 at corresponding ages in the years 1911 to 1920, and 642 and 224 in the years 1881 to 1890.

A high proportion of re-marriages has the effect of Age at marriage. increasing the average marrying age of bridegrooms and brides This is readily seen by comparing for 1926 the mean age at marriage of bachelors, 28.24, with that of divorced men, and of widowers--39.41 and 47.28 respectively. The average age of spinsters marrying was 25.51, as against 34.53 for divorced women and 41.18 for widows. The average age of men marrying women under 45 and of their brides for certain periods since 1869 is shown in the following table :---

	Dowlod	_	Av	erage Age of—
	r er tou,		Brides under 45.	Bridegrooms of Brides under 45.
			Years.	Years.
1870-74	•••		94.13	20.03
1880-84	1.1		23.83	28.61
1890-94			24.66	28.66
1900-04			25.44	29.70
1905-09	· • • •		25.88	29.80
1910-14			25.76	29.25
1915-19			25.97	29.40
92024		· • •	25.92	29.20
1925	••••		25.75	29.00
1926			25.62	28 87

MEAN AGES AT MARRIAGE.

The mean age of women under 45 who married in 1926 differed very slightly from the average of the previous five years. In Victoria in 1926 the mean marrying age of all brides was 26.40, and of all bridegrooms, 29.64.

Birthplaces of persons marrying. Marriage records show that, of the persons married in Victoria during 1926, 87 \cdot 1 per cent. were born in Australia, 10.5 per cent. in the United Kingdom, and 1.2 per cent. in other British Possessions, and that only small proportions,

about 1.6 per cent. of the bridegrooms and .8 per cent. of the brides, were natives of foreign countries. The numbers born in Australia and other countries are shown in the subjoined table for the years 1913 and 1926 :---

BIRTHPLACES OF PERSONS MARRIED, 1913 AND 1926.

Where Born.		Brideş	grooms.	Bri	des.
		1913.	1926.	1913.	1926.
Australia New Zealand England and Wales Scotland Ireland Other British Possessions Germany Russia Italy United States	· ·	9,628 155 972 213 126 40 46 17 15 30	$11,326 \\ 117 \\ 1,252 \\ 302 \\ 128 \\ 64 \\ 16 \\ 15 \\ 35 \\ 22$	$10,274 \\ 82 \\ 644 \\ 141 \\ 83 \\ 24 \\ 19 \\ 3 \\ 12 \\ 14$	12,032968682065347572512
Total	•••		128	28 11,324	54 13,405

Victorian experience shows that, prior to 1919, the Marriages in quarters. Autumn quarter was the most frequently selected season for In the years 1919, 1921, 1922, 1923, and 1924, however, marrying. the greatest proportion of marriages took place in the Spring. The numbers celebrated in the different seasons in 1926 were-3,757 in the Autumn, 3,551 in the Spring, 3,085 in the Winter, and 3,012 in the Summer.

The following statement shows the percentages of persons Conjugal condition of in each conjugal condition who have married in different persons periods since 1870 :--marrying.

CONJUGAL CONDITION OF PERSONS MARRYING, 1871-1926.

		Perce	ntage of tota	al Marriage	8.	
Conjugal Condition.	1871-80.	1881-90.	1891-1900.	1901-10.	1911-20.	1926.
Bachelors and Spinsters Bachelors and Widows Widowers and Spinsters Widowers and Widows	$80.59 \\ 7.10 \\ 7.75 \\ 4.56$	$85 \cdot 84 \\ 4 \cdot 72 \\ 6 \cdot 17 \\ 3 \cdot 27$	$\begin{array}{r} 87 \cdot 22 \\ 4 \cdot 23 \\ 6 \cdot 07 \\ 2 \cdot 48 \end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{r} 88 \cdot 46 \\ 3 \cdot 66 \\ 5 \cdot 70 \\ 2 \cdot 18 \end{array} $	$90 \cdot 31 \\3 \cdot 15 \\4 \cdot 81 \\1 \cdot 73$	90.65 3.07 4.69 1.59

NOTE .- In this table divorced men and women are included with bachelors and spinsters respectively.

Of every 1,000 persons of each sex married in Victoria during 1926, 63 were widowers and 47 were widows, as against 65 and 48 respectively in 1925, 64 and 51 in 1924, 65 and 47 in 1923, 71 and 55 in 1922, and 64 and 54 in 1921.

The number of divorced persons re-married during 1926 was 470, which was 5 less than the number for the preceding year. Of the 132,386 persons married during the last five years, divorced persons numbered 2,104, or 1 re-marrying. in every 63 persons, as compared with 1 in every 98 in the period, 1916-20. The following are the numbers of divorced

persons who have re-married since 1921 :---

DIVORCED	PERSONS	RE-MARRYING ,	1922 TO 192

····	Y	ear.		Males.	Females.	Total.
1922				182	179	361
1923	••	••		209	192	401
1924	• • •	••		196	201	397
1925		••	•• [238	237	475
1926		••	••	243	227	470

The divorced persons in the State at the census of 1921 numbered 2,313, of whom 1,092 were men and 1,221 women. A comparison of the re-marriages of divorced males and females during 1921 with these

Divorced

persons

numbers shows that, according to the experience of that year, 17 2 per cent. of the males and 13.5 per cent. of the females re-marry each year. As these proportions greatly exceed the rates for other sections of the community it is evident that many divorces are obtained with a view to early re-marriage.

Marriages of minors.

The proportions of bridegrooms and brides under 21 years of age are given in the subjoined table for the years 1922 to 1926 :---

	Year.		Percentage under 21 years of age.			
			Bridegrooms.	Brides.		
1922	••		$3 \cdot 29$	13.63		
1923	••		3.51	15.14		
1924	•••		3.23	16.03		
1925			4.28	16.32		
1926			4.08	17.20		

Marriages in religious denominations. The numbers and proportions of marriages solemnized according to the rites of the principal religious denominations and of those performed by registrars of marriages, for the years 1916 and 1926, are shown in the following table:—

MARRIAGES IN VARIOUS DENOMINATIONS.

	19	1916		1926.	
	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	
		00.51	0.000	20, 20	
••	3,007	26.51	3,830	28.62	
••	2,108	18.59	2,536	18.92	
••	2,055	18.15	2,487	18.55	
	1,645	14.51	1,771	13.21	
• •	1,104	9.74	852	6.36	
	532	4.69	570	4.25	
	268	2.36	306	$2 \cdot 28$	
	65	.57	• 54	•40	
	54	•48	58	·43	
••	42	•37	51	-38	
•••	00	.87	267	1.00	
•••	362	3.19	617	4.61	
•••	11,341	100.00	13,405	100.00	
	· · · • · • · • · • · • · • · • · • · •	18 Number. 3,007 2,108 2,055 1,645 1,104 532 268 65 54 99 362 11,341	$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	$\begin{tabular}{ c c c c c c c } \hline & 1916 & & 1 \\ \hline & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & & &$	

Marriages by Anglican clergymen represented 28.62 per cent. of the total in 1926, as compared with 28.35 per cent. in 1925,

29.10 per cent. in 1921, 26.51 per cent. in 1916, and 21.18 per cent. in the period 1904-08. Excepting the ratios for the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist churches, there were great disparities between the proportion of marriages celebrated according to the rites of each of the principal denominations and the proportionate number of adherents possessed by it in the community.

In 1926, 4.61 per cent., in 1925, 3.95 per cent., in Civil 1924, 4.95 per cent., in 1923, 3.87 per cent., in 1922, 3.35 marriages. per cent., and, in 1914 and 1913, 2.6 per cent. of the total marriages in Victoria were celebrated by lay registrars, as against 1 per cent. in 1909, and about 7 per cent. in the decade ended 1890. The decrease which occurred between the earlier period and 1909 was due to the competition of matrimonial agencies which sprang up about 1894, and the increase since 1909 has probably been due to the Marriage Act 1909 (now incorporated in the Marriage Act 1915-No. 2691) permitting the removal from the list of registered clergymen of the names of those who make a business of celebrating marriages. The proportion of civil marriages in Victoria averages only about oneseventh of the proportion in England and Wales, and approximately one-fourth of the proportion in New Zealand.

Registered Clergymen 1926. The numbers of ministers in each denomination (excepting Jews and Quakers) and lay registrars of marriages were as follows :--

Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.	Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.
		•	
Church of England	437	Ballarat Town Mission	1
Roman Catholic	344	New Church	2
Presbyterian	307	Greek Orthodox Church	2
Methodist	281	Unitarian	1
Congregational	61	International Bible	
Baptist	87	Students' Association	1
Church of Christ	70	Latter Day Saints (Mor-	
Lutheran	27	mons)	1
Salvation Army	34	Open Brethren	3
Latter Day Saints (Re-		* • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
organized)	3	Total Clergymen	1,677
Seventh Day Adventist	10	Lay Registrars of Mar-	
Catholic Apostolic	2	riages	23
Free Christian	2	-	
Australian Church	1	Grand Total	1,700

REGISTERED MINISTERS OF EACH DENOMINATION.

138

Marriages of Jews and Quakers are exempted from the law relating to marriages in Victoria, and are deemed legal and valid if celebrated according to their respective usages.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered in Victoria during the Births-Numbers and Rates. 1926 was 35,362, of which 18,203 were of males and 17,159 of females. This was 560 less than the number recorded for the preceding year. Still births, which are excluded from both births and deaths, numbered 1,051, and corresponded to a ratio of 3.0 per 100 infants born alive in 1926. There were 1,061 male to every 1,000 female births in 1926, as compared with 1,073 in 1925, 1,049 im 1924, 1,073 in 1923, and 1,068 in 1922.

In young communities, birth rates calculated per 1,000 of the population are to some extent unreliable and misleading. In the earlier periods, when, owing to immigration, the population consists for the most part of men and women at the reproductive period of life, the rates are obviously high. As time proceeds, however, notwithstanding that immigration of reproductive adults may be maintained, the proportion of such adults to the total population must diminish, and with it, of necessity, the birth rate.

The following table shows the number of births and the birth rates in Victoria for different periods since 1879 :---

Period.	Average Annual Number of Births.	Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.	Period.	Average Annual Number of Births.	Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
1880-84	27,286	30.64	1910-14.	34,500	25.42
1885-89	32,941	$32 \cdot 27$	1915-19	33,101	$23 \cdot 13$
1890-94	36,945	31.99	1920-24	36,022	22.89
1895-99	31,675	26.76	1925	35,922	21 · 49
1900-04	30,316	25.08	1926	35,362	$20 \cdot 84$
1905-09	30,994	24 · 76			

BIRTHS IN VICTORIA—NUMBERS AND RATES, 1880 TO 1926.

Birth Rates in Australasia. 1,000 of the population of each State, the Commonwealth of Australia, and New Zealand, since 1909 :---

BIRTHS PER 1,000 OF MEAN POPULATION IN AUSTRALASIA, 1910 TO 1926.

Feriod.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queens- land.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand,
1910–14 1915–19 1920–24 1925 1926	$\begin{array}{c} 25\cdot 42 \\ 23\cdot 13 \\ 22\cdot 89 \\ 21\cdot 49 \\ 20\cdot 84 \end{array}$	28.7926.6425.2724.0122.89	$28 \cdot 81 \\ 27 \cdot 86 \\ 25 \cdot 59 \\ 23 \cdot 82 \\ 22 \cdot 58$	$27 \cdot 98 \\ 25 \cdot 51 \\ 23 \cdot 37 \\ 21 \cdot 06 \\ 20 \cdot 55$	$28 \cdot 63 \\ 25 \cdot 21 \\ 23 \cdot 52 \\ 22 \cdot 23 \\ 22 \cdot 14$	$29 \cdot 90 \\ 27 \cdot 78 \\ 26 \cdot 54 \\ 24 \cdot 24 \\ 23 \cdot 62$	$27 \cdot 73 \\ 25 \cdot 89 \\ 24 \cdot 40 \\ 22 \cdot 89 \\ 22 \cdot 02$	$\begin{array}{c} 26 \cdot 15 \\ 24 \cdot 37 \\ 22 \cdot 99 \\ 21 \cdot 17 \\ 21 \cdot 05 \end{array}$

The birth rate in England and Wales in 1926 was 17.8.

The births in Australia were fewer by 4,821, or 3.5 per cent., in 1926 than in 1914, although in the intervening period the population had increased by 22.3 per cent. The number in 1926 was 133,162, as compared with 137,983 in 1914. Of the total recorded for 1926, 35,362 occurred in Victoria, 53,116 in New South Wales, 19,764 in Queensland, 11,483 in South Australia, 8,301 in Western Australia, 4,988 in Tasmania, 73 in the Northern Territory, and 75 in the Federal Capital Territory.

The birth rate of a community is almost wholly dependent upon the proportion of wives at the reproductive period of life and their internal age distribution. As these elements, especially the former, differ widely in certain Australian States, the crude rates of the different States are scarcely comparable. The figures for the census of 1921 showed that in every 1,000 of the respective populations of each State and the Commonwealth the married women aged 15 to 45 numbered 116.1 in Victoria, 127.5 in New South Wales, 119.3 in Queensland, 125.3 in South Australia, 118.0 in Western Australia, 117.3 in Tasmania, and 121.9 in Australia. In the case of Victoria, the deficiency in the proportion of married women at the ages mentioned was accentuated by a comparatively small proportion of them being at the younger and more During the years 1920-22 the crude legitimate birth rate fertile ages. per 1,000 of the population was lower in Victoria than in any other When, however, the rates for the other States were adjusted State. to Victorian conditions by eliminating the differences referred to, they were altered as follows :- New South Wales was reduced by $2 \cdot 7$

140

per 1,000 of the population, Queensland by 1.4, South Australia by 1.6, Tasmania by 1.1, and Australia by 1.3, while the rate for Western Australia was increased by 4. The result was that, according to the adjusted figures, the legitimate rate for Victoria was more satisfactory than the rates for two of the other States, viz., New South Wales and South Australia.

Births to wives in Australasia and England. The next table shows the legitimate births per 1,000 married women under 45 (not allowing for their differing age distribution) in each State, New Zealand, and England and Wales in the four census years 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921:—

LEGITIMATE BIRTHS PER 1,000 MARRIED WOMEN UNDER 45 YEARS OF AGE.

Country.		Legitimat	Decrease per cent.			
		1891.	1901.	1911.	1921.	In 20 years.
Victoria New South Wales Queensland South Australia Western Australia Tasmania New Zealand England and Wales	··· ··· ·· ··	$\begin{array}{c} 297 \cdot 0 \\ 298 \cdot 9 \\ 315 \cdot 0 \\ 311 \cdot 1 \\ 352 \cdot 8 \\ 315 \cdot 9 \\ 279 \cdot 1 \\ 268 \cdot 8 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 229 \cdot 0 \\ 235 \cdot 6 \\ 251 \cdot 0 \\ 235 \cdot 0 \\ 244 \cdot 0 \\ 254 \cdot 6 \\ 246 \cdot 1 \\ 234 \cdot 2 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 223 \cdot 0 \\ 235 \cdot 4 \\ 244 \cdot 8 \\ 235 \cdot 9 \\ 221 \cdot 8 \\ 244 \cdot 8 \\ 211 \cdot 7 \\ 196 \cdot 2 \end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{r} 190 \cdot 5 \\ 194 \cdot 2 \\ 213 \cdot 6 \\ 186 \cdot 9 \\ 190 \cdot 9 \\ 216 \cdot 9 \\ 181 \cdot 0 \\ 176 \cdot 3 \end{array} $	$16 \cdot 8 \\ 17 \cdot 6 \\ 14 \cdot 9 \\ 20 \cdot 5 \\ 21 \cdot 8 \\ 14 \cdot 8 \\ 26 \cdot 9 \\ 24 \cdot 7 \\ 14 \cdot 7 \\ 14 \cdot 7 \\ 14 \cdot 8 \\ 1$

The birth records of children born in wedlock show that. in Victoria, in 1926, 82 out of every 100 children were born Birthplaces of parents of legitimate to Australian parents, and 95 out of every 100 to one or children. both parents born in Australia. Of the total fathers, the percentages born in the States or countries mentioned hereafter were as follows :---78.8 in Victoria ; 87.2 in Australia ; .7 in New Zealand ; 7.7 in England and Wales; 1.8 in Scotland; 8 in Ireland; 3 British Possessions; and 1.5 in foreign countries. other in The corresponding percentages for mothers were -- Victoria, 81 0; Australia, 89.4; New Zealand, 5; England and Wales, 6.9; Scotland, 1.6; Ireland, .5; other British Possessions, .3; and foreign countries. .8.

Standardized birth rates per 1,000 wives in Victoria. An accurate view of the alteration in the fertility of wives is obtained by comparing the ratio of legitimate births to wives at reproductive ages, and allowing for the difference in their age distribution at each period. The following

table shows for Victoria the distribution of married women in six five-year groups in the last six census years :---

PROPORTION OF MARRIED WOMEN IN AGE GROUPS TO TOTAL BETWEEN 15 AND 45 IN THE LAST SIX CENSUS YEARS.

Census Y	ear.	Proportio	n in each Ag	e Group to E 15 a	very 1,000 M nd 45.	larried Wom	en between
		15-20.	20-25.	25-30.	30-35.	35-40.	40-45.
1871 1881 1891 1901 1911 1921	· · · · · · · ·	$ \begin{array}{r} 20 \cdot 3 \\ 17 \cdot 3 \\ 13 \cdot 5 \\ 8 \cdot 1 \\ 12 \cdot 4 \\ 9 \cdot 2 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} 130 \cdot 4 \\ 159 \cdot 5 \\ 156 \cdot 9 \\ 99 \cdot 0 \\ 113 \cdot 8 \\ 105 \cdot 3 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} 211 \cdot 4 \\ 204 \cdot 6 \\ 275 \cdot 2 \\ 198 \cdot 3 \\ 206 \cdot 9 \\ 222 \cdot 5 \end{array} $	$\begin{array}{c} 230 \cdot 7 \\ 206 \cdot 0 \\ 244 \cdot 1 \\ 249 \cdot 6 \\ 226 \cdot 6 \\ 247 \cdot 9 \end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{r} 233 \cdot 2 \\ 209 \cdot 7 \\ 172 \cdot 1 \\ 249 \cdot 2 \\ 221 \cdot 2 \\ 291 \cdot 1 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} 174 \cdot 0 \\ 202 \cdot 9 \\ 138 \cdot 2 \\ 195 \cdot 8 \\ 219 \cdot 1 \\ 194 \cdot 0 \end{array} $

To estimate the effect which the alteration in age distribution has on the birth rate, the proportion in each of the above groups was multiplied by the average natality rate for the group according to a standard table-the standard used for this purpose being the Swedish table of 1891. The sum of the products for each census year represented the number of births which would have occurred in that year per 1,000 married women between 15 and 45 had the fertility of these women remained unaltered, i.e., the potential births. The year 1871 was used as a basis with which to compare the five subsequent census years, and adjustments were applied to the actual births (per 1,000) occurring in those years, so as to make them conform to the age constitution in the first-mentioned year. The correction factors were obtained by taking the number of births per 1,000 married women aged 15-45 which would have occurred in 1871 had the standard natality rates prevailed, and dividing this number by the corresponding numbers of potential births for 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921. The above method was applied to find what proportion of the alteration in the ratio of births to married women under 45 was due to causes other than varying age constitution. The last mentioned factor has been taken into account in the computation of the birth rates appearing in column (5) of the subjoined table :---

. 0	1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Cen Ye	isus ar.	Married Women between 15 and 45 years of age.	Legitimate Births.	Legitimate Births per 1,000 Married Women 15–45.	Standarized Legitimate Births per 1,000 Married Women 15-45.	Factor for Correction of Rate in Column 4,
1871		88,561	26,805	302.67		
1881	••	84,831	25,675	302.66	303.14	1.0016
1891		120,700	35,853	297.04	$281 \cdot 98$	0.9493
1901	••	127,858	29,279	229.00	238.75	1.0426
1911	••	139,398	31,080	$222 \cdot 96$	231.50	1.0383
1921	••	177,803	33,879	190.50	195.47	1.0261

STANDARIZED LEGITIMATE BIRTH RATES.

An inspection of the rates in column (5) shows that there was a fall of 7 per cent. in 1891 as compared with 1881, a further serious decline of over 15 per cent. in 1901 as compared with 1891, a decrease of 3 per cent. in 1911 as compared with 1901, and a further decline of nearly 16 per cent. in 1921 as compared with 1911, which were not due to variations in the age distribution of the married women between 15 and 45 in the community. A further examination of the standardized legitimate birth rates appearing in this column shows that the births in 1921 to every 1,000 married women of reproductive ages were 108 fewer than in 1881, 87 fewer than in 1891, 43 fewer than in 1901, and 36 fewer than in 1911.

Standardized Jegitimate birth rate for Victoria. Legitimate birth rates (per 1,000 of the total population) for widely separated periods do not give a correct indication of the relative fertilities of those periods, unless the number

of married women at reproductive ages in proportion to the population and the age constitution of such women have remained unchanged. In order to allow for the disturbance which may have been introduced through variations in these elements it is necessary that adjustments be made in the crude rates. The factor to correct the result of changes in the proportion of married women between 15 and 45 is obtained by comparing the number of such women in the community at the period of observation with the number in a standard population. The method of obtaining the correcting factor for the disturbance due to the second element was explained in a previous paragraph.

The following table shows the crude legitimate birth rates in six census years, the adjustments to be applied thereto for the reasons mentioned above, the amended birth rates, and the difference between these and the crude rates. The standard used in the computation of the correction factors was the Victorian population of 1871. Standardized birth rates per 1,000 of the population in the years 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921 are as follows :---

STANDARDIZED LEGITIMATE BIRTH RATES PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

		ι.	Legitimate		Correctio for varia	n Factor tions in—		Difference
Year.	Enu- merated Population.	Legiti- mate Births.	Births per 1,000 of Population (crude Rates).	Wives aged 15–45 per 1,000 of Population.	Proportion of Wives aged 15-45.	Age Distribu- tion of Wives aged 15-45.	Stan- dardized Birth Rate.	between crude and stan- dardized Rates.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1871 1881 1891 1901 1911 1921	731,528862,3461,140,4051,201,3411,315,5511,531,280	26,805 25,675 35,853 29,279 31,080 33,879	$36.64 \\ 29.77 \\ 31.44 \\ 24.37 \\ 23.63 \\ 22.12$	$121.1 \\ 98.4 \\ 105.8 \\ 106.4 \\ 106.0 \\ 116.1$	1.23071.14461.13821.14251.0431	1.00160.94931.04261.03831.0261	36.69 34.39 28.77 27.89 23.6 8	6.922.954.404.261.56

An inspection of the crude rates in the fourth column of the above table shows that legitimate births per 1,000 of population apparently declined by 6.87 in 1881, 5.20 in 1891, 12.27 in 1901, 13.01 in 1911, and 14.52 in 1921, as compared with the first-mentioned census date. After making allowance for the disturbing elements known to exist, the apparent decline of 6.87 in 1881 is altered to an increase of .05 per 1,000, while the decline of 1891 is reduced from 5.20 to 2.25, that of 1901 from 12.27 to 7.87, that of 1911 from 13.01 to 8.75, and that of 1921 from 14.52 to 12.96 per 1,000 as compared with 1871. Between 1901 and 1921 there was a reduction of nearly 18 per cent. in the rate due to other than normal causes.

Chinese and half-caste chinese births. During the last ten years the births to Chinese parents. numbered 36, or 1 in every 9,183 legitimate births. There chinese births. were 237 Chinese half-caste births (fathers only Chinese), or 1 in every 1,394 legitimate births registered in the same period.

Ages of parents of legitimate ages of fathers and mothers of legitimate children whose births were recorded in 1926 were 33.32. and 29.78 years respectively, which were 4.45 and 4.16 years above the average ages of bridegrooms marrying brides under 45 years of age, and of such brides for the same year. The proportions of both parents in various age groups are shown in the following table for the year mentioned :---

	Father	• (Mother.			
Age Group.		Proportion per 100 Births.	Age Group.		Proportion per 100 Births.	
Under 20 20 to 25 25 to 30 30 to 35 35 to 40 40 to 45 45 to 50	···· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	$\begin{array}{c} & 47 \\ 10 52 \\ 25 53 \\ 26 37 \\ 19 66 \\ 10 36 \\ 4 57 \\ 9 50 \end{array}$	Under 20 20 to 25 25 to 30 30 to 35 35 to 40 40 to 45 45 and over	···· ··· ··· ···	$\begin{array}{c} 3 \cdot 53 \\ 20 \cdot 69 \\ 29 \cdot 74 \\ 24 \cdot 83 \\ 15 \cdot 69 \\ 5 \cdot 15 \\ 37 \end{array}$	
50 and over Tot	 .al	$\begin{array}{c c} & 2 \cdot 52 \\ \hline & 100 \cdot 00 \end{array}$	Total	•••	100.00	

PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS IN AGE GROUPS, 1926.

It will be seen that, on the experience of 1926, 50.4 per cent. of the mothers were between ages 20 and 30, and 40.5 per cent. between ages 30 and 40. The proportions of fathers at these ages were 36.0 and 46.0 per cent. respectively. Of every 1,000 legitimate births, about 35 were due to mothers under 20 years, and about 4 to mothers

aged 45 years and upwards. The Year-Book for 1916-17 contains on page 326 information relating to the ages of mothers of first-born children.

Birth rates in town and country. In editions of this work prior to 1923 birth rates for the various municipalities and divisions of the State were based on the births occurring therein in relation to their respective populations.

This method made no allowance for prospective mothers travelling from rural districts to towns where better lying-in facilities and attention were available, or to the metropolis, or for metropolitan residents, *enceinte*, travelling from one municipality to another. By reason of this the rates for the metropolis and urban districts were unduly inflated at the expense of the rural districts, and the recorded variations in the rates of the various municipalities were incorrect. Also, no provision was made for births which had occurred in the Women's and other public hospitals being credited to the districts in which the mothers resided. As about one-seventh of the metropolitan births occur in these institutions the rates for certain municipalities particularly the poorer and more congested ones—were necessarily considerably understated.

In 1923, therefore, it was decided to allot all births registered in Victoria to the place of usual residence of the mother. Upon this being done for the year mentioned it was found that the total for the metropolis, i.e., the births registered therein, had decreased by approximately 1,200. This practice has been adhered to, and in 1924, 1925, and 1926 the decrease was approximately 1,250, 1,350, and 1,280 respectively. These numbers give a fair indication of the extent by which the rates in districts outside the metropolitan area suffered under the discarded system of compilation.

The following table, computed on the above-mentioned basis, shows the number of births per 1,000 of the population in the metropolitan, other urban, and rural districts for the years 1923 to 1926:—

Division.	Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.						
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.			
Metropolitan District Country Towns (other urban) Rest of State Total State	$21 \cdot 10 \\ 22 \cdot 08 \\ 24 \cdot 03 \\ 22 \cdot 31$	$20 \cdot 90 \\ 21 \cdot 25 \\ 23 \cdot 81 \\ 22 \cdot 01$	$ \begin{array}{r} 19 \cdot 93 \\ 20 \cdot 41 \\ 24 \cdot 13 \\ 21 \cdot 49 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} 19 \cdot 31 \\ 20 \cdot 11 \\ 23 \cdot 44 \\ 20 \cdot 84 \end{array} $			

BIRTH RATES IN METROPOLITAN, OTHER URBAN, AND RURAL DISTRICTS, 1923 TO 1926.

Birth rates in The appended statement shows, for the years 1923 to metropolitan municipalities. 1926 the number of births, and the births per 1,000 of the mean population in the metropolitan municipalities :---

Municipality.	ľ	Number of Births.				Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	
Melbourne Box Hill Brighton Rrunswick Camberwell Caulield Coburg Collingwood Essendon Fitzroy Footscray Hawthorn Footscray Malvern Northeote Northeote Port Melbourne Prahran Praston Preston Richmond South Melbourne South Melbourne South Melbourne South Melbourne St. Kilda Williamstown Reemainder of Metropolis	$\begin{array}{c} 2,011\\ \dagger\\ 482\\ 0,050\\ 553\\ 687\\ 833\\ 805\\ 1,022\\ 562\\ 378\\ 625\\ 823\\ 305\\ 954\\ 823\\ 235\\ 808\\ 898\\ 898\\ 898\\ 898\\ 898\\ 898\\ 951\\ 648\\ 499\\ 927\\ \end{array}$	$1,843 \\ \dagger \\ 479 \\ 1,206 \\ 746 \\ 1,073 \\ 680 \\ 726 \\ 876 \\ 719 \\ 960 \\ 559 \\ 387 \\ 691 \\ 930 \\ 226 \\ 291 \\ 878 \\ 501 \\ 226 \\ 951 \\ 677 \\ 490 \\ 1,067 \\ 400 \\ 1,067 \\ $	$1,766 \\ \dagger \\ 523 \\ 1,113 \\ 1,057 \\ 735 \\ 706 \\ 833 \\ 661 \\ 992 \\ 534 \\ 363 \\ 664 \\ 908 \\ * \\ 276 \\ 888 \\ 567 \\ 890 \\ 275 \\ 777 \\ 641 \\ 525 \\ 1,384 \\ \end{cases}$	$1,791 \\ 268 \\ 433 \\ 1,191 \\ 1,105 \\ 660 \\ 805 \\ 620 \\ 974 \\ 505 \\ 373 \\ 594 \\ 925 \\ * \\ 283 \\ 844 \\ 625 \\ 861 \\ 307 \\ 849 \\ 665 \\ 474 \\ 4,145 \\ \end{cases}$	$\begin{array}{c} 19 & 73 \\ + \\ 20 & 51 \\ 22 & 97 \\ 21 & 35 \\ 24 & 50 \\ 22 & 23 \\ 23 & 12 \\ 22 & 23 \\ 23 & 12 \\ 20 & 26 \\ 15 & 89 \\ 24 & 28 \\ 34 & 36 \\ 23 & 21 \\ 18 & 73 \\ 32 & 59 \\ 20 & 24 \\ 18 & 79 \\ 20 & 64 \\ 15 & 79 \\ 20 & 64 \\ 15 & 79 \\ 20 & 64 \\ 16 & 12 \\ 24 & 62 \\ 23 & 74 \\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 18\ 08\\ \dagger\\ 19\ 21\\ 25\ 22\\ 23\ 96\\ 14\ 84\\ 25\ 56\\ 21\ 29\\ 20\ 79\\ 22\ 62\\ 23\ 41\\ 17\ 92\\ 19\ 44\\ 16\ 68\\ 26\ 72\\ 22\ 13\\ 17\ 17\\ 35\ 11\\ 21\ 68\\ 17\ 29\\ 21\ 71\\ 55\ 11\\ 21\ 68\\ 17\ 29\\ 21\ 78\\ 21\ 78\\ 21\ 78\\ 21\ 78\\ 21\ 78\\ 21\ 78\\ 22\ 78\\ 25\ 78\\ 25\ 78\\ \end{array}$	$17 \cdot 35 \\ + \\ 20 \cdot 19 \\ 22 \cdot 61 \\ 24 \cdot 01 \\ 18 \cdot 34 \\ 24 \cdot 69 \\ 20 \cdot 80 \\ 20 \cdot 96 \\ 19 \cdot 25 \\ 23 \cdot 20 \\ 23 \cdot 20 \\ 15 \cdot 62 \\ 24 \cdot 50 \\ 20 \cdot 99 \\ 17 \cdot 23 \\ 32 \cdot 87 \\ 20 \cdot 39 \\ 15 \cdot 94 \\ 16 \cdot 49 \\ 15 \cdot 58 \\ 23 \cdot 10 \\ 26 \cdot 76 \\ 15 \cdot 76 \\ $	$17 \cdot 62 \\ 24 \cdot 59 \\ 16 \cdot 20 \\ 23 \cdot 51 \\ 22 \cdot 72 \\ 17 \cdot 96 \\ 23 \cdot 40 \\ 19 \cdot 59 \\ 19 \cdot 78 \\ 18 \cdot 25 \\ 21 \cdot 99 \\ 15 \cdot 76 \\ 16 \cdot 28 \\ \cdot 80 \\ 16 \cdot 26 \\ 30 \cdot 12 \\ 19 \cdot 76 \\ 16 \cdot 26 \\ 30 \cdot 12 \\ 19 \cdot 76 \\ 16 \cdot 16 \\ 17 \cdot 99 \\ 16 \cdot 06 \\ 20 \cdot 40 \\ 25 \cdot 28 \\ \cdot 80 \\ 16 \cdot 06 \\ 20 \cdot 40 \\ 25 \cdot 28 \\ \cdot 80 \\ 16 \cdot 06 \\ 20 \cdot 40 \\ 25 \cdot 28 \\ \cdot 80 \\ \cdot 80 \\ \cdot 10 \\ \cdot$	
Whole Metropolis	17,611	18,170	17,911	17,926	21.10	20.90	19.93	19.31	

BIRTH RATES IN METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES, 1923 TO 1926.

* Included in "Remainder of Metropolis." † Not available.

Birth rates in country towns. Similar information relating to the twelve principal country towns is given in the table which follows :---

BIRTH RATES IN THE TWELVE PRINCIPAL COUNTRY TOWNS, 1923 TO 1926.

	Number of Births.				Births per 1,000 of Population.			
Town.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Ballarat and Suburbs Bendigo and Suburbs Geelong and Suburbs Cartum Castlemaine and Suburbs Hamilton Maryborough Mordialloc Stawell Warrnambool	785 653 829 133 147 139 * 200 120 130 130 196 188	$\begin{array}{c} 790\\ 634\\ 790\\ 125\\ 138\\ 144\\ 127\\ 211\\ 152\\ 107\\ 180\\ 146 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 708\\ 614\\ 842\\ 127\\ 128\\ 145\\ 112\\ 186\\ 160\\ 112\\ 180\\ 151\\ \end{array}$	$708 \\ 569 \\ 913 \\ 122 \\ 148 \\ 107 \\ 195 \\ 148 \\ 107 \\ 176 \\ 159 \\ 159 \\ 108 \\ 108 \\ 109 \\ 109 \\ 100 $	19.6419.5022.3522.1720.5027.20* $36.0417.3928.2624.6533.57$	$\begin{array}{c} 19 \cdot 46 \\ 18 \cdot 85 \\ 20 \cdot 93 \\ 20 \cdot 16 \\ 19 \cdot 38 \\ 28 \cdot 13 \\ 26 \cdot 29 \\ 37 \cdot 02 \\ 21 \cdot 17 \\ 23 \cdot 01 \\ 22 \cdot 50 \\ 24 \cdot 33 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 17 \cdot 27 \\ 18 \cdot 22 \\ 21 \cdot 53 \\ 19 \cdot 54 \\ 17 \cdot 85 \\ 27 \cdot 88 \\ 23 \cdot 14 \\ 31 \cdot 79 \\ 22 \cdot 16 \\ 24 \cdot 03 \\ 22 \cdot 44 \\ 23 \cdot 23 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 17 & 04 \\ 16 & 96 \\ 22 & 33 \\ 19 & 70 \\ 17 & 02 \\ 28 & 14 \\ 22 & 02 \\ 32 & 50 \\ 19 & 07 \\ 22 & 91 \\ 21 & 86 \\ 23 & 38 \end{array}$

* Not available,

146

Twin and The numbers of cases of twin and triplet births in . Victoria in the last five years were as follows :---

	Year.		Cases of Triplets.		
1922			 394		
923			 412	4	
924			 378	3	
925			 393	3	
926			 377	4	

CASES OF TWINS AND TRIPLETS.

On the average of the five years 1 mother in every 90 gave birth to twins, and 1 in every 8,072 was delivered of triplets. The proportions for the decennium ended 1917 were 1 in every 94 and 1 in. every 9,538 respectively.

In December, 1912, an Act was passed which provides. Children legitimized . that children born out of wedlock may be legitimized at any time after the marriage of the parents, on the application of thefather, provided there was no lawful impediment to the marriage of the parents at the time of the birth. An amending Act passed in 1916 allowed legitimation to be effected on the application of the mother if the father were absent on war service or had died not more than two Up to the end of 1926 advantage was taken of years previously. these Acts, and of an Act (now repealed) passed in 1903, to legitimate-2.612 children, of whom 14 were registered in 1903, 19 in 1904, 34 in 1905. 43 in 1906, 58 in 1907, 60 in 1908, 51 in 1909, 71 in 1910, 126 in 1911, 106 in 1912, 157 in 1913, 149 in 1914, 141 in 1915, 140 in 1916, 136 in 1917, 162 in 1918, 159 in 1919, 165 in 1920, 168 in 1921, 133 in 1922, 133 in 1923, 121 in 1924, 133 in 1925, and 133 in 1926.

Legitimation Acts are in force in all the States and New Zealand, but there are marked differences in the numbers of legitimations resulting therefrom. In proportion to every 100 children born out of wedlock in 1926, the numbers of legitimations in the various States and New Zealand during that year were as follows :---Victoria, $8\cdot3$; New South Wales, $19\cdot4$; Queensland, $16\cdot5$; South Australia, $14\cdot0$; Western Australia, $17\cdot8$; Tasmania, $8\cdot3$; and New Zealand, $23\cdot4$.

The following table shows the number of illegitimate Illegitimate births and their percentage to total births, in Victoria, Births in Victoria. since 1909 :---

Poriod			Average Annual	Averag Ille	Percentage of Total		
		•	Number of Births.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Births.
1910–14		· · ·	34,500	1,013	979	1,992	5.77
1915-19	••		33,101	941	912	1,853	5.60
1920 - 24		••	36,022	869	821	1,690	4.69
1925			35,922	809	734	1,543	4.30
1926	••	••	35,362	818	785	1,603	4.23

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS IN VICTORIA, 1910 TO 1926.

The percentages in the various States and New Zealand in 1926 were as follows :--- Victoria, 4.53 per cent.; New South Wales, 5.17 per cent.; Queensland, 5.03 per cent.; South Australia, 3.04 per cent.; Western Australia, 3.92 per cent. ; Tasmania, 4.57 per cent. ; Australia, 4.72 per cent.; and New Zealand, 5.17 per cent.

The percentage of illegitimate to total births in Illegitimate births to Victoria varied from 5.36 in 1891 to 5.94 in 1911, and 4.82 in 1921. The proportion of infants born out of unmarried women in wedlock to the unmarried and widowed women between 15 and 45 years of age in Victoria is shown in the

subjoined table for the census years 1891, 1901, 1911, and 1921, when the conjugal condition of the population was known :---

PER 1.000 SINGLE WOMEN. ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

	Year.		Single Women aged 15 to 45.	Illegitimate Births.	Illegitimate Births per 1,000 Single Women.
1001			149.449	9.064	14.5
1891	••	••	142,443	1,729	14-5
1911	••	••	187,488	1,964	10.5
1921	••	••	189,737	1,714	9-0

The number of infants born out of wedlock per 1,000 unmarried and widowed women in Victoria was 9.0 in 1921. This was considerably lower than the latest available figures for most European

148

Victoria.

countries. The proportions ranged from 23 in Germany, 26 in Sweden, 24 in Denmark, 14 in Italy, and 16 in France, to 12 in Belgium, 13 in Scotland, 7 in England and Wales, 5 in Holland, and 4 in Ireland.

A larger proportion of illegitimacy prevails in Melbourne lliegitimacy and suburbs than in the other urban and the rural districts in town and country. of Victoria, the proportion in the country districts being the smallest of all. During the year 1926, in the metropolitan area 1 birth in every 19, in other urban districts 1 in 21, and in the rural districts only 1 in 29 were illegitimate. The corresponding rates for 1925 were 1 in 19, 1 in 23, and 1 in 33 respectively. One striking result attending the introduction of the system of allotting all births to the mother's place of usual residence has been the altered ratios of illegitimacy in town and country-both the urban areas outside the metropolis and the country districts having higher ratios than on the basis previously adopted. For 1922, the year prior to the introduction of the above system, the proportions of illegitimate to total births, based on the births which actually occurred in the various municipalities, were 1 in 15, 1 in 38, and 1 in 58 respectively.

DEATHS.

Deaths. The following table shows the number of deathsmale and female-also the quarters in which they were registered and the proportion per 1,000 of the population since 1879 :--

	Average Annual Number of Deaths.	Sex.		(lon.	Rate		
Period.		Males.	Females.	March.	June.	September.	December.	of Mean Popula- tion.
1880-84	12,820	7,324	5,496	3.512	3.167	3.013	3,128	14.40
1885-89	16,200	9,307	6,893	4.591	3.912	3.689	4.008	15.87
1890-94	16,886	9,716	7,170	4.643	4.108	3.977	4.158	14.62
1895-99	16,350	9,227	7,123	4.324	3.957	3.808	4.261	13.81
1900-04	15,457	8,686	6,771	3,921	3,750	3.992	3.794	12.84
1905-09	14,932	8,296	6,636	3.805	3,539	3.917	3.671	11.93
1910-14	15,705	8,616	7,089	3.873	3.875	4.137	3.820	11.57
1915-19	16,283	8,860	7,423	3.781	4.172	4.467	3.863	11.38
1920-24	16,375	8,781	7,594	3,846	4.166	4.503	3.8€0	10.40
1925	15,836	8,582	7.254	3.744	4.039	4.334	3.719	9.47
1926	16,335	8,765	7,570	3,622	4,439	4,239	4,035	9.63

DEATHS IN EACH QUARTER, 1880 TO 1926.

The number of deaths in 1926 was 16,335, which was 159 abovethe average of the preceding five years. The deaths in Australia in 1926 numbered 56,952, as Death rates against 54,567 in 1925, 54,980 in 1924, 56,236 in 1923, 51,312 ⁿ Australasia. in 1922, 54,076 in 1921, 56,289 in 1920, 65,930 in 1919,

50,249 in 1918, 48,029 in 1917, 54,197 in 1916, 52,782 in 1915, and 51,720 in 1914. Of the total deaths in the year under review 16,335 occurred in Victoria, 22,159 in New South Wales, 8,214 in Queensland, 4,877 in South Australia, 3,350 in Western Australia, 1,912 in Tasmania, 64 in the Northern Territory, and 41 in the Federal Capital Territory. The death rates per 1,000 of the population, for each of the Australian States, the Commonwealth of Australia, and New Zealand, are shown in the following statement for quinquennial periods 1910-24, and for 1925 and 1926 :--

DEATHS PER 1,000 OF MEAN POPULATION IN AUSTRALASIA, 1910 TO 1926.

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queens- land.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1910-14	11.57	10.41	10.30	10.30	10.02	10.55	10.70	9·3 5
1915-19	11.38	10.66	10.80	10.67	9.74	9.95	10.90	10.52
1920-24	10.40	9.50	9.56	9.66	9.48	9.82	9.79	8.98
1925	9.47	9.16	8.86	9.15	9.00	9 ·3 3	$9 \cdot 20$	8.29
1926	9.63	9.55	$9 \cdot 39$	8.73	8.93	9.05	9.42	8.74

The death rate in England and Wales in 1926 was 11.6.

The crude rate in Victoria is higher than in any other State, but this result is chiefly due to its containing a larger proportion of elderly persons, among whom the mortality rate is very high.

Age distribution and crude death rates. Comparisons of the crude death rates of a country for different periods, or of different countries for the same period, are frequently misleading, as they do not allow

for variations in the age distributions of the population. In European countries, the proportion of elderly people, among whom the death rate is heavy, is higher than in the Commonwealth or any of the Australian States, and it is greater in South Australia, and lower in Western Australia, than in any of the other States. The proportions of each sex living in various age groups at the census of 1921 in each division of the Commonwealth, and those in a standard population, which has been adopted by statisticians as a standard for this purpose, are shown in the following table :--

	Proportion per 10,000 of Population living in-										
Age Group.	Standard Popula- tion.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queens- land.	South Aus- tralia.	Western Aus- tralia.	Tas- mania.	Australia.			
			Ma	-; LES.		-					
Under 5 years	601	517	578	611	557	535	602	562			
5 to 25	1,942	1,826	1,879	1,962	1,866	1,948	2,017	1,884			
25 to 45	1,318	1,431	1,559	1,585	1,509	1,527	1,336	1,512			
45 to 65	791	929	859	889	829	1,134	849	897			
65 and over	258	226	227	231	253	184	236	228			
Total	4,910	4,929	5,102	5,278	5,014	5,328	5,040	5,083			
			FEM2	LÉS.							
Under 5 years	597	497	561	582	529	516	593	541			
5 to 25	1,959	1,833	1,869	1,921	1,857	1,912	1,990	1,872			
25 to 45	1,368	1,539	1,517	1,388	1,536	1,347	1,381	1,491			
45 to 65	856	948	747	661	806	756	760	798			
65 and over	310	254	204	170	258	141	236	215			
Total	5,090	5,071	4,898	4,722	4,986	4,672	4,960	4,917			

PROPORTIONS LIVING IN FIVE AGE GROUPS IN A STANDARD POPULATION AND AUSTRALIA.

The figures show that the characteristic features of Australian populations, as compared with those of European countries, are a large preponderance of persons in the age group 25-45, and a relatively small number aged 65 and over. Among the Australian States, South Australia and Western Australia have the highest and lowest proportions respectively of persons aged 65 years and upwards, Queensland and Western Australia a large excess of males over females, particularly at ages over 25, and Victoria an excess of females in each group, except those under 5 years-points which should be kept in view when comparing their crude death rates.

Index of mortality.

The differences shown in the preceding table in the age and sex constitutions of the populations of the six States have been taken into account in computing their respective indexes of mortality. The results for each are based upon a standard

151

population, distributed according to sex, into eleven age groups. In the preceding table, for the purpose of obtaining a readier comparison, the eleven groups have been reduced to five. Mortality indexes for each State, and detailed particulars for Victoria, for the undermentioned years, as compiled by the Commonwealth Statistician, are as follows :---

INDEX	OF	MORTALITY	FOR	AUSTRALIA,	1922	то	1926.

!	Index of Mortality for-										
Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queens- land.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.				
1922	9.85	9.79	10.15	9·3 9	10·91	9·81	9.89				
1923	10.97	10.61	10.97	9 • 90	$9 \cdot 79$	10.49	10.64				
1924	10 ·3 1	10.31	9.90	9.50	10.82	10.43	10.20				
19 25	9.74	10.13	9.94	9 • 43	10.67	9.94	9.93				
19 26	9.91	10.62	10.47	9.02	10.63	9.70	10.20				

VICTORIA,	1922	\mathbf{TO}	1926.	

		Crude Rates.			Standardized Rates.			
χea	r.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	
1922		10.54	8.77	9.65	10.61	9.09	9.85	
1923		$11 \cdot 46$	9.98	10.71	11.56	10.38	10.97	
1924		10.87	9.24	10.05	11.00	9.64	10.31	
1925	•••••	10.32	8.64	$9 \cdot 47$	10.45	9.04	9.74	
1926	• ••	10.38	8.88	9.63	10.55	$9 \cdot 29$	9.91	

In each of the last five years the crude death rate was higher in Victoria than in any other Australian State, but the figures in the above table show that, by taking an average over those years, three States—New South Wales, Queensland, and Western Australia—had a higher index of mortality than Victoria.

152

Death rates at various ages. A reliable estimate of the improvement in the health of the community is obtained by comparing the death rates for groups of ages at different periods. Such rates for Victoria are given in the subjoined table for the decennial periods

1891-1900, 1902-11, and 1912-21 :---

DEATH RATES IN CERTAIN AGE GROUPS IN VICTORIA.

	Aga Grou	n	Deaths	per 1,000 at ea	ch Age.	
	Age GIO	P•	1891–1900.	190211.	1912-21.	
	Males.			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Under 5	•••		 39.29	26.73	23.85	
5 to 10			 3.36	2.16	2.42	
10 to 15			 $2 \cdot 20$	1.87	1.75	
15 to 20			 3.28	2.72	$2 \cdot 37$	
20 to 25	•••		 4.79	3.21	3.57	
25 to 35			 6.60	4.75	4.71	
35 to 45	•••		 9.03	7.81	7 • 14	
45 to 55			 15.32	13.48	$13 \cdot 10$	
55 to 65			 32.90	25.38	25.05	
65 to 75	•••	•••	 62.99	59.04	53-18	
75 and upwa	ards		 145.05	$157 \cdot 26$	157 97	
All ages	•••		 15.47	13.30	12.57	
	Females	3.	, i			
Under 5			 34.09	$22 \cdot 35$	$19 \cdot 26$	
5 to 10	•••		 3.12	2.03	2.24	
10 to 15	•••		 2.06	1.78	1.26	
15 to 20			 3.43	2.80	2 · 27	
20 to 25			 4.81	3.59	3.56	
25 to 35			 6.89	5.01	4.58	
35 to 45	•••		 8.68	7.16	6.01	
45 to 55			 12.12	9.96	9.44	
55 to 65	•••		 23.64	18.80	17.46	
65 to 75			 45:87	46.21	42.01	
75 and upw	ards	•••	 124 33	131.77	136.61	
All ages		•••	 12.36	10.66	10.32	

The figures show that at all ages, excepting between 5 and 10, and 20 and 25, and 75 and over for males, and between 5 and 10, and 75 and over for females, much lower death rates were experienced during the decennium 1912-21 than in the preceding one. Compared with 1902-11, the mortality rate for the period 1912-21 for the two

sexes combined was lower by 10 per cent. for the age group 0-10, by 9 per cent. at ages 10-15, by 16 per cent. at 15-20, by 5 per cent. at 25-35, by 12 per cent. at 35-45, and by 4 per cent. at 45-55 and 55-65. The rates, up to age 65 and probably to age 75, are comparable, and the marked decrease at successive periods shows that there had been a general improvement in hygienic conditions.

Death rates in town and country.

In years prior to 1923 it was the custom, when computing local death rates, to treat the deaths in two main divisionsthose occurring in public institutions and those occurring elsewhere. The latter were credited to the district in which they were registered. Of the institutional deaths those occurring in hospitals were allotted to the usual residence; the remainder, together with any deaths of persons unknown or whose residence was not stated, were allotted to the various divisions of the State according to the population of each.

For purposes of greater accuracy, and following the lead of England and other countries, the allotment to usual residence has, for 1923, et seq., been extended to cover all deaths, only those institutional deaths where the usual residence is unknown being allotted to the various divisions of the State as before mentioned.

The following table, computed on the above-mentioned basis, shows the number of deaths per 1,000 of the population in the metropolitan, other urban, and rural districts for the years 1923 to 1926 :---

Division.	Deaths per 1,000 of Population.						
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.			
Metropolitan District	$11 \cdot 28$	10.49	9.71	9.86			
Country Towns (other urban)	12.46	11.27	10.69	10.72			
Rest of State	9 • 48	9.09	8.79	8.94			
Total State	10.71	10.05	9.47	9.63			

DEATH RATES IN METROPOLITAN, OTHER URBAN, AND RURAL DISTRICTS, 1923 TO 1926.

Death rates of metropolitan residents.

The deaths in Victoria of residents of metropolitan municipalities, and their proportions to the populations of these municipalities are shown in the following table for the years 1923 to 1926 :—

DEATH RATES IN METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES, 1923 TO 1926.

Municipality.	Number of Deaths.				Deaths per 1,000 of Population.			
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Melbourne Box Hill Brighton Brunswick Camberwell Caburg Califield Coburg Colingwood Essendon Fitzroy Footscray Kew Malvern Northcote Port Melbourne Preston Sandringham South Melbourne South Melbourne	$1,418 \\ + \\ 249 \\ 534 \\ 264 \\ 402 \\ 227 \\ 457 \\ 401 \\ 539 \\ 385 \\ 359 \\ 159 \\ 385 \\ 359 \\ 158 \\ 620 \\ 137 \\ 561 \\ 137 \\ 561 \\ 111 \\ 585 \\ 446 \\ \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 1,310\\ +\\ 2500\\ 5022\\ 477\\ 2299\\ 395\\ 417\\ 411\\ 308\\ 395\\ 417\\ 411\\ 308\\ 350\\ 333\\ 72\\ 142\\ 617\\ 139\\ 471\\ 122\\ 542\\ 414 \end{array}$	1,166 † 213 495 304 457 218 390 395 458 376 300 198 353 366 * 135 550 172 468 * 135 550 172 468 * 131 483	1,192 101 243 509 336 462 256 436 436 438 324 388 324 187 372 353 372 353 372 353 478 117 502 470	$\begin{array}{c} 13.91\\ +\\ 10.60\\ 11.46\\ 9.59\\ 8.17\\ 10.06\\ 13.34\\ 10.70\\ 15.48\\ 10.07\\ 11.85\\ 2.910\\ 9.38\\ 12.72\\ 12.07\\ 11.75\\ 12.90\\ 7.93\\ 12.45\\ 11.09\end{array}$	12.35 + 10.02 + 10.50 + 10.5	11.46 + 8.42 + 10.05 + 8.76 + 7.93 + 7.32 + 11.49 + 9.94 + 13.34 + 8.80 + 9.41 + 8.91 + 9.91 + 10.27 + 10.67 + 9.97 + 10.67 + 9.97 + 10.67 + 7.59 +	$\begin{array}{c} 11 \cdot 73 \\ 9 \cdot 27 \\ 9 \cdot 09 \\ 10 \cdot 05 \\ 8 \cdot 84 \\ 7 \cdot 51 \\ 7 \cdot 85 \\ 12 \cdot 90 \\ 10 \cdot 07 \\ 11 \cdot 60 \\ 8 \cdot 76 \\ 10 \cdot 11 \\ 8 \cdot 37 \\ 8 \cdot 55 \\ 9 \cdot 15 \\ * \\ 11 \cdot 39 \\ 8 \cdot 43 \\ 10 \cdot 97 \\ 6 \cdot 16 \\ 10 \cdot 64 \\ 11 \cdot 35 \\ \end{array}$
Williamstown	240 408	236 432	208 480	$240 \\ 436$	$11.84 \\ 10.45$	$10.97 \\ 10.44$	9·15 9·28	$ \begin{array}{r} 10.33 \\ 9.62 \end{array} $
Whole Metropolis	9,414	9,118	8,724	9,155	11.28	10.49	9.71	9.86

* Included in "Remainder of Metropolis." † Not available.

The outstanding features of the above figures are the high death rates prevailing in some of the old centres of population, of which Melbourne City, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Port Melbourne, Prahran, Richmond, and South Melbourne, are examples, and the low rates in comparatively recently settled areas, such as Camberwell, Caulfield, Coburg, Kew, Malvern, Northcote, and Sandringham. The deaths for 1926 were 11 61 per 1,000 in the former as against 8 15 in the latter group. Slight differences in the age distribution of the populations of these two divisions may exist. but they can account for only a small portion of the great disparity in their mortality rates. It would appear that the standard of health, as indicated by death rates, is much better in the outlying and less densely populated suburbs than in the central and more congested areas of the metropolis.

The ages of the people, as disclosed at the census of 1921, Metropolitan and country enable a comparison to be made between the death rates death rates compared. prevailing in Greater Melbourne and in the remainder of the State. On the average of the years 1923-25, the deaths of metropolitan residents were in the ratio of 10.47 per 1,000 of population, as against a ratio of 9.62 for residents of the rest of the State. The apparent difference in favour of the country is .85, but a computation shows that, when allowances are made for the unequal age and sex distribution of the people in these areas, the actual difference is greater-the deaths per 1,000 of population being fewer by 1.34 among country than among metropolitan residents.

Decrease in Metropolitan death rate.

In Greater Melbourne, in the decade 1917-26, there were 11.33 deaths per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 15.76 in the decennium 1892-1901. The reduction in the rate represents a saving of approximately 35,730 lives in the last Many factors have contributed to this result, but it is ten years. probable that the introduction of the sewerage system, the notification of contagious diseases, the improvement in the conditions of labour, the increasing supervision of the manufacture and sale of articles of consumption, the greater proportion of females in the community, and the advance of medical science, have been the main causes of the decline. That the sanitary conditions of the metropolis have greatly improved is evidenced by a comparison of the death rates from tubercular and certain other diseases for the period 1917-26 with those for the decennium 1892-1901. The following are the rates :---

	Deaths	ulation.	
Cause of Death.	1892-1901.	1917-26.	Decrease in 1917-26.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1.654	0.721	0.933
Other Tubercular Diseases	0.446	0.154	0.292
Typhoid Fever	0.293	0.012	0 276
Scarlet Fever	0.033	0.020	0.013
Measles	0.212	0.034	0.181
Diphtheria	0.196	0.038	0.098
Tctal	2 837	1.044	1 793

The figures show that the mortality from the six diseases mentioned declined by 63 per cent. in 1917-26-the decline representing a rate of 1.79 per 1,000 of the population. It is impossible to state which municipalities have contributed most to this result, as their mortality rates from the diseases referred to are not available for the earlier A comparison, however, of the general death rates in each, period for the periods under review, shows that all divisions of the metropolis have, in varying degrees, shared in the improvement. The mortality from all causes showed a net decline of 4.43 per 1,000 of the population during the period mentioned.

Death rates an country towns.

The appended statement shows, for the years 1923 to 1926, the number of deaths, and the deaths per 1,000 of the population in the twelve principal country towns :--

a	N	Number of Deaths.				Deaths per 1,000 of Population.			
iown.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1923	1924.	1925.	1926.	
Ballarat and Suburbs Bendigo and Suburbs Geelong and Suburbs Carrum Castlemaine and Suburbs Hamilton Maryborough Mildura Mordialloc Stawell Warrnambool	$552 \\ 474 \\ 394 \\ 71 \\ 69 \\ 73 \\ * \\ 70 \\ 68 \\ 61 \\ 96 \\ 58 \\ $	$\begin{array}{c} 451 \\ 470 \\ 394 \\ 52 \\ 78 \\ 66 \\ 61 \\ 69 \\ 56 \\ 52 \\ 70 \\ 61 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 470 \\ 410 \\ 410 \\ 41 \\ 68 \\ 58 \\ 58 \\ 67 \\ 69 \\ 46 \\ 76 \\ 41 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 489\\ 434\\ 361\\ 61\\ 79\\ 64\\ 60\\ 63\\ 87\\ 43\\ 75\\ 41\\ \end{array}$	$13 \cdot 81 \\ 14 \cdot 15 \\ 10 \cdot 62 \\ 11 \cdot 83 \\ 9 \cdot 62 \\ 14 \cdot 29 \\ * \\ 12 \cdot 61 \\ 9 \cdot 86 \\ 13 \cdot 26 \\ 13 \cdot 26 \\ 12 \cdot 08 \\ 10 \cdot 36 \\ 10 \cdot 36 \\ \end{cases}$	$11 \cdot 11 \\ 13 \cdot 97 \\ 10 \cdot 44 \\ 8 \cdot 39 \\ 10 \cdot 96 \\ 12 \cdot 89 \\ 12 \cdot 63 \\ 12 \cdot 11 \\ 7 \cdot 80 \\ 11 \cdot 18 \\ 8 \cdot 75 \\ 10 \cdot 17 \\ 10 \cdot 17$	$\begin{array}{c} 11 \cdot 47 \\ 12 \cdot 17 \\ 10 \cdot 48 \\ 6 \cdot 31 \\ 9 \cdot 48 \\ 11 \cdot 15 \\ 11 \cdot 98 \\ 11 \cdot 45 \\ 9 \cdot 56 \\ 9 \cdot 87 \\ 9 \cdot 48 \\ 6 \cdot 31 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 11 \cdot 77 \\ 12 \cdot 94 \\ 8 \cdot 82 \\ 9 \cdot 04 \\ 11 \cdot 02 \\ 12 \cdot 17 \\ 12 \cdot 35 \\ 10 \cdot 50 \\ 11 \cdot 21 \\ 9 \cdot 21 \\ 9 \cdot 35 \\ 6 \cdot 03 \end{array}$	

DEATH	RATES	IN THE	TWELVE	PRINCIPAL	COUNTRY
		TOWN	IS, 1923 TO	J 1926.	

* Not available.

Residents of different areas dying in hospitals.

An examination of the particulars of residence of persons who have died in the public hospitals of Victoria during recent years reveals definite and interesting information regarding the assistance rendered by these institutions For the metroto people in different divisions of the State. politan municipalities, the twelve principal country towns, and the

remainder of the State, the percentages of the total deaths of residents thereof which occurred in public hospitals during the year 1926 were as follows :--

PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN HOSPITALS, 1926.

Area.	Percentage of Deaths of Residents occurring in Hospitals, 1926.	Area.	Percentage of Deaths of Residents occurring in Hospitals, 1926.
Melbourne Box Hill	$41.5 \\ 17.5$	St. Kilda	$22 \cdot 1 \\ 21 \cdot 9$
Brighton	18.8	Remainder of Metropolis	26.4
Brunswick	$32 \cdot 1$	Ballarat	$24 \cdot 3$
Camberwell	18.2	Bendigo	26.4
Caulfield	19.9	Geelong	28.0
Coburg	$32 \cdot 2$	Carrum	36.7
Collingwood	39.3	Castlemaine	41.0
Essendon	27 7	Hamilton	20.6
Fitzroy	42.0	Maryborough	39.0
Lootscray	$36 \cdot 2$	Mildura	46.8
Hawthorn	$19 \cdot 2$	Mordialloc	$23 \cdot 3$
	14.4	Stawell	$35 \cdot 7$
Nativern	17.3	Warmambool	32.4
Port Malhauma	29.7	Wonthaggi	47.5
Prohran	45.4		-
Preston	30.2	Summary-	
Richmond	33.9	Greater Melbourne	29.3
Sandringham	38.0	I welve Country Towns	28.3
South Melbourne	33.3	Whole State	$\begin{array}{c} 22.4\\ 27.0 \end{array}$

Of the total deaths in the State 27 0 per cent. occurred in public hospitals in 1926, as against 25.9 per cent. in 1925, 24.4 per cent. in 1924, and 20.9 per cent. in 1910-15. The disparities in the proportions for different areas are very significant. Of the total cases of fatal illness which occurred amongst residents of the metropolitan districts mentioned in 1926, the percentage treated in public hospitals varied from 45.4 for Port Melbourne, 42.0 for Fitzroy, 41.5 for Melbourne City, 39.3 for Collingwood, and 38.6 for Richmond, to 18.8 for Brighton, 18.2 for Camberwell, 17.5 for Box Hill, 17.3 for Malvern, and 14.4 for Kew. For the whole metropolitan area the percentage was 29.3 as compared with 24.0 for the rest of the State. Taking the proportions for fatal cases as an index of all cases dealt with, it would appear that, relatively to population, the assistance rendered by public hospitals to the residents of Greater Melbourne exceeds by about 22 per cent. that given to people residing elsewhere.

158

Residents of Greater Melbourne who died in public hospitals in Victoria during 1926 numbered 2,685.

Deaths in public institutions in Greater Melbourne. In 1926 the deaths in public institutions were $35 \cdot 0$ per cent. of the total in the State. The number of deaths in each public institution in the metropolis in 1926 is given in the subjoined table :--

DEATHS	IN	PUBLIC IN	NSTITUTIONS	\mathbf{IN}	GREATER
		MELBO	URNE, 1926.		

Institution.	No. of Deaths.	Institution.	No. of Deaths,
π			
Hospitals—	0.0	Asylums-	
Melbourne	942	Mental-	0.0
	507	Kew	93
Unildren's	482	Mont Park	89
St. Vincent's	218	Receiving House, Royal Park	44
Austin	199	Macleod Military	3
Women's	171		
Homeopathic	128	Total Mental	229
Infectious Diseases	91		
Caulfield Repatriation	87	Benevolent—	
Queen Victoria	58	Melbourne (Cheltenham)	201
Williamstown	29	Victorian Homes for Aged and	
Caulfield Convalescent	+19	Infirm	- 91
Eye and Ear	13	Convent of Little Sisters o the	
Police		Poor	46
		Old Colonists' Homes	3
Total Hospitals	2,944		
		Total Benevolent	341
		Foundling Homes, Refuges—	1.1
		Broadmeadows	21
		East Melbourne	1
		The Haven, Fitzroy	8
Sanatoria —		Carlton	1
Heatherton	74	Children's Welfare Depot	
Janefield	27		
Macleod Military	6	Total Others	31
Greenvale	3		
		Total Hospitals and other	
Total Sanatoria	110	Institutions	3,655
		· ·	

Infantile mortality to births has been considerably less in recent than in earlier periods, but the necessity for reducing the risks to infant health and life, particularly amongst illegitimate children, is still apparent. The deaths of infants in 1926 numbered 1,967, and, as there were 35,362 births, it follows that of every 10,000 infants born approximately 556 died within twelve months. The rates for

9354.—**10**

Melbourne and suburbs, the extra metropolitan area, and the whole State, for different periods since 1879, are shown in the following table :---

Melbourne and Su		Suburbs.	Rest of St	Victoria.			
Period. Aver Nu Des O	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 100 Births.	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 100 Births.	Average Annual Number of Deaths-under One Year.	Rate per 100 Births.	
						10.00	
1880-84	1,649	17.01	1,626	$9 \cdot 23$	3,275	12.00	
1885-89	2,576	17.85	1,812	9.79	4,388	$13 \cdot 33$	
1890-94	2,311	14.04	1,926	$9 \cdot 49$	4,237	11.47	
1895-99	1.650	$13 \cdot 15$	1.913	10.00	3,563	11.25	
1900-04	1.417	11.65	1.565	8.62	2,982	$9 \cdot 82$	
1905-09.	1,209	9.65	1.307	7.15	2,516	8.12	
1910-14	1,345	8.42	1,201	6.49	2.546	7.38	
1915-19	1,302	7.62	886	5.54	2,188	6.61	
1920-24	1 398	7.16	1 024	5.86	2.352	6.53	
1095	1,020	6.02	967	5.37	2,002	5.70	
1926	1,104	6.16	863	$4 \cdot 95$	1,967	5.26	

INFANTILE MORTALITY IN VICTORIA, 1880 TO 1926.

In computing birth and death rates the system was introduced in 1923 of allotting all births and deaths to the place of usual residence of the parties. In the cases of births and infantile deaths the mother's residence is considered to be that of the child. This accounts for the slight increase in the rate for the remainder of the State in the period 1920-24, and a corresponding decrease in the rate for the Metropolis.

Infantile deaths in different areas.

The deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 100 births in Greater Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, Geelong, and the areas. rest of the State in the years 1923 to 1926 were as follows:----

INFANTILE DEATH RATES IN DIFFERENT DIVISIONS OF THE STATE, 1923 TO 1926.

Division.				Deaths under One Year per 100 Births.				
	<u>.</u>			1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	
Melbourne and Suburbs				7.34	6.77	6.02	6·16	
Ballarat and Suburbs	•			8.54	6.58	7.49	5.51	
Bendigo and Suburbs				10.57	10.25	6 · 19	5.10	
Geelong and Suburbs				10.01	7.34	7.13	$4 \cdot 82$	
Rest of the State	••		••	$5 \cdot 29$	5.15	5.15	$4 \cdot 93$	
Victoria	••		••	6.57	6.13	5.70	5.56	

160

The prejudicial effect of city surroundings on infant life is evidenced by the mortality being heavier in urban than in country districts. During the years 1923 to 1926 the deaths of children under 1 year of age to every 1,000 births were 66 in Melbourne, 70 in Ballarat, 80 in Bendigo, and 73 in Geelong, as against 51 in the rest of the State.

Infantile death rates in metropolitan districts. The following table shows for each metropolitan municipality the deaths of infants under 1 year, and the number of such deaths per 100 births in the years 1923 to 1926 :----

Municipality.		Number under O	of Death Ine year.	8	Deaths under One year per 100 Births.			/ear
	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
					1.			
Melbourne	237	168	136	139	11.79	9.12	7.70	7.76
Box Hill	+	+	+	14	+	+	+	5.22
Brighton .	$\frac{1}{22}$	21	20	17	4.56	4.38	3.82	3.93
Brunswick	85	79	72	74	7.52	6.55	6.47	6.21
Camberwell	25	37	32	41	3.96	4.96	3.84	4.75
Caulfield	56	63	35	56	5.33	5.87	3.31	5.07
Coburg	42	38	49	51	7.59	5.59	6.67	6.68
Collingwood	64	58	54	62	9.32	9.37	7.65	9.37
Essendon	59	52	53	46	7.08	5.94	6.36	5.71
Fitzroy	84	59	55	36	10.43	$8 \cdot 20$	8.32	5.81
Footscray	68	74	75	51	6.65	7.71	7.56	$5 \cdot 24$
Hawthorn	32	30	19	23	5.69	5.37	3.56	4.56
Kew	13	18	19	21	3.44	4.65	$5 \cdot 23$	5.63
Malvern	31	27	28	23	4.96	3.91	4.22	3.87
Northcote	49	54	54	61	5.95	5.81	5.95	6.59
Oakleigh	10	8	*	*	4.26	3.54	*	*
Port Melbourne	25	26	24	26	$8 \cdot 20$	8.93	8.70	9.19
Prahran	68	66	49	51	7.13	7.52	5.52	6.04
Preston	24	31	37	25	6.32	6.19	6.53	4.00
Richmond	73	66	65	56	8.13	6.98	7:30	6.50
Sandringham	16	16	14	16	7.24	5.97	5.09	5.21
South Melbourne	95	88	59	76	9.99	9.25	7.59	8.95
St. Kilda	31	34	28	39	4.78	5.02	4.37	5.86
Williamstown	32	38	32	34	6.41	7.76	6.10	7.17
Remainder of Metro-								
polis	51	69	70	66	5.50	6.47	5.06	5.76
Whole Metropolis	1,292	1,230	1,079	1,104	7.34	6.77	6.02	6.16

INFANTILE DEATH RATES IN METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES, 1923 TO 1926.

* Included in "Remainder of Metropolis."

† Not available.

It is noticeable that the centres having the lowest infantile death rates are residential areas which are not so thickly populated sa nearly all of the other metropolitan districts. Infantile Mortality at different ages. An investigation into the experience in regard to infantile mortality over a period of years discloses a constant decrease in the infantile death rate, shared proportionately by each

sex, since the earlier periods. Further analysis shows that the decrease was shared by all age periods except the period "under one week." Comparing the quinquennial periods 1910–14 and 1920–24 the mortality rate of infants whose age was over one week shows a decrease of 20.5 per cent., while that of infants under one week increased by 10.2 per cent.

In 1925 and 1926 the total rate for males was higher than that for females by 24.6 per cent. and 23.6 per cent. respectively.

The tables which follow show the percentage of deaths of infants at various ages under one year for certain periods since 1899, and male and female death rates at each age period for the year 1926 :---

INFANTILE	MORTALITY	AT	DIFFERENT	AGES,
•	1900 TO	192	26.	

Period.		Deaths Under One Year per 1,000 Births.								
		Under 1 Week.	1 Week to 1 Month.	1 to 3 Months.	3 to 6 Months.	6 to 12 Months.	Total under 1 Year.	Males.	Females.	
1000 04				10.0	91.0	95.0	00.0	105.7	00.4	
1900-04	•• .	34	E'4	10.9	21.0	20.9	98.2	105.7	90.4	
1809-08	••	ರಂ	5.0	13.9	19.1	18.2	81.Z	99.3	72.0	
1910-14	••	21.5	11.1	12.1	12.4	16.7	73.8	81.8	65.3	
1915 - 19		23.3	10.1	10.5	9.4	12.8	66.1	73.0	58.7	
1920 - 24		23.7	$9 \cdot 3$	9.8	10.0	12.5	65.3	71.8	58.5	
1925		23.1	7.8	7.9	7.1	11.1	57.0	$62 \cdot 9$	50.5	
1926		$22 \cdot 6$	7.1	7.1	7.5	11.3	55.6	$61 \cdot 3$	49.6	
				,						

INFANTILE MORTALITY AT DIFFERENT AGES, MALES AND FEMALES, 1926.

		Males.			Females.		
Age.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Percentage at each Age.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Percentage at each Age. 41.0 12.2 13.1 12.8 20.9	
Under 1 week 1 week to 1 month 1 to 3 months 3 to 6 months 6 to 12 months	$\begin{array}{c c} & 450 \\ & 149 \\ & 142 \\ & 155 \\ & 220 \end{array}$	$ \begin{array}{r} 24 \cdot 7 \\ 8 \cdot 2 \\ 7 \cdot 8 \\ 8 \cdot 5 \\ 12 \cdot 1 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} 40\cdot 3 \\ 13\cdot 4 \\ 12\cdot 7 \\ 13\cdot 9 \\ 19\cdot 7 \end{array} $	349 104 111 109 178	$20.3 \\ 6.1 \\ 6.5 \\ 6.3 \\ 10.4$		
Total	1,116	61 • 3	100.0	851	49.6	100.0	
Probable mortality of infants. The experience of the years 1921-26 shows that, of every 20,000 newly-born boys and girls in equal numbers, 690 boys and 561 girls died within twelve months, and 9,310

of the former and 9,439 of the latter, or 18,749 of mixed sexes, were living at the end of the year. The corresponding numbers surviving the first year in earlier periods were 17,765 in the ten years 1891-1900 and 17,463 in 1831-90. It is thus seen that, of every 20,000 births comprising equal numbers of each sex, there were 984 more survivors in 1921-26 than in 1891-1900, and 1,281 more than in 1881-90.

An investigation of infantile mortalities would be incominfantile death rates from certain causes. Plete if the diseases which have proved fatal in different periods of years were not ascertained, and their incidence in each period compared. Information of this nature reveals the causes of high death rates, and, when a fairly early period is selected for comparison with recent years, it shows in what direction improvements have taken place. The chief preventable and nonpreventable causes of death, grouped under certain headings, are shown in the subjoined table for the periods 1891-93, 1901-10, 1911-20, and for the years 1925 and 1926:—

Cause of Death.		Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births in—							
	1891-93.	1901-10.	1911-20.	1925.	1926.				
Whooping Cough Convulsions	$\begin{array}{c} \cdot \cdot & 2 \cdot 60 \\ \cdot \cdot & 6 \cdot 83 \end{array}$	$2 \cdot 52 \\ 3 \cdot 10$	1 · 82 · 1 · 63	·81 ·70	$2.35 \\ .79$				
Dionchuis, Broncho-pneumon Pneumonia Diarrhœal Diseases, all forms Congenital Malformations, &	$\begin{array}{cccc} 11a, & & \\ 11 \cdot 37 \\ & 29 \cdot 66 \\ \&c. & 3 \cdot 45 \end{array}$	$8 \cdot 13 \\ 24 \cdot 62 \\ 4 \cdot 86$	$6 \cdot 86 \\ 16 \cdot 13 \\ 4 \cdot 38$	$4 \cdot 90 \\ 11 \cdot 05 \\ 4 \cdot 62$	$5 \cdot 40 \\ 9 \cdot 25 \\ 4 \cdot 55$				
Wasting Diseases (Marasm Atrophy, &c.) Prematurity Violence	us, 22.24 13.13 3.16	$12.74 \\ 14.99 \\ 9.47$	13.09 15.17 1.07	$6.65 \\ 15.06 \\ .67$	$6.14 \\ 14.93 \\ .71$				
Injury at birth Other diseases peculiar to ear Infancy	$\left.\begin{array}{c} \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \end{array}\right\} 24 \cdot 49$	14.46	9.40	$ \begin{cases} 3.45 \\ 3.57 \end{cases} $	$2 \cdot 83$ $2 \cdot 51$				
All other causes				5.48	6.16				
Total, all causes	116.93	87.89	69.55	56.96	55.62				

INFANTILE DEATH RATES FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1891–93, 1901–10, 1911–20, 1925 AND 1926.

	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.									
	· Age Period.									
Cause of Death.										
	Under 1 Week.	1 Week and under 1 Month.	1 Month and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 12 Months.	Total.	Males.	Females.		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·										
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia Diarrhœal Diseases, all forms Congenital Malformations, &a	·20	·53 ·37 ·93	$1 \cdot 45 \\ 1 \cdot 27 \\ \cdot 62$	$1 \cdot 24 \\ 2 \cdot 66 \\ \cdot 60$	$1.98 \\ 4.95 \\ .34$	$5 \cdot 40 \\ 9 \cdot 25 \\ 4 \cdot 55$	$5 \cdot 71 \\ 10 \cdot 55 \\ 5 \cdot 11$	5.07 7.87 3.96		
Wasting Diseases (Marasmus	2 00	99	02		01	100	0	0.00		
Atrophy, &c.)	$2 \cdot 66 \\ 11 \cdot 85 \\ 4 \cdot 75$	$egin{array}{c} 1 \cdot 13 \\ 2 \cdot 35 \\ \cdot 51 \end{array}$	$1 \cdot 16 \\ \cdot 62 \\ \cdot 08$	•74 •11	·45 	$6 \cdot 14 \\ 14 \cdot 93 \\ 5 \cdot 34$	$6 \cdot 98 \\ 15 \cdot 88 \\ 6 \cdot 15$	$5 \cdot 25 \\ 13 \cdot 93 \\ 4 \cdot 49 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ $		
All other causes	1.07	1.33	1.95	$2 \cdot 12$	3.54	*10.01	10.93	9.03		
Total, all causes	$22 \cdot 59$	7.15	7.15	7.47	$11 \cdot 26$	5.62	61.31	$49 \cdot 60$		

INFANTILE DEATH RATES, AT DIFFERENT AGES, FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1926.

* 4.47 were deaths from Epidemic and Infectious diseases.

Of every 1,000 infants born 19 died from diarrhœal and wasting diseases during 1921-26 as against 29 in 1911-20, 37 in 1901-10, and 52 in 1891-93—a decrease of 63 per cent. since the last mentioned period. In 1921-26, acute bronchitis, broncho-pneumonia and pneumonia were responsible for $5\cdot 8$ deaths per 1,000 births, as compared with 11.4 in 1891-93—a decline of 49 per cent. between the two periods. Of every 100 children who died in the last six years, 33 deaths were due to prematurity and congenital malformations, which may be regarded as of a non-preventable nature, while 19 died from diarrhœal diseases. The mortality from the latter diseases was highest during the months December to April. Of every 1,000 children born during the years referred to 12 died from diarrhœal complaints within a year, a proportion which shows the necessity for further preventive measures in relation to these diseases.

An examination of the male and female mortalities from infantile diseases discloses the fact that the male rate was consistently higher than the female rate, except in the cases of whooping cough and convulsions.

The table which follows shows the number of deaths and the death rate of infants under one month for Melbourne and suburbs and the whole State for the years 1922 to 1926, also the principal causes of death.

Cause of Death	M	elbouri	ie and	Subur	ts.	Victoria.				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
Convulsions Bronchitis, Broncho-pneu-	31	6	10	7	9	54	27	27	20	16
monia, Pneumonia Diarrhœal Diseases, all forms Congenital Malformations	$\begin{array}{c} 13\\11\end{array}$	33 11	29 3	14 9	$^{15}_{7}$	19 22	$55 \\ 26$	47 14	20 19	26 13
&c. Wasting Diseases (Marasmus,	45	50	58	- 60	56	72	98	. 110	110	106
Atrophy, &c.)	81 277	87 326				188 485 19	$166 \\ 594 \\ 16$	$137 \\ 568$	$\begin{array}{c} 146 \\ 502 \\ 4 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c}134\\502\end{array}$
Injury at Birth Early Infancy (162)	87	90	106	80 56	57 55	$\frac{12}{163}$	187	207	$\begin{array}{c} 4\\124\\123\end{array}$	$100 \\ 86$
All other causes	32	24	22	19	39	50	42	45	42	61
Deaths per 100 Births	586	636	632	576	564	1,065	1,211	1,159	1,110	1,052
area and per 100 Dirths	3.10	3.01	3.48	3.22	3.12	5.83	3.38	3.21	3.08	2:97.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE MONTH, 1922 TO 1926.

On the average of the last ten years, 147 in every Legitimate and 1,000 illegitimate infants died within a year, as against illegitimate Infontile 58 in every 1,000 legitimate children. It is thus seen death rates. that the proportion of illegitimate children dying before the age of 1 year is 2.5 times that of legitimate children. In the year 1926 the mortality rate of legitimate infants was 5.30The children born out of wedlock during the same per 100 births. vear numbered 1,603, and the deaths of illegitimate infants were 177, the death rate being thus 11 .04 per 100 births. With the view of ascertaining the chief reasons for the marked disproportion in the mortality rates of the two classes the following table has been constructed, showing the deaths from certain causes, per 1,000 legitimate and illegitimate births, for the periods 1904-08 and 1914-18 and the year 1926 :---

	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.								
Cause of Death.	1	legitimate.	Illegitimate.						
	1904-08.	1914-18.	1926,	1904-08.	1914-18.	1926.			
Diarrhœal Diseases Prematurity Conceptal Molfor	19.8	14.2	8.6	72.6	48 ·6	23.1			
mations, Marasmus, &c Bronchitis, Broncho-nneumonia	30 ·3	$27 \cdot 2$	24.8	52.1	64.9	43·0			
Pneumonia	6.9	6.1	4 ∙9	18.6	12.5	16.2			
Other causes	18.3	15.3	14.7	58.7	3 6 ·6	28.1			
Total, all causes	75.3	62.8	53.0	202.0	162.6	110.4			

DEATH RATES OF LEGITIMATE AND ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS FROM CERTAIN CAUSES.

The rates for 1926 show that of every 1,000 children born out of wedlock $23 \cdot 1$ died from diarrhœal diseases within a year, as compared with $8 \cdot 6$ deaths per 1,000 legitimate infants from the same cause. Owing to a larger proportion of the former children being deprived of breast food a higher mortality from these diseases might be expected among them than among legitimate infants, but the striking differences in the death rates from this cause and from the chief respiratory diseases indicate considerable neglect in the rearing of illegitimate infants.

Infantile deaths in each month from certain causes. The influence of temperature on infantile mortality from the chief digestive and respiratory diseases is specially noticeable, whilst on deaths from other causes, particularly those of a developmental character, very little influence

is apparent. The infantile deaths in Melbourne and suburbs from the two former classes of complaint in each month during the last five years are shown in the appended table :---

			Infant	tile Deaths i	n Greater l	Melbourne	in 1922-26 fr	rom—		
Мо	nth.		Dia	rhœal Disea	uses.	Res	Respiratory Diseases.			
	•		Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.		
Januarv			144	107	251	17	16	33		
February			119	92	211	23	12	35		
March			87	83	170	15	14	29		
April			82	59	141	20	19	39		
May			50	43	93	22	21	43		
June			23 ^{.***}	17	40	32	25	57		
July		••	11	7	18	55	47	102		
August			5	5	10	50	40	90		
September			6	8	14	. 37	36	- 73		
October			15	14	29	20	14	34		
November			18	8	26	24	14	- 38		
December	• •	• •	37	33	70	20	17	37		
Total,	1922-26	•••	597	476	1,073	335	275	610		

INFANTILE DEATHS IN EACH MONTH FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1922–26.

The experience of the last five years shows that of the total infantile deaths in the metropolis from diarrhocal diseases 87 per cent. occur during the six months December to May, and of the deaths from respiratory diseases 53 per cent. occur in the four months June to September.

> The deaths of infants under 1 year of age in the Commonwealth numbered 7,188 in 1926, as compared with 7,250 in 1925, 7,701 in 1924, 8,186 in 1923, 7,251 in 1922, 8,952 in 1921,

9,431 in 1920, 8,464 in 1919, 7,364 in 1918, and 7,302 in 1917. The next table gives the proportion of such deaths to the total births in each State, the Commonwealth of Australia, and New Zealand for periods back to 1910 :---

Infantile mortality in

Australasia.

	Deaths under One Year per 100 Births.												
Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queens- land.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.					
1910–14	7.38	7 • 27	6.55	6.78	7.49	7.68	7.17	5.72					
1915-19	6.61	$6 \cdot 44$	6.33	6 · 18	6·19	6·53	6.43	4 ·86					
1920-24	6.53	6·10	$5 \cdot 46$	5.84	6·11	$6 \cdot 24$	6·10	4 • 49					
1925	5.70	$5 \cdot 50$	4.52	$4 \cdot 61$	5.66	$5 \cdot 52$	$5 \cdot 34$	4.00					
1926	5.56	5.76	5.06	4.43	4.93	4.67	5.40	3.98					

INFANTILE MORTALITY IN AUSTRALASIA, 1910 TO 1926.

The infantile deaths per 100 births in the Australasian capitals in 1926 were as follows:—Melbourne 6.16, Sydney 6.12, Brisbane 5.26, Adelaide 5.17, Perth 5.89, Hobart 6.27, and Wellington 4.50.

In 1926 the deaths of male children under 5 years of age numbered 1,440, and the deaths of female children under that age, 1,087—the former being in the proportion of 16.43 per cent., and the latter of 14.36 per cent., to the total number

of deaths of the respective sexes at all ages. The subjoined table gives the annual number of such deaths in the State at each year of age, and the proportion of the deaths under five years of age to the deaths at all ages in decennial periods from 1871 to 1920, and in the years 1921 to 1926 :—

		Year o	eath.		Total under 5 Years.			
Period.	0.	1.	2.	3.	4.	Number.	Proportion Per 100 Deaths at all Ages.	
						·		
Males								
1871_80	1 783	508	206	148	119	2.764	39.41	
1881-90	2,158	464	161	114	92	2,989	$34 \cdot 28$	
1891-1900.	2.050	432	143	93	76	2,794	30.02	
1901-10	1,504	249	83	59	41	1,936	$22 \cdot 93$	
1911-20	1,363	233	92	64	48	1,800	20.38	
1921	1.479	213	86	50	45	1,873	21.62	
1922	1,130	170	65	47	34	1,446	17.66	
1923	1,311	213	86	43	43	1,696	18.57	
1924	1,199	201	94	49	58	1,601	18.06	
1925	1,170	186	64	44	39	1,503	17 51	
1926	1,116	166	72	-50	36	1,440	16.43	
Females	1 400	400	100	100	100	0.407	10.00	
1871-80	1,482	482	198	139	100	2,407	40.00	
1881-90	1,805	423	101	100	84: 60	2,008	39.01	
1891-1900	1,702	380	129	02 51	40	2,300	33.01	
1901-10	1,192	217	74	50	40	1,001	10.00	
1911-20	1,029	190	79	26	40 57	1,401	19.00	
1921	1,107	100	10 61	30	97	1,450	15.07	
1942	1 047	120	71	22	32	1 342	16.60	
1920	1,047	175	66		10	1 321	17.20	
1095	1,017	150	47	25	28 28	1 134	15.62	
1020	851	105	64	40	20	1.087	14.36	

MORTALITY OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS.

The number of persons of advanced ages was greater in the later than in the earlier years mentioned in the above table, and, as the mortality is very heavy at the older ages, this accounts to some extent for the gradual decrease in the proportion of deaths under the age of 5 years. After making allowance for this there is still a marked reduction in the mortality under 5 years of age in recent years as compared with that in periods prior to 1901.

Ages at death. The ages of males and females who died in 1926 and in the two preceding years are shown in the following table :---

	AGES	\mathbf{AT}	DEATH	\mathbf{IN}	VICTORIA,	1924	TO	1926.
--	------	---------------	-------	---------------	-----------	------	----	-------

	1924.				1925.		1926.			
Ages.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
Under 1 1 to 2 2 ,, 3 3 ,, 4 4 ,, 5 5 ,, 10 10 ,, 15 15 ,, 20 20 ,, 25 25 ,, 30 30 ,, 35 35 ,, 40 40 ,, 45 45 ,, 50 50 ,, 55 55 ,, 60 60 ,, 65 65 ,, 70 70 ,, 75 75 ,, 80 80 ,, 85 85 ,, 90 90 ,, 95 95 97 98 99 101 102 103 105 107 100	$\begin{array}{c} 1,199\\ 201\\ 94\\ 49\\ 58\\ 136\\ 103\\ 161\\ 214\\ 204\\ 213\\ 281\\ 311\\ 368\\ 544\\ 673\\ 933\\ 842\\ 695\\ 609\\ 500\\ 301\\ 137\\ 13\\ 9\\ 5\\ 5\\ 6\\ 2\\ 1\\ 1\\ \cdots\\ \cdots\\$	$\begin{array}{c} 1,017\\ 175\\ 66\\ 44\\ 19\\ 99\\ 73\\ 148\\ 206\\ 230\\ 263\\ 260\\ 245\\ 309\\ 417\\ 487\\ 613\\ 309\\ 417\\ 487\\ 613\\ 309\\ 417\\ 487\\ 613\\ 309\\ 417\\ 487\\ 613\\ 309\\ 417\\ 487\\ 613\\ 309\\ 417\\ 487\\ 613\\ 309\\ 417\\ 487\\ 613\\ 309\\ 417\\ 487\\ 613\\ 309\\ 417\\ 487\\ 613\\ 309\\ 417\\ 487\\ 613\\ 309\\ 417\\ 487\\ 613\\ 309\\ 417\\ 487\\ 613\\ 375\\ 100\\ 417\\ 10\\ 10\\ 41\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1$	$\begin{array}{c} 2,216\\ 376\\ 160\\ 93\\ 77\\ 235\\ 176\\ 309\\ 420\\ 434\\ 476\\ 541\\ 556\\ 677\\ 961\\ 1,160\\ 1,546\\ 677\\ 961\\ 1,479\\ 1,249\\ 1,215\\ 1,075\\ 676\\ 676\\ 302\\ 27\\ 25\\ 12\\ 16\\ 6\\ 2\\ 2\\ 2\\ 16\\ 6\\ 2\\ 2\\ 2\\ 1\\ 16\\ 6\\ 2\\ 2\\ 2\\ 1\\ 16\\ 16\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\$	$\begin{array}{c} 1,170\\ 186\\ 64\\ 49\\ 197\\ 106\\ 162\\ 193\\ 194\\ 229\\ 299\\ 285\\ 363\\ 520\\ 656\\ 8857\\ 710\\ 580\\ 469\\ 296\\ 103\\ 14\\ 11\\ 3\\ 2\\ 29\\ 103\\ 14\\ 11\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1$	$\begin{array}{c} 876\\ 150\\ 47\\ 35\\ 26\\ 97\\ 96\\ 124\\ 161\\ 215\\ 227\\ 248\\ 277\\ 248\\ 277\\ 248\\ 277\\ 248\\ 277\\ 301\\ 395\\ 449\\ 601\\ 657\\ 589\\ 596\\ 568\\ 343\\ 137\\ 14\\ 7\\ 9\\ 9\\ 5\\ 2\\ 1\\ 1\\ 1\\ \cdots\\ \cdots\\$	$\begin{array}{c} 2,046\\ 336\\ 111\\ 79\\ 65\\ 224\\ 202\\ 286\\ 359\\ 409\\ 456\\ 547\\ 562\\ 664\\ 915\\ 1,105\\ 1,490\\ 1,514\\ 1,299\\ 1,176\\ 1,037\\ 243\\ 28\\ 18\\ 12\\ 7\\ 7\\ 7\\ 7\\ 7\\ 7\\ 7\\ 7\\ 3\\ 2\\ 2\\ 2\\ \cdots\\ \cdots\\$	$\begin{array}{c} 1,116\\ 166\\ 72\\ 50\\ 36\\ 124\\ 114\\ 168\\ 196\\ 191\\ 225\\ 271\\ 315\\ 426\\ 485\\ 673\\ 830\\ 940\\ 776\\ 643\\ 483\\ 300\\ 127\\ 10\\ 9\\ 7\\ 2\\ 2\\ 3\\ 4\\ \cdots\\ 1\\ 1\\ \cdots\\ *2\end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 851\\ 105\\ 64\\ 400\\ 27\\ 91\\ 88\\ 132\\ 200\\ 212\\ 260\\ 284\\ 284\\ 284\\ 284\\ 284\\ 284\\ 284\\ 284$	$\begin{array}{c} 1,967\\ 271\\ 136\\ 90\\ 63\\ 215\\ 202\\ 300\\ 396\\ 403\\ 485\\ 555\\ 599\\ 768\\ 870\\ 1,184\\ 1,456\\ 1,662\\ 1,439\\ 1,238\\ 1,041\\ 637\\ 264\\ 32\\ 19\\ 12\\ 12\\ 12\\ 12\\ 12\\ 12\\ 12\\ 12\\ 12\\ 12$	
Total	8,863	7,640	16,503	8,582	7,254	15,836	8,765	7,570	16,335	

* Age not verified.

Of the 48,674 persons who died in Victoria during the last three years 6,174 were aged 80 years and upwards, and 25-eleven males and fourteen females-had attained or passed the age of 100 years.

The highest age at death recorded in the period 1924-26 was 110 years, which was attained by two men. It was found impossible, however, to verify these ages. To every 100 female deaths there were 116 male deaths in 1926, as against 118 in 1925, 116 in 1924, 113 in 1923, and 117 in 1922.

Death rates from certain diseases. The death rates from the chief diseases are shown in the appended table for the period 1908-12 and for the last five years :--

DEATHS PER MILLION FROM CERTAIN CAUSES.

١

	E	eaths pe	r Million	of the P	opulatio	n.
Cause of Death.						
	1908- 1912.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
		-				
Typhoid Fever	. 98	20	34	20	11	17
Measles	. 33	1	48	4	26	8
Scarlet Fever	16	8	\mathbf{n}	13	10	9
Whooping Cough	77	26	12	160	27	71
Diphtheria and Croup	122	88	58	69	42	41
Influenza	. 109	46	248	104	41	118
Acute Anterior Poliomvelitis (pre						
viously Infantile Paralysis)		5	2	2	15	5
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis		8	8	20	17	1 n
Phthisis	855	565	620	585	561	545
Other Tubercular Diseases	182	120	193	197	07	040
Syphilis	51	120	20	24	91	94
Cancer	833	007	1 013	000	070	1 014
Diabetes	107	110	1,010	122	107	100
Ansemia Chlorosis Loucomia	81	95	110	100	107	109
Simple Maningitis	122	. 00 60	67	31	104	20
Locomotor Ataxia and other discasso	100	00	01	40	- 38	39
of Spinal Cord	וד	90	10	55	00	20
Conception and Hamomhara of the		30	49	- 55	29	- 59
Basia	440	400	. 471	407	4.51	101
Epilopar	449	433	4/1	407	401	434
Convulsions	00	21	, 39	20	34	51
Usert Discos (includ) E	10	59	45	31	18	22
neart Disease (including Endocar	-	1	1			
attis, Pericarditis, and Angina Pec	-					
toris)	1,441	1,245	1,423	1,364	1,384	1,255
Acute and Chronic Bronchitis	348	209	233	199	161	170
Pneumonia and Broncho-pneumonia	⊾ 834	746	978	741	543	673

	Deaths per Million of the Population.									
Cause of Death.	<u> </u>					1				
	1908- 1912.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.				
Pleurisy	45	29	32	30	29	30				
Congestion of Lungs and Pulmonary										
Apoplexy	63	59	45	* 59	52	52				
Asthma and Pulmonary Emphysema	60	32	42	26	30	24				
Diseases of the Stomach (Cancer			1							
excepted)	-99	81	81	71	91	88-				
Enteritis, Gastro-enteritis, and Diar-										
rhœal Diseases	833	358	480	354	376	332				
Appendicitis	-81	67	70	• 75	67	74				
Hernia, Intestinal Obstruction	113	107	95	90	105	104				
Hydatids	22	13	10	10	11	B 6				
Cirrhosis and other diseases of the			_							
Liver (Cancer excepted)	158	81	90	87	86	89				
Biliary Calculi	27	20	14	25	23	19				
Simple Peritonitis (non-puerperal).	35	29	34	25	27	21				
Acute and Chronic Nephritis, Ura-			-							
mia, Bright's Disease	576	514	501	482	493	535				
Calculi of the Urinary System	7	4	6	9	5	7				
Diseases of the Bladder and Prostate	94	$5\overline{5}$	68	69	86	75				
Old Age	1.030	873	867	770	762	743				
Suicide	102	81	78	72	107	03				
Accidental Violence	531	393	414	485	504	5.22				
Homicide	19	15	13	11	13	20				
•••••										

DEATHS PER MILLION FROM CERTAIN CAUSES-continued.

The above and other causes of death are fully dealt with in subsequent paragraphs.

The Seasonal Prevalence of Diseases.

The following table shows for each month of the year the proportion of deaths per 1,000 due to nine well-known diseases and to all causes. The figures are based on the experience of the period 1920-26, and, in order to make the results comparable, adjustments have been made to correct the inequality of the number of days in each month. The average annual mortality from each disease is shown at the foot of the table :---

М	onth.			Typhoid Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Influenza.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia and Broncho- pneumonia.	Diarrhœa and Enteritis.	Bright's Disease.	Total from all Causes.
January February March April May June July August September October November December	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	133 188 137 113 130 51 40 37 21 33 31 86 1,000	77 77 60 30 42 46 85 122 118 145 113 85 1,000	56 59 109 122 138 133 98 85 65 56 32 47 1,000	19 19 34 52 125 199 167 136 102 60 54 33 1,000	77 69 75 77 91 84 88 93 93 93 92 82 79 1,000	$\begin{array}{r} 41\\ 39\\ 46\\ 69\\ 94\\ 126\\ 138\\ 140\\ 98\\ 81\\ 76\\ 52\\ \hline 1,000\\ \end{array}$	$58 \\ 47 \\ 55 \\ 74 \\ 94 \\ 119 \\ 125 \\ 115 \\ 96 \\ 84 \\ 73 \\ 60 \\ \hline 1,000$	194 179 154 126 76 38 25 23 23 28 41 93 1,000	66 73 70 76 84 85 101 102 87 85 84 87 85 84 87 1,000	81 78 77 83 85 90 95 92 84 82 77 76
Average An of Deaths	nual 1920	Nur 26	nber	42	110	148	160	960	334	1,179	726	819	16,292

SEASONAL PREVALENCE OF DISEASES IN VICTORIA, 1920-26.

An inspection of the above table shows that the mortality from all causes was greatest in the winter months, the highest point being reached in July. It was lowest in the warmer months of the year, except January.

Typhoid fever, diarrhœa, and enteritis are essentially hot weather diseases, while pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia, bronchitis, and influenza are much more prevalent in the colder months than in the warmer ones. The greatest number of deaths from diphtheria occur in the autumn, while whooping cough reaches its zenith in the months of early spring. Phthisis and Bright's disease do not exhibit variations in mortality according to season to as great an extent as the other diseases mentioned, but reach their maximum mortality during the cold weather.

vaccinations. The proportion of successful vaccinations to every 100 births for periods since 1875 is given in the following table A great reduction in the percentage of vaccinations to births is shown since the year 1919. This is due to a large number of persons having taken advantage of the "Conscience Clause" of the Health Act of 1919, which came into operation on 24th March, 1920.

_	Vaccinations per 100 Births.	d.	Period
	72	••	1876-99
	64		1900-04
	67		1905-09
	65		1910-14
	56		1915-19
	8		1920 - 24
	5		1925
	4		1926

SUCCESSFUL VACCINATIONS PER 100 BIRTHS.

In 1926 the vaccinations of children were equal to nearly 4 per cent. of the births, as compared with 5 per cent. in 1925, 8 per cent. in the period 1920-24, 56 per cent. in the period 1915-19, and 72 per cent. in the period 1876-99.

Typhoid lever. Typhoid from 288 per 100,000 of population in 1895–99 to 53 per 100,000 in 1914–18, and 17 per 100,000 in 1926, or by 94 per cent. in the intervening years. The death rate from the disease also decreased by 94 per cent. during the same period. The deaths per 100 cases in 1926 were 10.1 as compared with 12.1 in 1920–24. The reported cases of, and deaths from typhoid fever and their pro-

portions to the population, also the percentage of cases that ended fatally, are given in the next table for periods back to 1890 :---

			Annual Cas	es Reported.	Annual	Deaths.	Dooths not	
	Period.		Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	100 reported Cases.	
						-		
1890-94	••	••	2,932	253.9	381	33.0	13.0	
1895-99	••	••	3,397	288.4	355	30.1	10.4	
1900-04	••	••	2,152	178.1	213	17.6	8.9	
1905-09			1,569	125.4	135	10.8	8.6	
1910-14		••	1,374	101.0	107	7.8	7.8	
1915-19		• •	563	39.3	60	4.2	10.6	
1920-24			408	25.9	49	3.1	$12 \cdot 1$	
1925			181	10.8	19	1.1	10.5	
1926	••	••	286	16.9	29	1.7	10.1	
					•		-	

TYPHOID FEVER IN VICTORIA, 1890 TO 1926.

The death rate from typhoid fever for Victoria is considerably lower than that for the Commonwealth.

Typhoid lever in the Metropolis. The cases of, and deaths from typhoid fever in proportion to population, in Greater Melbourne, are given in the subjoined table for different periods during the last thirty-seven years :--

TYPHOID FEVER IN THE METROPOLIS, 1890 TO 1926.

· /			Annual Cas	es Reported.	Annual Deaths.			
Period			Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.		
1890-94	890-94		1,645	349.3	205	43.5		
1895-99	4 9		1,510	327.6	156	33.8		
1900-04	••		701	· . 140·0	74	14.8		
1905-09	· • •		466	86.7	49	9.1		
1910-14	••	•••	385	61.4	36	5.8		
1915-19	••		128	18.0	19	2.7		
1920-24			105	13.0	16	2.0		
1925			38	4.2	5	0.6		
1926	••	••	74	8.0	9	1.0		

The cases of, and deaths from typhoid fever in proportion to population declined by 98 and 97 per cent. respectively in Greater Melbourne between 1895-99 and 1926. The introduction and extension of the sewerage system coincide closely with, and in a large measure account for this great improvement.

Prevalence of typhoid fever in different areas.

The number of cases of typhoid fever during each of the last five years in five divisions of the State, and their proportions to the respective populations for the period 1910-19 and the years 1925 and 1926, are given in the following table :---

Area.	Repo	rted Cas	es of Tyl	Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1910–19.	1925.	1926.
Greater Melbourne	80	103	96	38	74	4·1	0.4	0.8
Bendigo and Suburbs Geelong and Suburbs	22 38 7	20 16 3	9 1	9 3	10 2	13.4	0.9	$\frac{3.8}{0.6}$
Rest of the State	154	326	190	 131	193	8.9	$\frac{1}{2} \cdot 0$	3.0

PREVALENCE OF TYPHOID FEVER.

The cases in proportion to population were fewer by 80 per cent. in Greater Melbourne, 72 per cent. in Ballarat, 97 per cent. in Bendigo, 98 per cent. in Geelong, and 66 per cent. in the rest of the State in 1926 than in the period 1910-19.

Death rates The mortality from typhoid fever is higher at early from typhoid adult and middle ages than at other periods of life, and different ages. higher among males than females. This is shown in the next table, which gives the death rates in age groups for each sex in the years 1900-02, 1910-12, and 1920-22, being the years adjoining the censuses of 1901, 1911, and 1921 :--

DEATH RATES FROM TYPHOID FEVER, 1900-02, 1910-12; AND 1920-22.

		Deaths per 10,000 of each Sex.								
• ge Group.			Males.		Females.					
		1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1900-02.	1910–12.	1920-22.			
		0.97	0.38	0.12	1.46	0.44	0.28			
••		2.65	1.76	0.40	$2 \cdot 23$	1.22	0.46			
••	••	4.39	1.82	0.97	1.84	1.32	0.54			
••	• • '	$3 \cdot 28$	1.71	0.41	2.04	0.82	0.38			
	••	$2 \cdot 25$	1.26	0.45	$1 \cdot 21$	0.68	0.36			
••	••	1.95	0.82	0.54	0.93	0.39	0.20			
••		0.66	0.20	0.42	0.34	0.20	0.16			
ver	••	••	0.10	0.10	0.23	0.19	0.09			
	••	1 · 95	1.00	0.37	1.49	0.69	0.32			
	e Group.	e Group.	re Group. 1900-02. 1950-02. 1950-	$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	$\begin{array}{c c} & & & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & & & \\ \hline & & & &$	$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $	$\begin{array}{c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c $			

The experience of the three census periods mentioned shows that the rate for males exceeds that for females by 33 per cent., and that the heaviest mortality occurs between the ages 15 and 35. It is notable that at each census period there were proportionately fewer deaths of boys than of girls under the age of 15.

Small-pox— Persons suffering from small-pox have arrived at **Deaths from**. Victorian ports on many occasions, but, as they were at once quarantined, the disease never spread among the people of the State. During the years 1853 to 1926 only 31 deaths occurred from this cause, and of that number only 8 took place in the last forty-two years of the period.

Measles. Although the mortality from measles has varied very considerably from period to period, there has been no very severe epidemic outbreak since 1898, when 671 deaths resulted from the disease. In 1926 there were 14 deaths attributed to this cause, representing a rate of 8 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 26 in 1925, 4 in 1924, 48 in 1923, 6 in 1922, 4 in 1921, 146 in 1920, 17 in 1919, 5 in 1918, and 11 in 1917.

On the average of the five years 1919 to 1923, 53 per cent. of those who died from the disease were under 2 years of age and 75 per cent. were under 5 years. The incidence of mortality at various ages for each sex for the period 1919-23 was as follows :—

		Annual Deaths from Measles per 10,000 of each Sex aged-											
Sex.	0 to 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 and over.	All Ages.			
Males Females	4·17 2·34	7·64 7·87	$2.83 \\ 2.35$	1.69 1.50	0·87 0·52	0·75 0·57	0·06 0·23	0.06 0.03	0·02 0·06	0·46 0·40			

Scarlet fever. In 1926 the deaths from scarlet fever numbered 15, which corresponded to a rate of 9 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 10 in 1925, 13 in 1924, 11 in 1923, 8 in 1922, 12 in 1921, 24 in 1920, and 34 in 1890-92. During 1926 there were 1,151 cases reported, as against 1,345 in 1925, 2,356 in 1924, 1,730 in 1923, and 1,972 in 1922. For the five years mentioned the deaths were equal to one per cent. of the cases. According to the experience of the last ten years the chance of dying from the disease is 62 per cent. greater for females than for males.

Whooping cough. Whooping cough was responsible for 121 deaths in 1926, which equalled a rate of 71 per million of the population at all ages, as compared with rates of 27 in 1925, 160 in 1924, 12 in 1923, 26 in 1922, 63 in 1921, 125 in 1920, 24 in 1919, 47 in 1918, and 51 in 1917. The infantile death rate

is more affected than the general rate by this ailment, as it is practically confined to children. In the year under review 83 of the deaths were of infants under 1 year, and all of the deaths were of children less than 5 years of age. On the average of the last ten years the mortality rate from the disease was 25 per cent. higher among females than males.

Diphtheria. The prevalence of diphtheria throughout the State during the last sixteen years was an unsatisfactory feature of the statistics of sickness relating to that period. For the year 1926 the number of cases was 2,471, as against 2,631 in 1925, a yearly average of 5,739 in 1920-24, 4,901 in 1915-19, 4,612 in 1910-14, 1,410 in 1905-09, 1,680 in 1900-04, and 1,584 in 1895-99. On the other hand, a very great reduction took place from period to period in the proportion of cases which ended fatally. The case mortality rate was 2.8 per cent. in 1926, as compared with 4.3 per cent. in 1915-19, 6.3 per cent. in 1905-09, 9.5 per cent. in 1900-04, and 13.9 per cent. in 1895-99.

The appended table shows for the whole State and the metropolis the reported cases of and deaths from diphtheria, and their proportions to the population, also the ratios of deaths to cases for different periods since 1894 :--

·					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
			Annua! Cas	ses Reported.	Annual	Deaths.	Deaths ner
]	Period.		Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	100 Cases Reported.
				VICTORIA.			-
1895-99	••	••]	1,584	134.6	221	18.8	13.9
1900-04	••		1,680	139.0	159	13.2	9.5
1905-09	••		1,410	112.6	89	7.1	6.3
1910-14	•••	••	4,612	339.1	212	15.6	4.6
1915-19	• •		4,901	342.5	209	14.6	4.3
1920-24	••	••	5,739	364.6	179	11.4	3.1
1925	••		2,631	157.4	71	4.2	2.7
1926	••		2,471	145.6	70	4.1	$\overline{2} \cdot 8$
			GREA	ATER MELBOU	JRNE.		
1895-99			748	162.1	113	94.6	15.1
1900-04	••		686	136.9	58	11.6	8.5
1905-09			758	140.8	46	8.5	6.1
1910-14	••		2.343	374.3	114	18.3	4.0
1915-19	••		2.864	402.6	127	17.9	4.4
1920-24	••		2,555	314.6	78	9.7	3.1
1925	••		1.567	174.3	41	4.6	0 I 9 G
1926			1.461	157.4	$\hat{37}$	4.0	2.0

DIPHTHERIA IN VICTORIA AND GREATER MELBOURNE, 1895 TO 1926.

Prevalence of The cases of diphtheria which occurred in five divisions diphtheria in of the State in each of the last five years and their propordifferent areas. tions to the respective populations, for the period 1910-19 and the years 1925 and 1926, are given in the subjoined table :---

Area.	Rep	orted Cas	ses of Di	Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.				
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	19 26.	1910-19.	1925.	1926.
Greater Melbourne Ballarat and Suburbs Bendigo and Suburbs Geelong and Suburbs Rest of the State	2,213 111 215 200 2,584	1,900 90 91 98 1,288	$2,239 \\ 54 \\ 108 \\ 127 \\ 1,459$	1,567 36 85 133 810	1,461 4 3 35 167 765	$39 \cdot 3$ $24 \cdot 3$ $84 \cdot 6$ $43 \cdot 4$ $25 \cdot 7$	$17 \cdot 4 \\ 8 \cdot 8 \\ 25 \cdot 2 \\ 34 \cdot 0 \\ 12 \cdot 3$	$ \begin{array}{r} 15 \cdot 7 \\ 10 \cdot 3 \\ 10 \cdot 4 \\ 40 \cdot 9 \\ 11 \cdot 7 \end{array} $

CASES OF DIPHTHERIA IN DIFFERENT AREAS.

In 1926, the cases in each division of the State, except Ballarat and suburbs and Geelong and suburbs, were fewer than in the preceding year.

Death raies Of the 488 males and 506 females who died from from diphtheria diphtheria during the five years 1919-23, 521, or 53 per at various ages. cent., were under 5 years, and 850, or 86 per cent., were under 10 years of age. The incidence of mortality for each sex at different ages, for the period mentioned, was as follows :---

DEATH RATES FROM DIPHTHERIA AT DIFFERENT AGES, 1919–23.

	Annual Deaths from Diphtheria per 10,000 of each Sex aged-											
Sex.	0 to 1.	1 to 2.	2 to 3.	3 to 4.	4 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 and over.	All Ages.		
Males Females	$5.08 \\ 3.86$	9·09 6·65	$9 \cdot 28 \\ 6 \cdot 09$	7·67 .6·56	$6 \cdot 23 \\ 7 \cdot 10$	$3.67 \\ 4.91$	0·83 0·96	$\begin{array}{c} 0\cdot 33\\ 0\cdot 62 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 0.07 \\ 0.13 \end{array}$	1·29 1·30		

Influenza. The deaths from influenza in 1926 numbered 200, which corresponded to a rate of 118 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 41 in 1925, 104 in 1924, 248 in 1923, 46 in 1922, 88 in 1921, 52 in 1920, 2,407 in 1919, 148 in 1918, 71 in 1913–17, 109 in 1908–12, and 381 in 1890–92.

In 1926, 61.5 per cent. of the deaths recorded were associated with specified pneumonic complications.

With the exception of the 1919 epidemic, when 72 per cent. of the deaths were of persons between 20 and 50 years of age, influenza has always proved more fatal to elderly people than to those at middle or young ages.

The next table gives the death rate per 10,000 of each sex in age groups for the last five census periods:----

·									The second second second
		Age Group.			1880-82.	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
		Males.							
0 - 15		•••			·34	2.50	1.10	•40	.93
15 - 20	•••				·07	•64	· 34	•24	.30
20 - 25						$1 \cdot 20$	· 59	-91	-38
25 - 35					·07	1.50	79	.17	-27
35 - 45	•••					3.04	1.31	-59	-56
45 - 55					·24	5.12	3.20	.73	.92
55 - 65					$\cdot 24$	12.65	5.25	2.38	1.44
65 and up	wards		•••	•••	2.36	$27 \cdot 13$	17.02	12.27	4.18
All age	8				· 25	3.94	2.30	1.10	- <u></u> 65
		Females.		•		-	[
0 - 15					• 34	1.86	1.15	•42	$\cdot 25$
15 - 20						· 92	.83	-34	-26
20 - 25				·		1.28	· 69	.35	· 35
25 - 35					·07	2.35	· 89	.22	45
3545					· 08	4.11	1.86	.30	• 46
45—5 5						5.39	2.02	.68	· 68
5565					·62	11.46	5.53	1.61	- 91
65 and up	owards	••••	•••		3.18	35.22	16.02	12.80	3.86
All age	ŝ	•••			•24	3.72	2.13	1.10	·60

DEATHS FROM INFLUENZA IN VICTORIA PER 10,000 OF EACH SEX.

Influenza epidemic, 1919.

Acute

Anterior

Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis). Information in regard to the epidemic of 1919 is given in the Year-Book for 1918-19, pages 214-216; and in the 1919-20 issue, pages 180-182.

Opinions have been expressed by members of the medical profession that the name "infantile paralysis" as applied to "acute anterior poliomyelitis" is misleading, for adults are attacked and paralysis is not a constant symptom, consequently, deaths occurring from this disease

are now indicated by the medical nomenclature.

Mortality returns show that acute anterior poliomyelitis was responsible for 8 deaths in 1926, 25 in 1925, 4 in 1924, 4 in 1923, and 8 in 1922. Of the above 49 deaths, 28 were of males and 21 were of females; 2 were under 1 year of age, 19 were between 1 and 5 years, 10 were between 5 and 10 years, and 18 were over 10 years.

Cerebro-spinal, tubercular, and simple meningitis. Cerebro-spinal meningitis was responsible for 19 deaths in 1926, 28 in 1925, 33 in 1924, 13 in 1923, 12 in 1922, 17 in 1921, 15 in 1920, 14 in 1919, 37 in 1918, 75 in 1917, 326 in 1916, and 338 in 1915. The cases reported to the Public Health

Department in those years numbered 1,782, and the proportion of these that ended fatally was 52 per cent. The numbers of deaths from

cerebro-spinal, tubercular, and simple meningitis during the last thirteen years were as follows :---

Y	Year.	Cerebr Meni	o-spinal ngitis.	Tube Meni	rcular ngitis.	Sin Meni	ıple ngitis.	Total—All Forms of Meningitis.		
	÷.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
1914		12	5	42	30	90	63	144	98	
1915		239	99	35	35	74	46	348	180	
1916	•••	191	135	29	40	56	39	276	214	
1917	•••	48	27	56	41	37	35	141	103	
1918		28	9	55	40	39	35	122	84	
1919		7	7	38	24	33	29	78	60	
1920	•••	12	3	49	34	46	35	107	72	
1921		8	9	42	44	62	37	112	90	
1922	•••	- 9	3	30	28	67	40	106	71	
1923		- 7	6	32	34	64	43	103	83	
1924	•	19	14	47	32	47	29	113	75	
1925		16	12	38	39	39	25	93	76	
1926	••	14	5	36	29	42	25	92	59	
		- ·	1		4		1	1	I	

DEATHS FROM DIFFERENT FORMS OF MENINGITIS, 1914-26.

Deaths from Th phthisis at tuberc various ages.

The ages and sexes of those who died from pulmonary tuberculosis in each of the last five years are given in the next table :—

DEATHS FROM PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS AT VARIOUS AGES.

			Males.			Females.					
Age Group.			Year.			Year.					
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1923.	1923.	1924.	L 92 5.	1926.	
0-10	6	4	2	4	3	5	3	3	5	ł	
10-15	2		1	1	2	4	11	6	9	1	
15-20	20	20	20	11	18	34	42	43	48	35	
2025	44	54	53	46	33	69	64	69	66	74	
25-30	59	67	62	60	45	57	77	67	71	53	
30-35	53	61	60	56	53	71	51	59	50	66	
35-40	47	63	66	75	61	45	53	-39	41	41	
40-45	55	84	60	55	63	41	35	28	26	42	
45-50	42	5	47	43	57	27	31	21	22	39	
50-55	49	42	57	62	38	17	13	29	25	23	
55-60	43	38	49	49	46	16	25	24	10	23	
60-65	35	44	35	37	41	6	16	15	13	- 11	
65-70	20	19	18	21	26	7	8	4	9	8	
70 and over	6	ii	17	13	16	7	10	- 7	9	5	
Total	481	558	546	533	502	406	439	414	404	422	

For the year 1926, the average age of those who died from phthisis was 43.7 years for males and 36.1 years for females.

The deaths from phthisis in 1926 numbered 924-502 **Death rates from phthisis.** being of males and 422 of females—and equalled a rate of 545 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 561 in 1925, 585 in 1924, 620 in 1923, 565 in 1922, 667 in 1921, 658 in 1920, 739 in 1919, 701 in 1918, 677 in 1917, 743 in 1916, 661 in 1915, 724 in 1914, 755 in 1913, 855 in 1908-12, and 1,365 in 1890-92. In England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Free State in 1925, the deaths from this cause were 833, 763, 1,251 and 1,229 per million of their respective populations. The rates for Victoria are more fully shown in the following table, which gives the mortality per

DEATH RATES IN VICTORIA FROM PHTHISIS IN AGE GROUPS AT SIX CENSUS PERIODS.

10,000 of each sex, in age groups, at six census periods :---

	Age Group.		Ann	ual Mortal	ity from P Se	hthisis per x.	10,000 of	each
			1870-72.	1880-82.	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-12.	
	Males.		1					
0 to 15	•••		1.52	1.74	· 90	· 38	.46	•42
15 // 20			5.71	6.88	5.41	5 06	3.71	2.67
20 // 25	•••		18.75	21.19	18.29	14.35	8.45	7.88
25 N 35			22 · 21	30.33	23.70	20.31	13.11	9.70
35 // 45			21.83	25.11	28.28	22.07	15.63	12.43
45 # 55	•••		22.24	28.65	31.17	25.05	18.07	13.94
55 / 65			27 . 86	31.41	36.48	35.75	18.88	13.03
65 and u	pwards		19.56	18.08	25.40	31.07	13.55	8.62
	All Ages	•••	12.89	15.33	15.73	13.21	8.98	7.11
	Females.			1			1	
0 to 15			· 98	1.76	1.43	· 93	¹ 97	· 38
15 // 20			12.37	12.50	9.51	8.18	7.62	4.84
20 // 25	•••		19.28	21.00	18.49	12.79	12.68	10.20
25 // 3.5			22·02	26.56	21.77	18.12	14.03	10.00
35 // 45			21.65	24 06	22.53	17.74	11.21	9 ·15
45 // 55			19.60	20.72	16.13	14.41	8.18	5.91
55 // 65	•••		10.21	14.26	12.35	12.52	7.47	4.95
65 and up	pwards		12.61	13.12	8 25	8.18	5.29	3.94
	All Ages		10.62	12.75	11.21	9.72	7.61	5 •55

A comparison of the mortalities from pulmonary tuberculosis at the census periods 1910-12 and 1920-22 shows that lower death rates obtained in each age group in 1920-22 than in 1910-12, and that the improvement was greater among females than males. By

combining the death rates from pulmonary tuberculosis, as shown above, with those from other forms of tubercular disease, given in a subsequent page, it appears that every section of the community experienced relief from tubercular diseases in 1920-22 as compared with the previous census period.

Tubercular death rates in Melbourne, Ballarat, and Bendigo.

The distribution of tuberculous mortality shows that certain urban centres-particularly Bendigo and suburbs --furnish considerably higher death rates than the rura portions of the State. The tubercular death rate among miners is considerably in excess of that among farmers and graziers, and, as the residents of Bendigo and suburbs are largely engaged in mining occupations, while most persons living in rural districts are associated with the farming and grazing industries, the distribution of callings accounts in a large measure for the disparity in the mortality rates from this cause in the divisions of the State On the average of the last five years the tubercular death referred to.

rate of Bendigo exceeded the rates of Ballarat and Melbourne by 73 and 68 per cent. respectively. The rates in these localities from phthisis and other tubercular diseases are given in the appended table tor the periods 1891-1900, 1901-05, 1906-10, 1911-15, 1916-20, 1921-25, and 1926 :---

DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULAR DISEASES IN MELBOURNE, BALLARAT, AND BENDIGO, 1891 TO 1926.

				Deaths	per 10,0	00 of the	Populat	tion.		
		P	hthisis.		Othe	er Tuberc Diseases.	All	Tubercu Diseases.	llar	
Period.		Melbourne and Suburbs.	Ballarat and Suburbs.	Bendigo and Suburbs.	Melbourne and Suburbs.	Ballarat and Suburbs.	Bendigo and Suburbs.	Melbourne and Suburbs.	Ballarat and Suburbs.	Bendigo and Suburbs.
1891–1900 1901–05 1906–10 1911–15 1916–20 1921–25 1926	•••	$ \begin{array}{r} 16 \cdot 7 \\ 13 \cdot 9 \\ 10 \cdot 8 \\ 9 \cdot 1 \\ 8 \cdot 3 \\ 6 \cdot 9 \\ 5 \cdot 9 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} 17 \cdot 1 \\ 15 \cdot 3 \\ 11 \cdot 5 \\ 10 \cdot 3 \\ 11 \cdot 2 \\ 6 \cdot 7 \\ 6 \cdot 7 \\ 6 \cdot 7 \\ \end{array} $	$\begin{array}{c} 24 \cdot 1 \\ 22 \cdot 7 \\ 21 \cdot 2 \\ 16 \cdot 5 \\ 16 \cdot 0 \\ 11 \cdot 9 \\ 10 \cdot 1 \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{c} 4 \cdot 7 \\ 4 \cdot 2 \\ 3 \cdot 0 \\ 2 \cdot 1 \\ 1 \cdot 9 \\ 1 \cdot 5 \\ \cdot 9 \end{array}$	3.5 4.0 2.1 2.2 1.5 1.0 .5	$ \begin{array}{r} 4 \cdot 0 \\ 4 \cdot 7 \\ 2 \cdot 0 \\ 2 \cdot 1 \\ 2 \cdot 0 \\ 2 \cdot 2 \\ \cdot 3 \end{array} $	$21 \cdot 4 \\ 18 \cdot 1 \\ 13 \cdot 8 \\ 11 \cdot 2 \\ 10 \cdot 2 \\ 8 \cdot 4 \\ 6 \cdot 8$	$20.6 \\ 19.3 \\ 13.6 \\ 12.5 \\ 12.7 \\ 7.7 \\ 7.2$	$28 \cdot 1 \\ 27 \cdot 4 \\ 23 \cdot 2 \\ 18 \cdot 6 \\ 18 \cdot 0 \\ 14 \cdot 1 \\ 10 \cdot 4$

Prevalence of phthisis in different areas. Relatively to population cases of pulmonary tuberculosis are fewer in country districts than in urban areas. The cases reported during each of the last five years in five divisions of the State, and their proportions to the popula-

tions of these divisions for the period 1910-19 and the years 1925 and 1926 are given in the subjoined table :---

Area.	Reporte	d Cases o	f Pulmor	ary Tub	erculosis.	Anr pe of F	es))n.	
	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1910–19.	1925.	1926.
Greater Melbourne	783	750	716	688	625	13.9	7.7	6.7
Ballarat and Suburbs	31	27	20	34	35	12.8	8.3	8.4
Bendigo and Suburbs	52	47	48	52	53	18.0	$15 \cdot 4$	15.8
Geelong and Suburbs	10	19	24	24	21	7.9	$6 \cdot 1$	5.1
Rest of the State	282	245	252	266	269	5.8	4 ·0	4.1
Whole State	1,158	1,088	1,060	1,064	1,003	10.4	6.4	5.9

PHTHISIS IN DIFFERENT AREAS.

Tubercular diseases (phthisis excepted). In 1926 there were in Victoria 143 deaths from tubercular diseases (excluding phthisis), which corresponded to a rate of 84 per million, as compared with rates of 97 in 1925, 127 in

1924, 123 in 1923, 120 in 1922, 137 in 1921, 145 in 1920, 126 in 1919, 144 in 1918, 163 in 1917, 136 in 1916, 135 in 1915, 140 in 1914, 156 in 1913, 182 in 1908–12, and 379 in 1890–92. In England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Free State, in 1925, the deaths from similar causes numbered 205, 338, 422, and 337 per million of their respective populations. The death rates in Victoria for various age groups are shown in the following table for five census periods :--

Law Group		Deaths p	er 10,000 of each	Sex.	
Age Group.	1880-82.	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-1 2.	1920-22.
Males				-	
0-15	7.98	10.36	5.64	2.75	2.00
15—20	·81	1.17	1.12	1.12	·83
20-25	1.23	•89	1.77	1.23	1.55
25-35	·6 6	·84	1.91	• 1.71	1.61
35-45	-88	•77	1.39	`	1.12
4555	.85	•67	1.64	·82	1.17
55-65	1 07	:78	2:40	1 29	1.06
65 and over	2.36	•56	1.17	•59	1.07
All ages	3.55	4 02	2.99	1.70	1.48
Females.					
0-15	7.28	8.43	5.33	2.12	1.57
15—20	1.30	1.27	1.95	2.34	1.13
20-25	.69	1.23	2.09	2.59	1.73
25-35	•41	-88	1.98	1.81	1.18
35-45		•42	1.77	1.33	-78
4555	•67	•34	1.01	·93	1.01
55-65	·62	•69	-71	1.11	.70
$65\mathrm{and}\mathrm{over}$	1.19	•64	•71	-29	-86
All ages	3.39	3.58	2.91	1.76	1.21

DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULAR DISEASES (PHTHISIS EXCEPTED) IN AGE GROUPS.

As compared with the period 1910-12 the proportion of persons under 15 years of age who died from tubercular diseases (excluding phthisis) during 1920-22 represented a decline of 27 per cent. for males and of 26 per cent. for females.

Tubercular death rate in Victoria is but slightly affected by the arrival from beyond Australia of persons suffering from tubercular diseases. Only five of those who died in 1926 had been born outside and resident less than one year in Australia, and 27 had resided in the continent for a shorter period than five years.

Cancer— Deaths at various ages, The numbers dying from cancer in different age groups in each of the last five years are given below :---

				Males.					Females	i .	
Age Group.		1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.	1922.	1923.	1924.	1925.	1926.
$0-15 \dots 15-25 \dots 25-35 \dots 25$	•••	$\begin{bmatrix} 6\\7\\12\\01\end{bmatrix}$	3 3 12 22	5 9 9	6 9 14	$\begin{array}{c} 7\\ 3\\ 12 \end{array}$	2 3 14	3 7 12	1 5 15	$\begin{array}{r} 6\\ 2\\ 16\end{array}$	6 4 21
35-45 45-55 55-65	••	$ \begin{array}{r} 31 \\ 105 \\ 278 \\ 278 \\ \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} 38 \\ 110 \\ 252 \\ 252 \end{array} $	$\begin{array}{r} 44\\127\\263\end{array}$	42 108 258	$25 \\ 117 \\ 266$	75 173 224	73 193 236	$\begin{array}{c} 67 \\ 159 \\ 228 \end{array}$	87 151 2 3 8	93 162 235
65–75 75–85 85 and over	• • • • • •	219 103 21	$238 \\ 83 \\ 25$	$245 \\ 106 \\ 17$	$\begin{array}{c} 249\\95\\18\end{array}$	$276 \\ 124 \\ 24$	164 97 32	210 109 21	$204 \\ 103 \\ 33$	203 119 14	226 104 15
Total	••	782	764	825	799	854	784	864	815	836	866

DEATHS FROM CANCER AT VARIOUS AGES.

The widely different social and economic effects produced by the prevalence of and deaths from the two important diseases, cancer and phthisis, are evidenced by the ages of their victims. For the year 1926 the average age of those who died from cancer was $64 \cdot 0$ years for males and $60 \cdot 3$ years for females, while the corresponding averages for phthisis were $43 \cdot 7$ years for males and $36 \cdot 1$ years for females.

Deaths from cancer in 1926 numbered 1,720, and repre-Cancer-Deaths rates. Sented a death rate of 1,014 per million of the whole population, as compared with rates of 978 in 1925, 999 in 1924, 1,013 in 1923, 997 in 1922, 954 in 1921, 908 in 1920, 870 in 1919, 942 in 1918, 925 in 1917, 921 in 1916, 812 in 1915, 830 in 1914, 838 in 1913, 833 in 1908-12, and 584 in 1890-92. In England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Irish Free State, in 1925, the deaths per million of population from this cause were 1,336, 1364, 1,153, and 939 respectively.

Cancer — Death Rates at different ages. Cancer death rates, computed in relation to the general population in earlier and later periods, are not fairly comparable owing to the changed age distribution of the people. A more accurate mortality rate is obtained by com-

paring the deaths with the number of persons in the community of the same sex, in age groups. This has been done for four census periods, when the numbers of the people in age groups were accurately known, and the results are given in the appended table :---

	De	eaths from Cancer pe	r 10,000 of each Sex.	
Age Group.	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.
Males.				
Under 5	·18	- 30	•73	·46
5 to 10	.10	•42	·25	• 13
10 // 15	-11	20	·1ő	14
15 // 20	•17	·22	15	· 30
20 // 25	$\cdot 32$	• 33	71	·64
25 // 35	·81	1.26	• 96	.76
35 // 45	4 29	3.69	3.16	3.31
5 / 55	14 83	14.14	16.03	13.94
55 / 65	$31 \cdot 92$	36.00	36 36	40 · 46
35 / 75	52.75	59.04	74.15	$78 \cdot 21$
5 and over	58.55	74 04	88.40	110.12
All ages	6.16	7 · 52	8.50	9.52
Females.				: .
Under 5	• 09	•26	• 19	. 39
5 to 10	·10	•04	·10	• 17
0 " 15	·06		• 27	·05
5 " 20	·12	28	:44	$\cdot 15$
20 // 25]	· 22	23	•41	$\cdot 30$
25 // 35	1.68	1.61	1 39	1.28
35 // 45	7.43	6.02	7.26	6.61
45 # 55	18.00	18.13	17.87	1 9·14
55 / 65	$31 \cdot 79$	33.05	38.03	$34 \cdot 48$
35 <i>n</i> 75	$53 \cdot 96$	51.18	61 · 66	63.02
5 and over	49.55	62.70	86·19	92.86
All ages	5.57	6.64	* 8·76	9.63

DEATH RATES FROM CANCER IN AGE GROUPS.

Deaths from cancer occur at all age periods, but the rates in the foregoing table show that it is essentially a disease of later life, increasing rapidly in the groups past middle age, and reaching a maximum mortality rate in the oldest age group. From the figures for the periods 1910-12 and 1920-22 it will be seen that there was in the later period a considerable increase in the death rate from cancer.

Beat of Cancer. The following table shows the seat of cancer in persons who died from this disease in 1926 :---

	Seat of Disease.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Cancer o	f the buccal cavity (mouth, &c.)	79	9	79
,,	the stomach and liver	355	239	594
,,	the peritoneum, the intestines.			
	and the rectum	137	134	271
"	the female genital organs		158	158
,,	the breast		162	162
,,	the skin	41	24	65
,,	other and unspecified organs	251	140	391
	Total Deaths	854	866	1.720

SEAT OF CANCER.

Thirty-five per cent. of the persons who died from cancer were affected in the stomach or liver. Of the females who died from the disease 37 per cent. were affected in the genital organs or the breast.

Diabetes. During 1926 diabetes was responsible for 77 male and 108 female deaths, representing a rate of 109 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 107 in 1925, 133 in 1924, 98 in 1923, 110 in 1922, 136 in 1921, 126 in 1920, 134 in 1919, 146 in 1918, 120 in 1917, and 107 in 1908–12. The deaths from diabetes per 10,000 of each sex in nine age groups, for the periods 1900–02, 1910–12, and 1920–22, are shown in the subjoined table :---

DEATHS FROM DIABETES PER 10,000 OF EACH SEX.

				De	Deaths per 10,000 of each Sex.							
	Age Group,			Males								
	·		190002.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.				
0-10		••••	· 09	·10	·13	·05	·15	$\cdot 22$				
10-20	•••	·	$\cdot 24$	$\cdot 20$	•31	·26	•36	· 39				
20~30		•••	•17	•64	•48	•36	•30	•53				
30-40	•••		•32	•58	•45	•51	•53	•54				
40-50	•••	••••	•49	1.11	$\cdot 95$	·42	•78	1.11				
50-60	•••		1.38	1.80	2.14	1.42	3.18	2.79				
6070			2.67	5.63	5.19	3.19	8.47	8.02				
70-80			4.36	7.34	7.37	5.01	11.54	12.51				
80 and	over	•••	4.11	7 • 43	8.42	3.54	6.83	6.02				
	All Ages		•56	1.00	1.03	· 60	1.26	1.45				

In 1920-22 the female exceeded the male rate for each age group between 40 and 80, the excess for the twenty years of life 60 to 80 amounting to 61 per cent. For all ages combined the rate for females was 41 per cent. higher than that for males.

Anæmia, chlorosis, loucæmia. Anæmia, chlorosis, and leucæmia were responsible for 167 deaths in 1926, which corresponded to a rate of 98 per million of the population, as against rates of 104 in 1925, 97 in 1924, 118 in 1923, 85 in 1922, 104 in 1921, 90 in 1920, 93 in 1919, 90 in 1918, 97 in 1917, and 81 in 1908–12. Of the 47 persons who died from leucæmia in 1926, 30 were males.

Diseases of the spine. In 1926 locomotor ataxia and other diseases of the spine, excluding acute anterior poliomyelitis, accounted for 36 male and 31 female deaths, representing a death rate of 39 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 29 in 1925, 55 in 1924, 49 in 1923, 38 in 1922, 52 in 1921, 45 in 1920, 78 in 1919, 88 in 1918, 58 in 1917, and 71 in 1908–12. Of the 12 persons who died from locomotor ataxia in 1926, 10 were males.

Heart disease. During 1926 there were 1,905 deaths ascribed to organic heart disease, 13 to pericarditis, 83 to endocarditis and myocarditis, and 129 to angina pectoris. The deaths of persons, over 45 years of age, from endocarditis and myocarditis, are now ascribed to organic heart disease. The total—2,130—from these causes represented a rate of 1,255 per million of the population, as compared with 1,384 in 1925, 1,364 in 1924, 1,423 in 1923, 1,245 in 1922, 1,267 in 1921, 1,287 in 1920, 1,402 in 1919, 1,400 in 1918, 1,442 in 1917, and 1,441 in 1908–12. Of the 2,130 persons who died from these diseases in 1926, only 40, or 1 ·9 per cent., were under 15 years of age. On the average of the three years 1920 to 1922 the deaths from all forms of heart disease per 10,000 of each sex, in age groups, were as follows :—

Sex				Death	s per 10	000 Per	sons ageo	i		75 and All apwards. Ages.						
	0-15.	15-20.	20-25.	25-35.	35-45.	45-55.	55-65.	65-75.	75 and upwards.	All Ages.						
Males Females	$1.52 \\ 1.15$	$\frac{1 \cdot 92}{1 \cdot 85}$	2·04 1·53	$2.64 \\ 3.25$	$5.40 \\ 5.26$	14-52 10-73	40 · 62 29 · 53	112·20 85·65	247·10 208·17	13·74 11·70						

DEATH RATES FROM HEART DISEASE AT VARIOUS AGES, 1920–22.

The figures indicate that the mortality rate from heart disease is a function of age, and that it attains its maximum at the oldest age. Of the deaths of persons aged 75 and upwards, approximately 1 in 5 is due to some form of this disease.

In 1926 the deaths from respiratory diseases numbered Respiratory 1,752, which represented a rate of 1,033 per million of the diseases. population, as compared with rates of 887 in 1925, 1,143 in 1924, 1,441 in 1923, 1,195 in 1922, 1,141 in 1921, 1,329 in 1920, 1,430 in 1919, 1,160 in 1918, and 1,094 in 1917. Of the deaths from complaints of this nature in the year under review, 49 were referred to acute bronchitis, 111 to chronic bronchitis, 128 to bronchitis unspecified, 522 to broncho-pneumonia, 620 to pneumonia, 51 to pleurisy, and 34 to asthma. These six diseases accounted for 86 per cent. of the total respiratory mortality. The seasonal incidence of these maladies is evidenced by the deaths in May, June, July, August, and September, which represented 55 per cent. of the total for the whole year. Respiratory diseases are much more fatal at the extremes of life than at middle ages, and among males than females. This is shown in the appended table, which gives for each sex the death rates relating to groups of ages at five census periods :---

DEATHS FROM RESPIRATORY DISEASES PER 10,000 OF EACH SEX.

		Age Group.			1880-82.	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22
					·				
		Males.							
0-15	·•.				29.02	28.52	16.53	12.94	10.25
15 - 20	••••				3.30	2.92	2.70	1.66	1.76
20 - 25					5.34	4.88	4.85	2.35	2.73
25 - 35	•••		• • •		8.31	6.85	5.94	3.86	3.71
35 - 45					15.80	13.55	9.49	10.50	8.01
4555					26.59	25.18	18.04	18.25	15.69
55 - 65	•••				51.65	56.51	38.37	32.68	30.42
65 and up	wards	s	•••		136.54	141.07	112.38	138.87	112.17
All ages	š	,	•••		24.48	24.30	18.66	17.17	14.42
		Females.							
0-15					94.18	94.12	19.95	10.50	8.54
15 - 20		•••	•••		2.02	2.50	10 00	1.56	0.94
2025			• •		4.92	3.05	2.04	2.48	1.70
25 - 35					5.79	5.65	2.75	2.55	2.05
35 - 45					19.52	11.55	7.69	5.95	4.00
45-55		•••	•••		12.62	17:01	11.90	9.00	-2.71
5565		• •			20.15	22.10	07.40	16.64	12.50
65 and up	wards	••••	••••	· · · ·	116.12	112.38	86.78	99.81	86.51
All ages		••••		· •••	17.08	17.62	13.28	11.81	10.15

The mortality from respiratory diseases at all ages combined was less in the period 1920-22 than in any of the four previous census periods. At each census date the male exceeded the female rate, the average excess for the five census periods being 42 per cent.

In 1926 there were 746 male and 574 female deaths **Diseases** of from digestive ailments, representing a proportion of 778 the digestive system. per million of the population, as against rates of 823 in 1925, 778 in 1924, 914 in 1923, 796 in 1922, 1,095 in 1921, 1,147 in 1920, 978 in 1919, 1,030 in 1918, 884 in 1917, and 2,382 in 1890-92. Diarrhœal diseases were responsible for 564 deaths, which were equivalent to a rate of 332 per million of population. the corresponding rates in previous periods being 376 in 1925, 354 in 1924, 480 in 1923, 358 in 1922, 657 in 1921, 639 in 1920, 501 in 1919, 504 in 1918, 408 in 1917, 833 in 1908-12, and 1,342 in 1890-92. The age incidence of these diseases shows that they are heaviest at the extremes of life. Of the 564 deaths from diarrhœal diseases in the year under review, 408, or 72 per cent., were of children under 2 years of age, and 85, or about 15 per cent., were of persons over 65 years of age. There were 61 male and 24 female deaths from cirrhosis of the liver, 45 male and 68 female deaths from other affections of that organ (including hydatids), and 97 male and 79 female deaths from hernia and intestinal obstruction.

The deaths from appendicitis numbered 126 in 1926, Appendicitis, which represented a death rate of 74 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 67 in 1925, 75 in 1924, 70 in 1923, 67 in 1922, 57 in 1921, 63 in 1920, 61 in 1919, 66 in 1918, and 62 in 1917. Hospital records show that during the year ended 30th June, 1926, there were 3,056 cases treated, and that 55, or 1.8 per cent., ended fatally, as compared with fatality rates of 1.9 per cent. in 1925, 3.3 per cent. in 1924, 2.1 per cent. in 1923, 2.6 per cent. in 1922, 2.2 per cent. in 1921, 2.7 per cent. in 1920, 3.3 per cent. in 1919, 3.0 per cent. in 1918, 2.5 per cent. in 1917, 4.1 per cent. in 1916, 5.3 per cent. in 1915, and 6 per cent. in the period 1908-12. According to the experience of the three years 1920 to 1922 the death rate from appendicitis is approximately 63 per cent. higher among males than females. The mortality rates at various ages for that period were as follows :---

		De	eaths from	n Appen	licitis pe	r 10,000	of each S	Sex aged	÷ .	
Sex.	Under 10.	10 to 15.	15 to 20.	20 to 25.	25 to 35.	35 to 45.	45 to 55.	55 to 65.	65 and over.	All Ages.
Males	0.31	0.87	1.31	0.86	0.74	1.08	0.79	0.82	0.68	0.78
Females	0.30	0.66	0.21	0.59	0.23	0.26	0.40	0.32	0.69	0.48

DEATH RATES FROM APPENDICITIS, 1920-22.

Hydatids. The deaths attributed to hydatids in 1926 numbered 11, being equivalent to a rate of 6 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 11 in 1925, 10 in 1924 and 1923, 13 in 1922, 14 in 1921, 13 in 1920, 18 in 1919, 21 in 1918, 14 in 1917, 22 in 1908–12, and 51 in 1890–92. According to the experience of the last ten years the death rate from this disease is 43 per cent. higher among males than females. Hospital returns for the period 1917–26 show that 639 cases of hydatids were treated therein and that 89, or, approximately, 1 in every 7, ended fatally.

Diseases of urinary system. In 1926 there were 1,148 deaths attributed to diseases of the urinary system, which corresponded to a rate of 677 per million of the population, as against rates of 627 in 1925,

626 in 1924, 628 in 1923, 624 in 1922, 643 in 1921, 697 in 1920, 645 in 1919, 741 in 1918, 710 in 1917, and 700 in 1909-12. Acute and chronic nephritis were responsible for 908 deaths, or 79 per cent., and complaints of the bladder and prostate for 127 deaths, or 11 per cent. of the total referred to maladies of the urinary system. The deaths per 10,000 of each sex, in age groups, for the periods 1900-02, 1910-12, and 1920-22 are shown in the following table :---

DEATH RATES FROM DISEASES OF URINARY SYSTEM.

			- N	De	at h s per 10,	000 of each	Sex.		
	Age Group.			Males.			Females.		
			1900–02.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1900-02.	1910–12,	1920-22.	
0-10			·93	•67	· 67	·59	-79	·67	
10-20			·45	•73	· 53	·82	•71	$\cdot 52$	
20-30	••••		1.83	1.72	1.23	1.59	1.61	1.72	
3 0 4 0	••••		3.55	3.03	2.66	4.21	3.76	2.89	
40-50			8.12	9.03	6.23	7.26	7.07	5.27	
50-60			17.43	18.95	14.59	11.36	13.81	10.57	
60-70			39.62	46.63	38.30	21.49	24 • 44	22.04	
7080	•••		80.68	96·18	97·19	$27 \cdot 70$	38.53	40.26	
80 and	over	•••	128.48	$153 \cdot 04$	167.09	$27 \cdot 15$	$43 \cdot 70$	54.38	
I	All Ages		8.05	9.18	8.04	4.28	5.34	5.13	
935	411					7 20	5 34	5.13	

The figures for the latest period show that there is scarcely any difference between the rates for males and females under 50 years For older ages, however, the excess of the male over the of age. female rate is very pronounced, especially at ages 70 and upwards. For all ages the rate for males exceeds that for females by 57 per cent.

The death rate of women in childbed varies considerably at different ages, and is less at younger than at older age periods. The number of deaths of married mothers in childbed, and the death rates in various age groups are shown for the decade 1906-15 and the year 1926 in the following table :---

DEATH RATES OF MARRIED MOTHERS IN CHILDBED IN AGE GROUPS, 1906-1915 AND 1926.

	• .		Married Mothers.						
Age Group.			Deat	hs.	Deaths per 1,000 Confinements.				
			1906–15.	1926.	1906-15.	1926.			
<u></u>						<u> </u>			
Under 20 years	••	••	23	4	2.71	3.39			
20 to 25 "	• •	•••	184	24	2.85	3.48			
25 ,, 30 ,,	••	••	326	45	3.60	4.53			
30 " 35 "	••	••	334	48	4.29	5.78			
35 ,, 40 ,,	••	••	346	40	6.86	7.64			
40 years and over	••	••	156	17	6.90	9.23			

The experience of the ten years 1906--15 showed that for the age period 35 years and upwards the deaths of mothers in childbed were 69 per 10,000, as against 37 per 10,000 for those under 35 years of age. For the same term of years the number of deaths per 1,000 married women of all ages in first confinements was 5.57, as against an average of 4.04 for other confinements.

192

Deaths of married women in

childbed.

Deaths in childbed. The death rate of women in childbed is usually ascertained by comparing the number of deaths of parturient women with the total number of births. The proportions

for each of the last six years, and the averages of previous periods back to 1871 are given below :---

DEATHS OF MOTHERS (MARRIED AND SINGLE) TO EVERY 10,000 CHILDREN BORN ALIVE.

Period.		Number of Mot	Deaths of Mothers		
		Puerperal Diseases or Accidents. (Excluding Sep- ticæmia.)	Puerperal Septicæmia.	Total.	to every 10,000 Children Born Alive.
1871-80	••	127	46	173	64.38
1881-90		121	64	185	59.19
18911900	••	117	66	183	56.01
1901–05		126	58	184	60 • 92
1906-10	· · • •	101	46	147	47.17
1911-15	••	96	58	154	43.55
1916-20	••	91	49	140	41.99
1921	••	105	58	163	45.80
1922	••	91	31	122	33.62
1923	•••	79	29	108	30.11
1924	••	120	56	176	48.70
1925		117	39	156	43 • 43
1926	••	130	64	194	54.86

It will be seen that the death rate of women in childbed fluctuates considerably, and, in 1926, reached a higher rate than had occurred in the last twenty years. Portion of this fluctuation may be ascribed to faulty certification of causes. However, doubtful certifications were noticeably few in 1926, and this result is probably due to the campaign commenced in 1925, now being carried out by Dr. R. Marshall Allan, Director of the Obstetrical Research Committee. The deaths of mothers per 10,000 children born alive were 54.9 in 1926, as compared with 40.3 in 1921-25, 42.0 in 1916-20, 43.5 in 1911-15, 47.2 in 1906-10, and 60.9 in 1901-05.

 Puerperaisepticemia.
 In 1926 there were 64 deaths of married and unmarried mothers from puerperal septicemia, which corresponded to a death rate of 18 ·1 per 10,000 births, as against 10 ·9 in 1925, 15 ·5 in 1924, 8 ·1 in 1923, 8 ·5 in 1922, 16 ·3 in 1921, 17 ·1 in 1920, 12 ·3 in 1919, 13 ·6 in 1918 and 1917, 16 ·1 in 1916, 11 ·4 in 1915, 16 ·8 in 1914, 18 ·1 in 1913, 16 ·0 in 1908–12. and 18 ·1 in 1901–07.

Medical Attendance at Confinement.

With a view to ascertaining the effect of the passing of the Commonwealth Maternity Allowance Act 1912 on the number of mothers who availed themselves of medical attention in confinement, the birth registration records

for the years 1911, 1918, and 1924 have been examined, and the proportions so attended have been ascertained for the metropolitan area, the rest of the State, and the whole State.

MEDICAL ATTENTION OBTAINED AT CONFINEMENTS, PROPORTION OF TOTAL CONFINEMENTS, 1911, 1918, AND 1924.

	Yea	г,		Metropolitan Area.	Rest of the State.	Total State.
1911	••	••	•••	per cent. 73	per cent. 65	per cent. 68
1918	••	••		81	77	79
1924	••	••		87	90	89

NOTE .- Stillbirths and abortions have not been taken into consideration.

The above figures give evidence of the beneficial effects of the Act, especially in the country areas, where the proportion of births medically attended has risen from 65 per cent. in 1911 to 90 per cent. in 1924. It will be observed that, in 1924, the proportion for the Rest of the State exceeded that for the Metropolitan area.

In the three years mentioned there were 11, 12, and 9 births respectively registered where no one was shown as being in attendance at birth, but, in the majority of these cases, the children were foundlings.

Accidental violence.

Death rates from accidental violence have been lower in late years than in earlier periods, a result that is chiefly

due to the lighter mortality rate from accidental drowning, the smaller proportion of the population engaged in country occupations, which are generally of a more hazardous nature than those in towns, and the increasing proportion of females in the community. In 1926, 690 male and 194 female deaths were attributed to accidents and negligence, which represented a rate of 522 per million of the population. This proportion was 15 ·8 per cent. above the average rate—449—for the previous five years, and 35 ·8 per cent. below the rate —811—for 1890–92. The numbers of deaths from various accidents in 1926 are given in the appended table :—

Nature or Plac	e of Accid	Males.	Females.	Total.		
Poisoning by Food	•			3	2	5
Snake Bite	••			3		3
Other Acute Poisonings	••			7	4	11
Conflagration (Bush fire	s. &c.)		. 1	23	5	28
Burns .				38	33	71
Absorption of Poisonou	Gases			10	10	20
Accidental Mechanical	Suffocati	0n		ĩš	4	12
Suffocation in bed (infa	nts)		••	0	1	12
Drowning		••	••	111	20	131
Firearms		••		93	1	97
Falls	••	••	••	61	8	79
In Mines and Quarries	••	••	••	5	0	12
Machines	••	••		10		11
Vehicular Accidenta	••	••	••	240		11
Other Crushings	••	••	••	249	00	309
Injuniog by Animals	••	••	••	23	, <u>1</u>	24
Enjuries by Animals	••	••	••	10	L	1
Enects of fleat	••	••	••	6		Y.,
Excessive Cold	••	••	••	2	••	2
Electricity	••	••	• • •	8		8
Lightning	••	••				• •
Fractures, Unspecified	••	••		37	25	62
Other Violence	••	••	••	50	14	64
Total	••	•		690	194	884

DEATHS FROM ACCIDENTAL VIOLENCE, 1926.

On the average of the last three years the female mortality rate from accidents was about 31 per cent. of the rate for males.

Vehicular Accidents. Note in 1926, deaths from vehicular accidents numbered 309, as against 299 in 1925, 245 in 1924, 201 in 1923, 163 in 1922, 178 in 1921, and 153 in 1920. Motor vehicles were involved in 193 deaths in 1926, as against 174 in 1925, 135 in 1924, 103 in 1923, 65 in 1922, 38 in 1921, and 43 in 1920.

In the following table details are given of deaths due to collisions between various types of conveyances, pedestrians killed, and other fatal accidents in which vehicles were concerned, for the year 1926 :---

Collisions between from vehicles other accidents. Pedestrians killed. Motor omnibus, car, lorry. Railway train. Horse drawn vehicle. cycle. Females. Bicycle. Motor c Males. Total. Total. Fall i 3 2047*7 $\mathbf{74}$ 57 17 Railway train 15 1 ·l • • 11 1 17 13 4 Tramcar 3 1 1 5 $\overline{2}$ 1 l 3 $\mathbf{2}$ 1 6 5 Motor omnibus • • 2 11 5 1 19 69 33 121 91 30 car• • • • . . 30 lorry, &c. 5 1 6 19 11 36 6 . . • • • • ,, . . cycle 1 1 2 7 10 10 Vehicle drawn by 11 2031 30 1 horse • • • • • • . . 1 5 Bicycle 1 $\mathbf{5}$ 6 • • 6 Aeroplane 6 6 • • . . • • • • Other or undefined $\mathbf{2}$ $\mathbf{2}$ $\mathbf{2}$ • • • • • • 16293 309 249 60 Total 3 2219 8 2 54

DEATHS FROM VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS, IN VICTORIA, 1926.

* Including 10 railway employees.

Fatal accidents The mortality rate from accidents is only one-half as among males aged 15 to 45 as among men over age ages. 45. The deaths per 10,000 males at certain ages from drowning and other accidents, for the period 1920–22, were as follows:—

		Acc	idental I	eaths pe	r 10,000	Males Ag	ged—							
	15-20.	2025.	25-35.	35-45.	45-55.	55-65.	65 and over.	15 and up- wards.						
Drowning Other Accidents	$1 \cdot 92 \\ 3 \cdot 43$	$1 \cdot 13 \\ 4 \cdot 34$	1.06 4.91	1·11 5·26	1.46 6.05	$ \begin{array}{r} 1 \cdot 91 \\ 8 \cdot 24 \end{array} $	$2 \cdot 43 \\ 14 \cdot 38$	1·44 5·91						
Total Accidents	5.35	5.47	5.97	6.37	7.51	10.15	16.81	7.35						

DEATH RATES FROM ACCIDENTS-MALES, 1920-22.

For men aged 20 to 35 the death rate from accidental violence is about one-third of that for men over age 65 and slightly greater than one-half of the rate for those aged 55 to 65.

suicide. In the year 1926, 121 males and 37 females took their own lives. The deaths represented a rate of 93 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 107 in 1925, 72 in 1924, 78 in 1923, 81 in 1922, 99 in 1921, 95 in 1920, 89 in 1919, 72 in 1918, 88 in 1917, 102 in 1908–12, and 109 in 1890–92. A much lower rate from suicide obtains among females than males, the rate for the former being 26 2 per cent. of that for the latter on the average of the last five years.

Homicide. The deaths ascribed to homicide in 1926 numbered 34, of which 16 were of males and 18 of females. These represented a rate of 20 per million of the population, as against rates of 13 in 1925, 11 in 1924, 13 in 1923, 15 in 1922, 14 in 1921, 12 in 1920, 18 in 1919, 13 in 1918 and 1917, and 19 in 1908-12.

NATURAL INCREASE.

Natural increase per 1,000 of population in Australasia. The average annual natural increase, *i.e.*, the excess of births over deaths, per 1,000 of the population, in the various Australian States, the Commonwealth of Australia, and New Zealand, for different periods since 1909, as well as detailed particulars for Victoria since 1879, are shown in the following tables :—

NATURAL INCREASE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION.

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queens- land.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1910–14 1915–19 1920–24 1925 1926	$ \begin{array}{r} 13 \cdot 85 \\ 11 \cdot 75 \\ 12 \cdot 49 \\ 12 \cdot 02 \\ 11 \cdot 21 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} 18 \cdot 38 \\ 15 \cdot 98 \\ 15 \cdot 80 \\ 14 \cdot 85 \\ 13 \cdot 34 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} 18 \cdot 51 \\ 17 \cdot 06 \\ 16 \cdot 03 \\ 14 \cdot 96 \\ 13 \cdot 19 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} 17 \cdot 68 \\ 14 \cdot 84 \\ 13 \cdot 72 \\ 11 \cdot 91 \\ 11 \cdot 82 \\ \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} 18 \cdot 61 \\ 15 \cdot 47 \\ 14 \cdot 04 \\ 13 \cdot 23 \\ 13 \cdot 21 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} 19 \cdot 35 \\ 17 \cdot 83 \\ 16 \cdot 71 \\ 14 \cdot 89 \\ 14 \cdot 57 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} 17 \cdot 03 \\ 14 \cdot 99 \\ 14 \cdot 62 \\ 13 \cdot 69 \\ 12 \cdot 60 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} 16 \cdot 80 \\ 16 \cdot 80 \\ 14 \cdot 19 \\ 12 \cdot 88 \\ 12 \cdot 31 \end{array} $

AUSTRALASIA.

VICTORIA.

Period.	Excess of Births	Annua of	l Rates j Populat	er 1,000 ion.	Period	Excess of Births	Annual Bates per 1,0 of Population.		
	Deaths. Birt	Births.	Deaths.	Natural Increase.	1 61104.	over Deaths.	Births.	rths. Deaths.	Natural Increase.
188084 188589 189094 189599 190004 190509	14,466 16,741 20,059 15,625 14,859 16,062	$\begin{array}{c} 30 \cdot 64 \\ 32 \cdot 27 \\ 31 \cdot 99 \\ 26 \cdot 76 \\ 25 \cdot 08 \\ 24 \cdot 76 \end{array}$	14 · 40 15 · 87 14 · 62 13 · 81 12 · 78 11 · 93	$16 \cdot 24 \\ 16 \cdot 40 \\ 17 \cdot 37 \\ 12 \cdot 95 \\ 12 \cdot 30 \\ 12 \cdot 83$	1910–14 1915–19 1920–24 1925 1926	18,795 16,818 19,647 20,086 19,027	$25 \cdot 42 \\ 23 \cdot 13 \\ 22 \cdot 89 \\ 21 \cdot 49 \\ 20 \cdot 84$	$ \begin{array}{r} 11.57 \\ 11.38 \\ 10.40 \\ 9.47 \\ 9.63 \end{array} $	$ \begin{array}{r} 13 \cdot 85 \\ 11 \cdot 75 \\ 12 \cdot 49 \\ 12 \cdot 02 \\ 11 \cdot 21 \end{array} $

The mean increase in the Australian States for the period 1922-26was 13.88 per 1,000 of population, which is probably greater than will prevail when the age constitution of the people becomes similar to that of old settled countries. At present the proportion of elderly people is smaller than in those countries, and, partly as a consequence of this, the death rate is lower. The Victorian death rates are below those of England and Wales at nearly all periods of life. The Australian annual rate of increase due to excess of births over deaths for 1922-26-13.88—would enable a population to double itself in 50 years, while, at the Victorian rate of 12.05 per 1,000 of population, a period of 58 years would be required. In England and Wales in 1926 the excess of births over deaths was 6.2per 1,000 of population.