

Victorian Year-Book 1954-58

PART X.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. The system of compulsory registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Victoria has been in force since 1853, and the registers contain 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 supervision over the registrars of births and deaths, the registrars of marriages, and (so far as regards their registration duties) the clergymen who celebrate marriages. Copies of entries certified by the Government Statist or by an Assistant Government Statist are *prima facie* evidence in the Courts of Australia of the facts to which they relate. At the Government Statist's Office 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.

Law Relating to Marriages, Births, and Deaths. The various Acts relating to the registration of marriages, births and deaths in Victoria were consolidated in 1928, since when the Marriage Act was amended by Acts No. 4561, 4839 and 5846 of 1938, 1941 and 1954 respectively, and the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act by Acts No. 4553 of 1938, 4858 of 1941, 5623 of 1952 and 5846 of 1954. These Acts were again consolidated in 1958.

Marriages may be celebrated by any minister of religion who ordinarily officiates as such in one of the religious denominations, and whose name is registered in the office of the Government Statist; also by the Government Statist, an Assistant Government Statist, or a duly appointed Registrar of Marriages. The Governor in Council may prohibit from celebrating marriages any minister who is proved guilty of any indictable offence, misconduct or impropriety in the celebration of any marriage, or who makes a business of celebrating marriages for the purpose of profit or gain. At least three clear days before the performance of any marriage, written notice of such marriage must be given to the proposed celebrant by the parties about to be married, but such notice may, in respect of a marriage by a minister of religion, be dispensed with in the case of emergency by written permission of any Justice of the Peace. Marriage of minors is permissible only with the written consent of parents or guardian or, in certain circumstances, by permission of a Guardian of Minors; should a parent refuse consent, appeal may be made to a Stipendiary Magistrate. Marriage with a deceased wife's sister is

valid. Marriages of Jews and Quakers are exempted in part from the law relating to marriages, and are deemed legal and valid if celebrated according to their respective usages. Certificates of such marriages must, however, be lodged with the Government Statist for record purposes. No marriage is invalid by reason of its having been celebrated by an unqualified person if either of the parties believed at the time that such person was qualified, or by reason of any formal defect or irregularity where the identity of the parties to the marriage is not in question.

A person whose husband or wife has been continually absent from such person for the space of seven years or over, and has not been known by such person to be living within that time, may marry without being liable to prosecution for bigamy (*see* sec. 61 of the Crimes Act); but such a marriage would be void, and the issue thereof illegitimate, if it should be subsequently discovered that the former wife (or husband) was alive at the date of the marriage.

Births of live children must, under a penalty not exceeding £10 for default without reasonable cause, be registered within 60 days. After 60 days and within twelve months, registration may be effected, after declaration, on the payment of a fee of 5s.; after twelve months and under seven years, only by authority of the Government Statist (fee 20s.); and after seven years by order of a Judge of a County Court or the Supreme Court (fee 30s.). The occupier of any house or place in which an illegitimate child is born, or in which an illegitimate child under the age of five years dies, is required to give notice of such birth or death to the district registrar within three to seven days, according to the locality of the event. If the mother is the occupier, the period of notification is extended to three weeks.

Act No. 5623 of 1952 amended the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Acts by providing for the compulsory registration of still-born children; the Act defined a still-born child as any child born of its mother after the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy which did not at any time after being born breathe or show any other sign of life, and where the duration of pregnancy is not reliably ascertainable includes any foetus weighing not less than two pounds twelve ounces.

Deaths must, under a penalty not exceeding £10, be notified to the local registrar by the occupier of the house or tenement in which the death occurred. Registration of death must be effected within 21 days by a person present at the death or in attendance during the last illness of the deceased or, in the case of illness, inability or default of such person, by the occupier of the house or tenement in which the death occurred. The medical practitioner in attendance during the last illness is also required, under a penalty not exceeding £5, to report the death to the registrar, unless the death has been reported to the Coroner.

Summary of
Vital Statistics,
1958.

The principal numbers and rates relating to Vital Statistics are given in the following tables:—

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1958.

Division.	Number of—				Rate per 1,000 of Population.			Infant Mortality.
	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under One Year.	Marriage.	Birth.	Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.
Melbourne Metropolitan Area ..	*	36,167	15,608	710	*	21·10	9·04	19·63
Remainder of the State	*	25,102	8,017	468	*	24·43	7·80	18·64
Victoria	20,649	61,269	23,625	1,178	7·54	22·36	8·62	19·23

* Not available.

Natural Increase per 1,000 of Population in Australian States.

The average annual natural increase, i.e., the excess of births over deaths, per 1,000 of the mean population, in each Australian State and the Commonwealth of Australia, since 1909, as well as detailed particulars for Victoria since

1879, are shown in the following tables:—

AUSTRALIA—NATURAL INCREASE PER 1,000 OF THE MEAN POPULATION.

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
1910-14 ..	13·85	18·38	18·51	17·68	18·61	19·35	17·03
1915-19 ..	11·75	15·98	17·06	14·84	15·47	17·83	14·99
1920-24 ..	12·49	15·73	16·13	13·75	13·96	16·66	14·60
1925-29 ..	10·57	12·99	13·35	11·18	12·71	13·27	12·18
1930-34 ..	6·77	9·52	10·56	6·89	10·26	11·05	8·78
1935-39*	5·64	7·91	10·06	6·12	9·85	10·36	7·67
1940-44*	7·82	9·36	12·01	9·05	11·37	11·47	9·52
1945-49*	11·73	12·77	15·70	14·31	15·30	16·82	13·41
1950-54 ..	12·68	12·44	15·40	14·30	16·74	16·97	13·63
1955 ..	13·38	11·98	15·72	13·36	17·07	17·71	13·65
1956 ..	13·25	11·71	14·80	13·40	16·75	17·35	13·37
1957 ..	13·58	12·74	15·86	13·68	16·81	17·46	14·04
1958 ..	13·74	12·91	15·85	13·72	15·84	17·35	14·09

* Excess of births over civilian deaths in the Australian States from September, 1939, to June, 1947.

VICTORIA—NATURAL INCREASE PER 1,000 OF THE
MEAN POPULATION.

Period.	Average Annual Excess of Births over Deaths.	Annual Rates per 1,000 of Mean Population.			Period.	Average Annual Excess of Births over Deaths.	Annual Rates per 1,000 of Mean Population.		
		Births.	Deaths.	Natural Increase.			Births.	Deaths.	Natural Increase.
1880-84	14,466	30·64	14·40	16·24	1930-34	12,249	16·27	9·50	6·77
1885-89	16,741	32·27	15·87	16·40	1935-39	10,473	15·87	10·23	5·64*
1890-94	20,059	31·99	14·62	17·37	1940-44	15,250	18·53	10·71	7·82*
1895-99	15,625	26·76	13·81	12·95	1945-49	24,188	22·13	10·40	11·73*
1900-04	14,859	25·08	12·84	12·24	1950-54	29,605	22·47	9·79	12·68
1905-09	16,062	24·76	11·93	12·83	1955 ..	33,809	22·30	8·92	13·38
1910-14	18,795	25·42	11·57	13·85	1956 ..	34,507	22·42	9·17	13·25
1915-19	16,818	23·13	11·38	11·75	1957 ..	36,333	22·61	9·03	13·58
1920-24	19,647	22·89	10·40	12·49	1958 ..	37,644	22·36	8·62	13·74
1925-29	18,218	20·24	9·67	10·57					

* Excess of births over civilian deaths in the Australian States from September, 1939, to June, 1947.

MARRIAGES.

Marriages: Numbers and Rates. Marriages in Victoria in 1958 numbered 20,649, an increase of 410 as compared with the number registered in 1957. The rate per 1,000 of population in 1958 was 7·54 as compared with rates of 7·57 in 1957, 7·73 in 1956, 7·94 in 1955 and 7·91 in 1954. The highest rate recorded in Victoria was 12·06 in 1942; the lowest rate was 5·66 in 1931—a year of acute economic depression. From that year to 1942 there was a marked increase, the rate in 1942 being 113 per cent. higher than in 1931.

The record number of marriages (23,636) in 1942 can be attributed to war-time conditions. The pronounced fall in the number celebrated in 1943 indicated that the influence of those conditions had passed its peak. In the years 1944 and 1945 further falls were recorded, the rate, (8·22) in 1945 being the lowest recorded since 1934. In 1946 there was a large increase in the number of marriages, the rate (10·57) being 29 per cent. higher than the rate in 1945. The increase in the number in 1946 reflected the postponement of marriages during the latter years of the war. Since 1946 the rate has fallen steadily. The rate for 1958 (7·54) was the lowest since 1933.

The following table shows the number of marriages, the quarters in which they were registered, and the proportion per 1,000 of the population since 1854:—

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES IN EACH QUARTER, 1855 TO 1958.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Marriages.	Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
		March.	June.	September.	December.	
1855-59 ..	4,362	*	*	*	*	10.24
1860-64 ..	4,418	1,068	1,166	1,079	1,105	8.16
1865-69 ..	4,533	1,123	1,144	1,113	1,153	6.94
1870-74 ..	4,823	1,168	1,299	1,131	1,225	6.40
1875-79 ..	5,023	1,239	1,307	1,207	1,270	6.21
1880-84 ..	6,296	1,528	1,611	1,483	1,674	7.07
1885-89 ..	8,208	1,899	2,196	1,915	2,198	8.04
1890-94 ..	7,945	1,995	2,100	1,838	2,012	6.88
1895-99 ..	7,627	1,816	2,074	1,778	1,959	6.44
1900-04 ..	8,201	2,000	2,252	1,930	2,019	6.78
1905-09 ..	9,209	2,185	2,548	2,182	2,294	7.36
1910-14 ..	11,244	2,664	3,000	2,644	2,936	8.29
1915-19 ..	10,908	2,437	2,754	2,815	2,902	7.62
1920-24 ..	13,598	3,252	3,578	3,152	3,616	8.64
1925-29 ..	13,301	3,136	3,603	3,047	3,515	7.72
1930-34 ..	12,019	2,929	3,123	2,727	3,240	6.64
1935-39 ..	16,406	3,699	4,484	3,414	4,809	8.84
1940-44 ..	20,609	5,089	5,383	4,812	5,325	10.56
1945-49 ..	19,689	4,995	5,057	4,205	5,432	9.54
1950-54 ..	20,060	5,049	5,101	4,156	5,754	8.59
1955 ..	20,056	4,817	5,046	4,124	6,069	7.94
1956 ..	20,137	5,360	4,825	4,368	5,584	7.73
1957 ..	20,239	4,754	5,183	4,376	5,926	7.57
1958 ..	20,649	5,146	5,586	4,028	5,889	7.54

*Not Available.

The ordinary marriage rate—per 1,000 of the total population—like birth and death rates similarly estimated, is apt to be misleading in the early settlement stages of countries like Australia, but it affords a ready and approximate comparison between years not widely separated.

Marriage Rates: The following statement shows the marriage rate per 1,000 of the population in the Australian States for each of the five years 1954 to 1958:—

AUSTRALIA—MARRIAGE RATES.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
1954 ..	7.91	8.02	7.64	7.77	8.13	8.07	7.92
1955 ..	7.94	7.92	7.54	7.59	7.81	8.22	7.84
1956 ..	7.73	7.68	7.27	7.40	7.50	8.07	7.61
1957 ..	7.57	7.94	7.33	7.53	7.08	7.59	7.64
1958 ..	7.54	7.73	7.25	7.25	7.14	7.33	7.51

Ages of
Bridegrooms
and Brides.

The relative ages of bridegrooms and brides who were

VICTORIA—RELATIVE AGES OF

Ages of Bridegrooms.	Ages of									
	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29
15	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
16	3	3	1	3	..	..	1	..
17	2	7	12	16	15	3	..	3	..
18 ..	1	..	11	46	61	37	28	12	16	1
19	1	15	54	97	101	93	48	52	4
20	1	10	43	95	190	187	153	159	11
21 to 24	3	32	116	346	732	1,174	1,441	3,360	389
25 to 29	1	9	35	99	274	458	678	2,758	1,209
30 to 34	1	9	16	55	81	156	742	765
35 to 39	7	9	14	149	252
40 to 44	1	..	1	..	2	1	6	28	76
45 to 49	1	..	1	2	2	2	20
50 to 54	1	..	..	..	..	1	3	3
55 to 59	1	2	1
60 to 64
65 to 69
70 to 74
75 to 79	1
80 and over
Total Brides	1	9	89	321	731	1,417	2,036	2,512	7,275	2,732

Of every 1,000 men married during 1958, 781 were older and 137

In 1958 the oldest bridegroom was aged 84 years and the oldest the youngest bride 13 years.

married in 1958 are shown in the following table:—

BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES, 1958.

Brides.											Total Bridegrooms.
30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 54.	55 to 59.	60 to 64.	65 to 69.	70 to 74.	75 to 79.	80 and over.	
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	213
..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	465
2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	851
36	7	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,637
235	77	9	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	5,845
462	185	45	12	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,532
295	232	71	41	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,074
143	139	112	45	12	3	2	..	..	..	..	571
64	88	106	71	36	8	..	..	..	..	..	401
19	53	67	77	48	31	5	4	1	2	..	315
4	18	32	52	49	38	8	4	1	..	..	210
5	6	15	32	38	34	41	11	2	..	..	184
..	1	11	8	15	32	48	34	8	7	..	164
..	..	1	8	6	8	24	21	9	1	1	79
..	..	..	2	1	3	6	7	6	3	2	31
..	..	..	1	..	1	1	1	3	..	..	7
1,265	806	470	351	212	158	136	82	30	13	3	20,649

younger than their brides, and 82 were of the same age.
bride 84 years; the youngest bridegroom was aged 15 years, and

Proportion of
Marriages by
Ages.

The proportions of marriages in 1958 by the age of both bridegrooms and brides are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1958.

Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of Total—		Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of Total—	
	Bridegrooms.	Brides.		Bridegrooms.	Brides.
Under 16 ..	0·05	4·79	35 to 39 ..	52·01	39·03
16 ..	0·53	15·55	40 to 44 ..	27·65	22·76
17 ..	2·81	35·40	45 to 49 ..	19·42	17·00
18 ..	10·32	68·62	50 to 54 ..	15·26	10·27
19 ..	22·52	98·60	55 to 59 ..	10·17	7·65
20 ..	41·21	121·65	60 and over..	22·52	12·79
21 to 24 ..	369·85	352·32			
25 to 29 ..	283·06	132·31		1,000·00	1,000·00
30 to 34 ..	122·62	61·26			

Marriages of
Minors.

The number of minors marrying at each age and the proportion of each sex to the total marriages are given in the following table for each of the five years 1954 to 1958 :—

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES OF MINORS.

Year.	Age in Years.							Total.		
	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
BRIDEGROOMS.										
1954 ..	..	..	1	6	33	123	323	707	1,193	6·15
1955 ..	..	..	..	3	44	107	387	714	1,255	6·26
1956 ..	..	..	1	4	41	167	378	785	1,376	6·83
1957 ..	..	..	..	9	41	184	434	855	1,523	7·53
1958 ..	..	..	1	11	58	213	465	851	1,599	7·74
BRIDES.										
1954 ..	..	3	54	223	577	1,112	1,646	1,963	5,578	28·75
1955 ..	..	11	51	263	620	1,262	1,811	2,117	6,136	30·59
1956 ..	1	5	66	245	667	1,335	1,951	2,147	6,417	31·87
1957 ..	2	8	64	287	684	1,373	2,010	2,392	6,820	33·70
1958 ..	1	9	89	321	731	1,417	2,036	2,512	7,116	34·46

The proportion of minors marrying steadily decreased from 1931 to 1936. There was little fluctuation during the following three years, but in 1940 there was an increase, mainly due to the number of brides who were under 21 years of age. A further increase was recorded

during each year of the period 1941-44, the proportion of minors marrying in 1944 being 14·35 per cent. of the persons married in that year. There was little variation in the next four years, but in 1949 the proportion increased to 14·93 per cent. This was followed by a further increase each year until 1958 when the proportion had increased to 21·10 per cent.

Of every 1,000 bridegrooms in 1957, 75 were under 21 years of age; of every 1,000 brides, 337 were under 21 years of age. In 1958, 77 out of every 1,000 bridegrooms and 345 out of every 1,000 brides were under 21 years of age.

Age at Marriage. The mean ages at marriage, according to conjugal condition, are shown in the following table for each of the five years 1954 to 1958 :—

VICTORIA—MEAN AGE AT MARRIAGE, 1954 TO 1958.

Year.	Bridegrooms.				Brides.			
	Bachelors.	Widowers.	Divorced.	All Bridegrooms.	Spinsters.	Widows.	Divorced.	All Brides.
1954 ..	26·9	54·4	40·5	29·1	24·0	46·8	36·1	25·9
1955 ..	26·9	54·7	40·0	28·9	23·8	47·0	36·1	25·7
1956 ..	26·8	56·0	40·5	28·9	23·7	49·0	36·8	25·6
1957 ..	26·7	56·3	41·3	28·7	23·5	48·9	37·0	25·3
1958 ..	26·7	56·9	41·0	28·6	23·4	48·7	36·9	25·2

In 1958 the mean age at marriage of bridegrooms whose brides were under 45 was 26·7 years, while for brides under 45 the age was 23·2 years.

The most popular age at marriage for bridegrooms in 1957 was 23 years, and for brides 21 years. In 1958 the most popular age for both bridegrooms and brides was 21 years.

Conjugal Condition of Persons Marrying. In the following tables are given the number of persons in each conjugal condition marrying during each of the five years 1954 to 1958, and the proportions in each condition for periods since 1920 :—

**VICTORIA—CONJUGAL CONDITION OF PERSONS
MARRYING, 1954 TO 1958.**

Period.	Bridegrooms.			Brides.			Total Marriages.
	Bachelors.	Widowers.	Divorced.	Spinsters.	Widows.	Divorced.	
1954 ..	17,304	929	1,171	17,221	933	1,250	19,404
1955 ..	17,979	882	1,195	17,869	953	1,234	20,056
1956 ..	18,078	911	1,148	17,969	900	1,268	20,137
1957 ..	18,405	859	975	18,264	848	1,127	20,239
1958 ..	18,740	808	1,101	18,610	834	1,205	20,649

**VICTORIA—TOTAL MARRIAGES IN 1958 AND PERCENTAGE
OF PERSONS MARRYING IN EACH CONJUGAL
CONDITION, 1920 TO 1958.**

Marriage Between—	1958.		Conjugal Condition.	Percentage of Total—			
	Number.	Percentage.		1920-29.	1930-39.	1940-49.	1958.
BRIDEGROOMS.							
Bachelors and Spinsters	17,715	85.8	Bachelors	92.1	92.3	90.5	90.8
Bachelors and Widows ..	318	1.5	Widowers	6.3	5.5	4.9	3.9
Bachelors and Divorced Women ..	707	3.4	Divorced	1.6	2.2	4.6	5.3
Widowers and Spinsters	303	1.5	Total ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Widowers and Widows	361	1.8					
Widowers and Divorced Women ..	144	0.7					
BRIDES.							
Divorced Men and Spinsters ..	592	2.9	Spinsters	93.6	94.4	91.4	90.1
Divorced Men and Widows	155	0.7	Widows ..	4.9	3.4	3.9	4.1
Divorced Men and Divorced Women ..	354	1.7	Divorced	1.5	2.2	4.7	5.8
Total Marriages ..	20,649	100.0	Total ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The proportions of widowers and widows remarrying per 100 marriages declined from 6·5 and 4·7 respectively in 1910-14 to 4·4 and 4·4 in 1954-58. During the same period the proportion of remarriages of divorced men increased from 0·7 to 5·6 and of divorced women from 0·9 to 6·1. The increased proportion of divorced persons remarrying reflects the higher number of decrees for dissolution of marriage granted in recent years. The numbers of such decrees and of remarriages of divorced men and of divorced women for certain periods since 1900 are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DIVORCED PERSONS REMARRYING SINCE 1900.

Period.	Decrees Granted.	Remarriages.	
		Divorced Men.	Divorced Women.
1900-09	1,208	418	554
1910-19	2,258	867	1,096
1920-29	4,392	2,125	2,116
1930-39	6,059	3,172	3,099
1940	817	591	623
1941	833	585	648
1942	953	696	675
1943	1,375	696	696
1944	1,670	734	788
1945	1,727	990	964
1946	1,619	1,150	1,137
1947	2,266	1,321	1,270
1948	1,660	1,270	1,257
1949	1,766	1,264	1,252
1950	1,591	1,296	1,305
1951	1,714	1,382	1,339
1952	1,596	1,281	1,350
1953	2,096	1,274	1,346
1954	1,519	1,171	1,250
1955	1,674	1,195	1,234
1956	1,255	1,148	1,268
1957	1,345	975	1,127
1958	1,698	1,101	1,205

Marriages in Religious Denominations.

In 1958 the number of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion was 18,873 representing 91 per cent. of the total marriages. Civil marriages numbered 1,776, or 9 per cent. of the total.

The numbers and proportion of civil marriages and of marriages solemnized according to the rites of the principal religious denominations for the years 1938, 1948, and 1958 are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES, RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL,
1938, 1948 AND 1958.

	1938.		1948.		1958.	
	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.
Church of England ..	4,894	28·60	6,249	31·19	4,788	23·19
Roman Catholic Church	3,173	18·54	3,871	19·32	5,588	27·06
Presbyterian Church ..	3,762	21·98	3,964	19·78	3,346	16·20
Methodist Church ..	2,576	15·05	2,901	14·48	2,522	12·21
Baptist Church ..	666	3·89	404	2·02	267	1·29
Church of Christ ..	420	2·46	364	1·82	356	1·73
Congregational Church	388	2·27	285	1·42	257	1·25
Lutheran Church ..	91	0·53	94	0·47	256	1·24
Hebrew ..	70	0·41	206	1·03	151	0·73
Salvation Army ..	116	0·68	98	0·49	100	0·48
Other Sects ..	187	1·09	188	0·94	1,242	6·02
Civil Marriages ..	770	4·50	1,411	7·04	1,776	8·60
Total ..	17,113	100·00	20,035	100·00	20,649	100·00

Civil Marriages. The following statement shows the numbers and proportions of civil marriages to total marriages performed for each of the ten years 1949-58. In addition the number and proportions of civil marriages performed in the Office of the Government Statist are also shown:—

VICTORIA—CIVIL MARRIAGES, 1949 TO 1958.

Year.	Total Civil Marriages.		Performed in the Office of the Government Statist.	
	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Percentage of Total Civil Marriages.
1949	1,431	7·13	1,378	96·30
1950	1,547	7·61	1,501	97·03
1951	1,654	7·83	1,589	96·07
1952	1,557	7·70	1,503	96·53
1953	1,553	8·07	1,480	95·30
1954	1,685	8·68	1,538	91·28
1955	1,754	8·75	1,645	93·79
1956	1,721	8·55	1,599	92·91
1957	1,663	8·22	1,535	92·30
1958	1,776	8·60	1,620	91·22

DIVORCE.

The present law in regard to divorce is contained in the *Marriage Act 1958*.

The following table gives the number of petitions filed by husbands and wives respectively, and the number of dissolutions of marriage, and nullities of marriage during the year 1958. There were no judicial separations during the year. Every decree of dissolution of marriage is in the first instance a decree *nisi* and is not made absolute till the expiration of not less than three months thereafter:—

VICTORIA—DIVORCES, 1958.

Petition for—	Petitions Filed by—			Decrees Granted to—		
	Husbands.	Wives.	Total.	Husbands.	Wives.	Total.
Dissolution of Marriage	736	843	1,579	816	882	1,698
Nullity of Marriage ..	9	6	15	9	10	19
Total	745	849	1,594	825	892	1,717

The grounds upon which divorces were granted during the year 1958 were as set out in the following table:—

VICTORIA—GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE, 1958.

Grounds on Which Granted.	Dissolution of Marriage.		Nullity of Marriage.	
	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.
Adultery	261	179	..	..
Cruelty and Assault .. ..	..	9	..	..
Desertion	501	626	..	..
Desertion and Adultery	44	37	..	..
Drunkenness and Failure to Support .. ..	..	2	..	..
Drunkenness and Cruelty .. ..	..	12	..	..
Drunkenness and Neglect of Domestic Duties	1	..	..	..
Impotence .. ..	..	..	8	6
Insanity	9	3	..	..
Prior Marriage .. ..	..	..	1	1
Sentences for Crime .. ..	..	11	..	..
Other .. ..	..	3	..	3
Total	816	882	9	10

Ages of Petitioners and Issue to Existing Marriage.

The following table shows the number of petitioners to whom decrees were granted in 1958, the ages of such petitioners and the number of their issue as at date of decree:—

VICTORIA—DIVORCE PETITIONS GRANTED: AGES OF PETITIONERS (AT DATE OF PETITION) AND ISSUE TO EXISTING MARRIAGE, 1958.

Ages of Petitioners (Years).	Dissolution of Marriage.		Nullity of Marriage.		Number of Children.*	
	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.	Husbands' Petitions.	Wives' Petitions.
18 ..	..	1	..	..	..	1
19 ..	..	2	..	..	..	..
20 ..	1	3	..	..	1	3
21 ..	2	8	..	1	1	6
22-25 ..	21	69	1	1	19	64
26-29 ..	103	139	2	..	79	146
30-34 ..	158	211	3	4	148	254
35-39 ..	174	175	2	..	236	248
40-44 ..	151	107	..	1	213	171
45-49 ..	95	85	..	2	127	141
50-54 ..	64	50	1	..	103	112
55-59 ..	28	23	..	..	46	26
60 ..	3	2	..	..	4	4
61 ..	3	2	..	..	5	3
64 ..	2	..	..	..	1	..
65 ..	3	1	..	..	2	2
66 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..
67 ..	2	..	..	..	8	..
69 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..
76 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Not Stated	3	4	..	1	7	..
Total ..	816	882	9	10	1,000	1,181

* Of the total of 2,181, one child was issue of a marriage which was annulled.

Dissolution of Marriage: Duration and Issue. In the following table particulars are given of the duration of marriage and the issue in respect of the petitions granted for dissolution of marriage during 1958:—

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: PETITIONS GRANTED: DURATION OF MARRIAGE AND ISSUE, 1958.

Duration of Marriage in Years.	Number of Children.											Total Dissolutions of Marriage.	Total Children.
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	11		
Under 1 year	6	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1
1 year	13	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9	4
2 "	19	9	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	30	13
3 "	53	22	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	84	44
4 "	55	24	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	84	35
5 "	51	42	17	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	112	83
6 "	62	37	16	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	120	84
7 "	46	28	16	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	96	80
8 "	47	37	17	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	108	92
9 "	36	31	31	8	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	106	117
10 "	26	40	41	9	2	1	1	3	1	1	1	122	180
11 "	20	17	19	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	74	116
12 "	20	22	18	9	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	72	97
13 "	17	16	11	7	4	2	1	1	1	1	1	57	85
14 "	23	19	25	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	79	107
15 "	14	18	16	8	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	63	106
16 "	16	18	22	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	64	90
17 "	12	11	9	10	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	46	79
18 "	16	7	15	3	4	3	1	1	1	1	1	50	91
19 "	8	5	12	8	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	38	76
20 "	8	11	11	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	38	68
21 "	4	4	6	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	19	39
22 "	2	3	9	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	19	46
23 "	4	9	13	6	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	35	70
24 "	1	3	4	7	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	33
25 "	1	3	6	3	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	20	55
26 "	5	4	3	5	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	20	48
27 "	2	5	6	4	1	3	1	1	1	1	1	20	34
28 "	3	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	26
29 "	1	2	4	5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	14	35
30 "	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	12	47
31 "	1	3	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	16
32 "	3	2	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	19
33 "	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	15
34 "	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	5
35 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	17
36 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	5
37 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
38 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	5
39 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	10
40 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
41 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4
42 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
43 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
44 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
45 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
46 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
47 "	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total Dissolutions of Marriage	606	461	371	160	51	26	12	5	3	1	2	1,698	..
Total Children	..	461	742	480	204	130	72	35	24	10	22	..	2,180

Dissolution of Marriage: Ages of Parties. The following table shows the ages of the parties concerned in the decrees for dissolution of marriage, petitions for which had been granted during 1958:—

VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE: PETITIONS GRANTED: AGES OF PARTIES AT DATE OF PETITION, 1958.

Ages of Husbands in Years.	Ages of Wives in Years.											Total Husbands.
	Under 21.	21-25.	26-29.	30-34.	35-39.	40-44.	45-49.	50-54.	55-59.	60 and Over.	Not Stated.	
Under 21 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
21-25 ..	5	36	8	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51
26-29 ..	3	84	89	28	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	206
30-34 ..	1	30	125	176	28	1	2	..	..	..	4	367
35-39 ..	..	5	32	139	136	20	4	3	1	..	2	342
40-44 ..	..	3	10	46	127	83	18	4	1	..	1	293
45-49 ..	..	..	1	9	31	72	70	12	1	..	1	197
50-54 ..	..	..	1	5	9	22	51	35	5	..	..	128
55-59 ..	..	..	..	..	3	6	11	26	17	5	..	68
60 and over ..	..	..	..	1	2	1	8	4	7	11	..	34
Not stated ..	..	..	2	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	5	11
Total—Wives ..	10	158	268	406	337	206	166	85	32	16	14	1,698

Divorces, 1861 to 1958. In 1861 jurisdiction was conferred on the Supreme Court of Victoria in matrimonial matters. The *Divorce Act* 1889, which received the Royal Assent on 13th May, 1890, considerably extended the grounds upon which divorce might be granted.

The following is a statement of the number of decrees granted in Victoria for dissolution of marriage and for judicial separation during the period 1861 to 1890, for the decennial periods 1891-1900 to 1941-50, and for the years 1951 to 1958:—

**VICTORIA—DISSOLUTIONS OF MARRIAGE AND JUDICIAL
SEPARATIONS, 1861 TO 1958.**

Years Ended 31st December—	Decrees Granted for—	
	Dissolution of Marriage.	Judicial Separation.
1861-1890	348	71
1891-1900	949	14
1901-1910	1,255	6
1911-1920	2,499	14
1921-1930	4,403	16
1931-1940	6,495	16
1941-1950	15,460	22
1951	1,714	1
1952	1,596	3
1953	2,096	1
1954	1,519	..
1955	1,674	1
1956	1,255	2
1957	1,345	2
1958	1,698	..
Total—1891 to 1958	43,958	98
Total—1861 to 1958	44,306	169

NOTE.—For decrees granted for Dissolution of Marriage during each year since 1921, see *Statistical Summary of this Year-Book*.

BIRTHS.

**Births :
Numbers and
Rates.** The number of births registered in Victoria during the year 1958 was 61,269, which represents the highest number of births ever registered in Victoria.

The rate per 1,000 of population in 1958 was 22·36 as compared with 22·61 in 1957, 22·42 in 1956, 22·30 in 1955 and 22·28 in 1954. The year 1928 was the first year in which the birth rate per 1,000 of population in Victoria was under 20. After 1928 it declined steadily until 1935, when the record low rate of 15·17 was experienced. The rate slowly increased during the next five years. In 1941 it rose to 17·80, in 1942 to 18·33, and in 1943 to 19·82. There was little fluctuation in 1944, but in 1945 the rate increased to 20·53. This was followed by an exceptional rise in 1946, the rate (23·05) being the highest recorded for twenty-four years. The increase in the birth rate followed the rise in the marriage rate which began in 1932 and continued until 1942. There was little change in 1947, but in each of the years 1948 and 1949 the birth rate declined. In 1950 the rate rose to 22·56 and there was little change in the following years, the rate for 1958 being 22·36. Stillbirths, which are excluded from both births and deaths, numbered 826 and corresponded to a ratio of 13·48 per 1,000 infants born alive in 1958. The compulsory registration of still-born children became effective in 1953.

There were 1,059 male to every 1,000 female births in 1958, as compared with 1,050 in 1957, 1,065 in 1956, 1,052 in 1955 and 1,059 in 1954.

In young communities, birth rates calculated per 1,000 of the population are to some extent 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, such rates are naturally high. As time proceeds, notwithstanding that immigration of reproductive adults may be maintained, the proportion of such adults to the total population must diminish, and, with it, consequently the birth rate.

The following table shows the number of births—male and female—the quarters in which they were registered, and the proportion per 1,000 of the population since 1854 :—

VICTORIA—BIRTHS IN EACH QUARTER, 1855 TO 1958.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Births.	Sex.		Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
		Males.	Females.	March.	June.	September.	December.	
1855-59 ..	17,154	8,742	8,412	*	*	*	*	39·49
1860-64 ..	24,060	12,379	11,681	5,614	5,991	6,534	5,921	43·29
1865-69 ..	25,963	13,219	12,744	6,027	6,543	7,105	6,288	39·77
1870-74 ..	27,359	13,944	13,415	6,478	6,769	7,467	6,645	36·35
1875-79 ..	26,584	13,639	12,945	6,333	6,686	7,211	6,354	32·85
1880-84 ..	27,286	13,965	13,321	6,374	7,025	7,300	6,587	30·64
1885-89 ..	32,941	16,883	16,058	7,824	8,289	8,814	8,014	32·27
1890-94 ..	36,945	18,901	18,044	8,669	9,604	9,735	8,937	31·99
1895-99 ..	31,675	16,213	15,462	7,746	8,078	8,323	7,528	26·76
1900-04 ..	30,316	15,544	14,772	7,384	7,682	7,880	7,370	25·08
1905-09 ..	30,994	15,879	15,115	7,489	7,832	8,076	7,597	24·76
1910-14 ..	34,500	17,717	16,783	8,329	8,619	8,850	8,702	25·42
1915-19 ..	33,101	17,014	16,087	8,228	8,336	8,514	8,023	23·13
1920-24 ..	36,022	18,549	17,473	8,729	8,970	9,367	8,956	22·89
1925-29 ..	34,892	18,013	16,879	8,732	8,728	8,856	8,576	20·24
1930-34 ..	29,429	15,075	14,354	7,383	7,409	7,361	7,276	16·27
1935-39 ..	29,467	15,113	14,354	7,285	7,154	7,466	7,562	15·87
1940-44 ..	36,154	18,539	17,615	8,873	8,611	9,211	9,459	18·53
1945-49 ..	45,646	23,453	22,193	11,185	10,919	11,366	12,176	22·13
1950-54 ..	52,468	26,905	25,563	13,137	12,684	13,228	13,419	22·47
1955 ..	56,336	28,888	27,448	13,934	13,800	14,181	14,421	22·30
1956 ..	58,393	30,115	28,278	14,757	14,268	14,579	14,789	22·42
1957 ..	60,464	30,968	29,496	15,273	14,544	14,958	15,689	22·61
1958 ..	61,269	31,517	29,752	15,187	14,302	15,968	15,812	22·36

* Not available.

**Birth Rates:
Australian
States.**

The following statement shows the birth rate per 1,000 of the population in the Australian States for each of the five years 1954 to 1958:—

AUSTRALIA—BIRTH RATES, 1954 TO 1958.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
1954 ..	22·28	21·33	23·74	22·89	24·88	24·97	22·50
1955 ..	22·30	21·31	24·16	22·55	25·23	25·59	22·57
1956 ..	22·42	21·29	23·72	22·35	24·98	25·15	22·50
1957 ..	22·61	21·93	24·25	22·35	24·47	25·55	22·86
1958 ..	22·36	21·67	23·95	22·35	23·71	25·37	22·59

**Ages of
Parents of
Nuptial
Children.**

The average ages of fathers and of mothers of nuptial children whose births were recorded in 1958 were 31.5 and 28.1 years respectively. The proportions of both parents in various age groups are shown in the following table for the year 1958 :—

**VICTORIA—NUPTIAL BIRTHS : PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS
IN EACH AGE GROUP, 1958.**

Age Groups.	Percentage of Total.	
	Fathers.	Mothers.
Under 20	0.69	5.06
20 to 24	13.71	28.44
25 to 29	32.03	31.86
30 to 34	28.02	21.22
35 to 39	15.29	10.42
40 to 44	6.72	2.79
45 to 49	2.64	} 0.21
50 and over	0.90	
	100.00	100.00

The following table shows the number of births and the number of births per 1,000 of mean population according to the usual residence the mother for the periods 1928-32, 1938-42, 1948-52 and for the year 1958 :—

**VICTORIA—BIRTHS ACCORDING TO THE USUAL
RESIDENCE OF THE MOTHER, 1928 TO 1958.**

Area.	Average Annual Number of Births.				Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.			
	1928-1932.	1938-1942.	1948-1952.	1958.	1928-1932.	1938-1942.	1948-1952.	1958.
Melbourne Metropolitan Area *	15,949	17,175	26,358	36,167	16.03	16.00	20.16	21.10
Cities Outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area ..	2,707	3,135	4,529	6,257	18.87	19.79	24.60	24.21
Remainder of State ..	13,149	12,316	18,532	18,845	21.30	18.22	25.86	24.54
Total Victoria ..	31,805	32,626	49,419	61,269	17.85	17.11	22.37	22.36

definition of the Melbourne Metropolitan Area see pages 223 and 224.

Multiple Births.

The number of cases of multiple births and the proportion per 1,000 of the total cases of births in each of the five years 1954 to 1958 were as follows:—

VICTORIA—MULTIPLE BIRTHS.

Year.	Cases of Twins.	Cases of Triplets	Cases of Quadruplets.	Total Multiple Cases.	Multiple Cases per 1,000 of Total Cases.
1954	665	6	..	671	12·43
1955	666	7	..	673	12·09
1956	691	4	..	695	12·04
1957	695	10	..	705	11·80
1958	759	9	..	768	12·69

The last case of quadruplets occurred in 1951.

On the average of the five years 1954–58, the proportion of mothers of twins was one in 83, of mothers of triplets, one in 8,218, and of mothers of all multiple births, one in 82 mothers.

The first Victorian provision for the legal adoption of children who have never married and for the registration of each adoption by the Government Statist was contained in the *Adoption of Children Act* 1928 (No. 3605). An amending Act of 1942 (No. 4903) authorizes the transmission of copies of adoption orders made in another State or Territory of the Commonwealth concerning children born in Victoria, or made in Victoria concerning children born in such other State or Territory, and makes further provision for dealing with adoption orders so transmitted to Victoria in the same manner as adoption orders made in Victoria. An amending Act of 1954 (No. 5851) made provision for the adoption of children irrespective of their conjugal condition.

The first registration was effected on 14th October, 1929, and between that date and the end of the year 1953, the adoptions of 11,320 male and 12,240 female children were registered. During the five-year period 1954–1958 there were 103 female for every 100 male adoptions.

The following table shows the number of adoptions—male and female—from 1929:—

VICTORIA—CHILDREN ADOPTED, 1929 TO 1958.

Period.	Number of Children Adopted.	
	Males.	Females.
1929	31	56
1930–1934	492	833
1935–1939	843	1,156
1940–1944	1,958	2,125
1945–1949	2,662	2,699
1950–1954	3,036	2,946
1955	453	505
1956	600	643
1957	612	612
1958	633	665

Children Legitimated. The first Victorian provision for the legitimation of children was contained in the *Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act 1903* (No. 1835). Up to the end of 1958 legitimations numbered 6,611.

The table below shows the number of legitimations and the proportion per 100 ex-nuptial births from 1903:—

VICTORIA—LEGITIMATIONS, 1903 TO 1958.

Period.	Number of Legitimations.	Proportion per 100 Ex-Nuptial Births.
1903-1909	279	2·3
1910-1919	1,347	7·0
1920-1929	1,374	8·5
1930-1939	1,019	8·0
1940-1949	1,641	11·3
1950-1954	539	6·1
1955	104	5·5
1956	97	4·9
1957	124	6·0
1958	87	3·9

Legitimation Acts are in force in all the Australian States, but there are marked differences in the numbers of legitimations resulting therefrom. In proportion to every 100 children born out of wedlock in 1958, the numbers of legitimations in the several States during that year were as follows:—Victoria, 3·9; New South Wales, 7·4; Queensland, 12·3; South Australia, 6·6; Western Australia, 24·4; and Tasmania, 16·0.

Ex-nuptial Births in Victoria. The following table shows the number of ex-nuptial births and their percentage to total births since 1910:—

VICTORIA—EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS, 1910 TO 1958.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Births.	Average Annual Number of Ex-nuptial Births.			Percentage of Total Births.
		Male.	Female.	Total.	
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
1925-29	34,892	806	752	1,558	4·47
1930-34	29,429	685	620	1,305	4·43
1935-39	29,467	613	615	1,228	4·17
1940-44	36,154	701	638	1,339	3·70
1945-49	45,646	801	777	1,578	3·46
1950-54	52,468	892	875	1,767	3·37
1955	56,336	970	938	1,908	3·39
1956	58,393	1,025	955	1,980	3·39
1957	60,464	1,055	1,010	2,065	3·42
1958	61,269	1,141	1,078	2,219	3·62

The proportion of ex-nuptial to total births declined in each quinquennial period from 1910 to 1954.

In 1913 the percentage of ex-nuptial to total births was 6·03; in 1958 the percentage was 3·62.

The percentage in the various States in 1958 was as follows:— Victoria, 3·62; New South Wales, 4·79; Queensland, 5·88; South Australia, 3·68; Western Australia, 5·10; Tasmania, 4·38; and Australia, 4·55.

DEATHS.

The following table shows the number of deaths male and female, the quarters in which they were registered, and the proportion per 1,000 of the population since 1854:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS IN EACH QUARTER, 1855 TO 1958.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Deaths.	Sex.		Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population
		Males.	Females.	March.	June.	September.	December.	
1855-59 ..	7,653	4,768	2,885	*	*	*	*	17·78
1860-64 ..	10,210	6,001	4,209	3,257	2,658	2,093	2,202	18·44
1865-69 ..	11,035	6,374	4,661	3,385	2,938	2,243	2,469	16·93
1870-74 ..	10,978	6,365	4,613	3,232	2,744	2,461	2,541	14·56
1875-79 ..	13,289	7,567	5,722	4,016	3,567	2,831	2,875	16·45
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	3,860	10·40
1925-29 ..	16,674	8,969	7,705	3,770	4,213	4,602	4,089	9·67
1930-34 ..	17,180	9,175	8,005	3,814	4,214	4,822	4,330	9·50
1935-39† ..	18,994	10,109	8,885	4,043	4,780	5,630	4,541	10·23
1940-44† ..	20,904	11,009	9,895	4,389	5,142	6,338	5,035	10·71
1945-49† ..	21,458	11,299	10,159	4,558	5,262	6,300	5,338	10·40
1950-54 ..	22,863	12,273	10,590	4,891	5,669	6,653	5,650	9·79
1955 ..	22,527	11,986	10,541	4,790	5,717	6,687	5,333	8·92
1956 ..	23,886	12,862	11,024	4,867	5,770	7,340	5,909	9·17
1957 ..	24,131	13,084	11,047	5,378	5,728	7,157	5,868	9·03
1958 ..	23,625	12,779	10,846	4,949	5,857	7,019	5,800	8·62

* Not available. † Excludes deaths of defence personnel from September, 1939 to June, 1947.

The death rate gradually declined from 18·44 in 1860-64 to 9·50 in 1930-34, but, during the quinquennium 1935-39 it rose to 10·23. This was followed by a further rise to 10·71 during the quinquennium 1940-44, but during the quinquennium 1945-49, the rate declined to 10·40, and during 1950-54 the rate declined further to 9·79.

The lowest death rate (8·62) in the history of the State was recorded in 1958.

The number of deaths (24,131) in 1957 was the highest on record for the State, and was 1143 more than the average of the preceding five years.

In spite of the increasing population the number of deaths decreased in 1958 to 23,625.

In 1958 there were 1,178 male to every 1,000 female deaths, the average for the preceding five years being 1,164. The corresponding proportion of male to female births in the quinquennium was 1,054.

**Death Rates:
Australian
States.**

The following statement shows the death rate per 1,000 of the population in each of the Australian States for each of the five years 1954 to 1958:—

AUSTRALIA—DEATH RATES, 1954 TO 1958.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
1954 ..	9·19	9·46	8·64	9·01	8·38	8·67	6·54
1955 ..	8·92	9·32	8·44	9·19	8·17	7·87	6·98
1956 ..	9·17	9·58	8·92	8·95	8·23	7·80	5·98
1957 ..	9·03	9·20	8·39	8·67	7·66	8·09	6·19
1958 ..	8·62	8·76	8·10	8·63	7·87	8·02	8·50

The following table shows the number of deaths and the deaths per 1,000 of the mean population according to the usual residence of the deceased for the periods 1928-32, 1938-42, 1948-52 and for 1958:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS ACCORDING TO USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED, 1928 TO 1958.

Area.	Average Annual Number of Deaths.				Deaths per 1,000 of Mean Population.			
	1928-1932.	1938-1942.	1948-1952.	1958.	1928-1932.	1938-1942.	1948-1952.	1958.
Melbourne Metropolitan Area *	9,688	12,069	13,782	15,608	9.74	11.24	10.53	9.04
Cities Outside Metropolitan Area ..	1,615	2,078	2,241	2,381	11.26	13.12	12.18	9.21
Remainder of the State ..	5,541	6,216	6,562	5,636	8.97	9.19	9.16	7.34
Total Victoria	16,844	20,363	22,585	23,625	9.45	10.68	10.22	8.62

* For definition of Melbourne Metropolitan Area see pages 223 and 224.

Decrease in Metropolitan Death Rate.

In Melbourne Metropolitan Area, in the decade 1949-58, there was an average of 9.85 deaths per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 15.76 in the decennium 1892-1901.

A comparison of the death rates from tubercular and certain other diseases for the period 1949-58 with those for the decennium 1892-1901 is shown in the following table:—

MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA—DEATH RATES.

Cause of Death.	Average Annual Deaths per 1,000,000 of Population.		
	1892-1901.	1949-58.	Decrease.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	1,654	179	1,475
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	446	17	429
Typhoid Fever	293	..	293
Scarlet Fever	33	..	33
Measles	215	3	212
Diphtheria	196	3	193
Total	2,837	202	2,635

The figures show that the mortality from the six diseases mentioned declined by 93 per cent.—the decline representing a rate of 2,635 per million of the population.

Ages at
Death.

The ages of males and of females who died in each of the years 1956 to 1958 are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—AGES AT DEATH, 1956 TO 1958.

Ages.	1956.			1957.			1958.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 Year ..	628	500	1,128	664	555	1,219	644	534	1,178
1 Year ..	47	37	84	79	59	138	54	40	94
2 Years ..	39	38	77	30	38	68	41	24	65
3 ..	21	18	39	33	15	48	19	13	32
4 ..	25	17	42	15	15	30	26	10	36
5 to 9 Years ..	66	47	113	75	46	121	84	51	135
10 " 14 " ..	55	32	87	59	35	94	50	39	89
15 " 19 " ..	103	39	142	120	46	166	99	23	122
20 " 24 " ..	135	43	178	140	34	174	147	49	196
25 " 29 " ..	138	66	204	158	71	229	112	49	161
30 " 34 " ..	178	82	260	189	104	293	168	75	243
35 " 39 " ..	197	123	320	248	114	362	212	150	362
40 " 44 " ..	292	168	460	283	211	494	281	200	481
45 " 49 " ..	442	292	734	472	293	765	479	293	772
50 " 54 " ..	683	374	1,057	680	373	1,053	708	414	1,122
55 " 59 " ..	954	568	1,522	1,076	553	1,629	1,031	534	1,565
60 " 64 " ..	1,414	814	2,228	1,340	898	2,178	1,317	887	2,204
65 " 69 " ..	1,686	1,203	2,889	1,788	1,244	3,032	1,748	1,183	2,931
70 " 74 " ..	1,737	1,408	3,145	1,813	1,470	3,283	1,713	1,461	3,174
75 " 79 " ..	1,626	1,685	3,311	1,602	1,684	3,286	1,630	1,614	3,244
80 " 84 " ..	1,259	1,624	2,883	1,139	1,568	2,707	1,141	1,480	2,621
85 " 89 " ..	803	1,204	2,007	740	1,110	1,850	746	1,132	1,878
90 " 94 " ..	272	502	774	277	454	731	264	477	741
95 Years ..	23	51	74	22	36	58	18	36	54
96 " ..	18	32	50	15	19	34	11	24	35
97 " ..	6	26	32	8	22	30	13	18	31
98 " ..	3	17	20	7	19	26	5	8	13
99 " ..	2	6	8	1	2	3	6	12	18
100 " ..	2	2	4	1	3	4	1	6	7
101 " ..	1	1	2	..	4	4	..	2	2
102 " ..	..	..	..	1	1	2	1	2	3
103 " ..	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	2	2
104 " ..	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..
105 " ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
106 " ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
Unknown ..	6	2	8	9	9	18	10	4	14
Total ..	12,862	11,024	23,886	13,084	11,047	24,131	12,779	10,846	23,625

Of the 71,642 persons who died in Victoria during the above three years, 16,712 (or approximately 23 per cent.) were aged 80 years and upwards, and 36—eight males and twenty-eight females— were stated as having attained or passed the aged of 100 years. In 1900 deaths of persons aged 80 years and over represented about 7 per cent. of the total deaths in that year.

The changes that have occurred in the age distribution of the population over the last 58 years are reflected in the above figures.

Causes of
Death.

The Sixth (1948) Revision of the International List of Causes of Death was adopted for use in 1950.

The Revision introduced international rules for a uniform method of selecting the main cause of death to be tabulated if more than one cause is stated on the death certificate.

The comparability of statistics for years subsequent to 1950 with those for years prior to 1950 will be affected by the adoption of the new method.

The Seventh (1955) Revision of the International List of Causes of Death was adopted for use in 1958.

The causes of death in Victoria and in Melbourne Metropolitan Area for 1958, according to the abbreviated List of the Seventh (1955) Revision of the International List of Causes of Death and the rate per million of population are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH, NUMBERS AND RATES, 1958.

Cause of Death.†	Deaths—1958.			
	Victoria.		Melbourne Metropolitan Area.	
	Number.	Rate per 1,000,000 of Mean Population.	Number.	Rate per 1,000,000 of Mean Population.
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System (1-8) ..	134	48.90	85	49.24
2. Tuberculosis, other forms (10-19) ..	11	4.01	7	4.06
3. Syphilis and its sequelae (20-29) ..	36	13.14	27	15.64
4. Typhoid Fever (40) ..	..	..	..	..
5. Cholera (43) ..	..	..	..	..
6. Dysentery, all forms (45-48) ..	5	1.82	3	1.74
7. Scarlet fever and streptococcal sore throat (50, 51) ..	..	..	..	..
8. Diphtheria (55) ..	..	..	..	..
9. Whooping cough (56) ..	..	..	..	..
10. Meningococcal infections (57) ..	6	2.19	4	2.32
11. Plague (58) ..	..	..	..	..
12. Acute poliomyelitis (80) ..	3	1.09	3	1.74
13. Smallpox (84) ..	..	..	..	..
14. Measles (85) ..	2	.73	1	.57
15. Typhus and other rickettsial diseases (100-108) ..	..	..	..	..
16. Malaria (110-117) ..	..	..	..	..
17. All other diseases classed as infective and parasitic ..	69	25.18	36	20.86
18. Malignant neoplasms, including neoplasms of lymphatic and haematopoietic tissues (140-205) ..	3,643	1,329.42	2,438	1,412.43
19. Benign and unspecified neoplasms (210-239) ..	80	29.19	55	31.86
20. Diabetes mellitus (260) ..	411	149.98	273	158.16
21. Anaemias (290-293) ..	90	32.84	60	34.76
22. Vascular lesions affecting central nervous system (330-334) ..	3,229	1,178.34	2,196	1,272.23
23. Nonmeningococcal meningitis (340) ..	33	12.04	18	10.43
24. Rheumatic fever (400-402) ..	10	3.65	5	2.90
25. Chronic rheumatic heart disease (410-416) ..	211	77.00	159	92.12
26. Arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease (420-422) ..	6,636	2,421.64	4,461	2,584.44
27. Other diseases of the heart (430-434) ..	731	266.73	431	249.70
28. Hypertension with heart disease (440-443) ..	487	177.72	342	198.13
29. Hypertension without mention of heart (444-447) ..	284	103.64	198	114.71

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH, NUMBERS AND RATES, 1958—*continued*.

Cause of Death.†	Deaths—1958.			
	Victoria.		Melbourne Metropolitan Area.	
	Number.	Rate per 1,000,000 of Mean Population.	Number.	Rate per 1,000,000 of Mean Population.
30. Influenza (480-483)	58	21·17	39	22·59
31. Pneumonia (490-493)	650	237·20	381	230·73
32. Bronchitis (500-502)	341	124·44	221	128·03
33. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum (540, 541) ..	166	60·58	117	67·78
34. Appendicitis (550-553)	31	11·31	22	12·75
35. Intestinal obstruction and hernia (560, 561, 570) ..	121	44·16	82	47·51
36. Gastritis, duodenitis, enteritis and colitis, except diarrhoea of the newborn (543, 571, 572) ..	91	33·21	56	32·44
37. Cirrhosis of liver (581)	152	55·47	110	63·73
38. Nephritis and nephrosis (590-594)	308	112·40	200	115·87
39. Hyperplasia of prostate (610)	169	61·67	120	69·52
40. Complications of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium (640-652, 660, 670-689) ..	19	6·93	12	6·95
41. Congenital malformations (750-759)	343	125·17	216	125·14
42. Birth injuries, postnatal asphyxia and atelectasis (760-762)	384	140·13	272	157·58
43. Infections of the newborn (763-768)	45	16·42	29	16·80
44. Other diseases peculiar to early infancy, and immaturity unqualified (769-776)	268	97·80	127	73·58
45. Senility without mention of psychosis, ill-defined and unknown causes (780-795) ..	177	64·59	69	39·97
46. All other diseases	2,586	943·75	1,757	1,017·90
47. Motor vehicle accidents (E810-E835)	597	217·86	303	175·54
48. All other accidents (E800-E802, E840-E962) ..	727	265·30	490	233·88
49. Suicide and self-inflicted injury (E963, E970-E979)	247	90·14	159	92·12
50. Homicide and operations of war (E964, E965, E980-E999)	34	12·41	24	13·90
Total	23,625	8,621·36	15,608	9,042·35

† Figures in parentheses are in respect of the Seventh Revision of the International List of Causes of Death.

**Tuberculosis
(All Forms).**

The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1958 was 145, the rate per million of population being 53. This is the lowest rate recorded for Victoria.

**Death Rates
from
Tuberculosis of
the Respiratory
System.**

The deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1958 numbered 134 (101 being of males and 33 of females) and equalled a rate of 49 per million of the population. Rates for previous periods were 130 for 1950-54, 294 in 1945-49, 660 in 1918-22, 855 in 1908-12, and 1,365 in 1890-92. In 1952 tuberculosis of the respiratory system was responsible for 92 per cent. of the total deaths from tuberculosis.

The rates of mortality for Victoria at the last eight census periods per 10,000 of each sex, in age groups, are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULOSIS OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM IN AGE GROUPS.

Age Group.	Annual Mortality from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System per 10,000 of Each Sex.							
	1880-82.	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1932-34.	1946-48.	1953-55.
<i>Males.</i>								
Under 15 ..	1.74	0.90	0.38	0.46	0.42	0.24	0.13	0.02
15 to 19 ..	6.88	5.41	5.06	3.71	2.67	1.07	0.35	..
20 to 24 ..	21.19	18.29	14.35	8.45	7.88	3.59	1.66	0.01
25 to 34 ..	30.33	23.70	20.31	13.11	9.70	5.44	2.20	0.30
35 to 44 ..	25.11	28.28	22.07	15.63	12.43	7.46	3.66	0.74
45 to 54 ..	28.65	31.17	25.05	18.07	13.94	9.05	7.13	2.24
55 to 64 ..	31.41	36.48	35.75	18.88	13.03	10.56	9.83	4.15
65 and upwards	18.08	25.40	31.07	13.55	8.65	7.80	11.89	7.75
All Ages ..	15.33	15.73	13.51	8.98	7.11	4.74	3.82	1.35
<i>Females.</i>								
Under 15 ..	1.76	1.43	0.93	0.97	0.38	0.23	0.15	0.01
15 to 19 ..	12.50	9.51	8.18	7.62	4.84	2.92	1.02	..
20 to 24 ..	21.00	18.49	12.79	12.68	10.20	6.60	2.79	0.01
25 to 34 ..	26.56	21.77	18.15	14.03	10.00	7.08	3.62	0.41
35 to 44 ..	24.06	22.53	17.74	11.51	9.15	5.26	3.02	0.78
45 to 54 ..	20.72	16.13	14.41	8.18	5.91	3.82	2.78	0.61
55 to 64 ..	14.26	12.35	12.52	7.47	4.95	3.78	2.19	0.59
65 and upwards	13.12	8.25	8.18	5.29	3.94	2.88	3.04	1.39
All Ages ..	12.75	11.51	9.72	7.61	5.55	3.70	2.18	0.44

A comparison of the mortality from tuberculosis of the respiratory system for the census periods 1946-48 and 1953-55 shows that lower death rates obtained in each age group in 1953-55 than in 1946-48.

Deaths from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System at Various Ages. The number of deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in the year 1958, classified according to sex and age groups, is given in the following table :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS OF THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM AT VARIOUS AGES, 1958.

Age Group.		Males.	Females.	Age Group.		Males.	Females.
0-9	.. ..	2	..	45-49	.. ..	7	3
10-14	.. ..	..	..	50-54	.. ..	14	1
15-19	.. ..	..	..	55-59	.. ..	9	3
20-24	.. ..	..	1	60-64	.. ..	15	4
25-29	.. ..	1	1	65-69	.. ..	17	4
30-34	.. ..	1	6	70 and over	..	31	4
35-39	.. ..	1	1				
40-44	.. ..	3	5	Total	..	101	33

For the year 1958, the average age of those who died from tuberculosis of the respiratory system was 61·6 years for males and 50·9 years for females.

Tubercular Diseases (Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System Excepted).

In 1958 there occurred in Victoria 11 deaths from tubercular diseases (excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system). This represented a rate of four per million of the population.

Rates for previous periods were 17 in 1950-54, 26 in 1946-50, 134 in 1918-22, 182 in 1908-12, and 379 in 1890-92.

Typhoid Fever.

There were no deaths from typhoid fever in 1958, the last previous death from this disease having occurred in 1956.

Rates per million of population were 1.4 in 1945-49, 31 in 1920-24, 108 in 1905-09, and 301 in 1895-99. There were 9 cases of typhoid fever reported in 1958 which represented a rate of 3 per million of the population, as against 11 per million in 1950-54, 11 per million in 1945-49, 259 in 1920-24, 1,254 in 1905-09, and 2,884 in 1895-99.

In the Moorabbin outbreak of typhoid fever in 1943 there were 433 cases reported and 23 deaths.

Scarlet Fever and Streptococcal Sore Throat.

There were no deaths from these diseases in 1958.

In Victoria in the last twenty years, scarlet fever reached its highest incidence in 1944, when 7,824 cases were reported. Since that year it has declined considerably and in 1957 a new low level of incidence was reported. During the year 1958 the incidence increased, the number of cases reported being 1,079. Both the case fatality, and the mortality per million of population are very low.

Diphtheria.

A very great reduction has taken place since 1890 in the proportion of diphtheria cases which ended fatally. On the average of the five years 1954-58, 25 per cent. of those who died were under 5 years, and all were under 10 years of age.

The following table shows for Victoria and Melbourne Metropolitan Area the reported cases of and deaths from diphtheria, their proportions to the population, and the ratios of deaths to cases for certain periods since 1894 :—

**VICTORIA AND MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA—
DIPHTHERIA CASES AND DEATHS, 1895 TO 1958.**

Period.	Average Annual Cases Reported.		Average Annual Deaths.		Deaths per 100 Cases Reported.
	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	
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
1925-29	3,176	183·8	93	5·4	2·9
1930-34	5,645	312·1	124	6·8	2·2
1935-39	3,202	171·5	65	3·5	2·0
1940-44	1,590	81·4	45	2·3	2·8
1945-49	520	25·2	19	0·9	3·7
1950-54	214	9·2	7	0·3	3·3
1955	170	6·7	2	0·1	1·2
1956	103	4·0	..	..	..
1957	74	2·8	2	0·1	2·7
1958	37	1·4	..	..	..
MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA.					
1895-99	748	162·1	113	24·6	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	4·9
1915-19	2,864	402·6	127	17·9	4·4
1920-24	2,555	314·6	78	9·7	3·1
1925-29	1,843	191·1	52	5·4	2·8
1930-34	3,151	315·9	68	6·8	2·1
1935-39	1,864	182·4	36	3·5	1·9
1940-44	914	80·9	25	2·2	2·8
1945-49	347	28·4	14	1·1	4·0
1950-54	129	9·3	4	0·3	3·1
1955	142	8·9	..	..	..
1956	100	6·1	..	..	..
1957	70	4·2	2	0·1	2·6
1958	28	1·6	..	..	..

The incidence rate of 1.4 per 100,000 of population is the lowest on record in Victoria.

Whooping Cough. There were no deaths from whooping cough in 1958 or 1957, the last death occurring in 1956. There were six deaths in 1955 and seven in 1954. The infantile death rate is more affected than the general rate by this ailment, as it is practically confined to children.

Meningococcal Infections. There were 6 deaths from meningococcal infections in 1958, representing a death rate of 2 per million of the population. Rates for previous years were 6 in 1957, 6 in 1956, 11 in 1955 and 17 in 1954.

Acute Poliomyelitis. The incidence of poliomyelitis in Victoria has been recorded since the year 1916, when the disease was added to the list of compulsorily notifiable diseases. Since that year the most serious epidemic occurred in 1937-38 when 2,096 cases were reported resulting in 113 deaths. Other epidemics occurred in 1918 (303 cases, 21 deaths), 1925 (140 cases, 25 deaths), 1949 (760 cases, 48 deaths), and 1954 (569 cases, 36 deaths).

During 1958 there were 60 cases notified which represented a rate of 22 per million of population, and 3 deaths which represented a rate of 1 per million of population.

Death rates per million of population for previous years were nil in 1957; 4 in 1956, 4 in 1955, and 15 in 1954.

Distribution of the Salk poliomyelitis vaccine began in July, 1956 and there was a marked decline in the number of cases reported since that date.

Deaths from Small-pox. During the years 1853 to 1958, only 31 deaths occurred from this cause. The last death from small-pox in Victoria occurred in 1921.

Measles. Although the mortality from measles has varied very considerably from period to period, there has been no very severe epidemic since 1898, when 671 deaths resulted from the disease. There were 2 deaths from measles in 1958, representing a rate of 1 per million of the population. Rates for previous years were 2 in 1957, 1 in 1956, 6 in 1955 and 1 in 1954. The disease chiefly affects children. For the five years 1954-58, 68 per cent of those who died from the disease were under 5 years and 81 per cent. were under 10 years of age.

Deaths classified under this heading since 1950 include deaths from Hodgkins' disease and Leukaemia and Aleukaemia, which were not formerly included with neoplasms. Deaths from malignant neoplasms in 1958 numbered 3,643 and represented a rate of 1,329 per million of population.

Rates for previous periods were 1,401 in 1957 and 1,405 in 1956.

Death rates relating to malignant neoplasms, computed in relation to the general population in earlier and in later periods, are not comparable owing to the changed age distribution of the people. Satisfactory comparisons are obtained by relating the deaths with the number of persons in the community of the same sex, in age groups. This has been done for six census periods, when the numbers of the people in age groups were accurately known, and the results are given in the appended table:—

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS IN AGE GROUPS.

Age Group.	Annual Deaths from Cancer per 10,000 of each Sex.					
	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1932-34.	1946-48.	1953-55.
<i>Males.</i>						
Under 5	0·30	0·73	0·46	0·27	0·60	1·11
5 to 9	0·42	0·25	0·13	0·20	0·34	0·98
10 to 14	0·20	0·16	0·14	0·24	0·24	0·69
15 to 19	0·22	0·15	0·30	0·37	0·61	0·93
20 to 24	0·33	0·71	0·64	0·73	0·69	1·27
25 to 34	1·26	0·96	0·76	0·93	1·20	1·32
35 to 44	3·69	3·16	3·31	3·04	3·00	4·01
45 to 54	14·14	16·03	13·94	10·13	11·65	13·25
55 to 64	36·00	36·36	40·46	37·25	32·73	36·99
65 to 74	59·04	74·15	78·21	85·19	80·46	82·41
75 and over	74·04	88·40	110·12	133·78	148·20	163·06
All Ages	7·52	8·50	9·52	11·63	13·51	13·76
<i>Females.</i>						
Under 5	0·26	0·19	0·39	0·38	0·48	1·37
5 to 9	0·04	0·10	0·17	0·17	0·18	0·60
10 to 14 .. ..	..	0·27	0·05	0·08	0·40	0·71
15 to 19	0·28	0·44	0·15	0·17	0·04	0·49
20 to 24	0·23	0·41	0·30	0·39	0·60	0·56
25 to 34	1·61	1·39	1·28	1·57	1·75	1·81
35 to 44	6·05	7·26	6·61	6·00	6·23	6·14
45 to 54	18·13	17·87	19·14	17·31	16·47	16·46
55 to 64	33·05	38·03	34·48	35·82	33·40	30·93
65 to 74	51·18	61·66	63·05	61·17	61·44	59·38
75 and over	62·70	86·19	92·86	106·19	111·49	117·02
All Ages	6·64	8·76	9·63	12·00	14·50	14·16

Deaths from malignant neoplasms 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.

**Malignant
Neoplasms,
including
Neoplasms of
Lymphatic and
Haematopoietic
Tissues:
Deaths at
Certain Ages.**

The number of deaths from malignant neoplasms in the year 1958, classified according to sex and age groups, is given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS
AT CERTAIN AGES, 1958.

Age Group.	Males.	Females.	Total
0-4	21	13	34
5-9	10	10	20
10-14	9	8	17
15-19	12	2	14
20-24	4	10	14
25-29	6	8	14
30-34	15	17	32
35-39	23	44	67
40-44	42	68	110
45-49	79	108	187
50-54	128	150	278
55-59	196	158	354
60-64	242	203	445
65-69	315	253	568
70-74	294	261	555
75-79	248	214	462
80-84	143	123	266
85 and over	87	119	206
Total	1,874	1,769	3,643

Ninety-one per cent. of the deaths from malignant neoplasms in the year 1958 were at ages 45 years and upwards.

For the year 1958 the average age of those who died from malignant neoplasms was 64.6 years for males and 63.9 years for females.

Malignant Neoplasms, including Neoplasms of Lymphatic and Haematopoietic Tissues.

The following table shows the site of the disease in persons who died from malignant neoplasms in 1958:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS, 1958.

Site of Diseases. †	Males.	Females.	Total
Buccal Cavity and Pharynx (140-148) ..	46	24	70
Oesophagus (150)	42	32	74
Stomach (151)	289	193	482
Intestine, except Rectum (152, 153) ..	169	256	425
Rectum (154)	90	63	153
Larynx (161)	27	1	28
Trachea, and Bronchus and Lung, not specified as secondary (162, 163)	359	71	430
Breast (170)	2	331	333
Cervix Uteri (171) .. .. .	..	86	86
Other and Unspecified Parts of Uterus (172-174) .. .. .	..	84	84
Prostate (177)	207	..	207
Skin (190)	20	23	43
Bone and Connective Tissue (196, 197) ..	16	14	30
All Other and Unspecified Sites	433	445	878
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia (204)	82	80	162
Other Neoplasms of Lymphatic and Haematopoietic System (200-203, 205) ..	92	66	158
Total	1,874	1,769	3,643

† Figures in brackets are in respect of the Seventh Revision of the International List of Causes of Death.

Diabetes Mellitus. During 1958 diabetes was responsible for 132 male and 279 female deaths, representing a rate of 150 per million of the population. Rates for previous periods were 167 in 1957, 176 in 1956, 166 in 1955, 165 in 1950-54, 130 in 1918-22, and 107 in 1908-12.

The sudden fall in the rate for 1950 was due to the change in the method of selecting the underlying cause of death.

Vascular Lesions Affecting Central Nervous System. In 1958, 1,328 male and 1,901 female deaths were ascribed to these causes, the total—3,229—corresponding to a rate of 1,178 per million of the population. Of the 3,229 deaths in 1958, 143 were due to subarachnoid haemorrhage, 1,593 to cerebral haemorrhage, 1,172 to cerebral embolism and thrombosis, and 321 to other vascular lesions.

Nonmeningococcal Meningitis.

In 1958 deaths from nonmeningococcal meningitis numbered 33, the rate per million of population being 12.

Diseases of the Heart.

During 1958 there were 8,065 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart including 211 due to chronic rheumatic heart disease, 6,636 to arteriosclerotic and degenerative heart disease, 731 to other diseases of the heart, and 487 to hypertension with heart disease. The total causes in 1958 represented a rate of 2,943 per million of the population.

Diseases of the Respiratory System.

In 1958 deaths from respiratory diseases numbered 1,413 which represented a rate of 516 per million of the population.

Of the deaths in 1958, 58 were due to influenza, 92 to lobar pneumonia, 444 to broncho-pneumonia, 114 to pneumonia, other and unspecified, 341 to bronchitis, 14 to empyema and abscess of lung, 5 to pleurisy, 47 to pulmonary congestion and hypostasis, 26 to bronchiectasis, and 272 to other diseases.

The 58 deaths from influenza in 1958 represented a rate of 21 per million of the population.

Influenza has generally proved more fatal to elderly people than to those at middle or young ages. In the epidemic of 1919, however, 72 per cent. of the deaths were of persons between 20 and 50 years of age. In 1958, 22 per cent of the deaths were of persons under 50 years of age.

Diseases of the Digestive System.

In 1958 there were 474 male and 316 female deaths from digestive ailments, representing a proportion of 288 per million of the population. Rates for previous periods were 289 in 1957, 297 in 1956, 322 in 1955, 807 in 1922-26, and 2,382 in 1890-92. Deaths from these causes in 1958 were:—166 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 2 from gastritis and duodenitis, 31 from appendicitis, 121 from intestinal obstruction and hernia, 89 from gastro-enteritis and colitis, except diarrhoea of the newborn, 152 from cirrhosis of the liver, 95 cholelithiasis and cholecystitis, and 134 from other diseases.

Diseases of the Genito-urinary System.

In 1958 there were 641 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. This number represented a rate of 234 per million of the population. In 1958 nephritis and nephrosis were responsible for 308 deaths, infections of the kidney for 93, calculi of urinary system for 9, hyperplasia of prostate for 169, and other diseases of genito-urinary system for 62.

Maternal Deaths.

The death rate of women in childbirth is usually ascertained by comparing the number of deaths of parturient women with the total number of live births.

This rate varies considerably at different ages, and is higher at older than younger ages. The number of deaths of women in childbirth

and the death rates in various age groups in Victoria for the period 1926-30 and the years 1956, 1957 and 1958 are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—MATERNAL DEATHS, 1926 TO 1958.

Age Group.	Mothers.							
	Deaths.				Deaths per 10,000 Children Born Alive to Mothers in Each Age Group.			
	1926-30.	1956.	1957.	1958.	1926-30.	1956.	1957.	1958.
Under 20 years ..	41	1	1	1	47·1	3·0	3·2	2·8
20 to 24 years ..	150	1	4	2	39·1	0·6	2·5	1·1
25 to 29 „ ..	231	2	7	4	46·5	1·0	3·7	2·1
30 to 34 „ ..	226	4	9	8	56·8	3·1	7·1	6·2
35 to 39 „ ..	226	1	5	2	88·1	1·7	8·7	3·1
40 years and over	111	1	1	2	117·8	5·6	5·2	10·9
Total ..	985	10	27	19	57·4	1·7	4·6	3·1

The experience of the years 1926-30 showed that, for the age period 35 years and upwards, the deaths of mothers in childbirth were 96 per 10,000 live births, as compared with 47 per 10,000 for those under that age. Corresponding figures for 1958 were 5 per 10,000 live births and 3 per 10,000 live births respectively.

VICTORIA—ACCIDENTAL DEATHS, 1958.

Detailed List No.	Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.
E800-E802 ..	Railway accidents	25	6	31
E810-E835 ..	Motor vehicle accidents	463	134	597
E840-E845 ..	Other road vehicle accidents	17	2	19
E850-E858 ..	Water transport accidents	3	1	4
E860-E866 ..	Aircraft accidents	5	3	8
E870-E888 ..	Accidental poisoning by solid and liquid substances	33	19	52
E890-E895 ..	Accidental poisoning by gases and vapours	14	11	25
E900-E904 ..	Accidental falls	106	139	245
E912 ..	Accident caused by machinery	13	..	13
E914 ..	Accident caused by electric current	14	1	15
E916 ..	Accident caused by fire and explosion of combustible material	29	25	54
E917, E918 ..	Accident caused by hot substance, corrosive liquid, steam, and radiation	11	5	16
E919 ..	Accident caused by firearm	29	1	30
E924, E925 ..	Accidental mechanical suffocation	4	2	6
E927 ..	Accidents caused by bites and stings of venomous animals and insects .. .. .	..	..	..
E928 ..	Other accidents caused by animals	5	1	6
E929 ..	Accidental drowning and submersion	98	31	129
E935 ..	Lightning .. .. .	..	..	..
E910, E911, E913, E915, E920-E923, E926, E930-E934, E936, E940-E946, E950-E959, E960-E962 ..	All other accidental causes	54	20	74
	Total	923	401	1,324

For the five years 1954-58, the female mortality rate from accidents was 40 per cent. of the rate for males.

Accidental Deaths Involving Motor Vehicles.

The number of motor vehicles (including motor cycles) registered in Victoria and the deaths in which they were involved, for the years 1949 to 1958, were as follows :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS INVOLVING MOTOR VEHICLES,
1949 TO 1958.

Year.	Number of Motor Vehicles (30th June).	Deaths Involving Motor Vehicles.		
		Number.	Per 10,000 Motor Vehicles.	Per 1,000,000 of Population.
1949	351,428	461	13·1	216
1950	403,965	563	13·9	255
1951	444,400	629	14·2	277
1952	533,226	630	11·8	269
1953	539,828	533	9·9	222
1954	559,246	622	11·1	253
1955	629,147	586	9·3	232
1956	677,916	592	8·7	227
1957	708,582	667	9·4	249
1958	747,834	597	8·0	218

The mortality per 10,000 vehicles was 9·2 for the period 1954-58, as compared with a rate of 11·2 in 1944-48. The mortality rate (277) in 1951 was the highest on record.

In 1958 motor cars &c. were involved in 7·7 deaths per 10,000 cars registered, and motor cycles in 17·7 deaths per 10,000 motor cycles registered.

Transport Accidents.

In 1958 deaths from transport accidents numbered 659, as against 714 in 1957, 634 in 1956, 657 in 1955, 687 in 1954, 603 in 1953, 703 in 1952, 693 in 1951, 640 in 1950 and 539 in 1949.

During the year 1958 deaths connected with transport represented 50 per cent. of the total deaths from accidents. The corresponding percentage in 1957 was 47.

In the following table details are given of deaths due to collisions between various types of transport, and to other fatal accidents in which transport was concerned, for the year 1958 :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS, 1958.

Particulars.	Collisions.										Total Deaths from Collisions.	Other Transport Accidents.	Total Deaths from Transport Accidents.	Males.	Females.
	Railway Vehicle.	Tramcar.	Motor Car.	Motor Omnibus.	Other Motor Vehicle except Motor Cycle.	Motor Cycle.	Horse-drawn Vehicle, &c.	Bicycle.	Animal.	Fixed Object.						Other Object.
Railway Vehicle	7	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	10	31	41*	30	11
Tramcar	1	8	9	7	2
Motor Car	72	2	46	21	..	21	1	..	163	293	456	347	109
Motor Omnibus	1	..	1	..	..	2	2	4	3	1
Other Motor Vehicle (except Motor Cycle)	14	10	..	5	..	..	29	87	116	97	19
Motor Cycle	1	..	..	1	10	11	11	..
Horse-drawn Vehicle	2	2	2	..
Bicycle	3	3	3	..
Aeroplane	8	8	5	3
Water Transport	4	4	3	1
Animal	4	4	4	..
Other Vehicle	1	1	1	..
Total	79	2	62	33	..	28	2	..	206	453	659	513	146

* Includes rail accidents to eight railway employees.

Suicide. In the year 1958, 181 males and 66 females took their lives. These deaths represented a rate of 90 per million of the population as compared with 89 in 1957, 70 in 1956, 77 in 1955, 79 in 1954, 87 in 1918-22, 102 in 1908-12 and 109 in 1890-92.

Of the 181 male deaths in 1958 from suicide, 61 (34 per cent.) were connected with firearms and explosives.

A much lower rate from suicide occurs among females than among males, the rate for the former for the five year period 1954-58, being 40 per cent. of that of the latter.

Homicide. The deaths ascribed to homicide in 1958 numbered 32 (17 males and 15 females).

These deaths represented a rate of 12 per million of the population in 1958 as compared with 6 in 1957, 10 in 1956, 11 in 1955, 14 in 1954 and 19 in 1908-12.

Since 1930, deaths from criminal abortion have been excluded from this category and included with deaths from maternal causes.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The mortality of children under one year, in proportion to live births, reveals a remarkable decline since 1890—the deaths per 1,000 children born having fallen from 133 in 1885–89 to 21 in 1950–54—a reduction of 84 per cent. In other words, where 100 infants died in the earlier period, only 17 died in the latter.

The reduction has been contributed to by various health acts and educative measures, including the notification of infectious diseases, the regulation of the manufacture, sale, and distribution of foodstuffs and patent medicines, and the ensuring of a pure water supply. The passing of the Midwives Act in 1915 and the inauguration of the Infant Welfare movement in 1917 coincide with and, in a large degree, account for the reduction of the rate in latter years.

The infant death rates for Melbourne Metropolitan Area, for the remainder of the State, and for the whole State, for certain periods since 1879, are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—INFANT MORTALITY, 1880 TO 1958.

Period.	Melbourne Metropolitan Area.		Remainder of State.		Victoria.	
	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
1880–84 ..	1,649	170·1	1,626	92·3	3,275	120·0
1885–89 ..	2,576	178·5	1,812	97·9	4,388	133·3
1890–94 ..	2,311	140·4	1,926	94·9	4,237	114·7
1895–99 ..	1,650	131·5	1,913	100·0	3,563	112·5
1900–04 ..	1,417	116·5	1,565	86·2	2,982	98·2
1905–09 ..	1,209	96·5	1,307	71·5	2,516	81·2
1910–14 ..	1,345	84·2	1,201	64·9	2,546	73·8
1915–19 ..	1,302	76·2	886	55·4	2,188	66·1
1920–24 ..	1,328	71·6	1,024	58·6	2,352	65·3
1925–29 ..	1,034	58·4	863	50·2	1,897	54·4
1930–34 ..	674	47·3	618	40·7	1,292	43·9
1935–39 ..	543	37·9	574	37·9	1,117	37·9
1940–44 ..	738	36·4	594	37·5	1,332	36·8
1945–49 ..	643	25·0	516	25·9	1,159	25·4
1950–54 ..	559	20·1	547	22·2	1,106	21·1
1955 ..	541	16·7	494	20·6	1,035	18·4
1956 ..	623	18·3	505	20·7	1,128	19·3
1957 ..	695	19·6	524	20·9	1,219	20·2
1958 ..	710	19·6	468	18·6	1,178	19·2

The practice 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 the corresponding decrease in the rate for the metropolis.

The infant death rates have shown a decrease in each quinquennial period from 1885 onwards. In 1954 the rate fell below 20 per 1,000 births for the first time on record. The lowest rate recorded was in 1955 when the figure was 18·4. In 1958 the rate was 19·2.

Deaths of infants under one year of age, and deaths per 1,000 births in the Melbourne Metropolitan Area, for cities outside the Melbourne Metropolitan Area and for the remainder of the State for the periods 1928-32, 1938-42 and 1948-52 and for the year 1958 were as follows :—

VICTORIA—INFANT DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR,
1928 TO 1958.

Area.	Average Annual Number of Deaths.				Deaths per 1,000 Births.			
	1928-1932.	1938-1942.	1948-1952.	1958.	1928-1932.	1938-1942.	1948-1952.	1958.
Melbourne Metropolitan Area*..	812	639	560	710	50·94	37·24	21·22	19·63
Cities Outside Melbourne Metropolitan Area ..	147	124	105	104	54·30	39·55	23·18	16·62
Remainder of State ..	556	462	429	364	42·13	37·51	23·14	19·32
Total Victoria ..	1,515	1,225	1,094	1,178	47·65	37·55	22·16	19·23

* For definition of the Melbourne Metropolitan Area see pages 223 and 224.

Infant Mortality at Certain Ages. The decrease in the infant death rate, since the earlier periods, has been shared proportionally by each age-group except that of "under one week". The rate per 1,000 births for infants "under one week" has varied from 21·5 in the quinquennium 1910-14 to 22·7 in 1925-29 and 12·6 in 1954-58. The rate for infants "one week and under one month" declined from 11·1 in 1910-14 to 1·7 in 1954-58, a decrease of 85 per cent., and that for infants "one month and under one year" from 41·2 to 5·0, a decrease of 88 per cent. Between the ages of one month and one year, Victoria lost 64 out of every 1,000 children born in 1900-04, 33 in 1915-19, and 5 in 1954-58. In 1958 the mortality of infants "under one week" comprised 66 per cent. of the total infantile mortality.

The rate for male infants is consistently higher than that for females, and in 1954-58 exceeded the female rate by 20 per cent.

The following tables show infant mortality rates at certain ages under one year:—

VICTORIA—INFANT MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES, 1900 TO 1958.

Period.	Deaths Under One Year per 1,000 Births.							Males.	Females.
	Under One Week.	One Week and under One Month.	One Month and under Three Months.	Three Months and under Six Months.	Six Months and under Twelve Months.	Total under One Year.			
1900-04 ..	34.4		16.9	21.0	25.9	98.2	105.7	90.4	
1905-09 ..	33.0		13.8	15.1	19.3	81.2	89.3	72.6	
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	9.3	9.8	10.0	12.5	65.3	71.8	58.5	
1925-29 ..	22.7	7.7	6.9	6.7	10.4	54.4	60.7	47.6	
1930-34 ..	22.3	5.5	4.8	4.6	6.7	43.9	49.2	38.4	
1935-39 ..	21.1	5.1	3.7	2.9	5.1	37.9	42.0	33.6	
1940-44 ..	19.8	5.6	4.0	3.2	4.2	36.8	41.0	32.5	
1945-49 ..	15.9	2.9	2.3	1.9	2.4	25.4	28.4	22.3	
1950-54 ..	13.4	2.1	1.7	1.8	2.1	21.1	23.4	18.5	
1955 ..	11.7	1.8	1.5	1.7	1.7	18.4	20.1	16.5	
1956 ..	12.4	1.8	1.6	1.7	1.8	19.3	20.9	17.7	
1957 ..	13.2	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.8	20.2	21.4	18.8	
1958 ..	12.8	1.7	1.4	1.8	1.5	19.2	20.4	17.9	

VICTORIA—INFANT MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES BY SEX, 1958.

Sex.	Under One Week.	One Week and under One Month.	One Month and under Three Months.	Three Months and under Six Months.	Six Months and under Twelve Months.	Total under One Year.
Males						
Number	432	51	49	69	43	644
Rate *	13.71	1.62	1.55	2.19	1.36	20.43
Percentage at Each Age ..	67.08	7.92	7.61	10.71	6.68	100.00
Females						
Number	350	54	37	44	49	534
Rate *	11.76	1.82	1.24	1.48	1.65	17.95
Percentage at Each Age ..	65.54	10.11	6.93	8.24	9.18	100.00

* Number of deaths under one year of age per 1,000 births.

**Infant
Death Rates
from Certain
Causes.**

An examination of the principal causes of infant mortality over a period of years and at various ages reveals the direction in which improvement has been achieved, and discloses those causes and factors to which future investigations need to be directed if the decline in the rate is to be maintained. Since 1950 infant deaths have been classified according to the Sixth (1948) Revision of the International List of Causes of Death. Owing to the change in classifications, figures since 1950 are not exactly comparable with figures for previous years.

The Seventh (1955) Revision of the International List of Causes of Death was adopted for use in 1958.

The following table shows the infant mortality rates from the principal causes for certain periods from 1891 to 1949:—

VICTORIA—INFANT MORTALITY FROM CERTAIN CAUSES.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births in—					
	1891-93.	1901-10.	1911-20.	1921-30.	1931-40.	1941-49.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases	12·41	7·31	4·87	3·57	2·51	1·23
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia	11·37	8·13	6·86	6·08	5·58	3·84
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	29·66	24·62	16·13	9·85	1·98	1·31
Congenital Malformations	3·45	4·86	4·38	4·43	4·29	3·75
Congenital Debility	22·24	12·74	13·09	6·77	2·30	0·73
Prematurity	13·13	14·99	15·17	15·34	12·40	9·69
Injury at Birth	} 21·51	} 12·77	} 7·98	2·57	3·25	3·32
Other Diseases of Early Infancy				3·42	4·39	3·30
Other Diseases				4·42	2·58	1·77
Violence	3·16	2·47	1·07	0·80	0·83	0·75
Total, All Causes	116·93	87·89	69·55	57·25	40·11	29·69

The mortality from epidemic, endemic and infectious diseases, the main respiratory diseases, and diarrhoea and enteritis declined from 40·1 per 1,000 births in 1901-10 to 6·4 in 1941-49, a decrease of 84 per cent.

VICTORIA—INFANT MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES,
BY CAUSES, 1958.

Cause of Death. †	Deaths Under One Year per 1,000 Births.					
	Under One Week.	One Week and Under One Month.	One Month and Under Three Months.	Three Months and Under Six Months.	Six Months and Under Twelve Months.	Total Under One Year.
Infective and Parasitic Diseases (1-138)	..	·07	·03	·05	·05	·20
Pneumonia and Bronchitis (490-493, 500-502)	..	..	·34	·41	·34	1·09
Gastro-enteritis and Colitis, except Ulcerative, age four weeks and over (571)	..	..	·03	·07	·07	·17
Congenital Malformations (750-759)	1·78	·85	·44	·46	·39	3·92
Certain Diseases of Early Infancy—						
Birth Injuries (760, 761)—						
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	1·14	·03	..	..	..	1·17
(b) With Immaturity	1·26	·03	..	..	..	1·29
Postnatal Asphyxia and Atelectasis (762)—						
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	·81	·08	·02	..	..	·91
(b) With Immaturity	2·86	·02	..	..	..	2·88
Infections of the Newborn (763-768)—						
Pneumonia of Newborn—						
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	·27	·15	..	..	..	·42
(b) With Immaturity	·23	·03	..	..	..	·26
Diarrhoea of Newborn—						
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	·02	·03	..	..	..	·03
(b) With Immaturity .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	·02
Other Infections of the Newborn—						
(a) Without mention of Immaturity .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
(b) With Immaturity .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy (769-775)—						
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	·59	·03	..	·08	..	·70
(b) With Immaturity	·67	·03	..	..	..	·70
Immaturity unqualified (776)	2·89	·05	·03	..	..	2·97
All other diseases	·23	·31	·48	·67	·60	2·29
Accidents, Poisonings, and Violence	·02	..	·03	·11	·05	·21
Total, All Causes ..	12·77	1·71	1·40	1·85	1·50	19·23

† Figures in parentheses are in respect of the Seventh Revision of the International List of Causes of Death.

In 1958, 497 deaths were connected with immaturity, either directly or in association with other causes, and all except two of these deaths were of children under one month of age. The deaths connected with immaturity represented 42 per cent. of the total infant deaths. Congenital malformations were responsible for 240 or 20 per cent., of the infant deaths. It will thus be seen that 62 per cent. of the total infant mortality in 1958 was related to immaturity and congenital malformations.

Infants under One Month. The following table shows the number of deaths from the principal causes and the death rate of infants under one month for Victoria and Melbourne Metropolitan Area for the year 1958:—

**VICTORIA AND MELBOURNE METROPOLITAN AREA—
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE MONTH BY CAUSES,
1958.**

Cause of Death. †	Victoria.	Mel- bourne Metro- politan Area.
Infective and Parasitic Diseases (1-138)	4	1
Pneumonia and Bronchitis (490-493, 500-502) .. .. .	..	..
Congenital Malformations (750-759)	161	95
Certain Diseases of Early Infancy—		
Birth Injuries (760,761)—		
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	72	39
(b) With Immaturity	79	60
Postnatal Asphyxia and Atelectasis (762)—		
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	55	32
(b) With Immaturity	176	139
Infections of the Newborn (763-768)—		
Pneumonia of Newborn—		
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	26	15
(b) With Immaturity	16	12
Diarrhoea of Newborn—		
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	2	1
(b) With Immaturity	1	1
Other Infections of Newborn—		
(a) Without mention of Immaturity .. .. .	..	..
(b) With Immaturity .. .. .	..	..
Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy (769-775)—		
(a) Without mention of Immaturity	38	21
(b) With Immaturity	43	20
Immaturity Unqualified (776)	180	82
All Other Diseases	33	23
Accidents, Poisonings, and Violence	1	1
Total, All Causes	887	542
Deaths per 1,000 Births	14.48	14.99

† Figures in parentheses are in respect of the Seventh Revision of the International List of Causes of Death.

Nuptial and Ex-nuptial Infant Death Rates. On the average of the last ten years, 22 in every 1,000 ex-nuptial infants died within a year, as against 20 in every 1,000 nuptial children. The proportion of ex-nuptial children who died before the age of one year is, therefore, 1.08 times that of nuptial children. In the year 1958 the mortality rate of nuptial infants was 19.3 per 1,000 births. Births and deaths of

ex-nuptial children numbered 2,219 and 40 respectively, the death rate being thus 18·0 per 1,000 births. The mortality rates of the two classes for the year 1958 are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DEATH OF NUPTIAL AND EX-NUPTIAL INFANTS
BY CAUSES, 1958

Cause of Death. †	Ex-Nuptial.		Nuptial.	
	No.	Rate *	No.	Rate *
Infective and Parasitic Diseases (1-138) ..	..	..	12	·20
Pneumonia and Bronchitis (490-493, 500-502)	2	·90	65	1·10
Gastro-enteritis and Colitis, except Ulcerative, age four weeks and over (571) .. ..	..	..	10	·17
Congenital Malformations (750-759)	6	2·71	234	3·96
Certain Diseases of Early Infancy—				
Birth Injuries (760, 761)—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	1	·45	71	1·20
(b) With Immaturity	5	2·25	74	1·25
Postnatal Asphyxia and Atelectasis (762)—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	3	1·35	53	·90
(b) With Immaturity	6	2·71	170	2·88
Infections of the Newborn (763-768)—				
Pneumonia of Newborn—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	1	·45	25	·43
(b) With Immaturity	1	·45	15	·25
Diarrhoea of Newborn—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	..	..	2	·03
(b) With Immaturity .. ..	..	..	1	·02
Other Infections of Newborn—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	..	..	..	..
(b) With Immaturity .. ..	..	..	..	..
Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy ((769-775)—				
(a) Without mention of Immaturity ..	1	·45	42	·71
(b) With Immaturity .. ..	..	..	43	·73
Immaturity Unqualified (776)	7	3·15	175	2·97
All Other Diseases	6	2·71	134	2·27
Accidents, Poisonings, and Violence	1	·45	12	·20
Total, All Causes	40	18·03	1,138	19·27

* Number of deaths under one year of age per 1,000 births.

† Figures in parentheses are in respect of the Seventh Revision of the International List of Causes of Death.

Infant Mortality : Australian States.

The following statement shows the infant death rate per 1,000 births in each of the Australian States for the years 1954 to 1958 :—

AUSTRALIA—INFANT MORTALITY RATES*, 1954 TO 1958.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
1954 ..	19·30	25·30	22·29	21·29	22·54	23·94	22·48
1955 ..	18·37	24·86	20·28	23·30	22·44	23·37	22·01
1956 ..	19·32	23·47	22·74	19·88	22·70	20·98	21·72
1957 ..	20·16	22·70	21·68	20·63	21·09	20·15	21·41
1958 ..	19·23	21·29	19·40	22·40	21·52	19·49	20·49

* Number of deaths under one year of age per 1,000 births.

STILLBIRTHS.

Registration of stillbirths did not come into operation in Victoria until 1953. Prior to this date, however, in accordance with the provisions of the Cemeteries Act and of the (Commonwealth) *Social Services Consolidation Act* 1947, cases were notified to registrars.

The following table contains information relating to stillbirths and infantile mortality in Victoria :—

VICTORIA—STILLBIRTHS AND INFANT MORTALITY, 1949 TO 1958.

Year.	Stillbirths.		Deaths under One Month.		Deaths under One Month plus Stillbirths.		Deaths under One Year plus Stillbirths.	
	Number	Rate per 1,000 Births (Live and Still.)	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births (Live and Still.)	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births (Live and Still.)	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births (Live and Still.)
1949	907(a)	18·98	763	15·97	1,670	34·95	1,933	40·46
1950	963(a)	18·96	733	14·43	1,696	33·39	1,964	38·67
1951	929(a)	18·05	812	15·77	1,741	33·82	2,072	40·25
1952	919(a)	16·81	881	16·12	1,800	32·93	2,117	38·73
1953	817	15·02	841	15·47	1,658	30·49	1,950	35·86
1954	794	14·32	788	14·21	1,582	28·53	1,849	33·34
1955	788	13·80	760	13·30	1,548	27·10	1,823	31·91
1956	819	13·83	845	14·27	1,664	28·10	1,947	32·88
1957	870	14·18	907	14·79	1,777	28·97	2,089	34·06
1958	826	13·31	887	14·28	1,713	27·59	2,004	32·27

(a) Number notified (see paragraph above).

The causes of the 826 stillbirths in Victoria in 1958, classified according to the International Statistical Classification, are given in the following table :—

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF STILLBIRTHS, 1958.

Classification Number.	Cause of Stillbirth.	Number of Stillbirths.
Y 30 ..	Chronic disease in mother	12
Y 31 ..	Acute disease in mother	3
Y 32 ..	Diseases and conditions of pregnancy and childbirth	31
Y 33 ..	Absorption of toxic substance from mother ..	..
Y 34 ..	Difficulties in labour	70
Y 35 ..	Other causes in mother	3
Y 36 ..	Placental and cord conditions	353
Y 37 ..	Birth injury	11
Y 38 ..	Congenital malformation of foetus	89
Y 39 ..	Diseases of foetus, and ill-defined causes ..	254
	Total	826

CREMATION.

There are now three crematoria in Victoria—one at Springvale, one at the new Melbourne General Cemetery, Fawkner, and one at Ballarat. The history of the establishment of the first two is contained in an article published in the *Year-Book* 1942-43, page 307. The Ballarat Crematorium commenced operations on the 21st May, 1958.

The number of cremations in relation to total deaths are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—CREMATIONS AND DEATHS, 1930 TO 1958.

Year.	Cremations at Fawkner.	Cremations at Springvale.	Cremations at Ballarat.	Total Cremations.	Total Deaths.	Percentage of Cremations to Deaths.
1930-34 ..	1,430	..	..	1,430	85,901	1·66
1935-39 ..	2,192	2,621	..	4,813	94,971	5·07
1940-44 ..	3,728	6,313	..	10,041	104,520	9·61
1945-49 ..	5,962	10,553	..	16,515	107,288	15·39
1950-54 ..	9,061	16,616	..	25,677	114,315	22·46
1955 ..	2,017	4,102	..	6,119	22,527	27·16
1956 ..	2,282	4,451	..	6,733	23,886	28·19
1957 ..	2,366	4,483	..	6,849	24,131	28·38
1958 ..	2,238	4,580	95	6,913	23,625	29·26