PART III.

VITAL STATISTICS.

<div style="float:left">Registration
of births,
deaths, and
marriages.</div>

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. Since the present system was instituted approximately 5,495,130 original entries have been made in the indexes, of which 1,583,610 relate to marriages, 2,625,390 to births, and 1,286,130 to deaths.

Since 1st August, 1932, all registrations of births and deaths occurring within the area of Greater Melbourne have been effected at the office of the Government Statist.

Persons desirous of obtaining information as to any birth, death, or marriage registered in Victoria may apply to the Government Statist to have a search made against the records in the registers. They should furnish particulars, as complete as possible, including the date and place of the event, the names of the parties (if a marriage), age (if a death), and, in the case of a birth or death, the parentage. A fee of 2s. 6d. is charged for each search of a period of not more than five years and an additional fee of 2s. 6d. for each additional

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search period of five years or part thereof. A search fee is not charged in any case where an application for a certificate is lodged within three months of the date of registration of the event. There is no extra charge for an extract of an entry but, for a certificate, a further sum of 5s. is payable. For a search of the early church records, prior to 1st July, 1853, the fee is 1s., a further sum of 1s. being payable if a certificate be required.

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 and 4839 of 1938 and 1941 respectively, and the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act by Act No. 4553 of 1938 and 4858 of 1941.

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 Police 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.

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 occured. 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, 1941. The principal numbers and rates relating to Vital Statistics are given in the following table :—

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1941.*

Division.	Number of—				Rate per 1,000 of Population.			Infantile Mortality.
	Mar-riages.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under One Year.	Mar-riage.	Birth.	Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.
Greater Melbourne	..	18,868	12,329	653	..	17·28	11·29	34·61
Remainder of the State	..	15,538	8,193	592	..	18·38	8·67	28·10
Victoria	20,897	34,406	20,522	1,245	10·79	17·76	10·59	36·19

* Subject to revision.

MARRIAGES.

Marriages—
Numbers and
rates.
Marriages in Victoria in 1941 numbered 20,897, a decrease of 1,402 over the record number (22,299) registered in 1940. The rate per 1,000 of population in 1941 was 10·79 as compared with rates of 11·76 in 1940, 9·23 in 1939, 9·16 in 1938, and 8·74 in 1937. The rate for 1940 was the highest recorded in Victoria. The lowest rate recorded in the history of the State was 5·66 in 1931—a year of acute economic depression. There has been a marked increase since that year, the rate in 1941 being 90 per cent. higher than that in 1931.

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 1941.

| 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	6·54
1935–39..	16,406	3,699	4,484	3,414	4,809	8·83
1937 ..	16,226	4,223	3,934	3,326	4,743	8·74
1938 ..	17,113	3,844	4,994	3,454	4,821	9·16
1939 ..	17,368	3,527	4,452	3,751	5,638	9·23
1940 ..	22,299	5,001	5,430	5,896	5,972	11·76
1941 ..	20,897	4,367	5,526	4,625	6,379	10·79

* 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 —Australian States and New Zealand. The following statement shows the marriage rate per 1,000 of the population in each of the Australian States and in New Zealand, for the last five years :—

MARRIAGE RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1937	8·74	8·61	8·44	9·06	9·18	8·73	8·70	9·55
1938	9·16	9·03	8·85	9·26	9·03	8·83	9·05	10·09
1939	9·23	9·27	8·99	9·51	9·02	9·51	9·23	11·12
1940	11·76	10·95	10·09	11·66	11·25	10·36	11·11	11·28
1941	10·79	10·02	9·55	11·42	10·85	8·98	10·58	8·65

Ages of bridegrooms and brides. The ages of bridegrooms and brides who were married in 1941 are shown in combination for various groups in the table which follows :—

VICTORIA—AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN COMBINATION, 1941.

Ages of Bridegrooms.	Ages of Brides.																		Total Bridegrooms.
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	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 and over.	
16			1		2	1													4
17		2	2	5	5	1	1	2											18
18		2	11	31	19	17	11	15	1		1								108
19			17	40	53	72	29	48	6										265
20		2	19	39	79	107	91	120	10	1	1								469
21 to 24		3	44	145	410	600	820	3,452	747	74	9	2							6,306
25 to 29		1	10	54	142	300	462	3,282	2,369	369	53	8	5						7,055
30 to 34			7	10	36	76	99	802	1,141	675	164	40	8	3	1	1			3,063
35 to 39			2	5	5	14	27	194	466	444	290	81	21	5	3	1			1,558
40 to 44					1	4		57	156	206	192	110	55	6	2	2			791
45 to 49					1	1		19	46	90	107	108	86	22	9	2	2		493
50 to 54					1		1	4	9	39	45	56	53	44	14	5	1		272
55 to 59								1	4	13	20	43	44	38	22	7	1		193
60 to 64						1			1	3	7	16	35	19	25	16	10	1	134
65 to 69								1	3	2	4	4	10	13	15	18	14	3	87
70 to 74												3	9	5	11	7	12	6	53
75 and over								1				1	3	1	5	3	8	6	28
Total Brides		10	113	329	753	1,194	1,542	7,998	4,959	1,918	895	472	324	156	108	62	48	16	20,897

Of every 1,000 men married during the year, 721 were older and 179 younger than their brides, and 100 were of the same age.

In 1941 the oldest bridegroom was aged 84 years, and the oldest bride 82 years. The youngest bridegroom was aged 16 years and the youngest bride 15 years.

Proportion of marriages at various ages.　The proportions of both sexes marrying in 1941 is shown, in varying age groups, in the following table :—

VICTORIA—PROPORTIONS OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1941.

Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—		Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—	
	Bridegrooms.	Brides.		Bridegrooms.	Brides.
Under 16 ..	..	·48	35 to 39 ..	74·56	42·83
16 ..	·19	5·41	40 to 44 ..	37·85	22·59
17 ..	·86	15·74	45 to 49 ..	23·59	15·50
18 ..	5·17	36·03	50 to 54 ..	13·02	7·47
19 ..	12·68	57·14	55 to 59 ..	9·24	5·17
20 ..	22·44	73·79	60 and over	14·40	5·98
21 to 24 ..	301·77	382·78			
25 to 29 ..	337·66	237·31		1,000·00	1,000·00
30 to 34 ..	146·57	91·78			

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 1937 to 1941.

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES OF MINORS.

Year.	Age in Years.							Total.	
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
				Bridegrooms.					
1937 ..	..	..	2	16	73	147	304	542	3·34
1938 ..	..	..	5	19	89	180	252	545	3·18
1939 ..	..	..	2	18	72	151	295	538	3·10
1940 ..	..	..	3	19	88	226	428	764	3·43
1941 ..	..	..	4	18	108	265	469	864	4·13
				Brides.					
1937 ..	1	21	104	316	518	714	894	2,568	15·83
1938 ..	4	24	99	307	577	785	885	2,681	15·67
1939 ..	2	17	94	286	596	844	904	2,743	15·79
1940 ..	2	19	102	363	744	1,158	1,426	3,814	17·10
1941 ..	..	10	113	329	753	1,194	1,542	3,941	18·86

The proportion of minors marrying steadily decreased from 1931 to 1936. There was little fluctuation during the following three years, but in 1940 an increase was recorded, mainly due to the number of brides who were under 21 years of age. This was followed by a further increase in 1941.

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

VICTORIA—MEAN AGE AT MARRIAGE, 1937 TO 1941.

Year.	Bridegrooms.				Brides.			
	Bachelors.	Divorced.	Widowers.	All Bridegrooms.	Spinsters.	Divorced.	Widows.	All Brides.
1937 ..	28·39	39·43	59·01	29·81	25·47	36·64	45·47	26·42
1938 ..	28·05	40·15	49·35	29·49	25·13	35·20	44·99	26·05
1939 ..	27·97	39·41	49·31	29·36	25·06	34·83	44·90	26·00
1940 ..	27·64	38·57	49·58	28·90	24·80	34·89	44·16	25·71
1941 ..	27·44	39·38	50·33	28·87	24·65	35·19	44·85	25·66

In 1941 the mean age at marriage of bridegrooms whose brides were under 45 was 27·94 years, while for brides under 45 the age was 24·71 years.

The most popular age at marriage in 1941 for bridegrooms was 24 years and for brides 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 1937 to 1941, and the proportions in each condition for periods since 1900.

VICTORIA—CONJUGAL CONDITION OF PERSONS MARRYING, 1937 TO 1941.

Period.	Bridegrooms.				Brides.				Total Marriages.
	Bachelors.	Widowers.	Divorced.	Deserted.	Spinsters.	Widows.	Divorced.	Deserted.	
1937 ..	14,952	843	428	3	15,270	538	405	13	16,226
1938 ..	15,763	902	439	9	16,088	554	460	11	17,113
1939 ..	16,018	882	462	6	16,304	585	463	16	17,368
1940 ..	20,724	975	591	9	20,950	705	623	21	22,299
1941 ..	19,319	982	585	11	19,532	686	648	31	20,897

VICTORIA—TOTAL MARRIAGES AND PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS MARRYING IN EACH CONJUGAL CONDITION, 1910 TO 1941.

Marriages Between—	1941.		Conjugal Condition.	Percentage of Total—			
	Number.	Percentage.		1910-19.	1920-29.	1930-39.	1941.
Bachelors and Spinsters ..	18,499	88·52		Bridegrooms.			
Bachelors and Widows ..	342	1·64	Bachelors	92·7	92·1	92·3	92·4
Bachelors and Divorced			Widowers	6·5	6·3	5·5	4·7
Women	478	2·29	Divorced	·8	1·6	2·2	2·9
Widowers and Spinsters ..	580	2·77					
Widowers and Widows ..	288	1·38	Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0
Widowers and Divorced							
Women	114	·54		Brides.			
Divorced Men and Spinsters	453	2·17	Spinsters	94·2	93·6	94·4	93·5
Divorced Men and Widows	56	·27	Widows	4·8	4·9	3·4	3·3
Divorced Men and Divorced			Divorced	1·0	1·5	2·2	3·2
Women	87	·42					
			Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0
Total Marriages	20,897	100·00					

NOTE.—In this table deserted men are included with bachelors and deserted women with spinsters.

The proportions of widowers and widows remarrying per 100 marriages, declined from 6·5 and 4·7 respectively in 1910–14 to 4·9 and 3·3 in 1937–41. During the same period the proportion of remarriages of divorced men increased from ·7 to 2·7, and of divorced women from ·9 to 2·8. 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 various 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

In 1941 decrees granted numbered 833, and remarriages of men and women 585 and 648 respectively.

Marriages in religious denominations. In 1941 the number of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion was 19,419 representing 93 per cent. of the total marriages. Civil marriages numbered 1478, or 7 per cent. of the total.

The numbers and proportions of civil marriages and of marriages solemnized according to the rites of the principal religious denominations for the years 1921, 1931, and 1941, are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES, RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL.

	1921.		1931.		1941.	
	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
Church of England	3,980	29·10	2,836	27·85	6,578	31·48
Roman Catholic Church	2,356	17·23	1,805	17·73	4,144	19·83
Presbyterian Church	2,711	19·82	1,674	16·44	3,623	17·34
Methodist Church ..	1,918	14·02	1,315	12·92	2,940	14·07
Baptist Church ..	601	4·39	496	4·87	762	3·65
Church of Christ ..	353	2·62	226	2·22	470	2·25
Congregational Church	993	7·26	217	2·13	307	1·47
Salvation Army ..	48	·35	54	·53	184	·88
Hebrew	44	·32	66	·65	117	·56
Lutheran Church ..	50	·37	90	88	69	·33
Other Sects ..	228	1·67	260	2·55	225	1·07
Civil Marriages ..	389	2·85	1,143	11·23	1,478	7·07
Total ..	13,676	100·00	10,182	100·00	20,897	100·00

Civil marriages. The following statement shows the numbers and proportions of civil marriages performed for each of the last ten years :—

VICTORIA—CIVIL MARRIAGES, 1932 TO 1941.

Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
1932 ..	1,515	12·90	1937 ..	1,058	6·52
1933 ..	1,340	10·58	1938 ..	770	4·50
1934 ..	1,156	8·34	1939 ..	988	5·69
1935 ..	1,373	8·91	1940 ..	1,329	5·96
1936 ..	1,398	8·78	1941 .	1,478	7·07

CIVIL MARRIAGES PERFORMED IN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT STATIST, 1937 TO 1941.

Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Civil Marriages.
1937 ..	409	38·66
1938 ..	570	74·03
1939 ..	863	87·35
1940 ..	1,199	90·22
1941 ..	1,363	92·22

NOTE.—The number of marriages performed in the office of the Government Statist has increased since 1938 mainly because of the abolition of office of certain former registrars of marriages in the metropolitan area.

Registered clergymen. The ministers qualified by registration to celebrate marriages numbered 2,018 on 31st December, 1941. The number of ministers in each denomination (excepting Jews and Quakers) was as follows :—

VICTORIA—REGISTERED MINISTERS IN EACH DENOMINATION, 1941.

Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.	Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.
Church of England	425	Catholic and Apostolic	3
Roman Catholic	503	Welsh Calvinistic Metho-	
Presbyterian	332	dists	2
Methodist	353	Reformed Presbyterian	
Baptist	104	Church of Ireland	2
Church of Christ	91	Ballarat Town Mission	2
Congregational	59	Unitarian	1
Salvation Army	59	Open Brethren	1
Lutheran	34	Latter Day Saints	1
Seventh Day Adventist	24	New Church	1
Pentecostal	6	Greek Orthodox Church	1
Apostolic Church, Aus-		Syrian Orthodox	1
tralia	5	Free Presbyterian	1
Latter Day Saints (Re-			
organized)	4		
Particular Baptists	3	Total	2,018

In 1941 there were 11 civil registrars of marriages.

BIRTHS.

Births— Numbers and rates. The number of births registered in Victoria during the year 1941 was 34,406. This was 2,444 more than the number registered for the preceding year. The rate per 1,000 of population was 17·76. The lowest rate recorded was 15·16 in 1935. Stillbirths, which are excluded from both births and deaths, numbered 949, and correspond to a ratio of 27·6 per 1,000 infants born alive in 1941. There were 1,065 male to every 1,000 female births in 1941, as compared with 1,053 in 1940, 1,065 in 1939, 1,063 in 1938, and 1,047 in 1937.

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. It is clear, however, that other powerful factors are tending to reduce 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 1941.

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	8,279	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	15·85
1937 ..	29,731	15,209	14,522	7,116	7,335	7,617	7,663	16·02
1938 ..	30,344	15,636	14,708	7,416	7,401	7,668	7,859	16·25
1939 ..	30,493	15,728	14,765	7,725	7,446	7,646	7,676	16·20
1940 ..	31,962	16,393	15,569	7,807	7,381	8,065	8,709	16·86
1941 ..	34,406	17,748	16,658	8,256	8,006	8,576	9,568	17·76

* Not available.

Birth rates— Australian States and New Zealand. The following statement shows the birth rate per 1,000 of the population in each of the Australian States and in New Zealand for the last five years :—

BIRTH RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1937 TO 1941.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1937 ..	16·02	17·63	19·36	15·25	18·95	20·69	17·43	17·29
1938 ..	16·25	17·39	18·98	15·88	19·87	20·82	17·46	17·93
1939 ..	16·20	17·46	20·08	16·13	19·43	21·03	17·65	18·73
1940 ..	16·86	17·81	20·02	16·80	19·60	20·90	18·02	21·20
1941 ..	17·76	18·48	20·80	18·26	21·62	21·75	18·94	22·81

The birth rate in England and Wales in 1941 was 14·2.

Ages of parents of nuptial children. The average ages of fathers and of mothers of nuptial children whose births were recorded in 1941 were 31·77 and 28·22 years respectively. These averages were 3·83 and 3·51 years respectively above the average ages of bridegrooms marrying brides under 45 years of age, and of such brides, for the year 1941. The proportions of both parents in various age groups are shown in the following table for the year mentioned :—

VICTORIA—PERCENTAGE OF PARENTS OF NUPTIAL CHILDREN IN AGE GROUPS, 1941.

Father.		Mother.	
Age Group.	Percentage of Total Parents.	Age Group.	Percentage of Total Parents.
Under 20	0·51	Under 20	3·87
20 to 24	11·62	20 to 24	24·78
25 to 29	29·48	25 to 29	33·27
30 to 34	27·82	30 to 34	22·88
35 to 39	18·01	35 to 39	11·48
40 to 44	7·92	40 to 44	3·44
45 to 49	3·15	45 and over	0·28
50 and over	1·49		
Total	100·00	Total	100·00

It will be seen that, on the experience of 1941, 58·05 per cent. of the mothers were between ages 20 and 30, and 34·36 per cent. between ages 30 and 40. The proportions of fathers at these ages were 41·10 and 45·83 per cent. respectively. Of every 1,000 nuptial births, about 39 were to mothers under 20 years and about 3 to mothers aged 45 years and upwards.

Birth rates in municipalities. The following table shows the number of births (allotted to the place of usual residence of the mother) and the births per 1,000 of the mean population in Greater Melbourne, cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and the remainder of the State for the five-year periods 1928 to 1932 and 1933 to 1937, and for the years 1939, 1940 and 1941 :—

BIRTHS IN GREATER MELBOURNE, CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE, AND REMAINDER OF STATE.

Municipality.	Annual Number of Births.					Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.				
	1928–1932.	1933–1937.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1928–1932.	1933–1937.	1939.	1940.	1941.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne	1,348	1,143	1,105	1,257	1,303	14·29	12·68	12·22	13·86	14·19
Box Hill	259	214	261	267	340	18·31	13·84	15·98	15·85	19·42
Braybrook (Part) ..	187	157	171	190	227	22·28	17·65	18·19	19·49	21·62
Brighton	394	358	464	509	652	13·37	11·69	14·07	15·04	18·49
Brunswick	974	790	876	833	991	17·52	14·53	15·91	15·06	17·74
Camberwell	865	759	1,056	1,224	1,375	17·85	14·58	17·80	18·98	19·97
Caulfield	941	807	969	1,047	1,209	14·87	12·14	13·80	14·71	16·71
Chelsea ..	127	121	172	1·9	147	18·66	17·46	24·16	19·04	19·52
Coburg ..	742	634	665	751	871	20·80	16·35	16·33	18·11	20·21
Collingwood	532	492	494	497	534	16·63	16·26	16·55	16·65	17·88
Essendon	766	578	706	771	896	16·59	12·47	14·83	15·98	18·25
Fitzroy ..	517	467	485	532	509	15·96	15·24	15·98	17·49	16·71
Footscray	875	698	788	782	978	19·13	14·97	16·33	15·26	17·25
Hawthorn	424	406	507	516	650	12·70	11·82	14·20	14·24	17·20
Heidelberg (Part) ..	413	340	412	432	529	16·93	14·02	16·30	16·89	20·19
Kew ..	339	284	346	335	429	13·97	11·58	13·48	12·81	15·54
Malvern	499	470	536	545	620	11·46	10·66	11·78	11·85	13·29
Moorabbin	398	359	374	475	500	23·14	19·20	18·65	22·84	23·15
Mordialloc	148	132	174	178	218	15·37	13·64	17·06	17·00	20·24
Northcote	727	576	610	660	731	17·27	13·55	14·17	15·21	16·70
Oakleigh	264	247	238	253	306	22·72	17·91	18·84	19·61	23·09
Port Melbourne ..	230	197	180	195	216	17·24	15·22	13·85	14·66	15·71
Prahran	696	624	719	798	909	13·26	11·84	13·18	14·43	16·06
Preston	703	581	649	699	760	23·87	18·05	19·33	20·45	21·58
Richmond	693	593	553	640	711	16·71	14·95	13·92	16·05	17·75
Sandringham	272	232	298	320	356	15·33	12·67	15·42	16·16	17·32
South Melbourne..	660	551	544	591	603	15·06	12·81	12·60	13·63	13·87
St. Kilda ..	533	512	643	666	826	11·61	10·55	12·58	12·91	15·64
Williamstown ..	423	326	344	399	472	19·28	14·64	15·14	17·20	19·87
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne										
Ballarat	664	596	531	617	670	17·14	15·74	13·79	15·96	17·16
Bendigo	550	555	519	578	600	17·10	18·81	17·25	19·13	19·66
Geelong	844	693	655	741	723	19·26	17·52	16·27	18·26	17·67
Ararat ..	†	102	110	95	101	..	20·76	22·00	19·04	20·49
Castlemaine	105	98	94	99	97	15·16	18·70	17·74	18·57	17·40
Colac ..	†	106	120	131	132	..	20·42	21·74	23·52	23·49
Echuca ..	†	95	80	91	83	..	21·39	17·90	20·36	18·63
Hamilton	138	117	148	129	139	24·47	20·08	24·79	21·43	22·88
Horsham	†	118	145	124	121	..	22·13	26·22	22·26	21·72
Maryborough	118	111	111	115	103	21·35	19·62	19·37	19·90	17·71
Mildura	184	207	275	249	234	28·23	30·54	38·46	35·32	33·43
Sale ..	†	86	90	133	91	..	19·97	20·50	30·65	21·04
Shepparton	151	158	186	215	169	27·51	27·24	30·74	35·13	27·57
Stawell ..	92	85	82	108	70	19·46	17·75	16·98	22·27	14·39
Swan Hill	†	†	†	108	78	..	..	..	21·82	16·08
Wangaratta	†	107	139	133	116	..	22·21	28·42	26·81	23·11
Warrnambool	176	175	189	187	211	20·17	19·40	20·52	20·17	22·66
Wonthaggı	141	91	76	78	108	22·44	14·95	11·67	11·98	16·69
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	15,949	13,618	15,339	16,501	18,868	16·03	13·55	14·73	15·54	17·28
Cities and Principal towns outside Greater Melbourne	3,163	3,500	3,550	3,931	3,846	19·22	18·90	18·74	20·13	19·57
Remainder of State	12,693	11,426	11,604	11,530	11,692	20·40	17·62	17·82	18·04	18·02
Victoria.. ..	31,805	28,544	30,493	31,962	34,406	17·85	15·52	16·20	16·86	17·76

† Not recorded.

Multiple births. The number of cases of multiple births and the proportion per 1,000 of the total cases of births in the last five years 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.
1937 ..	335	3	1	339	11·53
1938 ..	291	2	..	293	9·75
1939 ..	317	3	..	320	10·60
1940 ..	321	2	..	323	10·21
1941 ..	348	1	..	349	10·24

On the average of the five years 1937–41, the proportion of mothers of twins was one in 96, of mothers of triplets one in 14,125, of mothers of quadruplets one in 155,375, and of mothers of all multiple births one in 96 mothers.

A case of quadruplets (3 males and 1 female) was recorded in the metropolitan area in the third quarter of 1937. This was the first case of quadruplets in Victoria since 1917.

Adoption of children. The Adoption of Children Acts make provision for the legal adoption of children under 21 years of age who have never married and for the registration of each adoption by the Government Statist. An amending Act of 1942 (No. 4903) authorises 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.

The first registration was effected on 14th October, 1929, and, between that date and the end of the year 1941, the adoptions of 2,041 male and 2,742 female children were registered. During 1941 adoptions registered comprised 402 male and 393 female children.

Children legitimated. Provision for the legitimation of children is made in the Births, Deaths, and Marriages Acts. Up to the end of 1941 advantage was taken of these Acts to legitimate 4,392 children, of whom 279 were registered in the years 1903 to 1909, 1,347 in 1910 to 1919, 1,374 in 1920 to 1929, 1,019 in 1930 to 1939, and 145 in 1940.

Legitimations during 1941 numbered 228.

Legitimation Acts are in force in all the Australian States and in 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 1941 the numbers of legitimations in the several States and in New Zealand during that year were as follows :— Victoria, 20·1 ; New South Wales, 23·3 ; Queensland, 29·5 ; South Australia, 13·3 ; Western Australia, 56·7 ; Tasmania, 60·2 ; and New Zealand, 34·0.

Ex-nuptial births in Victoria. The following table shows the number of ex-nuptial births and their percentage to total births since 1909 :—

VICTORIA—EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS, 1910 TO 1941.

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
1937	29,731	594	637	1,231	4·14
1938	30,344	647	654	1,301	4·29
1939	30,493	611	538	1,149	3·77
1940	31,962	571	535	1,106	3·46
1941	34,406	574	563	1,137	3·30

There has been an appreciable decrease in the proportion of ex-nuptial births to total births in Victoria since 1913, the percentage having fallen from 6·03 in that year to 3·30 in 1941.

The percentages in the various States and in New Zealand in 1941 were as follows:—Victoria, 3·30; New South Wales, 3·93; Queensland, 4·93; South Australia, 2·81; Western Australia, 3·52; Tasmania, 4·34; Australia 3·84; and New Zealand, 3·65.

Ex-nuptiality in town and country. A larger proportion of ex-nuptiality prevails among residents of Greater Melbourne and of the cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne than in the rural districts of Victoria. During the year 1941, the proportion of ex-nuptial births to total births was 3·92 per cent. in Greater Melbourne, 3·12 in the cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and 2·37 in the rural districts.

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 1941.

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	7,039	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	10·22
1937 ..	18,613	9,890	8,723	3,833	4,990	5,311	4,479	10·03
1938 ..	18,955	10,026	8,929	4,016	4,605	5,774	4,560	10·15
1939 ..	20,169	10,779	9,390	4,320	5,048	5,982	4,819	10·72
1940 ...	20,293	10,930	9,363	4,427	4,841	6,150	4,875	10·70
1941 ..	20,522	10,856	9,666	4,194	4,851	6,197	5,280	10·59

* Not available.

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 10·22. The lowest death rate (8·93) in the history of the State was recorded in 1930. It remained low for the following three years, but in 1934 it rose to its maximum since 1923. There was little fluctuation during the four years following 1934, but the rates for 1939, 1940, and 1941 were high, being 10·72, 10·70, and 10·59 respectively.

The number of deaths in 1941 was 20,522, which was 1,160 more than the average of the preceding five years.

In 1941 there were 1,123 male to every 1,000 female deaths, the average for the last five years being 1,139. The corresponding proportion of male to female births in the quinquennium was 1,059. The natural increase for the five-year period was 58,384 (males, 28,233—females, 30,151).

Death rates— Australian States and New Zealand. The following statement shows the death rate per 1,000 of the population in each of the Australian States and in New Zealand for the last five years :—

DEATH RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1937 TO 1941.

Year.	Vic-toria.	New South Wales	Queens-land.	South Aus-tralia.	Western Aus-tralia.	Tas-mania.	Aus-tralia.	New Zealand.
1937	10·03	9·36	9·10	8·91	8·95	9·51	9·44	9·08
1938	10·15	9·59	9·19	9·35	9·20	9·71	9·64	9·71
1939	10·72	9·75	9·40	9·63	9·32	10·19	9·93	9·20
1940	10·70	9·43	9·03	9·57	9·64	9·99	9·75	9·25
1941	10·59	9·75	9·21	10·47	10·19	10·76	10·02	9·84

In 1941 the death rate in England and Wales was 12·9—non-civilian male deaths excluded.

Death rates in municipalities. Compiled on the basis of allotment of all deaths to the place of usual residence, the following table shows the number of deaths, and the deaths per 1,000 of the mean population in Greater Melbourne, cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and the remainder of the State, for the five-year periods 1928 to 1932 and 1933 to 1937, and for the years 1939, 1940, and 1941.

DEATHS IN GREATER MELBOURNE, CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE, AND REMAINDER OF STATE.

Municipality.	Annual Number of Deaths.					Deaths per 1,000 of Mean Population.				
	1928–1932.	1933–1937.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1928–1932.	1933–1937.	1939	1940.	1941.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne	1,091	1,120	1,208	1,209	1,186	11·57	12·42	13·36	13·33	12·92
Box Hill	125	155	156	176	181	8·81	9·99	9·55	10·45	10·34
Braybrook(Part)..	56	58	65	83	92	6·70	6·57	6·91	8·51	8·76
Brighton	272	316	343	386	395	9·22	10·33	10·40	11·40	11·20
Brunswick	532	560	582	621	595	9·57	10·30	10·57	11·22	10·64
Camberwell	430	494	587	627	701	8·87	9·49	9·89	9·72	10·18
Caulfield	552	656	783	755	761	8·72	9·87	11·15	10·61	10·51
Chelsea ..	63	83	85	92	96	9·24	12·02	11·94	12·60	12·75
Coburg ..	287	317	357	385	372	8·06	8·19	8·76	9·28	8·63
Collingwood	363	377	407	428	373	11·36	12·47	13·63	14·34	12·49
Essendon	429	484	521	550	545	9·30	10·46	10·94	11·40	11·10
Fitzroy ..	446	452	516	496	488	13·77	14·74	17·00	16·31	16·03
Footscray	402	425	432	504	524	8·79	9·12	8·95	9·83	9·24
Hawthorn	357	409	461	462	475	10·67	11·90	12·91	12·75	12·57
Heidelberg (Part)..	193	210	235	241	287	7·91	8·66	9·30	9·37	10·95
Kew ..	220	246	251	263	293	9·08	10·06	9·78	10·08	10·62
Malvern	404	489	571	552	551	9·28	11·07	12·55	12·00	11·81
Moorabbin	130	157	171	199	160	7·55	8·39	8·53	9·57	7·41
Mordialloc	85	94	130	133	123	8·86	9·67	12·74	12·70	11·42
Northcote	369	408	452	435	463	8·77	9·59	10·50	10·03	10·58
Oakleigh	101	115	114	127	138	8·72	9·49	9·03	9·84	10·41
Port Melbourne ..	137	156	162	121	163	10·26	12·08	12·46	9·10	11·85
Prahran	628	662	780	732	788	11·96	12·56	14·29	13·24	13·92
Preston	242	267	262	300	321	8·20	8·29	7·80	8·78	9·11
Richmond	464	465	476	477	519	11·20	11·73	11·98	11·96	12·96
Sandringham	161	177	213	227	235	9·08	9·63	11·02	11·46	11·44
South Melbourne..	486	507	523	550	541	11·09	11·78	12·11	12·68	12·44
St. Kilda	452	538	612	682	708	9·84	11·09	11·98	13·22	13·41
Williamstown	211	219	264	263	255	9·63	9·81	11·62	11·34	10·74
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne—										
Ballarat	475	501	591	543	574	12·28	13·23	15·35	14·04	14·70
Bendigo	421	441	453	432	441	13·08	14·93	15·06	14·30	14·45
Geelong	455	463	450	485	498	10·40	11·70	11·18	11·95	12·17
Ararat ..	†	63	58	58	67	..	12·79	11·60	11·62	13·59
Castlemaine	73	64	75	57	66	10·61	12·20	14·15	10·69	11·83
Colac ..	†	54	56	65	72	..	10·42	10·14	11·67	12·81
Echuca ..	†	49	48	55	50	..	11·01	10·74	12·30	11·22
Hamilton	59	62	68	60	75	10·35	10·60	11·39	9·97	12·35
Horsham	†	62	72	61	62	..	11·72	13·02	10·95	11·13
Maryborough	59	73	80	64	88	10·66	12·98	13·96	11·07	15·13
Mildura	59	80	88	79	96	9·05	11·74	12·31	11·21	13·71
Sale ..	†	54	53	46	58	..	12·59	12·07	10·60	13·41
Shepparton	55	77	67	72	80	9·96	13·29	11·07	11·76	13·05
Stawell ..	51	53	60	73	59	10·87	10·98	12·42	15·05	12·13
Swan Hill	†	†	†	51	41	..	..	..	10·30	8·45
Wangaratta	†	62	63	65	59	..	12·81	12·88	13·10	11·75
Warrnambool	91	97	95	96	91	10·46	10·81	10·31	10·36	9·77
Wonthaggi	47	50	49	60	42	7·45	8·17	7·53	9·22	6·49
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	9,688	10,616	11,719	12,076	12,329	9·74	10·56	11·26	11·37	11·29
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	1,845	2,305	2,426	2,422	2,519	11·22	12·45	12·81	12·40	12·82
Remainder of State	5,311	5,469	6,024	5,795	5,674	8·53	8·44	9·25	9·07	8·75
Victoria.. ..	16,844	18,390	20,169	20,293	20,522	9·45	10·00	10·72	10·70	10·59

† Not recorded.

Particulars of the residence of persons who died in **Deaths in hospitals and other public institutions.** the public institutions of Victoria give a definite indication of the assistance rendered by these institutions to people in the various divisions of the State. The numbers and proportions of such deaths in the various municipalities are given below for 1941 :—

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1941.

Area.	Number of Deaths of Residents occurring in—		Percentage of Deaths of Residents occurring in—			Deaths of Residents occurring in Public Institutions per 1,000 of Population.
	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Total Public Institutions.	
GREATER MELBOURNE—						
Melbourne ..	424	108	37·75	9·11	44·86	5·80
Box Hill ..	31	11	17·14	6·06	23·20	2·40
Braybrook (Part) ..	28	7	30·43	7·61	38·04	3·33
Brighton ..	48	23	12·15	5·83	17·98	2·01
Brunswick ..	177	40	29·74	6·73	36·47	3·88
Camberwell ..	105	53	14·98	7·56	22·54	2·29
Caulfield ..	126	56	16·55	7·36	23·91	2·51
Chelsea	27	10	28·12	10·42	38·54	4·91
Coburg	76	30	20·43	8·06	28·49	2·46
Collingwood ..	120	46	32·17	12·33	44·50	5·56
Essendon ..	112	29	20·55	5·32	25·87	2·87
Fitzroy	177	54	36·27	11·07	47·34	7·58
Footscray ..	166	45	31·68	8·59	40·27	3·72
Hawthorn ..	78	31	16·42	6·53	22·95	2·88
Heidelberg (Part) ..	79	33	27·52	11·50	39·02	4·27
Kew	48	18	16·38	6·14	22·52	2·39
Malvern ..	73	29	13·25	5·26	18·51	2·19
Moorabbin ..	40	18	25·00	11·25	36·25	2·69
Mordialloc ..	20	13	16·26	10·57	26·83	3·06
Northcote ..	129	47	27·86	10·15	38·01	4·02
Oakleigh ..	23	10	16·66	7·25	23·91	2·49
Port Melbourne ..	61	14	37·42	8·59	46·01	5·45
Prahran	189	60	23·99	7·61	31·60	4·40
Preston	104	25	32·40	7·79	40·19	3·66
Richmond ..	162	51	31·21	9·83	41·04	5·32
Sandringham ..	40	15	17·02	6·38	23·40	2·68
South Melbourne ..	156	56	28·83	10·35	39·18	4·88
St. Kilda ..	164	57	23·16	8·05	31·21	4·18
Williamstown ..	77	15	30·20	5·88	36·08	3·87

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS. 1941—*continued.*

Area.	Number of Deaths of Residents occurring in—		Percentage of Deaths of Residents occurring in—			Deaths of Residents occurring in Public Institutions per 1,000 of Population.
	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Total Public Institutions.	
CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE—						
Ballarat ..	146	46	25·44	8·01	33·45	4·92
Bendigo ..	122	39	27·66	8·85	36·51	5·27
Geelong ..	142	30	28·51	6·03	34·54	4·20
Ararat ..	22	11	32·84	16·42	49·26	6·69
Castlemaine	24	8	36·36	12·12	48·48	5·72
Colac ..	28	7	38·89	9·72	48·61	6·23
Echuca ..	23	2	46·00	4·00	50·00	5·59
Hamilton	23	4	30·67	5·33	36·00	4·43
Horsham	33	2	53·23	3·22	56·45	6·28
Maryborough	49	3	55·68	3·41	59·09	8·94
Mildura ..	46	3	47·92	3·12	51·04	7·00
Sale ..	25	2	43·10	3·45	46·55	6·24
Shepparton	32	2	40·00	2·50	42·50	5·54
Stawell ..	21	2	35·59	3·39	38·98	4·73
Swan Hill	8	3	19·51	7·32	26·83	2.27
Wangaratta	25	2	42·37	3·39	45·76	5·38
Warrnambool	37	5	40·66	5·49	46·15	4·51
Wonthaggi	21	4	50·00	9·52	59·52	3·86
SUMMARY—						
Greater Melbourne	3,060	1,004	24·82	8·14	32·96	3·72
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne ..	827	175	32·83	6·95	39·78	5·10
Remainder of State	1,188	290	20·94	5·11	26·05	2·28
Victoria ..	5,075	1,469	24·73	7·16	31·89	3·38

PERCENTAGE OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF GREATER MELBOURNE, REMAINDER OF STATE AND VICTORIA, OCCURRING IN PUBLIC HOSPITALS IN CERTAIN PERIODS SINCE 1910.

—	1910–14.	1920–24.	1925–29.	1930–34.	1940.	1941.
Greater Melbourne ..	24·3	27·0	29·5	27·7	27·1	24·8
Remainder of State ..	17·0	21·2	23·7	26·3	30·2	24·6
Victoria	20·4	24·3	27·0	27·1	28·4	24·7

In 1941 the number of deaths in all public institutions was 6,544, of which 4,064 were of residents of Greater Melbourne.

The number of deaths in each metropolitan public institution in 1941 is given in the subjoined table :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS IN METROPOLITAN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1941.

Institution.	No. of Deaths.	Institution.	No. of Deaths.
HOSPITALS—GENERAL—		SANATORIA—	
Royal Melbourne	802	Heatherton	26
Alfred	640	Greenvale	32
Hamilton Russell Com-		Gresswell	18
munity ..	44		
Children's	282	Total Sanatoria.. ..	76
St. Vincent's	481		
St. Vincent's Intermediate..	31		
Austin	487		
Heidelberg House ..	103	BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS—	
Women's..	222	Melbourne (Cheltenham)	
Prince Henry's ..	298	Asylum	216
Infectious Diseases ..	81	Victorian Homes for Aged	
Queen Victoria ..	100	and Infirm	189
Jessie McPherson Com-		Convent of Little Sisters of	
munity	24	the Poor	74
Williamstown	62	Old Colonists' Homes ..	2
Caulfield Convalescent ..	11		
Eye and Ear	11	Total Benevolent Institu-	
Police	5	tions	481
After Care Home	1		
Total General Hospitals	3,685		
		FOUNDLING HOMES, REFUGES—	
		Broadmeadows	4
		East Melbourne	2
		The Haven, Fitzroy ..	6
HOSPITALS—MENTAL— ..		Children's Welfare Depot ..	..
Kew	73		
Mont Park	107	Total Refuges, &c. ..	12
Receiving House, Royal Park	80		
		Total Hospitals and other	
Total Mental Hospitals ..	260	Institutions	4,514

Of the 4,514 deaths in the above institutions, 2,602 were of males and 1,912 were of females.

In Greater Melbourne, in the decade 1932–41, there was an average of 10·74 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 51,000 lives in the last ten years. The improvement in the hygienic conditions of the metropolis is evidenced by a comparison of the death rates from tubercular and certain other diseases for the period 1931–40 with those for the decennium 1892–1901.

DEATH RATES—GREATER MELBOURNE.

Cause of Death.	Average Annual Deaths per 1,000,000 of Population.		
	1892–1901.	1932–41.	Decrease.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	1,654	469	1,185
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	446	64	382
Typhoid Fever	293	4	289
Scarlet Fever	33	10	23
Measles	215	8	207
Diphtheria	196	45	151
Total	2,837	600	2,237

The figures show that the mortality from the six diseases mentioned declined by 79 per cent.—the decline representing a rate of 2,237 per million of the population.

The mortality from all causes showed a net decline of 5,020 per million of the population.

Infantile mortality. The mortality of children under one year, in proportion to births, reveals a constant decline since 1890—the death per 1,000 children born having fallen from 133 in 1885–89 to 36 in 1937–41—a reduction of 73 per cent. In other words, where 100 infants died in the earlier period, only 27 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 milk and 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 later years. Particulars of the Infant Welfare movement will be found in Part " Social Condition " of this volume.

The infantile death rates for Greater Melbourne, the remainder of the State, and the whole State, for various periods since 1879, are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1880 TO 1941.

Period.	Greater Melbourne.		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
1937 ..	538	37·1	553	36·3	1,091	36·7
1938 ..	508	34·1	530	34·3	1,038	34·2
1939 ..	495	32·3	590	38·9	1,085	35·6
1940 ..	655	39·7	606	39·2	1,261	39·5
1941 ..	653	34·6	592	38·1	1,245	36·2

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 the corresponding decrease in the rate for the metropolis.

During the last decade the infantile death rate declined from 43·0 in 1932 to 36·2 in 1941, a decrease of 16 per cent. During each year of the period 1932 to 1936 the rate was over 40, but in 1937 a pronounced fall occurred, the rate dropping to 36·7. This was followed by a further drop in 1938, the new record low rate of 34·2 being recorded. In 1939 the rate rose to 35·6, and was followed by a further rise to 39·5 in 1940. In 1941, however, as shown above, the rate dropped to 36·2.

Infantile deaths in municipalities. Deaths of infants under one year of age, and the deaths per 1,000 births in Greater Melbourne, cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and the remainder of the State

for the five-year periods 1928–32 and 1933–37, and for the years 1939, 1940, and 1941 were as follows :—

INFANTILE DEATHS IN GREATER MELBOURNE, CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS OUTSIDE GREATER MELBOURNE, AND REMAINDER OF STATE.

Municipality.	Annual Number of Deaths under One Year					Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.				
	1928–1932.	1933–1937.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1928–1932.	1933–1937.	1939.	1940.	1941.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne	86	55	40	67	48	63·95	48·45	36·20	53·30	36·84
Box Hill	10	8	8	63	11	37·04	38·25	30·65	11·24	32·35
Braybrook (Part)	6	8	4	10	6	33·19	49·68	23·39	52·63	26·43
Brighton	15	11	18	17	16	39·11	30·15	38·79	33·40	24·54
Brunswick	60	32	24	42	38	61·63	40·23	27·40	50·42	38·35
Camberwell	30	26	25	33	48	34·68	33·74	23·67	26·96	34·90
Caulfield	39	27	31	39	38	41·87	33·47	31·99	37·25	31·43
Chelsea	6	5	3	4	4	47·32	43·12	17·44	28·78	27·21
Coburg	33	26	17	25	30	44·47	40·38	25·56	33·29	34·44
Collingwood	38	28	18	27	17	71·78	57·27	36·44	54·33	31·83
Essendon	33	23	28	22	39	42·83	40·51	39·66	28·53	43·53
Fitzroy	41	26	19	33	19	79·33	56·98	39·17	62·03	37·33
Footscray	41	29	34	48	29	47·34	40·99	43·15	61·38	29·65
Hawthorn	16	18	12	22	24	37·23	44·31	23·67	42·64	36·92
Heidelberg (Part)	20	11	10	15	15	49·37	32·37	24·27	34·72	28·35
Kew	15	9	8	18	8	43·66	30·32	23·12	53·73	18·65
Malvern	19	17	14	15	17	38·91	35·71	26·12	27·52	27·42
Moorabbin	14	14	13	17	13	34·17	37·93	34·76	35·79	26·00
Mordialloc	8	7	10	6	9	55·48	54·55	57·47	33·71	41·28
Northcote	38	24	15	27	25	51·73	41·65	24·59	40·91	34·20
Oakleigh	12	9	3	1	12	46·18	43·36	12·60	3·95	39·21
Port Melbourne	16	11	9	4	10	71·24	56·91	50·00	20·52	46·30
Prahran	41	29	28	19	31	58·62	46·44	38·94	23·81	34·10
Preston	31	23	14	32	29	44·08	40·29	21·57	45·78	38·15
Richmond	46	29	20	30	24	65·53	49·27	36·17	46·88	33·75
Sandringham	10	9	9	11	11	35·95	37·04	30·20	34·38	30·90
South Melbourne	47	30	26	19	32	70·87	54·77	47·79	32·15	53·07
St. Kilda	22	22	27	34	24	41·67	43·78	41·99	51·05	41·16
Williamstown	19	13	8	15	16	44·44	38·63	23·26	37·59	33·90
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melb.—										
Ballarat	34	25	26	33	23	51·84	41·62	48·96	53·48	34·33
Bendigo	33	22	21	24	24	60·00	40·32	40·46	41·52	40·00
Geelong	49	34	27	30	38	58·56	48·77	41·22	40·49	52·56
Ararat	†	4	3	2	2		40·85	27·27	21·05	19·80
Castlemaine	5	4	3	1	3	47·80	38·62	31·92	10·10	30·93
Colac	†	5	3	4	4	..	45·63	25·00	30·53	30·30
Echuca	†	6	1	2	3	..	62·50	12·50	21·98	36·14
Hamilton	5	4	6	2	6	34·63	37·61	40·54	15·50	43·17
Horsham	†	5	8	1	6	..	40·95	55·17	8·06	49·59
Maryborough	5	5	..	5	6	45·84	41·59	..	43·48	58·25
Mildura	9	8	13	6	4	47·83	37·68	47·27	24·20	17·09
Sale	†	2	2	3	2	..	27·97	22·22	22·56	21·98
Shepparton	8	8	10	9	4	54·16	54·50	53·76	41·86	23·67
Stawell	3	4	2	4	1	28·26	47·06	24·39	37·04	14·29
Swan Hill	†	†	†	12	10	..	..	..	111·11	128·20
Wangaratta	†	7	12	10	5	..	63·91	86·33	75·19	43·10
Warrnambool	9	6	6	3	6	52·33	34·32	31·75	16·04	18·96
Wonthaggi	8	5	4	1	3	53·67	50·66	52·64	12·82	27·78
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	812	579	495	655	653	50·94	42·55	32·27	39·69	34·61
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	168	154	147	152	148	53·24	43·95	41·41	38·67	38·48
Remainder of State	535	437	443	454	444	42·12	38·24	38·18	39·38	37·97
Victoria	1,515	1,170	1,085	1,261	1,245	47·65	41·00	35·58	39·45	36·19

† Not recorded.

An investigation into the experience in regard to infantile
mortality over a period of years discloses that the decrease
in the infantile death rate, since the earlier periods, has
been shared proportionately by each sex, and also by each
age period, except that of " under one week." The rate
per 1,000 births of infants " under one week," which, in 1941, comprised
61 per cent. of the total infantile mortality, has varied from 21·5
in the quinquennium 1910-14 (the earliest years for which the
information is available) to 23·7 in 1920-24 and 21·1 in 1937-41.
Between 1910-14 and 1937-41, the mortality of infants " one week and
under one month " decreased by 57 per cent. and that of infants " one
month and under one year " by 74 per cent. Victoria lost, between
the ages of one month and one year, 64 out of every 1,000 children
born in 1900-04, 33 in 1915-19, and eleven in 1937-41.

Infantile
mortality at
certain
ages.

On the average of the years, 1937-41, the total rate for males was
higher than that for females by 29·4 per cent.

The tables which follow show the proportion of deaths of infants
at various ages under one year for certain periods since 1899, and the
male and the female death rates at each age period for the year 1941 :—

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN
AGES. 1900 TO 1941.

| Period. | Deaths Under One Year per 1,000 Births. | | | | | | | |
	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 under 1 Year.	Males.	Females.
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
1937 ..	21·2	4·9	3·3	2·9	4·4	36·7	41·0	32·2
1938 ..	20·8	3·9	3·2	2·3	4·0	34·2	38·8	29·3
1939 ..	20·7	5·4	2·8	2·2	4·5	35·6	39·2	31·8
1940 ..	20·9	5·6	4·6	3·5	4·9	39·5	44·9	33·7
1941 ..	22·0	4·1	3·7	3·0	3·4	36·2	40·8	31·3

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES, MALES AND FEMALES, 1941.

Age.	Males.			Females.		
	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Percentage at each Age.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Percentage at each Age.
Under 1 week	452	25·47	62·43	304	18·25	58·35
1 week and under 1 month	76	4·28	10·50	64	3·85	12·28
1 month and under 3 months	74	4·17	10·22	54	3·24	10·36
3 months and under 6 months	60	3·38	8·29	44	2·64	8·45
6 months and under 12 months	62	3·49	8·56	55	3·30	10·56
Total under one year	724	40·79	100·00	521	31·28	100·00

Infantile death rates from certain causes.
An examination of the principal causes of infantile mortality over a period of years and at various ages reveals the direction in which an 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. The infant mortality rates from the principal causes for various periods since 1890 and for 1941 are shown in the next two tables.

VICTORIA—INFANTILE DEATH RATES FROM CERTAIN CAUSES.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births in—						
	1891–93.	1901–10.	1911–20.	1921–30.	1939.	1940.	1941.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases	12·41	7·31	4·87	3·57	1·15	3·47	1·37
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia	11·37	8·13	6·86	6·08	4.17	5·13	4·56
Diarrhœal Diseases	29·66	24·62	16·13	9·85	1·64	1·78	1·08
Congenital Malformations (157)	3·45	4·86	4·38	4·43	3·57	4·54	4·04
Congenital Debility (158)	22·24	12·74	13·09	6·77	1·64	·97	1·42
Prematurity (159)	13·13	14·99	15·17	15·34	12·46	12·92	11·86
Injury at birth (160)	21·51	12·77	7·98	2·57	4·00	3·38	4·62
Early Infancy (161)				3·42	3·34	3·94	4·48
Other diseases				4·42	2·79	2·60	1·63
Violence	3·16	2·47	1·07	·80	·82	·72	1·13
Total, all Causes	116·93	87·89	69·55	57·25	35·58	39·45	36·19

VICTORIA—INFANTILE DEATH RATES, AT VARIOUS AGES. FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1941.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.								
	Age Period.					Total.	Males.	Females.	Average Annual Rate, 1937-41.
	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.				
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	·03	·12	·35	·38	·49	1·37	1·46	1·26	1·73
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	·55	·43	1·22	1·05	1·31	4·56	4·96	4·15	4·61
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	...	·12	·32	·29	·35	1·08	·90	1·26	1·39
Congenital Malformations (157)	1·95	·73	·61	·46	·29	4·04	4·79	3·24	3·94
Congenital Debility (158)	·81	·29	·17	·12	·03	1·42	1·75	1·08	1·50
Prematurity (159) ..	10·47	1·13	·20	..	·06	11·86	13·07	10·57	12·02
Injury at Birth (160) ..	4·16	·40	·06	..	..	4·62	5·46	3·72	3·65
Early Infancy (161) ..	3·60	·70	·12	·03	·03	4·48	5·58	3·30	4.22
Other Diseases ..	·26	·15	·38	·35	·49	1·63	1·86	1·38	2·52
Violence	·15	..	·29	·34	·35	1·13	·96	1·32	·87
Total, all Causes ..	21·98	4·07	3·72	3·02	3·40	36·19	40·79	31·28	36·45
Average Annual Rate, 1937-41	21·14	4·75	3·52	2·80	4·24	36·45	40·97	31·66	..

The mortality of infants under one year from pre-natal causes (malformations, congenital debility, prematurity, injury at birth, &c.) was 25·3 per 1,000 births in 1937–41 and represented 69 per cent. of the total infant deaths. Variations in classification in the earlier years prevent exact comparison but no appreciable decline is evident. The rate in 1941 was 26·4, of which 79 per cent. occurred in the first week of life.

The mortality from the chief preventable diseases—infectious, respiratory, and diarrhœal—has declined from 40·1 per 1,000 births in 1901–10 to 27·9 in 1911–20 and 7·7 in 1937–41. Deaths from diarrhœal diseases declined from 24·6 per 1,000 births in 1901–10 to 1·4 in 1937–41, the main respiratory diseases from 8·1 to 4·6 and the infectious from 7·3 to 1·7. It will thus be seen that, since the beginning of this century, mortality of infants from diarrhœal diseases has been reduced by 94 per cent.; the main respiratory diseases by 43 per cent.; and the infectious by 77 per cent. Of recent years respiratory diseases have displaced diarrhœal as the most fatal of the preventable infantile diseases. With few exceptions the mortality rate of males from infantile diseases is consistently higher than that of females.

The following table shows the number of deaths from the principal causes, and the death rate of infants under one month, for Greater Melbourne and the whole State, for the years 1937 to 1941 :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE MONTH, 1937 TO 1941.

GREATER MELBOURNE AND WHOLE STATE.

Cause of Death.	Greater Melbourne.					Victoria.				
	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases	3	1	3	3	4	4	1	7	4	5
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia	28	30	26	25	20	45	37	45	48	34
Diarrhœal Diseases	1	..	3	16	3	2	2	6	18	4
Malformations, &c. (157)	31	32	37	47	52	72	83	74	88	92
Wasting Diseases (158)	16	10	9	2	13	50	32	34	24	38
Prematurity	156	156	184	215	225	328	339	371	408	399
Injury at Birth	63	42	56	65	89	100	80	120	106	157
Early Infancy (161)	79	76	41	55	70	130	139	101	120	148
Other Diseases	16	13	15	10	7	36	25	30	24	14
Violence	7	7	2	4	4	10	12	7	6	5
Total, all Causes	400	367	376	442	487	777	750	795	846	896
Deaths per 1,000 Births	27·6	24·6	24·5	26·8	25·8	26·1	24·7	26·1	26·5	26·1

Stillbirths and infantile mortality. A survey of the mortality from pre-natal causes is not complete without taking into account the loss due to stillbirths. In Victoria stillbirths are not registered, but, in accordance with the provisions of the Cemeteries Act and the (Commonwealth) Maternity Allowance Act, cases are notified to registrars After careful enquiry it can be stated that the percentage of stillbirths not notified is very small.

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

VICTORIA—STILLBIRTHS (RECORDED) AND INFANT MORTALITY, 1932 TO 1941.

| Year. | Percentage of Still-births to— | | Deaths of Infants under One Year per 1,000 Births. | | | | |
| | Living Births. | All Births. | Exclusive of Stillbirths. | | | *Inclusive of Stillbirths. |
			Under One Month.	One Month and under Twelve Months.	Total under One Year.	
1932 ..	2·9	2·8	27·2	15·8	43·0	69·9
1933 ..	2·9	2·8	27·6	12·8	40·4	67·1
1934 ..	3·1	3·0	27·7	16·9	44·6	73·6
1935 ..	3·0	2·9	27·6	13·6	41·2	69·5
1936 ..	2·9	2·8	26·6	15·7	42·3	69·0
1937 ..	2·7	2·6	26·1	10·6	36·7	61·6
1938 ..	3·0	2·9	24·7	9·5	34·2	61·9
1939 ..	2·8	2·7	26·1	9·5	35·6	62·1
1940 ..	2·8	2·7	26·5	13·0	39·5	65·6
1941 ..	2·8	2·6	26·0	10·2	36·2	62·1

* In the computation of the rates for the numbers inclusive of stillbirths, the latter are taken into account in both births and deaths.

It will be seen that, as with other mortality due to pre-natal influences, the rate of stillbirths shows little tendency to decrease.

Nuptial and ex-nuptial infantile death rates. On the average of the last ten years, 70 in every 1,000 ex-nuptial infants died within a year, as against 38 in every 1,000 nuptial children. The proportion of ex-nuptial children who died before the age of one year is, therefore, 1·8 times that of nuptial children. In the year 1941 the mortality rate of nuptial infants was 35·5 per 1,000 births. Births and deaths of ex-nuptial children numbered 1,137 and 65 respectively, the death rate being thus 57·2 per 1,000 births. The disproportion in the mortality rates of the two classes is manifested in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES OF NUPTIAL AND EX-NUPTIAL INFANTS FROM CERTAIN CAUSES.

| Cause of Death. | Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births. | | | | | | | |
| | Nuptial. | | | | Ex-nuptial. | | | |
	1904–08.	1914–18.	1924–28.	1941.	1904–08.	1914–18	1924–28.	1941.
Bronchitis, Broncho-Pneumonia, Pneumonia	6·9	6·1	5·9	4·4	18·6	12·5	13·0	8·8
Diarrhœal Diseases ..	19·8	14·2	8·9	1·0	72·6	48·6	23·1	2·6
Prematurity, Congenital Malformations, Maras-mus, &c.* ..	30·3	27·2	25·0	17·1	52·1	64·9	46·9	23·8
Other Causes	18·3	15·3	14·7	13·0	58·7	36·6	29·3	22·0
Total, all Causes ..	75·3	62·8	54·5	35·5	202·0	162·6	112·3	57·2

* Not including "Injury at Birth" and "Other Diseases peculiar to Early Infancy."

The rates for the last five years show that, of every 1,000 children born out of wedlock, 3·5 died from diarrhœal diseases within a year, as compared with 1·3 deaths per 1,000 nuptial 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 than amongst nuptial 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 ex-nuptial infants. The rates from the respiratory diseases (bronchitis, broncho-pneumonia, and pneumonia) for ex-nuptial and nuptial children were 11·8 and 4·3 per 1,000 births respectively.

In 1941 pre-natal causes (malformations, congenital debility, prematurity, injury at birth, &c.) accounted for 40 deaths, or 62 per cent. of the total deaths of ex-nuptial infants.

Infantile mortality— Australian States and New Zealand. The following statement shows the infantile death rate per 1,000 births in each of the Australian States and in New Zealand, for the last five years :—

INFANTILE DEATH RATE—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1937 TO 1941.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1937	36·70	40·68	35·64	33·06	37·52	41·73	38·06	31·21
1938	34·21	41·84	41·28	30·50	33·80	39·74	38·26	35·63
1939	35·58	41·02	35·48	34·93	40·84	40·57	38·23	31·14
1940	39·45	39·02	35·32	35·54	44·18	35·24	38·43	30·36
1941	36·19	43·77	39·13	32·47	35·28	48·98	39·72	29·74

In the year 1941, the infantile mortality rates recorded for the Australian States showed that South Australia had the lowest rate and Tasmania the highest.

The infantile deaths per 1,000 births in the following capital cities in 1940 were :—Melbourne, 39·7 ; Sydney, 38·0 ; Brisbane, 37·4 ; Adelaide, 35·2 Perth, 47·1 ; Hobart, 40·5 : and Wellington, 30·0.

In 1940 the infantile death rate in England and Wales was 55.

Deaths of children under 5. In 1941 the deaths of male and of female children in Victoria under 5 years of age numbered 892 and 641 respectively.

Ages at death.

The ages of males and of females who died in each of the last three years are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—AGES AT DEATH, 1939 TO 1941.

Ages.	1939.			1940.			1941.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females	Total.
Under 1 year	616	469	1,085	736	525	1,261	724	521	1,245
1 year	74	72	146	79	50	129	63	46	109
2 years	38	30	68	33	26	59	41	31	72
3 ,,	23	24	47	28	23	51	37	21	58
4 ,,	26	20	46	23	17	40	27	22	49
5 to 9	101	67	168	83	68	151	106	64	170
10 ,, 14	87	60	147	86	66	152	82	58	140
15 ,, 19	150	90	240	130	89	219	157	92	249
20 ,, 24	183	142	325	182	155	337	164	128	292
25 ,, 29	200	160	360	186	145	331	140	163	303
30 ,, 34	202	174	376	186	160	346	167	155	322
35 ,, 39	239	223	462	242	182	424	237	193	430
40 ,, 44	309	265	574	288	263	551	294	234	528
45 ,, 49	463	373	836	500	373	873	443	370	813
50 ,, 54	596	437	1,033	644	477	1,121	646	490	1,136
55 ,, 59	747	523	1,270	792	513	1,305	825	592	1,417
60 ,, 64	895	646	1,541	993	743	1,736	994	783	1,777
65 ,, 69	1,222	1,069	2,291	1,168	989	2,157	1,171	943	2,114
70 ,, 74	1,461	1,238	2,699	1,464	1,248	2,712	1,452	1,292	2,744
75 ,, 79	1,548	1,476	3,024	1,520	1,446	2,966	1,487	1,446	2,933
80 ,, 84	1,047	1,046	2,093	1,038	1,083	2,121	1,029	1,177	2,206
85 ,, 89	410	541	951	390	495	885	437	597	1,034
90 ,, 94	115	183	298	104	190	294	101	191	292
95 ..	10	20	30	8	11	19	8	24	32
96 ..	5	17	22	5	11	16	7	7	14
97 ..	4	13	17	5	4	9	7	10	17
98 ..	4	7	11	4	3	7	4	6	10
99 ..	2	..	2	5	2	7	..	5	5
100 ..	..	2	2	2	3	5	3	2	5
101 ..	1	1	2	..	..	..	1	2	3
102 ..	..	..	..	3	..	3	..	1	1
103 ..	..	..	..	1	2	3	1	..	1
104 ..	..	2	2	1	..	1	..	..	..
105 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
106 ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
Unknown	1	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	1
Total ..	10,779	9,390	20,169	10,930	9,363	20,293	10,856	9,666	20,522

NOTE.—Ages of very old people are frequently overstated; where particulars are available these are verified from official records.

Of the 60,984 persons who died in Victoria during the last three years 10,424 (or approximately 17 per cent.) were aged 80 years and upwards, and 32—sixteen males and sixteen females—were stated as having attained or passed the age of 100 years. In 1888 deaths of persons aged 80 years and over represented about 3 per cent. of the total deaths in that year.

The changes that have occurred in the age distribution of the population over the last 50 years are reflected in the above figures.

Causes of death.   The causes of death in Victoria and Greater Melbourne according to the international abridged classification (1938 revision) for the year 1941 are shown in the following table :—

International Abridged Classification. (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses.)	Deaths—1941.			
	Victoria.		Greater Melbourne.	
	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers (1, 2)	1	·5	..	..
2. Plague (3)	..	..	..	..
3. Scarlet Fever (8)	15	7·7	10	9.2
4. Whooping Cough (9)	14	7·2	5	4·6
5. Diphtheria (10)	69	35·6	47	43·1
6. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System (13)	769	397·0	522	478·1
7A. Tuberculosis of the Meninges and Central Nervous System (14)	25	12·9	15	13·7
7B. All other forms of Tuberculosis (15–22)	82	42·3	51	46·7
8. Malaria (28)	2	1·0	1	·9
9. Syphilis (30)	136	70·2	103	94·3
10A. Influenza with Respiratory Complications (33A)	34	17·6	14	12·8
10B. Influenza without Respiratory Complications (33B)	33	17·0	14	12·8
11. Smallpox (34)	..	..	..	..
12. Measles (35)	2	1·0	2	1·8
13. Typhus Fever (39)	..	..	..	..
14. Other Infectious or Parasitic Diseases	166	85·7	89	81·5
15. Cancer and other Malignant Tumours (45–55)	2,675	1,380·9	1,715	1,570·4
16. Non-malignant Tumours or Tumors of undetermined Nature (56, 57)	129	66·6	72	66·0
17. Chronic Rheumatism and Gout (59, 60)	52	26·9	28	25·6
18. Diabetes Mellitus (61)	413	213·2	251	229·9
19. Chronic or Acute Alcoholism (77)	13	6·7	8	7·3
20. Vitamin-deficiency Diseases, other General Diseases, Diseases of the Blood, and Chronic Poisonings	305	157·5	167	153·0
21. Meningitis (non-meningococcal) and Diseases of the Medulla and Spinal Cord (81, 82)	99	51·1	65	59·5
22. Intra-cranial Lesions of Vascular Origin (83)	1,911	986·5	1,223	1,120·1
23. Other Diseases of the Nervous System and Sense Organs	180	92·9	103	94·3
24. Diseases of the Heart (90–95)	5,373	2,773·7	3,202	2,932·7
25. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	652	336·6	404	370·0
26A. Acute Bronchitis (106 A and C)	27	13·9	13	11·9
26B. Chronic Bronchitis (106 B and D)	167	86·2	84	76.9
27. Pneumonia and Broncho-pneumonia (107–109)	1,320	681·4	789	722·6
28. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	299	154·4	149	136·5
29A. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years of age) (119)	47	24·3	25	22·9
29B. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (two years and over) (120)	66	34·1	40	36·6
30. Appendicitis (121)	129	66·6	64	58·6
31A. Cirrhosis of Liver (124)	110	56·8	85	77·9
31B. Other Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Passages (125–127)	113	58·3	75	68·7
32A. Hernia, Intestinal Obstruction (122)	156	80·5	89	81·5
32B. Other Diseases of the Digestive System	314	162·1	199	182·3
33. Nephritis (130–132)	1,322	682·5	865	792·2
34. Other Diseases of the Genito-urinary System (133–139)	362	186·9	194	177·7
35. Puerperal Infection (140, 147)	68	35·1	51	46·7
36. Other Diseases of Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium (141–146, 148–150)	57	29·4	31	28·4
37. Diseases of the Skin, Cellular Tissue, Bones, and Organs of Movement (151–156)	58	29·9	35	32·1
38. Congenital Malformations and Debility, Premature Birth, and Diseases peculiar to the First Year of Life (157–161)	927	478·6	491	449·7

International Abridged Classification. (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses.)	Deaths—1941.			
	Victoria.		Greater Melbourne.	
	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.
39. Senility, Old-age (162)	623	321·6	277	253·7
40. Suicide (163, 164)	151	78·0	80	73·3
41. Homicide (165–168)	11	5·7	8	7·3
42. Automobile Accidents (all motor-driven road vehicles (170))	396	204·4	259	237·2
43. Other Violent or Accidental Deaths ..	610	314·9	309	283·0
44. Causes of Death Ill-defined, Unknown, or Unspecified (199, 200)	39	20·1	6	5·5
	20,522	10,594·0	12,329	11,291·8

Typhoid fever. In 1941, deaths from typhoid fever numbered 1, being equivalent to a rate of 0·5 per million of population, as compared with rates of 1·6 in 1940, 4 in 1939, 3 in 1938, 5 in 1937, 31 in 1920–24, 108 in 1905–09, and 301 in 1895–99. Cases of typhoid fever reported in 1941 numbered 31, or 16 per million of population, as against 259 in 1920–24, and 2,884 in 1895–99.

Scarlet fever. Scarlet Fever, which has been steadily increasing since 1938, reached a very high incidence in 1941, but both the case fatality and the mortality per million of population are now very low.

In 1941 the deaths from scarlet fever numbered 15, which corresponded to a rate of 8 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 8 in 1940, 5 in 1939, 5 in 1938, 3 in 1937, and 8 in 1936. During 1941 there were 5,350 cases reported as against 4,363 in 1940, 3,020 in 1939, 1,714 in 1938, and 2,567 in 1937. For the five years mentioned the deaths were less than 1 per cent. of the cases. Forty-six per cent. of these deaths were of children under 10 years of age.

Whooping cough. Whooping cough was responsible for 14 deaths in 1941, which equalled a rate of 7 per million of the population at all ages, as compared with rates of 63 in 1940, 1 in 1939, 3 in 1938, and 20 in 1937. 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 8 of the deaths were of infants under 1 year, and all except one of the deaths were of children under 5 years of age.

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 1937 to 1941, 49 per cent. of those who died were under 5 years, and 87 per cent. were under 10 years of age.

The appended table shows for Victoria and Greater Melbourne the reported cases of and deaths from diphtheria, their proportions to the population, and the ratios of deaths to cases for different periods since 1894 :—

DIPHTHERIA IN VICTORIA AND GREATER MELBOURNE, 1895 TO 1941.

Period.	Annual Cases Reported.		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
1937	3,040	163·8	52	2·8	1·7
1938	1,824	97·7	36	1·9	2·0
1939	1,617	85·9	42	2·2	2·6
1940	1,365	72.0	26	1·4	1·9
1941	2,702	139·5	69	3·6	2·6
			GREATER MELBOURNE.		
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
1937	1,683	165·0	28	2·7	1·7
1938	962	93·4	13	1·3	1·4
1939	915	87.9	23	2·2	2·5
1940	824	77·6	17	1·6	2·1
1941	1,815	166·2	47	4·3	2·6

The cases of diphtheria which occurred in the metropolitan area, the three principal cities outside Greater Melbourne and the remainder of the State in each of the last five years, and their proportions to the respective populations, for the period 1910-19 and the years 1939, 1940, and 1941, are given in the subjoined table :—

VICTORIA—CASES OF DIPHTHERIA.

Locality.	Reported Cases of Diphtheria.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.			
	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1910-19.	1939.	1940.	1941.
Greater Melbourne	1,683	962	915	824	1,815	39·3	8·8	7·8	16·6
Ballarat ..	49	38	26	11	9	24·3	6·8	2·9	2·3
Bendigo ..	43	19	53	32	66	84·6	17·6	10·6	21·6
Geelong ..	182	157	116	51	101	43·4	28·8	12·6	24·7
Remainder of State	1,083	648	507	447	711	25·7	6·0	6·2	9·7

Tuberculosis (all forms). The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1941 was 876, the rate per million of population being 452. The lowest rate for Victoria is 409, recorded in 1938.

Death rates from tuberculosis of the respiratory system. The deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1941 numbered 769—469 being of males and 300 of females—and equalled a rate of 397 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 383 in 1940, 402 in 1939, 362 in 1938, 384 in 1937, 660 in 1918-22, 855 in 1908-12, and 1,365 in 1890-92. In 1941 tuberculosis of the respiratory system was responsible for 88 per cent. of the total deaths from tuberculosis.

Deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system at various ages. The number of deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in each of the last five years, and the ages and sexes of the deceased, are given in the next table :—

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

| Age Group | Males. | | | | | Females. | | | | |
| | Year. | | | | | Year. | | | | |
	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.
0–9	8	1	3	9	11	2	2	4	5	5
10–14	2	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	3	5
15–19	7	4	5	8	8	15	22	16	20	19
20–24	23	13	23	19	25	41	41	42	34	32
25–29	19	25	22	26	22	52	49	51	44	48
30–34	33	27	32	31	32	41	49	47	38	32
35–39	44	42	35	39	46	42	26	31	26	32
40–44	47	36	54	39	34	20	30	24	28	18
45–49	51	48	52	54	48	26	14	24	13	21
50–54	48	31	49	45	57	13	17	16	16	21
55–59	36	46	48	47	53	14	14	14	11	25
60–64	40	32	39	45	54	12	12	10	13	14
65–69	27	31	34	32	39	9	12	13	12	11
70 and over ..	25	34	37	41	40	14	16	29	28	17
Unknown ..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	410	371	433	436	469	303	306	323	291	300

For the year 1941, the average age of those who died from tuberculosis of the respiratory system was 48·4 years for males and 39·2 years for females.

Tubercular diseases (tuberculosis of the respiratory system excepted).

In 1941 there occurred in Victoria 107 deaths from tubercular diseases (excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system). This number represented a rate of 55 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 44 in 1940 48 in 1939, 47 in 1938, 51 in 1937, 134 in 1918–22, 182 in 1908–12 and 379 in 1890–92.

Tubercular death rates in Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, and Geelong.   In earlier periods, the death rate from tuberculosis was considerably higher in the Metropolis and the mining centres of Ballarat and Bendigo—Bendigo in particular—than in the rural portions of the State.

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES FROM TUBERCULAR DISEASES IN MELBOURNE, BALLARAT, BENDIGO, AND GEELONG.

Deaths per 10,000 of the Population.

Period.	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.				Other Tubercular Diseases.				All Tubercular Diseases.			
	Greater Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Greater Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Greater Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.
1891–1900 ..	16·7	17·1	24·1	†	4·7	3·5	4·0	†	21·4	20·6	28·1	†
1901–05 ..	13·9	15·3	22·7	†	4·2	4·0	4·7	†	18·1	19·3	27·4	†
1906–10 ..	10·8	11·5	21·2	†	3·0	2·1	2·0	†	13·8	13·6	23·2	†
1911–15 ..	9·1	10·3	16·5	†	2·1	2·2	2·1	†	11·2	12·5	18·6	†
1916–20 ..	8·3	11·2	16·0	†	1·9	1·5	2·0	†	10·2	12·7	18·0	†
1921–25 ..	6·9	6·7	11·9	4·6	1·5	1·0	2·2	1·9	8·4	7·7	14·1	6·5
1926–30 ..	5·9	5·2	10·7	4·2	1·0	·4	·8	·8	6·9	5·6	11·5	5·0
1937 ..	4·4	3·7	9·4	6·5	·6	·5	1·3	·3	5·0	4·2	10·7	6·8
1938 ..	4·4	4·2	9·3	2·3	·6	1·0	...	·5	5·0	5·2	9·3	2·8
1939 ..	4·6	7·5	7·3	4·7	·5	·5	·3	1·0	5·1	8·0	7·6	5·7
1940 ..	4·5	5·9	8·3	3·9	·4	·3	·3	·5	4·9	6·2	8·6	4·4
1941 ..	4·8	5·6	7·2	2·7	·6	·8	·3	·2	5·4	6·4	7·5	2·9

† Not calculated.

Influenza.   The deaths from influenza in 1941 numbered 67. This corresponded to a rate of 35 per million of the population as compared with rates of 42 in 1940, 106 in 1939, 53 in 1938, 43 in 1937, 2,407 in 1919, 71 in 1913–17, 109 in 1908–12, and 381 in 1890–92.

The rate of mortality in 1941 was 40 per cent. below the average of the previous quinquennium.

Of the deaths recorded in 1941, 51 per cent. were associated with specified respiratory 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. In 1941, 55 per cent. were of persons over 50 years of age.

Small-pox—
Deaths from. Persons suffering from small-pox have arrived at Victorian ports on many occasions, but, as they were at once quarantined, the disease has never spread among the people of the State. During the years 1853 to 1941, 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 outbreak since 1898, when 671 deaths resulted from the disease. There were 2 deaths from measles in 1941, representing a rate of 1 per million of population. Rates per million of population were 7 in 1940, 35 in 1939, 0 in 1938, and 1 in 1937. The disease chiefly affects children. On the average of the five years, 1937 to 1941, 25 per cent. of those who died from the disease were under 2 years, and 51 per cent. were under 5 years of age.

Other
infectious
and parasitic
diseases. Deaths in 1941, from diseases included under this heading (cause No. 14, on page 115) were cerebro-spinal meningitis 46, erysipelas 5, tetanus 12, septicaemia 28, dysentery 4, acute poliomyelitis 2, acute infectious encephalitis 8, hydatid disease 17, Hodgkin's disease 29, and other diseases 15.

Cerebro-spinal
Meningitis. Two hundred and eighteen cases were reported during 1941, this being four times the incidence of 1940. From 1919 to 1939 inclusive the average annual incidence was 19 cases and the highest 28.

Deaths from cerebro-spinal meningitis numbered 46 in 1941, 9 in 1940, 4 in 1939, 7 in 1938, and 10 in 1937.

Poliomyelitis
(infantile
paralysis). 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. The highest incidence (until the 1937-38 epidemic) was 303 cases in 1918. Seven years later, in 1925, 140 cases were reported. The years 1928 to 1931 were all years of high incidence. The disease assumed epidemic proportions in 1931, 1934, and 1937. In the 1937–38 epidemic there were 2,096 cases, the number of deaths being 113.

Poliomyelitis was responsible for 2 deaths in 1941, 7 in 1940, 9 in 1939, 41 in 1938, 77 in 1937, 4 in 1936, 7 in 1935, 9 in 1934, 7 in 1933, and 4 in 1932.

Hydatids. In 1941, there were 10 male and 7 female deaths from hydatids, of which 4 of males and 4 of females were attributed to hydatid tumour of the liver. The deaths from hydatids in 1941 were equivalent to a rate of 9 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 9 in 1940, 16 in 1939, 6 in 1938, 11 in 1937, 16 in 1918–22, 22 in 1908–12, and 51 in 1890–92.

**Cancer—
Death rates.**
Deaths from cancer in 1941 numbered 2.675, and represented a death rate of 1,381 per million of the whole population, as compared with rates of 1,333 in 1940, 1,332 in 1939, 1,226 in 1938, 1,267 in 1937, 934 in 1918-22, 833 in 1908-12, and 584 in 1890-92.

**Cancer—
Deaths at
various ages.**
The number of deaths from cancer in various age groups in each of the last five years is given below :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM CANCER AT VARIOUS AGES.

Age Group.	Males.					Females.				
	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.
0–14 ..	6	4	6	9	5	4	6	4	5	7
15–24 ..	4	3	5	9	5	4	5	1	4	9
25–34 ..	17	24	19	15	10	18	16	17	21	16
35–44 ..	50	50	35	49	53	95	88	94	67	92
45–54 ..	113	119	128	130	113	177	190	196	222	218
55–64 ..	227	263	241	266	263	260	237	274	283	304
65–74 ..	429	413	422	390	453	371	377	418	394	404
75–84 ..	276	268	295	322	316	236	252	281	274	302
85 and over	25	14	29	32	41	39	36	42	36	64
Total ..	1,147	1,158	1,180	1,222	1,259	1,204	1,207	1,327	1,306	1,416

Ninety-three per cent. of the deaths from cancer in 1941 were at ages 45 years and upwards.

The widely different social and economic effects produced by the prevalence of and deaths from the two important diseases, cancer and tuberculosis of the respiratory system, are evidenced by the ages of their victims. For the year 1941 the average age of those who died from the former was 66·8 years for males and 64·3 years for females, while the corresponding averages for the latter were 48·4 years for males and 39·2 years for females.

Seat of cancer. The following table shows the seat of cancer in persons who died from this disease in 1941 :—

VICTORIA—SEAT OF CANCER, 1941.

Seat of Cancer.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Buccal Cavity and Pharynx	80	21	101
Digestive Organs and Peritoneum—			
Oesophagus	50	24	74
Stomach and Duodenum	335	252	587
Intestines other than Duodenum or Rectum ..	186	194	380
Rectum	80	65	145
Liver and Biliary Passages	28	64	92
Pancreas	44	41	85
Peritoneum	10	9	19
Other Digestive Organs	..	..	..
Respiratory System	105	36	141
Uterus	..	169	169
Other Female Genital Organs	..	89	89
Breast	2	298	300
Male Genital Organs	151	..	151
Urinary Organs	53	31	84
Skin	57	43	100
Brain and other parts of the Nervous System—			
Glioma (not specified as benign)	10	6	16
Other	6	2	8
Other or Unspecified Organs	62	72	134
	1,259	1,416	2,675

Diabetes. The rate of mortality from diabetes shows a marked increase, the average of the last five years being 84 per cent. higher than that for the period 1908–12.

During 1941. diabetes was responsible for 151 male and 262 female deaths, representing a rate of 213 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 201 in 1940, 206 in 1939, 199 in 1938, 164 in 1937, 130 in 1918–22, and 107 in 1908–12.

Vitamin-deficiency diseases, other general diseases, diseases of the blood, and chronic poisonings. Deaths in 1941 from diseases in this category (cause No. 20 on page 115) were acute rheumatic fever 38, exophthalmic goitre 49, other diseases of the thyroid and parathyroid glands 16, pernicious and other hyperchromic anaemias 51, other anaemias 16, leucaemia 66, and other diseases 69.

Meningitis (non-meningococcal) and diseases of the medulla and spinal cord. In 1941 deaths from these causes numbered 99, the rate per million of population being 51, as compared with rates of 53 in 1940, 42 in 1939, 60 in 1938, and 46 in 1937.

Intra-cranial lesions of vascular origin. In 1941, 713 male and 1,198 female deaths were ascribed to these causes, the total—1,911—corresponding to a rate of 987 per million of the population. Of the 1,911 deaths in 1941, 1,220 were due to cerebral haemorrhage, 12 to cerebral embolism, 501 to cerebral thrombosis, 28 to softening of the brain, 139 to hemiplegia and unspecified paralysis, and 11 to other intra-cranial effusions.

Other diseases of nervous system and sense organs. In this category (cause No. 23 on page 115) in 1941 were 24 deaths from encephalitis (non-epidemic), 36 from epilepsy, 23 diseases of the ear and mastoid process, and 97 from other diseases.

Diseases of the heart. During 1941 there were 5,373 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart, including 9 due to pericarditis, 573 to endocarditis, 3,077 to disease of the myocardum, 1,150 to diseases of coronary arteries, 92 to angina pectoris, 89 to angina pectoris with record of coronary disease, and 383 to other diseases of the heart. The total causes in 1941 represented a rate of 2,774 per million of the population, the rates for previous years being 2,686 in 1940, 2,663 in 1939, 1,347 in 1922-26, and 1,441 in 1908-12.

Other diseases of the circulatory system. Deaths under this heading (cause No. 25 on page 115), in 1941 were arterio-sclerosis 532, and other diseases 120. Of the deaths from arterio-sclerosis, 73 per cent. were of persons aged 70 years and over.

Diseases of the respiratory system. In 1941 the deaths from respiratory diseases numbered 1,813, which represented a rate of 936 per million of the population as compared with rates of 1,016 in 1940, 883 in 1939, 893 in 1938, and 881 in 1937. Of the deaths in the year under review, 27 were due to acute bronchitis, 167 to chronic bronchitis,

768 to broncho-pneumonia, 303 to lobar pneumonia, 249 to pneumonia unspecified, 57 to pleurisy, 144 to congestion, edema, embolism, &c., of lungs, 32 to asthma and 66 to other diseases. Further details will be found under causes Nos. 26 to 28 on page 115.

In 1941 the greatest mortality from the respiratory diseases occurred during the months of July, August, and September.

Diseases of the digestive system. In 1941 there were 537 male and 398 female deaths from digestive ailments, representing a proportion of 483 per million of the population, as against rates of 523 in 1940, 536 in 1939, 523 in 1938, 524 in 1937, 807 in 1922–26, and 2,382 in 1890–92. Deaths from principal diseases in 1941 were : 200 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 113 from diarrhœal diseases, 129 from appendicitis, 51 from hernia, 105 from intestinal obstruction, 110 from cirrhosis of the liver, 57 from biliary calculi, 42 from other diseases of the gall bladder and biliary passages, and 128 from other diseases. Further rates and details are given under causes Nos. 29 to 32 on page 115. .

The 113 deaths from diarrhœal diseases in 1941 correspond to a rate of 58 per million of the population as compared with rates of 74 in 1940, 81 in 1939, 81 in 1938, 81 in 1937, 380 in 1922–26, 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. In earlier years these diseases constituted one of the most fatal menaces to infant life. The decline in the mortality therefrom has, however, been progressive, and since 1928 the rate has reached small proportions. Of the deaths at all ages in 1941, 37 were of infants under one year of age, 10 were between the ages of one and two years, 4 between two and five years, while 28 were of persons aged 65 years and over. Infantile diarrhœa has been further dealt with in the section " Infantile Mortality."

Diseases of the genito-urinary system. In 1941 there were 1,684 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. This number represented a rate of 869 per million of the population, as against rates of 890 in 1940, 891 in 1939, 803 in 1938, 787 in 1937, 670 in 1918–22, and 700 in 1909–12. In 1941, acute and chronic nephritis were responsible for 1,322 deaths, other diseases of the kidney and ureters for 79, diseases of the prostate for 202, and other genito-urinary diseases for 81.

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. In the following table are given the proportions of deaths from puerperal infection and all other diseases of pregnancy, childbirth and the puerperium for the year 1941 and the averages of previous periods back to 1871. The rates given for years prior to 1940 are not strictly comparable with those for subsequent years.

VICTORIA—MATERNAL DEATHS, 1871 TO 1941.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Deaths from—						Rate per 10,000 Live Births from—					
	Puerperal Infection.			Other Diseases of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium. (Detailed List No. 141-146, 148-150).	Total.		Puerperal Infection.			Other Diseases of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium.	Total.	
	Infection during Childbirth and the Puerperium. (Detailed List No. 147).	Post-abortive Infection (Detailed List No. 140).			Including Criminal Abortion.	Excluding Criminal Abortion.	Infection during Childbirth and the Puerperium. (Detailed List No. 147).	Post-abortive Infection (Detailed List No. 140).			Including Criminal Abortion.	Excluding Criminal Abortion.
		Spontaneous, Therapeutic, or Unspecified.	Criminal Abortion.					Spontaneous, Therapeutic, or Unspecified.	Criminal Abortion.			
1871–1880	46			127	173		17·12			47·26	64·38	
1881–1890	64			121	185		20·48			38·71	59·19	
1891–1900	66			117	183		20·20			35·81	56·01	
1901–1910	52			114	166		16·93			37·12	54·05	
1911–1920	53			94	147		15·42			27·35	42·77	
1921–1925	43			102	145		11·96			28·37	40·33	
1926–29..	44	12	21	121	198	177	12·78	3·46	5·92	34·86	57·02	51·10
1930–34..	33	9	27	91	160	133	11·08	3·13	9·17	30·99	54·37	45·20
1935–39..	18	6	41	74	139	98	5·97	1·90	14·05	25·25	47·17	33·12
1940 ..	19	1	50	58	128	72	5·95	·31	15·64	18·15	40·05	22·53
1941 ..	23	1	44	57	125	78	6·68	·29	12·79	16·57	36·33	22·76

Note—See following table regarding deaths from Criminal Abortion.

The following tables give information in age groups for the year 1941 relating to the causes of death of women in childbirth, and the total number of children born to married mothers.

VICTORIA—MATERNAL DEATHS, 1941.

Causes of Death.	Under 20.	20 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 and over.	Total.	No. of Married Mothers.	No. of Unmarried Mothers.
140. Post-abortive Infection—									
(a) Spontaneous, Therapeutic or Unspecified	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..
(b) Criminal Abortion	5	10	11	11	6	1	44	32	12
141. Abortion without mention of Septic Conditions—									
(a) Spontaneous, Therapeutic or Unspecified	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..
(b) Criminal Abortion	1	..	1	1	..	..	3	1	2
142. Ectopic Gestation	..	..	..	2	1	1	4	4	..
143. Haemorrhage of Pregnancy	..	..	..	1	2	1	4	4	..
144. Toxaemias of Pregnancy—									
(a) Eclampsia of Pregnancy	..	2	1	1	2	..	6	6	..
(b) Albuminuria and Nephritis of Pregnancy	..	..	..	1	2	..	3	3	..
(c) Acute Yellow Atrophy of Liver Associated with Pregnancy	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(d) Other Toxaemias of Pregnancy	..	..	..	2	..	2	4	4	..
145. Other Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy	..	..	..	1	..	2	3	3	..
146. Haemorrhage of Childbirth and the Puerperium	..	1	2	2	1	..	6	6	..
147. Infection during Childbirth and the Puerperium—									
(a) Puerperal Infections	1	2	6	1	2	2	14	14	..
(b) Puerperal Thrombophlebitis	..	..	3	1	..	..	4	4	..
(c) Puerperal Embolism and Sudden Death	..	..	1	4	..	..	5	5	..
148. Puerperal Toxaemias—									
(a) Puerperal Eclampsia	1	..	2	1	1	..	5	5	..
(b) Puerperal Albuminuria and Nephritis	..	..	3	..	1	1	5	5	..
(c) Acute Yellow Atrophy of Liver (Post-partum)	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..
(d) Other puerperal Toxaemias	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
149. Other Accidents of Childbirth—									
(a) Caesarean Section	..	..	2	..	..	1	3	3	..
(b) Other Surgical Operations and Instrumental Delivery	..	2	1	..	..	..	3	3	..
(c) Others	..	1	1	..	2	..	4	4	..
150. Other or Unspecified Diseases of Childbirth and the Puerperium—									
(a) Puerperal Diseases of the Breast	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	..
(b) Others	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..
Total	8	18	35	30	23	11	125	111	14
No. of Married Mothers	4	13	32	29	22	11	111	..	..
No. of Unmarried Mothers	4	5	3	1	1	..	14	..	..
Issue of Married Mothers	2	9	59	51	63	61	245	..	..

Of the 245 children born to the 111 married women who died, 232 were living at the time of their mother's death, or an average of 2·1 children per mother.

First confinements were responsible for 42, or 37·8 per cent. of the total deaths of married mothers, as compared with 34·9 in 1940, 37·1 per cent. in 1939, 37·1 per cent. in 1938, and 38·4 per cent. in 1937.

The death rate of women in childbirth varies considerably at different ages, and is higher at older than at 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 1939, 1940, and 1941, are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—MATERNAL DEATHS, 1926 TO 1941.

Age Group.	Mothers.							
	Deaths.				Deaths per 10,000 children born alive.			
	1926–30.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1926–30.	1939.	1940.	1941.
Under 20 years ..	41	4	8	8	47·1	24·0	51·6	50·3
20 to 24 ,, ..	150	27	30	18	39·1	36·6	38·9	20·8
25 ,, 29 ,, ..	231	23	33	35	46·5	23·4	31·2	31·0
30 ,, 34 ,, ..	226	28	25	30	56·8	41·2	34·3	38·8
35 ,, 39 ,, ..	226	25	16	23	88·1	69·7	44·6	59·1
40 years and over	111	11	16	11	117·8	87·4	125·5	86·8
Total ..	985	118	128	125	57·4	38·7	40·0	36·3

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.

Senile decay. During the year 1941, the deaths of 287 men and 336 women were ascribed to senile decay, as compared with 367 men and 427 women in 1940. Prior to 1927, deaths from ill-defined causes, *i.e.*, heart failure, debility, &c., of those persons over 65 years of age, were classified as senile decay. In that year, however, only deaths of persons over 70 years of age from such causes were so classified.

Suicide. In the year 1941, 108 males and 43 females took their lives. The deaths represented a rate of 78 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 76 in 1940, 77 in 1939, 73 in 1938, 86 in 1937, 87 in 1918–22, 102 in 1908–12, and 109 in 1890–92. Of the 108 male deaths in 1941 from suicide, 37 or 34 per .cent., were connected with firearms. A much lower rate from suicide obtains among females than among males, the rate for the former, on the average of the last five years, being 30 per cent. of that of the latter.

Homicide. The deaths ascribed to homicide in 1941 numbered 11, of which 4 were of males and 7 of females. These represented a rate of 6 per million of the population, as against rates of 6 in 1940, 8 in 1939, 13 in 1938, 10 in 1937, 14 in 1918–22, and 19 in 1908–12. Since 1930 deaths from criminal abortion have been excluded from this category and included with deaths from maternal causes.

Accidental deaths. In 1941 there were 1,006 accidental deaths (740 male, 266 female). These represented a rate of 519 per million of population. This proportion was approximately 8 per cent. below the rate (562) for the previous five years. The numbers of deaths from various accidents are given in the appended table :—

VICTORIA—ACCIDENTAL DEATHS, 1937 TO 1941.

Deaths from—	Number.						
	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.		
					Males.	Females.	Total.
Accidents on Railways	35	22	26	25	37	9	46
Motor Vehicle Accidents	456	441	487	471	305	91	396
Other Road Transport Accidents	60	59	54	38	43	9	52
Water Transport Accidents	10	6	3	7	8	1	9
Air Transport Accidents	7	23·	9	10	7	..	7
Accidents in Mines and Quarries	28	20	9	8	9	..	9
Agricultural and Forestry Accidents	*	*	*	23	23	..	23
Accidents caused by Machinery, N.E.I.	10	10	15	9	8	..	8
Food Poisoning	..	3	2	1	1	1	2
Accidental Absorption of Poisonous Gases	5	9	11	4	4	1	5
Other Acute Accidental Poisoning	4	7	10	14	4	1	5
Conflagration	3	10	74	12	7	1	8
Accidental Burns	44	50	30	41	21	12	33
Accidental Mechanical Suffocation	10	8	16	15	8	11	19
Accidental Drowning	125	127	131	129	105	24	129
Accidental Injury by Firearms	30	29	29	39	24	2	26
Accidental Injury by Fall	128	100	162	100	67	84	151
Accidental Injury by Crushing	17	14	21	6	13	2	15
Injury by Animals	2	10	6	3	5	1	6
Excessive Cold	..	1	3	1	1	..	1
Excessive Heat	4	1	33	1	1	2	3
Lightning	1	1	..	..	2	..	2
Electricity	11	8	9	10	2	..	2
Snakebite	1	3	2	1	..	..	..
Other Venomous Bites and Stings	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Other Accidents	59	79	103	40	34	14	48
	1,050	1,041	1,245	1,008	740	266	1,006

* Not available.

Note.—The high number of deaths recorded in 1939 from conflagration and effects of heat are directly related to the bush fires and heat wave of January of that year.

On the average of the last five years, the female mortality rate from accidents was about 33 per cent. of the rate for males.

Transport accidents. In 1941 deaths from transport accidents numbered 510, as against 551 in 1940, 579 in 1939, 551 in 1938, 568 in 1937, 508 in 1936, 440 in 1935, 385 in 1934, 350 in 1933, and 350 in 1932.

During the year 1941, deaths connected with transport represented 51 per cent. of the total deaths from accidents.

In the following table details are given of deaths due to collisions between various types of transport and other fatal accidents in which transport was concerned, for the year 1941.

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS, 1941.

—	Collisions.												Total.	Other Accidents.	Total.	Males.	Females.
	Railway vehicle.	Tramcar.	Motor car.	Motor lorry, &c.	Motor cycle.	Horse-drawn vehicle, &c.	Bicycle.	Other Vehicle.	Animal.	Fixed object.	Aeroplane.	Water Transport					
Railway vehicle ..	3	..	3	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	10	*42	52	41	11
Tramcar ..	..	..	8	..	5	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	15	16	31	23	8
Motor-car ..	..	..	20	18	18	2	34	2	..	18	..	..	112	136	248	192	56
„ omnibus ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	8	10	9	1
„ lorry, &c.	..	..	1	3	11	..	13	1	..	3	..	..	32	56	88	67	21
„ cycle ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	2	5	..	..	11	20	31	21	10
Horse - drawn vehicle ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	11	11	..
Bicycle	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	2	19	21	20	1
Other Vehicle ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	1
Aeroplane ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	2	..	6	1	7	7	..
Water transport ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	6	3	9	8	1
Total ..	3	..	32	25	35	3	54	3	2	31	2	6	196	314	510	400	110

* Includes rail accidents to 21 railway employees.

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 1932 to 1941, were as follows :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS INVOLVING MOTOR VEHICLES, 1932 TO 1941.

Year.	Number of Motor Vehicles (30th June.)	Deaths Involving Motor Vehicles.		
		Number.	Per 10,000 Motor Vehicles	Per 1,000,000 of Population.
1932	167,952	262	15·6	145
1933	179,602	255	14·2	140
1934	188,256	294	15·6	161
1935	200,759	338	16·8	184
1936	219,925	395	18·0	214
1937	233,573	456	19·5	246
1938	250,455	441	17·6	236
1939	261,855	487	18·6	259
1940	266,677	471	17.7	248
1941	256,502	396	15·4	204

The mortality per 10,000 vehicles was 17·7 for the period 1937–41 as compared with a rate of 16·1 in 1932–36. The mortality per million of population was 204 in 1941, 248 in 1940, 259 in 1939, 236 in 1938, 246 in 1937, and 214 in 1936. The mortality rate in 1939 was the highest on record.

On the average of the five years, 1937 to 1941, motor cars, &c., were involved in 18·0 deaths per 10,000 cars registered, and motor cycles in 33·1 deaths per 10,000 motor cycles registered.

1865/43.—7

NATURAL INCREASE.

Natural increase per 1,000 of population in Australian States and in New Zealand.

The average annual natural increase, i.e., the excess of births over deaths, per 1,000 of the mean population, in each Australian State, the Commonwealth of Australia, and New Zealand, for various 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 MEAN POPULATION.

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1910–14	13·85	18·38	18·51	17·68	18·61	19·35	17·03	16·80
1915–19	11·75	15·98	17·06	14·84	15·47	17·83	14·99	16·80
1920–24	12·49	15·73	16·13	13·75	13·96	16·66	14·60	14·01
1925–29	10·57	12·99	13·35	11·18	12·71	13·27	12·18	11·65
1930–34	6·77	9·52	10·56	6·89	10·26	11·05	8·78	9·19
1935–39	5·63	7·91	10·06	6·12	9·85	10·36	7·67	8·37
1937 ..	5·99	8·27	10·26	6·34	10·00	11·18	7·99	8·21
1938 ..	6·10	7·80	9·79	6·53	10·67	11·11	7·82	8·22
1939 ..	5·48	7·71	10·68	6·50	10·11	10·84	7·72	9·53
1940 ..	6·16	8·38	10·99	7·23	9·96	10·91	8·27	11·95
1941 ..	7·17	8·73	11·59	7·79	11·43	10·99	8·92	12·97

VICTORIA.

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	1925–29	18,218	20·24	9·67	10·57
1885–89	16,741	32·27	15·87	16·40	1930–34	12,249	16·27	9·50	6·77
1890–94	20,059	31·99	14·62	17·37	1935–39	10,473	15·85	10·22	5·63
1895–99	15,625	26·76	13·81	12·95					
1900–04	14,859	25·08	12·78	12·30	1937 ..	11,118	16·02	10·03	5·99
1905–09	16,062	24·76	11·93	12·83	1938 ..	11,389	16·25	10·15	6·10
1910–14	18,795	25·42	11·57	13·85	1939 ..	10,324	16·20	10·72	5·48
1915–19	16,818	23·13	11·38	11·75	1940 ..	11,669	16·86	10·70	6·16
1920–24	19,647	22·89	10·40	12·49	1941 ..	13,884	17·76	10·59	7·17