PART III.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. The system of compulsory registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Victoria has been in force since 1853, and the registers contain all necessary information bearing on the family history of the people. The statutory duties under the Registration Acts are performed by the Government Statist, who has supervision over the registrars of births and deaths, the registrars of marriages, and (so far as regards their registration duties) the clergymen who celebrate marriages. Copies of entries certified by the Government Statist or by an Assistant Government Statist are *prima facie* evidence in the Courts of Australia of the facts to which they relate. At the Government Statist's Office there is kept for reference a complete collection of all registrations effected since 1st July, 1853, as well as originals or certified copies of all existing church records relating to earlier periods, as far back as 1837. Since the present system was instituted approximately 5,301,570 original entries have been made in the indexes, of which 1,497,220 relate to marriages, 2,559,030 to births, and 1,245,320 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 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

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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.

The recognition of the value of the information contained in the records is shown by the number of applications for searches or certificates. In 1939 these numbered 73,777.

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.

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.   Marriage with a deceased wife's sister is valid. Marriages of Jews and Quakers are exempted 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.
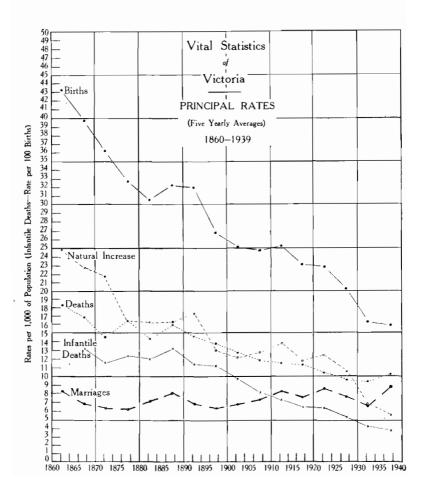
Births of live children must, under a penalty not exceeding £10 for default without reasonable cause, be registered within 60 days. After 60 days and within twelve months, registration may be effected, after declaration, on the payment of a fee of 5s. ; after twelve months and under seven years, only 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 every 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, 1939. The principal numbers and rates relating to Vital Statistics are given in the following table :—

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1939.

Division.	Mean Population	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	1,041,175	..	15,339	11,719	495	..	14·73	11·26	32·27
Remainder of the State	840,767	..	15,154	8,450	590	..	18·02	10·05	38·93
Victoria	1,881,942	17,368	30,493	20,169	1,085	9·23	16·20	10·72	35·58

Vital Statistics
of
Victoria

PRINCIPAL RATES

(Five Yearly Averages)

1860—1939

MARRIAGES.

Marriages—
Numbers and
Rates.
Marriages in Victoria in 1939 numbered 17,368 (highest recorded), corresponding to a rate of 9·23 per 1,000 of the population. Rates for previous years were 9·16 in 1938, 8·74 in 1937, 8·61 in 1936, and 8·38 in 1935. The highest rate since 1857—9·85—was recorded in 1920. This was mainly due to the marriages of a large number of soldiers after their return to civilian life. 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 steady increase since that year, the rate in 1939 being 63 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 1939.

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	6·34
1935 ..	15,409	3,452	4,265	3,301	4,391	8·38
1936 ..	15,915	3.448	4.776	3,240	4,451	8·61
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

* 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.
1935	8·38	8·45	8·57	8·28	8·85	8·16	8·45	8·23
1936	8·61	8·57	8·49	8·82	9·43	8·98	8·66	9·25
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	9·04	9·51	9·23	11·12

Ages of bridegrooms and brides.   The ages of bridegrooms and brides who were married in 1939 are shown in combination for various groups in the table which follows :—

VICTORIA—AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN COMBINATION, 1939.

Ages of Bridegrooms.	Ages of Brides.																			Total Bridegrooms.
	13.	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	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
17	..	..	..	1	10	3	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
18	..	..	2	7	17	21	15	2	8	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	72
19	..	1	1	9	24	32	36	16	29	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	151
20	..	..	1	8	31	62	61	46	71	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	295
21 to 24	..	..	8	44	132	304	432	424	2,448	602	47	7	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	4,449
25 to 29	..	..	4	17	54	133	227	312	2,799	2,344	337	48	6	1	..	..	1	..	..	6,283
30 to 34	..	1	..	3	13	30	57	80	788	1,252	652	139	37	7	1	..	..	..	..	3,060
35 to 39	..	..	1	3	2	7	9	18	174	420	363	250	75	30	3	4	..	..	..	1,359
40 to 44	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	4	38	105	191	165	93	34	8	..	..	..	..	642
45 to 49	..	..	..	1	..	2	2	..	14	44	59	101	85	54	21	5	1	..	..	389
50 to 54	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	..	5	9	18	45	44	49	40	11	3	1	..	229
55 to 59	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	3	12	18	28	39	33	19	6	3	..	165
60 to 64	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	3	5	7	20	20	23	11	19	3	2	114
65 to 69	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	4	6	4	6	10	9	11	7	7	68
70 to 74	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	5	2	8	6	9	9	44
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	4	7	8	3	3	28
Total Brides	..	2	17	94	286	596	844	904	6,380	4,804	1,689	787	396	247	145	75	55	26	21	17,368

Of every 1,000 men married during the year, 731 were older and 173 younger than their brides, and 96 were of the same age.

In 1938 the oldest bridegroom was aged 88 years, and the oldest bride 79 years. The youngest bridegroom was aged 16 years and the youngest bride 14 years.

Proportion of marriages at various ages. The proportions of both sexes marrying in 1939 is shown, in varying age groups, in the following table :—

VICTORIA—PROPORTIONS OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1939.

Age Group.		Proportion per 1,000 of total—		Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—	
		Bridegrooms.	Brides.		Bridegrooms.	Brides.
Under 16	..	..	1·09	35 to 39 ..	78·25	45·31
16 ..	..	·12	5·41	40 to 44 ..	36·96	22·80
17 ..	..	1·04	16·47	45 to 49 ..	22·40	14·22
18 ..	..	4·15	34·32	50 to 54 ..	13·18	8·35
19 ..	..	8·69	48·60	55 to 59 ..	9·50	4·32
20 ..	..	16·99	52·05	60 and over	14·62	5·87
21 to 24	..	256·16	367·34			
25 to 29	..	361·75	276·60	Total ..	1,000·00	1,000·00
30 to 34	..	176·19	97·25			

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 1935 to 1939.

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES OF MINORS.

Year.			Age in Years.							Total.	
			14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
						Bridegrooms.					
1935	..	..	..	..	3	11	74	167	261	516	3·35
1936	..	..	..	..	..	14	54	165	269	502	3·15
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
						Brides.					
1935	..	..	5	20	87	261	560	691	875	2,499	16·22
1936	..	..	2	17	99	261	590	706	818	2,493	15·66
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

The proportion of minors marrying steadily decreased from 1931 to 1936. There has been little fluctuation during the last four years.

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, 1935 TO 1939.

Year.	Bridegrooms.				Brides.			
	Bachelors.	Divorced.	Widowers.	All Bridegrooms.	Spinsters.	Divorced.	Widows.	All Brides.
1935 ..	28·32	40·84	49·99	29·72	25·46	36·10	44·88	26·35
1936 ..	28·41	40·30	49·80	29·76	25·58	35·81	44·97	26·37
1937 ..	28·39	39·43	50·01	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

In 1939 the mean age at marriage of bridegrooms of brides under 45 was 28·48 years, while for brides under 45 the age was 25·09 years.

In 1939 the most popular age at marriage for bridegrooms was 25 years and for brides 22 years.

Birthplaces of persons marrying.   Marriage records for 1939 show that 88·3 per cent. of the bridegrooms and 93·1 per cent. of the brides married in Victoria were Australian born, while 8·6 per cent. of the grooms and 4·9 per cent. of the brides were born in Great Britain and Ireland. Of all persons married 90·7 per cent. were born in Australia, ·7 per cent, in New Zealand, 6·7 per cent. in Great Britain and Ireland, and ·4 per cent. in other British Possessions. Only a small proportion (1·5 per cent.) were natives of foreign countries. The birthplaces of the people married in Victoria in the years 1920 and 1939 are shown in the subjoined table :—

BIRTHPLACES OF PERSONS MARRIED, 1920 AND 1939.

Where Born.	Bridegrooms.		Brides.	
	1920.	1939.	1920.	1939.
Australia	13,116	15,329	13,602	16,173
New Zealand	100	126	75	98
England and Wales	1,126	1,116	811	634
Scotland	204	266	225	182
Ireland	121	103	66	33
Other British Possessions ..	49	88	42	58
Germany	22	42	5	28
Russia	23	6	8	8
Italy	16	77	5	33
United States	30	37	15	8
Other Foreign Countries and unspecified	91	178	44	113
Total	14,898	17,368	14,898	17,368

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 1935 to 1939, and the proportions in each condition for periods since 1900.

VICTORIA—CONJUGAL CONDITION OF PERSONS MARRYING, 1935 TO 1939.

Period.	Bridegrooms.				Brides.				Total Marriages.
	Bach-elors.	Wid-owers.	Di-vorced.	De-serted.	Spin-sters.	Widows.	Di-vorced.	De-serted.	
1935 ..	14,273	797	332	7	14,560	513	319	17	15,409
1936 ..	14,769	810	331	5	15,107	471	322	15	15,915
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

VICTORIA—TOTAL MARRIAGES AND PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS MARRYING IN EACH CONJUGAL CONDITION, 1900 TO 1939.

Marriages Between—	1939.		Conjugal Condition.	Percentage of Total—			
	Num-ber.	Per-cen-tage.		1900–09.	1910–19.	1920–29.	1939.
Bachelors and Spinsters ..	15,392	88·62		Bridegrooms.			
Bachelors and Widows ..	294	1·69	Bachelors	91·4	92·7	92·1	92·2
Bachelors and Divorced			Widowers	8·1	6·5	6·3	5·1
Women	332	1·91	Divorced	·5	·8	1·6	2·7
Widowers and Spinsters ..	558	3·21					
Widowers and Widows ..	243	1·40	Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0
Widowers and Divorced							
Women	81	·47		Brides.			
Divorced Men and Spinsters	354	2·64	Spinsters	93·4	94·2	93·6	93·9
Divorced Men and Widows	48	·28	Widows	6·0	4·8	4·9	3·4
Divorced Men and Divorced			Divorced	·6	1·0	1·5	2·7
Women	66	·38					
			Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0
Total Marriages	17,368	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 7·7 and 5·8 respectively in 1905–09 to 5·2 and 3·2 in 1935–39. During the same period the proportion of remarriages of divorced men increased from ·5 to 2·4, and of divorced women from ·7 to 2·4. 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

In 1939 decrees granted numbered 794, and remarriages of men and women 338 and 456 respectively.

Marriages in religious denominations. In 1939 the number of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion was 16,380 representing 94·3 per cent. of the total marriages. Civil marriages numbered 988, or 5·7 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 1919, 1929, and 1939, are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES, RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL.

	1919.		1929.		1939.	
	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
Church of England	3,369	28·78	3,693	28·55	5,086	29·28
Roman Catholic Church	1,954	16·69	2,309	17·85	3,373	19·42
Presbyterian Church	2,186	18·68	2,374	18·35	3,203	18·44
Methodist Church ..	1,804	15·41	1,832	14·16	2,593	14·93
Baptist Church ..	549	4·69	619	4·79	709	4·08
Church of Christ ..	288	2·46	329	2·54	466	2·68
Congregational Church	870	7·43	473	3·66	364	2·10
Salvation Army ..	62	53	58	·45	199	1·15
Lutheran Church ..	56	·47	73	·56	73	·42
Hebrew	41	·35	59	·46	113	·65
Other Sects ..	138	1·18	76	·59	201	1·16
Civil Marriages ..	389	3·33	1,040	8·04	988	5·69
Total ..	11,706	100·00	12,935	100·00	17,368	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, 1930 TO 1939.

Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
1930 ..	1,224	10·51	1935 ..	1,373	8·91
1931 .	1,143	11·23	1936 ..	1,398	8·78
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

CIVIL MARRIAGES PERFORMED IN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT STATIST.

Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Civil Marriages.
1937 ..	409	38·66
1938 ..	·570	74·03
1939 ..	863	87·35

Registered clergymen. The ministers qualified by registration to celebrate marriages numbered 1,998 on 31st December, 1939. The number of ministers in each denomination (excepting Jews and Quakers) was as follows :—

VICTORIA—REGISTERED MINISTERS IN EACH DENOMINATION, 1939.

Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.	Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.
Church of England ..	415	Welsh Calvinistic Methodists	3
Roman Catholic ..	548		
Presbyterian	333	Unitarian	2
Methodist	318	Reformed Presbyterian	
Baptist	106	Church of Ireland ..	2
Church of Christ ..	83	Ballarat Town Mission	2
Congregational	59	Particular Baptists ..	2
Salvation Army ..	48	Catholic and Apostolic	1
Lutheran	38	Free Christian ..	1
Seventh Day Adventist ..	12	Latter Day Saints ..	1
Apostolic Church, Australia	5	New Church	1
		Greek Orthodox Church	1
Pentecostal	5	Syrian Orthodox ..	1
Latter Day Saints (Reorganized)	4	International Bible Students' Association	1
Open Brethren	3		
Free Presbyterian ..	3	Total	1,998

In 1939 there were 14 civil registrars of marriages.

BIRTHS.

Births—Numbers and Rates. The number of births registered in Victoria during the year 1939 was 30,493. This was 149 more than the number registered for the preceding year. The rate per 1,000 of population was 16·20. There has been little fluctuation in the birth rate during the last three years. The lowest rate recorded was 15·16 in 1935. Stillbirths, which are excluded from both births and deaths, numbered 862, and correspond to a ratio of 28·3 per 1,000 infants born alive in 1939. There were 1,065 male to every 1,000 female births in 1939, as compared with 1,063 in 1938, 1,047 in 1937, 1,050 in 1936 ; and 1,037 in 1935.

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 1939.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Births.	Sex.		Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
		Males.	Females.	March.	June.	September.	December.	
1855-59	17,154	8,742	8,412	*	*	*	*	39·49
1860-64	24,060	12,379	11,681	5,614	5,991	6,534	5,921	43·29
1865-69	25,963	13,219	12,744	6,027	6,543	7,105	6,288	39·77
1870-74	27,359	13,944	13,415	6,478	6,769	7,467	6,645	36·35
1875-79	26,584	13,639	12,945	6,333	6,686	7,211	6,354	32·85
1880-84	27,286	13,965	13,321	6,374	7,025	7,300	6,587	30·64
1885-89	32,941	16,883	16,058	7,824	8,289	8,814	8,014	32·27
1890-94	36,945	18,901	18,044	8,669	9,604	9,735	8,937	31·99
1895-99	31,675	16,213	15,462	7,746	8,078	8,323	7,528	26·76
1900-04	30,316	15,544	14,772	7,384	7,682	7,880	7,370	25·08
1905-09	30,994	15,879	15,115	7,489	7,832	8,076	7,597	24·76
1910-14	34,500	17,717	16,783	8,329	8,619	8,850	8,702	25·42
1915-19	33,101	17,014	16,087	8,228	8,336	8,514	8,023	23·13
1920-24	36,022	18,549	17,473	8,729	8,970	9,367	8,956	22·89
1925-29	34,892	18,013	16,879	8,732	8,728	8,856	8,576	20·24
1930-34	29,429	15,075	14,354	7,383	7,409	7,361	7,276	16·27
1935 ..	27,884	14,194	13,690	7,014	6,652	6,953	7,265	15·16
1936 ..	28,883	14,796	14,087	7,151	6,936	7,448	7,348	15·63
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

* 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.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1935 ..	15·16	16·89	18·31	14·14	18·23	19·41	16·55	16·17
1936 ..	15·63	17·31	19·17	15·17	18·84	19·84	17·13	16·64
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

The birth rate in England and Wales was 15·1 in 1938.

Birthplaces of parents of nuptial children. The birth records of children born in wedlock show that, in Victoria in 1939, 83 out of every 100 children were born to Australian parents, and 93 out of every 100 to one or both parents born in Australia. Of the total fathers, the percentages born in the States or countries mentioned hereafter were as follows :—78·2 in Victoria ; 87·5 in Australia ; 0·6 in New Zealand ; 6·5 in England and Wales ; 1·8 in Scotland ; 0·7 in Ireland ; 0·6 in other British Possessions ; and 2·3 in foreign countries. The corresponding percentages for mothers were :—Victoria, 82·0 ; Australia, 91·9 ; New Zealand, 0·6 ; England and Wales, 4·2 ; Scotland, 1·2 Ireland, 0·3 ; other British possessions, 0·3 ; and foreign countries, 1·5.

Ages of parents of nuptial children. The average ages of fathers and of mothers of nuptial children whose births were recorded in 1939 were 31·99 and 28·36 years respectively, which were 3·51 and 3·27 years respectively above the average ages of bridegrooms marrying brides under 45 years of age, and of such brides, for the year 1939. 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, 1939.

Father.		Mother.	
Age Group.	Percentage of Total Parents.	Age Group.	Percentage of Total Parents.
Under 20	0·53	Under 20	4·53
20 to 24	11·12	20 to 24	23·81
25 to 29	28·76	25 to 29	32·86
30 to 34	28·35	30 to 34	22·66
35 to 39	18·06	35 to 39	11·93
40 to 44	8·04	40 to 44	3·85
45 to 49	3·44	45 and over	0·36
50 and over	1·70		
Total ..	100·00	Total ..	100·00

It will be seen that, on the experience of 1939, 56·67 per cent. of the mothers were between ages 20 and 30, and 34·59 per cent. between ages 30 and 40. The proportions of fathers at these ages were 39·88 and 46·41 per cent. respectively. Of every 1,000 nuptial births, about 45 were to mothers under 20 years and about 4 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 1923 to 1927 and 1928 to 1932, and for the last three years :—

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.				
	1923–1927.	1928–1932.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1923–1927.	1928–1932.	1937.	1938.	1939.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne	1,812	1,348	1,176	1,156	1,105	18·39	14·29	13·03	12·81	12·22
Box Hill	*	259	219	244	261	*	18·31	13·91	15·30	15·98
Braybrook(Part)..	*	187	114	130	171	*	22·28	12·60	14·16	18·19
Brighton	482	394	414	416	464	18·75	13·37	13·09	12·92	14·07
Brunswick	1,161	974	847	874	876	23·42	17·52	15·48	15·93	15·91
Camberwell	797	865	864	938	1,056	23·10	17·85	15·77	16·56	17·80
Caulfield	1,065	941	917	942	969	19·59	14·87	13·41	13·58	13·80
Chelsea ..	†	127	134	118	172	..	18·66	19·14	16·74	24·16
Coburg ..	703	742	652	672	665	25·15	20·80	16·50	16·78	16·33
Collingwood	690	532	479	462	494	20·35	16·63	15·94	15·46	16·55
Essendon	846	766	610	695	706	19·88	16·59	13·03	14·73	14·83
Fitzroy ..	683	517	489	489	485	19·92	15·96	16·06	16·10	15·98
Footscray	980	875	723	778	788	24·20	19·13	15·34	16·33	16·33
Hawthorn	525	424	460	465	507	16·63	12·70	13·14	13·17	14·20
Heidelberg(Part)..	*	413	346	389	412	*	16·93	14·17	15·65	16·30
Kew ..	379	339	301	331	346	17·96	13·97	12·08	13·04	13·48
Malvern	636	499	515	487	536	15·07	11·46	11·46	10·77	11·78
Moorabbin	†	398	371	410	374	..	23·14	19·37	20·97	18·65
Mordialloc	†	148	145	174	174	..	15·37	14·72	17·40	17·06
Northcote	898	727	610	602	610	24·51	17·27	14·26	14·02	14·17
Oakleigh	*	264	216	243	238	*	22·72	17·56	19·52	18·84
Port Melbourne ..	278	230	220	190	180	21·14	17·24	16·95	14·65	13·85
Prahran	877	696	659	699	719	17·02	13·26	12·29	12·93	13·18
Preston	558	703	598	609	649	31·33	23·87	18·32	18·44	19·33
Richmond	886	693	609	644	553	20·34	16·71	15·35	16·24	13·92
Sandringham	275	272	293	270	298	17·90	15·33	15·69	14·23	15·42
South Melbourne..	865	660	589	571	544	19·01	15·06	13·65	13·25	12·60
St. Kilda	659	533	572	562	643	16·05	11·61	11·38	11·03	12·58
Williamstown	485	423	348	347	344	23·25	19·28	15·52	15·39	15·14
Remainder of Metropolis	1,364	..	..	..	..	25·88	..	..	..	..

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

Municipality.	Annual Number of Births.					Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.				
	1923–1927.	1928–1932.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1923–1927.	1928–1932.	1937.	1938.	1939.
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne										
Ballarat ..	728	664	605	586	531	18·40	17·14	15·83	15·28	13·79
Bendigo ..	609	550	577	559	519	18·10	17·10	19·33	18·61	17·25
Geelong ..	862	844	703	686	655	21·87	19·26	17·66	17·16	16·27
Ararat	†	†	81	114	110	..	..	16·36	22·94	22·00
Castlemaine ..	132	105	111	120	94	18·50	15·16	21·06	22·68	17·74
Colac	†	†	114	115	120	..	..	20·73	20·91	21·74
Echuca	†	†	97	91	80	..	..	21·80	20·40	17·90
Hamilton ..	144	138	124	139	148	27·69	24·47	21·05	23·44	24·79
Horsham ..	†	†	129	116	145	..	..	23·98	21·32	26·22
Maryborough ..	114	118	102	114	111	23·57	21·35	17·96	20·00	19·37
Mildura ..	198	184	250	258	275	34·09	28·23	36·08	36·70	38·46
Sale	†	†	97	93	90	..	..	22·35	21·33	20·50
Shepparton ..	‡	151	185	173	186	..	27·51	31·41	29·08	30·74
Stawell	111	92	77	84	82	23·88	19·46	16·04	17·46	16·98
Wangaratta ..	†	†	130	100	139	..	..	26·80	20·58	28·42
Warrnambool ..	183	176	180	183	189	22·75	20·17	19·82	20·04	20·52
Wonthaggi ..	159	141	69	93	76	25·06	22·44	10·49	14·24	11·67
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	17,904	15,949	14,490	14,907	15,339	20·14	16·03	14·20	14·48	14·73
Cities and Principal towns outside Greater Melbourne	3,240	3,163	3,631	3,624	3,550	20·88	19·22	19·37	19·25	18·74
Remainder of State	14,531	12,693	11,610	11,813	11,604	23·31	20·40	17·91	18·18	17·82
Victoria.. ..	35,675	31,805	29,731	30,344	30,493	21·37	17·85	16·02	16·25	16·20

* Included in Remainder of Metropolis.   † Not recorded.
NOTE.—The boundaries of Greater Melbourne were re-defined in 1929.

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.
1935 ..	297	..	..	297	10·76
1936 ..	298	4	..	302	10·57
1937 ..	335	3	1	339	11·53
1938 ..	291	2	..	293	9·75
1939 ..	317	3	..	320	10·60

On the average of the five years 1935–39, the proportion of mothers of twins was one in 95, of mothers of triplets one in 12,153, of mothers of quadruplets one in 145,837, and of mothers of all multiple births one in 94 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.

The first registration was effected on 14th October, 1929, and, between that date and the end of the year 1939, the adoptions of 1,366 male and 2,045 female children were registered. During 1939, adoptions registered comprised 186 male and 260 female children.

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

Legitimations during 1939 numbered 107.

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 1939 the numbers of legitimations in the several States and in New Zealand during that year were as follows :— Victoria, 9·3 ; New South Wales, 19·4 ; Queensland, 21·4 ; South Australia, 10·3 ; Western Australia, 29·1 ; Tasmania, 22·9 ; and New Zealand, 35·8.

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 1939.

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	27,884	578	608	1,186	4·25
1936	28,883	636	636	1,272	4·40
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

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 3·77 in 1939.

The percentages in the various States and in New Zealand in 1939 were as follows:—Victoria, 3·77; New South Wales, 4·14; Queensland, 4·94; South Australia, 2·84; Western Australia, 3·69; Tasmania, 4·46; Australia 4·05; and New Zealand, 3·93.

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 1939, the proportion of ex-nuptial births to total births was 4·32 per cent. in Greater Melbourne, 3·89 in the cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and 3·01 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 1939.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Deaths.	Sex.		Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
		Males.	Females.	March.	June.	September.	December.	
1855–59..	7,653	4,768	2,885	*	*	*	*	17·78
1860–64..	10,210	6,001	4,209	3,257	2,658	2,093	2,202	18·44
1865–69..	11,035	6,374	4,661	3,385	2,938	2,243	2,469	16·93
1870–74..	10,978	6,365	4,613	3,232	2,744	2,461	2,541	14·56
1875–79..	13,289	7,567	5,722	4,016	3,567	2,831	2,875	16·45
1880–84..	12,820	7,324	5,496	3,512	3,167	3,013	3,128	14·40
1885–89..	16,200	9,307	6,893	4,591	3,912	3,689	4,008	15·87
1890–94..	16,886	9,716	7,170	4,643	4,108	3,977	4,158	14·62
1895–99..	16,350	9,227	7,123	4,324	3,957	3,808	4,261	13·81
1900–04..	15,457	8,686	6,771	3,921	3,750	3,992	3,794	12·84
1905–09..	14,932	8,296	6,636	3,805	3,539	3,917	3,671	11·93
1910–14..	15,705	8,616	7,089	3,873	3,875	4,137	3,820	11·57
1915–19..	16,283	8,860	7,423	3,781	4,172	4,467	3,863	11·38
1920–24..	16,375	8,781	7,594	3,846	4,166	4,503	3,860	10·40
1925–29..	16,674	8,969	7,705	3,770	4,213	4,602	4,089	9·67
1930–34..	17,180	9,175	8,005	3,814	4,214	4,822	4,330	9·50
1935 ..	18,456	9,856	8,600	3,974	4,457	5,631	4,394	10·03
1936 ..	18,778	9,996	8,782	4,070	4,800	5,454	4,454	10·16
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

* Not available.

The death rate gradually declined from 18·44 in 1860–64 to 9·50 in 1930–34. 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 in 1939 the rate rose sharply to 10·72.

The number of deaths in 1939 was 20,169, which was 1,479 more than the average of the preceding five years.

In 1939 there were 1,148 male to every 1,000 female deaths, the average for the last five years being 1,138.   The corresponding proportion of male to female births in the quinquennium was 1,053.   The natural increase for the five-year period was 52,364 (males, 25,016—females, 27,348).

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.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1935	10·03	9·28	9·16	8·83	9·25	10·25	9·46	8·25
1936	10·16	9·14	8·78	9·30	9·40	10·34	9·43	8·75
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

In 1938 the death rate in England and Wales was 11·6.

Index of mortality.   The differences in the age and sex constitutions of the populations of the six States have been taken into account in computing their respective indexes of mortality.   The results for each are based upon a standard population distributed, according to sex, into eleven age groups.   Mortality indexes for each State for the years 1934 to 1938, as compiled by the Commonwealth Statistician, are as follows :—

INDEX OF MORTALITY FOR AUSTRALIA, 1934 TO 1938.

Year.	Index of Mortality for—						
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
1934	9·30	8·96	8·84	8·39	9·45	9·43	9·04
1935	9·08	9·18	9·39	7·97	9·47	9·54	9·10
1936	9·23	9·12	9·02	8·36	9·62	9·60	9·12
1937	9·02	9·30	9·32	8·02	9·25	8·77	9·09
1938	9·07	9·52	9·51	8·34	9·46	8·90	9·28

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 1923 to 1927 and 1928 to 1932, and for the last three years.

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.				
	1923–1927.	1928–1932.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1923–1927.	1928–1932.	1937.	1938.	1939.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne	1,264	1,091	1,104	1,135	1,208	12·83	11·57	12·23	12·58	13·36
Box Hill	*	125	169	160	156	*	8·81	10·73	10·03	9·55
Braybrook(Part)..	*	56	53	55	65	*	6·70	5·86	5·99	6·91
Brighton	242	272	378	324	343	9·43	9·22	11·95	10·06	10·40
Brunswick	520	532	538	570	582	10·50	9·57	9·83	10·39	10·57
Camberwell	316	430	539	571	587	9·15	8·87	9·84	10·08	9·89
Caulfield	463	552	708	718	783	8·52	8·72	10·35	10·35	11·15
Chelsea ..	..	63	82	92	85	..	9·24	11·71	13·05	11·94
Coburg ..	232	287	320	328	357	8·29	8·06	8·10	8·19	8·76
Collingwood	422	363	354	391	407	12·45	11·36	11·78	13·09	13·63
Essendon	404	429	479	520	521	9·51	9·30	10·23	11·02	10·94
Fitzroy ..	457	446	460	458	516	13·33	13·77	15·11	15·08	17·00
Footscray	397	402	442	459	432	9·78	8·79	9·38	9·63	8·95
Hawthorn	331	357	415	439	461	10·51	10·67	11·85	12·44	12·91
Heidelberg (Part)..	*	193	196	230	235	*	7·91	8·03	9·26	9·30
Kew ..	191	220	265	262	251	9·06	9·08	10·63	10·32	9·78
Malvern	368	404	505	508	571	8·71	9·28	11·23	11·24	12·55
Moorabbin	..	130	157	156	171	..	7·55	8·20	7·98	8·53
Mordialloc	..	85	103	103	130	..	8·86	10·46	10·30	12·74
Northcote	349	369	437	415	452	9·53	8·77	10·21	9·67	10·50
Oakleigh	*	101	113	118	114	*	8·72	9·19	9·48	9·03
Port Melbourne ..	151	137	141	147	162	11·49	10·26	10·86	11·33	12·46
Prahran	608	628	666	664	780	11·80	11·96	12·42	12·28	14·29
Preston	168	242	271	265	262	9·44	8·20	8·30	8·03	7·80
Richmond	490	464	471	459	476	11·24	11·20	11·87	11·58	11·98
Sandringham	121	161	175	192	213	7·86	9·08	9·37	10·12	11·02
South Melbourne..	539	486	501	517	523	11·85	11·09	11·61	11·99	12·11
St. Kilda	441	452	545	604	612	10·73	9·84	10·85	11·85	11·98
Williamstown	237	211	232	244	264	11·32	9·63	10·35	10·82	11·62
Remainder of Metropolis ..	520	..	..	..	..	9·86	..	..	..	..
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne—										
Ballarat	482	475	495	528	591	12·19	12·28	12·95	13·77	15·35
Bendigo	444	421	428	468	453	13·20	13·08	14·34	15·61	15·06
Geelong	401	455	452	422	450	10·16	10·40	11·35	10·56	11·18
Ararat ..	†	†	55	56	58	..	..	11·11	11·27	11·60
Castlemaine	73	73	57	68	75	10·19	10·61	10·82	12·85	14·15
Colac ..	†	†	54	56	56	..	..	9·82	10·18	10·14
Echuca ..	†	†	47	52	48	..	..	10·56	11·66	10·74
Hamilton	63	59	66	66	68	12·21	10·35	11·20	11·13	11·39
Horsham	†	†	60	47	72	..	..	11·15	8·64	13·02
Maryborough	59	59	86	58	80	12·25	10·66	15·14	10·18	13·96
Mildura	65	59	86	79	88	11·10	9·05	12·41	11·24	12·31
Sale ..	†	†	45	66	53	..	..	10·37	15·14	12·07
Shepparton	†	55	87	65	67	..	9·96	14·77	10·92	11·07
Stawell ..	53	51	67	64	60	11·38	10·87	13·96	13·32	12·42
Wangaratta	†	†	58	60	63	..	..	11·96	12·34	12·88
Warrnambool	80	91	81	97	95	10·00	10·46	8·92	10·62	10·31
Wonthaggi	49	47	75	51	49	7·74	7·45	11·40	7·81	7·53
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	9,231	9,688	10,819	11,104	11,719	10·38	9·74	10·60	10·78	11·26
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	1,769	1,845	2,299	2,303	2,426	11·25	11·22	12·26	12·23	12·81
Remainder of State	5,533	5,311	5,495	5,548	6,024	8·87	8·53	8·48	8·54	9·25
Victoria..	16,533	16,844	18,613	18,955	20,169	9·91	9·45	10·03	10·15	10·72

* Included in Remainder of Metropolis. † Not recorded.
NOTE.—The boundaries of Greater Melbourne were re-defined in 1929.

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 1939 :—

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1939.

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 ..	420	152	34·77	12·58	47·35	6·33
Box Hill ..	25	7	16·02	4·49	20·51	1·96
Braybrook (Part) ..	25	5	38·46	7·69	46·15	3·19
Brighton	64	19	18·66	5·54	24·20	2·52
Brunswick ..	158	42	27·14	7·22	34·36	3·63
Camberwell ..	87	32	14·82	5·45	20·27	2·01
Caulfield	148	34	18·90	4·34	23·24	2·59
Chelsea	14	4	16·47	4·71	21·18	2·53
Coburg	92	28	25·77	7·84	33·61	2·95
Collingwood ..	126	42	30·96	10·32	41·28	5·65
Essendon.. ..	112	30	21·50	5·76	27·26	2·98
Fitzroy	185	76	35·85	14·73	50·58	8·60
Footscray ..	129	30	29·87	6·94	36·81	3·30
Hawthorn ..	82	20	17·79	4·34	22·13	2·86
Heidelberg (Part)..	48	17	20·43	7·23	27·66	2·57
Kew	38	13	15·14	5·18	20·32	1·99
Malvern .. ..·	85	26	14·89	4·55	19·44	2·44
Moorabbin ..·	51	16	29·82	9·36	39·18	3·34
Mordialloc ..	27	10	20·77	7·69	28·46	3·63
Northcote ..	121	25	26·77	5·53	32·30	3·39
Oakleigh ..	29	14	25·44	12·28	37·72	3·40
Port Melbourne ..	53	13	32·72	8·02	40·74	5·08
Prahran	221	61	28·33	7·82	36·15	5·17
Preston	93	19	35·50	7·25	42·75	3·34
Richmond ..	136	44	28·58	9·24	37·82	4·53
Sandringham ..	36	16	16·90	7·51	24·41	2·69
South Melbourne	146	40	27·91	7·65	35·56	4·31
St. Kilda ..	153	42	25·00	6·86	31·86	3·82
Williamstown ..	88	14	33·34	5·30	38·64	4·49

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS
OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1939—*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	139	69	23·51	11·68	35·19	5·40
Bendigo	131	41	28·92	9·05	37·97	5·72
Geelong	120	27	26·67	6·00	32·67	3·65
Ararat	28	5	48·28	8·62	56·90	6·60
Castlemaine ..	30	9	40·00	12·00	52·00	7·36
Colac	31	3	55·35	5·36	60·71	6·16
Echuca	24	3	50·00	6·25	56·25	6·04
Hamilton ..	25	3	36·77	4·41	41·18	4·69
Horsham.. ..	34	2	47·22	2·78	50·00	6·51
Maryborough ..	33	5	41·25	6·25	47.50	6·63
Mildura	58	3	65·91	3·41	69·32	8·53
Sale	14	2	26·42	3·77	30·19	3·64
Shepparton ..	31	3	46·27	4·48	50·75	5·62
Stawell	14	8	23·33	13·33	36·66	4·55
Wangaratta ..	29	3	46·03	4·76	50·79	6·54
Warrnambool, ..	23	5	24·21	5·26	29·47	3·04
Wonthaggi ..	17	4	34·70	8·16	42·86	3·24
SUMMARY—						
Greater Melbourne	2,992	891	25·53	7·60	33·13	3·73
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne.. ..	781	195	32·19	8·04	40·23	5·15
Remainder of State	1,310	361	21·75	5·99	27·74	2·57
Victoria	5,083	1,447	25·21	7·17	32·38	3·47

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.	1938.	1939.
Greater Melbourne ..	24·3	27·0	29·5	27·7	27·2	25·5
Remainder of State ..	17·0	21·2	23·7	26·3	25·1	24·7
Victoria	20·4	24·3	27·0	27·1	26·3	25·2

In 1939 the number of deaths in all public institutions was 6,530,
of which 3,883 were of residents of Greater Melbourne.

Deaths in Metropolitan public institutions. The number of deaths in each metropolitan public institution in 1939 is given in the subjoined table :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS IN METROPOLITAN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1939.

Institution.	No. of Deaths.	Institution.	No. of Deaths.
HOSPITALS—GENERAL—		SANATORIA—	
Royal Melbourne	782	Heatherton	37
Alfred	667	Macleod Repatriation—Mont	
Hamilton Russell Community	40	Park	..
		Greenvale	44
Children's	226	Gresswell	32
St. Vincent's	551		
St. Vincent's Intermediate..	45	Total Sanatoria.. ..	113
Austin	430		
Women's..	210	BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS—	
Prince Henry's	135	Melbourne (Cheltenham)	
Infectious Diseases ..	57	Asylum	222
Caulfield Repatriation ..	117	Victorian Homes for Aged	
Queen Victoria	76	and Infirm	233
Jessie McPherson Community	38	Convent of Little Sisters of the Poor	50
Williamstown	53	Old Colonists' Homes ..	2
Caulfield Convalescent ..	5		
Eye and Ear	20	Total Benevolent Institutions	507
Police	3		
Total General Hospitals	3,455	FOUNDLING HOMES, REFUGES—	
		Broadmeadows	15
		East Melbourne	..
		The Haven, Fitzroy ..	2
		Carlton	..
HOSPITALS—MENTAL— ..		Children's Welfare Depot ..	..
Kew	115	Berwick	..
Mont Park	87		
Receiving House, Royal Park	93	Total Refuges, &c. ..	17
Repatriation—Bundoora ..	2		
		Total Hospitals and other Institutions	4,389
Total Mental Hospitals ..	297		

Of the 4,389 deaths in the above institutions, 2,551 were of males and 1,838 were of females.

Decrease in Metropolitan death rate. In Greater Melbourne, in the decade 1930–39, there was an average of 10·36 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 55,000 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 1930–39 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.	1930–39.	Decrease.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..	1,654	488	1,166
Other Tubercular Diseases	..	446	74	372
Typhoid Fever	.. ..	293	5	288
Scarlet Fever	.. ..	33	11	22
Measles	.. .. ..	215	10	205
Diphtheria ..	.. ..	196	51	145
Total	.. ..	2,837	639	2,198

The figures show that the mortality from the six diseases mentioned declined by 77 per cent.—the decline representing a rate of 2,198 per million of the population.

The mortality from all causes showed a net decline of 5,400 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 38 in 1935–39—a reduction of 71 per cent. In other words, where 100 infants died in the earlier period only 29 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.

Victorian Year-Book, 1939-40.

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 1939.

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 ..	570	43·0	578	39·5	1,148	41·2
1936 ..	605	44·1	617	40·7	1,222	42·3
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

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 46·5 in 1930 to 35·6 in 1939, a decrease of 23 per cent. Following 1930, the rate continued to decline each year until, in 1933, the low rate of 40·4 was recorded. In 1934 the rate increased sharply to 44·6 but dropped in the following year to 41·2. In 1936 it rose slightly, but in 1937 a most pronounced fall occurred. 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.

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 1923–27 and 1928–32, and for the last three years, 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.				
	1923–1927.	1928–1932.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1923–1927.	1928–1932.	1937.	1938.	1939.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne	163	86	49	46	40	89·97	63·95	41·67	39·79	36·20
Box Hill	*	10	4	13	8	*	37·04	18·26	53·28	30·65
Braybrook (Part)	*	6	4	6	4	*	33·19	35·09	46·15	23·39
Brighton	20	15	12	8	18	41·49	39·11	28·99	19·23	38·79
Brunswick	77	60	36	31	24	65·99	61·63	42·50	35·47	27·40
Camberwell	34	30	28	34	25	42·15	34·68	32·40	36·25	23·67
Caulfield	52	39	24	24	31	48·65	41·87	26·17	25·48	31·99
Chelsea	†	6	6	2	3	..	47·32	44·78	16·95	17·44
Coburg	44	33	20	23	17	62·29	44·47	30·67	34·23	25·56
Collingwood	62	38	20	19	18	89·80	71·78	41·75	41·13	36·44
Essendon	52	33	15	26	28	61·26	42·83	24·59	37·41	39·66
Fitzroy	57	41	16	25	19	83·50	79·33	32·72	51·12	39·17
Footscray	68	41	25	25	34	69·21	47·34	34·58	32·13	43·15
Hawthorn	25	16	18	15	12	47·66	37·23	39·13	32·26	23·67
Heidelberg (Part)	*	20	8	13	10	*	49·37	23·12	33·42	24·27
Kew	17	15	11	9	8	45·38	43·66	36·54	27·19	23·12
Malvern	28	19	12	13	14	44·63	38·91	23·30	26·69	26·12
Moorabbin	†	14	11	13	13	..	34·17	29·65	31·71	34·76
Mordialloc	†	8	6	8	10	..	55·48	41·38	45·98	57·47
Northcote	54	38	33	13	15	60·16	51·73	54·10	21·59	24·59
Oakleigh	*	12	12	8	9	*	46·18	55·55	32·92	12·60
Port Melbourne	25	16	13	5	9	89·08	71·24	59·09	26·32	50·00
Prahran	58	41	27	23	28	66·12	58·62	40·97	32·90	38·94
Preston	30	31	30	21	14	54·80	44·08	50·17	34·48	21·57
Richmond	65	46	22	19	20	73·81	65·53	36·13	29·50	36·17
Sandringham	15	10	6	7	9	53·86	35·95	20·48	25·93	30·20
South Melbourne	77	47	38	26	26	89·52	70·87	64·52	45·53	47·79
St. Kilda	34	22	19	20	27	52·97	41·67	33·22	35·59	41·99
Williamstown	33	19	13	13	8	67·99	44·44	37·36	37·46	23·26
Remainder of Metropolis	75	..	..	..	..	54·99	..	..	..	..
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melb.—										
Ballarat	49	34	16	19	26	67·88	51·84	26·45	32·12	48·96
Bendigo	48	33	23	22	21	77·81	60·00	39·86	39·36	40·46
Geelong	61	49	26	21	27	70·75	58·56	36·98	30·61	41·22
Ararat	†	†	3	3	3	..	..	37·04	26·32	27·27
Castlemaine	8	5	1	6	3	59·18	47·80	9·01	50·00	31·92
Colac	†	†	5	4	5	..	..	43·86	34·78	25·00
Echuca	†	†	7	2	1	..	..	72·16	21·98	12·50
Hamilton	10	5	5	6	6	66·76	34·63	40·32	43·16	40·54
Horsham	†	†	6	3	8	..	..	46·51	25·86	55·17
Maryborough	6	5	4	4	..	48·03	45·84	39·22	35·09	..
Mildura	13	9	8	6	13	66·53	47·83	32·00	23·26	47·22
Sale	†	†	3	6	2	..	..	30·93	64·52	22·22
Shepparton	†	8	10	8	10	..	54·16	54·05	46·24	53·76
Stawell	7	3	3	3	2	61·15	28·26	38·96	35·71	24·39
Wangaratta	†	†	11	9	12	..	..	84·62	90·00	86·33
Warrnambool	9	9	4	8	6	49·34	52·33	22·22	43·72	31·75
Wonthaggi	10	8	4	2	4	63·99	53·67	57·97	21·50	52·64
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	1,165	812	538	508	495	65·05	50·94	37·13	34·08	32·27
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	221	168	139	132	147	69·40	53·24	38·28	36·42	41·41
Remainder of State	725	535	414	398	443	49·25	42·12	35·66	33·69	38·18
Victoria	2,111	1,515	1,091	1,038	1,085	59·16	47·65	36·70	34·21	35·58

* Included in Remainder of Metropolis.
† Not recorded.
NOTE.—The boundaries of Greater Melbourne were re-defined in 1929.

Infantile Mortality at certain ages.

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 1939, comprised 58 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 20·7 in 1939. Between 1910–14 and 1935–39, the mortality of infants " one week and under one month " decreased by 54 per cent. and that of infants " one month and under one year " by 72 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 twelve in 1935–39.

On the average of the years, 1935–39, the total rate for males was higher than that for females by 25·0 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 1939 :—

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES, 1900 TO 1939.

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 ..	21·9	5·7	4·2	3·6	5·8	41·2	45·0	37·2
1936 ..	21·1	5·5	5·1	4·0	6·6	42·3	46·4	38·0
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

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES, MALES AND FEMALES, 1939.

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 ..	361	22·95	58·60	271	18·35	57·78
1 week and under 1 month ..	102	6·49	16·56	61	4·13	13·01
1 month and under 3 months ..	48	3·05	7·79	36	2·44	7·68
3 months and under 6 months ..	37	2·35	6·01	31	2·10	6·61
6 months and under 12 months ..	68	4·33	11·04	70	4·74	14·92
Total under one year ..	616	39·17	100·00	469	31·76	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 1939 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.	1937.	1938.	1939.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	12·41	7·31	4·87	3·57	1·89	·75	1·15
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	11·37	8·13	6·86	6·08	4·81	4·38	4.17
Diarrhœal Diseases ..	29·66	24·62	16·13	9·85	1·41	1·06	1·64
Malformations, &c. (157) ..	3·45	4·86	4·38	4·43	3·40	4·08	3·57
Wasting Diseases (158) ..	22·24	12·74	13·09	6·77	2·05	1·48	1·64
Prematurity	13·13	14·99	15·17	15·34	11·40	11·40	12·46
Injury at birth				2·57	3·36	2·74	4·00
Early Infancy (161) ..	} 21·51	12·77	7·98	3·42	4·61	4·72	3·34
Other diseases				4·42	2·96	2·77	2·79
Violence	3·16	2·47	1·07	·80	·81	·83	·82
Total, all Causes ..	116·93	87·89	69·55	57·25	36·70	34·21	35·58

VICTORIA—INFANTILE DEATH RATES, AT VARIOUS AGES. FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1939.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.								
	Age Period.								
	Under 1 Week.	1 Week and under 1 Month.	1 Month and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 12 Months.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Average Annual Rate, 1935–39.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	..	·23	·16	·16	·60	1·15	1·15	1·15	1·78
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	·39	1·08	·66	·59	1·45	4·17	4·26	4·06	5·25
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	..	·20	·26	·33	·85	1·64	1·84	1·42	1·65
Malformations, &c. (157)	1·74	·69	·52	·23	·39	3·57	3·37	3·79	4·09
Wasting Diseases (158)	·79	·33	·33	·13	·06	1·64	1·97	1·29	1·95
Prematurity	10·98	1·18	·20	·07		·03	12·46	13·54	11·31	11·84
Injury at Birth ..	3·51	·43	·03	..	·03	4·00	5·34	2·57	3·22
Early Infancy (161) ..	2·69	·62	·03	..	..	3·34	3·69	2·98	4·47
Other Diseases ..	·46	·52	·46	·46	·89	2·79	3·12	2·44	2·82
Violence	·16	·07	·10	·26	·23	·82	·89	·75	·83
Total, all Causes ..	20·72	5·35	2·75	2·23	4·53	35·58	39·17	31·76	37·90
Average Annual Rate, 1935–39	21·13	5·07	3·67	2·96	5·07	37·90	41·99	33·59	..

The mortality of infants under one year from pre-natal causes (malformations, congenital debility, prematurity, injury at birth, &c.) was 25·6 per 1,000 births in 1935–39 and represented 67 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 1939 was 25·0, 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 8·7 in 1935–39. Deaths from diarrhœal diseases declined from 24·6 per 1,000 births in 1901–10 to 1·7 in 1935–39, the main respiratory diseases from 8·1 to 5·2 and the infectious from 7·3 to 1·8. It will thus be seen that, since the beginning of this century, mortality of infants from diarrhœal diseases has been reduced by 93 per cent.; the main respiratory diseases by 36 per cent.; and the infectious by 75 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 1935 to 1939.

VICTORIA—DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE MONTH, 1935 TO 1939.

GREATER MELBOURNE AND WHOLE STATE.

Cause of Death.	Greater Melbourne.					Victoria.				
	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases	7	2	3	1	3	11	4	4	1	7
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia	27	29	28	30	26	43	47	45	37	45
Diarrhœal Diseases	3	2	1	..	3	6	3	2	2	6
Malformations, &c. (157)	40	40	31	32	37	81	104	72	83	74
Wasting Diseases (158)	9	12	16	10	9	40	41	50	32	34
Prematurity	162	140	156	156	184	340	321	328	339	371
Injury at Birth	31	44	63	42	56	84	81	100	80	120
Early Infancy (161)	75	74	79	76	41	138	134	130	139	101
Other Diseases	4	7	16	13	15	15	22	36	25	30
Violence	5	6	7	7	2	12	11	10	12	7
Total, all Causes	363	356	400	367	376	770	768	777	750	795
Deaths per 1,000 Births	27·4	25·9	27·6	24·6	24·5	27·6	26·6	26·1	24·7	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. Rates based on these notifications should be regarded as minimum rates, as they possibly understate the full extent of the loss.

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

VICTORIA—STILLBIRTHS (RECORDED) AND INFANT MORTALITY, 1930 TO 1939.

Year	Percentage of Stillbirths to—		Deaths of Infants under One Year per 1,000 Births.				
			Exclusive of Stillbirths.				*Inclusive of Stillbirths.
	Living Births.	All Births.	Under One Month.	One Month and under Twelve Months.	Total under One Year.	
1930 ..	3·0	2·9	28·0	18·5	46·5	74·2
1931 ..	2·8	2·7	28·6	15·9	44·5	70·4
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

* 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, 78 in every 1,000 ex-nuptial infants died within a year, as against 36 in every 1,000 nuptial children. The proportion of ex-nuptial children who died before the age of one year is, therefore, 2·2 times that of nuptial children. In the year 1939 the mortality rate of nuptial infants was 35·1 per 1,000 births. Births and deaths of ex-nuptial children numbered 1,149 and 54 respectively, the death rate being thus 47·0 per 1,000 births. The marked 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.	1939.	1904–08.	1914–18.	1924–28.	1939.
Bronchitis, Broncho-Pneumonia, Pneumonia	6·9	6·1	5·9	3·9	18·6	12·5	13·0	10·5
Diarrhœal Diseases ..	19·8	14·2	8·9	1·6	72·6	48·6	23·1	3·5
Prematurity, Congenital Malformations, Marasmus, &c.* ..	30·3	27·2	25·0	17·6	52·1	64·9	46·9	19·1
Other Causes ..	18·3	15·3	14·7	12·0	58·7	36·6	29·3	13·9
Total, all Causes ..	75·3	62·8	54·5	35·1	202·0	162·6	112·3	47·0

* 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, 6·5 died from diarrhœal diseases within a year, as compared with 1·4 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 15·8 and 4·8 per 1,000 births respectively.

In 1939 pre-natal causes (malformations, congenital debility, prematurity, injury at birth, &c.) accounted for 32 deaths, or 59 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, 1935 TO 1939.

Year.	Vic-toria.	New South Wales.	Queens-land.	South Aus-tralia.	Western Aus-tralia.	Tas-mania.	Aus-tralia.	New Zealand.
1935	41·17	39·44	37·26	34·95	40·15	51·84	39·78	32·26
1936	42·31	43·47	36·20	31·09	42·22	49·55	41·16	30·96
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	40·15	38·28	35·63
1939	35·58	41·02	34·65	34·93	40·73	40·37	38·08	31·14

In the year 1939, the infantile mortality rates recorded for the Australian States showed that Queensland had the lowest rate and New South Wales the highest.

The infantile deaths per 1,000 births in the following capital cities in 1939 were :—Melbourne, 32·3 ; Sydney, 34·3 ; Brisbane, 33·7 ; Adelaide, 34·8 ; Perth, 38·2 ; Hobart, 48·0 ; and Wellington, 36·3.

In 1938 the infantile death rate in England and Wales was 53.

Deaths of children under 5. In 1939 the deaths of male and of female children in Victoria under 5 years of age numbered 777 and 615 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, 1937 TO 1939.

Ages.	1937.			1938.			1939.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year	624	467	1,091	607	431	1,038	616	469	1,085
1 year	59	61	120	55	80	135	74	72	146
2 years	50	34	84	49	44	93	38	30	68
3 ,,	26	21	47	34	20	54	23	24	47
4 ,,	26	22	48	33	20	53	26	20	46
5 to 9	120	88	208	96	62	158	101	67	168
10 ,, 14	98	65	163	102	48	150	87	60	147
15 ,, 19	130	94	224	146	100	246	150	90	240
20 ,, 24	206	148	354	151	141	292	183	142	325
25 ,, 29	153	184	337	182	183	365	200	160	360
30 ,, 34	200	183	383	179	175	354	202	174	376
35 ,, 39	249	211	460	239	230	469	239	223	462
40 ,, 44	315	301	616	301	249	550	309	265	574
45 ,, 49	441	354	795	433	369	802	463	373	836
50 ,, 54	581	408	989	544	423	967	596	437	1,033
55 ,, 59	728	503	1,231	709	537	1,246	747	523	1,270
60 ,, 64	879	677	1,556	878	671	1,549	895	646	1,541
65 ,, 69	1,107	969	2,076	1,145	975	2,120	1,222	1,069	2,291
70 ,, 74	1,361	1,189	2,550	1,433	1,254	2,687	1,461	1,238	2,699
75 ,, 79	1,336	1,243	2,579	1,342	1,301	2,643	1,548	1,476	3,024
80 ,, 84	756	850	1,606	920	916	1,836	1,047	1,046	2,093
85 ,, 89	319	442	761	313	471	784	410	541	951
90 ,, 94	93	160	253	109	179	288	115	183	298
95 ..	10	18	28	7	20	27	10	20	30
96 ..	6	12	18	5	9	14	5	17	22
97 ..	6	8	14	5	7	12	4	13	17
98 ..	4	5	9	3	5	8	4	7	11
99 ..	..	1	1	1	5	6	2	..	2
100 ..	1	2	3	..	2	2	..	2	2
101 ..	1	2	3	..	1	1	1	1	2
102 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
103 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
104 ..	..	..	..	1	1	2	..	2	2
105 ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
Unknown	5	1	6	3	..	3	1	..	1
Total ..	9,890	8,723	18,613	10,026	8,929	18,955	10,779	9,390	20,169

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

Of the 57,737 persons who died in Victoria during the last three years 9,117 (or approximately 16 per cent.) were aged 80 years and upwards, and 18—five males and thirteen 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 according to the international abridged classification for the period 1922–26 and for the last three years are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH, 1922–26, 1937, 1938, AND 1939.

International Abridged Classification. (Detailed classification numbers in brackets.)	Number –			Deaths per Million of the Population.			
	1937.	1938.	1939.	1922– 1926.	1937.	1938.	1939.
1. Typhoid Fever (1, 2)	9	6	8	21	5	3	4
4. Measles	1	..	66	17	1	..	35
5. Scarlet Fever	5	9	10	10	3	5	5
6. Whooping Cough	38	5	2	60	20	3	1
7. Diphtheria..	52	36	42	59	28	19	22
8a. Influenza—Respiratory	56	53	149	61	30	28	79
8b. Influenza—Other	24	47	50	52	13	25	27
10. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	713	677	756	575	384	362	402
11a. Tubercular Meningitis	36	26	25	42	20	14	13
11b. Other Tuberculous Diseases	58	61	65	58	31	33	35
12. Syphilis	42	42	71	24	22	23	38
13. Malaria	1	2	7	1	1	1	4
14. Other Infectious or Parasitic Diseases..	187	117	111	120	100	63	59
15. Cancer and other Malignant Tumours ..	2,351	2,365	2,507	1,009	1,267	1,266	1,332
16. Tumours, Non-Malignant or of Un-specified Nature ..	101	91	128	51	54	49	68
17. Chronic Rheumatism, Gout (57–58)	56	80	67	38	30	43	36
18. Diabetes Mellitus	304	371	387	112	164	199	206
19. Acute and Chronic Alcoholism	11	10	14	11	6	5	7
20. Other General Diseases (Classes 3, 4, 5)	334	359	349	165	179	192	185
21. Locomotor Ataxia, General Paralysis of Insane (80, 83) ..	30	35	53	31	16	19	28
22. Cerebral Haemorrhage, Embolism, &c. (82)	985	1,026	731	†	531	549	388
23. Other Diseases of Nervous System and Sense Organs	267	347	293	236	144	186	156
24. Diseases of the Heart (90–95)	3,904	4,016	5,011	1,347	2,104	2,150	2,663
25a. Arterio–sclerosis	1,197	1,363	1,477	†	645	730	785
25b. Other Diseases of Circulatory System..	164	169	158	82	88	91	83
26a. Acute Bronchitis (106a and c)	37	23	27	48	20	12	14
26b. Chronic Bronchitis (106b and d)	170	211	202	147	91	113	107
27. Pneumonia (all forms) (107–109)	1,150	1,173	1,200	734	620	628	638
28. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	278	261	233	214	150	140	124
29a. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years of age)	58	50	78	294	31	27	42
29b. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (two years and over)	93	101	73	86	50	54	39
30. Appendicitis	126	111	136	71	68	59	72
31a. Cirrhosis of the Liver	75	99	98	49	41	53	52
31b. Other Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Calculi (125–127)	125	195	148	60	67	104	79
32a. Hernia, Intestinal obstruction	180	153	172	99	97	82	91
32b. Other Diseases of the Digestive System	316	268	303	148	170	144	161
33. Nephritis (130–132)	1,125	1,100	1,320	505	606	589	702
34. Other Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System ..	335	400	356	151	181	214	189
35a. Post-Abortive Sepsis	5	3	5	†	3	2	3
35b. Criminal Abortion (140b)	41	46	36	†	22	25	19
35c. Puerperal Septicaemia (without abortion)	14	6	9	†	8	3	5
36. Other Diseases of Pregnancy and Labour	69	81	68	†	37	43	36
37. Diseases of the Skin, Bones, &c.	96	83	83	61	51	44	44
38. Congenital Debility, Malformations, Premature Birth, &c.	772	776	802	731	416	415	426
39. Senility	1,362	1,267	836	‡802	734	678	444
40. Suicide	159	137	145	87	86	73	77
41. Homicide ..	18	25	15	14	10	13	8
42. Accidental or Violent Death (176–198)	1,050	1,041	1,245	465	565	558	662
43. Non-specified or Ill-defined Causes	33	32	42	94	18	17	22
* Total all Causes	18,613	18,955	20,169	9,898	10,028	10,148	10,717

* One death from No. 2 Typhus Fever in 1926 ; no deaths from No. 3 Small Pox and No. 9 Plague.   † Comparable figures not available.   ‡ *Vide* page 124.

Note.—The recent introduction of a new form of death certificate has resulted in improved certification and the increase in Diseases of the Heart and decrease in Senility may be ascribed to this fact.

CAUSES OF DEATH, VICTORIA, GREATER MELBOURNE, AND REMAINDER OF STATE, 1939.

International Abridged Classification. (Detailed classification numbers in brackets.)	Number of Deaths.				Deaths per 1,000,000 of Population.	
	Victoria.		Metropolis.	Remainder of State.	Metropolis.	Remainder of State.
	Males.	Fe-males				
1. Typhoid Fever (1, 2)	5	3	5	3	5	3
4. Measles	28	38	30	36	29	43
5. Scarlet Fever	2	8	7	3	7	3
6. Whooping Cough	..	2	..	2	..	2
7. Diphtheria	22	20	23	19	22	23
8a. Influenza—Respiratory	70	79	74	75	71	89
8b. Influenza—Other	29	21	24	26	23	31
10. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	433	323	483	273	464	325
11a. Tubercular Meningitis	16	9	14	11	13	13
11b. Other Tuberculous Diseases	35	30	38	27	36	32
12. Syphilis ..	58	13	54	17	52	20
13. Malaria ..	6	1	6	1	6	1
14. Other Infectious or Parasitic Diseases	58	53	57	54	55	64
15. Cancer and other Malignant Tumours	1,180	1,327	1,579	928	1,517	1,104
16. Tumours, Non-Malignant or of Unspecified Nature	61	67	83	45	79	54
17. Chronic Rheumatism, Gout (57–58)	22	45	41	26	39	31
18. Diabetes Mellitus	152	235	224	163	215	194
19. Acute and Chronic Alcoholism	6	8	12	2	11	2
20. Other General Diseases (Classes 3, 4, 5)	152	197	214	135	206	161
21. Locomotor Ataxia, General Paralysis of Insane (80, 83)	42	11	43	10	41	12
22. Cerebral Haemorrhage, Embolism, &c. (82)	302	429	401	330	385	393
23. Other Diseases of Nervous System and Sense Organs	153	140	160	133	154	158
24. Diseases of the Heart (90–95)	2,778	2,233	2,879	2,132	2,765	2,536
25a. Arterio-sclerosis ..	670	807	968	509	930	606
25b. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	78	80	99	59	95	70
26a. Acute Bronchitis (106a and c)	13	14	14	13	13	15
26b. Chronic Bronchitis (106b and d)	130	72	116	86	112	103
27. Pneumonia (all forms) (107–109)	655	545	690	510	663	607
28. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	148	85	121	112	116	133
29a. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years of age)	43	35	34	44	33	52
29b. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (two years and over)	33	40	35	38	34	45
30. Appendicitis	87	49	72	64	69	76
31a. Cirrhosis of the Liver	58	40	66	32	63	38
31b. Other Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Calculi (125–127)	39	109	78	70	75	83
32a. Hernia, Intestinal obstruction	91	81	105	67	101	89
32b. Other Diseases of the Digestive System	199	104	190	113	182	135
33. Nephritis (130–132)	672	648	853	467	819	556
34. Other Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System	265	91	209	147	201	175
35a. Post-Abortive Sepsis	..	5	3	2	3	2
35b. Criminal Abortion (140b) ..	..	36	30	6	29	7
35c. Puerperal Septicaemia (without abortion)	..	9	7	2	7	2
36. Other Diseases of Pregnancy and Labour	..	68	30	38	28	45
37. Diseases of the Skin, Bones, &c.	53	30	49	34	47	40
38. Congenital Debility, Malformations, Premature Birth, &c.	463	339	376	426	361	507
39. Senility ..	413	423	383	453	368	539
40. Suicide ..	108	37	80	65	77	77
41. Homicide	11	4	8	7	8	8
42. Accidental or Violent Death (176–198)	909	336	643	602	617	716
43. Non-specified or Ill-defined Causes ..	31	11	9	33	9	39
*TOTAL ALL CAUSES	10,779	9,390	11,719	8,450	11,255	10,050

* No deaths from No. 2 Typhus Fever, No. 3 Small Pox, and No. 9 Plague.

Typhoid fever. In 1939, deaths from typhoid fever numbered 8, being equivalent to a rate of 4 per million of population, as compared with rates of 3 in 1938, 5 in 1937, 5 in 1936, 9 in 1935, 31 in 1920–24, 108 in 1905–09, and 301 in 1895–99. Cases of typhoid fever reported in 1939 numbered 39, or 21 per million of population, as against 259 in 1920–24, and 2,884 in 1895–99.

The figures show that the mortality from typhoid has been reduced to very small proportions.

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 1939, 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 66 deaths from measles in 1939, representing a rate of 35 per million of population. This was the highest number of deaths from measles since 1923, in which year 77 deaths were recorded. Rates per million of population were 0 in 1938, 1 in 1937, 1 in 1936, and 11 in 1935. The disease chiefly affects children. On the average of the five years 1935 to 1939, 31 per cent. of those who died from the disease were under 2 years, and 53 per cent. were under 5 years of age.

Scarlet fever. In 1939 the deaths from scarlet fever numbered 10, which corresponded to a rate of 5 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 5 in 1938, 3 in 1937, 8 in 1936, 3 in 1935, and 10 in 1934. During 1939 there were 3,020 cases reported as against 1,714 in 1938, 2,567 in 1937, 2,122 in 1936, and 1,458 in 1935. For the five years mentioned the deaths were less than 1 per cent. of the cases. Fifty-eight per cent. of these deaths were of children under 10 years of age.

Whooping cough. Whooping cough was responsible for 2 deaths in 1939, which equalled a rate of 1 per million of the population at all ages, as compared with rates of 3 in 1938, 20 in 1937, 27 in 1936, and 27 in 1935. 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, the deaths were of children less than two 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 1935 to 1939, 52 per cent. of those who died were under 5 years, and 85 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 1939.

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	4,309	234·3	94	5·1	2·2
1936	5,218	282·4	99	5·4	1·9
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
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	2,460	245·0	57	5·7	2·3
1936	3,299	325·8	57	5·6	1·7
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

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 1937, 1938, and 1939, are given in the subjoined table :—

VICTORIA—CASES OF DIPHTHERIA.

Locality.	Reported Cases of Diphtheria.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.			
	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1910–19.	1937.	1938.	1939.
Greater Melbourne	2,460	3,299	1,683	962	915	39·3	16·5	9·3	8·8
Ballarat	154	159	49	38	26	24 3	12·8	9·9	6·8
Bendigo	85	63	43	19	53	84 6	14 4	6·3	17·6
Geelong	283	206	182	157	116	43·4	45·7	39·3	28·8
Remainder of State	1,327	1,491	1,083	648	507	25·7	14·9	8·9	6·0

Influenza. The deaths from influenza in 1939 numbered 199. This corresponded to a rate of 106 per million of the population as compared with rates of 53 in 1938, 43 in 1937, 45 in 1936, 120 in 1935, 2,407 in 1919, 71 in 1913–17, 109 in 1908–12, and 381 in 1890–92.

The rate of mortality in 1939 was 23 per cent. above the average of the previous quinquennium.

Of the deaths recorded in 1939, 75 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 1939, 73 per cent. were of persons over 50 years of age.

Tuberculosis (all forms). The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1939 was 846, the rate per million of population being 450. 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 1939 numbered 756—433 being of males and 323 of females—and equalled a rate of 402 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 362 in 1938, 384 in 1937, 412 in 1936, 414 in 1935, 660 in 1918–22, 855 in 1908–12, and 1,365 in 1890–92. In 1939 tuberculosis of the respiratory system was responsible for 89 per cent. of the total deaths from tuberculosis.

Deaths from tuberculosis of the resipratory 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. Year.					Females. Year.				
		1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
0–9 ..	..	3	4	8	1	3	1	7	2	2	4
10–14 ..	..	..	1	2	..	..	2	2	2	2	2
15–19 ..	..	9	8	7	4	5	20	27	15	22	16
20–24 ..	..	26	21	23	13	23	43	57	41	41	42
25–29 ..	..	39	26	19	25	22	63	60	52	49	51
30–34 ..	..	36	35	33	27	32	45	53	41	49	47
35–39 ..	..	43	37	44	42	35	38	34	42	26	31
40–44 ..	..	51	54	47	36	54	31	40	20	30	24
45–49 ..	..	40	52	51	48	52	11	18	26	14	24
50–54 ..	..	55	40	48	31	49	20	17	13	17	16
55–59 ..	..	45	35	36	46	48	21	10	14	14	14
60–64 ..	..	27	33	40	32	39	15	13	12	12	10
65–69 ..	..	20	29	27	31	34	11	16	9	12	13
70 and over	.	36	19	25	34	37	10	14	14	16	29
Unknown	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	..	430	394	410	371	433	331	368	303	303	323

For the year 1939, the average age of those who died from tuberculosis of the respiratory system was 48·5 years for males and 39·3 years for females.

Tubercular diseases (tuberculosis of the respiratory system excepted). In 1939 there occurred in Victoria 90 deaths from tubercular diseases (excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system). This number represented a rate of 48 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 47 in 1938, 51 in 1937, 59 in 1936, 64 in 1935, 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.

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

Period.	Deaths per 10,000 of the Population.											
	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
1935 ..	4·8	4·7	9·2	3·3	·7	·3	·3	·5	5·5	5·0	9·5	3·8
1936 ..	5·0	1·3	10·4	3·8	·6	·5	1·0	7	5·6	1·8	11·4	4·5
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

† Not calculated.

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 9 deaths in 1939, 41 in 1938, 77 in 1937, 4 in 1936, 7 in 1935, 9 in 1934, 7 in 1933, 4 in 1932, 16 in 1931, and 12 in 1930.

Hydatids. In 1939, there were 18 male and 13 female deaths from hydatids, of which 13 of males and 10 of females were attributed to hydatid tumour of the liver. The deaths from hydatids in 1939 were equivalent to a rate of 16 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 6 in 1938, 11 in 1937, 9 in 1936, 10 in 1935, 16 in 1918–22, 22 in 1908–12, and 51 in 1890–92.

Other
Infectious
and Parasitic
Diseases.

Deaths in 1939, from diseases included under this heading (cause No. 14, on page 111) were dysentery 12, erysipelas 4, acute poliomyelitis 9, lethargic encephalitis 2, cerebro-spinal meningitis 4, tetanus 10, septicaemia 23, hydatid cysts 31, and other diseases 16.

Cancer—
Death rates.

Deaths from cancer in 1939 numbered 2,507, and represented a death rate of 1,332 per million of the whole population, as compared with rates of 1,226 in 1938, 1,267 in 1937, 1,238 in 1936, 1,229 in 1935, 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.				
		1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.
0–14 ..	..	5	9	6	4	6	5	3	4	6	4
15–24 ..	..	5	6	4	3	5	10	9	4	5	1
25–34 ..	..	21	20	17	24	19	26	14	18	16	17
35–44 ..	..	50	29	50	50	35	110	90	95	88	94
45–54 ..	..	103	114	113	119	128	157	194	177	190	196
55–64 ..	..	237	252	227	263	241	268	304	260	237	274
65–74 ..	..	419	436	429	413	422	384	338	371	377	418
75–84 ..	..	208	221	276	268	295	196	189	236	252	281
85 and over	..	15	25	25	14	29	41	35	39	36	42
Total	..	1,063	1,112	1,147	1,158	1,180	1,197	1,176	1,204	1,207	1,327

Ninety-three per cent. of the deaths from cancer in 1939 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 1939 the average age of those who died from the former was 66·1 years for males and 64·3 years for females, while the corresponding averages for the latter were 48·5 years for males and 39·3 years for females.

Seat of Cancer. The following table shows the seat of cancer in persons who died from this disease in 1939 :—

SEAT OF CANCER, 1939.

Seat of Disease.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Buccal cavity and pharynx	90	23	113
Oesophagus	60	28	88
Stomach, duodenum, liver and biliary ducts	317	278	595
Pancreas	40	43	83
Intestines, peritoneum and rectum	214	289	503
Respiratory organs	80	31	111
Female genital organs	..	232	232
Female breast	..	253	253
Male genito-urinary organs	222	..	222
Skin	50	26	76
Other and unspecified organs	107	124	231
Total Deaths	1,180	1,327	2,507

Fifty-one per cent. of the persons who died from cancer were affected in the digestive tract or peritoneum. Of the females who died from the disease, 37 per cent. were affected in the genital organs or breast.

Diabetes. The rate of mortality from diabetes shows a marked increase, the average of the last five years being 69 per cent. higher than that for the period 1908-12.

During 1939 diabetes was responsible for 152 male and 235 female deaths, representing a rate of 206 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 199 in 1938, 164 in 1937, 168 in 1936, 168 in 1935, 130 in 1918–22, and 107 in 1908-12.

Deaths in 1939 from diseases in this category (cause **Other General Diseases.** No. 20 on page 111) were acute rheumatic fever 100, exopthalmic goitre 46, other diseases of the thyroid and parathyroid glands 17, pernicious anaemia 47, other anaemias 17, leucaemia 55, Hodgkin's disease 27, and other diseases 40.

In 1939, 302 male and 429 female deaths were ascribed **Cerebral Haemorrhage, Embolism, &c.** to these causes, the total—731—corresponding to a rate of 388 per million of the population as compared with rates of 549 in 1938, 531 in 1937, 531 in 1936, and 513 in 1935. Of the 731 deaths in 1939, 373 were due to cerebral hæmorrhage, 19 to apoplexy, 17 to cerebral embolism, 244 to cerebral thrombosis, 7 to softening of the brain, and 71 to hemiplegia and unspecified paralysis.

In this category (cause No. 23 on page 111) in 1939 **Other Diseases of Nervous System and Sense Organs.** were 33 deaths from simple meningitis, 45 from other diseases of the spinal cord, 45 from epilepsy, 16 from diseases of the ear and mastoid process, and 154 from other diseases.

During 1939 there were 5,011 deaths ascribed to diseases **Diseases of the Heart.** of the heart, including 15 due to pericarditis, 605 to endocarditis, 2,986 to disease of the myocardium, 865 to diseases of coronary arteries, 131 to angina pectoris, 70 to angina pectoris with record of coronary disease, and 339 to other diseases of the heart. The total causes in 1939 represented a rate of 2,663 per million of the population (*vide* footnote on page 111), the rates for previous years being 2,150 in 1938, 2,104 in 1937, 2,063 in 1936, 2,145 in 1935, 1,347 in 1922–26, and 1,441 in 1908–12.

In 1939 the number of deaths from arteriosclerosis with **Arteriosclerosis.** record of cerebral vascular lesion (cerebral haemorrhage, &c.) was 930 and, without such record, 547. Of the total deaths, 948 or 64 per cent. were of persons aged 70 years and over.

In 1939 the deaths from respiratory diseases numbered **Respiratory diseases.** 1,662, which represented a rate of 883 per million of the population as compared with rates of 893 in 1938, 881 in 1937, 977 in 1936, and 1,050 in 1935. Of the deaths in the year under review, 27 were due to acute bronchitis, 202 to chronic bronchitis, 749 to broncho-pneumonia, 231 to lobar pneumonia, 220 to pneumonia

unspecified, 51 to pleurisy, 39 to asthma, 78 to pulmonary congestion, embolism, &c., 35 to chronic interstitial pneumonia, and 30 to other diseases. Further details will be found under causes Nos. 26 to 28 on pages 111 and 112.

The greatest mortality from the respiratory diseases occurs during the months of June, July, and August.

Diseases of the digestive system. In 1939 there were 550 male and 458 female deaths from digestive ailments, representing a proportion of 536 per million of the population, as against rates of 523 in 1938, 524 in 1937, 572 in 1936, 534 in 1935, 807 in 1922–26, and 2,382 in 1890–92. Deaths from the principal diseases in 1939 were : 168 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 151 from diarrhœal diseases, 136 from appendicitis, 58 from hernia, 114 from intestinal obstruction, 98 from cirrhosis of the liver, 72 from biliary calculi, 60 from other diseases of the gall bladder and biliary passages, and 151 from other diseases. Further rates and details are given under causes Nos. 29 to 32 on pages 111 and 112.

The 151 deaths from diarrhœal diseases in 1939 correspond to a rate of 81 per million of the population as compared with rates of 81 in 1938, 81 in 1937, 108 in 1936, 94 in 1935, 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 1939, 50 were of infants under one year of age, 28 were between the ages of one and two years, 8 between two and five years, while 37 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 1939 there were 1,676 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. This number represented a rate of 891 per million of the population, as against rates of 803 in 1938, 787 in 1937, 762 in 1936, 754 in 1935, 670 in 1918–22, and 700 in 1909–12. In 1939, acute and chronic nephritis were responsible for 1,320 deaths, other diseases of the kidney, etc., for 89, diseases of the prostate for 176, and other genito-urinary diseases for 91.

Deaths in childbirth.   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 septicæmia and all other puerperal causes for each of the last ten years and the averages of previous periods back to 1871. The rates given for years prior to 1926 are not strictly comparable with those for subsequent years.

VICTORIA—DEATHS OF MOTHERS (MARRIED AND SINGLE) TO EVERY 10,000 CHILDREN BORN ALIVE, 1871 TO 1939.

Period.	Deaths of Mothers Annually from— Puerperal Septicæmia. Without Abortion.	Septic Abortion.	Criminal Abortion.	Other Puerperal Causes.	Total. Excluding Criminal Abortion.	Including Criminal Abortion.	Deaths of Mothers to every 10,000 Children Born Alive from— Puerperal Septicæmia. Without Abortion.	Septic Abortion.	Criminal Abortion.	Other Puerperal Causes.	Total. Excluding Criminal Abortion.	Including 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	
1930 ..	40	13	21	121	174	195	12·07	3·92	6·34	36·53	52·52	58·86
1931 ..	34	9	19	89	135	154	11·21	2·97	6·26	30·33	44·51	50·77
1932 ..	27	9	30	89	125	155	9·83	3·28	10·92	32·41	45·52	56·44
1933 ..	30	7	28	61	98	126	10·57	2·47	9·86	21·48	34·52	44·38
1934 ..	32	8	37	93	133	170	11·50	2·87	13·30	33·42	47·79	61·09
1935 ..	19	8	35	69	96	131	6·81	2·87	12·55	24·75	34·43	46·98
1936 ..	40	7	49	85	132	181	13·85	2·42	16·97	29·43	45·70	62·67
1937 ..	14	5	41	69	88	129	4·71	1·68	13·79	23·21	29·60	43·39
1938 ..	6	3	46	81	90	136	1·98	·99	15·16	26·69	29·66	44·82
1939 ..	9	5	36	68	82	118	2·95	1·64	11·81	22·30	26·89	38·70

The death rate of women from puerperal causes, as shown in the above table, declined steadily during each period from 1871–80 to 1921–25. Since the latter period the rate has fluctuated.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes. The following tables give information in age groups for the year 1939 relating to the causes of death of women in childbirth, and the total number of children born to married mothers.

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES, 1939.

Causes of Death.	Ages at Death.							Married Mothers.	Unmarried Mothers.
	Under 20.	20 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 and over.	Total.		
140. (a) Abortion with septic conditions	..	2	1	2	..	..	5	5	..
(b) Criminal abortion	1	10	8	8	8	1	36*	27	9
141. Abortion without septic conditions	..	..	..	1	1	1	3	3	..
142. Ectopic gestation	..	..	1	4	2	..	7	6	1
143. Other accidents of pregnancy (excluding hæmorrhage)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
144. Puerperal hæmorrhage	..	2	6	3	3	1	15	14	1
145. Puerperal septicæmia (not consequent on abortion)	..	3	4	..	1	1	9	9	..
146. Puerperal albuminuria and eclampsia	2	6	1	7	7	3	26	26	.
147. Other toxæmias of pregnancy	1	2	..	..	..	2	5	3	2
148. (a) Phlegmasia alba dolens and thrombosis	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	2	..
(b) Embolism or sudden death	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	..
149. Other accidents of childbirth— (a) Cæsarean section	.	2	..	1	..	..	3	3	..
(b) Other surgical operations and instrumental delivery	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..
(c) Others	..	..	1	2	..	1	4	4	..
150. (a) Puerperal diseases of the breast	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(b) Other unspecified conditions of the puerperal state	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	4	27	23	28	25	11	118	105	13
Married Mothers	2	23	19	26	24	11	105	..	..
Unmarried Mothers	2	4	4	2	1	..	13	..	..
Total Issue of Married Mothers	..	25	36	65	51	65	242	..	..

* Self-induced 5 ; open verdict 31.

Of the 242 children born to the 105 married women who died, 222 were living at the time of their mother's death, or an average of 2·1 children per mother, as compared with 2·1 in 1938, 2·0 in 1937, 2·1 in 1936, and 2·3 in 1935.

First confinements were responsible for 39, or 37·1 per cent. of the total deaths of married mothers, as compared with 37·1 per cent. in 1938, 38·4 per cent. in 1937, 36·3 per cent. in 1936, and 25·6 per cent. in 1935.

Ages at
Death of
Women in
Childbirth.
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 1937, 1938, and 1939, are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES OF WOMEN IN CHILDBIRTH, IN AGE GROUPS, 1926 TO 1939.

Age Group.	Mothers.							
	Deaths.				Deaths per 10,000 children born alive.			
	1926-30.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1926-30.	1937.	1938.	1939.
Under 20 years ..	41	10	5	4	47·1	63·2	31·1	24·0
20 to 24 ,, ..	150	22	27	27	39·1	28·9	35·7	36·6
25 ,, 29 ,, ..	231	33	32	23	46·5	36·1	33·5	23·4
30 ,, 34 ,, ..	226	35	32	28	56·8	53·6	47·3	41·2
35 ,, 39 ,, ..	226	21	31	25	88·1	58·9	86·5	69·7
40 years and over	111	8	9	11	117·8	60·5	69·8	87·4
Total ..	985	129	136	118	57·4	43·4	44·8	38·7

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 1939, the deaths of 413 men and 423 women were ascribed to senile decay, as compared with 579 men and 688 women in 1938 (*vide* footnote on page 111). 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. The deaths at ages 70 and over from all causes during 1939 numbered 9,153—4,607 of men and 4,546 of women, or 45·4 per cent. of the total deaths.

Suicide.
In the year 1939, 108 males and 37 females took their lives. The deaths represented a rate of 77 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 73 in 1938, 86 in 1937, 107 in 1936, 90 in 1935, 87 in 1918-22, 102 in 1908-12, and 109 in 1890-92. Of the 108 male deaths in 1939 from suicide 33, or 31 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 28 per cent. of that for the latter.

Homicide.
The deaths ascribed to homicide in 1939 numbered 15, of which 11 were of males and 4 of females. These represented a rate of 8 per million of the population, as against rates of 13 in 1938, 10 in 1937, 10 in 1936, 13 in 1935, 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 puerperal causes.

Accidental violence. In 1939, 909 male and 336 female deaths were attributed to accidents or negligence. These represented a rate of 662 per million of the population. This proportion was above the average rate—560—for the previous five years, and 18 per cent. below the rate—811—for 1890–92. In 1931 a distinction was made for the first time between deaths recorded as "open verdict" and those returned definitely as "accidental." The numbers of deaths from various accidents in the last five years are given in the appended table :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM ACCIDENTAL VIOLENCE, 1935 TO 1939.

Nature of Accident.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939. Total.	1939. Males.	1939. Females
Snake Bite	2	1	1	3	2	2	..
Other Venomous Bites and Stings	1	2	..	..	..	..	..
Poisoning by Food	3	2	..	3	2	2	..
Absorption of Poisonous Gases	6	3	5	9	11	8	3
Other Acute Poisonings	8	5	4	7	10	6	4
Conflagration (Bush fires, &c.)	5	5	3	10	74	62	12
Burns, Scalds, &c.	53	49	44	50	30	17	13
Accidental Mechanical Suffocation	11	6	10	8	16	10	6
Drowning ⎰ accidental	88	77	67	64	91	75	16
⎱ open verdict	55	51	58	63	40	24	16
Firearms ⎰ accidental	29	17	20	13	12	11	1
⎱ open verdict	2	8	10	16	17	16	1
In Mines and Quarries	23	14	28	20	9	9	..
Machinery	12	14	10	10	15	15	..
Transport Accidents	440	508	568	551	579	450	129
Falls ⎰ accidental ..	102	106	119	92	154	73	81
⎱ open verdict	6	2	9	8	8	6	2
Other Crushings ..	26	20	17	14	21	21	..
Injuries by Animals	6	4	2	10	6	6	..
Excessive Cold	4	3	..	1	3	3	..
Effects of Heat	3	2	4	1	33	20	13
Lightning	4	2	1	1	..	..	..
Electricity	13	2	11	8	9	9	..
Other ⎰ accidental	35	48	31	46	42	28	14
Violence ⎱ open verdict ..	37	39	28	33	61	36	25
Total accidental ..	874	890	945	921	1,119	827	292
Total open verdict	100	100	105	120	126	82	44
Grand Total ..	974	990	1,050	1,041	1,245	909	336

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 ot January of that year.

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

Transport Accidents. In 1939, deaths from transport accidents numbered 579, as against 551 in 1938, 568 in 1937, 508 in 1936, 440 in 1935, 385 in 1934, 350 in 1933, 350 in 1932, 373 in 1931, and 406 in 1930.

During the year 1939, deaths connected with transport represented 47 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 1939.

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS, 1939.

—	Collisions.												*Other Accidents.	Total.	Males.	Females.
	Railway vehicle.	Tramcar.	Motor car.	Motor lorry, &c.	Motor cycle.	Horse-drawn vehicle, &c.	Bicycle.	Horse.	Fixed object.	Aeroplane.	Other Vehicle.	Total.				
Railway vehicle ..	1	..	11	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	17	*23	40	33	7
Tramcar ..	..	..	2	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	6	19	25	18	7
Motor-car ..	..	..	19	24	39	3	32	..	25	..	..	142	192	334	249	85
,, omnibus ..	..	..	..	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	3	10	2	8
,, lorry, &c.	..	..	..	1	13	2	7	..	5	..	..	28	55	83	72	11
,, cycle ..	..	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	8	..	..	12	29	41	38	3
Horse - drawn vehicle ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		7	7	7	..
Bicycle	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	3	11	14	9	5
Horse	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	13	11	2
Aeroplane ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	8	9	8	1
Water transport ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	3	..
Total ..	1	..	32	33	58	7	45	..	38	1	1	216	363	579	450	129

* Includes rail accidents to 4 railway employees.

The number of motor vehicles (including motor cycles) registered in Victoria and the deaths in which they were involved, for the years 1930 to 1939, were as follows :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS INVOLVING MOTOR VEHICLES, 1930 TO 1939.

Year.	Number of Motor Vehicles (30th June.)	Deaths Involving Motor Vehicles.		
		Number.	Per 10,000 Motor Vehicles	Per 1,000,000 of Population
1930 ..	179,887	307	17·1	172
1931 ..	168,231	296	17·6	165
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

The mortality per 10,000 vehicles was 18·1 for the period 1935–39 as compared with a rate of 16·0 in 1930–34. The mortality per million of population was 259 in 1939, 236 in 1938, 246 in 1937, 214 in 1936, 184 in 1935, and 166 in 1929. The mortality rate in 1939 was the highest on record.

On the average of the five years, 1935 to 1939, motor cars, &c., were involved in 18·6 deaths per 10,000 cars registered, and motor cycles in 31·5 deaths per 10,000 motor cycles registered.

13473/40.—**9**

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 ..	5·13	7·61	9·15	5·31	8·98	9·16	7·09	7·91
1936 ..	5·47	8·17	10·39	5·87	9·44	9·50	7·70	7·89
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

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					
1895–99	15,625	26·76	13·81	12·95					
1900–04	14,859	25·08	12·78	12·30	1935 ..	9,428	15·16	10·03	5·13
1905–09	16,062	24·76	11·93	12·83	1936 ..	10,105	15·63	10·16	5·47
1910–14	18,795	25·42	11·57	13·85	1937 ..	11,118	16·02	10·03	5·99
1915–19	16,818	23·13	11·38	11·75	1938 ..	11,389	16·25	10·15	6·10
1920–24	19,647	22·89	10·40	12·49	1939 ..	10,324	16·20	10·72	5·48