

PART V.

VITAL STATISTICS.

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 5,998,767 original entries have been made in the indexes, of which 1,779,110 relate to marriages, 2,827,693 to births and 1,391,964 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 extra charge for an extract of an entry but, for a certificate, a further sum of 5s. is payable. For a search of the early church records, prior to 1st July, 1853, the fee is 1s., a further sum of 1s. being payable if a certificate be required.

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

Marriages may be celebrated by any minister of religion who ordinarily officiates as such in one of the religious denominations, and whose name is registered in the office of the Government Statist; also by the Government Statist, an Assistant Government Statist, or a duly appointed registrar of marriages. The Governor in Council may prohibit from celebrating marriages any minister who is proved guilty of any indictable offence, misconduct or impropriety in the celebration of any marriage, or who makes a business of celebrating marriages for the purpose of profit or gain. At least three clear days before the performance of any marriage, written notice of such marriage must be given to the proposed celebrant by the parties about to be married, but such notice may, in respect of a marriage by a minister of religion, be dispensed with in the case of emergency by written permission of any Justice of the Peace. Marriage of minors is permissible only with the written consent of parents or guardian or, in certain circumstances, by permission of a Guardian of Minors; should a parent refuse consent, appeal may be made to a Police Magistrate. Marriage with a deceased wife's sister is valid. Marriages of Jews and Quakers are exempted in part from the law relating to marriages, and are deemed legal and valid if celebrated according to their respective usages. Certificates of such marriages must, however, be lodged with the Government Statist for record purposes. No marriage is invalid by reason of its having been celebrated by an unqualified person if either of the parties believed at the time that such person was qualified, or by reason of any formal defect or irregularity where the identity of the parties to the marriage is not in question.

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

Births of live children must, under a penalty not exceeding £10 for default without reasonable cause, be registered within 60 days. After 60 days and within twelve months, registration may be effected, after declaration, on the payment of a fee of 5s.; after twelve months and under seven years, only by authority of the Government Statist (fee 20s.); and after seven years by order of a Judge of a County Court or the Supreme Court (fee 30s.). The

occupier of any house or place in which an illegitimate child is born, or in which an illegitimate child under the age of five years dies, is required to give notice of such birth or death to the district registrar within three to seven days, according to the locality of the event. If the mother is the occupier, the period of notification is extended to three weeks.

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

Summary of Vital Statistics, 1946. The principal numbers and rates relating to Vital Statistics are given in the following table:—

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1946.

Division.	Number of—				Rate per 1,000 of Population.*			Infantile Mortality.
	Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.	Deaths under One Year.	Marriage.	Birth.	Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.
Greater Melbourne ..	..	26,964	12,979	729	..	22.75	10.95	27.04
Remainder of the State	..	19,729	8,555	539	..	23.46	10.17	27.32
Victoria	21,405	46,693	21,534	1,268	10.57	23.05	10.63	27.16

* Subject to revision.

MARRIAGES.

Marriages—Numbers and rates. Marriages in Victoria in 1946 numbered 21,405, an increase of 4,904 as compared with the number registered in 1945. The rate per 1,000 of population in 1946 was 10.57 as compared with rates of 8.22 in 1945, 8.97 in 1944, 9.30 in 1943, and 12.06 in 1942. The highest rate recorded in Victoria was 12.06 in 1942; the lowest rate was 5.66 in 1931—a year of acute economic depression. From that year to 1942, there was a marked increase, the rate in 1942 being 113 per cent. higher than that in 1931.

The record number of marriages in 1942 can be attributed to war-time conditions. The pronounced fall in the number celebrated in 1943 indicated that the influence of those conditions had passed its peak. In the years 1944 and 1945 further falls were recorded, the rate (8.22)

in 1945 being the lowest recorded since 1934. In 1946 there was a large increase in the number of marriages, the rate (10·57) being 29 per cent. higher than the rate in 1945. The number in 1946 reflects the postponement of marriages during the latter years of the war.

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 1946.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Marriages.	Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
		March.	June.	September.	December.	
1855-59 ..	4,362	*	*	*	*	10·24
1860-64 ..	4,418	1,068	1,166	1,079	1,105	8·16
1865-69 ..	4,533	1,123	1,144	1,113	1,153	6·94
1870-74 ..	4,823	1,168	1,299	1,131	1,225	6·40
1875-79 ..	5,023	1,239	1,307	1,207	1,270	6·21
1880-84 ..	6,296	1,528	1,611	1,483	1,674	7·07
1885-89 ..	8,208	1,899	2,196	1,915	2,198	8·04
1890-94 ..	7,945	1,995	2,100	1,838	2,012	6·88
1895-99 ..	7,627	1,816	2,074	1,778	1,959	6·44
1900-04 ..	8,201	2,000	2,252	1,930	2,019	6·78
1905-09 ..	9,209	2,185	2,548	2,182	2,294	7·36
1910-14 ..	11,244	2,664	3,000	2,644	2,936	8·29
1915-19 ..	10,908	2,437	2,754	2,815	2,902	7·62
1920-24 ..	13,598	3,252	3,578	3,152	3,616	8·64
1925-29 ..	13,301	3,136	3,603	3,047	3,515	7·72
1930-34 ..	12,019	2,929	3,123	2,727	3,240	6·64
1935-39 ..	16,406	3,699	4,484	3,414	4,809	8·84
1940-44 ..	20,609	5,089	5,383	4,812	5,325	10·56
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1942 ..	23,636	6,685	6,816	4,869	5,266	12·06
1943 ..	18,356	5,292	4,347	4,192	4,525	9·30
1944 ..	17,857	4,101	4,794	4,479	4,483	8·97
1945 ..	16,501	4,241	3,987	3,669	4,604	8·22
1946 ..	21,405	5,289	5,707	4,678	5,731	10·57

* 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 the Australian States and in New Zealand, for each of the five years 1942 to 1946 :—

MARRIAGE RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1942	12.06	12.19	11.32	13.34	11.41	10.08	11.99	7.91
1943	9.30	9.20	9.53	10.21	9.50	8.65	9.35	7.53
1944	8.97	9.15	10.67	9.72	9.36	7.88	9.33	8.43
1945	8.22	8.67	9.20	8.48	7.77	7.51	8.50	10.14
1946	10.57	10.76	10.70	10.55	10.49	10.51	10.64	12.38

The marriage rate in England and Wales in 1946 was 9.0.

The ages of bridegrooms and brides who were married in 1946 are shown in combination for various groups in the table which follows:—

VICTORIA—AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN COMBINATION, 1946.

Ages of Bridegrooms.	Ages of Brides.														Total Bridegrooms.					
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 54.		55 to 59.	60 to 64.	65 to 69.	70 and over.	
15 .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
16 .. ..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
17	1	6	7	8	5	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
18	5	14	26	45	22	14	19	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	148
19	3	11	45	75	86	57	74	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	355
20	1	17	38	131	132	121	164	13	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	619
21 to 24..	1	5	49	206	496	776	1,121	4,073	610	56	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,404
25 to 29..	7	22	56	178	338	459	3,088	1,744	353	51	9	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,308
30 to 34..	..	3	11	30	76	97	855	990	606	171	30	5	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2,876
35 to 39..	..	..	5	11	11	17	220	418	395	280	85	12	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	1,461
40 to 44..	1	..	..	2	2	4	44	135	200	209	140	49	10	2	1	1	..	..	..	800
45 to 49..	1	..	..	1	..	2	17	31	71	121	107	90	25	9	2	..	1	..	..	478
50 to 54..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	11	35	56	78	98	49	15	5	2	1	..	..	355
55 to 59..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	7	12	27	43	62	52	41	13	4	1	..	..	264
60 to 64..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	1	6	16	24	35	25	22	8	1	..	..	143
65 to 69..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	7	7	18	18	13	4	..	..	..	87
70 to 74..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	5	8	4	2	5	12	3	..	..	42
75 and over	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	5	2	4	4	7	9	..	..	32
Total Brides	2	23	124	396	977	1,449	1,894	8,562	3,970	1,731	936	521	363	202	118	70	47	20	..	21,405

Of every 1,000 men married during the year, 733 were older and 167 younger than their brides, and 100 were of the same age.

In 1946 the oldest bridegroom was aged 84 years, and the oldest bride 81 years. The youngest bridegroom was aged 15 years, and the youngest bride 14 years.

Proportion of marriages at various ages. The proportions of both sexes marrying in 1946 is shown, in varying age groups, in the following table:—

VICTORIA—PROPORTIONS OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1946.

Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—		Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—	
	Bridegrooms.	Brides.		Bridegrooms.	Brides.
Under 16 ..	0·05	1·17	35 to 39 ..	68·26	43·73
16 ..	0·14	5·79	40 to 44 ..	37·37	24·34
17 ..	1·35	18·50	45 to 49 ..	22·33	16·96
18 ..	6·91	45·64	50 to 54 ..	16·59	9·44
19 ..	16·59	67·69	55 to 59 ..	12·33	5·51
20 ..	28·92	88·49	60 and over ..	14·20	6·40
21 to 24 ..	345·90	400·00			
25 to 29 ..	294·70	185·47		1,000·00	1,000·00
30 to 34 ..	134·36	80·87			

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 1942 to 1946.

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES OF MINORS.

Year.	Age in Years.							Total.	
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
	Bridegrooms.								
1942 .. ..	..	..	3	21	113	303	687	1,127	4·77
1943 .. ..	..	..	7	39	128	262	504	940	5·12
1944 .. ..	..	1	2	30	141	282	525	981	5·49
1945 .. ..	..	..	3	36	131	301	529	1,000	6·06
1946 .. ..	..	1	3	29	148	355	619	1,155	5·40
	Brides.								
1942	2	17	120	375	882	1,460	2,090	4,946	20·93
1943	2	15	114	309	827	1,299	1,587	4,153	22·62
1944	1	13	85	287	752	1,301	1,705	4,144	23·21
1945	1	14	87	280	704	1,110	1,395	3,591	21·76
1946	2	23	124	396	977	1,449	1,894	4,865	22·73

The proportion of minors marrying steadily decreased from 1931 to 1936. There was little fluctuation during the following three years, but in 1940 there was an increase, mainly due to the number of brides who were under 21 years of age. A further increase was recorded during each year of the period 1941-44, the proportion of minors marrying in 1944 being 14.35 per cent. of the persons married in that year. There was little variation in the next two years, the proportion in 1946 being 14.06 per cent.

Of every 1,000 bridegrooms in 1946, 54 were under 21 years of age ; of every 1,000 brides 227 were under 21 years of age.

Age at marriage. The mean ages at marriage, according to conjugal condition, are shown in the following table for each of the five years 1942 to 1946 :—

VICTORIA—MEAN AGE AT MARRIAGE, 1942 TO 1946.

Year.	Bridegrooms.				Brides.			
	Bachelors.	Divorced.	Widowers.	All Bridegrooms.	Spinsters.	Divorced.	Widows.	All Brides.
1942 ..	27.6	40.4	50.2	28.9	24.9	36.3	44.0	25.8
1943 ..	27.6	40.4	50.5	29.2	24.8	35.8	44.5	25.9
1944 ..	27.5	40.1	51.0	29.2	24.8	35.3	43.8	26.0
1945 ..	27.8	39.2	52.0	29.8	24.9	34.9	43.2	26.4
1946 ..	27.4	38.1	51.0	29.1	24.6	34.4	41.1	25.8

In 1946, the mean age at marriage of bridegrooms whose brides were under 45 was 28.0 years, while for brides under 45 the age was 24.8 years.

The most popular age at marriage for bridegrooms in 1946 was 23 years, and for brides 21 years.

Conjugal condition of persons marrying. In the following tables are given the number of persons in each conjugal condition marrying during each of the five years 1942 to 1946, and the proportions in each condition for periods since 1910.

VICTORIA—CONJUGAL CONDITION OF PERSONS
MARRYING, 1942 TO 1946.

Period.	Bridegrooms.			Brides.			Total Marriages.
	Bachelors.	Widowers.	Divorced.	Spinsters.	Widows.	Divorced.	
1942 ..	21,966	974	696	22,291	670	675	23,636
1943 ..	16,780	880	696	17,022	638	696	18,356
1944 ..	16,198	925	734	16,378	691	788	17,857
1945 ..	14,544	967	990	14,720	817	964	16,501
1946 ..	19,209	1,046	1,150	19,287	981	1,137	21,405

VICTORIA—TOTAL MARRIAGES AND PERCENTAGE OF
PERSONS MARRYING IN EACH CONJUGAL CONDITION,
1910 TO 1946.

Marriages Between—	1946.		Conjugal Condition.	Percentage of Total—			
	Num-ber.	Per-centage.		1910-19.	1920-29.	1930-39.	1946.
Bachelors and Spinisters ..	17,907	83.66	Bachelors Widowers Divorced	Bridegrooms.			
Bachelors and Widows ..	546	2.55		92.7	92.1	92.3	89.7
Bachelors and Divorced Women ..	756	3.53		6.5	6.3	5.5	4.9
Widowers and Spinisters ..	599	2.80	Total	0.8	1.6	2.2	5.4
Widowers and Widows ..	303	1.42		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Widowers and Divorced Women ..	144	0.67		Brides.			
Divorced Men and Spinisters	781	3.64	Spinisters	94.2	93.6	94.4	90.1
Divorced Men and Widows	132	0.62	Widows	4.8	4.9	3.4	4.6
Divorced Men and Divorced Women ..	237	1.11	Divorced	1.0	1.5	2.2	5.3
Total Marriages ..	21,405	100.00	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The proportions of widowers and widows remarrying per 100 marriages, declined from 6.5 and 4.7 respectively in 1910-14 to 4.9 and 3.9 in 1942-46. During the same period the proportion of remarriages of divorced men increased from 0.7 to 4.4 and of divorced women from 0.9 to 4.4. 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 certain periods since 1900 are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DIVORCED PERSONS REMARRYING SINCE 1900.

Period.	Decrees Granted.	Remarriages.	
		Divorced Men.	Divorced Women.
1900-09	1,208	418	554
1910-19	2,258	867	1,096
1920-29	4,392	2,125	2,116
1930-39	6,059	3,172	3,099
1940	817	591	623
1941	833	585	648
1942	953	696	675
1943	1,375	696	696
1944	1,670	734	788
1945	1,727	990	964

In 1946, decrees granted numbered 1,619, and remarriages of men and of women 1,150 and 1,137 respectively.

Marriages in religious denominations. In 1946 the number of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion was 19,999, representing 93 per cent. of the total marriages. Civil marriages numbered 1,406, or 7 per cent. of the total.

The numbers and proportions of civil marriages and of marriages solemnized according to the rites of the principal religious denominations for the years 1926, 1936, and 1946, are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES, RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL.

	1926.		1936.		1946.	
	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.
Church of England ..	3,836	28·62	4,621	29·04	6,685	31·23
Roman Catholic Church	2,536	18·92	2,939	18·47	4,022	18·79
Presbyterian Church ..	2,487	18·55	2,729	17·15	4,192	19·58
Methodist Church ..	1,771	13·21	2,490	15·65	3,200	14·95
Baptist Church ..	570	4·25	628	3·95	658	3·07
Church of Christ ..	306	2·28	404	2·54	415	1·94
Congregational Church	852	6·36	249	1·56	299	1·40
Salvation Army ..	58	0·43	117	0·73	109	0·51
Hebrew	51	0·38	51	0·32	173	0·81
Lutheran Church ..	54	0·40	90	0·56	94	0·44
Other Sects	267	1·99	199	1·25	152	0·71
Civil Marriages ..	617	4·61	1,398	8·78	1,406	6·57
Total	13,405	100·00	15,915	100·00	21,405	100·00

Civil marriages. The following statement shows the numbers and proportions of civil marriages to total marriages performed for each of the ten years 1937 to 1946.

VICTORIA—CIVIL MARRIAGES, 1937 TO 1946.

Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
1937	1,058	6·52	1942.. ..	1,203	5·09
1938	770	4·50	1943.. ..	898	4·89
1939	988	5·69	1944.. ..	939	5·26
1940	1,329	5·96	1945.. ..	1,089	6·60
1941	1,478	7·07	1946.. ..	1,406	6·57

The succeeding statement gives the numbers and proportions of civil marriages performed in the office of the Government Statist during the years 1939 to 1946 :—

CIVIL MARRIAGES PERFORMED IN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT STATIST, 1939 TO 1946.

Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Civil Marriages.
1939	863	87·35
1940	1,199	90·22
1941	1,363	92·22
1942	1,145	95·18
1943	849	94·54
1944	895	95·31
1945	1,045	95·96
1946	1,310	93·17

Registered clergymen. The ministers qualified by registration to celebrate marriages numbered 1,965 on 31st December, 1945. The number of ministers in each denomination (excepting Jews and Quakers) was as follows :—

**VICTORIA—REGISTERED MINISTERS IN EACH
DENOMINATION, 1945.**

Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.	Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.
Church of England ..	428	Open Brethren	3
Roman Catholic	472	Particular Baptists ..	2
Presbyterian	339	Free Presbyterian ..	2
Methodist	296	Reformed Presbyterian	
Baptist	118	Church of Ireland ..	2
Church of Christ	90	Catholic and Apostolic ..	1
Salvation Army	63	Ballarat Town Mission ..	1
Congregational	54	Unitarian	1
Lutheran	37	Latter Day Saints	1
Seventh Day Adventist ..	33	New Church	1
Latter Day Saints (Re-		International Bible Students	1
organized)	7	Greek Orthodox Church ..	1
Apostolic Church of Aus-		Australian Church	1
tralia	4	Free Christian	1
Pentecostal	3		
Welsh Calvinistic Methodists	3	Total	1,965

In 1945 there were 8 civil registrars of marriages in Victoria.

BIRTHS.

**Births—
Numbers and
Rates.** The number of births registered in Victoria during the year 1946 was 46,693. This was 5,493 more than the number registered for the preceding year. The rate per 1,000 of population in 1946 was 23·05 as compared with 20·53 in 1945. The year 1928 was the first year in which the birth rate per 1,000 of population in Victoria was under 20. After 1928 it declined steadily until 1935, when the record low rate of 15·17 was experienced. The rate slowly increased during the next five years. In 1941 it rose to 17·81; in 1942 to 18·33, and in 1943 to 19·82. There was little fluctuation in 1944, but in 1945 the rate increased to 20·53. This was followed by an exceptional rise in 1946, the rate (23·05) being the highest recorded for twenty-four years. The increase in the birth rate followed the rise in the marriage rate which began in 1932 and continued until 1942. Stillbirths, which are excluded from both births and deaths, numbered 1,021 and correspond to a ratio of 21·87 per 1,000 infants born alive in 1946. There were 1,068 male to every 1,000 female births in 1946, as compared with 1,061 in 1945, 1,048 in 1944, 1,047 in 1943, and 1,050 in 1942.

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

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

VICTORIA—BIRTHS IN EACH QUARTER, 1855 TO 1946.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Births.	Sex.		Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
		Males.	Females.	March.	June.	Sep-tember.	Decem-ber.	
1855-59 ..	17,154	8,742	8,412	*	*	*	*	39·49
1860-64 ..	24,060	12,379	11,681	5,614	5,991	6,534	5,921	43·29
1865-69 ..	25,963	13,219	12,744	6,027	6,543	7,105	6,288	39·77
1870-74 ..	27,359	13,944	13,415	6,478	6,769	7,467	6,645	36·35
1875-79 ..	26,584	13,639	12,945	6,333	6,686	7,211	6,354	32·85
1880-84 ..	27,286	13,965	13,321	6,374	7,025	7,300	6,587	30·64
1885-89 ..	32,941	16,883	16,058	7,824	8,289	8,814	8,014	32·27
1890-94 ..	36,945	18,901	18,044	8,669	9,604	9,735	8,937	31·99
1895-99 ..	31,675	16,213	15,462	7,746	8,078	8,323	7,528	26·76
1900-04 ..	30,316	15,544	14,772	7,384	7,682	7,880	7,370	25·08
1905-09 ..	30,994	15,879	15,115	7,489	7,832	8,076	7,597	24·76
1910-14 ..	34,500	17,717	16,783	8,329	8,619	8,850	8,702	25·42
1915-19 ..	33,101	17,014	16,087	8,228	8,336	8,514	8,023	23·13
1920-24 ..	36,022	18,549	17,473	8,729	8,970	9,367	8,956	22·89
1925-29 ..	34,892	18,013	16,879	8,732	8,728	8,856	8,576	20·24
1930-34 ..	29,429	15,075	14,354	7,383	7,409	7,361	7,276	16·27
1935-39 ..	29,467	15,113	14,354	7,285	7,154	7,466	7,562	15·87
1940-44 ..	36,154	18,539	17,615	8,873	8,611	9,211	9,459	18·53
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1942 ..	35,927	18,402	17,525	9,179	9,174	9,009	8,565	18·33
1943 ..	39,117	20,011	19,106	9,053	8,977	10,596	10,491	19·82
1944 ..	39,358	20,142	19,216	10,068	9,515	9,811	9,964	19·78
1945 ..	41,200	21,206	19,994	10,382	10,354	9,978	10,486	20·53
1946 ..	46,693	24,119	22,574	10,178	10,096	12,032	14,387	23·05

*Not available.

Birth rates—
Australian
States and
New Zealand.

The following statement shows the birth rate per 1,000 of the population in the Australian States and in New Zealand for each of the five years 1942 to 1946.

BIRTH RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND,
1942 TO 1946.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1942 ..	18·33	18·59	20·43	18·51	20·77	22·00	19·05	21·73
1943 ..	19·82	20·04	22·19	21·43	21·98	23·04	20·63	19·70
1944 ..	19·78	20·65	23·10	21·49	22·57	21·17	20·98	21·59
1945 ..	20·53	21·13	24·81	22·37	21·88	23·27	21·73	23·22
1946 ..	23·05	22·83	24·79	24·89	24·56	27·15	23·62	25·24

The birth rate in England and Wales in 1946 was 19·1.

The average ages of fathers and of mothers of nuptial children whose births were recorded in 1946 were 32·3 and 29·0 years respectively. These averages were 4·3 and 4·2 years respectively above the average ages of bridegrooms marrying brides under 45 years of age, and of such brides, for the year 1946. 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, 1946.

Father.			Mother.		
Age Group.	Percentage of Total Parents.		Age Group.	Percentage of Total Parents.	
Under 20	0·55		Under 20	3·02	
20 to 24	12·19		20 to 24	24·96	
25 to 29	28·13		25 to 29	31·77	
30 to 34	27·53		30 to 34	24·26	
35 to 39	18·15		35 to 39	12·35	
40 to 44	8·99		40 to 44	3·40	
45 to 49	3·14		45 and over	0·24	
50 and over	1·32				
Total	100·00		Total	100·00	

It will be seen that, on the experience of 1946, 56·73 per cent. of the mothers were between ages 20 and 30, and 36·61 per cent. between ages 30 and 40. The proportions of fathers at these ages were 40·32 and 45·68 per cent. respectively. Of every 1,000 nuptial births, about 30 were to mothers under 20 years and about 2 to mothers aged 45 years and upwards.

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, in cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and in the remainder of the State for the five-year periods 1928 to 1932, 1933 to 1937, 1938 to 1942, and for the year 1946 :—

Birth rates in municipalities.

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

Municipality.	Annual Number of Births.				Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.			
	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1946.	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1946.
Greater Melbourne—								
Melbourne	1,348	1,143	1,264	2,033	14.29	12.68	13.43	20.44
Box Hill	259	214	305	525	18.31	13.84	17.60	25.00
Braybrook (Part) .. .	187	157	198	389	22.28	17.65	19.16	28.39
Brighton	394	358	534	833	13.37	11.69	15.47	21.25
Brunswick	974	790	939	1,399	17.52	14.53	16.92	24.50
Camberwell	865	759	1,210	1,719	17.85	14.58	19.01	22.85
Caulfield	941	807	1,091	1,714	14.87	12.14	15.21	21.67
Chelsea	127	121	156	306	18.66	17.46	20.94	27.20
Coburg	742	634	776	1,198	20.80	16.35	18.34	24.60
Collingwood	532	492	507	768	16.63	16.26	16.76	25.73
Essendon	766	578	799	1,346	16.59	12.47	16.36	24.70
Fitzroy	517	467	519	782	15.96	15.24	16.77	24.21
Footscray	875	698	862	1,251	19.13	11.97	16.36	22.58
Hawthorn	424	406	568	886	12.70	14.82	15.28	22.09
Heidelberg (Part) .. .	413	340	465	769	16.93	14.02	16.84	22.82
Kew	339	284	380	623	13.97	11.58	13.84	20.36
Malvern	499	470	578	963	11.46	10.66	12.49	19.67
Moorabbin	398	359	446	661	23.14	19.20	20.50	25.18
Mordialloc	148	132	199	355	15.37	13.64	18.74	23.73
Northcote	727	576	680	1,058	17.27	13.55	15.56	23.59
Oakleigh	264	217	270	414	22.72	17.91	20.59	26.29
Port Melbourne	230	197	204	311	17.24	15.22	15.16	21.90
Prhran	696	624	828	1,327	13.26	11.84	14.75	22.27
Preston	703	581	716	1,061	23.87	18.05	19.30	23.07
Richmond	693	593	650	968	16.71	14.95	16.24	24.44
Sandringham	272	232	327	574	15.33	12.67	16.20	22.51
South Melbourne .. .	660	551	594	928	15.06	12.81	13.61	21.31
St. Kilda	533	512	712	1,177	11.61	10.55	13.62	20.26
Williamstown	423	326	398	626	19.28	14.64	16.94	23.89
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne—								
Ballarat	664	596	621	875	17.14	15.74	16.01	21.89
Bendigo	550	555	566	669	17.10	18.81	18.71	21.83
Geelong	844	693	726	954	19.26	17.52	17.85	22.24
Ararat	†	102	104	125	..	20.76	19.82	21.29
Castlemaine	†	98	104	121	15.16	18.70	19.40	21.25
Colac	†	106	125	164	..	20.42	21.22	26.14
Echuca	†	95	88	100	..	21.39	19.73	22.32
Hamilton	138	117	139	218	24.47	20.08	21.79	31.03
Horsham	†	118	125	169	..	22.13	21.76	26.91
Maryborough	118	111	108	139	21.35	19.62	18.61	22.81
Mildura	184	207	247	281	28.23	30.54	31.35	30.46
Sale	†	86	99	127	..	19.97	21.85	25.15
Shepparton	151	158	188	236	27.51	27.24	29.38	30.75
Stawell	92	85	85	108	19.46	17.75	17.52	22.43
Swan Hill	†	†	†	104	..	..	..	24.47
Wangaratta	†	107	123	155	..	22.21	22.36	23.79
Warrnambool	176	175	195	263	20.17	19.40	20.70	26.55
Wonthaggi	141	91	89	93	22.44	14.95	17.80	22.28
Summary—								
Greater Melbourne .. .	15,949	13,618	17,175	26,964	16.03	13.55	16.00	22.75
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne .. .	3,163	3,500	3,732	4,901	19.22	18.90	19.42	23.69
Remainder of State .. .	12,693	11,426	11,719	14,828	20.40	17.62	18.27	23.38
Victoria	31,805	28,544	32,626	46,693	17.85	15.52	17.11	23.05

† Included in Remainder of State.

Multiple
births.

The number of cases of multiple births and the proportion per 1,000 of the total cases of births in each of the five years 1942 to 1946 were as follows:—

VICTORIA—MULTIPLE BIRTHS.

Year.	Cases of Twins.	Cases of Triplets.	Total Multiple Cases.	Multiple Cases, per 1,000 of Total Cases.
1942	398	3	401	11·28
1943	408	5	413	10·67
1944	436	7	443	11·38
1945	478	2	480	11·78
1946	562	14	576	12·49

On the average of the five years 1942–46, the proportion of mothers of twins was one in 88, of mothers of triplets, one in 6,454, and of mothers of all multiple births, one in 87 mothers.

The last case of quadruplets recorded in Victoria was in 1937.

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

The first registration was effected on 14th October, 1929, and between that date and the end of the year 1946, the adoptions of 4,366 male and 5,278 female children were registered. During the five year period 1942–1946 there were 109 female for every 100 male adoptions.

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

VICTORIA—CHILDREN ADOPTED, 1929 TO 1946.

Period.	Number of Children Adopted.	
	Males.	Females.
1929	31	56
1930–1934	492	833
1935–1939	843	1,156
1940–1944	1,958	2,125
1945	511	509
1946	531	599

The first Victorian provision for the legitimation of children was contained in the *Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages Act* 1903, No. 1835. Up to the end of 1946 legitimations numbered 5,313.

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

VICTORIA—LEGITIMATIONS, 1903 TO 1946.

Period.	Number of Legitimations.	Proportion per 100 Ex-Nuptial Births.
1903-1909	279	2.3
1910-1919	1,347	7.0
1920-1929	1,374	8.5
1930-1939	1,019	8.0
1940-1944	1,010	15.1
1945	139	9.4
1946	145	8.5

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 1946 the numbers of legitimations in the several States and in New Zealand during that year were as follows:— Victoria, 8.5; New South Wales, 9.6; Queensland, 15.5; South Australia, 5.8; Western Australia, 27.2; Tasmania, 32.8; and New Zealand, 27.5.

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 1946.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Births.	Average Annual Number of Ex-nuptial Births.			Percentage of Total Births.
		Male.	Female.	Total.	
1910-14	34,500	1,013	979	1,992	5.77
1915-19	33,101	941	912	1,853	5.60
1920-24	36,022	869	821	1,690	4.69
1925-29	34,892	806	752	1,558	4.47
1930-34	29,429	685	620	1,305	4.43
1935-39	29,467	613	615	1,228	4.17
1940-44	36,154	701	638	1,339	3.70
1945	41,200	773	713	1,486	3.61
1946	46,693	880	831	1,711	3.66

The proportion of ex-nuptial to total births declined in each quinquennial period from 1910 to 1945.

In 1913 the percentage of ex-nuptial to total births was 6·03; in 1946 the percentage was 3·66.

The percentages in the various States and in New Zealand in 1946 were as follows:—Victoria, 3·66; New South Wales, 4·39; Queensland, 5·96; South Australia, 3·07; Western Australia, 4·37; Tasmania, 4·19; Australia, 4·32, and New Zealand, 4·36.

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 1946.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Deaths.	Sex.		Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
		Males.	Females.	March.	June.	September.	December.	
1855-59 ..	7,653	4,768	2,885	*	*	*	*	17·78
1860-64 ..	10,210	6,001	4,209	3,257	2,658	2,093	2,202	18·44
1865-69 ..	11,035	6,374	4,661	3,385	2,938	2,243	2,469	16·93
1870-74 ..	10,978	6,365	4,613	3,232	2,744	2,461	2,541	14·56
1875-79 ..	13,289	7,567	5,722	4,016	3,567	2,831	2,875	16·45
1880-84 ..	12,820	7,324	5,496	3,512	3,167	3,013	3,128	14·40
1885-89 ..	16,200	9,307	6,893	4,591	3,912	3,689	4,008	15·87
1890-94 ..	16,886	9,716	7,170	4,643	4,108	3,977	4,158	14·62
1895-99 ..	16,350	9,227	7,123	4,324	3,957	3,808	4,261	13·81
1900-04 ..	15,457	8,686	6,771	3,921	3,750	3,992	3,794	12·84
1905-09 ..	14,932	8,296	6,636	3,805	3,539	3,917	3,671	11·93
1910-14 ..	15,705	8,616	7,089	3,873	3,875	4,137	3,820	11·57
1915-19 ..	16,283	8,860	7,423	3,781	4,172	4,467	3,863	11·38
1920-24 ..	16,375	8,781	7,594	3,846	4,166	4,503	3,860	10·40
1925-29 ..	16,674	8,969	7,705	3,770	4,213	4,602	4,089	9·67
1930-34 ..	17,180	9,175	8,005	3,814	4,214	4,822	4,330	9·50
1935-39 ..	18,994	10,109	8,885	4,043	4,780	5,630	4,541	10·23
1940-44 ..	20,904	11,009	9,895	4,389	5,142	6,338	5,035	10·71
1942 ..	21,973	11,520	10,453	4,521	5,475	6,729	5,248	11·21
1943 ..	21,327	11,192	10,135	4,464	5,360	6,503	5,000	10·81
1944 ..	20,502	10,644	9,858	4,358	5,212	6,129	4,803	10·30
1945 ..	20,496	10,647	9,849	4,360	5,150	5,894	5,092	10·21
1946 ..	21,534	11,280	10,254	4,736	5,273	6,012	5,513	10·63

* Not available.

The death rate gradually declined from 18·44 in 1860-64 to 9·50 in 1930-34 but, during the quinquennium 1935-39, it rose to 10·23. This was followed by a further rise to 10·71 during the quinquennium 1940-44. The lowest death rate (8·93) in the history of the State was recorded in 1930. In 1946 the rate was 10·63.

The number of deaths in 1946 was 21,534, which was 589 more than the average of the preceding five years.

The number in 1942 was the highest on record for the State.

In 1946 there were 1,100 male to every 1,000 female deaths, the average for the preceding five years being 1,096. The corresponding proportion of male to female births in the quinquennium was 1,054.

The following statement shows the death rate per 1,000 of the population in each of the Australian States and in New Zealand for each of the five years 1942 to 1946 :—

DEATH RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND,
1942 TO 1946.

Year.	Vic- toria.	New South Wales.	Queens- land.	South Aus- tralia.	Western Aus- tralia.	Tas- mania.	Aus- tralia.	New Zealand.
1942	11·21	10·32	9·29	11·02	10·65	10·08	10·48	10·60
1943	10·81	10·10	10·10	10·57	9·62	10·40	10·30	10·04
1944	10·30	9·23	8·84	9·66	9·30	10·15	9·52	9·87
1945	10·21	9·25	8·79	9·64	9·66	9·71	9·50	10·07
1946	10·63	9·70	9·77	10·17	9·64	10·11	10·00	9·70

In 1946 the death rate in England and Wales was 11·5.

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, in cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and in the remainder of the State, for the five-year periods 1928 to 1932, 1933 to 1937, 1938 to 1942, and for the year 1946 :—

Death rates in municipalities.

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

Municipality.	Annual Number of Deaths.				Deaths per 1,000 of Mean Population.			
	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1946.	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1946.
Greater Melbourne—								
Melbourne	1,091	1,120	1,204	1,177	11.57	12.42	12.79	11.84
Box Hill	125	155	179	201	8.81	9.99	10.33	9.57
Braybrook (Part) .. .	56	58	75	101	6.70	6.57	7.26	7.37
Brighton	272	316	366	430	9.22	10.33	10.61	10.97
Brunswick	532	560	601	595	9.57	10.30	10.83	10.42
Camberwell	430	494	641	723	8.87	9.49	10.07	9.67
Caulfield	552	656	767	876	8.72	9.87	10.69	11.07
Chelsea	63	83	93	128	9.24	12.02	12.48	11.38
Coburg	287	317	367	412	8.06	8.19	8.68	8.46
Collingwood	363	377	399	366	11.36	12.47	13.19	12.26
Essendon	429	484	543	587	9.30	10.46	11.12	10.77
Fitzroy	446	452	502	487	13.77	14.74	16.22	15.08
Footscray	402	425	487	561	8.79	9.12	9.24	10.13
Hawthorn	357	409	467	504	10.67	11.90	12.56	12.57
Heidelberg (Part) .. .	193	210	257	281	7.91	8.66	9.31	8.34
Kew	220	246	276	337	9.08	10.06	10.05	11.01
Malvern	404	489	562	649	9.23	11.07	12.15	13.26
Moorabbin	130	157	178	205	7.55	8.39	8.18	7.36
Mordialloc	85	94	126	117	8.86	9.67	11.87	8.30
Northcote	369	408	450	509	8.77	9.59	10.30	11.35
Oakleigh	101	115	130	141	8.72	9.49	9.91	8.95
Port Melbourne	197	156	152	155	10.26	12.08	11.30	10.92
Prahran	628	662	757	796	11.96	12.56	13.49	13.36
Preston	242	267	306	384	8.20	8.29	8.25	8.35
Richmond	464	465	490	497	11.20	11.73	12.24	12.55
Sandringham	161	177	224	244	9.08	9.63	11.10	9.57
South Melbourne	436	507	543	538	11.09	11.78	12.55	12.35
St. Kilda	452	538	660	729	9.84	11.09	12.62	12.55
Williamstown	211	219	262	249	9.63	9.81	11.15	9.50
Cities and Principal Towns outside Melbourne—								
Ballarat	475	501	565	544	12.28	13.23	14.56	13.61
Bendigo	421	441	463	469	13.08	14.93	15.30	15.30
Geelong	455	463	484	544	10.40	11.70	11.90	12.68
Ararat	†	63	60	59	..	12.79	11.44	10.05
Castlemaine	† 73	64	69	66	10.61	12.20	12.87	11.59
Colac	†	54	63	72	..	10.42	10.70	11.47
Echuca	†	49	54	48	..	11.01	12.11	10.71
Hamilton	59	62	66	81	10.35	10.60	10.34	11.53
Horsham	†	62	60	71	..	11.72	10.45	11.31
Maryborough	59	73	74	71	10.66	12.98	12.75	11.65
Mildura	59	80	88	87	9.05	11.74	11.17	9.43
Sale	†	54	54	59	..	12.59	11.92	11.68
Shepparton	55	77	78	71	9.96	13.29	12.19	9.25
Stawell	51	53	64	58	10.87	10.98	13.19	12.05
Swan Hill .. .. .	..	†	..	57	..	..	..	13.41
Wangaratta	†	62	62	63	..	12.81	11.27	9.67
Warrnambool	91	97	97	102	10.46	10.81	10.30	10.30
Wonthaggi	47	50	52	54	7.45	8.17	10.40	12.93
Summary—								
Greater Melbourne .. .	9,688	10,616	12,069	12,979	9.74	10.56	11.24	10.95
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	1,845	2,305	2,453	2,576	11.22	12.45	12.76	12.45
Remainder of State .. .	5,311	5,469	5,841	5,979	8.53	8.44	9.11	9.43
Victoria	16,844	18,390	20,363	21,534	9.45	10.00	10.68	10.63

† Included in Remainder of State.

Particulars of the residence of persons who died in the public institutions of Victoria give a definite indication of the assistance rendered by such 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 1946 :—

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS, OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1946.

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	411	102	34·92	8·67	43·59	5·30
Box Hill	30	15	14·93	7·46	22·39	2·15
Braybrook (Part) ..	41	3	40·59	2·97	43·56	3·21
Brighton	72	16	16·74	3·72	20·46	2·25
Brunswick	147	38	24·70	6·39	31·09	3·24
Camberwell	107	35	14·80	4·84	19·64	1·90
Caulfield	167	44	19·06	5·02	24·08	2·67
Chelsea	33	7	25·78	5·47	31·25	3·55
Coburg	98	25	23·78	6·07	29·85	2·53
Collingwood	111	20	30·33	5·46	35·79	4·41
Essendon	116	39	19·76	6·64	26·40	2·84
Fitzroy	158	45	32·44	9·24	41·68	6·34
Footscray	175	22	31·19	3·92	35·11	3·56
Hawthorn	94	26	18·65	5·16	23·81	2·99
Heidelberg (Part) ..	80	16	28·47	5·69	34·16	2·97
Kew	55	17	16·32	5·04	21·36	2·46
Malvern	99	32	15·25	4·93	20·18	2·68
Moorabbin	46	14	22·44	6·83	29·27	2·21
Mordialloc	22	8	18·80	6·84	25·64	2·13
Northcote	111	42	21·81	8·25	30·06	3·43
Oakleigh	24	8	17·02	5·67	22·69	2·03
Port Melbourne	55	11	35·48	7·10	42·58	4·65
Prahran	206	58	25·88	7·29	33·17	4·43
Preston	79	31	20·57	8·07	28·64	2·49
Richmond	128	51	25·75	10·26	36·01	4·52
Sandringham	51	10	20·90	4·10	25·00	2·39
South Melbourne	160	38	29·74	7·06	36·80	4·57
St. Kilda	187	36	25·65	4·94	30·59	3·84
Williamstown	82	17	32·93	6·83	39·76	3·79

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS, OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1946—*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	149	64	27·39	11·76	39·15	5·31
Bendigo	137	37	29·21	7·89	37·10	5·67
Geelong	162	35	29·78	6·43	36·21	4·43
Ararat	24	6	40·68	10·17	50·85	5·05
Castlemaine ..	34	7	51·51	10·61	62·12	7·08
Colac	41	3	56·94	4·17	61·11	6·93
Echuca	20	5	41·67	10·41	52·08	5·58
Hamilton	39	4	48·15	4·94	53·09	6·01
Horsham	37	3	52·11	4·23	56·34	6·29
Maryborough ..	36	3	50·70	4·23	54·93	6·30
Mildura	44	3	50·57	3·45	54·02	4·97
Sale	26	5	44·07	8·47	52·54	6·08
Shepparton ..	32	6	45·07	8·45	53·52	4·84
Stawell	19	4	32·76	6·90	39·66	4·76
Wangaratta ..	28	6	44·44	9·52	53·96	5·13
Warmambool ..	46	5	45·10	4·90	50·00	5·12
Wonthaggi ..	20	5	37·04	9·26	46·30	5·95
SUMMARY—						
Greater Melbourne ..	3,145	826	24·23	6·36	30·59	3·35
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	894	201	35·49	7·98	43·47	5·33
Remainder of State	1,985	276	32·89	4·57	37·46	3·56
Victoria	6,024	1,303	27·97	6·05	34·02	3·62

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

—	1910-14.	1920-24.	1925-29.	1930-34.	1945.	1946.
Greater Melbourne ..	24·3	27·0	29·5	27·7	24·7	24·2
Remainder of State ..	17·0	21·2	23·7	26·3	32·8	33·7
Victoria	20·4	24·3	27·0	27·1	27·9	28·0

In 1946 the number of deaths in all public institutions was 7,327, of which 3,971 were of residents of Greater Melbourne.

Deaths in metropolitan public institutions.

The number of deaths in certain metropolitan public institutions in 1946 is given in the subjoined table :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS IN CERTAIN METROPOLITAN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1946.

Institution.	No. of Deaths.	Institution.	No. of Deaths.
HOSPITALS—GENERAL—		SANATORIA—	
Royal Melbourne	853	Heatherton	27
Alfred	671	Greenvale	13
Hamilton Russell Com- munity	16	Gresswell	16
Children's	276	Total Sanatoria	56
St. Vincent's	544	BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS—	
Austin	167	Melbourne (Cheltenham)	
Heidelberg House	37	Asylum	170
Women's	192	Mount Royal	139
Prince Henry's	321	Convent of Little Sisters of the Poor	86
Infectious Diseases	47	Old Colonists' Homes	5
Queen Victoria	167	Total Benevolent Institu- tions	400
Jessie McPherson Com- munity	23	FOUNDLING HOMES, REFUGES—	
Williamstown	60	Broadmeadows	1
Caulfield Convalescent	10	East Melbourne	1
Eye and Ear	8	The Haven, Fitzroy	3
Police	2	Berwick .. ..	..
After Care Home	1	Total Refuges, &c.	5
Total General Hospitals	3,395	Total Hospitals and other Institutions	4,225
HOSPITALS—MENTAL—			
Janefield	4		
Kew	108		
Mont Park	120		
Receiving House, Royal Park	137		
Total Mental Hospitals	369		

Of the 4,225 deaths in the above institutions, 2,368 were of males and 1,857 were of females.

In Greater Melbourne, in the decade 1937-46, there was an average of 10.99 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 53,000 lives in the last ten years. A comparison of the death rates from tubercular and certain other diseases for the period 1937-46 with those for the decennium 1892-1901 is shown in the following table :—

DEATH RATES—GREATER MELBOURNE.

Cause of Death.	Average Annual Deaths per 1,000,000 of Population.		
	1892-1901.	1937-46.	Decrease.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	1,654	421	1,233
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	446	48	398
Typhoid Fever	293	4	289
Scarlet Fever	33	5	28
Measles	215	7	208
Diphtheria	196	21	175
Total	2,837	506	2,331

The figures show that the mortality from the six diseases mentioned declined by 82 per cent.—the decline representing a rate of 2,331 per million of the population.

The mortality from all causes showed a net decline of 4,770 per million of the population.

The mortality of children under one year, in proportion to births, reveals a constant decline since 1890—the deaths per 1,000 children born having fallen from 133 in 1885-89 to 33 in 1942-46—a reduction of 75 per cent. In other words, where 100 infants died in the earlier period, only 25 died in the latter.

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

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

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1880 TO 1946.

Period.	Greater Melbourne.		Remainder of State.		Victoria.	
	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Average Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.	Rate per 1,000 Births.
1880-84 ..	1,649	170·1	1,626	92·3	3,275	120·0
1885-89 ..	2,576	178·5	1,812	97·9	4,388	133·3
1890-94 ..	2,311	140·4	1,926	94·9	4,237	114·7
1895-99 ..	1,650	131·5	1,913	100·0	3,563	112·5
1900-04 ..	1,417	116·5	1,565	86·2	2,982	98·2
1905-09 ..	1,209	96·5	1,307	71·5	2,516	81·2
1910-14 ..	1,345	84·2	1,201	64·9	2,546	73·8
1915-19 ..	1,302	76·2	886	55·4	2,188	66·1
1920-24 ..	1,328	71·6	1,024	58·6	2,352	65·3
1925-29 ..	1,034	58·4	863	50·2	1,897	54·4
1930-34 ..	674	47·3	618	40·7	1,292	43·9
1935-39 ..	543	37·9	574	37·9	1,117	37·9
1940-44 ..	738	36·4	594	37·5	1,332	36·8
<hr/>						
1942 ..	887	43·8	609	38·9	1,496	41·6
1943 ..	787	34·1	612	38·2	1,399	35·8
1944 ..	705	31·0	553	33·3	1,258	32·0
1945 ..	637	26·9	518	29·6	1,155	28·0
1946 ..	729	27·0	539	27·3	1,268	27·2

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

During the decade 1937-46 the infantile death rate was subject to considerable fluctuation. In 1937 it fell below 40 per 1,000 births for the first time on record. The rate in 1937 was 36·7; in 1942 the highest rate (41·6) for the decade was experienced. Each year after 1942 a decrease was recorded, and new low records were established in 1944, 1945, and 1946. The rate in 1946 was 27·2.

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

of the State for the five-year periods 1928-32, 1933-37, 1938-42, and for the years 1945 and 1946 were as follows:—

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

Municipality.	Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.					Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.				
	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1945.	1946.	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1938-1942.	1945.	1946.
Greater Melbourne										
Melbourne ..	86	55	53	45	49	63.95	48.45	42.25	26.33	24.10
Box Hill ..	10	8	10	10	11	37.04	38.25	32.77	22.47	20.95
Braybrook (Part) ..	6	8	7	6	16	33.19	49.68	36.36	20.91	41.13
Brighton ..	15	11	16	17	17	39.11	30.15	29.57	22.67	20.41
Brunswick ..	60	32	37	46	35	61.63	40.23	39.61	38.04	25.02
Camberwell ..	30	26	39	44	40	34.68	33.74	31.90	27.83	23.27
Caulfield ..	39	27	37	49	41	41.87	33.47	33.55	30.68	23.92
Chelsea ..	6	5	4	7	13	47.32	43.12	26.96	30.84	42.48
Coburg ..	33	26	27	23	26	44.47	40.38	34.80	21.56	21.70
Collingwood ..	38	28	22	13	19	71.78	57.27	43.75	21.04	24.74
Essendon ..	33	23	30	38	38	42.83	40.51	37.29	29.90	28.23
Fitzroy ..	41	26	27	22	23	79.33	56.98	52.04	32.88	29.41
Footscray ..	41	29	34	19	44	47.34	40.99	39.66	17.10	35.17
Hawthorn ..	16	18	22	9	28	37.23	44.31	38.76	10.61	31.60
Heidelberg (Part)	20	11	18	17	18	49.37	32.37	37.83	26.90	23.41
Kew ..	15	9	13	9	17	43.66	30.32	33.14	16.79	27.29
Malvern ..	19	17	19	17	26	38.91	35.71	32.55	18.22	27.00
Moorabbin ..	14	14	16	9	17	34.17	37.93	35.86	15.05	25.72
Mordialloc ..	8	7	8	11	11	55.48	54.55	39.27	37.41	30.99
Northcote ..	38	24	24	30	33	51.73	41.65	35.87	32.75	31.19
Oakleigh ..	12	9	6	14	8	46.18	43.36	23.00	37.04	19.32
Port Melbourne ..	16	11	7	8	11	71.24	56.91	36.24	31.87	35.37
Prahran ..	41	29	27	42	35	58.62	46.44	33.08	35.62	26.38
Preston ..	31	23	28	21	28	44.08	40.29	39.66	21.92	26.39
Richmond ..	46	29	25	21	31	65.53	49.27	38.79	26.82	32.02
Sandringham ..	10	9	10	15	11	35.95	37.04	30.62	32.75	19.16
South Melbourne ..	47	30	28	26	32	70.87	54.77	46.46	34.75	34.48
St. Kilda ..	22	22	31	32	30	41.67	43.78	43.27	29.74	25.49
Williamstown ..	19	13	14	17	21	44.44	38.63	35.64	29.46	33.55
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne—										
Ballarat ..	34	25	29	21	26	51.84	41.62	46.05	27.70	29.71
Bendigo ..	33	22	24	19	23	60.00	40.32	42.73	31.83	34.38
Geelong ..	49	34	30	30	30	58.56	48.77	41.32	33.94	31.45
Ararat ..	†	4	2	6	4	..	40.85	21.15	53.08	32.00
Castlemaine ..	5	4	3	3	..	47.80	38.62	32.69	25.86	..
Colac ..	†	5	4	4	7	..	45.63	28.71	24.54	42.68
Echuca ..	†	6	3	3	5	..	62.50	31.89	..	50.00
Hamilton ..	5	4	5	3	5	34.63	37.61	34.68	19.35	22.94
Horsham ..	†	5	4	3	11	..	40.95	31.90	27.03	65.09
Maryborough ..	5	5	4	3	4	45.84	41.59	35.12	..	28.78
Mildura ..	9	8	8	5	9	47.83	37.68	30.72	23.92	32.03
Sale ..	†	2	3	1	5	..	27.97	30.36	8.40	39.37
Shepparton ..	8	8	8	17	12	54.16	54.50	45.65	72.65	50.85
Stawell ..	3	4	3	5	5	28.26	47.06	30.52	54.35	46.30
Swan Hill ..	†	†	†	9	6	..	..	..	85.71	57.69
Wangaratta ..	†	7	8	3	7	..	63.91	66.56	25.00	45.16
Warrnambool ..	9	6	7	7	6	52.33	34.32	35.97	33.65	22.81
Wonthaggi ..	8	5	3	5	3	53.67	50.66	40.72	44.24	32.26
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	812	579	639	637	729	50.94	42.55	37.24	26.87	27.04
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	168	154	148	141	168	53.24	43.95	39.65	32.70	34.28
Remainder of State	535	437	438	377	371	42.12	38.24	37.38	28.60	25.02
Victoria ..	1,515	1,170	1,225	1,155	1,268	47.65	41.00	37.55	28.03	27.16

† Included in remainder of State.

The decrease in the infantile death rate, since the earlier periods, has been shared proportionally by each age-group except that of "under one week". The rate per 1,000 births for infants "under one week" has varied from 21.5 in the quinquennium 1910-14 to 22.7 in 1925-29 and 18.1 in 1942-46. The rate for infants "one week and under one month" declined from 11.1 in 1910-14 to 4.9 in 1942-46, a decrease of 56 per cent., and that for infants "one month and under one year" from 41.2 to 9.5, a decrease of 77 per cent. Between the ages of one month and one year Victoria lost 64 out of every 1,000 children born in 1900-04, 33 in 1915-19, and nine in 1942-46. In 1946 the mortality of infants "under one week" comprised 62 per cent. of the total infantile mortality.

The rate for male infants is consistently higher than that for females and in 1942-46 exceeded the female rate by 22.6 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 1946 :—

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES, 1900 TO 1946.

Period.	Deaths Under One Year per 1,000 Births.						Males.	Females.
	Under One Week.	One Week and under One Month.	One Month and under Three Months.	Three Months and under Six Months.	Six Months and under Twelve Months.	Total under One Year.		
1900-04 ..		34.4	16.9	21.0	25.9	98.2	105.7	90.4
1905-09 ..		33.0	13.8	15.1	19.3	81.2	89.3	72.6
1910-14 ..	21.5	11.1	12.1	12.4	16.7	73.8	81.8	65.3
1915-19 ..	23.3	10.1	10.5	9.4	12.8	66.1	73.0	58.7
1920-24 ..	23.7	9.3	9.8	10.0	12.5	65.3	71.8	58.5
1925-29 ..	22.7	7.7	6.9	6.7	10.4	54.4	60.7	47.6
1930-34 ..	22.3	5.5	4.8	4.6	6.7	43.9	49.2	38.4
1935-39 ..	21.1	5.1	3.7	2.9	5.1	37.9	42.0	33.6
1940-44 ..	19.8	5.6	4.0	3.2	4.2	36.8	41.0	32.5
1942 ..	20.2	7.5	4.3	3.9	5.7	41.6	45.7	37.4
1943 ..	17.6	6.3	4.2	3.4	4.3	35.8	39.8	31.5
1944 ..	18.8	4.3	3.3	2.5	3.1	32.0	34.9	28.9
1945 ..	17.6	3.5	2.4	1.9	2.6	28.0	31.6	24.3
1946 ..	16.8	3.4	2.4	2.1	2.5	27.2	29.0	25.2

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES,
MALES AND FEMALES, 1946.

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 ..	427	17.70	61.09	359	15.90	63.09
1 week and under						
1 month ..	82	3.40	11.73	75	3.32	13.18
1 month and under						
3 months ..	62	2.57	8.87	48	2.13	8.44
3 months and under						
6 months ..	55	2.28	7.87	43	1.91	7.56
6 months and under						
12 months ..	73	3.03	10.44	44	1.95	7.73
Total under one year ..	699	28.98	100.00	569	25.21	100.00

An examination of the principal causes of infantile mortality over a period of years and at various ages reveals the direction in which improvement has been achieved, and discloses those causes and factors to which future investigations need to be directed if the decline in the rate is to be maintained. The infant mortality rates from the principal causes for certain periods since 1890 and for the years 1944, 1945 and 1946 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.	1944.	1945.	1946.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	12.41	7.31	4.87	3.57	1.12	0.97	0.90
Bronchitis Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	11.37	8.13	6.86	6.08	3.99	3.45	3.45
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	29.66	24.62	16.13	9.85	1.49	0.90	1.31
Congenital Malformations (157) ..	3.45	4.86	4.38	4.43	4.29	3.54	3.56
Congenital Debility (158) ..	22.24	12.74	13.09	6.77	0.97	0.53	0.56
Prematurity (159) ..	13.13	14.99	15.17	15.34	10.65	9.61	8.39
Injury at Birth (160) ..				2.57	3.02	3.45	3.45
Other Diseases of Early Infancy (161) ..	21.51	12.77	7.98	3.42	3.56	3.28	3.32
Other Diseases ..				4.42	2.11	1.55	1.32
Violence ..	3.16	2.47	1.07	0.80	0.76	0.75	0.90
Total, all Causes ..	116.93	87.89	69.55	57.25	31.96	28.03	27.16

VICTORIA—INFANTILE DEATH RATES, AT VARIOUS AGES,
FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1946.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.									
	Age Period.						Total.	Males.	Females.	Average Annual Rate, 1942-46.
	Under 1 Week.	1 Week and under 1 Month.	1 Month and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 12 Months.					
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	0·04	0·04	0·17	0·28	0·37	0·90	0·87	0·93	1·58	
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	0·69	0·75	0·75	0·49	0·77	3·45	3·73	3·15	4·34	
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	0·02	0·30	0·43	0·32	0·24	1·31	1·45	1·15	1·60	
Congenital Malformations (157) ..	1·80	0·62	0·28	0·41	0·45	3·56	3·86	3·23	3·98	
Congenital Debility (158)	0·43	0·04	0·09	..	..	0·56	0·46	0·67	0·87
Prematurity (159) ..	7·62	0·64	0·13	..	..	8·39	8·62	8·15	10·46
Injury at Birth (160) ..	3·11	0·21	0·09	0·02	0·02	3·45	3·81	3·06	3·32	
Other Diseases of early Infancy (161) ..	2·76	0·50	0·04	..	0·02	3·32	3·40	3·23	3·60	
Other Diseases ..	0·17	0·17	0·19	0·30	0·49	1·32	1·58	1·06	1·99	
Violence ..	0·19	0·09	0·19	0·28	0·15	0·90	1·20	0·58	0·77	
Total, all causes ..	16·83	3·36	2·36	2·10	2·51	27·16	28·98	25·21	32·51	
Average Annual Rate, 1942-46 ..	18·14	4·89	3·26	2·69	3·53	32·51	35·70	29·13	..	

The mortality of infants under one year from pre-natal causes (malformations, congenital debility, prematurity, injury at birth, &c.) was 22·2 per 1,000 births in the period 1942-46 and represented 68 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 1946 was 19·3 of which 82 per cent. occurred in the first week of life.

The mortality from the chief preventable diseases—infectious, respiratory, and diarrhoeal—has declined from 40·1 per 1,000 births in 1901-10 to 27·9 in 1911-20 and 7·5 in 1942-46. Deaths from diarrhoeal diseases declined from 24·6 per 1,000 births in 1901-10 to 1·6 in 1942-46, the main respiratory diseases from 8·1 to 4·3 and the infectious from 7·3 to 1·6. It will thus be seen that, since the beginning of the century, mortality of infants from diarrhoeal diseases has been reduced by 93 per cent.; the main respiratory diseases by 47 per cent.; and the infectious by 78 per cent. Of recent years respiratory diseases have displaced diarrhoeal 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 1942 to 1946 :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE MONTH,
1942 TO 1946.

GREATER MELBOURNE AND WHOLE STATE.

Cause of Death.	Greater Melbourne.					Victoria.				
	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases	3	1	..	2	2	9	2	..	2	4
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia	50	49	29	39	49	71	70	46	49	67
Diarrhoeal Diseases	9	17	11	8	12	15	23	21	11	15
Malformations, &c. (157)	60	52	59	55	54	106	93	120	102	113
Wasting Diseases (158)	15	18	11	4	12	30	32	30	17	22
Prematurity (159)	268	254	249	211	218	481	408	411	393	386
Injury at Birth (160)	73	66	65	78	92	120	121	117	140	155
Other Diseases of Early Infancy (161)	80	81	67	78	88	126	154	134	134	152
Other Diseases	23	18	11	10	6	32	30	23	16	16
Violence	5	4	6	3	9	7	5	9	6	13
Total, all Causes	586	560	508	488	542	997	938	911	870	943
Deaths per 1,000 Births..	28·9	24·2	22·3	20·6	20·1	27·7	23·9	23·1	21·1	20·2

**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 of the (Commonwealth) *Social Services Consolidation Act*, 1947, cases are notified to registrars. After careful inquiry it can be stated that the percentage of stillbirths not notified is very small.

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

**VICTORIA—STILLBIRTHS (RECORDED) AND INFANT
MORTALITY, 1937 TO 1946.**

Year.	Percentage of Stillbirths to—		Deaths of Infants under One Year per 1,000 Births.			
	Living Births.	All Births.	Exclusive of Stillbirths.			*Inclusive of Stillbirths.
			Under One Month.	One Month and under Twelve Months.	Total under One Year.	
1937 ..	2·7	2·6	26·1	10·6	36·7	61·6
1938 ..	3·0	2·9	24·7	9·5	34·2	61·9
1939 ..	2·8	2·7	26·1	9·5	35·6	62·1
1940 ..	2·8	2·7	26·5	13·0	39·5	65·6
1941 ..	2·8	2·7	26·0	10·2	36·2	62·1
1942 ..	2·6	2·5	27·7	13·9	41·6	66·3
1943 ..	2·6	2·5	23·9	11·9	35·8	60·4
1944 ..	2·3	2·3	23·1	8·9	32·0	54·2
1945 ..	2·4	2·3	21·1	6·9	28·0	50·6
1946 ..	2·2	2·1	20·2	7·0	27·2	48·0

* 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.

On the average of the last ten years, 52 in every 1,000 ex-nuptial infants died within a year, as against 34 in every 1,000 nuptial children. The proportion of ex-nuptial children who died before the age of one year is, therefore, 1·5 times that of nuptial children. In the year 1946 the mortality rate of nuptial infants was 26·9 per 1,000 births. Births and deaths of ex-nuptial children numbered 1,711 and 57 respectively, the death rate being thus 33·3 per 1,000 births. The mortality rates of the two classes are shown in the following table:—

**Nuptial and
ex-nuptial
infantile
death rates.**

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.	1946.	1904-08.	1914-18.	1924-28.	1946.
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	6·9	6·1	5·9	3·4	18·6	12·5	13·0	4·1
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	19·8	14·2	8·9	1·2	72·6	48·6	23·1	5·3
Prematurity, Congenital Malformations, Marasmus, &c.* ..	30·3	27·2	25·0	12·6	52·1	64·9	46·9	9·9
Other Causes ..	18·3	15·3	14·7	9·7	58·7	36·6	29·3	14·0
Total, all Causes	75·3	62·8	54·5	26·9	202·0	162·6	112·3	33·3

* 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, 6·7 died from diarrhoeal diseases within a year, as compared with 1·4 deaths per 1,000 nuptial infants from the same cause. The rates from the respiratory diseases (bronchitis, broncho-pneumonia, and pneumonia) for ex-nuptial and nuptial children were 9·2 and 4·1 per 1,000 births respectively.

In 1946 pre-natal causes (malformations, congenital debility, prematurity, injury at birth, &c.) accounted for 26 deaths, or 46 per cent. of the total deaths of ex-nuptial infants.

Infantile mortality . The following statement shows the infantile death rate per 1,000 births in each of the Australian States and **Australian States and New Zealand.** in New Zealand, for the years 1942 to 1946 :—

INFANTILE DEATH RATE—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1942 TO 1946.

Year.	Vic-toria.	New South Wales.	Queens-land.	South Aus-tralia.	Western Aus-tralia.	Tas-man-ia.	Aus-tralia.	New Zealand.
1942..	41·64	40·19	34·73	39·72	36·86	42·41	39·50	28·71
1943..	35·76	36·18	37·79	36·67	32·63	40·56	36·26	31·37
1944..	31·96	30·68	31·32	29·07	32·57	38·27	31·34	30·12
1945..	28·03	30·63	29·76	28·08	29·52	27·48	29·38	27·99
1946..	27·16	30·22	29·27	27·07	31·06	30·23	29·01	26·10

In the year 1946, the infantile mortality rates recorded for the Australian States showed that South Australia had the lowest rate and Western Australia the highest.

The infantile deaths per 1,000 births in the following capital cities in 1946 were:—Melbourne, 27·0; Sydney, 24·7; Brisbane, 25·7; Adelaide, 27·9; Perth, 25·0; Hobart, 27·9; and Wellington, 25·2.

Deaths of children under 5 years.

In 1946 the deaths of male and of female children in Victoria under 5 years of age numbered 826 and 682 respectively.

Ages at death.

The ages of males and of females who died in each of the years 1944 to 1946 are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—AGES AT DEATH, 1944 TO 1946.

Ages.	1944.			1945.			1946.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year..	702	556	1,258	670	485	1,155	699	569	1,268
1 year ..	74	54	128	51	42	93	53	43	101
2 years ..	46	33	79	38	15	53	30	24	54
3 years ..	22	13	35	33	27	60	22	19	41
4 years ..	21	19	40	30	19	49	17	27	44
5 to 9 years	84	45	129	81	41	122	45	53	98
10 " 14 "	70	55	125	66	37	103	45	29	74
15 " 19 "	103	87	190	126	60	186	95	61	156
20 " 24 "	82	120	202	75	98	173	121	97	218
25 " 29 "	92	137	229	87	122	209	120	128	248
30 " 34 "	142	156	298	120	150	270	146	140	286
35 " 39 "	154	166	320	170	172	342	181	184	365
40 " 44 "	262	241	503	259	226	485	275	212	487
45 " 49 "	398	330	728	391	339	730	435	344	779
50 " 54 "	614	463	1,077	613	491	1,104	637	480	1,117
55 " 59 "	811	595	1,406	844	576	1,420	893	634	1,527
60 " 64 "	1,088	787	1,875	1,036	755	1,791	1,092	775	1,867
65 " 69 "	1,175	981	2,156	1,259	1,011	2,270	1,298	1,020	2,318
70 " 74 "	1,381	1,298	2,679	1,336	1,236	2,572	1,387	1,311	2,698
75 " 79 "	1,472	1,457	2,929	1,468	1,535	3,003	1,539	1,498	3,037
80 " 84 "	1,145	1,311	2,456	1,146	1,375	2,521	1,273	1,431	2,704
85 " 89 "	559	689	1,248	584	794	1,378	648	874	1,522
90 " 94 "	117	216	333	135	193	328	194	256	450
95 years ..	10	16	26	9	19	28	9	16	25
96 " ..	6	9	18	6	11	17	7	9	16
97 " ..	9	6	12	8	5	13	5	9	14
98 " ..	1	5	6	3	5	8	3	5	8
99 " ..	2	5	7	1	4	5	2	2	4
100 " ..	..	..	..	..	2	2	1	3	4
101 " ..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..
103 " ..	1	1	2	1	2	3	..	..	..
104 " ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
Unknown ..	..	1	1	1	..	1	3	..	3
Total ..	10,644	9,858	20,502	10,647	9,849	20,496	11,280	10,254	21,534

Of the 62,532 persons who died in Victoria during the last three years 13,173 (or approximately 21 per cent.) were aged 80 years and upwards, and 20—eight males and twelve females—were stated as having attained or passed the age of 100 years. In 1896 deaths of persons aged 80 years and over represented about 5 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.

The causes of death in Victoria and in Greater Melbourne according to the international abridged classification (1938 revision) for the year 1946 are shown in the following table:—

International Abridged Classification. (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses.)	Deaths—1946.			
	Victoria.		Greater Melbourne.	
	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.
1. Typhoid and-Paratyphoid Fevers (1, 2) ..	2	0.99	1	0.84
2. Plague (3) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
3. Scarlet Fever (8)	3	1.48	2	1.69
4. Whooping Cough (9)	11	5.43	6	5.06
5. Diphtheria (10)	17	8.39	11	9.28
6. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System (13)	650	320.83	445	375.53
7A. Tuberculosis of the Meninges and Central Nervous System (14)	18	8.88	7	5.91
7B. All other forms of Tuberculosis (15-22) ..	43	21.22	25	21.10
8. Malaria (28)	2	0.99	1	0.84
9. Syphilis (30)	103	50.84	84	70.89
10A. Influenza with Respiratory Complications (33A)	34	16.78	12	10.13
10B. Influenza without Respiratory Complica- tions (33B)	18	8.88	6	5.06
11. Smallpox (34) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
12. Measles (35)	13	6.41	2	1.69
13. Typhus Fever (39) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
14. Other Infectious or Parasitic Diseases ..	155	76.50	85	71.73
15. Cancer and other Malignant Tumours (45-55)	2,836	1,399.80	1,793	1,513.08
16. Non-malignant Tumours or Tumours of Undetermined Nature (56, 57)	117	57.75	69	58.23
17. Chronic Rheumatism and Gout (59, 60) ..	70	34.55	42	35.44
18. Diabetes Mellitus (61)	432	213.23	272	229.54
19. Chronic or Acute Alcoholism (77)	16	7.90	8	6.75
20. Vitamin-deficiency Diseases, other General Diseases, Diseases of the Blood, and Chronic Poisonings	246	121.42	134	113.08
21. Meningitis (non-meningococcal) and Diseases of the Medulla and Spinal Cord (81, 82) ..	66	32.58	34	28.69
22. Intra-cranial Lesions of Vascular Origin (83)	2,138	1,055.28	1,363	1,150.21
23. Other Diseases of the Nervous System and Sense Organs	179	88.35	109	91.98
24. Diseases of the Heart (90-95)	6,689	3,301.57	3,993	3,369.62
25. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	642	316.88	398	335.86
26A. Acute Bronchitis (106A and C)	31	15.30	11	9.28
26B. Chronic Bronchitis (106B and D)	140	69.10	87	73.42
27. Pneumonia and Broncho-pneumonia (107- 109)	1,246	615.01	769	648.94
28. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	262	129.32	136	114.77
29A. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years of age) (119)	72	35.54	53	44.73
29B. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (two years and over) (120)	46	22.71	25	21.10
30. Appendicitis (121)	86	42.45	51	43.04

International Abridged Classification. (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses.)	Deaths—1946.			
	Victoria.		Greater Melbourne.	
	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.
31A. Cirrhosis of Liver (124)	94	46·40	71	59·92
31B. Other Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Passages (125-127)	152	75·03	83	70·04
32A. Hernia, Intestinal Obstruction (122)	181	89·34	100	84·39
32B. Other Diseases of the Digestive System	265	130·80	181	152·74
33. Nephritis (130-132)	1,301	642·15	831	701·27
34. Other Diseases of the Genito-urinary sys- tem (133-139)	325	160·42	185	156·12
35. Puerperal Infection (140, 147)	31	15·30	17	14·35
36. Other Diseases of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium (141-146, 148-150)	41	20·24	22	18·56
37. Diseases of the Skin, Cellular Tissue, Bones, and Organs of Movement (151-156)	21	10·37	10	8·44
38. Congenital Malformations and Debility, Premature Birth, and Diseases peculiar to the First Year of Life (157-161)	939	463·48	523	441·35
39. Senility, Old-age (162)	706	348·47	354	298·73
40. Suicide (163, 164)	185	91·31	108	91·14
41. Homicide (165-168)	12	5·92	7	5·91
42. Automobile Accidents (all motor-driven road vehicles (170)	347	171·27	209	176·37
43. Other Violent or Accidental Deaths	506	249·75	233	196·62
44. Causes of Death Ill-defined, Unknown, or Unspecified (199, 200)	45	22·21	11	9·28
	21,534	10,628·82	12,979	10,952·74

Typhoid Fever. In 1946 deaths from typhoid fever numbered 2, being equivalent to a rate of 1·0 per million of population, as compared with rates of 3·0 in 1945, 2·0 in 1944, 13·6 in 1943, 1·5 in 1942, 31 in 1920-24, 108 in 1905-09, and 301 in 1895-99. Cases of typhoid fever reported in 1946 numbered 23 or 11 per million of population, as against 11 in 1945, 8 in 1944, 238 in 1943, 8 in 1942, 259 in 1920-24, 1,254 in 1905-09, and 2,884 in 1895-99.

The number of cases reported in 1944 was the lowest on record.

The Moorabbin outbreak in March accounted for 433 of the typhoid fever cases in 1943, and was responsible for 23 deaths.

Scarlet Fever. Scarlet fever, which has been steadily increasing since 1938, reached its highest incidence in recent years in 1944, but both the case fatality and the mortality per million of population are now very low.

In 1946, the deaths from scarlet fever numbered 3, which corresponded to a rate of 1·5 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 2 in 1945, 4 in 1944, 7 in 1943, 4 in 1942, and 8 in 1941. During 1946 there were 3,282 cases reported as against 2,710 in 1945, 7,824 in 1944, 6,020 in 1943, and 3,150 in 1942.

For the five years 1942-46 the deaths were less than 1 per cent. of the cases. Fifty-one per cent. of these deaths were of children under 10 years of age.

Whooping Cough. Whooping cough was responsible for 11 deaths in 1946, which equalled a rate of 5 per million of the population at all ages, as compared with rates of 7 in 1945, 9 in 1944, 12 in 1943, and 38 in 1942. 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 9 of the deaths were of infants under 1 year, and all of the deaths were of children under 5 years of age.

Diphtheria. A very great reduction has taken place since 1890 in the proportion of diphtheria cases which ended fatally. On the average of the five years 1942 to 1946, 50 per cent. of those who died were under 5 years, and 81 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 certain periods since 1894:—

**DIPHTHERIA IN VICTORIA AND IN GREATER MELBOURNE,
1895 TO 1946.**

Period.	Annual Cases Reported.		Annual Deaths.		Deaths per 100 Cases Reported.
	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	
VICTORIA.					
1895-99	1,584	134.6	221	18.8	13.9
1900-04	1,680	139.0	159	13.2	9.5
1905-09	1,410	112.6	89	7.1	6.3
1910-14	4,612	339.1	212	15.6	4.6
1915-19	4,901	342.5	209	14.6	4.3
1920-24	5,739	364.6	179	11.4	3.1
1925-29	3,176	183.8	93	5.4	2.9
1930-34	5,645	312.1	124	6.8	2.2
1935-39	3,202	171.5	65	3.5	2.0
1940-44	1,590	81.4	45	2.3	2.8
1942	1,308	66.5	47	2.4	3.6
1943	1,330	67.2	48	2.4	3.6
1944	1,247	62.4	34	1.7	2.7
1945	899	44.7	39	1.9	4.3
1946	496	24.5	17	0.8	3.4

DIPHTHERIA IN VICTORIA AND IN GREATER MELBOURNE, 1895 TO 1946—continued.

Period.	Annual Cases Reported.		Annual Deaths.		Deaths per 100 Cases Reported.
	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	Number.	Per 100,000 of Population.	
GREATER MELBOURNE.					
1895-99	748	162·1	113	24·6	15·1
1900-04	686	136·9	58	11·6	8·5
1905-09	758	140·8	46	8·5	6·1
1910-14	2,343	374·3	114	18·3	4·9
1915-19	2,864	402·6	127	17·9	4·4
1920-24	2,555	314·6	78	9·7	3·1
1925-29	1,843	191·1	52	5·4	2·8
1930-34	3,151	315·9	68	6·8	2·1
1935-39	1,864	182·4	36	3·5	1·9
1940-44	914	80·9	25	2·2	2·8
1942	718	62·7	23	2·0	3·2
1943	580	50·0	21	1·8	3·6
1944	635	54·0	18	1·5	2·8
1945	610	51·2	28	2·4	4·6
1946	276	23·3	11	0·9	4·0

The number of cases (493) reported in Victoria in 1946 was the lowest ever recorded, the incidence rate being 24·5 per 100,000 of population.

The cases of diphtheria which occurred in the metropolitan area, the three principal cities outside Greater Melbourne and in the remainder of the State in each of the five years 1942 to 1946, and their proportions to the respective populations for the period 1910-19 and the years 1944, 1945, and 1946, are given in the subjoined table:—

VICTORIA—CASES OF DIPHTHERIA.

Locality.	Reported Cases of Diphtheria.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.			
	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1910-19.	1944.	1945.	1946.
Greater Melbourne	718	580	635	610	276	39·3	5·4	5·1	2·3
Ballarat ..	26	25	7	4	5	24·3	1·8	1·0	1·2
Bendigo ..	80	88	60	29	21	84·6	19·4	9·4	6·8
Geelong ..	21	23	37	12	..	43·4	9·0	2·9	..
Remainder of State	463	614	508	244	194	25·7	7·1	3·4	2·7

Tuberculosis (all forms) The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1946 was 711, the rate per million of population being 351. This is the lowest rate recorded for Victoria.

Death rates from tuberculosis of the respiratory system. The deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1946 numbered 650—404 being of males and 246 of females—and equalled a rate of 321 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 323 in 1945, 340 in 1944, 323 in 1943, 402 in 1942, 660 in 1918—22, 855 in 1908—12, and 1,365 in 1890—92. In 1946 tuberculosis of the respiratory system was responsible for 91 per cent. of the total deaths from tuberculosis.

Deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system at various ages. The number of deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in each of the five years 1942 to 1946, and the ages and sexes of the deceased, are given in the next table:—

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

Age Group.	Males.					Females.				
	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
0-9	8	5	1	2	2	3	3	1	4	4
10-14	1	1	..	..	1	2	1	1	..	2
15-19	8	5	8	10	4	14	8	17	13	9
20-24	17	17	13	13	21	37	28	33	36	24
25-29	24	21	21	22	11	58	36	39	35	39
30-34	28	24	26	24	22	46	41	38	31	29
35-39	31	44	30	38	28	37	30	22	28	29
40-44	38	37	35	27	33	22	20	24	34	19
45-49	55	42	51	43	45	22	13	18	9	19
50-54	61	44	54	54	58	14	12	10	12	18
55-59	61	47	47	37	47	11	8	13	11	10
60-64	46	40	50	43	51	12	8	10	16	12
65-69	43	31	41	33	40	19	9	11	11	14
70 and over ..	39	52	45	36	41	34	13	20	27	18
Total ..	460	410	422	382	404	331	230	257	267	246

For the year 1946, the average age of those who died from tuberculosis of the respiratory system was 51·8 years for males and 41·4 years for females.

Tubercular diseases (tuberculosis of the respiratory system excepted.) In 1946 there occurred in Victoria 61 deaths from tubercular diseases (excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system). This number represented a rate of 30 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 40 in 1945, 37 in 1944, 53 in 1943, 45 in 1942, 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 in the mining centres of Ballarat and Bendigo—Bendigo in particular—than in the rural portions of the State.

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

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 ..	10·3	11·5	21·2	†	3·0	2·1	2·0	†	13·3	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	2·4	7·7	14·1	6·5
1926-30 ..	5·9	5·2	10·7	4·2	1·0	0·4	0·8	0·8	6·9	5·6	11·5	5·0
1942 ..	4·9	3·3	7·8	5·1	0·4	0·5	0·3	0·7	5·3	3·5	3·1	5·3
1943 ..	3·6	4·3	4·8	2·9	0·6	0·3	1·0	0·3	4·2	5·1	5·3	3·2
1944 ..	3·3	3·5	6·2	3·2	0·4	0·3	0·3	0·2	4·2	3·8	6·5	3·4
1945 ..	3·6	3·6	3·9	3·6	0·4	0·5	0·3	0·5	4·0	4·1	4·2	4·1
1946 ..	3·7	3·0	6·2	2·5	0·3	0·2	1·3	0·7	4·0	3·2	7·5	3·2

† Not available.

Influenza. The deaths from influenza in 1946 numbered 52. This corresponded to a rate of 26 per million of the population as compared with rates of 18 in 1945, 23 in 1944, 50 in 1943, 69 in 1942, 2,407 in 1919, 71 in 1913-17, 109 in 1908-12, and 381 in 1890-92.

The rate of mortality in 1946 was 33 per cent. below the rate of the previous quinquennium.

Of the deaths recorded in 1946, 65 per cent. were associated with specified respiratory complications.

Influenza has generally proved more fatal to elderly people than to those at middle or young ages. In the epidemic of 1919, however, 72 per cent. of the deaths were of persons between 20 and 50 years of age. In 1946, 38 per cent. of the deaths were of persons under 50 years of age.

**Small-pox—
Deaths from.** During the years 1853 to 1946, only 31 deaths occurred from this cause. The last death from small-pox in Victoria occurred in 1921.

Measles. Although the mortality from measles has varied very considerably from period to period, there has been no very severe epidemic since 1898, when 671 deaths resulted from the disease. There were 13 deaths from measles in 1946. Rates per million of population were 6 in 1946, 7 in 1945, 0 in 1944, 2 in 1943, and 37 in 1942. The disease chiefly affects children. On the average of the five years, 1942-46, 37 per cent. of those who died from the disease were under 2 years and 53 per cent. were under 5 years of age.

**Other
infectious
and parasitic
diseases.** Deaths in 1946 from diseases included under this heading (cause No. 14, on page 217) were cerebro-spinal meningitis 20, tetanus 8, septicaemia 15, dysentery 10, acute poliomyelitis 16, acute infectious encephalitis 9, hydatid disease 23, Hodgkin's disease 33, and other diseases 21.

**Cerebro-spinal
Meningitis.** Eighty-five cases were reported in 1946.

Deaths from cerebro-spinal meningitis numbered 20 in 1946, 21 in 1945, 23 in 1944, 76 in 1943, and 106 in 1942.

**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. In the 1937-38 epidemic there were 2,096 cases, the number of deaths being 113. Two hundred and forty-seven cases were reported in 1946.

Poliomyelitis was responsible for 16 deaths in 1946, 9 in 1945, 11 in 1944, 9 in 1943, 11 in 1942, 2 in 1941, 7 in 1940, 9 in 1939, 41 in 1938, and 77 in 1937.

Hydatids.

In 1946 there were 15 male and 8 female deaths from hydatids, of which 8 of males and 5 of females were attributed to hydatid tumour of the liver. The deaths from hydatids in 1946 were equivalent to a rate of 11 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 7 in 1945, 11 in 1944, 12 in 1943, 9 in 1942, 16 in 1918-22, 22 in 1908-12, and 51 in 1890-92.

**Cancer—
Death rates.**

Deaths from cancer in 1946 numbered 2,836, and represented a death rate of 1,400 per million of the whole population, as compared with rates of 1,367 in 1945, 1,331 in 1944, 1,380 in 1943, 1,355 in 1942, 934 in 1918-22, 833 in 1908-12, and 584 in 1890-92.

**Cancer—
Deaths at
certain ages.**

The number of deaths from cancer in certain age groups in each of the five years 1942 to 1946 is given below:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM CANCER AT CERTAIN AGES.

Age Group.	Males.					Females.				
	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.
0-14	5	10	5	9	4	3	4	3	7	9
15-24	3	5	5	4	8	7	7	8	6	6
25-34	21	15	17	13	13	31	28	23	25	26
35-44	54	42	29	43	36	75	82	64	77	92
45-54	124	140	119	131	143	210	242	218	229	210
55-64	275	280	305	315	312	322	310	325	329	326
65-74	444	416	427	402	443	380	416	393	399	415
75-84	325	310	312	314	319	280	302	297	323	332
85 and over ..	37	53	49	53	61	68	70	60	72	81
Total	1,288	1,271	1,268	1,284	1,339	1,376	1,461	1,391	1,467	1,497

Ninety-three per cent. of the deaths from cancer in 1946 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 1946 the average age of those who died from the former was 67·2 years for males and 65·2 years for females, while the corresponding averages for the latter were 51·8 years for males and 41·4 years for females.

The following table shows the seat of cancer in persons who died from this disease in 1946:—

VICTORIA—SEAT OF CANCER, 1946.

Seat of Cancer.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Buccal Cavity and Pharynx	69	14	83
Digestive Organs and Peritoneum—			
Oesophagus	39	18	57
Stomach and Duodenum	321	240	561
Intestines other than Duodenum or Rectum	183	216	399
Rectum	105	72	177
Liver and Biliary Passages	49	60	109
Pancreas	54	52	106
Peritoneum	7	10	17
Other Digestive Organs	1	..	1
Respiratory System	137	46	183
Uterus .. .. .	..	179	179
Other Female Genital Organs .. .. .	..	86	86
Breast	2	326	328
Male Genital Organs	141	..	141
Urinary Organs	91	51	142
Skin	43	24	67
Brain and other parts of the Nervous System—			
Glioma (not specified as benign)	4	7	11
Other	12	12	24
Other Unspecified Organs	81	84	165
	1,339	1,497	2,836

Diabetes. The rate of mortality from diabetes shows a marked increase, the average of the last five years being 98 per cent. higher than that for the period 1908-12.

During 1946 diabetes was responsible for 142 male and 290 female deaths, representing a rate of 213 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 208 in 1945, 208 in 1944, 220 in 1943, 212 in 1942, 130 in 1918-22, and 107 in 1908-12.

Vitamin-deficiency diseases, other general diseases, diseases of the blood, and chronic poisonings. Deaths in 1946 from diseases in this category (cause No. 20 on page 217) were acute rheumatic fever 7, exophthalmic goitre 28, other diseases of the thyroid and parathyroid glands 26, pernicious and other hyperchromic anaemias 55, other anaemias 19, leukaemia 57, and other diseases 54.

Meningitis (non-meningococcal) and diseases of the medulla and spinal cord. In 1946, deaths from these causes numbered 66, the rate per million of population being 33, as compared with rates of 36 in 1945, 50 in 1944, 62 in 1943, and 57 in 1942.

Intra-cranial lesions of vascular origin. In 1946, 842 male and 1,296 female deaths were ascribed to these causes, the total—2,138—corresponding to a rate of 1,055 per million of the population. Of the 2,138 deaths in 1946, 1,387 were due to cerebral haemorrhage, 18 to cerebral embolism, 611 to cerebral thrombosis, 17 to softening of the brain, 99 to hemiplegia and unspecified paralysis, and 6 to other intra-cranial effusions.

Other diseases of nervous system and sense organs. In this category (cause No. 23 on page 217) in 1946, were 15 deaths from encephalitis (non-epidemic), 32 from epilepsy, 12 from diseases of the ear and mastoid process and 120 from other diseases.

Diseases of the heart. During 1946 there were 6,689 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart, including 15 due to pericarditis, 430 to endocarditis, 3,932 to diseases of the myocardium, 1,789 to diseases of coronary arteries, 65 to angina pectoris, 109 to angina pectoris with record of coronary disease, and 349 to other diseases of the heart. The total causes in 1946 represented a rate of 3,302 per million of the population, the rates for previous years being 3,153 in 1945, 3,020 in 1944, 3,072 in 1943, 3,106 in 1942, 1,347 in 1922-26, and 1,441 in 1908-12.

Other diseases of the circulatory system. Deaths under this heading (cause No. 25 on page 217) in 1946 were arterio-sclerosis 510, and other diseases 132. Of the deaths from arterio-sclerosis, 80 per cent. were of persons aged 70 years and over.

Diseases of the respiratory system. In 1946 the deaths from respiratory diseases numbered 1,679, which represented a rate of 829 per million of the population as compared with rates of 777 in 1945, 791 in 1944, 926 in 1943, and 979 in 1942. Of the deaths in the year under review, 31 were due to acute bronchitis, 140 to chronic bronchitis, 805 to broncho-pneumonia, 191 to lobar pneumonia,

250 to pneumonia unspecified, 30 to pleurisy, 111 to congestion, edema, embolism, &c., of lungs, 57 to asthma, and 64 to other diseases. Further details will be found under causes Nos. 26 to 28 on page 217.

In 1946 the greatest mortality from the respiratory diseases occurred during the month of July.

Diseases of the digestive system. In 1946 there were 493 male and 403 female deaths from digestive ailments, representing a proportion of 442 per million of the population, as against rates of 399 in 1945, 464 in 1944, 519 in 1943, 509 in 1942, 807 in 1922-26, and 2,382 in 1890-92. Deaths from principal diseases in 1946 were: 167 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 118 from diarrhoeal diseases, 86 from appendicitis, 68 from hernia, 113 from intestinal obstruction, 94 from cirrhosis of the liver, 69 from biliary calculi, 62 from other diseases of the gall bladder and biliary passages, and 119 from other diseases. Further rates and details are given under causes Nos. 29 to 32 on pages 217 and 218.

The 118 deaths from diarrhoeal diseases in 1946, correspond to a rate of 58 per million of the population as compared with rates of 53 in 1945, 66 in 1944, 85 in 1943, 84 in 1942, 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 1946, 61 were of infants under one year of age, 11 were between the ages of one and two years, 1 between two and five years, while 25 were of persons aged 65 years and over. Infantile diarrhoea has been further dealt with in the section "Infantile Mortality."

Diseases of the genito-urinary system. In 1946 there were 1,626 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. This number represented a rate of 803 per million of the population, as against rates of 786 in 1945, 829 in 1944, 869 in 1943, 886 in 1942, 670 in 1918-22, and 700 in 1909-12. In 1946 nephritis was responsible for 1,301 deaths, other diseases of the kidney and ureters for 60, diseases of the prostate for 194, and other genito-urinary diseases for 71.

Maternal deaths. The death rate of women in childbirth is usually ascertained by comparing the number of deaths of parturient women with the total number of live births. In the following table are given the proportions of deaths from puerperal infection and all other diseases of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium for each of the years 1942 to 1946, and the averages of previous periods back to 1871. The rates given for years prior to 1940 are not strictly comparable with those for subsequent years.

VICTORIA—MATERNAL DEATHS, 1871 TO 1946.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Deaths from—						Rate per 10,000 Live Births from—					
	Puerperal Infection.			Other Diseases of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium. (Detailed List No. 141-146, 148-150).	Total.		Puerperal Infection.			Other Diseases of Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Puerperium. (Detailed List No. 141-146, 148-150).	Total.	
	Infection during Childbirth and the Puerperium. (Detailed List No. 147).	Post-abortive Infection (Detailed List No. 140).			Including Criminal Abortion.	Excluding Criminal Abortion.	Infection during Childbirth and the Puerperium. (Detailed List No. 147).	Post-abortive Infection (Detailed List No. 140).			Including Criminal Abortion.	Excluding Criminal Abortion.
		Spontaneous, Therapeutic, or Unspecified.	Criminal Abortion.					Spontaneous, Therapeutic, or Unspecified.	Criminal Abortion.			
1871-1880	46			127	173		17·12			47·26	64·38	
1881-1890	64			121	185		20·48			38·71	59·19	
1891-1900	66			117	183		20·20			35·81	56·01	
1901-1910	52			114	166		16·93			37·12	54·05	
1911-1920	53			94	147		15·42			27·35	42·77	
1921-1925	43			102	145		11·96			28·37	40·33	
1926-29..	44	12	21	121	198	177	12·78	3·46	5·92	34·86	57·02	51·10
1930-34..	33	9	27	91	160	133	11·08	3·13	9·17	30·99	54·37	45·20
1935-39..	18	6	41	74	139	98	5·97	1·90	14·05	25·25	47·17	33·12
1940-44..	19	2	36	63	120	80	5·31	0·67	9·90	17·26	33·14	22·18
1942 ..	20	1	29	59	109	77	5·57	0·28	8·07	16·42	30·34	21·43
1943 ..	23	5	39	69	136	93	5·88	1·28	9·97	17·64	34·77	23·78
1944 ..	11	4	17	69	101	81	2·79	1·02	4·32	17·53	25·66	20·58
1945 ..	14	2	12	50	78	63	3·40	0·48	2·91	12·14	18·93	15·29
1946 ..	18	4	9	41	72	59	3·85	0·86	1·93	8·78	15·42	12·64

Note—See following table regarding deaths from Criminal Abortion.

The following table gives information, in age groups, relating to the causes of death of women in childbirth, and the total number of children born to married mothers for the year 1946.

VICTORIA—MATERNAL DEATHS, 1946.

Causes of Death.	Ages at Death.						Total.	Number of Married Mothers.	Number of Un-Married Mothers.
	Under 20.	20 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 and Over.			
140. Post-abortive Infection—									
(a) Spontaneous, Therapeutic, or Un-specified .. .. .	..	1	2	1	..	..	4	4	..
(b) Criminal Abortion .. .. .	..	1	3	3	2	..	9	8	1
141. Abortion without mention of Septic Conditions—									
(a) Spontaneous, Therapeutic, or Un-specified .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
(b) Criminal Abortion .. .. .	..	1	..	3	..	..	4	3	1
142. Ectopic Gestation .. .. .	..	1	..	2	1	..	4	4	..
143. Haemorrhage of Pregnancy .. .. .	..	..	..	1	1	..	2	2	..
144. Toxaemias of Pregnancy—									
(a) Eclampsia of Pregnancy .. .. .	..	..	1	1	..	1	3	3	..
(b) Albuminuria and Nephritis of Pregnancy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	..
(c) Acute Yellow Atrophy of Liver Associated with Pregnancy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(d) Other Toxaemias of Pregnancy	1	1	..	..	3	1	6	5	1
145. Other Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
146. Haemorrhage of Childbirth and the Puerperium .. .. .	..	1	2	1	3	1	8	8	..
147. Infection during Childbirth and the Puerperium—									
(a) Puerperal Infections .. .. .	..	2	1	3	4	..	10	10	..
(b) Puerperal Thrombophlebitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(c) Puerperal Embolism and Sudden Death .. .. .	..	..	4	2	2	..	8	8	..
148. Puerperal Toxaemias—									
(a) Puerperal Eclampsia	1	1	3	..	..	..	5	5	..
(b) Puerperal Albuminuria and Nephritis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(c) Acute Yellow Atrophy of Liver (Post-partum) .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..
(d) Other Puerperal Toxaemias .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
149. Other Accidents of Childbirth—									
(a) Laceration, Rupture, or other Trauma of Pelvic Organs and Tissue .. .. .	..	1	..	..	1	..	2	2	..
(b) Other Accidents of Childbirth .. .. .	..	1	..	..	..	2	3	3	..
150. Other or Unspecified Diseases of Childbirth and the Puerperium—									
(a) Puerperal Diseases of the Breast .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(b) Others .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	2	13	16	17	17	7	72	69	3
Number of Married Mothers	2	10	16	17	17	7	69	..	..
Number of Unmarried Mothers .. .. .	..	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	..
Issue of Married Mothers .. .. .	..	8	30	37	30	13	118	..	..

Of the 118 children born to the 69 married women who died, 109 were living at the time of their mother's death, or an average of 1.6 children per mother.

First confinements were responsible for 27, or 39.1 per cent. of the total deaths of married mothers, as compared with 39.5 in 1945, 44.6 in 1944, 40.5 in 1943, and 43.0 in 1942.

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 1944, 1945, and 1946 are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—MATERNAL DEATHS, 1926 TO 1946.

Age Group.	Mothers.							
	Deaths.				Deaths per 10,000 children born alive.			
	1926-30.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1926-30.	1944.	1945.	1946.
Under 20 years ..	41	5	..	2	47.1	32.9	..	11.4
20 ,, 24 ,, ..	150	19	10	13	39.1	19.9	9.9	10.9
25 ,, 29 ,, ..	231	20	22	16	46.5	16.6	17.5	11.0
30 ,, 34 ,, ..	226	26	24	17	56.8	27.1	23.8	15.3
35 ,, 39 ,, ..	226	19	17	17	88.1	36.7	31.0	30.1
40 years and over ..	111	12	5	7	117.8	81.0	31.1	41.5
Total ..	985	101	78	72	57.4	25.7	18.9	15.4

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 1946, the deaths of 314 men and 392 women were ascribed to senile decay, as compared with 280 men and 352 women in 1945. 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. Since that year, however, only deaths of persons over 70 years of age from such causes were so classified.

Suicide. In the year 1946, 128 males and 57 females took their lives. The deaths represented a rate of 91 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 65 in 1945, 61 in 1944, 55 in 1943, 66 in 1942, 87 in 1918-22, 102 in 1908-12, and 109 in 1890-92. Of the 128 male deaths in 1946 from suicide, 42 or 33 per cent. were connected with firearms. A much lower rate from suicide occurs among females than among males, the rate for the former, for the five-year period 1942-46, being 46 per cent. of that of the latter.

Homicide. The deaths ascribed to homicide in 1946, numbered 12, of which 8 were of males and 4 of females. These represented a rate of 6 per million of the population, as against rates of 6 in 1945, 10 in 1944, 7 in 1943, 6 in 1942, 14 in 1918-22, and 19 in 1908-12. Since 1930 deaths from criminal abortion have been excluded from this category and included with deaths from maternal causes.

Accidental deaths. In 1946 there were 853 accidental deaths (645 male, 208 female). These represented a rate of 421 per million of population. The rate for the previous five years was 418. The numbers of deaths from various accidents are given in the appended table:—

VICTORIA—ACCIDENTAL DEATHS, 1942 TO 1946.

Deaths from—	Number.						
	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.		
					Males.	Females.	Total.
Railway accidents (except collisions with motor vehicles) ..	30	35	32	35	26	3	29
Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	350	201	216	191	278	69	347
Other Road Transport Accidents ..	53	57	41	38	34	7	41
Water Transport Accidents ..	2	6	3	..	1	..	1
Air Transport Accidents ..	4	3	..	9	2	..	2
Accidents in Mines and Quarries ..	4	5	4	2	3	..	3
Agricultural and Forestry Accidents ..	21	16	14	20	28	..	28
Accidents caused by Machinery N.E.I. ..	11	1	3	4	6	1	7
Food Poisoning ..	3	..	..	..	1	1	2
Accidental absorption of Poisonous Gases ..	3	5	6	9	8	2	10
Other Acute Accidental Poisoning ..	12	10	13	17	5	6	11
Conflagration ..	7	5	49	9	4	2	26
Accidental Burns ..	31	48	35	27	14	12	26
Accidental Mechanical Suffocation ..	14	20	17	15	17	9	26
Accidental Drowning ..	105	117	115	73	65	16	81
Accidental Injury by Firearms ..	15	10	10	13	14	3	17
Accidental Injury by Fall ..	190	132	155	142	77	59	136
Accidental Injury by Crushing ..	10	6	6	3	1	..	1
Injury by Animals ..	3	7	3	..	2	..	2
Excessive Cold ..	1	4	1	..	..	..	..
Excessive Heat ..	3	10	..	8	4	3	7
Lightning ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Electricity ..	4	12	4	2	8	..	8
Snakebite ..	..	2	3	..	..	..	..
Other Venomous Bites and Stings ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other Accidents ..	40	40	50	54	47	15	62
	917	752	780	671	645	208	853

NOTE.—The high number of deaths recorded in 1944 from conflagration is directly related to the bush fires of that year.

On the average of the five years 1942-46, the female mortality rate from accidents was about 36 per cent. of the rate for males.

Transport accidents. In 1946 deaths from transport accidents numbered 420 as against 273 in 1945, 292 in 1944, 302 in 1943, 439 in 1942, 510 in 1941, 551 in 1940, 579 in 1939, 551 in 1938, and 568 in 1937.

During the year 1946, deaths connected with transport represented 49 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 to other fatal accidents in which transport was concerned, for the year 1946.

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS, 1946.

	Collisions.										Other Accidents.	Total.	Males.	Females.		
	Railway vehicle.	Tramcar	Motor car.	Motor Omnibus.	Motor lorry, &c.	Motor cycle.	Horse-drawn vehicle, &c.	Bicycle.	Other Vehicle.	Animal.					Fixed object.	
Railway vehicles..	2	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	6*	27	33	29	4
Tramcar	3	..	2	1	..	2	..	..	..	8	15	23	19	4
Motor car	13	..	14	16	..	16	1	..	17	77	118	195	144	51
Motor omnibus	1	3	..	1	..	..	..	5	8	13	12	1
Motor lorry, &c...	6	13	2	10	..	..	6	37	69	103	94	12
Motor cycle	1	..	2	..	..	9	12	11	23	20	3
Horse-drawn vehicle	10	10	9	1
Bicycle	1	..	..	1	2	12	14	11	3
Aeroplane	1	1	1	2	2	..
Water transport	1	1	1	..
Total	18	..	24	35	3	32	1	..	35	148	272	420	341	79

* Includes rail accidents to nine railway employees.

Accidental deaths involving motor vehicles. The number of motor vehicles (including motor cycles) registered in Victoria and the deaths in which they were involved, for the years 1937 to 1946, were as follows:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS INVOLVING MOTOR VEHICLES,
1937 TO 1946.

Year.	Number of Motor Vehicles (30th June).	Deaths Involving Motor Vehicles.		
		Number.	Per 10,000 Motor Vehicles.	Per 1,000,000 of Population.
1937	233,573	456	19·5	246
1938	250,455	441	17·6	236
1939	261,855	487	18·6	259
1940	266,677	471	17·7	248
1941	256,502	396	15·4	204
1942	224,293	350	15·6	178
1943	232,940	201	8·6	102
1944	243,450	216	8·9	108
1945	255,147	190	7·4	95
1946	272,050	347	12·8	171

The mortality per 10,000 vehicles was 10·6 for the period 1942-46 as compared with a rate of 17·7 in 1937-41. The mortality per million of population was 171 in 1946, 95 in 1945, 108 in 1944, 102 in 1943, 178 in 1942, 204 in 1941, 248 in 1940, 259 in 1939, 236 in 1938, and 246 in 1937. The mortality rate in 1939 was the highest on record.

The decrease in the number of deaths involving motor vehicles in 1943, 1944, and 1945 can be attributed mainly to restriction in the use of private motor vehicles due to petrol rationing.

On the average of the five years, 1942 to 1946, motor cars, &c., were involved in 10·8 deaths per 10,000 cars registered, and motor cycles in 16·7 deaths per 10,000 motor cycles registered.

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 in New Zealand, for certain periods since 1909, as well as detailed particulars for Victoria since 1879, are shown in the following tables:--

NATURAL INCREASE PER 1,000 OF THE MEAN POPULATION.
AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1910-14	13.85	18.38	18.51	17.68	18.61	19.35	17.03	16.80
1915-19	11.75	15.98	17.06	14.84	15.47	17.83	14.99	16.80
1920-24	12.49	15.73	16.13	13.75	13.96	16.66	14.60	14.01
1925-29	10.57	12.99	13.35	11.18	12.71	13.27	12.18	11.65
1930-34	6.77	9.52	10.56	6.89	10.26	11.05	8.78	9.19
1935-39	5.63	7.91	10.06	6.12	9.85	10.36	7.67	8.37
1942 ..	7.12	8.27	11.14	7.49	10.12	11.92	8.57	11.13
1943 ..	9.01	9.94	12.09	10.86	12.36	12.64	10.33	9.66
1944 ..	9.48	11.42	14.26	11.83	13.27	11.02	11.46	11.72
1945 ..	10.32	11.88	16.02	12.73	12.22	13.56	12.23	13.15
1946 ..	12.42	13.13	15.02	14.72	14.92	17.04	13.62	15.54

VICTORIA.

Period.	Average Annual Excess of Births over Deaths.	Annual Rates per 1,000 of Mean Population.			Period.	Average Annual Excess of Births over Deaths.	Annual Rates per 1,000 of Mean Population.		
		Births.	Deaths.	Natural Increase.			Births.	Deaths.	Natural Increase.
1880-84	14,466	30.64	14.40	16.24	1925-29	18,218	20.24	9.67	10.57
1885-89	16,741	32.27	15.87	16.40	1930-34	12,249	16.27	9.50	6.77
1890-94	20,059	31.99	14.62	17.37	1935-39	10,473	15.85	10.22	5.63
1895-99	15,625	26.76	13.81	12.95					
1900-04	14,859	25.08	12.78	12.30	1942..	13,954	18.28	11.18	7.10
1905-09	16,062	24.76	11.93	12.83	1943..	17,790	19.75	10.77	8.98
1910-14	18,795	25.42	11.57	13.85	1944..	18,856	19.70	10.26	9.44
1915-19	16,818	23.13	11.38	11.75	1945..	20,704	20.48	10.19	10.29
1920-24	19,647	22.89	10.40	12.49	1946..	25,159	23.05	10.63	12.42