

PART II.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Registration of births, deaths, and marriages. The system of compulsory registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Victoria has been in force since 1853, and the registers contain all necessary information bearing on the family history of the people. The statutory duties under the Registration Acts are performed by the Government Statist, who has supervision over the registrars of births and deaths, the registrars of marriages, and (so far as regards their registration duties) the clergymen who celebrate marriages. Copies of entries certified by the Government Statist or by an Assistant Government Statist are *prima facie* evidence in the Courts of Australia of the facts to which they relate. At the Government Statist's Office there is kept for reference a complete collection of all registrations effected since 1st July, 1853, as well as originals or certified copies of all existing church records relating to earlier periods, as far back as 1837. Since the present system was instituted approximately 5,697,460 original entries have been made in the indexes, of which 1,667,590 relate to marriages, 2,700,440 to births, and 1,329,430 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,
1943.

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

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1943.

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 ..	..	23,036	12,774	787	..	19·89	11·00	34·08
Remainder of the State	..	16,021	8,556	612	..	19·55	10·44	38·20
Victoria ..	18,356	39,117	21,327	1,399	9·27	19·75	10·77	35·76

* Subject to revision.

MARRIAGES.

Marriages— Marriages in Victoria in 1943 numbered 18,356, a decrease of 5,280 as compared with the number registered in 1942. The rate per 1,000 of population in 1943 was 9·27 as compared with rates of 12·03 in 1942, 10·79 in 1941, 11·71 in 1940, and 9·23 in 1939. The rate for 1942 was the highest recorded in Victoria. The lowest rate recorded in the history of the State was 5·66 in 1931—a year of acute economic depression. From that year to 1942, there was a marked increase, the rate in 1942 being 112 per cent. higher than that in 1931.

The high number of marriages in each of the years 1940, 1941, and 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.

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 1943.

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	8·83
1939 ..	17,368	3,527	4,452	3,751	5,638	9·23
1940 ..	22,239	5,001	5,430	5,896	5,972	11·71
1941 ..	20,897	4,367	5,526	4,625	6,379	10·79
1942 ..	23,636	6,685	6,816	4,869	5,266	12·03
1943 ..	18,356	5,292	4,347	4,192	4,525	9·27

* Not available.

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

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

MARRIAGE RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1939	9·23	9·27	8·99	9·51	9·02	9·51	9·23	11·12
1940	11·71	10·95	10·03	11·60	11·11	10·30	11·08	11·28
1941	10·79	10·74	9·53	11·38	10·72	8·96	10·58	8·65
1942	12·03	12·25	11·29	13·31	11·37	10·10	12·00	7·91
1943	9·27	9·26	9·49	10·18	9·44	8·67	9·36	7·53

The marriage rate in England and Wales in 1943 was 7·1.

Ages of bridegrooms and brides. The ages of bridegrooms and brides who were married in 1943 are shown in combination for various groups in the table which follows :—

VICTORIA—AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN COMBINATION, 1943.

Ages of Bridegrooms.	Ages of Brides.													Total Bridegrooms.						
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.		50 to 54.	55 to 59.	60 to 64.	65 to 69.	70 and over.	
16	1	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
17	2	5	7	15	6	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
18	1	2	28	27	26	12	19	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	128
19	2	8	29	57	60	43	57	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	262
20	7	34	83	122	91	151	14	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	504
21 to 24	1	4	46	143	456	744	905	3,290	596	70	10	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,266
25 to 29	..	2	23	46	152	266	419	2,504	1,629	321	49	10	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	5,424
30 to 34	6	10	25	59	80	701	921	501	119	20	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	2,444
35 to 39	..	2	3	6	10	11	25	194	369	335	232	67	29	3	..	..	..	..	..	1,289
40 to 44	1	3	1	3	6	58	118	183	178	121	49	19	3	1	..	..	..	744
45 to 49	1	..	3	17	47	72	113	91	79	31	11	2	..	..	..	467
50 to 54	2	..	6	17	31	49	70	76	48	13	5	1	..	..	318
55 to 59	1	3	6	17	19	30	55	34	33	10	4	..	..	212
60 to 64	1	6	6	21	14	22	21	19	9	1	..	120
65 to 69	1	1	..	..	9	15	13	6	8	7	5	..	65
70 to 74	1	..	..	2	2	4	4	8	12	6	8	..	47
75 and over	1	..	..	1	1	5	1	7	4	..	20
Total Brides	2	15	114	309	827	1,299	1,587	7,004	3,726	1,538	778	443	323	177	104	58	34	18	..	18,356

Of every 1,000 men married during the year, 726 were older and 178 younger than their brides, and 96 were of the same age.

In 1943 the oldest bridegroom was aged 89 years, and the oldest bride 78 years. The youngest bridegroom was aged 16 years and the youngest bride 14 years.

Proportion of marriages at various ages. The proportions of both sexes marrying in 1943 is shown, in varying age groups, in the following table:—

VICTORIA—PROPORTIONS OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1943.

Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—		Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—	
	Bridegrooms.	Brides.		Bridegrooms.	Brides.
Under 1693	35 to 39 ..	70·22	42·38
16	38	40 to 44 ..	40·53	24·13
17	2·12	45 to 49 ..	25·44	17·60
18	6·97	50 to 54 ..	17·32	9·64
19	14·27	55 to 59 ..	11·55	5·67
20	27·46	60 and over	13·73	5·99
21 to 24	341·37			
25 to 29	295·50		1,000·00	1,000·00
30 to 34	133·14			

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 1939 to 1943.

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES OF MINORS.

Year.	Age in Years.							Total.			
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.		
Bridegrooms.											
1939	2	18	72	151	295	538	3·10	
1940	3	19	88	226	428	764	3·43	
1941	4	18	108	265	469	864	4·13	
1942	3	21	113	303	687	1,127	4·77	
1943	7	39	128	262	504	940	5·12	
Brides.											
1939	2	17	94	286	596	844	904	2,743	15·79
1940	2	19	102	363	744	1,158	1,426	3,814	17·10
1941	10	113	329	753	1,194	1,542	3,941	18·86
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

The proportion of minors marrying steadily decreased from 1931 to 1936. There was little fluctuation during the following three years, but in 1940 an increase was recorded, mainly due to the number of brides who were under 21 years of age. This was followed by further increases in 1941, 1942, and 1943.

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

VICTORIA—MEAN AGE AT MARRIAGE, 1939 TO 1943.

Year.	Bridegrooms.				Brides.			
	Bachelors.	Divorced.	Widowers.	All Bridegrooms.	Spinsters.	Divorced.	Widows.	All Brides.
1939 ..	28·5	39·9	49·8	29·9	25·6	35·3	45·4	26·5
1940 ..	28·1	39·1	50·1	29·4	25·3	35·4	44·7	26·2
1941 ..	27·9	39·9	50·8	29·4	25·2	35·7	45·4	26·2
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

In 1943 the mean age at marriage of bridegrooms whose brides were under 45 was 28·2 years, while for brides under 45 the age was 24·8 years.

The most popular age at marriage in 1943 for bridegrooms 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 1939 to 1943, and the proportions in each condition for periods since 1900.

VICTORIA—CONJUGAL CONDITION OF PERSONS MARRYING, 1939 TO 1943.

Period.	Bridegrooms.				Brides.				Total Marriages.
	Bachelors.	Widowers.	Divorced.	De-serted.	Spinsters.	Widows.	Divorced.	De-serted.	
1939 ..	16,018	882	462	6	16,304	585	463	16	17,368
1940 ..	20,724	975	591	9	20,950	705	623	21	22,299
1941 ..	19,319	982	585	11	19,532	686	648	31	20,897
1942 ..	21,966	974	696	*	22,291	670	675	*	23,636
1943 ..	16,780	880	696	*	17,022	638	696	*	18,356

* Included with divorced.

VICTORIA—TOTAL MARRIAGES AND PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS MARRYING IN EACH CONJUGAL CONDITION, 1910 TO 1943.

Marriages Between—	1943.		Conjugal Condition.	Percentage of Total—			
	Number.	Percentage.		1910-19.	1920-29.	1930-39.	1943.
Bachelors and Spinsters ..	15,979	87·05	Bachelors Widowers Divorced	Bridegrooms.			
Bachelors and Widows ..	335	1·83		92·7	92·1	92·3	91·4
Bachelors and Divorced Women ..	466	2·54		6·5	6·3	5·5	4·8
Widowers and Spinsters ..	538	2·93	·8	1·6	2·2	3·8	
Widowers and Widows ..	233	1·27	Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0
Widowers and Divorced Women ..	109	·59	Spinsters Widows Divorced	Brides.			
Divorced Men and Spinsters	505	2·75		94·2	93·6	94·4	92·7
Divorced Men and Widows	70	·38		4·8	4·9	3·4	3·5
Divorced Men and Divorced Women ..	121	·66	1·0	1·5	2·2	3·8	
Total Marriages	18,356	100·00	Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

NOTE.—In this table deserted persons are included with divorced.

The proportions of widowers and widows remarrying per 100 marriages, declined from 6·5 and 4·7 respectively in 1910-14 to 4·6 and 3·2 in 1939-43. During the same period the proportion of remarriages of divorced men increased from ·7 to 3·0 and of divorced women from ·9 to 3·1. The increased proportion of divorced persons remarrying reflects the higher number of decrees for dissolution of marriage granted in recent years. The numbers of such decrees and of remarriages of divorced men and of divorced women for various periods since 1900 are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DIVORCED PERSONS REMARRYING SINCE 1900.

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

In 1943 decrees granted numbered 1,375, and remarriages of men and of women 696 and 696 respectively.

Marriages in religious denominations.

In 1943 the number of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion was 17,458, representing 95 per cent. of the total marriages. Civil marriages numbered 898, or 5 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 1923, 1933, and 1943, are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES, RELIGIOUS AND CIVIL.

	1923.		1933		1943.	
	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.
Church of England ..	3,756	28·61	3,452	27·25	5,882	32·04
Roman Catholic Church	2,399	18·28	2,303	18·18	3,664	19·96
Presbyterian Church	2,528	19·26	2,151	16·98	3,469	18·90
Methodist Church ..	1,852	14·11	1,865	14·72	2,712	14·78
Baptist Church ..	641	4·88	584	4·61	606	3·30
Church of Christ ..	272	2·07	423	3·34	408	2·22
Congregational Church	850	6·48	211	1·67	203	1·11
Salvation Army ..	57	·43	114	·90	113	·62
Hebrew	46	·35	67	·53	138	·75
Lutheran Church ..	47	·36	74	·58	94	·51
Other Sects ..	170	1·30	84	·66	169	·92
Civil Marriages ..	508	3·87	1,340	10·58	898	4·89
Total	13,126	100·00	12,668	100·00	18,356	100·00

Civil marriages.

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

VICTORIA—CIVIL MARRIAGES, 1933 TO 1943.

Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
1933 ..	1,340	10·58	1939 ..	988	5·69
1934 ..	1,156	8·34	1940 ..	1,329	5·96
1935 ..	1,373	8·91	1941 ..	1,478	7·07
1936 ..	1,398	8·78	1942 ..	1,203	5·09
1937 ..	1,058	6·52	1943 ..	898	4·89
1938 ..	770	4·50			

CIVIL MARRIAGES PERFORMED IN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNMENT STATIST, 1938 TO 1943.

Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Civil Marriages.
1938 ..	570	74·03
1939 ..	863	87·35
1940 ..	1,199	90·22
1941 ..	1,363	92·22
1942 ..	1,145	95·18
1943 ..	849	94·54

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

Registered clergymen.

The ministers qualified by registration to celebrate marriages numbered 2,003 on 31st December, 1943. The number of ministers in each denomination (excepting Jews and Quakers) was as follows :—

VICTORIA—REGISTERED MINISTERS IN EACH DENOMINATION, 1943.

Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.	Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.
Church of England ..	435	Open Brethren	3
Roman Catholic ..	499	Particular Baptists ..	2
Presbyterian ..	347	Free Presbyterian ..	2
Methodist	309	Reformed Presbyterian	
Baptist	109	Church of Ireland ..	2
Church of Christ ..	80	Catholic and Apostolic ..	1
Congregational ..	57	Ballarat Town Mission ..	1
Salvation Army ..	60	Unitarian	1
Lutheran	38	Latter Day Saints ..	1
Seventh Day Adventist ..	33	New Church	1
Latter Day Saints (Re-		International Bible	
organized)	7	Students	1
Pentecostal	4	Greek Orthodox Church	1
Apostolic Church of Aus-		Australian Church ..	1
tralia	4	Free Christian	1
Welsh Calvinistic Metho-			
dists	3		
		Total	2,003

In 1943 there were 10 civil registrars of marriages.

BIRTHS

The number of births registered in Victoria during the year 1943 was 39,117. This was 3,190 more than the number registered for the preceding year. The rate per 1,000 of population was 19·75. The lowest rate recorded was 15·16 in 1935. Stillbirths, which are excluded from both births and deaths numbered 1,026, and correspond to a ratio of 26·2 per 1,000 infants born alive in 1943. There were 1,047 male to every 1,000 female births in 1943, as compared with 1,050 in 1942, 1,065 in 1941, 1,053 in 1940, and 1,065 in 1939.

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

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

VICTORIA—BIRTHS IN EACH QUARTER, 1855 TO 1943.

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	15·85
1939 ..	30,493	15,728	14,765	7,725	7,446	7,646	7,676	16·20
1940 ..	31,962	16,393	15,569	7,807	7,381	8,065	8,709	16·86
1941 ..	34,406	17,748	16,658	8,256	8,006	8,576	9,568	17·76
1942 ..	35,927	18,402	17,525	9,179	9,174	9,009	8,565	18·27
1943 ..	39,117	20,011	19,106	9,053	8,977	10,596	10,491	19·75

* Not available.

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

BIRTH RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND,
1939 TO 1943.

Year.	Vic-toria.	New South Wales.	Queens-land.	South Aus-tralia.	Western Aus-tralia.	Tas-man-ia.	Aus-tralia.	New Zealand.
1939 ..	16·20	17·46	20·08	16·13	19·43	21·03	17·65	18·73
1940 ..	16·79	17·81	19·89	16·72	19·37	20·77	17·97	21·20
1941 ..	17·77	18·53	20·74	18·21	21·35	21·71	18·94	22·81
1942 ..	18·28	18·68	20·39	18·46	20·68	22·04	19·06	21·73
1943 ..	19·75	20·16	22·09	21·36	21·85	23·10	20·65	19·70

The birth rate in England and Wales in 1943 was 16·5.

**Ages of
parents of
nuptial
children.**

The average ages of fathers and of mothers of nuptial children whose births were recorded in 1943 were 32·4 and 28·8 years respectively. These averages were 4·2 and 4·0 years respectively above the average ages of bridegrooms marrying brides under 45 years of age, and of such brides, for the year 1943. 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, 1943.

Father.		Mother.	
Age Group.	Percentage of Total Parents.	Age Group.	Percentage of Total Parents.
Under 20	0·49	Under 20	3·39
20 to 24	12·05	20 to 24	25·18
25 to 29	28·50	25 to 29	32·55
30 to 34	27·18	30 to 34	23·67
35 to 39	18·16	35 to 39	11·53
40 to 44	8·77	40 to 44	3·41
45 to 49	3·30	45 and over ..	0·27
50 and over ..	1·55		
Total	100·00	Total	100·00

It will be seen that, on the experience of 1943, 57·73 per cent. of the mothers were between ages 20 and 30, and 35·20 per cent. between ages 30 and 40. The proportions of fathers at these ages were 40·55 and 45·34 per cent. respectively. Of every 1,000 nuptial births, about 34 were to mothers under 20 years and about 3 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 birth rates in municipalities. Births per 1,000 of the mean population in Greater Melbourne, cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and the remainder of the State for the five-year periods 1928 to 1932 and 1933 to 1937, and for the years 1941, 1942 and 1943 :—

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.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1941.	1942.	1943.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne ..	1,348	1,143	1,303	1,499	1,804	14.29	12.68	14.19	15.20	18.15
Box Hill ..	259	214	340	414	418	18.31	13.84	19.42	21.62	21.19
Braybrook (Part) ..	187	157	227	272	342	22.28	17.65	21.62	22.86	26.99
Brighton ..	394	358	652	631	743	13.37	11.69	18.49	16.87	19.50
Brunswick ..	974	790	991	1,122	1,164	17.52	14.53	17.74	19.61	20.15
Camberwell ..	865	759	1,375	1,458	1,624	17.85	14.58	19.97	20.63	22.79
Caulfield ..	941	807	1,209	1,287	1,516	14.87	12.14	16.71	16.57	19.18
Chelsea ..	127	121	147	203	171	18.66	17.46	19.52	25.86	21.51
Coburg ..	742	634	871	920	1,080	20.80	16.35	20.21	19.78	22.89
Collingwood ..	532	492	534	550	583	16.63	16.26	17.88	18.15	19.11
Essendon ..	766	578	896	928	1,118	16.59	12.47	18.25	18.39	21.92
Fitzroy ..	517	467	509	579	623	15.96	15.24	16.71	18.74	20.00
Footscray ..	875	698	978	986	1,117	19.13	14.97	17.25	16.18	18.02
Hawthorn ..	424	406	650	700	718	12.70	11.82	17.20	17.56	17.86
Heidelberg (Part) ..	413	340	529	564	640	16.93	14.02	20.19	19.25	21.23
Kew ..	339	284	429	460	591	13.97	11.58	15.54	15.23	19.28
Malvern ..	499	470	620	700	865	11.46	10.66	13.29	14.67	17.96
Moorabbin ..	393	359	500	472	554	23.14	19.20	23.15	20.52	23.28
Mordialloc ..	148	132	218	249	286	15.37	13.64	20.24	21.56	23.67
Northcote ..	727	576	731	798	939	17.27	13.55	16.70	17.85	20.79
Oakleigh ..	264	217	306	308	374	22.72	17.91	23.09	22.24	26.56
Port Melbourne ..	230	197	216	240	275	17.24	15.22	15.71	16.90	19.27
Prahran ..	696	624	909	1,016	1,129	13.26	11.84	16.06	17.35	19.04
Preston ..	703	581	760	863	907	23.87	18.05	21.58	23.48	24.22
Richmond ..	693	593	711	700	861	16.71	14.95	17.75	17.09	20.79
Sandringham ..	272	232	356	389	410	15.33	12.67	17.32	17.44	17.90
South Melbourne ..	660	551	603	661	645	15.06	12.81	13.87	14.97	14.47
St. Kilda ..	533	512	826	862	1,056	11.61	10.55	15.64	15.84	19.27
Williamstown ..	423	326	472	430	543	19.28	14.64	19.87	17.34	21.44
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne—										
Baliarat ..	664	596	670	701	735	17.14	15.74	17.16	17.78	18.61
Bendigo ..	550	555	600	576	594	17.10	18.81	19.66	18.72	19.29
Geelong ..	844	693	723	825	936	19.26	17.52	17.67	20.04	22.72
Ararat ..	†	102	101	100	98	..	20.76	20.49	20.12	19.41
Castlemaine ..	105	98	97	110	111	15.16	18.70	17.40	18.97	19.24
Colac ..	†	106	132	129	146	..	20.42	23.49	22.83	25.89
Echuca ..	†	95	83	94	72	..	21.39	18.63	21.12	16.11
Hamilton ..	138	117	139	137	144	24.47	20.08	22.88	22.46	23.96
Horsham ..	†	118	121	121	113	..	22.13	21.72	21.65	20.18
Maryborough ..	118	111	103	98	123	21.35	19.62	17.71	16.72	20.85
Mildura ..	184	207	234	221	245	28.23	30.54	33.43	30.27	32.67
Sale ..	†	86	91	87	141	..	19.97	21.04	19.42	29.38
Shepparton ..	151	158	169	199	197	27.51	27.24	27.57	32.15	31.52
Stawell ..	92	85	70	82	84	19.46	17.75	14.39	16.80	17.07
Swan Hill ..	†	†	78	92	93	..	..	16.08	18.85	18.79
Wangaratta ..	†	107	116	128	138	..	22.21	23.11	24.52	25.56
Warrnambool ..	176	175	211	203	169	20.17	19.40	22.66	21.73	18.13
Wonthaggi ..	141	91	108	87	103	22.44	14.95	16.69	13.62	16.22
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	15,949	13,618	18,868	20,261	23,006	16.03	13.55	17.28	17.70	19.89
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	3,163	3,500	3,846	3,990	4,242	19.22	18.90	19.57	20.11	21.26
Remainder of State	12,693	11,426	11,692	11,676	11,779	20.40	17.62	18.02	18.74	19.00
Victoria ..	31,805	28,544	34,406	35,927	39,117	17.85	15.52	17.77	18.28	19.75

† 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 the last five years were as follows:—

VICTORIA—MULTIPLE BIRTHS.

Year.	Cases of Twins.	Cases of Triplets.	Total Multiple Cases.	Multiple Cases, per 1,000 of Total Cases.
1939	317	3	320	10·60
1940	321	2	323	10·21
1941	348	1	349	10·24
1942	398	3	401	11·28
1943	408	5	413	10·67

On the average of the five years 1939–43, the proportion of mothers of twins was one in 95, of mothers of triplets, one in 12,154, and of mothers of all multiple births, one in 94 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 1943, the adoptions of 2,832 male and 3,588 female children were registered. During the last five years 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 1943.

Period.	Number of Children Adopted.	
	Males.	Females.
1929	31	56
1930–1934	492	833
1935–1939	843	1,156
1940	273	304
1941	402	393
1942	344	420
1943	447	426

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 1943 advantage was taken of these Acts to legitimate 4,839 children.

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

VICTORIA—LEGITIMATIONS, 1903-1943.

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	145	13·1
1941	228	20·1
1942	214	15·9
1943	233	14·9

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 1943 the numbers of legitimations in the several States and in New Zealand during that year were as follows:—Victoria, 14·9; New South Wales, 15·3; Queensland, 19·0; South Australia, 9·1; Western Australia, 43·3; Tasmania, 26·5; and New Zealand, 29·8.

Ex-nuptial births in Victoria.

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

VICTORIA—EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS, 1910 TO 1943.

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
1939	30,493	611	538	1,149	3·77
1940	31,962	571	535	1,106	3·46
1941	34,406	574	563	1,137	3·30
1942	35,927	706	639	1,345	3·74
1943	39,117	832	734	1,566	4·00

The percentage of ex-nuptial births to total births was 6·03 in 1913. There has been an appreciable decrease since that year.

The percentages in the various States and in New Zealand in 1943 were as follows :—Victoria, 4·00 ; New South Wales, 3·95 ; Queensland, 6·52 ; South Australia, 3·76 ; Western Australia, 4·14 ; Tasmania, 3·98 ; Australia, 4·36 ; and New Zealand, 4·84.

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 1943.

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	3,335	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	10·22
1939 ..	20,169	10,779	9,390	4,320	5,048	5,982	4,819	10·72
1940 ..	20,293	10,930	9,363	4,427	4,841	6,150	4,875	10·70
1941 ..	20,522	10,856	9,666	4,194	4,851	6,197	5,280	10·59
1942 ..	21,973	11,520	10,453	4,521	5,475	6,729	5,248	11·18
1943 ..	21,327	11,192	10,135	4,464	5,360	6,503	5,000	10·77

* Not available.

The death rate gradually declined from 18·44 in 1860-64 to 9·50 in 1930-34, but during the quinquennium, 1935-39, it rose to 10·22. The lowest death rate (8·93) in the history of the State was recorded in 1930. It remained low for the following three years, but in 1934 it rose to its maximum since 1923. There was little fluctuation during the four years following 1934. The rate rose sharply in 1939, and was high for each year of the period 1939-1943.

The number of deaths in 1943 was 21,327, which was 945 more than the average of the preceding five years.

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

In 1943 there were 1,104 male to every 1,000 female deaths, the average for the last five years being 1,128. The corresponding proportion of male to female births in the quinquennium was 1,056. The natural increase for the five-year period was 67,621 (males, 33,005; females, 34,616).

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

DEATH RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1939 TO 1943.

Year.	Vic-toria.	New South Wales.	Queens-land.	South Aus-tralia.	Western Aus-tralia.	Tas-man-ia.	Aus-tralia.	New Zealand.
1939	10·72	9·75	9·40	9·63	9·32	10·19	9·93	9·20
1940	10·66	9·43	8·97	9·53	9·53	9·93	9·72	9·24
1941	10·60	9·78	9·19	10·44	10·07	10·74	10·02	9·84
1942	11·18	10·37	9·27	10·99	10·60	10·09	10·49	10·60
1943	10·77	10·16	10·06	10·53	9·56	10·43	10·30	10·04

In 1943 the death rate in England and Wales was 12·1—non-civilian deaths excluded.

Death rates in municipalities. Compiled on the basis of allotment of all deaths to the place of usual residence, the following table shows the number of deaths, and the deaths per 1,000 of the mean population in Greater Melbourne, cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and the remainder of the State, for the five-year periods 1928 to 1932 and 1933 to 1937, and for the years 1941, 1942, and 1943.

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.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1941.	1942.	1943.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne ..	1,091	1,120	1,186	1,283	1,226	11.57	12.42	12.92	13.01	12.33
Box Hill ..	125	155	181	223	207	8.81	9.99	10.34	11.64	10.49
Braybrook (Part) ..	56	58	92	81	90	6.70	6.57	8.76	6.81	7.10
Brighton ..	272	316	395	382	372	9.22	10.33	11.20	10.21	9.76
Brunswick ..	532	590	595	638	633	9.57	10.30	10.64	11.15	10.96
Camberwell ..	430	494	701	718	746	8.87	9.49	10.18	10.16	10.47
Caulfield ..	552	656	761	820	907	8.72	12.02	12.75	12.99	12.33
Chelsea ..	63	83	96	102	98	9.24	8.87	8.63	8.41	9.20
Coburg ..	287	317	372	391	434	8.06	8.19	8.63	13.07	12.39
Collingwood ..	363	377	373	396	378	11.36	12.47	12.49	11.40	11.23
Essendon ..	429	484	545	577	573	9.30	10.46	11.10	11.44	11.23
Fitzroy ..	446	452	488	552	470	13.77	14.74	16.03	17.86	15.09
Footscray ..	402	425	524	514	478	8.79	9.12	9.24	8.43	7.71
Hawthorn ..	357	409	475	497	463	10.67	11.90	12.57	12.47	11.52
Heidelberg (Part) ..	193	210	287	290	274	7.91	8.66	10.95	9.90	9.09
Kew ..	220	246	293	312	314	9.08	10.06	10.62	10.33	10.24
Malvern ..	404	489	551	628	610	9.23	11.07	11.81	13.16	12.66
Moorabbin ..	130	157	160	205	223	7.55	8.39	7.41	8.91	9.37
Mordialloc ..	85	94	123	139	136	8.86	9.67	11.42	12.03	11.26
Northeast ..	369	408	463	484	463	8.77	9.59	10.58	10.83	10.25
Oakleigh ..	101	115	138	153	171	8.72	9.49	10.41	11.05	12.14
Port Melbourne ..	137	156	163	169	148	10.26	12.08	11.85	11.90	10.37
Prahran ..	628	662	788	820	793	11.96	12.56	13.92	14.00	13.38
Preston ..	242	267	321	333	366	8.20	8.29	9.11	10.42	9.77
Richmond ..	464	465	519	520	461	11.20	11.73	12.96	12.70	11.13
Sandringham ..	161	177	235	255	242	9.08	9.63	11.44	11.43	10.57
South Melbourne ..	486	507	541	611	509	11.09	11.78	12.44	13.84	11.42
St. Kilda ..	452	538	708	692	731	9.84	11.09	13.41	12.72	13.34
Williamstown ..	211	219	255	283	255	9.63	9.81	10.74	11.41	10.07
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne										
Ballarat ..	475	501	574	587	601	12.28	13.23	14.70	14.89	15.22
Bendigo ..	421	441	441	519	417	13.08	14.93	14.45	16.87	13.54
Geelong ..	455	463	498	565	478	10.40	11.70	12.17	13.73	11.60
Ararat ..	†	63	67	60	49	..	12.79	13.59	12.07	9.70
Castlemaine ..	73	64	66	78	65	10.61	12.20	11.83	13.45	11.27
Colac ..	†	54	72	65	84	..	10.42	12.81	11.50	14.89
Echuca ..	†	49	50	64	44	..	11.01	11.22	14.38	9.84
Hamilton ..	59	62	75	63	87	10.35	10.60	12.35	10.33	14.48
Horsham ..	†	62	62	58	72	..	11.72	11.13	10.38	12.86
Maryborough ..	59	73	88	81	80	10.66	12.98	15.13	13.82	13.56
Mildura ..	50	80	96	99	73	9.05	11.74	13.71	13.56	9.73
Sale ..	†	54	58	49	68	..	12.59	13.41	10.94	14.17
Shepparton ..	55	77	80	107	83	9.96	13.29	13.05	17.29	13.28
Stawell ..	51	53	59	67	65	10.87	10.98	12.13	13.73	13.21
Swan Hill ..	†	†	41	47	55	..	..	8.45	9.63	11.11
Wangaratta ..	†	62	59	62	62	..	12.81	11.75	11.88	11.48
Warrnambool ..	91	97	91	106	126	10.46	10.81	9.77	11.35	13.52
Wonthaggi ..	47	50	42	58	46	7.45	8.17	6.49	9.08	7.24
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	9,688	10,616	12,329	13,118	12,771	9.74	10.56	11.29	11.46	11.00
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	1,845	2,305	2,519	2,735	2,555	11.22	12.45	12.82	13.78	12.81
Remainder of State	5,311	5,469	5,674	6,120	6,001	8.53	8.44	8.75	9.82	9.68
Victoria ..	16,844	18,390	20,522	21,973	21,327	9.45	10.00	10.60	11.18	10.77

† 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 1943 :—

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1943

Area.	Number of Deaths of Residents occurring in—		Percentage of Deaths of Residents occurring in—			Deaths of Residents occurring in Public Institutions per 1,000 of Population.
	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Total Public Institutions.	
GREATER MELBOURNE—						
Melbourne ..	420	134	34·26	10·93	45·19	5·57
Box Hill ..	30	12	14·49	5·80	20·29	2·13
Braybrook (Part) ..	33	9	36·67	10·00	46·67	3·31
Brighton ..	76	22	20·43	5·91	26·34	2·57
Brunswick ..	159	45	25·12	7·11	32·23	3·53
Camberwell ..	117	45	15·69	6·03	21·72	2·27
Caulfield ..	137	46	15·11	5·07	20·18	2·31
Chelsea ..	33	6	33·67	6·12	39·79	4·91
Coburg ..	114	34	26·27	7·83	34·10	3·14
Collingwood ..	138	39	36·50	10·32	46·82	5·80
Essendon ..	101	48	17·62	8·38	26·00	2·92
Fitzroy ..	172	57	36·59	12·13	48·72	7·35
Footscray ..	159	41	33·26	8·58	41·84	3·23
Hawthorn ..	86	27	18·58	5·83	24·41	2·81
Heidelberg (Part) ..	55	44	20·07	16·06	36·13	3·28
Kew ..	45	26	14·33	8·28	22·61	2·32
Malvern ..	89	42	14·59	6·88	21·47	2·72
Moorabbin ..	66	17	29·60	7·62	37·22	3·49
Mordialloc ..	33	11	24·26	8·09	32·35	3·64
Northcote ..	116	45	25·05	9·72	34·77	3·56
Oakleigh ..	37	10	21·63	5·85	27·48	3·34
Port Melbourne ..	35	14	23·65	9·46	33·11	3·43
Prahran ..	227	65	28·62	8·20	36·82	4·93
Preston ..	99	39	27·05	10·65	37·70	3·68
Richmond ..	156	42	33·84	9·11	42·95	4·78
Sandringham ..	39	11	16·12	4·54	20·66	2·18
South Melbourne ..	165	31	32·42	6·09	38·51	4·40
St. Kilda ..	177	50	24·21	6·84	31·05	4·14
Williamstown ..	78	17	30·59	6·66	37·25	3·75

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1943—*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	160	61	26·62	10·15	36·77	5·60
Bendigo	112	40	26·86	9·59	36·45	4·93
Geelong	109	34	22·81	7·11	29·92	3·47
Ararat	28	4	57·14	8·16	65·30	6·34
Castlemaine	29	7	44·61	10·77	55·38	6·24
Colac	62	5	73·81	5·95	79·76	11·88
Echuca	15	4	34·09	9·09	43·18	4·25
Hamilton	46	5	52·87	5·75	58·62	8·36
Horsham	34	4	47·22	5·57	52·79	6·79
Maryborough	51	4	63·75	5·00	68·75	9·32
Mildura	40	4	54·79	5·48	60·27	5·87
Sale	40	4	58·82	5·88	64·70	9·17
Shepparton	41	5	49·40	6·02	55·42	7·36
Stawell	23	4	35·39	6·15	41·54	5·49
Wangaratta	25	2	40·32	3·23	43·55	5·00
Warrnambool	47	4	37·30	3·18	40·48	5·47
Wonthaggi	22	5	47·83	10·87	58·70	4·25
SUMMARY—						
Greater Melbourne	3,192	1,029	24·99	8·06	33·05	3·64
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	884	196	34·60	7·67	42·27	5·41
Remainder of State	1,797	336	29·94	5·80	35·54	3·44
Victoria	5,873	1,561	27·54	7·32	34·86	3·75

* Not available.

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

—	1910-14.	1920-24.	1925-29.	1930-34.	1942.	1943.
Greater Melbourne	24·3	27·0	29·5	27·7	24·4	25·0
Remainder of State	17·0	21·2	23·7	26·3	27·4	31·3
Victoria	20·4	24·3	27·0	27·1	25·6	27·5

In 1943 the number of deaths in all public institutions was 7,434, of which 4,221 were of residents of Greater Melbourne.

Deaths in metropolitan public institutions.

The number of deaths in certain metropolitan public institutions in 1943 is given in the subjoined table :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS IN CERTAIN METROPOLITAN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1943.

Institution.	No. of Deaths.	Institution.	No. of Deaths.
HOSPITALS—GENERAL—		SANATORIA—	
Royal Melbourne	849	Heatherton	21
Alfred	714	Greenvale	22
Hamilton Russell Community	23	Gresswell	13
Children's	351	Total Sanatoria	56
St. Vincent's	451		
St. Vincent's Intermediate	4		
Austin	324		
Heidelberg House	96	BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS—	
Women's	226	Melbourne (Cheltenham)	
Prince Henry's	308	Asylum	193
Infectious Diseases	98	Mount Royal	206
Queen Victoria	130	Convent of Little Sisters of the Poor	58
Jessie McPherson Community	30	Old Colonists' Homes	4
Williamstown	69	Total Benevolent Institutions	466
Caulfield Convalescent	19		
Eye and Ear	7		
Police	3		
After Care Home	2		
Total General Hospitals	3,704	FOUNDLING HOMES, REFUGES—	
		Broadmeadows	9
		The Haven, Fitzroy	7
		Berwick	2
		Total Refuges, &c.	18
HOSPITALS—MENTAL—			
Kew	125	Total Hospitals and other Institutions	4,607
Mont Park	135		
Receiving House, Royal Park	103		
Total Mental Hospitals	363		

Of the 4,607 deaths in the above institutions, 2,602 were of males and 2,005 were of females.

In Greater Melbourne, in the decade 1934-43, there was an average of 10·97 deaths per 1,000 of the population, as compared with 15·76 in the decennium 1892-1901. The reduction in the rate represents a saving of approximately 51,000 lives in the last ten years. A comparison of the death rates from tubercular and certain other diseases for the period 1934-43 with those for the decennium 1892-1901 is shown in the following table :—

Decrease in metropolitan death rate.

DEATH RATES—GREATER MELBOURNE.

Cause of Death.	Average Annual Deaths per 1,000,000 of Population.		
	1892-1901.	1934-43.	Decrease.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	1,654	454	1,200
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	446	58	388
Typhoid Fever	293	5	288
Scarlet Fever	33	7	26
Measles	215	9	206
Diphtheria	196	32	164
Total	2,837	565	2,272

The figures show that the mortality from the six diseases mentioned declined by 80 per cent.—the decline representing a rate of 2,272 per million of the population.

The mortality from all causes showed a net decline of 4,790 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 38 in 1939-43—a reduction of 71 per cent. In other words, where 100 infants died in the earlier period, only 29 died in the latter.

The reduction has been contributed to by various health acts and educative measures, including the notification of infectious diseases, the regulation of the manufacture, sale, and distribution of foodstuffs and patent medicines, and the ensuring of a pure 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.

Infantile mortality.

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

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1880 TO 1943.

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	5·4	37·9	1,117	37·9
1939 ..	495	32·3	590	38·9	1,085	35·6
1940 ..	655	39·7	6·6	39·2	1,261	39·5
1941 ..	653	34·6	592	38·1	1,245	36·2
1942 ..	887	43·8	609	38·9	1,496	41·6
1943 ..	787	34·1	612	38·2	1,399	35·8

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

During the decade, 1934-43, the infantile death rate varied considerably. During each year of the period 1934 to 1936 the rate was over 40, but in 1937 a pronounced fall occurred, the rate dropping to 36·7. This was followed by a further drop in 1938, the new record low rate of 34·2 being recorded. The rate rose slightly in 1939, and was followed by a further rise to 39·5 in 1940. In 1941 the rate dropped to 36·2; this was followed by a sharp rise to 41·6 in 1942, but in 1943 a marked reduction occurred, the rate being 35·8.

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

for the five-year periods 1928-32 and 1933-37, and for the years 1941, 1942, and 1943 were as follows:—

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

Municipality.	Annual Number of Deaths under One Year.					Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.				
	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1928-1932.	1933-1937.	1941.	1942.	1943.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne ..	86	55	48	66	79	63.95	48.45	36.84	44.03	43.79
Box Hill ..	10	8	11	15	9	37.04	38.25	32.35	36.23	21.53
Braybrook (Part) ..	6	8	6	10	8	39.19	49.68	26.43	36.76	23.39
Brighton ..	15	11	16	20	22	39.11	30.15	24.54	31.70	29.61
Brunswick ..	60	32	38	51	51	61.63	40.23	38.35	45.45	43.81
Camberwell ..	30	26	48	53	53	34.68	33.74	34.90	36.35	32.64
Caulfield ..	39	27	38	51	57	41.87	33.47	31.43	39.63	37.60
Chelsea ..	6	5	4	8	7	47.32	43.12	27.21	39.40	40.93
Coburg ..	33	26	30	40	39	44.47	40.38	34.44	43.48	36.11
Collingwood ..	38	28	17	30	27	71.78	57.27	31.83	54.55	46.31
Essendon ..	33	23	39	34	25	42.83	40.51	43.53	36.63	22.36
Fitzroy ..	41	26	19	39	19	79.33	56.98	37.33	67.36	30.50
Footscray ..	41	29	29	35	31	47.34	40.99	29.65	35.49	27.75
Hawthorn ..	16	18	24	37	26	37.23	44.31	36.92	52.85	36.21
Heidelberg (Part)	20	11	15	35	13	49.37	32.37	28.35	62.05	20.31
Kew ..	15	9	8	20	12	43.66	30.32	18.65	43.48	20.30
Malvern ..	19	17	17	35	22	38.91	35.71	27.42	50.00	25.43
Moorabbin ..	14	14	13	24	12	34.17	37.93	26.00	50.85	21.66
Mordialloc ..	8	7	9	6	10	55.48	54.55	41.28	24.10	34.97
Northcote ..	38	24	25	42	34	51.73	41.65	34.20	52.63	36.21
Oakleigh ..	12	9	12	7	18	46.18	43.36	39.21	22.72	48.13
Port Melbourne ..	16	11	10	9	11	71.24	56.91	46.30	37.50	40.00
Prahran ..	41	29	31	36	38	58.62	46.44	34.10	35.43	33.66
Preston ..	31	23	29	46	35	44.08	40.29	38.15	53.30	38.59
Richmond ..	46	29	24	33	29	65.53	49.27	33.75	47.14	33.58
Sandringham ..	10	9	11	12	12	35.95	37.04	30.90	30.85	29.27
South Melbourne ..	47	30	32	35	28	70.87	54.77	53.07	52.95	43.46
St. Kilda ..	22	22	34	39	37	41.67	43.78	41.16	45.24	35.01
Williamstown ..	19	13	16	19	23	44.44	38.63	33.90	44.18	42.34
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne—										
Ballarat ..	34	25	23	42	46	51.84	41.62	34.33	59.91	62.58
Bendigo ..	33	22	24	30	19	60.00	40.32	40.00	52.08	31.99
Geelong ..	49	34	38	34	26	58.56	48.77	52.56	41.21	27.78
Ararat ..	†	4	2	1	1	..	40.85	19.80	10.00	10.20
Castlemaine ..	†	5	4	3	5	47.80	38.62	30.93	36.36	45.05
Colac ..	†	5	4	3	10	..	45.63	30.30	23.26	68.49
Echuca ..	†	6	3	6	6	..	62.50	36.14	63.83	13.89
Hamilton ..	†	5	4	6	4	34.63	37.61	43.17	29.20	27.78
Horsham ..	†	5	6	2	6	..	40.95	49.59	16.53	53.10
Maryborough ..	5	5	6	4	5	45.84	41.59	58.25	40.82	40.65
Mildura ..	9	8	4	9	6	47.83	37.68	17.09	40.72	24.49
Sale ..	†	2	2	2	9	..	27.97	21.98	22.99	63.83
Shepparton ..	8	8	4	12	9	54.16	54.50	23.67	60.30	45.68
Stawell ..	3	4	1	3	4	28.26	47.06	14.29	36.58	47.62
Swan Hill ..	†	†	10	5	5	..	128.20	54.35	53.76	53.76
Wangaratta ..	†	7	5	5	5	..	63.91	43.10	39.06	36.23
Warrnambool ..	9	6	4	14	7	52.33	34.32	18.96	68.97	41.42
Wonthaggi ..	8	5	3	8	4	53.67	50.66	27.78	91.95	38.83
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	812	579	653	887	787	50.94	42.55	34.61	43.78	34.08
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	168	154	148	188	172	53.24	43.95	38.48	47.12	40.55
Remainder of State	535	437	444	421	440	42.12	38.24	37.97	36.06	37.36
Victoria ..	1,515	1,170	1,245	1,496	1,399	47.65	41.00	36.19	41.64	35.76

† Included in Remainder of State:

infantile
mortality at
certain
ages.

An investigation into the experience in regard to infantile mortality over a period of years discloses that the decrease in the infantile death rate, since the earlier periods, has been shared proportionately by each sex, and also by each age period, except that of "under one week." The rate per 1,000 births of infants "under one week" which, in 1943, comprised 49 per cent. of the total infantile mortality, has varied from 21.5 in the quinquennium 1910-14 (the earliest years for which the information is available) to 23.7 in 1920-24 and 20.2 in 1939-43. Between 1910-14 and 1939-43, the mortality of infants "one week and under one month" decreased by 48 per cent. and that of infants "one month and under one year" by 72 per cent. Victoria, lost between the ages of one month and one year, 64 out of every 1,000 children born in 1900-04, 33 in 1915-19, and twelve in 1939-43.

On the average of the years, 1939-43, the total rate for males was higher than that for females by 26.9 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 1943:—

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES, 1900 TO 1943.

Period.	Deaths Under One Year per 1,000 Births.							Males.	Females.
	Under 1 Week.	1 Week and under 1 Month	1 Month and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 12 Months	Total under 1 Year.			
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	
1939 ..	20.7	5.4	2.8	2.2	4.5	35.6	39.2	31.8	
1940 ..	20.9	5.6	4.6	3.5	4.9	39.5	44.9	33.7	
1941 ..	22.0	4.1	3.7	3.0	3.4	36.2	40.8	31.3	
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	

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES, MALES AND FEMALES, 1943.

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 ..	386	19.29	48.43	304	15.91	50.50
1 week and under						
1 month ..	138	6.89	17.32	110	5.76	18.27
1 month and under						
3 months ..	92	4.60	11.54	72	3.77	11.96
3 months and under						
6 months ..	83	4.15	10.41	48	2.51	7.97
6 months and under						
12 months ..	98	4.90	12.30	68	3.56	11.30
Total under one year ..	797	39.83	100.00	602	31.51	100.00

Infantile death rates from certain causes.

An examination of the principal causes of infantile mortality over a period of years and at various ages reveals the direction in which an improvement has been achieved, and discloses those causes and factors to which future investigations need to be directed if the decline in the rate is to be maintained. The infant mortality rates from the principal causes for various periods since 1890 and for the year 1943 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.	1941.	1942.	1943.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	12.41	7.31	4.87	3.57	1.37	2.95	2.22
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	11.37	8.13	6.86	6.08	4.56	6.21	4.99
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	29.66	24.62	16.13	9.85	1.08	2.39	2.07
Congenital Malformations (157) ..	3.45	4.86	4.38	4.43	4.04	4.62	4.06
Congenital Debility (158) ..	22.24	12.74	13.09	6.77	1.42	1.20	1.20
Prematurity (159) ..	13.13	14.99	15.17	15.34	11.86	13.64	10.71
Injury at birth (160) ..	} 21.51	} 12.77	} 7.98	} 2.57	} 4.62	} 3.48	} 3.20
Early Infancy (161) ..							
Other diseases ..							
Violence ..	3.16	2.47	1.07	.80	1.13	.58	.79
Total, all Causes ..	116.93	87.89	69.55	57.25	36.19	41.64	35.76

VICTORIA—INFANTILE DEATH RATES, AT VARIOUS AGES.
FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1943.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.								Total.	Males.	Females.	Average Annual Rate, 1939-43.
	Age Period.											
	Under 1 Week.	1 Week and under 1 Month.	1 Month and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 12 Months.							
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	·05	..	·54	·63	1·00	2·22	2·25	2·20	2·24			
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	·54	1·25	1·07	1·00	1·13	4·99	5·24	4·71	5·04			
Diarrhœal Diseases ..	·03	·56	·56	·33	·59	2·07	2·40	1·73	1·81			
Congenital Malformations (157) ..	1·64	·74	·63	·59	·46	4·06	4·40	3·71	4·18			
Congenital Debility (158) ..	·56	·26	·23	·10	·05	1·20	1·50	·89	1·28			
Prematurity (159) ..	8·64	1·79	·23	·03	·02	10·71	11·59	9·79	12·27			
Injury at Birth (160) ..	2·71	·38	·03	·05	·03	3·20	3·55	2·83	3·72			
Early Infancy (161) ..	3·17	·77	·26	..	·02	4·22	4·80	3·61	3·95			
Other Diseases ..	·25	·56	·46	·26	·82	2·30	2·85	1·73	2·43			
Violence ..	·10	·05	·18	·36	·12	·79	1·25	·31	·81			
Total, all Causes ..	17·64	6·34	4·19	3·35	4·24	35·76	39·83	31·51	37·73			
Average Annual Rate, 1939-43 ..	20·21	5·81	3·94	3·23	4·54	37·73	42·07	33·15	..			

The mortality of infants under one year from pre-natal causes (malformations, congenital debility, prematurity, injury at birth, &c.) was 25·4 per 1,000 births in the period 1939-43 and represented 67 per cent. of the total infant deaths. Variations in classification in the earlier years prevent exact comparison but no appreciable decline is evident. The rate in 1943 was 23·4 of which 71 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 9·1 in 1939–43. Deaths from *diarrhoeal* diseases declined from 24·6 per 1,000 births in 1901–10 to 1·8 in 1939–43, the main *respiratory* diseases from 8·1 to 5·0 and the *infectious* from 7·3 to 2·2. 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 38 per cent.; and the *infectious* by 70 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 1939 to 1943:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE MONTH,
1939 TO 1943.

GREATER MELBOURNE AND WHOLE STATE.

Cause of Death.	Greater Melbourne.					Victoria.				
	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	3	3	4	3	1	7	4	5	9	2
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	26	25	20	50	49	45	48	34	71	70
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	3	16	3	9	17	6	18	4	15	23
Malformations, &c. (157) ..	37	47	52	60	52	74	88	92	106	93
Wasting Diseases (158) ..	9	2	13	15	18	34	24	38	30	32
Prematurity ..	184	215	225	268	254	371	408	399	481	408
Injury at Birth ..	56	65	89	73	66	120	106	157	120	121
Early Infancy (161) ..	41	55	70	80	81	101	120	148	126	154
Other Diseases ..	15	10	7	23	18	30	24	14	32	30
Violence ..	2	4	4	5	4	7	6	5	7	5
Total, all Causes ..	376	442	487	586	560	795	846	896	997	938
Deaths per 1,000 Births	24·5	26·8	25·8	28·9	24·2	26·1	26·5	26·1	27·7	23·9

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) Maternity Allowance Act, cases are notified to registrars. After careful enquiry it can be stated that the percentage of stillbirths not notified is very small.

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

VICTORIA--STILLBIRTHS (RECORDED) AND INFANT MORTALITY, 1934 TO 1943.

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.	
1934 ..	3·1	3·0	27·7	16·9	44·6	73·6
1935 ..	3·0	2·9	27·6	13·6	41·2	69·5
1936 ..	2·9	2·8	26·6	15·7	42·3	69·0
1937 ..	2·7	2·6	26·1	10·6	36·7	61·6
1938 ..	3·0	2·9	24·7	9·5	34·2	61·9
1939 ..	2·8	2·7	26·1	9·5	35·6	62·1
1940 ..	2·8	2·7	26·5	13·0	39·5	65·6
1941 ..	2·8	2·7	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

* 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, 67 in every 1,000 ex-nuptial infants died within a year, as against 37 in every 1,000 nuptial children. The proportion of ex-nuptial children who died before the age of one year is, therefore, 1·8 times that of nuptial children. In the year 1943 the mortality rate of nuptial infants was 34·8 per 1,000 births. Births and deaths of ex-nuptial children numbered 1,566 and 94 respectively, the death rate being thus 60·0 per 1,000 births. The disproportion in the mortality rates of the two classes is manifested in the following table:—

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

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.							
	Nupt.al.				Ex-nuptial.			
	1904-08.	1914-18.	1924-28.	1943.	1904-08.	1914-18.	1924-28.	1943.
Bronchitis, Broncho-Pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	6·9	6·1	5·9	4·8	18·6	12·5	13·0	10·2
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	19·8	14·2	8·9	1·8	72·6	48·6	23·1	9·5
Prematurity, Congenital Malformations, Marasmus, &c.* ..	30·3	27·2	25·0	15·6	52·1	64·9	46·9	24·3
Other Causes ..	18·3	15·3	14·7	12·6	58·7	36·6	29·3	16·0
Total, all Causes	75·3	62·8	54·5	34·8	202·0	162·6	112·3	60·0

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

The rates for the last five years show that, of every 1,000 children born out of wedlock, 6·5 died from diarrhoeal diseases within a year, as compared with 1·6 deaths per 1,000 nuptial infants from the same cause. Owing to a larger proportion of the former children being deprived of breast food, a higher mortality from these diseases might be expected than amongst nuptial infants, but the striking differences in the death rates from this cause and from the chief respiratory diseases indicate considerable neglect in the rearing of ex-nuptial infants. The rates from the respiratory diseases (bronchitis, bronchopneumonia, and pneumonia) for ex-nuptial and nuptial children were 11·7 and 4·8 per 1,000 births respectively.

In 1943 pre-natal causes (malformations, congenital debility, prematurity, injury at birth, &c.) accounted for 50 deaths, or 53 per cent. of the total deaths of ex-nuptial infants.

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

INFANTILE DEATH RATE—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1939 TO 1943.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1939	35·58	41·02	35·48	34·93	40·84	40·57	38·23	31·14
1940	39·45	39·02	35·32	35·54	44·18	35·24	38·43	30·21
1941	36·19	43·77	39·13	32·47	35·28	48·98	39·72	29·77
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

In the year 1943, the infantile mortality rates recorded for the Australian States showed that Western Australia had the lowest rate and Tasmania the highest.

The infantile deaths per 1,000 births in the following capital cities in 1943 were:—Melbourne, 34·1; Sydney, 31·9; Brisbane, 37·5; Adelaide, 34·7; Perth, 29·7; Hobart, 50·2; and Wellington, 34·4.

Deaths of children under 5 years.

In 1943 the deaths of male and of female children in Victoria under 5 years of age numbered 991 and 741 respectively.

Ages at
death.

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

VICTORIA—AGES AT DEATH, 1941 TO 1943.

Ages.	1941.			1942.			1943.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year	724	521	1,245	841	655	1,496	797	602	1,399
1 year ..	63	46	109	96	100	196	80	60	140
2 years ..	41	31	72	40	39	79	47	42	89
3 ,, ..	37	21	58	28	26	54	43	16	59
4 ,, ..	27	22	49	33	15	48	24	21	45
5 to 9 years	106	64	170	98	78	176	96	65	161
10 ,, 14 ,,	82	58	140	93	51	144	81	60	141
15 ,, 19 ,,	157	92	249	128	90	218	103	75	178
20 ,, 24 ,,	164	128	292	121	144	265	98	120	218
25 ,, 29 ,,	140	163	303	119	176	295	118	153	271
30 ,, 34 ,,	167	155	322	156	173	329	127	196	323
35 ,, 39 ,,	237	193	430	200	219	419	188	174	362
40 ,, 44 ,,	294	234	528	290	236	526	280	244	524
45 ,, 49 ,,	443	370	813	473	362	835	453	326	779
50 ,, 54 ,,	646	490	1,136	678	500	1,178	591	562	1,153
55 ,, 59 ,,	825	592	1,417	823	587	1,410	825	590	1,415
6 ,, 64 ,,	994	783	1,777	1,066	757	1,823	1,095	749	1,844
0 ,, 69 ,,	1,171	943	2,114	1,278	1,046	2,324	1,213	1,028	2,241
70 ,, 74 ,,	1,452	1,292	2,744	1,526	1,422	2,948	1,484	1,255	2,739
75 ,, 79 ,,	1,487	1,446	2,933	1,587	1,576	3,163	1,560	1,501	3,061
80 ,, 84 ,,	1,029	1,177	2,206	1,173	1,232	2,405	1,187	1,306	2,493
85 ,, 89 ,,	437	597	1,034	511	688	1,199	577	736	1,313
90 ,, 94 ,,	101	191	292	134	214	348	104	213	317
95 years ..	8	24	32	7	22	29	10	12	22
96 ,, ..	7	7	14	7	17	24	5	9	14
97 ,, ..	7	10	17	6	10	16	2	8	10
98 ,, ..	4	6	10	5	6	11	2	2	4
99 ,, ..	..	5	5	..	4	4	..	5	5
100 ,, ..	3	2	5	1	3	4	1	3	4
101 ,, ..	1	2	3	..	..	..	..	1	1
102 ,, ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
103 ,, ..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
104 ,, ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
105 ,, ..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	..
106 ,, ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
108 ,, ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..
113 ,, ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
Unknown ..	1	..	1	1	2	3	1	..	1
Total ..	10,856	9,666	20,522	11,520	10,453	21,973	11,192	10,135	21,327

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

Of the 63,822 persons who died in Victoria during the last three years 11,848 (or approximately 19 per cent.) were aged 80 years and upwards, and 24—eight males and sixteen females—were stated as having attained or passed the age of 100 years. In 1893 deaths of persons aged 80 years and over represented about 4 per cent. of the total deaths in that year.

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

Causes of death.

The causes of death in Victoria and Greater Melbourne according to the international abridged classification (1938 revision) for the year 1943 are shown in the following table:—

International Abridged Classification. (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses.)	Deaths—1943.			
	Victoria.		Greater Melbourne.	
	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers (1, 2) ..	27	13·63	25	21·53
2. Plague (3) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
3. Scarlet Fever (8)	14	7·07	8	6·89
4. Whooping Cough (9)	24	12·12	10	8·61
5. Diphtheria (10)	48	24·24	21	18·09
6. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System (13)	640	323·19	423	364·34
7A. Tuberculosis of the Meninges and Central Nervous System (14)	31	15·65	20	17·23
7B. All other forms of Tuberculosis (15-22) ..	73	36·86	46	39·62
8. Malaria (28)	2	1·01	..	..
9. Syphilis (30)	137	69·18	101	86·99
10A. Influenza with Respiratory Complications (33A)	46	23·23	16	13·78
10B. Influenza without Respiratory Complications (33B)	53	26·76	34	29·29
11. Smallpox (34) .. .. .	..	..	..	..
12. Measles (35)	4	2·02	1	·86
13. Typhus Fever (39)	2	1·01	1	·86
14. Other Infectious or Parasitic Diseases ..	219	110·59	129	111·11
15. Cancer and other Malignant Tumours (45-55)	2,732	1,379·60	1,711	1,473·73
16. Non-malignant Tumours or Tumours of undetermined Nature (56, 57)	122	61·61	69	59·43
17. Chronic Rheumatism and Gout (59, 60) ..	49	24·74	34	29·29
18. Diabetes Mellitus (61)	435	219·67	277	238·59
19. Chronic or Acute Alcoholism (77)	15	7·58	8	6·89
20. Vitamin-deficiency Diseases, other General Diseases, Diseases of the Blood, and Chronic Poisonings	289	145·94	164	141·26
21. Meningitis (non-meningococcal) and Diseases of the Medulla and Spinal Cord (81, 82)	122	61·61	63	54·26
22. Intra-cranial Lesions of Vascular Origin (83)	1,969	994·30	1,233	1,062·02
23. Other Diseases of the Nervous System and Sense Organs	177	89·38	99	85·27
24. Diseases of the Heart (90-95)	6,084	3,072·28	3,617	3,115·42
25. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System ..	666	336·32	409	352·28
26A. Acute Bronchitis (106 A and C)	34	17·17	16	13·78
26B. Chronic Bronchitis (106 B and D)	161	81·30	92	79·24
27. Pneumonia and Broncho-pneumonia (107- 109)	1,381	697·37	879	757·11
28. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System ..	258	130·28	152	130·92
29A. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years of age) (119)	92	46·46	45	38·76
29B. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (two years and over) (120)	77	38·88	37	31·87
30. Appendicitis (121)	99	49·99	64	55·13
31A. Cirrhosis of Liver (124)	114	57·57	87	74·94
31B. Other Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Passages (125-127)	160	80·80	101	86·99
32A. Hernia, Intestinal Obstruction (122)	180	90·90	100	86·13
32B. Other Diseases of the Digestive System ..	305	154·02	190	163·65
33. Nephritis (130-132)	1,340	676·67	845	727·82
34. Other Diseases of the Genito-urinary System (133-139)	381	192·40	216	186·05
35. Puerperal Infection (140, 147)	67	33·83	45	38·76
36. Other Diseases of Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium (141-146, 148-150)	69	34·84	30	25·84
37. Diseases of the Skin, Cellular Tissue, Bones, and Organs of Movement (151-156)	68	34·34	47	40·48
38. Congenital malformations and Debility, Pre- mature Birth, and Diseases peculiar to the First Year of Life (157-161)	941	475·18	535	460·81

International Abridged Classification. (Detailed List Numbers in Parentheses.)	Deaths—1943.			
	Victoria.		Greater Melbourne.	
	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.	Number.	Deaths per Million of Population.
39. Senility, Old-age (162)	703	355·00	327	281·65
40. Suicide (163, 164)	109	55·04	51	43·93
41. Homicide (165-168)	13	6·56	8	6·89
42. Automobile Accidents (all motor-driven road vehicles (170))	201	101·50	120	103·36
43. Other Violent or Accidental Deaths	551	278·24	252	217·05
44. Causes of Death ill-defined, Unknown, or Unspecified (199, 200)	43	21·71	13	11·20
	21,327	10,769·64	12,771	11,000·00

**Typhoid
Fever.**

In 1943 deaths from typhoid fever numbered 27, being equivalent to a rate of 13·6 per million of population, as compared with rates of 1·5 in 1942, 0·5 in 1941, 1·6 in 1940, 4 in 1939, 31 in 1920-24, 108 in 1905-09, and 301 in 1895-99. Cases of typhoid fever reported in 1943 numbered 471 or 238 per million of population, as against 8 in 1942, 16 in 1941, 13 in 1940, 21 in 1939, 259 in 1920-24, 1,254 in 1905-09, and 2,884 in 1895-99.

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 the highest incidence in recent years in 1943, but both the case fatality and the mortality per million of population are now very low.

In 1943, the deaths from scarlet fever numbered 14, which corresponded to a rate of 7 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 4 in 1942, 8 in 1941, 8 in 1940, 5 in 1939, and 5 in 1938. During 1943 there were 6,020 cases reported as against 3,150 in 1942, 5,350 in 1941, 4,363 in 1940, and 3,020 in 1939. For the five years 1939-43 the deaths were less than 1 per cent. of the cases. Forty-five per cent. of these deaths were of children under 10 years of age.

**Whooping
cough.**

Whooping cough was responsible for 24 deaths in 1943, which equalled a rate of 12 per million of the population at all ages, as compared with rates of 38 in 1942, 7 in 1941, 63 in 1940, and 1 in 1939. 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 19 of the deaths were of infants under 1 year, and the remainder 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 1939 to 1943, 49 per cent. of those who died were under 5 years, and 85 per cent. were under 10 years of age.

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

**DIPHTHERIA IN VICTORIA AND GREATER MELBOURNE,
1895 TO 1943.**

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
1939	1,617	85·9	42	2·2	2·6
1940	1,365	72·0	26	1·4	1·9
1941	2,702	139·5	69	3·6	2·6
1942	1,308	66·5	47	2·4	3·6
1943	1,330	67·2	48	2·4	3·6
GREATER MELBOURNE.					
1895-99	748	162·1	113	24·6	15·1
1900-04	686	136·9	58	11·6	8·5
1905-09	758	140·8	46	8·5	6·1
1910-14	2,343	374·3	114	18·3	4·9
1915-19	2,864	402·6	127	17·9	4·4
1920-24	2,555	314·6	78	9·7	3·1
1925-29	1,843	191·1	52	5·4	2·8
1930-34	3,151	315·9	68	6·8	2·1
1935-39	1,864	182·4	36	3·5	1·9
1939	915	87·9	23	2·2	2·5
1940	824	77·6	17	1·6	2·1
1941	1,815	166·2	47	4·3	2·6
1942	718	62·7	23	2·0	3·2
1943	580	50·0	21	1·8	3·6

The cases of diphtheria which occurred in the metropolitan area, the three principal cities outside Greater Melbourne and the remainder of the State in each of the last five years, and their proportions to the respective populations, for the period 1910-19 and the years 1941, 1942, and 1943 are given in the subjoined table:—

VICTORIA—CASES OF DIPHTHERIA.

Locality.	Reported Cases of Diphtheria.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.			
	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1910-19.	1941.	1942.	1943.
Greater Melbourne	915	824	1,815	718	580	39·3	16·6	6·3	5·0
Ballarat ..	26	11	9	26	25	24·3	2·3	6·6	6·3
Bendigo ..	53	32	66	80	88	84·6	21·6	26·0	28·6
Geelong ..	116	51	101	21	23	43·4	24·7	5·1	5·6
Remainder of State	507	447	711	463	614	25·7	9·7	6·5	8·7

Tuberculosis (all forms). The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1943 was 744, the rate per million of population being 376. 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 1943 numbered 640—410 being of males and 230 of females—and equalled a rate of 323 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 402 in 1942, 397 in 1941, 383 in 1940, 402 in 1939, 660 in 1918-22, 855 in 1908-12, and 1,365 in 1890-92. In 1943 tuberculosis of the respiratory system was responsible for 86 per cent. of the total deaths from tuberculosis.

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

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

Age Group	Males.					Females.				
	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.
0-9	3	9	11	8	5	4	5	5	3	3
10-14 .. ..	..	..	..	1	1	2	3	5	2	1
15-19	5	8	8	8	5	16	20	19	14	8
20-24	23	19	25	17	17	42	34	32	37	28
25-29	22	26	22	24	21	51	44	48	58	36
30-34	32	31	32	28	24	47	38	32	46	41
35-39	35	39	46	31	44	31	26	32	37	30
40-44	54	39	34	38	37	24	28	18	22	20
45-49	52	54	48	55	42	24	13	21	22	13
50-54	49	45	57	61	44	16	16	21	14	12
55-59	48	47	53	61	47	14	11	25	11	8
60-64	39	45	54	46	40	10	13	14	12	8
65-69	34	32	39	43	31	13	12	11	19	9
70 and over ..	37	41	40	39	52	29	28	17	34	13
Unknown .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	433	436	469	460	410	323	291	300	331	230

For the year 1943, the average age of those who died from tuberculosis of the respiratory system was 50·3 years for males and 38·7 years for females.

In 1943 there occurred in Victoria 104 deaths from tubercular diseases (excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system). This number represented a rate of 53 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 45 in 1942, 55 in 1941, 44 in 1940, 48 in 1939, 134 in 1918-22, 182 in 1908-12, and 379 in 1890-92.

Tubercular diseases (tuberculosis of the respiratory system excepted).

Tubercular death rates in Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo, and Geelong.

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

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

Period.	Deaths per 10,000 of the Population.											
	Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System.				Other Tubercular Diseases.				All Tubercular Diseases.			
	Greater Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Greater Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.	Greater Melbourne.	Ballarat.	Bendigo.	Geelong.
1891-1900 ..	16·7	17·1	24·1	†	4·7	3·5	4·0	†	21·4	20·6	28·1	†
1901-05 ..	13·9	15·3	22·7	†	4·2	4·0	4·7	†	18·1	19·3	27·4	†
1906-10 ..	10·8	11·5	21·2	†	3·0	2·1	2·0	†	13·8	13·6	23·2	†
1911-15 ..	9·1	10·3	16·5	†	2·1	2·2	2·1	†	11·2	12·5	18·6	†
1916-20 ..	8·3	11·2	16·0	†	1·9	1·5	2·0	†	10·2	12·7	18·0	†
1921-25 ..	6·9	6·7	11·9	4·6	1·5	1·0	2·2	1·9	8·4	7·7	14·1	6·5
1926-30 ..	5·9	5·2	10·7	4·2	1·0	·4	·8	·8	6·9	5·6	11·5	5·0
1939 ..	4·6	7·5	7·3	4·7	·5	·3	·3	1·0	5·1	8·0	7·6	5·7
1940 ..	4·5	5·9	8·3	3·9	·4	·3	·3	·5	4·9	6·2	8·6	4·4
1941 ..	4·8	5·6	7·2	2·7	·6	·8	·3	·2	5·4	6·4	7·5	2·9
1942 ..	4·9	3·3	7·8	5·1	·4	·5	·3	·7	5·3	3·8	8·1	5·8
1943 ..	3·6	4·3	4·8	2·9	·6	·8	1·0	·3	4·2	5·1	5·8	3·2

† Not calculated.

Influenza. The deaths from influenza in 1943 numbered 99. This corresponded to a rate of 50 per million of the population as compared with rates of 69 in 1942, 35 in 1941, 42 in 1940, 106 in 1939, 2,407 in 1919, 71 in 1913-17, 109 in 1908-12, and 381 in 1890-92.

The rate of mortality in 1943 was 18 per cent. below the rate of the previous quinquennium.

Of the deaths recorded in 1943, 46 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 1943, 57 per cent. of the deaths were of persons under fifty years of age.

Small-pox— Persons suffering from small-pox have arrived at **Deaths from.** Victorian ports on many occasions, but, as they were at once quarantined, the disease has never spread among the people of the State. During the years 1853 to 1943, 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 4 deaths from measles in 1943, representing a rate of 2 per million of population. Rates per million of population were 37 in 1942, 1 in 1941, 7 in 1940, and 35 in 1939. The disease chiefly affects children. On the average of the five years, 1939 to 1943, 32 per cent. of those who died from the disease were under 2 years and 52 per cent. were under 5 years of age.

Other infectious and parasitic diseases. Deaths in 1943 from diseases included under this heading (cause No. 14, on page 99) were cerebro-spinal meningitis 76, erysipelas 9, tetanus 12, septicaemia 23, dysentery 5, acute poliomyelitis 9, acute infectious encephalitis 8, hydatid disease 23, Hodgkin's disease 33, and other diseases 21.

Cerebro-spinal Meningitis. Three hundred and twenty-six cases were reported in 1943. The number is approximately 57 per cent. of that reported in 1942.

Deaths from cerebro-spinal meningitis numbered 76 in 1943, 106 in 1942, 46 in 1941, 9 in 1940, and 4 in 1939.

Poliomyelitis (infantile paralysis). The incidence of Poliomyelitis in Victoria has been recorded since the year 1916, when the disease was added to the list of compulsorily notifiable diseases. The highest incidence (until the 1937-38 epidemic) was 303 cases in 1918. Seven years later, in 1925, 140 cases were reported. The years 1928 to 1931 were all years of high incidence. The disease assumed epidemic proportions in 1931, 1934, and 1937. In the 1937-38 epidemic there were 2,096 cases, the number of deaths being 113.

Poliomyelitis was responsible for 9 deaths in 1943, 11 in 1942, 2 in 1941, 7 in 1940, 9 in 1939, 41 in 1938, 77 in 1937, 4 in 1936, 7 in 1935, and 9 in 1934.

Hydatids. In 1943, there were 16 male and 7 female deaths from hydatids, of which 11 of males and 2 of females were attributed to hydatid tumour of the liver. The deaths from hydatids in 1943 were equivalent to a rate of 12 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 9 in 1942, 9 in 1941, 9 in 1940, 16 in 1939, 16 in 1918-22, 22 in 1908-12, and 51 in 1890-92.

Deaths from cancer in 1943 numbered 2,732, and represented a death rate of 1,380 per million of the whole population, as compared with rates of 1,355 in 1942, 1,381 in 1941, 1,333 in 1940, 1,332 in 1939, 934 in 1918-22, 833 in 1908-12, and 584 in 1890-92.

The number of deaths from cancer in various age groups in each of the last five years is given below:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM CANCER AT VARIOUS AGES.

Age Group.	Males.					Females.				
	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.
0-14	6	9	5	5	10	4	5	7	3	4
15-24	5	9	5	3	5	1	4	9	7	7
25-34	19	15	10	21	15	17	21	16	31	28
35-44	35	49	53	54	42	94	67	92	75	82
45-54	128	130	113	124	140	196	222	218	210	242
55-64	241	266	263	275	280	274	283	304	322	310
65-74	422	390	453	444	416	418	394	404	380	416
75-84	295	322	316	325	310	281	274	302	280	302
85 and over ..	29	32	41	37	53	42	36	64	68	70
Total ..	1,180	1,222	1,259	1,288	1,271	1,327	1,306	1,416	1,376	1,461

Ninety-three per cent. of the deaths from cancer in 1943 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 1943 the average age of those who died from the former was 66·9 years for males and 64·8 years for females, while the corresponding averages for tuberculosis were 50·3 years for males and 38·7 years for females.

The following table shows the seat of cancer in persons who died from this disease in 1943 :—

VICTORIA—SEAT OF CANCER, 1943.

Seat of Cancer.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Buccal Cavity and Pharynx	80	28	108
Digestive Organs and Peritoneum—			
Oesophagus	48	20	68
Stomach and Duodenum	338	242	580
Intestines other than Duodenum or Rectum	159	214	373
Rectum	70	65	135
Liver and Biliary Passages	42	53	95
Pancreas	71	44	115
Peritoneum	8	9	17
Other Digestive Organs	1	..	1
Respiratory System	109	33	142
Uterus .. .. .	..	189	189
Other Female Genital Organs .. .. .	..	76	76
Breast	3	315	318
Male Genital Organs	152	..	152
Urinary Organs	65	37	102
Skin	31	36	67
Brain and other parts of the Nervous System—			
Glioma (not specified as benign)	5	5	10
Other	9	2	11
Other or Unspecified Organs	80	93	173
	1,271	1,461	2,732

Diabetes. The rate of mortality from diabetes shows a marked increase, the average of the last five years being 96 per cent. higher than that for the period 1908–12.

During 1943 diabetes was responsible for 164 male and 271 female deaths, representing a rate of 220 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 212 in 1942, 213 in 1941, 201 in 1940, 206 in 1939, 130 in 1918–22, and 107 in 1908–12.

Vitamin-deficiency diseases, other general diseases, diseases of the blood, and chronic poisonings. Deaths in 1943 from diseases in this category (cause No. 20 on page 99) were acute rheumatic fever 37, exophthalmic goitre 45, other diseases of the thyroid and parathyroid glands 12, pernicious and other hyperchromic anaemias 58, other anaemias 10, leucaemia 75, and other diseases 52.

Meningitis (non-meningococcal) and diseases of the medulla and spinal cord.

In 1943 deaths from these causes numbered 122, the rate per million of population being 62, as compared with rates of 57 in 1942, 51 in 1941, 53 in 1940, and 42 in 1939

Intra-cranial lesions of vascular origin.

In 1943, 778 male and 1,191 female deaths were ascribed to these causes, the total—1,969—corresponding to a rate of 994 per million of the population. Of the 1,969 deaths in 1943, 1,326 were due to cerebral haemorrhage, 29 to cerebral embolism, 512 to cerebral thrombosis, 27 to softening of the brain, 67 to hemiplegia and unspecified paralysis, and 8 to other intra-cranial effusions.

Other diseases of nervous system and sense organs.

In this category (cause No. 23 on page 99) in 1943 were 20 deaths from encephalitis (non-epidemic), 47 from epilepsy, 11 from diseases of the ear and mastoid process, and 99 from other diseases.

Diseases of the heart.

During 1943 there were 6,084 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart, including 14 due to pericarditis, 532 to endocarditis, 3,663 to disease of the myocardium, 1,351 to diseases of coronary arteries, 95 to angina pectoris, 88 to angina pectoris with record of coronary disease, and 341 to other diseases of the heart. The total causes in 1943 represented a rate of 3,072 per million of the population, the rates for previous years being 3,106 in 1942, 2,774 in 1941, 2,686 in 1940, 2,663 in 1939, 1,347 in 1922-26, and 1,441 in 1908-12.

Other diseases of the circulatory system.

Deaths under this heading (cause No. 25 on page 99) in 1943 were arterio-sclerosis 521, and other diseases 145. Of the deaths from arterio-sclerosis, 79 per cent. were of persons aged 70 years and over.

Diseases of the respiratory system.

In 1943 the deaths from respiratory diseases numbered 1,834, which represented a rate of 926 per million of the population as compared with rates of 979 in 1942, 936 in 1941, 1,016 in 1940, and 883 in 1939. Of the deaths in the year under review, 34 were due to acute bronchitis, 161 to chronic bronchitis,

861 to broncho-pneumonia, 203 to lobar pneumonia, 317 to pneumonia unspecified, 35 to pleurisy, 122 to congestion, edema, embolism, &c., of lungs, 35 to asthma, and 66 to other diseases. Further details will be found under causes Nos. 26 to 28 on page 99.

In 1943 the greatest mortality from the respiratory diseases occurred during the months of July, August, and September.

Diseases of the digestive system. In 1943 there were 597 male and 430 female deaths from digestive ailments, representing a proportion of 519 per million of the population, as against rates of 509 in 1942, 483 in 1941, 523 in 1940, 536 in 1939, 807 in 1922-26, and 2,382 in 1890-92. Deaths from principal diseases in 1943 were: 189 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 169 from diarrhœal diseases, 99 from appendicitis, 63 from hernia, 117 from intestinal obstruction, 114 from cirrhosis of the liver, 72 from biliary calculi, 64 from other diseases of the gall bladder and biliary passages, and 140 from other diseases. Further rates and details are given under causes Nos. 29 to 32 on page 99.

The 169 deaths from diarrhœal diseases in 1943 correspond to a rate of 85 per million of the population as compared with rates of 84 in 1942, 58 in 1941, 74 in 1940, 81 in 1939, 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 1943, 81 were of infants under one year of age, 11 were between the ages of one and two years, 8 between two and five years, while 39 were of persons aged 65 years and over. Infantile diarrhœa has been further dealt with in the section "Infantile Mortality."

Diseases of the genito-urinary system. In 1943 there were 1,721 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. This number represented a rate of 869 per million of the population, as against rates of 886 in 1942, 869 in 1941, 890 in 1940, 891 in 1939, 670 in 1918-22, and 700 in 1909-12. In 1943, acute and chronic nephritis were responsible for 1,340 deaths, other diseases of the kidney and ureters for 70, diseases of the prostate for 231, and other genito-urinary diseases for 80.

Maternal deaths.

The death rate of women in childbirth is usually ascertained by comparing the number of deaths of parturient women with the total number of live births. In the following table are given the proportions of deaths from puerperal infection and all other diseases of pregnancy, childbirth, and the puerperium for the year 1943 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 1943.

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).		Spontaneous, Therapeutic, or Unspecified.		Criminal Abortion.	Including Criminal Abortion.	Excluding Criminal Abortion.
	Spontaneous, Therapeutic, or Unspecified.	Criminal Abortion.	Spontaneous, Therapeutic, or Unspecified.				Criminal Abortion.						
1871-1880	46			127	173		17·12			47·26	64·38		
1881-1890	64			121	185		20·48			38·71	59·19		
1891-1900	66			117	183		20·20			35·81	56·01		
1901-1910	52			114	166		16·93			37·12	54·05		
1911-1920	53			94	147		15·42			27·35	42·77		
1921-1925	43			102	145		11·96			28·37	40·33		
1926-29..	44	12	21	121	198	177	12·78	3·46	5·92	34·86	57·02	51·10	
1930-34..	33	9	27	91	160	133	11·08	3·13	9·17	30·99	54·37	45·20	
1935-39..	18	6	41	74	139	98	5·97	1·90	14·05	25·25	47·17	33·12	
1940 ..	19	1	50	58	128	72	5·95	·31	15·64	18·15	40·05	22·53	
1941 ..	23	1	44	57	125	78	6·68	·29	12·79	16·57	36·33	22·76	
1942 ..	20	1	29	59	109	77	5·57	·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	

Note—See following table regarding deaths from Criminal Abortion.

The following tables give information in age groups for the year 1943 relating to the causes of death of women in childbirth, and the total number of children born to married mothers.

VICTORIA—MATERNAL DEATHS, 1943.

Causes of Death.	Ages at Death.						Total.	No. of Married Mothers.	No. of Unmarried 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 Unspecified ..	1	..	..	2	1	1	5	5	..
(b) Criminal Abortion ..	5	7	12	8	6	1	39	31	8
141. Abortion without mention of Septic Conditions—									
(a) Spontaneous, Therapeutic or Unspecified ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	2	..
(b) Criminal Abortion ..	..	1	1	1	1	..	4	1	3
142. Ectopic Gestation ..	..	..	5	..	12	..	9	6	3
143. Haemorrhage of Pregnancy ..	..	1	..	1	1	..	3	3	..
144. Toxaemias of Pregnancy—									
(a) Eclampsia of Pregnancy ..	..	1	3	3	1	..	8	8	..
(b) Albuminuria and Nephritis of Pregnancy ..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	2	..
(c) Acute Yellow Atrophy of Liver Associated with Pregnancy ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(d) Other Toxaemias of Pregnancy ..	..	1	1	4	..	..	6	5	1
145. Other Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..
146. Haemorrhage of Childbirth and the Puerperium ..	..	1	2	5	1	..	9	9	..
147. Infection during Childbirth and the Puerperium—									
(a) Puerperal Infections ..	..	4	2	4	3	1	14	10	4
(b) Puerperal Thrombophlebitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(c) Puerperal Embolism and Sudden Death ..	..	..	3	3	3	..	9	9	..
148. Puerperal Toxaemias—									
(a) Puerperal Eclampsia ..	..	6	2	1	..	..	9	8	1
(b) Puerperal Albuminuria and Nephritis ..	..	1	..	2	..	..	3	3	..
(c) Acute Yellow Atrophy of Liver (Post-partum) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(d) Other puerperal Toxaemias ..	1	..	..	1	..	..	2	2	..
149. Other Accidents of Childbirth—									
(a) Caesarean Section ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	..
(b) Other Surgical Operations and Instrumental Delivery ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(c) Others ..	..	1	3	3	..	1	8	8	..
150. Other or Unspecified Diseases of Childbirth and the Puerperium—									
(a) Puerperal Diseases of the Breast ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
(b) Others ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..
Total ..	8	24	36	40	22	6	136	116	20
No. of Married Mothers ..	5	18	29	39	20	5	116	..	..
No. of Unmarried Mothers ..	3	6	7	1	2	1	20	..	..
Issue of Married Mothers ..	3	18	45	85	48	35	234	..	..

Of the 234 children born to the 116 married women who died, 224 were living at the time of their mother's death, or an average of 1.9 children per mother.

First confinements were responsible for 47, or 40.5 per cent. of the total deaths of married mothers, as compared with 43.0 in 1942, 37.8 in 1941, 34.9 in 1940, and 37.1 in 1939.

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 1941, 1942, and 1943, are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—MATERNAL DEATHS, 1926 TO 1943.

Age Group.	Mothers.							
	Deaths.				Deaths per 10,000 children born alive.			
	1926-30.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1926-30.	1941.	1942.	1943.
Under 20 years ..	41	8	4	8	47.1	50.3	24.5	48.4
20 to 24 „ ..	150	18	27	24	39.1	20.8	29.9	23.8
25 „ 29 „ ..	231	35	32	36	46.5	31.0	27.0	28.7
30 „ 34 „ ..	226	30	17	40	56.8	38.8	21.3	44.3
35 „ 39 „ ..	226	23	20	22	88.1	59.1	48.1	49.8
40 years and over	111	11	9	6	117.8	86.8	68.2	41.9
Total ..	985	125	109	136	57.4	36.3	30.3	34.8

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 1943, the deaths of 320 men and 383 women were ascribed to senile decay, as compared with 387 men and 391 women in 1942. Prior to 1927, deaths from ill-defined causes, *i.e.*, heart failure, debility, &c., of those persons over 65 years of age, were classified as senile decay. In that year, however, only deaths of persons over 70 years of age from such causes were so classified.

Suicide. In the year 1943, 71 males and 38 females took their lives. The deaths represented a rate of 55 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 66 in 1942, 78 in 1941, 76 in 1940, 77 in 1939, 87 in 1918-22, 102 in 1908-12, and 109 in 1890-92. Of the 71 male deaths in 1943 from suicide, 31 or 44 per cent. were connected with firearms. A much lower rate from suicide obtains among females than among males, the rate for the former, on the average of the last five years, being 38 per cent. of that of the latter.

Homicide. The deaths ascribed to homicide in 1943 numbered 13, of which 8 were of males and 5 of females. These represented a rate of 7 per million of the population, as against rates of 6 in 1942, 6 in 1941, 6 in 1940, 8 in 1939, 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 1943 there were 752 accidental deaths (554 male, 198 female). These represented a rate of 380 per million of population. This proportion was approximately 30 per cent. below the rate (546) for the previous five years. The numbers of deaths from various accidents are given in the appended table:—

VICTORIA—ACCIDENTAL DEATHS, 1939 TO 1943.

Deaths from—	Number.						
	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.		
					Males.	Females.	Total.
Railway accidents (except collisions with motor vehicles) ..	26	25	46	30	29	6	35
Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	487	471	396	350	163	38	201
Other Road Transport Accidents ..	54	38	52	53	49	8	57
Water Transport Accidents ..	3	7	9	2	6	..	6
Air Transport Accidents ..	9	10	7	4	3	..	3
Accidents in Mines and Quarries ..	9	8	9	4	5	..	5
Agricultural and Forestry Accidents ..	*	23	23	21	16	..	16
Accidents caused by Machinery ..							
N.E.I. ..	15	9	8	11	1	..	1
Food Poisoning ..	2	1	2	3	..	..	..
Accidental Absorption of Poisonous Gases ..	11	4	5	3	4	1	5
Other Acute Accidental Poisoning ..	10	14	5	12	3	7	10
Conflagration ..	74	12	8	7	4	1	5
Accidental Burns ..	30	41	33	31	24	24	48
Accidental Mechanical Suffocation ..	16	15	19	14	17	3	20
Accidental Drowning ..	131	129	129	105	88	29	117
Accidental Injury by Firearms ..	29	39	26	15	9	1	10
Accidental Injury by Fall ..	162	100	151	190	68	64	132
Accidental Injury by Crushing ..	21	6	15	10	6	..	6
Injury by Animals ..	6	3	6	3	4	3	7
Excessive Cold ..	3	1	1	1	3	1	4
Excessive Heat ..	33	1	3	3	5	5	10
Lightning ..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..
Electricity ..	9	10	2	4	11	1	12
Snakebite ..	2	1	..	..	1	1	2
Other Venomous Bites and Stings ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
Other Accidents ..	103	40	48	40	35	5	40
	1,245	1,008	1,006	917	554	198	752

* Not available.

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

On the average of the last five years, the female mortality rate from accidents was about 35 per cent. of the rate for males.

Transport accidents.

In 1943 deaths from transport accidents numbered 302 as against 439 in 1942, 510 in 1941, 551 in 1940, 579 in 1939, 551 in 1938, 568 in 1937, 508 in 1936, 440 in 1935 and 385 in 1934.

During the year 1943, deaths connected with transport represented 40 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 1943.

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS, 1943.

	Collisions.										Other Accidents.	Total.	Males.	Females.	
	Railway vehicle.	Tramcar.	Motor car.	Motor lorry, &c.	Motor cycle.	Horse-drawn vehicle, &c.	Bicycle.	Animal.	Fixed object.	Total.					
Railway vehicle ..	2	..	2	6	..	..	..	..	..	10	33	*43	33	10
Tramcar	1	2	1	..	1	1	..	6	19	25	19	6	
Motor-car	3	3	4	3	14	..	13	40	63	103	84	19
,, omnibus	1	2	1	4	..	8	12	20	17	3	
,, lorry, &c.	1	5	2	5	..	4	17	42	59	49	10
,, cycle	1	1	2	6	8	7	1	
Horse-drawn vehicle	18	18	16	2	
Bicycle	1	2	..	2	12	17	16	1	
Aeroplane	3	3	3	..	
Water Transport	6	6	6	..	
Total ..	2	1	7	12	11	8	26	1	20	88	214	302	250	52	

* Includes rail accidents to 5 railway employees.

The number of motor vehicles (including motor cycles) registered in Victoria and the deaths in which they were involved, for the years 1934 to 1943, were as follows :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS INVOLVING MOTOR VEHICLES,
1934 TO 1943.

Year.	Number of Motor Vehicles (30th June).	Deaths Involving Motor Vehicles.		
		Number.	Per 10,000 Motor Vehicles.	Per 1,000,000 of Population.
1934	188,256	294	15·6	161
1935	200,759	338	16·8	184
1936	219,925	395	18·0	214
1937	233,573	456	19·5	246
1938	250,455	441	17·6	236
1939	261,855	487	18·6	259
1940	266,677	471	17·7	248
1941	256,502	396	15·4	204
1942	224,293	350	15·6	178
1943	232,940	201	8·6	102

The mortality per 10,000 vehicles was 15·3 for the period 1939-43 as compared with a rate of 17·6 in 1934-38. The mortality per million of population was 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 can be attributed mainly to restriction in the use of private motor vehicles due to petrol rationing.

On the average of the five years, 1939 to 1943, motor cars, &c., were involved in 15·5 deaths per 10,000 cars registered, and motor cycles in 28·1 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 New Zealand, for various periods since 1909, as well as detailed particulars for Victoria since 1879, are shown in the following tables:—

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

Period.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1910-14	13·85	18·38	18·51	17·68	18·61	19·35	17·03	16·80
1915-19	11·75	15·98	17·06	14·84	15·47	17·83	14·99	16·80
1920-24	12·49	15·73	16·13	13·75	13·96	16·66	14·60	14·01
1925-29	10·57	12·99	13·35	11·18	12·71	13·27	12·18	11·65
1930-34	6·77	9·52	10·56	6·89	10·26	11·05	8·78	9·19
1935-39	5·63	7·91	10·06	6·12	9·85	10·36	7·67	8·37
1939 ..	5·48	7·71	10·68	6·50	10·11	10·84	7·72	9·53
1940 ..	6·13	8·38	10·92	7·19	9·84	10·84	8·25	11·95
1941 ..	7·17	8·75	11·55	7·77	11·28	10·97	8·92	12·97
1942 ..	7·10	8·31	11·12	7·47	10·08	11·95	8·57	11·13
1943 ..	8·98	10·00	12·03	10·83	12·29	12·67	10·35	9·66

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	1939 ..	10,324	16·20	10·72	5·48
1900-04	14,859	25·08	12·78	12·30	1940 ..	11,669	16·79	10·66	6·13
1905-09	16,062	24·76	11·93	12·83	1941 ..	13,884	17·77	10·60	7·17
1910-14	18,795	25·42	11·57	13·85	1942 ..	13,954	18·28	11·18	7·10
1915-19	16,818	23·13	11·38	11·75	1943 ..	17,790	19·75	10·77	8·98
1920-24	19,647	22·89	10·40	12·49					