

PART III.

VITAL STATISTICS.

**Registration
of Births,
Deaths, and
Marriages.**

The system of compulsory registration of births, deaths, and marriages in Victoria has been in force since 1853, and the registers contain all necessary information bearing on the family history of the people. The statutory duties under the Registration Acts are performed by the Government Statist, who has supervision over the registrars of births and deaths, the registrars of marriages, and (so far as regards their registration duties) the clergymen who celebrate marriages. Copies of entries certified by the Government Statist or by an Assistant Government Statist are *prima facie* evidence in the Courts of Australia of the facts to which they relate. At the Government Statist's Office there is kept for reference a complete collection of all registrations effected since 1st July, 1853, as well as originals or certified copies of all existing church records relating to earlier periods, as far back as 1837. Since the present system was instituted approximately 5,216,170 original entries have been made in the indexes, of which 1,462,480 relate to marriages, 2,528,540 to births, and 1,225,150 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.

The recognition of the value of the information contained in the records is shown by the number of applications for searches or certificates. In 1938 these numbered 68,452.

**Law relating to
Marriages,
Births, and
Deaths.**

The various Acts relating to the registration of marriages, births, and deaths in Victoria were consolidated in 1928.

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

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

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

Deaths must, under a penalty not exceeding £10, be notified to the local registrar by the occupier of the house or tenement in which the death occurred. Registration of death must be effected within 21 days by a person present at the death or in attendance during the last illness of the deceased or, in the case of illness, inability or default of such person, by the occupier of the house or tenement in which the death 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.

Legitimation of an illegitimate child born in Victoria may be effected by the father at any time after the marriage of the father to the mother, provided there was, at the time of the birth of the child, no legal impediment to the marriage. Should the father be deceased, however, the mother may, on proof of his admission of paternity, effect the legitimation within two years of his death.

The *Adoption of Children Act 1928* and the *Adoption of Children Act 1936* provide for the legal adoption of children and for the registration of each adoption by the Government Statist.

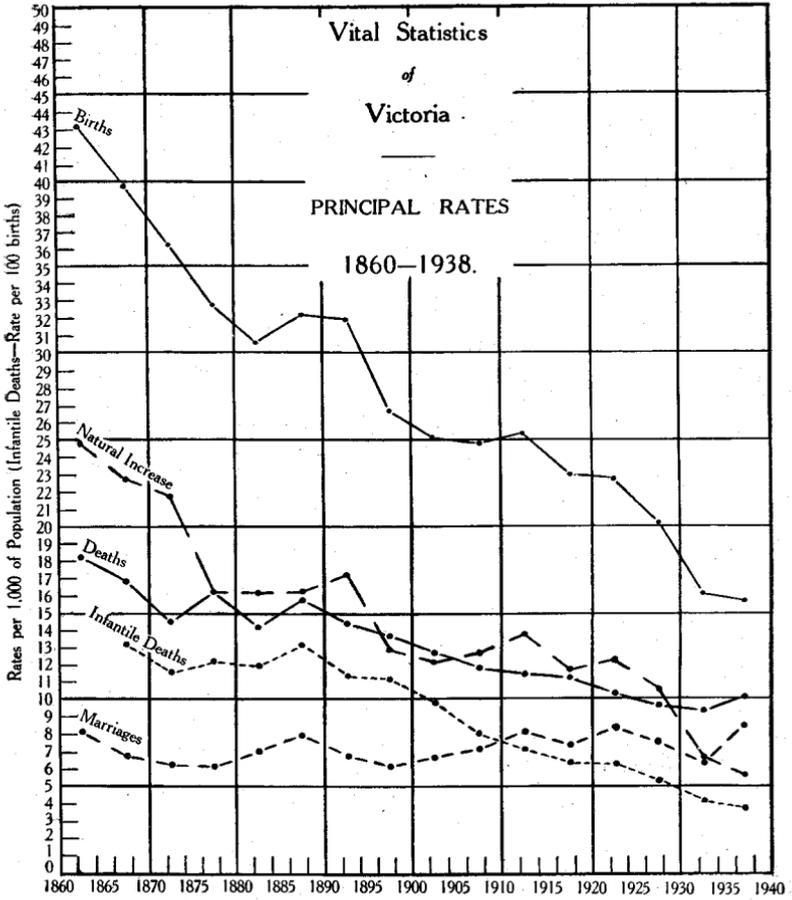
Stillbirths are not registered, but registrars issue burial certificates in accordance with the *Cemeteries Act 1928*, and are instructed to keep a memorandum of each case notified.

Summary of
Vital Statistics,
1938.

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

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1938.

Division.	Mean Population	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	1,029,800	..	14,907	11,104	508	..	14·47	10·78	34·08
Remainder of the State	838,018	..	15,437	7,851	530	..	18·42	9·37	34·33
Victoria	1,867,818	17,113	30,344	18,955	1,038	9·16	16·25	10·15	34·21



MARRIAGES.

Marriages—
Numbers and
Rates. Marriages in Victoria in 1938 numbered 17,113, corresponding to a rate of 9·16 per 1,000 of the population. Rates for previous years were 8·74 in 1937, 8·61 in 1936, 8·38 in 1935, and 7·57 in 1934. The highest rate since 1857—9·85—was recorded in 1920. This was mainly due to the marriages of a large number of soldiers after their return to civilian life. The lowest rate recorded in the history of the State was 5·66 in 1931—a year of acute economic depression. There has been a steady increase since that year, the rate in 1938 being 62 per cent. higher than that in 1931.

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

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES IN EACH QUARTER, 1855 TO 1938.

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
1934 ..	13,862	3,677	3,457	3,005	3,723	7·57
1935 ..	15,409	3,452	4,265	3,301	4,391	8·38
1936 ..	15,015	3,448	4,776	3,240	4,451	8·61
1937 ..	16,226	4,223	3,934	3,326	4,743	8·74
1938 ..	17,113	3,844	4,994	3,454	4,821	9·16

* Not available.

The ordinary marriage rate—per 1,000 of the total population—like birth and death rates similarly estimated, is somewhat unreliable in comparatively newly settled countries like Australia, especially in earlier periods, but it affords a ready and approximate comparison between years not widely separated.

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

MARRIAGE RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1934	7·57	7·70	7·99	7·39	8·34	7·32	7·71	7·64
1935	8·38	8·45	8·57	8·28	8·85	8·16	8·45	8·23
1936	8·61	8·57	8·49	8·82	9·43	8·98	8·66	9·25
1937	8·74	8·61	8·44	9·06	9·18	8·73	8·70	9·55
1938	9·16	9·03	8·85	9·26	9·03	8·83	9·05	10·09

Ages of bridegrooms and brides. The ages of bridegrooms and brides who where married in 1938 are shown in combination for various groups in the table which follows:—

VICTORIA—AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN COMBINATION, 1938.

Ages of Bridegrooms.	Ages of Brides.														Total Bridegrooms.						
	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.		50 to 54.	55 to 59.	60 to 64.	65 to 69.	70 and over.	
16	1	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
17	3	2	6	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
18	3	12	19	27	12	..	12	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	89
19	4	9	30	42	47	14	30	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	180
20	1	9	33	63	42	37	56	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	252
21 to 24	..	3	8	43	133	283	405	419	2,431	591	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,374
25 to 29	..	1	4	17	73	112	206	312	2,715	2,221	386	50	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,110
30 to 34	2	4	8	35	56	80	784	1,205	625	143	31	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,982
35 to 39	1	1	1	7	12	136	430	392	211	65	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,353
40 to 44	59	118	150	149	109	35	11	..	..	..	..	..	642
45 to 49	16	37	71	122	75	65	22	..	..	..	..	..	414
50 to 54	1	12	33	35	62	60	36	12	6	..	..	..	260
55 to 59	6	8	27	31	38	33	16	7	3	..	..	175
60 to 64	2	3	3	6	14	23	20	16	12	4	..	..	103
65 to 69	2	3	6	4	10	7	11	21	7	3	..	76
70 to 74	1	3	1	7	7	8	14	4	7	..	52
75 and over	1	1	1	1	1	4	5	3	6	4	..	27
Total Brides	..	4	24	99	307	577	785	885	6,312	4,642	1,719	761	406	264	149	74	64	27	14	17,113	

Of every 1,000 men married during the year, 728 were older and 173 younger than their brides, and 99 were of the same age.

In 1938 the oldest bridegroom was aged 84 years, and the oldest bride 80 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 1938 is shown, in varying age groups, in the following table:—

VICTORIA—PROPORTIONS OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1938.

Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—		Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—	
	Bridegrooms.	Brides.		Bridegrooms.	Brides.
Under 16 ..	..	1.64	35 to 39 ..	79.06	44.47
16 ..	.29	5.78	40 to 44 ..	37.52	23.72
17 ..	1.11	17.94	45 to 49 ..	24.19	15.43
18 ..	5.20	33.72	50 to 54 ..	15.19	8.71
19 ..	10.52	45.87	55 to 59 ..	10.23	4.32
20 ..	14.73	51.71	60 and over	15.08	6.14
21 to 24 ..	255.59	368.84			
25 to 29 ..	357.04	271.26	Total ..	1,000.00	1,000.00
30 to 34 ..	174.25	100.45			

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 1934 to 1938.

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES OF MINORS.

Year.	Age in Years.							Total.		
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	
	Bridegrooms.									
1934	2	11	62	177	305	557	4.02	
1935	3	11	74	167	261	516	3.35	
1936	14	54	165	269	502	3.15	
1937	2	16	73	147	304	542	3.34	
1938	5	19	89	180	252	545	3.18	
	Brides.									
1934	3	16	72	260	505	664	803	2,323	16.76
1935	5	20	87	261	560	691	875	2,499	16.22
1936	2	17	99	261	590	706	818	2,493	15.66
1937	1	21	104	316	518	714	894	2,568	15.83
1938	4	24	99	307	577	785	885	2,681	15.67

The proportion of minors marrying steadily decreased from 1931 to 1936. Slight increases were recorded in the years 1937 and 1938 as compared with 1936.

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, 1934 TO 1938.

Year.	Bridegrooms.				Brides.			
	Bachelors.	Divorced.	Widowers.	All Bridegrooms.	Spinsters.	Divorced.	Widows.	All Brides.
1934 ..	28·26	40·89	49·61	29·68	25·40	35·21	45·32	26·25
1935 ..	28·32	40·84	49·99	29·72	25·46	36·10	44·88	26·35
1936 ..	28·41	40·30	49·80	29·76	25·58	35·81	44·97	26·37
1937 ..	28·39	39·43	50·01	29·81	25·47	36·64	45·47	26·42
1938 ..	28·05	40·15	49·35	29·49	25·13	35·20	44·99	26·05

In 1938 the mean age at marriage of bridegrooms of brides under 45 was 28·56 years, while for brides under 45 the age was 25·11 years.

In 1938 the most popular age at marriage for bridegrooms was 25 years and for brides 21 years.

Birthplaces of persons marrying. Marriage records for 1938 show that 88·3 per cent. of the bridegrooms and 93·2 per cent. of the brides married in Victoria were Australian born, while 8·8 per cent. of the grooms and 5·2 per cent. of the brides were born in Great Britain and Ireland. Of all persons married 90·7 per cent. were born in Australia, 7 per cent. in New Zealand, 7·0 per cent. in Great Britain and Ireland, and 3 per cent. in other British Possessions. Only a small proportion (1·3 per cent.) were natives of foreign countries. The birthplaces of the people married in Victoria in the years 1918 and 1938 are shown in the subjoined table :—

BIRTHPLACES OF PERSONS MARRIED, 1918 AND 1938.

Where Born.	Bridegrooms.		Brides.	
	1918.	1938.	1918.	1938
Australia	7,967	15,105	8,517	15,941
New Zealand	89	151	69	91
England and Wales	647	1,083	363	644
Scotland	139	305	76	196
Ireland	100	112	55	48
Other British Possessions	34	85	18	37
Germany	19	33	8	11
Russia	23	14	12	8
Italy	19	83	3	41
United States	19	20	7	16
Other Foreign Countries and unspecified	100	122	28	80
Total	9,156	17,113	9,156	17,113

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 1934 to 1938, and the proportions in each condition for periods since 1900.

VICTORIA—CONJUGAL CONDITION OF PERSONS MARRYING, 1934 TO 1938.

Period.	Bridegrooms.				Brides.				Total Marriages.
	Bachelors.	Widowers.	Divorced.	Deserted.	Spinsters.	Widows.	Divorced.	Deserted.	
1934 ..	12,830	753	274	5	13,114	448	288	12	13,862
1935 ..	14,273	797	332	7	14,560	513	319	17	15,409
1936 ..	14,769	810	331	5	15,107	471	322	15	15,915
1937 ..	14,952	843	428	3	15,270	538	405	13	16,226
1938 ..	15,763	902	439	9	16,088	554	460	11	17,113

VICTORIA—TOTAL MARRIAGES AND PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS MARRYING IN EACH CONJUGAL CONDITION, 1900 TO 1938.

Marriages Between—	1938.		Conjugal Condition.	Percentage of Total—			
	Numer.	Percentage.		1900-09.	1910-19.	1920-29.	1938.
Bachelors and Spinsters ..	15,177	88·69	Bachelors	91·4	92·7	92·1	92·2
Bachelors and Widows ..	285	1·67					
Bachelors and Divorced Women ..	310	1·81	Widowers	8·1	6·5	6·3	5·3
Widowers and Spinsters ..	570	3·33	Divorced	·5	·8	1·6	2·5
Widowers and Widows ..	239	1·40	Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0
Widowers and Divorced Women ..	93	·54	Spinsters	93·4	94·2	93·6	94·1
Divorced Men and Spinsters	352	2·06					
Divorced Men and Widows	30	·17	Widows	6·0	4·8	4·9	3·2
Divorced Men and Divorced Women ..	57	·33	Divorced	·6	1·0	1·5	2·7
Total Marriages ..	17,113	100·00	Total	100·0	100·0	100·0	100·0

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

The proportions of widowers and widows remarrying per 100 marriages, declined from 7·7 and 5·8 respectively in 1905-09 to 5·2 and 3·2 in 1934-38. During the same period the proportion of remarriages of divorced men increased from ·5 to 2·3, and of divorced women from ·7 to 2·3. 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 granted and of remarriages of divorced men and of divorced women in each decade since 1900 are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—DIVORCED PERSONS REMARRYING SINCE 1900.

Period.	Decrees Granted.	Remarriages.	
		Divorced Men.	Divorced Women.
1900-09	1,208	418	554
1910-19	2,258	867	1,096
1920-29	4,392	2,125	2,116

In 1938 decrees granted numbered 820, and remarriages of men and women 439 and 460 respectively.

Marriages in religious denominations. In 1938 the number of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion was 16,343 representing 95·5 per cent. of the total marriages. Civil registrars performed 770 marriages, or 4·5 per cent. of the total.

The numbers and proportions of marriages solemnized according to the rites of the principal religious denominations and of those performed by registrars of marriages, for the years 1918, 1928, and 1938, are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES IN VARIOUS DENOMINATIONS.

Denomination.	1918.		1928.		1938.	
	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.
Church of England ..	2,534	27·67	3,762	28·53	4,894	28·60
Roman Catholic Church	1,710	18·67	2,580	19·56	3,173	18·54
Presbyterian Church	1,696	18·52	2,304	17·47	3,762	21·98
Methodist Church ..	1,301	14·21	1,825	13·84	2,576	15·05
Baptist Church ..	441	4·82	542	4·11	666	3·89
Church of Christ ..	203	2·22	319	2·42	420	2·46
Congregational Church	766	8·37	581	4·40	388	2·27
Salvation Army ..	33	·36	67	·51	116	·68
Lutheran Church ..	54	·59	59	·45	91	·53
Hebrew ..	51	·56	45	·36	70	·41
Other Sects ..	85	·93	89	·67	187	1·09
Registrars of Marriages	282	3·08	1,013	7·68	770	4·50
Total ..	9,156	100·00	13,186	100·00	17,113	100·00

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

VICTORIA—CIVIL MARRIAGES, 1929 TO 1938.

Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
1929 ..	1,040	8·04	1934 ..	1,156	8·34
1930 ..	1,224	10·51	1935 ..	1,373	8·91
1931 ..	1,143	11·23	1936 ..	1,398	8·78
1932 ..	1,515	12·90	1937 ..	1,058*	6·52
1933 ..	1,340	10·58	1938 ..	770*	4·50

* In 1937, 409 and in 1938, 570 of the civil marriages of those years were performed in the Office of the Government Statist.

Registered clergymen. The ministers qualified by registration to celebrate marriages numbered 1,955 on 31st December, 1938. The number of ministers in each denomination (excepting Jews and Quakers) and civil registrars of marriages were as follows :—

VICTORIA—REGISTERED MINISTERS IN EACH DENOMINATION, 1938.

Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.	Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.
Church of England ..	411	Reformed Presbyterian	
Roman Catholic ..	539	Church of Ireland ..	2
Presbyterian	325	Ballarat Town Mission	2
Methodist	316	Particular Baptists ..	2
Baptist	99	Catholic and Apostolic	1
Church of Christ ..	82	Free Christian	1
Congregational ..	57	New Church	1
Salvation Army ..	46	Greek Orthodox Church	1
Lutheran	35	Syrian Orthodox	1
Seventh Day Adventist ..	12	International Bible	
Apostolic Church, Australia	5	Students' Association	1
Latter Day Saints (Re-organized)	4	Pentecostal	1
Open Brethren	3	Total Clergymen ..	1,955
Free Presbyterian	3	Civil Registrars of	
Welsh Calvinistic Methodists	3	Marriages	14
Unitarian	2	Grand Total	1,969

BIRTHS.

Births—Numbers and Rates. The number of births registered in Victoria during the year 1938 was 30,344. This was 613 more than the number registered for the preceding year. The rate per 1,000 of population (16.25) was the highest experienced in Victoria since 1931. The lowest rate recorded was 15.16 in 1935. Stillbirths, which are excluded from both births and deaths, numbered 897, and correspond to a ratio of 29.6 per 1,000 infants born alive in 1938. There were 1,063 male to every 1,000 female births in 1938, as compared with 1,047 in 1937, 1,050 in 1936; 1,037 in 1935; and 1,036 in 1934.

In young communities, birth rates calculated per 1,000 of the population are to some extent unreliable and 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 1938.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Births.	Sex.		Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
		Males.	Females.	March.	June.	September.	December.	
1855-59	17,154	8,742	8,412	*	*	*	*	39.49
1860-64	24,060	12,379	11,681	5,614	5,991	6,534	5,921	43.29
1865-69	25,963	13,219	12,744	6,027	6,543	7,105	6,288	39.77
1870-74	27,359	13,944	13,415	6,478	6,769	7,467	6,645	36.35
1875-79	26,584	13,639	12,945	6,333	6,686	7,211	6,354	32.85
1880-84	27,286	13,965	13,321	6,374	7,025	7,300	6,587	30.64
1885-89	32,941	16,883	16,058	7,824	8,289	8,814	8,014	32.27
1890-94	36,945	18,901	18,044	8,669	9,604	9,735	8,937	31.99
1895-99	31,675	16,213	15,462	7,746	8,078	8,323	7,528	26.76
1900-04	30,316	15,544	14,772	7,384	7,682	7,880	7,370	25.08
1905-09	30,994	15,879	15,115	7,489	7,832	8,076	7,597	24.76
1910-14	34,500	17,717	16,783	8,329	8,619	8,850	8,702	25.42
1915-19	33,101	17,014	16,087	8,228	8,336	8,514	8,023	23.13
1920-24	36,022	18,549	17,473	8,729	8,970	9,367	8,956	22.89
1925-29	34,892	18,013	16,879	8,732	8,728	8,856	8,576	20.24
1930-34	29,429	15,075	14,354	7,383	7,409	7,361	7,276	16.27
1934 ..	27,828	14,158	13,670	6,953	6,830	7,109	6,936	15.20
1935 ..	27,884	14,194	13,690	7,014	6,652	6,953	7,265	15.16
1936 ..	28,883	14,796	14,087	7,151	6,936	7,448	7,348	15.63
1937 ..	29,731	15,209	14,522	7,116	7,335	7,617	7,663	16.02
1938 ..	30,344	15,636	14,708	7,416	7,401	7,668	7,859	16.25

* 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.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1934 ..	15·20	16·52	18·17	14·50	17·66	19·51	16·39	16·51
1935 ..	15·16	16·89	18·31	14·14	18·23	19·41	16·55	16·17
1936 ..	15·63	17·31	19·17	15·17	18·84	19·84	17·13	16·64
1937 ..	16·02	17·63	19·36	15·25	18·95	20·69	17·43	17·29
1938 ..	16·25	17·39	18·98	15·88	19·87	20·82	17·46	17·93

The birth rate in England and Wales was 14·9 in 1937.

Birthplaces of parents of nuptial children. The birth records of children born in wedlock show that, in Victoria in 1938, 82 out of every 100 children were born to Australian parents, and 96 out of every 100 to one or both parents born in Australia. Of the total fathers, the percentages born in the States or countries mentioned hereafter were as follows :—78·1 in Victoria ; 87·3 in Australia ; 0·7 in New Zealand ; 6·6 in England and Wales ; 2·1 in Scotland ; 0·7 in Ireland ; 0·6 in other British Possessions ; and 2·0 in foreign countries. The corresponding percentages for mothers were :—Victoria, 81·9 ; Australia, 91·6 ; New Zealand, 0·7 ; England and Wales, 4·5 ; Scotland, 1·1 Ireland, 0·4 ; other British possessions, 0·3 ; and foreign countries, 1·4.

Ages of parents of nuptial children. The average ages of fathers and of mothers of nuptial children whose births were recorded in 1938 were 32·01 and 28·03 years respectively, which were 3·45 and 2·92 years respectively above the average ages of bridegrooms marrying brides under 45 years of age, and of such brides, for the year 1938. 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, 1938.

Father.			Mother.		
Age Group.		Percentage of Total Parents.	Age Group.		Percentage of Total Parents.
Under 20 ..	..	0·49	Under 20 ..	..	4·39
20 to 24 ..	..	11·60	20 to 24 ..	..	24·47
25 to 29 ..	..	28·08	25 to 29 ..	..	32·05
30 to 34 ..	..	28·40	30 to 34 ..	..	22·82
35 to 39 ..	..	17·76	35 to 39 ..	..	11·99
40 to 44 ..	..	8·34	40 to 44 ..	..	3·88
45 to 49 ..	..	3·64	45 and over ..	..	0·40
50 and over ..	..	1·69			
Total ..	..	100·00	Total ..	..	100·00

It will be seen that, on the experience of 1938, 56·52 per cent. of the mothers were between ages 20 and 30, and 34·81 per cent. between ages 30 and 40. The proportions of fathers at these ages were 39·68 and 46·16 per cent. respectively. Of every 1,000 nuptial births, about 44 were to mothers under 20 years and about 4 to mothers aged 45 years and upwards.

The following table shows the number of births (allotted to the place of usual residence of the mother) and the births per 1,000 of the mean population in Greater Melbourne, cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and the remainder of the State for the five-year periods 1923 to 1927 and 1928 to 1932, and for the last three years :—

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

Municipality.	Annual Number of Births.					Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.				
	1923-1927.	1928-1932.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1923-1927.	1928-1932.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne ..	1,812	1,348	1,131	1,176	1,156	18·39	14·29	12·53	13·03	12·81
Box Hill ..	*	259	242	219	244	*	18·31	15·50	13·91	15·30
Braybrook (Part) ..	*	187	156	114	130	*	22·28	17·43	12·60	14·16
Brighton ..	482	394	365	414	416	18·75	13·37	11·70	13·09	12·92
Brunswick ..	1,161	974	808	847	874	23·42	17·52	14·83	15·48	15·93
Camberwell ..	797	865	752	864	938	23·10	17·85	14·14	15·77	16·56
Caulfield ..	1,065	941	820	917	942	19·59	14·87	12·15	13·41	13·58
Chelsea ..	†	127	122	134	118	..	18·66	17·40	19·14	16·74
Coburg ..	703	742	624	652	672	25·15	20·80	15·95	16·50	16·78
Collingwood ..	690	532	514	479	462	20·35	16·63	17·06	15·94	15·46
Essendon ..	846	766	572	610	695	19·88	16·59	12·31	13·03	14·73
Fitzroy ..	683	517	447	489	489	19·92	15·96	14·64	16·06	16·10
Footscray ..	980	875	694	723	778	24·20	19·13	14·84	15·34	16·33
Hawthorn ..	525	424	444	460	465	16·63	12·70	12·78	13·14	13·17
Heidelberg (Part) ..	*	413	336	346	389	*	16·93	13·73	14·17	15·65
Kew ..	379	339	305	301	331	17·96	13·97	12·37	12·08	13·04
Malvern ..	636	499	488	515	487	15·07	11·46	10·91	11·46	10·77
Moorabbin ..	†	398	348	371	410	..	23·14	18·44	19·37	20·97
Mordialloc ..	†	148	127	145	174	..	15·37	12·80	14·72	17·40
Northcote ..	898	727	578	610	602	24·51	17·27	13·56	14·26	14·02
Oakleigh ..	*	264	214	216	243	*	22·72	17·54	17·56	19·52
Port Melbourne ..	278	230	197	220	190	21·14	17·24	15·20	16·95	14·65
Prahran ..	877	696	628	659	699	17·02	13·26	11·76	12·29	12·93
Preston ..	558	703	541	598	609	31·33	23·87	16·75	18·32	18·44
Richmond ..	886	693	608	609	644	20·34	16·71	15·32	15·35	16·24
Sandringham ..	275	272	229	293	270	17·90	15·33	12·38	15·69	14·23
South Melbourne ..	865	660	577	589	571	19·01	15·06	13·37	13·65	13·25
St. Kilda ..	659	533	529	572	562	16·05	11·61	10·70	11·38	11·03
Williamstown ..	485	423	336	348	347	23·25	19·28	15·05	15·52	15·39
Remainder of Metropolis ..	1,364	..	..	..	..	25·88	..	..	..	..

Municipality.	Annual Number of Births.					Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.				
	1923-1927.	1928-1932.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1923-1927.	1928-1932.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne										
Ballarat ..	726	664	583	605	586	18·40	17·14	15·27	15·83	15·28
Bendigo ..	609	550	577	577	559	18·10	17·10	19·37	19·33	18·61
Geelong ..	862	844	695	703	686	21·87	19·26	17·50	17·66	17·16
Ararat ..	†	†	131	81	114	..	..	26·46	16·36	22·94
Castlemaine ..	132	105	81	111	120	18·50	15·16	15·40	21·06	22·68
Colac ..	†	†	109	114	115	..	..	19·82	20·73	20·91
Echuca ..	†	†	92	97	91	..	..	20·67	21·80	20·40
Hamilton ..	144	138	132	124	139	27·69	24·47	22·49	21·05	23·44
Horsham ..	†	†	117	129	116	..	..	21·83	23·98	21·32
Maryborough ..	114	118	120	102	114	23·57	21·35	21·13	17·96	20·00
Mildura ..	198	184	219	250	258	34·09	28·23	31·74	36·08	36·70
Sale ..	†	†	77	97	93	..	..	17·82	22·35	21·33
Shepparton ..	†	151	153	185	173	..	27·51	26·20	31·41	29·08
Stawell ..	111	92	94	77	84	23·88	19·46	19·58	16·04	17·46
Wangaratta ..	†	†	101	130	100	..	..	20·87	26·80	20·58
Warrnambool ..	188	176	196	180	183	22·75	20·17	21·66	19·82	20·04
Wonthaggi ..	159	141	93	69	93	25·06	22·44	14·09	10·49	14·24
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	17,904	15,949	13,732	14,490	14,907	20·14	16·03	13·56	14·20	14·48
Cities and Principal towns outside Greater Melbourne	3,240	3,163	3,570	3,631	3,624	20·88	19·22	19·08	19·37	19·25
Remainder of State	14,531	12,693	11,581	11,610	11,813	23·31	20·40	17·86	17·91	18·18
Victoria..	35,675	31,805	28,883	29,731	30,344	21·37	17·85	15·63	16·02	16·25

* Included in Remainder of Metropolis. † Not recorded.

NOTE.—The boundaries of Greater Melbourne were re-defined in 1929.

Multiple births.

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

VICTORIA—MULTIPLE BIRTHS.

Year.	Cases of Twins.	Cases of Triplets.	Cases of Quadruplets.	Total Multiple Cases.	Multiple Cases, per 1,000 of Total Cases.
1934 ..	328	3	..	331	12·04
1935 ..	297	..	..	297	10·76
1936 ..	298	4	..	302	10·57
1937 ..	335	3	1	339	11·53
1938 ..	291	2	..	293	9·75

On the average of the five years 1934-38, the proportion of mothers of twins was one in 92, of mothers of triplets one in 11,930, of mothers of quadruplets one in 143,155, and of mothers of all multiple births one in 92 mothers.

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

Adoption of Children.

The *Adoption of Children Act* 1928 makes provision for the legal adoption of children under 21 years of age who have never married. The *Adoption of Children Act* 1936 provides that, for the purpose of legal adoption, an infant includes any person over the age of 21 years who has been brought up, maintained and educated by any person, or two spouses jointly, as his, her or their child under any *de facto* adoption. This Act further provides that the Court may make an order authorizing two spouses jointly to adopt an infant, notwithstanding that one of the spouses is the natural parent of the infant. An adopted child has the right of succession whether under an intestacy or disposition to the real and personal property of an adopter, but not to that of its natural parent or parents; it has no rights of succession to the property of adopting parents' relatives but has rights in estate of natural parents' relatives. Marriage is prohibited between an adopter and an adopted child.

The first registration under the Act of 1928 was effected on 14th October, 1929, and, between that date and the end of the year 1938, the adoptions of 1,180 male and 1,785 female children were registered. During 1938, adoptions registered comprised 209 male and 274 female children.

Children legitimized.

The first provision for the legitimation of children born out of wedlock was made by the *Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages Act* 1903. This Act was repealed in 1912, and an Act passed which provided for the legitimation of such children at any time after the marriage of the parents, on the application of the father, provided there was no lawful impediment to the marriage of the parents at the time of the birth. An amending Act passed in 1916 allowed legitimation to be effected on the application of the mother, if the father were absent on war service or had died not more than two years prior to the date of her application. Up to the end of 1938 advantage was taken of these Acts to legitimate 3,912 children, of whom 279 were registered in the years 1903 to 1909, 1,347 in 1910 to 1919, 1,374 in 1920 to 1929, 101 in 1930, 85 in 1931, 77 in 1932, 93 in 1933, 79 in 1934, 100 in 1935, 128 in 1936, 139 in 1937, and 110 in 1938.

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 1938 the numbers of legitimations in the several States and in New Zealand during that year were as follows:—Victoria, 8·5; New South Wales, 18·7; Queensland, 16·9; South Australia, 4·5; Western Australia, 27·4; Tasmania, 30·8; and New Zealand, 38·9.

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 1938.

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
1934	27,828	630	554	1,184	4·25
1935	27,884	578	608	1,186	4·25
1936	28,883	636	636	1,272	4·40
1937	29,731	594	637	1,231	4·14
1938	30,344	647	654	1,301	4·29

There has been an appreciable decrease in the proportion of ex-nuptial births to total births in Victoria since 1913, the percentage having fallen from 6·03 in that year to 4·29 in 1938.

The percentages in the various States and in New Zealand in 1938 were as follows :—Victoria, 4·29 per cent. ; New South Wales, 4·19 per cent. ; Queensland, 4·82 per cent. ; South Australia, 2·85 per cent. ; Western Australia, 3·59 per cent. ; Tasmania, 4·30 per cent. ; Australia, 4·18 per cent. ; and New Zealand, 4·27 per cent.

Ex-nuptiality in town and country.

A larger proportion of ex-nuptiality prevails among residents of Greater Melbourne and of the cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne than in the rural districts of Victoria. During the year 1938, the proportion of ex-nuptial births to total births was 5·26 per cent. in Greater Melbourne, 4·36 in the cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and 3·04 per cent. in the rural districts.

DEATHS.

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

VICTORIA—DEATHS IN EACH QUARTER, 1855 TO 1938.

Period.	Average Annual Number of Deaths.	Sex.		Quarter of Registration.				Rate per 1,000 of Mean Population.
		Males.	Females.	March.	June.	September.	December.	
1855-59..	7,653	4,768	2,885	*	*	*	*	17·78
1860-64..	10,210	6,001	4,209	3,257	2,658	2,093	2,202	18·44
1865-69..	11,035	6,374	4,661	3,385	2,938	2,243	2,469	16·93
1870-74..	10,978	6,365	4,613	3,232	2,744	2,461	2,541	14·56
1875-79..	13,289	7,567	5,722	4,016	3,567	2,831	2,875	16·45
1880-84..	12,820	7,324	5,496	3,512	3,167	3,013	3,128	14·40
1885-89..	16,200	9,307	6,893	4,591	3,912	3,689	4,008	15·87
1890-94..	16,886	9,716	7,170	4,643	4,108	3,977	4,158	14·62
1895-99..	16,350	9,227	7,123	4,324	3,957	3,808	4,261	13·81
1900-04..	15,457	8,686	6,771	3,921	3,750	3,992	3,794	12·84
1905-09..	14,932	8,296	6,636	3,805	3,539	3,917	3,671	11·93
1910-14..	15,705	8,616	7,089	3,873	3,875	4,137	3,820	11·57
1915-19..	16,283	8,860	7,423	3,781	4,172	4,467	3,863	11·38
1920-24..	16,375	8,781	7,594	3,846	4,166	4,503	3,860	10·40
1925-29..	16,674	8,969	7,705	3,770	4,213	4,602	4,089	9·67
1930-34..	17,180	9,175	8,005	3,814	4,214	4,822	4,330	9·50
1934 ..	18,648	9,913	8,735	4,160	4,640	5,160	4,688	10·18
1935 ..	18,456	9,856	8,600	3,974	4,457	5,631	4,394	10·03
1936 ..	18,778	9,996	8,782	4,070	4,800	5,454	4,454	10·16
1937 ..	18,613	9,890	8,723	3,833	4,990	5,311	4,479	10·03
1938 ..	18,955	10,026	8,929	4,016	4,605	5,774	4,560	10·15

* Not available.

The death rate gradually declined from 18·44 in 1860-64 to 9·50 in 1930-34. The lowest death rate (8·93) in the history of the State was recorded in 1930. It remained low for the following three years, but in 1934 it rose to its maximum since 1923. There has been little fluctuation in the death rate during the last five years.

The number of deaths in 1938 was 18,955, which was 565 more than the average of the preceding five years.

In 1938 there were 1,123 male to every 1,000 female deaths, the average for the last five years being 1,135. The corresponding proportion of male to female births in the quinquennium was 1,047. The natural increase for the five-year period was 51,220 (males, 24,312—females, 26,908).

Death Rates at Various Ages. An indication of the improvement in the health of the community is obtained by comparing the death rates for groups of ages at different periods. Such rates are given in the subjoined table for the periods 1891-1900, 1902-11, 1912-21, and 1922-33 :—

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES IN CERTAIN AGE GROUPS.

Age Group.	Average Annual Deaths per 1,000 at each age.			
	1891-1900.	1902-1911.	1912-1921.	1922-1933.
<i>Males.</i>				
Under 5 ..	39·29	26·73	23·85	17·32
5 to 9 ..	3·36	2·16	2·42	1·74
10 to 14 ..	2·20	1·87	1·75	1·40
15 to 19 ..	3·28	2·72	2·37	2·09
20 to 24 ..	4·79	3·51	3·57	2·77
25 to 34 ..	6·60	4·75	4·71	3·24
35 to 44 ..	9·03	7·81	7·14	5·31
45 to 54 ..	15·32	13·48	13·10	9·99
55 to 64 ..	32·90	25·38	25·05	23·12
65 to 74 ..	62·99	59·04	53·18	52·07
75 and upwards ..	145·05	157·26	157·97	127·72
All Ages ..	15·47	13·30	12·57	10·76
<i>Females.</i>				
Under 5 ..	34·09	22·35	19·26	13·71
5 to 9 ..	3·12	2·03	2·24	1·30
10 to 14 ..	2·06	1·78	1·56	1·05
15 to 19 ..	3·43	2·80	2·27	1·72
20 to 24 ..	4·81	3·59	3·56	2·54
25 to 34 ..	6·89	5·01	4·58	3·29
35 to 44 ..	8·68	7·16	6·01	4·55
45 to 54 ..	12·12	9·96	9·44	7·68
55 to 64 ..	23·64	18·80	17·46	16·06
65 to 74 ..	45·87	46·71	42·01	38·68
75 and upwards ..	124·33	131·77	136·61	114·31
All Ages ..	12·36	10·66	10·35	9·10

The figures show that, at all ages, lower death rates were experienced for both males and females during the period 1922-33 than in the other periods enumerated.

Death Rates— The following statement shows the death 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.

DEATH RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1934	10·18	8·95	8·57	9·26	9·23	10·23	9·32	8·50
1935	10·03	9·28	9·16	8·83	9·25	10·25	9·46	8·25
1936	10·16	9·14	8·78	9·30	9·40	10·34	9·43	8·75
1937	10·03	9·36	9·10	8·91	8·95	9·51	9·44	9·08
1938	10·15	9·59	9·19	9·35	9·20	9·71	9·64	9·71

In 1937 the death rate in England and Wales was 12·4.

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

INDEX OF MORTALITY FOR AUSTRALIA, 1934 TO 1938.

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

Compiled on the basis of allotment of all deaths to the place of usual residence, the following table shows the number of deaths, and the deaths per 1,000 of the mean population in Greater Melbourne, cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and the remainder of the State, for the five-year periods 1923 to 1927 and 1928 to 1932, and for the last three years.

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

Municipality.	Annual Number of Deaths.					Deaths per 1,000 of Mean Population.				
	1923-1927.	1928-1932.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1923-1927.	1928-1932.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne ..	1,264	1,091	1,147	1,104	1,135	12·83	11·57	12·70	12·23	12·58
Box Hill ..	*	125	175	169	160	*	8·81	11·21	10·73	10·03
Braybrook (Part) ..	*	56	49	53	55	*	6·70	5·47	5·86	5·99
Brighton ..	242	272	335	378	324	9·43	9·22	10·74	11·95	10·06
Brunswick ..	520	532	575	538	570	10·50	9·57	10·55	9·83	10·39
Camberwell ..	316	430	478	539	571	9·15	8·87	8·98	9·84	10·08
Caulfield ..	463	552	665	708	718	8·52	8·72	9·86	10·35	10·35
Chelsea ..	..	63	84	82	92	..	9·24	11·98	11·71	13·05
Coburg ..	232	287	294	320	328	8·29	8·06	7·52	8·10	8·19
Collingwood ..	422	363	369	354	391	12·45	11·36	12·25	11·78	13·09
Essendon ..	404	429	492	479	520	9·51	9·30	10·59	10·23	11·02
Fitzroy ..	457	446	473	460	458	13·33	13·77	15·49	15·11	15·08
Footscray ..	397	402	444	442	459	9·78	8·79	9·49	9·38	9·63
Hawthorn ..	331	357	402	415	439	10·51	10·67	11·57	11·85	12·44
Heidelberg (Part) ..	*	193	202	196	230	*	7·91	8·26	8·03	9·26
Kew ..	191	220	260	265	262	9·06	9·08	10·55	10·63	10·32
Malvern ..	368	404	485	505	508	8·71	9·28	10·85	11·23	11·24
Moorabbin ..	..	130	153	157	156	..	7·55	8·11	8·20	7·95
Mordialloc ..	..	85	96	103	103	..	8·86	9·68	10·46	10·30
Northcote ..	349	369	410	437	415	9·53	8·77	9·62	10·21	9·67
Oakleigh ..	*	101	96	113	118	*	8·72	7·87	9·19	9·48
Port Melbourne ..	151	137	169	141	147	11·49	10·26	13·04	10·86	11·33
Prahran ..	608	628	655	666	664	11·80	11·96	12·26	12·42	12·28
Preston ..	168	242	263	271	265	9·44	8·20	8·14	8·30	8·03
Richmond ..	490	464	451	471	459	11·24	11·20	11·37	11·87	11·58
Sandringham ..	121	161	192	175	192	7·86	9·08	10·38	9·37	10·12
South Melbourne ..	539	486	539	501	517	11·85	11·09	12·49	11·61	11·99
St. Kilda ..	441	452	547	545	604	10·73	9·84	11·07	10·85	11·85
Williamstown ..	237	211	234	232	244	11·32	9·63	10·48	10·35	10·82
Remainder of Metropolis ..	520	..	..	..	..	9·86	..	..	..	..
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne—										
Ballarat ..	482	475	517	495	528	12·19	12·23	13·54	12·95	13·77
Bendigo ..	444	421	456	428	468	13·20	13·08	15·31	14·34	15·61
Geelong ..	401	455	486	452	422	10·16	10·40	12·24	11·35	10·56
Ararat ..	†	†	65	55	56	..	..	13·13	11·11	11·27
Castlemaine ..	73	73	63	57	68	10·19	10·61	11·98	10·82	12·85
Colac ..	†	†	54	54	56	..	..	9·82	9·82	10·18
Echuca ..	†	†	50	47	52	..	..	11·24	10·56	11·66
Hamilton ..	†	59	71	66	66	12·21	10·35	12·10	11·20	11·13
Horsham ..	†	†	67	60	47	..	..	12·50	11·15	8·64
Maryborough ..	59	59	70	86	58	12·25	10·66	12·32	15·14	10·18
Mildura ..	65	59	74	86	79	11·10	9·05	10·72	12·41	11·24
Sale ..	†	†	65	45	66	..	..	15·05	10·37	15·14
Shepparton ..	†	55	60	87	65	..	9·96	10·27	14·77	10·92
Stawell ..	53	51	55	67	64	11·38	10·87	11·46	13·96	13·32
Wangaratta ..	†	†	64	58	60	..	..	13·22	11·96	12·34
Warrnambool ..	80	91	110	81	97	10·00	10·40	12·15	8·92	10·62
Wonthaggi ..	49	47	34	75	51	7·74	7·45	5·15	11·40	7·81
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	9,231	9,688	10,734	10,819	11,104	10·38	9·74	10·60	10·60	10·78
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	1,769	1,845	2,361	2,299	2,303	11·25	11·22	12·62	12·26	12·23
Remainder of State	5,533	5,811	5,683	5,495	5,548	8·87	8·53	8·80	8·48	8·54
Victoria ..	16,533	16,844	18,778	18,613	18,955	9·91	9·45	10·16	10·03	10·15

* Included in Remainder of Metropolis. † Not recorded.

NOTE.—The boundaries of Greater Melbourne were re-defined in 1929.

Particulars of the residence of persons who died in the public institutions of Victoria give a definite indication of the assistance rendered by these institutions to people in the various divisions of the State. The numbers and proportions of such deaths in the various municipalities are given below for 1938 :—

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1938.

Area.	Number of Deaths of Residents occurring in—		Percentage of Deaths of Residents occurring in—			Deaths of Residents occurring in Public Institutions per 1,000 of Population.
	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Public Hospitals.	Other Public Institutions.	Total Public Institutions.	
GREATER MELBOURNE—						
Melbourne ..	424	108	37 35	9 52	46 87	5 90
Box Hill ..	29	7	18 12	4 38	22 50	2 26
Braybrook (Part) ..	19	6	34 54	10 91	45 45	2 72
Brighton ..	57	13	17 59	4 01	21 60	2 17
Brunswick ..	187	38	32 81	6 66	39 47	4 10
Camberwell ..	75	23	13 13	4 03	17 16	1 73
Caulfield ..	141	36	19 64	5 01	24 65	2 55
Chelsea ..	21	6	22 83	6 51	29 34	3 83
Coburg ..	90	27	27 44	8 23	35 67	2 92
Collingwood ..	160	26	40 92	6 65	47 57	6 22
Essendon ..	123	25	23 65	4 81	28 46	3 14
Fitzroy ..	195	53	42 58	11 57	54 15	8 16
Footscray ..	146	24	31 81	5 23	37 04	3 57
Hawthorn ..	85	27	19 36	6 15	25 51	3 17
Heidelberg (Part) ..	57	11	24 78	4 78	29 56	2 74
Kew ..	50	13	19 08	4 96	24 04	2 48
Malvern ..	82	23	16 14	4 53	20 67	2 32
Moorabbin ..	47	12	30 13	7 69	37 82	3 02
Mordialloc ..	22	5	21 36	4 85	26 21	2 70
Northcote ..	104	21	25 06	5 06	30 12	2 91
Oakleigh ..	27	10	22 88	8 47	31 35	2 97
Port Melbourne ..	53	10	36 05	6 80	42 85	4 86
Prahran ..	189	31	28 46	4 67	33 13	4 07
Preston ..	83	21	31 32	7 92	39 24	3 15
Richmond ..	149	44	32 46	9 59	42 05	4 87
Sandringham ..	39	10	20 31	5 21	25 52	2 58
South Melbourne ..	165	44	31 91	8 51	40 42	4 85
St. Kilda ..	125	32	20 69	5 30	25 99	3 08
Williamstown ..	78	13	31 97	5 32	37 29	4 04

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1938—*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	121	56	22·92	10·60	33·52	4·62
Bendigo	139	25	29·70	5·34	35·04	5·47
Geelong	131	14	31·04	3·32	34·36	3·63
Ararat	24	10	42·85	17·86	60·71	6·84
Castlemaine	26	6	38·24	8·82	47·06	6·05
Colac	34	4	60·71	7·14	67·85	6·91
Echuca	21	7	40·38	13·46	53·84	6·28
Hamilton	24	2	36·36	3·03	39·39	4·38
Horsham	21	3	44·68	6·38	51·06	4·41
Maryborough	29	1	50·00	1·72	51·72	5·26
Mildura	52	5	65·82	6·33	72·15	8·11
Sale	26	2	39·39	3·03	42·42	6·42
Shepparton	34	1	52·31	1·54	53·85	5·88
Stawell	20	4	31·25	6·25	37·50	4·99
Wangaratta	30	1	50·00	1·66	51·66	6·38
Warnambool	38	5	39·18	5·15	44·33	4·71
Wonthaggi	24	2	47·06	3·92	50·98	3·98
SUMMARY—						
Greater Melbourne	3,022	719	27·21	6·48	33·69	3·63
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	794	148	34·48	6·43	40·91	5·00
Remainder of State	1,177	253	21·21	4·57	25·78	2·20
Victoria	4,993	1,120	26·34	5·91	32·25	3·27

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.	1937.	1938.
Greater Melbourne	24·3	27·0	29·5	27·7	28·1	27·2
Remainder of State	17·0	21·2	23·7	26·3	23·6	25·1
Victoria	20·4	24·3	27·0	27·1	26·2	26·3

The proportion of residents of Greater Melbourne who died in public hospitals increased slightly between 1910-14 and 1925-29 but, since the latter period, has shown a tendency to decrease. In the remainder of the State the proportion which, in 1910-14, was 30 per cent. below

that of Greater Melbourne, increased constantly in each period until, in 1930-34, it was slightly below the proportion for the metropolis. In 1935 the percentages for Greater Melbourne and the remainder of the State were 27·5 and 27·3 respectively. In 1938 the percentage for Greater Melbourne was 27·2, as compared with 25·1 for the remainder of the State.

The percentage of deaths occurring in other public institutions of the State was 5·91 in 1938 and 5·97 in 1937. The rate in the metropolis is higher than that for the remainder of the State.

In 1938 the number of deaths in all public institutions was 6,113, of which 3,741 were of residents of Greater Melbourne.

Deaths in Metropolitan public institutions.

The number of deaths in each metropolitan public institution in 1938 is given in the subjoined table:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS IN METROPOLITAN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1938.

Institution.	No. of Deaths.	Institution.	No. of Deaths.
HOSPITALS—GENERAL—		SANATORIA—	
Royal Melbourne	867	Heatherton	38
Alfred	636	Macleod Repatriation—Mont Park .. ..	..
Hamilton Russell Community	29	Greenvale	34
Children's	282	Gresswell	14
St. Vincent's	500	Total Sanatoria	86
St. Vincent's Intermediate	22		
Austin	406	BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS—	
Women's	202	Melbourne (Cheltenham) Asylum	185
Prince Henry's	105	Victorian Homes for Aged and Infirm	188
Infectious Diseases	60	Convent of Little Sisters of the Poor	51
Caulfield Repatriation	114	Old Colonists' Homes .. ..	..
Queen Victoria	79	Total Benevolent Institutions	424
Jessie McPherson Community	39		
Williamstown	54	FOUNDLING HOMES, REFUGES—	
Caulfield Convalescent	6	Broadmeadows	13
Eye and Ear	21	East Melbourne	1
Police	2	The Haven, Fitzroy .. ..	..
Total General Hospitals	3,424	Carlton .. ..	..
		Children's Welfare Depot .. ..	..
HOSPITALS—MENTAL—		Berwick .. ..	..
Kew	100	Total Refuges, &c.	14
Mont Park	81		
Receiving House, Royal Park	91	Total Hospitals and other Institutions	
Repatriation—Bundoora	3		4,223
Total Mental Hospitals	275		

Of the 4,223 deaths in the above institutions, 2,481 were of males and 1,742 were of females.

Decrease in Metropolitan death rate.

In Greater Melbourne, in the decade 1929-38, there was an average of 10·19 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 56,000 lives in the last ten years. The improvement in the hygienic conditions of the metropolis is evidenced by a comparison of the death rates from tubercular and certain other diseases for the period 1929-38 with those for the decennium 1892-1901.

DEATH RATES—GREATER MELBOURNE.

Cause of Death.	Average Annual Deaths per 1,000,000 of Population.		
	1892-1901.	1929-38.	Decrease in 1929-38.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	1,654	495	1,159
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	446	79	367
Typhoid Fever	293	6	287
Scarlet Fever	33	11	22
Measles	215	9	206
Diphtheria	196	55	141
Total	2,837	655	2,182

The figures show that the mortality from the six diseases mentioned declined by 77 per cent. in 1929-38—the decline representing a rate of 2,182 per million of the population.

The mortality from all causes showed a net decline of 5,570 per million of the population during the period mentioned.

Infantile mortality. 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 40 in 1934-38—a reduction of 70 per cent. In other words, where 100 infants died in the earlier period only 30 died in the latter.

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

The passing of the Midwives Act in 1915 and the inauguration of the Infant Welfare movement in 1917, coincide with and, in a large degree, account for the reduction of the rate in later years. Particulars of the latter movement will be found in Part "Social Condition" of this volume.

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

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY, 1880 TO 1938.

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
1934 ..	634	48·2	608	41·4	1,242	44·6
1935 ..	570	43·0	578	39·5	1,148	41·2
1936 ..	605	44·1	617	40·7	1,222	42·3
1937 ..	538	37·1	553	36·3	1,091	36·7
1938 ..	508	34·1	530	34·3	1,038	34·2

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

During the last decade the infantile death rate declined from 47·2 in 1929 to 34·2 in 1938, a decrease of 28 per cent. Following 1929, the rate continued to decline each year until, in 1933, the low rate of 40·4 was recorded. In 1934 the rate increased sharply to 44·6 but dropped in the following year to 41·2. In 1936 it rose slightly, but in 1937 a most pronounced fall occurred. This was followed by a further drop in 1938, the new record low rate of 34·2 being recorded.

Deaths of infants under one year of age, and the deaths per 1,000 births in Greater Melbourne, cities and principal towns outside Greater Melbourne, and the remainder of the State for the five-year periods 1923-27 and 1928-32, and for the last three years, were as follows:—

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

Municipality.	Annual Number of Deaths under One Year					Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.				
	1923-1927.	1928-1932.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1923-1927.	1928-1932.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne ..	163	86	61	49	46	89·97	63·95	53·93	41·67	39·79
Box Hill ..	*	10	9	4	13	*	37·04	37·19	18·26	53·28
Braybrook (Part)..	*	6	7	4	6	*	33·19	44·87	35·09	46·15
Brighton ..	20	15	12	12	8	41·49	39·11	32·88	28·99	19·23
Brunswick ..	77	60	28	36	31	65·99	61·63	34·65	42·50	35·47
Camberwell ..	34	30	23	28	34	42·15	34·68	30·59	32·40	36·25
Caulfield ..	52	39	22	24	24	48·65	41·87	26·83	26·17	25·48
Chelsea ..	†	6	6	6	2	*	47·32	49·18	44·78	16·95
Coburg ..	44	33	28	20	23	62·29	44·47	44·87	30·67	34·23
Collingwood ..	62	38	31	20	19	89·80	71·78	60·31	41·75	41·13
Essendon ..	52	33	30	15	26	61·26	42·83	52·45	24·59	37·41
Fitzroy ..	57	41	27	16	25	83·50	79·33	60·40	32·72	51·12
Footscray ..	68	41	24	25	25	69·21	47·34	34·58	34·58	32·13
Hawthorn ..	25	16	23	18	15	47·66	37·23	51·80	39·13	32·26
Heidelberg (Part)	*	20	13	8	13	*	49·37	38·69	23·12	33·42
Kew ..	17	15	11	11	9	45·38	43·66	36·06	36·54	27·10
Malvern ..	28	19	20	12	13	44·63	38·91	45·98	29·65	31·71
Moorabbin ..	†	14	16	11	13	*	55·48	55·12	41·38	45·98
Mordialloc ..	†	8	7	6	8	*	46·18	32·71	55·55	32·92
Northeote ..	54	38	22	33	13	60·16	51·73	38·06	54·10	21·59
Oakleigh ..	*	12	7	12	8	*	46·18	32·71	55·55	32·92
Port Melbourne ..	25	16	7	13	5	89·08	71·24	35·53	59·09	26·32
Prahran ..	58	41	26	27	23	66·12	58·62	41·40	40·97	32·90
Preston ..	30	31	24	30	21	54·80	44·08	44·36	50·17	34·48
Richmond ..	65	46	30	22	19	73·81	65·58	49·34	36·13	20·50
Sandringham ..	15	10	9	6	7	53·86	35·95	39·30	20·48	25·93
South Melbourne ..	77	47	42	38	26	89·52	70·87	72·79	64·52	45·53
St. Kilda ..	34	22	30	19	20	50·97	41·67	56·71	33·22	35·69
Williamstown ..	33	19	10	13	13	67·99	44·44	29·76	37·36	37·46
Remainder of Metropolis ..	75	..	..	..	..	54·99	..	..	..	..
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melb.—										
Ballarat ..	49	34	25	16	19	67·88	51·84	42·88	26·45	32·42
Bendigo ..	48	33	25	23	22	77·81	60·00	43·33	39·86	39·36
Geelong ..	61	49	27	26	21	70·75	58·56	38·85	36·98	30·61
Ararat ..	†	†	5	5	3	*	38·17	9·01	50·00	50·00
Castlemaine ..	8	5	5	1	6	59·18	47·80	31·77	43·86	34·78
Colac ..	†	†	4	5	4	*	36·70	43·86	72·16	21·98
Echuca ..	†	†	7	7	2	*	76·09	40·32	43·16	43·16
Hamilton ..	10	5	5	5	6	66·76	34·63	34·19	46·51	25·86
Horsham ..	†	†	4	6	3	*	50·00	39·22	35·09	35·09
Maryborough ..	6	5	6	4	4	48·03	45·84	50·00	32·00	23·26
Mildura ..	13	9	9	8	6	66·53	47·83	41·10	32·00	30·93
Sale ..	†	†	2	3	6	*	25·97	30·93	64·52	64·52
Shepparton ..	†	†	10	10	8	*	54·16	65·36	54·05	46·24
Stawell ..	†	†	3	3	3	61·15	28·26	63·83	38·96	35·71
Wangaratta ..	†	†	2	11	9	*	19·80	84·62	90·00	90·00
Warrnambool ..	9	9	9	4	8	49·34	52·33	45·92	22·22	43·72
Wonthaggi ..	10	8	5	4	2	63·99	53·67	53·76	57·97	21·50
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	1,165	812	605	538	508	65·05	50·94	44·06	37·13	34·08
Cities and Principal Towns outside Greater Melbourne	221	168	156	139	132	69·40	53·24	43·70	38·23	36·42
Remainder of State	725	535	461	414	398	49·25	42·12	39·81	35·66	33·69
Victoria ..	2,111	1,515	1,222	1,091	1,038	59·16	47·65	42·31	36·70	34·21

* Included in Remainder of Metropolis.

† Not recorded.

NOTE.—The boundaries of Greater Melbourne were re-defined in 1929.

Infantile
Mortality at
certain
ages.

An investigation into the experience in regard to infantile mortality over a period of years discloses that the decrease in the infantile death rate, since the earlier periods, has been shared proportionately by each sex, and also by each age period, except that of "under one week." The rate per 1,000 births of infants "under one week," which, in 1938, comprised 61 per cent. of the total infantile mortality, has varied from 21·5 in the quinquennium 1910-14 (the earliest years for which the information is available) to 23·7 in 1920-24 and 20·8 in 1938. Between 1910-14 and 1934-38, the mortality of infants "one week and under one month" decreased by 54 per cent. and that of infants "one month and under one year" by 68 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 thirteen in 1934-38.

On the average of the years 1934-38, the total rate for males was higher than that for females by 26·0 per cent.

The tables which follow show the proportion of deaths of infants at various ages under one year for certain periods since 1899, and the male and the female death rates at each age period for the year 1938 :—

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN
AGES, 1900 TO 1938.

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	
1934 ..	22·0	5·7	5·1	4·9	6·9	44·6	50·1	39·0	
1935 ..	21·9	5·7	4·2	3·6	5·8	41·2	45·0	37·2	
1936 ..	21·1	5·5	5·1	4·0	6·6	42·3	46·4	38·0	
1937 ..	21·2	4·9	3·3	2·9	4·4	36·7	41·0	32·2	
1938 ..	20·8	3·9	3·2	2·3	4·0	34·2	38·8	29·3	

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES, MALES AND FEMALES, 1938.

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 ..	365	23·34	60·13	265	18·02	61·49
1 week and under 1 month ..	67	4·29	11·04	53	3·60	12·30
1 month and under 3 months ..	66	4·22	10·87	30	2·04	6·96
3 months and under 6 months ..	37	2·37	6·10	32	2·17	7·42
6 months and under 12 months ..	72	4·60	11·86	51	3·47	11·83
Total under one year ..	607	38·82	100·00	431	29·30	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 1938 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.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	12·41	7·31	4·87	3·57	2·84	1·89	·75
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	11·37	8·13	6·86	6·08	6·72	4·81	4·38
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	29·66	24·62	16·13	9·85	2·46	1·41	1·06
Malformations, &c. (157) ..	3·45	4·86	4·38	4·43	4·71	3·40	4·08
Wasting Diseases (158) ..	22·24	12·74	13·09	6·77	2·60	2·05	1·48
Prematurity ..	13·13	14·99	15·17	15·34	11·39	11·40	11·40
Injury at birth ..	..	..	..	2·57	2·80	3·36	2·74
Early Infancy (161) ..	21·51	12·77	7·98	3·42	4·74	4·61	4·72
Other diseases ..	..	..	..	4·42	3·25	2·96	2·77
Violence ..	3·16	2·47	1·07	·80	·80	·81	·83
Total, all Causes ..	116·93	87·89	69·55	57·25	42·31	36·70	34·21

VICTORIA—INFANTILE DEATH RATES, AT VARIOUS AGES,
FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1938.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.									
	Age Period.						Total.	Males.	Females.	Average Annual Rate, 1934-38.
	Under 1 Week.	1 Week and under 1 Month.	1 Month and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 12 Months.					
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	·03	..	·29	·17	·26	·75	·83	·68	2·26	
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	·69	·53	·92	·89	1·35	4·38	4·61	4·15	5·92	
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	..	·07	·10	·33	·56	1·06	1·22	·88	1·89
Malformations, &c. (157)	1·91	·82	·66	·26	·43	4·08	5·24	2·86	4·25	
Wasting Diseases (158)	·79	·26	·20	·16	·07	1·48	1·66	1·29	2·18	
Prematurity ..	10·05	1·12	·23	..	..	11·40	12·66	10·06	11·59
Injury at Birth ..	2·34	·30	·10	..	..	2·74	3·13	2·31	3·14
Early Infancy (161) ..	4·19	·40	·13	..	..	4·72	5·44	3·94	4·84
Other Diseases ..	·36	·46	·43	·40	1·12	2·77	3·13	2·38	2·75	
Violence ..	·40	..	·10	·07	·26	·83	·90	·75	·86	
Total, all Causes ..	20·76	3·96	3·16	2·28	4·05	34·21	38·82	29·30	39·68	
Average Annual Rate, 1934-38 ..	21·38	5·13	4·14	3·50	5·53	39·68	44·14	35·02	..	

The mortality of infants under one year from pre-natal causes (malformations, congenital debility, prematurity, injury at birth etc.) was 26·0 per 1,000 births in 1934-38 and represented 66 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 1938 was 24·4, of which 79 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 10·1 in 1934–38. Deaths from diarrhoeal diseases declined from 24·6 per 1,000 births in 1901–10 to 1·9 in 1934–38, the main respiratory diseases from 8·1 to 5·9 and the infectious from 7·3 to 2·3. It will thus be seen that, since the beginning of this century, mortality of infants from diarrhoeal diseases has been reduced by 92 per cent.; the main respiratory diseases by 27 per cent.; and the infectious by 68 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 1934 to 1938.

VICTORIA—DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE MONTH,
1934 TO 1938.

GREATER MELBOURNE AND WHOLE STATE.

Cause of Death.	Greater Melbourne.					Victoria.				
	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	5	7	2	3	1	10	11	4	4	1
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	37	27	29	28	30	57	43	47	45	37
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	5	3	2	1	..	11	6	3	2	2
Malformations, &c. (157) ..	36	40	40	31	32	76	81	104	72	83
Wasting Diseases (158) ..	14	9	12	16	10	48	40	41	50	32
Prematurity ..	152	162	140	156	156	302	340	321	328	339
Injury at Birth ..	48	31	44	63	42	102	84	81	100	80
Early Infancy (161) ..	79	75	74	79	76	139	138	134	130	139
Other Diseases ..	4	4	7	16	13	17	15	22	36	25
Violence ..	5	5	6	7	7	9	12	11	10	12
Total, all Causes ..	385	363	356	400	367	771	770	768	777	750
Deaths per 1,000 Births	29·3	27·4	25·9	27·6	24·6	27·7	27·6	26·6	26·1	24·7

Stillbirths and Infantile Mortality. A survey of the mortality from pre-natal causes is not complete without taking into account the loss due to stillbirths. In Victoria stillbirths are not registered, but cases are notified to registrars in accordance with the provisions of the Cemeteries Act and the (Commonwealth) Maternity Allowance Act. Rates based on these notifications should be regarded as minimum rates, as they possibly understate the full extent of the loss.

The following table contains information relating to stillbirths and infantile mortality in Victoria for the years 1929 to 1938.

VICTORIA—STILLBIRTHS (RECORDED) AND INFANT MORTALITY, 1929 TO 1938.

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.	
1929 ..	3·1	3·0	30·4	16·8	47·2	76·0
1930 ..	3·0	2·9	28·0	18·5	46·5	74·2
1931 ..	2·8	2·7	28·6	15·9	44·5	70·4
1932 ..	2·9	2·8	27·2	15·8	43·0	69·9
1933 ..	2·9	2·8	27·6	12·8	40·4	67·1
1934 ..	3·1	3·0	27·7	16·9	44·6	73·6
1935 ..	3·0	2·9	27·6	13·6	41·2	69·5
1936 ..	2·9	2·8	26·6	15·7	42·3	69·0
1937 ..	2·7	2·6	26·1	10·6	36·7	61·6
1938 ..	3·0	2·9	24·7	9·5	34·2	61·9

* 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, 84 in every 1,000 ex-nuptial infants died within a year, as against 40 in every 1,000 nuptial children. The proportion of ex-nuptial children who died before the age of one year is, therefore, 2·1 times that of nuptial children. In the year 1938 the mortality rate of nuptial infants was 33·5 per 1,000 births. Births and deaths of ex-nuptial children numbered 1,301 and 64 respectively, the death rate being thus 49·2 per 1,000 births. The marked disproportion in the mortality rates of the two classes is manifested in the following table:—

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

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.							
	Nuptial.				Ex-nuptial.			
	1904-08.	1914-18.	1924-28.	1938.	1904-08.	1914-18.	1924-28.	1938.
Bronchitis, Broncho-Pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	6·9	6·1	5·9	4·2	18·6	12·5	13·0	8·4
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	19·8	14·2	8·9	·8	72·6	48·6	23·1	5·4
Prematurity, Congenital Malformations, Marasmus, &c.* ..	30·3	27·2	25·0	16·9	52·1	64·9	46·9	18·5
Other Causes ..	18·3	15·3	14·7	11·6	58·7	36·6	29·3	16·9
Total, all Causes ..	75·3	62·8	54·5	33·5	202·0	162·6	112·3	49·2

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

The rates for the last five years show that, of every 1,000 children born out of wedlock, 7·3 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 bronchitis, broncho-pneumonia, and pneumonia were 17·8 and 5·4 per 1,000 births respectively.

In 1938 pre-natal causes (malformations, congenital debility, prematurity, injury at birth, etc.) accounted for 29 deaths, or 45 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 New Zealand, for the last five years.

INFANTILE DEATH RATE—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND, 1934 TO 1938.

Year.	Vic-toria.	New South Wales.	Queens-land.	South Aus-tralia.	Western Aus-tralia.	Tas-man-ia.	Aus-tralia.	New Zealand.
1934	44·63	46·36	40·61	35·58	40·89	42·28	43·59	32·11
1935	41·17	39·44	37·26	34·95	40·15	51·84	39·78	32·26
1936	42·31	43·47	36·20	31·09	42·22	49·55	41·16	30·96
1937	36·70	40·68	35·64	33·06	37·52	41·73	38·06	31·21
1938	34·21	41·84	41·28	30·50	33·80	40·15	38·28	35·63

In the year 1938, the infantile mortality rates recorded for the Australian States showed that South Australia had the lowest rate and New South Wales the highest.

The infantile deaths per 1,000 births in the following capital cities in 1938 were:—Melbourne, 34·1; Sydney, 38·5; Brisbane, 42·4; Adelaide, 27·1; Perth, 29·8; Hobart, 39·1; and Wellington, 38·3.

In 1937 the infantile death rate in England and Wales was 58.

In 1938 the deaths of male and of female children in Victoria under 5 years of age numbered 778 and 595 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, 1936 TO 1938.

Ages.	1936.			1937.			1938.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year	687	535	1,222	624	467	1,091	607	431	1,038
1 year	91	74	165	59	61	120	55	80	135
2 years	55	49	104	50	34	84	49	44	93
3 „	32	25	57	26	21	47	34	20	54
4 „	30	31	61	26	22	48	33	20	53
5 to 9	107	83	190	120	88	208	96	62	158
10 „ 14	116	71	187	98	65	163	102	48	150
15 „ 19	154	119	273	130	94	224	146	100	246
20 „ 24	186	179	365	206	148	354	151	141	292
25 „ 29	217	218	435	153	184	337	182	183	365
30 „ 34	194	225	419	200	183	383	179	175	354
35 to 39	244	230	474	249	211	460	239	230	469
40 „ 44	317	269	586	315	301	616	301	249	550
45 „ 49	450	380	830	441	354	795	433	369	802
50 „ 54	533	393	926	581	408	989	544	423	967
55 „ 59	680	521	1,201	728	503	1,231	709	537	1,246
60 „ 64	884	653	1,537	879	677	1,556	878	671	1,549
65 „ 69	1,183	991	2,174	1,107	969	2,076	1,145	975	2,120
70 „ 74	1,428	1,139	2,567	1,361	1,189	2,550	1,433	1,254	2,687
75 „ 79	1,246	1,203	2,449	1,336	1,243	2,579	1,342	1,301	2,643
80 „ 84	711	744	1,455	756	850	1,606	920	916	1,836
85 „ 89	337	424	761	319	442	761	313	471	784
90 „ 94	79	174	253	93	160	253	109	179	288
95 ..	6	20	26	10	18	28	7	20	27
96 ..	11	7	18	6	12	18	5	9	14
97 ..	7	8	15	6	8	14	5	7	12
98 ..	2	6	8	4	5	9	3	5	8
99 ..	4	7	11	..	1	1	1	5	6
100 ..	..	2	2	1	2	3	..	2	2
101 ..	..	..	..	1	2	3	..	1	1
102 ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
103 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
104 ..	1	1	2	..	..	..	1	1	2
105 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Unknown	4	..	4	5	1	6	3	..	3
Total ..	9,996	8,782	18,778	9,890	8,723	18,613	10,026	8,929	18,955

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

Of the 56,346 persons who died in Victoria during the last three years 8,229 (or approximately 15 per cent.) were aged 80 years and upwards, and 17—five males and twelve females—were stated as having attained or passed the age of 100 years. In 1888 deaths of persons aged 80 years and over represented about 3 per cent. of the total deaths in that year.

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

The causes of death in Victoria according to the international abridged classification for the period 1922-26 and for the last three years are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH, 1922-26, 1936, 1937, AND 1938.

International Abridged Classification. (Detailed classification numbers in brackets.)	Number --			Deaths per Million of the Population.			
	1936.	1937.	1938.	1922-1926.	1936.	1937.	1938.
1. Typhoid Fever (1, 2)	10	9	6	21	5	5	3
4. Measles	1	1	..	17	1	1	..
5. Scarlet Fever	14	5	9	10	8	3	5
6. Whooping Cough	50	38	5	60	27	20	3
7. Diphtheria	99	52	36	59	53	28	19
8a. Influenza—Respiratory	41	56	53	61	22	30	28
8b. Influenza—Other	42	24	47	52	23	13	25
10. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	762	713	677	575	412	384	362
11a. Tubercular Meningitis	38	36	26	42	21	20	14
11b. Other Tuberculous Diseases	70	58	61	58	38	31	33
12. Syphilis	39	42	42	24	21	22	23
13. Malaria .. .. .	..	1	2	1	..	1	1
14. Other Infectious or Parasitic Diseases ..	138	187	117	120	75	100	63
15. Cancer and other Malignant Tumours ..	2,288	2,351	2,365	1,000	1,238	1,267	1,266
16. Tumours, Non-Malignant or of Un- specified Nature	106	101	91	51	58	54	49
17. Chronic Rheumatism, Gout (57-58)	66	56	80	38	36	30	43
18. Diabetes Mellitus	311	304	371	112	168	164	199
19. Acute and Chronic Alcoholism	10	11	10	11	5	6	5
20. Other General Diseases (Classes 3, 4, 5)	366	334	359	165	198	179	192
21. Locomotor Ataxia, General Paralysis of Insane (80, 83)	41	30	35	31	22	16	19
22. Cerebral Haemorrhage, Embolism, &c. (82)	980	985	1,026	†	531	531	549
23. Other Diseases of Nervous System and Sense Organs	307	267	347	236	166	144	186
24. Diseases of the Heart (90-95)	3,812	3,904	4,016	1,347	2,063	2,104	2,150
25a. Arterio-sclerosis	1,104	1,197	1,363	†	597	645	730
25b. Other Diseases of Circulatory System ..	172	164	169	82	93	88	91
26a. Acute Bronchitis (106a and c)	47	37	23	48	25	20	12
26b. Chronic Bronchitis (106b and d)	189	170	211	147	102	91	113
27. Pneumonia (all forms) (107-109)	1,241	1,150	1,173	734	672	620	628
28. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	329	278	261	214	178	150	140
29a. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years of age)	97	58	50	294	53	31	27
29b. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (two years and over)	102	93	101	86	55	50	54
30. Appendicitis	143	126	111	71	78	68	59
31a. Cirrhosis of the Liver	86	75	99	49	47	41	53
31b. Other Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Calculi (125-127)	155	125	195	60	82	67	104
32a. Hernia, Intestinal obstruction	159	180	153	99	86	97	82
32b. Other Diseases of the Digestive System	315	316	268	148	171	170	144
33. Nephritis (130-132)	1,059	1,125	1,100	505	573	606	589
34. Other Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System	349	335	400	151	189	181	214
35a. Post-Abortive Sepsis	7	5	3	†	4	3	2
35b. Criminal Abortion (140b)	49	41	46	†	26	22	25
35c. Puerperal Septicæmia (without abortion)	40	14	6	†	22	8	3
36. Other Diseases of Pregnancy and Labour	85	69	81	†	46	37	43
37. Diseases of the Skin, Bones, &c.	94	96	83	61	51	51	44
38. Congenital Debility, Malformations, Premature Birth, &c.	809	772	776	731	438	416	415
39. Senility	1,237	1,362	1,267	†802	680	734	678
40. Suicide	198	159	137	87	107	86	73
41. Homicide	18	18	25	14	10	10	13
42. Accidental or Violent Death (176-198)	990	1,050	1,041	465	536	565	558
43. Non-specified or Ill-defined Causes ..	93	33	32	94	50	18	17
* Total all Causes	18,778	18,613	18,955	9,898	10,162	10,028	10,148

* One death from No. 2 Typhus Fever in 1926 ; no deaths from No. 3 Small Pox and No. 9 Plague.
† Comparable figures not available. ‡ Vide page 128.

**CAUSES OF DEATH, VICTORIA, GREATER MELBOURNE,
AND REMAINDER OF STATE, 1938.**

International Abridged Classification. (Detailed classification numbers in brackets.)	Number of Deaths.				Deaths per 1,000,000 of Population.	
	Victoria.		Metropolis.	Remainder of State.	Metropolis.	Remainder of State.
	Males.	Fc- males				
1. Typhoid Fever (1, 2)	4	2	2	4	2	5
4. Measles	7	2	6	3	6	3
5. Scarlet Fever	5	1	4	1	5	27
6. Whooping Cough	21	15	13	23	13	27
7. Diphtheria	35	18	24	29	23	35
8a. Influenza—Respiratory	22	25	25	22	24	26
8b. Influenza—Other	371	306	451	226	438	270
10. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	11	15	20	6	19	7
11a. Tubercular Meningitis	30	31	45	16	44	19
11b. Other Tuberculous Diseases	33	9	30	12	29	14
12. Syphilis	2	1	1	1	1	1
13. Malaria	69	48	64	53	62	63
14. Other Infectious or Parasitic Diseases	1,158	1,207	1,435	930	1,393	1,110
15. Cancer and other Malignant Tumours	36	55	58	33	57	39
16. Tumours, Non-Malignant or of Unspecified Nature	27	53	44	36	43	43
17. Chronic Rheumatism, Gout (57-58)	137	234	231	140	224	167
18. Diabetes Melitus	8	2	6	4	6	5
19. Acute and Chronic Alcoholism	160	199	192	167	186	199
20. Other General Diseases (Classes 3, 4, 5)	29	6	29	6	28	7
21. Locomotor Ataxia, General Paralysis of Insane (80, 83)	397	629	602	424	585	506
22. Cerebral Haemorrhage, Embolism, &c. (82)	190	157	194	153	188	183
23. Other Diseases of Nervous System and Sense Organs	2,250	1,766	2,360	1,656	2,292	1,976
24. Diseases of the Heart (90-95)	626	737	907	456	881	544
25a. Arterio-sclerosis	90	79	109	60	105	72
25b. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	13	10	13	10	13	12
26a. Acute Bronchitis (106a and c)	114	97	124	87	120	104
26b. Chronic Bronchitis (106b and d)	650	523	707	466	687	556
27. Pneumonia (all forms) (107-109)	168	93	137	124	133	148
28. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	25	25	32	18	31	21
29a. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years of age)	36	65	56	45	54	54
29b. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (two years and over)	59	52	60	51	58	61
30. Appendicitis	59	40	66	33	64	39
31a. Cirrhosis of the Liver	67	128	126	69	123	82
31b. Other Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Calculi (125-127)	74	79	102	51	99	61
32a. Hernia, Intestinal obstruction	159	109	161	107	157	128
32b. Other Diseases of the Digestive System	567	533	676	424	656	506
33. Nephritis (130-132)	297	103	220	180	214	215
34. Other Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System	3	1	2	1	2	2
35a. Post-Abortive Sepsis	46	37	9	36	11	11
35b. Criminal Abortion (140b)	6	3	3	3	3	3
35c. Puerperal Septicæmia (without abortion)	81	35	46	34	55	55
36. Other Diseases of Pregnancy and Labour	50	33	53	30	51	36
37. Diseases of the Skin, Bones, &c.	460	316	369	407	359	486
38. Congenital Debility, Malformations, Premature Birth, &c.	579	688	609	658	591	785
39. Senility	106	31	65	72	63	86
40. Suicide	18	7	13	12	13	14
41. Homicide	791	250	583	458	566	547
42. Accidental or Violent Death (176-198)	21	11	7	25	7	30
43. Non-specified or Ill-defined Causes						
*TOTAL ALL CAUSES	10,026	8,929	11,104	7,851	10,783	9,368

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

Typhoid fever. In 1938, deaths from typhoid fever numbered 5, being equivalent to a rate of 3 per million of population, as compared with rates of 5 in 1937, 5 in 1936, 9 in 1935, 6 in 1934, 31 in 1920-24, 108 in 1905-09, and 301 in 1895-99. Cases of typhoid fever reported in 1938 numbered 40, or 21 per million of population, as against 259 in 1920-24, and 2,884 in 1895-99.

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

Small-pox—Deaths from. Persons suffering from small-pox have arrived at Victorian ports on many occasions, but, as they were at once quarantined, the disease has never spread among the people of the State. During the years 1853 to 1938, only 31 deaths occurred from this cause. The last death from small-pox in Victoria occurred in 1921.

Measles. Although the mortality from measles has varied very considerably from period to period, there has been no very severe epidemic outbreak since 1898, when 671 deaths resulted from the disease. There were no deaths from measles in 1938. Rates per million of population were 1 in 1937, 1 in 1936, 11 in 1935, and 14 in 1934. The disease chiefly affects children. On the average of the five years 1934 to 1938, 38 per cent. of those who died from the disease were under 2 years, and 60 per cent. were under 5 years of age.

Scarlet fever. In 1938 the deaths from scarlet fever numbered 9, which corresponded to a rate of 5 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 3 in 1937, 8 in 1936, 3 in 1935, 10 in 1934, and 7 in 1933. During 1938 there were 1,714 cases reported as against 2,567 in 1937, 2,122 in 1936, 1,458 in 1935, and 1,834 in 1934. For the five years mentioned the deaths were less than 1 per cent. of the cases. Sixty-seven per cent. of these deaths were of children under 10 years of age.

Whooping cough. Whooping cough was responsible for 5 deaths in 1938, which equalled a rate of 3 per million of the population at all ages, as compared with rates of 20 in 1937, 27 in 1936, 27 in 1935, and 46 in 1934. 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, 4 of the deaths were of infants under 1 year, and all of the deaths were of children less than 5 years of age.

Diphtheria. The improvement in the incidence of many ailments, as shown by morbidity statistics is not maintained in the case of diphtheria. On the other hand, in the proportion of cases which ended fatally, a very great reduction has taken place since 1890. On the average of the five years 1934 to 1938, 53 per cent. of those who died were under 5 years, and 86 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 1938.**

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
1934	5,490	299·8	110	6·0	2·0
1935	4,309	234·3	94	5·1	2·2
1936	5,218	282·4	99	5·4	1·9
1937	3,040	163·8	52	2·8	1·7
1938	1,824	97·7	36	1·9	2·0
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
1934	2,539	254·4	49	4·9	1·9
1935	2,460	245·0	57	5·7	2·3
1936	3,299	325·8	57	5·6	1·7
1937	1,683	165·0	28	2·7	1·7
1938	962	93·4	13	1·3	1·4

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 1936, 1937, and 1938, are given in the subjoined table:—

VICTORIA—CASES OF DIPHTHERIA.

Area	Reported Cases of Diphtheria.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.			
	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1910-19.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Greater Melbourne	2,539	2,460	3,299	1,683	962	39·3	32·6	16·5	9·3
Ballarat ..	241	154	159	49	38	24·3	41·6	12·8	9·9
Bendigo ..	109	85	63	43	19	84·6	21·1	14·4	6·3
Geelong ..	181	283	206	182	157	43·4	51·9	45·7	39·3
Remainder of State	2,420	1,327	1,491	1,083	648	25·7	20·5	14·9	8·9

Influenza. The deaths from influenza in 1938 numbered 100. This corresponded to a rate of 53 per million of the population as compared with rates of 43 in 1937, 45 in 1936, 120 in 1935, 171 in 1934, 2,407 in 1919, 71 in 1913-17, 109 in 1908-12, and 381 in 1890-92.

The rate of mortality was low in 1938, being 45 per cent. below the average of the previous quinquennium.

Of the deaths recorded in 1938, 53 per cent. were associated with specified respiratory complications.

With the exception of the 1919 epidemic, when 72 per cent. of the deaths were of persons between 20 and 50 years of age, influenza has always proved more fatal to elderly people than to those at middle or young ages. In 1938, 61 per cent. were of persons over 50 years of age.

Tuberculosis (all forms). The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1938 was 764, the rate per million of population being 409. This is the lowest rate on record for Victoria.

Death rates from tuberculosis of the respiratory system. The deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in 1938 numbered 677—371 being of males and 306 of females—and equalled a rate of 362 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 384 in 1937, 412 in 1936, 414 in 1935, 411 in 1934, 660 in 1918-22, 855 in 1908-12, and 1,365 in 1890-92. In 1938 tuberculosis of the respiratory system was responsible for 89 per cent. of the total deaths from tuberculosis. The deaths from this cause in Scotland and in Northern Ireland in 1937 were 560 and 758 per million of their respective populations. For England and Wales and for Eire in 1936 the rates were 583 and 919

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

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

Age Group.	Annual Mortality from Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System per 10,000 of each Sex.					
	1880-82.	1890-92.	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1932-34.
<i>Males.</i>						
Under 15 ..	1·74	·90	·38	·46	·42	·24
15 to 19 ..	6·88	5·41	5·06	3·71	2·67	1·07
20 to 24 ..	21·19	18·29	14·35	8·45	7·88	3·59
25 to 34 ..	30·33	23·70	20·31	13·11	9·70	5·44
35 to 44 ..	25·11	28·28	22·07	15·63	12·43	7·46
45 to 54 ..	28·65	31·17	25·05	18·07	13·94	9·05
55 to 64 ..	31·41	36·48	35·75	18·88	13·03	10·56
65 and upwards	18·08	25·40	31·07	13·55	8·65	7·80
All Ages ..	15·33	15·73	13·51	8·98	7·11	4·74
<i>Females.</i>						
Under 15 ..	1·76	1·43	·93	·97	·38	·23
15 to 19 ..	12·50	9·51	8·18	7·62	4·84	2·92
20 to 24 ..	21·00	18·49	12·79	12·68	10·20	6·60
25 to 34 ..	26·56	21·77	18·15	14·03	10·00	7·08
35 to 44 ..	24·06	22·53	17·74	11·51	9·15	5·26
45 to 54 ..	20·72	16·13	14·41	8·18	5·91	3·82
55 to 64 ..	14·26	12·35	12·52	7·47	4·95	3·78
65 and upwards	13·12	8·25	8·18	5·29	3·94	2·88
All Ages ..	12·75	11·51	9·72	7·61	5·55	3·70

A comparison of the mortality from tuberculosis of the respiratory system for the census periods 1920-22 and 1932-34 shows that lower death rates obtained in each age group in 1932-34 than in 1920-22, and that the improvement was greater among males than among females.

Deaths from tuberculosis of the respiratory system in each of the last five years, and the ages and sexes of the deceased, are given in the next table :—

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

Age Group	Males.					Females.				
	Year.					Year.				
	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
0-9	7	3	4	8	1	2	1	7	2	2
10-14	2	..	1	2	..	3	2	2	2	2
15-19	7	9	8	7	4	21	20	27	15	22
20-24	30	26	21	23	13	40	43	57	41	41
25-29	40	39	26	19	25	62	63	60	52	49
30-34	31	36	35	33	27	49	45	53	41	49
35-39	38	43	37	44	42	40	38	34	42	26
40-44	51	51	54	47	36	31	31	40	20	30
45-49	47	40	52	51	48	22	11	18	26	14
50-54	41	55	40	48	31	19	20	17	13	17
55-59	45	45	35	36	46	12	21	10	14	14
60-64	35	27	33	40	32	16	15	13	12	12
65-69	25	20	29	27	31	7	11	16	9	12
70 and over ..	20	36	19	25	34	10	10	14	14	16
Unknown .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
Total	419	430	394	410	371	334	331	368	303	306

For the year 1938, the average age of those who died from tuberculosis of the respiratory system was 48·7 years for males and 37·6 years for females.

Tubercular diseases (tuberculosis of the respiratory system excepted).

In 1938 there occurred in Victoria 87 deaths from tubercular diseases (excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system). This number represented a rate of 47 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 51 in 1937, 59 in 1936, 64 in 1935, 74 in 1934, 134 in 1918-22, 182 in 1908-12 and 379 in 1890-92. The deaths from similar causes in Scotland and in Northern Ireland in 1937 numbered 176 and 207 per million of their respective populations. In 1936 the rates for England and Wales and in Eire were 109 and 255 respectively.

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. During recent years the rates for Greater Melbourne and Ballarat have declined considerably.

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	11.6	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
1934 ..	4.7	5.3	6.1	1.8	.8	1.3	1.0	.7	5.5	6.6	7.1	2.5
1935 ..	4.8	4.7	9.2	3.3	.7	.3	.3	.5	5.5	5.0	9.5	3.8
1936 ..	5.0	1.3	10.4	3.8	.6	.5	1.0	.7	5.6	1.8	11.4	4.5
1937 ..	4.4	3.7	9.4	6.5	.6	.5	1.3	.3	5.0	4.2	10.7	6.8
1938 ..	4.4	4.2	9.3	2.3	.6	1.0	..	.5	5.0	5.2	9.3	2.8

† Not calculated.

Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases.

Deaths in 1938, from diseases included under this heading (cause No. 14, on page 111) were dysentery 12, erysipelas 6, acute poliomyelitis 41, lethargic encephalitis 3, cerebro-spinal meningitis 7, tetanus 10, septicaemia 18, hydatid cysts 12, and other diseases 8.

Hydatids. In 1938, there were 6 male and 6 female deaths from hydatids, of which 2 of males and 3 of females were attributed to hydatid tumour of the liver. The deaths from hydatids in 1938 were equivalent to a rate of 6 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 11 in 1937, 9 in 1936, 10 in 1935, 13 in 1934, 16 in 1918-22, 22 in 1908-12, and 51 in 1890-92.

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.

Towards the end of June, 1937, an epidemic began in a southern suburb of Melbourne, eventually spread to all parts of the State and continued until June, 1938. The total number of cases from 1st July, 1937, to 30th June, 1938, was 2,096. The number of deaths registered during the period was 113 (males 70, females 43).

The incidence and mortality in connexion with the epidemic are shown in the following tables :—

VICTORIA—POLIOMYELITIS INCIDENCE, 1ST JULY, 1937, TO 30TH JUNE, 1938.

Age Group (Years).	1937.						1938.						Total Cases.
	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	
0-4 ..	7	60	87	84	107	114	64	44	16	9	3	1	596
5-9 ..	22	98	78	122	177	174	158	69	28	14	9	4	953
10-14 ..	6	20	14	32	49	66	73	30	15	8	9	4	326
15 and over	1	6	8	11	22	41	61	44	17	6	3	1	221
Total ..	36	184	187	249	355	395	356	187	76	37	24	10	2,096

VICTORIA—POLIOMYELITIS—INCIDENCE AND MORTALITY
1ST JULY, 1937, TO 30TH JUNE, 1938.

Age.	Greater Melbourne				Remainder of State.				Total.	
	Cases.		Deaths.		Cases.		Deaths.		Cases.	Deaths.
	1.7.37 to 31.12.37.	1.1.38 to 30.6.38.								
Under 1 year ..	19	2	2	..	2	8	1	..	31	3
1 year ..	48	2	5	1	11	10	..	..	77	6
2 years ..	79	10	5	..	17	13	..	..	119	5
3 ..	101	18	3	..	39	32	..	1	190	4
4 ..	110	24	4	1	33	12	2	1	179	8
5 ..	124	27	1	2	48	31	..	..	230	3
6 ..	125	33	7	2	45	33	2	2	236	13
7 ..	90	32	5	1	44	26	1	1	192	8
8 ..	69	20	2	2	29	29	1	1	147	5
9 ..	72	23	5	2	25	23	2	1	148	10
10 ..	44	20	3	3	21	21	..	1	106	7
11 ..	25	11	..	..	16	16	..	..	68	..
12 ..	24	12	1	1	14	18	1	..	68	3
13 ..	19	8	3	1	5	12	..	1	44	5
14 ..	12	7	1	1	7	14	..	..	40	4
15 ..	9	5	..	..	9	18	2	4	41	6
16 ..	2	3	..	1	4	11	1	..	20	2
17 ..	4	6	2	..	3	4	..	..	17	2
18 ..	4	..	2	..	3	6	..	1	13	3
19 ..	1	..	..	..	2	4	..	..	7	..
20 ..	3	1	..	..	4	8	1	..	16	1
21 ..	5	5	2	..	2	6	..	1	18	3
22 ..	3	2	..	..	..	3	..	..	7	..
23 ..	1	3	..	..	1	2	..	..	8	..
24 ..	3	..	..	..	2	3	..	1	8	1
25 ..	1	3	..	..	1	7	..	..	12	..
26 ..	2	..	..	..	1	3	2	1	6	3
27 ..	2	1	1	..	3	5	1	1	11	3
28 ..	3	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	6	1
29 ..	..	1	..	..	..	3	..	1	4	1
30 ..	..	..	..	..	1	5	..	..	6	..
31 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
32 ..	2	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	3	2
33 ..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..
34 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
35 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
36 ..	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	1	3	2
37 ..	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	4	..
38 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
39 ..	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
42 ..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	..
47 ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..
67 ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Total ..	1,011	291	58	18	394	400	17	20	2,096	113

Poliomyelitis was responsible for 41 deaths in 1938, 77 in 1937, 4 in 1936, 7 in 1935, 9 in 1934, 7 in 1933, 4 in 1932, 16 in 1931, 12 in 1930, and 17 in 1929.

Deaths from cancer in 1938 numbered 2,365, and represented a death rate of 1,266 per million of the whole population, as compared with rates of 1,267 in 1937, 1,238 in 1936, 1,229 in 1935, 1,190 in 1934, 934 in 1918-22, 833 in 1908-12, and 584 in 1890-92. The deaths from this cause in Scotland and in Northern Ireland in 1937 were 1,569 and 1,251 per million of their respective populations. In 1936 the rates for England and Wales and in Eire were 1,625 and 1,206 respectively.

**Cancer—
Death Rates
at Different
Ages.**

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

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES FROM CANCER IN AGE GROUPS.

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

Deaths from cancer occur at all age periods, but the rates in the foregoing table show that it is essentially a disease of later life, increasing rapidly in the groups past middle age and reaching a maximum mortality rate in the oldest age group.

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

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM CANCER AT VARIOUS AGES.

Age Group.	Males.					Females.				
	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.
0-14	4	5	9	6	4	4	5	3	4	6
15-24	5	5	6	4	3	1	10	9	4	5
25-34	14	21	20	17	24	21	26	14	18	16
35-44	37	50	29	50	50	81	110	90	95	88
45-54	111	103	114	113	119	177	157	194	177	190
55-64	261	237	252	227	263	273	268	304	260	237
65-74	425	419	436	429	413	332	384	338	371	377
75-84	191	208	221	276	268	180	196	189	236	252
85 and over ..	26	15	25	25	14	35	41	35	39	36
Total	1,074	1,063	1,112	1,147	1,158	1,104	1,197	1,176	1,204	1,207

Ninety-two per cent. of the deaths from cancer in 1938 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 1938 the average age of those who died from the former was 65·5 years for males and 63·7 years for females, while the corresponding averages for the latter were 48·7 years for males and 37·6 years for females.

The following table shows the seat of cancer in persons who died from this disease in 1938:—

SEAT OF CANCER, 1938.

Seat of Disease.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Buccal cavity and pharynx	74	25	99
Oesophagus	55	15	70
Stomach, duodenum, liver and biliary ducts ..	367	267	634
Pancreas	58	45	103
Intestines, peritoneum and rectum	215	232	447
Respiratory organs	78	30	108
Female genital organs .. ..	..	214	214
Female breast .. ..	..	249	249
Male genito-urinary organs	197	..	197
Skin	31	29	60
Other and unspecified organs	83	101	184
Total Deaths	1,158	1,207	2,365

Fifty-three per cent. of the persons who died from cancer were affected in the digestive tract or peritoneum. Of the females who died from the disease, 38 per cent. were affected in the genital organs or breast.

Diabetes. The rate of mortality from diabetes shows a marked increase, the average of the last five years being 63 per cent. higher than that for the period 1908-12.

During 1938 diabetes was responsible for 137 male and 234 female deaths, representing a rate of 199 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 164 in 1937, 168 in 1936, 168 in 1935, 174 in 1934, 130 in 1918-22, and 107 in 1908-12.

The deaths from diabetes per 10,000 of each sex in age groups for the periods 1900-02, 1910-12, 1920-22, and 1932-34, are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES FROM DIABETES.

Age Group.	Average Annual Deaths from Diabetes per 10,000 of each Sex.			
	1900-02.	1910-12.	1920-22.	1932-34.
<i>Males.</i>				
Under 10 ..	·09	·10	·13	·13
10 to 19 ..	·24	·20	·31	·14
20 to 29 ..	·17	·64	·48	·18
30 to 39 ..	·32	·58	·45	·27
40 to 49 ..	·49	1·11	·95	·31
50 to 59 ..	1·38	1·80	2·14	1·92
60 to 69 ..	2·67	5·63	5·19	5·82
70 to 79 ..	4·36	7·34	7·37	13·13
80 and over ..	4·11	7·43	8·42	12·33
All Ages ..	·56	1·00	1·03	1·25
<i>Females.</i>				
Under 10 ..	·05	·15	·22	·04
10 to 19 ..	·26	·36	·39	·21
20 to 29 ..	·36	·30	·53	·16
30 to 39 ..	·51	·53	·54	·19
40 to 49 ..	·42	·78	1·11	·90
50 to 59 ..	1·42	3·18	2·79	4·00
60 to 69 ..	3·19	8·47	8·02	9·57
70 to 79 ..	5·01	11·54	12·51	17·97
80 and over ..	3·54	6·83	6·02	11·97
All Ages ..	·60	1·26	1·45	2·08

In 1932-34 the rate for females was 66 per cent. higher than that for males.

Other General Diseases. Deaths in 1938 from diseases in this category (cause No. 20 on page 111) were acute rheumatic fever 103, exophthalmic goitre 37, other diseases of the thyroid and parathyroid glands 12, pernicious anaemia 80, other anaemias 11, leucaemia 48, Hodgkin's disease 29, and other diseases 39.

Cerebral Haemorrhage, Embolism, &c. In 1938, 397 male and 629 female deaths were ascribed to these causes, the total—1,026—corresponding to a rate of 549 per million of the population as compared with rates of 531 in 1937, 531 in 1936, 513 in 1935, and 537 in 1934. Of the 1,026 deaths in 1938, 577 were due to cerebral haemorrhage, 34 to apoplexy, 16 to cerebral embolism, 331 to cerebral thrombosis, 11 to softening of the brain, and 57 to hemiplegia and unspecified paralysis.

Other Diseases of Nervous System and Sense Organs. In this category (cause No. 23 on page 111) in 1938 were 51 deaths from simple meningitis, 57 from other diseases of the spinal cord, 48 from epilepsy, 29 from diseases of the ear and mastoid process, and 162 from other diseases.

Diseases of the Heart. During 1938 there were 4,016 deaths ascribed to diseases of the heart, including 13 due to pericarditis, 541 to endocarditis, 2,178 to disease of the myocardium, 734 to diseases of coronary arteries, 167 to angina pectoris, 34 to angina pectoris with record of coronary disease, and 349 to other diseases of the heart. The total causes in 1938 represented a rate of 2,150 per million of the population, the rates for previous years being 2,104 in 1937, 2,063 in 1936, 2,145 in 1935, 2,012 in 1934, 1,347 in 1922-26, and 1,441 in 1908-12. On the average of the three years 1932 to 1934 the deaths from all forms of heart diseases per 10,000 of each sex, in age groups, were as follows:—

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES FROM HEART DISEASE AT VARIOUS AGES, 1932-34.

Sex.	Deaths per 10,000 Persons aged—									
	0-14.	15-19.	20-24.	25-34.	35-44.	45-54.	55-64.	65-74.	75 and upwards.	All Ages
Males ..	·51	1·03	1·03	1·76	5·21	16·97	54·44	145·47	316·23	20·71
Females ..	·40	1·21	1·04	1·76	4·27	10·73	35·43	97·32	278·94	16·97

The figures indicate that the mortality rate from heart disease increases greatly as age advances. Of the deaths of persons aged 70 and upwards, approximately 1 in 4 is due to some form of this disease.

In 1938 the number of deaths from arteriosclerosis with record of cerebral vascular lesion (cerebral haemorrhage, etc.) was 708 and, without such record, 655. Of the total deaths, 838 or 61 per cent. were of persons aged 70 years and over.

Respiratory diseases. In 1938 the deaths from respiratory diseases numbered 1,668, which represented a rate of 893 per million of the population as compared with rates of 881 in 1937, 977 in 1936, 1,050 in 1935, and 1,125 in 1934. Of the deaths in the year under review, 23 were due to acute bronchitis, 211 to chronic bronchitis, 643 to broncho-pneumonia, 214 to lobar pneumonia, 316 to pneumonia unspecified, 34 to pleurisy, 51 to asthma, 56 to pulmonary congestion, embolism, etc., 80 to chronic interstitial pneumonia, and 40 to other diseases. Further details will be found under causes Nos. 26 to 28 on pages 111 and 112.

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

Diseases of the digestive system. In 1938 there were 479 male and 498 female deaths from digestive ailments, representing a proportion of 523 per million of the population, as against rates of 524 in 1937, 572 in 1936, 534 in 1935, 580 in 1934, 807 in 1922-26, and 2,382 in 1890-92. Deaths from the principal diseases in 1938 were: 139 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 151 from diarrhoeal diseases, 111 from appendicitis, 58 from hernia, 95 from intestinal obstruction, 99 from cirrhosis of the liver, 77 from biliary calculi, 89 from other diseases of the gall bladder and biliary passages, and 158 from other diseases. Further rates and details are given under causes Nos. 29 to 32 on pages 111 and 112.

The 151 deaths from diarrhoeal diseases in 1938 correspond to a rate of 81 per million of the population as compared with rates of 81 in 1937, 108 in 1936, 94 in 1935, 152 in 1934, 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 1938, 32 were of infants under one year of age, 18 were between the ages of one and two years, 10 between two and five years, while 27 were of persons aged 65 years and over. Infantile diarrhoea has been further dealt with in the section "Infantile Mortality."

Diseases of the genito-urinary system. In 1938 there were 1,500 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system. This number represented a rate of 803 per million of the population, as against rates of 787 in 1937, 762 in 1936, 754 in 1935, 786 in 1934, 670 in 1918-22, and 700 in 1909-12. In 1938, acute and chronic nephritis were responsible for 1,100 deaths, other diseases of the kidney, etc., for 101, diseases of the prostate for 189, and other genito-urinary diseases for 110.

Deaths in childbirth.

The death rate of women in childbirth is usually ascertained by comparing the number of deaths of parturient women with the total number of live births. In the following table are given the proportions of deaths from puerperal septicæmia and all other puerperal causes for each of the last ten years and the averages of previous periods back to 1871. The rates given for years prior to 1926 are not strictly comparable with those for subsequent years.

VICTORIA—DEATHS OF MOTHERS (MARRIED AND SINGLE)
TO EVERY 10,000 CHILDREN BORN ALIVE, 1871 TO 1938.

Period.	Deaths of Mothers Annually from—					Deaths of Mothers to every 10,000 Children Born Alive from—						
	Puerperal Septicæmia.			Other Puerperal Causes.	Total.	Puerperal Septicæmia.			Other Puerperal Causes.	Total.		
	Without Abortion.	Septic Abortion.	Criminal Abortion.			Excluding Criminal Abortion.	Including Criminal Abortion.	Without Abortion.			Septic Abortion.	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	
1929 ..	44	13	19	113	170	189	13·09	3·87	5·65	33·63	50·59	56·24
1930 ..	40	13	21	121	174	195	12·07	3·92	6·34	36·53	52·52	58·86
1931 ..	34	9	19	92	135	154	11·21	2·97	6·26	30·33	44·51	50·77
1932 ..	27	9	30	89	125	155	9·83	3·28	10·92	32·41	45·52	56·44
1933 ..	30	7	28	61	98	126	10·57	2·47	9·86	21·48	34·52	44·38
1934 ..	32	8	37	93	133	170	11·50	2·87	13·30	33·42	47·79	61·09
1935 ..	19	8	35	69	96	131	6·81	2·87	12·55	24·75	34·43	46·98
1936 ..	40	7	49	85	132	181	13·85	2·42	16·97	29·43	45·70	62·67
1937 ..	14	5	41	69	88	129	4·71	1·68	13·79	23·21	29·60	43·39
1938 ..	6	3	46	81	90	136	1·98	·99	15·16	26·69	29·66	44·82

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

The following tables give information in age groups for the year 1938 relating to the causes of death of women in childbirth, and the total number of children born to married mothers.

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES, 1938.

Causes of Death.	Ages at Death.						Total	Married Mothers.	Unmarried Mothers.
	Under 20.	20 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 and over.			
140. (a) Abortion with septic conditions .. ..	..	..	2	..	1	..	3	3	..
(b) Criminal abortion	2	17	11	10	5	1	46*	29	17
141. Abortion without septic conditions	1	..	6	1	..	..	8	8	..
142. Ectopic gestation .. ..	..	..	1	..	3	..	4	3	1
143. Other accidents of pregnancy (excluding hæmorrhage) .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	2	..
144. Puerperal hæmorrhage .. ..	..	2	1	4	6	3	16	16	..
145. Puerperal septicæmia (not consequent on abortion) .. ..	..	..	2	3	..	1	6	6	..
146. Puerperal albuminuria and eclampsia .. ..	..	5	3	6	4	1	19	18	1
147. Other toxæmias of pregnancy ..	2	2	2	2	2	..	10	9	1
148. (a) Phlegmasia alba dolens and thrombosis .. ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..
(b) Embolism or sudden death .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	1	2	2	..
149. Other accidents of childbirth—	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(a) Cæsarean section .. ..	..	1	1	3	2	..	7	7	..
(b) Other surgical operations and instrumental delivery .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(c) Others .. ..	..	..	2	2	7	1	12	12	..
150. (a) Puerperal diseases of the breast .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(b) Other unspecified conditions of the puerperal state .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	5	27	32	32	31	9	136	116	20
Married Mothers	3	18	27	30	29	9	116	..	..
Unmarried Mothers	2	9	5	2	2	..	20	..	..
Total Issue of Married Mothers .. ..	..	18	52	54	85	55	264	..	..

* Self-induced 3; illegal operation 3; open verdict 40.

Of the 264 children born to the 116 married women who died, 242 were living at the time of their mother's death, or an average of 2.1 children per mother, as compared with 2.0 in 1937, 2.1 in 1936, 2.3 in 1935, and 2.5 in 1934.

First confinements were responsible for 43, or 37.1 per cent, of the total deaths of married mothers, as compared with 38.4 per cent. in 1937, 36.3 per cent. in 1936, 25.6 per cent. in 1935, and 32.9 per cent. in 1934.

Ages at
Death of
Women in
Childbirth.

The death rate of women in childbirth varies considerably at different ages, and is higher at older than at younger ages. The number of deaths of women in childbirth and the death rates in various age groups in Victoria, for the period 1926-30 and the years 1936, 1937, and 1938, are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES OF WOMEN IN CHILDBIRTH,
IN AGE GROUPS, 1926 TO 1938.

Age Group.	Mothers.							
	Deaths.				Deaths per 10,000 children born alive.			
	1926-30.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1926-30.	1936.	1937.	1938.
Under 20 years ..	41	12	10	5	47·1	76·4	63·2	31·1
20 to 24 „ ..	150	36	22	27	39·1	50·2	28·9	35·7
25 „ 29 „ ..	231	50	33	32	46·5	57·8	36·1	33·5
30 „ 34 „ ..	226	46	35	32	56·8	73·5	53·6	47·3
35 „ 39 „ ..	226	23	21	31	88·1	60·8	58·9	86·5
40 years and over	111	14	8	9	117·8	95·8	60·5	69·8
Total ..	985	181	129	136	57·4	62·7	43·4	44·8

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.

During the year 1938, the deaths of 579 men and 688 women were ascribed to senile decay, as compared with 629 men and 733 women in 1937. Prior to 1927, deaths from ill-defined causes, *i.e.*, heart failure, debility, &c., of those persons over 65 years of age, were shown as being due to senile decay. In that year, however, in accordance with the rule laid down in the International List of Causes of Death, only deaths of persons over 70 years of age from such causes were included therein. The deaths at ages 70 and over from all causes during 1938 numbered 8,311—4,140 of men and 4,171 of women, or 43·8 per cent. of the total deaths.

Accidental violence. In 1938, 791 male and 250 female deaths were attributed to accidents or negligence. These represented a rate of 558 per million of the population. This proportion was above the average rate—519—for the previous five years, and 31 per cent. below the rate—811—for 1890-92. In 1931 a distinction was made for the first time between deaths recorded as “open verdict” and those returned definitely as “accidental.” The numbers of deaths from various accidents in the last five years are given in the appended table :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM ACCIDENTAL VIOLENCE, 1934 TO 1938.

Nature or Place of Accident.	Annual Deaths during—						
	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.		
					Total.	Males.	Females
Snake Bite .. ..	..	2	1	1	3	1	2
Other Venomous Bites and Stings .. ..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..
Poisoning by Food ..	5	3	2	..	3	2	1
Absorption of Poisonous Gases ..	6	6	3	5	9	8	1
Other Acute Poisonings ..	6	8	5	4	7	3	4
Conflagration (Bush fires, &c.) ..	4	5	5	3	10	7	3
Burns, Scalds, &c. ..	68	53	49	44	50	21	29
Accidental Mechanical Suffocation ..	5	11	6	10	8	6	2
Drowning { accidental ..	94	88	77	67	64	52	12
{ open verdict ..	48	55	51	58	63	46	17
Firearms { accidental ..	26	29	17	20	13	12	1
{ open verdict ..	7	2	8	10	16	16	..
In Mines and Quarries ..	17	23	14	28	20	20	..
Machinery	12	12	14	10	10	10	..
Transport Accidents ..	385	440	508	568	551	454	97
Falls { accidental ..	121	102	106	119	92	41	51
{ open verdict ..	4	6	2	9	8	5	3
Other Crushings	29	26	20	17	14	12	2
Injuries by Animals ..	4	6	4	2	10	9	1
Excessive Cold	6	4	3	..	1	1	..
Effects of Heat	15	3	2	4	1	1	..
Lightning .. ..	..	4	2	1	1	1	..
Electricity	4	13	2	11	8	7	1
Other Violence { accidental ..	45	35	48	31	46	33	13
{ open verdict ..	23	37	39	28	33	23	10
Total accidental ..	852	874	890	945	921	701	220
Total open verdict ..	82	100	100	105	120	90	30
Grand Total	934	974	990	1,050	1,041	791	250

On the average of the last five years, the female mortality rate from accidents was about 30 per cent. of the rate for males.

**Transport
Accidents.**

In 1938, deaths from transport accidents numbered 551, as against 568 in 1937, 508 in 1936, 440 in 1935, 385 in 1934, 350 in 1933, 350 in 1932, 373 in 1931, 406 in 1930, and 394 in 1929.

During the year 1938, deaths connected with transport represented 53 per cent. of the total deaths from accidents.

In the following table details are given of deaths due to collisions between various types of conveyances, pedestrians killed, and other fatal accidents in which transport was concerned, for the year 1938.

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS, 1938.

	Collisions.										Pedestrians killed.	*Other Accidents.	Total.	Males.	Females.		
	Railway vehicle.	Tramcar.	Motor car.	Motor lorry, &c.	Motor cycle.	Horse-drawn vehicle, &c.	Bicycle.	Horse.	Fixed object.	Aeroplane.						Water transport.	Total.
Railway vehicle	12	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	10	12	†40	32	8
Tramcar	3	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	5	9	5	19	14	5
Motor-car	17	8	40	2	38	1	13	..	..	119	147	35	301	241	60
„ omnibus	3	..	1	..	..	4	3	1	8	8	..
„ lorry, &c.	7	15	..	14	..	3	..	..	39	29	14	82	72	10
„ cycle	2	1	3	..	7	..	..	13	10	5	28	25	3
Horse - drawn vehicle	1	..	..	1	3	13	17	16	1
Bicycle	2	..	..	..	..	2	4	9	15	10	5
Horse	12	12	10	2
Aeroplane	23	23	20	3
Water transport	6	6	6	..
Total	32	20	59	3	61	1	25	..	..	201	215	135	551	454	97

* Includes all rail accidents to railway employees (collisions excepted) and accidents to persons boarding or leaving vehicles.

† Includes 9 railway employees.

Accidental deaths involving motor vehicles. The number of motor vehicles (including motor cycles) registered in Victoria and the deaths in which they were involved, for the years 1929 to 1938, were as follows :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS INVOLVING MOTOR VEHICLES,
1929* TO 1938.

Year.	Number of Motor Vehicles (30th June.)	Deaths Involving Motor Vehicles.		
		Number.	Per 10,000 Motor Vehicles	Per 1,000,000 of Population
1929	168,578	294	17·4	166
1930	179,887	307	17·1	172
1931	168,231	296	17·6	165
1932	167,952	262	15·6	145
1933	179,602	255	14·2	140
1934	188,256	294	15·6	161
1935	200,759	338	16·8	184
1936	219,925	395	18·0	214
1937	233,573	456	19·5	246
1938	250,455	441	17·6	236

The mortality per 10,000 vehicles was 17·6 for the period 1934-38 as compared with a rate of 16·4 in 1929-33. The mortality per million of population was 236 in 1938, 246 in 1937, 214 in 1936, 184 in 1935, 161 in 1934, and 82 in 1924. The mortality rate in 1937 was the highest on record.

On the average of the five years, 1934 to 1938, motor cars, &c., were involved in 18·2 deaths per 10,000 cars registered, and motor cycles in 29·1 deaths per 10,000 motor cycles registered.

Suicide. In the year 1938, 106 males and 31 females took their lives. The deaths represented a rate of 73 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 86 in 1937, 107 in 1936, 90 in 1935, 93 in 1934, 87 in 1918-22, 102 in 1908-12, and 109 in 1890-92. Of the 106 male deaths in 1938 from suicide 37, or 35 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 27 per cent. of that for the latter.

Homicide. The deaths ascribed to homicide in 1938 numbered 25, of which 18 were of males and 7 of females. These represented a rate of 13 per million of the population, as against rates of 10 in 1937, 10 in 1936, 13 in 1935, 14 in 1934, 14 in 1918-22, and 19 in 1908-12. Since 1930 deaths from criminal abortion have been excluded from this category and included with deaths from puerperal causes.

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 different 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
1934 ..	5·02	7·57	9·59	5·24	8·43	9·28	7·07	7·99
1935 ..	5·13	7·61	9·15	5·31	8·98	9·16	7·09	7·91
1936 ..	5·47	8·17	10·39	5·87	9·44	9·50	7·70	7·89
1937 ..	5·99	8·27	10·26	6·34	10·00	11·18	7·99	8·21
1938 ..	6·10	7·80	9·79	6·53	10·67	11·11	7·82	8·22

VICTORIA.

Period.	Average Annual Excess of Births over Deaths.	Annual Rates per 1,000 of Mean Population.			Period.	Average Annual Excess of Births over Deaths.	Annual Rates per 1,000 of Mean Population.		
		Births.	Deaths.	Natural Increase.			Births.	Deaths.	Natural Increase.
1880-84	14,466	30·64	14·40	16·24	1925-29	18,218	20·24	9·67	10·57
1885-89	16,741	32·27	15·87	16·40	1930-34	12,249	16·27	9·50	6·77
1890-94	20,059	31·99	14·62	17·37					
1895-99	15,625	26·76	13·81	12·95					
1900-04	14,859	25·08	12·78	12·30	1934 ..	9,180	15·20	10·18	5·02
1905-09	16,062	24·76	11·93	12·83	1935 ..	9,428	15·16	10·03	5·13
1910-14	18,795	25·42	11·57	13·85	1936 ..	10,105	15·63	10·16	5·47
1915-19	16,818	23·13	11·38	11·75	1937 ..	11,118	16·02	10·03	5·99
1920-24	19,647	22·89	10·40	12·49	1938 ..	11,389	16·25	10·15	6·10

The Victorian death rates are below those of England and Wales at nearly all periods of life. In England and Wales in 1937 the excess of births over deaths was 2·5 per 1,000 of population.