

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 local 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 5,132,650 original entries have been made in the indexes, of which 1,428,250 relate to marriages, 2,498,200 to births, and 1,206,200 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 every 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 in the early church records, prior to 1st July, 1853, the fee is only 1s., a further sum of 1s. being payable if a certificate be required.

The value of the information contained in the records is shown by the number of applications for searches or certificates. In 1937 these numbered 65,214.

**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, who is usually a police magistrate. 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, and must be registered within 21 days by a person present at the death or in attendance during the last illness of the deceased. 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.

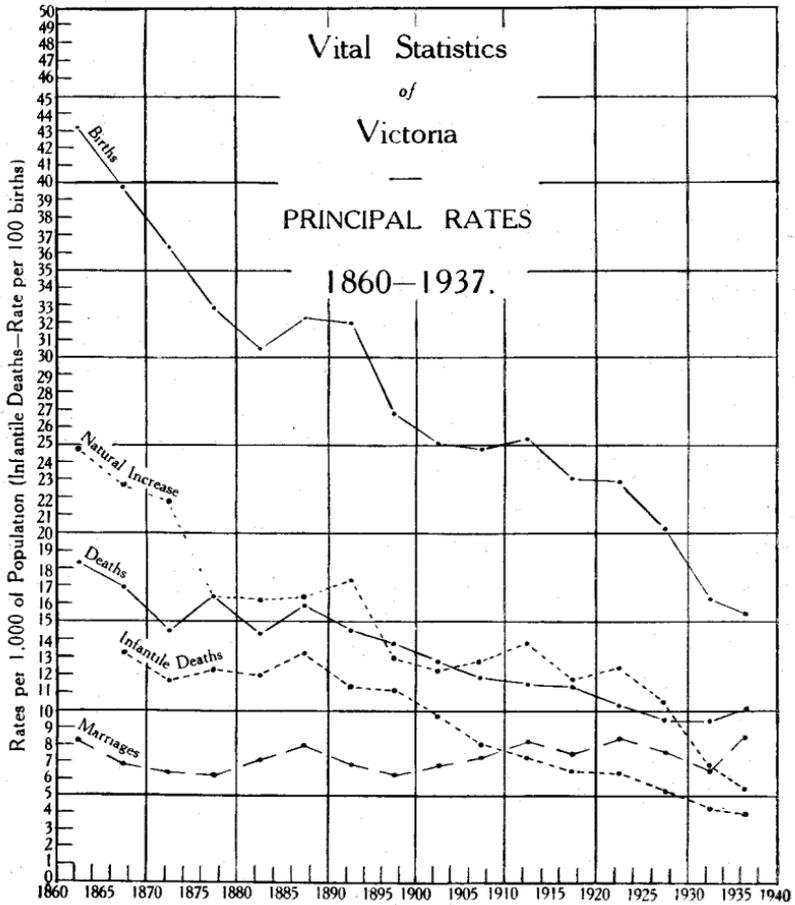
Stillbirths are not registered, but registrars issue burial certificates in accordance with the *Cemeteries Act 1928*, and are instructed to keep a memorandum of each case notified.

**Summary of
Vital Statistics,
1937.**

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

VICTORIA—SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1937.

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	1,020,250	..	14,490	10,819	538	..	14·20	10·60	37·13
Remainder of the State	835,783	..	15,241	7,704	553	..	18·24	9·33	36·28
Victoria	1,856,033	16,226	29,731	18,613	1,091	8·74	16·02	10·03	36·70



MARRIAGES.

Marriages— Marriages in Victoria in 1937 numbered 16,226, corresponding to a rate of 8·74 per 1,000 of the population. Rates for previous years were 8·61 in 1936, 8·38 in 1935, 7·57 in 1934, and 6·96 in 1933. 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. There has been a steady increase since that year, the rate in 1937 being 54 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 1937.

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
1933 ..	12,668	2,872	3,331	2,950	3,515	6·96
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 ..	15,915	3,448	4,776	3,240	4,451	8·61
1937 ..	16,226	4,223	3,934	3,326	4,743	8·74

* 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 1,000 of the population in each of the Australian States and in New Zealand, for the last five years:—

MARRIAGE RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1933	6·96	7·07	6·84	6·84	7·69	7·13	7·03	7·18
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

Ages of bridegrooms and brides. The ages of bridegrooms and brides who were married in 1937 are shown in combination for various groups in the table which follows:—

VICTORIA—AGES OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN COMBINATION, 1937.

Ages of Bridegrooms.	Ages of Brides.															Total Bridegrooms.				
	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	21 to 24.	25 to 29.	30 to 34.	35 to 39.	40 to 44.	45 to 49.	50 to 54.		55 to 59.	60 to 64.	65 to 69.	70 and over.
16	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
17	1	7	..	3	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
18	2	10	14	19	3	8	7	12	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	73
19	3	4	29	38	31	11	28	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	147
20	2	11	37	58	57	36	96	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	304
21 to 24	8	55	163	256	386	448	2,299	565	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,239
25 to 29	..	1	4	19	54	120	167	304	2,585	2,097	333	40	8	1	..	1	..	..	..	5,734
30 to 34	..	1	3	8	15	40	64	786	1,165	636	154	31	9	1	..	..	..	..	..	2,913
35 to 39	..	1	..	2	7	18	19	182	359	375	213	56	19	1	1	..	..	..	..	1,253
40 to 44	1	2	..	4	47	119	148	130	99	27	9	3	..	..	..	1,590
45 to 49	1	1	13	44	62	95	60	62	23	6	5	..	..	372
50 to 54	4	17	23	44	48	42	18	5	3	1	..	205
55 to 59	2	6	7	11	25	27	18	12	8	3	..	119
60 to 64	2	1	4	9	17	22	17	21	12	3	..	108
65 to 69	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	3	4	5	12	9	8	17	17	2	80
70 to 74	2	1	3	8	7	9	8	11	49
75 and over	1	3	4	4	4	22
Total Brides	..	1	21	104	316	518	714	894	6,056	4,385	1,644	707	353	229	105	67	58	36	18	16,226

Of every 1,000 men married during the year, 728 were older and 172 younger than their brides, and 100 were of the same age.

In 1937 the oldest bridegroom was aged 84 years, and the oldest bride 78 years. The youngest bridegroom was aged 16 years and the youngest bride 14 years.

Proportion of marriages at various ages.

The proportions of both sexes marrying in 1937 is shown, in varying age groups, in the following table :—

VICTORIA—PROPORTIONS OF BRIDEGROOMS AND BRIDES IN AGE GROUPS, 1937.

Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—		Age Group.	Proportion per 1,000 of total—	
	Bridegrooms.	Brides.		Brid-grooms.	Brides.
Under 16 ..	..	1·36	35 to 39 ..	77·22	43·57
16 ..	12	6·41	40 to 44 ..	36·36	21·76
17 ..	99	19·47	45 to 49 ..	22·93	14·11
18 ..	4·50	31·92	50 to 54 ..	12·63	6·47
19 ..	9·06	44·00	55 to 59 ..	7·33	4·13
20 ..	18·74	55·10	60 and over	15·96	6·90
21 to 24 ..	261·25	373·23			
25 to 29 ..	353·38	270·25	Total ..	1,000·00	1,000·00
30 to 34 ..	179·53	101·32			

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 1933 to 1937.

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES OF MINORS.

Year.	Age in Years.							Total.		
	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	
Bridegrooms.										
1933	3	15	87	177	290	572	4·52	
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	
Brides.										
1933	3	12	92	274	542	659	689	2,268	17·90
1934	5	16	72	260	505	604	803	2,323	16·76
1935	5	20	87	261	560	631	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

The proportion of minors marrying steadily decreased from 1931 to 1936. A slight increase, as compared with 1936, was recorded in 1937.

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, 1933 TO 1937.

Year.	Bridegrooms.				Brides.			
	Bachelors.	Divorced.	Widowers.	All Bridegrooms.	Spinsters.	Divorced.	Widows.	All Brides.
1933 ..	28·09	40·23	48·80	29·45	25·26	36·09	43·52	26·10
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

In 1937 the mean age at marriage of bridegrooms of brides under 45 was 28·94 years, while for brides under 45 the age was 25·53 years.

In 1937 the most popular age at marriage for bridegrooms was 24 years and for brides 21 years.

Birthplaces of persons marrying. Marriage records for 1937 show that 87·7 per cent. of the bridegrooms and 93·2 per cent. of the brides married in Victoria were Australian born, while 9·3 per cent. of the grooms and 5·0 per cent. of the brides were born in Great Britain and Ireland. Of all persons married 90·5 per cent. were born in Australia, 7 per cent in New Zealand, 7·1 per cent in Great Britain and Ireland, and 4 per cent. in other British Possessions. Only a small proportion (1·3 per cent.) were natives of foreign countries. The numbers born in Australia and other countries are shown in the subjoined table for the years 1917 and 1937:—

BIRTHPLACES OF PERSONS MARRIED, 1917 AND 1937.

Where Born.	Bridegrooms.		Brides.	
	1917.	1937.	1917.	1937.
Australia	8,226	14,226	8,846	15,123
New Zealand	71	134	59	104
England and Wales	729	1,089	401	603
Scotland	130	316	68	156
Ireland	119	103	66	45
Other British Possessions	37	97	11	45
Germany	26	13	11	8
Russia	26	17	8	12
Italy	27	78	8	37
United States	18	8	7	14
Other Foreign Countries and unspecified	97	145	21	79
Total	9,506	16,226	9,506	16,226

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 1933 to 1937, and the proportions in each condition for periods since 1900.

VICTORIA—CONJUGAL CONDITION OF PERSONS MARRYING, 1933 TO 1937.

Period.	Bridegrooms.				Brides.				Total Marriages.
	Bachelors.	Widowers.	Divorced.	Deserted.	Spinsters.	Widows.	Divorced.	Deserted.	
1933 ..	11,735	684	243	6	11,990	434	224	20	12,668
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

VICTORIA—PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS MARRYING IN EACH CONJUGAL CONDITION, 1900 TO 1937.

Marriages Between—	1937.		Conjugal Condition.	Percentage of Total—				
	Number.	Percentage.		1900-09.	1910-19.	1920-29.	1937.	
Bachelors and Spinsters ..	14,418	88.86	Bachelors	91.4	Bridegrooms.		92.2	
Bachelors and Widows ..	262	1.61			92.7	92.1		
Bachelors and Divorced Women ..	275	1.70	Widowers	8.1	6.5	6.3	5.2	
Widowers and Spinsters ..	530	3.27	Divorced	.5	.8	1.6	2.6	
Widowers and Widows ..	237	1.46	Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	
Widowers and Divorced Women ..	76	.47	Spinsters	93.4	Brides.		94.2	
Divorced Men and Spinsters	335	2.06			94.2	93.6		94.2
Divorced Men and Widows	39	.24			6.0	4.8		4.9	3.3
Divorced Men and Divorced Women ..	54	.33	Widows	.6	1.0	1.5	2.5	
Total Marriages ..	16,226	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 1933-37. During the same period the proportion of remarriages of divorced men increased from .5 to 2.2, and of divorced women from .7 to 2.1. The increased proportion of divorced persons remarrying reflects the higher number of decrees for dissolution of

marriage granted in recent years. The numbers of such decrees 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 1937 decrees granted numbered 796, and remarriages of men and women 428 and 405 respectively.

Marriages in religious denominations. In 1937 the number of marriages celebrated by ministers of religion was 15,168, representing 93·5 per cent. of the total marriages. Civil registrars performed 1,058 marriages, or 6·5 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 1917, 1927, and 1937, are shown in the following table :—

VICTORIA—MARRIAGES IN VARIOUS DENOMINATIONS.

Denomination.	1917.		1927.		1937.	
	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.	Number.	Per-centage of Total Marriages.
Church of England ..	2,479	26·08	3,916	28·78	4,611	28·42
Roman Catholic Church	1,858	19·55	2,579	18·95	2,987	18·41
Presbyterian Church ..	1,728	18·18	2,508	18·43	3,178	19·58
Methodist Church ..	1,419	14·93	2,001	14·70	2,517	15·51
Baptist Church ..	444	4·67	582	4·28	793	4·89
Church of Christ ..	237	2·49	323	2·37	382	2·35
Congregational Church	831	8·74	558	4·10	225	1·39
Salvation Army ..	37	·39	76	·56	107	·66
Lutheran Church ..	48	·50	65	·48	79	·49
Hebrew ..	35	·37	59	·43	85	·52
Other Sects ..	70	·73	96	·71	204	1·26
Registrars of Marriages	320	3·37	845	6·21	1,058	6·52
Total ..	9,506	100·00	13,608	100·00	16,226	100·00

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

VICTORIA—CIVIL MARRIAGES, 1928 TO 1937.

Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.	Year.	Number.	Percentage of Total Marriages.
1928 ..	1,013	7·68	1933 ..	1,340	10·58
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

Registered clergymen. The ministers qualified by registration to celebrate marriages numbered 1,903 on 31st December, 1937. The numbers of ministers in each denomination (excepting Jews and Quakers) and civil registrars of marriages were as follows :—

VICTORIA—REGISTERED MINISTERS IN EACH DENOMINATION, 1937.

Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.	Denomination.	Number of Registered Ministers.
Church of England ..	427	Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland ..	2
Roman Catholic ..	492	Ballarat Town Mission ..	2
Presbyterian ..	316	Catholic and Apostolic ..	1
Methodist ..	313	Free Christian ..	1
Baptist ..	97	New Church ..	1
Church of Christ ..	82	Greek Orthodox Church ..	1
Congregational ..	56	Syrian Orthodox ..	1
Salvation Army ..	41	International Bible Students' Association ..	1
Lutheran ..	37	Pentecostal ..	1
Seventh Day Adventist ..	11	Particular Baptists ..	1
Latter Day Saints (Re-organized) ..	4	Australian Church ..	1
Apostolic Church, Australia ..	4	Total Clergymen ..	1,903
Open Brethren ..	3	Civil Registrars of Marriages ..	15
Free Presbyterian ..	3	Grand Total ..	1,918
Welsh Calvinistic Methodists ..	2		
Unitarian ..	2		

BIRTHS.

Births—Numbers and Rates. The number of births registered in Victoria during the year 1937 was 29,731. This was 848 more than the number registered for the preceding year. The rate per 1,000 of population (16·02) 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 789, and correspond to a ratio of 26·5 per 1,000 infants born alive in 1937. There were 1,047 male to every 1,000 female births in 1937, as compared with 1,050 in 1936, 1,037 in 1935, 1,036 in 1934, and 1,042 in 1933.

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, however, 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 1937.

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
1933 ..	28,392	14,491	13,901	6,945	7,081	7,255	7,111	15·59
1934 ..	27,828	14,158	13,870	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

* Not available.

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

BIRTH RATES—AUSTRALIAN STATES AND NEW ZEALAND.

Year.	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.	New Zealand.
1933 ..	15·59	16·99	18·14	15·32	17·95	19·93	16·78	16·59
1934 ..	15·20	16·52	18·17	14·50	17·66	19·51	16·39	16·47
1935 ..	15·16	16·89	18·31	14·14	18·23	19·41	16·55	16·13
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

The birth rate in England and Wales was 14·8 in 1936.

Birthplaces of parents of nuptial children. The birth records of children born in wedlock show that, in Victoria in 1937, 83 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:—78·4 in Victoria; 87·4 in Australia; 0·7 in New Zealand; 6·9 in England and Wales; 1·9 in Scotland; 0·7 in Ireland; 0·5 in other British Possessions; and 1·9 in foreign countries. The corresponding percentages for mothers were:—Victoria, 81·5; Australia, 91·4; New Zealand, 0·6; England and Wales, 4·7; Scotland, 1·3; Ireland, 0·4; other British Possessions, 0·3; and foreign countries, 1·3.

Ages of parents of nuptial children. The average ages of fathers and of mothers of nuptial children whose births were recorded in 1937 were 32·54 and 28·86 years respectively, which were 3·60 and 3·33 years respectively above the average ages of bridegrooms marrying brides under 45 years of age, and of such brides, for the year 1937. 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, 1937.

Father.				Mother.			
Age Group.		Percentage of Total Parents.		Age Group.		Percentage of Total Parents.	
Under 20	0·50	Under 20	..	..	4·38
20 to 24	11·94	20 to 24	..	..	25·03
25 to 29	28·00	25 to 29	..	..	31·42
30 to 34	28·14	30 to 34	..	..	22·50
35 to 39	17·38	35 to 39	..	..	12·17
40 to 44	8·39	40 to 44	..	..	4·07
45 to 49	3·71	45 and over	..	..	0·43
50 and over	1·94				
Total	100·00	Total	..	..	100·00

It will be seen that, on the experience of 1937, 56·45 per cent. of the mothers were between ages 20 and 30, and 34·67 per cent. between ages 30 and 40. The proportions of fathers at these ages were 39·94 and 45·52 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, provincial cities, principal towns, and the remainder of the State for the five-year periods 1923 to 1927, 1928 to 1932, and for the last three years:—

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

Municipality.	Annual Number of Births.					Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.				
	1923-1927.	1928-1932.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1923-1927.	1928-1932.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne ..	1,812	1,848	1,117	1,131	1,176	18·39	14·29	12·39	12·53	13·03
Box Hill ..	*	259	197	242	219	*	18·31	12·77	15·50	13·91
Braybrook (Part)..	*	187	149	156	114	*	22·28	16·78	17·43	12·60
Brighton ..	482	394	341	365	414	18·75	13·37	11·13	11·70	13·09
Brunswick ..	1,161	974	775	808	847	23·42	17·52	14·28	14·83	15·48
Camberwell ..	797	865	751	752	864	23·10	17·85	14·54	14·14	15·77
Caulfield ..	1,065	941	756	820	917	19·59	14·87	11·41	12·15	13·41
Chelsea ..	..	127	122	122	134	..	18·66	17·38	17·40	19·14
Coburg ..	..	703	621	624	652	25·15	20·80	16·04	15·95	16·50
Collingwood ..	690	532	476	514	479	20·35	16·63	15·76	17·06	15·94
Essendon ..	846	766	550	572	610	19·88	16·59	11·92	12·31	13·03
Fitzroy ..	683	517	451	447	489	19·92	15·96	14·75	14·64	16·06
Footscray ..	980	875	682	694	723	24·20	19·13	14·67	14·84	15·34
Hawthorn ..	525	424	383	444	460	16·63	12·70	11·17	12·78	13·14
Heidelberg (Part)..	*	413	338	336	346	*	16·93	14·00	13·73	14·17
Kew ..	379	339	277	305	301	17·96	13·97	11·32	12·37	12·08
Malvern ..	636	499	450	488	515	15·07	11·46	10·18	10·91	11·46
Moorabbin ..	..	398	352	348	371	..	23·14	18·90	18·44	19·37
Mordialloc ..	..	148	141	127	145	..	15·37	14·26	12·80	14·72
Northcote ..	898	727	554	578	610	24·51	17·27	13·07	13·56	14·26
Oakleigh ..	..	264	239	214	216	*	22·72	19·75	17·54	17·56
Port Melbourne ..	278	230	200	197	220	21·14	17·24	15·49	15·20	16·95
Prahran ..	877	696	610	628	659	17·02	13·26	11·54	11·76	12·29
Preston ..	558	703	579	541	598	31·33	23·87	18·06	16·75	18·32
Richmond ..	896	693	566	608	609	20·34	16·71	14·28	15·32	15·35
Sandringham ..	275	272	225	229	293	17·90	15·33	12·30	12·38	15·69
South Melbourne..	865	660	550	577	589	19·01	15·06	12·77	13·37	13·65
St. Kilda ..	659	533	496	529	572	16·05	11·61	10·21	10·70	11·38
Williamstown ..	485	423	306	336	348	23·25	19·28	13·76	15·05	15·52
Remainder of Metropolis ..	1,364	..	..	..	..	25·88	..	..	..	..

Municipality.	Annual Number of Births.					Births per 1,000 of Mean Population.				
	1923-1927.	1928-1932.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1923-1927.	1928-1932.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Provincial Cities and Towns—										
Ballarat ..	726	664	578	583	605	18·40	17·14	15·25	15·27	15·83
Bendigo ..	609	550	544	577	577	18·10	17·10	18·47	19·37	19·33
Geelong ..	862	844	650	695	703	21·87	19·26	16·42	17·50	17·66
Ararat ..	†	†	87	131	81	†	†	17·72	26·46	16·36
Castlemaine ..	132	105	93	81	111	18·50	15·16	17·68	15·40	21·06
Colac ..	†	†	104	109	114	†	†	20·80	19·82	20·73
Echoea ..	†	†	83	92	97	†	†	18·61	20·67	21·80
Hamilton ..	144	138	102	132	124	27·69	24·47	17·59	22·49	21·05
Horsham ..	†	†	123	117	129	†	†	23·21	21·83	23·98
Maryborough ..	114	118	106	120	102	23·57	21·35	18·93	21·13	17·96
Mildura ..	198	184	208	219	250	34·09	28·23	30·36	31·74	36·08
Sale ..	†	†	86	77	97	†	†	19·95	17·82	22·35
Shepparton ..	†	151	160	153	185	†	27·51	27·44	26·20	31·41
Stawell ..	111	92	82	94	77	23·88	19·46	17·08	19·58	16·04
Wangaratta ..	†	†	99	101	130	†	†	20·41	20·87	26·80
Warrnambool ..	183	176	144	196	180	22·75	20·17	16·00	21·66	19·82
Wonthaggi ..	159	141	84	93	69	25·06	22·44	14·00	14·09	10·49
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	17,904	15,949	13,254	13,732	14,490	20·14	16·03	13·20	13·56	14·20
Provincial Cities and Towns—	3,240	3,162	3,333	3,570	3,631	20·88	19·22	18·02	19·08	19·37
Remainder of State	14,531	12,693	11,297	11,581	11,610	23·31	20·40	17·37	17·86	17·91
Victoria..	35,675	31,805	27,884	28,883	29,731	21·37	17·85	15·16	15·63	16·02

* Included in Remainder of Metropolis. † Not calculated.

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

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:—

Multiple births.

VICTORIA—MULTIPLE BIRTHS.

Year.	Cases of Twins.	Cases of Triplets.	Cases of Quadruplets.	Total Multiple Cases.	Multiple Cases, per 1,000 of Total Cases.
1933 ..	313	2	..	315	11·22
1934 ..	328	3	..	331	12·04
1935 ..	297	..	..	297	10·76
1936 ..	298	4	..	302	10·57
1937 ..	335	3	1	339	11·53

On the average of the five years 1933-37, the proportion of mothers of twins was one in 90, of mothers of triplets one in 11,764, of mothers of quadruplets one in 141,173, and of mothers of all multiple births one in 89 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 1937, the adoptions of 971 male and 1,511 female children have been registered. During 1937, adoptions registered comprised 183 male and 192 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 1937 advantage was taken of these Acts to legitimate 3,802 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, and 139 in 1937.

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 1937, the numbers of legitimations in the several States and in New Zealand during that year were as follows:—Victoria, 11·3; New South Wales, 22·0; Queensland, 16·5; South Australia, 9·0; Western Australia, 19·0; Tasmania, 15·2; and New Zealand, 36·0.

**Ex-nuptial
Births in
Victoria.**

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

VICTORIA—EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS, 1910 TO 1937.

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
<hr/>					
1933	28,392	656	586	1,242	4·37
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

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 4·14 in 1937.

The percentages in the various States and in New Zealand in 1937 were as follows :—Victoria, 4·14 per cent. ; New South Wales, 4·43 per cent. ; Queensland, 4·75 per cent. ; South Australia, 3·47 per cent. ; Western Australia, 4·03 per cent. ; Tasmania, 4·63 per cent. ; Australia, 4·33 per cent. ; and New Zealand, 4·65 per cent.

Ex-nuptiality in town and country. A larger proportion of ex-nuptiality prevails among residents of Greater Melbourne and of the provincial cities and principal towns than in the rural districts of Victoria. During the year 1937, the proportion of ex-nuptial births to total births was 5·00 per cent in Greater Melbourne, 3·69 per cent. in the provincial cities and principal towns, and 3·21 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 1937.

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
1933 ..	17,456	9,308	8,148	3,831	4,188	5,222	4,215	9·59
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

* 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 four years.

The number of deaths in 1937 was 18,613, which was 584 more than the average of the preceding five years.

In 1937 there were 1,134 male to every 1,000 female deaths, the average for the last five years being 1,139. The corresponding proportion of male to female births in the quinquennium was 1,043. The natural increase for the five-year period was 50,767 (males, 23,885—females, 26,882).

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 periods enumerated.

Death Rate— 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.
1933	9·59	8·58	8·84	8·44	8·64	9·60	8·92	7·98
1934	10·18	8·95	8·57	9·26	9·23	10·23	9·32	8·48
1935	10·03	9·28	9·16	8·83	9·25	10·25	9·46	8·22
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

In 1936 the death rate in England and Wales was 12·1.

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 1933 to 1937, as compiled by the Commonwealth Statistician, are as follows :—

INDEX OF MORTALITY FOR AUSTRALIA, 1933 TO 1937.

Year.	Index of Mortality for—						
	Victoria.	New South Wales.	Queensland.	South Australia.	Western Australia.	Tasmania.	Australia.
1933	8·74	8·52	9·10	7·66	8·74	8·86	8·62
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

Compiled on the basis of allotment of all deaths to the place of usual residence, the following table shows the **Death rates in Municipalities.** number of deaths, and the deaths per 1,000 of the mean population in Greater Melbourne, provincial cities and principal towns, 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, PROVINCIAL CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS, AND REMAINDER OF STATE.

Municipality.	Annual Number of Deaths.					Deaths per 1,000 of Mean Population.				
	1923-1927.	1928-1932.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1923-1927.	1928-1932.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne ..	1,264	1,091	1,111	1,147	1,104	12·83	11·57	12·32	12·70	12·23
Box Hill ..	*	125	136	175	169	*	8·81	8·81	11·21	10·73
Braybrook(Part)..	*	56	60	49	53	*	6·70	6·76	5·47	5·86
Brighton ..	242	272	313	335	378	9·43	9·22	10·22	10·74	11·95
Brunswick ..	520	532	586	575	538	10·50	9·57	9·87	10·55	9·83
Camberwell ..	316	430	505	478	539	9·15	8·87	9·78	8·98	9·84
Caulfield ..	463	552	664	665	708	8·52	8·72	10·02	9·86	10·35
Chelsea ..	..	63	92	84	82	..	9·24	13·10	11·98	11·71
Coburg ..	232	287	333	294	320	8·29	8·06	8·60	7·52	8·10
Collingwood ..	422	363	409	369	354	12·45	11·36	13·54	12·25	11·78
Essendon ..	404	429	503	492	479	9·51	9·30	10·90	10·59	10·23
Fitzroy ..	457	446	452	473	460	13·83	13·77	14·79	15·49	15·11
Footscray ..	397	402	416	444	442	9·78	8·79	8·95	9·49	9·38
Hawthorn ..	331	357	427	402	415	10·61	10·67	12·45	11·57	11·85
Heidelberg (Part)..	*	193	222	202	196	*	7·91	9·19	8·26	8·03
Kew ..	191	220	211	260	265	9·06	9·08	8·62	10·55	10·63
Malvern ..	368	404	489	485	505	8·71	9·28	11·06	10·85	11·23
Mooraubin ..	..	130	180	153	157	..	7·55	9·67	8·11	8·20
Mordialloc ..	..	85	105	96	103	..	8·86	10·62	9·68	10·46
Northcote ..	349	369	400	410	437	9·53	8·77	9·47	9·62	10·21
Oakleigh ..	*	101	137	96	113	*	8·72	11·32	7·87	9·19
Port Melbourne ..	151	137	183	169	141	11·49	10·26	14·17	13·04	10·86
Prairan ..	608	628	687	655	666	11·80	11·96	13·00	12·26	12·42
Preston ..	168	242	267	263	271	9·44	8·20	8·33	8·14	8·30
Richmond ..	490	464	469	451	471	11·24	11·20	11·83	11·37	11·87
Sandringham ..	121	161	184	192	175	7·86	9·08	10·06	10·38	9·37
South Melbourne..	539	486	492	539	501	11·85	11·09	11·42	12·49	11·61
St. Kilda ..	441	452	528	547	545	10·73	9·84	10·87	11·07	10·85
Williamstown ..	237	211	200	234	232	11·32	9·63	8·99	10·48	10·35
Remainder of Metropolis ..	520	..	..	..	..	9·86	..	..	..	..
Provincial Cities and Principal Towns—										
Ballarat ..	482	475	487	517	495	12·19	12·28	12·85	13·54	12·95
Bendigo ..	444	421	432	456	428	13·20	13·08	14·67	15·31	14·34
Geelong ..	401	455	458	486	452	10·16	10·40	11·57	12·24	11·35
Ararat ..	†	†	70	65	55	†	†	12·25	13·13	11·11
Castlemaine ..	73	73	66	63	37	10·19	10·61	14·56	11·98	10·82
Colac ..	†	†	52	54	54	†	†	10·40	9·82	9·82
Echuca ..	†	†	39	50	47	†	†	8·74	11·24	10·56
Hamilton ..	63	59	51	71	66	12·21	10·35	8·79	12·10	11·20
Horsham ..	†	†	58	67	60	†	†	10·94	12·50	11·15
Maryborough ..	59	59	68	70	86	12·25	10·66	12·14	12·32	15·14
Mildura ..	65	59	87	74	86	11·10	9·05	12·70	10·72	12·41
Sale ..	†	†	50	65	45	†	†	11·60	15·05	10·37
Shepparton ..	†	†	55	66	87	†	†	9·96	11·32	10·27
Stawell ..	53	51	35	55	67	11·38	10·87	7·29	11·46	13·96
Wangaratta ..	†	†	57	64	58	†	†	11·75	13·22	11·96
Warrnambool ..	80	91	110	110	81	10·00	10·46	12·22	12·15	8·92
Wonthaggi ..	49	47	44	34	75	7·74	7·45	7·33	5·15	11·40
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	9,231	9,688	10,711	10,734	10,819	10·38	9·74	10·67	10·60	10·26
Provincial Cities and Principal Towns	1,769	1,845	2,230	2,361	2,209	11·25	11·22	12·06	12·62	12·26
Remainder of State	5,533	5,311	5,515	5,683	5,495	8·87	8·53	8·48	8·80	8·48
Victoria ..	16,533	16,844	18,456	18,778	18,613	9·91	9·45	10·03	10·16	10·03

* Included in Remainder of Metropolis. † Not calculated.

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 1937 :—

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1937.

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 ..	455	104	41·21	9·42	50·63	6·19
Box Hill ..	24	13	14·20	7·69	21·89	2·35
Braybrook (Part) ..	18	4	33·96	7·55	41·51	2·43
Brighton ..	75	15	19·84	3·97	23·81	2·85
Brunswick ..	177	40	32·90	7·43	40·33	3·97
Camberwell ..	97	26	17·99	4·83	22·82	2·25
Caulfield ..	133	35	18·79	4·94	23·73	2·46
Chelsea ..	19	2	23·17	2·44	25·61	3·00
Coburg ..	100	24	31·25	7·50	38·75	3·14
Collingwood ..	128	32	36·16	9·04	45·20	5·32
Essendon ..	94	23	19·62	4·80	24·42	2·50
Fitzroy ..	170	52	36·96	11·30	48·26	7·29
Footscray ..	161	27	36·43	6·11	42·54	3·99
Hawthorn ..	77	19	18·55	4·58	23·13	2·74
Heidelberg (Part) ..	48	6	24·49	3·06	27·55	2·21
Kew ..	40	14	15·09	5·28	20·37	2·17
Malvern ..	75	23	14·85	4·55	19·40	2·18
Moorabbin ..	46	8	29·30	5·09	34·39	2·82
Mordialloc ..	24	6	23·30	5·83	29·13	3·05
Northcote ..	122	24	27·92	5·49	33·41	3·41
Oakleigh ..	36	4	31·85	3·54	35·39	3·25
Port Melbourne ..	43	13	30·49	9·22	39·71	4·31
Prahran ..	195	34	29·28	5·10	34·38	4·27
Preston ..	99	15	36·54	5·53	42·07	3·49
Richmond ..	156	38	33·12	8·07	41·19	4·89
Sandringham ..	44	8	25·14	4·57	29·71	2·78
South Melbourne ..	165	34	32·93	6·79	39·72	4·61
St. Kilda ..	135	25	24·77	4·59	29·36	3·18
Williamstown ..	79	12	34·05	5·17	39·22	4·06

VICTORIA—PROPORTION OF DEATHS OF RESIDENTS OF CERTAIN AREAS OCCURRING IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1937—*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.	
PROVINCIAL CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS—						
Ballarat	115	38	23·23	7·68	30·91	4·00
Bendigo	97	28	22·66	6·54	29·20	4·19
Geelong	132	21	29·20	4·65	33·85	3·84
Ararat	29	11	52·72	20·00	72·72	8·08
Castlemaine ..	25	8	43·86	14·03	57·89	6·26
Colac	26	3	48·15	5·55	53·70	5·27
Echuca	20	2	42·55	4·25	46·80	4·94
Hamilton	22	..	33·33	..	33·33	3·74
Horsham	25	2	41·67	3·33	45·00	5·02
Maryborough ..	40	3	46·50	3·50	50·00	7·57
Mildura	55	3	63·95	3·49	67·44	8·37
Sale	17	3	37·77	6·67	44·44	4·61
Shepparton ..	35	6	40·22	6·89	47·11	6·96
Stawell	10	5	14·92	7·46	22·38	3·12
Wangaratta ..	12	4	20·69	6·89	27·58	3·30
Warrnambool ..	28	2	34·57	2·47	37·04	3·30
Wonthaggi	21	6	28·00	8·00	36·00	4·10
SUMMARY—						
Greater Melbourne	3,035	680	28·05	6·29	34·34	3·67
Provincial Cities and Principal Towns	709	145	30·84	6·31	37·15	4·56
Remainder of State	1,128	286	20·53	5·20	25·73	2·18
Victoria	4,872	1,111	26·17	5·97	32·14	3·22

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.	1936.	1937.
Greater Melbourne ..	24·3	27·0	29·5	27·7	28·4	28·1
Remainder of State ..	17·0	21·2	23·7	26·3	24·2	23·6
Victoria	20·4	24·3	27·0	27·1	26·6	26·2

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 proportions for Greater Melbourne and the remainder of the State were 27·5 and 27·3 respectively. Since 1935 the proportion for Greater Melbourne has been rising, whilst a sharp fall has been recorded in the proportion for the remainder of the State.

The percentage of deaths occurring in other public institutions of the State was 5·97 in 1937 and 5·94 in 1936. The rate in the metropolis is higher than that for the remainder of the State.

In 1937 the number of deaths in public institutions was 5,983, of which 3,715 were of residents of Greater Melbourne.

Deaths in
Metropolitan
public
institutions.

The number of deaths in each metropolitan public institution in 1937 is given in the subjoined table :—

VICTORIA—DEATHS IN METROPOLITAN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, 1937.

Institution.	No. of Deaths.	Institution.	No. of Deaths.
HOSPITALS—GENERAL—		SANATORIA—	
Royal Melbourne	839	Heatherton	35
Alfred	597	Macleod Repatriation—Mont Park	1
Hamilton Russell Com- munity	34	Greenvale	35
Children's	290	Gresswell	27
St. Vincent's	479	Total Sanatoria	98
St. Vincent's Intermediate	32	BENEVOLENT INSTITUTIONS—	
Austin	426	Melbourne (Cheltenham) Asylum	198
Women's	219	Victorian Homes for Aged and Infirm	156
Prince Henry's	136	Convent of Little Sisters of the Poor	53
Infectious Diseases	105	Old Colonists' Homes	1
Caulfield Repatriation	113	Total Benevolent Institu- tions	408
Queen Victoria	70	FOUNDLING HOMES, REFUGES—	
Jessie McPherson Com- munity	35	Broadmeadows	6
Williamstown	43	East Melbourne .. ..	..
Caulfield Convalescent	7	The Haven, Fitzroy	4
Eye and Ear	26	Carlton .. ..	..
Police	7	Children's Welfare Depot .. ..	..
Total General Hospitals ..	3,458	Berwick .. ..	..
HOSPITALS—MENTAL—		Total Refuges, &c. ..	10
Kew	84	Total Hospitals and other Institutions	
Mont Park	76	4,219	
Receiving House, Royal Park Repatriation—Bundoora ..	80		
Repatriation—Bundoora ..	5		
Total Mental Hospitals ..	245		

Of the 4,219 deaths in the above institutions, 2,491 were of males and 1,728 were of females.

**Decrease in
Metropolitan
death rate.**

In Greater Melbourne, in the decade 1928-37, there was an average of 10·15 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 1928-37 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.	1928-37.	Decrease in 1928-37.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..	1,654	519	1,135
Other Tubercular Diseases ..	446	82	364
Typhoid Fever	293	7	286
Scarlet Fever	33	11	22
Measles	215	10	205
Diphtheria	196	61	135
Total	2,837	690	2,147

The figures show that the mortality from the six diseases mentioned declined by 76 per cent. in 1928-37—the decline representing a rate of 2,147 per million of the population.

The mortality from all causes showed a net decline of 5,610 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 41 in 1933-37—a reduction of 69 per cent. In other words, where 100 infants died in the earlier years, only 31 died in the last five years.

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 1937.

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
1933 ..	550	40·9	598	40·0	1,148	40·4
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

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 55·6 in 1928 to 36·7 in 1937, a decrease of 34 per cent. The most pronounced fall in the period occurred in 1929, the rate decreasing from 55·6 in the previous year to 47·2. 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 there was a slight rise in the rate to 42·3 but, in 1937, a sudden fall occurred and a new low record was created.

Deaths of infants under one year of age, and the deaths per 1,000 births in Greater Melbourne, provincial cities and municipalities, principal towns, 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, PROVINCIAL CITIES AND PRINCIPAL TOWNS, AND REMAINDER OF STATE.

Municipality.	Annual Number of Deaths under One Year					Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.				
	1923-1927.	1928-1932.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1923-1927.	1928-1932.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Greater Melbourne—										
Melbourne ..	163	86	55	61	49	89.97	63.95	49.24	53.93	41.67
Box Hill ..	*	10	9	9	4	*	37.04	45.68	37.19	18.26
Braybrook (Part) ..	*	6	4	7	4	*	33.19	26.84	44.87	35.09
Brighton ..	20	15	14	12	12	41.49	39.11	41.06	32.88	28.99
Brunswick ..	77	60	25	28	36	65.99	61.63	32.26	34.65	42.50
Camberwell ..	34	30	27	23	28	42.15	34.68	35.95	30.59	32.40
Caulfield ..	52	39	29	22	24	48.65	41.87	38.36	26.83	26.17
Chelsea ..	..	6	6	6	6	..	47.32	49.18	49.18	44.78
Coburg ..	44	33	19	28	20	62.29	44.47	30.59	44.87	30.67
Collingwood ..	62	38	39	31	20	89.80	71.78	81.93	60.31	41.75
Essendon ..	52	33	23	30	15	61.26	42.83	41.82	52.45	24.59
Fitzroy ..	57	41	29	27	16	83.50	79.33	64.30	60.40	32.72
Footscray ..	68	41	38	24	25	69.21	47.34	55.72	34.58	34.58
Hawthorn ..	25	16	21	23	18	47.66	37.23	54.83	51.80	39.13
Heidelberg (Part) ..	*	20	11	13	8	*	49.37	32.54	38.69	23.12
Kew ..	17	15	5	11	11	45.38	43.66	18.05	36.06	36.54
Malvern ..	28	19	19	20	12	44.63	38.91	42.22	40.98	23.30
Moorabbin ..	..	14	10	16	11	..	34.17	28.41	45.98	29.65
Mordialloc ..	..	8	10	7	6	..	55.48	70.92	55.12	41.38
Northcote ..	54	38	20	22	13	60.16	51.73	36.16	38.06	54.10
Oakleigh ..	*	12	15	7	7	*	46.18	62.70	32.71	55.55
Port Melbourne ..	25	16	11	7	13	89.08	71.24	55.00	35.53	59.09
Prahran ..	38	41	23	26	27	66.12	58.62	37.71	41.40	40.97
Preston ..	50	31	18	24	30	54.80	44.08	31.09	44.36	50.17
Richmond ..	65	46	30	30	22	73.81	65.53	53.00	49.34	36.13
Sandringham ..	15	10	6	9	6	53.86	35.95	26.67	39.30	20.48
South Melbourne ..	77	47	28	42	38	89.52	70.87	50.91	72.79	64.52
St. Kilda ..	34	22	16	30	19	50.97	41.67	32.26	56.71	33.22
Williamstown ..	33	19	10	10	13	67.99	44.44	32.68	29.76	37.36
Remainder of Metropolis ..	75	..	..	..	..	54.99	..	..	..	..
Provincial Cities and Principal Towns—										
Ballarat ..	49	34	18	25	16	67.88	51.84	31.14	42.88	26.45
Bendigo ..	48	33	22	25	23	77.81	60.00	40.44	43.33	39.86
Geelong ..	61	49	33	27	26	70.75	58.56	50.77	38.85	36.98
Ararat ..	†	†	3	5	3	†	†	34.48	38.17	37.04
Castlemaine ..	8	5	5	5	1	59.18	47.80	53.76	61.73	9.01
Colac ..	†	†	5	4	5	†	†	48.08	36.70	43.86
Echuca ..	†	†	3	7	7	†	†	36.14	76.09	72.16
Hamilton ..	10	5	3	5	5	66.76	34.63	29.41	37.88	40.32
Horsham ..	†	†	4	4	6	†	†	32.52	34.19	46.51
Maryborough ..	6	5	6	6	4	48.03	45.84	56.60	50.00	39.22
Mildura ..	13	9	13	9	8	66.53	47.83	62.50	41.10	32.00
Sale ..	†	†	1	2	3	†	†	11.63	25.97	30.93
Shepparton ..	†	8	11	10	10	†	54.16	68.75	65.36	54.03
Stawell ..	7	3	3	6	3	61.15	28.26	36.58	63.83	38.96
Wangaratta ..	†	†	8	2	11	†	†	80.81	19.80	84.62
Warrnambool ..	9	9	8	9	4	49.34	52.33	55.56	45.92	22.22
Wonthaggi ..	10	8	1	5	4	63.99	53.67	11.90	53.76	57.97
Summary—										
Greater Melbourne	1,165	812	570	605	538	65.05	50.94	43.01	44.06	37.13
Provincial Cities and Principal Towns	221	168	147	156	139	69.40	53.24	44.10	43.70	38.28
Remainder of State	725	535	431	461	414	49.25	42.12	38.15	39.81	35.66
Victoria..	2,111	1,515	1,148	1,222	1,091	59.16	47.65	41.17	42.31	36.70

* Included in Remainder of Metropolis.

† Not calculated.

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

The deleterious effect of city surroundings on infant life is indicated by the higher rate of infantile mortality in urban than in country districts. During the years 1933-37, the deaths of children under one year of age to every 1,000 births were 43 in Melbourne, 42 in Ballarat, 40 in Bendigo, and 49 in Geelong, as against 39 in the remainder of the State.

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 1937, comprised 58 per cent. of the total infantile mortality, has varied from 21·5 in the quinquennium 1910-14 (the earliest years for which the information is available) to 23·7 in 1920-24 and 21·2 in 1937. Between 1910-14 and 1933-37, the mortality of infants "one week and under one month" decreased by 51 per cent. and that of infants "one month and under one year" by 66 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 fourteen in 1933-37.

On the average of the years 1933-37, the total rate for males was higher than that for females by 25·9 per cent.

The tables which follow show the proportion of deaths of infants at various ages under one year for certain periods since 1899, and the male and the female death rates at each age period for the year 1937:—

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES, 1900 TO 1937.

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	
1933 ..	22·3	5·3	4·2	3·5	5·1	40·4	45·7	35·0	
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	

VICTORIA—INFANTILE MORTALITY AT CERTAIN AGES, MALES AND FEMALES, 1937.

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 ..	363	23·87	58·17	268	18·45	57·39
1 week and under						
1 month ..	96	6·31	15·39	50	3·44	10·71
1 month and under						
3 months ..	53	3·48	8·49	44	3·03	9·42
3 months and under						
6 months ..	43	2·83	6·89	42	2·90	8·99
6 months and under						
12 months ..	69	4·54	11·06	63	4·34	13·49
Total under one year ..	624	41·03	100·00	467	32·16	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 1937 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.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	12·41	7·31	4·87	3·57	2·37	2·84	1·89
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	11·37	8·13	6·86	6·08	6·31	6·72	4·81
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	29·66	24·62	16·73	9·85	1·72	2·46	1·41
Malformations, &c. (157) ..	3·45	4·86	4·38	4·43	4·73	4·71	3·40
Wasting Diseases (158) ..	22·24	12·74	18·09	6·77	2·04	2·60	2·05
Prematurity ..	13·13	14·99	15·17	15·34	12·59	11·39	11·40
Injury at birth ..				2·57	3·16	2·80	3·36
Early Infancy (161) ..	21·51	12·77	7·98	3·42	5·02	4·74	4·61
Other diseases ..				4·42	2·30	3·25	2·96
Violence ..	3·16	2·47	1·07	·80	·93	·80	·81
Total, all Causes ..	116·93	87·89	69·55	57·25	41·17	42·31	36·70

VICTORIA—INFANTILE DEATH RATES, AT VARIOUS AGES,
FROM CERTAIN CAUSES, 1937.

Cause of Death.	Deaths under One Year per 1,000 Births.								
	Age Period.					Total.	Males.	Females.	Average Annual Rate, 1933-37.
	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 ..	·04	·10	·47	·50	·78	1·89	1·58	2·20	2·65
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	·85	·67	·94	·84	1·51	4·81	4·87	4·75	6·16
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	..	·07	·30	·54	·50	1·41	1·78	1·03	2·01
Malformations, &c. (157)	1·78	·64	·47	·24	·27	3·40	3·68	3·10	4·47
Wasting Diseases (158)	1·21	·47	·13	·17	·07	2·05	2·50	1·59	2·52
Prematurity ..	9·92	1·11	·24	·10	·03	11·40	12·36	10·40	11·84
Injury at Birth ..	2·99	·37	..	..	..	3·36	4·14	2·55	3·23
Early Infancy (161) ..	3·77	·60	·24	..	..	4·61	5·72	3·44	4·73
Other Diseases ..	·37	·84	·37	·40	·98	2·96	3·55	2·34	2·52
Violence ..	·30	·04	·10	·07	·30	·81	·85	·76	·87
Total, all Causes ..	21·23	4·91	3·26	2·86	4·44	36·70	41·03	32·16	41·00
Average Annual Rate, 1933-37 ..	21·71	5·42	4·35	3·75	5·77	41·00	45·59	36·21	..

The mortality of infants under one year from pre-natal causes (malformations, congenital debility, prematurity, injury at birth etc.) was 26·8 per 1,000 births in 1933-37 and represented 65 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 1937 was 24·8, 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 10·8 in 1933–37. Deaths from diarrhoeal diseases declined from 24·6 per 1,000 births in 1901–10 to 2·0 in 1933–37, the main respiratory diseases from 8·1 to 6·2 and the infectious from 7·3 to 2·6. It will thus be seen that, since the beginning of this century, mortality of infants from diarrhoeal diseases has been reduced by 93 per cent.; the main respiratory diseases by 23 per cent.; and the infectious by 64 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 1933 to 1937.

VICTORIA—DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE MONTH,
1933 TO 1937.

GREATER MELBOURNE AND WHOLE STATE.

Cause of Death.	Greater Melbourne.					Victoria.				
	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Epidemic, Endemic, and Infectious Diseases ..	4	5	7	2	3	6	10	11	4	4
Bronchitis, Broncho-pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	27	37	27	29	28	39	57	43	47	45
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	..	5	3	2	1	2	11	6	3	2
Malformations, &c. (157) ..	51	36	40	40	31	110	76	81	104	72
Wasting Diseases (158) ..	21	14	9	12	16	59	48	40	41	50
Prematurity ..	153	152	162	140	156	345	302	340	321	328
Injury at Birth ..	34	48	31	44	63	88	102	84	81	100
Early Infancy (161) ..	55	79	75	74	79	116	139	138	134	130
Other Diseases ..	8	4	4	7	16	14	17	15	22	36
Violence ..	4	5	5	6	7	6	9	12	11	10
Total, all Causes ..	357	385	363	356	400	785	771	770	768	777
Deaths per 1,000 Births	26·5	29·3	27·4	25·9	27·6	27·6	27·7	27·6	26·6	26·1

A survey of the mortality from pre-natal causes is not complete without taking into account the loss due to stillbirths and infantile mortality. 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 1928 to 1937.

VICTORIA—STILLBIRTHS (RECORDED) AND INFANT MORTALITY, 1928 TO 1937.

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.	
1928 ..	2·8	2·7	29·5	26·1	55·6	80·9
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

* 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, 89 in every 1,000 ex-nuptial infants died within a year, as against 42 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 1937 the mortality rate of nuptial infants was 35·2 per 1,000 births. Births and deaths of ex-nuptial children numbered 1,231 and 87 respectively, the death rate being thus 70·7 per 1,000 births. With the view to ascertaining the chief reasons for the marked disproportion in the mortality rates of the two classes the following table has been constructed, showing the deaths from certain causes per 1,000 nuptial and ex-nuptial births, for the periods 1904-08, 1914-18, 1924-28 and the year 1937 :—

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.	1937.	1904-08.	1914-18.	1924-28.	1937.
Bronchitis, Broncho-Pneumonia, Pneumonia ..	6·0	6·1	5·9	4·2	18·6	12·5	13·0	18·7
Diarrhoeal Diseases ..	19·8	14·2	8·9	1·3	72·6	48·6	23·1	4·1
Prematurity, Congenital Malformations, Marasmus, &c.* ..	30·3	27·2	25·0	16·5	52·1	64·9	46·9	24·4
Other Causes ..	18·3	15·3	14·7	13·2	58·7	36·6	29·3	23·5
Total, all Causes ..	75·3	62·8	54·5	35·2	202·0	162·6	112·3	70·7

* 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, 7·2 died from diarrhoeal diseases within a year, as compared with 1·8 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 18·6 and 5·6 per 1,000 births respectively.

In 1937 pre-natal causes (malformations, congenital debility, prematurity, injury at birth, etc.) accounted for 43, or 49 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, 1933 TO 1937.

Year.	Vic-toria.	New South Wales.	Queens-land.	South Aus-tralia.	Western Aus-tralia.	Tas-man-ia.	Aus-tralia.	New Zealand.
1933	40·43	39·35	42·74	32·13	36·83	41·07	39·52	31·64
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

In the year 1937, the infantile mortality rates recorded for the Australian States showed that South Australia had the lowest rate and Tasmania the highest.

In 1936 the infantile death rate in England and Wales was 59

The infantile deaths per 1,000 births in the following capital cities in 1937 were :—Melbourne, 37·1 ; Sydney, 38·7 ; Brisbane, 40·1 ; Adelaide, 30·9 ; Perth, 42·4 ; Hobart, 39·5 ; and Wellington, 28·8.

Deaths of children under 5.

In 1937 the deaths of male and of female children in Victoria under 5 years of age were 785 and 605 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, 1935 TO 1937.

Ages.	1935.			1936.			1937.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 1 year	639	509	1,148	687	535	1,222	624	467	1,091
1 year	92	94	186	91	74	165	59	61	120
2 years	57	51	108	55	49	104	50	34	84
3 "	33	28	61	32	25	57	26	21	47
4 "	29	24	53	30	31	61	26	22	48
5 to 9	133	98	231	107	83	190	120	88	208
10 ,, 14	124	67	191	116	71	187	98	65	163
15 ,, 19	145	95	240	154	119	273	130	94	224
20 ,, 24	201	137	338	186	179	365	206	148	354
25 ,, 29	180	211	391	217	218	435	153	184	337
30 ,, 34	184	194	378	194	225	419	200	183	383
35 to 39	271	237	508	244	230	474	249	211	460
40 ,, 44	332	306	638	317	269	586	315	301	616
45 ,, 49	434	339	773	450	380	830	441	354	795
50 ,, 54	581	423	1,004	533	393	926	581	408	989
55 ,, 59	688	493	1,181	680	521	1,201	728	503	1,231
60 ,, 64	866	671	1,537	884	653	1,537	879	677	1,556
65 ,, 69	1,204	967	2,171	1,183	991	2,174	1,107	969	2,076
70 ,, 74	1,393	1,200	2,593	1,428	1,139	2,567	1,361	1,189	2,550
75 ,, 79	1,176	1,104	2,280	1,246	1,203	2,449	1,336	1,243	2,579
80 ,, 84	667	700	1,367	711	744	1,455	756	850	1,606
85 ,, 89	300	415	715	337	424	761	319	442	761
90 ,, 94	100	178	278	79	174	253	93	160	253
95 ..	7	25	32	6	20	26	10	18	28
96 ..	9	9	18	11	7	18	6	12	18
97 ..	7	8	15	7	8	15	6	8	14
98 ..	2	6	8	2	6	8	4	5	9
99 ..	1	2	3	4	7	11	..	1	1
100 ..	..	7	7	..	2	2	1	2	3
101 ..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	2	3
102 ..	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..
103 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
104 ..	1	..	1	1	1	2	..	..	..
Unknown	..	..	..	4	..	4	5	1	6
Total ..	9,856	8,600	18,456	9,996	8,782	18,778	9,890	8,723	18,613

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

Of the 55,847 persons who died in Victoria during the last three years 7,704 (or approximately 14 per cent.) were aged 80 years and upwards, and 21—four males and seventeen females—were stated as having attained or passed the age of 100 years. In 1887 deaths of persons aged 80 years and over represented about 3 per cent. of the total deaths in that year.

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

Causes of Death.

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

VICTORIA—CAUSES OF DEATH, 1922-26,
1935, 1936, AND 1937.

International Abridged Classification.	Number —			Deaths per Million of the Population.			
	1935.	1936.	1937.	1922-26.			
				1926.	1935.	1936.	1937.
1. Typhoid Fever (1, 2)	16	10	9	21	9	5	5
4. Measles	20	1	1	17	11	1	1
5. Scarlet Fever	5	14	5	10	3	8	3
6. Whooping Cough	50	50	38	60	27	27	20
7. Diphtheria	94	99	52	59	51	53	28
8a. Influenza—Respiratory	158	41	56	61	86	22	30
8b. Influenza—Other	63	42	24	52	34	23	13
10. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	761	762	713	575	414	412	384
11a. Tubercular Meningitis	42	38	36	42	23	21	20
11b. Other Tuberculous Diseases	75	70	58	58	41	38	31
12. Syphilis	47	39	42	24	25	21	22
13. Malaria	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
14. Other Infectious or Parasitic Diseases ..	116	138	187	120	63	75	100
15. Cancer and other Malignant Tumours ..	2,260	2,288	2,351	1,000	1,229	1,238	1,267
19. Tumours, Non-Malignant or of Un-							
specified Nature	101	106	101	51	55	58	54
17. Chronic Rheumatism, Gout (57-58) ..	79	66	56	38	43	36	30
18. Diabetes Mellitus	309	311	304	112	168	168	164
19. Acute and Chronic Alcoholism	7	10	11	11	4	5	6
20. Other General Diseases (Classes 3, 4, 5)	332	366	334	165	180	198	179
21. Locomotor Ataxia, General Paralysis of							
Insane (80, 83)	38	41	30	31	21	22	16
22. Cerebral Haemorrhage, Embolism, &c.							
(82)	943	980	985	†	513	531	531
23. Other Diseases of Nervous System and							
Sense Organs	294	307	267	236	159	166	144
24. Diseases of the Heart (90-95)	3,945	3,812	3,904	1,347	2,145	2,063	2,104
25a. Arterio-sclerosis	958	1,104	1,197	†	521	597	645
25b. Other Diseases of Circulatory System ..	157	172	164	82	85	93	88
26a. Acute Bronchitis (106a and c)	45	47	37	48	24	25	20
26b. Chronic Bronchitis (106b and d)	202	189	170	147	110	102	91
27. Pneumonia (all forms) (107-109)	1,354	1,241	1,150	734	736	672	620
28. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	330	329	278	214	180	178	150
29a. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two							
years of age)	62	97	58	294	34	53	31
29b. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (two years and							
over)	111	102	93	86	60	55	50
30. Appendicitis	139	143	126	71	76	78	68
31a. Cirrhosis of the Liver	84	86	75	49	46	47	41
31b. Other Diseases of the Liver and Biliary							
Calculi (125-127)	130	155	125	60	71	82	67
32a. Hernia, Intestinal obstruction	169	159	180	99	92	86	97
32b. Other Diseases of the Digestive System	287	315	316	148	155	171	170
33. Nephritis (130-132)	1,055	1,059	1,125	505	574	573	606
34. Other Diseases of the Genito-Urinary							
System	332	349	335	151	180	189	181
35a. Post-Abortive Sepsis	8	7	5	†	4	4	3
35b. Criminal Abortion (140b)	35	49	41	†	19	26	22
35c. Puerperal Septicaemia (without abortion)	19	40	14	†	10	22	8
36. Other Diseases of Pregnancy and Labour	69	85	69	†	38	46	37
37. Diseases of the Skin, Bones, &c.	76	94	96	61	41	51	51
38. Congenital Debility, Malformations,							
Premature Birth, &c.	815	809	772	731	443	438	416
39. Senility	1,010	1,257	1,362	†802	549	680	734
40. Suicide	166	198	159	87	90	107	86
41. Homicide	24	18	18	14	13	10	10
42. Accidental or Violent Death (176-198)	974	990	1,050	465	530	536	565
43. Non-specified or ill-defined Causes ..	90	93	33	94	49	50	18

* Total all Causes

18,456 18,778 18,613 9,898 10,034 10,162 10,028

* 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 116.

Detailed classification numbers in brackets.

**CAUSES OF DEATH, VICTORIA, GREATER MELBOURNE,
AND REMAINDER OF STATE, 1937.**

International Abridged Classification.	Number of Deaths.				Deaths per 1,000,000 of Population.	
	Victoria.		Metropolis.	Remainder of State.	Metropolis.	Remainder of State.
	Males.	Fe- males				
1. Typhoid Fever (1, 2)	4	5	3	6	3	7
4. Measles	1	..	..	1	..	1
5. Scarlet Fever	1	4	4	1	4	1
6. Whooping Cough	18	20	15	23	15	28
7. Diphtheria	32	20	28	24	27	29
8a. Influenza—Respiratory	22	34	21	35	20	42
8b. Influenza—Other	16	8	13	11	13	13
10. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	410	303	452	261	443	312
11a. Tubercular Meningitis	17	19	21	15	21	18
11b. Other Tuberculous Diseases	25	33	37	21	36	25
12. Syphilis	31	11	35	7	34	8
13. Malaria .. .. .	..	1	1	..	1	..
14. Other Infectious or Parasitic Diseases	105	82	109	78	107	93
15. Cancer and other Malignant Tumours	1,147	1,204	1,448	903	1,419	1,081
16. Tumours, Non-Malignant or of Unspecified Nature	42	59	60	41	59	49
17. Chronic Rheumatism, Gout (57-58)	16	40	31	25	30	30
18. Diabetes Mellitus	109	195	182	122	178	146
19. Acute and Chronic Alcoholism	7	4	8	3	8	3
20. Other General Diseases (Classes 3, 4, 5)	141	193	180	154	177	184
21. Locomotor Ataxia, General Paralysis of Insane (80, 83)	24	6	23	7	22	8
22. Cerebral Haemorrhage, Embolism, &c. (82)	409	576	589	396	577	474
23. Other Diseases of Nervous System and Sense Organs	135	132	136	131	134	157
24. Diseases of the Heart (90-95)	2,188	1,716	2,298	1,606	2,252	1,922
25a. Arterio-sclerosis	526	671	804	393	788	470
25b. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	90	74	110	54	108	65
26a. Acute Bronchitis (106a and c)	16	21	16	21	16	25
26b. Chronic Bronchitis (106b and d)	84	86	98	72	96	86
27. Pneumonia (all forms) (107-109)	625	525	683	467	669	559
28. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	179	99	149	129	146	154
29a. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years of age)	31	27	38	20	37	24
29b. Diarrhoea and Enteritis (two years and over)	42	51	52	41	51	49
30. Appendicitis	82	44	74	52	73	62
31a. Cirrhosis of the Liver	48	27	46	29	45	35
31b. Other Diseases of the Liver and Biliary Calculi (125-127)	42	83	74	51	73	61
32a. Hernia, Intestinal obstruction	94	86	111	69	109	83
32b. Other Diseases of the Digestive System	208	108	202	114	197	137
33. Nephritis (130-132)	579	546	680	445	667	532
34. Other Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System	236	99	197	138	193	165
35a. Post-Abortive Sepsis .. .. .	..	5	1	4	1	5
35b. Criminal Abortion (140b) .. .. .	..	41	30	11	29	13
35c. Puerperal Septicæmia (without abortion) .. .. .	..	14	7	7	7	8
36. Other Diseases of Pregnancy and Labour .. .. .	..	69	29	40	29	48
37. Diseases of the Skin, Bones, &c.	65	31	57	39	55	47
38. Congenital Debility, Malformations, Premature Birth, &c.	445	327	389	383	382	458
39. Senility	629	733	601	761	589	911
40. Suicide	131	28	88	71	86	85
41. Homicide	12	6	10	8	10	9
42. Accidental or Violent Death (176-196)	805	245	572	478	561	572
43. Non-specified or ill-defined Causes	21	12	7	26	7	31
*TOTAL ALL CAUSES	9,890	8,723	10,819	7,794	10,604	9,325

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

Detailed classification numbers in brackets.

Typhoid fever. In 1937, deaths from typhoid fever numbered 9, being equivalent to a rate of 5 per million of population, as compared with rates of 5 in 1936, 9 in 1935, 6 in 1934, 9 in 1933, 31 in 1920-24, 108 in 1905-09, and 301 in 1895-99. Cases of typhoid fever reported in 1937 numbered 50, or 27 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 never spread among the people of the State. During the years 1853 to 1937, 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. In 1937 there was 1 death attributed to this cause, representing an approximate rate of 1 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 1 in 1936, 11 in 1935, 14 in 1934, and 7 in 1933. The disease chiefly affects children. On the average of the five years 1933 to 1937, 35 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 1937 the deaths from scarlet fever numbered 5, which corresponded to a rate of 3 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 8 in 1936, 3 in 1935, 10 in 1934, 7 in 1933, and 34 in 1890-92. During 1937 there were 2,567 cases reported, as against 2,122 in 1936, 1,458 in 1935, 1,834 in 1934, and 2,493 in 1933. For the five years mentioned the deaths were less than one per cent. of the cases. Sixty-five per cent. of these deaths were of children under 10 years of age.

Whooping cough. Whooping cough was responsible for 38 deaths in 1937, which equalled a rate of 20 per million of the population at all ages, as compared with rates of 27 in 1936, 27 in 1935, 46 in 1934, and 21 in 1933. 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, 24 of the deaths were of infants under 1 year, and all except five of the deaths were of children less than 5 years of age.

Diphtheria. The continued prevalence of diphtheria throughout the State since 1910, is one of the few instances in which morbidity statistics have not revealed material improvement. On the other hand a very great reduction has taken place since 1890, in the proportion of cases which ended fatally. On the average of the five years 1933 to 1937, 52 per cent. of those who died were under 5 years, and 85 per cent. were under 10 years of age.

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

DIPHThERIA IN VICTORIA AND GREATER MELBOURNE,
1895 TO 1937.

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
1933	6,564	360·5	126	6·9	1·9
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
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
1933	3,594	362·3	69	7·0	1·9
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

The cases of diphtheria which occurred in the metropolitan area, the three principal provincial cities 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 1935, 1936, and 1937, are given in the subjoined table:—

VICTORIA—CASES OF DIPHTHERIA.

Area.	Reported Cases of Diphtheria.					Annual Cases per 10,000 of Population.			
	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1910-19.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Greater Melbourne	3,594	2,539	2,460	3,299	1,683	39·3	24·5	32·6	16·5
Ballarat ..	237	241	154	159	49	24·3	40·6	41·6	12·8
Bendigo ..	263	109	85	63	43	84·6	28·9	21·1	14·4
Geelong ..	318	181	283	206	182	43·4	71·0	51·9	45·7
Remainder of State	2,152	2,420	1,327	1,491	1,083	25·7	18·2	20·5	14·9

Influenza. The deaths from influenza in 1937 numbered 80. This corresponded to a rate of 43 per million of the population as compared with rates of 45 in 1936, 120 in 1935, 171 in 1934, 107 in 1933, 2,407 in 1919, 71 in 1913-17, 109 in 1908-12, and 381 in 1890-92.

The rate of mortality was low in 1937, being 56 per cent. below the average of the previous quinquennium.

Of the deaths recorded in 1937, 70 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 1937, 60 per cent. were of persons over 50 years of age.

Tuberculosis (all forms). The number of deaths ascribed to tuberculosis during 1937 was 807, the rate per million of population being 435. 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 1937 numbered 713—410 being of males and 303 of females—and equalled a rate of 384 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 412 in 1936, 414 in 1935, 411 in 1934, 405 in 1933, 660 in 1918-22, 855 in 1908-12, and 1,365 in 1890-92. In 1937 tuberculosis of the respiratory system was responsible for 88 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 at 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.				
	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
0-9	3	7	3	4	8	4	2	1	7	2
10-14	1	2	..	1	2	3	3	2	2	2
15-19	12	7	9	8	7	27	21	20	27	15
20-24	23	30	26	21	23	56	40	43	57	41
25-29	30	40	39	26	19	51	62	63	60	52
30-34	48	31	36	35	33	42	49	45	53	41
35-39	42	38	43	37	44	35	40	38	34	42
40-44	45	51	51	54	47	27	31	31	40	20
45-49	44	47	40	52	51	24	22	11	18	26
50-54	40	41	55	40	48	10	19	20	17	13
55-59	34	45	45	35	36	15	12	21	10	14
60-64	33	35	27	33	40	14	16	15	13	12
65-69	24	25	20	29	27	12	7	11	16	9
70 and over ..	22	20	36	19	25	16	10	10	14	14
Total	401	419	430	394	410	336	334	331	368	303

For the year 1937, the average age of those who died from tuberculosis of the respiratory system was 46·2 years for males and 37·7 years for females.

Tubercular diseases (tuberculosis of the respiratory system excepted).

In 1937 there occurred in Victoria 94 deaths from tubercular diseases (excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system), which corresponded to a rate of 51 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 59 in 1936, 64 in 1935, 74 in 1934, 66 in 1933, 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	11.5	21.2	†	3.0	2.1	2.0	†	13.8	13.6	23.2	†
1911-15 ..	9.1	10.3	16.5	†	2.1	2.2	2.1	†	11.2	12.5	18.6	†
1916-20 ..	8.3	11.2	16.0	†	1.9	1.5	2.0	†	10.2	12.7	18.0	†
1921-25 ..	6.9	6.7	11.9	4.6	1.5	1.0	2.2	1.9	8.4	7.7	14.1	6.5
1926-30 ..	5.9	5.2	10.7	4.2	1.0	—	—	—	6.9	5.6	11.5	5.0
1933 ..	4.7	2.7	10.1	4.1	—	—	—	—	5.5	3.5	11.0	5.1
1934 ..	4.7	5.3	6.1	1.8	—	1.3	1.0	—	5.5	6.6	7.1	2.5
1935 ..	4.8	4.7	9.2	3.3	—	—	—	—	5.5	5.0	9.5	3.3
1936 ..	5.0	1.3	10.4	3.8	—	—	—	—	5.6	1.8	11.4	4.5
1937 ..	4.4	3.7	9.4	6.5	—	—	—	—	5.0	4.2	10.7	6.8

† Not calculated.

Other Infectious and Parasitic Diseases.

Deaths in 1937, from diseases included under this heading (cause No. 14, on page 99) were dysentery 5, erysipelas 17, acute poliomyelitis 77, lethargic encephalitis 7, cerebro-spinal meningitis 10, tetanus 10, septicaemia 31, hydatid cysts 20, and other diseases 10.

Hydatids. In 1937, there were 11 male and 9 female deaths from hydatids, of which 5 of males and 3 of females were attributed to hydatid tumour of the liver. The deaths from hydatids in 1937 were equivalent to a rate of 11 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 9 in 1936, 10 in 1935, 13 in 1934, 12 in 1933, 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	8	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	..	..	239	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	1	29	29	1	1	147	5
9 ..	72	23	5	2	25	28	1	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	2
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 77 deaths in 1937, 4 in 1936, 7 in 1935, 9 in 1934, 7 in 1933, 4 in 1932, 16 in 1931, 12 in 1930, 17 in 1929, and 32 in 1928.

Deaths from cancer in 1937 numbered 2,351, and represented a death rate of 1,267 per million of the whole population, as compared with rates of 1,238 in 1936, 1,229 in 1935, 1,190 in 1934, 1,180 in 1933, 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.**

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

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM CANCER AT VARIOUS AGES

Age Group.	Males.					Females.				
	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.
0-14	2	4	5	9	6	5	4	5	3	4
15-24	13	5	5	6	4	6	1	10	9	4
25-34	17	14	21	20	17	17	21	26	14	18
35-44	37	37	50	29	50	84	81	110	90	95
45-54	86	111	103	114	113	175	177	157	194	177
55-64	242	261	237	252	227	287	273	268	304	260
65-74	425	425	419	436	429	330	332	384	338	371
75-84	196	191	208	221	276	180	180	196	189	236
85 and over ..	15	26	15	25	25	31	35	41	35	39
Total	1,033	1,074	1,063	1,112	1,147	1,115	1,104	1,197	1,176	1,204

Ninety-two per cent. of the deaths from cancer in 1937 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 1937 the average age of those who died from the former was 66·1 years for males and 63·7 years for females, while the corresponding averages for the latter were 46·2 years for males and 37·7 years for females.

The following table shows the seat of cancer in persons who died from this disease in 1937 :—

SEAT OF CANCER, 1937.

Seat of Disease.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Buccal cavity and pharynx	102	15	117
Oesophagus	54	16	70
Stomach, duodenum, liver and biliary ducts	345	272	617
Pancreas	42	33	75
Intestines, peritoneum and rectum	214	252	466
Respiratory organs	67	28	95
Female genital organs .. ..	..	226	226
Female breast .. ..	..	244	244
Male genito-urinary organs	204	..	204
Skin	26	27	53
Other and unspecified organs	93	91	184
Total Deaths	1,147	1,204	2,351

Fifty-two 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, 39 per cent. were affected in the genital organs or breast.

Diabetes. The rate of mortality from diabetes has increased, the average of the last five years being 56 per cent. higher than that for the period 1908-12.

During 1937 diabetes was responsible for 109 male and 195 female deaths, representing a rate of 164 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 168 in 1936, 168 in 1935, 174 in 1934, 163 in 1933, 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.

Deaths in 1937 from diseases in this category **Other General Diseases.** (cause No. 20 on page 99) were acute rheumatic fever 90, exophthalmic goitre 34, other diseases of the thyroid and parathyroid glands 14, pernicious anaemia 54, other anaemias 3, leucaemia 57, Hodgkin's disease 34, and other diseases 48.

In 1937, 409 male and 576 female deaths were ascribed **Cerebral Haemorrhage, Embolism, &c.** to these causes, the total—985—corresponding to a rate of 531 per million of the population as compared with rates of 531 in 1936, 513 in 1935, 537 in 1934, and 545 in 1933. Of the 985 deaths in 1937, 604 were due to cerebral haemorrhage, 19 to apoplexy, 12 to cerebral embolism, 275 to cerebral thrombosis, 8 to softening of the brain, and 67 to hemiplegia and unspecified paralysis.

In this category (cause No. 23 on page 99) **Other Diseases of Nervous System and Sense Organs.** in 1937, were 29 deaths from simple meningitis, 54 from other diseases of the spinal cord, 26 from epilepsy, 26 from diseases of the ear and mastoid process, and 132 from other diseases.

During 1937 there were 3,904 deaths ascribed to diseases **Diseases of the Heart.** of the heart, including 9 due to pericarditis, 543 to endocarditis, 2,111 to disease of the myocardium, 647 to diseases of coronary arteries, 149 to angina pectoris, 44 to angina pectoris with record of coronary disease, and 401 to other diseases of the heart. The total causes in 1937 represented a rate of 2,104 per million of the population, the rates for previous years being 2,063 in 1936, 2,145 in 1935, 2,012 in 1934, 1,880 in 1933, 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	18.97

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 1937 the number of deaths from arteriosclerosis with **Arteriosclerosis.** record of cerebral vascular lesion (cerebral haemorrhage etc.) was 635 and, without such record, 562. Of the total deaths, 717 or 60 per cent. were of persons aged 70 years and over.

Respiratory diseases. In 1937 the deaths from respiratory diseases numbered 1,635, which represented a rate of 881 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 977 in 1936, 1,050 in 1935, 1,125 in 1934, and 998 in 1933. Of the deaths in the year under review, 37 were due to acute bronchitis, 170 to chronic bronchitis, 591 to broncho-pneumonia, 232 to lobar pneumonia, 327 to pneumonia unspecified, 57 to pleurisy, 52 to asthma, 68 to pulmonary congestion, embolism, etc., 57 to chronic interstitial pneumonia, and 44 to other diseases. Further details will be found under causes Nos. 26 to 28 on pages 99 and 100.

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

Diseases of the digestive system. In 1937 there were 547 male and 426 female deaths from digestive ailments, representing a proportion of 524 per million of the population, as against rates of 572 in 1936, 534 in 1935, 580 in 1934, 541 in 1933, 807 in 1922-26, and 2,382 in 1890-92. Deaths from the principal diseases in 1937 were, 154 from ulcers of the stomach and duodenum, 151 from diarrhoeal diseases, 126 from appendicitis, 51 from hernia, 129 from intestinal obstruction, 75 from cirrhosis of the liver, 53 from biliary calculi, 53 from other diseases of the gall bladder and biliary passages, and 181 from other diseases. Further rates and details are given under causes Nos. 29 to 32 on pages 99 and 100.

The 151 deaths from diarrhoeal diseases in 1937 correspond to a rate of 81 per million of the population as compared with rates of 108 in 1936, 94 in 1935, 152 in 1934, 109 in 1933, 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 1937, 42 were of infants under one year of age, 16 were between the ages of one and two years, 9 between two and five years, while 30 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 1937 there were 1,460 deaths attributed to diseases of the genito-urinary system, which corresponded to a rate of 787 per million of the population, as against rates of 762 in 1936, 754 in 1935, 786 in 1934, 755 in 1933, 670 in 1918-22, and 700 in 1909-12. In 1937, acute and chronic nephritis were responsible for 1,125 deaths, other diseases of the kidney, etc. for 93, diseases of the prostate for 145, and other genito-urinary diseases for 97.

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 septicaemia 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 1937.

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.	Excluding Criminal Abortion.
		Septic Abortion.	Criminal 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	
1928 ..	43	6	28	131	180	208	12.46	1.74	8.12	37.97	52.17	60.29
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

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, but the average rate for the following years showed a considerable increase.

The following tables give information in age groups for the year 1937 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, 1937.

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 .. ..	..	1	2	2	..	..	5	5	..
(b) Criminal abortion	5	8	10	11	6	1	41*	29	12
141. Abortion without septic conditions .. ..	..	1	..	1	1	..	3	3	..
142. Ectopic gestation .. ..	..	1	2	2	1	1	7	6	1
143. Other accidents of pregnancy (excluding hæmorrhage) .. ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	..
144. Puerperal hæmorrhage	1	1	3	5	4	3	17	16	1
145. Puerperal septicæmia (not consequent on abortion)	1	2	4	5	..	2	14	13	1
146. Puerperal albuminuria and eclampsia	3	6	3	2	1	1	16	14	2
147. Other toxæmias of pregnancy .. ..	..	1	3	4	2	..	10	10	..
148. (a) Phlegmasia alba dolens and thrombosis .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(b) Embolism or sudden death .. ..	..	1	..	2	1	..	4	4	..
149. Other accidents of childbirth—	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	2	..
(a) Cæsarean section .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(b) Other surgical operations and instrumental delivery .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(c) Others .. ..	..	..	3	1	3	..	7	7	..
150. (a) Puerperal diseases of the breast .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
(b) Other unspecified conditions of the puerperal state .. ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	2	..
Total	10	22	33	35	21	8	129	112	17
Married Mothers	5	16	30	32	21	8	112	..	..
Unmarried Mothers	5	6	3	3	..	..	17	..	..
Total Issue of Married Mothers	2	25	52	79	61	26	245	..	..

* Self-induced 6; open verdict 35.

Of the 245 children born to the 112 married women who died, 219 were living at the time of their mother's death, or an average of 2.0 children per mother, as compared with 2.1 in 1936, 2.3 in 1935, 2.5 in 1934, and 2.6 in 1933.

First confinements were responsible for 43, or 38.4 per cent. of the total deaths of married mothers, as compared with 36.3 per cent. in 1936, 25.6 per cent. in 1935, 32.9 per cent. in 1934, and 28.6 per cent. in 1933.

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 1935, 1936, and 1937, are shown in the following table:—

VICTORIA—DEATH RATES OF WOMEN IN CHILDBIRTH,
IN AGE GROUPS, 1926 TO 1937.

Age Group.	Mothers.							
	Deaths.				Deaths per 10,000 children born alive.			
	1926-30.	1935.	1936.	1937.	1926-30.	1935.	1936.	1937.
Under 20 years ..	41	7	12	10	47·1	45·9	76·4	63·2
22 to 24 „ ..	150	16	36	22	39·1	23·1	50·2	28·9
25 „ 29 „ ..	231	38	50	33	46·5	45·9	57·8	36·1
30 „ 34 „ ..	226	30	46	35	56·8	48·3	73·5	53·6
35 „ 39 „ ..	226	25	23	21	88·1	70·2	60·8	58·9
40 years and over	111	15	14	8	117·8	105·9	95·8	60·5
Total ..	985	131	181	129	57·4	47·0	62·7	43·4

The experience of the years 1926-30 showed that, for the age period 35 years and upwards, the deaths of mothers in childbirth were 96 per 10,000 live births, as compared with 47 per 10,000 for those under that age.

Senile Decay. During the year 1937, the deaths of 629 men and 733 women were ascribed to senile decay, as compared with 613 men and 644 women in 1936. 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 1937 numbered 7,825—3,893 of men and 3,932 of women, or 42.0 per cent. of the total deaths.

Accidental violence.

In 1937, 804 male and 246 female deaths were attributed to accidents or negligence. These represented a rate of 565 per million of the population. This proportion was above the average rate—492—for the previous five years, and 30 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, 1933 TO 1937.

Nature or Place of Accident.	Annual Deaths during—						
	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.	1937.		
					Total	Males.	Females
Snake Bite .. ..	..	..	2	1	1	1	..
Other Venomous Bites and Stings .. ..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..
Poisoning by Food ..	3	5	3	2	..	..	..
Absorption of Poisonous Gases	8	6	6	3	5	3	2
Other Acute Poisonings ..	5	6	8	5	4	4	..
Conflagration (Bush fires, &c.) ..	2	4	5	5	3	2	1
Burns, Scalds, &c. ..	63	68	53	49	44	22	22
Accidental Mechanical Suffocation ..	10	5	11	6	10	4	6
Drowning { accidental ..	74	94	88	77	67	57	10
{ open verdict ..	56	48	55	51	58	44	14
Firearms { accidental ..	24	26	29	17	20	17	3
{ open verdict ..	6	7	2	8	10	10	..
In Mines and Quarries ..	16	17	23	14	28	28	..
Machines	9	12	12	14	10	9	1
Transport Accidents ..	352	385	440	508	568	456	112
Falls { accidental ..	94	121	102	106	119	70	49
{ open verdict ..	5	4	6	2	9	6	3
Other Crushings	20	29	26	20	17	15	2
Injuries by Animals ..	10	4	6	4	2	2	..
Excessive Cold	5	6	4	3	..	..	..
Effects of Heat	1	15	3	2	4	3	1
Lightning	2	..	4	2	1	1	..
Electricity	4	4	13	2	11	10	1
Other Violence { accidental ..	39	45	35	48	31	24	7
{ open verdict ..	25	23	37	39	28	16	12
Total accidental ..	741	852	874	890	945	728	217
Total open verdict ..	92	82	100	100	105	76	29
Grand Total ..	833	934	974	990	1,050	804	246

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

In 1937, deaths from transport accidents numbered 568, as against 508 in 1936, 440 in 1935, 385 in 1934, 350 in 1933, 350 in 1932, 373 in 1931, 406 in 1930, 394 in 1929, and 382 in 1928.

During the year 1937, deaths connected with transport represented 54 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 1937.

VICTORIA—DEATHS FROM TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS, 1937.

	Collision between—										Total.	Pedestrians killed.	* Other Accidents.	Total.	Males.	Females.	
	Railway vehicle.	Tramcar.	Motor car.	Motor lorry, &c.	Motor cycle.	Horse-drawn vehicle, &c.	Bicycle.	Fixed object.	Aeroplane.	Water transport.							
Railway vehicle	1	..	12	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	14	19	15	†48	39	9
Tramcar	4	1	5	1	..	..	..	..	11	12	3	26	18	8	
Motor-car	19	4	37	1	39	18	..	..	118	155	54	327	257	70	
„ omnibus	2	..	..	..	2	3	1	6	5	1	
„ lorry, &c.	11	..	12	2	..	..	25	20	18	63	51	12	
„ cycle	2	3	1	3	..	..	9	9	19	37	32	5	
Horse-drawn vehicle	12	12	11	1	
Bicycle	4	2	..	..	6	2	7	15	12	3	
Horse	16	16	14	2	
Aeroplane	7	7	7	..	
Water transport	3	3	..	7	10	10	..	
Other transport	1	1	..	1	
Total	..	1	..	35	5	56	5	58	25	..	3	188	220	160	568	456	112

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

† Includes 5 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 1928 to 1937, were as follows:—

VICTORIA—DEATHS INVOLVING MOTOR VEHICLES,
1928 TO 1937.

Year.	Number of Motor Vehicles (30th June.)	Deaths Involving Motor Vehicles.		
		Number.	Per 10,000 Motor Vehicles	Per 1,000,000 of Population
1928	150,343	297	19·8	170
1929	168,578	294	17·4	166
1930	179,887	307	17·1	172
1931	168,231	296	17·6	155
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

It will be observed that, while registrations of motor vehicles increased greatly during the years mentioned, the mortality per 10,000 vehicles fluctuated only slightly, the average rate for the period 1933-37 being 17·0 as compared with a rate of 17·4 in 1928-32. The mortality per million of population was 246 in 1937, 214 in 1936, 161 in 1934, and 82 in 1924. The mortality rate in 1937 was the highest on record.

On the average of the five years, 1933 to 1937, motor cars, &c., were involved in 17·6 deaths per 10,000 cars registered, and motor cycles in 26·6 deaths per 10,000 motor cycles registered.

Suicide. In the year 1937, 131 males and 28 females took their lives. The deaths represented a rate of 86 per million of the population, as compared with rates of 107 in 1936, 90 in 1935, 93 in 1934, 103 in 1933, 87 in 1918-22, 102 in 1908-12, and 109 in 1890-92. Of the 131 male deaths in 1937 from suicide 36, or 27 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 1937 numbered 18, of which 12 were of males and 6 of females. These represented a rate of 10 per million of the population, as against rates of 10 in 1936, 13 in 1935, 14 in 1934, 16 in 1933, 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.

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
1933 ..	6·00	8·42	9·30	6·88	9·31	10·33	7·86	8·61
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

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	1933	10,936	15·59	9·59	6·00
1905-09	16,062	24·76	11·93	12·83	1934 ..	9,180	15·20	10·18	5·02
1910-14	18,795	25·42	11·57	13·85	1935 ..	9,428	15·16	10·03	5·13
1915-19	16,818	23·13	11·38	11·75	1936 ..	10,105	15·63	10·16	5·47
1920-24	19,647	22·89	10·40	12·49	1937 ..	11,118	16·02	10·03	5·99

The Victorian death rates are below those of England and Wales at nearly all periods of life. In England and Wales in 1936 the excess of births over deaths was 2·7 per 1,000 of population.