

## THE PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH.

The following table gives the main causes of death during the year, the actual number of deaths therefrom, and the death-rates per 10,000 of mean population for each of the last five years:—

Cause.	1938.		1937.	1936.	1935.	1934.
	Number.	Rate.	Rate.	Rate.	Rate.	Rate.
Heart-disease (all forms) .. .. .	4,171	27·45	26·25	24·43	23·34	22·72
Cancer .. .. .	1,787	11·76	11·82	11·81	11·18	11·53
Violence .. .. .	999	6·57	5·99	5·79	5·25	5·76
Pneumonia .. .. .	613	4·03	3·36	2·68	1·62	1·74
Pneumonia (secondary to influenza), whooping-cough, and measles .. .. .	187	1·23	0·47	0·68	0·22	0·38
Bronchitis .. .. .	200	1·32	1·14	1·35	1·34	1·47
Broncho-pneumonia .. .. .	354	2·33	1·72	1·61	1·63	1·47
Tuberculosis (all forms) .. .. .	597	3·93	3·91	4·56	3·89	4·21
Kidney or Bright's disease .. .. .	581	3·82	3·89	3·96	3·56	3·80
Apoplexy or cerebral hæmorrhage .. .. .	852	5·61	5·37	5·09	4·87	4·95
Diseases of the arteries .. .. .	550	3·62	3·62	2·99	2·96	2·57
Senility .. .. .	401	2·64	2·37	2·55	2·39	3·10
Diabetes .. .. .	285	1·88	1·83	1·59	1·53	1·70
Hernia and intestinal obstruction .. .. .	110	0·72	0·81	0·66	0·67	0·64
Diseases and accidents of childbirth (puerperal mortality) .. .. .	111	0·72	0·63	0·62	0·68	0·80
Appendicitis .. .. .	117	0·77	0·77	0·80	0·72	0·79
Diarrhoea and enteritis .. .. .	97	0·64	0·33	0·40	0·55	0·39
Epilepsy .. .. .	48	0·32	0·37	0·33	0·29	0·35
<i>Common Infectious Diseases.</i>						
Influenza (all forms, including pneumonic) .. .. .	133	0·88	0·73	0·94	0·74	1·26
Diphtheria .. .. .	31	0·20	0·16	0·13	0·22	0·18
Whooping-cough .. .. .	21	0·14	0·08	0·32	0·28	0·27
Scarlet fever .. .. .	2	0·01	0·04	0·05	0·05	0·05
Typhoid and paratyphoid .. .. .	8	0·05	0·06	0·05	0·07	0·01
Measles .. .. .	163	1·07	0·02	0·02	0·01	0·31

*Heart-diseases (all forms).*—In the case of males, deaths from all forms of heart-disease increased by 165, from 2,195 in 1937 to 2,356 in 1938. There was an increase of 4 deaths under forty years of age, 14 between forty and sixty years, and 143 above the age of sixty years.

The female increase was 60, from 1,755 in 1937 to 1,815 in 1938. There was an increase of 3 deaths under forty years of age, 32 between forty and sixty years, and 25 above the age of sixty years.

The number of deaths and the crude death-rate from heart-disease continue to rise, an inevitable effect of our ageing population. Another factor which helps to increase the number of deaths and the crude death-rate is the decline in deaths from senility, as shown graphically in the annual report for 1936.

The standardized rate for males rose from 19·9 per 10,000 of population in 1937 to 21·2 in 1938, and for females from 15·9 to 16·4.

From Table B it will be seen that the death-rate in the age-groups under forty years is low, with a falling tendency. After the age of forty it increases rapidly, with an upward trend in the older age-groups. A great part of this upward trend in the older age-groups is due to the transference of deaths from senility, the latter term being viewed with disfavour, further inquiries being made when it is shown on the death-certificate as the cause of death. The marked downward trend in deaths from senility is shown in Table C.

TABLE B.—DISEASES OF THE HEART: AVERAGE YEARLY NUMBER OF DEATHS PER 10,000 OF POPULATION BY SEX AND IN EACH AGE-GROUP.

Age.	Males.								Females.							
	1899-1903.	1904-08.	1909-13.	1914-18.	1919-23.	1924-28.	1929-33.	1934-38.	1899-1903.	1904-08.	1909-13.	1914-18.	1919-23.	1924-28.	1929-33.	1934-38.
0-1 .. .. .	7·9	12·7	11·3	2·0	0·8	0·8	0·2	1·2	3·9	9·8	7·3	1·0	1·3	0·6	0·2	1·2
1-5 .. .. .	0·8	0·4	0·8	0·6	0·5	0·4	0·3	0·3	1·0	0·4	1·4	0·7	0·5	0·5	0·2	0·3
5-10 .. .. .	0·7	0·7	1·5	0·8	1·4	0·6	0·5	0·3	1·3	1·0	1·4	0·9	1·2	0·6	0·5	0·2
10-15 .. .. .	0·6	0·9	1·3	1·1	1·2	0·9	0·6	0·4	1·8	1·5	1·0	1·1	1·0	0·9	0·5	0·4
15-20 .. .. .	1·3	1·1	1·9	1·4	1·1	1·1	0·7	0·7	2·1	1·8	1·6	1·1	1·4	0·9	0·8	0·6
20-25 .. .. .	1·8	1·8	1·7	2·4	1·3	1·1	0·9	1·3	1·2	1·8	2·4	1·6	1·2	1·6	1·3	0·9
25-30 .. .. .	2·3	1·8	2·1	1·7	1·7	1·4	1·4	1·5	2·3	2·0	2·6	2·0	2·4	1·8	1·3	1·4
30-35 .. .. .	2·7	2·4	2·2	2·3	3·1	2·8	1·9	1·6	3·2	3·2	3·7	1·8	2·6	2·5	2·2	2·4
35-40 .. .. .	4·6	4·5	4·7	5·7	4·6	3·6	3·4	3·2	4·9	5·0	5·1	4·6	5·2	3·2	3·3	2·8
40-45 .. .. .	7·2	7·7	7·2	6·0	6·8	5·0	6·2	7·9	7·8	7·5	6·1	6·7	6·2	4·8	4·2	5·6
45-50 .. .. .	11·4	13·1	11·6	11·3	11·8	10·8	12·1	14·2	12·6	12·7	10·9	10·0	11·8	9·5	8·8	8·3
50-55 .. .. .	21·3	18·0	21·0	19·2	20·5	20·9	21·4	25·5	24·7	17·1	19·8	16·9	16·3	15·8	14·2	15·4
55-60 .. .. .	36·3	37·8	32·6	35·7	33·6	36·6	37·5	44·8	29·9	27·2	30·6	32·9	30·4	25·7	29·4	24·9
60-65 .. .. .	51·4	60·6	51·3	54·5	63·7	60·6	70·9	81·0	65·4	45·8	46·0	48·3	53·7	49·5	49·8	54·4
65-70 .. .. .	94·3	93·7	108·5	98·9	113·1	111·4	9122·1	134·3	83·6	71·1	83·4	78·6	90·2	90·0	95·6	105·0
70-75 .. .. .	143·6	152·5	156·5	160·1	178·8	170·4	202·4	221·0	112·5	118·7	134·7	125·2	154·0	161·6	171·6	190·2
75-80 .. .. .	205·7	210·9	255·6	225·6	267·6	285·6	353·4	391·0	148·9	170·2	205·5	201·8	238·0	254·6	328·7	348·5
80 and over .. .. .	223·2	255·2	315·2	295·1	408·2	427·5	702·2	823·2	157·7	161·7	216·9	246·9	298·2	2409·3	642·9	728·8