

of life of a male child would be 66.49 years and that of a female child 71.22. These figures compare with 48.53 and 52.38 respectively, in 1901.

#### BIRTHS

The birth rate last year was the lowest for 11 years. There were 679,497 live births representing a rate of 15.5 per thousand population. This was 0.3 below the rate for 1950. Of every thousand live births, 47 were illegitimate—8 per thousand less than the average for the preceding five years.

#### DEATHS

Deaths during 1951 numbered 548,918, representing a rate of 12.5 per thousand population compared with 11.6 in 1950, the increase being concentrated in the March Quarter, when the severe influenza epidemic occurred.

#### NATURAL INCREASE

The births registered in 1951 exceeded the deaths by 130,579; the corresponding excess for 1950 was 181,459 and the average excess for 1945-1949 was 284,336.

#### MARRIAGES

There were 359,652 marriages in 1951 compared with 358,490 in 1950. These figures represent a rate of 16.4 for both years.

A special analysis of the numbers of civil marriages as compared with religious marriages has been made for the September and December Quarters of 1951. During these two quarters there were 55,290 marriages in Register Offices representing a proportion of 299 per thousand of all marriages. Such an analysis has not been made since 1934 when the proportion for the whole year was 284 per thousand. The analysis is being continued and further figures will be published as they become available.

#### POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS

Population Estimates distinguishing sex, age, and marital condition are shown in this Return. The estimate of the total population of England and Wales, which takes account of the provisional census figures, is given as 44,008,000 at June 30th and 44,102,000 at December 31st, 1951.

A table giving the projected population by sex and age in 5, 10, 15, 20, 30 and 40 years' time shows that, on the basis of certain stated assumptions, the population, which in December, 1951, the base line of the projections, was 44,102,000 would increase to 46,542,000 over the next 40 years. It also shows on the basis of the stated assumptions—that, whilst in December, 1951, the population under 15 years of age was 22.1 per cent. of the whole, it would be only 20.3 per cent. in 40 years' time. During the same period, the proportion of women aged 15-44 to the whole population was expected to fall from 21.4 per cent. to 19.8 per cent., whilst the number of men aged 65 and over and women aged 60 and over would increase from 4.5 and 9.3 per cent. respectively to 6.9 and 12.5 per cent. respectively.

#### SURVEY OF SICKNESS

Six thousand nine hundred and nineteen men and 8,219 women were interviewed about their experience of sickness in the separate months of the September Quarter of 1951. The average number of people per month who reported that they had suffered illness or injury of some kind during a month represented 62.2 per cent. of the men and 71.9 per cent. of the women who were interviewed. The corresponding figures for the September Quarter of 1950 were 61.1 and 71.6 per cent. respectively.

The average number of consultations with doctors in a month was 39.7 for every hundred men interviewed and 43.6 for every hundred women.

The average number of days of incapacity in a month due to sickness or injury was 0.80 among the men interviewed and 0.60 among the women.

The proportion of housewives who reported some illness

or injury was higher than other women (74.4 per cent. compared with 66.0 per cent. for other women). Housewives also had slightly more consultations with doctors than other women (44.8 and 40.7 per cent. per month respectively), but less reported incapacity (0.57 days per month compared with 0.65 days per month for other women).

\* The Registrar General's Quarterly Return No. 412. H.M.S.O., price 2s. 6d. net (or by post from P.O. Box 569, London, S.E.1., price 2s. 7½d.)

### Australian Architect's Award

MR. L. M. PERROTT, JUN., A.R.I.B.A., A.R.A.I.A., of Melbourne, Australia, has been awarded the John Edward Worth Prize of £40 by the Royal Sanitary Institute for his essay on "The Planning of Old People's Dwellings and the Provision of Communal Facilities and Services in Connection Therewith," in the 1951 Prize Competition.

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