

The Midwife.

Big Drop in Baby Deaths.

Population of England and Wales now 44 Millions.

PROVISIONAL VITAL STATISTICS for England and Wales for the September quarter of last year, given in the Registrar General's Quarterly Return*, show that the infant mortality rate of 24 per thousand related live births was the lowest ever recorded for any quarter in this country. This figure compared with 27 in the corresponding period a year earlier and an average of 38 for the third quarters of the 10 years 1939-48.

The stillbirth rate was 22.3 per thousand total live and still births, being 0.3 above that for the third quarter of 1949, which is the lowest figure ever recorded in this country.

Births.—There were 170,180 live births registered during the quarter, representing a rate of 15.4 per thousand population. This compares with 183,221 births and a rate of 16.6 in the September quarter, 1949. For the third quarters of the five years, 1944-48, the average birth rate was 18.0. Illegitimate births numbered 8,171, representing 4.8 per cent. of the total births registered. This was 0.3 per cent. lower than the figure for the same period a year ago.

Deaths.—Deaths registered during the quarter numbered 102,857, representing a death rate based on the 1950 home population of 9.3 per thousand. This compares with 9.2 for the corresponding quarter of 1949 and an average death rate of 9.3 for the third quarters of the five years, 1944-48.

Deaths from acute poliomyelitis (provisional total) numbered 373, compared with 71, 86, 330, and 264 in the four preceding quarters (June, March, December and September, respectively).

The death rate from diarrhoea among children under two years of age was 1.4 per 1,000 births (233 deaths), compared with 1.7, 2.6, 2.9 and 2.6 in the four preceding quarters.

Natural Increase.—The births registered exceeded the deaths by 67,323, the corresponding increases for the third quarters of the years 1949, 1948 and 1947 being respectively 82,031, 90,310 and 119,409.

Marriages.—The number of persons married during the quarter was 229,062—5,128 fewer than the average for the corresponding quarters of the preceding five years, 1945-49.

Survey of Sickness.—10,684 men and 12,777 women were interviewed about the state of their health in the separate months of the June quarter. The average number of people per month who reported that they had suffered from illness or injury of some kind during the month represented 61.7 per cent. of the men and 73.1 per cent. of the women who were interviewed. The corresponding figures for the June quarter, 1949, were 61.5 per cent. and 73.5 per cent. respectively.

The percentage of men who consulted a doctor during a month in this period was 43.1, and that of women 49.4. The average number of days of incapacity in a month due to sickness or injury was 0.95 per man and 0.83 per woman.

Housewives (65 per cent. of the women interviewed) had more consultations with doctors than other women (50.9 per cent. per month). Although a higher proportion of them suffered some illness or injury (75.4 per cent. per month) they reported slightly less incapacity (0.81 days per month).

Population Estimates.—Estimates of the population have been included in this Return. The total population as at the 30th June, 1950, is given as 44,020,000 persons, or 21,357,000 males and 22,663,000 females.

* The Registrar General's Quarterly Return for the September Quarter, 1950. (No. 407). H.M. Stationery Office, price 1s. net (or by post from P.O. Box No. 569, London, S.E.1, price 1s. 2d.).

Two New Health Records in 1950.

Fewer Babies Than Ever Before Die.

TWO NEW HEALTH RECORDS for England and Wales were set up in 1950. The provisional still birth rate and the infant mortality rate (babies dying under one year of age) were the lowest ever recorded.

The stillbirth rate was 22.6 per thousand total births, as against the previous lowest annual rate of 22.7 in 1949. The infant mortality rate fell to 29.8 per thousand live births, the first time the rate has been below 30.

Other provisional figures* for England and Wales published in January by the Registrar General are:—

Births.—A total of 692,457 live births last year represented a rate of 15.8, compared with 16.7 in 1949. The birth rate has been declining from its peak of 20.6 per thousand in 1947, and the 1950 rate is the lowest since one of 15.6 in 1942.

Deaths.—Including non-civilians, the total, at 510,309, showed a slight fall compared with that of the previous year and represented a rate of 11.6 against 11.7.

Figures for December.—The main vital statistics for the December quarter of 1950 were as follows:—

During the quarter there were 3,722 stillbirths registered, making a total of 16,013 for the whole year.

The number of babies dying under one year of age was 4,994, making a total for the year of 20,711. The infant mortality rate per thousand related live births was 30.2 for the fourth quarter, compared with 32.3 for the corresponding period of 1949. The annual infant mortality rate has been continuously falling since 1945.

The number of live births registered in the December quarter was 160,431, representing a birth rate of 14.5 compared with 15.3 in the same period of 1949. Total deaths registered were 135,530, a rate of 12.3, against 11.6 for the same quarter a year earlier.

* The Registrar General's Weekly Return No. 2, H.M.S.O., price 6d. net (or by post from P.O. Box No. 569, S.E.1, price 7d.).

Caesarian Deliveries

According to the Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Pennsylvania, Caesarian deliveries are ten times safer for mothers than they were thirty years ago. The death rate for the mother has dropped from one in ten to one in a hundred.

But the decline in the death rate for the child, in consequence of the operation, has been less steep; it is now about six in a hundred.

9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B.

Safeguard your linen from loss
by using

JOHN BOND'S
MARKING INK



As supplied to H.M. Government Depts., Hospitals, Municipal Boards, L.C.C., and all large users.

From 1 oz. to a gallon jar.

John Bond (London) Ltd., 74, Southgate Rd., London, N.1

For your personal use from all Stationers and Chemists 8d. and 1/10 (family pack), including tax.

9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B. 9B.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)