

International List.

The following table gives the death-rate from puerperal causes in various countries (a quinquennial average—such an average discounts annual extremes).

Country.	Period.	Death-rate per 1,000 Births from		
		Puerperal Septicæmia.	Other Puerperal Causes.	All Puerperal Causes.
Denmark	1920-24	1·10	1·16	2·26
Netherlands	1921-25	0·72	1·72	2·44
Sweden	1918-22	1·28	1·40	2·68
Italy	1920-24	1·08	1·73	2·81
Uruguay	1919-23	1·75	1·13	2·88
Japan	1921-25	1·21	2·07	3·28
Hungary	1918-22	1·52	1·90	3·42
England and Wales	1921-25	1·40	2·50	3·90
Northern Ireland	1921-25	1·55	3·21	4·76
Spain	1920-24	2·99	1·80	4·79
New Zealand	1923-27	1·82	2·97	4·79
Irish Free State	1921-25	2·10	2·88	4·98
Germany	1920-24	2·77	2·27	5·04
Jamaica	1921-25	1·09	4·10	5·19
Australia	1922-26	1·70	3·51	5·21
Switzerland	1918-22	2·82	2·60	5·42
Canada*	1921-25	1·46	4·09	5·55
Belgium	1920-24	2·65	3·11	5·76
Scotland	1921-25	1·86	4·41	6·27
United States†	1920-24	2·54	4·36	6·90
Chile	1919-23	2·24	6·00	8·24
Trinidad	1923-25	3·58	5·68	9·26
British Guiana	1922-25	2·68	11·55	14·23
Ceylon	1921-25	8·15	11·94	20·09

* Exclusive of Quebec. † Registration area.

It will be seen from this that New Zealand's puerperal death-rate, unlike her general death-rate, is still relatively high, due less to puerperal-septicæmia deaths than to deaths from other puerperal causes, such as puerperal albuminuria and convulsions, puerperal hæmorrhage, and other accidents of labour. It will be seen also that several other countries, believed to possess skilled midwifery service, which show a relatively high rate also owe their relatively high rate more to these other puerperal causes than to puerperal septicæmia. I instance Northern Ireland, Australia, Canada, Scotland, and the United States of America.

Causes other than Puerperal Septicæmia.—A Comparison of Death-rates of (1) the Fourteen Urban Centres, and (2) the Rest of the Dominion.

Since 1922 corrected statistics have been available giving separately the death-rates for (1) the fourteen urban centres, which jointly include slightly more than half of the population of the Dominion, and for (2) the rest of the Dominion.

I present hereunder two columnar graphs.

GRAPH A.—Puerperal Death-rates per 1,000 Live Births—Each cause, excluding Puerperal Septicæmia : Average for Years 1922-27.

