

Table VIIA.—Showing the Number of Puerperal Deaths and the Death-rate per 1,000 Live Births, 1927-1936.

—		1927.	1928.	1929.	1930.	1931.	1932.	1933.	1934.	1935.	1936.
Puerperal sepsis following childbirth ..	No.	56	42	30	27	18	13	14	17	8	9
	Rate	2·01	1·54	1·12	1·01	0·68	0·52	0·58	0·70	0·33	0·36
Hæmorrhages, accidents of labour, thrombosis, phlegmasia, and following childbirth not otherwise defined	No.	35	30	39	36	31	30	29	19	24	25
	Rate	1·26	1·10	1·46	1·34	1·16	1·21	1·19	0·78	1·00	1·01
Toxæmia, albuminuria, and eclampsia	No.	27	40	34	36	38	23	29	30	34	30
	Rate	0·97	1·47	1·27	1·34	1·43	0·92	1·19	1·24	1·42	1·20
Accidents of pregnancy, non-septic abortion, and ectopic gestation	No.	5	8	7	7	11	9	10	10	12	14
	Rate	0·18	0·29	0·26	0·26	0·41	0·36	0·41	0·41	0·50	0·56
Total maternal deaths (excluding septic abortion)	No.	123	120	110	106	98	75	82	76	78	78
	Rate	4·41	4·42	4·11	3·96	3·68	3·02	3·37	3·12	3·25	3·14
Septic abortion—											
Married women	No.	14	14	19	{ 26 4	26 3	24 2	16 10	29 13	17 6	13 1
Single women	No.										
Totals		14	14	19	30	29	26	26	42	23	14
Rate		0·50	0·51	0·71	1·12	1·09	1·04	1·07	1·73	0·96	0·56

TABLE VIIb.—Puerperal Mortality, 1936, showing the Number of Deaths and their relation to Live Births.

—		Number of Deaths.	Death Rate per 1,000 Live Births.
Puerperal sepsis following childbirth		9	0·36
Hæmorrhages, accidents of labour, thrombosis, phlegmasia, and other accidents of childbirth—			
(a) Placenta prævia	12 0·48		
(b) Other puerperal hæmorrhages	7 0·28		
(c) Puerperal embolism (non-septic)	1 0·04		
(d) Other accidents of childbirth—			
Collapse following complete inversion of the uterus	1	5 0·21	
Rupture of uterus—Cervical obstruction	1		
Contracted pelvis—Cæsarean section—Paralytic ileus	1		
Cæsarean section—Shock	1		
Post-partum shock—Difficult labour	1		
Toxæmias of pregnancy—		25	1·01
(a) Puerperal albuminuria and eclampsia	18 0·72		
(b) Other toxæmias of pregnancy	12 0·48		
Accidents of pregnancy—		30	1·20
(a) Abortion (non-septic)	9 0·36		
(b) Ectopic gestation	5 0·21		
Total maternal deaths (excluding septic abortion)		14	0·56
Septic abortion—			
(a) Married women		78	3·14
(b) Single women			
(a) Married women		13	
(b) Single women		1	
		14	0·56

SEPTIC ABORTION.

This cause of death, which is excluded from the general maternal death-rate, having no connection with obstetrics, and having no, or very little, connection with legally conducted obstetric procedures, has shown a remarkable decrease, the number of deaths in 1936 having dropped to 14, the same number as in 1927 and 1928. The whole question has been exhaustively investigated by a special committee set up by the Hon. the Minister of Health and covered in a special report to which those interested are referred. It is to be hoped that the decrease in the number of deaths reflects a decrease in the practice of illegal operations. One must feel, however, that there is some uncertainty with regard to this, as it might be due to the elimination of the more unskilled abortionist with greater safety to the patient.