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**VITAL STATISTICS OF TOWNS IN CEYLON IN THE
MONTH OF AUGUST, 1909.**

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL.

THIS Report deals with the Vital Statistics of the 31 principal towns in the Island proclaimed under sections 31 to 36 of the Ordinance No. 1 of 1895.

Births.

2. The births registered in the 31 towns during the month numbered 1,085 (566 males and 519 females), and were equal to an annual rate of 26·38 per 1,000, against 26·52 during the preceding month, 27·92 in the corresponding month of last year, and 30·37 the monthly average for the 24 months July, 1907, to June, 1909. Of the towns (excluding Vavuniya and Lunugala, which have a population under 1,000), the highest birth-rate was in Hambantota (57·22, average 35·54), and the lowest in Kegalla (9·04, average 27·77).

3. In the city of Colombo the births numbered 356 (197 males and 159 females), and were equal to an annual rate of 22·80 per 1,000, against 25·18 in the preceding month, 22·33 in the corresponding month of last year, and 25·18 the monthly average. Of the wards (omitting Fort and Galle Face and the Pettah, which contain a population mainly adult and floating), the highest birth-rate was in Slave Island (30·18, average 25·30), and the lowest in St. Paul's (12·62, average 18·31).

Deaths.

4. The deaths registered in the 31 towns during the month numbered 1,417 (809 males and 608 females), and were equal to an annual rate of 27·77 per 1,000, against 29·85 during the preceding month, 31·23 in the corresponding month of last year, and 32·29 the monthly average. The health of the towns was thus better than usual. Excluding Vavuniya and Lunugala, the highest death-rate was in Puttalam (66·79, average 41·70), followed by Panadure (63·42, or more than double the average 28·45), and the lowest in Kegalla (4·71, average 23·48). The death-rate of the Panadure town this month has risen abruptly from the preceding month's rate (40·36), and is unprecedented so far as this town is concerned. The heavy mortality from Pneumonia and Dysentery in the Batticaloa town referred to in my report for last month now appears to have been due to a severe epidemic of Measles, a neglect of which resulted in those disease. The rate this month (46·26) shows a considerable fall from the previous month (80·95), but is still above the mean 36·16.

5. In the city of Colombo the deaths registered numbered 495 (295 males and 200 females), and were equal to an annual rate of 29·65 per 1,000, against 32·35 during the preceding month, 35·35 in the corresponding month of last year, and 35·04 the monthly average. The city was thus healthier than usual. Omitting the Fort and Galle Face Ward, and the Pettah Ward, the lowest death-rate was in Kollupitiya (14·46, average 21·67), and the highest in Slave Island (29·02, average 28·42).

Infantile Mortality.

6. The infantile mortality of the 31 towns was equal to a rate of 275 per 1,000 births registered, against 271 in the previous month, 275 in the corresponding month of last year, and 254 the monthly average. In the towns having an estimated population of 5,000 or more, the infant mortality ranged from 714 in Trincomalee (average 269) to 108 in Matara (average 174), and nil in Anuradhapura (average 405). The heavy mortality in the Trincomalee town is attributed to complications following measles and to the weather having been very wet and temperature unusually low, during the month.

7. The infantile mortality in the city of Colombo was 317 per 1,000 births registered, against 364 in the previous month, 340 in the corresponding month of last year, and 329 the monthly average, and ranged from 666 in Pettah (average 440) to 242 in Kollupitiya (average 314).

Causes of Death.

8. **Infants.**—Out of the 1,417 deaths from all causes at all ages in the 31 towns, 300 were among infants under one year. Of these, the chief causes were 79 *Convulsions* (24 in Colombo, 13 in Kandy, 7 in Galle); 59 *Debility* (13 in Colombo, 10 in Jaffna, 7 in Batticaloa); 30 *Pneumonia* (15 in Colombo, 5 in Negombo).

9. Out of the 495 deaths from all causes at all ages in the city of Colombo, 113 were among infants under one year. Of these, the chief causes were 24 *Convulsions* (8 in Maradana exclusive of hospitals, 3 each in San Sebastian, Slave Island, and Kollupitiya); 19 *Tetanus* (8 in Kotahena, 4 in San Sebastian, 3 in New Bazaar); 15 *Pneumonia* (5 in Maradana exclusive of hospitals, 4 in Kotahena, 2 each in St. Paul's and New Bazaar); 13 *Debility* (6 in Slave Island); 8 *Bronchitis* (4 in Kotahena, 3 in New Bazaar).

10. **General Mortality (One Year and over).**—Out of the 1,117 deaths of persons one year and over in age, there were 161 from *Diarrhoea*; 126 from *Pneumonia* (53 in Colombo, 9 in Kandy, 8 in Kurunegala, 7 each in Jaffna and Trincomalee); 113 from *Phthisis* (65 in Colombo, 9 in Kandy, 8 in Kurunegala, 7 in Galle, 6 in Jaffna); 111 from *Dysentery*; 55 from *Dochmius Duodenalis*; 34 from *Enteric Fever* (19 in Colombo, 4 in Galle).

11. The highest mortality in the town of Colombo was from *Phthisis* (17 per cent. of all deaths one year and over), followed by *Pneumonia* (14 per cent.) and *Enteric Fever* (5 per cent.). Maradana, even exclusive of the hospitals, contributed more deaths from these causes than any other wards: 16 *Phthisis*, 12 *Pneumonia*, and 3 *Enteric Fever*.

12. Taking all the towns together, *Diarrhoea* and *Dysentery* contributed the highest mortality (21 per cent.), followed by *Bronchitis* and *Pneumonia* (13 per cent.), *Phthisis* (8 per cent.), and *Infantile Convulsions* (7 per cent.).

13. For detailed information see Tables I. and II. for all towns, and Tables III. and IV. for the city of Colombo, in the Appendix.

Registrar-General's Office,
Colombo, September 14, 1909.

P. ARUNACHALAM,
Registrar-General.

Table I.—Number of Births and Deaths registered during August, 1909, their Proportion per 1,000 of the Population per Annum, the Deaths of Children under One Year and their Proportion per 1,000 Registered Births, together with the Average Birth- and Death-rates and Infantile Mortality from July, 1907, to June, 1909, and the Mean Temperature and Rainfall in the month in each Town of the Island proclaimed under Sections 31-36 of Ord. No. 1 of 1895.

Town.	Population (inclusive of the Military) at the Census of 1901.	Population estimated to the Middle of 1909 by Inter-censal Increase.	Total Births.		Total Deaths.		Deaths in Hospitals and Jails of Non-residents.	Deaths of Residents.	Birth-rate.		Death-rate.		Deaths of Children under One Year.	Deaths of Children under One Year of Age to 1,000 Births.	Mean Temperature.	Rainfall in Inches.	
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.			Crude, Aug., 1909.	Corrected,* July, 1907, to June, 1909.	Aug., 1909.	July, 1907, to June, 1909.					
All 31 Towns	428,109	484,240	566	519	1,085	608	1,417	333	1,081	30.37	26.38	26.28	27.77§	254	275	77.6	7.48
<i>Western Province.</i>																	
Colombo	155,869	183,872	197	159	356	296	495	79	416	25.18	22.80	26.64	35.04	329	317	77.6	7.48
Negombo	19,819	20,589	23	30	53	32	29	16	45	44.23	30.31	25.73	28.49	166	170	—	5.77
Moratuwa	29,809	34,809	37	37	74	20	30	—	50	33.11	25.03	16.91	15.97	12	17	—	—
Kalutara	11,500	12,058	21	17	38	18	14	9	23	34.18	37.10	22.46	30.46	6	173	—	15.25
Panadura	3,845	4,338	4	7	11	20	12	7	22	36.60	29.86	59.72	63.42	6	195	—	—
<i>Central Province.</i>																	
Kandy	26,511	29,860	29	32	61	68	45	28	85	30.44	24.05	33.51	30.12	213	443	74.8	9.71
Gampola	3,791	4,732	5	6	11	13	14	10	17	35.59	27.37	42.30	51.47	5	272	—	17.91
Nawalapitiya	3,454	4,131	3	6	9	16	13	20	9	25.22	25.65	25.65	23.49	4	295	—	—
Hatton and Dikoya	2,868	3,840	2	4	6	1	1	—	2	16.28	18.40	6.13	10.64	2	522	—	25.79
Matale	4,951	5,982	10	4	14	20	9	29	9	30.83	29.01	18.65	44.57	2	241	—	10.21
Nuwara-Eliya	5,072	8,509	6	3	9	12	4	10	6	15.16	12.45	8.30	14.32	3	313	—	8.65
<i>Northern Province.</i>																	
Jaffna	33,879	35,493	65	70	135	63	42	4	101	42.38	44.78	33.50	33.69	246	281	82.5	4.99
Mannar	3,338	3,338	4	6	10	2	4	—	6	39.47	35.27	21.16	24.16	186	000	82.4	4.25
Mullaivatu	1,308	1,418	—	2	2	2	—	—	2	31.67	16.60	16.60	52.29	—	209	—	4.76
Vavuniya	566	599	—	—	3	3	—	—	1	21.85	59.00	19.67	82.57	—	368	—	10.10
<i>Southern Province.</i>																	
Galle	37,165	40,433	52	36	88	40	25	4	61	30.19	25.63	17.76	28.33	204	148	78.1	12.86
Matare	11,848	13,445	21	16	37	20	11	10	21	39.01	32.40	18.39	17.80	174	108	—	10.78
Weligama	7,430	10,303	8	14	22	6	14	—	20	33.05	21.15	22.85	16.96	5	128	—	—
Hambantota	3,087	3,087	6	9	15	1	7	—	6	35.54	57.22	22.89	30.98	3	294	—	1.99
Tangalla	2,333	2,672	3	4	7	3	2	2	3	34.58	30.85	13.22	44.93	—	247	—	11.47
<i>Eastern Province.</i>																	
Batambala	9,969	10,498	18	19	37	19	25	4	40	32.42	41.50	44.86	36.16	343	324	83.6	4.99
Trincomalee	11,587	11,295	9	5	14	19	10	—	29	28.13	14.59	30.23	34.57	10	269	82.9	11.74
<i>North-Western Province.</i>																	
Kurunegala	6,483	8,312	4	6	10	34	23	27	30	28.85	14.16	42.49	64.54	5	415	80.0	10.96
Puttalam	5,115	5,234	11	5	16	24	9	4	29	36.65	35.99	65.24	41.70	8	276	81.8	2.45
Kalpitiya	1,487	1,652	3	1	4	1	1	—	2	23.48	28.50	14.25	29.70	1	383	—	—
Chilaw	4,168	4,564	8	3	11	5	4	—	9	36.04	28.38	23.22	31.47	1	163	—	No records
<i>North-Central Province.</i>																	
Anuradhapura	3,672	5,045	1	3	4	6	6	3	9	25.28	9.33	21.00	59.82	—	405	83.4	5.34
<i>Province of Uva.</i>																	
Badulla	5,924	6,797	10	7	17	12	17	20	9	30.09	29.45	15.59	27.38	6	239	74.7	7.93
Lunugala	—	416	—	—	—	6	8	14	2	45.21	00.00	56.61	—	—	179	—	—
<i>Province of Sabaragamuwa.</i>																	
Ratnapura	4,084	4,615	1	8	9	22	16	22	16	31.60	22.97	40.82	38.29	2	238	78.7	22.28
Kegalla	2,340	2,604	2	—	2	6	13	18	1	27.77	9.04	4.52	23.48	—	208	—	—

* I.e., rate calculated on the basis that the age- and sex-constitution of the population of each town is the same as for the whole island, and also (as in crude rate) excluding non-residents. † Infantile death-rates omitted where number of births is less than five. ‡ Blank spaces indicate that there are no observations or rain-gauges. § Corrected death-rates for "Hatton and Dikoya," Weligama, Kalpitiya, and Lunugala towns not available, as they were created registration districts after the Census of 1901, viz., in January, 1909, July, 1905, July, 1904, and October, 1904, respectively. ¶ Population of Mannar and Trincomalee towns not having been separately enumerated at the Census of 1891, no estimate can be made of the rate of growth, 1891-1909 of 1901-1909. The population enumerated at the Census of 1901 is the Census population of 1901 less (in the case of Trincomalee) the Military who are no longer stationed there. ¶ The population of Lunugala town (as now constituted) was not enumerated at the Census of 1901: the estimate is of the population at the beginning of October, 1907.

Table III.—Number of Births and Deaths registered during the Month of August, 1909, and their Proportion per 1,000 of the Population, and the Death of Children under One Year and their Proportion per 1,000 Registered Births, together with the Average Birth- and Death-rates and Infantile Mortality from January, 1908, to June, 1909, in each Ward of the City of Colombo.

Wards.	Population (inclusive of the Military) at the Census of 1901.	Population estimated to the Middle of 1909 by Inter-censal Increase.	Total Births registered.		Total Deaths including Deaths in Hospitals and Jails.		Deaths registered in Hospitals and Jails of Non-residents.	Deaths of Residents.	Per Mille per Annum.				Deaths of Children under One Year.	Deaths of Children under One Year of Age to 1,000 Births registered.				
			Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.			Persons.	Birth-rate.		Crude Death-rate.		Corrected Death-rate.*	Average January, 1908, to June, 1909.	August, 1909.		
										Average January, 1908, to June, 1909.	August, 1909.	Average January, 1908, to June, 1909.					August, 1909.	
			197	159	356	295			200	495	79	416		25.37	22.80	32.27	26.64	29.65
City of Colombo ..	155,869	163,872	197	159	356	295	200	495	79	416	25.37	22.80	32.27	26.64	29.65	113	341	317
Fort and Galle Face	2,285	2,285†	—	—	—	5	—	5	4	1	5.26	—	7.06	5.15	—	—	185	—
Pettah ..	7,561	7,561†	4	2	6	5	4	9	—	9	5.90	9.34	12.30	14.01	—	4	440	666
San Sebastian ..	9,349	10,709	15	9	24	16	5	21	—	21	21.94	26.38	23.78	23.08	—	9	323	375
St. Paul's ..	20,260	24,285	13	13	26	18	19	37	—	37	18.31	12.62	25.31	17.95	—	7	400	269
Kotahena ..	33,355	38,666	36	36	72	43	40	83	—	83	22.10	21.92	25.92	25.27	—	28	355	389
New Bazaar ..	17,470	20,404	23	14	37	20	27	47	—	47	23.13	21.35	31.62	27.12	—	14	420	378
Maradana Hospitals	—	—	27	18	45	103	39	142	75	67	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—
Maradana (exclusive of Hospitals) ..	30,381	37,549	34	27	61	44	28	72	—	72	22.61	19.12	30.80	22.57	—	16	400	262
Slave Island ..	16,927	20,286	33	19	52	24	26	50	—	50	25.30	30.18	28.42	29.02	—	16	357	307
Kollupitiya ..	18,261	23,610	12	21	33	17	12	29	—	29	15.72	16.45	21.67	14.46	—	8	314	242

* For explanation of "corrected death-rate" see note, * Table I. The population of the several wards of the city not being available by age- and sex-constitution, their corrected death-rates cannot be calculated.

† The population of these two wards being a fluctuating one, their estimated population cannot be calculated. Hence the Census figures are retained.

Table IV.—Causes of Deaths registered during the Month of August, 1909, in each Ward and Race of the City of Colombo—*contd.*

Causes of Death.	Colombo Town.	Ward.										Deaths among all Races.							
		Fort and Galle Face.	Pettah.	San Sebastian.	St. Paul's.	Kotahena.	New Bazaar.	Maradana Hospitals.	Maradana (exclusive of Hospitals).	Slave Island.	Kollupitiya.	Europeans.	Burghers.	Sinhalese.	Tamil.	Moors.	Malays.	Others.	
II.—General Mortality (1 Year and over)— <i>contd.</i>																			
5. Simple Fever ..	5				1	3	2	7	3	3									
6. Enteric Fever ..	19					2	1												
7. Remittent Fever ..	1																		
8. Ague ..	1																		
9. Malarial Cachexia ..	25				2	4	2	10	1	4									
10. Cholera ..	27			1	1	2	4	17		1									
11. Diarrhoea ..	17							17											
12. Dysentery ..	1				5	9	9	16		8									
13. Doctrinus Duodenalis ..	1							2											
14. Cancer ..	65		2			9	9	16											
15. Phthisis ..	4						1	2											
16. Other Tubercular Diseases ..	1																		
17. Anæmia ..	1																		
18. Diabetes Mellitus ..	1																		
19. Convulsions ..	2																		
20. Tetanus ..	13							1											
21. Bronchitis ..	53					8	2	2											
22. Pneumonia ..	4					5	4	14		3									
23. Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	5					2	1	2		1									
24. Bright's Disease and Nephritis ..	1					1													
25. Puerperal Convulsions ..	2																		
26. Puerperal Fever ..																			
27. Miscarriage ..																			
28. Other and undefined Accidents of Child-birth ..	2					1													
29. Starvation ..	3							1											
30. Accidents or Negligence ..	8							2											
31. Homicide ..																			
32. Suicide ..																			
33. Execution ..																			
34. All other Causes ..	119*	2	1	4	10	16	7	39	17	9	14	3	7	65	22	14	4	4	

* Here are included 23 deaths from Old Age (7 in Maradana, exclusive of hospitals, 5 in Kotahena), 15 from Enteritis (12 in Maradana Hospitals), 12 from Debility (4 in Maradana Hospitals), 10 from Worms (3 in Kotahena), and 4 from Cirrhosis of liver (in Maradana Hospitals).