

SUPPLEMENT  
TO THE  
**Ceylon Government Gazette**  
PART I.

No. 6,726 — FRIDAY, JULY 9, 1915.

VITAL STATISTICS OF TOWNS IN CEYLON IN THE  
MONTH OF MAY, 1915.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL.

This report deals with the Vital Statistics of the 33 principal towns in the Island proclaimed under sections 31-36 of the Ordinance No. 1 of 1895.

**Births.**

2. The births numbered 1,300 (656 males and 644 females), and were equal to an annual rate of 26·13 per 1,000, against 27·63 in the preceding month, 27·00 in the corresponding month of last year, and 28·32 the average of the corresponding months since 1908. The rate ranged from 7·16 in Kalpitiya to 63·54 in Kalmunai.

3. In the city of Colombo the births numbered 432 (214 males and 218 females), and were equal to an annual rate\* of 20·24 per 1,000, against 22·70 in the preceding month, 22·42 in the corresponding month of last year, and 23·63 the average for the months of May in each year since 1908. The rate ranged from 3·72 in San Sebastian to 29·67 in Wellawatta.

**Deaths.**

4. The total deaths registered during the month amounted to 1,331 (688 males and 643 females). There were 1,111 deaths of residents, equivalent to an annual rate of 24·35 per 1,000, against 25·90 in the preceding month, 28·98 in the corresponding month of last year, and 28·22 the average of the corresponding months since 1908. The rate ranged from 71·52 in Mannar to 7·68 in Badulla.

5. In the city of Colombo the deaths numbered 462 (246 males and 216 females). There were 435 deaths of residents, equivalent to an annual rate\* of 23·64 per 1,000, against 22·69 in the preceding month, 24·27 in the corresponding month of last year, and 28·36 the average of the corresponding months since 1908. Kollupitiya showed the lowest death-rate, viz., 10·26, and Wellawatta the highest, 27·39.

6. Stillbirths numbered 60 (26 males and 34 females), against 85 in the preceding month.

**Infantile Mortality.**

7. The infantile mortality was equal to a rate of 210 per 1,000 births registered during the twelve months ended May 31, 1915. Reckoned on the births registered during the month only it was 215, against 209 in the preceding month, 263 in the corresponding month of last year, and 247 the average for the corresponding months since 1908.

8. The infantile mortality in the city of Colombo was 246 per 1,000 births registered during the twelve months ended May 31, 1915. Taking only the births registered during the month it was 230, against 249 in the preceding month, 248 in the corresponding month of last year, and 305 the average for the corresponding months since 1908.

**Causes of Death.**

9. The highest mortality was from *Debility*, to which 10 per cent. of the total deaths was due, 9 per cent. each were due to *Pneumonia* and *Convulsions*, 7 per cent. each to *Phthisis* and *Diarrhœa*, 5 per cent. to *Dysentery*, 4 per cent. to *Malaria*, and 3 per cent. each to *Enteritis* and *Anchylostomiasis*.

10. In the city of Colombo the highest mortality was from *Convulsions*, which caused 12 per cent. of the total number of deaths in the city. 11 per cent. were due to *Phthisis*, 10 per cent. to *Debility*, 9 per cent. to *Pneumonia*, 7 per cent. to *Enteritis*, 3 per cent. each to *Bright's Disease* and *Bronchitis*, and 2 per cent. each to *Diarrhœa*, *Enteric Fever*, and *Dysentery*. 6 deaths were registered from *Smallpox*. 3 deaths from *Plague* were registered, against 4 in the preceding month.

11. *Infectious Diseases reported.*—The most prevalent infectious disease during the month was *Phthisis*, of which 87 cases were reported (76 in Colombo, 7 in Galle), followed by *Enteric Fever* 49 (25 in Colombo, 12 in Moratuwa, 8 in Kandy), *Chickenpox* 38 (15 in Colombo, 5 in Weligama, 4 in Negombo), *Measles* 24 (21 in Kandy, 3 in Gampola), *Continued Fever* 17 (7 in Colombo, 4 each in Kandy and Tangalla), *Smallpox* 12 (11 in Colombo, 1 in Negombo), *Dysentery* 4 (in Moratuwa), *Plague* 3 (in Colombo), *Diarrhœa* 3, *Diphtheria* 3 (in Colombo), *Cholera* 1 (in Colombo), *Whooping Cough* 1 (in Tangalla), and *Cowpox* 1 (in Negombo).

**Meteorology.**

12. *Rainfall.*—Ratnapura recorded the highest rainfall (31·79 inches), followed by Galle (23·78 inches). In the other towns the rainfall ranged from 0·33 inch in Vavuniya to 15·14 inches in Kalutera. Colombo recorded 11·00 inches.

13. *Temperature.*—The mean temperature varied from 64·0° in Nuwara Eliya to 87·8° in Mannar and Trincomalee, and was 84·2° in Colombo.

14. 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, June 29, 1915.

W. L. KINDERSLEY,  
Registrar-General.

\* The city-rate is worked out differently from the ward-rates, and takes into account hospital events, &c., not assignable to wards.



Table II.—Causes of Deaths registered during May, 1915, in each Town of the Island proclaimed under Sections 31-36 of the Ordinance No. 1 of 1895.

Causes of Deaths.	All 33 Towns.	Western Province.				Central Province.				Southern Province.				Northern Province.				Eastern Province.				North-Western Province.				North-Central Province of Uva.				Province of Sabaragamuwa.				Deaths among all Races.																
		Colombo.	Negombo.	Moratara.	Kalutara.	Panadura.	Kandy.	Gampola.	Navalapitiya.	Hatton and Dikoya.	Nuwara Eliya.	Galle.	Ambalangoda.	Matara.	Welligama.	Hambantota.	Jaffna.	Mannar.	Mullaitivu.	Vavuniya.	Baticaloa.	Kaunusi.	Trincomalee.	Kurunegala.	Puttalam.	Kalpitiya.	Chilaw.	Anuradhapura.	Badulla.	Lunugala.	Ratnapura.	Kegalla.	Europeans.	Burghers.	Sinhalese.	Tamil.	Moors.	Malays.	Others.											
All Causes	1,331	462	55	52	31	11	80	25	20	20	33	5	86	722	9	6	81	22	6	1	25	4	35	42	21	4	18	21	17	15	24	11	4	37	587	480	184	19	20											
I.—Infantile Mortality	280	121	10	15	3	3	20	2	1	4	2	11	5	1	2	1	27	10			5	1	6	11	4	1	3	6	2																					
A.—One Week and under.																																																		
1. Prematurity	30	8		5			5				1						6																																	
2. Debility	36	11	1				1				3		1				5																																	
3. Convulsions	12	2					1																																											
4. Diarrhoea	1																																																	
4a. Enteritis																																																		
5. Tetanus	4	1									1						1																																	
6. Bronchitis																																																		
7. Pneumonia	1	1																																																
8. Other causes	6*	1	1														1																																	
B.—Over 1 Week and under 1 Year.																																																		
1. Prematurity	7																																																	
2. Debility	41	21	5	2			4				1																																							
3. Convulsions	69	35	3	2			3				4																																							
4. Diarrhoea	6	1																																																
4a. Enteritis	14	10																																																
5. Tetanus	1	1																																																
6. Bronchitis	9	4																																																
7. Pneumonia	14	8																																																
8. Other causes	29†	17																																																
II.—General Mortality (1 Year and over)	1,051	341	45	37	28	8	60	23	18	19	29	3	75	6	4	71	106	12	6	120	3	29	31	17	3	15	15	15	24	11	4	25	446	406	140	12	18													
1. Plague	3																																																	
1a. Smallpox	7	6	1																																															
2. Chickenpox																																																		
3. Measles	2																																																	

\* These are due to 2 from Inability to Suck (in Puttalam), 1 each from Atelectasis (in Colombo), Abscess of Navel (in Negombo), Prolonged Labour (in Jaffna), and Asphyxia (in Kurunegala).  
 † This includes, besides 17 deaths mentioned in Table IV., footnote †, 6 deaths from Malaria (2 in Jaffna, 3 in Mannar, 1 in Anuradhapura), 2 from Malarial Cachexia (in Chilaw), 1 each from Gastritis and Asthma (in Jaffna), Laryngismus Stridulus (in Kandy), and Marasmus (in Galle).



Table III.—Number of Births and Deaths registered during the Month of May, 1915, and their Proportion per 1,000 of the Population, the number of Stillbirths, and the Deaths of Children under One Year, and their Proportion per 1,000 of the Registered Births, together with the Average Birth- and Death-rates for May, 1908, to 1914, in each Ward of the City of Colombo.

Wards.	Population (inclusive of the Military) at the Census of 1911.	Population Estimated to the Middle of 1915 by Intercensal Increase.	Total Births registered.			Stillbirths.			Total Deaths (including Deaths in Hospitals and Jails).			Per Mille per Annum.				Mortality of Children under one Year.					
			Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Deaths of Non-residents.	Deaths of Residents.	Birth-rate.	Crude Death-rate.		Standardized Death-rate.*	Number registered during May, 1915.	Its proportion to 1,000 births registered during the Year ended last day of May, 1915.	Its proportion to annum to 1,000 births registered during the Year ended last day of May, 1915.	
															Average for May, 1908, to 1914.	May, 1915.					
City of Colombo..	219,557	251,388†	214	218	432	8	11	19	246	216	462	27	435	23.63	20.24	25.26	20.38	23.64	121	280	246
Fort and Galle Face	3,512	3,512†	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	2	2.95	—	7.04	6.70	—	—	—	—
Pettah	7,974	7,974†	2	—	2	—	—	—	3	2	5	—	5	5.08	2.95	8.31	7.38	—	—	—	—
San Sebastian	11,574	12,659	1	3	4	—	—	—	8	7	15	—	15	18.95	3.72	19.46	18.95	—	4	100	232
St. Paul's	24,735	26,969	19	19	38	—	3	3	17	19	36	1	35	15.23	16.59	20.14	15.28	—	11	289	311
Kotahena	40,771	44,457	41	38	79	2	1	3	42	44	86	—	86	19.66	20.92	21.26	22.78	—	32	405	346
New Bazaar	22,309	24,810	18	17	35	—	1	1	29	16	45	1	44	21.89	16.61	23.51	20.88	—	15	429	311
Maradana Hospitals			32	52	84	2	3	5	61	39	100	24	76	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Maradana (exclusive of Hospitals)	48,093	58,720	38	42	80	—	—	—	29	37	66	—	66	21.25	16.04	23.22	13.23	—	17	212	191
Slave Island	21,984	24,634	22	22	44	2	1	3	19	23	42	—	42	24.04	21.03	22.30	20.07	—	19	432	458
Kollupitiya	25,410	32,125	16	10	26	1	1	2	16	12	28	—	28	14.52	9.53	13.80	10.26	—	10	385	377
Wellawatta	13,223	15,478§	24	15	39	1	1	2	20	17	37	1	36	17.60	29.67	13.02	27.39	—	9	231	218

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

† Estimated partly on the intercensal increase method and partly on the natural increase method, i.e., population exclusive of Wellawatta Ward on the former method and that of Wellawatta added to the town on January 1, 1912, on the latter method (as it was not a separate division at the Census of 1901).

‡ The population of these two wards being a fluctuating one, their population cannot be estimated to the middle of 1914. Hence the Census figures are retained.

§ This population is estimated partly on the natural increase method and partly on the intercensal increase method, i.e., population of Wellawatta on the former method (as it was not a separate division at the Census of 1901) and that of the part of Kollupitiya taken over to Wellawatta on the latter method.

|| For three months, May, 1912, 1913, and 1914.

Table IV.—Causes of Deaths registered during the Month of May, 1915, in each Ward and of each Race in the City of Colombo.

Causes of Deaths.	City of Colombo.	Ward.										Deaths among all Races.							
		Fort and Galle Face.	Petish.	San Sebastian.	St. Paul's.	Kotahena.	New Bazar.	Mardana Hospitals.	Mardana (exclusive of Hospitals).	Savo Island.	Kollupitiya.	Wellawatte.	Europeans.	Burghers.	Sinhalese.	Tamil.	Moors.	Malays.	Others.
All Causes	462	2	5	15	36	86	45	100	66	43	28	37	4	24	235	92	81	9	17
<b>I.—Infantile Mortality</b>	121	—	—	4	11	32	15	4	17	19	10	9	—	7	64	24	23	1	2
<i>A.—One Week and under.</i>																			
1. Prematurity	8					2	5	1	1	1	2	1			3	4	1		
2. Debility	11				2	1				3				2	2	4	3		
3. Convulsions	2					1									1	1			
4. Diarrhoea	—																		
4a. Enteritis	—																		
5. Tetanus	1					1									1				
6. Bronchitis	—																		
7. Pneumonia	1							1			1			1					
8. Other Causes	1*																		
<i>B.—Over 1 Week and under 1 Year.</i>																			
1. Prematurity	—					7	1	1	2	5	5	—			9	3	7	1	
2. Debility	21			2	3	4	5	1	5	6	6	4		1	20	9	4		
3. Convulsions	35			1	5	4				1	5			1	9	1	1		
4. Diarrhoea	1									1	1	1			1	1			
4a. Enteritis	10					2			5	1	1	1			9	1			
5. Tetanus	1					1					1				3	1			
6. Bronchitis	4				1	6				2		1			6	1	2		
7. Pneumonia	8			1	7	7	4	1	2			2			10	1	4		
8. Other Causes	17†			1	1	7	4	1	2			2			2	1	4		
<b>II.—General Mortality (1 Year and over)</b>	341	2	5	11	25	54	30	96	49	23	18	28	4	17	171	68	58	8	15
1. Plague	—																		
2. Smallpox	3				1	1						2				1	2		
3. Chickenpox	6											5					1		
4. Measles	—																		
5. Influenza	2																		2

\* This is due to Atelactasis.

† These are 6 from Rickets, 2 from Worms, and 1 each from Syphilis, Intestinal Obstruction, Whooping Cough, Want of Breast Milk, Pleurisy, Dysentery, Nephritis, Burns, and Smallpox.

Table IV. - Causes of Deaths registered during the Month of May, 1915, in each Ward and of each Race in the City of Colombo - continued.

Causes of Deaths.	City of Colombo.	Ward.										Deaths among all Races.									
		Fort and Galle Face.	Pottah.	San Sebastian.	St. Paul's.	Kotahena.	New Bazaar.	Maradana Hospitals.	Maradana (exclusive of Hospitals).	Slave Island.	Kollupitiya.	Wellawatte.	Europeans.	Burghers.	Sinhalese.	Tamils.	Moors.	Malays.	Others.		
II.—General Mortality (1 Year and over) contd.																					
6. Pyrexia or Fever ..																					
7. Enteric Fever ..	10																				
8. Malaria ..	5																				
9. Malarial Cachexia ..	2																				
10. Cholera ..																					
11. Diarrhoea ..	9																				
11a. Enteritis ..	21																				
12. Dysentery ..	78																				
13. Anchylostomiasis or Dochmius Duodenalis ..	1																				
14. Cancer ..	4																				
15. Phthisis ..	52																				
16. Other Tuberculous Diseases ..																					
17. Anæmia ..	3																				
18. Diabetes Mellitus ..	1																				
19. Convulsions ..	19																				
20. Tetanus ..	3																				
21. Bronchitis ..	8																				
22. Pneumonia ..	32																				
23. Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	5																				
24. Bright's Disease ..	13																				
25. Puerperal Eclampsia ..	1																				
26. Puerperal Septicæmia ..	2																				
27. Miscarriage ..																					
28. Other undefined Accidents of Childbirth ..																					
29. Accidents or Negligence ..	1																				
30. Starvation ..	4																				
31. Homicide ..	1																				
32. Suicide ..	2																				
33. Executions ..																					
34. All other causes ..	123*																				

\* This includes 26 from Senility, 12 from Debility, 11 from Worms, and 10 from Paralysis.