

SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
Ceylon Government Gazette
PART I.

No. 6,759 — FRIDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1915.

**VITAL STATISTICS OF TOWNS IN CEYLON IN THE
MONTH OF OCTOBER, 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 1,222 (644 males and 578 females), and were equal to an annual rate of 24·57 per 1,000, against 24·91 in the preceding month, 25·56 in the corresponding month of last year, and 28·29 the average of the corresponding months since 1908. The rate ranged from 7·16 in Kalpitiya to 80·87 in Kalmunai.

3. In the city of Colombo the births numbered 428 (223 males and 205 females), and were equal to an annual rate* of 20·05 per 1,000, against 21·64 in the preceding month, 20·78 in the corresponding month of last year, and 24·31 the average of the corresponding months since 1908. The rate ranged from 7·70 in Kollupitiya to 33·47 in Wellawatta.

Deaths.

4. The total deaths registered during the month amounted to 1,369 (739 males and 630 females). There were 1,097 deaths of residents, equivalent to an annual rate of 24·04 per 1,000, against 26·92 in the preceding month, 26·48 in the corresponding month of last year, and 28·25 the average for the month of October in each year since 1908. The rate ranged from 41·04 in Hambantota to 10·70 in Matale.

5. In the city of Colombo the deaths numbered 523 (281 males and 242 females). There were 473 deaths of residents, equivalent to an annual rate* of 25·71 per 1,000, against 27·57 in the preceding month, 25·34 in the corresponding month of the previous year, and 28·65 the average for the month of October in each year since 1908. The lowest rate, 7·33, was, as usual, observed in Kollupitiya, and the highest, 39·56, in Wellawatta.

6. Stillbirths numbered 88 (49 males and 39 females), against 68 in the preceding month.

Infantile Mortality.

7. The infantile mortality was equal to a rate of 205 per 1,000 births registered during the twelve months ended October 31, 1915. Reckoned on the births registered during the month only the rate was 221, against 216 in the preceding month, 222 in the corresponding month of last year, and 249 the average of the corresponding months since 1908.

8. In the city of Colombo the infantile mortality was 249 per 1,000 births registered during the twelve months ended October 31, 1915. Taking only the births registered during the month the rate was 278, against 197 in the preceding month, 249 in the corresponding month of the previous year, and 291 the average of the corresponding months since 1908.

Causes of Death.

9. The highest mortality was from *Pneumonia*, to which 10 per cent. of the total deaths was due, 9 per cent. each were due to *Convulsions and Debility*, 8 per cent. to *Phthisis*, 7 per cent. to *Diarrhoea*, 5 per cent. each to *Dysentery* and *Malaria* and *Malarial Cachexia*, 4 per cent. to *Anchylostomiasis*, 3 per cent. to *Enteritis*, and 2 per cent. each to *Bronchitis*, *Bright's Disease* or *Nephritis*, *Enteric Fever*, and *Puerperal Septicæmia*.

10. In the city of Colombo the highest mortality was due to *Phthisis*, which caused 13 per cent. of the total number of deaths, 10 per cent. each were due to *Pneumonia* and *Convulsions*, 7 per cent. to *Debility*, 5 per cent. to *Enteritis*, 3 per cent. each to *Dysentery* and *Bronchitis*, and 2 per cent. each to *Diarrhoea* and *Enteric Fever*. Twenty-three deaths from *Plague* were registered in the city of Colombo, against 19 in the preceding month, and 6 from *Smallpox*, against 27 in the preceding month.

11. *Infectious Diseases reported.*—The most prevalent infectious disease during the month was *Chickenpox*, of which 83 cases were reported (51 in Colombo, 7 in Ratnapura, 6 in Kandy, 5 in Jaffna), followed by *Phthisis* 80 (72 in Colombo, 5 in Galle), *Enteric Fever* 70 (49 in Colombo, 6 each in Moratuwa and Galle, 4 in Tangalla), *Plague* 24 (in Colombo), *Smallpox* 20 (16 in Colombo, 3 in Galle, and 1 in Moratuwa), *Continued Fever* 18 (8 in Colombo, 6 in Galle), *Dysentery* 10 (9 in Moratuwa), *Measles* 9 (8 in Kandy), *Mumps* 2 (1 each in Colombo and Kandy), *Whooping Cough* 2 (in Kandy), *Malarial Fever* 1 (in Kandy), *Diphtheria* 1 (in Colombo), and *Cholera* 1 (in Colombo).

Meteorology.

12. *Rainfall.*—Colombo recorded the highest rainfall (14·12 inches), followed by Galle (11·78 inches). In the other towns the rainfall ranged from 0·44 inch in Mullattivu to 11·49 inches in Ratnapura.

13. *Temperature.*—The mean temperature varied from 61·2° in Nuwara Eliya to 85·3° in Trincomalee, and was 80·5° 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, November 16, 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.

