

SUPPLEMENT

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VITAL STATISTICS OF CEYLON.

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL OF MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS
FOR THE FIRST QUARTER OF 1917.

Introductory.

In this report, which deals with the Vital Statistics of the first quarter of 1917, the following among other statistical facts may be gathered:—

The births registered during the quarter numbered 48,544, and are the highest recorded in any single quarter since 1887. The birth-rates of Anuradhapura and Galle, viz., 61·7 and 54·1 respectively, are the highest recorded in any quarter during the last ten years for each of these districts.

The deaths from Plague numbered 123, and are the highest registered in any quarter since the outbreak of Plague in 1914.

I.—Population.

The estimated population on the last day of the quarter was 4,567,560, an increase of 20,375 on the previous quarter, due to an excess of 18,820 births over deaths and of 1,555 arrivals over departures of Indian coolies. All the districts of the Island recorded more births than deaths, chief among which were Negombo, Galle, Matara, and Chilaw, where the births were more than twice as many as the deaths.

2. There were 12,413 arrivals and 10,858 departures of Indian coolies, as against averages of 12,127 and 19,387 respectively in the corresponding quarters of the past decade.

II.—Marriages.

3. 6,150 marriages (4,612 General and 1,538 Kandyan) were registered, as against 6,466 in the preceding quarter, 7,146 in the corresponding quarter of the previous year, and 5,299 the average of the first quarters of the past decade. Table I. in Appendix gives their distribution by Provinces and districts.

III.—Births.

4. The births registered during the quarter numbered 48,544, corresponding to an annual rate of 43·1 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The rate is nearly the same as in the first quarter of 1916, but 6·3 higher than that of the previous quarter and 1·4 higher than the average of the first quarters of the preceding decennium. Of the districts, Ratnapura, Kegalla, and Hambantota alone show birth-rates slightly lower than the average; but Anuradhapura and Galle, which take the first and the second places respectively during the quarter, have rates not only higher than the average, but also higher than the rates recorded in the previous quarter, and in the corresponding quarter of last year. Batticaloa, which was the second highest in the list in the previous quarter, falls to the last place, but maintains a rate slightly above the average. The estate births correspond to a rate of 44·7 per 1,000, and the urban, including those of Colombo, to 32·37. (See Tables I. to V. for detailed statistics.) There were 245 twins and 2 triplets born during the quarter, against 327 and 4 respectively in the previous one.

IV.—Deaths.

5. The total deaths registered during the quarter numbered 29,724, corresponding to an annual rate of 26·5 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The rate shows a considerable improvement on the average (34·8), but is nearly the same as that of the first quarter of 1916, and is 1·7 higher than the rate in the previous quarter. Chilaw, Negombo, and Kegalla maintain their usual standard of health judging from their low death-rates, and Mannar retains its reputation as the unhealthiest district in the Island, with a death-rate of 59·4 per 1,000. In the estates the deaths correspond to a rate of 39·7 per 1,000. Matara leads with the highest death-rate (103·0), while Kegalla shows the lowest rate (24·3). The rate of mortality in the towns is 28·50, and ranges from 4·91 in Nuwara Eliya to 55·06 in Puttalam. The rate in Colombo is 27·80. (See Tables I. to V. for detailed statistics.) 320 stillbirths (178 males and 142 females) were registered in the 33 principal towns, as against 328 in the previous quarter and 270 in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. (See Table V.)

V.—Infantile Mortality.

6. The infantile mortality measured by the proportion of deaths under one year to 1,000 births registered during the year ended the last day of the quarter under review is 200 for all races, against 188 in the previous quarter. In the districts the highest infantile mortality among the Sinhalese is 305 in Anuradhapura, among the Tamils 451 in Puttalam, and among the Moors 392 in Puttalam. The lowest rate among the Sinhalese is 127 in Nuwara Eliya, among the Tamils 230 in Batticaloa, and among the Moors 187 in Batticaloa. In the towns the infantile mortality is 261 per 1,000 births registered, and is 284 in Colombo. In the other towns the rates range from 487 in Kalpitiya to 141 in Hambantota. The estate infantile mortality is 252. Matara records the highest rate (579) and Kalutara the lowest (166).

VI.—Causes of Death.

7. Of the 29,724 total deaths registered during the quarter, 4,083 were ascribed to Pyrexia, the equivalent death-rate being 14 per cent.; other causes which contributed to a high rate of mortality were Infantile Convulsions (11 per cent.), Diseases of Skin and Cellular Tissue (9 per cent.), Diarrhoea (8 per cent.), Debility (7 per cent.), Pneumonia (5 per cent.), Senility and Diseases of Pregnancy and of Childbirth (4 per cent. each), Rickets, Phthisis, Anæmia, Dysentery, and Intestinal Parasites (3 per cent. each), Dropsy and Anchylostomiasis (2 per cent. each), and Premature Birth and Malaria and Malarial Cachexia (1 per cent. each). 123 deaths from Plague were registered (118 in Colombo, 2 in Kalutara, 2 in Kandy, and 1 in Kurunegala), as against 73 in the preceding quarter and 56 in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Thirteen deaths from Smallpox and 3 from Cholera were also registered.

8. Affections caused by external causes:—

(a) *Suicide*.—Fifty-eight deaths were due to suicide, as against 45 in the previous quarter and 67 in the corresponding quarter of last year.

(b) *Homicide*.—Forty-one deaths were due to homicide, as against 37 in the previous quarter and 51 in the corresponding quarter of last year.

Table VI.—Causes of Death, &c.—continued.

Causes of Death.	Ceylon.		Western Province.		Central Province.		Southern Province.		Northern Province.			Eastern Province.		North-Western Province.			N.-C. Prov.		Uva Prov.		Sabaragamuwa Province.		Deaths among all Races.										
	Colombo.	Negombo.	Kalutara.	Kandy.	Matale.	Nuwara Eliya.	Galle.	Matara.	Hambantota.	Jaffna.	Mannar.	Mullaitivu.	Batticaloa.	Trincomalee.	Kurunegala.	Puttalam.	Ollav.	Anuradhapura.	Badulla.	Katnapura.	Kegalla.	Europeans.	Burgbers.	Sinhales.	Tamils.	Moors.	Malays.	Veddas.	Others.				
45. Intestinal Parasites ..	760	178	31	118	23	8	124	12	1	3	—	—	1	—	38	12	17	4	4	75	42	—	3	629	45	79	1	—	—	—	3		
46. Appendicitis and Typhilitis ..	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—		
47. Diseases of the Liver ..	84	21	4	7	5	6	6	2	1	4	1	3	2	—	7	—	3	—	1	8	2	—	—	47	31	4	—	—	—	—	—		
48. Peritonitis ..	34	14	1	6	3	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	13	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
49. Other Diseases of the Digestive System ..	221	40	2	9	20	6	7	5	6	42	15	—	15	6	4	3	1	1	8	6	12	—	1	93	107	14	—	—	—	—	—		
50. Bright's Disease and Nephritis ..	165	51	7	5	33	2	10	4	1	6	—	—	6	5	7	2	3	1	14	7	—	—	4	62	71	20	7	—	—	—	—		
51. Other Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System ..	28	7	1	2	5	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	20	6	2	—	—	—	—	—		
52. Diseases or Accidents of Pregnancy or of Childbirth ..	1055	111	35	74	103	28	63	30	24	118	18	13	36	12	163	22	20	48	56	25	37	—	1	642	337	70	4	1	—	—	—	—	
53. Diseases of the Skin and Cellular Tissue ..	2956	277	193	29	403	139	19	6	12	295	15	1	207	23	645	9	82	203	8	119	254	—	1	2224	486	230	8	5	—	—	—	—	
54. Diseases of the Bones and of the Organs of Locomotion ..	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
55. Congenital Malformations ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
56. Premature Birth ..	406	54	3	4	70	2	10	8	1	26	2	1	3	3	15	3	12	4	104	30	7	—	4	180	194	24	2	—	—	—	—	—	
57. Infantile Debility ..	1541	120	24	40	304	91	31	35	42	139	51	19	18	12	26	24	1	36	128	106	84	—	4	458	958	113	3	1	—	—	—	—	
58. Other Diseases of Early Infancy ..	52	15	—	1	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	16	2	—	1	41	7	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
59. Senility ..	1127	333	30	92	110	19	42	144	113	8	62	1	4	6	13	3	8	1	39	49	49	3	6	709	319	66	16	—	—	—	—	—	
60. Suicide ..	58	8	—	5	11	2	3	1	1	4	—	—	6	—	5	—	—	—	2	2	5	—	—	27	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
61. Homicide ..	41	7	1	4	3	2	5	3	3	1	—	—	3	—	1	2	1	—	—	3	2	—	—	33	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
62. Execution ..	7	4	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
63. Accidents and other affections produced by external causes ..	479	70	24	30	39	5	32	23	8	21	2	2	28	2	52	4	15	14	31	25	41	—	1	336	110	24	1	—	—	—	—	—	
64. Dropsy ..	686	20	4	11	69	24	22	3	29	70	16	4	132	11	127	19	5	22	30	13	39	—	—	346	250	82	1	—	—	—	—	—	
65. Heart Failure ..	40	16	—	6	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	1	1	5	—	—	16	19	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	
66. Debility (3 months and over) ..	403	37	10	16	82	18	32	13	8	12	—	—	2	3	5	2	4	7	48	48	26	—	—	117	238	37	4	—	—	—	—	—	
67. Pyrexia ..	4083	277	147	110	167	141	167	230	320	656	74	21	305	29	597	23	62	137	186	190	212	—	—	2776	1009	288	3	—	—	—	—	—	
68. Diseases not specified or ill-defined ..	29	16	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	2	—	—	18	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	
69. Other ill-defined diseases ..	154	42	3	14	11	4	12	9	2	10	1	1	19	—	13	—	—	—	1	1	6	—	—	69	59	20	2	—	—	—	—	—	

Table VII.—Causes of Death Registered on Estates in the Central, Uva, and Sabaragamuwa Provinces, in the Colombo and Kalutara Districts of the Western Province, Galle and Matara of the Southern Province, and Kurunegala in the North-Western Province, during the First Quarter of 1917.

Causes of Death.	Ceylon.	Central Province.			Province of Uva.	Province of Sabaragamuwa.		Western Province.		Southern Province.		North-Western Province.
		Kandy.	Matale.	Nuwara Eliya.		Badulla.	Ratnapura.	Kegalla.	Colombo.	Kalutara.	Galle.	
All Causes ..	4,970	1,482	383	866	776	454	375	106	292	83	81	72
1. Enteric Fever ..	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Malaria and Malarial Cachexia ..	92	23	11	4	14	23	7	1	3	4	1	1
3. Smallpox ..	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Measles ..	6	1	1	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ..	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Cholera ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
7. Dysentery ..	487	132	33	88	97	61	17	8	29	10	8	4
8. Plague ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Chickenpox ..	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Other Epidemic Diseases ..	13	3	1	5	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
11. Septicæmia ..	7	1	—	2	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
12. Other Septic Diseases ..	5	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
13. Hydrophobia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Tetanus ..	10	3	1	2	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—
15. Phthisis ..	66	15	2	9	7	8	13	1	10	—	—	1
16. Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17. Riokets ..	15	5	1	3	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
18. Parangi ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
19. Cancer ..	6	3	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20. Acute Rheumatic Fever ..	11	7	—	1	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
21. Diabetes ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22. Anæmia ..	24	8	—	—	1	7	3	2	3	—	—	—
23. Alcoholism ..	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
24. Other General Diseases ..	36	12	2	5	7	3	2	—	4	—	1	—
25. Meningitis ..	9	5	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
26. Cerebral Hæmorrhage or Apoplexy ..	16	9	1	3	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
27. Paralysis ..	10	3	2	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—
28. Epilepsy ..	6	1	—	2	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
29. Convulsions (non-puerperal) ..	18	7	2	—	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	—
30. Infantile Convulsions ..	412	131	26	56	42	31	42	13	45	13	11	2
31. Other Diseases of the Nervous System ..	9	—	1	2	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
32. Organic Diseases of the Heart ..	18	6	1	3	4	—	1	—	2	1	—	—
33. Hæmorrhoids ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
34. Other Diseases of the Circulatory System ..	10	4	—	1	3	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
35. Bronchitis ..	123	37	12	29	16	12	6	4	3	—	1	3
36. Pneumonia ..	561	182	61	117	88	32	25	4	29	7	5	11
37. Pulmonary Congestion ..	4	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
38. Asthma ..	25	7	5	2	1	4	5	—	—	—	—	1
39. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System ..	11	4	3	—	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
40. Thrush, Stomatitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
41. Infantile Diarrhœa ..	40	16	—	10	2	4	2	1	2	1	—	2
42. Diarrhœa undefined ..	530	151	38	93	91	49	34	10	32	11	8	13
43. Enteritis ..	57	5	1	10	12	9	16	—	2	—	1	1
44. Anchylostemiasis ..	518	161	42	44	103	51	47	16	30	8	12	4
45. Intestinal Parasites ..	33	7	5	4	2	4	7	2	—	—	2	—
46. Appendicitis and Typhilitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
47. Diseases of the Liver ..	15	3	1	5	1	2	—	2	1	—	—	—
48. Peritonitis ..	14	5	2	3	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	—
49. Other Diseases of the Digestive System ..	29	9	2	8	3	1	3	2	—	—	—	1
50. Bright's Disease and Nephritis ..	38	12	1	9	9	2	—	—	2	1	1	1
51. Other Diseases of the Genito-Urinary System ..	6	1	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
52. Diseases or Accidents of Pregnancy or of Childbirth ..	124	43	12	11	17	6	10	1	11	6	3	4
53. Diseases of the Skin and Cellular Tissue ..	19	2	4	4	1	2	3	—	1	—	1	1
54. Diseases of the Bones and of the Organs of Locomotion ..	3	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55. Congenital Malformations ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
56. Premature Birth ..	144	49	2	37	21	20	5	3	—	4	—	3
57. Infantile Debility (under 3 months) ..	719	221	63	185	107	31	44	10	32	4	18	4
58. Other Diseases of Early Infancy ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
59. Senility ..	223	72	17	35	29	24	22	7	10	4	1	2
60. Suicide ..	19	5	—	4	2	1	3	—	3	—	1	—
61. Homicide ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
62. Execution ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
63. Accidents and other affections produced by external causes ..	43	9	2	6	9	5	4	2	1	—	—	5
64. Dropsy ..	69	22	8	10	13	6	5	2	1	—	1	—
65. Heart Failure ..	19	4	—	1	1	1	4	2	3	—	—	3
66. Debility (3 months and over) ..	214	57	10	27	40	35	24	—	12	5	3	1
67. Pyrexia ..	34	2	2	5	7	—	3	5	7	1	—	2
68. Diseases not specified or ill-defined ..	5	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
69. Other ill-defined diseases ..	27	8	3	6	—	—	3	1	4	1	—	1

