

**SUPPLEMENT**  
TO THE  
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PART I.

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**VITAL STATISTICS OF TOWNS IN CEYLON IN THE  
MONTH OF AUGUST, 1923.**

**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.

**Marriages.**

2. The marriages of residents in proclaimed towns numbered 360 (271 General, 3 Kandyan, and 86 Muhammadan), as against 391 in the preceding month and 296 in the corresponding month of last year. In Colombo the number of marriages was 137 (85 General and 52 Muhammadan), as against 144 in the preceding month and 120 in the corresponding month of last year.

**Births.**

3. The births registered numbered 1,653 (837 males and 816 females), and were equivalent to an annual rate of 31·87 per 1,000, as against 31·41 in the preceding month, 30·46 in the corresponding month of last year, and 25·69 the average for the corresponding months since 1913. The rate ranged from 14·61 in Kalpitiya to 72·54 in Kalmunai.

4. In the city of Colombo the births registered numbered 550 (275 males and 275 females), and were equal to an annual rate of 25·86 per 1,000, as against 24·40 in the preceding month, 26·44 in the corresponding month of last year, and 21·22 the average for the corresponding months since 1913. The rate, exclusive of the Fort and the Pettah Wards, ranged from 11·60 in Kollupitiya to 24·64 in Kotahena South.

**Deaths.**

5. The total deaths registered during the month numbered 2,067 (1,124 males and 943 females). There were 1,670 deaths of residents in the towns, equivalent to an annual standardized rate of 34·83 per 1,000, as against 32·28 in the preceding month, 28·45 in the corresponding month of last year, and 27·03 the average for the month of August in each year since 1913. The rate ranged from 84·25 in Hatton and Dikoya to 7·64 in Mullaittivu.

6. In the city of Colombo the deaths registered numbered 836 (466 males and 370 females). There were 734 deaths of town residents, which corresponded to an annual standardized rate of 39·74 per 1,000, as against 35·84 in the preceding month, 29·34 in the corresponding month of last year, and 26·03 the average for the month of August in each year since 1913. The rate, exclusive of the Fort and the Pettah Wards, ranged from 35·67 in Slave Island to 18·85 in Kollupitiya.

7. The stillbirths registered during the month numbered 132 (81 males and 51 females), as against 106 in the preceding month.

**Infant Mortality.**

8. The deaths of children under one year amounted to 455 and corresponded to a rate of 271 per 1,000 births registered during the twelve months ended August 31, 1923. Reckoned on the births registered during the month only, the rate was 275, as against 260 in the preceding month, 229 in the corresponding month of last year, and 243 the average for the corresponding months since 1913.

9. In the city of Colombo the deaths of children under one year numbered 180 and corresponded to a rate of 296 per 1,000 births registered during the twelve months ended August 31, 1923. Reckoned on the births registered during the month only, the rate was 327, as against 345 in the preceding month, 239 in the corresponding month of last year, and 263 the average for the corresponding months since 1913.

**Causes of Death.**

10. The highest mortality was from *Pneumonia*, to which 15 per cent. of the total deaths were due. *Debility* (of children under one year) and *Convulsions*, each caused 7 per cent. of the deaths, *Diarrhoea* 6 per cent., *Phthisis*, *Dysentery*, *Enteritis*, and *Malaria* and *Malarial Cachexia*, each 5 per cent., *Bright's Disease* and *Nephritis* and *Anchylostomiasis*, each 3 per cent., *Enteric Fever*, *Influenza*, *Prematurity*, and *Bronchitis*, each 2 per cent., and *Puerperal Septicæmia* 1 per cent.

11. In Colombo, too, the highest mortality was from *Pneumonia*, which caused 14 per cent. of the total deaths. *Convulsions* caused 8 per cent., *Phthisis* and *Enteritis*, each 7 per cent., *Diarrhoea*, *Debility* (of infants under one year), *Dysentery*, *Influenza*, and *Enteric Fever*, each 4 per cent., *Bronchitis*, *Bright's Disease* and *Nephritis*, and *Prematurity*, each 2 per cent., and *Malaria* and *Malarial Cachexia* and *Anchylostomiasis*, each 1 per cent.

12. Twenty-one deaths from *Plague* (16 males and 5 females) were registered in Colombo, as against 19 in the preceding month and 8 in the corresponding month of last year.

13. *Infectious Diseases reported*.—The infectious disease most prevalent during the month was *Phthisis*, of which 130 cases were reported (121 in Colombo, 4 in Kurunegala), *Chickenpox* followed with 100 cases (42 in Colombo, 22 in Jaffna, 17 in Kandy, 6 in Badulla), *Enteric Fever* 88 (66 in Colombo, 7 in Moratuwa, 6 in Galle), *Measles* 59 (45 in Colombo, 6 in Lunugala, 5 in Galle), *Plague* 24 (23 in Colombo and 1 in Negombo), *Continued Fever* 13 (11 in Colombo), *Mumps* 8 (6 in Colombo), *Dysentery* 5 (4 in Panadure), *Diphtheria* 1 (in Colombo), and *Leprosy* (1 in Badulla).

**Meteorology.**

14. *Rainfall*.—Nawalapitiya recorded the highest rainfall (43·84 in.), and was followed by Ratnapura (24·53 in.). In the other towns the rainfall ranged from 22·58 in. in Hatton and Dikoya to 0·01 of an in. in Jaffna. Colombo recorded 8·18 in.

15. *Mean Temperature*.—The mean temperature varied from 85·8° in Trincomalee to 60·4° in Nuwara Eliya, and was 80·6° in Colombo.

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



Table II.—Causes of Deaths by Sex registered during August, 1923, in each Town of the Island proclaimed under Sections 31–36 of the Ordinance No. 1 of 1895.

Causes of Deaths.	Western Province.			Central Province.			Southern Province.		
	All 33 Towns.			Colombo.			Kandy.		
	M	F	Total.	M	F	M	M	F	M
All Causes	1,124	943	2,067	466	370	33	34	45	72
I.—Infantile Mortality	245	210	455	106	74	7	8	13	28
A.—One Week and under.									
1. Prematurity	21	15	36	7	4	1	2	2	1
2. Debility	29	25	54	5	3	1	1	1	1
3. Convulsions	14	7	21	8	2	1	—	—	—
4. Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4a. Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Tetanus	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Other Causes	6*	—	2†	8	4	2	—	—	—
B.—Over 1 Week and under 1 Year.									
1. Prematurity	5	5	10	1	1	—	—	—	—
2. Debility	45	40	85	15	11	2	4	6	2
3. Convulsions	44	34	78	20	16	2	2	1	1
4. Diarrhoea	7	12	19	1	1	—	9	—	3
4a. Enteritis	12	11	23	10	6	—	—	1	1
5. Tetanus	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Bronchitis	6	8	14	5	5	—	2	3	2
7. Pneumonia	—	29	28	57	19	13	2	3	1
8. Other Causes	—	20‡	23§	43	10	—	1	—	1

\* Two deaths each from Syphilis and Toxæmia (in Colombo); and 1 each from Amelektosis and Suppuration of Umbilicus (in Galle).

† One death from Cerebral Haemorrhage, and the cause of the other was not ascertained (in Colombo).

‡ This includes besides 10 cases mentioned in Table IV, 1 death from Scabies (in Moratuwa); 1 from Peritonitis (in Gampola); 1 each from Influenza and Nephritis (in Galle); 2 from Malaria and 1 from Gastritis (in Anuradhapura); 1 from Abscess (in Iamugala); and 1 from Ulcer (in Kegalla).

§ This includes besides 10 cases mentioned in Table IV, 2 deaths from Ricketts (1 each in Moratuwa and Galle); 2 from Worms (1 each in Moratuwa and Manna); 1 from Burns (in Hatton-Dikoya); 2 from Malaria (1 each in Matale and Pettah); and 1 from Intussusception (in Kurunegala).

Table II.—Causes of Deaths by Sex registered during August, 1923, in each Town of the Island proclaimed under Sections 31-36 of the Ordinance No. 1 of 1895—*continued*.

Table II.—Causes of Deaths by Sex registered during August, 1923, in each Town of the Island proclaimed under Sections 31–36 of the Ordinance No. 1 of 1895—continued.

Causes of Deaths.	All 38 Towns.			Western Province.			Central Province.			Southern Province.		
	M	F	Total.	M	F	M	M	F	M	F	M	T
<b>II.—General Mortality (1 Year and Over)</b>												
1. Plague	879	733	1,612	296	31	26	32	44	10	12	13	9
2. Smallpox	16	5	21	16	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
3. Chickenpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6. Pyrexia or Fever	28	16	44	18	14	2	4	1	2	1	2	3
7. Enteric Fever	11	6	17	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
8. Malaria	32	16	48	21	11	2	2	1	1	1	1	1
9. Malarial Cachexia	38	26	64	7	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	1
10. Cholera	17	13	30	—	3	1	1	1	1	2	2	2
11. Diarrhoea	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11a. Enteritis	53	41	94	22	11	2	5	1	2	1	1	2
12. Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Ankylostomiasis or Dochomitus	35	39	74	17	9	8	2	1	1	1	1	1
14. Duodenitis	54	45	99	18	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
14. Cancer	27	29	56	4	5	3	1	1	1	1	1	1
15. Phthisis	55	48	103	32	30	1	2	1	1	1	1	1
16. Other Tuberculous Diseases	7	4	11	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
17. Anaemia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
18. Diabetes Mellitus	8	3	11	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
19. Convulsions	19	20	39	11	11	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
20. Tetanus	3	2	5	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
21. Bronchitis	14	11	25	5	5	2	4	1	1	1	2	1
22. Pneumonia	140	107	247	44	40	3	4	4	1	4	3	2
23. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	8	7	15	4	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1
24. Bright's Disease and Nephritis	25	33	68	8	7	1	4	5	—	—	3	3
25. Puerperal Eclampsia	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
26. Puerperal Septicæmia	—	24	24	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
27. Miscarriage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Other undefined Accidents of Childbirth	—	7	7	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
29. Starvation	—	1	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Accidents and Negligence	27	9	36	10	3	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
31. Homicide	—	3	6	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
32. Suicide	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
33. Execution	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
34. All Other Causes	—	248*	457	104	97	10	8	11	15	7	3	1
		209†									6	1

\* Here are included 66 deaths from Senility, 18 from Debility, 22 from Worms, and 13 from Paralysis.

† Here are included 71 deaths from Senility, 24 from Debility, 18 from Worms, and 12 from Paralysis.

Table II.—Causes of Deaths by Sex registered during August, 1923, in each Town of the Island proclaimed under Sections 31–36 of the Ordinance No. 1 of 1895—continued.

Causes of Deaths.	Northern Province.			Eastern Province.			North-Western Province.			North-Central Province.			Province of Uva.			Province of Sabaragamuwa.			Deaths among all Races.					
	M	F	M	M	F	M	M	F	M	M	F	M	M	F	M	M	F	M	M	F	M	F	M	
II.—General Mortality (1 Year and Over) ..	41	47	4	2	1	4	2	12	13	8	3	10	17	38	18	14	12	1	2	9	8	16	20	17
1. Plague ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
2. Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
3. Chickenpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
4. Measles ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
5. Influenza ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
6. Pyrexia or Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
7. Enteric Fever ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
8. Malaria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
9. Malarial Cachexia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
10. Cholera ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
11. Diarrhoea ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
11a. Enteritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
12. Dysentery ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
13. Ankylostomiasis or Dociamius Disease ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
14. Cancer ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
15. Phthisis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
16. Other Tuberculous Diseases ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
17. Anaemia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
18. Diabetes Mellitus ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
19. Convulsions ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
20. Tetanus ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
21. Bronchitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
22. Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
23. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
24. Bright's Disease and Nephritis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
25. Puerperal Eclampsia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
26. Puerperal Septicaemia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
27. Miscarriage ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
28. Other undefined Acci- dents of Childbirth ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
29. Starvation and Accidents ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
30. Negligence ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
31. Homicide ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
32. Suicide ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
33. Execution ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
34. All Other Causes ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	

Table III.—Number of Births and Deaths registered during the Month of August, 1923, and the Deaths of Children under One Year, and their Proportion per 1,000 of the Registered Births, together with the Birth- and Death-rates of the corresponding Month of 1922, in each Sanitary Ward of the City of Colombo.

Population (exclusive of the Military and Shipping) Wards.	Population estimated to the middle of 1922 by Intercensal Increase.	Total Births.						Stillbirths.						Deaths of Non- residents.						Deaths of Residents.						Birth-rate.*		Death-rate.*		Per Mile per Annum.		Mortality of Children under one Year.	
		Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	August, 1922.	August, 1923.	August, 1922.	August, 1923.	25·86	26·44	24·51	25·29	39·74	39·27	296					
City of Colombo ..	244,163	250,481	275	550	38	20	58	466	370	836	102	734	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Fort and Galle Face	2,690	2,760	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Pettah ..	7,601	7,797	1	2	3	—	—	—	7	1	8	—	—	8	4·53	3·05	12·08	10·69	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
St. Paul's ..	23,395	23,996	14	16	30	3	2	5	45	23	68	—	—	68	14·72	12·40	33·37	31·26	—	—	14	467	395	—	—	—	—	—	—				
San Sebastian ..	11,492	11,787	2	11	13	1	—	1	12	14	26	—	—	26	12·99	21·21	25·97	22·22	—	—	9	692	605	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Kotahena North ..	18,683	19,165	16	17	33	—	2	2	14	18	32	1	31	20·27	22·99	19·05	24·85	—	—	5	152	131	7	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Kotahena South ..	27,488	28,194	36	23	59	1	—	1	32	36	68	1	67	24·64	21·54	27·98	20·70	—	—	26	441	462	—	—	—	—	—	—					
New Bazaar ..	23,341	23,940	17	11	28	1	—	1	31	30	61	—	61	13·77	22·88	30·00	22·88	—	—	14	500	319	—	—	—	—	—	—					
Maradana Hospitals ..	—	—	98	93	191	17	12	29	151	106	257	90	—	167	—	—	—	—	—	—	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—				
Maradana North ..	30,404	31,178	23	24	47	1	1	2	27	38	65	—	65	17·75	19·47	24·55	14·51	—	—	23	489	401	—	—	—	—	—	—					
Maradana East ..	8,593	8,814	7	6	13	4	—	4	13	9	22	1	21	17·37	9·46	28·05	16·21	—	—	6	462	372	—	—	—	—	—	—					
Maradana South (ex- clusive of Hospitals)	18,531	19,007	14	18	32	6	—	5	33	18	51	—	61	19·82	17·54	31·59	16·28	—	—	4	125	127	—	—	—	—	—	—					
Slave Island ..	21,564	22,118	14	21	35	1	—	1	42	25	67	—	67	18·63	18·84	35·67	19·92	—	—	19	643	432	—	—	—	—	—	—					
Kollupitiya ..	23,752	24,362	11	13	24	1	1	2	24	22	46	7	39	11·60	17·80	18·85	8·31	—	—	11	458	411	—	—	—	—	—	—					
Wellawatta North ..	15,916	16,223	15	11	26	2	4	24	21	45	2	43	18·87	19·82	31·21	15·42	—	—	12	462	391	—	—	—	—	—	—						
Wellawatta South ..	10,813	11,090	7	9	16	1	—	1	11	9	20	—	20	16·99	17·18	21·23	15·03	—	—	4	250	171	—	—	—	—	—	—					

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

† Standardized death-rates for the wards of the city are not available.





Table IV.—Causes of Deaths by Sex registered during the Month of August, 1923, in each Ward and of each Race in the City of Colombo—continued.

Causes of Death.	Wards.		Deaths among all Races.															
			Wellawatta South.		Europeans.		Burgers.		Sinhalese.		Tamil.		Moors.		Malays.		Others.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
All Causes ..	11	9	4	—	22	14	234	222	89	61	80	48	9	15	28	10		
I.—Infantile Mortality ..	3	1	1	—	5	2	60	45	17	9	18	10	4	5	1	3		
A.—One Week and under.																		
1. Prematurity ..																		
2. Debility ..																		
3. Convulsions ..																		
4. Diarrhoea ..																		
4a. Enteritis ..																		
5. Tetanus ..																		
6. Bronchitis ..																		
7. Pneumonia ..																		
8. Other Causes ..																		
B.—Over 1 Week and under 1 Year.																		
1. Prematurity ..																		
2. Debility ..																		
3. Convulsions ..																		
4. Diarrhoea ..																		
4a. Enteritis ..																		
5. Tetanus ..																		
6. Bronchitis ..																		
7. Pneumonia ..																		
8. Other Causes ..																		
II.—General Mortality (1 Year and Over) ..	8	8	3	—	17	12	174	177	72	52	62	38	5	10	27	7		
1. Plague ..																	3	
2. Smallpox ..																		
3. Chickenpox ..																		
4. Measles ..																		
5. Influenza ..																		
6. Pyrexia or Fever ..																		
7. Enteric Fever ..																		
8. Malaria ..																		
9. Malarial Cachexia ..																		
10. Cholera ..																		
11. Diarrhoea ..																	6	
11a. Enteritis ..																	1	
12. Dysentery ..																	4	
13. Anchylostomiasis or Duodenitis ..																	1	
14. Cancer ..																		
15. Phthisis ..																		
16. Other Tuberculous Diseases ..																		
17. Anaemia ..																		
18. Diabetes Mellitus ..																		
19. Convulsions ..																		
20. Tetanus ..																		
21. Bronchitis ..																		
22. Pneumonia ..																		
23. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System ..			2															
24. Bright's Disease and Nephritis ..																		
25. Puerperal Eclampsia ..																		
26. Puerperal Septicæmia ..																		
27. Miscarriage ..																		
28. Other undefined Accidents of Childbirth ..																		
29. Starvation ..																		
30. Accidents and Negligence ..																		
31. Homicide ..																		
32. Suicide ..																		
33. Execution ..																		
34. All Other Causes ..			5	5	2	—	5	4	59	64	21	10	15	15	2	2	2	