

of hip disease. But then he was detained in America for four months over the job.

Another famous bloodless surgeon, Dr. James Gale, was offered £50,000 by a wealthy patient suffering from lameness, on the principle of "no cure, no pay." Gale accepted the conditions, effected a complete and permanent cure, and received his fee—probably the biggest on record.

The first Baron Dimsdale, for a very brief attendance on the Empress Catherine of Russia, received his title, £10,000 in cash, an annuity of £500 a year for life, and £1,000 for the expenses of his journey between London and St. Petersburg and back.

TORONTO'S VITAL STATISTICS

Vital statistics compiled by the City Clerk show that the natural increase in the city's population during 1920—the difference in number between births and deaths—was six thousand.

Prior to 1914 the highest number of births registered was 14,500. Since then, and up until the close of 1919, the returns were much lower, but 1920 closes with the record number of births of 14,084. The figures for December follow:—

	Dec., 1920	Dec., 1919
Births	1,020	1,119
Marriages	520	549
Deaths	517	573

The comparison of the vital statistics for the years 1919 and 1920 in addition to showing the increase in births show that while there has been a higher death rate, marriages have increased substantially. The comparison follows:—

Births	14,084	11,684
Marriages	7,784	6,480
Deaths	7,894	6,251

The birth figures, including still births, for the years 1912 to 1920 follow: 1912, 11,100; 1913, 14,100; 1914, 14,500; 1915, 13,288; 1916, 12,866; 1917, 2,517; 1918, 12,195; 1919, 11,684; 1920, 14,084.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES IN TORONTO

A slight increase in the number of diphtheria cases in the city is noticed in the monthly return of communicable diseases made by the Health Department to-day. During December there were 289 cases,