

INFANT DEATHS IN BRITAIN

The annual report for 1919 of the Registrar-General for England and Wales contains figures in the section dealing with infant deaths suggesting that Nature or Providence is trying to atone for war losses.

"While the time is hardly ripe yet to attempt an estimate of the total loss of births attributable to the war," says the report, "possibly the number may be somewhat over half a million or very similar to that of deaths on active service."

By the way of compensation the report shows fewer deaths occurring now in childhood. Death rates, by far the lowest on record, are shown in 1919 from measles and whooping cough, while the low death rate from diarrhoea has only once been bettered. The death rate at most ages of life shows a tendency to decline, except in the case of cancer. The excess of infant deaths in London over the average for the country, which was noted as an exceptional feature of the 1917 and 1918 figures, has disappeared.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES CAUSE NUMEROUS DEATHS

Communicable diseases were responsible for more deaths in December than in the corresponding month of 1919. Following were the figures:

	1920	1919
Typhoid fever	11	13
Scarlet fever	47	26
Diphtheria	224	168
Smallpox	12	—
Measles	81	—
Whooping cough	59	33

BIG MEDICAL FEES.

The £12,000 fee said to have been paid to Dr. Deblet, the famous French surgeon, for attending the late King of Greece, although a big sum as medical payments go, by no means establishes a record.

Our own Sir Morell Mackenzie received just about double this—£20,000, with extras for travelling and hotel expenses—for attending the Emperor Frederick of Germany.

Dr. Lorenz, of Vienna, the "bloodless surgeon," was paid £32,000 by Philip J. Armour, the Chicago meat king," for curing his little daughter