

and two points below 1911.

The responsibility for Ontario's declining birth rate apparently rests with the cities and towns. The cities with a record of 22,929 marriages were able to report only 15,917 births, while the rural municipalities of the province, with but 10,910 marriages, had 32,028 births, or a considerably better percentage.

The total number of births in Ontario was 50,870, with 28,845 marriages.

The province is still making progress in the reduction of its death rate, and now has a rate lower than most of the leading countries of the world. During 1912 there were 32,150 deaths, a ratio of 12.4 per thousand, or .2 lower than in 1911.

The saddening part of the report, that dealing with illegitimate births, shows an increase of 168, bringing the rate up to 21.3 per thousand births. The cities of the province contributed 72 per cent. of the illegitimacy.

The records show less marrying between Protestants and Roman Catholics, 820 men and 1,096 women of the Catholic Church marrying outside their faith. Almost two-thirds of the marriages are contracted between the ages of 20 and 30. A number of unusual marriages were recorded, one man of 25 marrying a woman over 70. Three women under 30 years of age married men over 70.

The fight against the "white plague" is making steady headway, although the reduction in the death rate from this disease was less in 1912 than in several years previous. The death list was 2,250, a decrease of 103, and a reduction in ratio of .05 per cent. At the present time about seven per cent. of the deaths in Ontario are due to tuberculosis, and the heaviest toll is taken upon young people of between 20 and 30.

It will astonish some people to know that one out of every 10 children born in Ontario dies before reaching five years of age. In 1912 8,230 children under the age of five years died, 6,494 of them before completing the twelfth month, a rate of 110.3 per thousand births. There were 200 less deaths from diarrhoea than in 1911, the rate from this dangerous infant trouble being the lowest in six years, due largely to the greater interest taken in child welfare and in educating young mothers to take more intelligent care of their children.

THE TORONTO HOME FOR INCURABLES.

There was a large attendance at the annual meeting of the Toronto Hospital for Incurables, Dunn Avenue, held recently, the chair being taken by Sir Mortimer Clarke in the absence of the Mayor.