

(NOTE.—It was shown by Professor Thompson that sheep, fed on poor pasture, gave birth to an increased number of males. In war-time women have many hardships, anxieties, deprivations. This would account for the extra male births, apart from any design on the part of any influence to make up the male losses due to the war. It is only a natural phenomenon.—Editor *Lancet*).

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS IN ONTARIO FOR 1917.

Births in Ontario during 1917 fell to the lowest figures since the war broke out, and the same can be said of marriages. Deaths remain about the same.

The figures as compiled by the Registrar General's Department show:

	Number.	Decrease.
Births	62,666	2,598
Marriages	21,493	1,908
Deaths	33,268	2,312

The decrease in the number of marriages is caused, it is claimed, by the number of young men who have gone overseas, and those who have been called to the colors.

The births show about 10,000 more male babies than female babies born in the province. The births in the province were pretty well evenly divided between rural municipalities and the cities and towns.

Of the number of deaths in the province over 13,000 were in cities, rural municipalities 17,000, and towns 2,400.

MEDICAL MEN AT WAR.

American medical men have always had the advantage of not being bound by tradition, and willing and able to study at any source with profit. Having no special preconceived standards of war surgery of our own, we are in a properly receptive mood quickly and easily to absorb the experiences gathered by our unfortunate colleagues, particularly the allied countries. American surgery of recent years has attained as high a standard as anywhere in the world, and in fact many European surgeons feel the same necessity of becoming familiar with American methods as we did of theirs years ago. That the American soldier will receive the best care obtainable as a result of foresight and the development of methods found most useful in this war is, I believe, an assured fact.