

Last year the deaths exceeded the births in France by almost 35,000. The total number of births in 1911 was 263,000 less than the usual number of births during 1910 and 1911 the birth rate came perilously close to the death rate, and it is said on good authority that the current year shows no improvement, but rather the reverse in the condition. From 1876 to 1885 the births to 1,000 of population were 34.2; from 1886 to 1895, 30.9; from 1906 to 1911, 28.6—a sufficiently depressing showing.

The birth rates for the years 1901 and 1911 respectively for the countries named follow, the figures emphasizing the scope and increase of the evil: Holland, 31.1-30.5; Belgium, 31.7-28.8; Norway, 31.0-29.2; Sweden, 29.7-26.4; Finland, 36.1-31.0; Austria, 38.4-36.5.

It may be said that since 1880 the increase to the thousand of population in all the States east of the Missouri, and especially in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine, has declined steadily.

#### CONTAGIOUS DISEASES IN ONTARIO.

Despite the improvement in the reporting of tuberculosis as a result of the new regulations, officials of the Provincial Health Department are still far from satisfied with the manner in which the extent of the disease is being recorded. What percentage of tuberculosis cases is never heard of can hardly be determined, but investigation shows that in the weekly reports from local boards only forty per cent. of the deaths from the disease are the subject of notification.

The month of November was not as satisfactory, so far as the public health is concerned, as November of last year. Typhoid and diphtheria showed an increase, and the total number of communicable disease cases reported showed an increase of nearly 150. The returns show:—

	—1912—		—1911—	
	Cases.	Deaths	Cases.	Deaths.
Smallpox . . . . .	33	0	28	0
Scarlet fever . . . . .	165	12	188	9
Diphtheria . . . . .	287	13	244	20
Measles . . . . .	91	1	108	2
Whooping cough . . . . .	44	2	28	2
Typhoid . . . . .	142	27	103	13
Tuberculosis . . . . .	148	80	72	49
Infantile paralysis . . . . .	3	0	3	0
Spinal meningitis . . . . .	1	1	3	3