

slowed down. The number of female deaths from tuberculosis by age from 1932 to 1942 suggests that the fall in mortality among younger women from 15 to 29 years has been greater than appears from the crude death rate. In each of the five-year age groups - (15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39) the death rate fell by about a third in the 10 years ending 1942. In the group from 20 to 29 years, mortality (1941-42) was well below any previous year, but in the group from 15 to 20 years, the death rate was about stationary from 1940 to 1942. It is possible that greater employment opportunities and longer hours of work for very young women have been responsible for slowing down the rate of progress in stamping out tuberculosis which had been achieved in previous years.

(g) SUMMARY

The most outstanding feature of the war years has been the increase in marriages and in consequence, in first and second births. Increase in employment opportunities would in any event have seen many marriages taking place which were postponed during the depths of the depression. The first stages of full mobilisation for war effort provided additional stimulus to earlier marriages. While there is some evidence of a temporary slackening in the rate of fall in family size, there is no reason to believe there has been any pronounced change in the trend towards smaller families. Marriages and births have already passed their peak, the former in 1942 and the latter in 1943.

The decade preceding the war saw a marked improvement in the health of the Canadian people as evidenced in the mean expectation of life in 1940-42. On the whole the improvement has continued during the war years. Improvement has been greatest in maternal mortality, some aspects of infant mortality, and mortality from pneumonia and influenza. Two contributory factors are believed to have been (a) improved nutrition of mothers during pregnancy, (b) recent advances in medical methods. Deaths from enemy action have not been dealt with in the present article. Inconsiderable during the first years of the war, they increased sharply during 1942 and 1943 and are likely to be high while the war is being carried into enemy territory. As regards other aspects of the mortality and morbidity record, it is evident that there is no room for any slackening in public health programmes if Canada is to continue to progress towards the mortality level of the most advanced countries.