HALF-A-CENTURY'S REVIEW OF MARRIAGES AND BIRTHS IN IRELAND, 1866 TO 1915.

By SIR WM. J. THOMPSON, M.D. DUBL., F.R.C.P.I.;
Registrar-General for Ireland.

[Read in the Section of State Medicine, January 17, 1919.]

IN this retrospect of the marriages and births recorded in Ireland, England and Wales and Scotland during the fifty years ending with the year 1915, I have endeavoured to present the facts—as shown in the Tables—in as concise a manner as possible, and with this object in view actual numbers are, generally speaking, omitted, and only the proportions to the populations are given. Moreover, the information is condensed into ten quinquennial periods, and diagrams will be used to show the variations throughout the fifty years. The figures given are derived from the Annual Reports of the Registrars'-General for Ireland, England and Wales, and Scotland, and from the Census Reports of the respective countries.

Marriages.

During the half century under review, 1,172,453 marriages were registered in Ireland, being equivalent to an average annual rate of 4.9 per 1,000 of the population; in the same period 11,445,754 marriages were registered in England and Wales, affording an average annual rate of 7.9 per 1,000, and in Scotland there were registered 1,413,335 marriages, the corresponding rate being 7.0 per 1,000.

In the following statement the rates for each country are given.

TABLE A.—*Showing the number of Marriages per 1,000 of the Population in Ireland, as compared with England and Wales, and Scotland, during each Quinquennial Period from 1866 to 1915.*

QUINQUENNIAL PERIOD	RATE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION		
	Ireland	England and Wales	Scotland
1866-1870	5.3	8.2	7.0
1871-1875	4.9	8.6	7.5
1876-1880	4.5	7.7	6.9
1881-1885	4.3	7.6	6.9
1886-1890	4.3	7.4	6.5
1891-1895	4.8	7.6	6.8
1896-1900	5.0	8.1	7.3
1901-1905	5.2	7.8	7.0
1906-1910	5.1	7.7	6.8
1911-1915	5.3	8.2	7.1

From this Table it will be observed that the marriage rates for Ireland and England and Wales, viz., 5.3 and 8.2, respectively, in the first five-yearly period are identical with those for the last, while the rate for Scotland (7.0) for 1866-70 differs but slightly from the rate (7.1) for 1911-15. Indeed it might be said the curve for Ireland, if put in a diagrammatic form, is almost identical with that for each of the other countries. Generally speaking, the foregoing Table discloses the fact that there is a steady fall from the first to the fifth quinquennial period, followed by a steady rise up to the last quinquennial period, varied, however, by a slight decrease in 1906-1910 as compared with 1901-5. The increase in the marriage rate for the period, 1911-15, is to some extent due to the " War Marriages " registered in 1915.

Viewing the figures in the preceding statement, it will

not come as a surprise to learn from the Census Reports of 1911 that of the total number of women in Ireland between 15 and 45 years, only 34.4 in every hundred were married, the corresponding percentage for England and Wales being 47.7, and that for Scotland 42.6.

I mention the age 15 to 45 years, as that is the age period usually associated with maternity, and as the age at which women marry is important from many points of view, the following Table has been compiled in order to show the variations in the ages of married women in Ireland, England and Wales, and Scotland according to the Census Returns from 1871 to 1911.

TABLE B.—*Showing for Ireland, England and Wales, and Scotland, the proportion per cent. of Wives 15-20, 20-25, 25-35 and 35-45 years, according to the Census from 1871 to 1911.*

IRELAND.

CENSUS YEAR	PROPORTION PER CENT. OF WIVES AGED				Total, 15-45 Years
	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	
1871	1.1	11.0	46.7	41.2	100.
1881	0.8	10.0	42.2	47.0	100.
1891	0.7	9.3	42.4	47.6	100.
1901	0.5	8.9	44.9	45.7	100.
1911	0.4	7.3	43.1	49.2	100.
ENGLAND AND WALES.					
1871	1.3	13.9	45.5	39.3	100.
1881	1.1	13.7	45.6	39.6	100.
1891	0.9	12.8	46.0	40.3	100.
1901	0.7	11.8	46.8	40.7	100.
1911	0.5	9.4	46.0	44.1	100.
SCOTLAND.					
1871	1.1	12.0	46.2	40.7	100.
1881	0.9	12.5	45.5	41.1	100.
1891	0.7	11.4	46.0	41.9	100.
1901	0.8	11.5	46.1	41.6	100.
1911	0.7	9.6	45.0	44.7	100.

The principal feature of this Table is the evidence it affords of the postponement of marriage by the women of the three countries, and while the proportions of married women at each age period for England and Wales and Scotland show rather close similarity, especially in the later years, the average age at marriage of the wives in Ireland is appreciably higher than is the case in England or Scotland.

Of the married women in Ireland, according to the Census of 1911, at ages 15-45 years, 7.3 per cent. were 20-25 years, in England and Wales 9.4 per cent. and in Scotland 9.6. In Ireland 43.1 per cent. were between 25 and 35 years, in England and Wales 46.0 per cent. were so circumstanced, and in Scotland 45.0 per cent. The age-period, 35-45 years, contributed 49.2 per cent. of the total for Ireland, the percentage for England being 44.1, and for Scotland 44.7. Married women, in 1911, aged 15 and under 20 years, exhibit only a small proportion of those under 45 years of age, being 0.4 per cent. for Ireland, 0.5 for England and Wales, and 0.7 for Scotland.

Births.

It is probable that in the earlier years shown in the following Table, registration was not so complete as it might have been, owing to the registration in Ireland not having been long in existence, but how far defections occurred it is not possible to say definitely. Caution must therefore be exercised with reference to the use of figures for the earlier years.

There were registered in Ireland during the fifty years 5,860,422 births, being equivalent to an average annual rate of 24.3 per 1,000 of the average estimated population

440 *Half-a-Century's Marriages and Births in Ireland.*

of these years; in the same period the births recorded for England and Wales numbered 44,137,102, affording a rate of 30.3 per 1,000 of the average population, and in Scotland the number of births amounted to 6,246,457, or 30.8 per 1,000 of the population, arrived at in a similar way. The facts for these countries for each of ten quinquenniums are given in the following Table.

TABLE C.—*Showing the number of Births per 1,000 of the Population in Ireland, as compared with England and Wales, and Scotland, during each Quinquennial Period from 1866 to 1915.*

QUINQUENNIAL PERIOD	RATE PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION		
	Ireland	England and Wales	Scotland
1866-1870	26.8	35.3	34.9
1871-1875	27.1	35.5	35.0
1876-1880	25.5	35.3	34.7
1881-1885	23.9	33.5	33.3
1886-1890	22.8	31.4	31.5
1891-1895	23.0	30.5	30.5
1896-1900	23.3	29.3	30.0
1901-1905	23.2	28.2	29.2
1906-1910	23.3	26.3	27.6
1911-1915	22.7	23.6	25.4

It will be seen from this Table that the highest rate recorded for the three countries was in the period 1871-5, during which Ireland shows an average annual rate of 27.1, England and Wales 35.5, and Scotland 35.0. In 1911-15 the respective birth-rates were 22.7, 23.6, and 25.4. Thus the fall in the crude birth-rate for England and Wales in the last quinquennial period as compared with the second amounted to 11.9 per 1,000 of the population, or 33.5 per cent.; in Scotland it was 9.6 per 1,000, or 27.4 per cent.,

while in Ireland the reduction was only 4.4 per 1,000, or 16.2 per cent. It will be observed that the fall in Ireland is subject to some fluctuations. The curve for Ireland follows those for England and Wales and Scotland up to the period 1886-90, the similarity of the fall for the three countries from the period 1876-1880 being very marked, but from the point (1886-1890), while the other countries continue their downward course, the curve for Ireland shows a slight tendency upwards.

The fall in the birth-rate in England and Wales and Scotland is due largely to the decreased fertility of married women. Reduction in illegitimacy and postponement of marriage (see Table B) also contribute to the fall. In Ireland the reduction in the birth-rate was due almost entirely to the decrease in the married women of maternity ages (15-45 years) in the population, increased age at marriage being also a factor.

This aspect of the question will be discussed under the heading "Fertility of Marriages."

Illegitimate Births.

In arriving at the illegitimate birth-rate two methods are usually employed: one is based on the total births registered; the other, on the number of unmarried women and widows of age 15 and under 45 years of age in the population.

The latter method gives the more accurate results, because one of the numbers employed in the calculation, viz., the number of the unmarried and widowed is a constant, whereas in the first-named method both the total births and the illegitimates are variables. The following statement shows the results of the calculation on the total births.

442 *Half-a-Century's Marriages and Births in Ireland.*

TABLE D.—*Showing the number of Illegitimate Births per 1,000 of all Births registered in Ireland, as compared with England and Wales, and Scotland, during each Quinquennial Period from 1866 to 1915.*

QUINQUENNIAL PERIOD	ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS PER 1,000 BIRTHS REGISTERED		
	Ireland	England and Wales	Scotland
1866-1870	31	58	99
1871-1875	25	52	91
1876-1880	24	48	85
1881-1885	27	48	83
1886-1890	28	46	80
1891-1895	27	42	74
1896-1900	26	41	68
1901-1905	26	39	65
1906-1910	26	40	71
1911-1915	29	43	72

The above Table shows somewhat different results from those shown in the following Table, although the respective curves, in so far as they are comparable, follow the same general direction.

TABLE E.—*Showing the number of Illegitimate Births per 1,000 of Unmarried and Widowed Women between the ages of 15 and 45 years in Ireland, as compared with England and Wales, and Scotland, during the periods 1870-1872, 1880-1882, 1890-1892, 1900-1902 and 1910-1912.*

PERIOD	ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS PER 1,000 UNMARRIED AND WIDOWED WOMEN 15-45 YEARS		
	Ireland	England and Wales	Scotland
1870-1872	5.6	16.9	24.5
1880-1882	4.4	14.0	21.4
1890-1892	3.9	10.5	17.1
1900-1902	3.8	8.5	13.4
1910-1912	4.4	7.9	13.8

Table E shows that the illegitimate birth-rate per 1,000 of unmarried and widowed women, 15 to 45 years of age, fell in Ireland from 5.6 in 1870-2 to 3.8 in 1900-2, but rose to 4.4 in 1910-12.

The rate for England and Wales fell steadily from 16.9 in the first period to 7.9 in the last, or 53 per cent., while in Scotland the rate, which was 24.5 per 1,000 in 1870-2, fell to 13.4 in 1900-2, but rose slightly to 13.8 in 1910-12, the last figure showing a decrease of 44 per cent. as compared with the figure for 1870-2.

In consequence of the uncertainty of intercensal estimates of the number of the unmarried and widowed women 15 to 45 years of age in the population, it has been considered more satisfactory to obtain results by triennial periods with the year of the Census as the middle year. Thus while the number of births for a period of three years is quite large enough in order to secure reliable results, possibility of error that might be expected to result from more or less doubtful estimates in intercensal years is thereby reduced to a minimum.

Fertility of Marriage.

It will be noted that the rates for the total births have been given in terms of the total population, in other words, the crude birth-rates were presented. They serve as a measure of the increase in a population, and they have the advantage of being readily calculated. Moreover, the total population and the total births are in many localities the only statistics available on which to base this calculation.

As the proportion of married women of maternity age in the population varies in different countries, it is easy to see that a comparison of the crude birth-rates between one country and another may be misleading. A comparatively

444 *Half-a-Century's Marriages and Births in Ireland.*

low crude birth-rate may be expected when the proportion of wives 15 to 45 years of age is low in comparison with other countries, and *vice versâ*. More reliable results will, therefore, be obtained when the birth-rate is stated in terms of legitimate births in proportion to the number of married women aged 15 and under 45 in the population. This is done in the following Table by triennial periods from 1870 to 1912, the middle point in each of the periods being the Census year.

TABLE F.—*Showing the number of Legitimate Births per 1,000 Married Women between the ages of 15 and 45 years in Ireland as compared with England and Wales, and Scotland, during the periods 1870-1872, 1880-1882, 1890-1892, 1900-1902, and 1910-1912.*

PERIOD	LEGITIMATE BIRTHS PER 1,000 MARRIED WOMEN, 15-45 YEARS OF AGE		
	Ireland	England and Wales	Scotland
1870-1872	306.6	291.1	319.4
1880-1882	282.9	285.3	311.5
1890-1892	287.6	262.1	296.4
1900-1902	289.4	235.0	271.8
1910-1912	292.7	197.1	233.2

It was shown in Table C that the highest crude birth-rate in the fifty years covered by that Table was reached in Ireland as well as in Great Britain during the period 1871-5. The proportion of legitimate births per 1,000 married women aged 15 to 45 was also highest in the period 1870-2, viz., 306.6 for Ireland, 291.1 for England and Wales, and 319.4 for Scotland. The rate for Ireland would appear to fall from 306.6 in 1870-2 to 282.9 in 1880-2; the rate for England and Wales shows a smaller reduction, from 291.1 to 285.3, and for Scotland from 319.4 to 311.5.

But while the proportion for Ireland continued to rise steadily from 282.9 in the period 1880-2 to 292.7 in 1910-12, showing an increase of 3.5 per cent., the rate for England and Wales fell continuously from 291.1 in 1870-2 to 197.1 in 1910-12, a fall equivalent to 32.3 per cent., and that for Scotland during the same period shows a reduction from 319.4 to 233.2 or 27.0 per cent.

It will also be observed that the greatest decrease in any one period as compared with the preceding, as shown by the English and Scottish results, occurred in the period 1910-12. In England and Wales the legitimate birth-rate fell from 235.0 in 1900-2 to 197.1 in 1910-12 or 16.1 per cent., and in Scotland it fell from 271.8 to 233.2, or 14.2 per cent.

During the period 1880-2, the rate recorded for Ireland was less than that for either England or Scotland; in 1910-12 the Irish rate exceeded the English by 48.5 per cent. and the Scottish by 25.5 per cent.

It may be noted as significant that the great increase in the wealth of Great Britain in recent years coincides with the rather serious decline in the birth-rate there. Other countries, too, have the same tale to tell, but while the fertility of married women in Great Britain and many other countries has seriously declined with increased prosperity, Ireland has actually improved her position under similar conditions.

Table G is interesting in that it shows the average number of legitimate births registered per 1,000 married women 15 to 45 years of age in Ireland by county and provincial areas. Co. Dublin comes lowest on the list with 208.8, and Co. Mayo highest with 359.2. It is a well-known fact that from Co. Dublin a number of births take place in the lying-in or other hospitals in the city of

446 *Half-a-Century's Marriages and Births in Ireland.*

TABLE G.—*Showing the average number of Births registered in the 3 years, 1910-12, per 1,000 Married Women between the ages of 15 and 45 years.*

COUNTY	Number of Births in 1910-12 per 1,000 Married Women Aged 15 to 45 Years	COUNTY	Number of Births in 1910-12 per 1,000 Married Women Aged 15 to 45 Years
Mayo	359.2	L'derry Co. and City...	293.6
Galway	356.6	Cork Co. and City ...	293.3
Donegal	347.6	Carlow	292.4
Kerry	345.5	Westmeath	291.9
Sligo	341.6	Waterford Co. and City	288.7
Limerick Co. and City	322.6	Kildare	284.5
Leitrim	315.1	Meath	281.9
Roscommon	312.1	Armagh	277.7
Clare	310.4	Antrim	268.0
Cavan	309.8	Down	256.1
Tipperary	308.7	Wicklow	251.7
Kilkenny	306.8	Belfast City	250.4
Longford	305.9	Dublin County	208.8
Dublin City	300.9		
Wexford	300.0		
King's	299.3	PROVINCES.	
Monaghan	298.8	Connaught	344.7
Queen's	298.8	Munster	308.7
Fermanagh	295.6	Leinster	282.0
Tyrone	295.0	Ulster	276.0
Louth	294.3		
		Ireland	292.7

Dublin, in which area they are registered. Therefore, the figure mentioned for the county is lower than it should be, and hence the rate shown for the Dublin County Borough is overstated. A rate for the combined county and city would be more satisfactory, and that is found to be 272.0 per 1,000. The next lowest on the list is Belfast Borough with 250.4 per 1,000, as compared with 359.2 per 1,000 for Mayo, the latter showing a rate of 43 per cent. higher than that for Belfast. It is also to be noted that the six counties

with the highest rates are on the western seaboard, the five lowest areas on the eastern seaboard, and the five in centre of the list are all inland counties. The difference between the provinces is not so marked, viz., Connaught with 344.7 per 1,000 as against Ulster with 276.0, the former figure being about 25 per cent. higher than the latter.

In the Census of 1911, for the first time, particulars regarding marriages as existing at the date thereof were obtained, and the results are given in the General Report of that Census—ages of husband and wife, duration of existing marriage, number of children born alive and the number who had died. In the preceding Tables, allowance was not made for the age of wife at marriage, nor for the duration of marriage, simply average annual births to every 1,000 married women (15-45 years) were given for different periods of time, the population having been taken from the Census Reports and the births from the Registrar-General's Annual Reports.

I now propose to supply more precise information regarding fertility in Ireland, England and Wales, and Scotland, by (a) ages of wives at marriage, and by (b) durations up to 20 years, which information, as before referred to, has been derived from the Census Reports of the three countries. I may observe here that it would not be possible within the ambit of this paper to give the full results of a study of the Census figures as published; indeed, one's difficulty in a paper on Vital Statistics such as this lies in curtailment rather than in amplification. Suffice it to say, that a close investigation of the Census figures by the diligent student will be amply rewarded.

It would appear from the preceding Table that during the first five years of married life among women 15 to 40 years of age at marriage, the average number of children per marriage was 1.01 for Ireland, 0.92 for England and Wales, and 1.07 for Scotland. Thus Ireland shows a rate slightly over that for England and Wales, but a fraction under that

448 *Half-a-Century's Marriages and Births in Ireland.*

TABLE H.—*Showing, by Ages of Wives at Marriage, for Ireland, England and Wales, and Scotland, the average number of Children born alive Per Married Woman, in the cases of Marriages (as existing at the date of the Census of 1911) under 5 years' duration, 5 and under 10 years, 10 to 15, and 15 to 20 years. [Derived from the Census Reports of the respective countries.]*

AGES OF WIVES AT MARRIAGE	DURATION OF MARRIAGE—UNDER 5 YEARS		
	Average number of Children per Married Woman		
	Ireland	England and Wales	Scotland
15-20 years	1.26	1.28	1.36
20-25 „	1.14	1.03	1.21
25-30 „	1.01	0.80	0.97
30-35 „	0.90	0.69	0.82
35-40 „	0.63	0.51	0.59
15-40 „	1.01	0.92	1.07
DURATION OF MARRIAGE—5 AND UNDER 10 YEARS			
15-20 years	3.20	2.92	3.19
20-25 „	3.12	2.44	2.84
25-30 „	3.01	1.98	2.37
30-35 „	2.58	1.70	2.01
15-35 „	2.98	2.27	2.63
DURATION OF MARRIAGE—10 AND UNDER 15 YEARS			
15-20 years	4.94	4.38	4.87
20-25 „	4.80	3.61	4.24
25-30 „	4.35	2.85	3.44
15-30 „	4.64	3.47	4.05
DURATION OF MARRIAGE—15 AND UNDER 20 YEARS			
15-20 years	6.47	5.69	6.31
20-25 „	6.24	4.61	5.42
15-25 „	6.30	4.84	5.61

for Scotland. In the next duration (5-10 years) for women 15-35 years at marriage it will be seen that Ireland shows an increase over the other countries not alone in the total but at each age period. A similar increase also occurs with reference to the duration 10 to 15 years for women aged 15 to 30 years of age at marriage, and for marriages 15 to 20 years in duration the ages of the wives at marriage being from 15 to 25 years. In this last category the average number of children to a marriage was, for Ireland, 6.30, for England and Wales 4.84, and for Scotland 5.61.

A feature in Table H is the light it throws on the comparative effects of delayed marriage in Ireland, England and Wales, and Scotland. In Ireland, it will be noted, the fertility among married women in the successive quinquennial age periods up to 30 years of age does not show any very material difference, while in the other countries this difference is appreciable.

As this subject is of public importance I have elaborated somewhat on the first and last sections of this Table by showing particulars relating to the size of families in the three countries.

With reference to wives who were under 5 years married at the date of the Census, and aged 15 to 35 years at date of marriage, it will be seen that 34.6 per cent. of these married women in Ireland were childless during that period of married life, the corresponding percentage of childless women in England and Wales being 35.2, and 29.6 in Scotland.

Regarding the children born, the Table shows in this short duration the tendency in Ireland to "long" families, for 22.1 per cent. of the Irish children occurred in families of 3 and upwards as against 15.2 per cent. of the English and 20.0 per cent. of the Scottish.

The children who died are represented by 83.3 per 1,000

450 *Half-a-Century's Marriages and Births in Ireland.*

TABLE I.—*Showing for Ireland, England and Wales, and Scotland, in relation to Wives 15 and under 35 years of age at Marriage, the duration of which was under 5 years at the date of the Census of 1911, the number of Children Born Alive according to size of family, with particulars regarding the Mortality and the Survivors among these children.*

IRELAND.

Size of Family	Wives Aged at Marriage, 15-35 Years		CHILDREN (MOTHERS, 15-35 YEARS OF AGE AT MARRIAGE. DURATION OF MARRIAGE, UNDER 5 YEARS)						
			Children Born Alive		Children Dead		Survivors in 1911		
	No.	Per-centage of Total	No.	Per-centage of Total	No.	Per 1,000 Born Alive in each class of Family	No.	Per 1,000 Born in each class of Family	Per-centage of Total
0	26,925	34.6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1	26,535	34.1	26,535	32.5	1,538	58.0	24,997	942.0	33.4
2	18,581	23.9	37,162	45.4	2,963	79.7	34,199	920.3	45.6
3	5,226	6.7	15,678	19.2	1,875	119.6	13,803	880.4	18.4
Over 3	573	0.7	2,873	2.9	431	181.2	1,947	818.8	2.6
Total	77,840	100.	81,753	100.	6,807	83.3	74,946	916.7	100.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

0	355,937	35.2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1	415,862	41.1	415,862	43.9	25,380	61.0	390,482	939.0	45.7
2	193,766	19.1	387,532	40.9	40,198	103.7	347,334	896.3	40.6
3	41,247	4.1	123,741	13.1	21,012	169.8	102,729	830.2	12.0
Over 3	4,833	0.5	19,816	2.1	5,262	265.5	14,554	734.5	1.7
Total	1,011,645	100.	946,951	100.	91,852	97.0	855,099	903.0	100.

SCOTLAND.

0	33,991	29.6	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1	44,967	32.9	44,967	35.7	—	—	—	—	—
2	27,848	24.2	55,696	44.3	—	—	—	—	—
3	7,110	6.2	21,330	17.0	—	—	—	—	—
Over 3	912	0.8	3,738	3.0	—	—	—	—	—
Total	114,828	100.	125,731	100.	—	—	—	—	—

born in Ireland among these families, as compared with 97.0 per 1,000 in England and Wales. Similar information for Scotland is not available. In Ireland among every thousand children born alive to mothers, 15-35 years of age at marriage and under 5 years married, 916.7 survived at the date of the Census, and, under the same conditions in England and Wales, 903.0 survived.

On the same lines the following Tables relating to married women 15 to 25 years at marriage, and 15 to 20 years married are constructed.

TABLE J. (i).—*Showing for Ireland, in relation to Wives 15 and under 25 years of age at Marriage, the duration of which was from 15 to 20 years at the date of the Census of 1911, the number of Wives and the number of Children Born Alive according to size of family, with particulars regarding the Deaths and the Survivors.*

IRELAND

Size of Family	Wives Aged at Marriage, 15-25 Years		CHILDREN (MOTHERS, 15-25 YEARS OF AGE AT MARRIAGE. DURATION OF MARRIAGE, 15-20 YEARS)						
			Children Born Alive		Children Dead		Survivors in 1911		
	No.	Per-centage of Total	No.	Per-centage of Total	No.	Per 1,000 Born Alive in each class of Family	No.	Per 1,000 Born in each class of Family	Per-centage of Total
0	1,836	5.5	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1	1,032	3.1	1,032	0.5	98	95.0	934	905.0	0.6
2	1,386	4.2	2,772	1.3	384	138.5	2,388	861.5	1.4
3	1,884	5.7	5,652	2.8	704	124.6	4,948	875.4	2.9
4	2,567	7.7	10,268	5.0	1,368	133.2	8,900	866.8	5.2
5	3,361	10.2	16,805	8.2	2,311	137.5	14,494	862.5	8.5
6	4,326	13.1	25,956	12.7	3,685	142.0	22,271	858.0	13.1
7	4,990	15.1	34,930	17.1	5,040	144.3	29,890	855.7	17.5
8	4,686	14.2	37,488	18.3	5,911	157.7	31,577	842.3	18.5
9	3,307	10.0	29,763	14.5	5,525	185.6	24,238	814.4	14.2
10	2,012	6.1	20,120	9.8	4,093	203.4	16,027	796.6	9.4
11	889	2.7	9,779	4.8	2,253	230.4	7,526	769.6	4.4
12 and over	806	2.4	10,146	5.0	2,740	270.1	7,406	729.9	4.3
Total	33,082	100.	204,711	100.	34,112	166.6	170,599	833.4	100.

TABLE J. (ii.).—*Showing, for England and Wales, in relation to Wives 15 and under 25 years of age at Marriage, the duration of which was from 15 to 20 years at the date of the Census of 1911, the number of Wives, and the number of Children Born Alive according to size of family, with particulars regarding the Deaths and the Survivors.*

ENGLAND AND WALES.

Size of Family	Wives Aged at Marriage, 15-25 Years		CHILDREN (MOTHERS, 15-25 YEARS OF AGE AT MARRIAGE. DURATION OF MARRIAGE, 15-20 YEARS)						
			Children Born Alive		Children Dead		Survivors in 1911		
	No.	Per-centage of Total	No.	Per-centage of Total	No.	Per 1,000 Born Alive in each class of Family	No.	Per 1,000 Born in each class of Family	Per-centage of Total
0	24,400	5.2	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
1	33,160	7.0	33,160	1.4	3,435	103.6	29,725	896.4	1.6
2	52,150	11.0	104,300	4.6	12,470	119.6	91,830	880.4	5.0
3	59,394	12.6	178,182	7.8	25,827	144.9	152,355	855.1	8.3
4	58,426	12.4	233,704	10.2	38,014	162.7	195,690	837.3	10.7
5	54,269	11.5	271,345	11.9	46,925	172.9	224,420	827.1	12.3
6	52,707	11.2	316,242	13.9	58,316	184.4	257,926	815.6	14.1
7	48,270	10.2	337,890	14.8	65,432	193.6	272,458	806.4	14.9
8	39,029	8.3	312,232	13.7	67,171	215.1	245,061	784.9	13.4
9	25,244	5.3	227,196	10.0	54,931	241.8	172,265	758.2	9.4
10	14,034	3.0	140,340	6.1	38,873	277.0	101,467	723.0	5.6
11	6,323	1.3	69,553	3.0	21,289	306.1	48,264	693.9	2.7
12	4,741	1.0	59,734	2.6	22,410	375.2	37,324	624.8	2.0
and over									
Total	472,147	100.	2,283,878	100.	455,093	199.3	1,828,785	800.7	100.

TABLE J. (iii.).—*Showing, for Scotland, in relation to Wives 15 and under 25 years of age at Marriage, the duration of which was from 15 to 20 years at the date of the Census of 1911, the number of Wives and the number of Children Born Alive according to size of family.*

SCOTLAND

Size of Family	WIVES AGED AT MARRIAGE, 15-25 YEARS		CHILDREN (MOTHERS, 15-25 YEARS OF AGE AT MARRIAGE). DURATION OF MARRIAGE, 15-20 YEARS	
			CHILDREN BORN ALIVE	
	Number	Percentage of Total	Number	Percentage of Total
0	2,197	4.4	.	.
1	2,030	4.0	2,030	0.7
2	3,170	6.3	6,340	2.3
3	4,389	8.8	13,167	4.7
4	5,413	10.8	21,652	7.7
5	6,236	12.4	31,180	1
6	6,570	13.1	39,420	14.0
7	6,813	13.6	47,691	16.9
8	5,995	11.9	47,960	17.0
9	3,974	7.9	35,766	12.7
10	2,015	4.0	20,150	7.2
11	842	1.7	9,262	3.3
12	547	1.1	6,864	2.4
and over				
Total	50,191	100.	281,482	100.

It would appear from the preceding Tables that in Ireland, of the wives selected, 5.5 per cent. were childless, as against 5.2 per cent. for England and Wales, and 4.4 per cent. for Scotland. Thirteen per cent. of the wives in Ireland aged 15 to 25 years at marriage were mothers of families of 3 children or under, as compared with 30.6 per cent. for England and Wales, and 19.1 per cent. for Scotland. As regards families of from 4 to 6 children, 31.0 per cent. of the Irish married women were mothers, 35.1 per cent. of

the English, and 36.3 per cent. of the Scottish, while for families of 7 children and upwards, the percentage of married women aged at marriage 15 to 25 years and married from 15 to 20 years was 50.5 in Ireland, the corresponding percentage for England and Wales being 29.1, and for Scotland 40.2.

With reference to the children born, only 4.6 per cent. in Ireland, as against 13.8 per cent. in England and Wales, and 7.7 per cent. in Scotland related to families of 3 and under; 25.9 per cent. of the children born in Ireland occurred in families 4 to 6 in size, as compared with 36.0 per cent. in England and Wales, and 32.8 per cent. in Scotland. The children belonging to families of 7 and upwards in Ireland were 69.5 per cent. of the total births; those belonging to such families in England and Wales represented 50.2 per cent., and those relating to Scotland were 59.5 per cent. of the total number of children born alive to wives whose marriage ages were from 15 to 25 years and who were married from 15 to 20 years.

In connection with mortality, it may be noted that the rate per 1,000 born alive for Ireland varied from 95.0 for families of one to 270.1 for families of 12 and upwards, as against a range from 103.6 in families of one to 375.2 in families of 12 and upwards for England and Wales.

Of the survivors at the date of the Census of 1911, only 4.9 per cent. related to families of 3 or under as against 14.9 per cent. for England and Wales; 26.8 per cent. related to families 4 to 6 children in size in comparison with 37.1 per cent. for England and Wales; for Ireland families of 7 children and upwards accounted for 68.3 per cent. of the total survivors, the corresponding percentage for England and Wales being 48.0.

It will be gathered from the foregoing :—

1. That the marriage rate for Ireland is low, and has not undergone much change during the period.

2. That the average age at marriage is appreciably higher for Ireland than that for England and Scotland.

3. That the crude birth-rate (*i.e.*, the rate per 1,000 of the total population) is comparatively low in Ireland, but has remained practically stationary for a number of years. whereas in other countries it has rapidly decreased.

4. That the real birth-rate (number of legitimate births per 1,000 married women aged 15-45 years) is much higher for Ireland than for England and Wales and Scotland.

5. That the illegitimate birth-rate is much less in Ireland than in England and Wales, and Scotland.