

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.—GENERAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1908-9.

PART I.—VITAL STATISTICS.

For the following statistics relating to birth, death, and marriage rates the Department is indebted to the returns of the Registrar-General.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered during 1908 was 25,940, or 27·45 in every 1,000 persons living. The number of births is 846 in excess of that for the year 1907, an increase of 3·37 per cent. From 1882 until the year 1899 there was a regular fall in the rate. The births registered in a year number 19,846 in 1884, and, after falling to 17,876 in 1892, have risen to 25,940 in 1908 as stated above.

The number of male children born during 1908 was 13,369, and of female children 12,571.

The following table shows the number registered, the birth-rate calculated on the total population, and comparison with the average rate for 1882-86 taken as 100. Indications of a gradual increase are apparent, the improvement since 1899 being 9·28 per cent. on the rate per 1,000 in that year.

Births, Number and Rate.

Year.	Total Number of Births registered.	Birth-rate.		Year.	Total Number of Births registered.	Birth-rate.	
		Per 1,000 of Population.	Compared with Rate in 1882-86 taken as 100.			Per 1,000 of Population.	Compared with Rate in 1882-86 taken as 100.
1882-86	19,410	35·40	100	1897	18,737	25·96	73
				1898	18,955	25·74	73
1887	19,135	32·09	91	1899	18,835	25·12	71
1888	18,902	31·22	88	1900	19,546	25·60	72
1889	18,457	30·07	85	1901	20,491	26·34	74
1890	18,278	29·44	83	1902	20,655	25·89	73
1891	18,273	29·01	82	1903	21,829	26·61	75
1892	17,876	27·83	79	1904	22,766	26·94	76
1893	18,187	27·50	78	1905	23,682	27·22	77
1894	18,528	27·28	77	1906	24,252	27·08	76
1895	18,546	26·78	76	1907	25,094	27·30	77
1896	18,612	26·33	74	1908	25,940	27·45	77

The average number of children to a marriage may be ascertained by comparing the number of legitimate births for a series of years with the marriages, but commencing with the marriages in the year preceding that for which the first number of births is taken

The figures for the twenty-year period 1889-1908 show a decline in the proportion of births to every marriage in the preceding year from 4·93 to 3·03, as below:—

Year.	Marriages.	Legitimate Births.	Proportion of Births to every Marriage solemnised in the Preceding Year.
1888	3,617
1889	3,632	17,845	4·93
1890	3,797	17,675	4·87
1891	3,805	17,635	4·64
1892	4,002	17,283	4·54
1893	4,115	17,514	4·37
1894	4,178	17,824	4·33
1895	4,110	17,711	4·24
1896	4,843	17,778	4·32
1897	4,928	17,911	3·70
1898	...	18,154	3·68
1898	5,091
1899	5,461	18,006	3·51