

HIGHEST BIRTHRATE FOR 14 YEARS -

OVER 655,000 REGISTERED IN 1942

DEATHS LOWEST OF WAR

The Quarterly Return of the Registrar-General for England and Wales (published today by H.M. Stationery Office, York House, Kingsway, W.C.1. price 6d., post-free 7d.) shows that the total number of live births registered in the last three months of 1942 was 160,679. This is the highest total for any December quarter since 1926.

For the whole of 1942, the total of live births was 655,075 - nearly 68,000 more than in 1941, and the highest yearly total registered since 1928.

The 1942 birth-rate (births registered per 1,000 of the mid-1939 population) was 15.8. This is 1.6 higher than in 1941, and the highest recorded since 1931 (when the rate was the same). The rate for the December quarter - 15.4 - was the highest since 1930, and 1.8 above the average rate for the same periods in the years 1936 to 1940.

Live births exceeded total deaths (both civilian and non-civilian) registered in England and Wales last year by 175,168, compared with 52,048 in 1941. The annual natural increase in population in the years 1936-1940 averaged 99,585.

The stillbirth rate for 1942 (33 per 1,000 total births) was the lowest on record.

FEWER MARRIAGES

Other figures given in the Registrar-General's Return are:-

Marriages. The number of marriages and the marriage rate per 1,000 were lower in 1942 than in either of the three preceding war years, but were, nevertheless, higher than any previously recorded in the past 89 years, with the exception of the boom period of 1919 and 1920, which followed the end of the last war. There were 19,258 fewer marriages than in 1941, and 102,297 fewer than in 1940, when a new high record was set up. Last year's total of 368,252 represented a rate of 17.8 persons married per 1,000 of the population. Marriages during the December quarter numbered 83,392. This was a decrease of 13,866 compared with the same period of 1941 and 19,746 below the average for the same quarters from 1936 to 1940.

Deaths. The total of 479,907 deaths in England and Wales during 1942 (including those caused by enemy action) was the lowest of the four war years. The decrease on 1941 was over 55,000 and compared with 1940 over 100,000. The death rate of 11.6 per 1,000 of the mid-1939 population was the same as that for 1938 (which was the lowest since 1930). Deaths registered during the December quarter totalled 114,727, the lowest for that period since 1934.