

QUARTERLY BIRTH RATE HIGHEST FOR FIVE YEARS

The Quarterly Return of the Registrar-General for the three months ended 31st December (issued today by H.M. Stationery Office, York House, Kingsway, W.C.2. price 6d. post free 7d.) shows that the number of births in England and Wales during the quarter was 145,106. This is the highest total for any December quarter since 1931. The birth rate per 1,000 of the population was 13.9, which is the highest in the fourth quarter since 1936. The rate in the corresponding three months of 1940 was 13.1, and the average rate for the December quarters in the five years prior to 1940 was 13.8.

Over the whole of 1941, however, the number of births was the lowest since 1933. The total was 586,778, which is 20,251 fewer than in 1940, and the rate of 14.2. compares with 14.6 in 1940 and 14.9 in 1939.

FEWER MARRIAGES

The number of marriages in England and Wales last year was fewer than those of either 1940 or 1939 but was still well in excess of the pre-war level. The total of 387,510 marriages, or a rate of 18.7 persons married per 1,000 population, compares with 468,267 in 1940, when the rate of 22.6 was the highest on record.

In the December quarter the number of marriages was 97,258. This is 14,829 fewer than in the corresponding period of 1940, and 1,188 below the average for the five years prior to 1940.

The number of deaths was 114,768 - the lowest in any December quarter since 1934. The death rate of 11.0 per 1,000 compares with 13.9 in the fourth quarter of 1940, and an average of 11.9 for the five years prior to 1940. The death rate among children under one year of age was 56 per 1,000 live births - 3 below the average of the ten preceding fourth quarters.

For the whole of 1941, deaths in England and Wales totalled 534,643, a fall of 46,894 compared with 1940.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH (General Register Office)