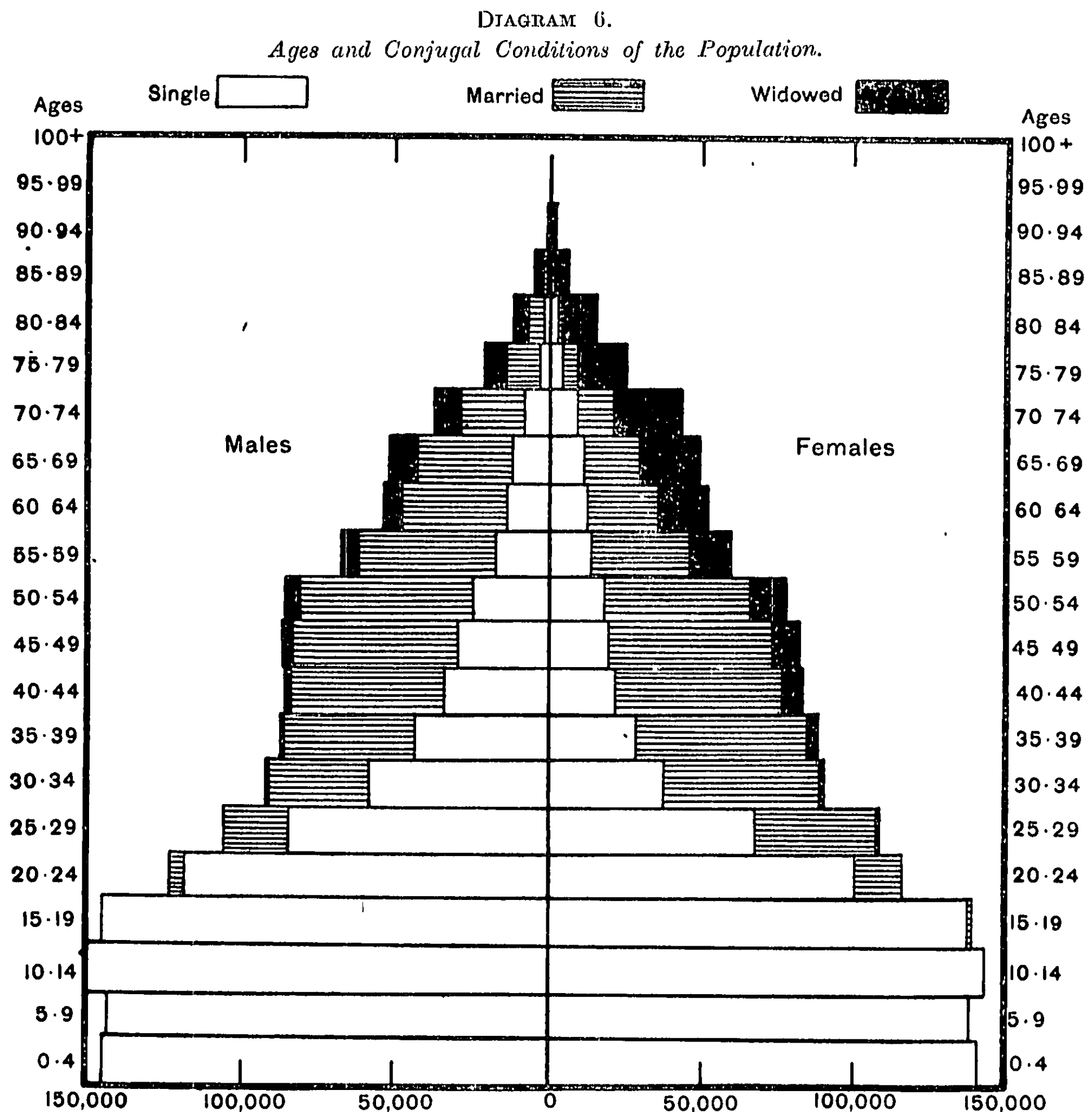


CHAPTER VI.

AGES, ORPHANHOOD AND CONJUGAL CONDITIONS, CLASSIFIED BY AREAS.

The principal results of this section of the inquiry, viz., the analysis of the population by sexes, ages and conjugal conditions, are illustrated in the following Diagram.



Conjugal Conditions.

The proportion of unmarried persons in the Saorstát at each age is much higher than in any other country, and marriages take place at a comparatively late age.

PERCENTAGE OF MALES UNMARRIED AT EACH AGE.

Country	Ages				Country	Ages			
	25-30	30-35	35-40	55-65		25-30	30-35	35-40	55-65
SAORSTÁT EIREANN ...	% 80	% 62	% 50	% 26	Czecho-Slovakia ...	% 50	% 25	% 13	% 5
Sweden ...	64	37	25	12	Netherlands ...	49	24	17	11
Finland ...	62	44	34	16	Denmark ...	49	25	16	8
Northern Ireland ...	62	42	33	21	Belgium ...	49	26	18	13
Estonia ...	61	38	23	8	Canada ...	48	28	20	11
Switzerland ...	60	34	22	13	Portugal ...	46	26	19	10
Norway ...	55	32	21	10	Germany ...	45	19	11	6
New Zealand ...	55	32	23	16	England and Wales ...	45	23	16	10
Scotland ...	54	32	23	14	Hungary ...	43	*	*	*
Italy ...	53	29	17	9	Spain ...	39	*	*	*
Australia ...	52	31	23	18	U.S.A. ...	39	24	*	10
South Africa ...	52	26	17	9					

* Figures not available for this grouping of ages.

The above figures relate to 1920 or a more recent year ; those for the Saorstát refer to 1926.

At the age of 25 to 30 the percentage of males unmarried in the Saorstát is 80 ; the next highest percentage at this age is 64 for Sweden ; the figure for England and Wales is 45 and for the U.S.A. 39. In 20 of the above 23 countries the proportion of males unmarried at 35 to 40 is less than 25%, as compared with 50% in the Saorstát. The next highest figures are Finland 34%, Northern Ireland 33%. The figure is 16% for England and Wales and for Denmark, 17% for the Netherlands and South Africa, 18% for Belgium, etc. Although our emigration is practically over at this age (35-40) and large numbers of single males have by then left the country, still the proportion unmarried at 35 to 40 is more than three times as great as in Denmark or in England and Wales. A smaller percentage of males remain unmarried in 10 of the 23 countries at age 25 to 30 than in the Saorstát at age 35 to 40.

The intention to emigrate is not the chief factor preventing marriages ; although the rate of emigration has in general been decreasing, the percentage unmarried in this country has been rapidly increasing, as the following table shows. (There was a slight improvement from 1911 to 1926).

PERCENTAGE OF MALES UNMARRIED IN THE SAORSTÁT.

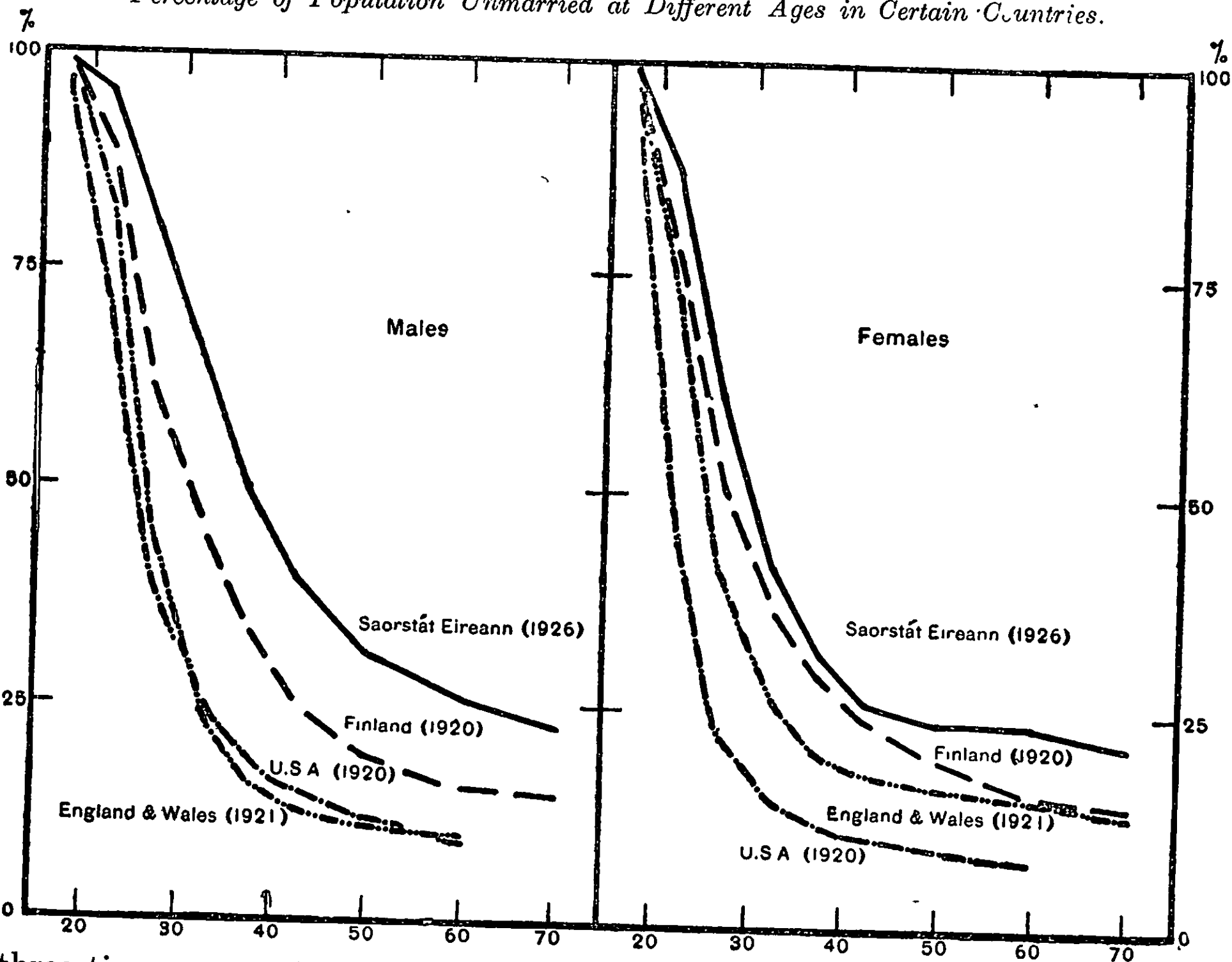
Year	Ages			
	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65
	%	%	%	%
1841*	43	15	10	*
1861	57	24	14	11
1871	57	25	16	13
1881	62	27	17	14
1891	67	33	20	16
1901	72	38	24	18
1911	74	44	29	23
1926	72	45	31	26

* Age groupings for 1841 were 26-36, 36-46, 46-56, 56 and over.

The proportion of males unmarried at 35 to 45 in 1926 (45%)—that is, at the age at which emigration is practically over—was nearly twice as great as in 1861

DIAGRAM 7.

Percentage of Population Unmarried at Different Ages in Certain Countries.



and three times as great as 1841. The proportion unmarried at 25-35 increased from 43% in 1841 to 72% in 1926.

Diagram 7 on the left shows the two countries where fewest marry (Saorstát and

Finland) and the two where most marry (England and Wales and U.S.A.). Fewest persons marry in the country which has the greatest emigration, and most of the emigrants go to the countries where the age at marriage is lowest and where the largest percentages marry.

It will be observed that in 1841 the percentages unmarried here at about 40 and 50 were much the same as the present percentages in England and Wales and in the U.S.A., but that at the age of about 30 there was always a large percentage unmarried here. The present percentages of males unmarried in England and Wales and in the U.S.A. are very similar, but those for females are much higher in England and Wales than in the U.S.A.

The percentages of females unmarried in the Saorstát are also very high (as will be seen from the following table), but the contrasts are not so marked as in the case of males.

PERCENTAGE OF FEMALES UNMARRIED.

Country	Ages				Country	Ages			
	25-30	30-35	35-40	55-65		25-30	30-35	35-40	55-65
	%	%	%	%		%	%	%	%
SAORSTÁT EIREANN ...	62	42	32	24	Denmark ...	39	25	19	14
Northern Ireland ...	52	37	31	26	Italy ...	39	23	17	10
Sweden ...	52	35	28	19	New Zealand ...	37	23	18	10
Finland ...	51	37	29	16	Germany ...	37	22	15	10
Switzerland ...	49	31	23	17	Czechoslovakia ...	36	20	13	8
Scotland ...	48	32	26	20	Australia ...	36	24	19	13
Norway ...	47	33	26	19	Spain ...	31	*	*	*
Estonia ...	46	29	21	14	Canada ...	29	17	13	10
Portugal ...	41	29	22	18	Hungary ...	27	*	*	*
England and Wales ...	41	26	20	15	South Africa ...	25	14	10	8
Netherlands ...	40	24	19	14	U.S.A. ...	23	15	*	8
Belgium ...	40	25	18	16					

* Figures not available for this grouping of ages.

Of the females aged 25 to 30 the percentage unmarried here is 62 as compared with 41 in England and Wales, 39 in Denmark, 37 in New Zealand, 36 in Australia, 29 in Canada, 25 in South Africa, and 23 in the U.S.A.

The comparison with the U.S.A. is of special interest. At age 25 to 30 the percentage of females unmarried is 62 as compared with 23 in the U.S.A. The percentage of males unmarried at 30 to 35 is 62 as compared with 24 in the U.S.A.

The percentage of females unmarried at each age has, as in the case of males, been increasing since 1841, as will be seen from the next table. (The position improved between 1911 and 1926).

PERCENTAGE OF FEMALES UNMARRIED IN SAORSTÁT EIREANN.

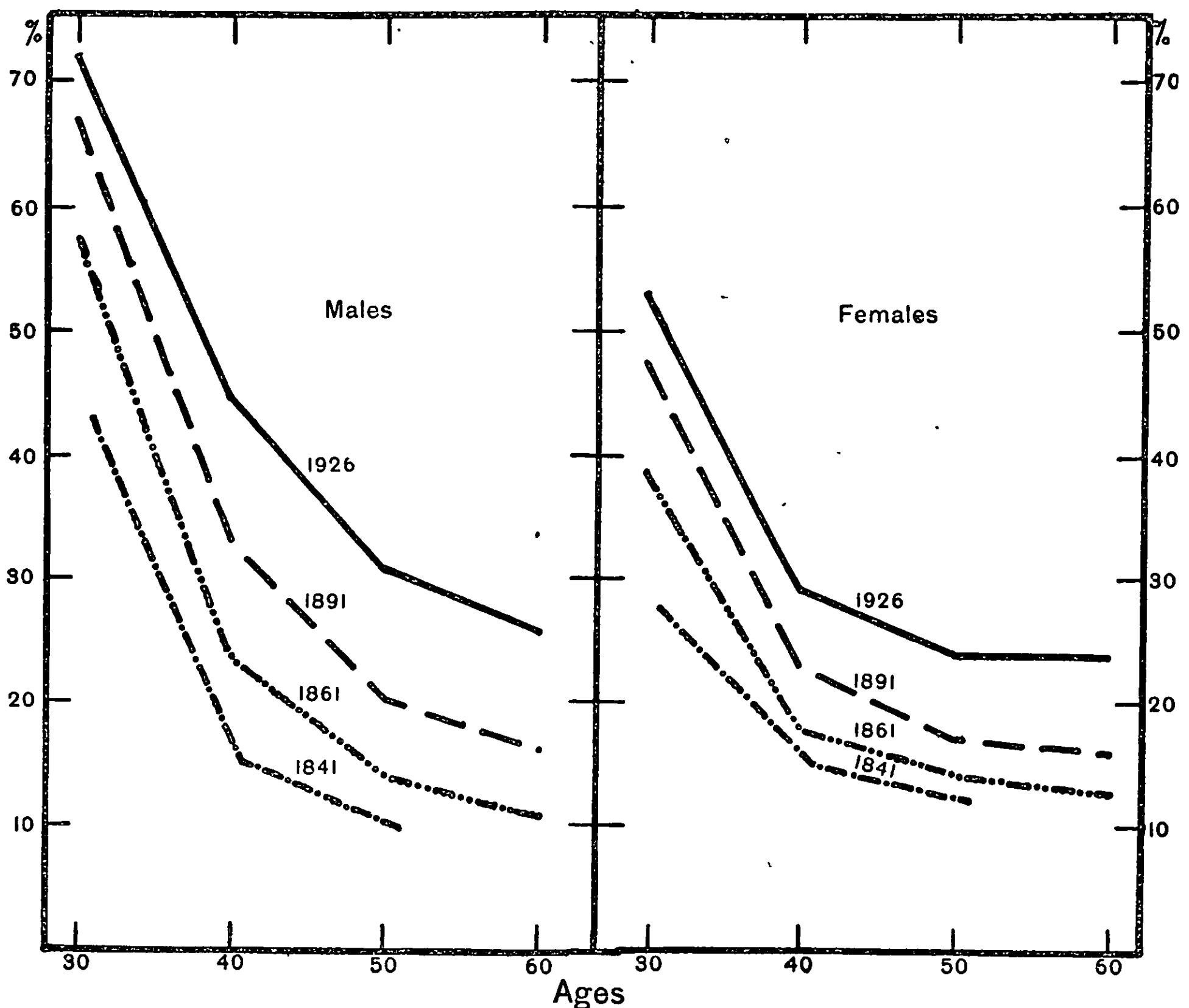
Year	Ages			
	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65
	%	%	%	%
1841* ...	28	15	12	*
1861 ...	39	18	14	13
1871 ...	38	20	15	15
1881 ...	41	19	16	14
1891 ...	48	23	17	16
1901 ...	53	28	20	17
1911 ...	55	31	24	21
1926 ...	53	29	24	24

* Age groupings for 1841 were 26-36, 36-46, 46-56, 56 and over.

The table shows that the percentage of females unmarried at each age in 1926 was about twice as great as in 1841.

The percentages of females unmarried here at each age in 1926 was about 50% greater than in England and Wales, and nearly three times as great as in the U.S.A.

DIAGRAM 8.
Percentage of Population Unmarried at Different Ages in Saorstát Éireann 1841-1926.



The table preceding the above diagram shows that the percentage of females unmarried at 55 to 65 at each Census was practically the same as at 45 to 55 at the previous Census. The percentage remaining unmarried at 45 to 55 may be taken as the percentage of those remaining in this country who never marry. Accordingly, as this was 24% in 1926, the latest statistics indicate that one out of every four women who remain in this country never marry. But as this 24% refers to women aged 45 to 55 in 1926, the corresponding future percentage for females aged say 20 to 25 now may be somewhat different, as the proportion increased from one in six (16%) in 1881 to one in five (20%) in 1901, and to one in four in 1926 (24%).

The 12% unmarried at age 45-55 in 1841 probably reflects the marriage rate about 20 years earlier, say about 1821, and the increase in this percentage after 1841 presumably indicates a decreased marriage rate from about 1821 onwards. Possibly the rate had been decreasing before then.

When comparing for a particular year the percentage unmarried at, say 25 to 30, with that at, say 45 to 55, it should be remembered that the latter is lower not only because of the marriages which take place between these ages, but also on account of at least three other causes acting in the same direction (a) the percentage for the older age reflects a marriage rate of an earlier period, (b) the percentage has also been affected by a larger emigration, and emigration over a longer period, and (c) death rates are higher for unmarried than for married.

Rural and Urban Areas.

The next table and Diagram 9 based upon it contrast the percentages unmarried at each age in the rural areas with the corresponding percentages in the cities and towns.

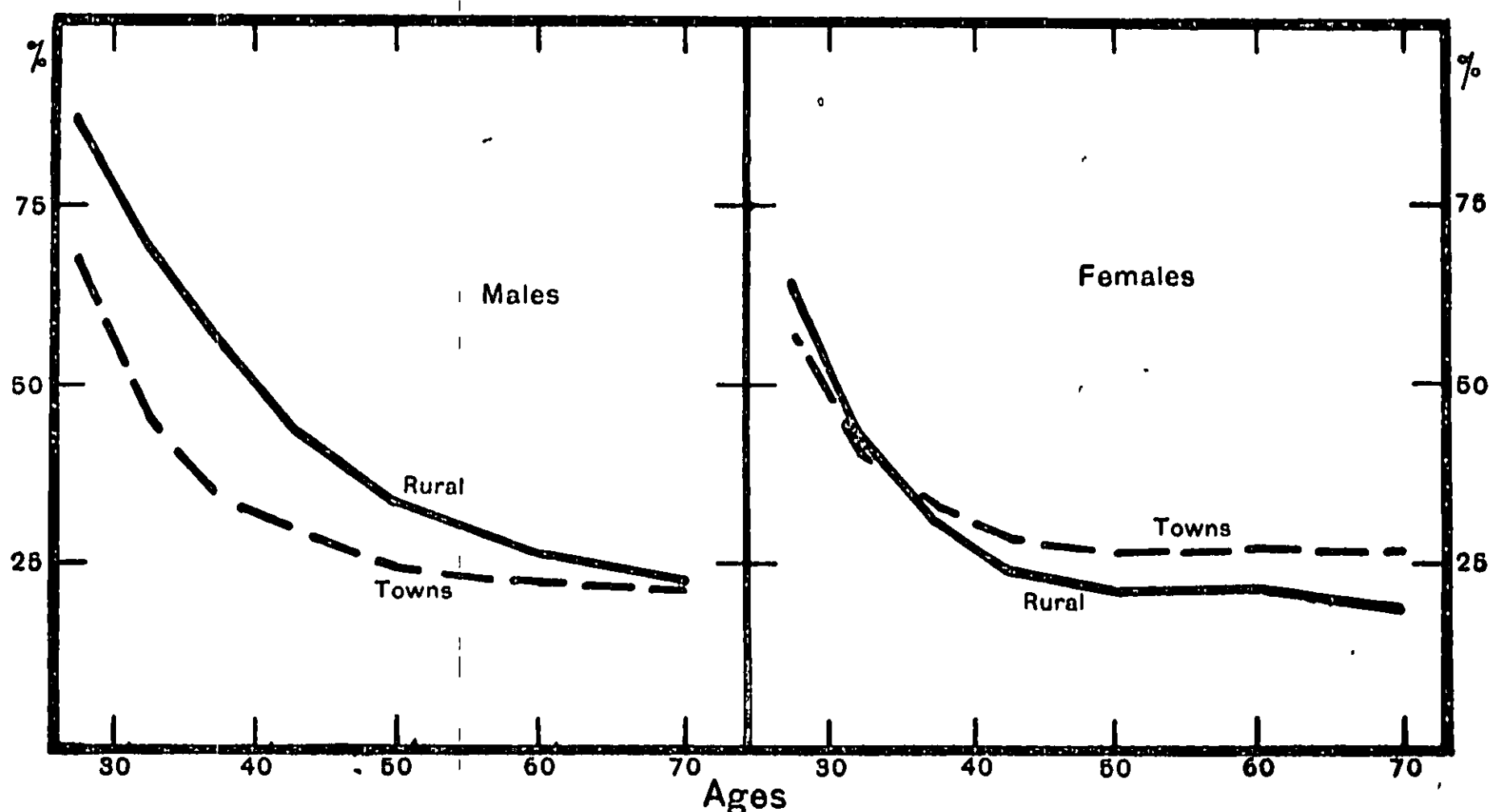
PERCENTAGE UNMARRIED IN THE SAORSTÁT.

	Ages								
	25-30	30-35	35-40	40-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75 and over	All over 25
Males :—	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Rural Areas	87	71	57	45	34	27	23	16	44
Town Areas	68	46	35	31	25	23	22	19	36
Females :—									
Rural Areas	65	43	32	25	22	22	19	14	30
Town Areas	57	40	33	29	27	28	27	26	35

The percentages of males unmarried at each age are higher in the rural areas than in the towns (being much higher in the earlier ages, *e.g.*, 71 as compared with 46 for

DIAGRAM 9.

Percentage of Population Unmarried at Different Ages in Town and Rural Areas.



age 30 to 35), but while the percentages of females unmarried at ages under 35 are also higher in the country than in the town, the percentages for females over 35 are lower. Taking all ages from 25 onwards, there is a larger percentage of females unmarried in the towns (35%) than in the rural areas (30%). The percentage of unmarried females over 75 in the towns (26%) is very high as compared with rural areas (14%). In the town areas the percentage of females unmarried is higher than the percentage of males for each age group from 45 onwards.

Individual Cities and Towns.

It will be seen from the following table that in the Saorstát the smaller the town the larger the percentage unmarried at 25 to 35.

PERCENTAGE UNMARRIED AT AGES 25 TO 35.

	Dublin and Suburbs	Other County Boroughs	Other towns with over 10,000 inhabitants	Towns with 5,000 to 10,000 inhabitants	Towns with 1,500 to 5,000 inhabitants	Rest of Saorstát
Males ...	% 53	% 56	% 62	% 64	% 65	% 79
Females ...	49	49	48	52	55	54

While the percentage of males unmarried in our towns at the earlier ages is much lower than in the country, it is much higher than in the towns in other countries.

PERCENTAGES UNMARRIED IN CITIES AT AGES 25 TO 35.

Males.—Cork City, 57 ; Dublin and Suburbs, 53 ; Oslo, 49 ; San Francisco, 47 ; Londonderry, 47 ; Edinburgh, 45 ; Glasgow, 42 ; Belfast, 41 ; Sydney, 38 ; Liverpool, 38 ; New York, 37 ; Copenhagen, 37 ; London, 34 ; Manchester, 33.

Females.—Oslo, 52 ; Cork, 50 ; Dublin and Suburbs, 49 ; Edinburgh, 47 ; Londonderry, 46 ; Belfast, 41 ; Copenhagen, 40 ; Glasgow, 39 ; London, 37 ; Manchester, 36 ; Liverpool, 34 ; Sydney, 33 ; New York, 26 ; San Francisco, 26.

The only towns in the Saorstát with a percentage of males unmarried at age 25 to 35 less than that for Dublin and Suburbs (53%) are Killester (a new town built for ex-soldiers) near Dublin, 19% ; Terenure, 49% ; Dalkey, 51%, and Tramore, 52%. The towns with over 75% of males unmarried at 25 to 35 are:—Bantry, 83% ; Rush, 80% ; Lismore and Killarney, 79% ; Dingle, Kinsale and Fethard, 77% ; Clonakilty and Caherciveen, 76%.

The only towns with less than 45% of females unmarried at 25 to 35 are:—Killester, 12% ; Newbridge, 36% ; Kildare, 37% ; Arklow, 39% ; Ballina and Roscrea, 40% ; Mullingar, Athlone, Cootehill and Templemore, 43% ; Belturbet and Ballybay, 44%.

The towns with 60% or more of females unmarried at 25 to 35 are:—Greystones, 69% ; Castlebar, 66% ; Killarney, Killiney and Ballybrack, 65% ; Monaghan, 64% ; Bantry, 63% ; Macroom, 62% ; Ballinasloe and Caherciveen, 61% ; Clonakilty, 60%.

Rural Areas.

The following were the percentages of males unmarried at 25 to 30 in the rural districts of each county in 1926:—Dublin, 73 ; Kildare, 78 ; Wicklow and Wexford, 82 ; Louth and Limerick, 83 ; Kilkenny and Carlow, 84 ; Meath and Monaghan, 85 ; Westmeath, Tipperary S.R., and Offaly, 86. Then come Waterford, Longford and Donegal, 87 ; Tipperary, N.R., Kerry and Clare, 88 ; Laoighis, Cavan and Cork, 89 ; Mayo, Galway, Sligo and Leitrim, 90 ; Roscommon, 91.

It will be noticed from the foregoing that the percentages of males unmarried at 25 to 30 in the eastern counties are lower than in the western ; the five in Connacht come last on the list. But the above order is changed by emigration, and eventually fewer males remain unmarried in the West than in the East, as the following list shows. The percentages of males unmarried at 65 to 75 in the rural areas in 1926 were:—Meath and Westmeath, 33 ; Wicklow, Laoighis and Louth, 31 ; Kildare, Offaly and Wexford, 29 ; Donegal and Kilkenny, 28 ; Carlow, Tipperary, N.R., Dublin and Waterford, 27 ; Monaghan, 25 ; Cavan and Tipperary, S.R., 23. Next in order are Clare, 23 ; Longford, 22 ; Limerick, 21 ; Sligo and Cork, 20 ; Leitrim, Roscommon and Galway, 18 ; Kerry, 16 ; Mayo, 12.

While only one in every eight males aged 65 to 75 were unmarried in rural Mayo in 1926, one in every three were unmarried at this age in the rural areas of Meath and Westmeath.

The position as regards females is much the same. The following were the percentages of females unmarried in 1926 aged 20 to 25 in the rural areas of each county ; Kildare, 80 ; Wicklow, 83 ; Westmeath, Carlow and Wexford, 85 ; Meath, Offaly and Monaghan, 86 ; Dublin, Laoighis, Louth and Kilkenny, 87 ; Tipperary, S.R. and N.R., and Donegal, 88. Next in order come Longford, Cavan and Galway, 89 ; Limerick, Waterford and Clare, 90 ; Roscommon, Leitrim, Mayo and Sligo, 91 ; Kerry and Cork, 93.

While females thus get married at earlier ages in the eastern than in the western counties, eventually a larger percentage are unmarried in the East than in the West as the next list shows. The percentages of females unmarried in 1926 at ages 45 to 55 in the rural areas were:—Dublin, 30 ; Westmeath, Wexford and Donegal, 29 ; Louth,

Offaly, Meath and Kilkenny, 27 ; Carlow, 26 ; Monaghan, Laoighis and Waterford, 25 ; Tipperary, N.R., 24 ; Wicklow, Kildare and Longford, 23. Then come Tipperary, S.R., Limerick and Cork, 22 ; Cavan and Clare, 21 ; Sligo, 20 ; Roscommon, 19 ; Galway, Leitrim and Mayo, 16 ; Kerry, 14.

The following table for a typical eastern and a typical western county brings out the difference more clearly :—

PERCENTAGE UNMARRIED IN RURAL AREAS AT THE UNDERMENTIONED AGES.

Rural Areas	Ages							
	25-30	30-35	35-40	40-45	45-55	55-65	65-75	75 and over
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Males :—								
Kildare	78	62	53	44	39	33	29	20
Mayo	90	71	54	40	25	17	12	8
Females :—								
Kildare	56	35	29	25	23	24	23	17
Mayo	64	40	27	19	16	15	12	7

At the earlier ages the percentages unmarried in the rural areas are higher, but at the later ages lower in the West than in the East. It will be observed how rapidly the percentage of unmarried males in Mayo decreases from 40 to 50 and from 50 to 60. The percentage of males unmarried at 55 to 65 in Kildare (33%) is twice as high as in Mayo (17%).

Number of Children ; effective fertility.

It will be seen from the following table that in proportion to our population we have few married women of child-bearing age, that is, few under 45 years of age.

MARRIED WOMEN UNDER 45 YEARS PER 1,000 OF POPULATION.

Country	No.	Country	No.	Country	No.
SAORSTAT EIREANN ...	74	Estonia	108	Belgium	122
Northern Ireland ...	91	Netherlands	109	New Zealand	123
Finland	92	Denmark	112	Canada	125
Norway	94	Czechoslovakia	119	Germany	125
Switzerland	104	Italy	119	South Africa	127
Scotland	105	Australia	121	Hungary	139
Portugal	106	England and Wales	121	U.S.A.	142

The above figures refer to 1920 or a later year ; those for the Saorstát refer to 1926.

In proportion to our population we have only half as many married women under 45 years as there are in the U.S.A., with its rapidly increasing population ; the proportion here is only 61% of that in England and Wales and only 66% of that in Denmark.

But our married women on an average rear far more children than those in other countries, as will be seen from the next table.

CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS PER 100 MARRIED WOMEN UNDER 45 YEARS.

Country	Year	No. of children	Country	Year	No. of children
SAORSTAT EIREANN ...	1926	131	Denmark ...	1921	93
Norway ...	1920	118	Australia ...	1921	91
Finland* ...	1926	114	New Zealand* ...	1926	82
Northern Ireland ...	1926	111	Switzerland ...	1920	81
Netherlands ...	1920	104	Latvia ...	1920	80
Sweden ...	1920	103	U.S.A. ...	1920	77
South Africa ...	1921	97	Germany ...	1925	75
Canada ...	1921	96	England and Wales†	1927	71
Portugal ...	1920	95			

* Official estimate of children in 1926 under 5 per 100 married women in 1920 under 45.

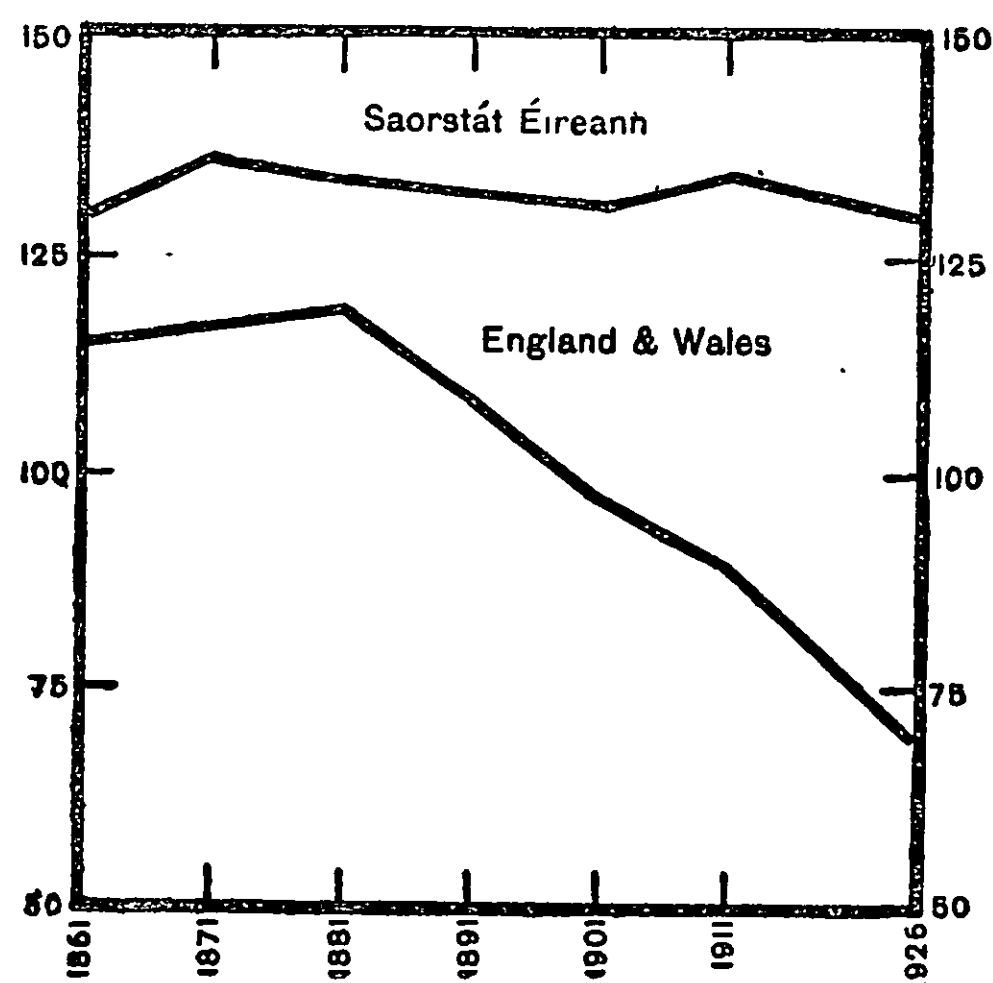
† Official estimate of children in 1927 under 5 per 100 married women in 1921 under 45.

The foregoing table shows that married women under 45 years of age here rear on an average 18% more children under 5 than in Northern Ireland, 36% more than in Canada, 41% more than in Denmark, 44% more than in Australia, 70% more than in the U.S.A., and 85% more than in England and Wales.

The next table and Diagram 10 based on it show that the number of children reared per 100 married women has remained practically unchanged in this country since the Census of 1861, but that in England and Wales there was a great decrease since the Census of 1881.

DIAGRAM 10.

Number of Children under 5 Years of Age per 100 Married Women under 45 Years of Age in Saorstát Eireann and in England and Wales, 1861-1926.



NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS PER 100 MARRIED WOMEN UNDER 45 YEARS.

	1861	1871	1881	1891	1901	1911	1926 and 1927
Saorstát Eireann ...	130	137	134	133	132	135	131
England and Wales	116	118	120	110	98	90	71

The last figure for England and Wales is based on the official estimate for 1927 and is accordingly quite unaffected by the absence of husbands during the War. From 1881 to 1927 the number of children under 5 per 100 married women of child-bearing age decreased in England and Wales by 41%.

The older the age of a married woman, the less the chance of her giving birth to a child, and accordingly as our married women under 45 are on an average older than those in other countries, the true contrasts for effective fertility are even more striking than those already given.

The following table shows the age distribution of the married women under 45 :—

Country	15 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	Total under 45	Country	15 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	Total under 45
	%	%	%	%	%		%	%	%	%	%
SAORSTÁT EIREANN...	26	23	26	25	100	Denmark ...	33	24	23	20	100
Switzerland ...	28	24	24	24	100	Norway ...	34	23	22	21	100
New Zealand ...	30	24	24	22	100	Italy ...	34	23	22	21	100
England and Wales	31	24	23	22	100	Australia ...	35	25	22	18	100
Finland ...	31	24	23	22	100	Portugal ...	35	23	22	20	100
Scotland ...	32	23	23	22	100	Czechoslovakia ...	37	22	22	19	100
Netherlands ...	32	24	23	21	100	Canada ...	38	22	22	18	100
Estonia ...	32	24	23	21	100	South Africa ...	39	23	21	17	100
Belgium ...	32	23	23	22	100	Hungary ...	43	20	20	17	100
Northern Ireland ...	32	23	23	22	100	U.S.A. ...	43	21	36		100
Germany ...	32	24	23	21	100						

It will be observed that our proportion of child-bearing married women under 30 is lowest—26% as compared with 43% in the U.S.A. ; our proportion at 40 to 45 is highest, 25% as compared with 17% in South Africa and Hungary. (The proportion for the U.S.A. is presumably about 16% but is not available). Our proportion at 35 to 40 is also highest.

The following shows the average age of husbands and wives married in the Saorstát in 1925-26 (based on Census Statistics for Marriages of under one year's duration), and in England and Wales in 1926, according to the Annual Report of the Registrar-General, London :—

AVERAGE AGE AT MARRIAGE.

	Husbands	Wives	Difference
	years	years	years
Saorstát Eireann ...	34.9	29.1	5.8
England and Wales ...	29.1	26.6	2.5
Difference ...	5.8	2.5	3.3

The average age of our child-bearing married women is considerably greater than in other countries. If the ages of the married women in other countries had been the same as here, the following would have been the approximate number of children under 5 years per 100 married women under 45.

Country	Year	No. of children	Country	Year	No. of children
SAORSTÁT EIREANN ...	1926	131	Canada ...	1921	83
Norway ...	1920	108	Australia ...	1921	81
Finland ...	1926	106	Switzerland ...	1920	79
Northern Ireland ...	1926	104	New Zealand ...	1926	78
Sweden ...	1920	97	Latvia ...	1920	73
Netherlands ...	1920	96	Germany ...	1925	70
Denmark ...	1921	86	England and Wales ...	1927	67
Portugal ...	1920	84	U.S.A. ...	1920	63
South Africa ...	1921	84			

From the above it will be seen that married women of the same age rear twice as many children here as in the U.S.A. and nearly twice as many as in England and Wales.

The number of children under 5 per 100 married women under 45 is greater in the Western than in the Eastern administrative counties. The following were the figures for 1926 :—Mayo, 153 ; Donegal, 152 ; Galway, 150 ; Kerry, 149 ; Limerick,

141 ; Clare and Monaghan, 140 ; Leitrim, Kilkenny, Laoighis and Roscommon, 139 ; Longford, Cavan and Sligo, 138 ; Offaly, 136 ; Tipperary, N.R., Louth and Carlow, 135 ; Meath, 133 ; Waterford, Wexford and Westmeath, 132 ; Kildare, 131 ; Tipperary, S.R., 130 ; Cork, 125 ; Wicklow, 124 ; Dublin, 122. See maps facing page 88.

Married women rear 25% more children in Co. Mayo than in Co. Dublin (excluding not only the City, but also the four adjoining Urban Districts).

The number of children under 5 per 100 married women under 45 is greater in rural areas than in the cities and towns with over 1,500 inhabitants. The figures for the County Boroughs in 1926 were—Dublin City, 113 ; Cork City, 115 ; Limerick City, 118 ; Waterford City, 124. The following were the figures for Dublin Suburbs and neighbouring towns :—Greystones, 82 ; Howth, 87 ; Rathmines and Rathgar, 89 ; Killiney and Ballybrack, 91 ; Dalkey and Terenure, 95 ; Blackrock, 99 ; Pembroke, 102 ; Dun Laoghaire, 109.

Dependents, Widows and Orphans.

Whether the proportions of children, old persons and widows are compared in different countries by relating their numbers to the active population or to the total population, the same general impression will be obtained ; the proportion of the active population (which is assumed to be measured by the numbers between the ages of 15 and 65) does not vary so considerably from country to country as the following tables show.

PERSONS BETWEEN 15 AND 65 YEARS PER 100 OF TOTAL POPULATION.

Country	Year	%	Country	Year	%	Country	Year	%
France*	1926	69	Czecho Slovakia	1921	65	Denmark	1921	62
Austria*	1923	69	Finland*	1926	65	SAORSTÁT EIREANN	1926	62
Belgium	1920	69	Scotland	1921	65	Netherlands	1920	62
Germany	1925	68	Hungary	1920	64	Portugal	1920	61
Latvia	1925	68	Sweden*	1925	64	Canada	1920	61
England and Wales*	1927	68	Australia	1921	64	Norway	1921	60
Esthonia	1922	67	U.S.A.	1920	63	Poland	1921	60
Switzerland	1920	66	Nth. Ireland	1926	63	South Africa	1921	60
New Zealand*	1927	66	Italy	1921	62	Japan	1918	59

* Published official estimate. Figures for countries not marked with an asterisk are Census figures.

Children under 15.

Notwithstanding the great fertility of our women, the community as a whole has a low birth-rate, having fewer and later marriages than other countries. The lateness of marriage has a double effect, the later the age at marriage the fewer the children per annum and the shorter the child-bearing period. These opposing tendencies have the effect of leaving us with a normal proportion of children under 15, as the following table shows :—

CHILDREN UNDER 15 YEARS PER 100 PERSONS 15 TO 65 YEARS.

Country	Year	No.	Country	Year	No.	Country	Year	No.
South Africa	1921	62	U.S.A.	1920	50	Sweden*	1925	43
Japan	1918	59	Australia	1921	50	Switzerland	1920	42
Poland	1921	59	Hungary	1920	48	Esthonia	1922	38
Canada	1921	57	SAORSTÁT EIREANN	1926	47	Germany...	1925	38
Portugal	1920	53	Nth. Ireland	1926	46	England and Wales*	1927	37
Norway	1920	53	Scotland	1921	46	Austria*	1923	36
Netherlands	1920	53	Czecho Slovakia	1921	45	Belgium	1920	36
Denmark	1921	50	New Zealand*	1927	45	Latvia	1925	36
Italy	1921	50	Finland*	1926	44	France*	1926	32

* Published official estimate. Figures for countries not marked with an asterisk are Census figures.

The Saorstát is thirteenth down this list of 27 countries, and the figure of 47 is half way between the two extremes, South Africa 62 and France 32 per 100 of the active population. (It can also be seen, without going into the exact figures, that the number of school children is neither abnormally large nor small).

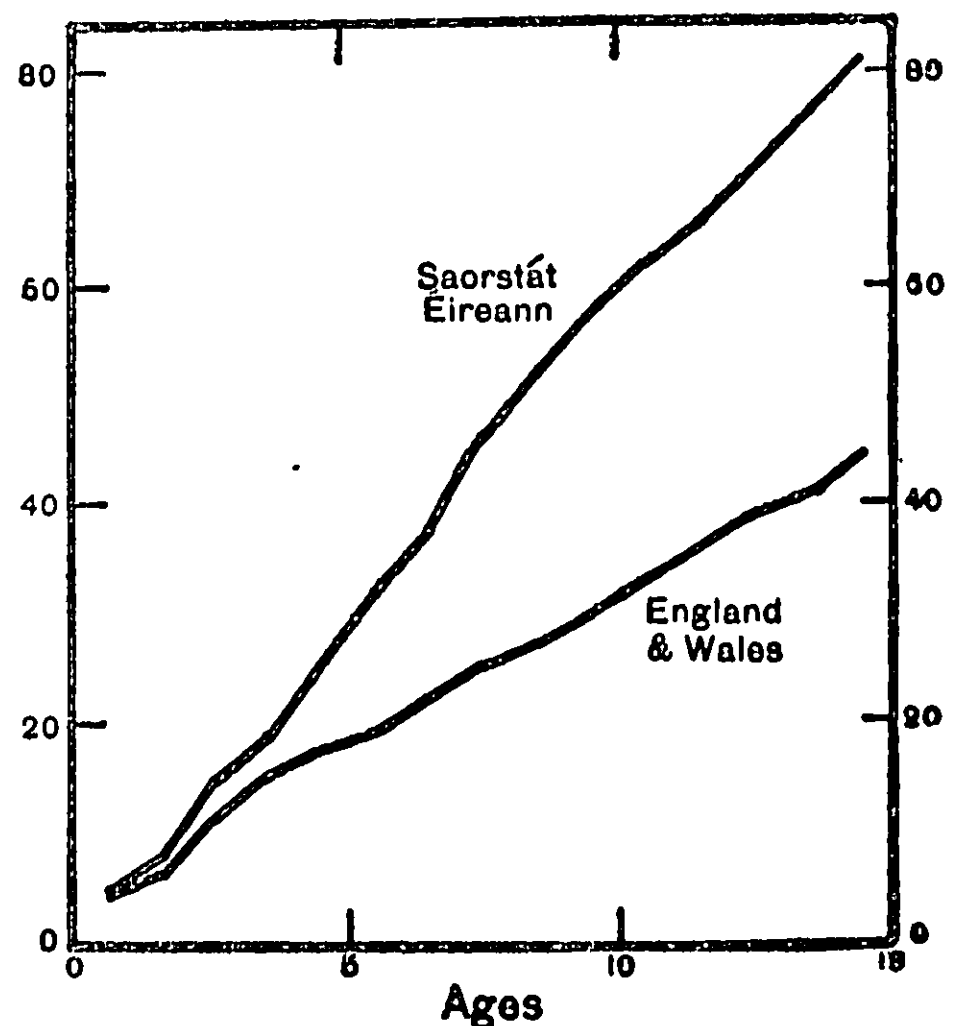
Orphans under 15.

The proportion of children under 15 in Saorstát Eireann is about normal, but we can immediately anticipate that we must have an abnormally large number of orphans, as the age at which our people marry is so much later than in other countries and, accordingly, the death rates of parents of young children are so much greater. The proportion of fatherless children in Great Britain in 1921 was abnormally large on account of the numbers of deaths caused by the European War, but the proportions of motherless children shown in Diagram 11 were not thus affected.

The strong contrasts for motherless children must be much less marked than the normal contrasts for fatherless children, as the age at marriage of our men is more abnormal than that of our women.

The data from which the diagram was prepared are given in the next table.

DIAGRAM 11.
Number of Children at Ages 0-14 with Father Alive but Mother Dead per 1,000 Children at each Age in Saorstát Eireann (1926) and England and Wales (1921).



CHILDREN OF EACH AGE WITH FATHER ALIVE BUT MOTHER DEAD PER 1,000 CHILDREN OF THAT AGE.

Country	Age last birthday														
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Saorstát Eireann ...	5	8	15	19	25	32	37	46	52	58	62	66	71	77	81
England and Wales ...	4	6	11	15	17	19	22	25	27	30	33	36	39	41	44

The table is read thus. Out of every 1,000 children in 1926 aged, say, 5 last birthday in Saorstát Eireann 32 had father alive but mother dead, the corresponding figure in England and Wales in 1921 was 19. At 14 years of age 8.1% of the children in Saorstát Eireann have father alive but mother dead, as compared with 4.4% in England and Wales, or nearly twice as high a percentage. The much larger proportion of children orphaned at, say, 14 than at, say, 5 is, of course, due to the fact that the parents of the latter go through only 5 years of risk, the parents of the former having an additional 9 years of greater risk.

The following is a comparison for all children, males and females, under 15 :—

PROPORTION OF CHILDREN UNDER 15, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO ORPHANHOOD CONDITIONS.

Country	Year	Both parents alive	Father dead but mother alive	Mother dead but father alive	Both parents dead	No information	Total
Saorstát Eireann ...	1926	880	59	44	8	9	1000
Northern Ireland ...	1926	897	58	35	7	3	1000
Scotland ...	1921	882	72	32	8	6	1000
England and Wales	1921	887	70	25	5	13	1000

As 44 per 1,000 of Saorstát children had mother dead but father alive, as compared with 25 per 1,000 in England and Wales, or a proportion of 76% larger, presumably the Saorstát proportion of fatherless children is normally more than 76% greater than the proportion in England and Wales. But the proportion in 1926 was less than in England and Wales and than in Scotland for the reason already mentioned. The proportion of fatherless children under 15 in the Saorstát in 1926 was 67 per 1,000 (59+8), as compared with 75 in England and Wales in 1921.

The following shows the actual numbers of children under 15 in the Saorstát in 1926, classified by orphanhood conditions :—

	Both parents alive	Father dead but mother alive	Mother dead but father alive	Both parents dead	No informa- tion	Total under 15
Males	388,974	26,305	19,194	3,362	3,916	441,751
Females	371,981	24,921	18,890	3,280	4,056	426,128
Total	763,955	51,226	38,084	6,642	7,972	867,879

The number with father dead, 57,868 (i.e., 51,226 + 6,642) is much greater than the number with mother dead, 44,726, because of the older ages of fathers and the fact that for the same age men have a higher death rate than women.

The following contrasts between the cities and towns and the rural areas in the Saorstát are of interest :—

NUMBER OF ORPHANS PER 1,000 CHILDREN IN SAORSTÁT CITIES AND TOWNS IN 1926,
WITH CORRESPONDING FIGURES FOR RURAL AREAS.

	Father dead but mother alive		Mother dead but father alive		Both parents dead		Married under 30 as % of married under 45	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Town Areas	70	72	38	42	8	11	22	31
Rural Areas	55	52	46	45	8	6	13	23
Saorstát	60	58	43	44	8	8	17	26

Notwithstanding the older age of fathers in rural areas, there is a much smaller percentage of fatherless children there than in the towns. It must be remembered that the figures are expressed per 1,000 children, and it is suggested that the larger figures for town areas are due rather to the location of orphanages, etc., in towns than to the higher death rates of fathers in town areas. In this connection, however, as so many of the children in the country live on farms which after the fathers' deaths are carried on by the widows, the proportion of fatherless children born in the country who are cared for in orphanages, etc., is presumably less than the proportion of town orphans. The proportion of motherless children is greater in the country than in the towns, due presumably to the older ages of mothers in the country and to the fact that much fewer of these children than of fatherless children are sent to the town orphanages. It will also be observed that the proportion of female orphans is in each of the three classifications higher in the towns but lower in the country than the proportion of males; presumably more female than male children are cared for in orphanages, etc.

Widows.

The lateness of marriage of males, the low death rates of elderly women and the fact that the latter are the survivors of a large generation, result in a comparatively large number of widows, although marriages here are proportionately fewer than in other countries.

WIDOWS OF ALL AGES PER 1,000 OF THE POPULATION 15 TO 65 YEARS.

Country	Year	No.	Country	Year	No.	Country	Year	No.
Esthonia ...	1922	103	Finland ...	1920	70	Belgium ...	1920	59
Czecho Slovakia ...	1921	88	Northern Ireland ...	1926	68	U.S.A. ...	1920	58
Hungary ...	1920	87	Norway ...	1920	66	Netherlands ...	1920	48
Austria ...	1920	83	Switzerland ...	1920	66	Australia ...	1921	48
Bulgaria ...	1920	74	England and Wales	1921	65	New Zealand ...	1921	47
SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN	1926	74	Scotland ...	1921	64	Canada ...	1921	44
Italy ...	1921	73	Denmark ...	1921	61	South Africa ...	1921	44

In 1926 for every 1,000 persons aged 15 to 65 we had 74 widows, as compared with 65 in England and Wales in 1921, 61 in Denmark, 58 in the U.S.A., 48 in the Netherlands, 44 in Canada.

As widows 70 or over are entitled to old age pensions, it is of importance in the present connection to note that 41% of our widows in 1926 were 70 or over, as compared with 36% in Northern Ireland in the same year, and as compared with 30% in Scotland and 29% in England and Wales in 1921.

Much further information on widowhood, orphanhood and dependency questions is published in Volume IX, which is analysed later in Chapter X of this Volume.

Persons 65 or over.

We have an abnormally large proportion of persons 65 or over, as the following table shows. (The age 65 rather than 70 has been taken as likely to give more accurate contrasts).

PERSONS AGED 65 YEARS OR OVER PER 100 PERSONS AGED 15 TO 65 YEARS.

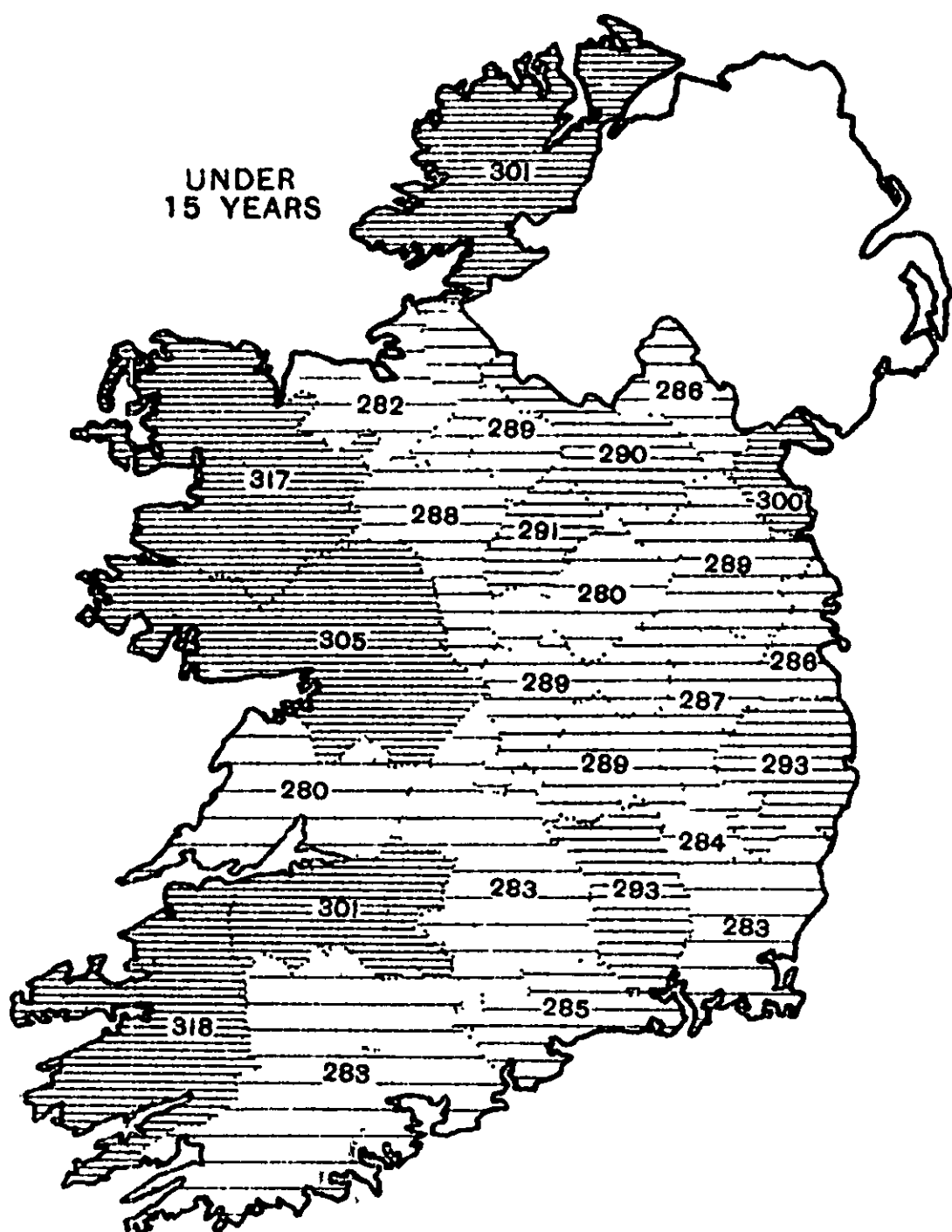
Country	Year	No.	Country	Year	No.	Country	Year	No.
SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN	1926	14.8	Finland ...	1920	9.7	Switzerland ...	1920	8.8
Sweden ...	1920	13.4	Portugal ...	1920	9.7	Hungary ...	1920	8.7
France ...	1921	13.3	Japan ...	1918	9.6	Germany ...	1925	8.4
Northern Ireland	1926	12.9	Netherlands ...	1920	9.6	Canada ...	1921	7.9
Norway ...	1920	12.8	Belgium ...	1920	9.5	New Zealand ...	1921	7.7
Esthonia ...	1922	11.2	Scotland ...	1921	9.3	U.S.A. ...	1920	7.4
Denmark ...	1921	11.0	Austria ...	1920	9.1	Poland ...	1921	7.0
Latvia ...	1925	11.0	England and Wales	1921	9.1	Australia ...	1921	6.9
Italy ...	1921	10.9	Czecho Slovakia	1921	8.9	South Africa ...	1921	5.4

Our proportion of persons aged 65 or over is highest. It is 35% greater than that for Denmark, 63% greater than that for England and Wales, 76% greater than in Germany, twice as great as in the U.S.A. or Australia, and nearly three times as great as in South Africa. An old age pension scheme is accordingly a proportionately heavier burthen here than in any other country. The more rapidly a population has increased, the smaller the proportion of old persons; or the more rapidly a population has decreased the larger the proportion. In this connection, however, it must be remembered that the older our people the greater generally was the loss through emigration. Our large number of persons aged over 65 can, at least partly, be explained by the low death rates of such persons in this country, a matter which will be referred to later.

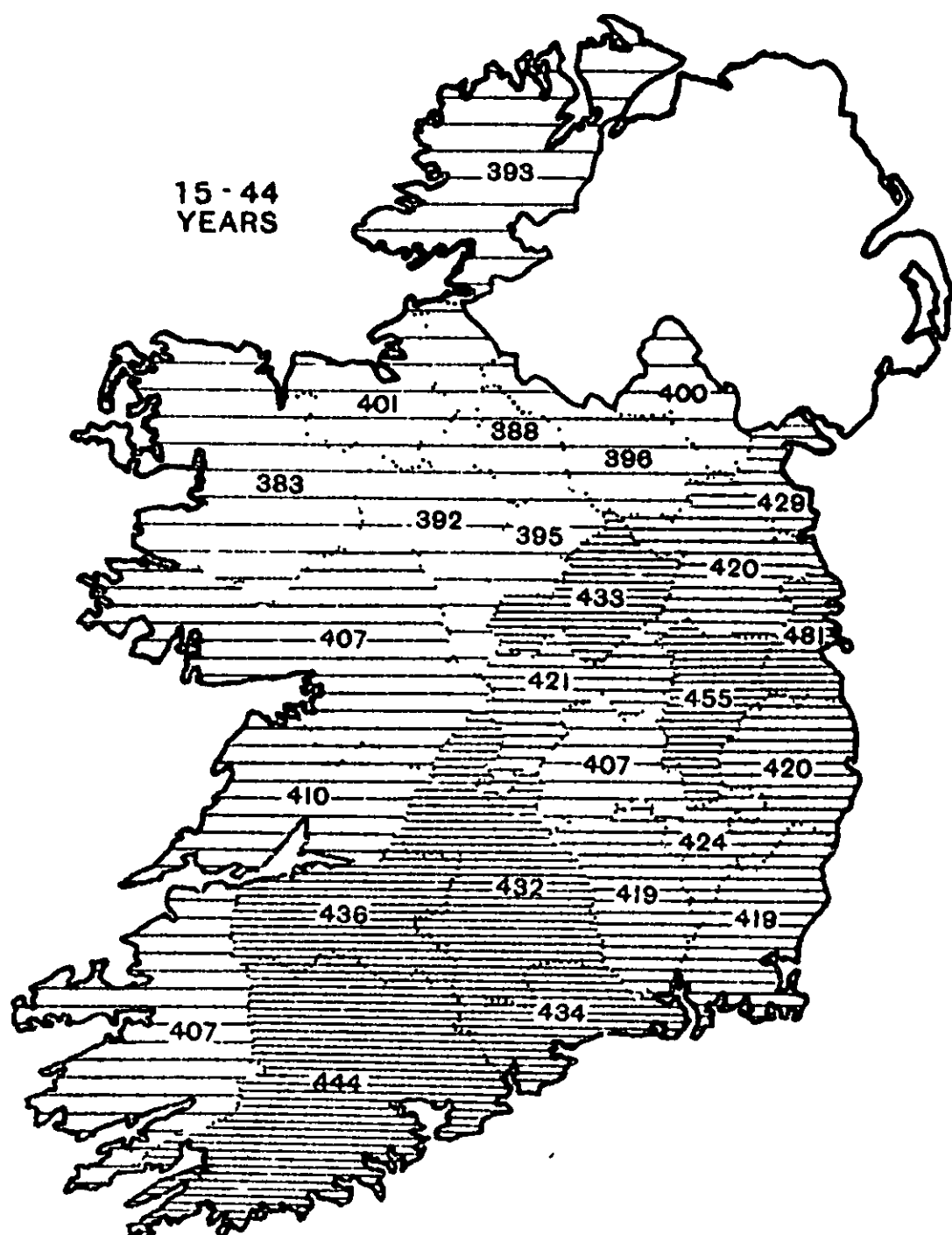
AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE POPULATION.

Numbers of persons in certain AGE GROUPS per thousand total population in each County (including Co. Borough) (3 maps) and children per hundred married women (1 map).

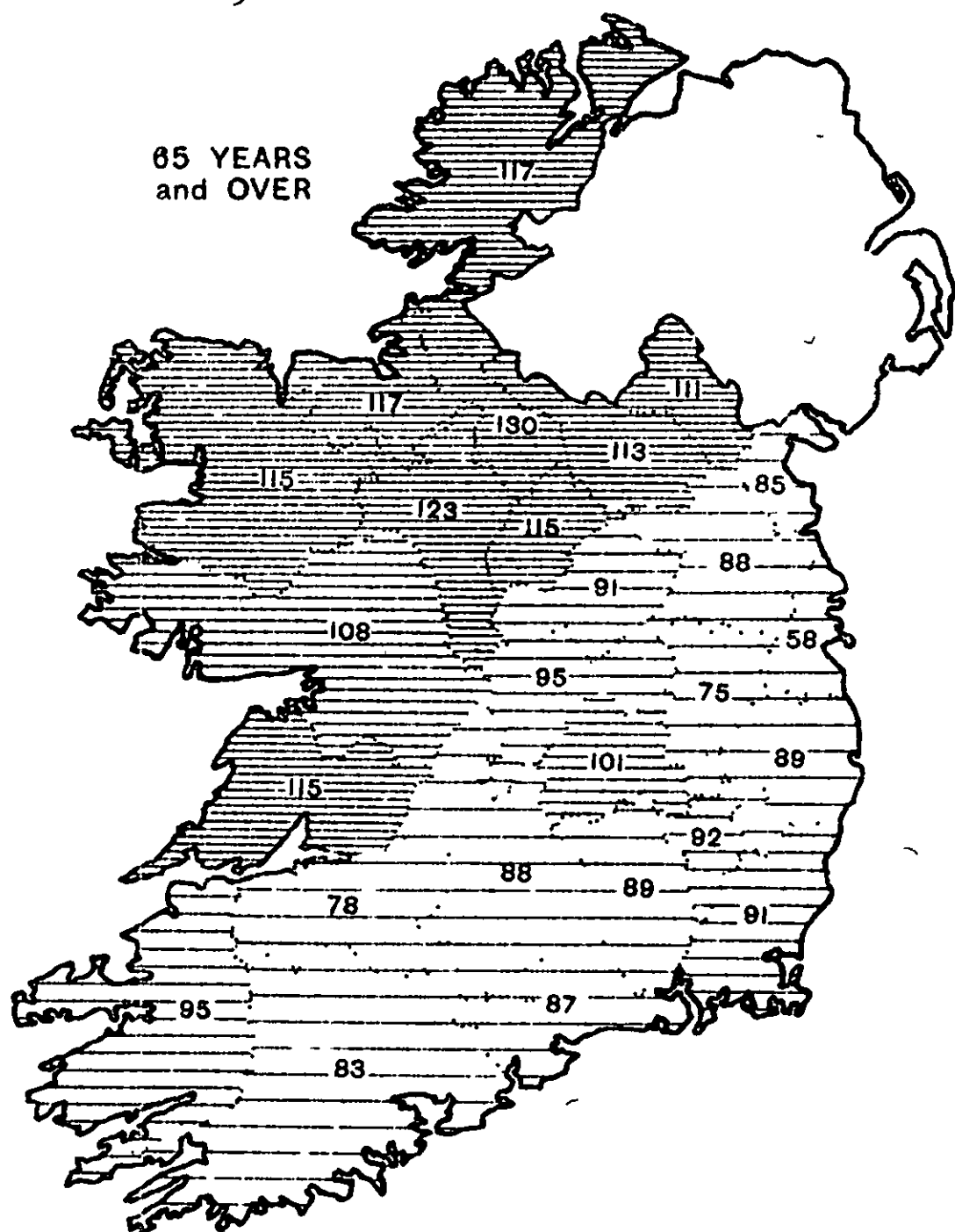
UNDER 15 YEARS



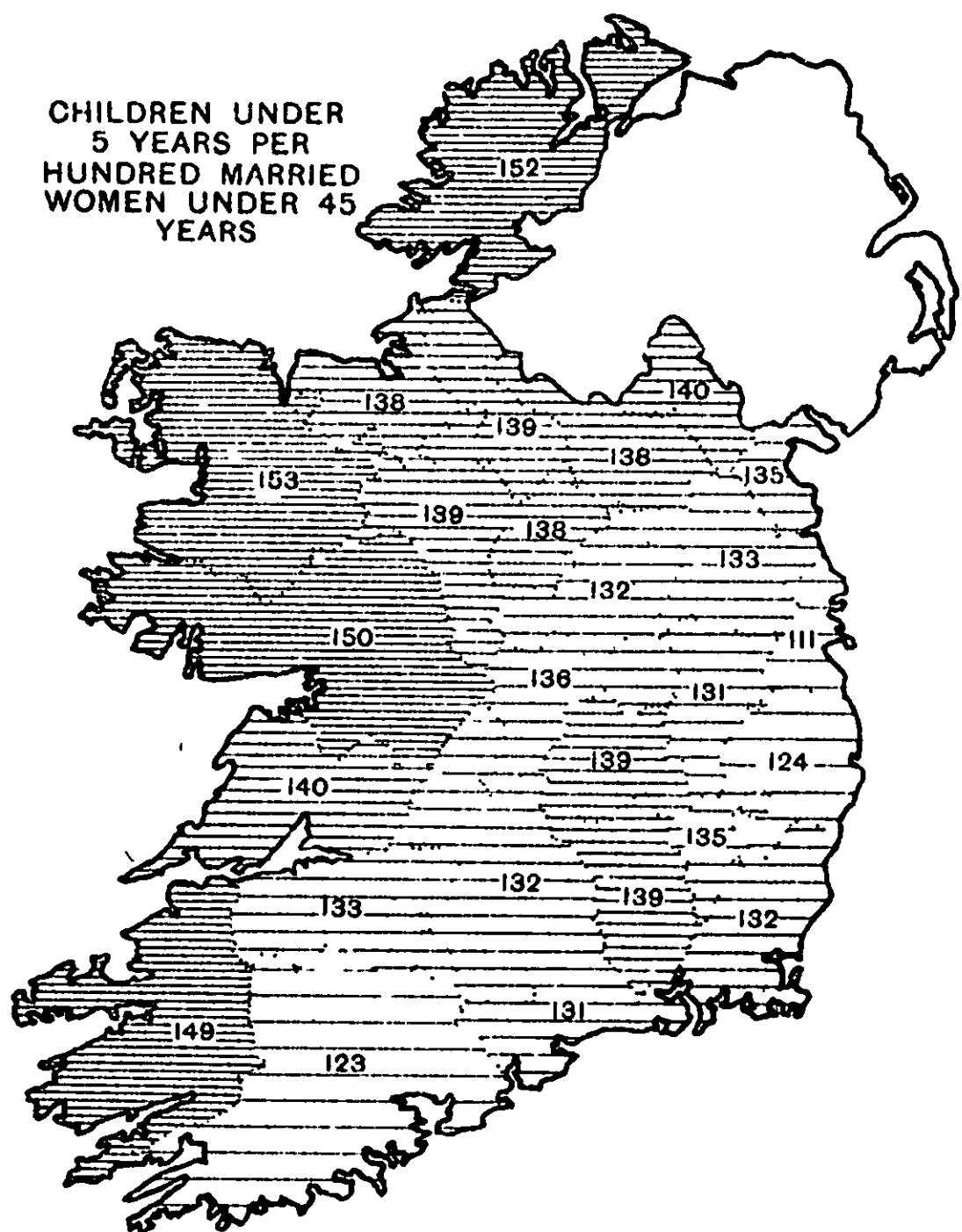
15-44 YEARS



65 YEARS and OVER



CHILDREN UNDER 5 YEARS PER HUNDRED MARRIED WOMEN UNDER 45 YEARS



Differences between different localities.

Persons aged 15 to 65 form 60% of the total population of our rural areas as against 65% for the town areas (including the County Boroughs). The percentages were 66 for Dublin City and Suburbs, 65 for Cork and Limerick Cities and 64 for Waterford City. The figures for rural areas in the different counties are as follows :—Dublin and Kildare, 64 ; Tipperary, N.R., and Wexford, 63 ; Tipperary, S.R., Cork, Waterford, Meath, Westmeath and Wicklow, 62 ; Offaly, Kilkenny, Carlow, Limerick and Laoighis, 61 ; Louth and Clare, 60 ; Cavan, Monaghan, Sligo, Roscommon and Longford, 59 ; Leitrim, Donegal, Kerry and Galway, 58, and Mayo, 56, per 100 of the total respective populations.

From the foregoing it will be observed that the western counties, poorest in natural resources, are also weakest in the age constitution of the population ; their proportions of children and aged persons are highest.

The number of children aged under 15 per 100 persons aged 15 to 65 is larger in rural areas (49) than in town areas (44). The number of children aged under 15 per 100 persons aged 15 to 65 in the rural areas of each county were :—Mayo, 57 ; Kerry, 56 ; Galway, 54 ; Donegal, 52 ; Leitrim, Longford and Limerick, 50 ; Monaghan, Roscommon and Cavan, 49 ; Sligo, Kilkenny and Louth, 48 ; Carlow, Dublin, Laoighis and Wicklow, 47 ; Meath, Offaly, Clare and Tipperary, S.R., 46 ; Waterford, Cork, Kildare and Westmeath, 45 ; Wexford, 44, and Tipperary, N.R., 43.

It will be seen that the larger relative number of children presents a more serious problem in the West than in the East. As regards orphanhood conditions, the proportion of children under 15 with father dead but mother alive is slightly less in rural Connacht (50 per 1,000) than in rural Leinster (57 per 1,000), but the proportion of children with mother dead and father alive is somewhat greater in rural Connacht (46 per 1,000) than in rural Leinster (44 per 1,000).

The number of persons aged 65 or over per 100 persons 15 to 65 is much greater in the rural areas (17) than in the town areas (10).

The following were the numbers of persons 65 or over per 100 persons aged 15 to 65 in the rural areas of each county :—Leitrim, 22 ; Roscommon, Sligo, Mayo, Longford and Donegal, 21 ; Monaghan, Galway, Clare and Cavan, 20 ; Kerry, Laoighis, Louth, Carlow, Westmeath and Offaly, 17 ; Wexford, Tipperary, N.R., and Waterford, 16 ; Wicklow, Kilkenny, Cork and Meath, 15 ; Limerick and Tipperary, S.R., 14 ; Kildare, 12, and Dublin, 9.

The above again shows that the West presents a more serious problem than the East in the number of aged persons.

The numbers of widows of all ages per 1,000 persons 15 to 65 were slightly higher in rural areas (74) than in town areas (73). The following were the numbers of widows of all ages per 1,000 persons 15 to 65 in the rural areas of each county :—Mayo, 87 ; Sligo, 86 ; Leitrim and Roscommon, 82 ; Galway, 80 ; Clare, 78 ; Cavan, Longford and Louth, 77 ; Monaghan and Kerry, 76 ; Donegal, 74 ; Waterford, Laoighis and Offaly, 73 ; Tipperary, N.R., and Carlow, 72 ; Kilkenny, Westmeath, Wicklow, Cork and Limerick, 70 ; Tipperary, S.R., 69 ; Meath, 68 ; Wexford, 67 ; Kildare, 57, and Dublin, 52.

It will be seen that notwithstanding its low death rates the West has also large numbers of widows in proportion to its population, 15 to 65.

It has been shown that taking this country as a whole, the number of children under 15 years of age and the number of school children are normal, but that the numbers of orphans, of widows and of aged persons are abnormally high. It has also been shown that the number of children aged under 15 (and accordingly the number of school children), the number of widows and the number of aged persons are proportionately much greater in the western than in the eastern counties.

The percentage of children aged under 15 has been decreasing ; they formed 38% in 1841 ; 36% in 1851 ; 32% in 1861 ; 36% in 1871 and 1881, and since then have gradually decreased to 29% in 1911 and 1926. The proportion of children orphaned has presumably not been decreasing, as improvement in death rates of parents has been accompanied by an increasing age at marriage.

The percentage of persons aged 15 to 65 has not changed much, the smallest figure was 58% in 1871 and 1881 ; the largest, 63%, in 1861 and 1901 ; the figure for 1926 was 62%.

The percentage aged 65 or over increased gradually from 3% in 1841 to 7% in 1901, then rose to 11% in 1911 (probably an exaggeration caused by the introduction of the old age pension scheme), and fell to 9% in 1926.

Persons 20 years of age or over formed 51% of the population in 1841 and 61% in 1926.

Rate of Emigration at each age.

The international comparison of the proportion of the population in each age group gives no evidences of the emigration from this country. If, however, the number of, say, males 15 to 20 in 1901 is compared with the number ten years later, that is those aged 25 to 30 in 1911, it will be found that there was a decrease of 33%, indicating a large emigration at this age, as deaths in the ten years could have accounted for a decrease of only about 4% to 5%. In this matter the following table was constructed.

PERCENTAGE OF PERSONS AT EACH CENSUS WHO EITHER DIED OR EMIGRATED BEFORE THE FOLLOWING CENSUS.

Period	Males					Females				
	Age at beginning of period					Age at beginning of period				
	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30-35	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-30	30-35
Decrease in 10 years—	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
From 1841 to 1851 ...	41	54	50	51	33	35	53	46	50	29
„ 1851 „ 1861 ...	35	51	47	43	20	32	52	48	42	18
„ 1861 „ 1871 ...	30	48	45	41	18	20	44	42	39	15
„ 1871 „ 1881 ...	27	39	35	34	15	23	38	33	34	13
„ 1881 „ 1891 ...	29	46	44	33	16	32	45	43	32	14
„ 1891 „ 1901 ...	23	39	38	25	14	21	36	35	28	13
„ 1901 „ 1911 ...	18	33	32	17	13	22	32	34	24	18
Decrease in 10 years due to deaths alone* ...	3.0	4.2	4.9	5.4	6.2	3.5	4.7	5.5	6.0	6.7
Decrease in 15 years 1911-1926 from deaths and emigration	31	41	38	27	22	27	39	31	30	23

* Death rates assumed to be the same as in 1925-1927.

It will be observed from the second last horizontal line in the above table that up to the year 1926 the percentage who died at the ages shown in ten years is small compared with the decline due to emigration.

Assuming that death rates in the 15 years 1911 to 1926 were the same as in 1925-1927, the following table shows the number of survivors in 1926 of the persons living in the Saorstát in 1911 :—

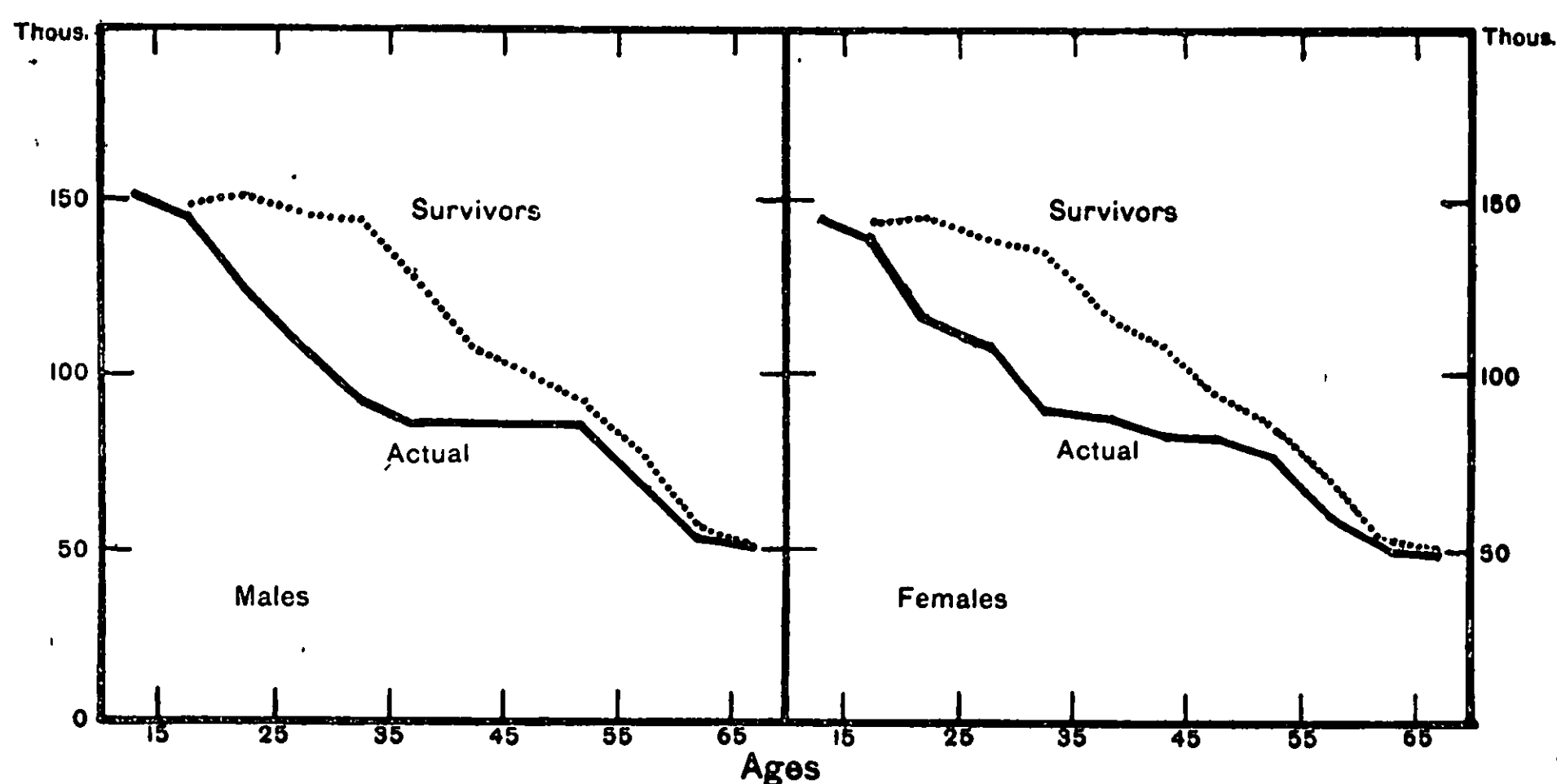
	Ages in 1926									
	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60
	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to	to
	20	25	30	35	40	45	50	55	60	65
Numbers in thousands										
Male Survivors in 1926 of 1911 Population :										
Living in Saorstát ...	146	125	107	93	87	86	87	86	67	54
Living elsewhere ...	2	26	39	52	43	21	13	7	10	3
Total ...	148	151	146	145	130	107	100	93	77	57
Females Survivors in 1926 of 1911 Population :										
Living in Saorstát ...	140	116	109	91	88	83	82	77	59	51
Living elsewhere ...	3	30	31	46	29	25	13	9	11	2
Total ...	143	146	140	137	117	108	95	86	70	53

The fourth column of figures in the above can be read thus :—There were only 93,000 males aged 30 to 35 in the Saorstát in 1926 out of 145,000 survivors of the males 15 to 20 in the Saorstát in 1911, or in other words, only 64% of these survivors were living in the Saorstát, the remaining 52,000, or 36% of this group, were living in other countries in 1926.

The effects of the emigration in the fifteen years between 1911 and 1926 on the numbers at each age will be seen from Diagram 12, which by lower curves show the actual numbers here in 1926, and by the upper curves the numbers that would have been here if there had been no emigration in this period. The charts were constructed from the figures in the last table.

DIAGRAM 12.

Survivors in 1926 of 1911 Population contrasted with Actual Population in 1926 at each age.



The space between the two curves in the diagram on the left indicates approximately the net emigration of males, the space on the right the net emigration of females. These two spaces slightly exaggerate the net emigration during the period, as death rates were not as low about 1911 as in 1925-27, and as no account is taken in the diagrams or in the preceding table of the increased deaths due to the war. In the

net emigration is, of course, included the exceptional emigration due to political as well as that due to economic causes, the former presumably accounting for most of the emigration at the later ages.

It will, of course, be understood that the older the age of a group here, the greater the proportion living abroad, the foregoing chart showing only the effects of the emigration for the period 1911 to 1926.

Rural and Urban Areas.

The effects of migration on the age distribution are, of course, very different in rural and urban areas. A comparison of Connacht with the four County Boroughs (including Dublin Suburbs) will indicate the differences. The number of males in Connacht aged 15 to 20 in 1911 was 31,994; the survivors were aged 30 to 35 in 1926, and numbered 15,709, or only 49% of the 31,994 in the Province aged 15 to 20 in 1911. Proceeding in this manner, the following table and diagrams were constructed.

PERSONS IN 1926 PER 100 OF THOSE 15 YEARS YOUNGER IN 1911.

	Ages in 1911						
	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Males :—							
Connacht	66	54	49	59	75	81	84
Four County Boroughs*	96	96	75	65	71	72	73
Females :—							
Connacht	58	54	46	66	73	81	84
Four County Boroughs*	117	112	81	68	66	74	73
	20 to 25	25 to 30	30 to 35	35 to 40	40 to 45	45 to 50	50 to 55
	Ages in 1926						

* Including also Rathmines and Rathgar, Pembroke, Blackrock and Dun Laoghaire.

The table shows that there were 117 females in the County Boroughs in 1926 aged 20 to 25 for every 100 there in 1911 aged 5 to 10, and that there were 112 aged 25 to 30 in 1926 for every 100 aged 10 to 15 in 1911. These are the only figures in the

DIAGRAM 13.

Number of Persons in different Age Groups in 1926 per 100 of the Numbers 15 Years Younger in 1911, County Boroughs and Connacht.

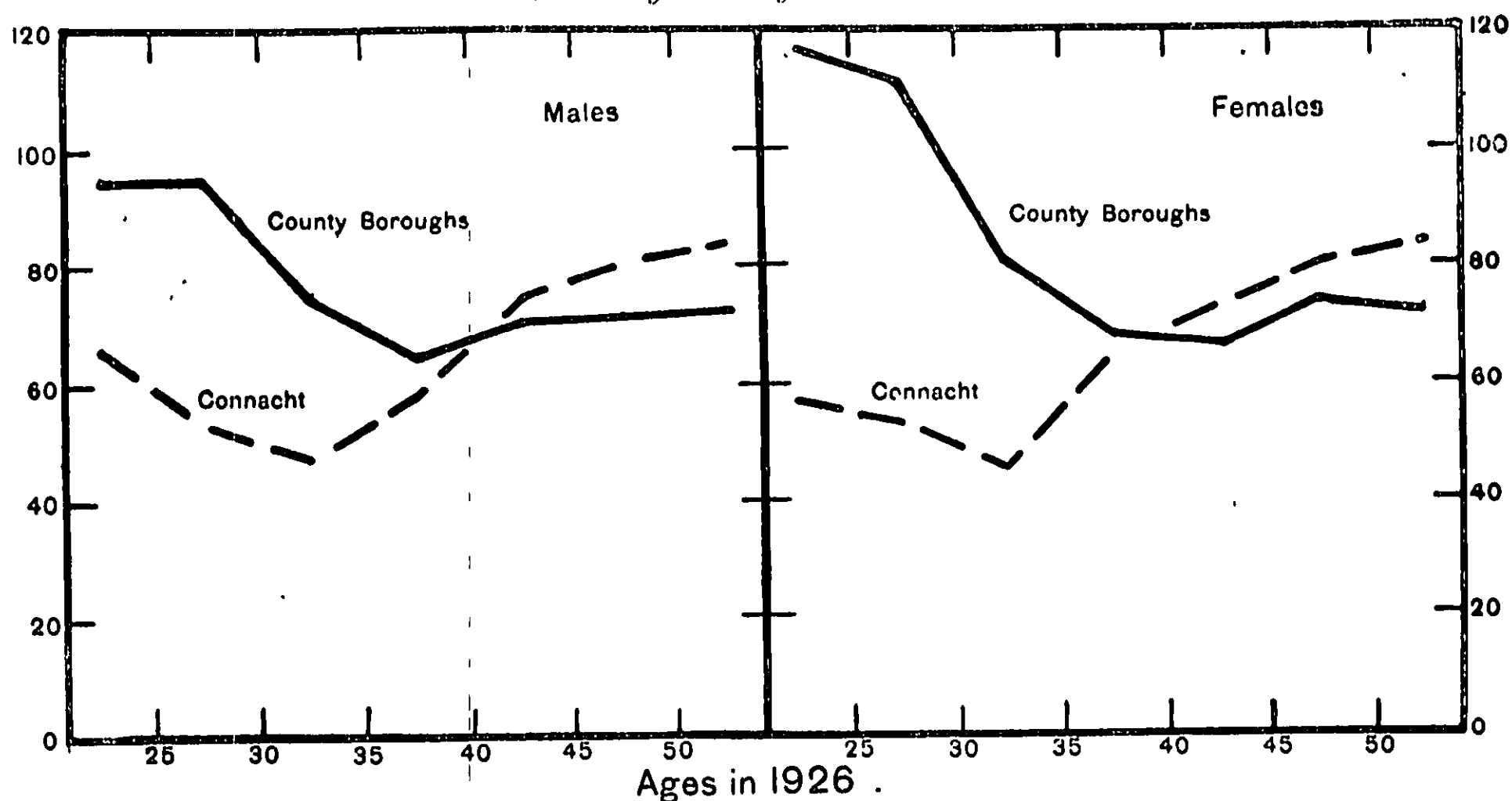


table which clearly indicate immigration—the influx of domestic servants, etc. The two figures 96 in the second line suggest that there was an immigration of males to

swell the groups aged 20 to 25 and 25 to 30 in 1926 in the County Boroughs, as deaths would have brought the percentages below 96. All the other figures in the table indicate emigration from the County Boroughs as well as from Connacht. The rate of emigration from Connacht in earlier age groups was much greater than that from the County Boroughs, but in the later age groups it was somewhat less. For every 100 in Connacht aged 35 to 40 in 1911 there were 84 aged 50 to 55 in 1926, the corresponding percentage for the County Boroughs was only 73. The difference between these two figures was due partly to the lower death rates in Connacht and partly evidently to higher emigration rates at these ages in this period from the County Boroughs.

Expectation of Life.

The Life Tables on pages 216 to 219 of Vol. V, Part I, of the Census Reports show the average number of years persons in this country would live whose ages were 0, 1, 2, 3 and so on, up to 107 years provided death rates remained the same as in the three years 1925 to 1927, or in other words the "expectation of life" at each year of age. The countries in the following table are arranged in order of the expectation of life at 40.

EXPECTATION OF LIFE AT THE TABULATED AGES.

Country	Period	Ages									
		0	5	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
		years	years	years	years	years	years	years	years	years	years
MALES :—											
New Zealand ...	1921-22	62.8	62.2	57.7	48.7	40.0	31.6	23.5	16.0	9.9	5.3
Sweden ...	1911-20	55.6	57.4	53.4	45.3	38.6	31.1	23.4	16.1	9.9	5.3
SAORSTÁT EIREANN	1925-27	57.4	59.5	55.2	46.4	38.4	30.4	22.7	15.7	10.0	5.8
Australia ...	1920-22	59.1	60.4	56.0	47.0	38.4	30.1	22.2	15.1	9.3	5.0
Germany ...	1924-26	56.0	60.1	55.6	46.7	38.6	30.1	21.9	14.6	8.7	4.8
Italy ...	1921-22	49.3	57.4	53.5	45.2	37.7	29.7	21.8	14.5	8.4	4.3
South Africa ...	1920-22	55.6	58.3	54.0	45.3	37.1	29.2	21.9	15.1	9.5	5.6
England & Wales	1920-22	55.6	58.8	54.6	45.8	37.4	29.2	21.4	14.4	8.8	4.9
France ...	1920-23	52.2	55.1	51.5	42.9	35.5	27.8	20.5	13.8	8.3	4.3
Finland ...	1911-20	43.4	48.7	45.2	37.9	32.5	25.9	19.4	13.4	8.3	4.8
FEMALES :—											
New Zealand ...	1921-22	65.4	64.1	59.5	50.4	41.8	33.2	24.9	17.3	10.6	5.8
Australia ...	1920-22	63.3	63.6	59.2	50.0	41.5	33.1	24.9	17.2	10.4	5.6
Sweden ...	1911-20	58.4	59.3	55.3	47.4	40.2	32.6	24.8	17.2	10.5	5.7
South Africa ...	1920-22	59.2	61.4	57.0	48.2	39.9	31.9	24.0	16.6	10.4	5.8
England & Wales	1920-22	59.6	61.7	57.5	48.7	40.3	31.9	23.7	16.2	10.0	5.6
Germany ...	1924-26	58.8	61.6	57.1	48.1	39.8	31.4	23.1	15.5	9.3	5.1
SAORSTÁT EIREANN	1925-27	57.9	59.2	54.9	46.4	38.6	30.8	23.2	16.4	10.7	6.5
France ...	1920-23	55.9	58.5	54.5	46.2	38.6	30.8	23.0	15.6	9.3	5.0
Italy ...	1921-22	50.8	58.1	54.2	45.9	38.3	30.5	22.5	14.8	8.5	4.4
Finland ...	1911-20	49.1	54.3	51.1	43.8	37.0	29.7	22.3	15.1	8.9	4.9

It will be seen that in all the above countries except New Zealand the expectation of life at birth is less (owing to infantile mortality) than at the age of 5 years; from the latter age onward it decreases, but, of course, it does not decrease as rapidly as the age increases. In this country the expectation of life of males is 57 years at birth, 55 at 10, 46 at 20, 38 at 30, 30 at 40, 23 at 50, 16 at 60, 10 at 70, 6 at 80, 3 at 90, and 2 at 100. The expectation of life of females is slightly longer.

The figures for males show that the expectation of life for all ages up to 60 is exceeded in not more than three of the nine countries, and for ages from 70 onwards is higher than in any other country. The comparison as regards females is not favourable. The expectation of life for females up to 40 years of age is higher in six of the nine countries, at 50 in five of the nine, and at 60 in four of the nine. From 70 onwards, as in the case of males, the expectation of life of our females is higher than in any of the other nine countries. (This is one of the reasons for our abnormally large proportion of aged persons referred to in an earlier section of this chapter.)

It will be observed that the expectation of life of our males is higher at all ages than the corresponding figures for England and Wales, which is third last on the list (presumably because such a large part of the population live in towns); on the other hand, the expectation of life of our females is lower at all ages up to 50, but is higher at all older ages.

At all ages the average length of life for our males is appreciably more than that for males in France, varying from 5·2 years (or 10%) at birth to 1·5 years (or 35%) at 80 years of age. The expectation of life of our females is also higher at all ages than that of females in France, except at 30 and 40, when the figures are the same.

The next table shows the difference in the expectation of life of males and females.

EXCESS OF FEMALE OVER MALE EXPECTATION OF LIFE AT THE UNDERMENTIONED AGES.

Country	Period	Ages in Years									
		0	5	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80
Finland ...	1911-20	5·7	5·6	5·9	5·9	4·5	3·8	2·9	1·7	0·6	0·1
Franco ...	1920-23	3·7	3·4	3·0	3·3	3·1	3·0	2·5	1·8	1·0	0·7
Australia ...	1920-22	4·2	3·2	3·2	3·0	3·1	3·0	2·7	2·1	1·1	0·6
England and Wales	1920-22	4·0	2·9	2·9	2·9	2·9	2·7	2·3	1·8	1·2	0·7
South Africa ...	1920-22	3·6	3·1	3·0	2·9	2·8	2·7	2·1	1·5	0·9	0·2
New Zealand ...	1921-22	2·6	1·9	1·8	1·7	1·8	1·6	1·4	1·3	0·7	0·5
Sweden ...	1911-20	2·8	1·9	1·9	2·1	1·6	1·5	1·4	1·1	0·6	0·4
Germany ...	1924-26	2·8	1·5	1·5	1·4	1·2	1·3	1·2	0·9	0·6	0·3
Italy ...	1921-22	1·5	0·7	0·7	0·7	0·6	0·8	0·7	0·3	0·1	0·1
SAORSTÁT EIREANN...	1925-27	0·5	-0·3	-0·3	0·0	0·2	0·4	0·5	0·7	0·7	0·7

In all the countries females at each age have a longer expectation of life than males, except in Saorstát Eireann, where from 1 year of age to 22 years of age the expectation of life is longer for males than for females. The table shows that for all ages up to 50 the difference between the male and female expectation of life is smaller in the Saorstát than in any of the other countries, and that while in the latter the absolute difference decreases as the age increases, in the Saorstát the difference increases from 5 years of age onwards.

It will be seen from the following table (worked for years prior to 1925-7 by Dr. Brownlee's* abridged method) that there was practically no change in the last thirty years of the last century in the expectation of life in this country, but that a great improvement took place during the first quarter of the present century.

EXPECTATION OF LIFE—SAORSTÁT EIREANN.

			Ages in Years										
			0	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65	75
MALES :													
1870-2	...	...	49.6	54.8	51.0	46.8	42.7	39.0	31.8	24.4	17.5	11.1	6.5
1881-3	...	...	49.4	54.2	50.2	46.0	41.9	38.1	30.7	23.4	16.7	10.8	6.3
1890-2	...	...	49.1	54.1	50.0	45.8	41.6	37.8	30.6	23.4	16.5	10.5	5.8
1900-2	...	...	49.3	54.5	50.5	46.2	42.1	38.2	31.0	23.8	16.9	10.8	5.8
1910-2	...	...	53.6	57.6	53.7	49.2	45.0	41.0	33.5	25.9	18.9	13.0	8.0
1925-7	...	...	57.4	59.5	55.2	50.7	46.4	42.4	34.4	26.5	19.1	12.8	7.7
FEMALES :													
1870-2	...	...	50.9	55.5	51.9	47.7	43.7	39.8	32.4	25.0	17.7	11.2	6.6
1881-3	...	...	49.9	54.0	50.4	46.2	42.2	38.3	31.0	23.7	16.7	10.7	6.3
1890-2	...	...	49.2	53.4	49.7	45.5	41.6	37.7	30.5	23.2	16.2	10.3	5.9
1900-2	...	...	49.6	54.0	50.4	46.2	42.2	38.3	30.9	23.7	16.7	10.6	5.9
1910-2	...	...	54.1	57.6	53.7	49.4	45.4	41.4	33.8	26.4	19.2	13.4	8.2
1925-7	...	...	57.9	59.2	54.9	50.5	46.4	42.4	34.7	27.0	19.6	13.4	8.4

* "The Use of Death-rates as a Measure of Hygienic Conditions," by John Brownlee, M.D., D.Sc. (Medical Research Council, London).

The improvement from 1901 to 1911 and from 1911 to 1926 is shown in the next table.

INCREASE IN EXPECTATION OF LIFE.*

INCREASE IN EXPECTATION OF LIFE.*												
		Ages in Years										
		0	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65	75
SAORSTÁT ÉIREANN :												
Males—												
1901 to 1911	...	4.3	3.1	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.5	2.1	2.0	2.2	2.2
1911 to 1926	...	3.8	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.4	1.4	0.9	0.6	0.2	—0.2	—0.3
Females—												
1901 to 1911	...	4.5	3.6	3.3	3.2	3.2	3.1	2.9	2.7	2.5	2.8	2.3
1911 to 1926	...	3.8	1.6	1.2	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.2
ENGLAND AND WALES :												
Males—												
1901 to 1911	...	6.3	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.3	1.7	1.1	0.7	0.3
1911 to 1921	...	4.1	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.5	1.3	0.8	0.4	0.1
Females—												
1901 to 1911	...	6.1	3.2	3.0	2.9	2.8	2.7	2.4	1.8	1.4	0.9	0.5
1911 to 1921	...	4.2	1.7	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.0	0.5	0.2
* Figures for 1901 and 1911 are based on the Registrar-General's Statistical Abstract for 1901 and 1911 respectively.												

* Figures for 1901 and 1911 for Saorstát and for 1901 for England and Wales were calculated by Dr. Brownlee's abridged methods.

It will be seen from the above that in the 10 years from 1901 to 1911 there was a very satisfactory improvement in the expectation of life in this country at all ages. The improvement from age 10 onwards was greater than in England and Wales. (Infantile mortality, however, did not decrease as much as in England and Wales). In both countries in this period the improvement at all ages from 5 onwards in the expectation of life of females was somewhat greater than that of males.

In the 15 years from 1911 to 1926 the improvement in this country was not nearly as great as in the previous 10 years and was not as marked as the improvement in England and Wales in the 10 years 1911 to 1921.

While the tables already given show that as regards expectation of life this country does not compare unfavourably with others, still the comparison should be yet more favourable in view of the very large percentage of our population living outside towns. In the following table, which shows the greater expectation of life of persons living under rural conditions, it must be remembered that the figures for the Saorstát refer to 1926, the figures for England and Wales to 1911, since which year the expectation of life (at 15 years) in the latter country increased probably by $2\frac{1}{2}$ years.

Area	Ages in Years							
	15	20	25	35	45	55	65	75
MALES :								
Connacht ...	53.4	49.0	45.2	37.3	29.0	21.1	13.9	8.0
Munster* ...	51.6	47.3	43.2	35.2	27.1	19.4	12.8	7.6
Rural Districts in England and Wales	51.4	47.1	42.8	34.5	26.3	18.6	11.9	6.8
Leinster† ...	50.6	46.3	42.2	34.1	26.0	18.3	12.0	7.1
Urban Districts in England and Wales	49.0	44.7	40.5	32.1	24.1	16.8	10.8	6.4
London ...	46.7	42.3	38.1	29.8	22.4	15.9	10.5	6.3
Co. Boroughs in Saorstát Éireann‡ ...	46.2	42.0	37.8	29.8	22.5	15.9	10.9	7.3
Co. Boroughs in England and Wales ...	46.3	42.0	37.8	29.6	22.1	15.5	10.0	6.0
FEMALES :								
Connacht ...	52.6	48.4	44.5	36.8	28.9	21.2	14.4	8.6
Munster* ...	51.4	47.2	43.2	35.2	27.5	19.9	13.3	8.4
Rural Districts in England and Wales ...	53.1	48.8	44.5	36.2	27.9	20.0	13.1	7.6
Leinster† ...	50.0	45.9	41.9	34.1	26.2	18.8	12.6	7.9
Urban Districts in England and Wales	51.8	47.4	43.1	34.6	26.4	18.8	12.3	7.2
London ...	51.1	46.7	42.3	33.7	25.8	18.7	12.3	7.3
Co. Boroughs in Saorstát Éireann‡ ...	48.6	44.5	40.4	32.4	24.7	17.6	12.0	8.0
Co. Boroughs in England and Wales ...	49.6	45.3	41.1	32.7	24.8	17.6	11.5	6.8

* Excluding the Co. Boroughs of Cork, Limerick and Waterford.

† Excluding Dublin City and Dublin Suburbs.

‡ Including Dublin Suburbs.

It will be seen that the expectation of life of males was appreciably better in Connacht in 1926 than in rural England in 1911, but that the figures for females, while better from age 35 onwards, were not so good for ages below 25. The expectation of life of males in the County Boroughs here in 1926 was much the same as in 1911 in the English County Boroughs and in London. But the expectation of life for females in our County Boroughs in 1926 was worse than in London in 1911 and worse than in the English County Boroughs up to the age of 45.

It will also be noticed that the figures for females in the English Urban Districts, even in 1911, were better than those in 1926 for Munster (excluding County Boroughs) up to the age of 20, and better than those in 1926 for Leinster (excluding Dublin and Suburbs) up to the age of 45.

The comparatively unfavourable position of our female death rates up to the age of 50 is all the more striking, as such a high proportion of our females are unmarried, and English statistics show that during the child-bearing period wives suffer a heavier mortality than spinsters of the same age; from 45 to 55 the position is reversed; later there is not much difference. Throughout life, until the age of 80, widows suffer a heavy rate of mortality; after 80 the mortality for each of the three classes is much the same.

The difference between expectation of life in Connacht and the County Boroughs merits a separate table.

	Ages in Years										
	0	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65	75
MALES :											
Connacht	63.8	62.0	58.1	53.4	49.0	45.2	37.3	29.0	21.1	13.9	8.0
Four County Bor- oughs*	48.2	54.6	50.6	46.2	42.0	37.8	29.8	22.5	15.9	10.9	7.3
Difference ...	15.6	7.4	7.5	7.2	7.0	7.4	7.5	6.5	5.2	3.0	0.7
FEMALES :											
Connacht	62.1	61.4	57.0	52.6	48.4	44.5	36.8	28.9	21.2	14.4	8.6
Four County Bor- oughs*	51.3	56.8	53.0	48.6	41.5	40.4	32.4	24.7	17.6	12.0	8.0
Difference ...	10.8	4.6	4.0	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.4	4.2	3.6	2.4	0.6

* Including also Rathmines and Rathgar, Pembroke Blackrock and Dun Laoghaire.

Under present conditions the average man of 45 in Connacht will live $6\frac{1}{2}$ years (or 29%) longer than the average man in the County Boroughs, and the average woman of 45 more than 4 years (or 17%) longer.