

The following table, by the *British Medical Journal* compiled from the statements published for ten years, will be of interest. The figures (not standardized) of the death-rates do not disclose any very distinct movement; the deaths of infants appear to indicate a slight increase. The most disquieting set of figures are those showing a further marked decline in the birth-rate since 1914.

ENGLAND AND WALES

	Births per 1,000 Total Population	Deaths per 1,000	Deaths Under One Year per 1,000 Births
1908.....	26.5	14.7	121
1909.....	25.6	14.5	109
1910.....	24.8	13.4	106
1911.....	24.4	14.6	130
1912.....	23.8	13.3	95
1913.....	23.9	13.7	109
1914.....	23.6	13.9	105
1915.....	21.9	15.1	110
1916.....	21.6	14.0	91
1917.....	17.7	14.4	97

CIVIL ENGINEERS AND THE ARMY

THE War Department states that two thousand engineers are needed immediately by the United States Army for commission as first lieutenants and captains. The chief of engineers has outlined a plan of campaign by which it is hoped to obtain the men needed without delay. A board of examiners will be sent out from Washington to visit about 33 principal cities.

Engineers, civil, mechanical, mining and electrical, will have an opportunity to go before the board and be examined. Those passing the examinations will be commissioned at once and sent to an engineer officers' training camp, either at Camp Lee, Petersburg, Va., or Camp Humphreys, Va., near Washington. They will be on officers' pay while training and at the completion of their courses will be assigned at once to duty with the engineer troops.

Engineering societies and institutes will be provided with application blanks to be distributed among their members and friends in the profession. Engineers who do not obtain blanks in this way should address the Chief of

Engineers, United States Army, Washington. These forms, when properly filled out, should be returned to Washington. After they have been scrutinized with a view to ascertaining the fitness of the applicants, word will be sent out telling the men when and where to appear for mental and physical examinations.

Following are the requirements that must be met:

Age Limits.—First lieutenants, 32 to 36 years; captains, 36 to 42 years. These limits may be extended in special cases, but no man of draft age will be considered.

Citizenship.—All applicants must be citizens of the United States.

Qualifications.—Applicants must be actively engaged in the practise of the engineering profession, and be in good physical condition. No set rules have been adopted as to professional qualifications and experience. The examining board will determine each applicant's case. Applicants must possess the requisite qualities of leadership and temperament to fit them for the command of troops.

It is the hope of the chief of engineers to have all men who pass the examinations commissioned within ten days or two weeks. Traveling expenses of 7 cents a mile to the training camp will be allowed to those who receive commissions.

WAR WORK OF MINING ENGINEERS

HEADS of practically every "war-work" division of the government will discuss vital war problems with 200 of the country's leading mining engineers, representing the American Institute of Mining Engineers, at a dinner in the Food Administration Cafeteria on the evening of June 21. To learn new ways in which the mining engineer can contribute his services, already great, toward the winning of the war is the aim of the gathering, which has been planned in honor of the board of directors of the institute. There are some 700 of the institute's membership of 6,700 devoting their entire time to war service.

Those who will discuss future work for the institute in the war are practically all members of the institute. They include Herbert