

# GENERAL INVESTIGATIONS ON THE MORTALITY AND THE MULTIPLICATION OF MAN

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1. The registers of births and of deaths by age, which are published in several places every year, inform so many different questions about the mortality and the multiplication of man, that it would take too long to relate them all. Yet, some of them depend for the most part on others in such a way that having developed one or two of them, all the others are found to be similarly settled. Since the solutions must be drawn from the registers mentioned, it should be noted that these registers differ greatly, according to the diversity of towns, villages and provinces where they were drawn up; and for the same reason, the solutions to all these questions depend greatly on the registers on which they are based. That is why I intend to discuss most of these questions in general here, without limiting myself to the results that the registers from a particular place furnish; then it will be easy to make the application to whichever places we wish.

2. I observe first that these questions taken in general depend on two hypotheses, and once we clearly establish these, it is easy to derive from them the solutions to all the questions. I will name the first one the *hypothesis of mortality*, by which we determine how many of a certain number of men, who are born at the same time, will still be alive after each passing year. Here considerations of multiplication do not count at all. And so it is necessary to establish the second hypothesis, which I will name the *hypothesis of multiplication*, by which I indicate how much the total number of all men is increased or decreased during the course of a year. This hypothesis depends, then, on the number of marriages and on fertility, while the first is based on the characteristic vitality of the men.

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*Recherches générales sur la mortalité et la multiplication du genre humain*, Mémoires de l'académie des sciences de Berlin **16** (1767), 144–164. Number 334 in the Eneström index. Translation © 2004 Todd Doucet.

## I. HYPOTHESIS OF MORTALITY

3. For the first hypothesis, let us imagine an arbitrary number  $N$  of infants who are born at the same time, and I will indicate the number of those who are still alive at the end of one year by  $(1)N$ , those who are still alive at the end of two years by  $(2)N$ , of three years by  $(3)N$ , of four by  $(4)N$ , and so on. This is the notation I use to indicate how the number of men born at the same time decreases successively, which will have for each region and each manner of living particular values. Nevertheless, we can note that the numbers indicated by

$$(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), \dots$$

form a decreasing progression of fractions, of which the largest,  $(1)$ , is less than unity, and when we continue these terms beyond 100, they decrease so much that they almost vanish entirely. For, if out of 100 million men none attain the age of 125 years, it is necessary that the term  $(125)$  be less than  $1/100,000,000$ .

4. Having established for a certain place by a large enough number of observations the values of the fractions  $(1)$ ,  $(2)$ ,  $(3)$ ,  $(4)$ , etc., we can solve a number of questions that are ordinarily posed concerning the probability of human life. First, it is clear that if the number of infants born at the same time is  $N$ , then according to probability, they will die throughout the years as indicated by this table:

<i>From year</i>	<i>to year</i>	<i>this many will die</i>
0	1	$N - (1)N$
1	2	$(1)N - (2)N$
2	3	$(2)N - (3)N$
3	4	$(3)N - (4)N$
4	5	$(4)N - (5)N$
	etc.	

Just as from this number  $N$  there will probably be  $(n)N$  living at the end of  $n$  years, so it follows that the number of deaths during this term of  $n$  years will be  $N - (n)N$ . After this remark, I will give the solution to the following questions.

## QUESTION 1

5. *Given a certain number of people who are all the same age, to determine how many of them will probably still be alive after a specified number of years.*

Suppose there are  $M$  people who are each  $m$  years old, and we ask how many of them will probably still be alive after  $n$  years. We have  $M = (m)N$  and so  $N = M/(m)$ , where  $N$  indicates the number of all the infants born at the same time, of which  $M$  remain alive after  $m$  years. Now of this same number,  $(m+n)N$  will probably still be alive after  $m+n$  years since their birth, and therefore after  $n$  years since the time proposed. So the number sought in the question is

$$\frac{(m+n)}{(m)}M,$$

or after  $n$  years there will probably still be that many living among the  $M$  people who are presently  $m$  years old.

So it is probable that among the  $M$  men of age  $m$  years,

$$\left[1 - \frac{(m+n)}{(m)}\right]M$$

of them will die before  $n$  years pass.

## QUESTION 2

6. *To find the probability that a man of a given age will still be alive after a certain number of years.*

Let the age of the man in question be  $m$  years, and we seek the probability that this man will still be alive at the end of  $n$  years. Let us imagine  $M$  men of the same age, and since after  $n$  years there will probably be

$$\frac{(m+n)}{(m)}M$$

of them still alive, the probability that the given man will be among this number will be

$$\frac{(m+n)}{(m)}.$$

So the probability that this man will die before the end of these  $n$  years is

$$1 - \frac{(m+n)}{(m)}.$$

And therefore the hope that this man may not have died in the subsequent interval of  $m+n$  years is to the fear that he dies during this same interval as  $(m+n)$  is to  $(m) - (m+n)$ . So the hope will surpass the fear if  $(m+n) > \frac{1}{2}(m)$ ; and the fear will be better founded if  $(m+n) < \frac{1}{2}(m)$ ; and the fear equal to the hope if  $(m+n) = \frac{1}{2}(m)$ .

### QUESTION 3

7. *We ask the probability that a man of a certain age will die during the course of a given year.*

Suppose the man in question is  $m$  years old. We ask the probability that he will reach the age of  $n$  years but die before he reaches  $n+1$  years. To find this probability, let us imagine a large number  $M$  of men of the same age, and having  $M = (m)N$  and  $N = M/(m)$ , there will be

$$\frac{(n)}{(m)}M$$

men who reach the age of  $n$  years, and

$$\frac{(n+1)}{(m)}M$$

who reach  $n+1$  years. Therefore during the course of this year, the number of men who will probably die is

$$\frac{(n) - (n+1)}{(m)}M,$$

and so the probability that the given man will be found among that number will be

$$\frac{(n) - (n+1)}{(m)}.$$

From this it is clear that in order for this same man to die between year  $n$  and year  $n + v$ , the probability will be

$$\frac{(n) - (n + v)}{(m)}.$$

Indeed, for this man to die on a given day of the specified year, the probability will be

$$\frac{(n) - (n + 1)}{365(m)}.$$

If the question is of a newborn infant, we need only write 1 in place of the fraction  $(m)$ .

#### QUESTION 4

8. *To find the period of time that a man of a given age can hope to live, so that it is equally probable that he die during this time period as after it.*

Let the age of the man in question be  $m$  years, and that which he can hope to reach  $z$  years, which is necessary to find. The probability that he reaches this age is  $(z)/(m)$ , so the probability that he dies before the end of this term is  $1 - (z)/(m)$ . Then, since both probabilities must be the same, we will get this equation

$$\frac{(z)}{(m)} = 1 - \frac{(z)}{(m)},$$

and therefore

$$(z) = \frac{1}{2}(m),$$

from which it is easy to find the number  $z$ , as soon as we have determined by the observations all the values of the fractions

$$(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), \dots$$

because one can immediately see which  $(z)$  is half of the given  $(m)$ .

Having found this number  $z$ , the interval  $z - m$  is called the *life force* of a man aged  $m$  years.

## QUESTION 5

9. To determine the life annuity that is fair to pay to men of arbitrary ages each year until their deaths, for a sum paid in advance.

Let us imagine  $M$  men, all the same age  $m$ , and each pays in advance the sum  $a$ , which supplies a fund equal to  $Ma$ . Let  $x$  be the sum that must be paid to each man every year as long as he is alive. After one year, the fund must pay

$$\frac{(m+1)}{(m)}Mx,$$

after two years

$$\frac{(m+2)}{(m)}Mx,$$

after three

$$\frac{(m+3)}{(m)}Mx,$$

and so on.

Now, counting the fund as invested at 5 percent, a sum  $S$  payable after  $n$  years is worth only  $\left[\frac{20}{21}\right]^n S$  now. But to make our result more general, let us suppose that a sum  $S$  grows with interest in one year to  $\lambda S$ . Then  $1/\lambda$  will be what we indicated by  $\frac{20}{21}$ , and so a sum  $S$  payable at the end of  $n$  years will be worth only  $S/\lambda^n$  now. From this we set up the following calculation:

<i>After</i>	<i>payment due</i>	<i>present value</i>
1 year	$\frac{(m+1)}{(m)}Mx$	$\frac{(m+1)}{(m)} \cdot \frac{Mx}{\lambda}$
2 years	$\frac{(m+2)}{(m)}Mx$	$\frac{(m+2)}{(m)} \cdot \frac{Mx}{\lambda^2}$
3 years	$\frac{(m+3)}{(m)}Mx$	$\frac{(m+3)}{(m)} \cdot \frac{Mx}{\lambda^3}$
	etc.	

Equity requires that all these sums, reduced to the present time, be equal to the entire fund  $Ma$ , and therefore we derive this equation

$$a = \frac{x}{(m)} \left[ \frac{(m+1)}{\lambda} + \frac{(m+2)}{\lambda^2} + \frac{(m+3)}{\lambda^3} + \frac{(m+4)}{\lambda^4} + \dots \right],$$

and consequently the amount the fund must annually pay to each of the parties is

$$x = \frac{(m)a}{\frac{(m+1)}{\lambda} + \frac{(m+2)}{\lambda^2} + \frac{(m+3)}{\lambda^3} + \frac{(m+4)}{\lambda^4} + \dots}.$$

So knowing the values of all these fractions (1), (2), (3), etc., it is easy to find the sum  $x$  owed to each man of age  $m$  years, returned by a given rate of interest.

#### QUESTION 6

10. *When the parties are newborn infants and the life annuity payments do not become due until they reach a certain age, to determine the amount of these payments.*

Suppose that we pay the sum  $a$  for each newborn infant and that he is due to receive payments only when he reaches the age of  $n$  years, and starting then, we pay him each year the sum  $x$ , which must be determined. Then counting the interest as before, we get this equation

$$a = x \left[ \frac{(n)}{\lambda^n} + \frac{(n+1)}{\lambda^{n+1}} + \frac{(n+2)}{\lambda^{n+2}} + \frac{(n+3)}{\lambda^{n+3}} + \dots \right],$$

which yields

$$x = \frac{a}{\frac{(n)}{\lambda^n} + \frac{(n+1)}{\lambda^{n+1}} + \frac{(n+2)}{\lambda^{n+2}} + \frac{(n+3)}{\lambda^{n+3}} + \dots}.$$

From this it is clear that such an annuity can become most advantageous, and that a man, when he reaches a certain age, can enjoy a considerable income all his life, at little cost.

11. All these questions, then, are easily solved as soon as the values of the fractions

$$(1), (2), (3), (4), \dots$$

are known, and they depend both on the region and on the manner of living. Also, it has been noted that these values are different for the two sexes, so they cannot be determined generally. Now, in order to determine them by means of observations, it is easy to understand that there must be a large number of them, and further that they extend to all types of people. In this regard one cannot use the registers of life annuities, which start with infants under one year. Because first, we cannot regard these infants as newly born, and most have undoubtedly already escaped the dangers of the first months. Second, annuities are hardly ever acquired for infants of a feeble constitution, and so we must regard as select the infants for which a life annuity is taken. Thus values of our fractions

(1), (2), (3), ...

inferred from the registers of life annuities would be unfailingly too large, especially with regard to the first years. However, since it is necessary to settle the annuities from such registers rather than from true mortality, I will append the values of our fractions, just as they are drawn from the observations of Mr. Kersseboom.

(1) = 0.804	(21) = 0.577	(41) = 0.426	(61) = 0.264	(81) = 0.063
(2) = 0.768	(22) = 0.571	(42) = 0.420	(62) = 0.254	(82) = 0.054
(3) = 0.736	(23) = 0.565	(43) = 0.413	(63) = 0.245	(83) = 0.046
(4) = 0.709	(24) = 0.559	(44) = 0.406	(64) = 0.235	(84) = 0.039
(5) = 0.688	(25) = 0.552	(45) = 0.400	(65) = 0.225	(85) = 0.032
(6) = 0.676	(26) = 0.544	(46) = 0.393	(66) = 0.215	(86) = 0.026
(7) = 0.664	(27) = 0.535	(47) = 0.386	(67) = 0.205	(87) = 0.020
(8) = 0.653	(28) = 0.525	(48) = 0.378	(68) = 0.195	(88) = 0.015
(9) = 0.646	(29) = 0.516	(49) = 0.370	(69) = 0.185	(89) = 0.011
(10) = 0.639	(30) = 0.507	(50) = 0.362	(70) = 0.175	(90) = 0.008
(11) = 0.633	(31) = 0.499	(51) = 0.354	(71) = 0.165	(91) = 0.006
(12) = 0.627	(32) = 0.490	(52) = 0.345	(72) = 0.155	(92) = 0.004
(13) = 0.621	(33) = 0.482	(53) = 0.336	(73) = 0.145	(93) = 0.003
(14) = 0.616	(34) = 0.475	(54) = 0.327	(74) = 0.135	(94) = 0.002
(15) = 0.611	(35) = 0.468	(55) = 0.319	(75) = 0.125	(95) = 0.001
(16) = 0.606	(36) = 0.461	(56) = 0.310	(76) = 0.114	
(17) = 0.601	(37) = 0.454	(57) = 0.301	(77) = 0.104	
(18) = 0.596	(38) = 0.446	(58) = 0.291	(78) = 0.093	
(19) = 0.590	(39) = 0.439	(59) = 0.282	(79) = 0.082	
(20) = 0.584	(40) = 0.432	(60) = 0.273	(80) = 0.072	



Again, since this table is drawn up based on select infants who have indeed already survived some months since their births, if we want to apply it to all the newborn infants in a town or province, we must decrease all these numbers by a certain amount, to take into account the large mortality to which the infants are subject immediately after their births. But we will determine this correction more certainly from observations involving multiplication, which I will consider now.

## II. HYPOTHESIS OF MULTIPLICATION

12. This hypothesis is based on the principle of propagation. It is immediately obvious that if each year just as many infants are born as there are people who die, the number of all people will stay the same, and there will not be any multiplication whatsoever. But if the number of infants born each year surpasses the number of deaths, each year will produce an increase in the number of living, which will equal the excess of births over deaths. But this increase will change to a decrease when the number of deaths surpasses that of births. From this we have three cases to consider: the first where the number of people stays constantly the same; the second where it increases each year; and the third where it decreases each year. So if  $M$  indicates the number of all the people living at present and  $mM$  the number of those who are living next year, the first case happens if  $m = 1$ , the second if  $m > 1$ , and the third if  $m < 1$ ; so that all the cases can be included in the general coefficient  $m$ .

13. Having fixed the principle of propagation, which depends on marriages and on fertility, it is clear that the number of infants born during the course of a year must stand in a certain ratio to the total number of living men. From this it follows that if the number of living remains always the same, each year the same number of infants will be born; and if the number of living increases or decreases, the number of births must increase or decrease in the same ratio. So, by comparing together the total number of births during several consecutive years, according as this number stays the same, or increases, or decreases, one can infer from it whether the total number of men stays the same, or increases, or decreases. By applying the principle of mortality, it is also clear that the number of deaths during a year must stand in a

certain ratio both to the total number of living, and also to the number of births.

14. Since these two principles of mortality and propagation are independent of one another, and as I considered the former independently of the latter, we can also present the latter without reference to the former. For supposing the number of all the living at the same time to be  $M$ , the number of infants who are produced by them in the space of a year could be set to  $\alpha M$ , so that  $\alpha$  would be the measure of propagation or fertility. But it is difficult to draw from this position the consequences regarding multiplication and other phenomena which depend on it. The reasoning will become clearer if we introduce, at the beginning of the calculation, the number of infants born each year, and then apply the hypothesis of mortality. Then we will be able to infer the value of  $\alpha$ . Then conversely, the number of births depends at once on the two hypotheses of mortality and fertility; and from there, one will then draw without difficulty the solution to all the other questions that are ordinarily asked in treating this matter.

15. Just as I suppose that the rule of mortality always stays the same, I will suppose a similar constance of fertility, so that the number of infants born each year will always be proportional to the total number of living. So, if the number of the living stays the same, we will also have each year the same number of births; and if the number of the living increases or decreases, the number of annual births will increase or decrease by the same ratio.

Let  $N$  then be the number of infants born during the course of a year, and  $nN$  that of the infants born the next year, and since the ratio which changed  $N$  to  $nN$  persists afterwards, it is necessary that from any year whatsoever to the next the number of births increases by the ratio of 1 to  $n$ . Consequently, the third year will have  $n^2N$  births, the fourth  $n^3N$ , the fifth  $n^4N$ , and so on. Indeed, the numbers of annual births will constitute a geometric progression, either increasing, decreasing, or remaining the same, according as  $n > 1$ ,  $n < 1$ , or  $n = 1$ .

16. Let us suppose, then, that in a town or province, the number of infants born this year is  $N$ , and the number born next year will be  $nN$ , and so on, according to this progression:

	<i>Number of births</i>
at present	$N$
after 1 year	$n N$
after 2 years	$n^2 N$
after 3 years	$n^3 N$
after 4 years	$n^4 N$
	etc.,

and if we suppose that after 100 years nobody alive at present will still be alive, then there will not be, after 100 years, anybody alive other than those still alive from these births. Then, applying the hypothesis of mortality, we will be able to determine the total number of men alive after 100 years. Since in that year there will be  $n^{100} N$  born, we will have the ratio of the births to the total number of the living.

17. To make this more clear, let us see how many men will still be alive after 100 years, from births during each preceding year.

	<i>Number of births</i>	<i>After 100 years still alive</i>
at present	$N$	$(100) N$
after 1 year	$nN$	$(99)n N$
after 2 years	$n^2 N$	$(98)n^2 N$
after 3 years	$n^3 N$	$(97)n^3 N$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$	$\vdots$
after 98 years	$n^{98} N$	$(2)n^{98} N$
after 99 years	$n^{99} N$	$(1)n^{99} N$
after 100 years	$n^{100} N$	$n^{100} N$

Therefore, the total number of the living after 100 years will be

$$n^{100} N \left[ 1 + \frac{(1)}{n} + \frac{(2)}{n^2} + \frac{(3)}{n^3} + \frac{(4)}{n^4} + \frac{(5)}{n^5} + \dots \right].$$

18. The terms of this series will eventually vanish by virtue of the hypothesis of mortality; and since the total number of living stands in

a certain ratio to the number of births during the course of a year, the multiplication from one year to the next, which we suppose to be 1 to  $n$ , reveals this ratio to us. For if the total number of living is  $M$  and the number of infants who are procreated by them during the course of a year is set to  $N$ , we will have

$$\frac{M}{N} = 1 + \frac{(1)}{n} + \frac{(2)}{n^2} + \frac{(3)}{n^3} + \frac{(4)}{n^4} + \frac{(5)}{n^5} + \dots$$

So, if we know the quotient  $M/N$  and if we apply the hypothesis of mortality, or the values of the fractions (1), (2), (3), (4), etc., this equation determines conversely the ratio of multiplication,  $1 : n$ , from one year to the next. However, one clearly sees that this determination cannot be developed in general, but, for each hypothesis of mortality, if one calculates the quotient  $M/N$  for several values of  $n$  and if we draw up a table of them, it will be easy to conversely assign for each given quotient,  $M : N$ , which expresses fertility, the annual growth of the total number of living, which is the same as that of births.

19. Suppose then that the hypothesis of mortality or the fractions

$$(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), \dots$$

are known, as well as the hypothesis of fertility or the ratio of the total number of living  $M$ , to the number of infants  $N$ , who are procreated by them during a year. We will recognize from this whether the number of men is staying invariable, or if it is increasing, or decreasing. For if we set the total number of living next year to  $nM$ , those living at present being  $M$ , it is necessary to derive the value of  $n$  from the previously-found equation

$$\frac{M}{N} = 1 + \frac{(1)}{n} + \frac{(2)}{n^2} + \frac{(3)}{n^3} + \frac{(4)}{n^4} + \frac{(5)}{n^5} + \dots$$

and supposing the resolution of this equation is known, it is immaterial whether one knows the fertility,  $M/N$ , or the multiplication  $1 : n$ , the one being determined by the other, by means of the hypothesis of mortality.

## QUESTION 1

20. *Given the hypotheses of mortality and fertility, if the total number of living is known, to find how many of them will be of each age.*

Let  $M$  be the total number of living, and  $N$  the number of infants who were procreated by them in a year. By the hypothesis of mortality, we will know the ratio of the annual multiplication,  $1 : n$ . Then, knowing the value of  $n$ , it is easy to infer from §17 that there will be, among the number  $M$ ,

$N$  ... infants newly born,

$\frac{(1)}{n}N$  ... one year old,

$\frac{(2)}{n^2}N$  ... two years old,

$\frac{(3)}{n^3}N$  ... three years old,

$\frac{(4)}{n^4}N$  ... four years old,

and in general

$\frac{(a)}{n^a}N$  ...  $a$  years old.

Indeed, the sum of all these numbers taken together is  $M$ .

## QUESTION 2

21. *The same things being given, to find the number of people who will die in a year.*

Let  $M$  be the number of men living at present, including the infants born this year, whose number is  $N$ . The quotient  $M/N$  will determine the annual increase, which is  $1 : n$ . Then the next year the number of living will be  $nM$ , among which the number of newborns will be  $nN$ , and the other  $nM - nN$  are those who are still alive from the  $M$  of the preceding year. It follows that the number that will die will be

$$[1 - n]M + nN.$$

So if the number of the living is  $M$ , then during the course of a year  $[1 - n]M + nN$  of them will die, while during this same time period  $N$  infants will be born.

### QUESTION 3

22. *Knowing both the number of births and the number of burials that happen during the course of a year, to find the total number of living and their annual increase, for a given hypothesis of mortality.*

Let  $N$  be the number of births and  $\mathcal{O}$  the number of burials that happen in a year. Then set the total number of living to  $M$  and the annual augmentation to  $1 : n$ , and the preceding solution gives us this equation:

$$\mathcal{O} = [1 - n]M + nN.$$

The hypothesis of mortality gives

$$\frac{M}{N} = 1 + \frac{(1)}{n} + \frac{(2)}{n^2} + \frac{(3)}{n^3} + \frac{(4)}{n^4} + \dots$$

Then from the first equation above we have

$$M = \frac{\mathcal{O} - nN}{1 - n},$$

and this value, when substituted into the second equation, gives

$$\frac{1}{N} \cdot \frac{\mathcal{O} - N}{1 - n} = \frac{1}{N} \cdot \frac{N - \mathcal{O}}{n - 1} = \frac{(1)}{n} + \frac{(2)}{n^2} + \frac{(3)}{n^3} + \dots$$

from which it is necessary to find the value of the number  $n$ .

23. If the number of burials  $\mathcal{O}$ , is equal to that of the births  $N$ , so that

$$N = [1 - n]M + nN$$

it is absolutely necessary that  $n = 1$ , or that the number of living stay the same; and in this case, this number will be

$$M = N[1 + (1) + (2) + (3) + (4) + \dots].$$

Now, if the number of births,  $N$ , surpasses that of the burials,  $\mathcal{O}$ , so that  $N - \mathcal{O}$  is a positive number, the equation

$$\frac{1}{N} \cdot \frac{N - \mathcal{O}}{n - 1} = \frac{(1)}{n} + \frac{(2)}{n^2} + \frac{(3)}{n^3} + \frac{(4)}{n^4} + \dots$$

will give for  $n$  a value greater than 1, which indicates that the number of the living is increasing. But if the number of births,  $N$ , is smaller than that of the burials,  $\mathcal{O}$ , our equation must be represented in this form

$$\frac{1}{N} \cdot \frac{\mathcal{O} - N}{1 - n} = \frac{(1)}{n} + \frac{(2)}{n^2} + \frac{(3)}{n^3} + \frac{(4)}{n^4} + \dots$$

from which we draw for  $n$  a value smaller than 1, which indicates that the number of living is decreasing.

#### QUESTION 4

24. *Given the numbers of births and burials in a year, to find how many of each age will be among the dead.*

Let  $N$  be the number of infants born during a year and  $\mathcal{O}$  the number of deaths. By the preceding question we will have the number of all the living,  $M$ , with the multiplication  $1 : n$  from one year to the next. From there, let us consider how many men will be alive at each age, both this year and the next.

<i>Number</i>	<i>this year</i>	<i>next year</i>
of newly born	$N$	$nN$
of age 1 year	$\frac{(1)}{n}N$	$(1)N$
of age 2 years	$\frac{(2)}{n^2}N$	$\frac{(2)}{n}N$
of age 3 years	$\frac{(3)}{n^3}N$	$\frac{(3)}{n^2}N$
	etc.,	

from which it is clear that the number who will die during the course of this year will be

*Number of deaths*

under 1 year	$[1 - (1)] N$
from 1 to 2 years	$[(1) - (2)] \frac{N}{n}$
from 2 to 3 years	$[(2) - (3)] \frac{N}{n^2}$
from 3 to 4 years	$[(3) - (4)] \frac{N}{n^3}$
from 4 to 5 years	$[(4) - (5)] \frac{N}{n^4}$

etc.

25. The total number deaths this year is  $\mathcal{O}$ , so we have this equation

$$\frac{\mathcal{O}}{N} = 1 - (1) \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{n} \right] - \frac{(2)}{n} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{n} \right] - \frac{(3)}{n^2} \left[ 1 - \frac{1}{n} \right] - \dots$$

which agrees with

$$\mathcal{O} = [1 - n] M + nN$$

because

$$\frac{M}{N} = 1 + \frac{(1)}{n} + \frac{(2)}{n^2} + \frac{(3)}{n^3} + \frac{(4)}{n^4} + \frac{(5)}{n^5} + \dots$$

So, knowing the hypothesis of mortality along with with the annual multiplication  $1 : n$ , and the number  $N$  of births from one year, we can determine how many men of each age will probably die during the course of a year.

## QUESTION 5

26. *Knowing the total number of living, as well as the number of births with the number of deaths at each age during the course of a year, to find the law of mortality.*

Let  $M$  be the total number of living,  $N$  that of the births, and  $\mathcal{O}$  of burials during the course of a year; and from that we will immediately know the annual multiplication

$$n = \frac{M - \mathcal{O}}{M - N}.$$



Then for this year, the number of deaths will be, by the preceding question

$$\begin{aligned} \text{under 1 year} & \quad \alpha = [1 - (1)] N \\ \text{from 1 year to 2 years} & \quad \beta = [(1) - (2)] \frac{N}{n} \\ \text{from 2 years to 3 years} & \quad \gamma = [(2) - (3)] \frac{N}{n^2} \\ \text{from 3 years to 4 years} & \quad \delta = [(3) - (4)] \frac{N}{n^3} \end{aligned}$$

etc.,

and from that we will find the fractions (1), (2), (3), etc., which comprise the law of mortality:

$$\begin{aligned} (1) &= 1 - \frac{\alpha}{N} \\ (2) &= (1) - \frac{n\beta}{N} = 1 - \frac{\alpha + n\beta}{N} \\ (3) &= (2) - \frac{n^2\gamma}{N} = 1 - \frac{\alpha + n\beta + n^2\gamma}{N} \\ (4) &= (3) - \frac{n^3\delta}{N} = 1 - \frac{\alpha + n\beta + n^2\gamma + n^3\delta}{N} \end{aligned}$$

etc.

27. *Voilà*, a manner more certain than that of the life annuities for determining the law of mortality. And this determination will become easier if we choose a town or province where the number of burials equals the baptisms, so that  $n = 1$ , for indeed it would suffice to know the number of deaths at each age. But it must be noted that such a law of mortality need only extend to the town or province from which it was drawn. Other regions can have in place a totally different such law; and it has been observed, in particular, that in the large towns the mortality is greater than in the small, and in the latter greater than in the villages. If we trouble ourselves to establish well both the law of mortality and that of fertility for several places, we will be able to draw from them a number of most important conclusions.

28. But it is still necessary to note that, in the calculation that I have just developed, I have assumed that the total number of the living from a place stays the same, or increases or decreases uniformly, so that it is necessary to exclude both extraordinary ravages such as plague, war, and famine, as well as extraordinary growth, such as from new colonies. It will also be good to choose such a place where all those born stay in the region and where outsiders do not come to live and die, which would contradict the principles on which I have based the preceding calculations. In places subject to such irregularities, it would be necessary to keep exact records both of the living and the dead, and then by following the principles that I just established, one would be in a position to apply the same calculations. Everything always comes back to these two principles, that of mortality and that of fertility, which being once well established for a certain place, it is not difficult to resolve all the questions that one can propose on this matter, of which I am happy to have related the principles.

29. I have also treated these questions only in general terms, without limiting them to any particular place; indeed, to draw from them all the benefits, everything depends on a large number of observations made in several different places, both of the number of all the living and of the births during one or several years, as well as of the number of deaths with their ages. Since this is something that is most difficult to do well, we are to be very much indebted to Mr. Sussmilch, *Conseiller du Consistoire Supérieur*, who, after having overcome near insurmountable obstacles, came to furnish us so large a number of such observations, which appear sufficient to decide most of the questions which present themselves in this research. And indeed, he has himself already drawn so many important conclusions, that we can hope that he will carry by his efforts this science to the highest degree of perfection to which it is capable.