

Preface

The purpose of this study is to investigate the personal and numerical aspects of death among children across three centuries. *Quality of Life* is the construct used to explore the complex. For nineteenth century England and Wales, and Ireland, it is formulated as two national measures, the VICQUAL and QUALEIRE indexes. Each index consists of several domains containing relevant numerical data. For the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries written sources—diaries, essays, inscriptions, poems, and church records, for example, are employed. In addition to limited numerical materials from that era, attention is drawn to the reaction of parents to the death of a child, and to the variety of ways in which the loss was reacted to, and memorialized.