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EFFECTS UPON PUBLIC HEALTH AND NATURAL PROSPERITY FROM RURAL DEPOPULATION AND ABNORMAL INCREASE OF CITIES.

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Not for many years in the history of the American Continent—or indeed of Europe—has the subject of this paper seemed to be more appropriate for discussion than at the present time. Dr. Max Nordau in his work on "Degeneration" written twenty years ago, in comparing conditions existing about 1840 and at the time when he wrote, says, "It is about that date when that generation was born which has witnessed the irruption of new discoveries in every relation of life and thus personally experienced those transformations which are the consequences." Since that time another generation has grown to manhood in the United States and in Canada and urban populations have continued ever to increase as illustrated in the following table:

TABLE SHOWING PER CENT. OF URBAN POPULATION TO TOTAL IN THE
UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	United States.	Canada
1860.....	16.5%	17.0%
1870.....	21.0%	18.7%
1880..... (4,000)	29.5%	21.3%
1890.....	36.1%	32.1%
1900.....	40.5%	37.7%
1910.....	46.3%	45.1%

It is further probable that a notable proportion of the younger members present in this meeting are a town product and hence cannot fully appreciate the meaning of these figures; but such certainly can understand the urban conditions under which the millions of the poorer people live in the cities where each is engaged in his special public work. That even the best work which many of my co-workers in the Town Planning Association and National Housing Association are doing in the matter of improving the dwellings of the work people is beginning to appear to them palliative or curative rather than preventive is now becoming apparent as seen in the wonderfully rapid evolution of the suburban and Garden City Movement. One does not require to repeat statistics to show that the mortality rates of our cities are higher in the crowded areas and that tuberculosis finds