

out sooner than those of opposite temperament. Dr. Minot does not accept this view of the cause of death. He rather thinks that there is some general cell change that is mainly the cause of age and death. The rate of this change is the measure of life.

Too much weight should not be attached to the arterial theory, which has been advanced under the general text that "a man is as old as his arteries." Dr. Minot dissents considerably from this view. He holds that the hardening of the arteries will rarely give rise to the cell changes which he regards as the real cause of senility and death.

The theory that, with advancing age, the variation in the relationship of lung surface to body surface is the cause of death does not meet with favor. According to the alteration of respiratory capacity to the surface of the body the rate of aging may be determined. As we become old the surface of the body becomes relatively lessened. This theory must be abandoned.

Dr. Minot holds that death is the result of evolution. In the lowest forms of life the cell lives on through its succeeding cells. As we advance through the higher grades of life there is an ever-increasing amount of differentiation. The cell changes which he regards as the cause of death are the result of this evolution. Death is the price we pay for our complex-organization.

But there are many forms of life that are of very lowly type and devoid of a complex body, and yet they die. They have not become highly evolved, yet they perish. It would seem as if we had not reached the end of the problem of life.

THE SENTENCING OF CRIMINALS.

A great deal has been written upon this important subject. Of recent years it has attracted much attention; and the last word has by no means been said upon it.

The plan of stating at the time of the trial some definite time during which the criminal must remain in custody, is fast falling into disfavor. It is very hard, indeed, to measure out the term of imprisonment in advance to suit all cases. It may be said that by this plan very few cases are really properly apportioned so far as the term of servitude is concerned.

It is with the view of meeting this difficulty that many have turned their attention to the method of the indeterminate sentence. Under this plan the convict may be able to do much towards the securing for himself his lost liberty. The hope that he may earn his freedom may awake dormant good qualities into activity, and the lazy may become