

With these explanations the following figures are given :

1874. Births in 48,009, 1,495; deaths in 63,772, 1,047.	
1875. Births in 74,417, 1,905; deaths in 99,309, 1,566.	
1876. Births in 81,734, 2,386; deaths in 90,590, 2,195.	
1874. Increase by births .....	44.82 in 1,000
Decrease by deaths .....	23.28 in 1,000
Excess of births over deaths .....	21.54 in 1,000
1875. Increase by births .....	25.59 in 1,000
Decrease by deaths .....	15.76 in 1,000
Excess of births over deaths .....	9.83 in 1,000
1876. Increase by births .....	29.19 in 1,000
Decrease by deaths .....	23.12 in 1,000
Excess of births over deaths .....	6.07 in 1,000

These numbers and ratios are not given for the purpose of drawing from them any general conclusions respecting the natural tendency of Indian population either to increase or decrease, for they are based on data much too imperfect and covering altogether too brief a period, to give them any value for that. But they are presented to indicate the state of our actual knowledge on the subject, and in the hope that simply showing how meager the stock of information is, may result in efficient measures being taken for its increase.

The subject may be dismissed here with the remark that whatever positive evidence the figures afford is not in favor of the theory of a rapid decrease of the Indian population from natural causes.

#### SANITARY CONDITION OF THE INDIANS.

The value of the above statistics would have been greatly enhanced had they been made to show the proportion of deaths from each disease that contributed to the mortality. In the absence of such information recourse was had to the published reports of the several agents, a careful examination of which reveals much of interest on the subject. Within the period mentioned (1874-'76) fifty-six agents have reported the sanitary condition of the Indians under their charge, and a number have stated the prevailing diseases among them. These reports came from all the Territories except Alaska and Wyoming, and from the States of California, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, and Oregon, and may, therefore, be assumed to represent fairly the average sanitary condition of all the Indians in the United States except the civilized tribes in New York and the Indian Territory, from which no reports on these points were received.

In 1874, of 17 agents, 9 reported the sanitary condition of the Indians under their charge "good"; 1, "good until the last month"; 1, "excellent"; 1 as "fair"; 2 as "greatly improved"; 2 as "improving"; and 1 as "not as good as usual."

In 1875, of 43 agents, 28 reported the health of the Indians as "good"; 4 as "fair"; 3 as "improved"; and 8 as "not good."

In 1876, of 24 agents, 17 reported the health of the Indians as "good"; 2 as "fair"; 1 as "excellent"; 1 as "improved"; 1 as "not as good as usual"; and 2 as "not good."

From one agency in Arizona, one in California, and one in Nevada, reports were received each year; two showed uniform good health, and one indicated improvement.

From 29 agents reports of prevailing diseases were received for one or more years. The list includes pulmonary diseases, resulting from exposure, reported 8 times; malarial fevers, reported 7 times; scrofula and venereal diseases, reported 13 times; rheumatism, caused by expo-