

decadence. Vice favours—often causes—disease, and both flourish in the haunts of ignorance. And just as ignorance, crime and ill health contribute to produce poverty and misery in the individual, so do they prevent the advancement of a nation, not only by limiting production, but by contributing enormously to the cost of living. The problem is therefore one of the greatest economic importance, and it is my purpose to lay stress upon this phase of the question at this time.

The medical profession is often accused of doing little to better the condition of mankind. I do not propose to abuse the trust you have imposed on me this evening by entering into a defence of the profession to which I am proud to belong, but it is necessary to my argument to call to your attention some recent accomplishments in the realm of medicine. At the beginning a reference may be permitted to some statistics which have recently come from the Department of Health of New York City. These show that while in 1868 the deaths of children under five years of age in that city averaged 124.8 per 1000, in 1907 (i. e., 40 years later) this mortality had been reduced to 53.74 per 1000—that is, a decrease of 57 per cent. In that city, the deaths at all ages from all causes averaged 29.24 per 1000 in 1868; in 1907 the rate was but 18.97 per 1000, a reduction, that is, in the total death rate, of 35 per cent.

Abstract of tables of Wm. H. Guilfooy, applying to New York City (Old City).

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DEATHS UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE, FROM ALL CAUSES—PER 1000.

	1868	1907	DECREASE.
Males	130.6	57.85	56 per cent.
Females	118.9	49.57	58 " "
Both	124.8	53.74	57 " "

DEATHS AT ALL AGES, FROM ALL CAUSES—PER 1000.

	1868	1907	DECREASE.
Males	32.12	21.13	34 " "
Females	26.52	16.53	38 " "
Both	29.24	18.97	35 " "