

sorry to add I do not possess, will at a glance notice whether the percentage of illness and of deaths is smaller than usual.

In those districts from which complete returns have been obtained, there are 16,269 members: of them 2,630 were ill during the past year, the number of weeks of illness amounting to 14,403, while the deaths were 120. The percentage of sick during the year was 16.16; the death-rate was 7.4 per thousand, and the number of days' illness per member was 6.14. The death-rate is decidedly low. Though comparatively large, these figures are not sufficiently so to make positive conclusions justifiable. The period under observation—twelve months—is besides scarcely long enough. There is danger of being misled by temporary disturbing circumstances, as an unusually high rate of sickness, or a larger mortality than common; and the smaller the figures and the shorter the time, the more serious these difficulties. Something may, however, be gained from an examination of the totals, especially as they are obtained from a large number of societies meeting in different parts of the country, so that an over favorable condition in one country is sure to be counterbalanced by a less favorable one somewhere else.

As the Rechabites do not publish detailed annual statements of the sickness and mortality in their ranks it is not possible to get accurate returns for the years in which such reports are not issued. As throwing light, however, on the question I am attempting to elucidate—the relative mortality and sickness in temperance and non-temperance friendly societies—the following figures, obtained at considerable inconvenience, and which have been, as far as possible, verified, are important. For 1866 a full report was drawn up. The sickness per member, in that year, in the English districts from which complete returns were obtained was approximately 7 days, while the mortality per thousand was almost exactly 9.07. In the same year 193 members per thousand were ill, and the number constantly sick was a fraction over 19 per thousand. Again, a detailed report was issued for 1868, and, omitting districts from which the returns are not complete, as well as foreign districts, it appears the sickness per member averaged 9.3 days, and the mortality per thousand was