

calculated that 67,000 at least took place from causes capable of prevention or amelioration, and if to this we add 33,000 of the deaths from phthisis, we have a total of 100,000 lives sacrificed at the shrine of ignorance and neglect of the ordinary precautions necessary to our well-being. It may be assumed as a low average that, taking the total of the deaths in England, including those from infancy, there annually occur 100,000 fatal cases over and above those necessarily resulting from the ills humanity is heir to; yet, notwithstanding this waste of human life, it has been proved by the return of 1856, that 46,000 persons were then living who would have been dead had the same death rate prevailed as that of the ten preceding years; and, moreover, that the loss of life in 1856 from the same causes was 35,197 less than in the preceding year. Many, if not all of these lives were saved by the fruits of sanitary science in the drainage and ventilation of the large cities and towns. We have stated that in some counties the mortality was only 15 in each thousand of the population; it would, perhaps, be calculating from wrong data to assume this as the rate at which the mortality proper and necessarily incident to a country should be put down, and yet here even death must have happened from causes under control. It has, I believe, been assumed that 17 in 1000 is in the present condition of English society, a fair average at which to put down the necessary mortality, and that all deaths over and above this proportion are unnatural and capable of prevention. But much as we learn from the foregoing record, the lesson sinks into insignificance when compared with that taught us by the statistics relating to the awful waste of human life during the Crimean campaign, and the truly wonderful results following the application of measures having for their object the prevention of Zymotic disease. I shall here advance facts relating as well to the French as to the English army. The returns for the English army have been calculated from the period of leaving England in the month of April, 1854, up to the month of March, 1856, and the return of deaths for the sake of perspicuity is shown under the heads of Zymotic diseases, wounds and injuries, and from all other causes; we find then that during the month of April, 1854, when the strength of the army was 8,571, that the deaths include one from Zymotic disease, and five from all other causes. In July of the same year and the first month of the cholera pestilence, with a strength of 28,722, the deaths from Zymotic disease rose to 359, giving an annual rate of mortality per 1000 equal to 150. From this period until the month of January, 1855, when our sufferings and misfortunes reached their climax, the death rate had gone on increasing, and in the last named month stood as follows:—Strength, 32,393; deaths from Zymotic diseases, 2,761; from wounds, 83; from all other causes, 231, and presenting us with an annual mortality per 1000 in the proportions 1022.8 for Zymotic diseases, 30.7 for wounds, and 120 for other causes. From this period improvement, slow at first, gradually quickened its pace, its extent in a brief period will be better understood and appreciated by putting the returns for several of the months in a tabular form.