

and would be smaller still, if it were not for those who die in work-houses and hospitals, deserted by their parents.

The degree of fertility of marriages seems to vary between 3500 and 5500 children to 1000 couples. The author, from an average of more than 77 millions of births, and 17 millions of marriages, all extending over a period of several years, comes to some results, from which we shall extract two or three of the most interesting. To 1000 marriages, there were born in the

Kingdom of the Two Sicilies. . . .	5546 children.
In France. . . . .	4148
In England. . . . .	3565
In Zealand. . . . .	3439

The Two Sicilies and Zealand being the extremes. Marriages appear to be less prolific, as the countries lie nearer to the north.

A fourth point of importance in these investigations, is the growing excess of males over females, since the general peace. Thus, in Russia, the increase of males over females, in 15 years, was 804,453; in France, 347,254; in Prussia, 69,764; in Naples, 25,796, in Bavaria, 8,398; in Bohemia, 69,172; in Sweden, 15,195; in Württemberg, 6,577; in Hesse, 9,361; in Nassau, 6,484; briefly, in a total population of 101,707,212, an excess of 1,856,754 males. If this proportion be applied to all Europe, with a population of 215 millions, the excess of males would amount, in the same period of peace, to 2,700,000. In the southern provinces of Russia, near the Caucasus, in the two Americas, and at the Cape of Good Hope, the disproportion is still greater.—*Athenæum*.

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**EGYPTIAN MUMMY.**—A more curious and interesting spectacle can scarcely be contemplated, than that which represents the mortal part of man, bearing all the appearances of undecayed nature, after a period of from 3 to 500 years, since the time of its existence, mysteriously shrouded in perhaps 50 encasements of linen, of a texture impervious to the ravages of time, and exhibiting the flesh, teeth and beard in an embalmed and enduring state. This Mummy was dug out of the ruins of the city Thebe, which was destroyed 300 years since, and was brought to England in 1786, by Mr. Mills, of Bath. The height of the individual (supposed from the hieroglyphic characters on the coffin, to have been that of a King), is about 5 feet 9 inches; the coffin, which is made of Sycamore wood, displayed amazing skill and ingenuity, and the characters on the coffin are executed with a style superior to any modern effort.—*Kingston U. C. Chronicle*.

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**THE SNOW BIRD.**—The Snow Bird of America is remarked among ornithologists for the obscurity which hangs round its history. On the first approach of winter it suddenly makes its appearance at the farm house, apparently driven by the inclemency of the weather to court the society of man. Whence it comes no one can tell; and whither it goes, (for its exit is as sudden as its entrance,) no one has yet been able to discover. It is supposed by some to be in reality another bird; only that its plumage, by some mysterious and irresistible power, has been suddenly changed. It delights to hover