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VITAL STATISTICS.

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(Continued.)

As the number of children entering life is regular, both in town and country, those advancing in age would maintain very nearly the same proportions of children to adults, in town and country, provided no migrations from one to the other occurred. But at about the fifteenth year, large migrations begin to take place to the towns, and to this large diversion of people to the centres of population and wealth, must we look for explanation of the fact, that adults between 15 and 60 years constitute 59 per cent. of town populations, and only 51 per cent. of the country. Again, not only is rural mortality greater than rural mortality, in the proportion of 3 to 2, during the whole period of life; but it is also greater at any given age. More strikingly to shew this, divide the whole population into four classes. The first embracing all under 5 years; 2nd, all from 5 to 20 years; 3rd, those between 20 and 60 years; and, 4th, all above this last age. In towns, the mortality in the first class was two and a half times as great as in the insular districts; thus, insular 34.6; mainland rural 43.4; town, 90.5. Again, during the second of the above epochs, the town mortality was nearly double that of the country: insular, 4.40; mainland rural, 6.20; town, 9.30. "The practical corollary deducible from these facts is, that were all our town-born children reared in the country, at least eight thousand lives would be annually saved to the population of Scotland." The 3rd class, extending from 20 to 60 years, embraces the working and active period of life,

and has a low mortality. Still the same unpromising law obtains as in the preceding epochs. Men die in greater number per thousand in the town than in the country during this, as well as during other periods of life; thus: insular, 9.20; mainland rural, 10.20; town, 14.90; and finally, the last stage of all, from 60 upwards, proves equally unfavourable to life in towns as compared with the country: towns, 75.5; mainland rural, 63.4; insular, 55.0; and that, too, notwithstanding the fact that "the proportion of aged persons in the towns is very much smaller than in the rural districts." In every thousand persons of the general population, 115 are above 60 years of age in insular; 87 in mainland rural, and 61 in town districts. Death had cut off so large a proportion of the town populations during the earlier periods of life, that comparatively few were left to survive the 60th year.

At every age, a residence in the city, burns down the taper of human life more rapidly than in the country; the ratio of mortality being somehow inextricably bound up with density of population. Natural laws apparently endeavor to compensate for such high mortality by an increased number of marriages and births.

That this excess in town mortality is *not due* to greater mental activity and consequently greater mental and bodily exhaustion, appears evident from the greater mortality, as well during the earlier periods of life (under 5 years), before the mental powers have been excited to action, as in the aged, when usually the period of mental activity has passed.

If any thing further be required to shew how little rural life conduces to longevity, the average age at death of all populations supplies that want. During the same period, the mean