

lished statistics relative to longevity is greatly impaired by the fact that in a very considerable portion of deaths registered the age given is incorrect. The tendency is always to understate it. Two causes, the influence of both of which will be readily admitted by anyone in a position to form an opinion, operate in bringing this about. One is the widespread custom among the poorer class of people of obtaining insurance policies upon their lives, the premiums for which are paid weekly. The amount of such insurance is never large and the companies offering it do not appear to make any great effort to investigate the correctness of the age given by the applicant. In many cases five, ten, and even more years, is taken from the true age by the applicant at the time of insuring, and when death comes the certificate must necessarily correspond with the age given in the policy. Another is the increased difficulty experienced by men of middle age, or older, in obtaining employment. Every trade has a fixed wage scale, and naturally employers, if compelled to pay a stated wage, pick out young men as being, physically, most likely to perform the best work. Men finding themselves, by advancing years, regarded as less useful, naturally try to remove this handicap. The face is clean shaved, the hair dyed and the age concealed, and in deceiving the world they come in time to deceive themselves and believe themselves to be younger than they really are. Who can blame them? Nor what can be more pitiful than conditions which compel such hypocrisy?

It would, perhaps, be indelicate to refer to the known aversion of the gentler sex, to admit their age, or to the influence of this upon average stated age at death. We are, however, of the opinion that the causes above cited have a marked influence in lowering the general average of human life as shown in published statistics.

THE KING'S ILLNESS.

The most widely discussed illness of modern times has terminated in the restoration of health to the patient, and in the renown of his medical attendants. Nothing could have been more tragic than the circumstances under which His Majesty,