

to mention a few of the steps which under the guidance of the medical profession have been taken to protect our fellow beings from the attacks of disease. Proper sanitary precautions in the building and ventilation of dwellings and workshops, the removal and disposal of sewage and garbage, the supplying water for domestic purpose free from disease bearing germs, the prohibiting the sale of unwholesome food, the isolation of those suffering from contagious and infectious diseases, the disinfection of the homes and the clothing of those who have been so affected, the immunization of those who have been exposed to contagion—these are some of the measures now taken to protect mankind from disease. As I have already claimed the main credit for these wise precautions must be given the medical profession.

What, it might be pertinently asked, has been the deterring effect on the spread of disease of these sanitary measures? This is a difficult question to answer. For our answer we must rely upon statistics, and herein lies our difficulty. Figures, it has been said, can be made to prove anything. But over and above this possible source of error, we have to contend with the probable unreliability of the statistics furnished in the earlier years of the century. Records of disease were not then kept as accurately as now, and, without reflecting upon the ability of our predecessors, we may safely assert that the diagnosis of disease was not formerly as accurate as it is in our day. With these provisional remarks I submit for your consideration the average annual death rate from infectious diseases per 1,000,000 persons living in England and Wales during each quinquennial period, from 1847 to 1891, compiled from Stevenson & Murphy's work on Hygiene and Public Health :

AVERAGE ANNUAL DEATH RATE PER 1,000,000 LIVING IN ENGLAND AND WALES DURING EACH QUINQUENNIAL PERIOD.

	1847- 1851.	1852- 1856.	1857- 1861.	1862- 1866.	1867- 1871.	1872- 1876.	1877- 1881.	1882- 1886.	1887- 1891.
Measles	403	399	425	457	428	273	385	413	468
Scarlet Fever.....	884	907	806	982	960	759	680	436	241
Whooping Cough.....	472	540	524	541	489	495	524	470	443
Diphtheria .....	.....	.....	.....	231	121.	144	120	162	174
Croup .....	.....	233	262	292	193	182	146	163	117
Diphtheria and Croup.....	.....	.....	.....	523	314	326	266	325	291
Influenza	207	96	64	38	28	12	8	4	148
Erysipelas .....	.....	111	90	91	86	105	80	76	52
Simple Continued Fever.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	139	62	30	14
Enteric Fever .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	361	258	210	176
Typhus Fever .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	67	29	20	6