

To the Reading and Thinking Public.

1. The subject of these pages is one in which I have always felt great interest, and one well worthy the consideration of every thinking person.

2. The question I would draw your attention to is this: Why is it that 95 per cent. of the lower animals—whether wild or domestic—if fairly cared for and protected, will attain to a ripe old age; while the mortality of the human race, notwithstanding the advantages which he enjoys of education, scientific knowledge and medical skill, is such that not more than 10 per cent. reach the allotted period of three-score years and ten, and that even if we reduce the standard to three-score or even to two-score years and ten, the number is not materially increased? But the saddest of all sad things is—that death's richest harvest is from the cradle to middle-age.

3. Recognizing as we all must, that all things are under the governance of the great Creator; and that all physical and mental evil that happens to mankind; all disease, sickness and premature death is the result of the breach of some law of nature, we may well ask—what is the cause of this