

14.3. In New York the death rate has decreased by 5.89 per 1,000 during the past 25 years.

On tuberculosis, Professor Adami made some very interesting observations. He stated that in his 1,400 autopsies there was macroscopical evidence of tubercle in 45.5 of the total, or, if some doubtful indications were included, a little over 51 per cent. Some statistics place the percentage as higher than this of persons who show evidence of active or old tubercular infection. "It would seem that there is no very great exaggeration in the statement that every one has his bit of tuberculosis, even if, fortunately for us, the majority are able successfully to hedge in that bit and render it harmless."

Attention, in the address, is given to the former opinions held regarding tuberculosis. Professor Peters, who held the Chair of Pathology in the Paris Faculty, declared in 1882 that tuberculosis was not contagious, and held that tubercle was due to a vice of nutrition and a loss of vitality.

In England and Wales the death rate from tuberculosis was 38 per 10,000 of the population in 1838. By 1884 it had fallen to slightly over 18 per 10,000. "Since then there has been a distinct acceleration in the fall." In New York there has been a marked reduction in the death rate during the past 10 years. In Edinburgh, even better results have been secured. In the years 1887 to 1896 the death rate fell from 19.5 to 17 per 10,000, and by 1906 it had fallen to 11. The percentage reduction in the first 10 years was 12.82, and in the second 10 years it was 42.1. In the past ten years, as the result of exact knowledge, there has been a greater reduction than in the previous 50 years.

Coming to the question of malaria, we note that an error crept into some remarks in our previous issue as to Professor Adami's statements regarding the mortality in this disease. While the death rate is high, it does not cause one-half of all those that occur in the world. The mosquito is also the real cause. This is one of the great scourges of the human race. In India in 1892 there were 7,000,000 deaths, and that 5,000,000 were due to "fever," and that fever in the tropics indicates most often malaria. In China and in Central and South America and in many parts of the United States, this disease had wrought terrible ravages. In India 3 out of every 7 British soldiers suffer from an annual attack of malaria, while on the West coast of Africa each suffers from the attacks yearly on an average.

Professor Adami referred to the studies on Greece and Rome to the effect that much of the decline in these countries was caused by the introduction of malaria. The Island of Mauritius is a noted example of the evil effects of this disease on the health of the people as seen since its appearance there in 1866.