

As regards man, there is no doubt that it is one of the most terrible diseases which afflict the human race, and that it is responsible for a very large proportion of the deaths from disease in general. Whilst it is unwise to over-estimate the value of statistics, there is no doubt whatever that the endeavours which have been made during the last few years to obtain more accurate statistics in regard to cancer and its mortality have given most valuable information in regard to its geographical distribution. the comparative frequency with which it affects the different organs of the body, and the apparent influence of various occupations on its incidence. The results of these researches indicate that the view which formerly prevailed that cancer affected only civilized races, and that those living under primitive conditions of life and in certain climates were exempt from it, has no foundation in fact, and that it is prevalent to a varying extent amongst all races of the world and in all climates.

As regards the mortality of the disease, a study of the English statistics shows an alarming increase in the fatalities from it during the last few decades. In 1840 the reports show that one person in 5,646 of the total population of the country died from malignant disease; there was one death from it in every 129 deaths recorded, and there were 117 deaths due to cancer per million of the population. On comparing these figures with those for the year 1906 we find that one person in 1,131 of the total population died from malignant disease; that there was one death from it in every seventeen deaths recorded, and that there were 885 deaths due to cancer per million of the population.

On the Continent of America we also see a corresponding increase in the death rate from cancer. In New York the death rate from malignant disease in 1913 was 82 per 100,000 of the total population, whereas from the previous five years the average was 79 per 100,000, in Boston it was 118 per 100,000 as compared with an average for the previous five years of 110 per 100,000; in Pittsburg 79 per 100,000, as compared with 70 per 100,000 for the previous five years; in Baltimore 105 per 100,000 as compared with 94 per 100,000 for the previous five years; in Chicago 86 per 100,000 as compared with 81 per 100,000 for the previous five years; in Philadelphia 95 per 100,000 as compared with 88 per 100,000 for the previous five years; and in St. Louis 95 per 100,000 as compared with an average of 85 per 100,000 for the previous five years. The mortality statistics for the whole of the United States give in 1900 a death rate from cancer of 63 per 100,000 of the total population, in 1904 of 70.2 per 100,000, in 1909 of 73.8 per 100,000, and in 1912 of 77 per 100,000.

As regards Canada we find that in our own Province of Ontario