

'In ancient Rome, (5th Ann. Rept. of St. Bd. of Hth. Mas.), in the period two hundred to five hundred years after the Christian era, the average duration of life in the most favored class was thirty years. In the present century, the average longevity of persons of the same class is fifty years. The records of life and death in Geneva, in Switzerland, for the last three hundred years, are more complete than any others now known. These show that the expectation of life from birth, or the average longevity, was,—21.21 years, in the 16th century; 25.67 years, in the 17th century; 33.62 years, in the 18th century; 39.69 years, from 1801 to 1833; 40.68 years, 1814 to 1833.

'In the 16th century, 25.92 per cent. of the children died in their first year. In the 19th century, the deaths at this age were reduced to 15.12 per cent. In the 16th century, 61.11 per cent., in the present century only 33 per cent., perished before they reached maturity at twenty. In the first period, 3.08 per cent. passed their threescore and ten years, and in the latter, 17.94 per cent. had that length of life. As large proportion now live to seventy as lived to forty-three, three hundred years ago.

'In 1693, the British government borrowed money by selling annuities on lives from infancy upwards, on the basis of the average longevity of the people of that century. The treasury received the price and paid the annuities regularly as long as the annuitants lived. The contract was satisfactory to both parties. The government obtained the money at a reasonable cost, and the annuitants received their principal and a fair interest, and no more. Ninety-seven years later, in 1790, Mr. Pitt issued another tontine or scale of annuities, on the basis of the same expectation of life as in the tontine of the previous century. These latter annuitants lived so much longer than their predecessor, that it proved to be a very costly loan for the government. It was found that while 10,000 of each sex, in the first company of annuitants, died under the age of twenty-eight, only 5,772 males and 6,416 females, in the second company, died at the same age one hundred years later. Within the century, included in this history, the longevity of this class of people increased twenty years.'

'A similar diminution of death and prolongation of life has been granted to other nations in the progress of civilization. The marked effect of the improvements in life is seen in the increased proportion that reach maturity, and of the effective population between twenty and seventy. The dependent class is thereby diminished and the sustaining class is increased. According to the Geneva record, the average working period has increased from eight years and five months to twenty-two years and eleven months within three hundred years, and consequently old age is postponed. Those who were formerly old at fifty and decrepit at sixty, are now old at seventy and decrepit at eighty.

It is well known that the death-rate of London, notwithstanding its great and rapid growth, has been greatly and steadily reduced,