

## LIFE CAN BE LENGTHENED.

Declaring that human life in America could be lengthened by one-third—that is, more than fifteen years—by the adoption of hygienic reforms already known, Dr. Irving Fisher, of Yale University, in an address before the Association of Life Insurance Presidents, urged the advisability of insurance companies taking an active part in the crusade against tuberculosis and other preventable diseases.

“If we take the life tables for different periods for England, France, Prussia, Denmark, Sweden and Massachusetts,” he said “we find that human life lengthened during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries at the rate of about four years per century; that during the first three-quarters of the nineteenth century it lengthened at the rate of nine years per century; that at the present it is lengthened in Europe generally at the rate of seventeen years per century, and in Prussia (which is perhaps the home of preventive medicine) at the rate of 27 years per century. For this country the rate can only be judged from the statistics of Massachusetts, which show that life is lengthening by about fourteen years per century, or, approximately, half of the Prussian rate.

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EXPERIENCES WITH THE CUTANEOUS TUBERCULIN REACTION AND THE FINDINGS IN TWO HUNDRED POST-MORTEMES ON CHILDREN.

In the *Cleveland Medical Journal* there is a report of an address by Von Pirquet of Vienna on this subject, relating the experiences with a second series of a hundred cases in the pediatric clinic at the University of Vienna. Having found that in vaccination against smallpox only those persons show local symptoms within 24 hours who have been vaccinated previously; in the same way an early reaction at the point of vaccination with Koch's tuberculin proves a previous infection with tuberculosis, and that this cutaneous reaction corresponds to Koch's fever reaction after injection with tuberculin.

In the first series of cases 25 per cent. tuberculin was used, in this series undiluted old tuberculin was used. The test was generally made on the arm, though sometimes the conjunctival method was also used. The latter has been given up as disagreeable, and lasting irritation has resulted in some cases, but the dermal test by the inunction of tuberculin may be safely used though it is not so sensitive as the cutaneous method. In the majority of cases the reaction was tried several times, and the sores were inspected every 24 hours, and a note made of the diameter of the papule when present.

Of about 2,000 children who had undergone the cutaneous test 200 died and were carefully dissected, tuberculosis was found in 89 cases, it