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THE AVERAGE OF LIFE AND STATISTICS.

We are wont to pride ourselves that one of the greatest advances of this remarkable century is the increased security offered to every infant born of growing up to adult life and to adults of reaching mature or old age. The results have been accomplished largely by the widespread knowledge of preventative medicine and a general appreciation of the value of hygienic laws, together with the general increase of wealth. This latter has made possible an extraordinary improvement in the feeding, housing and clothing of the great mass of the people.

When one considers the immense saving of human life which must have been brought about by the practical abolition of the contagious fevers alone, and the vastly better hygienic conditions under which we live, one would naturally expect that the results would be evident in statistics showing the average life of the population. Even when the counteracting influences of what is spoken of as the high-tension of modern life is considered the increase is much less than one would expect. Statistics, in spite of the commonly expressed opinion relative to their value, must always be correct, provided they are based upon the proper facts. In this connection we cannot but believe that the value of pub-