

The Prevention of Disease.

Below are extracts from recent articles on the prolongation of human life which are of vital interest :

AVERAGE LIFETIME ONE-THIRD LONGER.—What might be accomplished by a determined effort to conserve human life has been estimated for the Conservation Commission by one of its members, Professor Irving Fisher, of Yale University. By the aid of eighteen medical experts, he has calculated that the prevention, even in a moderate degree, of the preventable diseases, would lengthen human life in this country fully one-third and possibly much more.—American Health.

MORTALITY BY TUBERCULOSIS.—Could we reduce our mortality by tuberculosis by even 25 per cent. it would mean a saving of millions paid out and an increase of money paid in. We have every reason to believe that this mortality can be reduced 75 per cent. or more, when the masses have accepted and put in practice the teachings of those who are best calculated to point out the way to secure and retain health.—Dr. A. L. Craig.

HUMAN CAPITAL, THE GREATEST ASSET.—Human capital is by all odds the greatest asset of all. It is worth five times that of all the capital represented by actual coin, and all other property values, such as railroads, mines, forests, real estate, capital invested in business and the like. A concerted effort to cut down the death rate, and lower the burden of sickness, would, if only slightly successful, result in such a saving of money (not to mention the increase of human happiness) as would turn this line of type into a row of figures marching behind the potent sign of the dollar if an attempt should be made to compute it. The statistical sharps, indeed, have computed it, and the millions they name are imposing.—Michael Williams.

ONE BILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY.—It has been estimated by Dr. George M. Gould that the waste from sickness and death amounts in dollars alone to more than \$3,000,000,000 annually, of which a large amount—over one billion dollars—is undoubtedly preventable.—Dr. A. L. Craig.

PURE WATER, PURE MILK, PURE AIR. Recent investigations by Professor Sedgwick and others show that for every death from typhoid prevented by sanitary measures, two or three deaths from other diseases are prevented at the same time. Professor Fisher calculates that pure water, pure milk and pure air, if used throughout the nation to the extent that they are used in certain individual places, would alone lengthen life by an average of eight years. He also estimates that there is a great amount of needless illness.—American Health.

TYPHOID A PREVENTABLE PEST.—Typhoid fever could be practically abolished by improving our milk and water supplies and the prevention of the pollution of our rivers.

Pneumonia, one of the greatest destroyers of human life, can be vastly reduced in its mortality by moderation in eating and drinking and living in well ventilated houses, surely 75 per cent.—Dr. A. L. Craig.

HOGS APPARENTLY OF MORE VALUE THAN HUMANS.—The recent International Congress on Tuberculosis has made us painfully aware of the inadequacy of American public health legislation. This nation cannot afford to lag behind in the world-wide battle now being waged by all civilized people with the microscopic foes of mankind, nor ought we longer to ignore the reproach that this government takes more pains to protect the lives of hogs and of cattle than of human beings.—President Roosevelt.