

to the well by coming into close contact. Like smallpox, it may be carried by the air a short distance.

These facts reveal the need for the utmost care, when one bears in mind the conditions that govern modern trade and travel. The history of the world has given records of some fearful epidemics of the plague, and may do so again unless the utmost vigilance is exercised in preventing its spread.

SOME LESSONS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF COUNTRIES.

Year by year there is a steady tendency to a falling in the marriage and birth rates of the civilized countries. Many remain single that formerly would have married. Further, there is a tendency to marry later in life, and, thereby, reduce the number of children.

On the other hand, the effect of preventive medicine and sanitation is being felt. The death rate per 1,000 is gradually becoming less, and, as a contra to this, the duration of life is steadily lengthening.

In the case of infant mortality very marked improvement is observed. In England and Wales last year it has fallen to 100 per 1,000, or a reduction of 26.

There is a close connection between these figures and the rate of wages and the cost of living. In Germany the rate of wages is decreasing and the cost of living increasing. With these changes the marriage and birth rates in Germany are declining. France has been for some years in the stationary stage, or even declining, with the death rate higher than the birth rate.

THE PROBLEM OF CRIME, ONE OF CHILDHOOD.

There is much truth in the old saying, "As the twig is bent so is the tree inclined"; or that other one, "The child is father to the man." The culture of the race comes very largely to be one of heredity and environment. With the subject of heredity we do not at present intend to deal, but would say a few words on environment.

This may be ante-natal or post-natal. In the case of the unborn child, the environment is that of the mother. This comes to be one simply of nourishment for the child in utero. We do not give the slightest weight to maternal impressions as a means of affecting the child, unless these impressions have the effect of lowering the mother's health, and, thereby, the nutrition of the child.