

the period of life, and while their beneficial effects have been more pronounced on childhood and youth, there has not been lacking essential factors preserving middle life, even though the characteristic of the middle age in the modern life made greater demands upon the human system through the intenser strain and keener competition in the struggle for existence. It is comforting to know from these carefully prepared statistics and very accurate observations, that the work of preventive medicine and surgical science is telling in a very decidedly constant way on the longevity of the community.

HEADACHE POWDERS AND THEIR DANGERS.

The common habit many people have of flying into a drug-store for a headache powder, for even the most trivial discomfort in the head, is a habit which ought to receive severe and constant disapproval at the hands of the medical profession. It is altogether too common, and it is herein that the abuse of coal tar preparations brings sometimes disastrous results, and which has caused them to be condemned in some quarters. An instance now occurs to the writer, where a woman purchased in a departmental store a box of acetanilide, just like so much epsom salt, neither labelled nor directed. Suffering from a violent headache, on reaching home, she took a heaping teaspoonful of the remedy, with the result that she was nigh placed in a position from which headaches would never cause her any more suffering. In fact, it was only after prolonged rendering of medical assistance for hours, that her life was saved. No doubt every physician can relate similar instances, and some of more deadly consequences. As most, if not all, of the ordinary headache powders contain some coal tar preparation, the indiscriminate prescribing of which is often productive of unfortunate results, it is manifest how guarded should be their employment, especially where there is any affection of the heart present. Much cautioning should, therefore, not be amiss, and drugs so potent and so harmful when used unadvisedly ought not to be handed across the counter without due consideration on the part of the dispenser.