

was discouraged, as it was believed that woman should not escape the curse denounced against them in Genesis. Now anesthetics are, I hope, very universally used, to prevent the awful agonies of labor, by an enlightened educated, scientific and humane profession. The very best evidence that can be brought forward to emphasize the benefits to mankind of improved methods of living has been obtained from the British Government reports of life insurance transactions, carried out in the seventeenth and again a hundred years later in the eighteenth century. In 1693, the British Government borrowed money by selling annuities on lives from infancy upward on the basis of the average longevity. The contract was profitable. Ninety-seven years later, another tontine of scale of annuities on the basis of the same expectation of life as in the previous century, was issued. These latter annuitants, however, lived so much longer than their predecessors, that it proved to be a very costly loan for the government. It was found that while ten thousand of each sex in the first tontine died under the age of twenty-eight, only five thousand seven hundred and seventy-two males and six thousand four hundred and sixteen females in the second tontine died at the same age one hundred years later, or in other words, 20,000 died in the first period and only 12,188 in the second period of one hundred years later, a very greatly diminished mortality, all conditions being identical except the improvements wrought by advanced sanitation.

Once fairly introduced, discovery and invention have unceasingly advanced at an accelerated pace. Each continually reacted upon the other, continually they sapped supernaturalism. The diffusion of knowledge by the newspapers and reviews has immensely increased the power of the press. Where ignorance reigns, crime is prevalent. In such cities as Naples, where the education laws, such as we have in Ontario, either do not exist or are not enforced, the streets are filled with street arabs, who are a nuisance and a menace to society, growing up in squalor, ignorance and filth. In our Western civilization such a condition of affairs cannot exist and I trust never will exist. The intellectual enlightenment, surrounding scientific activity, has imparted innumerable invaluable blessings to the human race. Science is not confined to any one nation, but is cosmopolitan. We are living in an age of electric progress. The marvels of electric force have been studied and utilized for the great benefit of mankind. To-day the mummified remains of an Egyptian King Amenophis, who lived thousands of years ago, are viewed in the original tomb, with the aid of the rays of the electric light. The telegraph and the telephone are to be found in the very heart of darkest Africa. The discovery of