

THE SIGNIFICATION OF MORTALITY FROM CONSUMPTION WITH REGARD TO THE BICYCLE.

At a recent meeting of the American Statistical Association, Dr. S. W. Abbott, Secretary of the State Board of Health of Massachusetts, presented some figures regarding the proportion of pulmonary tuberculosis in females to that in males in Massachusetts. The rate in 1851 was 1,451 females to 1,000 males; in 1890, 1,055 females to 1,000 males; and in 1895, only 974 females to 1,000 males. 1895 was the first year in the history of the State in which the number of deaths from phthisis in females was smaller than that in males. The fact that a uniform reduction in the rate of female deaths began some five years ago, about the same time women were beginning to ride the bicycle extensively, Dr. Abbott considers significant, and he is inclined to attribute the decrease in the death-rate to the great increase in open air exercise among women by the use of the bicycle.—*The Sanitarian January, 1897.*

SURGERY.

IN CHARGE OF

FRANK R. ENGLAND, M.D.,

Prof. of Surgery and Lecturer on Clinical Surgery University of Bishop's College;
Surgeon Western Hospital,

Resection of the cervical sympathetic nerve for exophthalmic goitre and epilepsy, Jonnesco (*Centralbl. f. Chir.*, No. 2, 1897; *Br. Med. Journal*, March 13th, 1897) has been led by results of clinical and pathological observations to perform complete and bilateral resection of the cervical sympathetic nerve in cases of Basedow's disease and epilepsy. In 1896 he removed from a patient affected with the first mentioned disease the superior and middle ganglia, together with the intervening portion of nerve fiber on both sides. The result of this operation was so good that the author thought a more extended procedure—extirpation of the three ganglia—might prove beneficial in nine other cases, of which two were cases of Basedow's disease and 3 genuine cases of epilepsy, the remaining four being instances of chorea and hysterical convulsions. In both cases of Basedow's disease the operation was followed, the author states, by disappearance of the exophthalmus and diminution in size of the goitre. The increased frequency of the cardiac action was much relieved in one case, but persisted in the other. There was decided improvement in the 3 cases of genuine epilepsy. Each patient, it is asserted, has remained quite free from any