

DECREASE.

Deaths	Infants and children born after 1884.....	25
	Children born before 1884.....	5
	Adults under 60 years.....	37
	Adults over 60 years.....	5
		— 72
	Removal of Indians to other villages.....	17
	Total decrease.....	89

The resulting decrease during this period is therefore 36, leaving a population of 108.¹

It will be seen from the above that although there was a very high death-rate, the birth-rate was also high, and that the principal cause of the band's decrease was the great mortality among children. At the present time about thirty-three per cent of the people composing this band are about fifty-five years of age or upwards, and therefore were adults when the white-miners first came to the country. In the nearest neighboring band there are twenty-five per cent who may be placed in the same category.

The heavy death-rate is attributable principally to two causes, — epidemics and consumption. Epidemics such as measles, influenza, etc., fall far more heavily on them than on the whites. Measles especially carries off a large number of children. The majority of deaths between the ages of eighteen and fifty are from consumption. Some deaths among the young people are directly due to venereal diseases (originally introduced by the whites), and to the use of whiskey and its concomitant evils; but the percentage of such deaths is relatively quite small, although these vices are the indirect cause of many deaths. To this cause are also attributed, to a great extent, the birth of weak children, and sterility among some of the women. If the Indian Department would provide for resident physicians for the Indians, these conditions might be materially improved.

During the last few years there has been a slight improvement in some places. In a few of the more remote villages the birth-rate has risen, and the rate of mortality among children has fallen. In these places the population seems now to be about holding its own or is slowly increasing. Places such as North Bend, which are situated close to towns, and where there is much association with the whites, still show a very high mortality.

The birth-rate among the Lower Thompsons seems to be higher than among the upper division of the tribe, while the mortality of children seems to be lower. During the last years there has been a preponderance of surviving male children among the upper division, and of surviving female children among the lower division, of the tribe.

Little care is taken of the children during a certain age. From their birth until they are able to walk they are generally wrapped up, and, we might say, even

¹ For statistics for 1894-99 see Note 1, at the end of this paper.