

logical and invaluable step in such instruction. By cleaning up the lodging houses, municipalities will insure better citizenship on the part of a lot of hardy, able fellows and will give them a better chance in life by the encouragement they will get from such surroundings.

The number of persons who may inhabit a room at one time is not so much the concern of society as is the effect it has on their health, their morals, their social efficiency and their economic asset to the body of which they are members. The effeminate and inefficient foot cannot say to the hand or the head, "I have no need of thee," nor can the head say to the weak foot, "I have no responsibility for thee nor does your sickness effect the clearness or utility of my thought."

If the overcrowding of tenements is due to ignorance, greed or the lack of interest in the general welfare, then the social body should enforce altruistic standards for its own protection; or if these people are not remunerated sufficiently by the economic system, then they should be paid a sufficient compensation to enable them to pay their way on a higher plane of living.

People do not live in old shacks, unattractive environments and unsanitary conditions by choice, but by necessity. Because of the size of the family, their wages and rent required, the poor people are compelled to find small apartments. These fellowmen are entitled to something better. The amount of money they pay for rent would put desirable living quarters from a municipal standpoint on a sound business basis.

The great life insurance companies have been bestirring themselves in the last two or three years and looking into the subject of how and why longevity is increasing and how it can be made to increase still further. They have found that more people reach 45 years of age than ever before in the history of the world, but they die faster after 45 than they ever did before. The high pressure of modern life, they say, is to blame for this as well as for an increase of insanity.

Although human life is lengthening the mortality tables upon which the insurance companies base the premiums they charge their clients are more than 50 years old. Nearly half the population of the English-speaking world is insured, and the companies are reaching out after the other half. Many plans have been devised for the lengthening of the lives of the policyholders so that they may pay premiums the greatest possible number of years. Most of these plans have been along the lines of the prevention of tuberculosis and other prevalent diseases, but none of them has been carried out except in theory as yet. It is safe to say, however, that if the great insurance companies, with the incalculable sums of money that they control, should take up seriously the question of purifying and bettering the cities in which the policyholders live they would speedily get their investments back many times over through the increased income. In the village of Bournville, a suburb of Birmingham, Eng., the death rate is less than half what it is in Birmingham. The village is owned and kept sanitary by a great manufacturing concern that gives employment to its inhabitants and spends money in keeping them housed and clean purely as a business investment.

Sanitation is not the whole thing that is necessary in prolonging life and in keeping the death rate down, although it is the basis of the work. Industrial conditions have a very great influence upon human life also. For instance, more babies die in large factory towns in proportion to the population than in any other place, because these are the towns in which more than half the women work almost constantly outside their homes. As the babies are born they are left comparatively uncared for by their mothers because these mothers must work in the last moment before the stork comes and must get back to the factory as soon as possible afterward. This question of industrial labor and its influence on the death rate is also a purely business and economic one. Doubtless some day either women will be debarred from industry or industry will be made fit for women.