

ing all their energies to the environment, adapting the environment to the individual, not the individual to the environment, thus not assisting the race to take care of itself. Attention, however, to the environment is absolutely essential in the prevention of disease. Although disease is Nature's method of killing off the unfit, it often severely damages those who survive, and is thus a slow and crude method of improving the race. Man has now risen superior to natural selection, and insists on living when all natural forces are against him. Medical science has succeeded in suspending the natural selective death-rate, and sentimentally renders the existence and rapid multiplication of the undesirables an easy matter. In the old countries the undesirables are increasing at a much more rapid rate than the mentally and physically fit. Those countries which have to a large extent suspended a selective death-rate, but are not wise enough to establish a selective birth-rate are certain to decay, and go the way of all the ancient nations who disappeared and made way for more vigorous races. You have got here a young country, a virgin soil, and you should see that it is peopled by a vigorous and intellectual race. You should shut out all degenerate foreigners as rigidly as you would exclude a mad dog. Do not follow our example, and make your shores a dumping ground for the rubbish of Europe. I believe you have already got a fair share of degenerates, but your population is still small, and there should be no difficulty in eliminating the unfit in the course of a generation or two.

When I was first in Canada, thirteen years ago, I read some literature about the rapid reproduction of the French-Canadians, and the marked contrast in the size of their families to those in France. It was then calculated that, at the same rate of fertility, in about a century they would not only populate the whole of Canada, but would overrun the whole of North America. The Yellow Peril was not in it with them. However, I do not yet notice much change. A large number of you have not yet been pushed westward. Nature has her compensations, and this is evidently proving a saving grace to a less prolific breed. A high birth-rate is accom-

panied by a large infantile death-rate, and the natural increment in the population is not unduly excessive. Natural selection is still in force; the weaklings are being killed off, and no doubt a strong and vigorous race is left behind.

The crude birth-rate for 1,000 persons living in Ireland, the Province of Ontario, England and Wales, and Scotland in 1909 was respectively 23.5, 24.9, 25.6, and 26.4. On the other hand, if we take the fertility of 1,000 wives between the ages of 15 and 45, we find that the Irish wives head the list, the numbers being: Ireland, 289.4; Scotland, 271.8; England and Wales, 235.5; and France, 157.5. I have not been able to get such statistics from Canada.\*

Now when we come to the corrected death-rates at all ages for 1,000 living in 1909, we find the rate in Scotland: males, 18.56; females, 16.73; England and Wales: males, 18.37; females, 16.04; Ireland: males, 16.25; females, 16.90. In Canada in 1901, for both sexes, 15.10. In Ireland, Norway, Sweden, and Australia the infantile mortality is very low. In Ireland the death-rate for children under 10 years of age is very much lower than in England and Scotland, but it is rather higher among individuals from 10 to 35 years, and then there is a decided fall till the age of 75. Above that age the death-rate in Ireland rises rapidly, and it might look as if Ireland was a dangerous place for old people to live in, but it is simply due to the proportionately greater number of old people in Ireland. There is no evidence to show that the high mortality is due to the old age pensions.

The higher death-rate in Ireland from 10 to 35 years is almost entirely due to tuberculosis, and the lower death-rate at all other ages, except extreme old age, points indubitably to the fact that tuberculosis is one of Nature's methods of getting rid of the unfit. The wave of enthusiasm over the conquest of consumption is so overwhelming in the present day that it requires a very bold man to say a word in favour of the tubercle bacillus. Dr. D. W. Hunter, of the Royal Albert Asylum for Idiots, in criticizing a recent work on the conquest of consumption, said *inter alia*:

Many an imbecile owes his existence to

\* For my Canadian statistics I am very much indebted to Dr. Peter H. Bryce, of Ottawa.