

being done for lessening the spread of tuberculosis.

DEATH RATE IN AMERICAN
CITIES.

The decrease in the United States deathrate, as shown in the 1900 report of vital statistics just issued by the chief statistician is most encouraging. The registration area has been increased almost 50 per cent. over 1890, and now comprehends almost 29,000,000 population. It represents a more distinctly urban population, as the minimum limit has been raised to include cities of 8,000, instead of 5,000 in 1890. There has been a decrease of 1.8 per 1,000 of population in the general deathrate, which is equal to a general decrease of nearly 10 per cent.. The work of medical science is still better shown in the comparative rate of registration cities. In 1890 the rate in 271 registration cities of 5,000 or more population was 21 per 1,000. In 1900 it was 18.6 in 3441 cities of 8,000 and upward, a reduction of 2.4 per 1,000, the gross population of the same in 1890 being 14,958,245, and in 1900, 21,660,631. The entire result proves, despite all the known imperfections of the census of 1890, and the lesser ones of that of 1900, that as a whole there is an increased longevity. The average age at death in 1890 was 31.1 years; in 1900 it was 35.2 years. Despite the political corruption of our large cities, and the toll thus levied upon life and health, which makes the deathrate much larger than necessary, the benefits accruing to the nation from

preventative medicine are most striking. That 10 per cent. of the needless deaths has been wrenched from ignorance and sin is most gratifying and hopeful. The knowledge that still greater gains have been made in the two years since the census was taken is a further cause for congratulation.

In greater New York City (population in 1900, 3,437,202) the estimated deathrate was in 1890, 25.3, which in 1900 was reduced to 20.4. In Chicago (1,698,575) the rate has been brought from 19.1 to 16.2. In Philadelphia (1,293,677) the rate has hardly been reduced any, in 1890 having been 21.3, and 21.2 in 1900. This boss-ridden city has the evil preeminence of showing a less reduction than that of any large Northern city. Buffalo has a 1901 rate of 14.8.—*American Medicine.*

GOOD ADULTERANTS.

One of the most striking features of the exhibit of the Department of Agriculture at Buffalo is a collection of silks dyed with fool adulterants. One piece of silk is a brilliant red from a substance called "rosaline," used for coloring meats, such as corned beef and sausage. A yard of pink is tinted with dye from preserved cherries and another yard of salmon hue owes its beauty to currant jam. Various kinds of jellies give other colors: there is a fine purple from port wine, a magenta from burgundy, a light red from tomato catsup and a pretty yellow from soda water flavoring.—*Exchange.*