

bacteriology. One of the great teachings of this class of practitioners is to put into place some nerve that is, like the mouse in the old poem, "given to roam."

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#### CHANGES IN THE DURATION OF LIFE.

The mean expectation of life at birth in the case of males, as shown by the last English life table (1891-1900), is 44.13 years, as contrasted with 39.91 years' value given in the life table based on the experience of 1838 to 1854.

But we have no proof that this increase is due to any circumstances affecting the conditions of life of adults, because the mean after-life time of persons over 45 in both sexes and over 35 in the case of males, has either remained sensibly constant or even diminished. For instance, in the case of males the expectation of life at the age of 35, as shown in the last life table, is 29.24 years; the 1838-1854 table gives 29.40. At the age of 45 the corresponding figures are 22.20 and 22.76; at the age of 55, 15.79 and 16.45, and at the age of 65, 10.34 and 10.82.

A partial explanation is afforded by the probability that many weaklings who were formerly destroyed by zymotic diseases or tuberculosis in early life now survive to adult age, and that the life table values reflect the consequences of this slackening of selection.

It is evident from these actuarial data that the great saving of life is in the younger decades. Fewer die young and the average duration of life is thereby lengthened. For the decades after mid-life the duration of life is about the same for the recent as for the earlier table. The net result is that while the expectation of life as a whole has been lengthened by 4.22 years, from 35 it has not been lengthened. The lengthening has taken place under 35, by a lowering of the death rate among the young.

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#### AN EXCELLENT MOVEMENT.

The Child Hygiene Division of the Public Health Work of Toronto is doing very praiseworthy work this summer. A series of outings on the Toronto Bay and Lake Ontario have been arranged for delicate young children. The children, with someone in charge of them, are taken out on the water for a cruise of two to three hours every day of the week, except Saturday.

Mr. Lol. Solmon, of the Toronto Ferry Company, has placed the Island Queen, fitted up with every comfort, at the disposal of the