

underlying every variation of death-rate, it is well, on the other hand, to examine from time to time the data for long periods, and to consider the stability or changefulness of the phenomena. Tendencies may thus be discovered, which, in a protracted series of years, would bring about unmistakeable results. Mr. Welton based his comparisons on the six quinquennial periods extending from 1846 to 1875. On this basis he found that, according to the death-rates given by the Registrar-General, the mortality of both sexes at ages from five to twenty-five had certainly been reduced; but this abatement had been attended by an aggravation of the mortality at higher ages, putting aside epidemic years, and that such aggravation had been far more considerable among males than among females. Mr. Welton next referred to different sets of tables prepared by him as compared with Dr. Farr's English life table, and he showed that the period of years before the persons who are born are reduced to half their original number was, according to these tables, as follows:—By Dr. Farr's table—males, 44·4; females, 46·4: female expectation greater by two. By experience of 1856-60—males, 46·5; females, 48·9: female expectation greater by 2·4. By experience of 1871-75—males, 45·8; females, 50·9: female expectation greater 5·1. In conclusion he adverted to the causes of the increased mortality among males aged thirty-five to sixty-five, the result arrived at being that this increase had not been largely due to epidemics, to consumption, or to diseases of the stomach and liver, but to disorders of the lungs, heart, brain, kidneys, and to cancer.

THE DECEMBER RETURN OF THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL FOR IRELAND.

The return of the Registrar-General in Ireland for the fourth quarter of the year 1879, records the registration during that period of 30,668 births and 24,497 deaths. The births were equal to an annual birth-rate of 22·9 per 1000 of population, as against 34·2 per 1000 registered in England; the deaths represented an annual rate of 18·3 per 1000, as against 21·4 in this country. It is remarked in the return that the birth-rate in Ireland is again under the average of the corresponding quarter of the previous five years to the extent of 1 per 1000 of the estimated population. The death-rate is above the average for the same period, the excess being 1·6 per 1000, and is the