

The per centage of Indifferent was Americans, 13.5; Irish, 19.5; Germans 19. The per centage of bad—Americans 3; Irish, 7.5; Germans 3 per cent. From this it will be perceived that the Americans show the highest rate of prime physique, the Germans next, and the Irish last. Of "Good," the Irish and Germans are nearly equal, and four per cent. more than the Americans. But this is owing to the excess of the latter in "Prime." These figures, therefore, confirm the estimates which we have already made which show that a great majority of the army is composed of American-born recruits. Of the Americans, 2,638 were from the country districts directly, and 2,500 were recruited from this city and Brooklyn.

Of "Indifferent," the Irish are one-half higher than the Germans, which last are  $5\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. higher than the Americans. Of the "Bad" the Irish are more than double the Americans and Germans, who in this respect stand alike. So far, therefore, these figures seem favorable to the American-born. But there are several considerations to be taken into account, which will, to a certain extent, modify the references to be drawn from them. In the first place the Americans were largely from classes of society, who from youth have been able to command better facilities in food, clothing, and shelter, than the classes from whom the immigrant population is derived. What an influence this must exert on physical development is sadly illustrated by the mortality returns of this city, which show that though the American population is not exceeded by the foreign, yet that seven children of foreign-born parents die in a year to one American child. Besides more than half the Americans were born and reared in country districts, and the difference which this fact causes may be shown by comparing among them the city and country recruits. Thus the proportion of "Prime" among city Americans was 42 per cent; country 58 per cent; of "Good," city, 40 per cent; country, 29 per cent; of "Indifferent," city, 14 per cent; country, 12 per cent; of "Bad," city, 4 per cent; country, 1 per cent. Another reason why the Irish are double the Americans in bad physique, seemed to be that they were often recruited for several Irish regiments, almost exclusively from the Sixth Ward. One of the most active recruiting stations being the Tombs Prison itself, and such specimens as occasionally presented themselves to our eyes and noses from those regions, could scarcely be surpassed by Macbeth's witches themselves.

Still these considerations do not affect the actual standing of the American recruits, for whatever the causes may be that have aided them, I feel safe in rating their physical development as of the highest order, and I have seen specimens of the armies of nearly all European, as well as Eastern nations. With the exception of a general loss of fat, I do not believe that there is another race that can show a larger proportion in the average population, of excellent osseous and muscular development.

We know it to be a frequent observation of tropical physicians, that the American sailor shows a greater power in resisting epidemics than his British comrade. We believe we can add to this our observation of the British soldier in the Crimea, and of the American soldier in the Peninsular campaigns, which have confirmed to our minds the old adage, that fat is not as tough as muscle.