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SANITARY STATISTICS AND PREVENTABLE
DISEASES.

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Statistics is that science which has for its object the collection and arrangement of facts, relative to the physical, social, political, financial, intellectual and moral condition and resources of a state or nation. Some departments of statistical knowledge are of very ancient origin, and no nation has made any great progress in civilization, which has not at certain stated periods taken a more or less complete census of its inhabitants. Such statistical records were taken by Jews, Greeks, and Romans, centuries ago. The *census*, as the name implies, was in *ancient* Rome "an authentic declaration made before the *Censors*, by the citizens, of their names, places of abode, &c., and in later times, the Doge of Venice, Tomasso Mocenigo, A.D. 1421., collected valuable materials on the situation of different empires, their monetary systems, finances, public debts, &c. Since that time every civilized nation has adopted systems of statistics, more or less complete, as the basis of legislation, and government. The British Association for the advancement of science has had a statistical section since 1833; and the American Association has a similar section: and the encouragement of collections of statistical matters, is one of the avowed means by which the Smithsonian Institu-