

MORTALITY STATISTICS OF MARRIED LIFE AT DIFFERENT AGES.—In an address to young men, Dr. W. Pratt, of London, gives the following facts (*Detroit Lancet*): In the male sex, from twenty-five to thirty years of age, one thousand married men furnish six deaths; one thousand bachelors furnish ten deaths; one thousand widowers furnish twenty-two deaths. If, however, the marriage be contracted before twenty it is found that the mortality is seven times greater than among the unmarried. In the female sex the same facts hold true. Marriage under twenty increases the death rate seven fold, while marriage after twenty one greatly diminishes the mortality. Young married people from eighteen to twenty die as rapidly as old people from sixty to seventy. Thus it appears that marriage after twenty-one makes life healthier as well as purer. Marriage after thirty years greatly increases the mortality of females in childbed. But in spite of all this, people will marry without any reference to reason or sound physiological laws. The majority will measurably follow the physiological law from simple instinct, and the rest will make a shipwreck of life.

THE NEW SCIENCE.—In his annual address before the graduating class of Rush Medical College, Dr. Budge referred to sanitary science as a new revelation. Most of its facts and laws are the fruit of years that living men remember. He continued: "It has reduced the danger of death from certain diseases; with it alone certain diseases formerly thought dangerous are self-limited and without danger, and it has caused the average amount of life to increase in length. Through organized effort in society it has lessened the ravages of epidemics in many cases, and averted them off in others. Never before did it enter so intimately and so thoroughly into the daily practice of the doctor as it does now." It is devoutly to be wished, an exchange, says that every physician in the country might read and appreciate the statements,

Leading Articles.

THE MILK SUPPLY.

Milk has now become such a commonly used, necessary article of diet that the source and character of its supply is a matter of very great importance, and one which has received a good deal of attention in this JOURNAL. The chief sources of trouble to be guarded against are three: one, the adulteration and dilution of the milk with water; another, diseased cows; and a third, cases of infectious disease in the families or attendants of the dairy men or vendors of the milk. Others of less importance are, various other adulterants said to be added to milk, chiefly to give it "body" on being weakened with water, and other impurities from foul cattle byres and places in which the milk is kept. Very little adulteration it appears is practised in this country except that with water, and except in cases of feeding young infants with the milk, water adulteration is of comparatively little consequence.

The two great evils to be contended against are, first, the germs of infectious diseases from the human body, and, second, germs of infectious diseases from the cow supplying the milk. That milk has a peculiar property of readily absorbing odors — particles of odorous matter, is well known; and there is no doubt whatever that it will absorb contagiums of disease when exposed to them.

In a paper read at a late conference at the International Health Exhibition, on cow's milk as a vehicle of infectious and epidemic disease, by W. N. Thursfield, M. D., Medical Officer of Health to the Shropshire Combined Districts, the writer said, "making allowance for all doubtful cases, it may, I think, be accepted as an absolute fact that epidemics of typhoid fever and scarlet fever have been repeatedly disseminated by milk, and that there is very strong evidence that diphtheria has been so disseminated,