

and place them side by side with this Table. Thus:"

Age.	Actuaries' Table.	City Parish Register, 1808.	Maitlands' all London figures, 1728-1737.
10.....	100,000	100,000	100,000
20.....	96,223	92,542	92,500
30.....	89,865	73,714	77,700
40.....	82,284	56,857	57,900
50.....	72,726	44,857	40,100
60.....	58,866	29,714	25,500
70.....	38,124	14,571	13,300
80.....	13,930	12,000	7,500
90.....	1,460	280	1,200

The figures are taken by the author from a Parish Register of 2 or 3 years only, without his venturing to conclude absolutely that they represent the exact average for that time of the mortality spread over the whole City of London. There may have been special reasons for the mortality of children at that time, but, he says, "we may go so far as to expect a reasonable approximation to correctness." Concerning the great mortality of children, 59 per cent. in any Parish Register, 47 per cent. in Maitland's figures, it is probable that bad air, bad drainage, and bad food must account for the loss of so many. Clearly, the weaker were killed off in infancy because we find so few deaths, only about 3 per cent., occurring between the ages 5 and 20. Between 20 and 30 there is a high average, the time which for men is the most active period of life. No doubt many of the deaths among the men were due to accidents or risks of their work. Among the women we may attribute many deaths to child-bearing, which especially belongs to the ages between twenty and thirty.

The accuracy of Sir Walter Besant's extracts of statistical records, we see every reason to regard as reliable; they tally with the information given in other chronicles of the time. As to his conclusions therefrom there may be an opening for criticism. In regard to the mortality of children we have a description in Defoe of youngsters wandering about the streets like stray dogs. In the year 1732 it is on record that, the Mayor instructed the night-watchmen to take all "children found sleeping in bulks and about ash-heaps" to be cared for by the parish authorities. The desertion of infants was carried on systematically. One was left on the doorstep of St. James Palace, and it was cared for by the Queen and named, "Caroline Augusta Matilda," but a public warning was given that this generosity would not be repeated! In 1771 a boy-baby was so left and the King had him named "George" and brought up. It was an awful time for the young of indigent parents. The sacrifice of the young boys, who were used as chimneys-sweeps, was shocking. Readers of Montgomery's poems will recall his pathetic pleas on their behalf, and many living remember seeing boys of tender years moving up and down chimneys which they often literally swept with their bruised bodies. In addition to the conditions named by Sir Walter Besant as accounting for the appalling mortality in the 17th and 18th centuries we may

name epidemics of small-pox, typhus, and other fevers, the abominations of over-crowding, and very crude ideas in regard to medical care. Quack medicines and fake remedies had numerous victims. This generation, however, is not entitled to cast stones at the superstitions current in the 18th or any century; for never before was charlatanism more rampant than it is to-day, when, by the dexterous and brazen-faced use of a few scientific phrases, or phrases having a scientific sound, the grossest frauds are practiced, not in the medical only but in other spheres. Science in its triumphant march is accompanied by a swarm of pretentious camp followers not a few of whom are doing work which brings premature claims upon life assurance companies.

### PROGRESS OF CANADA.

In our issue of 18th inst., owing to a very slight omission from a head line a whole series of percentages were made to appear inaccurate. Over the line of percentages on page 1278, the words were, "Per cent. of increase," which should have been "Per cent. of increase to 1903." The words "to 1903" were accidentally omitted, hence the apparent string of errors.

The intention was, first, to show what portion of the amount in 1903 was made up out of the increase over 1871, and next to avoid such large percentages, which are apt to be confusing to the ordinary reader. For example, when such percentages are given as, 1010.0, or 1250.0, few understand that what is meant is that, the increase has amounted to 10, or 12½ times the original amount.

To put the table in more presentable form we republish it with the percentage of each increase given compared with 1871 and the other table, with the words "to 1903" added, will show what proportion the several amounts in 1903 are made up of the increase since 1871.

	1903.	1871.	Inc. since 1871.	P. c. of Inc. 1903 over 1871.
Area of Canada, Sq. miles.....	3,653,946	3,653,946	.....	.....
Land cultivated, Acres.....	29,000,000	17,336,288	11,663,712	66.1
Mineral productions.....	\$ 64,970,732	6,043,868	58,926,864	975.0
Letters and papers sent, No.....	239,971,600	49,364,160	190,606,840	386.0
Vessels through canals, Tonnage	8,572,134	4,658,227	3,913,907	84.0
Freight carried, Tons.....	7,513,197	3,955,620	3,557,577	89.9
Railways operated, Miles....	18,864	2,497	16,367	655.0
Passengers carried, No.....	20,679,974	2,700,000	17,979,974	665.0
Freight carried, Tons.....	42,376,527	5,576,000	36,800,527	660.0
Shipping Sea-going, Tons....	14,731,488	5,116,033	9,615,455	187.8
Shipping, Coast-ing, Tons....	40,700,907	14,000,000	26,700,907	185.8
Shipping, Inland waters, Tons..	15,293,916	8,009,995	7,283,921	91.0
Total shipping, Tons.....	70,726,311	27,126,028	43,600,283	167.0