

VITAL STATISTICS.—In the United Kingdom, 1,112,295 births and 726,351 deaths were registered during the year 1875; these numbers give a birth-rate of 34.0, and a death-rate of 22.2 per 1,000. The excess of births over deaths was 385,944; 33,778 less than in the previous year. In the last quarter, however, the birth-rate was above, and the death rate below the average. The deaths registered in England and Wales from all causes during the year included 79,259 which were referred to the seven principal zymotic diseases, showing a decline of 5,860 from those so returned during 1874. These 79,259 deaths included 1,000 from small-pox, 5,973 from measles, 26,165 from scarlet fever, 3,078 from diphtheria, 13,435 from whooping-cough, 12,545 from fever, and 23,063 from diarrhoea. The rate of mortality from these seven diseases was 3.3 per 1,000, against 4.5, 3.8, 2.9, and 3.6 in the four preceding years. The fatal cases of whooping-cough and diarrhoea were more numerous than in 1874, whereas the deaths referred to the five other zymotic diseases showed a decline. The deaths from small-pox were less in number than in any year since civil registration was established in 1837.

A MOST HUMOROUS and outspoken health report is being noticed by our exchanges. The health officer of Westhoughton Local Board, Dr. Gregory, reports as follows:—"One-fourth of the deceased ought to have been alive, and would have been alive now, had your board, or inspector, or predecessors, or all of you, done your duty. When a man has lived forty or fifty years in a fairly elevated house, and is then removed to a house the basement of which is on a level with the earth, no wonder that bronchitis or some other internal disorder deprives him of the residue of his years." Dr. Gregory complains of the indefiniteness of the sub-registrars, and gives as examples 'suspected heart-disease;' 'probable cough,' 'probable vomiting;' and considers they might as well write 'probably from sneezing.' He says, as regards these 'causes of death,' that he would prefer having such a one as the following, the invention of the inimitable Tom Hood the elder:

She had two bad legs, and a badder cough,
But her legs it was as carried her off.

DR. LANDERKIN stated in the House at Ottawa, the other day, that some time ago an epidemic of small-pox broke out in the place where he resided (county of Grey), and as the Municipal Council were unable to appoint a board of health until a proclamation was issued, in accordance with our present Public Health Act, the epidemic made headway, and many lives were lost before the board was organized. Comment is unnecessary.