

The years of growth and of old age, constitute the dependent periods. The years of maturity from 20 to 70, the sustaining or productive period. The labors of the fifty years, from twenty to seventy, the productive period, produce substance sufficient as well for the workers of that time as for the early years of development and growth and of old age and decrepitude. These are obviously but general averages, and not applicable to every individual.

It may be laid down then, that the effective power of a nation is in the number of its healthy, sound people in the sustaining period, and in the proportion these bear to the dependent classes.

According to the censuses of the following nations, the proportions of the sustaining classes to the dependent, are, in England 52.21 per cent. ; in Sweden 54.51 per cent. ; and in France 60.32 per cent. While in the United States it is 49.64 per cent., and in Ireland 46.50. In other words, in England there are 915 dependent to 1,000 sustaining ; in France there only 657, while in Ireland there are 1201 dependent to 1,000 sustaining. The proportion of the sustaining class in England is 12.9 per cent. and in France 35 per cent. greater than in Ireland. And comparing the sustaining power with the burden laid upon it, the demand is 94 per cent. greater in Ireland than in France. Thus the effective power of a nation is not represented by the total number of the people, but by the number in the productive age ; and this again is qualified by the number in the dependent ages.

Now in what has been called the ideal life, all who are born live to enter the mature or productive period of life, labor through it, and live on to their four score years. In an ideal population of 80,000 there would be 20,000 in the growing period, 50,000 in the productive period, and 10,000 in old age. But this ideal life is far, too far, alas ! from being the common lot of man. In every country, in every age, human life is more or less shortened.

According to the national life tables, in

Norway, of 10,000 born,	7,415	survive 20 years and	3,487	survive 70 years.
Sweden, " " "	6,698	" " "	2,557	" " "
England, " " "	6,627	" " "	2,379	" " "
United States (males) " " "	6,543	" " "	2,559	" " "
France, " " "	5,022	" " "	1,176	" " "
Ireland, " " "	4,855	" " "	861	" " "

It seems then that in Norway, the most favored country, 25 per cent. perish before reaching maturity. In the United States, 35 per cent., of the males, and in Ireland 51 per cent. fail to reach maturity. In Norway, only 34 per cent. ; United States, 24 per cent. ; and in Ireland, less than 9 per cent. enjoy the full period of working years.

'In this economical view,' again quoting Dr. Jarvis, 'man may be considered as a productive machine, which creates property or sustenance for itself and the Commonwealth. Then a child that is born is but a vital machine begun. But it is powerless and ineffective, and must be built up and developed and grown and trained for work. This is a perilous and doubtful process of twenty years.'