

(2) and (3) are absent, *i.e.*, they work hard in the open air. Their mortality from cancer is, however, very high, viz., 44.5 per 100,000, contrasting with that of miners (14.5) and of iron-workers (12.2). The mortality from cancer in London is extremely high in the whole of a district west of a line drawn from Newington Green through London Bridge to Sydenham. This embraces the parts inhabited by the wealthy, who take much meat and, of course, with it a corresponding amount of salt. On the other hand, the poor parts, such as Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, the Isle of Dogs, Old Ford, Bow, and Bethnal Green, have a low mortality. It may be replied to this that the average age of the population in the wealthy parts is higher, but the Registrar-General has published tables for the principal English counties corrected for age and sex, and it is found that the relative mortality from cancer is by this not impugned but only altered a little.

Cancer houses are probably merely houses where there is accommodation to keep a pig and where the diet consists of a good deal of bacon, or where a good deal of butchers' meat is consumed, and with it, of course, salt; or where the inhabitants are old but their appetites are still good; or where they are women and live well, but lead indoor lives, so that the food is not oxidized. An instance of this was given in which three successive deaths had occurred. The great increase in cancer recently is chiefly amongst men, and it is in the stomach and abdominal organs. If there has been a great increase in the consumption of salt, as I believe there has, in consequence of and with a great increase in the consumption of meat, this would explain it, or might do so.

Lyon* publishes the result of a research into the distribution and statistics of cancer in Buffalo for the period of 1880-1899. The material analyzed consisted of the mortality records of the City Board of Health, and in estimating the distribution, the patients in 2,005 cases whose residence was known, were assigned to their proper quarters. A marked concentration was found in the German wards, and no other relation than that of race could be determined to exist between this area of concentration and local conditions. Tables constructed to show racial prevalence demonstrated that cancer was much more frequent among the foreign-born population—and particularly the Germans—than among the native-born inhabitants. A low cancer-rate was found in the Italian quarter, and a correspondingly low position was occupied by the Italians in the race table. The Germans and

* *American Journal of the Medical Sciences*, June, 1901.