must find out a way of getting at the precise data of mortality—the rate of life in all civilized portions of the world—such was the astonishing success that the Registrar general was actually able to tell us at breakfast once a week, how the people are getting on, not only in Oxford, London, Manchester and so forth, but he told us also of New York, Vienna, St. Petersburg, of Bombay and of Bengal."

A mere record of deaths can be accurately accomplished by any civil machinery, but will be of little use, unless the cause of death is also ascertained. At this point comes in the importance of the medical profession, an importance increasingly acknowledged when the effort is made to ascertain the remote and subtle influences which intensify the death rate.

As the rate is not uniform (1) but varies in different localities and at different periods, the next step will be

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1 DATE RATE NOT UNIFORM.

	Death per 1000.	1868.	1869.	1870.	Density of population to acre.
Cities.	London....	23.4	24.5	24.0	40
	Manchester	32.0	28.8	27.8	90
	Liverpool..	29.1	29.9	31.1	96

	Death per 1000.	1865.	1866.	1867.	1868.	1869.	1870.	1871
Wards in Liverpool	Scotland.....	38.6	43.4	26.8	28.2	27.9	29.1	40.7
	Vauxhall	49.0	62.0	35.3	33.2	38.8	43.9	43.2
	Castle street..	26.5	27.0	20.2	17.7	18.9	18.1	31.1

Improvements by removing houses and opening up streets reduced the mortality from 29 per 1000 in Castle street in 1853, a healthy year, to 20 per 1000 in 1863, a sickly year. (Trench for 1863, p. 15). This has continued since.

Average age at death :

Wards in Liverpool.	Scotland	16	years.
	Vauxhall	18	"
	Castle street.....	32	"

Mortality according to density of population :

Mortality		Population	86	to square mile.
	14.15.16			
	17.18.19	"	172	"
	20.21.22	"	255	"
	23.24.25	"	1128	"
	26 and upwards	"	3399	"

(Registrar General's Annual Report.)