

the average age at which marriages take place. In Britain the tendency is to marry late and have few children. But in addition to this, there has been a steady tendency for the vigorous to emigrate. This has been very marked in the case of Ireland. This lowered birth rate has been noted, however, in the United States, and has been the subject of much comment. The average number of children in an Anglo-Saxon family in America in Franklin's time was eight. At the end of the nineteenth century, the number of children to the family had fallen to from one to four. Nor does there appear, in the United States, to be much difference between the upper and lower families. In the United States the general level of the birth rate is maintained by the foreign population.

Turning to Canada, it is found that among the Anglo-Saxon families the birth rate is much the same as in the New England States. In Quebec, among the French Canadians, the birth rate is over 35 per 1,000 of the population, and an average of 9 or 10 per family. In Ontario, the birth rate is only 21 per 1,000.

In Australia and New Zealand the same condition is found to hold true. Among the English speaking families the birth rate is rapidly declining. In Queensland it fell in ten years from 37 to 27 per 1,000. In New Zealand, with all its wealth and social advancement, its low death rate, and comparatively high marriage rate, the birth rate is steadily falling; and appears to do so inversely with the prosperity of the country.

From England and all the great countries which she has planted all over the world, we thus find the same report that the birth rate is falling among the English speaking people.

THE STUDY OF INSANITY.

On 29th September, 1903, a deputation, headed by Dr. W. N. Burnhardt, waited upon Premier Ross, and outlined a scheme for the study of insanity. In addition to what is now being done for the insane, it was contended that an institute for the study of insanity should be established. At the head of the institute there should be a director, who would have jurisdiction over all the institutions. He would have power to study the insane during life, and examine their brains after death. It was asked that a sum of money be set aside for this purpose.

From the daily press of December 14th, 1903, we take the following item: "Dr. W. N. Barnhardt has had several interviews lately with Hon. J. R. Stratton in connection with the question of providing more extensively for the pathological study of insanity at the Provincial asylums. It is believed that much advance could be made in the knowledge