

this disease of only 18 in the same population. We all know the story of small pox in pre-vaccination days and in countries where vaccination is neglected. Yellow fever in the past has been one of the greatest of scourges in certain localities. As the result of our knowledge that a mosquito spreads the disease the malady has been almost banished from America. In the case of typhoid fever it has been calculated that for every death prevented by purifying the water and milk supply two to three other deaths are prevented as well by these better conditions.

Taking the statistics of other countries, such as Britain and the United States, it has been estimated that there are approximately 125,000 in Canada who have or have had syphilis. Syphilis and gonorrhœa are responsible for many of our defectives. It is held that one-third of all the blindness is due to gonorrhœa.

In many civilized countries there has been a marked reduction in the death rate under 50 years, but practically none in ages over 50. This fact alone would go far to show the advances that have been made in preventive medicine.

In the great work of preventive medicine the medical profession must rise to a true conception of its duty in the matter of the use of tobacco and alcoholic beverages. In Great Britain the per capita consumption of alcoholic beverages of all sorts amounts to some \$20. This is too much, as it is the cause of much crime. The investigations made by the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics some years ago proved that intemperance caused in that state 84 per cent. of the crime, 48 per cent. of the pauperism, and 35 per cent. of the insanity. Life insurance companies have found by actual experience that the death rate among abstainers is about 25 per cent. better than among those who drink, and many of these would be classed as moderate users, so that the death rate must be very much increased among those who indulge freely.

In the matter of tobacco there is no doubt now but that the endurance of those who do not use it is greater than among those who do use it. Just the other day the returns were given out that the average daily use of cigarettes, for those old enough in the United States to use them, is eight per day. But many do not smoke them, and, therefore, the real consumption must be nearer double this number for the users. The sad part of it all is that they are consumed largely by young boys. The total results are most disastrous and tend enormously to lower the nations' vitality of the people. Many of the cases of heart trouble after mid-life are due to the abuse of tobacco before mid-life, and similarly the abuse of alcohol lays the foundation for much of the nations' crime, pauperism, insanity, sickness, misery, loss of time, and for many of the cases of cirrhotic livers, granular kidneys and apoplexies.