

the proportion of 'fit' to 'unfit' of recruits examined as *two to one*. As to the causes of primary unfitness, 'muscular tenuity and debility' in the Austro-Hungarian conscripts prevailed to the extent of 281 per 1,000; while of English recruits only 56 per 1,000 were incapacitated thereby, even with the addition of impaired constitutions. In Austria 'disease of joints,' probably, the *Lancet* suggests, from extensive scrofula, incapacitates 106 per 1,000, while less than 10 per 1,000 are refused in England from this cause. Hence, it is apparent that a wide difference may exist between the value or effectiveness of a certain number of people in one country and the same number in another.

As the nation's wealth consists of the sum of all the estates within its borders, the great and the small, deducting all incumbrances, mortgages, debts, &c. writes Dr. Jarvis, of Massachusetts, (*Fifth An. Rept. St. B'd of Health*), so the strength of the state is the sum of all the efficient people, deducting all the personal incumbrances, sicknesses, disabilities, and imperfections. Thus, he continues, the state that has the largest proportion of its people in the years of maturity or from twenty to seventy [other things being equal] is stronger and wiser than one that has a larger proportion in the immature period of childhood or youth; and one, all of whose members are in fulness of health and strength, is stronger than one, any of whose people are disabled with fever, consumption, lunacy, intemperance, etc. Every increase of individual estate, every dollar earned, and every new value created, is so much addition to the common wealth, and every deduction from the wealth of individuals, every dollar that is expended without return, wasted or squandered, every extinguishment of any value, is so much taken from the public capital; and all incumbrances, debts, mortgages on property of persons, must be deducted from the sum total of the common wealth, in order to obtain a true estimate of its worth.

'So all additions to the physical, moral, or intellectual power of individuals, all strengthening of the arm and increased skillfulness of the hand, all culture of the brain, sharpening of the perceptive faculties, or discipline of the reflective and reasoning powers, in any individual, are, to that extent, additions to the energy and the productive force, the effectiveness and the wisdom of the state; and, on the contrary, all deductions from these forces, whether of mind or body, every sickness, any injury or disability, every impairment of energy, every clouding of the brain from intoxication, all waste of mental discipline, take so much from the mental force, the safe administration of the body politic. Collective personal gain is public gain, and aggregate personal loss is, to the same extent, the suffering of the community.

The period of development and growth in man is put down as from birth to the end of the twentieth year; from twenty to seventy, as the period of maturity and efficiency; and from seventy upwards, as the period of old age, when men rest from their labors, or are incapacitated.