

10.75. The number of members constantly sick seems to have been as high as 25.5 per thousand, though only 165 members per thousand were ill in the course of the year. As the Rechabites were a smaller body eight years ago than now, half a dozen extra deaths would materially increase the rate of mortality.

Not wishing that inaccurate statements or figures from my pen should be published, I have submitted this article to Mr. R. Hunter. This gentleman has courteously drawn my attention to the following fact—that there are some old pensioners receiving half-a-crown a week. One member in Guernsey has been on the funds twenty years, and has received more than £200. There is a similar case in Manchester. These aged invalids are of course reckoned as passing through fifty-two weeks of illness yearly. Mr. Hunter doubts whether any other friendly society could, year after year, pay such sums to pensioners. Another circumstance of moment, which Mr. Hunter thinks much of, is, that in the newer tents, containing many life-long abstainers, the average rate of sickness is decidedly low, and compares favorably with the condition of things that obtained in the older tents during their earlier days forty years ago.

Now compare the state of things among the Rechabites with what obtains in our army. The mortality among soldiers, serving with the colors, at home, is about 9 per 1,000. Excluding accidental and violent deaths, to which, even on home service, soldiers are in many ways necessarily liable, the death-rate is barely 8 per 1,000. Of course no one could fairly compare English soldiers with average Rechabites, the former being considerably taller, better developed, and constitutionally stronger. But then, though many abstainers as well as some most estimable and high-principled men are serving in the army, there are also some drunkards, and a large class whose habits are not conducive to long life and freedom from disease. The admissions into hospital among soldiers on home service are 9.13 per 1,000, many being exceedingly trivial cases, and a large proportion being due to accidents, or to the effects of intemperance and dissipation. On the whole the death-rate in the army could not be decidedly below that of civilians of the same class and social status. This