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DEATH RATE MUCH LOWER.

We are in receipt of a most interesting bulletin entitled, "A Discussion of the Vital Statistics of the Twelfth Census," by Director North. The director explains that it is almost impossible to gather all the information which students of health desire, but the department nevertheless sends out a bulletin which is replete with interesting tabulations and comments.

There is widespread belief that consumption is incurable. Most of us are familiar with the claims of medical men that tuberculosis may be successfully treated, but many entertain the opinion that such claims are absurd. Not long since a member of the Oregon legislature declared that he would much rather support a bill appropriating \$200,000 for good roads than one appropriating \$100,000 for the establishment of a hospital for consumptives. He gave as his reason his belief that consumption was absolutely incurable.

The bulletin just at hand contains positive and reliable information to the contrary. It shows that the death rate in America and elsewhere has been surprisingly lower during the past decade, and contains statistics which prove that this reduced mortality is due largely "to a lessening of the mortality from consumption, diphtheria and diseases of children, the lower death rates from these causes being considerably more than sufficient to offset the increased mortality from pneumonia, cancer, heart disease, apoplexy and diseases of old age." The report shows, further, that the greatest diminution has been in the mortality from consumption, the rate having been 245.4 per 100,000 in 1890 and but 187.3 per 100,000 in 1900. This remarkable decrease is attributed to the very general instructions which have been given to the public as to care of consumptive patients.

Reports show that the death rate has materially decreased in all of the principal countries with the single exception of Ireland, where there has been an increase from 18.2 per 1000 in 1890 to 19.6 in 1900. In the United States the rate has decreased from 19.6 in 1890 to 17.8 in 1900. Strange as it may appear, the only countries where the death rate is lower than that of the United States are Norway, Sweden and Denmark. The Netherlands' death rate is the same as ours. The Denmark death rate is 16.9, that of Norway is 15.9 and of Sweden 16.8.

We gather from the report that the death rate has decreased in every department except that of persons 65 years of age and over. The death rate of persons under 5 years of age was 64.5 in 1890, as compared with 49.9 in 1900; of persons between the ages of 5 and 14, 5.3 in 1890, as compared with 3.8 in 1900; of persons between the ages of 15 and 44, 9.4 in 1890, as compared with 7.9 in 1900; of persons between the ages of 45 and 64, 21.3 in 1890, as compared with 20.3 in 1900; of persons 65 years of age and over, 76.6 in 1890, as compared with 82.8 in 1900.

As people become better informed in the matter of care of themselves and their children the death rate steadily declines. The benefits accruing from dissemination of information of this kind are plainly apparent from the bulletin just issued, and there is every reason to believe that the next report will show even better results. The ordinarily healthy man or woman should just as well as not live to be 70 years or more of age.

THE RETURN TO REASON.

The present quiet and decent presidential campaign is something unique in American politics. The candidates have not been subjected to the customary abuse and partisan feeling has not been aroused. In view of these and other considerations, the outcome will be awaited with interest. Discussing the return to reason which politicians have experienced, the San Francisco Bulletin says:

The total vote cast at the presidential election, which is almost at hand, will determine whether or not a quiet campaign is a benefit to the nation. If the total is large, it will prove that the American people have attained wisdom without losing interest in public affairs, and this surely is a consummation devoutly to be wished.

Never before has a national campaign been carried on with so little noise. Never before has there been less disturbance of business. People have gone quietly about their work, and apparently have paid

little attention to efforts to arouse the partisan prejudice that in the past divided families, separated friends and started street fights. The torch-light that used to make the patriot smell like a kerosene can has partially disappeared. The rafters have almost ceased to ring, and there is little raising of roofs. Immense meetings are held now and then, but the thunder of the captains is not always followed by fanatical shouting.

Political leaders who recall the campaign of 1896, when for five months the whole country was torn by dissension, can hardly understand the present temper of the people. They prefer the enthusiasm that causes every partisan to look on the opposition as an aggregation of traitors. The short and peaceful campaign that is now drawing to a close fills them with wonder. Republicans declare that the calmness is all owing to general satisfaction with the administration. Democrats attribute it to thoughtful dissatisfaction that will find expression only in the privacy of the election booth. Surface indications convince unbiased observers that the republican explanation is the right one, but, no matter the reason, conservative people have no fault to find with the condition. They are happy to note the fact that the canvass is almost over, and there is no sign of the usual "campaign fever."

Frenzy was never an aid to wisdom. If the people are weary of the tumult that until this year has preceded all presidential elections in the memory of the living they will roll up an immense vote. If they are merely apathetic, the vote will be small, and the hope that the citizen has educated himself beyond the need of excitement to stimulate his interest in the government will be dispelled. The test is at hand, and the result will have an important bearing on the future of American politics.

THE FRUIT OF MAMMON WORSHIP.

Ex-Mayor S. F. Smith, of Davenport, Iowa, was sentenced the other day to 10 years' imprisonment in the penitentiary for embezzlement, and one for perjury. He acknowledged the embezzlement of \$120,000 while trustee of large estates.

Mr. Smith was the son of Rev. Dr. Samuel F. Smith, the author of "My Country 'Tis of Thee," which has been sung by every American capable of singing, and a noble old man and preacher of the Baptist faith. This is only one out of multitudinous cases which show how little effect hereditary influence has, says the Tacoma Ledger. Great men do not produce great sons, and good men are no more likely to produce good children. The main factor in most men's lives is environment. Here and there men are found who stand firm and true, no matter what happens, and these men are the salt of the earth. But it is to be feared that most men are sadly amenable to their environment. In an environment where mammon worship is general, and one is regarded as heterodox, and decidedly off color, if he does not worship at that shrine, one must expect nothing except these sad lapses from the purity of the moral law.

Mr. Smith will receive his punishment. But he is more to be pitied than censured. The men who ought to suffer for his crime are the men who have made, and are continuing to make, honesty a hard law to follow.

THE WAR COST.

In Germany there is a good deal of grumbling over the fact that the imperial government, which has never had a real war, has managed to pile up for military and naval armament a debt of \$700,000,000. As Edmund Burke said, "the public is always poor." In Germany the masses are particularly poor—and this imperial debt, plus the enormous state debts, also for wars past and wars anticipated, plus the annual cost of army and navy to the empire and its states, explain why they are so poor, says the Saturday Evening Post.

But what would the Germans think if they knew about us? Isolated though we are, we spend more than Germany or any other state upon our war establishment—about \$200,000,000 a year; also, we pay \$150,000,000 a year in pensions, and the interest on our public debt, wholly a wise debt, is nearly \$30,000,000 a year. Of the eighteen billions our national administration has spent since it was set up in 1789, just under eleven billions have gone for war and pensions.

The military and naval establishments of civilization directly withdraw between three and four million men from production, and cost upward of \$1,500,000,000 a year. This makes no account of the largest items—the costly agitations and only too frequent calamities caused by the habit statesmen and rules have of shaking their "mailed fist" at each other.

Experts of the department of agriculture are now engaged in vaccinating the soil. Secretary Wilson will probably see to it that none but republicans' virus is used.

The ministers of New York are preparing to operate upon the city of New York for moral appendicitis.

The Japs are beginning to think that the census takers have sadly underestimated the population of Russia.

P. A. Stokes

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PRESIDENT ANGELL'S VIEW.

Says Commanding Officer Must Have Been Frenzied With Fear.

Ann Arbor, Mich., Oct. 27.—Professor Angell of the University of Michigan addressing his class in international law referred to the North sea fishing fleet incident as follows: "It was one of the most extraordinary blunders ever committed in the civilized world. It is clear that Russia is wholly in the wrong for the reason that fishing vessels are always exempt, even in the event of war between two nations. In the last war between France and England fishing vessels were declared exempt for the reason that their capture could in no way influence the ultimate outcome of the struggle. This rule is now recog-

nized as international law. "The only plausible explanation of Russia's extraordinary act is that one of the officers gave the command to fire in a moment of frenzied excitement and fear."

Removal Notice.

Dr. J. A. Fulton has moved from his old office to rooms 4, 5 and 6 in the Star theater building, corner Eleventh and Commercial streets, on the second floor.

Saves Two From Death.

"Our little daughter had an almost fatal attack of whooping cough and bronchitis," writes Mrs. W. K. Havland of Armonk, N. Y., "but, when all other remedies failed, we saved her life with Dr. King's New Discovery. Our niece, who had consumption in an advanced stage, also used this wonderful medicine and today she is perfectly well." Desperate throat and lung diseases yield to Dr. King's New Discovery as to no other medicine on earth. Infallible for coughs and colds. 50c and \$1.00 bottles guaranteed by Chas. Rogers. Trial bottles free.

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