

was turned out upon the soil, with the injunction that by the sweat of his face he must secure his bread. That did not mean merely the toil of his hands. It meant that his brain should be worked as well, and though it has required many thousand of years to bring out a full understanding of the facts, it is clear now that on the farm are all the elements which man requires to make him, when he once understands the full scope of his business, the most accomplished as well as the most useful of men, and more, that his life spent in that study and that work fits him better than any other for the full duties of citizenship, and prepares him better than any other for the days when he begins to feel that his steps tremble as he walks down the final decline, at the end of which is peace.

The Length of Life

METCHNIKOFF has a theory that, as it requires twenty years for man to get his growth, in the nature of things, as traced by other animals, man should live to be seven times twenty years in perfect health, and with all his faculties, and statistics go to indicate that in the last hundred years the life of man in civilized countries has increased from eight to twelve years, and that is cited as an indication that a great deal is due to increased medical science, and that the possibilities of a still further increase are all good.

We believe great credit is due to medical science for the increased length of life. Something is due also to the fact that in the last hundred years the masses of men in civilized countries eat better food, and if they do not sleep in better houses, a knowledge of some of the laws of health enables them to keep their houses in better sanitary form.

What is due to science can be seen in a little way from the fact that perhaps in the last sixty years some millions of lives have been saved that,

except for the discovery of vaccination, would have gone out with smallpox.

Another instance to be cited is that of Cuba. It would be a most interesting exhibit, if it were possible to know the increased saving of life in Cuba, through the banishing of yellow fever. No statistics, though, can prove that, because in the three years previous to the doing away with the pest, thousands died in Cuba from starvation, from exposure and war. Hence, the material left, after the war, the starvation and the pestilence had passed, was, in great part, made up of perfectly healthy and, in many cases, young people.

Some authorities ascribe the prolongation of life to the fact that the deaths of infants have been reduced one-half. This is partly due to medical science and partly to the fact that the intelligence of parents has increased; that is, in that respect fathers and mothers understand better than they did before, what causes very often produce sickness, and they have learned also how to take better care of children than formerly, because in half the cases of children's sickness the cure depends upon the nursing more than upon the medicine.

Mr. Goss combats the theory of Metchkinoff by the statement that people who live to be a hundred years, as a rule die simply, not of disease, but because the machinery of the body is worn out and the life of the person, like an unwound clock, runs down and stops, and that absolute prevention of disease will have no effect in these cases.

We do not believe that. We believe if disease were eliminated from the human race, that in a single generation the constitutions of men would be so strengthened as to put off that final close of life. We note the deaths around us; we note at what age men are most apt to die, that is, that the majority of men do die. It is, as a rule, between 63 and 84, but most men who live to that

age have suffered spells of severe illness before they reached that age. If they had never been sick, would they not be stronger to enter the last lap of the race for human life?

We see men who have been prostrated with, say, typhoid fever, at some time in their lives for weeks that finally recovered, their former health returned. So far as they know, or their physicians know, the effects of the disease have all been eradicated, but who knows how much of their ultimate vitality was exhausted in combating that disease?

Now, the only way we can judge is whether the theory, that in the nature of men, as in the nature of animals and in the nature of trees, ought to live seven times as long as they were in maturing; is, if that can be established, then the only thing to do will be to prevent men from having diseases, have them learn exactly the sanitary laws that should govern their lives, and obey them.

And that, too, will not answer, because there are so many wounds to the human being, especially to the human nerves, that no fixed rule can be established. We all have seen people whose lives we think were shortened by years because of some overwhelming sorrow that smote their nerves and left them permanently weakened.

Hence, it is all a speculation and the best that man can do is to be sure not to disobey the laws of health, either in eating or drinking or exposure or in any other way.

And still, there is not much in that, because man is sent into this world to do his duty, and when he does that, it does not matter whether he dies at thirty-five or at twice thirty-five or at four times thirty-five.

The first big preliminary movement for the inauguration of the city campaign of the American party is off with a rush. The love feast held Tuesday evening in the Auditorium under the au-

THE most important Furniture announcement of the year is the Greenwald sale which begins Monday morning, May 17th, including every article in every department of "The Store Beautiful" with the exception of Macey goods. Home furnishers can not afford to disregard the money saving possibilities. See Sunday's and Monday's daily papers.

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