

We find in Nature a summary of the last health report issued by the medical officer of the London County Council. While the facts brought out are on the whole creditable to the sanitary condition of the British metropolis, they are fraught in some respects with warning and suggestion to other cities of the first class. What actuaries call "the expectation of life" has undoubtedly improved in London. The statistics for the period of 1881-90, compared with those of 1861-70, shows that the expectation of life of males at five years of age has increased from 47.49 years to 50.77—that is to say, there has been during the interval a gain of 3.28 years. As regards females, the expectation of life has risen from 50.87 to 54.43, a gain of 3.56 years. At subsequent ages, also, there is in all cases an improvement, though it is less marked. A comparison of these tables with those compiled in Manchester and Glasgow for 1881-90 proves that the expectation of life in London exceeds that enjoyed by the inhabitants of either of those large cities. We note further, that the death rate was lower in London than in Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, or Sheffield. Moreover it was lower than that of New York or of the majority of the European capitals. While the death rate in London was 21.2 per 1,000, it was 23.9 in New York, 21.8 in Paris, 22.3 in Rome, 24 in Vienna, and 30.6 in St. Petersburg.

Yet, while the death rate, taken as a whole, reflects credit on the sanitary conditions of the British metropolis, the mortality from zymotic diseases attains alarming proportions, and is in fact exceeded among capitals only by Stockholm and Vienna. During the period under review (1881-90) there was an increase of fatal cases of small-pox and scarlet fever, while influenza and pneumonia claimed a number of victims greatly in excess of the average of the preceding ten years. The most serious problem, however, which the health authorities of London have to face, is the serious increase in the mortality from diphtheria. Some have attributed the augmentation of the number of deaths from this cause to alterations in the classification of disease, deaths formerly registered as croup being now ascribed to diphtheria; while others have found a cause in sewer ventilators, or have laid stress on the infection afforded by increased school attendance. The objection to these explanations is that they are circumstances shared by all the other great cities and towns of Great Britain; yet London alone is preeminent in its death rate from diphtheria. Neither is it certain that diphtheria tends generally to increase in densely inhabited centres. The experience of Germany is to the contrary, the result of an elaborate inquiry in a number of German cities during the years 1883-93 being to show a decrease in the death rate from this disease. Evidently the problem of diphtheria in London is as yet unsolved, and what is needed, according to Nature, is the appointment of a commission composed of scientific men qualified to undertake a drastic investigation.

The diminution of the London death rate from typhoid fever is manifestly due to the great pains taken in the matter of filtration by the water companies. Reports made by Dr. Percy Frankland to the Local Government Board demonstrate that by the filtering processes which the Thames water undergoes before delivery, as much as 99 per cent. of the bacteria present are removed. We add that the numerous inspections of dairies and milk shops, as well as cow sheds, made by officers of the County Council, furnished convincing proof that zymotic diseases are disseminated broadcast from such centres of infection. The inference is that the practice of drinking cow's milk raw, which is fast becoming obsolete on the Continent of Europe, ought to be abandoned also in Great Britain and the United States.

## GOOD THINGS TO DO.

Live a temperate life; if necessary, become a total abstainer.  
Cultivate a spirit of faith, as it is the firmest foundation upon which to build character.  
Scrupulously respect the rights of others and privileges of others.  
Refrain from insisting too strongly or too frequently upon his own rights and privileges.  
Show his respect for the laws of the land by obeying them at all times and under all circumstances.  
Prevent by judicial counsel the violation of the laws by others.  
If a parent, set a good example in all things to his children.  
Do good in whenever and in whatever way he can legitimately.  
Cultivate a cheerful disposition and a spirit of kindness to all.  
Hold a close guard over that unruly member, the tongue, when others are the subject of conversation.  
Seek the divine approval, not the applause of men, in the discharge of duty.  
Cast his ballot in accordance with the dictates of his conscience, and for the candidate who will best administer the laws.  
Take an active interest in all matters that have for their object the welfare of the community in which he lives.

## THE NEWS IN A NUTSHELL

## THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe. Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.  
CANADA.

The C.P.R. has reduced rates on butter, cheese, and eggs from Winnipeg to Montreal.

The contractor of a T. H. & B. Railway bridge in Hamilton has left that city and his workmen with a month's pay in arrears.

The Queen's bounty has been applied for by Mr. P. A. Choquette, M. P., for a French woman who gave birth to five children within twelve months.

Out of forty thousand dollars required for the Episcopal endowment for the new Diocese of Ottawa about thirty-two thousand dollars have now been secured.

A fatal runaway accident occurred at Ridgeway, Ont., on Thursday afternoon, when a bus driver named Charles Buck received injuries that proved fatal.

A man named Kennedy fell from one of the Manitoba harvest excursion trains and was killed. Another man named Sanderson fell off and was severely injured.

Joseph Bercier has been arrested in Montreal for fraudulently drawing the life pension of his father from the Dominion Government after his father's death.

Prof. Anderson, who has just returned from an inspection of cattle in Nova Scotia, emphatically denies the statement that there is an outbreak of cattle disease there.

The McCormick Harvesting Machinery Company, of Chicago, has begun litigation over the alleged infringement of a patent, in which companies at Ottawa and Woodstock are involved as defendants.

Dr. Dawson director of the Geological Survey, has left Ottawa for Athabaska Landing, N.W.T., to inspect the progress recently made in boring for oil. As yet oil has not been struck in paying quantities, but the indications are hopeful.

President J. S. Bousquet of the Canadian Trading & Shipping Company of Montreal, and formerly cashier of the Banque du Peuple, has been charged with an infraction of the criminal code by misrepresenting the capital stock of that company.

Principal Grant, of Queen's University, Kingston, Ont., has received from Judge Gowan another cheque for \$400 to be placed at the credit of the fund for the Sir John A. Macdonald chair of political science in Queen's University.

Alfred Evans, a young English immigrant was on Thursday shot in the leg by a watchman of the Canada Atlantic railway, who was angered because Evans persisted in crossing the bridge at Coteau after having been warned off.

Reports received by the C. P. R. officials from a hundred different points in Manitoba and the North-West state that the crops are undamaged, that harvesting is proceeding everywhere, and that the crops will probably be greater than estimated.

President Beckley, of the Toronto, Hamilton and Buffalo Railway Company, has addressed a letter to the ratepayers in Hamilton, asking that the city vote them another \$250,000 before they undertake to build the road from Toronto to Hamilton.

Isadore Lanthier has entered an action for twenty thousand dollars against the city of Ottawa, because she attributes the death of her daughter Georgina to the fact that a health inspector entered the house and fumigated it while she was dangerously ill.

Part of the most valuable numismatic collection in America, owned by the late W. F. Bastain, was stolen from an unoccupied house in Montreal on Wednesday night. Some of the coins were old Roman ones, sole remaining samples of their kind. They are valued at \$5,000.

The Merryweather fire engine, which has been built in Greenwich, Eng., has arrived in Toronto as did also the J. B. Bousted engine, which has been practically remodelled, and this, with the Ronald, gives that city three of the most powerful fire engines on the continent.

Lieut. W. B. Leslie, R. E., a graduate of the Royal Military College, Kingston, Ont., has been appointed instructor of fortifications, military engineering, geometrical drawing, and descriptive geometry in the Royal Military College, in succession to Capt. Twining, advanced to the professoriate. Lieut. Leslie is at present in England.

At the coroner's inquest in Hamilton on the body of Mr. George Overend, who was thrown from his rig last Tuesday, and died on Thursday night, several jurymen registered vigorous objections to being called away from their business to attend an inquest when the cause of death was so apparently accidental. One jurymen said it looked as though inquests were regulated to a large extent by the interests of coroners and policemen.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

Mr. William Kenney has been appointed Solicitor-General for Ireland.

The jute workers' strike in Dundee is spreading. Twenty thousand are out.

The election of John Daly, who is serving a term in prison, was cancelled in the British House of Commons.

The Lloyd committee are urging the Imperial Government to arrange with the United States jointly to destroy derelicts in the North Atlantic.

A national conference of the Liberal party in England has been summoned to meet on October 29 and 30, in order to discuss the political situation.

The passenger steamer Seaford was sunk by the steamer Lion in the English Channel. Her passengers among whom were a number of Canadians, were, with the crew, all saved.

Perhaps the new woman is responsible for the falling off in marriages in England. For the first quarter of this year only 10.6 persons in 1,000 married, which is the lowest rate on record.

Lord Esher, the Master of the Rolls, has just attained his 80th year; he is now the

oldest judge on the English bench, has been twenty-seven years a judge, nineteen years a Justice of Appeal, and Master of the Rolls twelve years.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Chamberlain, Secretary for the Colonies, said that fifteen thousand pounds had been expended to relieve the distress in Newfoundland, and that guarantees had been given to the amount of seven thousand pounds.

Sir Maurice Duff Gordon, Bart., whose mother translated Ranke into English, and whose grandmother, Mrs. Sarah Austin, was one of the first translators of standard German works, was fined for being drunk and disorderly in a London restaurant lately.

In the Imperial House of Commons the President of the Board of Agriculture, in reply to a question, said he could not see the necessity of sending an expert to Canada to enquire into the existence of pleuropneumonia, as the disease had actually been detected in some Canadian cattle landed at Deptford.

## UNITED STATES.

Three thousand garment-makers in Boston are out on strike.

The carpet weavers' strike at Philadelphia has been successful.

Keir Hardie, late English M. P., is in America on a lecturing tour.

The list of dead in the Denver hotel wreck stands at 22. Of these three bodies remain unclaimed.

A fire in Milwaukee on Thursday destroyed property to the value of nearly half a million dollars.

Two thousand five hundred union vest makers, including seven hundred women and girls, are on strike in New York.

By a recent treasury ruling repairs made in Canada to locomotives and cars of international railways are not dutiable.

Detective Powers, who was shot last Thursday night by the Chicago & West Michigan train robbers, died at Grand Rapids, Mich., yesterday.

On Wednesday morning Mr. Lewis Swift, astronomer of the Echo Mountain Observatory, Calif., discovered a new comet in the constellation Pisces.

Fierce forest fires are raging in the vicinity of Spokane, Washington. An immense quantity of valuable timber has been destroyed, and it is reported that four lives were lost.

According to commercial reports received from the United States the volume of business continues to shrink, as is usual during the midsummer season, but the shrinkage seems to be growing somewhat larger than is customary, owing, no doubt to the fact that transaction during July were inflated for the month. The prospects for the fall trade, however, seem to be good, although much depends on the crops. Industrial troubles during the past week have not entirely ceased, but are much less threatening. The settlement of wages in the window-glass works foreshadows higher prices. The export of breadstuffs has been light. In iron the outlook is improving, and prices in some lines have advanced. Cotton goods are in more active demand as the price of raw material advances. Print cloths are a shade lower. Petroleum has a downward tendency, as also have eight of the food products, flour, wheat, corn, oats, pork, lard, sugar, and coffee.

## GENERAL.

There have been 16,000 deaths from the cholera plague in Japan.

Chinese soldiers at Tien Tsin are rioting and demanding back pay.

Japan is said to be about to make large contracts in England for warships and arms.

The Porte has declined to allow the proposed reforms in Armenia to be under foreign control.

The British expedition sent to punish the revolting tribes around Mombasa, in Africa, has had some fighting.

A Pittsburg despatch says:—The Standard Oil Company has bought all the interests of the W. L. Mellon pipe lines. The purchase price is said to be \$1,000,000.

The British and American Consuls are not allowed to be present at the examination of the prisoners arrested for the Kucheng mission massacre. Serious difficulties are expected.

The largest stock company of the century will push an invention for the substitution of electricity and compressed air for waterpower, now in use in Australia gold fields.

Paris has given up the idea of instructing its school children in military drill. The Municipal Council has disbanded the battalions, and ordered the guns and equipments to be sold at auction.

It costs \$100,000 a year to keep up the Bois de Boulogne, but from \$40,000 to \$50,000 is derived from the park itself, and from the rents of the racecourses, restaurants, and private houses in it.

Advices received from Majunga, Island of Madagascar, dated the 5th inst., say that the Hovas are entrenched at Kinjaz and are prepared to offer a determined resistance to the advance of the French.

Mail advices from Hakodate estimate the combined catch of all pelagic sealers in Asiatic waters this season at forty-two thousand seal skins. Last season the Canadians alone took forty-nine thousand.

Fresh outrages upon missionaries are reported from China. The American mission near Foo-Chow has been attacked by a mob, the chapel and school-house wrecked, and four of the native scholars wounded.

Rome will hold a great gymnastic meeting during the national fetes in September. Sixty societies and 1,500 Italian gymnasts will take part in it, and many competitors are expected from Berlin, Switzerland, and Belgium.

The Marquise de Galliffet has been sued for maintenance by her mother, Madame Lafitte, widow of the French horse-breeder, who is 81, and has an income of 40,000 francs a year which she has tied up by persistent litigation.

A Council Bluffs, Iowa, man told his sweetheart that he would give her half an hour to decide whether she would marry him or be shot. She screamed for help, and he carried her into the house, and, drawing his revolver, held the police at bay so that she could reflect. At the end of thirty minutes she accepted him.

## MUCH-RACKED NERVES.

## LONG LIST OF DISORDERS CAUSED BY SPECIAL OCCUPATIONS.

An Italian Professor's Study of the Relation of Labor to Nervous Diseases—Children, Business Men, and Laborers Suffer—Effect of the Bicycle upon the Nerves.

Prof. Leonardo Cognetti di Martini of the University of Turin discourses in the Giornali degli Economisti the relation of labor to nervous diseases. The article is mainly directed to showing that each occupation, mechanical or intellectual, has its peculiar nervous disease, and the enumeration as a whole, with its illustrative examples, forms a harrowing picture of the dangers attending modern industrial life. He begins by discussing the perils to the nerves of open-air workers.

Lightning is one of these. Not only does it kill twenty-two persons annually in England and seventy-ones in France, but it leaves with shattered nerves many who escape death from the stroke. So of electricity used in various industries. A severe shock from electricity is always liable to produce important nervous changes in the victim. The malarial fevers to which many open-air workers, especially agricultural laborers, are exposed are followed in many cases by severe nervous disorders, and there is a true rural paralysis resulting from these fevers. Tetanus, which is commoner among the agriculturists than elsewhere, because the germ that produces the disease is often found in swampy ground, is followed by shocking, nervous manifestations. Sunstroke often leaves its victim a prey to painful nervous disorders, and the peasant in the open fields, under the intense light of the summer sky, often suffers from nervous afflictions of the eye and more serious disturbances. Reflected light, as from snow, sometimes produces the familiar

## SNOW BLINDNESS.

a nervous affection of the eye. It was once epidemic in southern Russia after a March snow storm. One form of the disturbance makes the victim practically blind toward sunset and after nightfall. Foundrymen are subject to this form of the disease.

Miners, from an opposite cause, have painful nervous affections of the eye, accompanied with strange illusions, such as the apparent swaying back and forth of objects in the field of vision. Miners working in mountain shafts have the so-called mountain sickness, accompanied by headache, writhing of the body, hesitancy of movement, heart affections, nausea, and vomiting, sometimes followed by insensibility, delirium, and coma. All these manifestations are to be ascribed, in part at least, to the rarefaction of oxygen. Aeronauts have the same trouble. Even worse are the nervous disorders that attack men who continue under high atmospheric pressure. The voice becomes metallic, utterance is difficult, and in the case of some sounds impossible; hearing is impaired, muscles are knotted, and smell and taste are sometimes lost, while the laborer handles his tools with difficulty. Seasickness is a nervous affection that has a remarkable medical history and for which no satisfactory remedy has been found.

Neurasthenia in many forms is the enemy of intellectual workers. The modern school often brings children to epilepsy and St. Vitus's dance. Stammering sometimes comes from mental overwork, and, while a large proportion of children enter school with sound eyes, nearsight is quickly developed and is found to increase regularly as the child advances from class to class. With this comes an actual weakening of the visual power at all distances. Headache, uncertainty of physical movement, sudden alterations of hot and cold insomnia, and fleeting hallucinations are some of the results of too much mental labor in the case of children.

## BUSINESS MEN

engaged in speculative occupations are subject to neurasthenia, that manifests itself in the loss of the power of mental application. Madness often follows. Bianchi, the Italian student of nervous diseases, finds as a result of the pressure of modern life a tendency on the part of the young to imitate, accompanied by an intolerance of restraint and other signs of nervous degeneration.

Labor-saving machinery has resulted in making workmen work harder than ever with their nerves, and in severe nervous disorder among those that tend machines. The speed of modern machinery seems limited only by the power of the human attendant, and a constant strain of attention at a monotonous occupation tends to mental breakdown. Pain and cramp of the muscles, accompanied by forms of neuralgia, are some of the disturbances that effect the modern mechanical worker, driven by the pressure of his inanimate fellow worker. The intense preoccupation and great manual speed of the piano player often produces paresis. Clarionet players have spasms of the tongue. Sewing-machine makers, telegraphers, cigarmakers, button-makers, and others required to maintain high speed at their work are subject to like nervous disturbances immediately affecting the part of the body especially under strain, but extending to other parts. Dentist's leg is a paralytic affection of parts kept long under pressure. Paralysis of the hammer comes to the man that has one arm constantly plying a tool of the striking kind. It affects the right arm, and the right eye is often sympathetically affected. Even the speech is impaired.

The professional bicyclist is subject to shocking nervous maladies. Two phenomena are especially marked in his case, excessive weariness and a mental or perhaps moral deterioration that makes him easily subject to suggestion. There is progressive loss of the power of attention, of critical sense, of judgment, and of all the higher psychic manifestations. The professor evidently has some doubt as to the advisability of bicycling for women, save in very moderate fashion.

Persons accustomed to use the voice a great deal are subject to

## LABYRINTH SPASMS.

Watchmakers and others using strong magnifying glasses become near-sighted. Workers amid strong odors, pleasant or otherwise, lose the sense of smell, as others lose that of hearing in noisy occupations. The mechanic workers more subject to nervous diseases are carters, coachmen, omnibus and street-car conductors, fruit sellers, peripatetic vendors, tobacco dealers and workers, chemists, druggists, sewing-machine workers, stationers, booksellers, printers, lithographers, and makers of fireworks.

The Professor's list of employment in which the raw material or the finished product is deleterious to health and especially injurious to the nerves of the worker includes gas making, coke burning, dynamite manufacturing, brandy making, tanning, well digging, chemical works of various sorts, working in the more volatile metals, and a dozen other occupations. The nervous injury extends all the way from slight affections of some single organ to loss of the essential powers, mental and physical. Some of the peculiar poisons thus absorbed into the system produce in victims a tendency to foolish gayer, in others sleepiness, dullness, loss of memory, impairment of sight and hearing, and convulsions. Men employed in some chemical works lose sensitiveness of skin and are consequently unable to do any delicate manual task. The vapor of petroleum constantly inhaled has a narcotic effect. Finally, men exposed to violent shock, such as often come to railway employees, are likely to suffer from severe nervous changes, attended at times with impairment of vision or with general nervous breakdown, superinduced in part, no doubt, by the constant nervous strain of their responsibility. The Professor is not seeking remedies for all this, but stating facts; nevertheless, he seems to have hope that the shortening of the hours of labor in perilous occupations might lessen the evil results to the employees.

## HONEST DEALING REWARDED.

A Fakir Who Made Money by Taking the Public Into His Confidence.

"Gentlemen," said the street fakir, as he arranged his bottles on the table before him, "I did not come here to lie and deceive and rob you of your hard-earned dollars. I have stuck to the truth all my life, and, though that is the reason I am a poor man, I shall continue to speak the truth to the end of my days."

The crowd had been coldly surveying his preparations, but began to warm up a little over his address.

"I might say to you," he went on, as he held up one of the bottles in a loving way between his eye and the sun, "that this medicine was discovered by a celebrated medicine man of the Sioux tribe of Indians, but why deceive you? It is a remedy entirely unknown to the Indians. It is my own discovery, and I never saw an Indian in my life."

The crowd increased in numbers and began to press closer.

"I could tell you that this compound would cure Bright's disease, and in ten minutes every bottle would be sold; but could I sleep to-night with the weight of so much deception on my conscience. How could I ever again look an honest man in the face after telling such a falsehood? It will not cure Bright's disease—it would even hasten the end of a victim of that baleful complaint."

There were now 100 men in front of the fakir, and at least half of them had their hands in their pockets in search of money.

"I could say that it was a pain killer," continued the man, as he brought out more bottles from an old satchel, "but an accusing voice would be whispering in my ear forever more. You might rub a barrel of it on you and it would not affect a pain. I miss the sales of at least fifty bottles because I tell you the truth, but it must be so."

"Gimme a bottle!" shouted a dozen men in chorus, as they held up their \$1 bills.

"No, gentlemen—not yet. I will neither deceive you nor allow you to deceive yourselves. You are an honest, confiding people, and I might tell you that this discovery would stop a headache in five minutes and you would believe me and hand up your money. It will not cure a headache. I even declare that it would make one ten times worse."

The number of men who now wanted a bottle was at least twenty, but the fakir waved them aside and said:

"Wait a minute. The discovery will not cure consumption after one lung is gone. It will not cure catarrh after the disease has a firm hold on the bronchial tubes. After both kidneys have wasted away it is no use to take it. It simply purifies the blood, and thus—"

"Gimme a bottle! Gimme a bottle!" yelled fifty men as they pressed forward, and in less than ten minutes the last one had been sold and the fakir had the money in his pocket.

As we went down on the train to Montreal that afternoon together I asked: "After you have mixed water, molasses, and alcohol together do you add anything else?"

"Yes, cayenne pepper to make it bite, and the solemn truth to make it sell," he solemnly replied as he took out his wad of bills and spread them on his knee and started out to find the sum total.

## New Eve.

The serpent smiled affably. Have an apple? he insinuated.

The mother of the race shrugged her shoulders. Not this Eve, she rejoined. S'm'other Eve.

This, mused the tempter, with a dazed look and a slight shiver, must be the woman's version. Ah, yes. Not for Him. Husband—Thank goodness, there is no marrying in heaven. Wife—What difference will that make to you?