there is connected with this fact another circumstance which will, in part, off-set the inequality above mentioned. There is a *disproportion of births* in Lowell, to the whole population, as compared with some other, and particularly older, places. A great majority of the families are young—just starting in life and in the way of increase, especially the foreign portion. Now, it is well known that the mortality of children under 5 years of age is far greater than of those older, particularly in cities, where about one half of all infants born, die under 5 years of age.

There are other conditions or circumstances affecting the rate of mortality, but those mentioned are thought to constitute the more important. As we cannot make an exact allowance for all these varying and different conditions in places, affecting health, the comparison cannot be carried out with perfect accuracy.

There are, undoubtedly, many evils connected with what is denominated the "*Factory System*," which are calculated to impair health and shorten life—such as sleeping in small, crowded rooms; hurried meals; excessive labor; working in a heated atmosphere; bad air; exposure to sudden changes of temperature, &c. But, then, are these evils confined to the cotton and woollen manufactures? How is it with those engaged in the various mechanical pursuits—working or trading in small shops, sewing on cloth, straw, shoes, &c.? What occupations are there, in which females are engaged to any extent, that are not attended with great exposures to health? If a comparison could be thoroughly instituted between the shoe and cotton manufactures, in the effects on health, we are confident *the latter* would not suffer in the comparison. In France, Germany and England, after the most careful examinations, it has been found that the evils first attributed to the "*Factory System*," were greatly magnified;—that they applied to the *domestic* relations, and *out-side* exposures of the population, rather than necessarily to the *industrial* part of it, and that manufacturing pursuits, *as such*, were not more injurious to health than many other occupations. Such, it is believed, would be the result of an examination in our own country.

NATHAN ALLEN.

Lowell, Nov. 17th, 1856.

SURGICAL NOTES.

BY S. KNEELAND, JR., M.D., BOSTON.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

DURING the preparation of an analytical index of the Surgical Records of the Massachusetts General Hospital, from its establishment in 1821 to 1856, a period of twenty-five years, some facts of statistical value came to my notice, which may prove interesting to the profession. I select a few of the most striking, alphabetically arranged, to obtain which, it would be necessary for the student to employ several hours of tedious examination of manuscript.

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AMPUTATIONS.—Of the *arm*, 20⁺ cases, of which 4 were fatal, though only two depended on the operation itself; the other two were scrofulous cases.

Of the *fore-arm*, 18 cases; 1 death.

Of the *leg*, 90 cases, and 19 deaths, caused either by the severity of the accident, fracture of the skull, or other accompanying injury.

At the *shoulder-joint*, 6 cases, and only 1 death, although the accidents were very severe.

Of the *thigh*, 97 cases, and 26 deaths, of which 5 were from the severity of the accident.

ARTERIES, ligature of.—The *external iliac* was tied 4 times, with one death in two days. The *internal iliac* was tied once, proving fatal in a week.

CANCER.—Of the *lower lip*, 58 cases, of which only 5 were in females, and generally beyond the age of 50. In most, the habit of pipe-smoking was acknowledged. Many eminent surgeons, among others the late Dr. J. C. Warren, have considered this habit one of the most frequent exciting causes of labial cancer.

Cancer of the tongue, 20 cases, of which 5 were females—almost always in tobacco-poisoned mouths. This comes on at an earlier age than cancer of the lip.

EPULIS, 9 cases, all females. The ages ranged from 15 to 59 years. The average age, 31½ years.

FISTULA IN ANO, 149 cases; of which only 14 were females, or 1 in about 10½. I do not find it mentioned in surgical works that this disease is most common in males; but the above proportion would seem to indicate that it is so. The disproportion can hardly be accounted for on the natural repugnance of the female sex to submit such lesions to the surgeon's notice; as the cases of hæmorrhoids, and other diseases of the rectum requiring operations, in the hospital wards, show no such disproportion between the sexes. Larger tables might change the proportion somewhat, and this will do for a beginning.

FRACTURES.—Fracture of the *ulna* is rare, compared with fracture of the *radius* and with fracture of both bones, notwithstanding the exposed condition of the olecranon; being in the proportion of 1 to 2. The same holds true in regard to fracture of the fibula, when compared with fracture of the tibia and that of both bones of the leg.

FUNGUS HÆMATODES, 17 cases, of which 6 were in males.

HARE-LIP, 86 cases, of which 29 were females.

HIP DISEASE, 181 cases, of which 63 were females.

LUPUS, 8 cases, of which 3 were females.

NERVES, division of, for obstinate *neuralgia*, 9 cases.

Facial, 3 cases; of which 2 were relieved, 1 not relieved.

Inferior maxillary, 1 case, cured.

Inferior dental, 1 case, cured.

Infra-orbital, 3 cases; 2 cured, 1 much relieved.

Ulnar, 1 case, relieved.

STRICTURE, OF ŒSOPHAGUS, 14 cases, of which 3 were in females.
TETANUS AND TRISMUS, 8 cases, of which 7 were fatal in from 2 to 19 days.

TORTICOLLIS, 18 cases, of which 5 were in males.

VAGINA, *occlusion of*, 5 cases; operation in 3 cases, of which 1 was successful, and 2 relieved.

VEINS, *introduction of air into*, 2 cases: 1 while removing a tumor in the neck, in which recovery took place; the other into the *axillary* vein, during removal of tumor from the axilla—fatal.

WOUNDS, *suicidal, of throat*, 30 cases, of which 4 were females; only 2 cases proved fatal, at the end of five and six days. It is rare that the suicide effects his object in attempting to cut his throat; from ignorance of the situation of the vessels, the cut is generally made too high up and too much in front; by the time the skin is cut, the pain prevents the completion of the suicidal act—the trachea is cut, but the great vessels escape, as we see by the small proportion of deaths among the cases, only 1 in 15.

Portage Lake, Mich., Oct. 22, 1856.

Reports of Medical Societies.

EXTRACTS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE SUFFOLK DISTRICT MEDICAL SOCIETY.

L. PARKS, JR., M.D., SECRETARY.

SEPT. 27th, 1856.—The following paper was sent to the Society by Dr. H. R. STORER, who was unavoidably absent.

Placenta Prævia with Twins.—Two days since (Sept. 25th), I was suddenly summoned by Dr. Hobbs to a patient of his own, who was then lying dead. I found the woman, Irish, perhaps 30 years of age, and previously the mother of a single child. She had thought herself about eight months gone, and at intervals, during several weeks, had passed blood from the vagina, with the ordinary symptoms of placenta prævia, which Dr. Hobbs had very properly diagnosed. Labor pains had commenced the night before, and with alarming hæmorrhage. Dr. Hobbs was then called, found the patient's strength good, her pains absent, the os but partially dilated, and had plugged the vagina, expecting to be notified of any change for the worse. Hearing nothing from the patient, he answered another obstetric call that night, and visiting his first patient next morning, found her four hours dead from sudden and profuse flooding. Much trouble being made by the friends, who charged him with culpable neglect, I was called in his defence and to deliver the woman.

The children having been long dead, I preferred doing so by abdominal section rather than *par vaginam*, that I might better study the case. By preliminary vaginal examination, I found the placenta freely bulging through a well-dilated os, but still completely attached throughout its circumference. The abdomen was then opened, and it became at once evident, before incising the uterus, that there were twins. These were both removed from the uterus, with the double placenta, without rupturing the membranes. The larger, a boy of perhaps six pounds, occupied the left side, its head presenting; the other, a girl, presented by the feet. The membranes were completely separate, save within an inch of the placenta, which were fused

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