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WHITE AND NEGRO DEATH RATES

DEATH RATE DECLINES

The recent report of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Board of Health, carries some interesting data regarding the decline in death rates from typhoid fever and tuberculosis during the last decade or so. Typhoid was once a common and much dreaded disease. It is seldom found today. Within a few years it will be almost entirely eliminated in North Carolina, judging by the progress that has been made during the last few years. Typhoid fever is largely the result of ignorance, carelessness, and filth. One can be rendered practically immune by vaccination.

The death rate from tuberculosis has been reduced by nearly half during the last decade. Once regarded as the 'White Plague', it now threatens the negroes far more seriously than it does the whites. The death rate from tuberculosis is three times as high for negroes as for whites. The negro seems to be far more susceptible to tuberculosis, pneumonia, and broncho-pneumonia than whites, and it is to the interest of whites that more attention be given to the prevention of tuberculosis among negroes, and to the proper care of those afflicted.

The following table shows the death rates from typhoid and tuberculosis by years from 1914 to 1925 inclusive. What has been accomplished is highly gratifying, and should encourage us to carry on with renewed energy.

Year	Typhoid death rate per 100,000 population	Tuberculosis death rate per 100,000 population
1914	36.8	139.3
1915	31.3	156.4
1916	29.1	146.3
1917	30.2	141.5
1918	22.2	137.5
1919	17.0	120.3
1920	12.5	113.6
1921	11.7	101.0
1922	11.2	97.5
1923	9.9	94.7
1924	9.9	99.1
1925	9.8	89.0

COUNTY TAX RELIEF

The General Assembly which has just adjourned enacted several pieces of legislation which will benefit the rural taxpayer.

The increase in the school equalizing fund from \$1,500,000 to \$3,250,000 will materially relieve the county school tax burden. By more than doubling the equalizing fund it will be possible for the state to assume approximately one-fourth of the cost of the six-months term in about eighty-five counties. Even more important, the fund is now large enough really to begin to equalize the school burden (in the counties which share in it). The new act provides that each county which shares in the fund must first levy a forty-cent tax on a fair valuation, and that the balance of the cost of a six-months term will be assumed by the State. It is hoped that a uniform standard of valuation will be used in all the counties in the 1927 revaluation. But if some counties try to take advantage of the situation by undervaluing their property the equalizing fund will not be distributed on those figures but on the basis of an adjustment made by the State Board of Equalization.

Another gain for the counties is the further expansion of the state highway system. The state proposes to take over immediately and maintain 600 additional miles of highways. These are always the main traveled highways, so that the gain to the county is really more than the mileage indicates. The counties undoubtedly gain more by this method than would be gained by additional gasoline or license taxes for the use of the county.

The increase of \$20,000 in the Mothers' Aid Fund assists the counties by that much in poor relief. The enlargement of the state institutions for delinquents reduces the number of such individuals to be maintained by the counties. The appointment of additional superior judges permits special terms of court where there are congested dockets, and this reduces the jail popu-

lation and thus means a saving to the county.

Perhaps the greatest saving to the tax-payers will be that which results from improved methods of county administration. The General Assembly enacted laws which make it mandatory for the counties to operate on a budget basis, to keep proper accounts, to keep a more adequate record of taxables, to limit to necessities bond issues without a vote of the people, and to inaugurate in general an adequate system of fiscal control. Another act permits counties on their own initiative to employ a county manager or take such other steps in the direction of business efficiency as they deem desirable. These so-called county government bills will be analyzed more fully in subsequent issues of the News Letter.—Paul W. Wager.

THE ROAD TO CULTURE

The seat of culture is the skull, and not the school. Simple enough the saying is, scarce calling for proof. Yet many there be who ignore it.

School is an admirable convenience. Yet at best it is but a place where one may educate himself, if he choose. Or rather, it is where one may begin educating himself. For education is a continuing process so long as the brain fiber holds out to burn.

The delusion lurks about that schooling is scholarship, and bookishness is brain-power. There is little enough in it, but yet enough to account for much that is wrong and much that gets wrong with schools of communities and with schooling of individuals.

We can't get on without schools. Nobody in his senses would have us try. And books are even more indispensable. Without them each age would have to start afresh, unlettered and unled.

Books gather up the deeds and the aspirations of the past for our instruction and admonition. So may we begin where philosophers and statesmen left off and build with a sureness born of their travail.

But slavery to books begets slavishness only. It binds one to the doorpost of wisdom's house, yet denies him a place in the household of the wise.

And whoso goes to school as to a warehouse where he may be laden with learning in so long a time goes on a fool's errand and will receive a fool's burden for his pains.

Bigger than the book—if we except the Book of Books—is the man who reads it. Bigger than the school is he who presides over it.

Books are the tools and the school is the shop. Except as the prentices learn there the will to learn, both they and the master of the shop labor in vain.

The teacher guides his pupil. But he can not carry him. Hand-in-hand they set out to come at the truth, the teacher a little way in front, to be sure, because he has been that way before. But every man must make his own footing and stand in his own tracks.

Truth is wonderfully alluring and wonderfully discouraging. It challenges and it flees away. It startles us with the suddenness of its popping out of hiding. In exasperates us with the obstinacy of its secretiveness. The curiosity to seek it, the constancy to pursue it, and the courage to face it when baply it is found—herein is the stuff to make learning of. And the greatest of these is courage.—Morning News, Dallas, Texas.

NEXT BIG BOOM

The Dillon Herald calling attention to the movement of 400 Swedish and German families from Ohio and Wisconsin into Florida, predicts that in this migration is the beginning of the real development of the South. The Herald says:

"New blood is what the South needs. New blood brings new ideas. We have been trained though generations to think in terms of cotton. Our system of agriculture has been built on cotton. It is hard to throw off the habits acquired through several generations. The Swede or German from the West

TEN MOST BEAUTIFUL

The winning reply to the question "What are the ten most beautiful things in North Carolina?" is the following by Ronald B. Wilson, of Raleigh:

1. The rolling valleys and hills heaped upon hills, clothed in the riotous colors of mid-October, as seen from the sheer cliff of two thousand feet on Whiteside Mountain in Jackson County.

2. A December sunset from the sleeping verandahs of the sanatorium for the tuberculous, located in the midst of the Sandhills.

3. The arboretum at the University of North Carolina in early May, which is not only a place of beauty but also an inspiring demonstration of what man can do as a co-laborer with God.

4. Linville falls, probably at its best in June when the water comes leaping forth from a tunnel of rhododendron and azalea in full bloom.

5. Shadows on Lake Waccamaw in the gusk of a lazy day in late June.

The peach orchards of the Sandhills in full bloom, against a background of the most delicate green in nature, preferably seen along the twenty-five miles from Biscoe to Pinchurst.

7. Oyster fleet at dawn on Pamlico Sound, in the Indian summer of early November, with the snow-white sails silhouetted against the green of the water and the blue of the sky.

8. The porticoes of the State Capitol.

9. Exterior of Christ Church, Raleigh.

10. The living spirit of Ed Graham, which here, there, and yonder in North Carolina may be glimpsed flaming in the souls of some of those who knew and loved this man.—From Incidentally, News and Observer.

does not know cotton. He thinks in terms of grains, milk, butter, chickens and eggs. He is thrifty and does not know how to live 365 days on 100 days' work. The new South may be long in the making, but a new South is coming. The North, the Middle West, and the West have had their big booms. The next big boom will be in the South. The wise man will plan for it."—Gastonia Gazette.

RICH IN SCENERY

The beauty of North Carolina, from its undulating plains and sand dunes on the Atlantic Coast to its color-bathed mountains in the west, is a bewildering beauty that one must feel through realization, as, standing on the commanding Mitchell, one looks out upon a glorious horizon of ever-changing, rippling hues. In the east they call it "the land of enchanting waters;" in the west "the land of the sky;" in the Sandhills "the nation's playground," and, combining these thoughts, North Carolinians in other parts of the world refer to their state as "down home."

Rarely does one find such elemental beauty, no matter where the trail leads, as in North Carolina. Nature appears always in a joyous mood. Resting upon the heights of Mount Mitchell, the highest peak east of the Rocky Mountains, one is impressed with the consciousness of looking down upon the world; an experience felt as one of the most wonderful and inspiring possible to man, giving an exhilaration of thought and new revelation to the sense. As Thomas Dixon, distinguished North Carolina author, expresses it, "Looking down upon miles of lesser mountains, hills, valleys, farms, and houses that stretch away into the haze of the sky line, we feel our kinship with the divine."

Nature seems to have expressed herself in a masterpiece in the forests of

North Carolina. Here are great varieties of flowers, the colorful rhododendron striking a major note as it bathes the hillside in tones of palest lavender. Streams come rollicking down the ravines, churning white under a waterfall where music plays the live-long day, sculpturing gnomish faces in their rocks and edging them with moss of diamond-flecked green.

Along the beaches are wind-swept sand dunes set with fragrant pines, bowing before a capricious breeze. Here the old North State gleams majestically in the rising sun at the end of a dappled path of gold.—Christian Science Monitor.

LONGER LIVES—AND BETTER

There is a more widespread interest in the fundamental principles of health than ever before. And there is less interest in faddism. Instead of remaining purely a sewing-circle topic for those who have lost their health and are attempting to regain it, health is taking the forefront in schools, in magazines, in homes. The medical profession, long enjoying its cloak of mystery, has of late years come to life and is taking the lead in fostering sane views of how to live happily. It is only as the medical profession thus serves that it will survive and prosper. Having, by brilliant work in research,

in practice, and in education, succeeded in greatly lowering the rate of infant mortality, therapeutics turned its attention to the other major problem of lengthening the work-life of mankind. And here, too, success is well on the way. Gradually, the years are being added. They are not being added because of heroic remedies applied at the deathbed, but because of sensible measures applied in youth and in middle age.

By slow degrees, we are learning that the cleaner lives we live, the longer is our expectation. We are beginning to see that bodily abuses and excesses constitute their own form of punishment. The more exemplary our lives, the more composed our consciences and the greater the likelihood of attaining a ripe old age. Furthermore, the sleep we give ourselves to-day, the rational diet we follow now, will bless us through myriad to-morrows.

Health is the natural concomitant of right living. And the best part about healthy, right living is that it results in maximum satisfaction every day. Health means work at its best and play at its best. Its present enhanced popularity is one of the most hopeful signs of this civilization.—Holland's Magazine.

WHITE AND NEGRO DEATH RATES, 1925 Per One Thousand Population

In the table below, based on the annual report of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, North Carolina State Board of Health, covering the year 1925, the counties are ranked according to the white death rate per one thousand white population. The parallel column gives the negro death rate per one thousand negroes.

Graham county had the lowest white death rate with 4.6 deaths per 1,000 white population. Scotland had the highest white death rate with 16.2 deaths per 1,000 white population.

Alleghany had the lowest negro death rate with 3.0 deaths per 1,000 negroes, and Durham the highest negro death rate with 27.6 per 1,000 negroes. The rate for counties with very few negroes is not reliable.

State total of white deaths 19,681 and state white death rate 9.9 per 1,000 white population.

State total of negro deaths 12,656 and state negro death rate 15.2 per 1,000 negroes. The negro death rate exceeds the white in eighty-three counties of the state.

Department of Rural Social-Economics, University of North Carolina

Rank	County	White death rate per 1,000 whites	Negro death rate per 1,000 negroes	Rank	County	White death rate per 1,000 whites	Negro death rate per 1,000 negroes
1	Graham	4.6	—	51	Davie	9.7	14.2
2	Yancey	5.0	13.3	52	Iredell	9.8	15.7
3	Transylvania	5.8	6.3	53	Granville	9.9	10.6
4	Hyde	6.0	9.1	54	Carteret	10.0	19.1
5	Clay	6.6	26.2	54	Onslow	10.0	9.5
6	Cherokee	6.9	8.1	54	Polk	10.0	12.3
7	Stanly	7.1	12.5	54	Washington	10.0	18.3
7	Swain	7.1	18.8	58	Franklin	10.1	14.1
9	Brunswick	7.2	10.7	58	Greene	10.1	9.5
10	Alleghany	7.3	3.0	58	Richmond	10.1	14.8
10	Camden	7.3	15.0	61	Gaston	10.2	16.8
12	Haywood	7.4	12.5	62	Lee	10.3	15.0
12	Watauga	7.4	17.6	62	Rutherford	10.3	13.3
14	Ashe	7.8	10.4	64	Craven	10.5	20.0
14	Moore	7.8	12.3	64	Halifax	10.5	13.0
16	Catawba	8.0	20.5	66	Chowan	10.6	19.2
16	Hoke	8.0	17.4	66	Randolph	10.6	14.4
18	Harnett	8.1	11.7	68	Alexander	10.7	13.9
19	Bladen	8.2	14.2	69	Duplin	10.8	10.2
19	Cleveland	8.2	12.9	69	Jones	10.8	8.9
19	McDowell	8.2	17.8	69	Warren	10.8	14.0
19	Montgomery	8.2	16.4	72	Jackson	10.9	6.2
23	Rockingham	8.2	14.6	72	Mecklenburg	10.9	20.2
24	Alamance	8.4	11.5	72	Robeson	10.9	12.1
24	Caswell	8.4	10.7	72	Tyrrell	10.9	12.8
26	Mitchell	8.5	—	76	Surry	11.0	20.3
26	Rowan	8.5	16.9	77	Martin	11.1	15.3
26	Stokes	8.5	8.0	78	Burke	11.2	19.1
29	Macon	8.6	7.1	79	Pitt	11.3	14.4
30	Cabarrus	8.7	18.0	80	Durham	11.4	27.6
30	Madison	8.7	5.9	80	Pasquotank	11.4	21.4
30	Pamlico	8.7	16.4	82	Dare	11.5	8.4
30	Union	8.7	15.3	82	Edgecombe	11.5	14.5
30	Wilkes	8.7	14.5	82	New Hanover	11.5	20.4
35	Avery	8.8	3.2	82	Pender	11.5	12.5
35	Lincoln	8.8	18.4	82	Vance	11.5	14.4
37	Caldwell	8.9	11.3	87	Guilford	11.6	22.3
38	Columbus	9.1	14.4	87	Lenoir	11.6	15.3
39	Anson	9.2	14.1	87	Wilson	11.6	17.9
39	Chatham	9.2	16.9	90	Currituck	12.0	19.7
39	Gates	9.2	8.4	91	Person	12.4	10.9
39	Orange	9.2	12.6	92	Nash	12.6	17.4
43	Davidson	9.3	19.1	93	Wake	12.8	18.4
44	Bertie	9.4	16.7	94	Burke	12.9	11.4
45	Forsyth	9.5	17.8	95	Henderson	13.3	19.1
45	Johnston	9.5	13.0	96	Wayne	13.4	20.0
45	Northampton	9.5	11.3	97	Hertford	13.6	15.2
48	Perquimans	9.6	11.1	98	Cumberland	14.4	9.9
48	Sampson	9.6	13.7	99	Buncombe	15.9	26.7
48	Yadkin	9.6	15.8	100	Scotland	16.2	13.5