

STATISTICAL CHANGES.

Sir Robert Giffen, the noted British statistician, recently addressed the statistical society of Manchester on the statistical changes of the country and produced figures that will prove interesting to the people of the United States. He said in part:

"The population of Europe and of nations of European origin like the United States may now be put at something over 500,000,000. A century ago the corresponding figure would not have been more than about 170,000,000. A French statistician gave the figure in 1788 for Europe alone, excluding the United States as a little less than 150,000,000. In the century, therefore, Europe and nations of European origin have grown to three times their former numbers and this without counting the population of Mexico and South America, amounting now to 45,000,000, which ought perhaps to be included as Europeanized, though not wholly European in race.

"Not only is the century interesting, therefore, as a characteristically statistical century, but

Economic.

the statistics themselves are in the highest degree surprising. For generations and centuries the growth of Europe must have been slow owing to war and pestilence and the other checks to population of which Malthus wrote, and then all at once in a single century we have this sudden multiplication of numbers. The economic development of the people is even more marvelous. Agriculture has extended indefinitely over the new territory, and there have been vast improvements in new and old territory alike. The figures of trade have been multiplied ten times and more. The wealth of the peoples all told, which would probably not have been reckoned at more than £5,000,000,000 at the beginning of the century, must be reckoned now by tens of thousands of millions.

"It would probably not be far short of the mark to say that while the millions of the advanced portion of the human race have increased in numbers as described each unit on the average is two or three times better off than the corresponding unit at the beginning of the period. Again, the development is for the most part not uniform among the European populations. It is most marked in the Anglo-American section. The increase here is from a population of not more than about 20,000,000, which was the population of the United States and the United Kingdom together 100 years ago, to a population of not less than 130,000,000 at the present time.

"Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom had all grown, while France and Austria had by comparison remained stationary, so that now the great

world powers were four only, the United States, Britain, Russia and Germany, with France a doubtful fifth. The extent of the revolution that had taken place in a century was evident and obviously accounted for much that was going on in international politics. If the forces now in existence continue to operate as they had done in the past century for only a few more generations, the close of the coming century must witness a further transformation, whose beginnings would be apparent in the lifetime of some among us.

"It was a reasonable probability that unless some great internal change should take place in the ideas and conduct of the European races themselves the population of 500,000,000 would in another century become one of 1,500,000,000 to 2,000,000,000. The black and yellow races still remaining, as far as one could see, comparatively stationary, this would make a greatly changed world. The yellow peril, for instance, of which we heard so much, would have vanished, because the yellow races themselves would be so much outnumbered. What would be the 400,000,000 of China compared with 1,500,000,000 or 2,000,000,000 of European race?

Further progress must also be made in the redistribution of power among European nations. International politics would be more and more limited to the affairs of what were already the four great powers—the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany and Russia. The most serious problem would of course be whether the dilemma stated by Malthus and hitherto put aside by the occupation of new lands would at length become an urgently practical question. It was impossible not to wonder which of the two forces, the growth of population and the increase of the needs of the growing population on the one side and the growth of invention and mechanical power in supplying human wants on the other side would gain as time went on."

FOOD'S EFFECT UPON CHARACTER.

The output of the brain is virtually the input of the stomach. The human being, strange as it may sound, is but the sum of the bills of fare of a human life. Doctors are more rapidly than ever coming to the conclusion that "man is what he eats" as much as what he is bred, so far as the influence upon his character and physical up-building is concerned.

Indigestion produced by some improper or wrongly cooked food twists a man's temper all day. A lifelong repetition of such a diet twists his life out of joint, and produces an ill-tempered dyspeptic. Give the human stomach a nourishing, easily digested steak or other food, and you wreath a smile on the countenance of the diner. He will be pleased at anything, and will sub-

scribe to relief funds or any other beneficence instead of throwing dishes at his wife, the cook, the dog or what not that happens to cross his mind or his path while the upsetting of his stomach by indifferent digestion lasts within him.

The character of food and its general influence upon the character of the individual, and hence, upon the character of the nation, is not taken seriously enough into consideration by those whose duty it is to watch such things. Such neglect is criminal, because through it our foods have become, in hundreds of cases, so perverted from their dietetic to their commercial character that our stomachs are painting the horrors of the thing in our visage and in our daily thoughts.

The American meat and provision factories, luckily, have not followed the ghoulish greed of the makers of other lines of food. By careful analysis and gastronomic experiments the concerns working up the by-products of the animal carcass have succeeded in improving instead of deteriorating the quality and character of our diet made from the flesh of edible animals.

The American meat and provision packer has put up his article with the full knowledge of the fact that every laboratory of Europe, and not a few of this country, are ready to pounce upon his product and examine it for its impurities. It is regrettable that other edible substances are not treated in the same inquisitorial way for the sake of mankind. The distribution of diseased animal flesh and of chemical compounds under the name of table delicacies and condiments is a menace to both national happiness and to national strength—moral and physical. Man is the sum of his bills of fare. He is half animal and half spirit. An injurious diet has an evil effect upon both halves.—National Provisioner.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY.

One of the most distinctly American of our magazines is the Atlantic Monthly. It is ably edited, appeals to all phases of national life and is adapted to the varied tastes of the reading public. Among the special articles for the coming year, those particularly deserving of mention are the ones relating to the reconstruction period of American history. Each will be written by a specialist. Among those who will contribute to the pages of the Atlantic Monthly upon questions pertaining to southern life are, Woodrow Wilson, Hilary A. Herbert, Thomas Nelson Page and other deservedly popular American writers.

In Old Missouri—Colonel Peppah—"I believe in votin' early an' often, suh." Colonel Redeye—"I don't, suh. Its too much trouble to vote early, an' its a waste o' time to vote often. I prefer to chuck in a good big bundle o' ballots all to once an' hev yer duty over with."—Judge.