

hottest months of the year, diarrhœa being the most common certified cause of death. Those unacquainted with the lowest class of Egyptians can form no idea of the filth in which they voluntarily live, of the habits of the nursing mothers, and of their indifference to medical aid until the child is actually dead. The apathy of the people on this subject is perhaps partly due to the extraordinarily high birth-rate among the natives. The average birth-rate in Cairo during the last six years is 51·8, and that of Alexandria is 48·5 per 1000. During 1887 the highest birth-rate recorded per 1000 among ninety-five other towns publishing vital statistics were—Dusseldorf, 39·1; Buenos Ayres, 39·7; Chemnitz, 44·8: while the figures for Egyptian towns were—Suez and Ismailia, 54·2; Cairo, 55·4; Alexandria, 57·9; and Port Said, 73·7. It is melancholy to reflect that one-third of the native children die before they have lived twelve months, and more than one-half of them die before they have reached the age of five years. It is doubtful whether this extraordinary fecundity extends itself to European residents in Egypt, whose habits and laws of divorce are, of course, entirely different. During my own residence in Cairo, I have known thirty-five English brides (*æt.* 20–35) who have been imported into Egypt; of these twenty-seven have borne one or more chil-