

CONNECTION OF OCCUPATION WITH LONGEVITY.

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THE Reports of the Mortality in Massachusetts, from May 1, 1843, to December 31, 1856, state the ages and occupations of the males who died, after they were twenty years old. This record, including 42,329 male adults, distributed in various proportions among one hundred and thirty-four different occupations, show, in great measure, the influence of employment on human life, and is a most important contribution to vital statistics.

This observation has not been sufficiently large to determine the longevity in all of the fields of labor. Yet in regard to the principal occupations, some estimate may be made as to their effect upon life, and all may be arranged into classes, according to some of their natural affinities, to their effects on those engaged in them, to the organs, faculties or powers, that perform the labor or bear the burden, or to the exposures and privations that are made necessary; and from these, important deductions may be drawn in regard to longevity.

Upon these principles, all the occupations, except the paupers, are arranged into the following ten classes, and the table below is prepared according to them.

- I.—Cultivators of the earth.—Farmers and gardeners.
- II.—Active mechanics, working out of doors.—Carpenters, masons, &c.
- III.—Active mechanics, working in shops.—Cabinet makers, machinists, &c.
- IV.—Inactive mechanics in shops.—Shoemakers, tailors, engravers, &c.
- V.—Mechanics.—Trades not specified.
- VI.—Seamen, fishermen, &c., employed on the ocean.
- VII.—Laborers.—Without special trades, mostly the poor.
- VIII.—Others (not farmers nor mechanics) occupied abroad.—Expressmen, teamsters, sextons, stevedores, &c.
- IX.—Professional men, students, &c., working with the brain.
- X.—Merchants, capitalists, financiers, engaged in the transfer or care of property.

	Classes of occupations.	No. of occupations.	Number of deaths.	Sum of ages. Years.	Average longevity. Years.
I	Cultivators of the earth, . . .	2	11,741	753,457	64.2
II	Active mechanics abroad, . . .	11	3,376	162,831	48.24
III	Active mechanics in shops, . . .	52	4,431	206,337	46.56
IV	Inactive mechanics in shops, . . .	18	4,628	193,689	41.85
V	Mechanics, trades not specified, . . .		504	21,784	43.22
VI	Employed on the ocean, . . .	1	2,785	128,340	46.08
VII	Laborers, &c.	6	8,372	373,681	44.63
VIII	Others laboring abroad,	19	862	37,558	43.57
IX	Professional men,	10	1,382	72,669	52.58
X	Merchants, financiers, capitalists,	15	3,574	172,952	48.39

The difference of longevity in the 1st, 2d, 3d and 4th classes, shows the effect of exercise and air upon the protraction of life, and is worthy of consideration by all in the selection of employments for themselves or for their children.

Longevity in some leading occupations in Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island.

Occupations.	Deaths.	Average longevity.	Occupations.	Deaths.	Average longevity.
Clergymen,	389	55.36	Tanners,	230	47.90
Lawyers,	276	54.76	Merchants and clerks,	2,386	47.46
Physicians,	540	54.32	Cabinet makers,	253	46.34
Coopers,	338	57.4	Shoemakers,	3,233	43.03
Blacksmiths,	822	51.51	Painters,	500	42.37
Carpenters,	2,052	49.72	Tailors,	486	41.8
Masons,	492	48.24			

