

ferred to remain, for the most part, a dead letter.

That, at the present moment, in how very few cities and towns in Ireland or Great Britain, do the great mass of the people enjoy the advantages of those prime essentials of healthful existence—pure water to drink, and pure air to breathe in their habitations? Then how shamefully imperfect is our general drainage, without which a proper sanitary condition is impossible. But yet more shameful is the want of an adequate system for the utilization of sewage, which is permitted to exercise a most pestiferous influence on public health. It is little to the purpose to lament the existence of these evils, and say that the neglect with which such matters are treated is not in keeping with our boasted civilization, and the scientific enlightenment of our age; the truth is that the ravages of an epidemic alone can scourge national apathy into action.

It is not our intention, however, to dwell on such sanitary matters at present, our purpose is to draw attention more particularly to one great, cheap, and easy means of promoting public health, the value of which is fully acknowledged by the medical profession, and also by Parliament—we allude to the establishment of public baths. Properly constructed and conducted baths are, in truth, admirable sanitary institutions. This is admitted on all hands, but the question we desire to consider is one about which a good deal of diversity of opinion exists, viz., What form of bath is most