

sanitary arrangements of prisons, police and public works and the care of lunatics.

The veterinary department of the Privy Council would well be associated with the Ministry. The health of man and animals is so closely connected that one can hardly be considered without the other, while many questions of their relations remain to be investigated both in England and in the Colonies and India, and the practical application of the results of such investigations requires to be made known. Diseases of the vegetable kingdom are now dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture. The combination of the work of these offices would enormously conduce to efficiency, and their official head, the Minister of Public Health, would be the adequate and dignified representative of these vital interests of the people of this country and its tropical possessions. He, without having necessarily special talents for research, as Koch, or Pasteur, or Lister, would regulate the inevitable conflict between the forces of nature and the tendencies of crowded communities, where the struggle for existence grows fiercer and fiercer. He would advocate and encourage the simple principles of health, and co-ordinate by direct, even personal, representation both scientific and common-sense measures applied to workaday life. He would be a wise authority and judge, rather than a disciplinarian or an officer of justice. He would be the chosen mouthpiece of the nation's needs. So created, he would excite the minimum of prejudice and would be acceptable to the majority, who desire to govern themselves yet be guided therein. The secret of the Ministerial power would be education. If we look at the condition of houses and towns, of the social life of the people, and then turn to the tables of mortality, we must see that the obvious rules of self-preservation are neglected. This would be his task to remedy. Only inasmuch as education diminishes the initiative of the individual and the liberty of the subject would such an appointment sap the virility or will power of a nation. Indeed, the example of a Minister would stimulate most individuals, and would tend to raise the standard of intelligence and ethics of a nation and be one of the highest of educational agencies. The level of intelligence is yet far distant when such an instrument as this can be dispensed with.

The Ministry might desire the advice of a Consulting Committee of eminent members of the medical and legal professions. Medical officers of schools, or factories, of poor law authorities, of prisons, of the Navy and Army, and of the veterinary pro-