

1,000, as against the general rate of the whole of London, 187, and probably in many tenement localities, of 25 to 30 per 1,000. The sick rate was doubtless in proportion, or as is common, in one sense, less than proportionate; for when the death-rate is reduced, the sick rate falls in a still greater degree, as one can readily understand. Pure water and pure, wholesome food are almost as essential to health as pure air; while some protection from the infection of epidemic diseases is indispensable. Some means might properly have been suggested by the Commission for educating the working people in the methods and rules of preserving the health and vigor of themselves and their families.

THE ANTI-POVERTY SOCIETIES appear to overlook sickness—sickness largely owing to ignorance of sanitary rules and necessities—as a cause of poverty. Mr. Henry George, the political economy lecturer, does not commonly emphasize, if indeed alludes to, the potency of sickness in the production and maintenance of poverty. In this land of plenty and good wages, there need be no poverty among the healthy. As the Monthly Bulletin of the Iowa Board of Health, gives it, a man who is in good health, and whose family is similarly fortunate, whatever theory of taxation prevails, can keep his family in comfortable clothing and healthy food, and purchase for them a good many luxuries. Should he, however, be sick or any of his family dangerously so, work and wages not only cease, but there are super-added medical attendance, medicine, nurses, and the many items incidental to sickness and sepulture. Mr. George and all labor reformers and political economists fail greatly when they do not emphasize the importance of sickness as a factor in the production of poverty. PUBLIC HEALTH IS INDEED PUBLIC WEALTH.

MAN IS THE MOST PRECIOUS CAPITAL of a country and of society. Every individual represents a certain value, usually estimated at an average of \$1,000. As the late Prince Rudolph said at the opening of the Vienna Sanitary Congress, "To preserve this value as intact as possible to its furthest limit is not only a command of humanity, but also the duty of every community in its own interests." Is it not then the first duty of the government of a country, not of the government of a portion of the country or of certain portions of it, but of the chief government of the whole, to look after this capital? To provide means for the promotion of health as

universal as possible? To educate, foster and encourage in every legitimate way every community in the country to look first after this most precious capital of the country? No government is fulfilling fully its duties who neglects this, really the most important function of a government.

EDUCATION is now generally believed to be of more importance than coercion. An education, for example, including the following incidents, which the entire public should have been long ago made fully acquainted with, when many would doubtless have been benefitted and preserved from disease from knowing the facts. According to Dr. W. A. Shufeldt, of Knowlton, Que., we believe, in the Medical Record, gives the following instances from his own observation: In the small village of Fulford, a French working man from a neighboring town, after a few days' illness, died of typhoid fever. Situated near the house, and on the lower level, was the spring from which the neighboring families obtained their water supply. Three well-marked cases of typhoid took place soon afterwards in the families using the water, and five milder cases of fever, all, no doubt, due to the contamination of the spring with the excretions from the house above it. No other case occurred in the village, and the epidemic died out soon after the closure of the spring.

IN ANOTHER CASE, on the same authority: In December, 1886, at St. John's, Que., a case of fever occurred in an old barracks a short distance above the town. The water supply for the town was taken from the river just below the barracks. A month later there were thirty well marked cases, and no less than one hundred others were suffering from fever of a continued type. The fever was most effectually stamped out by ordering families to boil both water and milk for drinking purposes. No cases occurred in the town of Iberville, which is situated on the opposite bank of the river, and using a different water supply. Malarial fevers are unknown in the locality.

A MINISTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH is now virtually established in France. The Sanitary Department was formerly attached to the Ministry of Commerce; natural enough, when French Sanitation was confined to enforcing measures for preventing the propagation of epizootic diseases. This connection has recently been