

will it be found that the efforts of one class will be supplemented by those of another, and the labours of the State will be turned to good account by those of individuals.

Seeing that every man, I care not who he is, is the product of millions of factors, which have to be sought out in the past actions of all men, in his own prejudices, opinions, and interests, and the modifying circumstances which, from hour to hour, are brought to bear upon him, what can we mean by asserting that any man would be competent to draw up a code of laws that would thoroughly answer the purpose the wise legislator should have in view?—the happiness and tranquillity of individuals and of the nation. Or, supposing a man could be found who could so free himself from the difficulties and prejudices of age and station that he could wisely think and impartially act, could we hope that any nation now existing would obey the laws he might enact, or that any body of officials could be found competent to administer them? Sanitary legislation is in precisely the same position as any other great question calling for legislative enactments. Has it not been repeatedly found that the ablest living sanitarians are not able to draw up a Public Health Bill, which, when accepted by Parliament, thoroughly answers the purpose for which it was framed? The very machinery to put the law into operation is so imperfect that disappointment everywhere meets us. Were these appreciative audiences, which have so often listened with admiration to the wisdom and learning of Dr. Lyon Playfair, able to give this distinguished statesman power to draw up a Public Health Consolidation Act, and were he to discharge his responsible and difficult task with the skill and discretion for which he is conspicuous, these very audiences would often be the first to break the law.