

What then is the profession of public health? It is the cure of bodies in the mass; it is the charge of the primary forces of the nation, which correspond directly to their environment and are capable of gradual atrophy through neglect or of almost infinite developement by the light of modern knowledge; of forces on which in almost direct proportion depend the effective commercial, mental, spiritual power of the country; of forces which should be the first care of government and often have been its last, which can be and actually are in large measure affected by legislation and which, if rightly used, should become the chief corner stone of the Empire.

—*Francis Fremantle.*