

"knock" our own land. When our church people have thoroughly grasped the idea that to succour the dying and comfort the bereaved is not so blessed as to help prevent them dying, perhaps we shall have advanced quite a long way.

As has been already pointed out so often in these BULLETINS, and must be insisted upon again, it is time that we got out of the old idea that pain, misery, poverty, death, all came upon the world as a part of the inscrutable dealings of God with men. We must realize that every effect can be traced back inevitably and surely to a cause, and that if our infant death rate is double that of new Zealand there is a cause for it. Why do three times as many children per hundred births die in infancy in Ottawa than in Hampstead in England? Why do more infants per hundred die in Port Arthur and Windsor and Kingston than in such wretched London slums as Shoreditch, Bermondsey and Bethnal Green? Perhaps our somewhat rigorous climate, with its extremes of heat and cold have something to do with it, but what of our carelessness of public health, purity of milk, our negligence in not ensuring that we get uncontaminated water, our lack of training mothers in the simplest rudiments of hygiene, and all the rest of our sins of omission?

The old ways must go, the old half superstitious, half ignorant attitude of mind must be changed. How often does it strike us that a good many things are attributed to the act of God which are really the acts of men? It is not so long ago, (or do we still?) that we thought that pestilence was sent among the peoples by God as a punishment for their sins. So they were the sins of carelessness, dirtiness, slackness, and so they will be until we learn better ways.

Medical science is becoming very fairly exact nowadays. Our doctors are struggling towards the light of perfect knowledge, and their course is marked by victories over ignorance, by achievements of inestimable value to the human race. The art of healing is a blessed one, what more beautiful incidents are there in the life of our Lord than those connected with his succouring of the sick? It has always, since the earliest times, been the work of the church to tend the sick, the first hospitals were in the monasteries: let the tradition be kept alive, let the example of our chaplains at the front who have shown such devotion in the very thick of the battle, and who, only too often, have laid down their lives at the post of duty.

As a matter of practical everyday fact, what may the Church do in this forward move in the reconstruction period? The answer is simple, stand beside every endeavour to combat disease; be willing