

sisters," unsupported in the conflict by the potent alliance of legislative and moral reformers; consequently his efforts to ameliorate the physical condition of his fellow-men have so largely been doomed to failure.

But just as (may we not say *providentially*?) the affliction of insanity fell upon one of England's most venerated kings, and brought home to the consideration and sympathy of the rich and noble, the long neglected and sadly maltreated thousands of sufferers under this malady; and so again whilst all deplored that calamitous visitation which bereaved our beloved Queen of one of the best of husbands, and her children of the best of fathers, no cultivator of sanitary science failed to recognise in this demonstration of the deadly influence of defective sewerage and ventilation, a salutary arousalment in high quarters, to the serious practical consideration of sanitary reform.

True, indeed, the nation had, long before, been duly admonished, in several visitations of malignant cholera, and in the continuous incubations of typhus and other decimating diseases, of the close affinity between dirt and death; but so long as the destroyers appeared to select their victims only from the poorer classes, little heed was given by the rich to their sufferings. So long as beneath and around the mansions of the affluent, the pestilence crept unseen, "wasting at noon-day" only the hovels of the poor, legislators and statesmen seemed to turn a deaf ear to the warnings given by sagacious and far-seeing members of the medical profession; but the death of the Prince Consort, and the late narrow escape of the heir to the throne, have spoken thunder-toned to the enlightened portion of the community, declaring the pestiferous action of sewer and cess-pool gases.

Perhaps in Canada no more notable (though very sparsely noted) illustration was ever afforded, of the sad consequences of defective sewerage, than was realised by the writer of this article in the Toronto Lunatic Asylum on his assumption of the duties of medical superintendent, in the summer of 1853. In the early part of the preceding winter, the institution was visited by an outbreak of cholera, which was regarded as of the genuine Asiatic type. A number of the inmates died. The disease had presented in the city in two or three cases; but it was not possible to trace any connexion between these and the asylum cases. Several had occurred shortly before at Quebec.

The Medical Superintendent and the Board of Directors were puzzled to conjecture the source of the malady. They had recourse to the sapient experiment of bottling up some