

take up as much space as George Rawlinson's "History of the five great Monarchies of the ancient Eastern World," published in three volumes, and could not therefore be introduced here.

We know of no book published containing an arranged compilation of all the facts recorded from the earliest times relating to, or bearing in any way on Sanitary Science including, of course, Sanitary Drainage. Such a book there may be, and certainly there should be, since there is more than ample material in that direction. For the present the inquisitive student must be willing to wade through numerous translations and reprints of old records, most of them written for an entirely different purpose, and filled with other matters. This then necessitates a great deal of judicial reading, and proves the truthfulness of the old saying, "There is no royal road to learning"; but nevertheless the reward is more than can be anticipated before the start is made. He will find that the onward progress of Sanitary Science with its peculiar variableness of speed takes place right through the history of the world. There is only one place where it seems to have retrograded like most other good things, and that is during the "Dark Middle Ages." We should be thankful to find ourselves beyond the influences of that "Slough of Despond." Like a small silver thread of limpid water among some rugged mountains—the early races of humanity—we find our little rivulet of Sanitary Science battling against, and being often turned aside owing to its feebleness, by the rocks and pebbles of barbarism and superstition. Notwithstanding these and other obstructions, as want of experience and facilities for observation, we follow it as it gradually finds its way towards certain depressions,—the basins of learning in those early days.

It increases in size and momentum when a crowned head begins to discover the inert virtues that lie hid in its waters and sets about straightening the channel and facilitating its onward flow—like King Khammarabi. Further on we find our rivulet arrested and almost hidden by marshy grounds and lofty reeds—which represent on the one hand, the inactivity and stagnation that often overtook the different empires of the Old World, caused largely by those terrible wars into which they would dash, regardless of life and everything else, every robust male being called to fight, while women, children, and the sick were left to carry on the sanitary works and the affairs of the state; and, on the other hand, the smothering effect that their tyrannical systems of government had on scientific research and science at large. Happily for us, we find that our stream breaks forth at last