

methods of living; and, in pursuance of this order, it is frequently inconvenient to make the return which would otherwise be so desirable. Yet, from the variety of its constituents, and from the amount of air which it can collect within its pores, the earth is an excellent deodorizer and disinfectant; and recent experiments with it, in this connection, have given most satisfactory results. But as true goodness and beauty never go far unaccompanied we must not be surprised to find certain kinds of soil which are excessively ungrateful. Clay and loamy soils form very unhealthy sites: for they are quite impervious, and fail to allow a free percolation of any water which falls upon them or collects within their crevices. They often contain pockets where water remains and stagnates. Marshy ground is also very objectionable; and, when its liquid comes under the category of fresh waters, it becomes an exceedingly prolific source of ill-health, of disease, and of infection. The slow change in the water level allows uninterrupted stagnation to go on. In dry weather the ever putrescent water in part evaporates with its organic matter and in part recedes below the surface, which allows the air to be sucked in and to be impregnated with the fetid germs which have been propagated. Nothing now is needed but wet weather to raise the level of the ground water and thus expel the air along with its impregnation of germs. If the water

happen to be salt instead of fresh, the danger is not so great, as there is, in connection with salt water, a continual ebb and flow, which changes the water to a certain extent and thus interrupts the putrefaction. The only way to make clayey and marshy ground inhabitable is to collect the water into drains, suitably placed, so that it will run off and never be allowed to stand for any length of time. Perfect under-drainage of the subsoil and also of the surface is absolutely indispensable for the maintenance of good health among the individuals who may have congregated upon such a site.

For man's comfort, nothing should be considered too good, especially when his health is under consideration. That blessing should be cherished and courted with undying ardor. The first law of man's nature is that of self-preservation, preservation, not merely against the conceited attacks of scheming fellowmen or the voracity of ferine beasts, but particularly against the fomentations of an unknowing world,—against the lurking contaminations of microscopic production. The consideration of a long and happy life was offered in compensation to those who would be faithful observers of the fourth commandment. Since Heaven, then, thus holds life dear, let us, too, strive to increase the joys and lengthen the period of this—our too short geotic sojourn.

W. A. H. '88

