

The  
**Public Health Journal**

INCORPORATING THE THERAPEUTIST AND SANITARY ENGINEER

VOL. II

FEBRUARY, 1911

No. 2

**Special Articles**

**UNEMPLOYMENT  
FROM THE HYGIENIC STANDPOINT**

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In the literature of unemployment, its causes and prevention, points which appear to me to be important, are only lightly touched upon and indeed not in any way discussed in most of the comprehensive works on the subject. The sad results of unemployment on the health of the community are well known and have been often discussed. It is not necessary to prove that unemployment and consequent deficiency of earnings, mean want, and that the sufferer lacking the very necessities of life is unable to give hygienic matters any individual attention. His constitution is weakened by insufficient, hap-hazard nourishment, and his power of resistance to the unhealthy conditions of living—in which circumstances place him—is diminished or completely broken down. Hunger, bad air, dark overcrowded dwellings, indifference in matters of cleanliness, indifferent care of children, and neglect and moral corruption of youth, plant the seeds of organic diseases, or supply an opportunity for the spread of contagious sickness and plagues. The children of the poor and impoverished,

are carried off in tender years by infantile diseases and contagious sickness. Rachitis and scrofula demand the most numerous victims and make cripples of many. Venereal diseases flourish amongst adults, tuberculosis especially empties the ranks of those who suffer from unemployment and insufficient earnings.

But it is it not of the terrible results of unemployment and its significance in relation to hygienics which are sufficiently well known that I now desire to treat; nor yet do I wish to discuss the hygienic measures, such as improvements in dwellings, the war against tuberculosis, adequate care of children, and so forth, which tend to ameliorate these results. Let us turn to the causes of unemployment and there seek for points which hygiene (the public care of health) can attack. We may thus grapple with the evil at its source instead of merely attending to its bad results.

One of the important causes of innocent unemployment which we are discussing, lies, speaking generally, in the physical in-