

the hands of competent local and thoroughly intelligent rational governing bodies. But the rulers of a nation are neither superior to nor inferior to the masses they govern ; at least not in the form of government which we enjoy. The prejudices, obstructiveness, incompetence, and want of principle of many of the ruled are faithfully reflected in the conduct and opinions of many members of the dominant classes, and even in those of some of the highest officials in the State. How can we expect a perfect code of sanitary laws while the people and their rulers are full of imperfections, and while sanitary science is in a state of rapid development ? Obviously we cannot. At most our efforts will only be unsatisfactory compromises, and will be hereafter superseded by more comprehensive and better considered measures.

The greatest source of anxiety for the future of preventive medicine is that so little is thought of those wise and easy precautions that every educated man and woman can carry out, without assistance from or resort to central authorities. What is the use of clamouring for an Act of Parliament to enforce the proper ventilation of public buildings when nine-tenths of our people are unwilling to open the windows of their own sitting and bed rooms ? What use is it to ask for laws to punish the adulteration of food, as long as four-fifths of our grown-up countrymen feed like swine, and daily revel in foods they know are unwholesome and injurious ? What do people mean by complaining of filth, overcrowding, and other matters just as pernicious, when the very persons, who clamour for reform at the hands of Parliament for their weaker brethren, neglect these and many other matters in their own happier social circle, and in their own homes habitually do things they wish the law to punish in others ?

No ; side by side with wise governmental action and local supervision must go individual co-operation and a sense of individual responsibility, and as, little by little, from the social and political chaos in which we live, our descendants evolve more perfect rules of conduct, and are actuated by higher principles, so