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## THE RISE AND PROGRESS OF SANITARY ENGINEERING WITHIN THE PRESENT CENTURY.

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THE following are the most practical extracts from an exhaustive paper read before the Council of the College of State Medicine, by this eminent Engineer and Sanitarian, as published in the Sanitary Record of August 15, 1888:—

Sound sanitarians must desire cleanliness in all things, but need not indulge in fads. A theorist, if he lets his theory become master, finds all things about him bending to suit his ideas. A pure theorist may be compared to a man digging himself down in a well, who, in this condition, necessarily sees less and less of the world and its ways the deeper he gets, and yet he believes he sees the whole, and so long as his fad holds him argument is of no avail....

As to disease in excess during epidemic periods, we do know, by experience, that it may break out suddenly in poor, dirty, over-crowded room-tenements; and, if the great ocean passenger steamers continue to load and overcrowd the steerage passengers as at present, we may hear of a terrible mortality on some of these vessels from foul air, dirt, bad food, impure water, and overcrowding. How is it that these fine vessels swarm with rats and other vermin?....

**PUBLIC BATHS, DISINFECTION, ETC.**—Some of the principal improvements in sanitary science, after main-sewering, house-draining, water-supply, and scavenging, have been the establishment of **PUBLIC BATHS** and **WASHHOUSES** with **DISINFECTING APPARATUS**. Some of these establishments have, however, been too grand and costly, as also placed too remote from the poor, and consequently have been failures.

Washhouses and baths for the poor should be situated in the heart of poor districts, their management should be economical, the charges the lowest, and for disinfecting bedding and clothing, gratuitous; any bedding or clothing requiring to be burned, to be replaced without charge to the poor afflicted sufferers, this being the truest economy for the ratepayers. Punish a man for having disease and he will shrink from you; treat him kindly and sympathetically, and he will respect you....

One improvement is greatly needed in hospital arrangements—namely, to establish cheap hospitals in the open country in