

Is it the politicians? Heaven save the mark!" Descartes said: if it be possible to perfect the human race, it is in medicine that we must seek the means.

MANY hundreds of the ablest members of the profession, in Great Britain, on the Continent of Europe and on this Continent, in connection with associations, such as the Sanitary Institute and the National Health Association, in England, and the American Public Health Association, are vigorously endeavouring, as it were, with scythe and reaping hook, to cut down the barrier of public ignorance and prejudice which is the chief obstacle to a change in the present system of medical practice. The public suffer most—the patients (aptly, from *patior*, to suffer) most, but the physicians too in their turn. Alas! as we stated nearly twenty years ago, in an address before the York County Medical Society, the medical profession is much in the position of an army resting quietly in barrack to be called into service and action only after an enemy has entered the State and taken possession of the defences. Then there is hurrying and distress. Twenty years ago there were but few signs of a change; now there are many.

DR. STERNBERG'S valuable and comprehensive presidential address at the late Memphis meeting of the A. P. H. Association should be extensively read by all classes. Already in previous numbers we have given notes of the proceedings of this important meeting. Asiatic cholera is threatening this continent, and cities and towns should look well to the source of their public water supply. Dr. Sternberg says: "Ample evidence demonstrates that the epidemic extension of this disease depends largely, if not exclusively, upon the water supply." Rome (Italy) with its pure supply, from a source "not likely to be contaminated," seems cholera proof; and Naples, since the use of its new water system, in 1885, enjoys comparative immunity.

DR. EZRA H. HUNT'S two scientific papers naturally elicited a good deal of discussion. His views given in that on "the Origin of Some Diseases" are in accord with those of Dr. Hueppe, set forth about the same time in an address at Weisbaden, Germany, on the Relations of Putrefaction to Infectious Disease, which we touch upon in an article on another page, and which views are becoming somewhat general. With the four final conclusions, or "practical results," of this paper we desire to express our full accord. In regard to his second paper, while it will be well to seek cautiously for effectual bacillicides for the destruction of pathogenic organisms in the body, for there will doubtless yet for a long time to come be infections which will, in spite of precautions, find their way into the body, and a special antidote will be practically most useful, yet we should prefer to direct our first and greatest efforts toward the destruction of the organisms outside of the body and before they reach it—the destruction of their means or source of development and multiplication, and would sustain the practical views of Drs. C. N. Hewitt and H. B. Baker.

THE Quarantine discussion was interesting and should prove profitable. Dr. Rauch was probably not any too severe on the dangers of the New York