

SANITARY LEGISLATION TESTED BY THE NOSE.

To those who are unacquainted with the subject in detail in principle—the popular test of central legislation and of local administration, of either political party, may be deemed extravagant; yet on due examination it will be found that the wastefulness of ignorance, of bad central legislation, and of bad local administration, causing sickness and premature morality, may actually be tested by the nose—now by the odors of stagnation and of putrefaction in rooms, defective supplies of water, by stagnant cisternage which absorbs foul gases, by the odors of putrefaction from sewers of deposit, by the odors of putrefaction from ill-formed and ill-cleaned streets, and by the eye indeed, as well as the nose, in unwashed children and unwashed work-people in the byways and the highways.

In a sentence, low sanitary conditions of population are everywhere the sources of irritations, of despair, of disorder; while high sanitary conditions, are the sources

of satisfaction, of political security, prosperity, order, and peace.

Mr. Chairman, lords and gentlemen, I thank you sincerely for the consolation and happy assurance of the great future which your testimonial conveys to me. Looking further back than perhaps any one here present can look, I do see, I confess, in the progress of the past, an augury for the future which fills me with all the delight that can fill with the brightness of hope a human heart that has beat so long as mine. I see in the happier, because healthier children that are being nurtured, what may fitly be called the new birth of health that is in promise for the world. My satisfaction may not be equal to my thankfulness but it is sufficient in this respect, that it is a richer satisfaction than has fallen to the lot of most men who have devoted all their energies to the work of national reform, in matters that lie nearest to the most vital of all that is national, the vitality of the nation and its power for strength and endurance in the career of nations.

PHYSIOLOGY OF MANUAL TRAINING.

MUCH has recently been said about manual training and the advantages of Sloyd work as a training for the eye and the hand, while the brain is supposed to be the organ affected by literary and purely mental occupation, and not to be employed to any extent in play, games, or manual work. It is very advisable that the public should have more definite knowledge as to the physiology of manual training. Large sums of money are being spent, and the Government is under pledge to back some form of technical education; yet there is no common agreement as to what is meant by the process termed “manual training,” as it is proposed to employ it in schools.

We quote from the *Educational Times* a transatlantic definition, which at least explains the notions of many leaders in education on the subject: “Manual training is training in thought-expression by other means than gesture and verbal

language, in such a carefully graded course of study as shall also provide adequate training for the judgment and the executive faculty.” Some criticisms on this definition may serve to explain certain points in the physiology of the methods proposed.

The phrase “training in thought-expression” implies the physical methods used to stimulate or set going the molecular changes in the brain which correspond to “thought” and the expression thereof, which is effected by the action of those nerve-cells upon the muscles which move the limbs, the hand, the eyes, the face, etc., and produce gestures and other means of expressing thought. The sight of an art model may produce the necessary brain impressions; the modelling of the lump of clay by the student is one mode of partially expressing his thoughts. Some may better express the mental impression produced upon the brain by the use of words, others by the pencil or by working