

object of which is the prevention of what, in the phraseology of some religious sects, is a means of grace? Yes, I answer, it is our duty to diminish suffering; to fit man for living out his days, and for doing his work manfully and happily. But, let me carry the war into my enemy's camp, and ask the opponent of sanitary science, the man who believes illness is a Divine dispensation, why, when ill, he summons the physician? Why does he then, let me ask him, gladly take nauseous drugs? why does he obtain the best medical advice? why does he subscribe to hospitals for the relief of suffering? Were he to answer truthfully he would say that he approves of the cure of sickness, because custom has sanctioned the resort to drugs, he disapproves of the prevention of disease, because he is not altogether sure that the Christian world would be unanimous in approving of trying to prevent what everyone vainly endeavours to cure. The opposition to sanitary science too often depends on nothing but a fear of approving of what the religious world is not yet prepared heartily to approve.

Sanitary science may be the handmaid of sensuality and godlessness, but not necessarily so. The desire to preserve health may come from the lowest and basest motives, but it ought not to have this origin. To draw the line with a firm hand between sensuality on the one hand and apathy on the other is difficult; it can and should be done. It is the duty of Christianity to care for the wants of the body, to lessen suffering, to increase happiness, but only for the glory of God. Sensuality and slothful ease are not to be sought, rather they are to be shunned; idleness and frivolity are to be as carefully avoided. Happiness is nevertheless to be the object of life; the diminution of misery, mental and physical, is to be always aimed at, prosperity and opulence are to be placed within the reach of all. But the heart is never to be set upon these things; they are to be subservient to true religion; the instant they possess the heart and draw it away from God, that moment, are they to be cast away as the greatest of evils, the deadliest of snares. The position is a paradoxical one: yet on attaining it all depends. Sanitary science, ay, and all branches of science, are worthy objects of study, provided always that the student learns in what