

A SHORT HISTORICAL REVIEW OF SANITARY SCIENCE AND THE "GERM THEORY."

BY CESARE J. MARANI.

"We live, we die, live well or miserably, live our full term or perish prematurely, according as we shall wisely or otherwise determine."

What is Sanitary Science? It is an application of the laws of physiology and general pathology to the maintenance of the health and life of communities, by means of those agencies which are in common and constant use.

What is Sanitary Drainage? It is *one* of the principal agents in bringing about the above desired conditions.

Has Sanitary Science been in existence for many years, or is it of recent origin? To this we would answer that though Sanitary Science might at first appear to be of recent origin owing to the wonderful development it has undergone of late years, and to the strong onward impulses it received about thirty years ago from the labours of such men as Lyon Playfair, Smith, Edwin Chadwick, Southwood and others, it can be traced notwithstanding this, through the filth, dirt, and darkness of the Middle Ages, through Rome's triumphant days, through that memorable epoch when Egyptian architectural skill was at its best, right back to the earliest Persian and Chaldaean dynasties. The Mosaic code of Laws—the most ancient on record—shows that the health of the Jewish population was a subject of no small interest in as much as it was a subject of legislation. (Leviticus, xvi. 37-42; Deuteronomy, xxiii. 12 and 13.)

Space prevents the giving of even a short account of the growth of Sanitary Science from these early times. How its importance rose or fell, how its dictates were carried out at certain times or altogether abandoned, according as the monarchy became powerful, imperative and rich, or sank in consequence of wars and defeats into inactivity and subjection; how it has undergone many a severe collision with superstition, custom, and pagan idolatry, and what the consequences have been; how certain ideas were put to test, certain symptoms carried out and what resulted from them; all this and more would

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