

LECTURING ON HEALTH.

To the Editor of the SANITARY JOURNAL.

DEAR SIR,—To continue the few crude remarks I offered in your journal in its last issue, I would go back to the premises I assumed, viz.: That the responsibility for the health of the community should rest on the shoulders of the Government. It is a well known fact that disease is propagated and intensified by the ignorance, and in some instances, prejudice of those, who, void of education, may perchance be exposed to its influences—the first principles of Hygiene are totally unheeded and unknown. This condition of the general public mind is more prevalent than most people imagine. Superstition moreover, even in the families of many gifted with comparative wealth, but possessed of little education or common sense, even now, seems as rife almost as it was a hundred years ago. In some instances the absurd conclusion may be perfectly harmless in character, in others excessively pernicious. I may point particularly to the power of vaccination, which at present is disputed and combated by a large proportion of the community, and among its opponents we find some of the misguided but enlightened members of our profession.

In speaking thus of the prevailing ignorance of that which socially pertains to the health of man, I would suggest that it be made statutory and not permissive, that in thickly populated districts the health officer appointed by the Government should give a certain series of popular lectures in localities where they are most needed—where disease is most likely to be prevalent, viz., where squalor, filth, ignorance and poverty are most seen—lectures of a popular character, illustrating forcibly the ordinary laws of nature and the means that are naturally within their compass of comprehension and application—to teach them the effect of pure air, the effect of light, and the effect of cleanliness on the human economy. It is a mystery to me that this has not yet been done by municipal or Government interference. One example, and a noble one, we have in the memory of Dr. John Brown, who so ably and