

England, and this is I believe the common conviction of persons who have studied the subject."

"Among the foremost causes that affect the public health in England, two gigantic causes stand conspicuous. First, the omission (whether through neglect or want of skill) to make due removal of refuse-matters, solid and liquid, from inhabited places; and secondly, the license which is permitted to cases of dangerous infectious disease to scatter abroad the seeds of their infection." The foregoing practical remarks apply with equal force to this Dominion, and shew the absolute necessity for sanitary legislation based on statistics.

I will conclude with a letter from Dr. Draper, examiner of the returns of births, deaths, and marriages, for the State of Massachusetts; on account of its important bearing on the subject of "preventable" diseases. Dr. Draper has appended a table to his letter, detailing all cases of mortality in Massachusetts, from 1869 to 1873 inclusive, by which it appears, that out of 156,289 deaths from all causes; 78,241 persons of all ages, died of "zymotic and acute pulmonary diseases, and phthisis," being over 50 per cent of deaths from "PREVENTABLE" diseases. What a subject for the consideration of the statesman and philanthropist!—

BOSTON, SEP. 25TH, 1875.

MY DEAR SIR,—Your note of the 23rd requesting the "number of deaths from preventable diseases which have occurred in Massachusetts within the past few years, and the number of persons in this State cut down annually by such diseases before they are five years old" is before me. I find some difficulty in determining the exact limitations of the term "preventable," but I presume that sanitarians would generally agree that it might be applied to the zymotic diseases at least. The deaths from affections of this class in Massachusetts during the five years 1869 to 1873 inclusive, (the statistics of later years have not been received) amount to nearly forty-one thousand, an annual average of more than eight thousand. If we add to this the mortality from acute pulmonary diseases, (bronchitis, plury, pneumonia,) the total for the five years will be over fifty-two thousand. If again we add the deaths from phthisis, as Mr. Simon intimates that we may in our account of the controllable filth diseases, the number becomes quite enormous—seventy-eight thousand.

The deaths of children under five years old during the period above mentioned were as follows: From zymotic diseases, twenty-six thousand; from acute pulmonary diseases, four thousand five hundred; from phthisis, one thousand seven hundred—an aggregate of over thirty-two thousand.