

**ADULTERATED HOUSES.**—The *Pall Mall Gazette* calls for more stringent laws regarding the structure of dwellings, and says in no one respect are sanitary legislation and administration so defective as they are with regard to houses. It believes that much disease and crime arise through men and women living in unwholesome habitations, and thinks the same law should apply to those who lease and sell houses that has been applied to the sellers of milk and groceries. It certainly appears to be nothing more than reasonable and just that the man who sells or lets a house should be held answerable for that house being free from anything injurious to health. There should be no reserve of foul air in the rooms caused by want of proper ventilation; no circulation of sewer gases in the basement caused by the absence of proper traps to the drains; no pollution of water caused by the escape-pipe of the cistern running directly into the sewer. These things are as much adulterations as adulterations of bread or sand of sugar. As the law does not allow a dealer to sell poisons under the name of spices, it should not allow builders and land-lords to sell and rent fever-traps under the name of houses. "What is wanted," says the *Gazette*, "is a General Building Act, specifying certain sanitary requisites, without which no house can be wholesome, and enacting that in future no new house shall be inhabited until it has been warranted to possess them, and that all houses already inhabited shall be provided with them within a certain time after the passing of the act."

**THE QUESTION OF SMOKING.**—In a paper on Tobacco and Public Health, Dr. Drysdale states that he has frequently seen grave evils arise from the use of Virginia and other forms of tobacco used in England. Thus, in one week in 1874, he saw two young men with almost complete loss of vision, the one from smoking about an ounce of shag daily for years, the other from chewing tobacco constantly. Dyspepsia, diarrhoea, and piles were, he conceived, often caused by the use of tobacco; and palpitation of the heart and functional disease of that organ were commonly met with in smokers, especially in young men of delicate health. Chronic smoking caused a peculiar aspect of the tongue; in some cases the organ appeared as if brushed over with nitrate of silver. Stomatitis and dusky fauces were common in smokers; smoking tended, unless great cleanliness were observed, to injure the teeth greatly; and, among the poorer classes, it was quite deplorable to see the filthy condition of mouth caused by