

good water. That from the wells in ordinary yards is always more or less impure, and is frequently most injurious, being saturated with all the filth that soaks through the earth from the privies, as well as with other putrid matters that are so often cast about the premises, especially of the poor. "Every spring of water represents the drainage of a certain surface or thickness of soil, and such as are the qualities of this gathering ground, such must be the qualities of the water," "The impurity in the water with which the inhabitants of London, in the several districts are supplied, is in *nearly* a direct proportion to the mortality from cholera." "The mortality is least where the water is known to be most pure," and this is equally applicable to the purity of the atmosphere of every place.

*Sanitary inspection*, and the steps taken thereon, in so far as regards nuisances and unhealthy situations, are of paramount necessity, and it is an imperative duty to see them duly carried out, as, if properly performed, they will tend greatly to prevent an irruption of cholera. These are the most efficient means for neutralizing and destroying the force of epidemic diseases, and thus tend generally, if not to the prevention of epidemics, especially of fevers, at least powerfully to diminish their virulence, for the *pabulum* of all infectious complaints is found to exist in the mephitic air of low, moist, and dark retreats, where there are crowding, bad ventilation, and the invariable accompaniments of filth, vice, and poverty. Add to these, impure water, and there is all that is requisite to breed sickness, and to invite and assist cholera in its course. "The exciting causes of such diseases are in great measure under our control, and by properly guarding against these, much, very much, may be done in obviating the developement and extension of the disease." Hence, the absolute necessity for a systematic sanitary visitation of the *dwellings* of the poor, and the courts and alleys which they inhabit, such as of late obtains in certain cities in England, and which can be effectually carried out only by