

and the results as regards their prevention and treatment."

He expresses the opinion that hygienic agencies will be employed hereafter far more than they have been; that the normal conditions of health and the recuperative powers of nature will receive greater attention, and less dependence will be placed upon drugs and other artificial means. In referring to bacterial etiology, he says: "Here open to the imagination the future triumphs of preventive medicine in respect to all classes of diseases. When the medical profession," says he, "shall employ all the preventive measures possible and the best remedial medicines, disease will be more successfully treated, and the profession will have reached a high ideal position." Alongside of this testimony we will quote the opinions of three distinguished English physicians who have given special attention for many years to sanitary science.

Says Dr. B. W. Richardson: "The influence which sanitation will exert in the future over the science and art of medicine, promises to be momentous. It promises nothing less than the development of a new era; nor is it at all wide of the mark to say that such new era has fairly commenced. With the progress of sanitary science we must expect to see preventive medicine taking the ascendancy. With true nobleness of purpose, true medicine has been the first to strip herself of all mere pretences to cure, and has stood boldly forward to declare as a higher philosophy the preventive of disease. The doctrine of absolute faith in the principle of prevention indicates the existence of a high order of thought, of broad views on life and health, on diseases and their external origin, on death and its correct place in nature."

Says Dr. Alfred Carpenter: "The

science of disease-prevention is destined to alter the whole field of medical practice; to render obsolete much of our present knowledge as to the history of diseases and the measures which are now required for their treatment. The inquiry must come as to how the increase of disease is to be prevented, rather than, having arisen, how it is to be cured. This will apply to every kind of complaint, and will not be limited to any one class."

Says Sir Henry Acland: "In addition to treatment and cure of disease, whatever be the duty of individuals, medical science and art, collectively, must aim as a whole,—1st, At the preservation of health; 2nd, At the averting of disease from individuals and the public generally; 3rd, At rearing healthy progeny for the family and the state by probing the laws of inheritance; and 4th, At procuring legislation effectual to these ends. It holds a duty in relation to the diminution of vice, for the sake not only of self-destroying victims, but more for the sake of the innocents whom they ignorantly slay."

There is one method of preventing disease, referred to by Dr. Acland and other writers which has never received the attention it deserves—that is by the observance of the laws of inheritance. Within a few years this subject has been considerably discussed in the United States and Great Britain, but few seem to appreciate fully the magnitude of its bearings on sanitation. The diseases considered preventable,—of which there are nine or ten—come under the zymotic class, but there are two other classes, called constitutional and local, each larger than the zymotic. Thus far, sanitary science has expended its principal force upon these two classes, but supposing its agencies could be brought to bear equally upon