

part of the power whence rewards and punishments emanate, and as it is maintained in this paper that sanitary penalties are inflicted and sanitary advantages achieved without the least regard to the moral qualities of the conduct that leads to them, the audience will, if it so please, permit me to use the words rewards and punishments in a sense dictated rather by convenience than technical accuracy.

I shall say little of sanitary rewards. If I shall succeed in sketching a view of sanitary punishments or penalties in such dark shades and deep shadows as will be necessary to delineate the background of the picture, then their contraries, or sanitary rewards, will take their places at their own suggestion or by implication in the foreground, and in such rosy tints as each auditor in his own fancy may envelop his idea of ruddy health, in the full flush of developing powers, progressing to the maximum strength and capacity of our race; even as the morning breaks out of darkness when

“Night’s candles are burnt out, and jocund day
Stands tip toe on the misty mountain tops.”

When we consider derangement in the natural economy of the human body, we find it bears some analogy to derangement in the order of action that may obstruct the operation of a machine such as man may construct to perform certain evolutions or achieve certain ends. The matter may be treated of as entirely independent of qualities.

In the former, that of the human body, disturbance of function or organism, may be very much involved with questions of morals; but nature notices the obstruction or disturbance only, and corrects or removes the one or the other, or in default of that, destroys the subject of it without any exception, and without the slightest reference to the moral quality of the action out of which the obstruction or disturbance arises.

If a steam-engine with its fire-box and boilers is selected for illustration, it will be found that combustible material of a nature suitable to the purpose and according to the structure must be placed in the furnace in proper quantities and with a proper degree of continuity. If constructed for wood, coal will not produce what we will here call a healthy action, and would ultimately work destruction. If constructed for coal, wood in such quantities as it would take would not be sufficiently stimulating, and there would be chronic debility with other irregularity.