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PUBLIC HEALTH IN ITS ETHICAL RELATIONS.*

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Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen,—In complying with the request of your committee to prepare an address which might prove of interest to your Association, I have chosen a subject which ought to call forth a full discussion in a circle of such literary culture as I am aware is especially to be found in this church association.

We of this present age possess, I imagine, as each has that preceded it, a good conceit of ourselves, in supposing that we have evolved a special capacity for looking into the heart of things, and for settling offhand all sorts of questions in a manner which those going before us never possessed. Certain it is, however, that the remarkable developments of science during the past century have given us advantages in arriving at just conclusions on many subjects, such as were never afforded to previous generations. But we have only to turn to the works of philosophers of the nations of antiquity to realize that many problems of life were studied with an enthusiasm and clearness of vision which in some respects distances the attainments of the greatest philosophers of modern times; whether such ancient sages were of Babylonia, Egypt, China, Palestine or Greece. Amongst all, the thoughts of their teachers dwelt upon the mystery of being, while all in vain sought out the "Unknowable." In a very

* Read before the Unitarian Club, Toronto, February 29th, 1904.