

sanitation was work in the dark, but its march was rapid when the famous Pasteur demonstrated beyond the shadow of a doubt "that any organic compound could be perfectly sterilized and so remain no matter what chemical or physical conditions it was subjected to, that fermentation and putrefaction in every guise were biological not chemical changes, and that *omne vivum ex ovo*—every living thing from an egg, seed or germ—was an unqualified fact, which no one now disputes. He incidentally opened up the whole field of bacteriology and parasites which before his time was not only invisible but held out no inducements for exploration as chemistry appeared to cover the whole space.

Though chemistry has been shorn of its territory in this field it has more than made up for it in other directions.

Thus we have a new science, bacteriology, which in a few years has leaped into prominence and is destined to take in a scope so wide the boundaries of which cannot be surmised. It is a purely practical and utilitarian department of knowledge, and sanitation a branch of medicine is only one of many benefits it has given to the world, and it is our duty as a profession to supervise its continued development.

Yet sanitary regulations are amongst the oldest in the code of human laws. About 3500 years ago, 1500 B. C., history tells us of Moses the lawgiver, who promulgated laws on this as well as on other subjects, and strange to say he was not only thirty-five centuries, but, from the slow march of events, forty to fifty centuries ahead of his time and generation with all peoples except the Israelitish nation.

He is termed the inspired lawgiver, and the unprejudiced observer would concede the claim. Of many take one illustration—the exclusion of the flesh of the hog as an article of human food, for how otherwise could it be known that it was inimical to human health, for it is but of comparatively recent date that it has been demonstrated that the hog is peculiarly liable to harbor parasites tending to disease and death in all animals that use its flesh as food, unless it be cooked or prepared in a manner requiring more care than it is practical to always correctly give.

Many of the Mosaic laws are as yet inexplicable to science, as was that just referred to, but I doubt not that time will demonstrate their accuracy. A comment by a sufficiently accomplished gynecologist on the many diseases peculiar to women and their probable modification under the Mosaic code would be very interesting reading. Moses as a sanitarian was, I fear, many centuries ahead of us to-day.

I do not desire to assume the role of advocate, apologist or defender