

legislation? What may be accomplished by wise health legislation? What are the just demands of the people? What are the responsibilities of a government? Hygiene is of two kinds, private and public. It is of the latter I shall speak. Public Hygiene interests all classes of the community. It has to do with persons of every rank, of both sexes and of every age. It takes cognizance of the places and houses in which they lived, of their occupations and modes of life, of the food they eat, the water they drink, and the air they breathe. It has to do with the physician and his patient, the statesman, the scholar and the divine, the farmer at his plough, the artizan in his workshop, the miner in his pit, the student at his desk, the mariner on the ocean, the condemned in his cell. It is not only a study, but it is a large and comprehensive science. It unmasks the hidden poison that desolates our cities. It offers protection from destructive epidemics. It teaches a remedy that stays the shaft of death, and secures to the thoughtful and attentive citizen a healthy, a happy and a prosperous home. This science, that claims such kindred to the subject, has naturally engaged the attention of a wise government. England's great statesman, in his official position, has stated that the first duty of a statesman is to legislate for the health of the people. Great Britain stands preeminently in the front ranks in her attention to preventive medicine. Chadwick, Simon, Grey and Farr were the heralds who summoned our parental nation to answer for its profligacy of human life. Their efforts were successful. Since 1842 more than fifty

public health bills have passed the House of Commons in England. I may particularize a few of the more important: her Public Health Acts of 1848, the Nuisance Removal Act of 1853, the Local Government Act of 1858, the Sanitary Act of 1866, the Public Health Act of 1872, and the revised Public Health Act of 1875. These Acts, together with others not enumerated, have completed and established on a solid foundation an efficient system of public hygiene, with 15,000 sanitary districts and the requisite number of sanitary officers. France also has carefully considered the great question of State health legislation. The Government of that country has made itself responsible for the health of the people. A department of health has been established. In the formation of a government and the distribution of officers, special care is manifested in selecting a minister who is well qualified to fill the place with efficiency. The result throughout France has been most satisfactory. A remarkable and marvellous decrease in the yearly death rate has been effected. In 1842 their most important legislation resulted in passing a wise health bill. At that date the death rate was 1 in 36 per thousand, while in 1862 it had been reduced throughout France to 1 in 39 per thousand, and in the next decade, through wise sanitary legislation, the death rate was reduced to 1 in 47 per thousand. Let us analyse this result:

1842—Death rate 1 in 36 per 1,000 for 40,000,000.....	Aggregate. 1,120,000
1862—Death rate 1 in 39 per 1,900 for 40,000,000.....	1,030,000
1872—Death rate 1 in 47 per 1,000 for 40,000,000.....	850,000
Difference from 1842 to 1862.	90,000 lives saved.