

or private reservoirs or water conduits, giving accidental admission to filth, will carry the infection of the filth whithersoever their outflow reaches. Numerous conclusive illustrations of this truism were given, and which the lecturer had fully traced out to their source.—*Med. and Surgical Reporter*.

THE FIRST LAW RELATING TO PUBLIC HEALTH was passed so long ago as the year 1388. (12 Richard II., cap. 13.) It imposes a fine of no less sum than £20, upon "all who cast annoyances, garbages, entrails, &c., in ditches and rivers." The mayors and bailiffs of the cities and towns were charged with the execution of this Act. It is interesting to observe that, even at this early period, the local governing bodies were intrusted with the care of the public health. About a hundred years later we find an Act (4 Hen. VII., cap. 3) to prohibit the slaughtering of cattle in cities, and boroughs, "lest sickness might be engendered unto the destruction of the people.—*Furlong on Sanitary Legislation*.

THE TRUE PRINCIPLE OF SANITARY LEGISLATION is that the Government should help the people to do, *not* what they *can* do, but what they *cannot* do. It should strive to ascertain what hindrances there are in the way of the people's health, and to remove those they cannot remove themselves.

If people want to live in dirty houses let them, so long as thereby they do not affect their neighbours; but let it not be impossible for them to have clean houses.

The laws should aim at securing to all whatever is *necessary* to health. Nothing is too minute for the attention of the Legislature, provided the minute point is *essential*.—*Dr. Acland*.

FLOATING.—Men are drowned by raising their arms above water, the unbuoyed weight of which depresses the head. Other animals have neither motion or ability to act in a similar manner, and therefore swim naturally. When a man falls into deep water, he will rise to the surface, and will continue there if he does not elevate his hands. If he moves his hands under water, in any way he pleases, his head will rise so high as to give him free liberty to breathe; and if he will use his legs, as in the act of walking (or rather walking up stairs), his shoulders will rise above the water, so that he may use the less exertion with his hands, or apply them to other purposes. These plain directions are recommended to the recollection of