

inmates, how to remove all *debris* beyond the reach of those who cannot appropriate it with the same advantage as can the grasses and the grains, these are known as definitely as most facts in science and most of the experiences of applied art. Yet the threatening fact remains that the breach of sanitary law is constant, is progressive, and that social economy ought to attack it with all the vehemence and decision with which such a heroic principle would lay siege at the gate of a city whose name is Destruction. Here and there we have grand intimations that the thing can be done. Glasgow, with some serious disadvantages, has realized the problem and has grappled with it grandly, so that with all its poor, its toiling labor, its concentrated industries and idlenesses, it meets the issues and can point to work and to results that prove there are adjustments and co-operations that can make parts of the city and theoretically the whole of a city healthy.

Social science must begin its work in this behalf with household life. The house and one family are the sanitary unit, and the domicile the great care of sanitary administration. This is at once the hope and the discouragement; the hope, because if the parts can be made right, the whole is sure to follow; the discouragement, because house-building or the construction and appointment of a home as a place favorable to the full physical scope of life is so foreign to the thought of most men as a primal design in this age. The housekeeping, "the practical knowledge of which," says Richardson, "is the principal glory of a woman," is lightly esteemed in urban life.

So long as homes are at the mercy of the architect, the contractor, the plumber, and the keeping is controlled in the interests of the servants, the boarder and the guests, so long shall we have a section left out of the back-bone of our American civilization, and our refinement will put up with a great deal of noxious stuff and consequent invalidity. Add to this the giving over of questions of the most important character as to sanitary construction to a control too political to be either

economical or orderly, and we have complications the first relief from which must come from their realization.

The practical art, as well as the great science of hygiene, takes a good turn when it resolves to address itself to the relief of these conditions, when it attempts to infuse into society the idea of homes, to give them separateness even when in the same building, to insist that they be healthful in the sense in which the best art and experience define them as capable of being, and then seeks by administration to secure their *keeping* in a sanitary way. As there is lack here—lack of knowledge, lack of training, sometimes lack of will, we are compelled to supplement. It is for this reason that the inspector of buildings and the health inspector, not to name others, become necessities, and should be sustained on a basis of civil service reform and as a social necessity. This means that these services should be appreciated, that officers who can pass examination as to competency, and have the tact and behaviour which are requisite, should be chosen, and thus a sustained foundation for intelligent oversight and aid be secured.

For all this effort at improving the condition of society by looking after the welfare of households there are great encouragements not to be overlooked. One who attempts to-day to glean in this harvest finds an area or ascertained truth broad enough for any intellectual vision, and a positive enunciation of principles and rules as definite as those of any of the applied arts.

Healthy houses, and how to make them, how to adjust life within them, how to feed, clothe, ventilate and exercise, are not the enigmas that some would lead us to believe.

The sanitary requisition of our dwelling-places includes within its sphere most important questions of civil and domestic life. While at this session we only attempt to introduce it, we trust that we shall draw such attention thereto as will lead to a closer study of all locations, of structural conditions, of the embarrassment or impediment to healthy household life, whether in hamlet, summer resort, city home,