

country and the public health might be improved if they were once satisfied that such a measure would prove valuable to the people,—or valuable in proportion to the cost of carrying it out, etc. We leave it to our readers to judge whether we have or have not furnished in the paper alluded to sufficient evidence to show that something ought to be done by our Government, as has been done by the governments of almost all other countries, tending more directly and effectually to improve the public health.

The facts referred to on the first page of this paper, in reference to recruits for the armies in England and Austria is very suggestive. England has been many years actively engaged in practical sanitary work among the masses, through its Government Board; Austria is only just now, almost, commencing to act in public health matters. And the fact that the governments of most civilized countries, including the Shah of Persia since his visit to England (see p. 228), have recently been following the example so long set by that of Great Britain in this matter of a Government Health Board, is very good evidence that the example is worthy of being followed. The powers of the Local Government Board too, in Great Britain, have been gradually extended from time to time. It must really be supposed that our legislators have not heretofore, with their multitudinous duties, given that thought and attention to this subject, to which, by reason of its importance, it is entitled. With others, we hope something will be done, and soon, by the Government for the public health, and we cannot conceive of any more simple or economical way in which something may be done, or one likely to be more effectual as a commencement, than that of providing for the establishment of a Provincial Board of Health, somewhat resembling in construction, &c., those in the sixteen United States, on account of their simplicity and inexpensiveness, and the good they seem capable of accomplishing.

LEAD POISONING.

The remarkable prevalence of lead in cooking utensils, in wearing apparel, in wall paper, in cloths used for various purposes, and in so many sorts of things in common use, makes it very probable that the poisonous effects of lead in the human body is often an unsuspected cause of symptoms of chronic disease, while it not unfrequently gives rise to well marked symptoms of lead poisoning. A knowledge of the sources of the lead may often help in the detection of the cause of the symptoms. The *Moniteur de l'Hygiene* asserts that as much