

A very large proportion of the people who rent squalid quarters do so from choice. Many and many a family has lived in a basement at a nominal rent and saved until able to buy a home. And many a family able to pay a better rent has chosen a crowded, dark and unventilated little tenement, above or below ground, in the closely packed district, because the rent was a dollar less and because they wanted the people close around them.

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To be sure there are people who rent such quarters because they cannot afford anything else, but they are not the majority. And they deserve all the assistance they get. But it is a fact that the majority of squalid livers do so because they do not know any better.

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The only remedy for these conditions is education. Law for the landlord and education for the tenant, with aid for the poverty-stricken, would help some.

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There can be no such thing as a comely city without a clean city. While we talk of beautifying civic centers, let us pause over this commonplace duty which lies so close at hand and which concerns everyone almost every hour in the year. The right sort of a city is a household which claims the pride of its people in little things as well as large ones. Anyone who carelessly or needlessly litters a sidewalk or a street betrays a certain dullness in civic patriotism.

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Particularly does this apply to the merchant who lets the space about his shop or store become cluttered from day to day. This sort of premises never attracts trade and never pleases visitors. It is hurtful to its own neighborhood and to the city at large.

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Cleanliness never proved a hindrance to hard work and competition. It has always been on the side of dispatch, accuracy, quality and large output. Where things are cluttered up, where there is little light in the factory or workshop, where there is

either no place for anything or, if there is, it happens to be elsewhere, not so much good work is done. Competition in cleanliness is a field of competition in which all manufacturers may well indulge, as well from selfish as from altruistic motives.

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There is no doubt that the common drinking cup in the schools, shops, factories, parks and public buildings is a positive menace to the health of the people and will finally be abolished. The number of people in the streets and in public places thus liable to infection with tuberculosis, diphtheria and other transmissible diseases is not known, but is certainly great. And the drinking cup may be the means of carrying the infection from one person to another.

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Experiments have shown that bacteria of one kind or another are nearly always present on the public drinking cup. It is true, of course, that they are generally not of a dangerous variety, but their presence is evidence that disease-producing germs may be carried in this way. The number of cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever is sure to be reduced by removing from the schools one of the common carriers of disease. The public should be protected in every possible way, and doing away with the drinking cup will not be a hardship on any one and is an obvious duty.

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People should carry a drinking cup with them when they are traveling. The folding cup is inexpensive and very convenient.

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Pasteurization of milk is the one thing we can hope for to give us a clean supply of milk. The advocates of certified milk have spent years in producing a system that does not amount to much except in conjunction with pasteurization.

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Instead of the old system of cleaning dairy cows with curry-comb and brush, vacuum cleaners are being brought into use with beneficial results. Such cleaners may be used each morning before milking