

in fact that the numbers then attacked equal or nearly so that of all the other periods put together. Dr. Southwood Smith thus sums up his analysis of this question. Taking the four years 1825 to 1828, he found that the total number attacked amounted 2537; of this number 459 occurred under 20 years of age, 1168 between 20 and 30, 531 between 30 and 40, and 389 between 40 and 80, thus confirming the circumstance, that the numbers attacked between 20 and 30 nearly equal those of all the other periods added together, and that the period during which fever is so prevalent, among the working classes, as to deserve particular attention, is the term of life intervening between 20 and 40. Now we also know from statistics that the labouring population marry much earlier and more improvidently than do the higher classes; for them the idea, of artificial wants limiting and controlling the productive powers of the species, has no existence; he who lives from hand to mouth has little hold on the future and never looks into the future; they marry early and have young families, just at the specific period when a particular aptitude exists in their systems for febrile disease. As a result of this a very large number of widows and orphans are thrown on the poor law or other charitable institutions of the land, and once habituated to relief of this kind and the idleness naturally superinduced thereby, they lose those feelings of self reliance and self respect, so necessary to useful members of society. The seed thus early planted bears its fruit throughout future generations, and so great is the evil that many able political economists and philanthropists have doubted the efficiency of charitable institutions. I could go on to show the loss in value accruing to a nation from sickness, as well as death, but by so doing I should be trespassing on my limits. I have said enough to show how intimately related is sanitary science to our well-being, from whatever point of view we may regard it. It is not alone the child, it is the very essence, of civilisation. In conjunction with a nation's increase in wealth and the means by which it is attained, rise up, as necessary consequences, evils, which without the protecting care of hygienic rules, would rather tend to render the acquired wealth a curse than a blessing. The attainment of riches naturally draws together into large communities an immense proportion of the human family. The masses are brought into close contact, not alone in towns but also in buildings, and when in these places the requirements of ordinary sanitary rules are neglected, the results are most fatal. Death is not alone the destroyer. From such aggregations, breathing organic impurities, the ejecta of the the undrained site, the crowded and unventilated room, the hard wrought artizan goes forth poisoned in his vitals; he procreates a progeny with the seeds of an early mortality engrafted in their systems; these again, ill nourished and living in most cases in squalid misery, are placed ere the germs of strength have had time to develop, in the crowded factory or teeming workshop, and the evil half begun is too soon finished by an early death. The artizans of France extend not beyond the fourth generation. Happily these things are being looked into and ameliorated, but in a country like England, and the colony in which we write, where the blessings of a free constitution prevail, every man's house is his castle, and who shall dare to interfere. Sanitary legislation has therefore a limit as regards private individuals, but when large masses of the community are