

## SANITARY LEGISLATION.

BY ALFRED J. H. CRESPI.

To remind the educated man that the motives influencing conduct are of extreme complexity would almost seem an insult to his understanding ; yet, in practice, nothing is commoner than to find simple remedies proposed as sufficient to hold in check great evils that have penetrated deep into every part of the social fabric, and which make themselves felt among all classes. Conduct, as has been so admirably and lucidly shown by that profound and original thinker, Herbert Spencer, in his great work on the "Study of Sociology," is influenced by education, race, social position, prejudice, self interest, as well as by the conduct and opinions of others, and by the state of society in which we live. Manifestly to hope or to suppose that a magazine article, an Act of Parliament, or even the life-long labor of one of those commanding intellects, which seem able to mould like wax the weaker intellects on which they bring their influence to bear, could radically alter society is the foolish fancy of a child. To appeal to higher motives generally goes for little. To point to the example of Christ, to repeat His words, is generally waste of time. Men may give a kind of intellectual assent to certain almost self-evident propositions, and the very next moment show, by their conduct, an utter disregard of those great truths to which they profess to cling.

Take such a matter as the maintenance of overgrown armies. We fortunate and humane Englishmen claim to be humble followers of the God of love. We admit the sinfulness of war, the extreme folly of training huge armies for the carnage of the battle-field, and the unsatisfactory character of long-continued international hostilities. Most really thoughtful and able men, in every part of Europe, admit that it is barbarous and foolish to submit the settlement of a trifling dispute be-