

will thus be seen how the "Period of Agitation," together with our "Period of Investigation," employed the energies of the people of England for half a century. But the labors of the ever-increasing band of workers in the fields of pure science, had been gaining in force and directness of aim. In 1831 there had assembled at York individual members of local scientific societies, and the British Association for the Advancement of Science was organized. In its annual reports, which now for seventy years have appeared, have been collected the labors of workers in every field of science. Referring to the isolated position of workers in the field of science the first president of the association expressed a sentiment yet to be repeated with much force, viz., "I do not think it is either politic or liberal to keep those who employ their rarest intellectual endowments in the direct service of the country upon a kind of parish allowance," which was but saying again what Voltaire said of the encyclopedist Diderot, who got but £120 for years for his work, "and then to think that an army contractor makes £800 a day!" We now pass naturally to the formative period of public health which we may properly designate—

3. *The Period of Legislation.*—The formation of the first Board of Health for the Metropolis served to meet the emergency caused by the outbreaks of typhus and cholera which marked these years of great political agitation, with their Chartist risings and Socialist organizations, all grow out of the increasing sense of injury and injustice, for which in the popular mind the rich were in some way responsible. The year 1845 of the potato famine in Ireland presents a picture of misery, the memory of which remains with many yet living, and which from the sanitary standpoint proved of extreme importance to this continent. In the year 1847 very many thousands of the sufferers emigrated to the United States and Canada, and the horrors of the voyage during a passage of many weeks can now be realized only by a visit to the silent burial grounds of the quarantine stations of the Atlantic seaports. During that fatal summer alone 8,639 cases of ship fever, and 5,424 interments took place at Grosse Isle, in the St. Lawrence, where a monument still stands to the memory of the devoted physicians who died at their posts ministering to those unfortunates. From the ports the disease spread inland, and to-day the graveyards of many towns along the great inland waterways have numerous memorials of the years of the ship fever, while the cholera of 1849 added still further to the horrors of the sea-voyage, and to the dangers to the populations along the great immigrant routes of the St. Lawrence and the Erie Canal. The first great measure of reform in England, arising out of this condition of affairs was the abolition of the Corn Laws, described by Lord John Russell as "the blight of commerce, the bane of agriculture, the cause of bitter division among the classes, the cause of penury, fever and crime