

and a half feet wide, and conveyed water from Solomon's pool to the temple. Another conduit connected this with a reservoir twenty-eight miles away. This latter passed through two tunnels, one four miles and the other seventeen hundred feet in length, while between the two was a reservoir which served as a sedimentation tank. The water was distributed in Jerusalem by leaden pipes to fountains, cisterns, and pools open to the public. We speak of the Jews as a primitive people, and yet contrast this water supply with that of many of our large cities—drawn from rivers of commerce, within a short distance of polluted harbours, conducted to the city and stored in uncovered reservoirs, open to infection, to be distributed to a typhoid-stricken public without filtration or even sedimentation.

Of sanitation as we understand the term to-day the Jews knew little. The hungry dogs of the city acted as scavengers, and the sewage disposal was of the crudest character. But even as their primitive views of Yahweh as the national God evolved into the "one God, one law, one element," of to-day, even so were their ceremonial ordinances concerning leprosy the beginning of modern preventive medicine. Suspected lepers notified the priest: they were isolated for twenty-one days, and examined by the priest at weekly intervals. To-day we know that the Jews confounded many skin-diseases, such as vitiligo, with leprosy, but yet we see here the origin of our system of notification and quarantine of infectious diseases.

As regards food the Jews were very particular, for was it not written in the law what a man should, and should not, eat? Animals of the herbivorous and ruminant groups were allowed, but no beasts of prey: nor could the fat or blood of any animal be used. In butchering there was, as there is at present, rigid inspection by one of the rabbis, who had definite rules for the detection of diseased meat. "Seven days shalt there be no leaven found in your houses," *Exod.* XII, 19, provided for a very necessary renewal of food supplies.

Amongst a people whose religious nature was so dominant such sanitary regulations could not but markedly effect the vitality of the race. For whether we regard them as the ear-marks of a people chosen by God or consider them only in the light of their modern practical and hygienic value, the old promise is still true: "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in His sight, and wilt give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of those diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians. For I am the Lord that healeth thee.—*Exod.* XV, 26.