

## HYGEIA, A MODEL CITY.

A somewhat remarkable address, and one which has attracted a great deal of attention, the *Times* and other journals noticing it most favourably, was delivered at the recent Social Science Congress at Brighton, by B. W. Richardson, M.A., M.D., F.R.S., &c. He depicts a model city of health, which he names Hygeia, the population being 100,000, living in 20,000 houses, built on 4,000 acres of land. The mortality, he believes, would be 5 per 1,000 annually, or perhaps less. He depicts "nothing, whatever, but what is at this present moment easily possible." The address contains a good deal that is quite original, and gives a reflex of certain views held at the present time respecting some interesting problems of social economy. It consists chiefly of a description of the manner in which a city ought to be built with the view of ensuring the health of the citizens. The houses in this Utopian abode are built on arches of solid brick work, forming subways through which air passes freely, and down the inclines of which water flows. There are no cellars or rooms under ground. The streets are wide and well paved, and the heavy traffic is carried on by means of underground railways. It is to be supposed that the cars on these railways are moved by means of machinery at the ends of the roads, and that it will not be necessary, for obvious reasons, for men to be on the trains under ground. Any accumulations of dirt or mud in the streets are washed away every day through side openings into the sub-ways, and are conveyed with the sewage away from the city. The walls of the houses are in a manner honeycombed, so that there is in them a constant body of air, which may be changed or warmed at will. The walls of the rooms are so formed of glazed bricks that all paperings with their dangerous colors and mouldy paste, and all painting, are entirely dispensed with. The lecturer says :

"The most radical changes in the houses of our city are in the chimneys, the roofs, the kitchens, and their adjoining offices. The chimneys, arranged after the manner proposed by Mr. Spencer Wells, are all connected with central shafts, into