

and densely-crowded manufacturing suburbs, in which pestilence has been supposed to have its chief and almost exclusive residence.

For instance—to begin with one of the prettiest towns in one of the most charming parts of England—Mr. Gilbert reports that, his attention having been excited by the high diet recommended to the Guardians at *Tiverton*, in consequence of prevalent fever, he requested the medical officer of the Union to accompany him through a certain portion of that district. Before however even reaching it, he was assailed by a smell clearly proclaiming the presence of malaria: he found the ground marshy, the sewers all open, some of the houses surrounded by wide uncovered drains full of animal and vegetable refuse. The inhabitants of these localities were distinguishable from those of the clean parts of the town by their sickly, miserable appearance: all he talked to either were or had been ill, and they presented a melancholy picture. The local authorities had often endeavoured to compel them to remove nuisances, and to cover the drains, but as, under the present state of the law, their powers were not sufficient, the evil had continued: accordingly, medical officers had been employed instead of the engineer; and, “comforts” and “high diet,” instead of masonry and drainage.

It is quite true, that, as there are specks in the sun, so in a large country like England there must unavoidably exist a few dirty places, which Mr. Chadwick or any searching inquisitor has the power, at