

It must never be forgotten that this is not an arbitrary requirement. It is not the whimsical suggestion of delicacy, refinement, or an over-fastidious taste. It is in the interest of, nay, it is essential to, life and health. If it is right, the converse, in being admittedly wrong, is murderous. Let this simple requirement, the daily covering of the excreta, be added to our sanitary enactments, and the habits of the people, unwilling, perhaps at first, will speedily grow up to it. Let Mr. Powell add a definite provision of this kind to his next essay on behalf of our Public Health Law. Sanitary authorities, now multiplied and settling down to work over every acre of England, will be ready to aid its enforcement; and in the recoil of typhoid fever from its baneful preeminence among our zymotic complaints, a thankful people will believe that the health and vigour of a nation is a fitting and well-considered aim of an enlightened Parliament.—*Public Health.*

CAUSES OF LUNG DISEASES.*

The following summary of his inquiry into the excessive mortality from lung-diseases is given by Dr. Greenhow :—

“This inquiry has demonstrated that an excessive prevalence of pulmonary diseases is associated with a great variety of conditions, some of which must clearly be regarded as exciting causes of these diseases. With respect to others, it has been found impossible to obtain accurate and conclusive evidence that they produce diseases of the lungs, but there are strong grounds for supposing such to be the case. There is also a third class of conditions, on which great stress was laid by medical practitioners, and which may perhaps be regarded as having a tendency to produce these diseases. The conclusions deducible from the inquiry may therefore be arranged under the three following heads :—

“A. Conditions which this inquiry has shown to be direct causes of pulmonary diseases.

“B. Conditions so frequently associated with an excessive pressure of pulmonary diseases, that they may be regarded as at least indirect causes of these diseases.

“C. Conditions which, in all probability, co-operate in producing pulmonary diseases, but respecting the influence of which no conclusive evidence could be obtained.”

“A. 1. Inhaling an atmosphere loaded with mechanical impurities, such as fine dust of metal, stone, clay, or of certain animal

*Report of the Medical Officer of the Privy Council.