

Rome is regularly repeated, with a complete disregard of all that has been done to remedy it. It is strange how constantly the fact is forgotten that the insanitary conditions undoubtedly prevailing in the past have long since given place to a state of things which warrants us in assigning to Rome one of the foremost places for salubrity amongst the capitals and other large cities of Europe.

The statistics adduced by Dr. Welsford will come as a surprise to those who still think of Rome as a hotbed of typhoid and malaria. Were it possible to estimate the incidence of the former disease amongst the Anglo-American Colony only, in the course of a winter, I am convinced that the number of cases would turn out to be remarkably small and the death rate the merest fraction. As a matter of fact it is quite rare nowadays to encounter enteric fever among visitors at the hotels, and if travellers would avoid the eating of oysters and of uncooked vegetables (in salads), which are notoriously liable to sewage contamination, it is probable that we should never meet with a case.

As for malaria or so-called Roman Fever there is nothing now left of it to associate it with the city of Rome, except the name. Even in the past I much doubt whether it was ever so prevalent as is commonly supposed. Before the parasitic cause of malaria was discovered, there was no certain means of distinguishing it from some other diseases which clinically it may closely resemble, and doubtless in those days many cases of what was really typhoid, or pneumonia, or other acute malady, were diagnosed, when not running a typical course, as malarial. But whatever "Roman Fever" may have been in former times, it may certainly at the present day be regarded as a *quantité négligeable* and little more than an interesting tradition. True, it is not uncommon for a patient suffering from some other and perhaps trifling ailment to imagine that he is a victim of this much dreaded malady, and many more will be found who assert (with a certain pride) that they have had it while in Rome on some previous visit. However ill-founded such beliefs may be, they readily gain acceptance, and, passing from one person to another, come eventually to be regarded as estab-