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## OUR HOMES.

Home is a dear, good old English word, suggestive to almost every one of the dearest place on earth—suggestive usually, or ought to be, of the sweetest associations and recollections of early and of later life. One's own abiding place. The place wherein the most of one's life is spent. The making of such a place, such a structure, be it ever so humble, should certainly receive the greatest consideration and attention. Too often too little thought and care are given to it; too often it is not the cheerful and comfortable, the bright and attractive place that it ever should be, and might easily be made to be; too often it is the lurking place of stealthy disease, the abode of wearying, costly sickness; too often, alas! it is the battling place with, the conqueror death.

In the September number of this JOURNAL, in a communication from Mr. Wm. Tebbs, F. R. G. S., St. James', London (Eng.), we learn that in the improved sanitary dwellings for the industrial classes erected in London by companies and associations there, the death-rate had been only about one-half what it was in adjoining and surrounding houses. One would hardly suppose that through the proper construction of dwellings alone, so vast a difference could be produced, so great a reduction could be caused, in the mortality of the inhabitants. But such has proved

to be the fact, year after year, and amongst over 25,000 persons inhabiting those houses. The sickness-rate doubtless would be as low proportionately as the death-rate in these houses, and in all probability if correct statistics as to this could be obtained, much less than half the sickness would be found in them that would be found in the surrounding houses.

The facts there given by Mr. Tebb show most clearly the importance of healthy homes. In every community or neighborhood, urban or rural, it is found that some families suffer a great deal more from disease of one sort or another and from deaths, too, with all the consequent costs and terrors, than other families do—perhaps five or ten times as much. Careful investigation would often show the cause of this to be in the faulty locality and construction of the dwellings alone—as in their relation to drainage, sewerage or the disposal of waste matters, plumbing, ventilation, water supply, etc.; hence a perfectly preventable cause.

The following interesting remarks bearing upon the home are from an abstract of the recent address at Saratoga of the chairman in the department of health of the Social Science Association, Dr. Ezra M. Hunt, secretary of the New Jersey State board of health (in *Sanit. Engineer*).

How to choose a proper locality, how to drain land, how to build a healthy house, how to feed, air and clothe the