

The cultivation of the laws of personal hygiene may well be left to the individual; they will force themselves upon the notice of men as the progress of civilization gives clearer views of the requirements of life, and as a rule the individual will conform to the demands of what is expedient though this is often too woefully neglected. But whilst with the individual the general education may suffice to produce good results, it is otherwise with communities. We enter, in their case, upon a more complicated state. We have superinduced upon the personal rights the rights of property, and the rights and liberties of our fellow citizens. These must be consulted, and to accomplish an interference with private rights we must send for aid from the powers which make the laws for the general good.

Our first knowledge of what may be beneficial or what may be injurious will largely depend upon personal experience, and this gradually accumulating will form the basis of commercial action. But to enable a community to act and to avail itself of knowledge thus accumulated there must be power derived from and delegated by the general government.*

This delegated or compulsory power which is to be sought from the Legislature of a country will be granted in proportion to the hygienic knowledge attained by the members composing the body which makes our laws. And as we cannot expect a stream to rise above its source, so if among our legislators there is an ignorance of the conditions conducive to wealth, just in that proportion will they fail in their duty to their country. Looking at our law-makers we at once recognize them as persons who in their education were not thrown into contact with hygienic teaching. It did not form a part of the general education of their times, and however well informed in other respects, and however some few may and do keep abreast of the times in general matters, yet in the direction of hygiene there is much ignorance which shuts out a due consideration of its demands.

It is being too wise to be so far ahead of the times as to attempt to prematurely force upon a people things which under certain conditions may be right if not expedient. It is, however, far from

* But after a state has been formed it would seem to be one of its first duties, as the sovereign guardian of the lives and health of the people, to look into all the influences, good and bad bearing upon health.—Bowditch, Centennial Address, p. 641.

being wise to lag behind in the progress of civilization, and to allow communities and nations to endure loss of life, loss of property and loss of morality by ignoring the plain demands of duty.

It is not necessary to enter into numerous details to show the importance of the results involved in the adoption of sanitary legislation, but I will content myself with a few prominent facts in connection with it.

The following are taken from the 37th Report of the Registrar General of England, and are the results of accurate observation extending through a number of years, and cannot be looked upon as the guess-work of theorists.* The observations

* Thirteen districts of England and Wales, shewing some improvement in the annual rate of mortality in the three decades 1841-50, 1851-60, and 1861-70.

Number of District.	Name of District.	Registration County.	Population.		Average Annual Mortality. Deaths to 1,000 living.					
			1861.	1871.	Deaths to 1,000 living.			Deaths to 1,000 living.		
					1841-50.	1851-60.	1861-70.	1841-50.	1851-60.	1861-70.
182	North Wiltford.	Cambridge	14,791	15,585	27	21	20	17		
183	Whittlesey	do	6,966	7,002	27	23	21	19		
184	Wisbeck	do	33,309	34,209	25	22	20	19		
189	Orsett	Essex	11,595	13,172	24	21	18	17		
254	Salisbury	Wilt.	9,039	9,212	28	24	20	21		
279	Stoke Damerel	Devon	59,440	49,449	26	23	21			
372	Wolverhampton	Stafford.	126,902	136,053	27	28	24			
393	Coventry	Warwick	41,647	40,113	27	25	21			
446	Macclesfield	Cheshire	61,543	59,339	26	25	23			
520	Hull	York	56,888	68,316	31	25	26	25		
582	N. port	Monmouth	51,412	61,252	24	22	21			
585	Merthyr Tydfil	Glamorgan	93,008	104,239	28	29	25	27		
665	Creekhovel	Brecknock.	22,457	20,147	27		23			

* Much good may be derived from a study of the statis-