

ing numbers, we see America entering upon those years which were similarly to mark the beginnings of state medicine. Of the period prior to this, Dr. Bowditch, in his "centennial discourse" at Philadelphia, in 1876, briefly writes, "It is the epoch of systems of medicine, wrought out by the imaginations of some few of the leaders of our profession. This epoch believes in drugs, and their almost supreme power over art. It has little or no faith in Nature's ability to cure disease." With the passing of Dr. Benjamin Rush, in 1833, the greatest American physician of his day, this epoch of "Systems of Medicine," in which there was no belief in the *vis medicatrix naturae*, came to an end. The teachings of Louis, a preceptor of Bowditch, were now to influence the medical ideas and practice of the rising generation, and to them Bowditch ascribes the "basis of public hygiene" in America, developed principally by the writings of Bigelow and Bartlett, with Oliver Wendell Holmes. But to return to the scene of the great agitation, which we have seen already as being well advanced, we find that the investigation by Chadwick into the condition favoring the epidemic spread of typhus in London was bearing abundant fruit. Bishop Bloomfield, then of London, realized the full significance of the facts set forth, and threw all his energy and powerful influence into Chadwick's grand sanitary design; and Lord John Russell, in 1839, instructed the Poor Law commissioners "to institute what afterwards became the far-famed inquiry into the health of the laboring classes of the other parts of England and Wales beyond the Metropolis," which report, prepared by Chadwick, was presented to the Home Secretary in 1842. In the next year this indefatigable secretary prepared papers on "Graveyards of London" and "Intramural Interments and Disinterments," resulting in the compulsory establishment of cemeteries outside of towns and cities. The cause was soon to find another champion in that noble man, the Prince Consort, the spokesman of our beloved Queen, whose glorious lifework is not yet completed. Through his great influence, assisting the labors of more active reformers, Sir Robert Peel appointed a Royal Commission consisting of such famous men as Professor Owen, Dr. Lyon Playfair, Mr. Robert Stephenson, Mr. Smith, of Deanston, and Mr. William Cubitt, to report on the whole subject of the health of the nation. This report was published in 1844. Although no immediate legislative action followed, yet in 1847 another commission, with Chadwick as a member, was appointed to inquire into the "sanitary condition of the Metropolis." The evidence of thirty-five witnesses therein set forth was most startling in its effects on the public mind. An immediate result was the formation, in 1848, of the first Board of Health, of which Lord Shaftesbury and Mr. Chadwick were members. And it was none too soon, since a virulent outbreak of cholera appeared in 1849. It