

life of most, or perhaps of all, of us here, hardly the first A. B.C. of it was alluded to. I trust the day is not very far in the future when it will take the precedence of Practice of Medicine itself. Each and every one of us, gentlemen, can do something to advance the Science and the cause. For example, we may each strengthen more or less the hands of Dr. Brouse in Parliament, if not before, at the next general election. At the last general election in Great Britain, I may observe, Public Health Legislation was a plank in Mr. Disraeli's platform. We can do much individually, in private practice. Dr. Playfair says, "the medical man is gradually becoming more a confidant of the inner circle than even the priest," and his influence is consequently great. He could give advice regarding ventilation and the removing of filth, for example, in connection with the dwellings of his private patients, and also on many other matters not within the scope of the health officer, and as the *Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter* observes, we ought as *a unit* to exert ourselves to diminish the consumption of alcoholic drinks, and tobacco; these curses of civilization.

Fearing, gentlemen, that I have already wearied you, I will now conclude in the eloquent words of Dr. Osborne, in his address to the Society for investigating the preventible cures of disease, previously referred to: "He exhorted the Branch, as members of a noble profession, as philanthropists, and as citizens, to bring all their highest mental powers, their best energies, their fervent resolves, to aid in a holy warfare against all preventible diseases. Ten thousand hands could not be ready, hearts willing, and voices raised, all in vain. They might not achieve a victory that should win the applause of a senate or the shouts of a people, or secure for themselves individually social distinction or titular aggrandisement; but there would remain for them the quiet enjoyment that flowed from a sense of duty performed, a mission fulfilled, a conscience satisfied—a satisfaction that no patent could confer, no fountain of honor bestow."

GERMS AND FERMENTS.—M. Wurtz has shown at the Paris Academy; that milk, wine, cane-sugar, flesh, gelatine, placed in contact with a certain quantity of chloroform, are perfectly preserved for an indefinite period, without undergoing fermentation, or giving rise to the production of any living being, whether animal or vegetable. On chemical fermentation, on the contrary, chloroform seems to have no effect, whether in preventing or retarding these processes, such as take place in the germination of barley, mustard-meal, etc.—*Med. & Sur. Rep.*