

theirs. These disconnected departments should be consolidated and the solution of the question, he thought, must be found by the appointment by the Government of a single man who would give his undivided attention to this great subject. That man need not be a medical man, but he should be to his functionaries what the Secretary of War was to his. The control of all the bureaus of investigation should be under one head. The time had come when a health minister should be appointed. After the Government had consolidated these bureaus of investigation and hygiene, it would be found that, of all the men chosen by our Chief Magistrate to aid him in carrying on the functions of the Government, the secretary of sanitation would have the most arduous labors to perform.

A HEALTHY HOUSE AND ITS FURNISHINGS.

The Independent gives this picture : The healthy house will stand facing the sun, on a dry soil, in a wide, clean, amply sewerred, substantially paved street, over a high, thoroughly ventilated and lighted cellar [if any]. The floor of the cellar will be cemented, the walls and ceiling plastered and thickly whitewashed with lime every year, that the house may not act as a chimney, to draw up into its chambers micro-organisms from the earth. Doors and windows, some of which extend from floor to ceiling, will be as abundant as circumstances permit, and will be adjusted to secure as much as may be through currents of air. The outside walls, if of wood or brick, will be kept thickly painted, not to shut out penetrating air, but for the sake of dryness. All inside walls will be plastered smooth, painted and, however unesthetic, varnished. Mantels will be of marble, slate, iron, or if of wood, plain, and whether natural, painted or stained, will be varnished. Interior wood-work, including floors, will all show plain surfaces, and be likewise treated.

Movable rugs, which can be shaken daily in the open air,—not at doors or out of windows, where dust is blown back into the rooms,—will cover the floors. White linen shades, which will soon show the necessity of washing, will protect the windows. All furniture will be plain, with cane seats, perhaps, but without upholstery. Mattresses will be covered with oiled silk; blankets, sheets and spreads, no comforts or quilts, will constitute the bedding.

Of plumbing, there shall be as little as

is necessary, and all there is shall be exposed as is the practice now. The inhabited rooms shall be heated only with open fires, the cellar and hall by radiated heat, or, better, by a hot air furnace, which shall take its fresh air from above the top of the house, and not from the cellar itself or the surface of the earth, where micro-organisms most abound. There will be "house cleaning" twice a year.

Put into this house industrious, intelligent, and informed men and women,—absolutely essential conditions,—and as much will be done as at present may be done to prevent the dissemination from it of contagious disease, when an inmate brings it home from a septic house, hospital, sleeping-car, school-room, theatre, church, etc.

THE PROPER AGE FOR GIRLS TO MARRY.

This question being put to some of the most prominent matrons of Washington by a correspondent of the Philadelphia Press, elicited a variety of replies, one of which was that of Mrs. General Logan, who says that "when a girl meets the man she loves, whether she be eighteen, twenty or twenty-five, she should marry him." We are surprised to find a health Journal in good standing support this view. While it is not possible to lay down rules in this regard for all young women—for all girls should refuse to marry until they become women—we think no young woman should marry and assume the duties of a household and of maternity until she be physically fully matured. This is a very serious question and one which all parents who have at heart the future well-being of their daughters, and of the race indeed, should deeply consider and carefully attend to. A vast amount of sickness and misery has resulted from too early marriages. In more primitive times the early marriage of young women or even girls was much less objectionable than it is now, when marriage involves much greater responsibilities. Moreover girls, like young men and boys even, often think they are in love when they are not, and the above advice of Mrs. Logan would not be by any means a safe rule. Let mothers encourage their daughters to "wait," and not to be at all in a hurry to marry. The age of maturity of the human organism varies greatly in different families, but few either