

the slaughter to State Prison ; that the tenement house should do all these things, and more than words can utter, is perfectly consistent with its appointments. \* \* \* Is the tenement house a christian institution, or a heathenish ? Who is responsible ? Is there, indeed, *no* responsibility for moral and physical degradation ; *no* responsibility for deliberate provision and business speculation in human life ; *no* responsibility because tenement-house property pays better than any other real estate ? State Medicine and public Hygiene ! The lesson is yet to be taught in this country that man has no right to poison his neighbour ; that to poison the air for his neighbour to breathe is no less criminal than to poison his food or drink ; that to smother children in schools and tenement houses, as in other places, is infanticide ; that to accelerate the death of any individual is to cause it, and that the crime is homicide.

The mortality of the United States for 1870 was 492,263. A glance at this tabulated estimate in the Census report will show that about one-half of the total number of deaths were caused by the diseases due for the most part to miasms consequent upon soil saturation and stagnant water. That from consumption alone there were 69,896 deaths. From enteric, intermittent, remittent, and typho-malarial fevers, and cerebro-spinal meningitis, there were 34,521 deaths. Rheumatism, acute pulmonary affections, croup, diphtheria, and many other diseases well known to be largely due to or promoted by the same cause, may, for our present purpose, be left out of the count. Of the 69,896 deaths from consumption, and 34,521 deaths from ordinary miasms, three-quarters of them, at the least, or more than 75,000 lives, might have been saved by drainage. For illustrations of the results of defective drainage, it is more difficult to go amiss than to designate.

Since writing up the subject for the city of Brooklyn and county of Kings, for the report on the State of New York, Dr. James Watt, Registrar of Vital Statistics to the Brooklyn Board of Health, has kindly prepared for me a table showing the comparative mortality from consumption in the different wards of the city. Its full value to Brooklyn can be appreciated by those only who are familiar with the city topography, while it illustrates conditions common to all our large cities.

Take, for example, an old and well-built up ward (the Third), containing a population of 9,984, which is not known to have any soil saturation, its situation being such that the ordinary street grading and sewer culverts effectually drain it. The deaths from consumption in this ward last year were