

THE Sanitary News, of Chicago, gives a very suggestive article on this subject, which business men, (and who is not a business man?) would do well to give heed to. In every community there is, aside from all other interests, a business interest. Where there is no business, no commercial activity, and no effort to produce something, there can be no prosperity and no happiness. A community being the aggregate of individual units—a multiplication of the individual, its character and collective energy is the whole of its individual parts, just as an army is strong because its individual soldiers are. As the character of everything depends on that of the parts of which it is composed, so, the business prosperity of a community depends on that of the individuals composing it. But on what does the prosperity of the individual depend? Everything else being equal it depends on the physical ability to render some service, the ability to do something, the health, in short, the physical condition of the individual. Other things equal, the prosperity of a man depends on his physical capacity for work. Render him physically incapacitated and his personal means for gaining a livelihood cease. Make him strong and healthful, and he has the elements to attain prosperity. What is true of the individual is true of a collection of individuals, and, hence, the prosperity of a community depends on its healthfulness. "Health has a money value outside of every other consideration, and those interested in the industrial and business progress of a community cannot ignore the important element of health and attain the highest prosperity. Notwithstanding this fact we must confess to a lack of interest in the preservation and promotion of health on the part of that portion of a community generally designated as 'our leading business men.' These 'leading business men' seem not to recognize the importance of health as an element of great value in the

business progress of a community. They give that over to municipal machinery, which too often is run by political motors in the interest of party ascendancy. It would seem unreasonable that business men, interested in the means of developing industrial progress, would neglect so important a factor as health, but they do. It probably results from a lack of proper realization of the value of this element, or an ability to see wealth, or the means of producing it, as only tangible objects. To such an extent is this true that we often see our business men opposing schemes for the promotion of the general health on account of their cost, and too often prove themselves unfriendly to health boards, building inspectors, inspectors of plumbing, smoke inspectors and like offices maintained for the promotion of health. Of so much importance is the factor of health in the general progress of industrial and business interests, that the most cordial co-operation should enlist itself in support of health ordinances and agencies designed for its promotion. This liberal spirit should be so thoroughly and actively operative as to set the bounds of political influence and interference to the extent of establishing independent and unhampered administration of health laws. It is the office of sanitary science to preserve and promote health. It has its agencies through which it operates to this end. It asks at the hands of the state and city laws and ordinances by which officers may be selected to enforce the observance of hygienic laws. The efficacy of these depends largely on public support and the co-operation of all citizens. The business interest of every community should enlist itself in this cause, and lend its support as a profitable investment. Sickness is not only a cost to be borne, but, by lessening the power of production, it retards business progress. As a business proposition the healthfulness of a community is worthy of the deepest consideration."