

to become secretary of Lord Grey's Poor Law Commission in 1832, and in 1834 we find him installed as permanent secretary of the New Poor Law Board, having acted in 1833 on the Poor Law Commission, in whose report he succeeded in having inserted a clause dealing with the half-time system, by which those children only could be employed who could present tickets of having spent three hours daily in some school during the previous week. Though the Lords amended these proposals somewhat on the ground that they would lead insidiously to a system of universal national education, yet it was soon found that sixty per cent. of the destitute orphan children were going to Poor Law schools; and it may be noted that this is the law in successful operation up to the present day in industrial schools. Of Chadwick's labors during the next five years, Lord John Russell, the father of so many of these parliamentary reforms, said: "For the relief of the destitute and prevention of pauperism, the improvement of the public health and the physical condition of the population, there was no one to whose zeal and assiduity the country is more indebted than Mr. Chadwick." But his labors were to bear further fruit. The dissenters had been urging that the State should undertake the registration of births, marriages and deaths, as well as allow marriages to be celebrated by dissenting ministers. Chadwick saw in this the opportunity to promote the first great principle of sanitary reform by having the causes of death tabulated, thereby establishing a basis for sanitary study and deduction, while the government, to be relieved of a political agitation, followed the lead of Lord Lyndhurst, and in 1836 passed the Registration Act in large measure as it now exists, and the year 1838 saw that distinguished man, Dr. William Farr, installed as Registrar-General. To the study of these returns of the last sixty years every one of us is prepared to say, in the words of Dr. H. W. Richardson, the biographer of Chadwick, "The proverb that pestilence walketh in the dark is no longer true; pestilence, measured and registered, walketh at last in the open day." We have already referred to the distress and discontent succeeding the Napoleonic wars. These, however, were not all or the greatest of the evils. In 1816 typhus and relapsing fever appeared in the rookeries of London, and became epidemic throughout England. Relapsing fever disappeared in 1819, but typhus remained endemic, again becoming epidemic in 1826-7. The year 1826 saw another disease appear, then unknown; but in 1849 through the studies of Drs. Budd and Jenner, it became known as typhoid. But evil followed evil, for the decade between 1830-40 saw Asiatic cholera advance from Russia to Germany and sweep over England in the epidemic of 1832-34; small-pox prevailed in 1836-39, and Russian influenza followed in successive waves in 1831-32. And with this decade, in which the emigration of the population grew in increas-