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## THE PRESENT CONDITION OF SANITARY SCIENCE—AN ALMIRABLE ADDRESS BY SIR EDWIN CHADWICK, K.C.B., &c., ON ATTAINING HIS NINETIETH YEAR

THE sixth annual dinner of the Association of Public Sanitary Inspectors of Great Britain was celebrated at the First Avenue Hotel, Holborn, on March 2d, 1889. The event was further intended to mark the attainment of his ninetieth year by their President, Sir Edwin Chadwick, K. C. B., and, by a happy coincidence, on the previous day Her Majesty was graciously pleased to gazette the President, hitherto C.B., to the higher honor. There was not room for all those who had expressed a desire to be present on the occasion. Dr. B. W. Richardson, F. R. S., presided, and among the company present were the Earl of Aberdeen, Earl Fortescue, the Hon. D. F. Fortescue, Sir Lyon Playfair, M.P., Sir Richard Owen, Sir Robert Rawlinson, Sir Spencer Wells, Sir Douglas Galton, Dr. Cameron M.P., Dr. Farquharson, M.P., the Mayor of Hastings the Mayor of Chelmsford, Dr. Alfred Carpenter, Professor Corfield, Dr. Buchanan (Chief of the Medical Department of the Local Government Board), etc, etc.

An address, signed by a large number of noblemen and gentlemen, to the number of over ninety, was presented to Sir Edwin. The following is a complete copy of his reply. A few extracts were given in our April issue but they will bear to be repeated here in the whole address:

MY DEAR CHAIRMAN, MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SANITARY INSPECTORS OF GREAT BRITAIN: I presume that I may accept the great kindness bestowed on me on the present occasion, partly as having regard to the unusually advanced age of the body, and partly as to the extent of the occupation

of the mind, for the promotion of our science during that unusually long period. On the bodily account, it is due to those here, who are practically engaged in sanitary work to state that it will be found on examination that the risks of death and wounds, especially in withstanding epidemics, are fully as great as those sustained by officers of the naval and in the military service. I have myself participated in those common risks, and although I probably owe the duration of such working ability as may yet remain to me, to exceptional hereditaryness—for my father died at the age of eighty-four, my grandfather at ninety-five, and my two great-grandfathers as centenarians—these facts do not interfere with the point I have named, that men who have to fight for sanitation have sometimes to fight for life also.

### PRACTICAL RESULTS OF SANITATION

Turning from this topic, let me now briefly state the chief present conditions to which we have advanced in the practical applications of our science, which are as yet very imperfectly known. I beg to premise that I state nothing upon hypothesis—nothing but well examined experiences.

It has been objected that if it were possible to amend communities by Utopias, Utopias would long since have been introduced. Our proceedings—assumed to be Utopian—which I have to recite, are not, however based upon Utopian ideals, but on 'experiences' carefully and separately examined—as to their assumed and strict application to common conditions. It is no Utopia that death-rates in towns under the sepa-