

bourhood. Witness the almost constant habitat of small-pox in the tenement houses of the poor French quarter of Montreal. This is, moreover, no barren fact, for the position that these physical conditions do generate or propagate epidemic disease, is scarcely less easy of demonstration than that they are for the most part removable. A regular system of inspection and licensing of these lodging houses should be promptly put in force, nothing short of immediate and strong legislative interference will suffice for the public protection. A continued neglect of legislation on the subject must entail increased charges on ratepayers by rapid multiplication of widowhood and orphanage incidental to the premature death of the bread-winner. In an admirable lecture by Mr. Combe, intituled "Preservation of Mental and Bodily Health, a Moral Duty," he remarks at page 75, that in tracing to their source the calamities which arise to families and individuals from bad health and untimely death, attended by deep laceration of the feelings and by numerous privations, it is surprising how many of these calamities may be discovered to result from slight but long continued deviations from the dictates of organic laws. Perhaps, he says, for instance, the victim was an ardent student, and under the impulse of a laudible ambition to excel in his profession, he studied with so much intensity, and for such long periods in succession that he over-tasked his brain, and destroyed his bodily health, when suddenly he was seized with fever, with inflammation, or with consumption, and in a short time he was carried to the tomb. Dr. Robert Maenish, well known in the literary world by his "Anatomy of Drunkenness," "Philosophy of Sleep," and other works, says, "On four several occasions I have nearly lost my life from infringing the organic law. When a lad of fifteen I brought on a brain fever from excessive study which nearly killed me; at the age of nineteen I had an attack of peritonitis occasioned by violent efforts in wrestling and leaping, and while in France I was laid up with pneumonia brought on by dissecting in the great galleries of La Pitie with my coat and hat off in the month of December, the window next to me