

pecially in towns, vegetable or animal matter is allowed to putrefy, *there* disease, more or less virulent, is engendered; indeed it has been repeatedly observed that the inhabitants of a particular house have continued for years to be constantly afflicted with the very languor and fever described by every African traveller, which at last has been ascertained to have been caused by the introduction, into the immediate neighbourhood, of a couple of square feet of Sierra Leone; or, in plainer terms, by a grated untrapped gully-drain, from which there has been constantly arising a putrid gas: and yet, instead of a few square feet, how many acres of Sierra Leone are, to our shame, existing at this moment in our Metropolis, in the shape of churchyards! For instance, there is one burial-ground, now in use in London, which contains, under an acre of surface, 60,000 corpses! In another spot, a crowd of young children are, at this moment, learning their lessons for six hours per day over a floor under which 12,000 dead bodies are festering!*

Mr. Chadwick produces a tabular account of the mortality of England and Wales within the year 1838, caused by diseases, which, he says, medical officers consider to be most powerfully influenced by the physical circumstances under which the population is placed; namely, the external and internal condition of their dwellings, drainage, and ventilation. In this category, the number of deaths amounted to 56,461: which Mr. Chadwick, truly enough, observes to be as if Westmore-

* See evidence taken before the Committee of the House of Commons on the Improvement of Towns, etc., printed in 1842.