

thereon, the discussion of these reports by the members, and the memorials upon sanitary topics now and then transmitted to the Government—all serve to excite the attention and awaken the interest of medical men, and of the Legislature, in a department of medical science of the highest concern to humanity. And it appears to me that this is one of the most important offices, nay, duties, of Associations like ours. Not alone as Christian men endued with more or less of the spirit of the Divine Physician—not alone as educated men possessing the knowledge and therefore responsible for its use,—but as members of a profession the purpose and genius of which are to prevent and alleviate human suffering and to save life, we are bound to take at least the lead in informing and urging upon the attention of the people, that vast numbers of persons are yearly carried off by disease in consequence of the non-observance or the breach of well-established hygienic laws: and that by well-advised and efficiently administered efforts a large proportion of those very diseases, which, from their general prevalence are popularly regarded as unavoidable, may be prevented altogether. For the same reasons, it is our province to direct the attention of the Executive and the Legislature of our country to the claims of sanitary matters upon their most serious consideration, as affecting interests of at least equal importance with those concerning the rights of property or the administration of justice.

It is true that hitherto our Government, in common also with the Executives of many other countries, has not bestowed upon sanitary matters and vital statistics much consideration. But who is to blame? Partly, no doubt, the legislators themselves, who have undertaken to represent the interests, personal as well as material, of the people; but partly—perhaps largely—the people themselves. Do not place-seeking, reward-asking, job-hunting, municipal dishonesty, party spirit, sectional and religious rivalries and jealousies, and provincial avariciousness so hamper our Executive and our Legislature, and so tax our revenue, that time cannot be given to the consideration of matters affecting public health, and money cannot be spared to de-