

authentic facts as he might obtain from other sources, to frame a Report exhibiting the principal results of the whole investigation. From his own various and extensive personal inspections, from the information which had been forwarded to the Commissioners, from the documents of the medical officers, and from his examination of witnesses, Mr. Chadwick, after nearly two years' labour, succeeded in completing the remarkable Report now before us.

Before, however, we enter upon the first important chapter, we cannot refrain from observing how little the subject to which it particularly relates—namely, the purification by science of the air we breathe—has hitherto been deemed worthy of consideration.

Through our main thoroughfares, such as Oxford-street, Holborn, Piccadilly, the Strand, Pall-Mall, and St. James's-street, the atmosphere would flow with healthful celerity, were it not that to most of these ethereal rivers there are linked on either side, in the forms of courts, alleys, stable-yards, and *culs-de-sac*, a set of vile, stagnant ponds in which the heaven-born element remains "in durance vile," until, saturated with the impurities and sickness of its gaol, it flows into, mixes with, and pollutes the main streams we have described. And yet if the *pavement* of St. James's-street be but cleanly swept, those who saunter up and down it, as well as those who in red coats or brown ones sit at club windows, indolently gazing at carriages (many of which, as they roll by, seem mechanically to make their heads nod) appear not to be aware that they are one and all inhal-