

the Mersey, with its cul-de-sac courts and tide-backed sewers; while round the sands of Morecambe Bay (within a fraction) only *one* of the coffins contains an infant of days to *three* which are laid within the bosom of our mountain forests, because the city rulers, and the owners and occupiers of their dwellings, denied them the right to breathe, even for one short year, the pure air that nature is for ever wafting to our otherwise favoured city.

It was well said, in the Sanitary Report presented to the imperial parliament in 1858, pp. xxvii. that "1. The lives of young children, as compared with the more hardened and acclimatized lives of the adult population, furnish a *very sensitive test of sanitary circumstances*, so that differences in the infantine death-rates, are, under certain qualifications, the *best proof of differences of household condition* in any number of compared districts. 2. Those places where infants are most apt to die, are necessarily the places where survivors are most apt to be sickly; and where, if they struggle through a scrofulous childhood to realize an abortive puberty, *they beget a sicklier brood than themselves*. A high local mortality of children must almost necessarily denote a *high local prevalence of those causes which determine a degeneration of race*." These words are prompted by long experience, built on facts which cannot be gainsaid. If they are true of all high rates of infantile mortality, how awful must be their truth in this city where the rate is *the highest yet presented!* And if the number of graves in our cemeteries prove these things to be true on the average of the whole city, what must be the harvest of death if we subtract the population living on the healthy mountain-side, and mark the coffins from the houses in Griffintown! Surely a fearful responsibility rests on the members of the City Council, and especially on the members of the Health and Road Committees, as well as on all owners of property and householders in the city. Has any man a right to draw money from the rents of houses, by living in which children cannot but be killed? Has the Council a right to compel owners and tenants to cleanse their premises, while it leaves the streets, over which it assumes the entire control, unsewered and even *reeking with the surface filth of years?* *

* Instances were recorded by the Sanitary Association, of women who were compelled last summer to open their windows over the reeking fumes of the back courts, *because they could not bear the still greater stenches of the street*.