

mand upon the people to assert that individual and family comfort is an essential factor in the welfare of the people ; that it is a worthy object of effort to obtain and defend, and that money making and money makers while necessary and important factors, cannot be allowed to encroach upon this natural franchise. Here lies the broad field, and in that field this element of comfort has a place which the people for themselves should demand, which courts, as agencies for the protection of the people's interests, should recognize as a legitimate and reasonable demand, which all classes in our communities as related to each other and the whole should be ready to promote and defend as superior to amassing fortunes by the few, which health officers and authorities should insist upon as one of the important ends of their work and purpose to secure."

Legislation may be needed in relation to the suppression of all such nuisances as above named, but possibly magistrates and judges now have the necessary power to deal with them. One great difficulty, especially with the average jurymen, is the low value placed upon certain states of body and mind which are absolutely essential to health—to rest and sleep, after labor as well as after an attack of illness. There is

too often a tendency of courts and juries to require proof of past, present or prospective definite injury, to property or health. It is usually impossible to show that any such nuisance has given rise to a recognized disease, although making some people absolutely and "utterly desperate in their uncomfortableness," and more.

One other point in this connection we may here note. Many pavements give rise, during traffic upon them, to intolerable noise, and municipal authorities contend that the people interested cannot afford, on account of the greater costs, to lay down noiseless pavements. Now into the consideration of this question of "affording" the extra expense, a great many yet unconsidered points should enter, some of which are indicated above. Would it not be vastly better for all communities, liable to be exposed to the incessant noise of traffic on stone paved streets, to incur double or quadruple the expense and secure a noiseless one, such as wood or asphalt? One better deny oneself many other luxuries, if necessary, in order to pay the extra tax involved rather than that of quiet repose and sleep. The saving in wear and tear and power of horses is another important equivalent secured by smooth noiseless payments.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL—ITS AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS—THE MELBOURNE ROYAL COMMISSION.

WHILE the subject of sewage disposal constitutes one of the leading sanitary questions of the day, it should not be without interest to the agriculturist, now when so large a proportion of the population lives in cities and towns and gives rise to such large quantities of waste matter of high manurial value. It is now pretty generally conceded, even in Canada, that sewage should no longer be allowed to flow into the watercourses or even lakes ; and it is therefore only those towns near the sea which can look forward to the disposal of their sewage for an indefinite time in this wasteful, murderous way of turning it into the nearest water course.

The time will come, possibly before very long, when a city situated even as Montreal is, will not be permitted to empty its sewage into the river. The necessity for returning the sewage in some form to the land is becoming now too pretty generally recognized.

There are two principal processes in which sewage may be disposed of for the benefit of the soil. One is by turning it at once onto the land, by pumping or otherwise, in its natural fresh state, called sewage farming ; the other, the precipitation process, in which the solids and all organic ingredients, are separated and made into a manure, while the water, then