

contain some communicable disease, the poison of which she may distribute with the letters; and yet there exists no power to temporarily close such disease-spreading establishments.

I have written enough to show what dangers surround the public, and as to the state of helplessness in which medical officers of health find themselves, when they wish to prevent a tradesman from disseminating the poison of some disease with his wares, be it the milkman with sewage in his milk, or the schoolmaster who distributes a dose of the poison of measles with a knowledge of the three R's amongst the village children, or the sempstress belonging to some drapery establishment, whose lodging may contain children laboring under malignant scarlet fever—a fact which may be unknown, in the absence of an Act for the compulsory registration of communicable disease to any sanitary official. That our children should be subjected to the risk of being poisoned with sewage in their milk, because some milk-vendor chooses to wash out his cans and manipulate his milk with sewage-water; that our wives and that we ourselves should be exposed to the chance of infection from wearing clothes ordered at some respectable shop, and made in some garret full of fever or other contagious disease, the existence of which is kept a profound secret, is simply intolerable. If the liberty of the subject, about which we in this country hear so much, is to be maintained at the expense of a quiet submission to an exposure to such perils, I, for one, would pray the Legislature for less liberty.

The question now arises as to how this evil of the dissemination of zymotic diseases by tradespeople can best be prevented. On this point, I doubt not, there will be some difference of opinion.

My own view is that it can be averted:

1. By placing the regulation of all trades under the control of the sanitary authorities and their officers (the power to compulsorily close a school or public-house, &c., when necessary, would be of course comprehended in an enactment of this kind);

2. By enabling a sanitary authority to grant compensation out of the rates in cases of temporary closure of business for the