

had an annual invasion of an enemy, in the form of preventable disease, which every year fought and won a battle against the community, and every year slew in the United Kingdom upwards of 100,000 of the people beyond the present reduced death-rate, all of whom they knew and had proved might have been saved by more efficient sanitation, and at a saving of double the annual cost of the naval and military defences. Of the the loss for the killed and wounded—that was to say, for 100,000 deaths of the wage-classes—for every death of an adult there were found to be twenty cases of painful sickness and of disablement and loss of work. The total estimated pecuniary loss for the killed and wounded in civil life might be estimated as exceeding by two-thirds the estimates voted by Parliament for the governmental expenditure of the empire. Even in this metropolis, said Mr. Chadwick, the lowest death-rate place of any capital of the chief States of Europe, or of New York or of any other great city in the United States, we have shown by what had been done by partial application of sanitary defences, there were upwards of 20,000 killed and wounded annually which efficient sanitary defences might have saved. All this excessive loss of life as well as of money, when examined, would be found to be due to wastefulness in legislation and administration. The only effective preventive would be found to be in the superior economy of tested and corrected sanitary science. In the metropolis the executive functions were generally carried out under inadequate instructions as to the qualifications required and without securities that those instructions were duly applied for the protection of the public. In their ill-informed or uninformed condition these local bodies, the vestries, were generally positively unaware of the need of the undivided attention required for sanitary service, and they gave such low salaries as often to leave the chief local health-officers under the necessity of making up their income by private practice—that was to say, curative practice—the difference between curative practice and preventive practice in the new science of sanitation not being perceived by them. A revision and consolidation of preventive functions, now scattered over different and weak departments, and systematised under one department and under unity, with an executive board under the supervision of a Minister of Health, would be found on examination to be necessary for the pecuniary relief of the population from the greatest and most grievous of its burdens, as well as for the advancement of its health and strength and the happiness of its existence. It was due to state that with all the shortcomings of defective local administration, the advances made in sanitary improvements during the reign of Her Majesty had been greater than in any country in any of the great States.

In France they had only got a centralisation against the people chiefly for military levies, and they were now only making slow progress with centralisation for the people in their places of work, for the protection of the people in their habitations, for their protection against tyranny in the productive freedom of service. In France the death-rate was 3 in the 1,000 more than in England, which meant that there was a preventable slaughter there of 112,000 lives more than there was now in England. In Germany the mortality of the army was the lowest in Europe, and there was much to say in the way of example of the economics wrought by it; but under the municipal government the death-rate of the civil population in Germany was very high; it was 6 in the 1,000 higher than in England, which meant a sacrifice of 135,000 more than were now annually sacrificed in this country. In Italy the death-rate was 8 in the 1,000 higher, which implied a sacrifice of 224,000 lives to the wastefulness of ignorance there. In Austria the devastation was still greater even than that; it was no less than 11 in the 1,000 above our death-rate, which occasioned a loss in that empire of upwards of 400,000 more than the present rate in England and Wales. But the death-rate of the army in Russia was three times greater than of the army in Germany; and the death-rate of the civil population, as described by the Registrar-General of France, was still more terrible. To an international arbitration a decisive case could be made out against the extension of such bad government over any population. These were examples of the wastefulness of ignorance and sloth against the economies of well-applied sanitary science. In the United Kingdom the mean duration of life had been advanced, during the reign of Her Majesty, from thirty to thirty-eight years, leaving a further equivalent advance dependent on the advance of a more economical sanitary organization of paid service.

In concluding his able address, Mr. Chadwick asked his hearers to accept it as true from one who had seen eighty-six summers that theirs was as good a work as the sun ever shone upon; and that, long before another eighty-six summers should have passed away, it would be recognized as work which deserved the fullest recognition and the most liberal reward, if it were carried out—as he was sure it would be—in the spirit as in the letter, faithfully, vigorously, hopefully manfully.—*Br. Med. Jour.*

BORACIC ACID IN THE TREATMENT OF LEUCORRHEA.

For months past I have made frequent use of boracic acid in the treatment of leucorrhœa in a manner hitherto unmentioned, at least so far as has come under my notice, and with surprising