

**HEALTHY HOUSES: A HANDBOOK
TO THE HISTORY, DEFECTS, AND
REMEDIES OF DRAINAGE,
VENTILATION, WARMING, AND
KINDRED SUBJECTS**

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Healthy Houses: A Handbook to the History, Defects, and Remedies of Drainage, Ventilation, Warming, and Kindred Subjects by William Eassie

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WILLIAM EASSIE

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A HANDBOOK

TO

THE HISTORY, DEFECTS, AND REMEDIES

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DRAINAGE, VENTILATION, WARMING,

AND KINDRED SUBJECTS.

WITH

ESTIMATES FOR THE BEST SYSTEMS IN USE, AND UPWARD
OF THREE HUNDRED ILLUSTRATIONS.

BY

WILLIAM HASSIE, C. E.,

F. L. S., F. G. S., etc., etc.,

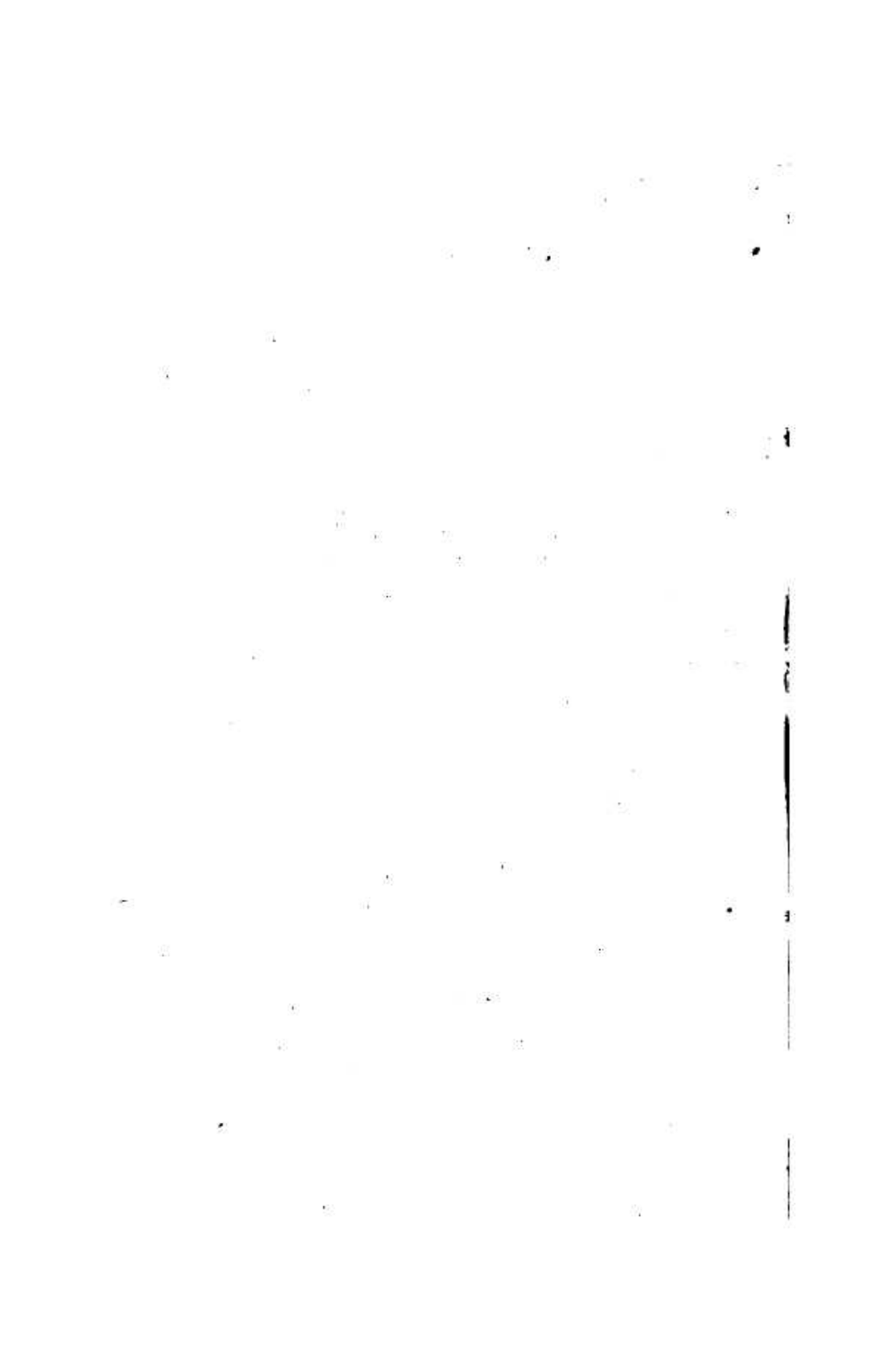
LATE ASSISTANT ENGINEER TO KENKIOI HOSPITAL DURING THE CRIMEAN WAR.

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P R E F A C E .

At length the sanitary Day is dawning. Men are not to do as they choose with their neighbours' lives. They are to be restrained from committing suicide by setting at defiance all the laws of Health. Science is to triumph; and, whilst we cannot be sanguine as to the present generation reaping many of the benefits promised us by the Legislature, nevertheless the accurate knowledge gained respecting the essence of contagion and the skill displayed in innumerable ways in devising life-protecting plans in every part of the British Isles, cannot fail, in the long run, materially to add to the comfort and prosperity of the people, and to lower the rate of mortality. In past ages men experienced the evils of various stages of transition—from the pastoral state, when a few had to brave in rude health the danger of unrestrained and uncultivated nature, to the first traces of commerce, when they combined and travelled for long distances, and, dispersing in bodies, propagated disease as they roamed about, in a manner still common at the present day in Eastern countries. From step to step we have been led to face the difficulties of protecting human life where the largest number had to be fed, housed, educated, amused, enriched, and all in the smallest possible space. Now our large cities are to be rendered safer and healthier than the sparse villages of former times. We do not expect to prolong human life beyond the allotted span, but the largest number possible must attain three score and ten. They are to be protected from baby-farmers and measles, ricketts and consumption, sewer gases and cholera.

Without in any way exaggerating, there is a growing body of wise men who consider that the preservation of the public health is essential in enabling us to hold our own in the rapid race for pre-eminence amongst the nations of the earth. We Anglo-Saxons are, and must be, first by force of wisdom, strength, and affluence.

Much that must be known to ensure the bodily strength which is

essential to the highest intellectual vigour, may be learned in tracing the means employed in constructing a healthy home. There is no royal road to sanitary knowledge, but many talk and write on the subject without investigating the laws of physics, or knowing how best to construct a common drain. Who would trust himself in the hands of a self-styled *medico*, ignorant of the properties of castor-oil or opium, and who had never studied human anatomy? We should call such a person a quack, and by the same title can engineers and architects distinguish a host of persons who have lately flooded the newspapers with their suggestions.

Englishmen are very fond of saying that "common sense" should teach us how to protect ourselves and how to build our houses. All I can say is, that few possess the "uncommon sense" necessary to master the rudiments of the business; and facts, not fancies, must be our guides.

This little book is intended as a record of facts—of acquired experiences and published inventions in relation to house construction; and, although the details may appear dry to the many, I have written under the impression that they were essential to the annually increasing number of persons driven to build houses, or to remedy the defects of those built for them by others. If I appear to have treated anything in a flippant manner, it was far from my intention, for I am too well aware of the importance of the subject to willingly transgress in this way.

WILLIAM EASSIE.

1, Great Winchester Street Buildings,
London, E.C.

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