

**SOCIAL SERVICE
HANDBOOKS, NO. 2: THE
HEALTH OF THE STATE**

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Social service handbooks, No. 2: The health of the state by George Newman

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GEORGE NEWMAN

**SOCIAL SERVICE
HANDBOOKS, NO. 2: THE
HEALTH OF THE STATE**

THE HEALTH OF THE STATE.

Jessica B. Kislatto
1871

SOCIAL SERVICE
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SOCIAL SERVICE HANDBOOKS

No. 2.

THE HEALTH OF THE STATE

BY

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PREFATORY NOTE.

THIS little book has been written in response to the request of my friend, Mr. Percy Alden. It is of an introductory character only. It is not intended to be a text-book, but an elementary handbook dealing in plain language with some of the more important problems of public health. It is addressed to laymen, and, as its title indicates, to those citizens in particular who desire to render of their free will some social service to the State. Personal service is still the great factor in human affairs.

In the study and practice of preventive medicine, few things have impressed me more than the fact that substantial progress is possible only on the basis of a hearty and sane co-operation, a partnership as Edmund Burke called it, between those who govern and those who are governed. The health of the people is no doubt, in theory, the supreme law, but to make it a practice it is certain that the will of the people is the supreme method. And its will should be controlled and guided by a knowledge of things as they are. Progress seems, therefore, to depend upon a wide dissemination of some of the

more important findings in this department of science. It has been said that "the people perish for lack of knowledge," which, if it be so, is a pathetic situation indeed. It may be also that this lack of knowledge leads to lack of desire and will to exercise the considerable powers they possess for the proper control of the health of communities. Yet there is no department of government in the State where co-operation is so necessary, and at the present time so needed, as in the maintenance of a higher standard of public hygiene.

This little volume may, therefore, be looked upon in some sort, as a missionary handbook, sent forth as a reminder that the physical health and fitness of the people is the primary asset of the British Empire, and the necessary basis of that social and moral reform which has for its end "the creation of a higher type of man."

GEORGE NEWMAN.

London,

October, 1907.

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