

NATIONAL HEALTH

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National Health by Henry W. Acland

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HENRY W. ACLAND

**NATIONAL
HEALTH**

NATIONAL HEALTH.

BY

Kentworth
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"Supposons en effet deux populations, l'une immorale et suivant absolument, comme le feraient les animaux, les instincts de la nature, sans se laisser guider par le bon sens ni par les lumières; et l'autre au contraire une population éclairée, ne connaissant ni le vice, ni de faux principes. La première, dans son existence brute, aura une carrière courte en courant au devant des dangers; l'autre, au contraire, tâchera de la rendre la plus longue possible. Ces deux carrières, bien différentes, pourront présenter des excès opposés: l'une aura la vie la plus courte, et l'autre la plus longue. Cette probabilité de longueur de la vie est donc inhérente à l'homme, et il faudrait en chercher la valeur dans un calcul qui n'a jamais été fait."—*Quetelet, Anthropométrie, ou Mesure des Différentes Facultés de l'Homme.*

"What, then, is the conclusion inculcated by these doctrines as regards the social progress of great communities? It is, that all political institutions, imperceptibly or visibly, spontaneously or purposely, should tend to the improvement and organisation of national intellect."—*Draper, History of the Intellectual Development of Europe.*

TO
ALL WHO IN THEIR SEVERAL STATIONS
ARE STRIVING TO COMBINE
MORAL WITH MATERIAL PROGRESS,
THESE SIMPLE THOUGHTS ARE DEDICATED.

THE following pages contain the substance of a Lecture delivered in the Royal College of Physicians of England, June 2, 1871, by desire of the President and Council. The Lecture is now published in accordance with the kindly expressed wish of the President. Two documents quoted at the time of delivery are reprinted in full as Appendices: they may be of service to some who might not see the originals.

OXFORD,
June 9, 1871.

NOTE TO SECOND EDITION.

THIS Paper is only altered in the passages which related to Mr. Goschen's Bill, and in one or two references. The introduction of Mr. Stansfeld's proposal will, it is hoped, save a year in legislating on a question which daily presses more and more. That both sides of both Houses of Parliament will unite in passing his simple but efficient Bill for Sanitary Organisation can hardly be doubted. Should any hesitate, they are earnestly requested to read the first Memorandum in the Appendix.

OXFORD,
July 17, 1871.

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I.

THE FOUNDATIONS OF NATIONAL HEALTH.

NO subject has received more impulse in this country within the last twenty-five years than the Prevention of Disease. We are ripe for comprehensive legislation. Mr. Goschen, taking a wide view of the question, lately embodied in a Bill provisions by which the relations of a large proportion of the medical profession to the public may be changed, and a new conception of the functions of medical men may be introduced into every corner of the country. The exigencies of political affairs forced the withdrawal of this Bill. But Mr. Stansfeld, now President of the Poor-Law Board, has with much energy prepared a Bill which will give new powers, and fresh hopes for sanitary administration. It may be well therefore, just now, to sketch the intricate bearings of a subject of no small moment, from the point which seems to offer the fullest conception of the groundwork of National Health. But I admit the all-but