

**HEALTH PROBLEMS IN  
ORGANIZED SOCIETY**

**HEALTH PROBLEMS IN  
ORGANIZED SOCIETY  
STUDIES IN THE SOCIAL ASPECTS OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

**BY**

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**TO MY WIFE**  
**COMRADE IN 45 YEARS OF WORK**

## PREFACE

THE addresses and lectures collected in this volume have been given during the last few years at various American Universities or to Medical or Public Health Societies in England. In some instances the substance of two or more lectures has been condensed into a single chapter. When there has been previous publication, this has been indicated,—as well as the date and place of the lecture—at the beginning of each chapter.

The retention of the lecture form has necessitated a certain amount of repetition, though this has been minimized by erasures and cross-references. But I do not regard some measure of repetition as undesirable, especially when, as has happened, similar points are stated from a new angle of vision. This holds good to an exceptional extent for the physiological side of preventive medicine and for the three diseases,—alcoholism, tuberculosis, and venereal disease,—which I have taken throughout as my chief illustrations of the great possibilities of saving of life and improvement in the national health.

There runs through each chapter, as its burden, the social aspect of the problem under consideration. I am convinced that—although we are still ignorant as to effective means for preventing respiratory infections including influenza, and are only at the beginning of possibilities for preventing cancerous growths—a very large proportion of the total sickness and mortality before old age is entirely preventible ; and that the accomplishment of what is practicable depends, more than on any other factor, on extension

of our sense of personal and communal responsibility, followed by corresponding action. Hence the repeated stress which is laid in chapter after chapter on the ethical side of public health work. With a view to reduction of sickness and death, it is even more important to secure for each child his fullest possibilities of mental and moral development and training than to pursue and extend the extremely important work of research into the still hidden secrets of disease. Research into what is still unknown and practice of what is known—needing conduct which depends on character—together will banish a vast amount of poverty and suffering from our midst.

The last two chapters give a sketch of the all-important population problem. I have not hesitated to show my own bias in regard to disputed matters. In doing so I merely act like those who adopt opposed views. But the main plea in these chapters is for a suspension of judgment on problems of innate racial or family inferiorities, in respect of which there exists no satisfactory basis for dogmatic statements. There is at the present time real danger that in place of obsolete dogmatisms of superstition we may suffer from a dogmatism in the biology of human life which will embody an uncertain mixture of science, of "half-baked" science, and of pseudo-science.

ARTHUR NEWSHOLME.

DUPPAS HILL, CROYDON.

*July, 1927.*

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