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A PLEA FOR A WIDER AND BETTER EXTENSION OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF SANITARY SCIENCE¹

SANITARY science is young, or, at least, that much may be said of the science as we know it to-day, and consequently I presume it is scarcely reasonable to expect the public at large to be very well posted as to its latest discoveries and improvements. But so much depends upon an intelligent cooperation on the part of the masses of the people in the matter of the proper application of sanitary principles that every effort should be made to hasten the day when sound doctrine shall underlie each act of the community that is made in the interest of public health.

In view of the great width of the field which suggests itself, some kind of reduction will be necessary for our present purpose. Therefore, may I ask your attention to two items with which I have had more or less to do, viz., "water" and "air"?

A great deal has been accomplished in recent years in the matter of educating the public in the proper care of domestic water supplies; but much misunderstanding yet remains for removal, and old-time traditions are with us still.

Did you ever hear that a horse will drink no water that is of inferior quality? Such a statement has been made to me many a time and has been insisted upon as a fact. The fairy tale is pretty widely distributed, especially in country districts, and it is received as true, although it needs but a

¹ Founder's Day address, given at Lafayette College October 21, 1908.