

CONFERENCE ON DOMESTIC HYGIENE.

A D D R E S S

BY THE MAYORESS OF NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE,
(MRS. ALBERT LORD).

It is very gratifying to me, as Mayoress of the City of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, to have this opportunity of extending a cordial and hearty welcome to the Ladies attending the Congress of the Sanitary Institute.

I sincerely hope that those coming from distant parts of the country may have a pleasant visit to this ancient City, and may carry away with them pleasing recollections of their short sojourn here.

It is one of the oldest towns in the Kingdom, the present Chief Magistrate being the 746th Mayor. When the Diocese of Newcastle was taken out of that of Durham, in 1882, the town became a City. The old Churches and public buildings will be found interesting relics of bygone times. There is hardly a city or town in the kingdom with better architectural public buildings than Newcastle.

The dwelling-houses in the oldest parts of the City are chiefly occupied by the labouring poor, and their sanitation is far behind that of modern houses built for the same class of tenants.

These unhealthy dwellings are year by year becoming fewer, their sites being required for city improvements, and it is a very pleasing fact that the houses built in recent years for all classes are more in accordance with modern sanitary knowledge.

During the last few years the death-rate of this City has decreased, and it is satisfactory to know that we now compare favourably with the other large towns and cities of the Kingdom. The earnest and intelligent labours of the Sanitary Committee of the City Council have been rewarded by this diminution, and their continuous endeavours will undoubtedly result in a further reduction. The position of the City, on a slope facing south, and on a great tidal river, not many miles from the sea, is conducive to health, and with the exception of a small number, the people are engaged in occupations not

especially detrimental to health and longevity. Much more attention is now given by all classes to sanitation, and this must produce beneficial results in the near future. The science of hygiene and sanitation generally, appeals especially to woman. She spends, or ought to spend, most of her time in household duties, and in the care of the children of the family, who are naturally most susceptible to the influences of their environment, whether sanitary or insanitary.

The great reduction in the death-rate of the country during the last half-century, is almost entirely due to the reduction of the death-rate of children under five years of age.

In conclusion, I desire to express the hope that the time may speedily come, when every family in the land, however poor, may have a dwelling which, with ordinary cleanliness, may be kept thoroughly sanitary, so that its inmates may breathe pure air, and have a plentiful supply of pure water, and to this end I sincerely trust the labours of this Congress may greatly tend.
