

**THE STORY OF  
ENGLISH  
PUBLIC HEALTH**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649713554

The Story of English Public Health by Sir Malcolm Morris

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**SIR MALCOLM MORRIS**

**THE STORY OF  
ENGLISH  
PUBLIC HEALTH**



ENGLISH PUBLIC HEALTH SERIES

THE STORY OF  
ENGLISH PUBLIC HEALTH

---

# The Story of English Public Health

BY

Sir MALCOLM MORRIS, K.C.V.O.

Member of the Royal Commission on Venereal Diseases, and of the Executive Committee of the National Council for Combating Venereal Diseases; President of the Institute of Hygiene; Fellow of the Royal Sanitary Institute, etc.

CASSELL AND COMPANY, LTD  
London, New York, Toronto and Melbourne

First published 1979

---

## PREFACE

WITH the creation of a Ministry of Health the Public Health Service of England and Wales enters upon a new era—an era, I doubt not, of enhanced efficiency and fruitfulness. It seemed to me that the occasion warranted an attempt to sketch in outline the evolution of our Public Health system from its small beginnings down to the present day, when the seedling has grown into a mighty, many-branched tree. Hence this little book.

I have not dealt separately with sanitary legislation, but its great landmarks are noted in connection with the growth and work of the Authorities, central and local, which have been charged with its administration. Incidentally, brief accounts are given of some of the great sanitarians and administrators by whom the system has been built up.

In the early chapters I have made free use of Sir John Simon's "English Sanitary Institutions," which with fullness of detail and philosophic insight records the history of English Public Health down to the year 1890. For permission to

• v  
M372985



## Preface

draw upon its treasures I tender warmest thanks to Mr. John Murray, the publisher of the second edition, which appeared in 1897, and is still on sale. No one can claim to be well versed in this subject who has not read and re-read that classic of Public Health literature.

The present book is the introductory volume of a series which is occupied with the discussion of Public Health questions of special interest at the present time. The books will, it is believed, appeal to members of local authorities, district and other nurses, school teachers, members of Voluntary Aid Detachments, health visitors, and the great army of voluntary workers in the various fields of hygiene, and also, it is hoped, to the general reader.

M. M.

---

# CONTENTS

## CHAPTER I

### The "New Humanity"

	PAGE
Rise of the "New Humanity"—The "Methodists"— Prison Reform—Humane Treatment of the Insane— Abolition of Slavery—Mitigation of the Penal Code —Political Reform—Public Health and the Spirit of Humanity—Child Labour in Factories—Robert Owen and Lord Ashley—Freedom of Contract—Voluntary Effort and Public Health—Edwin Chadwick—Florence Nightingale—Governments and Vested Interests— Inertia of Government Departments—Sir George New- man on Voluntary Co-operation—Sir Arthur News- holme on Public Opinion . . . . .	1

## CHAPTER II

### Pioneers

Dr. Richard Mead and the Plague—Sir John Pringle and Military Hygiene—Dr. Lind and Naval Hygiene—Sir Gilbert Blane—Captain Cook—John Howard as a Model Landlord—Prison Reform—Variolation— Edward Jenner and Vaccination—Thackrah and Industrial Diseases . . . . .	14
--	----

## CHAPTER III

### The Nation's First Health Charter

Lack of Sanitation at the Beginning of the Victorian Era— Edwin Chadwick and the "Sanitary Idea"—Secretary	
---	--

## Contents

	PAGE
to the Poor Law Commissioners—Their Reports on the Sanitary Condition of the Metropolis—The Inquiry Extended—Investigations of a Royal Commission—The Public Health Act, 1848, and the General Board of Health—The Nuisances Removal and Diseases Prevention Act—Chadwick the Leading Spirit of the Board—A Cholera Epidemic—The Board's Work—Opposition—Reconstitution—Chadwick Retired—His Later Services to Hygiene—Sir Benjamin Hall—The Board Abolished—Its Duties Divided between the Privy Council and the Home Office . . . . .	24

### CHAPTER IV

#### The Era of Inquiry and Education

John Simon's Work as Medical Officer of Health of the City—Appointed Medical Officer of the Privy Council—Public Health Functions of the Privy Council—Study of Epidemics—Educative Value of Simon's Annual Reports—The Sanitary Act of 1866—Venereal Diseases—Simon and Port Quarantine—Laboratory Investigations—Report of the Royal Sanitary Commission, 1843-5—The Local Government Board Act, 1871—Legislation Affecting Local Authorities—Consolidation of Sanitary Law, 1875—Other Sequels of the Royal Commission's Report—Simon's influence . . . . .	39
--	----

### CHAPTER V

#### The Local Government Board

The Board Derived from the Poor Law Board—Mr. Stansfeld the First President—The Poor Law Board's Record—Early Mistakes of the New Board—Subordination of the Medical Department—Mr. Sclater-Booth's Presidency—Simon's Disappointment and Retirement—His Later Career—The Great Cholera	
---	--