

**THE
NATIONALISATION
OF HEALTH**

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The nationalisation of health by Havelock Ellis

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HAVELOCK ELLIS

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THE NATIONALISATION OF HEALTH.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

THE CRIMINAL.

ILLUSTRATED.

"In this work the able editor of the 'Contemporary Science Series' contributes to that excellent collection a volume well calculated to maintain its reputation. . . . Mr. Ellis's work should enlighten the British public as to the practical issues to which scientific investigation of a subject of vital importance to the commonwealth may conduce."—*Athenæum*.

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LONDON: WALTER SCOTT.

THE NATIONALISATION
OF HEALTH

BY

HAVELOCK ELLIS

“The fate of man is in his own hands.”

London

T. FISHER UNWIN

PATERNOSTER SQUARE

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PREFACE.



I HAVE here pleaded that the primary conditions of health should be recognised as of first importance to the community. They have been so recognised, so far as they have been understood, in every great period of civilisation of which we have much knowledge, as Roman and Moorish ruins alone suffice to testify. That they are not so recognised to-day is the chief element of rottenness in our own civilisation. We postpone laying the foundations of our social structure in order to elaborate its pinnacles. We are acquainted with all possible openings for commerce through

the world; we have explored the psychological ramifications of sentiment; and we do not know the course of the main sewers in our city, and we pollute the sources of the water we drink. We have not yet learnt that a great civilisation is ill built up on the bodies of men and women enfeebled and distorted by over-work, filth and disease.

I have further urged that the present time is peculiarly favourable for taking in hand seriously the organisation and socialisation of the elementary conditions of health. We have long left this primary duty to the spasmodic and confused action of charities, and to the interested action of individuals and corporations. The beginnings of more rational and organised methods now exist: the task before us is to develop them. The Third Report of the Lords' Committee on Metropolitan Hos-

pitals, issued when the bulk of this little book was ready for the press, is a valuable summary of the most influential opinions on certain aspects of the organisation of health; and we may reasonably hope that, even though in a very small way, the moderate suggestions of the Committee may help to inaugurate a new movement. Personally I have no elaborate plans or panaceas to bring forward: it is not the business of an individual but of the community to make plans as they are required.

This brief discussion of the Nationalisation of Health deals with but a few aspects of a very large matter. I have here only turned over quickly a few pages in the terrible history of modern England, which in this matter is that of modern Europe generally. After the manner of the biologist, I have selected a few type specimens as examples of the rest.