conduct in a family that lives habitually in the wretched lodgments which disgrace our towns and cities. For our towns, however, there is some excuse. They have increased so rapidly in population, that the supply of house-room did not, and could not, under the ordinary course of private speculation, equal the demand. When Ireland was pouring her thousands into Glasgow, and the Highlands were undergoing the process of clearing, it could not be expected that more than the very meanest accommodation should be obtained by such a class. The past must be palliated; but now that the pressure is in a great measure over, and a breathing-time is afforded by the stream of emigration setting no longer from the country to the town, but out of the kingdom to the colonies and the United States, we can conceive no object on which society may more profitably fix its attention than on the systematic improvement of the dwellings of the industrial classes. A universal crusade against every tenement that did not afford the proper requisites of domestic life would be at least one step towards the desirable result. But this would be insufficient. It would be only a negative reform, and all negative reforms are insufficient. It would be only cutting off the evil, whereas the true object is to produce the good. If we were to pull down every tenement that did not fulfil even the moderate conditions that would in all probability be fixed by the Government, we should only have rendered our working people houseless. We must devise some plan by which proper buildings shall be erected, and insure the future wellbeing of the people by a systematic scheme, that could not legally be departed from within the limits of any town containing a given number of inhabitants. What is already evil we must reform as best we may; but what is future we ought intelligently to design,—to leave nothing to accident, nothing to the hazards of avaricious speculation; but, duly considering what is needed, to provide for it beforehand with a wise precaution, which