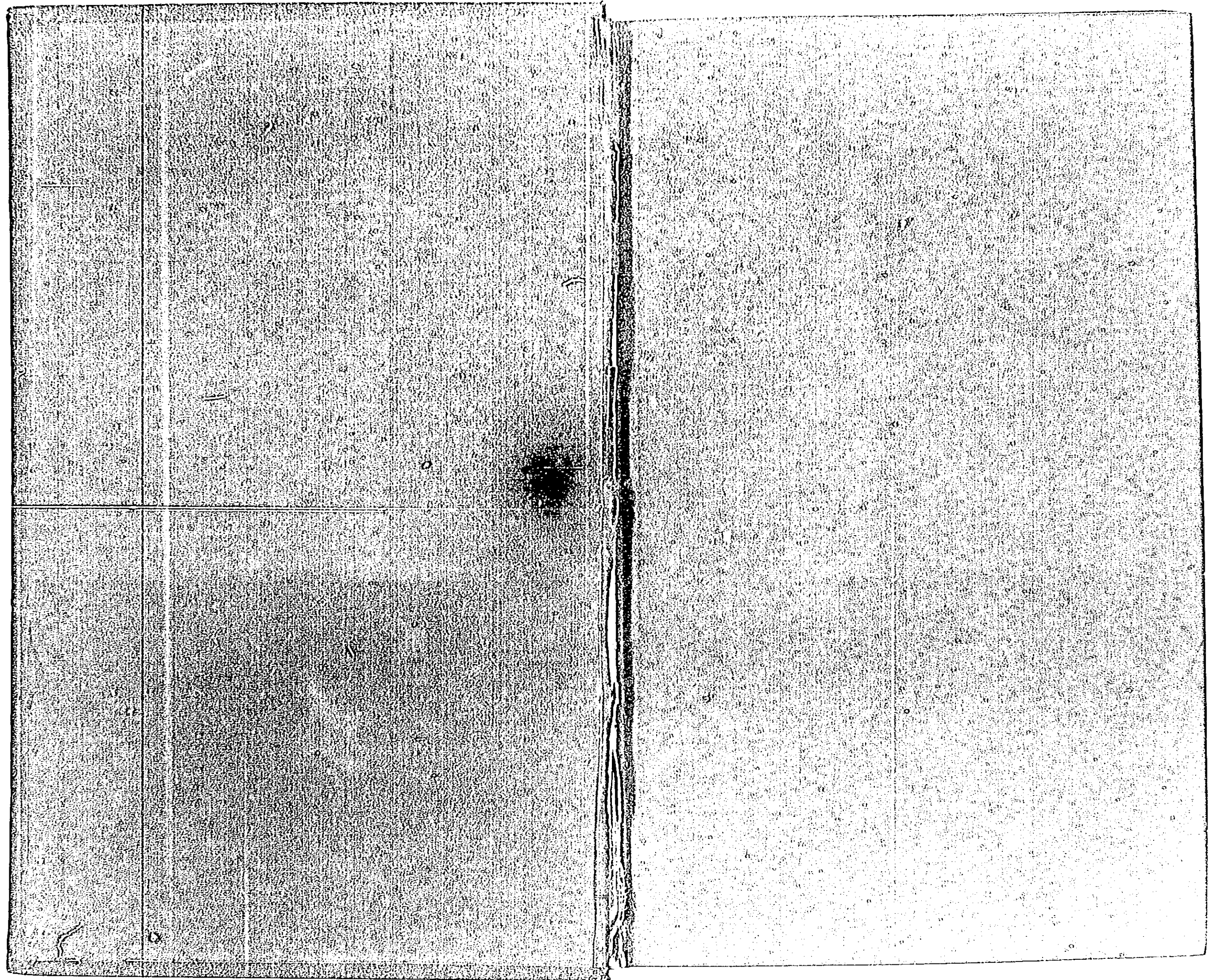


THE
HEALTH OF NATIONS

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EDWIN CHADWICK



THE HEALTH OF NATIONS.

A REVIEW OF THE WORKS
OF
EDWIN CHADWICK,
WITH A BIOGRAPHICAL DISSERTATION.

BY
BENJAMIN WARD RICHARDSON.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

PREVENTIVE SCIENCE.

BY common consent Mr. Chadwick is esteemed as the pioneer of that modern sanitary science which has worked in the course of half a century such true marvels for the prevention of disease. In the field of his work in this direction we trace out designs not always finished, indeed not often finished in detail, but so projected, that others may labour on them and bring them to perfection. His universality is unique. He is found dealing with building and construction as if he were an architect; with engineering as if he were an engineer. In treating of diseases he might be often taken for a physician, in matters of administration for a politician, while he is always in his right place as a statistician. By a strange fortune he is least prolific on the legal side of sanitary work, though by education and profession a lawyer called to the bar.

This universality of industry renders it difficult to place his sanitary work in anything like systematic order, because in point of fact it has been produced just as the occasion called it forth, without plan or premeditation. It has come from the fulness of knowledge,—knowledge good from the first, but gain-

ing in power and extension as facts were observed, accumulated, and mastered.

In presenting the sanitary labours of the author to a public now largely advanced in a knowledge of sanitation, I shall, in the first twenty chapters of the present volume, pith, if I may so express myself, the report on the sanitary condition of the labouring classes. In this way, without troubling the reader with the necessary official style of the original document, I shall place under distinctive heads the practical ideas of the writer as they were and are still applicable to sanitary science as a whole. This plan will serve, at the same time, to show the remarkable originality of thought and action which too often lay concealed in the official record.

In the succeeding chapters I shall select from Mr. Chadwick's other works those which appear to be most instructive to students of public health at the present time.

By pursuing this course the reader of the present day will be able to form an idea, not only of the changes which have taken place for good, but of those which still remain to be effected before the realisation of the aspirations of our author have been fulfilled. Following the plan adopted in the previous volume, inverted commas are placed at the head of each paragraph that contains the *ipsissima verba* of Mr. Chadwick.

VOLUME II.

PART I.

SANITARY AND PREVENTIVE OF DISEASE.