ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE

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Good health in man and woman, dear my lord,
Is the immediate jewel of their souls;
Who steals my purse, steals trash;
But he that fitches from me my good health,
Rob me of that which not enriches him,
And makes me poor indeed.

Thus we paraphrase Othello.

Under the teachings of the great pathologist
Virchow, who died in 1902, medical science has been
dominated by the conception of cellular pathology and
cellular organization of living bodies. Out of cells,
tissues were constructed. Out of tissues, organs were
constructed. All the organs, and nothing more, made
up the organism. Analysis was enthroned as a god.
The whole was established as the exact sum total of
all its parts. All the functions of the whole were
derived from its elementary components. Medical
particularism held the field, as behaviorism and autono-
mic materialism ruled supreme.

Gradually, however, there has come a change in
emphasis which we may call the outworking of philo-
sophic method in the domain of science. The change
is not complete, but as it progresses, we can hope that
the inherent values of analysis and the cellular organi-
zation will be carried over and completed in the
broader and more difficult conception of organic unity
and functional synthesis. Thus only can we treat of
man as a whole being, as an organism or an individu-
ality, if you please, who is greater than the sum total
of his parts. Speaking of society, Pareto\(^2\) puts it in
these words, “The fact that we deal with \textit{individua} by
no means implies that a number of \textit{individua} taken

\(^1\) Commencement address delivered at Pomona College,
Claremont, California, June 17, 1935.

p. 32, 1935.