

engineering, so important in the building of railways, has benefited the people in another way. It is now common for large cities to bring through underground pipes a supply of pure water from natural lakes, often more than thirty miles distant.

The first steamboat crossed the Atlantic in 1838, and within five years Britain had rapid communication with every part of the world. The laying of ocean cables perfected this communication, and was of special advantage to an empire stretching round the globe. Sixty years ago there were towns in England of twelve thousand people without a post-office. Now every village has not only a post-office, but government telegraph and telephone lines. A few years before Victoria's time a daily newspaper which gave very little news cost £10 a year; now a paper with the latest home and foreign news sells on the streets of London daily for half a penny. Half a century ago the labourer's cottage often had not even a tallow candle; now coal oil and gas and electricity are so cheap that all may use them. Before the discovery of photography and electrotyping even the commonest pictures were beyond the poor; now repro-

ductions of works of art are within the reach of all. Improved and cheaper processes of type-setting and printing have made books so cheap that the poorest labourer may own his own library, if he wishes.

Great suffering, too, has been prevented by the discovery of chloroform and ether. In the time of the Crimean War thousands of wounded soldiers died, whose lives might have been saved by a better knowledge of surgery, especially in the use of antiseptics. One of the greatest



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glories of the Victorian age is the work done in the way of preventing disease and suffering.