

The foregoing may be regarded in great measure as errors of neglect or ignorance; but the very remedies applied at high cost are continual causes of disease. A large part of the older sewers in the city are made of absorbent and now putrid wood; and although the Council have determined to lay down no more, the brick sewers are often so badly constructed that the effete matter oozes through them, and deposits soon accumulate in their sluggish course. Moreover a large proportion of the house drains, even in high-rented dwellings, are still made of wood and untrapped. Only the new sewers are trapped at the gully-holes; and at times, and in special places, the stench from these old poison pits is insupportable. Thus our sewer and house drain system may be called (with few exceptions) an express contrivance for conveying the ordinary air-poisons, and the extraordinary infections of small-pox, scarlatina, &c., into every part of the city; and especially from the low into the higher levels, lest the rich should selfishly conclude that they were not affected by the evils which they allow to scourge the poor. The prevailing currents of air also, in the general direction of the river, while they serve somewhat to mitigate the unhealthiness of Griffintown, carry the air-poisons over the higher districts, where, being intercepted by the "Mountain," they impinge upon the fashionable streets and villas of our city.

Infants are more dependent on pure air even than children; they, more than adults; yet to all of us, unvitiated air is a necessary condition of health. Moreover, infants cannot escape from the air of their dwellings, nor from the poisons which fester there. The infantile death-rate is therefore the readiest thermometer, by which we estimate the virulence of poisonous emanations. How this thermometer rises and falls with the heat of the sun, has here been shewn. So far from wondering why so many children die in this city, we might rather wonder how so many manage to struggle into life, against such murderous forces. All these (as well as other) corrupting influences must be removed, if we hope to render up our account to the great Judge, free from the blood of these hundreds of children, to whom the Lord gave Life; who in their helplessness cry to us to nurture and guard it; but whom we, to save a few wretched dollars and a little toil and trouble, consign to a premature and therefore to a guilt-bearing Death.

MONTREAL, July 20th, 1869.