

law of London in sanitary matters, this difficulty would soon be rectified. The law of London and other large cities in England, is as follows:—

Upon the complaint of a tenant or landlord, or on the suspicions of the Sanitary Inspector himself, notice is given to the tenant, that in a week's time, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., the Inspector will call to inspect the building, to find out the cause of the complaint. If, at the time he arrives, the house has not been put into a sanitary condition, the power of doing so is at once taken from the landlord, and the work done by the sanitary staff, under the Inspector's direction, and the cost of the same levied upon the household effects, if the tenant is in fault, and upon the property if it is the landlord's fault. If the complaint is very urgent, then the Sanitary Inspector can give an order for the immediate rectification of the same, and if not at once attended to, he can then enter with his workmen and perform the work. There is no delay, trifling or bungling in the matter, and thus it happens that sanitary evils are at once crushed out by a power that cannot be resisted, and London, with about four millions of citizens, is, from its statistics, shown to be the healthiest city in the world.

That it may not be supposed the evil complained of is at all exaggerated, we will give our own experience of the unhealthy state of houses in this city from bad drainage and bad plumbing.

A house in St. Denis street recently occupied by the family of the late Capt. Penton, Chief of Police, was previously resided in by the writer. His complaints to the landlord of the unhealthy state of that house met with a positive refusal to do anything to remedy it, but when at last two members of the family were taken ill with scarlet fever and diphtheria, we brought in a sanitary policeman and laborers, who ripped up the basement floor, and there were found, at least, 6 inches deep of the foulest muck covering the whole kitchen basement, and a broken water pipe was pouring out a copious stream, flooding the entire floor under the boards. There was no drain whatever to carry off the sink water, which had—how long it is hard to say—been emptying its greasy and foul contents under the flooring, and the only semblance of a drain was what had originally been a four inch square brick drain, which had entirely collapsed. The sink water had no place to discharge itself into except under the floor, and from thence percolated under the basement of the house into the street. Could any doubt remain as to the cause of sickness in the house?

Having suffered so severely in this case, and finding a very unpleasant odour in the next residence we occupied, after some trouble the landlord consented to have an examination made to find out the cause of the same, and after taking out the closet seat and pan, it was found to be underneath little better than an open privy. The closet itself was built up against a lath and plaster partition, but the portion underneath the closet seat was not even plastered, and as a natural consequence the foul effluvia found its way upwards through the lath and plaster partitions into every room in the house.

Our next case is a recent one, and is worth recording. It happened in a residence in St. Denis street, in what is called a first-class cut-stone house and quite new; and when the landlord was asked whether the drainage was perfect, he spoke as if he prided himself upon the completeness of his precautions and sanitary arrange-

ments. The house was rented upon these recommendations, but in a very short time he found he had been deluded. The landlord could not be brought to believe that anything could possibly be the matter with the drainage, particularly as he said the previous tenant made no complaint; but upon enquiry it was found that some members of that family had always been sickly while in the house, though fever did not break out. It was not, however, until he insisted upon an inspection being made by the sanitary inspector that he consented to remedy the nuisance. The inspector came, looked at the sink, to which a trap had recently been fixed (it had never been trapped before), and sagely gave it as his opinion that the fault was there; the only part, in fact, that was free from smell. Arrangements were then made with a well-known plumber to examine and rectify the evil, and he had a *carte blanche* to do whatever was necessary. Upon examination it was found that the joints of every overflow pipe in the house had only slip-joints, through which the gas from the drain passed up; that the discharge pipe from the bath was not trapped, but discharged into the water-closet trap, and, consequently, a foul odour from that trap was constantly passing up through the bath pipe into the bath-room. It was also found that the soil pipe discharged into the tile drain in the cellar, the mouth of which was left open; and, further, that to the wash tubes and sinks there was only one small trap in the basement, which had sagged down by its own weight, flattened, and was useless. It was further found, upon uncovering the tile-drain in the cellar, that not a single joint in the whole of them was cemented; they were all open for the soil from the closet to pass out and poison the earth around them. There was no ventilation to the water-closet in the basement, nor is there now, and there was no ventilation to the soil pipe. The plumber having a *carte blanche* to put the house into a thorough sanitary condition, it was naturally expected that he would do so, and that the Sanitary Inspector would personally call and see that it was done; but the sanitary condition of the house is still imperfect, because the plumber did not think fit to examine the pipes under the water-closet in the basement, and after all the money expended the house is still in an unsanitary condition from foul gases coming up from the closet through the partitions of the house. To give a further example of how sanitary work is performed in this city (it happened in the same house quite recently). Water having been found to come into the cellar (which it never did before), and having a most foul odour, it was naturally supposed that, from its position, there was something the matter with the pipes in the next house. A sanitary officer came to see it, and the proprietor, next door, was called upon to examine the state of his drain. This he most unwillingly did, at a great inconvenience to himself, as he had removed to the country. He opened the drain in his yard, at which a man was employed for four days, and he broke up his fine cemented floor also, and the result was that his drains were found to be perfect; on further examination it was found that the cause of the water in the cellar was from the sinking of the earth in front of the house, by which a surface drain had been formed, which carried the rain water towards the walls of the house instead of into the street, and had eventually worn a hole to the foundation; down this was carried the wash of manure from the garden and under the founda-