

Chicago and was very much impressed by the excellent condition of the atmosphere of the car work-shops. There is a ventilator of that kind placed over all the machines at which a great deal of fine dust is made. Those ventilators connect with large flues made of some light metal, and those flues again are connected with fans in the engine house, and exhaust fans which draw all the sawdust from the shops to a bin above the furnace, where it is burnt; so that when you pass through the car shops the atmosphere is very good, and I was struck with the lack of dust. I see here in the circular a reference to tenement houses and workmen's dwellings. One of the difficulties we formerly had to contend with in Toronto and elsewhere was with respect to the supply of drinking water. Of course the members of the Commission are aware that at the present time there prevails a great deal of zymotic disease, diphtheria and so on. The Ontario Board of Health had a clause inserted in the Public Health Act, declaring it to be the duty of the owner of every house in the municipality to provide the occupant of the same with a sufficient supply of drinking water, and in case the occupant is not satisfied as to the wholesomeness or sufficiency of such supply he may apply to the Board of Health Department as to the same, and if the supply be satisfactory and wholesome the expense incurred in arriving at such determination shall be paid by such occupant and if the supply be not sufficient and wholesome they shall be paid by the owner, and in either case the charges shall be recoverable in the same manner as municipal taxes. Another clause compels the closing of every well found in the city. These are only a part of the by-laws of the Act, and they may be suppressed by any town and other laws substituted. The reason I mention this matter before the Commission is, that it seems to me, and I respectfully submit it for the consideration of the Commission, it would be a good topic for inquiry throughout the various towns to ascertain whether that clause is being respected and carried out. That by-law was introduced in connection with the Public Health Act, and it is in force until repealed by the municipality. The difficulty we find in Toronto as medical practitioners is, that if we speak to a family about their well water, they say they will speak to the landlord; and when they do so, he will say that if they do not like the house they can leave it. Accordingly the next family coming into the house will be in the same predicament. The by-law works no hardship; if the water is good and the occupant has needlessly complained, he will have to pay the cost of the examination; if not, the owner will have to pay, the Board of Health adjudging between the two. With respect to the condition of workmen's dwellings I find the bedrooms are often disproportionately small.

Q.—How is it in regard to the condition of the water-closets? A.—The plan of making pits in the ground and allowing the contents to drain into the soil is a very bad one. The soil becomes saturated with filth and the wells become foul. The health officers are everywhere doing their best to do away with this condition of things, but I respectfully submit again that from the workmen themselves a great deal of information which would help sanitarians very much could be elicited.

Q.—Unless wells are a certain distance from closets there is percolation through the soil? A.—It will go through for a very long distance, that depending on the nature of the soil. Take a case which everybody can learn about that has occurred in Toronto. In Wellesley Street they had a row of privies some distance from the school. The school is now being extended and men have been engaged digging on the site. An old well still exists there and from it the privies were distant about forty five feet. When the men commenced work on the site for the new extension they found the whole soil impregnated with filth from the privies; and how much further it has extended no one can tell. The well is at one edge of the site and the privies at the other. That is only an illustration of the distance at which a well may become fouled.

By Mr. CLARK:—

Q.—How do you propose to remedy that? A.—Either by the dry earth system or by latreens or water closets. I observe in your circular that one of the subjects is employers' liability. Medical men have found at times a good deal of trouble