

the volume of public business was only a fraction of what it is at present, have become inadequate in many ways for their purpose. In the bearing of this upon the health and welfare of the clerks, we beg to invite your attention to the following:

*Office Space.*—Many of the Government offices are overcrowded. In one building there is a single room, 130 feet long and 36 feet wide, containing forty-four men. The desks are so crowded that one cannot pass about without disturbing a fellow officer. Other rooms are still more crowded and the clerks are forced to work at uncomfortable and inconvenient desks.

*Ventilation.*—There is no system of artificial ventilation, in any of the Departmental Buildings. In many the windows do not even lower from the top. The hot air from the registers contains insufficient moisture, and this is, no doubt, the cause of headaches, and other illnesses, the natural consequence of breathing impure air. The rooms are not properly ventilated during the night, as the caretakers have instructions to close all windows shortly after the clerks leave.

*Lighting.*—The system of lighting is defective in several buildings. In some the clerks use electric light all day, and complaints of affected eyesight are numerous.

*Heating.*—This is generally satisfactory, with the exception of the dry air referred to. Owing to the impurity of the air, it is necessary to keep the registers closed in many rooms.

*Cleaning.*—That the charwomen perform their work in a perfunctory manner is a complaint from almost every Department. The sweeping and dusting are very unsatisfactory, particularly the latter. The whole system is urgently in need, not only of improvement, but of a re-organization of control.

*Water-Closet Accommodation.*—This has been in many cases of a most inadequate and insanitary character. Many of the closets are without ventilation, and are badly placed. In some the conditions arising from these and other causes are such as to justify the statement, that they are a nuisance and a menace to health.

In view of the above we would ask the Government to appoint an officer to make a thorough examination into the sanitation of Government buildings, and to report thereon at as early a date as possible. We would undertake to give such officer