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MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT.

"What is everybody's business is nobody's business." So at least goes the old saw, and, practically, it seems to be true. The sanitary condition of the lanes, alleys, and crowded streets of large cities, both in the old world and the new, is left, year after year, in the same epidemic-breeding condition, despite the reports of Health Officers and the warnings from time to time addressed by the advocates of sanitary reform to the authorities and the public. It is only when the finger of death is raised and smites its victim that the true emphasis of these warnings can be appreciated. Because the cholera is on its west-

ward march, from its lurking dens in Asia where it ever revels in the heat and miasma of the climate, and the filth and ignorance of the people, we learn that in London and Liverpool, and in several cities on the continent of Europe, which the dread disease has not yet reached, active preparations are being made to prevent its introduction, or to ameliorate the consequences of its presence, should its total exclusion prove impossible.

While the central governments have very properly reserved to themselves the right of acting in extraordinary circumstances, yet it is usual that the municipal bodies incorporated by the State for the civic affairs in cities,

towns, &c., are endowed with ample powers to enforce a due observance of approved sanitary regulations within their jurisdiction. Is this actually done? Very seldom, we fear. Almost everywhere the complaint goes forth that the back yards, alleys and narrow streets are filthy beyond the measure of olfactory endurance, to say nothing of health; and the winter is speedily coming upon us, when the frost and the snow will bind up, and temporarily deodorise the filth and garbage for a few months, only to let their *effluvia* out in the spring, heightened by their winter's rest, and quickened by their higher capacity for speedy putrefaction. Is it thus that the municipal go-



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THE SHAMROCK LACROSSE CLUB, MONTREAL, CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY PARKS.—SEE PAGE 242.