

horse-urine dropped on the street. The lower end of the blocks, resting on boards, clay or sand, soon becomes covered with a fungoid growth thoroughly saturated with albuminous extract and the excreta of animals in a liquid, putrescible form. These wooden pavements undergo a decomposition in the warm season, and add to the unwholesomeness of the city. The street, in fact, might as well be covered a foot deep with rotting barnyard manure so far as unwholesomeness is concerned. Moreover, the interstices between the blocks and the perforations of decay allow the foul liquids of the surface to flow through, supersaturating the earth beneath, and constantly adding to the putrefying mass.' Cedar block has been condemned in similar terms by many others. On the other hand, Col. Heywood, Engineer of the city of London, England, has said: 'It has been said that wood pavements at all times smell offensively and may be unhealthful; but although some city streets have been paved with wood for thirty years, no complaints that I am aware of have been made to the commission on this head, and the inhabitants at all times have not only expressed great anxiety lest the wood should be replaced by other materials, but have subscribed towards the cost of its renewal. . . . I have at times noticed offensive emanations from it near cab-stands, but am unable to find further evidence of its unhealthfulness. These remarks must be held to apply only to public streets open to the sun and air, and traffic; in confined places and under some conditions, wood might be objectionable. I have seen it decaying in confined places without traffic.'

"The one statement by the Medical Health Officer of Detroit refers directly to the cedar block pavement as we understand it in this country. The other opinion, that of Colonel Heywood of London, is expressed regarding the wooden pavement as laid in European countries. Between these two pavements there is a vast difference. Under European practice, many of the pavements are of the Karri and Jarrah woods of Australia; which are thoroughly saturated with resins, are very hard and are not subject to decay. They are sawn into brick-like blocks and laid on concrete. Where soft woods are used, they are also cut into regular oblong blocks and laid on concrete, and are saturated with creosote or treated with some other preservative process. Wooden pavements of America, however, represented by cedar blocks, are of a very different order."

Then follows a very practical consideration:

"From a sanitary standpoint, the cedar block pavement of this country would indicate a serious menace to health. At the same time, while we are justified as a matter of theory in arriving at this result, there do not appear to be any statistics to prove the conclusion to be a correct one. The death-rate of