

THE  
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TO CORRESPONDENTS.—*We shall be glad to receive from our friends everywhere, current medical news of general interest. Secretaries of County or Territorial Medical Associations will oblige by forwarding reports of the proceedings of their Associations.*

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1883.

THE TORONTO PUBLIC SCHOOL  
 BOARD.

We learn from the Toronto dailies that the efforts of the Medical Health Officer to effect sanitary improvements in the City Public School buildings have met with the disapproval of the Board. Indeed some of the members question his right to inspect and make public the condition in which he found the buildings. In noticing these objections, Dr. Canniff said to a reporter: "As the Medical Health Officer, to whom is entrusted the health of the whole city, I felt it my duty to make myself acquainted with everything connected with the public health and especially public buildings. No buildings could be more important than those in which the youth of our city are detained for many hours of the day, and that naturally turned my attention to them. I have yet to learn that I am not justified not only in visiting the public schools, to see that the sanitary arrangements are complete, but in stating, when asked by reporters, the condition in which I found them. In doing so I had no intention whatever of reflecting on the Committee or the Board as a whole. If it had been a question with me whether the board would be glad or otherwise in my taking such action, I would naturally have thought that as a public body entrusted with the interests of children and the public generally, they would have been glad to have received suggestions from the Medical Health Officer, whose duty it was to be more

particularly acquainted with sanitary matters." The Editor adds: "This opinion will probably be concurred in by most people. That a majority of the Board do not think so is evident from the fact that they voted down a motion of Dr. Kennedy's to place a medical man on the Sites and Buildings Committee, Dr. Kennedy contending that the members of the Committee knew little or nothing of the duties required of them." The Chairman, in reply, said he was willing to have such assistance "for what it was worth." By this it seems that the Board thinks the Committee is competent to make all necessary sanitary arrangements without the aid of the Medical Health Officer or any other medical man. How far this Committee is qualified to discharge this duty we may judge from the authoritative statements contained in an article published in the *News* of June 27th. This article, we believe we are correct in saying, was written by the Chairman of the Committee. He says, speaking of the proposed alteration of the school buildings: "Whenever it is practicable the down-pipes from the roofs of the buildings are connected with the closets, in order that the rain thus collected may assist in flushing the closets, but nothing except liquid matter is allowed to flow into the public sewers; and the pipes are so constructed that the surface water will flow into them at a distance of about three feet from the bottom of the pit. The Committee has always regarded it as of the utmost importance to allow only the liquid matter to escape into public sewers, believing that the health of the citizens might suffer if all the contents of the pits were to be washed into the sewers, for which there are so many places of exit for impure gases. It has been stated that the Medical Health Officer, during his visits to one of the schools since they were visited by the Committee, intimated that the closets should be completely emptied into the sewers, but the members of the Board who have considered this matter carefully for years (!) do not