

Now, we would ask, who is responsible for this inferior work? If the city drainage is of such importance as to require immense sums of money to be spent upon it, and large amounts annually required to be disbursed for new drains and repairs, is it not the very height of folly and neglect to allow our citizens, after all this expenditure and heavy taxation to meet it, to be at the mercy of plumbers—or tinsmiths calling themselves plumbers—who, by their ignorance, bad workmanship and materials, are the cause of admitting into our residences the foul gases from the drains which we are spending so much money to improve? Is it not perfectly ridiculous for any municipal body having the affairs of a city entrusted into its hands, to allow any landlord, tenant, or plumber, to render nugatory all the money expended for sanitary purposes, when it can be so easily remedied by the enforcement of stringent laws and a proper supervision by competent officers? Is it not time, then, that the corporation of this city took this matter in hand, and make such by-laws and appoint such competent officers as would enforce them, which would at once put a stop to inferior workmanship and materials employed in all sanitary house arrangements in this city?

Let us, in the first place, consider what staff of sanitary officers are required in a city like Montreal, having a population of, say, 150,000 inhabitants:

I.—A Sanitary Inspector and a deputy, and aided by sanitary police.

II.—An Inspector of Plumbers' Work, and an assistant.

III.—An Inspector of Drains.

Such a staff would probably be found sufficient, if the right men are put in the right place.

Let us now consider what the qualifications and duties of such a staff of sanitary officers should be.

We know nothing of the qualifications of the present Sanitary Inspector or other sanitary officers of Montreal. We trust they possess all the qualifications which public officers holding such important situations should have, which virtually places in their hands the health, and, in fact, the lives of many of the citizens; but as we have our own opinion of the qualifications necessary, and the duties to be performed, we will briefly state them:

A Sanitary Inspector should be, by profession, either a civil engineer or an architect, in order that he should be thoroughly acquainted with the construction of houses, public buildings, drains, plumbers' work, &c. He should possess a practical knowledge of chemistry sufficient for the detection of gases. He should be a man of energy, judgment and determination, but even-tempered and courteous in the performance of his onerous and disagreeable duties, so as to enforce them with the least possible annoyance. His deputy should be an active, intelligent and practical man, capable of carrying out his instructions most minutely.

The duties of a Sanitary Inspector should be to thoroughly investigate every complaint and find out the cause, and be able *himself to direct a remedy—without depending upon the advice or opinions of others*—and he should see that the instructions he has given are fulfilled to the letter, by personal inspection of the work being performed. He should, in the course of time, make an inspection of every house in the city—*nolens, volens*, the objections of its inmates. We know many people who are so indifferent to bad odours that, rather than be put to any little inconvenience, would prefer to risk the

lives of themselves and their children, and only be awakened up to the result of their apathy by death carrying off one or more of its inmates, who had contracted disease from breathing an atmosphere impregnated with germs or gases bred or formed in foul closets and drain pipes. We know landlords who, in the presence of the most offensive odour, would declare that the house was perfectly sweet, rather than expend a dollar to do that which would save some human life. Are such people to be allowed, by their own disregard of health, or is a community to suffer from the apathy or stinginess of landlords, to live in an unsanitary atmosphere which will breed infectious diseases to be spread among them?

He should also visit every yard and lane, and every public building and store in which is carried on manufactures deleterious to health, and prosecute, with the utmost rigour, all infractions of the sanitary laws of the city. He should see that every yard was properly drained, and that the fall of the earth was sufficient, so that the surface water did not run towards the house instead of from it, as is frequently the case, carrying with it, under the foundations, impure matter, from the vile custom that is permitted to exist of throwing soap-suds and refuse matter into wood-boarded yards. He should see that every privy was furnished with a high ventilating shaft, and emptied when he considered it requisite, and not when the landlord thought so. The filthy state of many of the privies, and the want of ventilators to them in some of our wholesale establishments in this city, is a disgrace to the merchants; and, as for a proper supervision over them by the sanitary staff, we do not believe that such places are ever inspected, unless upon complaint.

An Inspector of Plumbers' Work should be a properly qualified person, in every respect, for the position, and not a man selected by favouritism. It would be well, indeed, were there a by-law compelling every person practising as a plumber to pass an examination, and not be allowed to undertake any plumbers' work of a sanitary nature until he received his certificate of competency, and that a penalty should be enforced in every case where work contrary to law had been performed. Any party closing up plumbers' work in a new house without receiving from the inspector a certificate that it was complete in every respect, should be heavily fined. An Inspector of Plumbing, upon receipt of an order from the Sanitary Inspector, should thoroughly investigate every case of complaint, and make the work perfect, the cost of the same to be charged against the party in fault.

The duty of an Inspector of Drains should also be to see that the drains were properly laid and cemented in every new building, and give a certificate of the same.

The architect or builder should be obliged to supply to the inspector of plumbers' work, and to the inspector of drains, a plan of the sanitary arrangements of the building, so that a fault could easily be traced and rectified, without pulling the house to pieces to trace out where the pipes and tile-drains were placed, and a duplicate of the plan should be given by the architect or builder to the proprietor.

Such are but a few of the sanitary improvements necessary in this city, to which we desire to call the attention of its citizens. There has always been a difficulty and vexatious delay in getting sanitary imperfections rectified, until people get disgusted with the apathy shown to their complaints. If the corporation would adopt the