

## SANITARY MATTERS.

Learning that a Report had been prepared by a Committee of the Civic Health Department, in regard to drains, plumbing, &c., the Council met specially to consider the same, and subsequently sent a communication to the Chairman of that Committee suggesting certain amendments to the report referred to, and also urging that the street gullies be kept clear from all obstructions by snow or otherwise, so that the ventilation of the sewers might not be impeded.

## IMPURE GAS SUPPLY AND INEFFECTIVE INSPECTION.

The impure gas supplied in this city early in December caused great inconvenience and dissatisfaction to citizens; the Council, therefore, wrote to the City Gas Inspector requesting information as to the failure of the Gas Company to fulfil its contract, and what steps had been taken by him to remedy the evil. The Inspector replied that he had not discovered any impurity or deficiency in the illuminating power of the gas, but that this might be accounted for by the fact that the gas used in his inspection was supplied from the Ottawa street works and not directly from Hochelaga; and stating that there should be another testing point higher up in the city, so that the Hochelaga gas could be properly tested. The Council thereafter wrote the Commissioner of Inland Revenue at Ottawa, who replied that in order to make sure of procuring a fair test of gas from either of the Gas Company's works, he had instructed the Inspector of Gas to open a branch office in Hochelaga, and to make periodical tests there both for sulphuretted hydrogen and for illuminating power.

## INCREASE OF RATES OF PREMIUM FOR FIRE INSURANCE.

The advance in rates of premium exacted by the fire underwriters, in order to force the civic authorities to provide adequate protection against fire, has demanded the Council's attention throughout the year, the high rates proving burdensome to all whose business requires that they carry considerable insurance, the Montreal Wholesale Grocers' Association, for example, adopting the following resolution:—

*Resolved*, That in view of the great increase in the rates of fire insurance in this city, the Montreal Wholesale Grocers' Association hereby requests the Council of the Board of Trade to enquire whether the inefficiency of the fire brigade service is such as to justify such an increase in rates as has been made, reaching as high as fifty per cent. advance on former rates, and if so, to urge upon the civic authorities the urgent need of affording the city adequate protection from fire, in order that lower rates of insurance may again prevail.