

are not yet in a position to prevent bad plumbing in houses, although we may be certain when it is being put in that it will cause waste. If the plumbing regulations submitted to the Council by the City Health Board become law we shall be able to control all new work.

The most important recommendation I could make for the prevention of waste is the abolition of all hopper water closets. The inmates of houses in which hopper closets are found allow a small stream to run day and night, with the idea that they are flushing out their drains or preventing the entrance of sewer gas. They could not be more mistaken, for the small stream does neither. A bucket of water would do more towards flushing the drain than the small stream would do in a week. It is impossible to flush a six inch drain with the amount of water usually found running for that alleged purpose. Neither does it prevent the entrance of noxious gases. In most cases the water is turned on by the tipping of the pan worked by a handle or lever. When closed the pan is filled with water and forms a water trap, effectually preventing the entrance of gases. Not satisfied with this condition, which is the safest, such unsanitary arrangements can be left in, the water taker generally props up the handle or lever so that a stream will run continuously. This operation opens the trap and provides an unobstructed canal up which sewer gas may pass into the house. The City Health Board have asked the Council to wipe them out of existence, but so far no action has been taken. They are the most unsanitary form of closet and every time the pan is tipped, if only for an instant, the door is open to disease. In my opinion these closets are responsible for the greater part of the disease which the city authorities have tried to stamp out, and while such facilities exist for communication from house to house through untrapped drains laid with criminal negligence, we cannot hope to see its extermination.

There is another effectual remedy for waste which should be