

oversight of the scavenging department and kindred functions, while the Committee on Hygiene and Statistics, which is also the Board of Health, is now able to devote its entire time and attention to matters hygienic. This is a great advance: what was hopeless before is possible now.

Many and varied are the duties which fall upon the local Board of Health. Under the name of the Committee on Hygiene and Statistics, it is one of the standing committees of the Council, appointed at the first regular meeting in February of each year.

The committee is composed of seven aldermen, 5 of whom are French-speaking, and only 2 (including the chairman) English-speaking. Under by-law, the Council may, if it sees fit to do so, alter the constitution of this Board by adding thereto certain citizens who are outsiders. The Council, however, is very jealous of its right in this particular and generally does not seem desirous of going outside of its own membership. Personally, I would welcome the addition of several medical men or specialists to our Board. Perhaps, if the medical men of the city were to agitate and petition in this direction the Council might grant such representation. Let this be labelled "Reform No. 2." Kindly make a note of it.

It is my purpose to-night to describe to you the work of the local Board of Health as I find it; to review the duties laid upon it; to expose the means at its disposal; to point out, so far as an amateur may do so, the obvious defects; and to invite your criticism on certain suggested improvements which appear to some of us to afford reasonable hope of better things.

Among the duties laid upon the local Board of Health by the City Charter, by the provincial regulations and by the municipal by-laws are the following:—

1st. To enforce all sanitary measures regarding the cleanliness of the city; 2nd. to take precautionary steps to prevent the spreading of contagious and infectious diseases; 3rd. to collect and compile mortuary and birth statistics; 4th. to seize and confiscate deleterious articles of food; 5th. to supervise the drainage, plumbing, and ventilation of new buildings; 6th. to examine schools, factories, workshops and the like with reference to their sanitary condition and to cause to be vacated such buildings as are unfit for human habitation; 7th. to appoint such officers as may be necessary from time to time to put the provisions into effect.

The amount voted by the Council to be expended under the supervision of our Committee, for the services above described, is somewhat under \$40,000 per annum. Usually about 50 persons make up the executive staff. At the head of the department is the Medical Health