

requiring no small amount of trained intelligence and skill. Not only questions of house-drainage and ventilation, but nuisances arising from noxious trades, diseased and unsound meat, dairies and cowsheds, slaughter-houses, food adulterations, and the tracing of infectious disease, with the methods of disinfection and isolation, all require his skilled attention. In matters of house-drainage, it is of special importance that he should know *the tricks of the trade*; as for instance, that soil-pipes which are securely soldered in front to meet the eye, frequently have open joints on their unexposed sides; that there are traps which, although they are constructed according to an approved pattern, from bad workmanship do not seal; others that leak into the ground; and drain-pipes not jointed. In one case I am informed of, one intercepting trap did duty for every house in a new street, although separate drainage was being carried out for each house; for as soon as the vestry officer had turned his back and left, the trap was removed and a straight pipe inserted in its place. This could be easily done, as clay joints were used. It would be impossible in such a town as Brighton, where cement joints are insisted on. The joints of lead pipes are frequently secured (?) by putty, which is then painted over, and to the superficial observer, looks like a soldered joint. It is evident that lead work should not be painted over until after being passed by the inspecting officer.

#### DUTIES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

The preceding enumeration of the duties of the sanitary inspector prepares one to consider his *qualifications*, which are (1) technical and (2) general. The *technical* requirements may be classified as *medical*—in so far as it is his duty to understand the methods of spread of infectious diseases, and the means calculated to arrest this spread—*sanitary*, in relation to drainage, ventilation, lighting, trade nuisances, inspection of food, etc.; and *legal*, in so far as he requires to be familiar with the Public Health Acts, which enable him to use coercion where the gentler influences of persuasion have failed. The scope of the technical qualifications of the sanitary

inspector is necessarily wide, as wide as sanitary science itself, and it is of importance that his fitness for his work should be tested by some special examination. If I may venture to criticise the examination of such an important body as the Sanitary Institute, I would suggest, that while the theoretical examination is not made less stringent, a more thorough practical examination, especially as regards unsound foods, should be enforced, and that Building Construction should be added to the list of subjects for examination, of a standard similar to what is required to obtain an advanced certificate in Building Construction under the Science and Art Department. I am indebted to Mr. Fairchild, Sanitary Inspector of Clapham, for the following suggestion, which appears to me a very valuable one. The certificate of the Sanitary Institute should not be granted as the result of examination alone; but the candidate should be required to produced proof that he has been employed for at least one year as an assistant inspector, or in practical sanitary work in some other capacity.

THE PERSONAL qualities which should characterise an inspector are as numerous and important as the technical. Combined with tact and good temper, and courtesy in all his dealings, his general intelligence should be such as to command respect; and his fidelity to his work, his conscientiousness and moral character, above reproach. Many of the duties of the sanitary inspector are irksome, and may appear paltry in their detail: they should be looked at, however, in relation to their influence on the health of the community; and for this reason, if for no other, a man of high moral character will make the most efficient inspector. When we remember that a defective trap may bring disease and death into the house; that a damp unventilated house may produce consumption (phthisis); that accumulations of organic refuse, as in dustbins, cause ill-defined illness if not actual diphtheria; that in all probability tuberculosis may be propagated by milk derived from consumptive cows; that typhus fever may breed where overcrowding and filth prevail—then surely attention to details be-