

housing of natives. "On nearly every mine throughout the municipality considerable alterations have been effected, whilst the action of the Randfontein Estates erecting three new colossal compounds capable of accommodating some 13,000 natives augurs well for the future welfare of the inmates. The construction of these gigantic compounds are of brick under iron roof, impervious floors, adequate heating, lighting, and ventilation, together with regulation iron bunks, all of the above being in strict conformity with the Colored Laborers' Health Regulations. The sanitary arrangements are of the most approved pattern, and this department is fully cognizant with the amount of attention and good work the company referred to has displayed in carrying out our wishes. By restricting the areas on which married native quarters can be erected a material change for the better has been effected, as each company now makes provision in this respect, and thus discontinues the haphazard manner in which buildings were previously erected. The enforcement of municipal health regulations in such a widely-scattered district as this is not effected without a considerable amount of hard work, taking into consideration that housing accommodation is required for some 33,500 colored inhabitants, and to prevent overcrowding is no easy task." We may not like the idea of the "compound" system at home; but we do not altogether realize the conditions prevailing in the goldfields, and we must rest content with the knowledge that health and decency are promoted in every possible way.

### Edinburgh and Free Anti-Toxin.

Dr. Williamson, the Medical Officer of Health for Edinburgh, submitted a report to a meeting of the Public Health Committee of the town council last month on the subject of the distribution of diphtheria anti-toxin. Some time ago the British Local Government Board suggested that anti-toxin should be supplied free by Local Authorities. Dr. Williamson reported that it should be supplied free of charge to the medical profession in Edinburgh, to be used in cases occurring in their practice. He further suggested that "swabs" should be obtained from the throats of persons who had been in contact with diphtheria

cases, so that they might be examined. The Committee agreed to recommend the free distribution of anti-toxin, and to call the attention of medical practitioners to the facilities arranged for examination at the Usher Institute.

### Bradford Sanitary Association and the Pollution of Swimming Baths.

About a generation ago an English traveller in the far interior of Morocco took to himself a signal rebuke from a chief of ancient lineage whose roof and hospitality he was sharing. Forgetting where he was, he urged the need of some vessel of water in which to perform his morning ablutions. Whereupon his host, having none, took him out into his garden, and pointing to his own lavatory — a natural rivulet falling melodiously from a spout into a clear pool—"No Moorish gentleman," said he, "would cleanse his face with water into which he had first discharged the dirt from his hands, when he could get the pure running stream." All depends on custom and the point of view. One man's meat is another man's poison; and he who wonders at the dirt in a Bedouin's faded and weather-stained robes, may himself be the wonder of its bearer, who, in the sun and wind of the spotlessly clean desert almost the livelong day, purges himself by nature's toilet, while the stranger critic at home lives in a huge city (the "Wen," old Cobbett used to call it), breathing the noisome exhalations from the million, and to the Arab's untutored but clear vision cannot know what true cleanliness means.

We boast of the increasing crowds who disport themselves in our costly swimming baths, totally forgetting that while the crowd is unlimited the water in which they bathe is extremely limited; that before the first day of its use it is often no better than dilute sewage; and that one, two, and it may be even three days' service in the purification (so-called) of dirty bodies are demanded of the same filling, at whose bottom next morning may be seen through the still pool the white tiles covered with a dark coat of sediment not seen before the crowd had "cleansed" themselves in it. No doubt in many cases the extreme foulness is partly caused by the many who regard the weekly, monthly, or yearly swimming bath as the only place for purifying the body; but apart