

## CLIMATOLOGY AND PUBLIC HEALTH.

IN CHARGE OF WM. OLDRIGHT, M.A., M.D.

Pavements, slaughter-houses and tuberculosis come under the above caption at the present time; and in our sanitary section of this and forthcoming issues will be found some clippings dealing with these subjects, in which so many of our readers are interested. We (not the editorial "we" alone) are now getting thawed out so far as to be fondly hoping we are quite near the time when we shall be—rolling through the mud, and then enjoying good (?) roads and the balmy breath of spring. In our provincial, municipal and other deliberative bodies people are discussing the problem of "mending our ways," and so we make a few cuttings *apropos* thereof from the *Sanitarian*. The first of these is from a paper read before the Association of Medical Health Officers, by A. W. Campbell, C.E., Provincial Road Commissioner for Ontario. We are pleased to see "the prophet is not without honor" in another country and gladly re-import him. His article is entitled "The Influence of Pavements on Public Health." Amongst other things he says:

"There is no one paving material which possesses every quality desired in a pavement to meet all conditions and uses. The ideal pavement remains to be discovered; but the features which should belong to such an ideal pavement are so numerous and of such varying character as to render the search apparently a hopeless one. The ideal pavement: 1, should be cheap and economical of maintenance; 2, should be durable; 3, should suit all classes of traffic; 4, should offer little resistance to traction; 5, should give a good foot-hold to horses; 6, should be adapted to all grades; 7, should have a good appearance; 8, should not be muddy nor pervious to water; 9, should be sanitary, that is, non-absorbent, not subject to decay, easily cleaned, not dusty, not noisy. . . . Just as no absolutely perfect paving for every time and place has been discovered, it is doubtful if any paving material now used should be utterly condemned. Each has its place in which, until the ideal universal pavement is found, it will be more satisfactory than any other which could be used under that particular set of circumstances of soil, climate, traffic, etc. . . . Cedar block has received the greatest censure on the score of unhealthfulness. The late Dr. O. W. Wight, Health Officer of Detroit, is quoted as saying: 'On sanitary grounds I must earnestly protest against the use of wooden block pavements. Such blocks, laid endwise, not only absorb water which dissolves out the albuminoid matter that acts as a putrefactive leaven, but also absorbs an infusion of horse-manure and a great quantity of