

destruction of tonsils "a massacre of innocent organs" and does not hesitate to give a long list of evil effects which are consequent upon the removal or destruction of tonsils.

Dr. Mackenzie says that he has not always been the defender of the tonsil. "I too in my earlier days," he says, "have fallen by the way. Indeed, it was once facetiously said that the street in front of my office was paved with the tubinated bones of my victims."

He goes on to remark that there is a host of conditions which warrant the more or less complete destruction of the tonsil.

"My contention is simply this," he adds, "that in selecting our cases for operation we should be guided by a sane and safe conservatism and common sense and not be carried away by those who, by their precedent and example are fast bringing our specialty into disrepute in the eyes of thoughtful and honorable men."

English Decision on Odors.

The people of a part of the south side of Chicago do not feel kindly toward the stockyards, remarks Dr. W. A. Evans in the *Chicago Tribune*. Though they have built two or three miles away, they find there are times when the stockyards odors reach out, like a long arm, and gather them into the stockyards circle, a circle whose radius is the length of the smell. The people involved cherish resentment not only against the yards and the packing houses, but also against the health department. For it is to that bureau they look for relief.

The difficulty under which the department works is illustrated by an experience in Montrose, England. The nuisance there is due to a guano factory. The Medical Officer for June, 1912, tells of the failure of the health officer, Dr. Connon, to have the guano-makers punished for causing a nuisance through offensive odors. The evidence showed a state of facts almost identical with those in Chicago.

At the trial the state proved the odors were a nuisance, and that they emanated from the factory. The defense proved they had installed proper apparatus for the control of the odors. It was admitted that if the condensers were kept cool enough

odors would not arise. The judicial officer held that the prosecution must prove that the defendants neglected to make full use of the facilities for controlling the odors—that they did not keep the condensers cool. This the prosecution could not do. It did not have enough inspectors to make such proof. The guano works won.

Some American courts are just as technical. Perhaps they are right. Certainly it is the tendency of the times in the interpretation of health department laws. The loosely drawn health ordinances of the ordinary town will not withstand the test of the present tendency of court decisions. Such ordinances are seldom tested, because they are generally dead letters except in times of strong public sentiment, at which times they are not contested because everybody bows to the majesty of an aroused public.

At length departments become more continuously active, city councils must re-frame health ordinances to meet this tendency of the courts. A great increase of the cost of inspection is entailed, but if the courts say it must be, it must be.

It would look as if, the nuisance being proved, the ability of cool condensers to prevent nuisance being proved, no more was required. But that is for the court to determine. It might be well to remember this decision the next time the stockyards hits you in the nose and you, in turn, feel like hitting the health department

What Stockholders Can Do.

In *The Survey*, Dr. Alice Hamilton, chief investigator of occupational diseases for the United States Government, tells an interesting and significant story of one stockholder, Mrs. Joseph T. Bowes of Chicago, who brought about remarkable improvements and reforms at the great Pullman works by appealing to the managers of the company, putting facts before them, and showing them that modern methods of protection and prevention are economical as well as humane.

Mrs. Bowen, before the passage of the Illinois law for the prevention of occupational diseases, caused an investigation to be made of the accident and sickness records at Pullman. She became satisfied that conditions were not what they should