

root nor develop where there is no filth. Localities and communities absolutely clean, the cholera has entirely passed by and around over and over again. What is to be done? it may be asked. Clean up *thoroughly*, and begin *now*. The resolution passed at the last meeting of the medical society reads, "every possible degree of care should be exercised by the civic authorities in promoting the sanitary state of the city." If the "civic authorities" have not the means, or if they will not employ the means at command, the people themselves must act, or probably suffer severely in consequence of inaction. The medical practitioners of the city have taken a preliminary step—rang the city bells—though not so vigorously and loudly as some of them would have done, and we are convinced they will be ready to do more—more than their share if need be, to prevent sickness; but the public must help. If between now and May every particle of waste organic and excremental matter that could be found and seen with the unaided eye were removed out of the city, we need not have the slightest fear of cholera, for it could not find a lodgement amongst us. It is not the drainage that requires immediate attention. All drains and sewers should be thoroughly flushed in the spring and kept free from *deposits*. Mean-time coal ashes to mingle with *all* excremental matter, and carts when and where possible, should be freely used. If we all in order to do it have to deny ourselves many of the luxuries of life, let us have the city perfectly, absolutely clean—"swept and garnished."

BETWEEN HALIFAX AND SARNIA there are doubtless many cities and towns in quite as bad a sanitary condition as Ottawa and some probably much worse. If cholera germs reach this continent they will be almost sure to develop, multiply and spread from town to town. Then not only will there be many deaths, but, and what usually alas strikes greater terror, trade will be paralyzed, and in that way vastly more will be lost to the towns than it would cost to put them "in order." What has just been stated in reference to Ottawa, will apply to every other town, in which

the health authorities, or others if necessary, should be up and doing. A few weeks ago, at the Academy of Medicine, Paris, Dr. Rochard, who had just returned from Toulon where he had been inspecting the fleet, said, "we stand in presence of an averred epidemic of Asiatic cholera. Let us face the danger like men. Let us consider the present visitation as a solemn warning. Let us remember that when *proper sanitary measures* were enforced in the Red Sea, the evil was averted for a space of sixteen years, while, as soon as these measures were laid aside, cholera invaded Egypt, and from thence after a short pause, sprang upon Europe." We in Canada have not yet amongst us the cholera to face, but let us like wise men prepare to prevent it coming or prevent its spread in case it should come.

#### THE STATE BOARDS AND THE CHOLERA.

On October 14th the representatives of all but two of the state boards of health in North America, including that of Ontario, met in St. Louis, Mo., to discuss the cholera question. After very earnest discussion they adopted the report of a committee in relation to the preventive measures which should be adopted on this continent. It urged upon congress to provide for the appointment and maintenance at foreign ports where cholera, yellow fever, plague, small-pox, or scarlet fever are liable to exist, accredited consuls or other persons to give notice, by telegraph, when practicable, of the appearance of any of the above named diseases to some constituted authority in this country; to give notice of the departure of any vessel, known or suspected to be infected, for any port in the United States; and, when necessary, to inspect and cleanse and disinfect vessels about to depart. It suggested that measures be taken to bring about concerted action with Canada and Great Britain in relation to preventive measures. Gratification was expressed that the authorities of this Dominion and of Ontario had taken active steps toward protecting the people of Canada and indirectly those of the United States, by the adoption of extensive quarantine regulations, and suggested further special regulations along the