

But the sanitary inspector's work does not stop with drains, water and smoke. It embraces in its scope the factory, the workshop and the tenement house, in fact, it deals with the conditions under which the majority of people are earning their living and with the conditions under which the poorer live. It cannot be seriously objected that the services of women sanitary inspectors are not required when work has to be done in connection with the woman worker in the factory and workshop, and in the homes of the poor. There is no doubt that women sanitary inspectors are acceptable to women in the factory and in the home. Women workers will tell a woman of grievances upon which they have been silent for years in the absence of one of their own sex to whom to mention arrangements or lack of arrangements injurious to health, and which good employers would most gladly have remedied had they known of the hardship inflicted upon their employees thereby. And, again, if homes have to be inspected, housewives will agree with the old woman who said, "If we must 'ave somebody a-ferreting in our dustbins and backyards we'd rather 'ave a lady and her a nice young lady, too!"

Some men have thought and think with misapplied chivalry that work in slums, rough tenement houses, and such places, is not fitting work for women, but should be left to men. They surely forget the nature of the work undertaken by such devoted servants of humanity as Victorian Order Nurses, Sister and parish workers, and others, and they forget that where some women have to live other women should be able to go.

It has been found in England, where there has now been some fifteen years' experience of the work of women inspectors, that in view of the nature of the work falling to the office of the Medical Officer of Health, the staff is as incomplete without the services of women as it would be without those of men. Almost every important borough in the Old Country has one woman sanitary inspector, and some have two.

It has been found that women must have for this work as good a training as men; they should know all about drains and

water, but they more often than not have a limited amount of work in these connections. Their work concerns itself more with what may be termed the domestic part of hygiene, rather than with its sanitary appliances. Gradually it has become evident that women sanitary inspectors are most needed, and can do their best work in special directions which have been summarized as follows:

"1. The inspection of laundries and workshops where women and girls are employed. The sanitary inspector is responsible for (a) the cleanliness and adequate ventilation (not temperature) of the work-rooms; (b) the number who may be employed in each room; (c) the drainage of the floors of wash-houses in workshop laundries; (d) the provision of suitable, sufficient, and, where, both sexes are employed, separate sanitary accommodation. Notices to abate nuisances arising from the infringement of these regulations are served under the Public Health Act. (Defects in drainage are usually reported to the Medical Officer of Health, who hands them over to the male inspector for the district.) Non-compliance with an intimate notice necessitates the service of a sanitary notice, to be followed by legal proceedings if the work is unduly delayed.

2. The inspection of the homes of out-workers, a term applied to those who do certain kinds of work in their own homes instead of on the premises of their employers. When we consider that a very great proportion of the wearing apparel offered for sale is made in the homes of the poor, frequently under dirty, unsanitary and unsuitable conditions, the necessity for inspection must be recognized and is undeniably work for a woman inspector.

3. The inspection of houses let in lodgings and of tenement houses, in some few boroughs falls to the lot of the woman sanitary inspector. She is required to see that the necessary cleansing is carried out at stated times; in cases of infectious diseases that proper precautions are taken; that there is no overcrowding; and that the premises are kept in thoroughly sanitary condition.

4. The carrying out of duties connected with the cases of notifiable infectious diseases is in some districts the work of the