

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

SANITARY LAWS OF GERMANY.

Sanitary administration in Prussia, as in all German states, is in the hands of the police authorities. The latter are assisted by the municipal physician, and in cities of over 5,000 inhabitants, by the so-called sanitary commission, which is composed of representatives of the city government, physicians, and the chief of local police, who is the presiding officer. The duties of this commission are advisory. Commissions have not been everywhere organized. Their calling together depends upon the chief of police, and they have no power of initiation. A real medical officer of health, in the American or English acceptation of the term, does not seem to exist in Germany. Concentration of authority in the hands of the police leads to personal rather than technical oversight. In Berlin, if a house proprietor finds any of his tenants maintaining dwellings in a filthy state, he is bound to warn them to clean up, and if they fail to comply, to turn them out without any further ceremony. Should the landlord neglect his duty, an officer of the sanitary department will make a visit upon complaint of neighbors, and, if he finds the house filthy, clean it at the land-

lord's expense. This method of dealing with persons of uncleanly habits is pretty effectual in preventing the growth of slums.

NOTES.

The new Waterous engine has been delivered to the city of Montreal and has been given a satisfactory test.

Mr. C. B. Edwards, City Clerk of London, Ont., has been appointed Public School Inspector for that city.

About 3,500 feet of new water pipe has been laid in Peterboro, Ont., this year. The consumption of water is increasing and is now nearly 2,000,000 gallons daily.

While excavating for the new foundation of No. 3 waterworks engine for Toronto, the workmen found imbedded in the old foundation a barrel of cement, which had evidently been inadvertently placed there. When the barrel was broken up it was found that the cement had become as hard as the best quality of limestone.

While men were engaged in cleaning the water main which supplies the low service of the city of St. John, N. B., a burst occurred near the One-Mile House. The pipe which gave way was laid in the year 1857. The salt in the soil had corroded the iron to such an extent that some parts were more like graphite than iron and the pipes were very fragile.

The new municipal building at Barrie, Ont., is rapidly nearing completion and will be ready for occupation, it is expected, by the middle of November. The building is divided into two sections, one part be-

ing utilized for a police court downstairs with cells for the detention of prisoners immediately underneath, while the upper part will be used as a town hall. The other half will house the local fire brigade. The building was designed by Mr. Thos. Kennedy. The Town Council contemplate the installation of a new fire alarm system and the purchase of about 1,500 feet of new hose and other fire apparatus.

The town of Wiarton, Ont., have recently expended about \$18,000 in rebuilding and refitting their waterworks plant. They have built a new pump-house, installed new boilers and a new duplicate pump made by the Canada Foundry Company. They are constructing a new reservoir, to have a capacity of 250,000 gallons. At a test made October 18th, at the farthest extremity of the town from the pump-house, they had a pressure of 65 pounds with the hose on running a one-inch stream, and 100 pounds with the hose off. More than half way across the town the gage showed 95 pounds pressure with the hose on. They boast of a system second to none in Ontario.

W. H. Croker, architect, of Orillia, Ont., has taken into partnership J. A. Hoy, who has had considerable experience in his profession in Winnipeg and Toronto.

The Victor Varnish Company, Limited, have purchased the factory and plant of the Robertson Varnish Company, 400 Eastern ave., Toronto, and will make a specialty of high-grade varnish.

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