

natural result of this, of course, is that we hear no more of the ulcerated arms, erysipelas, &c., following vaccination, which gave rise to such an outcry from the anti-vaccinators a few years ago.

“ We should have, as in other cities, a collection of the best authors on hygiene, which, together with the reports and other documents that we receive, would form, before long, a small library from which useful information concerning public health could be obtained.” This suggestion is an excellent one. The carrying of it out would cost but very little, and we hope the authorities will act upon it without delay.

There is evidently a conflict of authority between the Health Officer and the Sanitary Inspector. It is, indeed, “ matter for surprise ” that “ the duties of the officers and other employees have never been really defined.” Unsophisticated people would think that this would be the very first thing to do, and we can only wonder how on earth the wheels of the machine move at all when this first element of order is wanting. In our opinion, far too much is allowed to fall directly under the Sanitary Inspector, and far too little under the Health Officer. The latter, we think, should be the head of his department, responsible in all things to the Board of Health. All general instructions should emanate from him, and all reports should pass through him to head-quarters. It is in this way only that a properly organized system can ever be made to work.

It is matter for congratulation that the death-rate of the city has been lower for 1879 than for many years past, if not than ever before. Still, much—very much—remains to be done in reducing this to the standard of other cities which are sanitarily better cared for. This year the figure has been 28.47 per 1,000 of the population, whilst during the ten preceding years it was not less than 30 per 1000. By a comparison of the mortality in eight of the chief cities of Great Britain it is shown that this is higher than any one, except Manchester, which gives 29.1 per 1,000. With our natural advantages, therefore, it is plain that we should never rest until the mortality here is brought within the limits of the less favored and much more crowded European towns. It can be done, and it should be done.