

census, in order to obtain data regarding the social, economical and sanitary condition of the people. Until this is done we have no reliable basis from which to work and no means of ascertaining whether the efforts put forth by the Health Department are having any appreciable effect in improving the public health. Hitherto, the state of the civic finances has rendered this, like many other reforms, among the impossibilities.

#### SEIZURES AND CONFISCATION OF DELETERIOUS ARTICLES OF FOOD.

The department has nominally the power to seize and to confiscate articles of food which are deleteriously adulterated or which have become unwholesome and to prosecute the vendors thereof. This power, however, it is extremely difficult to apply. The department has no special inspector charged with the duty of collecting evidence on such infractions of the law. Furthermore, unless it can be proven that the adulteration is absolutely injurious to health, our municipal law has no effect. The sale of adulterated articles may be a fraud upon the public and, as such, punishable under the Dominion Statute, but of this the local board can take no cognizance. Add to this the fact already cited that we have no laboratory for analyses and you will understand why it is that this portion of our duty is almost wholly neglected.

#### INSPECTION OF MILK.

In the matter of safe-guarding the public against unwholesome milk the municipal machinery is not so badly constituted. There are two competent milk inspectors, young men of recent appointment, both veterinary surgeons with diplomas, both men of energy and devotion to their work. Dr. J. J. McCarrey looks after the western half of the city and Dr. L. J. Demers the eastern portion. Sometimes they change divisions for a month at a time whenever the milkmen get to know them too well. These inspectors visit all milk depots and all premises where milk is kept or sold. They stop and inspect the milkmen's wagons upon their rounds and they take samples and make tests of milk found therein. These investigations, however, are confined to ascertaining the density and richness of the milk. Bacteriological examinations are not made by them. When dissatisfied with the quality of the milk they take action under the law. Since the appointment of the present inspectors the quality of the milk has greatly improved. It has not been necessary this year to take more than one-fourth as many actions against dealers for offering poor milk as during the corresponding period of last year. All parties desiring to sell milk are required to take out a license before doing so. They must agree to permit of the inspection of their premises whether within or beyond the city limits. Our inspectors drive out into the country as far as a horse can take them