

tion, the moveable and soluble elements of the soil through which it passes, and cannot fail to be affected by the numerous cess-pools that lie in its path. Besides the wells, there is an artificial supply of water from certain springs, forced by steam power through mains laid along the principal streets but this is so impure, that it can only be used for washing or mechanical purposes and for extinguishing fires. No conditions could thus be more favorable for generating and propagating zymotic disease." Most towns and villages by reason of their sanitary condition, (being generally such as exist in Brantford) are as much exposed to disease of the zymotic type as are the crowded parts of large cities. There is besides, such almost universal ignorance of general uncleanness, and indifference to its dangers, that little or no hope can be entertained of voluntary local improvement. To effect a change for the better, aid and compulsion must come from the Legislature.

MEDICAL CONTRACT SYSTEM.

In another column will be found a letter from Mr. Broughton, manager of the Great Western Railway Company Hamilton, in regard to the tariff of medical fees adopted by the Provident Society belonging to that Company. In inserting the letter, we do not wish to be understood as in any way endorsing his views. From our experience of the medical contract system, both here and elsewhere, either in connection with wealthy corporations or charitable societies, we have no hesitation in saying that it is most pernicious in its tendency, and highly injurious to the best interests of the medical profession. This question is rapidly looming up, and will sooner or later come before the profession for settlement. The matter is entirely a professional one, and must be dealt with chiefly by the members of the profession themselves. The profession has itself entirely to blame for the state of matters complained of. So long as medical men are ready to accept any offer which may be made them by secret orders or societies, to become "club doctors" for the sake of the notoriety it gives them, and the opportunity it affords them of a possible extension of their practice, just so long will "societies" take advantage of their impecuniosity. For our part, we

quite agree with the statement of our correspondent, that we can see no difference between accepting one dollar per head from the provident society of a railway company, and accepting a similar appointment from a lodge of "Odd-fellows," "Orangemen," or "Foresters." The principle is the same in both cases, and utterly at variance with sound business principles, as well as derogatory to the dignity of the profession. We have nothing to say against charitable societies; they are very useful in their way when properly conducted, but they have no claims upon the medical profession for what is next thing to gratuitous services, any more than they have upon the legal or any other profession. Who ever heard of lawyers giving their legal services to a body of men associated together, or a society or lodge, for so much per head per annum? On the other hand, we believe the members of the society are not as well cared for, as if they were attended in the ordinary way. There is a disposition to reduce to a minimum the services rendered, under the circumstances of such low fees. It is also a well-known fact, that the societies are not able to secure the services of the ablest and most experienced physicians, for as a rule, these are too busily engaged in their private practice to undertake work of such an unremunerative and unsatisfactory character—nor will any physician, no matter how skilful he is, be acceptable to every member of the society. The result is, that many of the members, although they pay their quota towards the physician, never send for him in case of sickness, or accident. There can be no objection to members of societies or lodges assisting each other in case of sickness or accident, by contributing a certain sum to pay for medical attendance, but each member should be left free to call in the physician of his choice, who should be paid his ordinary fees out of the funds so contributed. This plan, which has been adopted by several charitable societies in this city and elsewhere, is the only rational one.

NEW THERAPEUTICAL NOTES.—In the new form of in-stitch, introduced this month by the firm of McKesson & Robbins, will be noticed some therapeutical notes on new remedies prepared by them in the form of gelatine coated pills, and granules. These preparations are most elegant in appearance, easy of administration and well worthy of the careful consideration of the profession.