

physical health. Inspection is the basis of every branch of public health work, whether it be statistical, analytical or epidemiological. The data collected and supplied by the field inspector is of the greatest importance to the chemist or bacteriologist in arriving at a true conclusion from his analysis.

That this work requires highly trained men is evident, and this is to be largely the work of the Sanitary Inspector.

What then is required of the men who are to act as inspectors, and what must they know to fit them for so important duties? Where are they to be found, and how trained? This might be answered in various ways, but let us take those of them we already have and ascertain what training they have had to entitle them to be called Sanitary Inspectors. What are the requirements necessary to qualify for such an office? It may seem superfluous to specify the subjects of knowledge laid down in the curriculum of studies to obtain a certificate of competency to fit one for the duties, yet such is necessary to dispel the ignorance that obtains regarding the duties of a qualified inspector. Some of the subjects on which candidates are examined may be gathered from a perusal of the syllabus here given:—

(a) A knowledge of the Acts and Model By-laws relating to the duties of a Sanitary Inspector.

(b) Of what constitutes a nuisance—methods of inspection of dwellings, cellar dwellings, dairies, milkshops, markets, slaughterhouses, cowsheds, and nuisances especially connected with trade and manufactures.

(c) The physical characteristics of good drinking water, the various ways in which it may be polluted, by drainage to supply works or in houses, and the means of preventing pollution—methods of supply.

(d) The characteristics of good and bad food, such as meat, fish, milk and vegetables.

(e) The sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

(f) The regulations affecting persons suffering or recovering from infectious diseases and some knowledge of such diseases—the principles of ventilation and warming and simple methods of ventilating rooms—measurement of cubic space.

(g) Infection and disinfection—methods of disinfection.

(h) A knowledge of the general duties of the office and methods of keeping the necessary books and records—writing and spelling.

(i) The proper conditions of good drainage—sewerage and drainage—sewage disposal—the advantages and disadvantages of various sanitary appliances for houses—inspection of Builders' and Plumbers' work—Scavenging and Disposal of Refuse.

All this and a great deal more is he who would aspire to become a sanitary inspector required to be conversant with before he would be warranted in making application for appointment to perform the actual duties of the office. Nor is the examination a superficial one, but is of such a searching and practical nature that no mere crammer can hope to successfully pass. It might be said no one man could ever be proficient in all the branches of knowledge as above briefly detailed, but he who is in love with his work, and who by practice and experience is allowed freedom of action, and encouraged in it, can well undertake and efficiently perform them all. Systematic organization and personal superintendence and method, with some clerical assistance, has enabled many an inspector to faithfully and efficiently carry out all the sanitary and health duties of a community numbering 10,000 persons.

As the work of sanitation and hygiene become better understood and appreciated by those governing the public services, and their listening to and following the advice of such officials as medical officers of health and sanitary inspectors in matters pertaining to such offices, the better will the public service be benefited. Specialization in branches of sanitary work will become more and more imperative, as the value of field inspection is demonstrated. Indeed, there are few inspectors who do not specialize or become more interested and efficient in some branch of their work, so that in the multitudinous duties of the office of the general inspector some specific department unconsciously enlists his special attention and studies. It is only natural that this should follow, after he has had practice in executing the duties recurring from time to time. This development from a general practitioner in his profession to that of a specialist is a sure indication that he has found his forte, and is a