

over, the time of the Sanitary Commissioner was so occupied with office and bacteriological work as to cut short the period of touring, thereby rendering it difficult for him to be in such close touch with the local authorities as was desirable. While the pay and terms of tenure of the office will not be altered, the Sanitary Commissioner will in future be subordinate to the Director-General of the Indian Medical Service, and work connected with bacteriological research will be placed directly under the latter officer. With regard to administrative questions and matters affecting the *personnel* of the sanitary service, the Commissioner will be in the position of a staff officer to the Director-General. He will be given independent authority in technical sanitary matters, with power, as at present, to correspond direct with the Government of India. The office establishments will be amalgamated, and a separate secretary will assist the Director-General in the control of the sanitary section of the office as well as in that of research work and of the bacteriological department.

Notes of the Empire and World Abroad.

In many cities of the new world the complaint of insanitary and otherwise objectionable housing conditions, with the suggestion that they be improved, is generally met with the reply that there is no adequate remedy at hand. Abroad they apply a wholesale remedy. When a section becomes congested with dilapidated and unwholesome abodes these are ripped out bodily and replaced by others that are fit to live in. A remarkable example of this work of municipal rehousing is found in Liverpool. Year by year for the past ten years the committee in charge of the work cleared away 500 unfit houses. Many of the inhabitants are now rehoused in sanitary houses on the same areas, which have been transformed by the widening of the streets, the provision of ample open space at the rear of the dwellings and of suitable open space as playgrounds, the latter in many instances having been equipped with gymnasia for the children. Under these new conditions the general death rate has fallen by more than one-half and the average annual death rate from consumption has fallen to 1.9 per thousand.

In its annual report for the past year the ex-Medical Officer of Health for Hampstead (Mr. G. F. McCleary) refers to the gradual disappearance of the horse from London streets, and considers this to be a valuable sanitary reform effected without the intervention of sanitary authorities. "The motor-car is rapidly delivering London from its horse manure, which has for years constituted an intolerable nuisance, especially in hot weather. In Hampstead the improvement has been marked. During the past few years seven large stables which accommodated some hundreds of horses have been converted to other purposes, to the great advantage of the dwellers in the neighborhood, and many mews-dwellings have been transformed almost beyond recognition. It is time it should be realized that the presence of the horse in a large modern city is incompatible with cleanly civic life, and any measures that tend to hasten its disappearance should be welcomed by sanitary reforms."

The conference of the National Union of Women Workers at Oxford has produced some startling expressions of opinion, one speaker going even so far as to defend polygamy. This was the well-known novelist of Anglo-Indian life, Mrs. Flora Annie Steele. While delivering an address on the work of mission ladies in the Punjab, Mrs Steele was asked what the advantages of polygamy were. She said most housekeepers would recognize the enormous advantage of having one wife to order the dinner one week, and one the next. It was impossible, she said, for the mission ladies, most of whom went into the highways and byways with disapproval, bound up with their Bibles and prayerbooks as an appendix, to see the undoubtedly good points of polygamy. They could not admit that the position of Indian women was nearly as black as was generally painted. As a whole, English women were so saturated with self-sufficiency regarding their own standard of sex-relations that they could have nothing but pity for that most beautiful, most sublime spectacle on earth—a childless wife lavishing life love on her husband's children by another living woman. It was the acme of self-abnegation. Some of them might be ready to admit this; the majority, as she had said, would