

Q.—Is sewer construction being as rapidly pushed forward as population settles in the new districts? A.—There has been a large amount of sewerage constructed lately.

Q.—Of course, you cannot have water closets without sewers? A.—No.

Q.—Is the water supply of the city reasonably pure lake water? A.—I believe so.

Q.—It is taken from beyond the Island? A.—I believe so; there have been suspicions at times as to the purity of the water, but I think the analyst generally shows it to be good drinking water.

Q.—What is the theory as to the current in the Bay—is the course of the sewage to the east or the west? A.—Both ways.

Q.—Then would it not flow round the Island, and get to the place from which the city's supply of water is drawn? A.—Do you mean by there being a western current to-day, and an eastern current to-morrow? I think it would be so broken up by the time it arrives back again that there would be no danger. A year ago there was a talk of emptying the whole of the sewage east of the Gap, and if it had been emptied there in its undiluted form, I think sometimes an eastern current would have driven it towards the place of the city's supply. It was on that ground that the Provincial Board disapproved of the scheme, merely owing to the place at which it was proposed to empty the sewage, and they thought it should be a good deal further east.

Q.—Is it your opinion that the average lake water, supposing it not to be contaminated by sewage, is as wholesome as the average water that could be derived from stream? A.—I think we could not have more wholesome water than undiluted Lake Ontario water; I believe the results of analysis show it to be one of the purest waters in the world. In regard to the gas supply, I may say that there is a great difference in the character of gas. We have had a great many deaths through poisoning here since the introduction of water gas, which contains a very much greater proportion of carbon monoxide. I have, I suppose, attended as many as three or four fatal cases of gas poisoning, and probably two or three times that number who have recovered. But you cannot be sure after they have reached a certain point that they will recover, the same as you would be confident if they had been poisoned by the old form of coal gas, or any other form of asphyxiates. They may linger a day or two and then die.

Q.—The gas itself is more poisonous? A.—Yes, there is a larger amount of carbon monoxide, and that destroys the red blood corpuscles.

Q.—Is there not more danger in breathing it? A.—I do not know that there is much difference in that respect.

Q.—Is the smell as readily perceptible? A.—I think so. Efforts have been made to either do away with the water gas, or have an automatic cut off gas burner introduced.

Q.—Does water gas poison the air of the room more rapidly than the ordinary coal gas? A.—I do not think that it does. I think the combustion is just as complete. I wish churches and public buildings came under the purview of this Commission. Some plan of ventilating from the gas burners would tend a great deal to the ventilation of the churches, and the comfort of those who attend. I think all persons have noticed that towards the end of the sermon the atmosphere of the building becomes very hot and foul.

By Mr. CLARKE:—

Q.—Is there nothing of the kind here now? A.—I think so. The atmosphere of the Methodist Church at the corner of Sherbourne and Gerard is very much purer than formerly; that is the church that has recently been re-built. Every gas burner appears to open into the ceiling, and that plan might be adopted in other buildings.

By Mr. WALSH:—

Q.—There is a depression felt by the listeners after a long sermon, a feeling of heaviness which is almost uncontrollable; does this kind of gas produce that con-