

MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT

PLACES TO LOOK FOR DANGER.

Maguire tabulates the following list of fifty-one specific insanitary and dangerous defects actually discovered in inspection of dwelling houses. These may prove suggestive to plumbers who are making inspections of systems of plumbing which are suspected of being defective:

1. Common brick or stone built drains under basements.
2. Large built drains, under or near dwellings.
3. Pipe drains of larger diameter than actually necessary.
4. Pipe drains broken, or with leaking joints, saturating the subsoil with sewage.
5. Pipe drains with built or imperfect junctions.
6. Pipe drains under dwelling without sufficient fall.
7. Pipe drains with fall in the wrong direction.
8. Drains of any kind without proper intercepting traps.
9. Drains of any kind without constant free current of air throughout.
10. Drains without easy means of inspection.
11. Drains carried from public sewer direct under hall door steps and under scullery floor instead of across open area.
12. Rat burrows from built drains undermining floors.
13. Rat burrows from public sewer worked along outside pipe drains into houses.
14. Defective connection between soil pipes and drain.
15. Soil pipes inside houses under almost any circumstances.
16. Soil pipes inside or outside without any or ample ventilation.
17. Soil pipes through pantries, larders, or stores.
18. Defective, badly placed, or ill-constructed water closet apparatus and housemaids' slopsinks.
19. Water closet cisterns with overflows joined to soil pipes or drains.
20. Safe trays under water closets joined to soil pipes or drains.
21. Two or more water closets or sinks on one soil pipe untrapping each other when used.
22. Overflow pipes connected to soil pipes liable to become untrapped, all very dangerous.
23. Water supplies over troughs taken from water closet or other contaminated cisterns, and liable to be used by careless servants to fill bedroom carafes for drinking.
24. Taps for supplying bedroom water fixed over housemaids' slopsinks, liable to be polluted by splash from slops emptying.
25. House cisterns, with overflows, joined to soil pipes or drain.
26. Traps of every kind, without ample ventilation to guard them.
27. Scullery sinks connected direct to drains, admitting foul air not only through traps, but through joints of brickwork and plaster all round.
28. Bell taps, with loose covers on scullery sinks.
29. Gullies or traps in floors of sculleries, laundries, larders or basement, etc., connected to drain, and usually dry and untrapped or full of foul deposit.
30. Ventilating foul air shafts, discharging near chimneys or windows or ventilating openings.
31. Rain pipes used as ventilators for drains, discharging foul air near bedroom windows or under roof eaves.
32. Rain pipes used as, or connected to soil pipes, likely to freeze soil pipe solid in severe winter.
33. Rain pipes passing down center of houses connected in any way to drains.
34. Open rain courses from valley gutters, passing under floors to outside down pipes connected to drain.
35. Rain pipes of low roofs, bow windows, or porches connected direct into drain.
36. Ashpits located near larder, pantry or dwelling.
37. Ashpits liable to let moisture soak into house.
38. Ashpits capable of retaining moisture, or unventilated.
39. Rat burrows from defective drains in neighboring premises.
40. Defective drainage or fittings in neighboring premises.
41. Any direct communication with drains of neighboring premises.
42. Water tanks in areas, near ashpits or sculleries, or with any connection of overflow to drain.
43. Bath waste or overflow pipes connected to soil pipes or drains.
44. Wash hand basin wastes or overflows connected to soil pipes or drains.
45. Water closet cisterns under bedroom or parlor floors.
46. Cesspools near houses or unventilated anywhere.
47. Cesspools or drains near wells.
48. Drains crossing your house from neighbors' premises.
49. Field or surface water drains, with open joints under basement connected to house drains direct.
50. Damp basements or damp walls.
51. Drinking water defects of source, supply or storage.

WHOLESOME PAVEMENTS.

Some investigations made in London, England, as reported in The Surveyor, are interesting, as showing the objectionable character of wood pavement. It must be remembered that the wood pavement there is not rough untrimmed lumber, but carefully cut and squared blocks of wood, impregnated with creosote, fitted closely together and finished up with a tar filling. Dr. A. Wynter Blyth, medical officer of health for the district of St.

Marylebone, reports that wood paving is unhealthy, owing to its absorption of filth and subsequent exhalation of noxious effluvia. With the view of deciding whether the objectionable odor comes only from the surface or from the interior of the wood, the doctor subjected a number of blocks to chemical analysis. As the chief sources of pollution are horse-droppings and urine, both of which contain much ammonia, the blocks were tested for this substance. The blocks were cut into three horizontal slices. New blocks gave 3.6 grains of ammonia. After deducting .2 grains from each slice, it was found that the top slice of the block taken from the crown of the roadway gave 1.84 grains of ammonia, the middle one 1.44, and the lower one 0.15, or a total of 3.43 grains, clearly showing that the pavement is by no means impervious. But the interesting feature of the test was that a wood block taken from the channel of the roadway gave totally different results. In this instance the top slice contained 2.38 grains, middle 2.52, and the lower one 9.08, or a total of 3.9 grains. It is probable that this excess is due to the fact that foul water percolates right through the blocks, and naturally flows between the wood and the cement foundation toward the gutter, thus saturating the lower portion of the channel blocks. It is evident enough that any rise in the temperature causes a considerable evaporation, and consequent pollution of the atmosphere.

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