

for Montreal's homeless, in order to weed out the undesirable places where unhygienic conditions prevail.

Manitoba Architects and the Health Act.

Several questions of interest and importance to architects and the public at large were discussed at a meeting of the Manitoba Association of Architects at last month's meeting.

One of the most important questions discussed was with reference to the new provisions of the Manitoba Health Act, passed at the last session of the Legislature. Some of the new provisions of the Act which affected the building by-laws of the city of Winnipeg were found to be impracticable, and a committee from the association was appointed to interview the Government. The committee reported that the Ministers had agreed that some amendments to the Act would be accepted, and the same committee was asked to prepare a synopsis of the suggested alterations to the Act which the Government will introduce at the next session. The committee will report back to the next meeting of the association.

Lectures on Town Planning at Toronto.

The University of Toronto is taking the lead in Canada by inaugurating a course of lectures on Civic Art and Town Planning, and has secured the services of Mr. Thomas H. Mawson, H.A.R.I.B.A., lecturer at the University of Liverpool. Mr. Mawson stands high in the new study of civic planning, having been appointed to design the grounds of the Peace Palace at Brussels, and is the author of important works on cities and gardens; and the University of Toronto has done wisely in securing so eminent an expert to lead in the study of this important subject. The course of lectures begins the first week of the present month.

Fort William's Health Officer on the Duty of the Housewife.

We are in receipt of a paper read by Dr. R. E. Wodehouse, before the Woman's Institute in Fort William recently, on "The Duty of the Housewife to the Cause of Public Health." The speaker, in introducing his subject, spoke of his work for the advancement of public health as ex-

tremely interesting, and having gratifying results, but also its drawbacks. Frequently these were in the form of obstacles interposed by the public, whose opinions are formed without knowledge of all the facts. Having this lack of knowledge of the facts in mind, he endeavored in his humble capacity to follow the maxim of the Earl of Derby: "Sanitary instruction is even more important than sanitary legislation;" and to impart to others at every opportunity the facts, as public health men know them to-day.

Continuing Dr. Wodehouse said: "What is the meaning of the words Public Health? Public Health is concerned in that portion of the unwell feeling in the individual, chargeable to some controllable cause. It is evident from this definition that the cause of public health is a wide subject as well as one whose component parts are open to question and which still lacks many parts which should be included under its guardianship. For the purpose of this address we shall arbitrarily limit our discussions to those diseases commonly known by the public to be under the ban of all health departments — namely, smallpox, chicken pox, measles, whooping cough, mumps, scarlet fever, diphtheria, tuberculosis, typhoid, plague, malaria, yellow fever, cerebro-spinal meningitis, and infantile paralysis.

"What is the nature of these diseases? They are all known to be communicable from one person to another, but frequently from the infected person to another by some intermediate host. This host may be clothing or personal belongings, earth, excreta, or a living person into whose system the disease does not gain an entrance, or a person into whose system the germs gain an entrance but are unable to produce typical symptoms, or so very mildly that they are mainly indiscernable. All these diseases are supposed to be communicable owing to a germ causation, but many of them have not had their individual germ isolated.

What has been the prevailing idea of their cause and spread? Fifty years ago infectious diseases were said to be found only where filth existed, either due to nature — as swamps, low lying, poorly drained tracts, or due to men — unsanitary habits. These ideas were formed from the histories of epidemics, malaria and yellow