

own facilities. In addition to being a convenience and financial saving to the butchers, the public abattoir, from a sanitary point of view, is a success as much as it is a necessity, to say nothing of the enterprise being a safe municipal business proposition.

Public sentiment must be aroused and the people made to understand this im-

portant question, especially the officials of our local municipalities, and the many economic and hygienic advantages of such a system for handling local inspection pointed out, so that the more safe and up-to-date methods may be installed. This done, it will be but a surprisingly short time until many of our Pennsylvania towns will have a place on the roll of honor.

HOW TO GET AND KEEP COMPETENT HEALTH OFFICERS: THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

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The Sanitary Inspector is an official whose worth is coming to be recognized on this continent. His designation is so varied in its application that it is extremely difficult to distinguish the genus—in one place we find him as the Inspector of Nuisances, in another, the Health Inspector, while in yet another he is designated the Sanitary Engineer. While, perhaps, Sanitary Inspector is not the most euphonious title, yet when all is considered it seems to fit more nearly to the work he has to perform as an official whose duties are primarily that of inspecting the many matters of individual and public conditions that need abatement and remedial action for the preservation of the public health. He might even be called the Preventive Officer without question, as, by whatever cognomen he is styled all his training is along the line of prevention, prevention of everything that will advance disease and retard the preservation of life. Some of the designations given him are confusing, and lead the public to get him mixed up with the Medical Officer of Health, and this is a good reason why the term Sanitary Inspector is the better one. By whatever name he may be known, he is even yet looked upon by very many, even by some members of health boards, as himself a "nuisance," and pestilent fellow. His business is largely that of fault-finding, prying into conditions that upset use and wont, exposing unsanitary sore places and things that have been considered good enough for years, and, worst of all, insisting that change and improvement of a radical nature must be made in the interest of all citizens.

His office is no sinecure, and his very persistency in effecting remedies for the public good is sometimes his own undoing. He can be no respecter of persons if he is to "hold his job," but yet is at the mercy of the framers of by-laws for carrying out their own creations of legal provisions.

How often is his usefulness made abortive by the ignorance of the laymen forming councils and boards of health? How little are his duties understood, or his knowledge of his profession appreciated? Or with what contempt is he treated when he suggests methods of dealing with problems in his own department of the public service, on which he is best qualified to advise. Is he consulted on the application of principles of which he has made a study to gain the position he holds? Alas, no, he is too often side-tracked and his opinions ignored, and other officials called in whose training and experience in no way fits them to be practical advisers on the question under consideration. Why does this occur? Simply because he and his work is not known to the great bulk of the men who form our municipal and health boards. Too often he is looked upon merely as a foreman scavenger, good enough to superintend the cleansing branch of work, and to carry out the instructions of the Medical Officer in such duties as posting infectious disease placards.

But, he is coming to his own. The work of inspection is being recognized as of the greatest importance in the gathering of information which is to lead to the proper and efficient arrest of causes which affect seriously the general public's moral and