

in accordance with the dictates of carefully considered conditions, such as the area of the district, number of inhabitants, (due allowance being made for future increase,) the rainfall of the district, and proportion to be admitted to the sewers, the physical characters and water supply of district, the nature of outfall and methods of sewerage disposal.

3. That every house owner be obliged adequately to connect the house drains with the main sewer before the house is inhabited, under penalty for non-compliance with the law.

The necessary powers for the last should, if necessary, be obtained from the legislature; and most conveniently, perhaps, as an addition to the recently framed Health Act.

After the above was written we were glad to see that at a meeting of the City Council held on Dec. 20th, a resolution, making it obligatory for owners of tenements on streets in which there were sewers, to connect their houses with the same, passed unanimously.

A consistently thorough application of the principles recognized in the above resolution is all that is required.

BY this time, most if not all of our readers, will have had an opportunity of examining for themselves the medical circular which has been lately issued from the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, addressed to the members of the medical profession in Canada, and requesting the benefits of its experience concerning preventable diseases in general, and tuberculosis in particular. The practitioner who sits down seriously to grapple with the six questions propounded will find them a good exercise, not only for his powers of memory and research, but also for his skill in condensing the expression of his ideas into the least possible amount of writing. The answer to Question No. 1 alone ("what proportion of disease and of premature death might be prevented by judicious public and individual sanitary measures?") might furnish matter for a fair sized pamphlet, containing little more than an enunciation of plain facts. Question No. 6, (the theory of the origin of tuberculosis in domestic animals,) might be the text for an equally extended reply. All this may perhaps sound like hyper-captious criticism, but, seriously, it appears to us rather a momentous undertaking for a busy practitioner to sit down in an uncertain interval between other personally urgent matters and endeavor to compress the sum total of his knowledge of such wide-spreading and important subjects into two or

three curt sentences. The fact that his answer may possibly be used as a basis for legislation, ought not to make his sense of responsibility any the lighter. Such considerations should not be lost sight of by those who receive and appraise the answers sent to Ottawa. We do not propose, just in this place and at this moment, to enter into detail upon these important questions of public hygiene. One remark, however, we may perhaps be allowed to make. While attention is being largely directed, and very properly so, towards attempting to check the spread of disease by legislation and by acting upon public regulations of more or less complexity, each individual practitioner during the time of public panic should never forget the power of his personal influence and the importance of its being directed in the proper direction. While making every allowance for real dangers it is no small or trivial part of his duty to combat the terrors, the selfishness, the ignorance, and the thoughtless inhumanity of the non-infected public. It is from these unpleasant, but perhaps inevitable traits of human nature that infectious diseases acquire more than half of their actual mischief, and perhaps more than nine tenths of their potency for causing trouble and annoyance.

IT is not unheard of for physicians who have provided their cases of spinal curvature with a corset or plaster of paris jacket, to consider their work, for the time being, done, and the correct treatment applied. Whereas it should *never* be lost sight of that the corset is only useful as a means of *retaining* the improved position obtained by self-suspension, and must be *supplemented* by proper exercises.

A valuable paper, by L. H. Sayre, M. D., on the treatment of Rotaro-lateral Curvature of the Spine, is contained in the N. Y. Med. Jour. for Nov. 17, 1888.

Dr. Sayre describes in detail many systematic forms of exercise designed to develop and strengthen the muscles of the back, upon which exercises, for slight deformity, he relies entirely for a cure; while in more advanced cases, he in addition employs the *adjuvants* of self-suspension, (by pulley and head swing,) and plaster of Paris jacket.

Among many illustrations are two showing a boy whose back was straighter and position better *without* the brace, which some medical man who lacked an intelligent grasp of the rationale of his treatment, had applied, than with it.

The proper employment of the art of treating spinal curvature can only follow a careful study of its principles.