

## THE SITUATION IN TORONTO.

**T**ORONTO is still without a regular medical officer. The acting officer, Dr. Pine, meantime is endeavoring to carry on the work of the Health Department and to create and stir up interest in public health proceedings to the highest possible degree, probably, in the circumstances. As no physician was recommended for the position by the special medical committee appointed by the Council, the authorities appear to be at a loss as to what action they should take. They will hardly repeat their previous error. The medical men who interested themselves in the cause had no intention at first, it appears, of examining applicants, until this was in a measure forced upon them by the action of the Council. But even after this action they might have declined to examine. The medical committee certainly made some good recommendations relative to the organization of the City Health Department, which the Council will do well to carry out, especially as to the formation of the board, with which we are in full accord. Judging from a published affidavit of the acting officer, which we have not seen contradicted, the examinations must have been a gigantic farce. But as no recommendation was made upon them, this was not of much consequence, except that it placed Dr. Pine at a disadvantage and in a very unpleasant and unfair position. It is to be hoped that the new Council will make a fresh start. Would it not be well

for them to appoint or name a committee to consist of a few of the best known physicians (those who would not be likely to favor any particular graduate or friend of any particular medical school) and the same number of good, well-known citizens, neither physicians, council men nor politicians, to consult with the Board of Health or a committee of the board and either decide upon a suitable physician, or upon two or three whose names might be submitted to the Council, and who would be likely to fill the very important position of Medical Officer with satisfaction? But it is a standing slur upon the medical profession, which all members of it should now stand out strongly and persistently against (although arising not probably from want of respect for and appreciation of the profession as a body of physicians, but from want of due appreciation of, indeed from ignorance of, the value of preventive measures), that the salary of the Medical Officer is not at least quite as large as that of the City Solicitor or Engineer. We sincerely hope no one will accept the position until this wrong is righted; and we appeal to the profession in Toronto to push this, not as from putting an unprofessional value upon money or remuneration for professional services, be it specially observed, but from the injustice and slur cast upon the profession by the half pay, as compared with the other salaries.

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## TORONTO'S SANITARY NEEDS.

**T**HE people of Toronto would no doubt like to have for their city a special reputation for healthfulness. Before this reputation can be obtained they must spend a great deal of money for the purpose. They may as well face this squarely at once, or even worse epidemics than that of typhoid fever will most likely follow. A condition favorable to typhoid fever has been found favorable to cholera. Cholera is threatening this Continent, and is likely

to pay it a visit this coming summer. There is not a great deal of time to prepare for it. Toronto can well afford to set an example in complete sanitary work and preparation to meet fearlessly any epidemic.

A pure water supply is of the first importance. Measures should be at once taken to provide this; to make the pipe crossing the bay absolutely safe from *possible* leakage; not only that it shall not