

NOTES ON HEALTH REPORTS.

FROM OTTAWA the medical officer, Dr. Robillard reports: In the discharge of the duties devolving upon this office, even though it be a repetition of what has been urged in past reports, I cannot close this without stating that so long as the necessary facilities are not given private individuals to put dwelling houses and their surroundings in that sanitary condition which can only be secured by the construction of public drains wherever wanted and the organization of a proper system of scavenging throughout the city, just so long will our death roll be longer than it should be. That these sanitary defects, causing as they do yearly loss to the state as well as severe loss and sore affliction to many families, are grievances the municipal authorities are in duty bound to remedy at the earliest possible period of time. At least one-half of all the unsanitary conditions complained of are either directly or indirectly the outcome of defective plumbing or drainage, or both, or the result of the want of public drains. A strong plea, it must be admitted, not only urging the completion of subsidiary drains, but a strong plea also for the most vigilant supervision of such works, either private or public, by a competent person in connection with this department. Medical Inspector McNeill reports that nine summonses were issued during the year for violations of the Public Health Act. Convictions were obtained in every case, and the matter complained of remedied by order of the court. In two cases only were fines imposed, viz: For cutting and storing impure ice, \$10; for keeping pigs too near dwellings, \$5 and costs.

FROM BRISTOL, N. B., Dr. Atkinson, Medical Officer, in his report for last year says: Evidently our people have much to learn regarding the absolute necessity of proper drainage and thorough cleanliness about their homes. I have no doubt whatever, but that the prevalence of typhoid fever in this county during the latter part of the summer was caused by the water becoming poisoned through lack of proper sanitation, the rains following the long drought washing accumulations of decaying vegetable matter and thus befouling the water supply. I am very strongly of opinion that it would be in the interest of the public health for every county

to have a competent man whose sole business would be to thoroughly inspect the premises of the people of the county and enforce the regulations of the Board of Health.

ST. STEPHENS, N. B.: Dr. Blair, Medical Officer says: By a careful, prompt and regular inspection by the Inspector appointed by this Local Board, of the several houses, yards and other localities in the Town, the people have become more thoughtful of the benefit of clean and pure surroundings, and consequently the work of the Inspector has grown less arduous and more pleasant.

GRAND MANAN, N. B.: Dr. Noyes, Medical Officer, says: Frequent violations of the Health Act occurred here, mostly through ignorance and indifference as regarding the Act, but the offenders being duly warned, kindly reproved and then severely threatened as to the consequences thereof, eventually desisted and complied with our demands. Diphtheria has been prevalent here for a long time; several cases, to my knowledge, were caused by foul privies, others mostly from bad water from surface drainage.

ANDOVER, N. B.: Dr. Welling, Medical Officer, says: Diphtheria prevailed along the Tobique River quite extensively during the months of January and February, the origin of which seemed to be in a wretched family as the result of uncleanly habits. The disease should have been confined to the house in which it started but the physician in attendance gave out that it was not contagious, or at least, that it was not diphtheria, and in a short time there were as many as a dozen cases of the dread disease.

MARYSVILLE, N. B.: Dr. Sharp, Medical Officer, reports that: During the summer months, cholera infantum was very prevalent, due, he thought, almost entirely to improper feeding. "Parents allow and indeed encourage their children to eat food they are unable to digest. This improper feeding of young children, especially during the hot months of the year, is a "crying" evil, and much might be done to prevent it, would the parents heed the instructions given them,