

PUBLIC HEALTH MAGAZINE

AND

LITERARY REVIEW.

DECEMBER, 1876.

NEW BY-LAW CONCERNING HEALTH.

Our civic authorities have been in deep consultation for the last month over the new By-Law concerning health. We are glad to see them take the bull by the horns. Reform was sadly needed in this department. The Board apparently have ample powers, but they are so conditional that their more efficient working is difficult. The By-Law strikes at the root of the difficulties by reorganizing the whole board. The suggestions that we offered in our September number have been carried out. The new Board will be composed of one alderman from each ward, and nine citizens chosen from among the foremost sanitarians. This is as it should be, and will no doubt be found to work admirably—the additional sanitary strength will carry immense weight with the citizens generally. It will resemble, we understand, the working of a “Board of Guardians,” as in England, and will be a head from which the public will look for protection and advice in matters of health. It will replace the duties of the present “Health Committee,” which every one has acknowledged is an unnecessary encumbrance. But to proceed. The new By-Law provides power for the appointment of health officers for superintending, visiting and otherwise carrying out the mandates of the Board. The orders for burial of the dead are good, and prevent intramural sepulture. The superintendents of cemeteries are ordered to send proper returns of the burials in the cemeteries under their charge, and they shall not receive any body for burial without a certificate of death from a responsible person, stating the name, age, birth-place, date, place of death, nature of disease.