

diarrhoea is principally due to animal matter, but I think it could be one of the principal causes.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—Have you any idea of the number of rooms occupied by each family in the poor wards of the city? A.—There is general accumulation in the apartments of the poorer classes, and not a doubt of it; but I could not say exactly what is the number of apartments so occupied. There is certainly much crowding.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—Do you know of any case in which a whole family occupied one room? A.—Last week I was called to visit a house, where some women were dying; it was a mere shanty wood house, made out of an office to a wood yard, and there were four persons living in it, but it was considered as an exception. I took the trouble of sending them to the hospital, and giving orders to have the inmates removed, because it was not a habitable house. But, as a general rule, occupying only one room is a rare exception.

By Mr. HELBRONNER :—

Q.—I believe that, by the corporation by-law, water is cut off when the rates are not paid? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Is this carried out on a large scale? A.—It is carried out on a pretty large scale, but this extreme measure is evaded by authority given the medical officer to remit the water in cases of poverty. I think we have remitted the water in twelve or fifteen hundred cases.

Q.—What might be the sanitary result of this suppression of water? A.—Very disastrous. Water, like food, is quite necessary, and as a hygienic ingredient, as for washing purposes, it is absolutely necessary. Besides, wherever there are privies, water is the sole security to prevent the emanations from the sewers into the houses.

Q.—Is it not a fact that dwellers in a house from which the water has been cut off are in danger of their health through the exhalations? A.—Yes; chiefly where there is a privy, and, till now, we have always taken care to have the water at once returned to those places where there are privies.

Q.—What is the average sanitary condition of the shops and factories of Montreal? A.—We have, these two past months, a couple of inspectors for the inspection of workshops. Before that there was only one, and the inspection of shops was carried on more or less regularly. Answering squarely your question on the condition of workshops, it may be stated that, after the inspection we have made of them, the majority are in a satisfactory state. A few are behind hand, but, as a rule, this is not due to the drainage system, but rather to the management of the privies.

Q.—In general again, what is the hygienic situation of the public schools? A.—We found several schools in a very backward state. But most of them are in good form. At the present time we have one school sadly lacking in its privies. These are immense privies set near the street and near the houses; we find it difficult to get the needed repairs. The community to which it is attached is a very powerful one, and up till now we are at a loss what to do.

By Mr. HEAKES :—

Q.—‘Is it a public school or a private school?’ A.—It is a public school.

Q.—Controlled by a public board? A.—No; by a religious body.

Q.—Has the corporation the power to supervise all education? A.—It has got the power; but when we have to sue a community representing a very large body, it is very hard to make it move, and it takes time.