

The report of Dr. A. J. Douglas, Medical Officer of Health of Winnipeg, contains the following references to overcrowding in that city; the first indicates how overcrowding occurs, and the second shows along what lines work is being done—an example to other cities to go and do likewise:

"Overcrowding notices totalled 1852, an increase over last year, but most of these were not extreme cases, but merely verbal warnings of the inspector, whose special duty this is, that the number of beds must be reduced; for it requires ceaseless vigilance to keep within bounds the temptation of certain classes to eke out a slender living by taking in boarders, regardless of the size of their rooms or families.....

"I think we can honestly say that the improvement noted last year amongst the class referred to has been continued through this year. The total number of buildings remaining closed and placarded, December 31st, 1909, were 145. Many of these have been unoccupied for years and are in fact, beyond repair. They, however, cause both this department and the Building Inspector much annoyance by being broken into and becoming nuisances."

In the Report of the Registrar General of Ontario for the year 1908, reference is made to the housing question as follows:

"There are also many other lines upon which improvement can be made, such as the housing of the poorer classes, preferably in detached houses or cottages, the preventing of overcrowding, and I would go so far as recommending legislation to prevent, under certain conditions, the erection of the tenement. They are a damnable architectural invention, and their erection should be carefully considered. Space is what we require, so that fresh air and sunlight may be enjoyed by all."

It may very properly be asked, What is unsanitary housing?" It is that condition of housing which, in itself, is unsanitary and unsafe or in any way unfit for home-making or for habitation, no matter how transitory; that which tends to impair the physical health or morals of the tenant; the conditions of which are damaging to the community. Some of these attributes may be applied to the expensive apartment house which is little better than a series of packing boxes, a human storage warehouse. Would you therefore have it inferred the modern apartment is a "slum home?" Not a slum but an unhealthy hive, an architectural monstrosity; but these are just the kind of houses that in their decadence make the worst kind of slum homes.