

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.

(To the Editors of the MEDICAL CHRONICLE.)

PRESCOTT, C.W., July, 1854.

GENTLEMEN,—Permit me, through the medium of your journal, to draw the attention of the Board of Health to the filthiness of the streets and back yards of the town, in consequence of a fatal disease hovering over us, and two cases already terminated fatally by the disease under consideration—Cholera.

The yards, back-houses, and cellars are most intolerably filthy, and no inclination is shown to remove the nuisances. The Board of Health or Sanitary Committee, if there is any in existence, should do their duty, and take the proper means to ward off disease. The public health and safety most emphatically demand it.

The board should immediately set about a thorough purification of the streets, back yards, and out-houses that are reeking with filth. I do not wish to excite alarm without cause; my only desire is, if possible, to ward off the pestilence that is at our doors. The board of health at Toronto have cautioned the public against throwing or depositing any offensive matter in the streets and yards. A thorough purification of the town, cleansing of foul sewers and back yards, together with the free use of the chloride of lime, are means of immediate necessity. If these means were put in operation we would see disease disappear in place of a rapid increase.

If the Board of Health will not enforce the above measures, it will then be the duty of the inhabitants to take the necessary measures for the protection of their lives. It was expected our civic authorities would give some attention to hygienic measures in the town. Can they give any reasonable excuse why such means of such paramount importance have as yet been neglected. The Board of Health should be remunerated for their services.

There is an Act of Parliament passed 25th April, 1849, making provision for the preservation of the public health in certain emergencies. The municipal authorities here should avail themselves of its salutary provisions.

Your obedient servant,

R. W. EVANS, M.D.

Prescott, C.W., July, 1854.

(The subject of complaint is so urgent and so local, that Dr. E. should have published the above letter in a Prescott newspaper upon the first appearance of cholera.—EDS. MED. CHRON.)