

*To the Editor of the Sanitary Journal.*

Dear Sir,—I have read with increasing interest the articles and epitomized matter which you have so judiciously put together on your speciality, viz., "Sanitary Science." The attention of legislative bodies has, hitherto, not been sufficiently aroused to the condition of the public health, and I trust that your enterprise and spirit to enlighten the public on that vital subject, may be properly supported. Allow me to offer a few suggestions as to legislative enactment in the premises. 1st. The general responsibility for the health of the public should rest on the shoulders of the General Government, viz., that minor corporate bodies should feel that sanitary measures are not permissive only, but imperative, that is to say, that all such bodies should be under governmental supervision, and that such measures should be taken as the Government may see fit, by the appointment of health officers, whose duty it should be to carry out all instructions in detail as recommended by the immediate commissioner or inspector appointed strictly by the Government itself.

To complete the machinery, I would advise the appointment of two commissioners from each Province, whose headquarters for consultation on all sanitary matters shall be at Ottawa, there to receive and consider all statistics and suggestions from sub-officers of the various parts of the Dominion, and to issue such general orders to them as may seem advisable under the circumstances.

I am aware that powers are vested in corporate bodies, for the passage of bye laws for the preservation of health; but as a rule, the bye-law is a dead letter, little or no attention being paid to the carrying out of the same, quiet tolerance of nuisance sometimes producing disease, at other times, fear of giving offence indirectly to those in authority—difficulties which could not arise should the powers of all local sanitary supervisors be vested and supported by the General Governmental protection. For your next issue I shall be happy to suggest some other matter.

I am, dear Sir, yours, &c.,

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