

that it includes areas inhabited by the well-to-do, lower middle class and the artizan population of the city. Such work as Alderman Ames has performed by house to house visitation and intimate study of the conditions of life and health in the various quarters of "the city below the hill," forms truly a basis of civic legislation in all directions. Never before in Montreal has there been made so careful a study of the conditions of life and property. And, more especially, must these observations form a starting point for all of the many needed amendments in the matter of public health.

Already we are glad to see that Alderman Ames is causing his investigations to bear good fruit. They showed beyond doubt that properties upon which privy pits existed had a much higher death rate than those with no privies. His motion now before the City Council to bring about the abolition of privies and cesspools within the city limits, appears to us, as it must appear to everyone interested in the health of the city, to deal with matters of such public importance and to seek to effect a reform that is so imperative that it is unnecessary for us to bring forward any argument in its favour. We can but say that Alderman Ames in inaugurating this civic reform has the support of the whole of the medical profession.

Above all we approve of the practical way in which Alderman Ames has proceeded. Many an enthusiast might have brought forward a motion to uproot the system forthwith, heedless of the pockets of the smaller proprietors, and have failed through over-eagerness. Instead of that Alderman Ames proposes that sufficient time be given to gradually effect the change, and introduces a clause permitting aid to such proprietors of small dwellings as are too poor to comply with his motion. For the present time he does not seek to introduce compulsory dealing with those properties which being near the city limits may be at a considerable distance from the sewerage mains. His proposals seems to be well thought out and to be both practicable and of great public utility.

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#### FACT VS. FICTION AS REGARDS ABOLISHING PROXIES VOTING.

The approaching election should decide definitely the question of whether the physicians of this province are to exercise the right of voting for themselves, or must continue to depute this duty to others some months or years in advance. Of the two parties in the present contest, the one favoring reform has openly declared itself for the abolition of proxies; the other, or Beausoleil party, claims that the abolition of proxy voting will lead to the disfranchise-