

flues is as complete at that of hot water for supplying the warm air, although, on account of their smaller size, they do not strike the eye or the imagination so forcibly. The steam being under high pressure, as high a temperature can readily be maintained in the outlet flues as may be found necessary to produce in them the current required to remove the desired quantity of air in a given time. The necessity for this complete duplicate system will necessarily operate against the adoption of hot water for heating in buildings requiring per-

fect ventilation in all cases where, as is too frequently the case, the question of cost is a vital one and economy in the cost of construction and running has to be practised. The ends which have been proposed—apparently with success—to be attained here will in most cases have to be sought, and if possible achieved, by a single steam system—low pressure in small buildings and high pressure in large ones—or possibly by steam generated at high pressure and so used for exhausting but reduced to low pressure for warming.

EDITORIALS.

COMPENSATION OF MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS.

THE more that we examine into the constitution of that complex organization commonly called society, and view it in the multiform phases which, analyzed, now pass for the science of Sociology, the more do we become aware of the intimate relations which any particular class of the community have to the perfection of the social machinery, and the general promotion of its well-being. No phase of society presents a greater interest than the study of the varying relations in which, from the earliest times, the healer (real or pretended) of the ills which flesh is heir to, has stood to the body politic; and at no period of the world's history have his claims to the respect and consideration of that society, whose well-being it becomes his profession to promote, been better understood or deserved than at the present time. It is somewhat remarkable, however, that to whatever cause due, his status as recognized by law, has been but slowly conceded, and exhibits in different communities, even of Anglo Saxon peoples, all the varying stages from that where the skilled physician is, in the eyes of the law, on a *par* with the Indian herb-doctor or some garrulous midwife, to that where sovereigns recognise scientific merit by knightly honors. It is true that in this regard the physician is, to no great extent, different from the students and teachers of the other sciences; and perhaps, owing to the practice of Medicine having become more systematized as a business, than either biology or chemistry for example, he has obtained more recognition than workers in any other science; but it is a curious fact that our communities have become so accustomed to consider the labors of the physician in

many respects as peculiarly eleemosynary that they have become habituated to expecting of him charitable work for the general community or municipality in the same manner that he lends his services to visiting the deserving poor, or those whom sudden calamity may have deprived of the necessaries of life. But, while none to whom the nobility or dignity of his profession is dear will turn a deaf ear to the claims either of charity or mercy when occasion demands, still there is a point where clearly the claims upon the physician cease to be of this character, and beyond which any community is manifestly wrong in calling upon a physician either to spend that time in the service of the public, which otherwise he could be devoting to his private interests, or to perform work which the law requires of regularly constituted municipal authorities, without adequate compensation for services rendered. Hitherto the history of the development of Canadian settlements, and the evolution of municipal government has shown that the physician has ever been ready, with somewhat of technical knowledge, to aid in the defence of the public health, when outbreaks of smallpox have occurred; but now, when everywhere municipal wealth has increased, and local government has been established, it is clearly time that the regular work of Local Boards of Health (which are a part of municipal government) defined by statutory enactment as being such as to require attention from day to day, and development from year to year, should be carried on by those officers, to whom by law the task is designated, with the same regularity as is the construction of highways, or the collection of general taxes. It is as reasonable to expect the solicitor to devote his legal attainments to preventing unnecessary expenditure and