

especially if they be situated in a porous surface overlying a clay or rock substratum. The soakage of water into basements, besides being unpleasant and destructive, is a prolific, and often hidden and unsuspected, source of disease, especially in soils made out of rubbish, such as is common in some of the gullies of Toronto.

This soakage may also be lessened by surface slopes and drains (cut in the soil), and by porous tiles a few feet below the surface.

In conclusion, I would say that this paper has grown much larger than I had intended it to be. If I seem to any of your readers to have taken up some self-evident and trivial matters, I trust that the importance of the subject and the great and general neglect of it which exists will be taken as my excuse.

ON THE RELATIONS OF THE MEDICAL PROFESSION TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

[Read before the York Medical Association, October 12th, 1875.]

BY EDWARD PLAYTER, M.D.

I assure you gentlemen I have experienced no small degree of diffidence in endeavouring to comply with your expressed wish at our July meeting, that I should read a paper on the present occasion, and I must confess that I should hardly have attempted to prepare one had I not felt that, after having been the first honoured by being requested to present a paper before our newly organized Society, I could not take the responsibility of neglecting to establish a precedent for that which is so useful, so conducive to the welfare of such organizations, as is the reading of papers, a precedent which I trust others more competent may regularly follow. You kindly permitted me to choose my subject, and I have selected the one most deeply interesting to me. I have no particular facts or notes to bring before you, no statistics, no new theories to offer, and propose simply to make a few remarks, which I hope may not prove altogether uninteresting, upon the relations of our profession to Public Health, touching upon the prevention of disease.