

of no small importance. From the inspector's report, I note with pleasure that the laudable practice of burning all solid kitchen refuse is being carried out by many. The removal of objectionable matter from the yards or outbuildings was enforced in all cases."

The Medical Health Officer of Kingston, Dr. Fee, states that, in that city dry earth closets had been instituted in many places, especially in small yards. 6,000 feet of sewers and drains had been erected during the year. Dr. Fee writes that, "the impetus given by sanitary reform has been marked in our city by the steady and constant attention paid by individuals to keeping their places clean. The number of cellars cleaned out, the many wells emptied, remodelled and put in better condition than they have been for many years. I go to prove that by constant attention to matters of cleanliness, etc., in the course of a short time the people will be educated in such a manner that we shall not have to wait until an epidemic appears amongst us to cause our citizens to awake to the necessity of a strict observance of the laws relating to health."

In London, Dr. Hutchinson, Medical Health Officer, states that, "much has been done to improve the condition of the city. Many unhealthy places have been visited by the Sanitary Inspector and myself, and many nuisances abated. Foul wells have been cleaned or filled up, and city water is gradually taking the place of impure well-water.... The Board has now under consideration the subject of divising means for the disposal of sewage, either by a process of destruction by chemicals or filtering. Several cities in the United States and one in Canada have adopted the latter process, and use the Hyatt Filter, made in Newark, New Jersey. This filter so far has answered the purpose well;—two or three of these filters put down at the intersection of the trunk lines, would be sufficient for the city."

In Chatham, Dr. Rutherford, Medical Officer, states, there were reported during the year ninety-three cases of contagious diseases by the town physicians, "who report willingly and cheerfully to the Inspector direct." The Doctor in his

report, urges, at considerable length, the desirability of the town providing for a pure public water supply. He concludes as follows: "I venture to say that, without burdening the people beyond their ability and willingness, the same could be made self-sustaining, and the people would be benefited at the expense of sickness, death and the doctors, and would have all the immunity from contagious diseases that such a system of good and pure water supply could alone give them. Just think of 200 tons of excreta and sewage, worth \$30 per ton, if used for fertilizing purposes, being allowed to percolate the porous soil of Chatham every year, to contaminate our wells and our present drinking water supply."

Dr. Sylvester, Medical Health Officer of Galt, in his report, regrets that the town is not in a position to adopt systems of water works and drainage, and urges the Council to provide a hospital for infectious diseases in order to be prepared in case of an outbreak of an epidemic. Vaccination had been very general during the previous year.

Dr. Burrows, Medical Health Officer of Lindsay, in a lengthy and interesting report, regrets, as many do, that the Public Health Acts do not provide for that independence of action of the Local Boards which is necessary for them to carry out their wishes. "The Local Boards of Health should be as entirely independent in every particular as are Boards of Education." It is to be hoped the time is not far distant when they will be so. The doctor writes strongly for a system of medical inspection of schools, one of our most important sanitary essentials.

These notes on the reports of the Local Boards will be continued in our next issue.

#### OBSERVATIONS AND ANNOTATIONS.

Japanese paper napkins, *Technics* thinks that, in view of the fact that disease may be, and doubtless often is, transmitted directly by linen used in the sick room, it is advisable whenever possible to use paper napkins for absorbing offensive discharges in place of sponges, handkerchiefs, linen napkins and towels. These are clean and attractive and can be burned as soon as