

undergoing disinfection, the families scatter among the neighbors, thus taking with them the germs of the disease, and I would welcome any suggestions intended to lessen this evil. In passing let me note two minor improvements recently effected:—First, a new ambulance has been ordered; secondly, new quarters have been prepared and opened at 700 Mount Royal Avenue, to receive families whose premises are undergoing disinfection in place of the forlorn room in the old court house opposite the Nelson Monument.

Sulphur has hitherto been the disinfectant employed by the Board of Health. It is furnished free of charge by the city. The usual plan is to burn on the stove 2 lbs. of sulphur to 1000 cubic feet of house space and to keep the premises closed for six hours. Where the occupants have been willing to pay the additional cost of the material, formaline has been lately used. This is more expensive than sulphur, but the department has so often received complaints regarding the sulphur that at present it is using formaline exclusively and will continue to do so in future. As soon as the disinfection is over the premises are further examined by a sanitary inspector to discover, if possible, the cause for the outbreak of the disease. You will notice in the annual report that there are not a few instances where four, five, or even six cases of the same malady have occurred in a given house. Where the breaking out of the disease can be in any way attributable to physical conditions such as defective plumbing, dirty back yards, etc., the house must be put in good order before it can again be occupied. The entire time of three of our sanitary inspectors is required upon the work of placarding, disinfecting and subsequent examination, their duties extending throughout the whole city.

In connection with this service the Civic Hospital for infectious and contagious diseases comes in for mention. It is located on the extreme northeast border of the city at the head of Moreau street in Hochelaga Ward. The present structure was erected during 1886 and 1887 at a cost of nearly \$25,000. Judging from its condition, the work contract has been most carelessly executed. The building, as you are probably aware, consists of a central administrative portion with a north and south wing. In 1894 and 1895, when half of the building was under the supervision of the General Hospital and the other half under that of the Sisters of the Hotel Dieu, about \$12,000 were annually appropriated for this dual service, but to-day we are compelled to receive and care for all denominations, on a civic appropriation of from \$6000 to \$6,500. When you consider that we have often a population of between 50 and 60 souls to warm, house and feed upon this amount, that we have to pay out of this all the wages, from the Medical Superintendent to the guardian, for all provisions, food, light and general con-