

numerous worthy and busy medical practitioners now in the city would have to turn their attention to some other occupation, or practice their profession elsewhere.

IN OTTAWA, we learn from the Medical Health Officer, the public health is on the whole good. No cases of typhoid fever, nor of diphtheria, have been reported, and we have not learned of any for many weeks. In Lower Town there are unsanitary conditions which demand early attention, or if there should be an importation of cholera germs in the spring there will be probably such an explosion as will do a thousand times more damage than could be covered by the amount it would now cost to remove the evils. We hope to see the local board take vigorous action in the matter at an early day. Spring will soon be here. The board have been wisely looking after the ice supply and the slaughter houses, but the conditions above alluded to are of greater importance.

IN MONTREAL the citizens are becoming alive to the necessity of putting their "house in order" and making preparations for the cholera. The people and the city papers are speaking out very plainly in relation to the disposal of waste matters and denouncing in plainer terms than any city in Canada, so far as we have observed, the use of the present universal vile system of out-closet vaults for storing excreta. It appears there are about ten thousand of these cess-pits in the city—not so many seemingly as in Toronto. The *Montreal Herald* truly says: "There is nothing that pollutes the air so quickly and with such injurious effects as human excreta. Nature has wisely and mercifully made all such matter offensive to the senses." Alas the senses of some people appear to be morbidly obtuse, or the powers of patient endurance are marvellous.

A PAPER ON SEWAGE DISPOSAL was read on the 2nd inst. by Dr. I. Baker Edwards, chief Dominion analyst, in connection with the natural history society of Montreal, Dr. Sterry Hunt occupied the chair. The reading of the paper was followed by a rather

warm and interesting discussion on the comparative merits of the dry earth and water carriage systems, the manner in which the board of health perform its duties, and the propagation of disease by night-soil. In this many prominent citizens—Mr. Ald. Mooney, Col. Crawford, Rev. Mr. Campbell, Mr. Radford, Mr. Clendinning and Drs. La-Rocque and Wanless and others—took part, amongst whom we recognize the names of quite a number of old subscribers to the *SANITARY JOURNAL*. It was said that the law which does not permit the board of health to compel the householder to empty a pit, no matter how large or how deep it may be, until it is filled within a foot of the surface, prevents that body from applying a remedy to this dreadful state of things. And yet this is almost the universal law in Canada. Mr. Radford said that the people of Montreal were ignorant and asleep with regard to all matters relating to public health. All agreed that the sanitary condition of the city is bad and needs to be improved without delay.

TO HEAP'S PATENT CLOSET, Dr. Edwards, in his paper, paid a high tribute. He said, "having been consulted by the health sub-committee on this subject I have, after due consideration, strongly recommended the cremation and carbonization of the night-soil, and the abolition of all cess-pits and privy vaults within the city, and the substitution of dry closets and frequent removal. I believe it to be practically both the best and cheapest yet devised. The only practical objection to the closet which has hitherto existed is removed in Heap's patent closet, in which the fluid is separated from the solid excreta. These are claimed by the inventor to be the "best in the world," having taken thirteen prize medals in open competition with Morrell's Moule's and other makers."

SO MUCH OF CHOLERA has been given in the *JOURNAL* during the last few months that little more can be said upon it that would instruct the reader. We need only reiterate—for with the general apathy it can not be