

whose acts are without result, and of the incompetency of which the chairman has complained. In London no house is permitted to be built or rather rented unless after previous inspection by the officer of health. Markets are with us unvisited, and we daily observe meat publicly exposed for sale, which in other countries would be condemned unfit for the use of man. Were there an officer of health for our city, we have little doubt that much benefit would result. It becomes a necessity forced on us by our altered circumstances. It was all very well trying to grub on without scientific advice, while we were not much larger than a good-sized village; but now the necessity has presented itself in the light of a duty, one specially conservative,—conservative of life, health, and the ordinary comforts of existence. In the last number of our journal we referred to the system of crowding buildings into unwarrantably small space: much more could be said on this point, such as the absence of sunlight, air, ventilation, and the possibility of cleanliness, besides which the absence of sufficient breathing space for the inhabitants,—all fruitful sources of disease. Sufficient breathing space is one of the most important subjects of sanatory science. During our professional career, we have entered rooms when the atmosphere was charged with the emanations from the bodies of the occupants to that degree as to render it painful for us to remain in the room longer than a few minutes: we positively could not breathe. Not long since we went in the depth of night to see a poor man, and on entering a room of certainly not over twelve feet square, we found it occupied by a family, consisting of father, mother, and six children; and, as though the atmosphere was not already foul enough, there were some six or eight sympathizing friends present, who literally filled the apartment. Such tenements are deserving of condemnation as unfit habitations. There are many houses and tenements in our city which do not possess even surface drainage; others which from their position do not admit light; and many sleeping apartments are in back cellars, to which light and air are inaccessible. In other localities cesspools give out their deadly emanations in the immediate proximity of dwellings of the most wretched class, and these again are crowded with several families. Is there any need for this, we ask, in a country like Canada, and especially in a town like Montreal? Surely there is space enough to house comfortably as many more inhabitants, as are to be found in our city. The fearful mortality especially among infants, and the apparent steady increase of disease and death is not to be wondered at. It becomes therefore a necessity, nay an imperative duty, of our city authorities to look into the subject of sanatory reform, and adopt measures for the arrest and removal of nuisances. The world