

Correspondence.

To the Editor Public Health Magazine :

DEAR SIR,—Allow me a few lines in your journal to call attention to the gross *adulteration of soap*, as a matter affecting the public health and comfort. Some years ago, when living in a boarding-house, my washerwoman occasionally brought home my heavy flannels in a condition I could not for some time understand. They seemed to be damp from their stiffness and heavy odour; but no process of drying improved them. Since then I have heard housekeepers complain of the stiff, sticky state, in which their blankets were returned from the wash. Almost every one has had occasion to observe the sticky condition of his hands after using some kinds of soap in washing. The unfortunate wight who, in bathing, attempts to cleanse himself with any ordinary bar of brown soap will find himself at the end of the process so far resembling a fisher's smack in that he is well *pitched*, at least without, and instead of accomplishing the orthodox result of opening the pores he has most effectually closed them. All this is due to the incredible quantities of rosin, light or dark colored, according to the color of the manufactured article, which is added to nearly all the cheaper varieties of yellow and brown soaps, while to the white soaps some kind of dense white powder is added to give them volume and weight. By these adulterations the poor ignorant hardworking washerwoman is cheated out of more or less than half of the genuine compound she thinks to buy in good faith, besides, perhaps, having to do her work over again and losing her reputation as an *artiste* into the bargain. It is bad enough to be filled up and dirtied with city dust, and have to attempt to wash it off with the compound distributed from the city water works, and already graphically described in your columns, without having to be rosined like a fiddlestring or powdered with suspicious mixtures. To obtain pure soap at a reasonable price, each family will be compelled to retrograde to the primitive fashion of making it themselves. Trusting you will pardon me for taking up so much of your valuable space with this matter, I am, &c.,

SARO.