

As the Bill first stood, the medical officer of the district was made the hinge on which the whole machinery was to turn. If he found that any particular houses or streets were particularly unhealthy, and that their unhealthiness was due to their want of ventilation, or other defective arrangements he was authorized in the metropolis to report the fact to the Vestry.

The Vestry to be at liberty to ignore the report or to pass it on to the Commissioners of Sewers or Board of Works. This would have rendered the Bill nugatory as no one would have cared to initiate proceedings under it. By the amended Bill the medical officers are to be emancipated from the control of vestries, to report to the Commissioner of Sewers in the city and to the Metropolitan Board of Works in the rest of the Metropolis. Nor is the Board of Works to be dependent on the reports of the medical officers of Health. They are to be at liberty to appoint medical officers of their own with adequate emoluments, and of a sufficient status in the profession to carry out the provisions of the Act. It is evident that the medical officer of the Vestry will have thus a great incentive to exert himself if unhealthy buildings unnoticed by himself, are discovered by an independent officer.

Could Dr. Hingston, the present Mayor of Montreal, be clothed with such authority, that city would quickly be relieved of the opprobrium of being the perpetual habitat of small-pox. Perfect sewerage would be carried out, and with that, comparative exemption from typhoid fever, diphtheria, scarlet fever and other zymotic diseases. It is true that cities with defective sewerage are not always visited by typhoid. On this subject Liebermeister thus writes: "There are villages and there are certain quarters in cities where both within and without the dwellings decomposition of organic and excrementitious substances is constantly going on; but only in some of these situations does typhoid fever occur; while in others it has never been observed within the memory of man. But in such cases the introduction of a single case of typhoid will often give rise to a severe epidemic. The question then arises, what are the substances derived from diseased individuals which act as transporters of the poison? Evidently these sub-