

sumers are now upon the market, and no one can excuse himself on the plea that these instruments are not sufficiently good and fully developed to be practicable. It is painful to think that the worst offenders are concerns which are making large annual profits, and which can best afford the relatively small expense of putting a stop to the nuisance. Being limited companies they have, it is true, no hearts, but they can be made to see that it is cheaper in the long run to consume their own smoke rather than to waste the substance of their shareholders in fines. It is possible that the mode of treating offenders, as regulated by our by-laws, is cumbrous, and may seem to take on the character of a persecution. On reading those by-laws we do not see that this is the case; nevertheless there are better methods of dealing with the evil.

In certain large German cities they have a method which is very prompt. Here and there throughout the city, in church steeples and other lofty positions, they have members of a corps of watchmen who, during the day, look more especially for evidences of smoking chimneys, and during the night look for outbreaks of fires. In the watch chamber there is a carefully plotted out plan of the city whereby, knowing the direction and the angle of the telescope, they can calculate to within a few yards the exact position of a chimney emitting dense smoke, and their duty is, if the smoke continue for three minutes, to telephone forthwith to the police of the district in which the nuisance occurs, and a policeman is sent round with a paper announcing a fine, that fine to be paid immediately; or, as an alternative, the offender can appear before the magistrate and appeal. If the same nuisance recurs within a week, the fine, on the second action, is raised: and if it continues, if we remember aright, there are by-laws which regulate that more severe proceedings be taken. There is a great deal of convenience in this method; where the chimney smokes by accident, the householder is saved the trouble and the annoyance of appearing at the Police Court, while the inveterate offender finds that the frequent payment of \$5 or more for the privilege of allowing his chimney to smoke, becomes too much of a tax, and for his protection and economy finds it politic to stop the nuisance. We would suggest some such course as this to our City Council, for the annoyance has become altogether too extreme to allow it to continue any longer.

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#### “THE METAMORPHOSIS OF AJAX.”

We have so far not noticed in these pages the admirable work that has been performed by Mr., now Alderman, Ames in studying the hygienic conditions of the districts of our city most representative in