

tion of the house. We ask in the name of common sense how was it that neither the inspector or any of his staff could see this at first without putting this gentleman to so much inconvenience and expense?—and we ask also who is to pay for it, *he* or the Corporation?

Much more could be said on this important subject; there are thousands of people in this city suffering in health from the incompetence of plumbers, and the want of a proper supervision of their work.

We appreciate the well-directed intentions of several of our medical men and health committees to endeavour to abate the cause of sickness in this city, but this we know, that they may meet in solemn conclave night after night, and learnedly and scientifically discuss the causes of zymotic diseases in the city; trace them to this or that fault in our system of drainage, and talk of sanitary reformation being necessary, and bring forward many practical and impracticable theories; and men may write essays on sanitary matters, excellent in the suggestions they contain, if only carried out by those who write them, but this we desire to say, that until the Corporation of the city appoint a thorough practical man, gifted with sound common sense, and with a mind not mystified with theories which are only practical according to circumstances, to take charge of the sanitary affairs of this city, and empower him with full authority to prosecute every delinquent, the sanitary condition of the city will not be ameliorated. One such man would in one year do more to cleanse the city of impurities and disease-breeding causes than the councils and deliberations of all the health committees or sanitary boards that have ever considered the subject.

Book Notices.

We are in receipt of a book—AMES' ALPHABETS, sold by Messrs. Bicknell & Comstock, publishers of architectural works, New York—and we feel much pleasure in highly recommending it to architects, draughtsmen, engravers, engineers, artists and sign painters. It contains 32 pages of every description of letters plain and ornate. The work is got up in the very best style, and is sold at the low price of \$1.00. Parties wishing to buy the work can obtain it through the editor of the *Scientific Canadian*, by remitting a P. O. order for \$1.10, which will cover cost and duty.

We also have to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the *Carriage Monthly*, published by I. D. Ware, 414 Arch street, Philadelphia, price \$2.50 per annum. This is also a very valuable work, and should be in the hands of every carriage-maker. Any one remitting to us \$4.00 will receive this work and the *Scientific Canadian* for one year.

The *Horological Gazette*, published by D. H. Hopkinson, 42 Nassau st., Philadelphia, is another very valuable American work to which we desire to call the attention of jewellers and watchmakers, not only on account of the valuable information contained therein, but also for the advertisements which will be found of much service to intending purchasers. The price of this work is \$2 per annum, and can be clubbed with the *Scientific Canadian* for one year by remitting to us \$3.50.

"THE YOUNG SCIENTIST."

This is a very valuable practical journal for amateurs, published at 176 Broadway, New York, at the low price of 50 cents. We know no more useful work; it is one that should be in every school boy's hand. Subscriptions can be sent direct to the office in New York, or through the Editor of the *Scientific Canadian*; or we club it with our Magazine on receipt of \$2.25.

Correspondence.

ST. CATHARINES, June 19th, 1879.

To the Editor of the *Scientific Canadian*.

Dear Sir,—I read the *Scientific Canadian* with a great deal of interest, but I have noticed that your illustrations in my line are chiefly borrowed from the *American Architect*; and of course they are good and well worthy of publication, but I think Canadian architects ought to have some pride in regard to architectural designs of our own production, and I would like to see some good Canadian designs published in this our only architectural publication. Cannot something be done in respect to this matter?

Yours, &c.,

S. R. B.

Editor's Note.—We have solicited over and over again architects who are subscribers to contribute original designs for this periodical, which is the only one of the kind published in the Dominion. We should be most happy to publish original designs of merit, and it is not our fault, but our regret, that the architects of Canada take so little interest in matters connected with their profession.

MONTREAL, 21 June, 1879.

To the Editor of the *Scientific Canadian*.

Sir,—Will some of your readers kindly inform me what is supposed to be the proper seal for a trap connected with a water-closet, and also if the excreta is discharged wholly out of the trap at each flushing of fresh water, and if not, how many times will it require to be flushed to cleanse it thoroughly? I have reason to believe that the water in the closet trap is always foul, and that any atmospheric pressure passing upwards through the soil pipe, will force a foul odour through the basin as soon as the closet lever is raised. By giving this insertion, it will much oblige a constant reader of your valuable and useful Magazine.

R. J.

PROPOSED COUNTRY HOUSES, ST. JOHN, N. B.

MESSRS. R. BROWN AND J. C. ALLISON, ARCHITECTS, ST. JOHN.

The designs for these country houses we take from that excellent journal, the *American Architect*, published by Messrs. Houghton, Osgood & Co., Boston, Mass. While we appreciate the spirit of the publishers in giving publicity in their publication to our Colonial architectural designs, we cannot but regret the indifference evinced by our own architects generally to supply designs for illustrations of works erected in their own country.

These houses are intended to be built a few miles from St. John, and are designed to suit the requirements of middle-class people. It is proposed to build them in terrace form, with sufficient variation externally to avoid too much uniformity in appearance. In houses of this class ample closet accommodation is needed, and the position of the several fireplaces is important, as conducing to sufficient warmth during the winter months. The "hall stove," which is one of the essentials of the country, is placed in a curved recess, and from its position will distribute heat throughout the house, and the stove-pipes, often the most unsightly things in a house, are here carried to the smoke-flues without being obtrusively in view. As each house has a basement, the heating, if preferred, could be effected from below by a furnace; the smoke pipe taking the same course as shown for the hall stove. Externally, a departure has been made from the usual stereotyped style of country house in this district. So far as known there are no houses here modelled in the Old English style of half-timbered work, with projecting eaves, and carved woodwork in the gables. In the design shown the lower part of the building would be clapboarded and the upper part covered with vertical boarding with filleted joints.