

*To the Editor, The Public Health Journal,
State Medicine and Sanitary Review:*

**Insanitary Conditions of Railway Depots
and Hotel Surroundings.**

Sir,—The Public Acts of 1909, with reference to public health, make it the duty of railway companies to keep passenger coaches warmed and well ventilated, all toilet rooms, water closets, urinals in railway depots, and all outdoor closets at railway stations "clean and in good repair."

Under "villages and cities," the public health laws give the councils of such villages and cities the power of abatement, correction and removal of all nuisances dangerous to life or health. Now, many of the railway companies operating in the State of Michigan are making an honest, efficient effort to comply with the provisions of the law; many village and city councils are trying to get rid of all nuisances menacing the public health. Notwithstanding all these efforts, however, the facts are apparent to any observing person who travels much about the state, that a large per cent. of the depot surroundings are nuisances and a menace to the health of the villages and cities in which they are located, and also to the traveling public, which in the largest measure supports them. Many hotel surroundings are positive nuisances, which should be corrected or the hotels closed. Ask our active, hustling, traveling men if this is not true.

A strict observation of the public health laws of Michigan by the village and city councils would close one-third of all the hotels in the state, in smaller cities and villages, all the hotels. If the laws for the conservation of the public health in this particular situation are right, why not have them enforced? If bad, let us have them repealed.

In the State of Kansas the bedbug nuisance became so annoying that a state law was passed providing for hotel inspectors, and many of the hotels were closed

before the law became effective. In Wisconsin there is a law against the use of the common towel placed upon rollers, and the hotels are observing the law, very carefully, too.

I believe that one of the worst forms of nuisances prevalent to-day is the uncleanly depot and hotel outhouse or closet. Wherever such a nuisance is found the law should be enforced for its correction.

D. E. McClure,

*Assistant Secretary Michigan State Board
of Health.*

Fresh Air and How to Use It.

Sir,—We are sending you herewith attached notice, which is somewhat out of the ordinary and we are, therefore, calling it to your attention through this letter.

We realize that your first impression on reading this notice may be that it is an attempt to get free advertising for a strictly commercial proposition, but I assure you that such is not the case. This book is published as part of the regular educational campaign of the National Association, and it has cost us to print it and publish it practically what we get for the sale of it, namely, \$1.00 per volume. In fact, when we count the volumes that we have to give free to our members and those that we send out for review copies, etc., I very much fear that we will be losing money on this volume.

We would like very much to give it to everybody, free of charge, but the funds of the National Association are so limited that we could not think of doing so. We are, therefore, planning, if we can get back the money we have tied up in this book, a cheap, paper-covered edition of the book, with sufficient advertising in it so that we can sell it for ten cents or less, or even give it away.

The National Association owns outright all of the rights of this book, and no one is getting any royalty from it, nor will they get any royalty from it. We are not trying