

that they are incompetent, who have not stolen, nor been drunk on duty, nor been uncivil to the public, but who simply draw salary to do work which they cannot do and so block the way for the appointment of others more capable. If you can help us in bringing the aldermen to realize that, for the benefit of the public service, individual sacrifices must be made, you will have done much towards making the work of remodelling the department a possibility.

MEASURES FOR THE PREVENTION OF THE SPREAD OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES.

The regulations of the City Council and those of the Provincial Board of Health are fairly complete and grant our department considerable power in the above matters. From time to time the Board of Health suggests to Council additional regulations, always, however, within the limits of the powers conveyed by the charter. At present smallpox, typhoid fever, diphtheria, croup, measles, chickenpox and scarlatina are the only prevalent diseases regarded as communicable. As it is the duty of every physician to report to the Medical Health Officer, within a delay of 24 hours after discovery, the name and address of any patient whom he may discover suffering from any of the above diseases, the department is duly made cognizant of cases existing throughout the city. I have recently given orders to have an employé in the office during the evening until 10 o'clock, since many doctors make their rounds in the evening and would prefer to report by telephone at once. The school boards are also required by law to report all children absent on account of contagious sickness. This I find is done by the Protestant schools, but is not very carefully followed by the Roman Catholic institutions. Cases are sometimes reported by persons other than doctors; anonymous letters occasionally are received calling attention to suspicious premises; the sanitary inspectors on their rounds find suspicious cases; in all such instances one of the doctors connected with the department visits the premises and verifies after diagnosis. If the premises in which the disease has broken out, are ample, and complete isolation is possible without removing the patient, this is forthwith ordered and the house is duly placarded, but as in many cases these maladies occur in the dwellings of the working classes, where isolation is impossible, the patients are frequently removed, if suffering from smallpox, diphtheria, or scarlatina, to the Civic Hospital in an ambulance at the public expense. This is not done, however, with typhoid fever, consumption, chickenpox or measles. In fact I am told that nine-tenths of the cases of communicable diseases reported, are nursed at home. When the patient has been removed, or after he has been pronounced cured, the house is disinfected upon the order of the attendant physician. I fear that frequently, when the premises are