

ation appears to be expedient and even necessary. But the proposal to draw sewer gases to the dwellings rather than to draw them away, is an exceedingly questionable one. Beyond the fact that the principle is objectionable, the effect of atmospheric pressure on many pipes, varying widely in height, has yet to be learned, and in all cities there are adjacent houses some of which are much higher than others, and the discharge of gases from the shorter pipes of the lower houses would be liable to prove a serious nuisance to the occupants of the upper flats of the higher houses.

A MUCH BETTER PLAN would be to have high heated shafts at or near the outlets of the main trunks, and with street openings mostly closed, a current would be set up and could doubtless be constantly maintained from the houses towards the shafts. Unless the soil pipes in the houses were used as ventilators, in the other plan, this one of a large heated shaft would be much the less expensive of the two.

THE PROPOSAL to extend the Toronto main sewers to the distant ends of the wharves was such a "make shift" that it is surprising any one thought it worth while to seriously consider it. It was almost on a par with the proposal somebody made to construct a trunk sewer along the edge of and within the bay. It is disgraceful that such a wealthy city as Toronto cannot grapple successfully with its present disgusting and murderous system of sewage disposal and its foul water supply. It would doubtless raise companies of able men to fight Arabs and defend the interests of Great Britain in the Soudan, but its wealthy "property owners" appear not to see any glory in defending their wives and children from the more devastating microbes of disease.

THE TRUNK SEWER is not to be built, it would appear, until water will flow uphill. So in effect, it is reported, said one of the city aldermen the other day. An alderman,

too, who, though noted for greater physical than mental capacity, contrives in some way to be usually with the majority. Well, so long as the people will elect such men to manage their public affairs, they deserve to suffer; and people nearly always get what they deserve.

CHOLERA AND TYPHOID FEVER appear to have some interests in common. It is very generally conceded by all who have studied the laws which seem to regulate the spread of epidemics, that the fever and the cholera pursue the same course, and that wherever the fever is prevalent, there in that locality are favorable conditions for the outbreak and spread of cholera. If the cholera crosses the Atlantic the coming summer, Toronto may naturally expect a full share of it, and will most likely get it. Certainly, judging from the history of cholera, more favorable conditions for its development and spread than exist in that city could hardly be found or even prepared.

THE ONLY CHANCE for Toronto ever to become a fairly healthy city is for it to have a well-constructed intercepting trunk sewer built from the Garrison creek to the Don. And in order that this may not make matters worse than they are, as they relate to stagnant sewage and sewer gases, the flow of the sewage in this trunk would have to be accelerated either by a *vis a tergo*, not easily accomplished, or by obtaining a much greater fall eastward in the grade of the sewer than the natural declivity of the locality would give, by sinking a large deep well at the eastern extremity for the reception of the sewage. From this the sewage would have to be pumped onto high ground, and be purified, either by means of a sewage farm or by some chemical process, when the purified liquid could be allowed to flow into the lake. The bay would then have to be well dredged. With a pure lake water supply, all the wells in the city should then be closed, and all out closet vaults entirely eradicated. Were all this done, very soon a large proportion of the