

depends on the pressure inside and outside of our sewers, and that to trap our street drains is only to increase the liability of such transmission through closet traps. When the question of trapping street gratings was discussed before the Board of Health some years ago it was then pointed out to be dangerous, and that the effect would be an increase in such infectious diseases as typhoid fever and diphtheria. As for the probability of street gratings being covered over in winter, this occurs only on the lower levels. On the higher levels many of these openings remain permanent throughout the winter, notably the one on the corner of Sherbrooke and Bleury, the steam and hot vapors arising from the drain being sufficient to keep open a shaft or chimney through the snow bank, no matter what its depth may be. Our drainage system is anything but perfect, and certainly requires better ventilation, and this could be obtained without the aid of special air-shafts if all our buildings were arranged according to the system carried out in the building occupied by the Medical Faculty of Bishop's College. The plan recommended by the lecturer has been in operation in this building since its erection, over twelve years ago, and its success in preventing foul gases from entering through the closet is marked by the entire absence of the smells usually found in such places. The shaft runs upwards to the roof, and has a diameter of eight inches, and though its effect may not be appreciated, yet there can be no doubt that even the ventilation thus given to the large sewer in Ontario street must be beneficial to the houses in its neighborhood. That this system has not been adopted generally, we can only blame our architects who have the arrangements of the drainage in their hands, and if their attention is now drawn to the matter some good may result. As for our Board of Health we do not expect any intelligent reform; its members, with few exceptions, are either ignorant of the experience of others or ignore such experience altogether, each being a sort of natural crook like medical quacks, independent of the works of those who have gone over these matters. To trap street drains would be suicidal, and should never for a moment be considered. As for the ventilation of the drains a civic by-law governing the construction of shafts in houses, together with the co-operation of our architects, should be sufficient to obtain the desired end.

Regarding disinfectants, the lecturer believed that carbolic acid and its compounds were best. We have always thought that chlorine and its compounds, as chloride of lime, were in this respect altogether better, and recent experiments have shown the view to be correct. Even in local antiseptic applications corrosive sublimate as a chlorine compound is found to be more powerful than carbolised lotions. As colonists we are generally considered by our imperial friends to be generally deficient, and many of our citizens seem to have accepted this view of themselves, as native talent or advice is not thought much of. It may be a matter of surprise to some of our influential citizens to know that all that was said at this lecture has been said over and over again for years by the professors of hygiene in the medical schools of this city and elsewhere in the Dominion.

#### FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATE BOARD OF HEALTH OF ILLINOIS.

By the courtesy of the Secretary this report has been sent us. It is quite a bulky volume of over 600 pages, and contains a mass of useful information, greatly excelling all other reports of a like nature. As a State production Illinois sets an example of enterprise and liberality which should be emulated by every State or Province in America. The compilers have ignored the boundary line between Canada and the United States, and have included both without distinction. The information found within its pages cannot be obtained elsewhere in one work; and the amount of labor expended in compiling it shows not only energy but the most praiseworthy patience in collecting correct reports from so many sources. Over 6,000 letters were sent and more than 10,000, etc., received.

To enumerate all the contents would be impossible, but the following will be sufficient to indicate the purpose of the work. In the reports of the Board it is stated that over \$9,000 was expended for the accomplishment of its work; and, contrasting this with the small amount devoted to this purpose in the Dominion, the inference is that we have not yet sufficient liberality and public spirit in our Government to care much for the welfare or the health of our people. A complete college directory is given, which includes all the existing colleges, and also information regarding those now extinct. Prefacing the colleges of each State will