

subject to prevail in this country. There is still plenty of land, and the people must be compelled to allow such air space for each occupant as will ensure a reasonable chance of health.

In Toronto there have been of late a number of very serious instances of overcrowding. The attention of officials have been directed to this state of affairs by those who are taking an interest in charity and philanthropic work in the city. In some small rooms the authorities discovered as many as three double and two single beds, Three people would occupy each of the former and two slept in each of the latter beds. In cases where the lodging house keepers refuse to make the changes necessary to comply with the law, informations were sworn out against them.

This should not be allowed to continue. If the law is ambiguous it should be made quite clear, and power placed in the hands of the proper authorities to put an end to the condition referred to in the foregoing example of overcrowding.

A couple of years ago the local health department took action against boarding house keepers, charged with overcrowding, but Magistrate Kingsford dismissed the charges. Under the Public Health Act, the health officer may enter and inspect a lodging house or tenement where rooms are rented if he believes that such rooms are occupied by more persons than is reasonably safe for the health of such occupants. The Act says that if "the sleeping rooms upon such premises are such that less than 400 feet of air can be provided for such adult occupant of such room or rooms, they shall be deemed to be overcrowded." When the cases came up before Magistrate Kingsford interpreted the Act to mean that the premises were not overcrowded if the total cubical contents of the house, including kitchen, etc., supplied 400 cubic feet of air for each occupant. The health department contends that there must be that much air for each occupant of the crowded rooms, and will press the charges on that ground. If the department gets a judgment, the Act allows the officers to see to the cleaning out of the premises.

With this object in view informations were sworn out against seven persons by the Local Medical Health Department. These persons were brought to trial. So far no decision has been reached.

THE RETIREMENT OF MISS SNIVELY.

The retirement of Miss Snively is an event of sufficient importance as to call for more than a passing word or thought. She has been at the nursing work of the Toronto General Hospital for twenty-five years.