

every crack. Then, with the flat roof, between the ceiling beams should be deafened and openings allowed in the cornice, so that a free current of air may constantly pass under the roof. I may add that a roof properly constructed in this way ought to last for forty years without repair. I have to apologize for occupying so much of your time about the flat roof, but you will perceive that it is intimately connected with the system of drainage that I advise, and I recommend it with confidence, not only to every private individual about to build a house for himself, or for others, but also to the corporation. While speaking of our city Fathers, there is one improvement we want, and that is, an efficient and intelligent inspector of buildings for this city, and for this post, an experienced architect, and one acquainted with the laws of public health would be the proper person. If sufficient authority were given to such an officer, he could see that such a simple, cheap, and effectual system of ventilation and drainage was carried out as would ensure the health of every citizen in this our fair city, or of any stranger sojourning amongst us.

For the last few years Montreal has done a great deal towards the efficient drainage of the city, and our present plan, which I carefully examined many years ago, is, in my opinion, as perfect and as well adapted to the wants of Montreal as can be devised. The present work being done on the east end of Craig street is a carrying out of a portion of the main plan, which, when completed, will leave us in possession of a system of drainage that will enable us to say we have the best drained city on the continent. But, Mr. President, the best system that was ever invented, the greatest amount of cleanliness ever practised by the most industrious of housewives, will not ensure us safety from zymotic or contagious diseases, until our sewers are properly ventilated. The plan I bring before the meeting of the Association this evening is efficient as well as economical. The only originality I claim on this subject is the combination of the several principles; that is to say the flat roof with central direct drainage; the closets opening without traps into the upright chimney or drain; and one of the most essential requisites is that a free current of cold air (in winter) should be allowed to pass uninterruptedly under every flat roof. Such a building I erected five years ago