

mean cities, as volumes have been written thereon, but sufficient facts have been stated to show that as a result of rapid urban development, many housing evils have arisen in European and American cities, the continuance of which have proved detrimental to the health of the people, and not only is the physical standard lowered, but in both Great Britain and Germany, the tenement forms a part in a vicious circle, which includes drunkenness, immorality and gambling, factors which make for disease and death. And what is true of European cities is equally true of American cities in this respect.

Passing now to the housing conditions in Canadian cities, we have but to refer to the two latest reports issued, viz., those of the M.O.H. of Toronto and Hamilton. In the former city, a partial census was made of the housing conditions in 1911 and from Dr. Hastings' report, we quote as follows:

"The investigations * * * have fully demonstrated that we are confronted with the problem of a great city. There are few conditions found in the slums of European cities, or in the greater American cities, that have not been revealed in Toronto, the difference being only one of degree, and the conditions of the lesser degree today will, if not corrected, become those of the greater degree tomorrow. In fact, conditions have been revealed quite as bad in character as any in either European or American cities, but fortunately these are thus far limited in extent."

The Report goes on to show what some of these conditions were, viz., "rear houses, dark rooms, tenement houses unfit for habitation, inadequate water supply, unpaved and filthy yards and lanes, sanitary conveniences so-called, which because of their position or condition, or for various other reasons, have become a public nuisance, a menace to public health, a danger to public morals and, in fact, an offence against public decency."

And all this, mark you, in the City which prides itself as the Queen City of the Lakes. I ask you does not the Report read as if written of some of the older and more densely populated of the cities of Europe?

The Report shows a most disgusting and disgraceful state of affairs, but I am afraid all the tale has not been told, for upon analysis I find that all the figures and facts of the enquiry are not published; for after dealing with the density of population in Districts 1, 2 and 3 only, it states that "conditions closely resemble the 'above' in districts 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, while in district 8 we found conditions almost imperative to deal with at once unless slums are to be perpetuated." It is to be inferred from this that while what appears in the report is bad, yet the tale has not half been told; indeed the housing conditions in Toronto are either indescribable or are too bad for publication.

But what of the tenements? Ninety-two in the districts reported upon and these do not include what we are pleased to term apartment houses of which it is safe to say there are several hundred and they will soon become a public nuisance—a menace to the health of the occupants— a hindrance to further improvement in the particular section of the city in which they stand and of profit only to the owners.