

streets, alleys, private and public houses, has been kept up, the most powerful disinfectants being used for the purpose, which made the city all summer, as it is to day, one grand smelling-bottle, of sulphur, chlorine, etc. Impure water, or water supposed to be impure, was shut off from the city; stale fruits and vegetables were seized and destroyed; this year's wine crop was not allowed to be brought into Genoa, and all the wine shops were forced to be closed at 8 p. m., daily. The rules were rigid in regard to household cleanliness, and the use of disinfectants in whitewash, and if the owner of an establishment of any size heeded not the orders of those in authority the work would still be performed, and at the expense of the proprietor. In three hundred cases of cholera before the Aqueduct Nicolas was shut off from the city, there were two hundred and seventy-five deaths, and all the victims had been using this water. Since the water was shut off from the city, the cases were few among those who could obtain good wholesome food. The Sunday excesses among the laboring classes proved a powerful feeder of the epidemic. From this fact it appears that regular habits of work or play are essential in avoiding cholera. The doctors all said that substantial food proved a better means of battling with cholera than doctors' medicines."

The Consul seems especially to consider that above all things pure water is essential in the battle with the enemy. In this contention he will be sustained by all who have given any attention to the subject. In his concluding remarks he says:

"Let a city or town have officials who energetically and fearlessly fight everything which has a tendency to prey upon public health, granted the people abuse not nature; let substantial food be one's daily portion; to these things add a frame of mind prepared to face calmly and bravely whatever trials and vicissitudes may cross one's path, and you have an armor that will, I am positive, in nine hundred and ninety-nine cases in a thousand baffle the type of cholera which has lately raged in Genoa."

MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS.

The position of medical health officer of a large city is one of great responsibility and requires the

possession of the highest qualities in the individual who accepts it. The incumbent must be a man of good tact and judgment, skilled in his profession, and well versed in sanitary science. Such men are rarely available, especially in view of the miserable salary usually paid such officers in this country. In this city for example, with a population of one hundred thousand, covering an extensive area, with unsanitary conditions in abundance, and sufficient work to keep a medical officer constantly employed, the incumbent (Dr. Canniff) a gentleman eminently qualified for the discharge of the duties appertaining to the office, receives the paltry sum of \$1500 per annum for his services, from the city council, and even this small amount is given grudgingly. A supplementary sum of about \$600 per annum is also received by him from the Dominion Government for extra work in the compiling of Vital Statistics; but certain members of the council, with a niggardliness which is characteristic, propose to deduct the amount received from the Dominion Government, from the sum which was agreed upon as his salary (viz. \$1500). These gentlemen might with the same propriety deduct from his regular salary the amount received by the city clerk for similar work done for the Ontario Government.

We hope and trust that this has not been the the experience of health officers in other cities, for if such is the case we pity them. The gentlemen who have abandoned their private practice to engage in the important and onerous duties of medical health officers, in our large cities, deserve better treatment at the hands of the civic authorities. The services of the medical profession when required must be estimated at their proper value, and the sooner the civic authorities recognize this fact the better it will be for all concerned. No medical practitioner with the proper qualifications for so important an office should be expected to perform duties which require the whole of his time, without receiving at the very least a salary of \$2500 per annum. The recent changes in the Ontario Board of Health entail considerable extra work upon the health officer, and the entire duties appertaining to the office demand the whole of his time. He should therefore be properly remunerated. For the credit of the council of this enterprising city, we trust that no spirit of niggardliness will prevent the present incumbent from receiving that just compensation which is so clearly his due.