

foods to your family. If an organisation of influential housekeepers speaks clearly upon this point, glass-covered boxes will be quickly provided that will show the goods quite as well.

How about your dairy supply? In a certain town a shocking infant mortality was traced to the milk. A body of indignant women making a protest against an incompetent dairy inspector was told by the politician, of whom the inspector was a protege, that they were going outside their sphere when meddling in politics. He was quickly answered that "women's sphere was not only outside the home but inside the baby." A weekly or fortnightly visit by a committee from an improvement association would have a deal to do with wholesome dairy premises. No educated woman of this age dares to be indifferent as to the source of the food with which she supplies her family. Beauty and health are synonymous terms—you cannot have one without the other.

Have you parks and open squares as breathing places for the people? Have you public playgrounds for your children? This one matter of public playgrounds in all towns is of vital importance. When the influence upon the character and morals of children of healthful play under the care of a watchful, high-principled man or woman is fully understood, no money will be spared to provide such playgrounds, and a new profession, that of play professor, will be among the honorable and well-paid callings.

The possibilities of such playgrounds are almost unlimited. What mother would fear to send her boys to the public playground if she knew that awaiting them was a man who could teach or oversee them in their games and athletic sports, noting and repressing evil tendencies in speech and manner? On occasion such a man would take them on fishing and swimming trips and excursions through field and forest. The woman teacher has charge of the girls' plays

and games, and teaches to both sexes—without seeming to teach—botany and nature study and kindness to birds and beasts, until even boys will see a bird, or cat, and a stone in juxtaposition without desiring to pick up the one and throw it at the other. This is not a fevered dream of mine. In a modified way these playgrounds are being tried in various cities, with the happiest results.

Are there any provisions for public baths in your town? If there are none please observe on the following pages what Brookline, Massachusetts, offers its citizens. Interest the young men of your town in this matter.

Have you casinos where the social life of your town may find expression? Have you a public library? If not, and your town is too small to support one, there are ways of obtaining traveling library cases. If your state library has no provision for distributing to the people the books your taxes so expensively house, petition your legislature until these books reach the people who need and want them.

The disfigurement of streets and landscapes by bill-boards and advertisements is a nuisance that is attracting the attention of many of the best men, both at home and abroad.



FIG. 2174. THE SAME ROAD AFTER BEING IMPROVED BY THE LOCAL SOCIETY.