

ance was made to enable us to probe and search, the discovery made was much less astounding to me than to the mortified clerk of works. We found no dishcloth chokings, nor any other sort of obstructions ascribable to the cooks or laundresses; but we did discover a very curious oversight in construction—a most fatal deviation from the architect's arrangements—to the proper understanding of which some preliminary explanations are necessary.

The contracts for the building were awarded to two different tenderers. To one was given the stone-work of the basement; to another the whole of the superstructure, of cut-stone, brickwork, carpentry, &c., &c., &c. The construction of the main sewer from the house to the Lake, a distance of nearly a mile, was given to a third. No better work was ever done by contractors than the whole of the above mentioned; but it would perhaps have been more fortunate to the destined inmates of the asylum, had the entire work been awarded to one person.

The builder of the basement correctly constructed all the interior drains. The contractor for the main sewer did his prescribed part well. The specified water-closet and other outlets from all parts of the superstructure were properly constructed; but yet there was a "missing link" and a very vital one it was. *The connection of the basement drains with the main sewer.*

Of whose contract this formed a part, I have never been able to learn. My belief is it belonged to that naughty fellow, nobody, who is so constantly detected in evil doings. Fifteen and eighteen feet, respectively, at each end of the house, of solid hard clay, between the two basement drains and the main sewer, was a more formidable obstruction than a ton of dish-cloths, (had their escape even been possible,) could ever have become. The problem which an able chemist, and a keen nosed grand jury, had failed to solve, was now clearly demonstrated, and the hard-worked lunatics who had deported so many hundred hogsheads of reeking filth, well might exclaim, *eureka*.

Such was the defect, oversight, blunder, or whatever else we may call it, which converted the largest, and not least important, public building in Western Canada into a charnel house.

The first sanitary requirement was obviously to insert the two missing links into the sewerage. This was done speedily; but when it is considered that the surface soil of the entire basement, covering an area of nearly 600 feet in length, by an average of 60 feet in width, was saturated, to an unknown