

is easily observed, owing to the percolator being of glass) the maid replaces it with fresh absorbent cotton. It is in all respects the most practical and cheapest I know of, and has no machinery to get out of order, no patent right to carry, and the advantage over most filters that the filtering medium is always under observation, so that there is little risk of contamination of the water by accumulations of filth.

The Public Schools.

It is gratifying to note the improvement in the sanitary conditions of our public schools. The following is from the report of Toronto's Medical Health Officer to the Local Board of Health, and it speaks well for Toronto's Public School Board.

On the question of Public and Separate school buildings, the Medical Health Officer reported as follows:

An inspection of the school houses and premises of the city was recently made. It is gratifying to state that with two or three exceptions the places were found in a satisfactory state. It is also gratifying to state that the School Boards are earnestly working to secure a good sanitary condition of the school buildings and premises. The Public School Board deserves commendation in having placed the Smead-Dowd system in twelve of the school buildings. There is no doubt that this is by far the most complete method known of securing proper heating, ventilation, and particularly of disposing of excreta.

STATE MEDICINE.

Report on Diphtheria in the Frontier Townships in the Northern Districts of Ontario.

The following report was read and adopted at the regular quarterly meeting of the Provincial Board of Health, February 14th, 1889:—

To the Members of the Provincial Board of Health:

GENTLEMEN,—In again referring to this subject, which during the last two years has from time to time been brought before your notice in reporting outbreaks in localities extending from the Haliburton District on the east, to Chapleau on the Canada Pacific Railway north-west of North Bay, and Manitoulin Island and Cockburn Island to the west, your committee feel that the exigencies of the case are such as to demand such comprehensive action as will aid in recommending and establishing some permanent system of dealing with outbreaks in these outlying districts.

Last year our Medical Inspector, Dr. C. S. Elliot, reported on the North Bay and Sundridge outbreaks. Your secretary has reported on outbreaks about Lindsay, Kinmount, and Minden; and Dr. Lehman, whose report is herewith incorporated, has further reported on the districts south and north-west of North Bay. The reports in every instance repeat with sad iteration the progress of this fatal epidemic disease—at times becoming epidemic in the sense that attacking all the members of one or several families in a neighborhood,

it not infrequently sweeps them all away, or leaves only heart-broken parents to mourn their offspring and their fruitless attempts to bring up a family of children, who would be not only companions to them in their isolation in the scattered settlements of the back woods, but later on, helpful hands to aid in that labor so necessary there to obtain, not affluence, but comfort in their declining years, in homes whose exiguous means is aptly defined by the classic expression *angustas vias*, the euphemism for poverty.

To ameliorate the conditions of life amongst those hardy settlers, who, with adventurous spirit, have chosen to leave their homes in older parts of Canada and hew out homes from the forest, or who in many cases, have, with the spirit of our forefathers, been lured from England to the back woods by the siren voice of the emigration agent, who has filled them with dreams of an arcady, where the rivers swarm with salmon and the cold winter is but beautiful in its opportunities for recalling the myth of Diana and re-establishing the English hunting ground in a western land, in both cases, with varying degrees of necessity, our work is the same. The conditions briefly summed up are:

1st. *Sparse Settlements*.—These may be made up of from two or three families to three or four hundred settlers in a township.

2nd. Very limited means in the great proportion