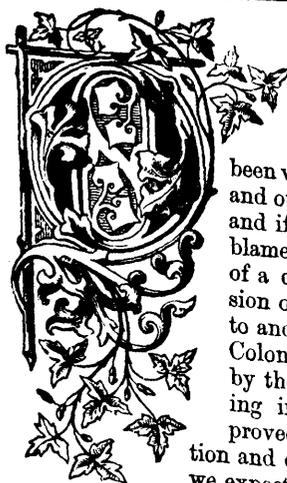


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## SANITARY ARCHITECTURE AND APPLIANCES.

IN this very important subject a great deal has lately been written in the *London Builder* and other English scientific papers, and if they find so much cause to blame the Sanitary Architecture of a country in which the profession of an Architect is looked up to and more respected than in this Colony, and which is backed up by the law in designing and carrying into execution the most approved appliances for the ventilation and drainage of houses, what can we expect in this country where the Architect has no legal recognized standing, where his best designed plans are often set to naught and changed, where nineteen out of twenty proprietors are their own builders, where we have only a Building Inspector in name, and where the Municipal Laws of this City regarding drainage are almost a dead letter. Knowledge of the vital points of health is being discussed and spreading slowly, but so very slowly, that we fear it will be a long time indeed before the proper remedies are applied and proper Inspectors appointed to carry out the law to its fullest extent. The Sanitary Education of Montreal in this respect, must begin in the cradle, and from the cradle too comes the plaintive cry of thousands of little babes who are dying prematurely under the poisonous effects of the mephitic gases arising from our foul drains, and the imperfect ventilation of our crowded houses. Our children are poisoned even in their mothers arms, are poisoned in their beds, are poisoned in our schools, and are poisoned whilst playing in the streets from the gases from the sewer-gratings: and the apathy that is shown by almost the entire population to the presence of this death dealing agent, is almost incredible, if we were not so well aware of the fact. Diphtheria, typhoid fever, scarlet fever, fevers of various kinds; sore throats, and a general depression of the system comes upon us, and we scarcely ever give a thought as to the primary and actual agent that brings

on these diseases and is carrying to the grave the loved members of a family. On the other hand when one of a family feels seriously ill, no matter at what hour of the night it may happen, even if 30 deg. below zero, or in the heaviest storm of rain and wind, we willingly rush from the house to seek for a doctor; we sit up night after night watching the sick one, attending to the instructions of the medical adviser; the body is worn with fatigue and want of sleep, and the mind is borne down with grief—for *death* is in the house. The fatal agent has done its deadly task, the body of the lost one is carried to the grave and the members of, perhaps, several families thrown into mourning. Doctors bills, undertakers bills, mantaumakers bills, tailors bills, and other heavy expenses are incurred, and all because the tenant, or landlord, was too apathetic too careless, or too stingy to spend a few dollars—perhaps not five dollars in all—to see that the drains *inside* his house were in order, and their ventilation perfect. We build on filth, on bones—some of them human bones—on a debris of putrid animal, vegetable, and refuse matter. We use no precautions to prevent the miasma that must ever be issuing therefrom, from arising and circulating through every room in the house. We allow privies to be without ventilating shafts, we allow them to overflow into yards, we allow the wooden pavements and boarded yards to be saturated with vile matter thrown upon them from windows and galleries, we allow the gas from the street sewers to issue forth and roll into our open windows in summer, or to poison the breath of the passer-by. Our Court-houses are pest houses; schools are over crowded and not half ventilated, and in most instances the system of ventilation is to open a window by which the children get severe colds, sore throats, and congestion of the lungs—the remedy being equal to the disease—and yet we talk loudly of the evil, and very learnedly of the remedies to be employed, and that is all; the engine is there, but no steam, no motive power. Sometimes we call a public meeting to make inquiries into these matters, and we nominate a Lord Bishop, a member of Parliament or some persons who are fond of public meetings and public speaking, but who from their positions in life, their obligations to other, and, to them, more important matters, or, from their incompetence, are no more fit to grapple with the evil or to attend to the obligations imposed upon them by the public, (and which they have