

ant in the air of thickly inhabited places such as barracks, hospital wards, etc. It is not by the air of expiration, *by their breath*, that people in a crowded assembly charge the floating air with microbes, but rather by their garments by the various kinds of dust occasioned by their movements, by their expectoration, which dries on the floors of rooms and later on floats about in the form of a powder, which effectively produces the dissemination of microbes in the air. The respiration of men certainly brings into a confined place its own contingent of poisonous gases, but it tends to purify the air of the microbes it contains.

As an addendum to this valuable paper, your committee desire, as practical sanitarians, to emphasise the following conclusions:—

1. Nurses, physicians and all persons, brought for any considerable time in proximity to patients ill with infectious diseases, such as scarlet fever, diphtheria, etc., should, in addition to thorough cleansing of the person, put on clothing free from the germs of these diseases before entering crowded places such as churches, etc.

2. The discharges from the air passages of patients ill with diphtheria or any other acute infectious disease in which the microbes are given off from the air passages, should be immediately destroyed.

3. The sputa of patients suffering from phthisis, should, whenever it is possible to have it so, be received in suitable vessels and quickly destroyed.

[It is not to be forgotten that an abundant supply of fresh air is necessary to sustain the healthy and physical powers of nurses, attendants, and patients to enable them to resist the invasion of specific disease germs and contagious disease.]
Adopted.

HYGIENE.

The Toronto Sanitary Association.—Correspondence, by "Architect."

DEAR SIRS,—Some few years ago a Sanitary Association was organized in Toronto, and though we have not observed any notice of its meetings during this winter, we trust that this is not to be taken as an indication that the members have become discouraged and allowed it to collapse. They did some good work during their first two sessions. A committee of the association gave valuable assistance in drafting the plumbing by-law, and a considerable number of papers were read and lectures delivered at their meetings, which were not only interesting, but

valuable. Work of this kind has a double value, it not only benefits the members by putting into concrete form the result of their individual studies and enabling them to interchange ideas, but it affords a means of educating the general public on sanitary questions. There is no reason why a sufficient number of the general public should not be got to attend these meetings to fill a good sized room. Indeed, this was frequently the case during the first session. Has there been any falling off in the public interest in sanitary questions? If such is the fact there is surely no justification for it. We have not yet got a trunk sewer, the bay is a reeking cesspool; we have no garbidge cremator; our water supply is insufficient in quantity, and, at times, by no means above suspicion as to quality. Diphtheria and typhoid are much more frequent visitors in our homes than they should be were our sanitary arrangements—not to say perfect—but reasonably good. The condition of our streets is at all times a disgrace to the city and a blot upon its fair fame.

These are but a few of the more glaring abuses which such an association should work at unceasingly until they are wholly suppressed. When that work is done it will be found that the horizon of its field has only widened, and that other work scarcely less important lies ready to its hand. Everything that in any way affects the public health comes within its sphere. We merely indicate the direction in which its efforts would naturally be turned: compulsory ventilation of manufactories and public buildings; the effects upon health of the gas supplied for our use; the providing of parks and recreation grounds; the proper placing and management of cattle markets; the provision of proper abattoirs; the prevention of adulteration of food and drink; the inspection of dairies; the question of public baths and wash-houses; teaching the poor how to cook; the dissemination of correct scientific ideas on the subject of vaccination, suitable dress, preventive medicine and the care of the body generally. The list might be enlarged indefinitely, but enough has been said to show that there is work enough in sight to keep a sanitary association busy for a long time to come, and we may be sure that while human nature remains what it is, careless and indifferent about many vital questions, it will never be able to say that its work is done.