

is the Secretary and of which this publication is to be the official organ. It is not to be exclusively scientific, but will contain to a considerable extent reading matter that will render it suitable for general circulation. It is to be hoped that the dissemination of literature of this nature will serve to arouse in the profession and the general public increased interest in the hygiene of themselves, their homes, schools and public buildings. The Journal itself is very neatly gotten up, and the contents are suitable and varied, and the topics well chosen. We wish a long and useful career to "Health and Home."

THE TERM "PLUCKING."—At this season, when feathers are in the air, it may interest some unhappy candidates to know the origin of the term. In the "Notes and Reminiscences of the late Mr. W. H. Harrison," he mentions, in the description of a visit to Oxford, a custom in which it no doubt originated. He says, in describing the conferring of degrees: "I observed that one of the proctors who sat by the Vice-Chancellor when a passed undergraduate was proposed for his degree, left the side of the Vice-Chancellor and walked down the line formed by the 'heads of the houses,' and then, returning, resumed his seat. Dr. Bliss explained this by saying that in former times, if any one of the 'heads of houses' plucked the gown of the proctor it barred the degree. And this he might do without assigning any reason; but if he did so a second time, his reason was challenged. - And this is the origin of the term 'plucking.'"

— We have much pleasure in congratulating our friend Mr. H. R. Gray, pharmacist, upon his election as alderman for St. Lawrence Ward. Mr. Gray conscientiously refrained from taking any personal part in the canvas, and yet has been returned by an overwhelming majority. This speaks volumes for the respect and esteem entertained for the new alderman by his fellow-citizens. We can only say we wish the City Council contained more like him. It is said that Alderman Gray will be put upon the Board of Health. In this capacity he will have full scope for the exercise of the many talents his friends know him to possess, and we trust his presence there will aid in bring-