

a variety of nuisances existed in it, and called for prompt attention and removal.

Every apartment abounded with foul air; and it was found that beneath the basement floors, covering a space of six hundred feet in length by thirty to one hundred feet in breadth, there had, from some undiscovered cause, accumulated a mass of filth and impure fluids, the stench from which, when first exposed, was so insufferable and overpowering, as instantly to sicken several of those, who, including the Visiting Commissioners, chanced to inhale it.

The undersigned could not obtain from any available source of information, whether architect, builders, or operatives, who had been employed in the erection of the House, or officers and servants in the establishment, any adequate explanation of the existing evil. There could, however, be no doubt, as to the pestilent influences of the nuisance; and no physician having a due regard for the lives and health of his patients, or for his own reputation, could tolerate its continuance.

In the eastern division of the house, beneath the kitchens and adjoining parts, the filth was found to measure from three to five feet in depth; and was of varying consistence, from that of dense mud to thin molasses. The superjacent floors and joists were so rotten as to yield under every passing foot, and in several places had given way, leaving openings from which issued the most offensive effluvia. A rank fungous vegetation hung from the under surface of the decayed timbers. The dry-rot had seized the wood skirtings, and other parts above, and extended into the upper stories, where it is likely to continue its ravages.

But however pressing was felt to be the necessity for an early exploration and cleansing of the foundations, it was deemed exceedingly hazardous to undertake the work during the summer or autumnal months. No greater evil could