

EDITORIAL NOTES.

APROPOS OF "SLEEPING-CAR EXTORTION," as the Graphic, of Chicago, puts it, the Supreme Court of Minnesota has sustained the ruling of the Railroad Commissioners of the State, directing that the upper berths in sleeping-cars should be closed when not occupied. This decision affects travellers in the State of Minnesota only, and it is thought the matter will be brought to a legal test in another form. The other form should be to compel Railroad companies to provide for each passenger at least as much cubic space as is now required by law for public school pupils, on an average about 300 to 400 cubic feet. But so long as the individual public will permit himself or herself to be confined up for a night in a space of only about 50 or 60 cubic feet, men and "companies" will always be found ready to do this undertaker's work for good pay.

NO MODERN OUTRAGE now inflicted upon a "long-suffering," forbearing public is greater than this one directly connected with sleeping car—or indeed any other "car"—over-crowding and want of ventilation. Provincial and State Boards of Health are fairly plentiful, some of which we believe have made some effort to prevent over-crowding among the human family and provide fresh air in schools and common lodging houses, and while abundance of fresh air for cattle in cattle cars has been long legally provided for, it appears, we have not yet learned of any particular effort being made by Health Boards to prevent Railroad companies half-suffocating the travelling public, especially at night. Probably there is not a city on this continent which would permit a common lodging house in it to accommodate so many human beings, for a night, in the same space, as are commonly sardined in a modern sleeping car.

THE DAY CARS are better only from having men in them sometimes wide awake enough to see that the "ventilators," so called, are properly arranged (as properly as they permit of) and, which is of much importance, from the doors being often opened by which the cars are permitted to be flushed—the foul air swept out by an entering stream of pure air. But here some designing enemy of travelling humanity has intervened and almost destroyed this chance of

thus obtaining an occasional breath of fresh air by planting his abominable vestibule in the way. When with the small cubic space now tolerated in railway cars and the very imperfect methods provided for changing the air in this contracted space, we are, in such space, liable to be exposed, as every body knows, to some lingering malignant infection—tuberculosis or small-pox possibly—the whole arrangement may be best characterized, in plain English, as a bad nuisance, which health boards or authorities should take up, or, in fact, should long ago have attended to.

A MEDICAL OFFICER is "wanted" in Toronto by reason of the resignation of the late officer, Dr. Canniff. Seemingly, or to an ordinary observer, there is a desire, on the part of the Local Board of Health, to have a good *selection* made for the position. The knowing ones, however, say it is all pretence, that the appointment is now as good as made and that the present acting officer will be retained by a majority of the council—in short, that it is all "cut and dried" to suit the wire pullers, regardless of the city's interests. Would a really first-class man, of long experience and well known high standing as a physician and sanitarian, such as the city needs at the present critical time, answer an advertisement and "apply" for the position, and with the present salary? Some say, no. If the present acting officer be a good enough man, and we know nothing to the contrary, why go through the form and expense of advertising, appointing a medical committee to select one, &c., and put other people to a great deal of trouble for no useful purpose? And is the local board really in earnest in its expressed desire that the medical officer shall analyze the water and air? Well, any qualified physician would be able to do that, but is the city prepared to spend the large sum of money absolutely necessary to provide apparatus to have such analysis, chemical and biological, *properly* made.

TORONTO is now paying dearly for the manner in which its authorities have managed the Health department. A leading daily paper states that the statistics show that there are three times as many cases of typhoid as ever before, and that the disease is "alarmingly on the in-