

ance is assigned to officials regularly employed for this purpose. In every case the proprietor is notified that the nuisance must be abated forthwith and is given reasonable time to comply with the demand. At the expiry of the delay specified the premises are revisited. If the nuisance has not been abated, action is taken in the Recorder's Court against the delinquent. In the past I find that aldermanic influence has frequently come between the department and the proprietor for the protection of the latter. I have known of cases where notorious nuisances have been permitted to continue, because the owner of the premises had the powerful protection of an aldermanic friend. It is astonishing how many citizens, even electors of mine, consider that their alderman, as their representative at the City Hall, is there mainly to protect them from being forced to comply with the existing by-laws. Another difficulty lies in the fact that the sanitary officials have been chosen, in many instances, without any reference to any special aptitude for the work, their selection having been purely the result of aldermanic cabal. Hitherto it was considered that almost any broken down individual might find a life position as sanitary inspector. One of the first reforms introduced by our new committee was to appoint a board of examination and establish a precedent that all candidates should be examined by this board and only the names of those qualified should be considered by the committee when making a selection. In course of time, if this precedent be followed, the personnel of the department can be much improved. The men who to-day compose the sanitary police force are, I believe, endeavouring to do their duty, but they are, in not a few instances, insufficiently endowed by nature to succeed in any vocation and certainly not in one requiring those special aptitudes rightly demanded in a protector of the public health. Since, however, to dismiss these men and to replace them by others is a very difficult task we are now undertaking to remedy their defective education by sending them as it were to college. An arrangement has been made with the McGill authorities to enable the sanitary staff to attend 20 lectures comprising a fair survey of the field of municipal hygiene, and the Council has voted a small sum of money for the purchase of text books to form the nucleus of a working library at headquarters. At the end of this course of lectures, probably next November, the inspectors will be submitted to a written examination. Such as pass with credit to themselves will receive, in addition to a certificate, a cash bonus sufficient to reimburse them for their overtime. As to what will be done with those who fail to pass in the examination, I cannot speak with certitude, but I can assure you that, if my wish prevails, they will be given an opportunity to seek employment elsewhere. We need the backing of a powerful public sentiment, however, in every civic department to enable us to get rid of officials whose whole fault lies merely in the fact