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THE WORK OF LOCAL HEALTH BOARDS—SPRING (NOT SUMMER) CLEANING.

THERE are now many hundreds of local boards of health in Canada, while ten years ago there were not as many dozens. These are capable of doing an incalculable amount of good, if fairly active in their legitimate capacity. It is a fallacy which some appear to entertain, especially in villages and rural municipalities, that a local board should be but a *passive* rather than an *active* organization,—but a sort of court of appeal, only to take action when threatened danger is brought to its attention by other persons. As Dr. Lindsley, the able secretary of the Connecticut State Board of Health, says, "Every member of the board, or at the least its executive officer, should make it a first duty to acquire a familiar personal acquaintance with every part of his town with regard to its sanitary conditions. He should observe and note what influences, if any, affected public health, what parts were most unhealthy, and what may be needed to improve the conditions. Immediately when an intelligent and competent officer begins such observations he always finds enough material to make it interesting. As this Journal has frequently urged, a local board may very properly, and indeed we think should, be largely an *educational* body, to interest and instruct the public in the ways and means of preventing disease. This can be done in many, various and obvious ways. Suggestions may be made to householders, even of the farming class, relative to wells and the water supply, that purity may be secured; likewise to the milk supply,—the hygienic care of the cows and of the milk after it is drawn from them; and to the proper isolation of any one in a family who becomes the subject of infectious disease.

There is always abundance to do in this way for any one who takes any interest in the public health and who, especially, has been appointed, and is relied upon and trusted, to endeavor to protect municipalities as far as possible from disease of all kinds. To one point we desire to draw timely attention in this connection: that is, that every effort should be made to have removed, and in a most thorough manner, all accumulations of dirt—of waste refuse of every sort, before the hot weather commences. Such accumulations, or even foul soil, should never be disturbed during the hot season of June, July and August. Such disturbance liberates any disease germs which the accumulations may contain, and the germs become dry and may be carried by winds and form dangerous centres of infection. So long as the germs are kept wet or moist there is little danger in this way. It has been found that in Central Africa the fatal fevers are hardly known until after the rich germ or malarial laden soil has been disturbed by cultivation.

THE Countess Wanda von Szcawinska has just taken the degree of Doctor of Medicine in the University of Geneva. The learned lady is said to intend to practice her profession in her native country, Poland,

A CITIZEN will bring suit against the city of Salem (Boston Med. & Surg. Jr.) to recover damages for a case of typhoid fever, alleged to have been caused by the offensive contents of a barn-cellar on the adjoining estate. The plaintiff's wife was taken with the fever, and is now seriously ill. The attention of the Board of Health had been repeatedly called to the cellar, but the nuisance was not permanently abated until after the outbreak of the disease.