

inhabitants, on such a mission? Year after year these two men have done their best, but their labours from obvious causes have produced no visible effect. What is wanted is a competent officer of health, who in a measure, aided by the chief of police, would have the police force under his control; this officer to be responsible to the Health Committee for a proper discharge of his duties. Other cities, not exceeding our own in population, have felt the great benefits which have been derived from the creation of such an office; and assuredly the indifference and apathy with which sanitary matters are viewed in our city by those competent to move in the matter, is no small argument, why the superintendence of the Health Department should be under a properly qualified, and experienced medical practitioner. Until this is done, we fear we can hardly look for any permanent diminution in our large summer mortality. We feel and daily see the need of such a city officer, and therefore strongly draw the attention of the Council to the matter. But aside from the large number of deaths which always mark our warm months, there are reasons present this year which do not always exist, which call for especial care being taken, to have not only our city but every city in Canada, in a thoroughly clean condition. For about eight months past, typhus fever has been raging in almost every town of importance in Scotland and Ireland, especially at Glasgow, Greenock, Dublin, and Cork, carrying off hundreds of victims. By the time these lines reach our readers, our spring ships will be arriving, bringing emigrants who for days before starting have been closely huddled together in portions of the sea coast cities above named, most pregnant with the disease. Would it be at all astonishing to find that on the voyage typhus fever in its worst form had broken out on board? If such should unfortunately be the case, and they be neglected to be detained at Quarantine, the landing of emigrants from such vessels in our midst, would be an act so insane, that we fail to find words to characterize it. The disease would certainly be engendered, and once started, God alone can foresee the issue. This is one reason then why we advocate a thorough cleansing of all our cities. Let us mention another. Russia is at this moment the scene of an epidemic which has been carrying death and desolation into thousands of families, almost entirely among the lower classes, and which it is said is gradually marching into lands not primarily affected, thus imitating Asiatic cholera, in its course in 1832. Its appearance is attributed by some to a want of meat diet, and the use of diseased grain, especially spurred rye; certain it is that the majority of its victims are among the poor, and therefore badly fed. We do not give the symptoms as detailed in the daily journals—for the simple reason we have not been able to put our