

while, as nominally the Medical Health Officer, I could not be absolved from responsibility. I was powerless to act. I had no assistance, no inspectors, no executive authority. When midsummer had arrived, I was, nevertheless, receiving daily numerous complaints of sanitary evils from citizens.

These complaints I could not attend to. Duties which had been allotted me in connection with the sick poor, rendered it impossible for me to personally inspect many of the places complained of, and when I had done so, I could only refer the matter to the City Commissioner, whose staff might or might not find time to enforce the municipal law.

It was under such circumstances that I deemed it my duty to address the committee of the City Council, to which was relegated health matters, upon the subject. The committee, however, could not see its way to afford me any assistance. At this juncture, Major Draper, the Chief of Police, offered to place at my service a certain number of policemen for sanitary work. After conferring with the chairman of the committee referred to, and subsequently with the Mayor on his return from a journey, I was in a position to accept the offer so timely made. The result was that ten policemen were detailed to serve under my direction.

Toronto is divided into five districts for police purposes and there were two men allotted for each division. At a conference of civic officials it was arranged that I should have, as the field of labour for my staff, the *private* premises of the city. It is hardly necessary to say that the policemen set apart for this sanitary work were entirely unacquainted with the duties awaiting them, and I may add, I was a novice in undertaking to teach and guide them in inaugurating a system. Certainly it was my first experience in commanding a body of policemen.

It was about the 1st of August that an inexperienced Medical Health Officer with a staff of policemen (although in training and bearing as *policemen*, unexcelled if equalled on the continent), yet quite ignorant of sanitary matters, began the work of sanitary reform in the city of Toronto. The whole arrangement was completed in short order. On one day it was decided that the work should begin, on the next, the inspectors all filed into my office for instruction and guidance. I quickly decided as to the course I should adopt. I wrote out a certain number of questions, and although I did it hastily and without premeditation, the expeditious preparation answered well. The questions were as follows:—

Instructions for the Inspectors.

1. Ask permission to inspect the house and premises.
2. Ascertain the provision existing in each building for drainage, and the condition of the cellars.
3. If city water is used.
4. The number and kind of water-closets or privies; and their condition.
5. If there is any well or cistern, covered or uncovered, in use, or otherwise.
6. What disposal is made of the kitchen and chamber water.
7. What is done with the sweepings and refuse of the

house from day to day—is it given to the scavengers regularly.

8. Note if any complaint is made with regard to sanitary matters in connection with the building or neighborhood.

9. Obtain the name of the occupant and owner or agent.

10. Condition of the stables and disposal of manure where horses or other animals are kept.

11. General condition of the yard.

12. The number of inmates.

13. In factories and industrial establishments ascertain the number of men and women employed, and the hours of work.

Of course these questions might have been improved, and in a day or two I saw where alteration would be desirable, but to make changes would confuse the men in their work. So they continued to act under these directions for four months, with results which appear in the reports. You will notice the first question: The police inspector was to ask "Will you permit me to inspect?" This first question indicated the course of action to be pursued.

The appearance of a policeman at the door was calculated to produce the impression of authority to be exercised whether it might suit the will and convenience of the citizen or not. Such an impression I believed would cause a prejudice and prevent, at least in a measure, the successful application for information. The inspector was also instructed at the same time to state that the object of the inspection was to secure the welfare of the people, and that the Health Office desired the co-operation of the citizens. By this means almost every householder became a willing assistant to supply the desired information. I also asked the daily press to set before the public the importance of the work, and to request the co-operation of the public; and I was much indebted to the press for the valuable assistance as well as encouragement it conferred. But the inspectors were instructed after a few days to do something more. They were not only to find out and report insanitary evils, but as well to inform the people why such and such things *were* an evil; and a great many required instruction on this matter. They were required to point out how evils should be remedied and how they could be prevented; how to dispose of refuse, decaying organic matter, and slops. They were to explain the danger of certain conditions of privies, water-closets, cisterns, of drains, and of faulty state and position of wells. The necessity of using, and the proper mode of applying, disinfectants was explained. On a pad of common paper easily carried, the inspector, with a pencil, wrote his report of each place. Each question was known by a number. Opposite each number the answer was written.

Every morning the reports of the previous days' work was before me. These I examined, and when the inspector presented himself at his appointed hour, I was prepared to give further instruction, and hear fuller explanation in cases which required attention. A good deal of time was taken up in visiting the landlord or agent, to inform him of existing evils, and a good deal of tact was required in securing the willing