

HOUSING AND HEALTH.

(Continued from page 87.)

anomaly, we condemn the wife and child to live their often too abbreviated lives in these hovels, while, by state enactment, the employer has to give the man all the privileges and advantages to be found in an up to date factory.

It is just here that we reach the crux of the whole matter. The place of employment, the factory, where work people dwell for eight or nine hours each working day, must be properly constructed so as to afford to the people employed therein sunlight, fresh air, warmth and sanitary conveniences. Then, in all justice, should we not require that the homes not only of the skilled mechanic, but of the masses of the people, who toil and labor day in, day out, just to eke a miserable existence shall afford all the amenities which the laws of our country require the employer of labor to give his factory hands.

If the homes or dwellings are unhealthy now, we should do just as we did with the unhealthy factory a few years ago, make the owners gradually improve them. This means that health authorities shall get busy and require owners of slums to improve them, at least get rid of the dirt, remove the rubbish, re-furbish the rooms, install suitable conveniences and gradually abate the overcrowding. Thus, as time goes on, let us "close up" and prohibit the carrying on of the trade in letting of the unhealthy house, inhibit sub-letting and make the householder keep clean. A family may be poor, without being disgraced, but make the poor realize that dirt and filth are a disgrace as well as a detriment to health and a cause of disease.

Now a few words on the home itself. The home is not merely the roof or shelter under which a family eat or sleep. It is more. It should be the happy centre of life, where every member can read, work, play or rest in comfort.

The main requirements of a healthy home may be summarized as follows:

1. Every room in the house should be well-lighted and properly ventilated.

2. There should be sufficient sleeping accommodation for each member of the family without overcrowding, and with due regard to recency.

3. The living room may be the kitchen, and should be sufficiently large to allow children and adults to sit and read in comfort.

4. There should be a bath-room with hot and cold water, and a sink with hot and cold water inside the house; also facilities for washing and drying clothes.

5. It is also necessary for the healthy home to have a cool place for food storage and direct ventilation from the outside air.

6. There should be a water closet for the use of each family and a movable receptacle for house refuse.

In addition to this, every house should have at its door a satisfactory open space in which children can play without having to cross main roads.

To conclude. It was Khama who said: "England takes care of her things, but she throws away her people." "If it be true," says Sir George Newman, "it is a terrible indictment" and he adds: "In a certain sense it is true."

If it is true of England, it is equally true of Canada. No matter how much we improve environment, no matter how much the state and municipality improve conditions, it is still evident that most of our social problems remain and that men, women and children suffer needlessly. There remains the personal factor to be reckoned with. These are matters of individual concern, individual knowledge and training, the counsels of personal self-government which are of vital importance to the health of a community.

It is idle to expect municipal authorities and governmental departments to do everything and neglect the personal factor. The individual is the unit of the home, the home the unit of the State, the country depends on the homes of the people and the home life depends upon the well-being and health of the individual.

We often despair of educating the public and governments in questions of health. The former spend plenty of money in undermining their constitutions—but will spend little more than they have to in building them up until they get ill, when they will often swallow nostrums which the unscrupulous advertise.

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