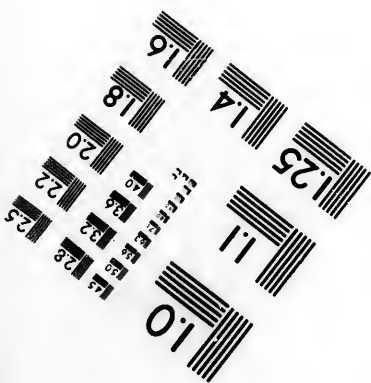
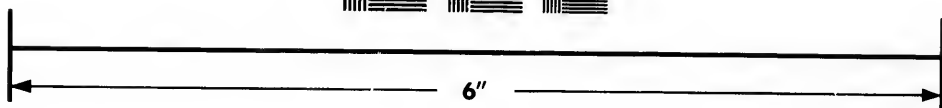
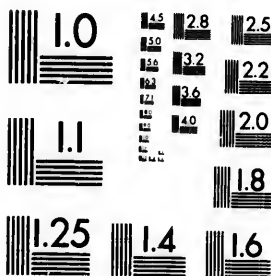


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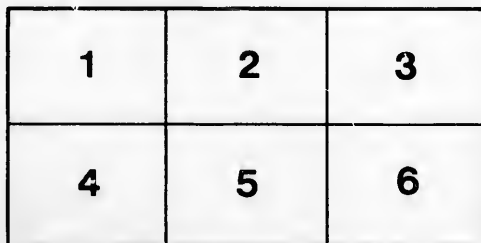
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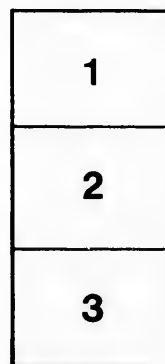
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REPORT
TO THE
HEALTH COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDING THE

Re-modeling of the Health Department,

WITH

AN ACCOUNT OF THE RECENT VISIT OF THE DELEGATION
APPOINTED TO VISIT NEW YORK AND BOSTON
IN AUGUST LAST,

BY

WILLIAM KENNEDY,

CHAIRMAN HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Montreal:

PRINTED BY THE LOVELL PRINTING & PUBLISHING Co.

1874.

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HEALTH COMMITTEE,

THURSDAY, 29th October, 1874.

RESOLVED,—That the said Report be printed and submitted to the Council,
and to the Board of Health.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

ALDERMAN KENNEDY, Chairman,

ALDERMAN ALEXANDER,

ALDERMAN DESMARTEAU,

“ KAY,

“ MULLIN,

“ ROLLAND,

“ McCORD.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS,

FOR THE YEAR, 1873.

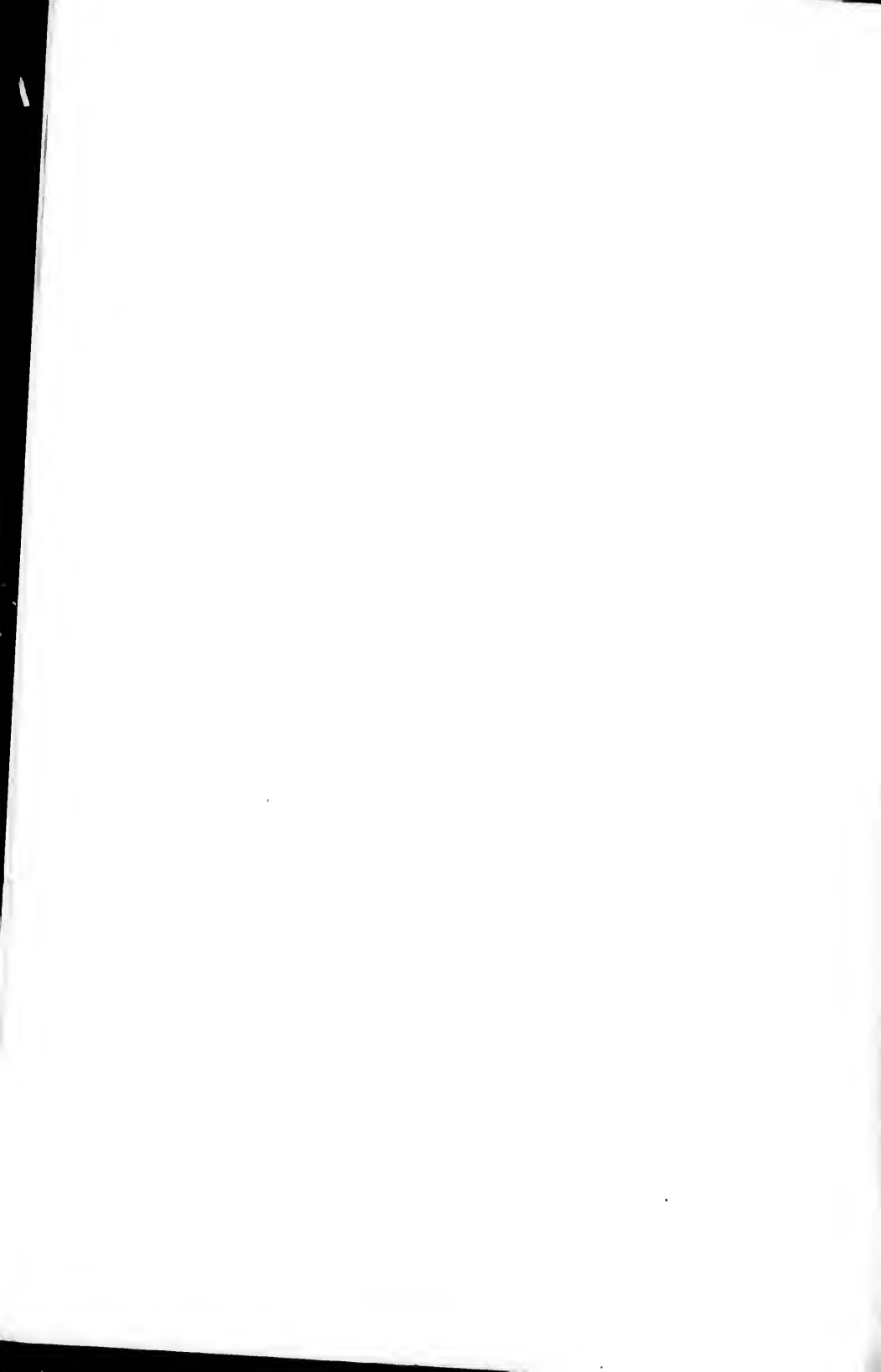
Marriages.....1,435.
Births.....6,086.

The number of Births is probably considerably greater than here mentioned as this number is compiled from the returns of baptism only, and therefore the number of those who are not baptised in infancy, (either through the religious views or neglect of their parents) does not appear.

Deaths, over five years of age.....1,968.
“ under “ “2,986.

4,954.

These numbers are probably incorrect. From the imperfect system of registration and the number of those buried in our cemeteries, who have died outside the City Limits a perfect statement cannot be obtained under the present system.



REPORT.

MONTREAL, October 28, 1874.

TO THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN:—On the 11th August last the Council appointed your Chairman, and Aldermen McCord, Stephens, Rivard and David as a delegation to visit the principal cities in the United States, the duties of your chairman and Alderman McCord being more particularly to enquire into the working of their Health Departments.

I believe that a great benefit would result to the health of the city if the system of Abattoirs, so long under consideration, is adopted by the Council. The fat rendering establishments in the city have become such a nuisance, that complaints against them are made to this department almost daily. The present by-laws provide for the punishment of such nuisances (by a \$20 fine) but to put the law in force would subject respectable citizens to fines every day. We have a remedy, however, in the erection of public Abattoirs, and this work should be proceeded with at once.

In my Report to the Market Committee reference was made to the Offal Docks in New York. These Docks are situated on the river side and are enclosed on three sides by a high wooden fence, the whole covering an area of 200 square feet. A small shed has been erected for the accommodation of the policeman in charge and employees. The offal is removed from the slaughter houses every day, and taken in barrels by a schooner to Barren Island every second day. From the policeman in charge I learned that this offal was made into manure, and then reshipped for the use of

farmers. The Animal Dock is separate from the Offal Dock. A great many horses die in New York daily (I saw two myself while passing through the city.) These animals are put into a scow and towed by a steamer to Barren Island. No men are allowed on the scow, until it has arrived at its destination. Offal Docks appear to be necessary in New York but I would not recommend the system here.

GARBAGE.

I was informed that the department in New York had been more or less used for supporting political friends than for doing the work assigned to it, and it was therefore transferred to the charge of the police. From personal observation, I noticed that a number of leading streets were kept clean, but in others, especially in the more crowded parts of the city, there appeared to be great neglect. The garbage and ash box for such purposes were kept in front of the chain stone, on the footpath, with the lid on a bevel so that it could not be used as an easy seat. These should be cleaned every day, but from appearances many showed several days neglect. By means of these boxes the closets were kept in order and the obstruction of drainage prevented. When the garbage is removed it is placed in scows and used for filling in flat parts near shore where the city is extending.

EPIDEMICS.

The New York small-pox hospital is built at the end of an island. Through the kindness of the Health Physician we received much information. A special chart of the city showed where small-pox had been, the special localities being particularly noted. The mixture of so many nationalities and the connexion between New York and the world is no doubt the cause why small-pox still exists. A great work lies before the Health Department, but from the energy and activity we observed there is no doubt they are doing all they can to conquer their difficulties.

BOSTON.

From New York we proceeded to Boston. From observation this appears to be a very clean city. Having had considerable conversation with the physician, Dr. Green, and the officers of the Health Department, we return them many thanks for kindness shown, and for many very valuable documents.

VACCINATION.

They vaccinate chiefly from the eight day lymph. Compulsory vaccination had not been adopted, but Dr. Green believed it soon would be. A great many difficulties had to be contended with among the population. The French and the negroes were opposed to vaccination, the Irish were obstinate, and the Portuguese were a very bad class to deal with. The plan followed by the Health Department was to call at the manufactories where a large number of people were employed, and induce manufacturers to employ only those who had been vaccinated. The clergy were also reasoned with and took up the matter satisfactorily. Three doctors canvassed the city thoroughly. The Irish called at the office and would not be satisfied unless they were well marked. Some foreigners were stubborn, but on the whole the intelligent submitted and those who did not suffered.

THE SMALL-POX HOSPITAL OF BOSTON.

HOW IT WAS ESTABLISHED.

Many of the Aldermen were pledged not to vote for a Small-Pox hospital, but such pressure was brought to bear upon them by the citizens that they were forced to establish a Board of Health, which was composed of members of the Council and citizens, and of which one member retired every year subject to re-election. This Board went immediately to work and bought a large building, sending the account into the city for payment. Many proprietors petitioned against the Hospital being near their property, but to no

purpose. The death rate was at that time very high but through the energies displayed by the Board it was gradually reduced till it was almost extinct, only one or two cases coming under their attention in a month. For the last six months they have not had one case.

Dr. Green's opinion is that vaccination is good but it is not the only means of stamping out small pox. The greatest success is attained by isolation. To this means Boston to-day owes its freedom from the loathsome disease. The expenses are comparatively light, being only for the Doctor, Steward, and a small staff of assistants.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

This department removes garbage and ashes, and attends to watering, and sweeping and cleaning the streets. It has its own stables, horses, carts, &c. The horses number 160. Alderman McCord and myself visited the main stable at 6.30, a.m. in order to witness their arrangements. We found it to contain 100 horses, and to be provided with horse shoers, a wheelwright, and all the materials necessary to repair and make new carts. The horses were of a large size, something like those of the "B" Battery, which was stationed here. The sight was a very interesting one and showed how much could be done under a proper system, and with what little trouble. (The man in charge of the horse and waggon knows his work, and with his help, a broom, shovel and tilting stick, and a small box of sundries in case of accident, each waggon is a self-acting department.)

The first waggons go out at six o'clock, and call at hotels, &c. Second lot goes out at seven o'clock, the men in charge seeing that the brass buckles in the harness of the horses are cleaned and everything in order. Waggons then go out in regular order, each waggon being an institution of itself and each driver being responsible for any neglect.

The garbage is gathered three times and the ashes twice a week. The hotels are visited every day. The streets are well cleaned and watered. The men by constant employment know their duty and perform it with ease.

In conversation with a Pullman boy (as they call themselves) I was told that a number of them had a feast in their boarding rooms, and during the evening threw the rind of a melon into the street. It was not long before the landlady came in saying she had picked up the rind, and requesting them not to throw any more as if the road inspector found it out she could be fined. The people here are taught to be clean. In Montreal we must begin to inculcate the same doctrine.

PUBLIC BATHS.

There are sixteen or eighteen Public Bathing places in Boston. Of these six are for ladies, who generally drive down to them in carriages. The bathing here is very beneficial, having the salt refreshing qualities which cannot be obtained in a fresh water bath. I will describe one of the men's baths. It is a large floating dock something similar to the one which has for so many years been owned in our own harbor by Mr. Kilgallin. A man has charge of it, who receives a small remuneration for the use of towels, and this makes the bath self-supporting, after cost of erection. There is no charge for admission. We noticed a few of the rules: Each bath is under the supervision of one of the City Aldermen. The person in charge has full power to expel any one violating the rules. No swearing and no boisterous language is permitted. In all there are some eighteen rules, which are strictly adhered to.

PUBLIC URINALS.

In New York we only came across them in public squares and parks. They are all placed off the main walk, and with elevated grass plots. There are two or three in each square.

In Central Park there is a very handsome Public Urinal. It is an iron octagon building resembling wicker work, tastefully got up. The man in charge had a neat grass plot adjoining with swings for boys and girls. The few cents

he earned from this source were his remuneration. We also saw a neat building in an isolated part off the main walk. It was fitted up with pan closets complete. One side was for women the other for men. There are also baths attached kept in very good order.

In Boston, there was but one Public Urinal besides those in the parks and squares. Near the flagstaff on Boston Common, there is a building fitted with closets and urinals, with a man in charge. The place was very cleanly kept.

Odorless excavating apparatus for emptying vaults, sinks, cesspools, sewers, &c., are used in New York to great advantage. Alderman McCord, who visited Baltimore where these are made and in general use, gave me a pamphlet containing a description of them. They are quite different from those which were made for the Guano Company here. They are so complete in the pumps the valves of which are made of gutta percha. These valves being made in the shape of a bottle, allow for obstacles, which cut-off pumps do not. Montreal should have one of these machines. They could not be used in frosty weather, but during eight months of the year would prove very beneficial.

INSPECTION OF MILK.

For the past 14 years there have been annual reports on the inspection of milk in Boston. We were informed by the Inspector that they were baffled by law in proving the adulteration of milk, from quirks as to how cattle were fed, &c. As to the mode of convicting, the Inspector secures the milk and proves its quality by a lactometer. If it shows beyond proof to him, he gets it analyzed, resulting in all cases of certain conviction.

RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR

Re-modeling the Department.

This Committee has a very important work before it, and no time should be lost in taking it in hand and instituting a complete reform. When the Health Department was first organized the city had but a small population, now it has at least six times the number, and the Department does not meet the requirements of the day. I beg to lay before you a few suggestions, which I hope you will carefully consider, and the Council will aid and adopt.

For some time past, in signing the warrants I have been convinced that the city does not receive the benefit that it has a right to expect from the amount of money expended. I am thoroughly convinced that many of the employes would be more useful if the Department was better organized.

Instead of the two doctors who occasionally call to see if the Health Office is still near Nelson's Monument while attending to their own professional calls, I would recommend that we should have but one doctor, who would devote his whole time to the Department, be responsible to the Committee, and receive such salary as would fairly compensate him for his services.

Our citizens feel grieved at the present large death rate, and it is our duty therefore to at once take action. A few months ago Public Vaccinators were appointed. Though little has been done, I do not blame them, for the very good reason that "too many cooks spoil the broth," and the fee of 25 cents is too small, bringing the profession, in my opinion, to a very low standard. I would not recommend the ap-

pointment of Public Vaccinators as heretofore, but would ask that the law be so amended that, instead of dividing the city into districts, the Health Committee have the power to appoint vaccinators from time to time for such districts as they may deem necessary. By such an alteration the Doctor in charge would secure the eight day lymph, and the Department would become more efficient. When found necessary, assistant doctors could be employed, and a thorough house-to-house visitation made. These doctors would have to make full returns, and be properly paid for their services.

I would recommend the appointment of an efficient manager, whose duty it would be to make out the city returns, receive all complaints and register them, and then assist the Committee in making such by-laws as would meet cases for which the law does not now provide. His further duty would be to see the proper working of the department, and in all cases of complaints where the Health Inspectors do not fulfil their duty, to personally examine and record the facts.

SANITARY DEPARTMENT.

I would recommend instead of the present out-door staff of Inspectors but four men, and the division of the city into East and West. This department I think wants improving. The men at the dump and deposit grounds will, from circumstances, regulate themselves.

Gentlemen, believe me I would not recommend this Committee to enter into any more contracts to do the city sanitary cleaning. By this I do not mean the cleaning of soil pits but the collection of all waste and garbage, and everything of that nature that chokes up our sinks and drains. This cannot be done effectually without constantly watching the city, and no contractor will perform the work required to the satisfaction of the Department and to the requirements of perfect sanitary reform.

I would also recommend the erection of city stables, and

that land be purchased at once, and stables built, with sheds and other necessary buildings.

An out-door overseer should be appointed who should have a horse and light vehicle. (This is so essential for the supervision of the city and general out-door management that it cannot be dispensed with.) I would also recommend the purchase of seven horses with waggons made with covered lids, to hold twice the quantity of our present carts. One of the horses might be used for the meat inspector's wagon, and one of the carts with ratchet windlass and oil skin covering for the removal of dead horses and animals; the remaining horses and carts to be employed in the cleaning of our markets and scavenging. The men in charge to be furnished with a uniform, suitable and clean for their work, The expense to the city would be much less, and the work better done than by our present system.

MILK INSPECTION.

Our attention has been drawn time and again to the state of our infantile death rate, especially by our city physicians; the adulteration of milk, which is the sole nourishment of the infant, being the more direct cause. We should not neglect this important article of food, but at once initiate measures to give us fuller powers than we now possess.

I would recommend that a Milk Inspector be appointed whose duty should be to visit all places, keep a strict watchfulness where cattle are fed and supplied with food for dairy purposes, analyse with a lactometer and keep a daily record. By this means a general supervision would be exercised. In cases of prosecution, a chemist could be employed to analyse the milk. Sub-Chief Flynn, from his long and faithful services with this department, would, I think, make an efficient Inspector of Milk.

This department is prepared to give all necessary information, and our City Attorneys should see that the necessary protection is given for the efficient carrying out of the Law.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The progress of our Meat Inspection since the appointment of the second Inspector has been slow and unsatisfactory. The Inspectors do not feel their responsibility to the public, and neglect their duty by arguing the merits of the law with those they have to deal with, instead of sending to the Chairman a written document, stating the omissions and defects they meet with in carrying out the present Law, or seeking the assistance and counsel of the City Attorneys. In many cases they have not shewn sufficient respect for themselves or their position, but too often have acted as scavengers. I am sorry to state that a great many scabby and unhealthy cattle have been slaughtered this summer. Many have had ulcers, and many were lean and sickly. These facts I am prepared to prove.

If our Meat Inspectors have no law for this, it is high time they should suggest the difficulties to this committee. As they are now in office I hope they will see the importance and responsibility of their position. These facts show more clearly the need of *Abattoirs*.

SMALL-POX HOSPITAL.

Shall Montreal have this blessing or not ?

I would earnestly recommend but one. Our neighboring cities have a larger population, and one is all they find necessary. I hope all differences will cease on this question, and that we will all join in establishing an hospital on the land adjoining the Hotel Dieu. If we allow the appropriation for this Hospital to be subdivided, we will bring with it all those ill feelings and discords which should be as much as possible avoided.

Further, the spread of small-pox in our midst, and the many influential citizens that are dying, should urge us to call upon the Board of Health to take the matter up at once, for it has become an epidemic. The law is plain. Let us get a temporary building in the meantime, and proceed with the erection of a city hospital.

CEMETERIES.

I would here bring under your notice a custom of burial in the Roman Catholic Cemetery which this Committee should request the Council or the Board of Health to bring before the R. C. Bishop; it is that a corpse coming after ten o'clock a.m. remains in the chapel till the following morning; the epidemic cases remaining among others. The friends of all kneel during the service of the dead, and after leaving the chapel go into the cabs and city railways, thus endangering the lives of our citizens. If his Lordship would give such instructions as would give immediate burial to all corpses, where death has resulted from epidemic diseases, he would confer a great boon on the citizens. Both Protestants and Roman Catholics should, in Winter and Summer, insist on the immediate burial of all epidemic cases:

The inside decorations of our city hearses should be removed and replaced with plate glass. On every occasion when the hearse is used it should be properly fumigated. Our city cars and omnibuses are at present very unclean, arising from the many foul stomachs and expectorations of those who ride in them. They should be daily washed and slightly sprinkled with camphor or some other disinfectant. There has been a great improvement in the removal of cushions, &c., but there is still a necessity of more frequent cleansing.

Special by-laws should be made to meet the requirements of each case.

WATER CLOSETS.

I am surprised to find intelligent citizens giving such little care to the water closets in their dwellings and public offices. The nuisance arising from their neglect, from the confined space, and want of ventilation is one of the many causes why we have so much typhoid fever now in the city. I would recommend every householder to become his own Sanitarian.

Let the soil pipe be clear from drain to discharge. It should enter the kitchen flue in the attic and if not practicable from its position to do so it should pass through the roof. Connect with this main soil pipe your bends and traps keeping always a clear pipe, and never let your bend sit on the top of the pipe. This will be found an improvement on the present system.

DOG TAX.

I am somewhat at a loss to know why the sanitay police should be hunting after dogs, and to what part of the duty of the Health Department this belongs. On this question I find a great deal of time is lost in the Recorder's Court and in many cases the wages we pay our men amount to more than three times the fines received. There should be a special time appointed for prosecuting this offence and not allow so many of our men to waste their time at the city's expense. By searching for unlicenced dogs their usefulness is impaired and their special duty interfered with.

PUBLIC BATHS.

Sometime last year three of our Aldermen were appointed a Special Committee to report to the Council on Public Baths. I was Chairman, the other two were members from the Water Committee. We met for business, but one member said that he thought the baths would interfere with the water supply of the city, and, finally, lost himself in a pond at Point St. Charles. The other argued that owing to the swiftness of the current opposite St. Helens Island it could not be placed there, and to go further down would be too far for the citizens. Your Chairman feels confident the public would support the inauguration of Public Baths. He is of opinion that during next summer two inclosures for this purpose should be erected on the south-east side of the Island, one for males and one for females. They could be cheaply erected, and be removed during the winter season. I would ask this Committee how, when in many tenements

there are three or four persons sleeping and occupying the same apartments, it is possible they can ever wash or clean themselves? If I am allowed to answer I would say I believe many never have been washed since their childhood. Look around us and see the factories and the many who work in them day after day, but the water of the St. Lawrence never reaches them.

Many cases of drowning occur every spring and summer an unusual large number having occurred during the past season. I feel certain that by the inauguration of public baths these melancholy accidents would be almost entirely averted, both by the opportunity they would afford every one to learn to swim, and also by removing the necessity so many now find of bathing in the river.

I would strongly recommend two city free baths, one east and one west, heated in *winter by steam*. The cost would not be more than \$14,000, including ground, building baths, and steam apparatus. After cost they could be made self-supporting, to meet expenses of supervision and care. Will the city be without this boon when thousands of dollars are being voted for parks, &c.

CRAIG STREET TUNNEL.

During this summer I have heard complaints of disagreeable odors and sickly smells in several parts of the City. I have endeavoured, on many special occasions, to trace their source, and I have traced them to this cause, that the outlet through to the river opposite the Custom House is so low that the drainage is in the water, thus forming a stench trap at the outlet. This drain falls from St Urbain Street, part running down and part running up the stream. Thus the gasses and foul air are accumulated, and forced into the cellars and basements of our dwellings. By this means the foul air passes through the traps, and enters into the offices, and dwellings, not only in the lower part of the City, but into a great many on higher elevations. I have felt grieved when I have been told that the fault lies at our door, and

that the death and sickness of many children is due to the Craig Street Tunnel. But what can I do? I attended a meeting of the finance committee and they authorized the expenditure of \$18,000, out of the \$60,000 to be borrowed from our city loan to commence this work some three months since. Why it stands in obedience, I cannot say. The amount, for this special purpose, was placed to the credit of the Road Department.

CITY LIMITS.

I would draw your attention to the City limits, comprising the various municipalities. From the over crowding of dwellings, principally tenements, the want of drainage, and the making of false drains where there is no outlet, a good deal of sickness, small pox and typhoid fever have resulted, extending to the City itself. As there is no sanitary law enforced in the districts outside the City Limits, the strongest appeal should be made through the Board of Health and the Council to Parliament, that some action and prompt measures should be at once taken, otherwise the city will constantly be under the threats of epidemic diseases.

I would also draw your attention to the fact, that many of our newly constructed tenements in the City are not much better than in former years. A By-law should be made to remedy the evil.

I would mention a custom practiced in Montreal a few years back, that is, of excavating a soil pit, and when another is wanted, of excavating it alongside the one already full. The result is that the surrounding ground of some of the City Property is nothing more than a quagmire of soil, only fit to convey disease. All pits should be properly built of hard brick or stone cemented. I hope the committee will see the advisability of supporting a By-Law on this point.

PUBLIC URINALS.

In establishing these some regard should be observed as to where they are placed. The one in Craig street should be removed inside the fence, the background lowered and

ornamented with creeping vines, &c., while the approaches should be from the walk inside, and tastefully laid out.

This Committee should suggest to those having charge of the Court House the advisability of improving the grounds fronting it. Nothing looks more desolate than a lot of trees without a blade of grass or herbage of any kind surrounding them. Two public urinals are very much required on this ground for the use of the many strangers and others daily frequenting the Court House on business. These might be placed at the corners of the two wings, under the supervision of the caretaker of the Court House.

I would suggest to this Committee that whatever sanitary measures are inaugurated or institutions established that they must be placed under the strictest surveillance; otherwise they will become a public nuisance instead of a benefit.

INFANTILE DEATH.

The question of infantile death should at once be taken up by the Corporation Physicians. Why are there so many of these deaths? It is not wise to be beat about the bush in this matter. Would it not be better to have a law passed by Parliament providing that every illegitimate child should be nursed by its unnatural mother for at least two months before it is allowed to be handed over to the care of any of the city institutions. A more stringent law might be enacted compelling the father, whenever known, and able to meet the expense, to support the mother and child; and in cases where this cannot be done Government should provide for the wants of the mother during this period. This I think would tend to much decrease the present large number of infantile deaths.

VACCINATION.

In this matter very little has been done in the great work lying before us. I feel I would be neglecting my duty if I here omitted to mention the strong opposition we have met with in our work from Drs. Coderre, Gariepy, and others, the many obstacles they have thrown in our way, and their endeavor to trample under foot the great medical preventa-

tive for small-pox, and to ignore the science of Dr. Jenner, to whom the world owes a debt of gratitude. Our thanks are due to those gentlemen who came forward and exposed the fraud of the trumped up photograph, which the above named doctors had the audacity to assert was taken from nature, thus deceiving the uninformed and materially increasing the opposition to our work.

GARBAGE.

Ceasing to remove the garbage of the city on the 31st of October, is a mistake, and I hope this Committee will ask the Council for a small appropriation to continue the work until a new and general plan is introduced.

The garbage during this season has been much better collected than in previous years. The amount is steadily increasing, and the amount of good done in this way cannot be calculated.

The Committee have to return thanks to the Council for adopting the system recommended in the opening of the season, and although much good has been done, still a greater improvement is much desired. I have to thank Mr. Lamb, who was appointed by this Committee to see that the scavenging was done, for his untiring exertions. I have found him from early morning always attending to his duty, but the men accompanying the carts have not been what could be desired. There is great necessity of adopting a new and more perfect system.

SANITARY CODE.

I have to request that during this fall you will take up the Sanitary Code and have it so revised and amended under the Statutes and Ordinances that the department may be placed in proper working order. I would also ask that our City Attorneys be called upon to give their serious attention to this matter.

The whole respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM KENNEDY,
Chairman of Health Committee.

