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**COMMON
GOOD**
of
Civic and Social Rochester

Know Your City



"I never saw anything so beautiful in a city as the wealth of Magnolia blossoms on Oxford Street. It gives me a memory to take away which will be a joy forever."

—Caroline Battell Crane. (See page 10)

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EDITORIAL

THE COMMON Good along took a complete report of Carlisle Bartle Crane's speech in Convention Hall last month, and it is with some satisfaction that we present it to our readers this month. To print this report we have not only given ourselves trouble and expense, but we have had to omit some interesting articles which must be postponed until July, which as our summer number, will complete this volume.

▲

We have in the interest of fairness given a few short notes to this preliminary report, and we feel sure that many will wish that they had known of our intention, in order that they might have given more. We can easily suppose that some errors have a place in so rapid a survey, which errors we have no doubt Mrs. Crane would be glad to have proved to her before she makes her final report. In the interest of the same fairness, it should be said that the particular examples which the surveyor singled out for praise or blame should not be taken too seriously. A criticised school building or a criticised factory is not intended to convey the impression that they are alone in their shame or glory. They are typical only and as such should be understood. We hope all serious criticism will be postponed until Mrs. Crane makes her final report.

Most of our illustrations are from photographs of places seen by Mrs. Crane in this city. In some instances they will be recognized, though we have not given the names of the places. We are sorry that we were not able to show

some of the worst conditions that she found. But perhaps those printed will impress the more, as no effort is made to give the worst.

While the writer was taking Mrs. Crane through one of the worst slum districts in our city, we came upon a group of boys shooting craps. They showed some dislike for our intrusion, but one bright-eyed lad of about twelve came boldly up to us and said, "What are you here for, to get us a playground?" We could not answer "yes," would that we could!

The following story given us by one of the teachers in a Rochester school will help reveal the menace which perfectly harmless, natural boyishness can be when there is no opportunity for its true expression: "What time did you go to bed last night?" I asked of my class of boys from Special Class of No. — School (all under 14 yrs.). Three out of five answered "Twelve o'clock." "What were you doing all that time of night?" "Oh, out with the gang." The "gang" it seems has a membership of between forty and fifty boys. The boys said that they went out almost every night on pilgrimages about town taking different routes. They break windows, throw stones, ring door bells and annoy people generally. "The cops can't catch us. We wait until they get almost on us then we skin down an alley or through a yard and away we go. Gee, it's lots of fun." Some nights they stay out all night. "It's on Saturday nights that we have the bully good time. Do

"you know what we do?" I asked. "What do you do?" "Well, we go around to the back windows and doors of those saloons where there's free lunches and we 'swipe' them. They're free, why not for us? They're good too, better than we get at home." One boy's father is in the habit of taking him to one of these saloons and giving him sometimes ginger ale, sometimes beer, that he might avail himself of the free lunch. When I tried to show them how wrong these things were, their answer was prompt and to the point: "Oh, Gee! who got to do something? What can we do? What can we play and where?" And, where can they play?

I told them of the playground that was to be made where the "dump" is now located on _____ street. They said "Oh, yes, they're going to make a park out of this." That's what they're going to do and do you know what we're going to do? We'll smash everything they put in it, that's what we'll do. We want a swimming pool and a baseball diamond so we can have some fun."

Last month in our comment on clothing factories, we expressed a wish that more might be known of the home work done for our factories. One of our editorial board has sent us the following story of some Rochester homes where clothing is taken to have work done upon it.

(1) One basement home, occupied by a family of eight, consists of two rooms and a very small alcove or closet. The front room which has two small windows and a door leading to the outside, is furnished with a cook stove, a sewing machine, table and one or two chairs. The alcove or closet is only large enough for a single bed, and has no window.

The backroom has one window. In this room the furniture consists of a full size bed, a chair, and a sink with cold water. The entire place is filthy and damp. The beds were in a frightful condition. On one there were no pillows and the only covering a mass of rags. The large bed had pillow^s but no sheets, pillow cases or covering except a feather tick. The two children, who were at home, had barely clothing to cover them, and were dirty and looked sadly in need of care. One child was eating his dinner of soup and bread. The table was covered with dirty dishes, the same evidently being used over and over without washing.

(2) A house in the rear. The entrance in a small shed, with a pile of filthy rub-

bish. Upon opening the door, there is just a passage way between the bed and the wall. At the end of the aisle or passage is the stove. At the foot of the bed are two chairs, the mother sitting in one, sewing on coats. In front of her a table with dirty dishes and a few crusts of bread. On the other chair was the food which was being prepared by the oldest girl assisted by the mother. The mother very thinly clad, with no shoes or stockings, and five children with scarcely enough to cover them. The children, with sore throats, coughing and spitting, were lying on the coats, which were thrown on the bed as soon as finished.

(3) The next case the rooms were in fair condition. The family, consisting of father, mother, and two children. The children were moderately sick with scarlet fever, and the place was quarantined, but the mother was working on coats in the home. The case was reported to the Board of Health, which sent someone to wash them, but she still went out morning and night for the work. The case was again reported to the Health Board and an officer was sent to watch the house, as the family were going out, mingling with others in a congested neighborhood in spite of the warning. When the officer left in the morning, she again attempted to go with the work, but was warned back. She thought it all very foolish as the children were not confined to the house.

(4) In another place, a family of seven were found living in two rooms. The front room is fairly light having three windows. The furniture consists of a bed, sewing machine, table and a few chairs. The back room is dark, having one small window. In this room the mother was washing, the dinner was cooking, and a child was in bed. The beds had no sheets or pillow cases. The children had practically no clothing on, and the mother no shoes or stockings. One child had sore throat and was also suffering from tuberculosis. The house was dirty, and the mother said she had no time to clean the house, but would try the next day to wash the child's head.

Booker Washington has said, "It is not so much what you will do with the negro as what the negro will do with you and your civilization. The negro can afford to be wronged. The white man cannot afford to wrong him." So with all social questions, the principle is the same. These people may be able to afford to so live, but we cannot afford it. For we are a community, we rise and fall together, we are happy or miserable together;

Preliminary Report of the Sanitary Survey of Rochester

By Caroline Bartlett Crane

Given at the Convention Hall, May 12, 1911.

Mrs. Mayor, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

In the something less than two hours which I hope to call my own this afternoon, I shall not be able in my preface to say many things which really deserve to be said. I will not be able to begin to suitably thank the official and unofficial citizenship for their very cordial welcome and helpful collaboration in this work upon which I am to undertake a report to-day. My hostess reminded me at the breakfast-table that I had not even thanked the weather-man, and I am sure—looking over the beautiful days and showery nights of this visit, that was a serious oversight.

I think, to begin with in general terms, what I thought before I came to Rochester, that Rochester is a remarkably beautiful and progressive city, full of promise and containing an extraordinary number of men who are not only filled with the spirit of commercial progress but who give liberally of their time, of their money and of their deepest interest to further those conditions, in which every child shall have equal opportunities with the most favored child of the community. I think it right that I should say this further thing which is deeply true, that never, anywhere, have I met a body of women so altogether admirable as those with whom I have been associated in this work in Rochester. And it seems to me that the basis or great hope of any improvement in the future which you may desire to make lies largely in the extraordinary spirit of co-operation which already marks Rochester and which I hope will more fully and truly,

mark its future development. I may say that I do, truly admire Rochester and believe in Rochester; and if this were my city as it is yours—for I lay down my commission this evening—I would still after this nine days' survey be very, very proud of Rochester. But my work here in the city and to-day is not so much to praise good conditions which I have found as to do that which I have been asked to do, suggest in various ways how it might be possible to make conditions even better. There is no chance for me to-day to carefully choose my words and I am going to trust that the same hospitality and kindness which has surrounded me everywhere, will surround me to-day and that you will believe that I desire to be absolutely fair and to say only that which I think should be said.

Now, without further preliminary, let us talk a little about

THE WATER SUPPLY OF ROCHESTER.

Rochester, like most cities, made its first public water supply for fire protection, and naturally took the water which was handiest, that is from the river which bisects your city. We have as the city grows to any size, the need of further increase of fire protection, and also the substitution of public water supply for the private wells which become so polluted by the excess of population, so you have turned to Hemlock Lake and have a very agreeable water, as to a great extent the shores of that lake have been acquired and are properly protected from pollution.

"There is no immediate danger of the water becoming contaminated, and we are acquiring

land on all sides of the lake as rapidly as it is possible to do so," City Engineer Fisher.



Inlet to Hemlock Lake through Springwater village.

The Commissioner of Public Works offered to take me out to the lake and all about it if I desired to go, but I was unable to because it would take a whole day of my time; but from maps and data which I have been able to obtain, I judge a great deal has been done to safeguard the waters of that lake. However, there is a village, called Springwater, with about 150 inhabitants,* on a creek, from which the drainage of this population goes; and we know from the health reports of the city that in the year 1893, in March, after a very sudden thaw of snow, the water became polluted so that the *colon bacillus* was found in this water. Now the *colon bacillus* is significant of pollution from sewage. It is not in itself a particularly dangerous germ, but its presence in water supply indicates sewage and danger from intestinal diseases, the chief of which is that most feared typhoid fever. This trouble was removed to a great extent in the said

*Perhaps the sewage disposal plant for the village will come in time, but there is no immediate need for it. The population of the village is now smaller than it was some time

tary improvements of Springwater; nevertheless, there is some danger, there which I think is recognized by authorities of the State. Epidemics have been traced to a single case. Really we have a very good natural protection in the sedimentation which takes place in the water passing down this stream and through the seven miles of lake before it reaches your intake.

The reservoirs in your public parks with walks about them I consider a distinct menace, and I hope later the walks around the reservoirs will be removed. The weekly examination of the water is a good point which is not always observed in cities as large as this; but you have once or twice had a dangerous bacterial contam. in your water, even as late as 1909. The water mains I am told by a number of people are in need of a more frequent flushing and are, now to be scoured and cleared; but there occurred last fall a curious accident by which the Hemlock waters were contaminated by the Genesee river water which resulted in increased typhoid and several deaths. This accident has never been traced to its source. It seems to me when that occurred great effort should have been made to ascertain the source and responsibility for such a shocking occurrence. The safety of the water supply, it seems to me, is the long sedimentation in the lake, the comparatively perfect protection of the watershed itself, and the fact that you have no emergency supplies, as so many cities have, turning the river water into the pipes for fire protection but upon occasions contaminating the pipes and never knowing when they are clean again; you have a separate fire system which is a strong protection of your own water. The city departments have occasionally given notice to boil the water, but you know there are so many who cannot and so many who will not,

again. City Engineer Fisher.

We understand that it would be truer to say 150 houses, and that it is a question whether the population is smaller. Ed.

Think of your children in the public schools and of your fountains which in cases of epidemic would prevent the boiling of the water, and it does seem to me this city should have an emergency purification plant even though it should not consider itself to need a filtration plant. Many cities now are establishing a hyper-chlorite plant, which costs but a few hundred dollars and sometimes is kept for emergency; and if any such emergency should arise again, as in 1893 and last fall when the pipes was contaminated, the apparatus could be put into operation immediately at very small cost. Two things are possible: a filtration plant, or supply this little village of Springwater with ~~sewage~~^{water} system so that it cannot pollute your lake^{*}—and perhaps this is the less expensive. It is well to remember that nothing can take the place of personal vigilance; even filtration plants become clogged, and if people become too confident in them, without proper regulation they become a danger in themselves.

Rochester is to be distinctly congratulated on the fine water it has. I have in mind a city of which I made an inspection and only three thousand larger than Rochester, where the people think the surface water about perfect, but where I found ~~such~~^{other} resorts operated; the people at large didn't know it. I am satisfied such would not have been revealed by the side of Houghton Lake. One thing I think very gratifying is the daily consumption of water; that is a good index of civilization. I am glad you are going to meter all water, to avoid waste and extravagance. I need not tell you it is of gravest importance to carefully protect the water supply. Cities are going to think of this matter not only as a question of health but of finance; since in Minnesota the Supreme Court has made the municipality legally

"There is no drainage of sewage through any stream which enters into the lake, and the only chance there would be would come from sewage leaching through the ground for a distance of about four miles, which would be practically impossible, and which would prove a very satisfactory filter, if it did occur."—City Engineer Fisher.

responsible for deaths from bad water. In the city of Mankato where agesian water supply by gross negligence was permitted to become contaminated by sewers backing up and getting into the wells, where something like thirty people died, some of the widows sued the city upon the lives of deceased husbands. And this Supreme Court decision has been followed by the decision of a case in Kansas City, Missouri. When this becomes the common and accepted law I am sure the cities will take greater care than at present to safeguard the source of public water supply. The drainage of water I am told is good. The City Engineer said there are very few little pockets where, because of the dip of the hills some slight special effort would have to be made; but you are very fortunate in this matter and it is a matter of extreme importance from the point of view of health.

THE SEWER SYSTEM.

With regard to the sewers the same may be said as has been said with regard to the water mains; that there is a very general extension of the sewer system. I do not remember of having seen any city, anywhere in the country, where sewers are so generally extended throughout the whole city and water as well. This is a matter of great congratulation, for good drainage, good water supply and well extended and good sewer system are probably the three most important points in the sanitation of any city; and I would say with exception of what I have said of the need of safeguarding, yours are exceptionally good. The sewer extensions to the river passing through your city met the primitive ideas of sewage disposal which does not to-day meet the approval of Rochester, or people living farther down the Genesee river.

"May there not be danger of the stream being polluted as it passes through the village on the way to the lake?" Ed.

"There are many of those cases now pending in the Supreme Court of this State and I should be unwilling to concede our liability on any evidence that has as yet come to my notice." —Corporation Counsel Webb.

We do not make our sewer plants as we should and until we do we probably will encounter many difficulties. The going away with out-door vaults is a marked feature. I do not remember having seen any city in which it has been so difficult to find any dangerous out-door vaults. I am told that in 1894 there were some 15,000 of these out-door vaults, but the census a year ago found only between one thousand and fifteen hundred, which is a very good record in a city of this size. However, you should not be satisfied until you have removed every one of these vaults where there are vaults and sewer connections. In fact houses should not be built on any street until water supply and sewer connection have been established. The river has encouraged the sewers, and the pollution which has resulted in a growing evil is recognized by you, for the low water which occurs at the time of year when the flies prevail and when they feed upon the refuse which is left upon the edge of the river adds to the unsanitary features of the city. To see eight sewer falls as you look from the bridges down the river gorge makes me rejoice with you that you have a plan to intercept all these sewers and to take your sewage away from the river and dispose of it by first removing a large part of the sediment, and disposing of it in Lake Ontario. I believe you have had the best expert advice in this matter and consequently it would not be at all suitable for me to undertake to advise you. I will, however, venture to say this much. I am told that the plan which is now being worked out is exactly in line for a future entire disinfection of the sewage before it is emptied into the lake. Everything you are doing now is all right, for that further thing which I hope you will do later, it seemed to me that the motive so far as I could learn, was altruistic and very fine. I am informed that you were not compelled to do this by law but that you did not wish to add further pollution to Lake Ontario and have voluntarily taken the expense of it.

STREET SANITATION.

With regard to street sanitation, if we only thought of our streets as floors I think we would be more anxious to have them clean. I find the public streets in general are considerably cleaner in Rochester than in most cities I visit; I think this is a very important matter you may congratulate yourselves on; notwithstanding there are many streets not clean, in a good many places waste paper was blowing around. There is an extraordinary amount of good asphalt pavement and the old pavements I find everywhere being repaired; and I understand this old pavement was built on a ten-year guaranty and that the average age on which the pavement has run out is sixteen and twenty years. I think it must have been well laid in the first place and been respectfully treated by the people. Probably the drainage has had something to do with it and I understand it has not been your practice to sprinkle asphalt, which is ruinous, for everything which tends to keep the asphalt damp leaches out the salts and destroys its elasticity. The new asphalt pavement has a very good crown so that it drains to the gutters; but some of it is not so good. You have not I see allowed your pavement to be ruined by traction companies. I see in your charter you require that the traction Company must always furnish the best improved rails and that they must bring their tracks to any grade. I do not find evidence of abuse by the traction company which I find in many places, but one thing I have been surprised to see is that you allow your traction company to use your streets as a switch-yard. I counted the other day upon Court street, between there and Exchange street seven of these large cars at one time in close proximity and I should consider that as generally dangerous and inconvenient for the people, and I wonder what the company pays for this privilege—either in the original price of the franchise or in rent or taxes for the use of your streets. At the present time I find a good deal of stone pavement,

some of it old and very uneven, the best of it on Main street, but with too low crown, the street seeming too flat with very little pitch in very many places.

I understand you have four flushing machines which are used more or less on the streets and that Main street is, according to the testimony of many people whom I have consulted, often in the condition I find it to-day: rather sticky, dirty looking in the cracks and interstices. Now I believe hand-flushing is needed on this street. I know there are many objections to hand-flushing; but we have here a lack of crown and we have double tracks, a problem which is not easily met by machine flushing.

We should have the cart application of water first along the tracks and then directly along the grooves of the gutters. Accurate application by hand gives better results. It has been said, "You will wash out the filling." You won't if you know how to do it. I will say that in three months that I had charge of the street cleaning in my own city in order to find out how to flush by hand I used to get up at three o'clock once or twice a week and superintend it. You need to reduce the pressure thirty to forty pounds; you can do this by taking off the nozzle and directing the water at a very low angle and you will not wash out the filling; you can have a two-inch valve and it is not going to hurt, but every atom of dirt will be washed out and it will keep your streets cleaner. It is good for your water main, it is good for your sewers and it is good for laying dust and it is always perfectly practical. It is all right for your street foreman to handle the hydrants and be responsible for them.

This flushing will have to be done at night when the streets are free from street traffic. I think from what I have been able to observe and learn, your hydrants are in the right places and there is no objection whatever to the work being done this way. Another thing which would vastly improve the street cleaning, I think, and which would lessen the cost, would be to do that thing

which Col. Waring wished to do when in charge of cleaning New York City, have the men out in rubber boots and garb to assist the dirt when it rains. Why, this morning with the shower we had, every paved street in the city could be just as clean as could be and no expense for flushing, for water or wagons. Wherever cities have done this thing a great improvement in the cleanliness of the streets have been noted. I am very glad to learn that recently your Department of Public Works has introduced the block system in the street. Heretofore, I fear you have had piles of dirt left until the next day when a man comes along with a shovel, part of it lies in the street and part has been blown away, but now you have the block system and good carts. I think it is a pity you do not uniform your street cleaners. Of course there are objections but lots of cities do it and there is the distinct neat appearance and pride in their work. I know in our city we had the same old decrepid men from our charity departments but we uniformed those men, and they stood straighter and they worked better, and it greatly facilitates inspection; you can see whether he is leaning on his broom; and he is not so apt to be run over by an automobile, and it greatly stimulates pride and enables you to pick out a man and see if he is doing well and commend him. I trust this will be added to your system before long. I have had numerous complaints about raising the dust from the machine sweeper and I have noticed the raising of dust by hand sweeper. That is not good, we all know, to sweep in a way to distribute that dust through the air. The hand sweeper should have attached to his cart a sprinkler, and should not sweep until he has gone over it with sprinkler.

It seems a great pity to waste this valuable fertilizer. We talk about conservation of reservation, and yet from our streets and stables all over our country we are wasting a valuable substance which needs to be returned to the land. Our federal government reports that

ordinary street sweepings even mixed with paper have still eighty per cent of original value as fertilizer,—which ought not to be thrown away or used for filling. If it is not suitable for filling. And, further, the flies have a chance to hatch and incubate in this filling which is not covered. If you are going to use it you ought to cover it.

I hear a good deal of complaint about the tearing up of the pavement which reminds me of a study I made of seventeen cities in Minnesota and one of them was your little namesake, and, as we were going one day down a street, there was a succession of billows and finally one of the ladies humped her head off the automobile, and our hostess explained and said: "Nearly everybody on this street is taking gas and we've been taking up the pavement since this." And I said "Yes, but how nice it would be if the people who lay it over could take gas, too." It is very important that the back filling should be done rightly; also, we should not tear up our streets unless it is absolutely necessary. Pre-mature paving is a bad thing. I sometimes recommend, when paving must be done while poles and wires are still in the street, that temporary pavement of brick upon sand cushion be made until the people really know what they want and then make it permanent later. I have seen wagons of contractors going along the street and at every bump jolt the dirt down on the pavement. I have seen sand piles where automobiles and wagons had carried their debris out in the street. There should be retaining boards to prevent this. The rubbish wagons are exceedingly unightly in appearance and I watched one of them being emptied and clouds of ash dust rose out of it, and there were piles of waste paper which I believe must be distilled on the way to the dump. These conditions are bad.

I want to talk about sidewalks but time is passing and you are doing something about your sidewalks. People must be taught more about throwing things down. I think the public school,

as Col. Waring found, is a great help in this respect and I commend and congratulate you on the condition I found in School No. 9; for the children are taught to pick up everything and to keep the grounds perfectly clean as well as to embellish with flowers, etc.

I am pleased to find that the Park Commission cares for the trimming of trees along the streets. I am so glad that I came to the Flower City this week. I never saw anything so beautiful in a city as the wealth of magnolia blossoms in Oxford street and fruit blossoms for every hand. It gives me a memory to take away which will be a joy forever.

GARBAGE.

The problem of garbage is one we have which our ancestors were not greatly troubled about; when it became unpleasant for them they could move off somewhere else, but we have to move our garbage. I think the reduction plant you have, which I am told cost \$59,000.00 is excellent. It is better than incinerating this garbage. I doubt if the city could not get more out of it if it did it itself. I hope you gave this privilege so that you can buy it after a while, because I believe you can make money on it. The collection of garbage does not seem as admirable as the reduction, and a great many complaints are made to me but I understand they are not made at the office. I have been told that two weeks' garbage has been allowed to stand in barrels, breeding flies—old, rotten, stinking barrels—it is very bad



"Old, rotten, stinking barrels" in a Rochester yard

for poor people, many of whom try to do their best. Some of the ladies in the parties have said they wished their garbage could be taken up oftener. I have been told that in food factories the garbage has not been taken up as often as it ought to be. I think not only should the garbage be taken up oftener but that the contractor should send a clean can and wash old ones oftener. Now he should not do it if it is not in the contract but you should get it in the contract. In Minneapolis they have a wonderful plan by which they say the can is kept clean enough to make pies in. Every bit is clean and wrapped in paper but if the garbage company does not want paper because they want to collect the grease, the next chance you have with the contract do not renew it unless he will bring you a clean can when he takes the old one—and it will not be a great hardship if you are paying \$59,000.00 for taking care of that which I think is worth something. I am told the decision has been rendered by one of our courts that the owner must furnish the can and by the other that the tenant must furnish it. The right and sensible thing is that the owner should furnish it. The city should not have to deal with the tenant which is an unknown quantity, coming and going, but the city should deal with the owner and let him deal with his tenants; and it should be required that the garbage should not be put in these old pails which become offensive and a place for breeding flies. I trust this can be remedied when you have opportunity to renew your contract.



Where many Rochester flies are now being born

The handling of city rubbish in all conditions, giving a free collection of all ashes and rubbish here is an admirable system. The best idea, at least the best I have seen, having truckers go ahead and having the wagons come, and then having others return the can. That is very good and I think better than night collection, because we want to minimize the night noises; for if you have rubbish wagons coming around at night there is another noise to keep you awake.

But your wagons I do not like; they should be covered and different receptacles should be used. I have found complaint in many places because now the collection is not to be but once in two weeks after the first of May. It seems to me that until after the first of June we ought to have weekly collections. People often have furnace fires and have not finished their spring house cleaning. The wooden barrels I consider a very great danger. I have found them frequently not ten feet from the building as your ordinance says, but close against the building; and I have found a number of wooden barrels chuck full of paper and other combustible refuse directly adjacent to the building and underneath very frail stairs which have not proper supports in the first place and where the burning off of just one or two of them would have caused the stairs to collapse. We ought not to have ashes in wooden barrels because inevitably in crowded conditions which prevail in rear lots we are going to have fire danger. I found in this particular house there was an ash chute which would have been fire proof but they used it for garbage only, and the ashes were in wooden barrels under this wooden stairway, making a very great danger.

On the way to the hospital I saw so much waste paper blowing about, that it constituted a great nuisance, but I am glad this is all to be done away with, that you are going to have a system of incineration and you are going to have a sorting belt and paper can be brought out; and then I hope you will not have any children picking over your dump. I saw

a boy and girl who ought to have been in school, according to their size, picking over the dump; it is a degrading occupation which children ought not to be allowed to perform. There is much which should be said. Everybody can pick what he wants as the belt goes by. I hope the children will not be there.



"I hope the children will not be there."

If you can improve the garbage contract and get better cans, and if you can get more frequent collections, the poor need it, and most of all if you can get covered and better cans and no wooden pails or barrels for ashes, and covered wagons to receive this refuse, and do away with the dumps,—why, I think you will have abated all the things which need abating and will have a model system.

With regard to the garbage as a health measure, I find that yours is not in the Bureau of Health as in other cities; nor even in the same department; it is in the Department of Public Works. Now I think that possibly this is one of the things that accounts for the failure sometimes to get these things done as they should be. I asked just exactly what was the process to abate a nuisance; and I was told there was an inspection, then there was an order by the Health Department, provided it was something that it allowed, that the place should be cleaned up in a certain number

The following letter appeared in the press:

The people of the neighborhood long for the power of Hahnelin to free them from the source of sewer rats that find a happy hunting ground in the piles of refuse and overflowing garbage cans that stand day after day, week in and week out, filling the air with vile odors,

ber of days, two to five days and perhaps ten days. Then re-inspection to see if the case had been complied with; then if not, and these are cases with penalty, they came to the Municipal Court and most of them there repose. I have been told that 1,100 violations of health ordinance or rulings of Board of Health have been handed over to the Corporation Counsel and that on forty-seven of those action had been taken and that in some way nuisance has been abated in thirteen cases out of eleven hundred,—and information was not forthcoming as to penalties. But those who gave me this information wanted me not to be too hard toward Corporation Counsel, because, they said, he had done forty-seven times as much as any one who had preceded him and he had troubles of his own.

I am calling attention to health ordinances. The first morning I went out to inspect schools; I found in front of your open-air school barrels, and I don't know how many barrels of garbage and refuse of every kind, all ridiculously mixed and veritably lying all about the ground; as much on the ground as in barrels, and I tried to fix the history of this case; it is really like a Chinese puzzle; I only know they have for months been trying to abate this thing, and that it was still there this morning because I telephoned to find out. It is a menace; and the health ordinance forbidding this thing should be operative.* I asked what report the Health Department gives upon cases that are turned in, and I cannot find any. It seems to me some sort of word in explanation should be given to the Health Department; they don't know whether they found enough evidence, they don't know what it is, a few cases are touched and other cases, a great many, and ninety-nine of the cases out of a hun-

6 May 16:

Within a few feet of this disease-breeding filth is the tent for sick pupils, and in the corner apartment house a little life last week was sacrificed to diphtheria. All this can be seen as you ride through one of our principal streets, not covered up by the darkness of alleys.

A Night Dweller.

dred are not heard of in any way at all. It seems to me the Health Department is working at very great disadvantage.

I have something to say with reference to the Health Bureau—not this particular Health Bureau but the arrangements provided for it by your charter. You think you have a good charter, and I think you have, too, but it seems to me some one has tied your hands in many matters which are vital to public health. This conclusion I came to before I arrived in your city and without any conference whatever with officials. I spoke on this more at length than I shall be able to this afternoon before the City Lunch Club the other day, but I want to say a few words, and it is not personal in any way; it is simply to show you your charter needs some revision and it is for you to decide whether it is right or not.

Most of the people have the opinion that the Board of Health is, in effect, the Bureau of Health, but the fact is, according to the words of your own charter, the Commissioner of Public Safety, in whose Department the Bureau of Health exists, has the power of the Board of Health conferred by the state legislature to cities in New York, with the exceptions which are mentioned,—and the exceptions are that he cannot make any general orders and regulations for the preservation of life or health and the execution of the public health law, that this power—making general regulations for the protection of life and health and execution of the same—is vested in the Common Council of your city, which is made up, I believe, of twenty-two men, not elected at large, but from the wards, not elected to protect the health of the people but elected for other reasons which I do not need to specify.

"While I would not be understood as claiming that all the orders of the Board of Health are immediately complied with, my department has instituted many actions upon complaints, and we have written scores, perhaps hundreds of letters which have accomplished the results aimed at without expense or injury to the citizen, and this in my judgment is a far better record than to have it reported through the press that we had begun

in general application. When the Commissioner makes report of eleven hundred violations in one year and only forty-seven of them are really tried, you can see how the hands of that department are tied.* The Health Officer is not free to appoint his own assistant, and he does not appoint the twelve health physicians who have charge of the school inspection and the care of the indigent sick and the health of the city. These are not full-time men and they are only paid fifty dollars a month apiece and they are not appointed by the Health Officer. The Health Officer, however, holds office during good behaviour and until incapacitated in some way; and who is the judge in this matter? I will tell you in a moment. It seems to me you are trying, by your charter to bind him down and give him no power to do his work. According to the charter you are to hire and make a great deal of noise but not use any bullets.

I have a high regard for the Commissioner of Safety and this is not a personal matter at all; I simply call attention to the fact. You are supposed to choose a health officer because of his special training and fitness and it should not be that any Commission or person who is not trained in this line should be the last appeal. In case of special peril of public health your charter says your Commissioner of Safety may expend—does not say how much—a certain sum, —but, that this peril shall not be deemed to exist unless the Commissioner of Safety and Board of Estimate shall so determine. It is the neatest way of suppressing an epidemic if it will work; that I ever saw.

I will call your attention to the dis- placing of the Health Officer in case he is incapacitated or has committed any

thousands of actions looking to that end." Corporation Counsel Webb.

Is not the real question and cause of complaint, the length of time which it takes to abate a nuisance by this inexpensive method? If this is the method used in regard to the nuisance at the opera-tory school, dare we say that it is better than prompt action?—Editor.

dereliction of duty; he is subject to the same rules as for officers in Police Department or Fire Department and from which there is no appeal. I say that it is right that a medical man should be tried by medical men who know something particularly through their professional training of what he is doing.

I never knew a Health Officer who could be popular. I know your Health Officer at home, one of the best that ever lived; lost half his practice—we are hoping to repay him sometime—because he enforced rules. I am told that a Board of Health used to exist but that you abolished it to get it out of politics. I don't know to what extent it had been in before, but it is in politics here as much as I ever saw in my life.

I want to read a few figures about various bureaus, fire and police and health, etc., but I cannot. I want to read you the salaries; not one is overpaid—your health officer, \$3,000. When I innocently asked him the other day if he would take me to a certain place, he was very much embarrassed and went to telephone for a taxicab and I asked him if he didn't have an automobile. Your Police Justice is paid \$4,200, your Judges of Municipal Court \$3,000 apiece, your City Engineer \$4,500, the Chief of Poor Department, \$3,000, Corporation Counsel \$4,700. None of them too much; all fairly well paid except your Health Officer who has too little—it seems to me. We will pass that by; but I wanted to say this thing because people do not seem to understand how hampered in every way this bureau is. In many cities there is a Commissioner of Health with his department; you have this bureau in, with fire bureau and police bureau and under management which leaves him absolutely under the direction and control of a man who is not a medical man. I should not want him under anybody man who is a medical man but a Board composed of two medical men and two laymen would be a proper board, in my estimation, and this Board should be empowered with power to legislate. Your city body here is not

the only power to legislate, according to the city charter, your Park Board can legislate; your Cemetery Board can do the same. I care more for the living than the dead, and it seems to me your Health Bureau should have co-ordinate power with your Cemetery Board.

ABOUT THE SMOKE

It seems to me you have not a very bad smoke nuisance yet but it is getting to be; several have done excellent work and have abated the smoke. I have been interested in Bapchi & Lomb's and the over-feed system of the Mechanics' Institute. I think there has been no complaint; and that splendid, ideal Adler-Roehiger factory, the finest I have seen anywhere and which I would not have missed seeing; these men have done their work excellently and I think it will have effect in the city. They have right relation, according to experts, to boiling capacity so they do not have to suppress their fires; they have brick arching which supports the boiler from the fire. That is a vital point, if that brick arch were placed in many of the small hand plants you would get rid of much of your smoke. It is not so expensive, if you will see the type of boiler which was recently installed in the Mechanics' Institute. And I wish the Chamber of Commerce which is doing good work, would look into the Dutch Ovenarch. I think it is a very good thing that so many of your plants are having power of somebody else, because the small plants find it difficult to abate smoke. The Bechiye factory is a good thing to encourage; one which will furnish power to many small plants, your laundries and many things of that sort. Many plants I visited were found to be smoking, but in most cases there was reason why they should smoke. Many have discarded smoke collectors because they didn't work, and upon inquiry I found that they copied somebody else. That is just as bad as if you borrowed your prescription for some ailment from somebody else and used it for yourself because somebody has succeeded in pre-

venting the smoke by a certain pitch or plan of feeder is no reason why some other plant should adopt the same means. Smoke can only be abated by studying the conditions; you have got to be sure your smoke inspector is a competent engineer to say how it shall be remedied. I am very glad this matter is being taken up in a conservative way. We want our factories, we want our railroads; we cannot get along without them. Besides we allowed them to grow up without protest and we cannot all at once change them but we can do a great deal. I have been trying to find out something about your ordinance but your Corporation Counsel was unable to say whether dense smoke would be considered a nuisance per se, but I judge it is by the decision of the court. If we can just say no more factories shall be established without smoke protection, gradually others will do the same and gradually we will become a smokeless city.

A LITTLE ABOUT MILK SUPPLY.

Rochester's reputation for milk inspection has gone far and wide, and it is astonishing what your health officer has accomplished in face of such difficulties. I was astonished to find your milk ordinance the meanest and most feeble of any I have ever examined, and I do not understand it. The lack of tubercular test is certainly to be deplored, although I do not mean to say all cities have it; but Chicago and St. Paul and Louisville and many cities have it and all should and especially after it has been definitely proved here, that there is need of such inspection.

Meaning the need of temperature test. I was surprised there was none from the time it leaves the cow until it comes to the city; and yet it is a crucial matter. If a milk temperature is cold, 50°, it does not afford condition for rapid development of germs; just as if you put wheat in land last December, nothing happens but if you put it in now with the warmth of the sun you will have a hundred fold. Your plant just common dirt

germs in milk which is allowed to stand in a temperature of above fifty degrees, there is proper soil—the milk itself, the temperature which causes those germs to multiply in this is not one hundred fold only but ten million fold—and you have your harvest of death. This is a matter of such extreme importance and so much has been accomplished notwithstanding the lack, I thought you would want to know. I do not know of a city half the size of Rochester which has the name of being in any way progressive which does not have the temperature test for milk previous to the time of sale, and we cannot rely upon counter-clock Pasteurizing for purification of your milk.

In one of these complaints, for example where they have 600 quarts per day, the room in which this happens to be had cockroaches on its walls. We must not take dirty milk; dirty milk means warm milk. If it is dirty to start with it would be very much worse if the temperature is not cut down.

The sale of loose milk upon the street, I have not found in any other city except in Rochester; and it is astonishing that it should be done. I was very much surprised in a very, very dirty barn where the pigs had been ordered out the day before—but they had been there, and there were horses in the barn right then—to find this man did not sell directly, he did not have a license, but he sold to another man who sold to another man who delivered it to this city. It should be required—and that is what your Health Department should require—that any man whether dealing with the city directly or second or third removed, shall have proper inspection. It seems to me heroic work has been done with the small force of inspectors and small amount of bacteriological work—a good deal of work with a small service.

I have only mentioned two or three out of a dozen things which I will amplify in my report. I do not understand why that ordinance is held up. I trust after election you will get that ordinance passed. There is one thing I

would do if I was in the city, at least I would publish the rating and the bacterial count and I would let the people know what they are getting. There are so many points on the milk problem which should be attended to and are overlooked, that I would have been glad to have had the whole afternoon for it.

You have no meat inspection except the sanitary condition of the slaughter houses is looked after as much as possible by one of the assistant milk inspectors. I understand many think that superfluous. I wish I had had fifteen or twenty of your Common Council with me yesterday when I inspected the slaughter houses which are furnishing meat to this city. I believe I never saw a more filthy nor more dirty hole from which to produce meat and for human consumption, and the man said he thought he was doing pretty well; and I told him I did not blame him if people would not demand better. You get the kind of milk you demand or the kind of meat you demand. There is certainly great need of meat inspection. If you could smell the smells! We could find that slaughter house! We didn't know very well where it was, but we just ambled along and we came to it all right. The conditions of the floor and coated walls against which the carcasses were hung, and livers, hearts, etc., and tables; the same knives which were used for cutting the meat used for cutting offal; the feeding of raw, uncooked offal to the hogs which afterwards you eat.

I understand there is no state law in New York which prevents this thing, as there is in many states of the west and also as there is in the state of Massachusetts. The conditions were as bad as could be. It is wholly unnecessary. I will mention the name of a model. I think the Rochester Packing and Cold Storage Company deserves great credit. There was no odor there. There were nice cement floors and refrigerator and a good supply of filtered water and very excellent arrangements except the drainage of syard, which is to be improved; and when I suggested improvements the

immediate answer was, "We will do it." It showed what could be done.

The next subject I wished to take up was the matter of markets but I will have to leave it out. I just want to compliment you on your fine public market, which was very clean when I saw it. I cannot say anything about your candy and bakery factories which feed a lot said about them. They are not so very good. I will have to put these in my report.

One matter I must speak of, anyhow, and that is the danger from the bake ovens. You have an ordinance which requires wherever there is a bake oven under wooden beams there should be a metal cover extending out four feet under the doors; and that is not enforced. You have an ordinance for careful protection of wooden beams, and that is not enforced. I find in one bakery there have been so many fires that the Underwriters refuse to continue the insurance—and I am not surprised. I find in one catering kitchen the fire protection was very inadequate; on the next floor were further kitchens, above that was a banqueting room where there are children and parties, and on the next floor above many young women sleep—and there are no fire escapes on that building. I considered it a very dangerous condition which the city of Rochester ought to know about and which should be remedied. I cannot amplify but will in my report.

I found your lodging houses were very dangerous risks with lack of fire escapes except ropes. I found very good apartment houses which were not furnished with fire escapes when they should be. I found in the bottom of the elevator shaft in the Chamber of Commerce a lot of combustible rubbish; some on the floor and some in barrels which would start a smoke and easily start a panic. It does seem to me after all the warnings you have had so near at home as Albany and the recent fires in New York City that more should be done to safeguard the people in these matters. I want to say there is a very

serious dereliction of duty in these matters in this city. I am not going to be able to say what I wish on schools and housing, but I want to say something on fire in schools. I am glad to see your five school commissioners are elected at large but not to see that they are elected by party tickets. But I have been greatly impressed with the intelligence of the members of the School Board I have been privileged to meet. I must pay this compliment to the public schools of Rochester: The new buildings are, in the main good; you are bonding \$75,000 and yet I wish it were three times that amount. The school baths are very fine, and I haven't seen anything so fine as the manual training you have been doing; but I wish we could have more house science for our women. I haven't any particular interest in women who show interest in civic matters but who are not first intelligently interested in their homes. I wish you might give as much house science to all your girls as you give manual training to your boys. And your splendid out-door schools! Your school gardens and the work begun in public health will be continued, in school inspection and school nurses and the use of your schools which extend to social centers are all fine!

Let me tell you what I found for fire protection in No. 14, your Training School. That is not a new school but you will use it I suppose for years to come, and something should be done. The smoke pipe which comes by actual measurement is $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches, where the plaster is off is estimated $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, some of this lath is loose. I thought that a very bad thing, especially considering your ordinance that nothing should be nearer than two feet. When I reported that to the Public Safety Department the matter was taken up. The next time I went there the Fire Inspector was there and he told a member of the party that was nothing, that he passed it with his eyes shut? there was no danger. Now, it is your building and your children and it is for you to decide whether you want your ordinance enforced or

not. It is your matter. I understand somebody arose in this city and explained the matter by saying: "My dear friends, law is not made to be enforced, it is to soothe."

A little about the light of your schools. Rochester has a meteorological record of having 65 per cent of cloudy days and more than fifty per cent of this sixty-five per cent occurs during school sessions,—and I do not find any well lighted school buildings in this city. I am sorry to say that but it must be said in view that you are going to build new ones. Most state laws have a rule that the window area, the actual glass area shall be one-fifth, some say one-sixth as compared with the floor. I find by actual measurement of glass that your East High School has just a fraction over one-seventh and that the style of your building cuts off the light. In Germany no school building can be built and used for that purpose unless the distance of the closest building from that school is at least twice the height of the building. There is a small area of glass and windows. They are beautiful building, but I fancy the windows were placed for exterior purposes. Perhaps it looks better from the outside but our eyes will be better able to take in that beauty if we do not blind them. More than that, none of the windows are rightly placed. Nature has done a great deal for us to shelter the eyes from direct rays, and we should take great pains in our school lighting to do the same. The proper direction for light to come is from the left and there may be supplementary light, but never from in front. The children get much of the light in their eyes in some of the schools. In some of the old buildings, I found that the window area was just a fraction over one-eighth instead of one-fifth, as it should be. In some of those buildings it would be possible to put in new windows and they should be placed in; and in some cases sheet prism glass, which is not expensive, would greatly improve the lighting.

I am glad to see in all the new buildings they are installing vacuum clean-

ers. Another thing, when you find chalk dust on the hair ribbons of the girls you may be sure there is more on the mucous membrane.

The matter of washing hands is important. There is such a great need that there should be more provision for washing hands in the schools. I find principals of the schools do not appreciate washing the hands; they say the children are supposed to wash at home. So long as one of the diseases most prevalent is typhoid fever, I think I do not need to say more to show the importance of telling our children to wash their hands and there should be the opportunity, so that every child that is taught to do this at home should have the opportunity to do it at school.

I found about thinking there were not enough fountains so children had cups and also in one school the practice was not disturbed because they were allowed to drink from taps. I think if you follow you will appreciate the danger from using taps or cups.



"The beginnings of very bad slums".
Twenty children were sick in this slum in one year.

I was taken over this city by officials who said they showed me the worst you had in this city and said they had no slums; I think they believed it. That is not the first city I have found which thought so. You have slums in Rochester and you have the beginnings of very bad slums! The sewage extension and water supply is good but there are many conditions which will grow worse. There are tenements which would shock you and shame you, I know, if you knew

of them. There are lodging houses, the condition of grading in back lots which are very bad. There are many basements homes in many parts of the city, which should be done away with. We found very bad conditions, and ten cent lodging houses should be looked into and improved.

I want to commend your police officers, one or two on Front Street who were anxious to show us conditions and I was told they were anxious to correct them. There is so much that is insanitary; I do not understand this, but the Health Officer has been trying to get rid of it for years. After seeing these I asked to see your model tenements, and the Health Officer said, "Can you show me a model bath or model tooth-ache?" If you can then I will believe in a model tenement." Then I did see some model dwellings on Zimbrich Street and within reach of the car. I wish I had time to say more about them. These were near a street car line and you pay \$150 down and \$5.00 a month until you acquire the property. I regard the house problem as the most important problem in Rochester to-day as it is in all large cities; the housing problem is at the bottom of the tuberculosis problem. Given good homes and then given this careful training of people in hygiene science, and safeguarding the health of the children and you have a good city for the future.

I was going to tell you about the fine Police Court I found. I was so glad to see the court room was a credit to the city, and justice was administered with dignity and impressiveness. I do not object to your Police Court Judge's salary at all. I must speak of one thing there, however, and that is the indiscriminate mingling of witnesses and of women under arrest for trial. I didn't look into the matter on the men's side. Your matron told me with complacency that any woman who was condemned was allowed to mingle with the witnesses; and I asked her to specify, and she said, "Thieves and murderers." It ought not to be tolerated! You ought not to per-



Rochester tenements to "shock you and shame you"

mit this and they told me at the jail that they did not permit of such a thing. To have witnesses kept six and seven weeks, as they sometimes are, with a constant procession of women who are under arrest, for any crime, you are simply encouraging the vices which you ought to abate.

I cannot talk about the Alms House. I have not observed dereliction on the part of officials who have it in charge but you do not give to your helpless poor out there all they need.

I haven't time to talk about your Infant Summer Hospital or dispensaries and many other things that are good; but with all these measures I hope you will take to heart the old story of the little girl who was mopping up the floor as fast as she could while the water was overflowing from an open faucet; and the mistress of the house, coming through the room, said, "Mary, why don't you stop this by shutting off the faucet?" and Mary replied, "Law sakes, ma'am, I am so busy mopping up this floor I ain't no time to think of the fassets." I hope you will have time to look at the "fassets."

Rochester is rich in money and in civic pride and in its men and women and most of all in the future generation which is to be the Rochester in days to come. But it seems to me that this city must free itself absolutely of partisan politics in order to grow up to its possibilities.

I look to Professor Mosher's commission scheme for civic government and I see how easy it was but is now so hard to reach. You must remember that it must be for all. We have learned that we cannot safeguard our own health unless we protect the health of others. You cannot protect your own children with

love and kindness unless you protect the others; because they meet and they will meet at polling places and vote to make the laws which will determine the good and evil of your children. As Mrs. Gannett says, we must see that the child of the poor has all the advantages we ask for our own. I think this was never put in better words than those from Charlotte Perkins Gilman,

"How shall I disturb thee,
My child, my child?
Thou art one with the rest;
I must love thee in them.
Thou wilt sin with the rest
And thy mother must stem
The worst sin.
Thou wilt weep—
And thy mother must dry
The tears of the world,
Lest her darling should cry;
For so, and so only,
I lighten the share
Of the pain of the world,
Which my darling must bear.
Even so, and so only."

But I stand not alone;
I will gather a band
Of all loving women;
For over the land
Our children are one
With the world.
Do you hear? They are
One with the world.
We must hold them all,
For the sake of my child,
I must hasten to save
All the children on earth
From the jail and the grave;
For so, and so only,
I lighten the share
Of the pain of the world
Which my darling must bear.
Even so, and so only."

To the Editor:

A clipping has just reached me headed: "Corporation Counsel Webb Makes Reply to Assertions by Sanitary Survey Expert; Says That Statistics as to Prosecution of Health Bureau Complaints Were Not Obtained From His Office."

Will you kindly allow me space to say to your readers that I have made no misstatement, and that the misapprehension of the corporation counsel probably arose through a second-hand report of what I actually said. I read the following sentence from the annual report of the corporation counsel for the year 1911:

"For the health bureau I have instituted forty-two prosecutions for failure to comply with the health ordinances, and the orders of the health bureau."

These are the only figures which I claimed to have taken from this report. I then stated that, in response to my inquiry, I had received a written statement from the health bureau that

"Last year we sent 1,300 orders for prosecution to the office of the Corporation counsel." * * * * * I can not give you the number of suits for which penalty was collected, but out of the forty-two cases in which proceedings were instituted, thirteen were abated after proceedings had been begun.

I am certain that all those who heard me must remember that I jingled these last figures as coming from the health bureau, because I added that the person in that bureau who gave me the figures particularly asked me "not to be sarcastic toward the corporation counsel because in prosecuting forty-two cases he had done forty-two times better than any predecessor, and that he also had troubles of his own."

I do not feel called upon to enter into any controversy which may arise between the various municipal departments of your city. I was trying to get at facts, and the facts, as taken from the official report of the corporation counsel and from a will testament given me from the health bureau, are precisely as quoted above.

—Caroline Bartlett Vrané.

Kalamazoo, Mich., May 21, 1912.

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The Children's Charter

1. No child shall be compelled to live in an institute, every child has a right to a home.
2. No child shall be compelled to play on the streets, every child has a right to a garden of its own.
3. No child shall be compelled to be a bread winner, every child has a right to at least eighteen years of childhood.
4. No child shall be compelled to play and be amused all the time, every child has a right to share in the chores.
5. No child shall be compelled to live in a house built for its parents, every child has a right to a house adapted to its needs.
6. No child shall be compelled to live in tenements or congested districts, every child has a right to space, light and fresh air.
7. No child shall be compelled to be ill-nourished, every child has a right, however poor its parents, to proper food.
8. No child shall be compelled to have children's diseases, every child has a right to be always healthy and strong.
9. No child shall be compelled to be an angel, every child has a right to be a real boy or a real girl.
10. No child shall be compelled by disease, work or neglect to die, every child has a right to live and be always happy.

—Edwin A. Rumball