



REPORT

OF THE

LADIES' HEALTH PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

OF NEW YORK.



1888 AND 1889.



REPORT

OF THE

Ladies' Health Protective Association

OF NEW YORK.

1888 AND 1889.

President,
Mrs. MATHILDE F. WENDT,
127 East 91st Street.

Vice-Presidents.
Mrs. HELEN S. BELL, 108 West 44th Street.
Mrs. MARGARET W. RAVENHILL, 38 West Washington Square.

Recording Secretary,
Mrs. IRENE E. HARLAND, 35 Beekman Place.

Corresponding Secretary,
Mrs. MARY E. TRAUTMANN, 27 Beekman Place.

Treasurer,
Mrs. MARGARET J. HERBERT, 215 East 48th Street.

Chairman of the Board of Directors,
Mrs. MARY F. SCHOEN, 1144 Park Avenue.

Directors.
Mrs. I. J. STEIBEL, 310 West 103rd Street.
Mrs. MARY A. NEWTON, 128 West 43rd Street.
Mrs. LAURA M. PALMER, 25 East 65th Street.
Mrs. SARAH BAUM, 326 East 50th Street.
Mrs. ESTHER HERMANN, 59 West 56th Street.
Mrs. CECILIA FENDLER, 24 Beekman Place.
Miss THERESA BARCALOW, 141 West 34th Street.
Mrs. AMANDA E. TIFFANY, 152nd St., West of Boulevard.

Ladies' Health Protective Association

OF NEW YORK.

1888.

REPORT.

REVIEWING the work of the past year, the members of the Association feel they have achieved some good result from their labors, for the benefit of mankind, and feel great encouragement in the continuance of their efforts.

GAS HOUSES.

The complaints of this nuisance being so frequent and numerous from all parts of the city, the Association gave its most vigorous attention towards its abatement, and appealed to the Board of Health for its co-operation, which was responded to at once, and Dr. Goldschmidt, chemist of the Board, accompanied the chairman with her committee on a tour of inspection to the various gas houses in our city. As there had been a recent explosion on December 31st, in which one man was killed and several wounded, in the gas house of the Equitable works at 39th Street and East River, that was the first one visited, and the following report is the result of the inspection.

Odors to a limited extent cannot be prevented. The oxide of iron which is now in use at this company's works, was proven to be the best deodorizer, and the boxes containing it did not require to be emptied, only at intervals of four or five days, while the lime boxes in use at some of the other houses must be changed two, three or four times a day, and the escape of the gas could not be avoided in the process of emptying boxes.

Another objection to the use of lime is the difficulty of disposing of it after it has been used.

Heretofore it has been used to fill up land; but the sulphur with which it is impregnated is retained for an indefinite period, and when the filled in land is disturbed for building or other purposes, the fumes assert themselves with their original pungency. The lime, too, though of less value than the iron used, is more expensive on account of cost of removal and cartage of such quantities which cannot be again used, while the iron can be repeatedly oxidized and used over. In careless hands, the naphthaline formed might accumulate and choke the pipes, forming a back pressure on the gas, making an explosion possible.

Dr. Goldschmidt was unable to account for the cause of the explosion, although several theories had been advanced but none of them had been verified.

The Association desired a thorough investigation, and concluded that since it was admitted that gas houses were unavoidably a nuisance, that public influences must push in the direction of a removal of the entire system from our city. The chairman gave reports of several other gas houses visited, and found all using lime boxes as deodorizers and no better improvement could be obtained.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The unsanitary manner in which the animals were kept and also slaughtered was one of the greatest reforms the Association had to combat with in the early years of its organization. We are most happy to state there has been great improvements in this field of industry, and while there is still room for many more, we feel the men engaged in this business are in sympathy with our efforts and doing all in their power to conduct it in a sanitary and scientific manner. Committees visit the abattoirs from time to time and always receive the most courteous attention, every part of the building being opened for their inspection, and can return to their homes with an appetite, where formerly they would shrink from the sight of meat after a visit to

the dirty pens where they witnessed the most filthy manner of slaughtering our meat for daily consumption.

MANURE AND STABLE REFUSE.

The abatement of this outrageous nuisance being the cause of the formation of this Association, the members resolved that although they had achieved great results, they wished to have a radical reform which would end this nuisance, and enable the committee on this work to turn its attention to other evils requiring reform. With this end in view, they sought the co-operation of the County Medical Society, also the Board of Health, for a permanent settlement of this question. After a great deal of hard work, an order was issued by the Board of Health, ordering all the manure pits to be removed from the sidewalks and placed within the stables. This was met with strong opposition by the stablemen, they using as arguments that the manure would destroy the varnish on their coaches, and impregnate them with the odor, but scoffed at the idea of the same being in any way detrimental to health or objectionable to the senses. Notwithstanding their objection, the order of the Board was imperative, and we had the great relief of passing stables without having sight and smell outraged by men forking over and hauling manure over the highway and loading it into carts. While this was a great step towards the removal of this nuisance, and we fully realizing it has to exist, we did not cease in our energetic efforts to make it a merchandise that could be controlled without offence to the public, and with the assistance of our medical friends, urged upon the Board of Health the necessity of having the manure baled in the stables, and carted through our streets in bales similar to oats, etc. The stablemen insist the properties of the same will be destroyed as a fertilizer, but this question will be decided by expert chemists, and we hope before another year their decisions will end this annoying branch of our work.

STREET CLEANING.

The Association have given much time and thought to this subject, and although they have held conferences and proposed plans with the Commissioner of our Street Cleaning Department, have not met with much success.

Our Chairman of this branch in our work, prepared a most able memorial, which was presented to Mayor Hewitt, who expressed himself much pleased with many of the suggestions, and advised Commissioner Coleman to act upon them, which he did, for some time, such as emptying the receptacles at night, and requiring the same to be kept within the stoops or area line. This met with the approval of the general public, as one could pass through the public highway without encountering ash barrels and garbage receptacles lining the edge of the sidewalk, or being covered with this refuse when men were emptying them into the carts. As there were so many reforms unheeded, the members resolved to hold a public meeting in the interests of clean streets and the various evils existing in our city, and to acquaint the public with the work of this Association and enlist sympathy and co-operation. Chickering Hall was generously placed, with all its accessories, at our service by its owners, and on the 24th of May the meeting was held, and presided over by Judge C. P. Daly, who gave a summary of the work of the Association.

The following gentlemen addressed the audience with much enthusiasm: Gen. Stewart L. Woodford, Hon. Wm. Woodall, Member of Parliament, England, T. B. Wakeman, Esq., Dr. Egbert Guernsey, Rev. T. J. Ducey, R. W. Welling, Esq., Dr. D. B. St. John Roosa, Dr. J. C. Peters, Rev. Dr. Sole Mendes and Courtland Palmer.

The audience expressed sympathy with the efforts of the Association, and it is hoped the object of the meeting was attained.

SCHOOL HYGIENE.

The magnitude of this undertaking was such that the work of inspection could move very slowly by this committee. Several of our public schools were visited, and

careful investigation made as to the sanitary condition, and the committee found in many of the schools great need of improvement, and hope, with the hearty co-operation of the Board of Education, to soon achieve some good results.

We are happy to state that through our efforts some of the schools have received prompt attention, and decided changes for the better have been made in their condition.

CROTON WATER.

Learning through a very able report, written by Dr. John C. Peters, that much of the illness in our city, such as typhoid and scarlet fevers, diphtheria and other contagious diseases, were due to the filth emptied into the Croton sheds at Brewster, we resolved to visit that location and induce the residents to form a branch organization to co-operate with us, and have this outrage abolished. But before we were able to carry out our plans, the danger had become so apparent that the matter was taken care of by the State Board of Health, which relieved us of any further action.

Cow stables have been investigated and reforms secured wherever unsanitary conditions were found to exist. In co-operation with the Woman's Conference of New York, we have endeavored to have women appointed as factory inspectors, and also as police matrons. We have used our efforts with the President of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, to have cigarette smoking abolished among boys. In fact, wherever we have found an evil existing any way detrimental to health we have rendered our aid to reform, and feel our efforts will meet with appreciation and success.

Mrs. M. E. TRAUTMANN,
Secretary.

Ladies' Health Protective Association

OF NEW YORK.

1889.

REPORT.

WITH the beginning of this year, 1889, the Association enters upon its fifth year of sanitary and philanthropic work. While we have met with much opposition and have had many obstacles to encounter, we still feel gratified that many beneficial results have been accomplished through our efforts, which give us renewed courage and energy to persevere in our endeavors for the public welfare.

STREET CLEANING.

This greatly vexed and much discussed question has not progressed very favorably. Although the annual appropriation is large, our streets show very poor results for the distribution of the money. We have appealed to the Mayor and Commissioner of Street Cleaning Department for co-operation, referring them to our memorial and asking to have some of the suggestions acted upon. We have always received polite attention, with promises for the future which we are still looking forward to have fulfilled, and hope to meet with some success.

The manner of disposing of our garbage and offal is a most *extravagant* and *wasteful* one. Knowing that crematories have been erected and successfully operated in the following cities : Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Des Moines, Milwaukee, Chicago, Detroit, and Newport, with a smaller one on Coney Island, we resolved to investigate thoroughly this economic method of disposing of garbage and other refuse. We

wrote to the owners of the one on Coney Island requesting an exhibition of its work before our committee, which was promptly complied with. As they only consumed the waste from the hotels, one visit showed what could be done. This being so satisfactory, we at once resolved to see what could be done with a city's waste. With this end in view we sought the services of General Egbert L. Viele, one of our most prominent sanitary engineers, and engaged him to immediately inspect the Merz cremator at Buffalo. After a suitable time we received his report, from which we are convinced that what is now emptied into the sea and fills up our harbor as waste, can be converted into a commercial industry and made use of in various ways.

In his report he says: "The proper disposition of garbage and refuse is one of the most important problems connected with systematic sanitation. Many methods have been suggested and many experiments have been tried to accomplish this object, but thus far with doubtful results. There are four distinct kinds of refuse that are produced in very large quantities in this city, all of which must be removed speedily and effectually as a matter of absolute necessity to the public health. This requires an expenditure of an enormous amount of money (\$1,250,000), and the use of an army of men and horses day and night. "The four kinds of refuse which accumulate in large quantities from day to day are: 1st. The deposits in the streets incident to commercial traffic; 2d. The production of ashes and cinders in dwellings and numerous industrial establishments; 3d. Manure from thousands of stables; 4th. Garbage or kitchen refuse. The last is the most offensive, being composed of a combination of animal and vegetable matter in a state of decomposition, and which when mixed with other refuse serves to contaminate the entire mass, producing offensive odors and supplying pabulum for the rapid production of the germs of disease. The carelessness and recklessness with which this specific refuse is disposed of in every quarter of our city, is a standing menace to the public health. A proper cleaning of the streets and a prompt removal of the refuse is an under-

taking of vast magnitude, which a systematic administration and watchful supervision can alone accomplish.

"There are seventeen dumping places on the North and East Rivers, to which the refuse is conveyed in carts to scows moored at the wharf. These dumping places are in themselves an unqualified and disgusting nuisance; the carts drive upon a raised platform and dump their loads of garbage and street cleanings into the scows, where a swarm of Italians, men, women and children, stand ready to rake out the rags, bones and anything else they may regard as useful, which are gathered and carted again through the city to be converted into economic purposes.

"There was conveyed during the year 1889 to these dumping places, 1,359,620 cart loads of refuse, making 3,372 scow loads, of which 2,053 were sent to sea, 1,319 scow loads were used for filling in new wharfs in the vicinity of the City of Long Island, Jersey and Yonkers. Ashes, garbage, street cleaning and all other refuse except dead animals are dumped promiscuously into these vessels, no attempt being made to separate the different kinds of refuse, or convert it into an economic use, except such as is gathered by the Italians referred to. About 1,000,000 tons are annually gathered and disposed of in the manner thus described.

"The process in use in Buffalo deals exclusively with the kitchen refuse. This is kept separate and collected separately at the houses. The inhabitants are forbidden, by law, to mix garbage with other refuse."

Then follows a descriptive account of the process of converting the refuse into whatever economic elements it may possess.

"The bones are ground for fertilizers, or made into bone black; the rags are used for the manufacture of paper; the remnants of the tin cans are melted to recover the tin; the oil matter is used for soap or lubricators, and the brown powder is mixed with other constituents to form other fertilizers. Just what the commercial value of these results are, I am unable to say. As the works were new, the process of handling the garbage was rather crude, and more expense attached to it than will be with the improve-

ments experience will bring. I did not perceive anything offensive attached to the establishment. This investigation has been made with a view to the application to the process of a like purpose in the City of New York. Every encouragement should be afforded by the authorities towards bringing it forward. That such a thing is possible there can be no question. The progress already made is evidence of this. All that is required is perseverance till the object is accomplished.

EGBERT L. VIELE."

After this report, wishing to pursue still further investigations, we engaged the services of Mr. A. H. Napier, a civil sanitary engineer, formerly connected with the Board of Health, to obtain for us statistics from each city in the United States where cremators were in operation, also those in use in England. After spending much time and labor he sent us a full report, giving us the population of each city, number of loads of garbage cremated daily, cost of each load, etc., which report we are prepared to submit to the Mayor and Street Cleaning Commissioner.

We have also corresponded with the president of each health board in every city where cremators were in operation, and all acknowledged the advantage cremation has over the old method, vastly improving the sanitary condition of the city and raising the standard of the public health. Admitting the work of the Street Cleaning Department is very unsatisfactory, we feel householders can greatly assist the removal of much of the existing evil, by a little care in their homes, destroying in their own ranges much of the rubbish they throw into the receptacles and litter about the streets. We propose issuing a circular to this effect, and hope to have the aid of our authorities in their distribution. While our sister cities, with so much less population, have made the advance over our city in this sanitary progress, we hope the time is not far distant when we will follow in their footsteps and have large and effective crematories where we now have docks and dumping scows.

MANURE AND STABLE REFUSE.

Following the street cleaning is the manure question, which we have hopes of settling most effectually. Our committee have labored most assiduously for months to further their plan to have all manure baled in the stables. They were met with strong opposition by the stablemen, who claimed by such process all its properties as a fertilizer would be destroyed.

The chairman of this committee wrote a report, receiving assistance from scientific as well as medical authority, which was endorsed by the Academy of Medicine, County Medical Society and German Medical Society, and kept up a constant vigilance to prove the necessity of this measure. Wishing to be just to the interests of all engaged in this business, and show to them the benefit to the public health without loss to themselves, we have corresponded with and interviewed all who could aid us in this movement. In this effort we were supported by the co-operation of the Health Board, with its president, Chas. G. Wilson, Health Commissioner, Joseph D. Bryant, Wm. H. Smith, M. D., and Dr. Edward W. Martin, chemist of the Board. The latter made a thorough analysis of the manure and proved its purpose as a fertilizer would be improved by baling, over the manner in which it is now handled. The following letters are a few examples of the many we have received in our searching investigation:

NEW YORK, February 25th, 1889.

To the New York Ladies' Health Protective Association:

LADIES:—In response to your request, that I should give you in writing my opinion concerning the present management of the stable refuse of this city by the proprietors of the stables and the contractors who remove and dispose of it, I will say that it will be furnished with pleasure and without hesitation.

In my opinion the present method of handling this debris from first to last is simply disgraceful and as rudimentary as it was fifty years ago. In this assertion the vaults in the stables, for the storage of the material, the filthy carts, scows, cars and dumping grounds used in the transportation of it to the consumer are all yet on hand to bear me witness. Notwithstanding sanitary knowledge has greatly increased and many sanitary reforms have been effected within the last thirty years in this city, the nuisances of stables arising from the management referred to have continued and been able to resist successfully in a mysterious manner all efforts which have tended essentially to abate

them. Now I do not wish to be understood as encouraging a crusade against stables in this city, not even against those in good localities, but only as in opposition to their being made loathsome nuisances to those who live near them and pest holes for the nurturing of disease.

In my opinion, if the vaults in all the stables for the storage of manure were abolished, and presses substituted for them to put the material in a compressed state as fast as it is produced, the complaints against them would entirely cease. It could be put in barrels, bales or boxes, as might be most convenient, and shipped therefrom to the consumer as ordinary freight, without giving offence to any along the whole line of transportation. There is a traditional impression remaining in the minds of many of our people that the fumes and other emanations arising from the decomposition of stable manure is healthy and should, therefore, be tolerated, however disagreeable they may be. This impression has had much to do, no doubt, with fastening this nuisance upon us, absurd as it may seem, and cause much labor in report-making by medical committees to counteract them and prove them utterly false, which reports have had the endorsement of the County Medical Society, and also the New York Academy of Medicine, without a dissenting voice in either of these bodies.

To these reports I may also add the testimony of Dr. Languet, who, in a recent paper which he read before the Paris Academy of Medicine, in which he contrasted the sickness in the cavalry and infantry service of the German and French armies, and found that diphtheria was more prevalent in the former than in the latter, and declared it to be his opinion that the cause lay in the fermentation of the excrement of the horse stables.

I cannot, from my own observations in private, hospital and dispensary practice in this city, verify fully the observations made by Dr. Languet, but can bear testimony that I have found very many cases of diphtheria in its worst form in the families of those who live over private stables and in the immediate neighborhood of manure vaults and large accumulations of stable manure. I cannot say that they originated from the fumes, but feel confident that they were greatly increased in severity by the foul atmosphere.

Dr. John C. Peters and Dr. Lawrence Johnson, both ex-presidents of "The County Medical Society," bear similar testimony.

With earnest hope that you may succeed in inducing "The Board of Health" of this city to require that all stable refuse shall be put into a compressed state before removal, and that it be shipped to the consumer in the same form, which, in the language of Prof. Chandler, is the solution of the stable nuisance, I am

Very respectfully, yours,

ALEXANDER HADDEN, M.D.,
155 East 51st Street.

247 FIFTH AVENUE,
NEW YORK, February 22, 1889.

MRS. C. E. FENDLER, Ladies' Health Protective Association:

DEAR MADAM: I wish your Association entire success in their laudable efforts to bring about the greatest reform of the day, viz: the abolition of

underground pits for the reception of stable manure, and the pressing and baling of it immediately upon its production. It has always seemed to me a singular inconsistency, that the Health Board should interdict such receptacles for *human* wastes, and allow them in the case of *animals*.

No New Yorker needs to be told that the city is rife with stable odors, from Harlem River to the Battery. In the course of many years' travel around and over the world, I have never seen a large city, civilized or pagan, so subject to them. New York is emphatically a *City of Stables*. There are streets full of them. Stables are on, or near, most every block, and no resident can walk or drive about the streets on his ordinary tours of business or pleasure without having to pass an offensive stable, and thus assist to remove an infinitesimal portion of the manure in his nostrils. The depreciation in the value of real property throughout the city, which stables produce by their vicinity, is simply incalculable.

It has long seemed to me a pitiful business for a great city like New York to be engaged in that of producing and "rotting" manure within the city limits for the benefit of a few surrounding farmers.

Of course, all reforms like the one in question, when they come to be put in force, meet with opposition. A few interested parties, fearing that they may be subjected to a little more trouble, or a little more expense, kick against them.

It seems to me that the principal question for the determination of the Board of Health is this: will the reform proposed accomplish the desired result, viz.: the riddance of the city of *its greatest nuisance*—that of offensive stable odors? No one who has ever looked into the subject as extensively and carefully as I have done can doubt for a moment that if all manure were required to be pressed and baled as soon as produced, a stable would be rendered as innocuous as a carpenter's shop or a grocery.

If such be the very probable results, the reform measures proposed should at once be put in force, no matter if they do conflict with the prejudices or ignorance of the livery men or stable owners. I fail to see that these limited classes have any "vested rights" in the production and "rotting" of manure as aforesaid, within the city limits, which ought to stand in the way of the health and comfort of a million and a quarter of other inhabitants.

But the interests of the public do not conflict with those of the livery men and farmers in the respect of this measure. On the contrary, when the reform is brought about, as it will be some day, if not by Health Board ordinance, certainly by legislative enactment, such will be found its beneficial and harmonious results that all parties will wonder it was not sooner adopted.

Very truly yours,

H. O. MAYO, M. D.,
Med. Director, U. S. Navy.

(Copy.)

THE ALBEMARLE.

LIVERY AND BOARDING STABLES.

BOWLES & SMITH, Proprietors,

Nos. 215 & 217 Lexington Avenue, cor. 33d St.

B. L. BOWLES,

R. C. SMITH.

New York, February 25th, 1889.

Ladies' Health Protective Association :

LADIES :—In regard to the question of removal and disposition of stable manure in this city and the various methods suggested for same, I take it that the Honorable Board of Health are sincerely desirous of adopting such method as will best protect the health of the community and at the same time will be the most feasible and practical for stable owners, both public and private.

Accordingly, at your request, I will herewith proceed to give you briefly my views, from a *practical* standpoint (you already have those of chemical experts on the scientific points), on the *Baling Process*, its pros and cons, as gathered from minute and laborious investigations.

1st. Its cleanliness and freedom from odor is universally conceded.

2d. Its preservation from almost total destruction by burning or "fire fanging" rendering it valueless to the farmer and hence unmarketable, is a question upon which those who have handled the manure as an article of merchandise and scientists are at direct variance. The latter, however, seem to be sustained in their position by the farmers whom I have consulted in the matter. As one instance of which, I refer you to a letter herewith enclosed, the same being received in answer to direct inquiries made by me on the subject. It is not of recent date as you will note. (See letter.)

3d. As to the practical points in connection with the stables. I find that in large stables where the daily production is necessarily sufficient to make a number of bales, there would be little or no difficulty in using the Baling Machine, (provided, as hereinafter mentioned, the removal of the material in such form can be obtained,) but in smaller establishments, containing say from two to ten horses, the difficulty arising from the *enforcement* of baling in *all* stables would be that the necessary accumulation of enough manure to make a bale would require a sufficient length of time to create a nuisance, hence—

4th. It would seem in the interest of the general public that the Board of Health first prescribe the number of horses where baling presses shall be used, and then provide a place where the manure can be carted and dumped from the smaller stables and immediately compressed into bales.

If such facilities can be obtained I have no doubt that the end which your esteemed body seem so earnestly to desire will be readily attained.

I remain,

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) B. L. BOWLES.

After several interviews with the President, Chas. G. Wilson, of the Health Board, he resolved to visit the stables

himself before taking action upon this question. The following report shows the result of some of his visits at the car stables on the west side of the city.

MEMORANDUM OF INSPECTION OF CAR STABLES.

July 5th, 1889.

Bleecker St. and Fulton Ferry Line, foot West 23d St.

President : Arthur Leary.

900 Horses. Manure removed daily, except Sundays and holidays. About two loads daily. Condition, clean. Manure pit, O. K.

Grand and Houston St. Line, foot West 42d St.

President : Chas. Curtis.

493 Horses. Manure removed daily, except Sundays and holidays. About six loads daily. Condition, not clean. Manure pit, O. K. At west end of stable, facing slip, are two (2) privies, which should be removed at once. A drain also empties here, which should be connected with the street sewer. Slip should be dredged out, and piles of lumber, old rafts and timbers removed. The company is said to own 100 feet out into the slip.

Central Park, North and East River Line, 53d St. and Tenth Ave.

President : G. Hilton Scribner.

1,150 Horses. Manure removed daily, except Sundays and holidays. About four loads daily. Condition, good. Manure pit, O. K.

Ninth Ave. Line, 54th St. and Ninth Ave.

President : Geo. Law.

472 Horses. Manure removed daily, except Sundays and holidays. About three loads daily. Condition, fair. No pits or receptacles for manure. Location of manure heaps shown on plan. A suitable compartment should be built to contain all the manure that may accumulate in twenty-four hours, so that all odors may be prevented from escaping.

Eighth Ave. Line, 50th and 51st Sts. and Eighth Ave.

President: Geo. Law.

1,050 *Horses*. Manure removed daily, except Sundays and holidays. About three loads daily. Condition, good. Manure thrown into open space between the two buildings (see plan). This space is very filthy. It should be so arranged as to allow the manure to be collected in proper receptacles, by means of covered shutes, and all liquid portions to discharge directed into sewer, and the yard be cleaned, disinfected and so graded that all surface water shall be discharged into a properly trapped, sewer-connected drain.

Broadway and Seventh Ave. Line, 50th St. and Seventh Ave.

President: Henry Thompson.

2,000 *Horses*. Manure removed daily, except Sundays and holidays. About fourteen loads daily. Condition, good. Artificial ventilation, by vent pipes to roof. Power furnished by Sturtevant blowers. No manure pits. Manure thrown into yard (see plan). Manure should be stored in proper receptacles, so as to prevent escape of odors, and the air from vent pipe be so deodorized as to prevent its becoming a nuisance.

Sixth Ave. Line, 44th St. and Sixth Ave.

President: Frank Curtiss.

1,098 *Horses*. Manure removed daily, except Sundays and holidays. About four loads daily. Condition, good. Manure pits, O. K.

After due consideration and carefully weighing the subject, Health Commissioner J. C. Bryant prepared a paper on the baling of manure, which he read before the County Medical Society December 6th, 1889, this association receiving an invitation to attend the meeting. On the 14th of December, nine officers of this association attended a meeting at the Board of Health by invitation of President Wilson and there met about twenty-five members of the

Stablemen's Association. Dr. A. Hadden was also present. The object of the meeting was to hear the final discussion of the baling question. The meeting continued over two hours, the arguments on both sides being lengthy, but the members of this association left feeling the question had been permanently ended. In the course of a few days the press published the following resolution, passed by the Board of Health:

Resolved, That on and after the fifteenth day of May, 1890, it shall not be lawful to remove stable manure from any stable or premises in the built-up portion of the City of New York, or to cart the same within the city limits, without a permit from the Health Department, unless the manure be pressed and baled as required by the Board of Health, and be properly covered while being removed and carted, or be inclosed in tightly covered barrels or receptacles approved by the Board of Health, so as to prevent the escape of all offensive odors and liquid matter.

Respectfully submitted,
[Signed] JOSEPH D. BRYANT, M.D., *Chairman*.
WILLIAM M. SMITH, M.D.

This result being *very* satisfactory, the association feel gratified that their labors have been rewarded, and can devote their attention to other evils requiring reform.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

While there have been many improvements made in the slaughter houses, and Messrs. Schwartzschild & Sulzberger have been the pioneers in building a model abattoir, we still find many butchers who ought to be more sanitary in their method of slaughtering; but we hope our inspection and the example of their neighbors will soon induce them to tear down the small buildings now in use and erect scientific abattoirs. We were very much gratified with an invitation from Mr. Jacob Fleischauer to visit his new abattoir, erected during the year on the corner of 44th Street and First Avenue. While not as capacious as that of Messrs. Schwartzschild & Sulzberger, it was most perfect in all its appliances, and everything conducive to the health of the cattle was observed. We feel this a great step towards sanitary reform in the slaughtering of meat for our daily consumption, and are pleased with this result in this few years' warfare. The Board of Health, real-

izing the necessity for cleanliness in this business, have kept a constant vigilance and continual inspection that their laws are observed.

GAS HOUSES.

This unbearable nuisance was the cause of so many complaints throughout our city, we resolved to try for a radical reform, and again appealed to the Board of Health for aid. We requested, if possible, to have the gas houses removed outside the city limits, or insist upon those that were the greatest nuisance being closed. As the Board could not consistently comply with this request, President Wilson resolved to personally inspect some of the gas houses most complained of, and the following report shows the result of his inspections which have given great relief to the public:

GAS CASES.

W. C. Andrews, President Standard Gas Company, and G. H. Weeks.

Arrested July 25th, 1889.

Fined \$25 each, October 16th, 1889.

R. M. C. Graham, President Equitable Gas Company, and E. J. Enfa.

Arrested July 24th, 1889.

In General Sessions, not tried.

James A. Smith, President Consolidated Gas Company, and F. B. Cromwell, Superintendent.

Arrested January 9th, 1890.

Smith discharged, February 13th, 1890.

Cromwell fined \$250, February 13th, 1890.

We shall continue our vigilance until there will be no further cause for complaint about this nuisance.

SCHOOL HYGIENE.

Our committee, having investigated many of the schools and reported those requiring sanitary attention to the Board of Education, received the assurance all would

be improved in the Summer vacation. During the Autumn and Winter our city was visited by an epidemic called "La Grippe," which was often accompanied by death, and spared no one in its march, and, to our sorrow, laid its hand upon our chairman of this committee, Miss Julia Thomas. After a short hold it took her from us, and left a vacancy difficult to fill. Our loss was almost irreparable, and for a time this branch of our work received very little attention. We hope with the coming year and our new committee to co-operate with the Board of Education and show a marked improvement wherever it may be required.

WOMEN AS FACTORY INSPECTORS.

Realizing the great need for sanitary reform in the workshops, factories and stores where women and girls are employed, and knowing in these investigations women are superior to men, we resolved to co-operate with the "Working Women's Protective Union" and the "Association of Working Girls' Societies" in aiding the passage of a bill before the Legislature asking for the appointment of eight women as factory inspectors, and procured the names of some very worthy women as candidates. A delegation from this Association went to Albany to urge Governor Hill to sign the bill, it having passed both Houses, but were met with defeat, one clause in the bill causing the Governor to veto it. Not discouraged with this, we have again taken up the question with these organizations, with prospect of meeting with better results.

POLICE MATRONS.

In 1887 a committee made an inspection of one of our station houses, and afterwards applied to the Police Commissioners to have one station house appropriated to women only, the same to be in charge of a woman as matron. They were told by the Commissioners they had neither authority or funds which would authorize them to do so. The necessity of this movement being such an essential one, we resolved to persevere in our efforts. Learning that the

Women's Conference and several other organizations of philanthropic women were working for the same measure, we gladly gave them our entire support, and hope the combined efforts will achieve a favorable result, if not in this year, in 1890.

TENEMENT HOUSES.

The Association, having such a large field for their labors, have not been able to give much attention to this inspection, as it requires a large corps of workers, but look forward to increased membership with willing helpers, to have a committee for the coming year, and hope the public will co-operate with us. Many complaints sent to us have received such valid attention that in many instances we have received congratulations from the complainants on the good results that have been obtained through our efforts their behalf.

PUBLIC SEWERS.

Having received many complaints of foul odors arising from sewers, the Board of Health as well as the Department of Public Works again came forward in answer to our appeal. After many days spent in investigation, Dr. Ed. W. Martin, of the Health Board, discovered that many factories using quantities of hot water discharged it into the sewers, the heat causing the gases to arise to the surface which permeated the atmosphere for blocks in the neighborhood. This was immediately stopped and the nuisance abolished.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Croton watersheds having received attention from the State Board of Health, did not require our services. Not receiving many complaints from the cow stables during the year, convinces us of the reform in this most *important* and *vital* question. As we progress, the milk that is used in our city will receive our thought and study. Before closing this report we wish to thank the members of the County

Medical Society for the information always so kindly given to us; also the Board of Health for their courtesy towards us and their prompt attention to all of our complaints and the great work they have done in settling the manure nuisance, and hope for their continued co-operation with us in our efforts for the public benefit. We also tender our thanks to the press, who have always supported us in all of our undertakings and enlisted the public sympathy in our efforts towards public sanitary reform. Before we write our report for 1890 we sincerely hope our authorities will have seen the necessity for economic measures and have public crematories erected throughout our city.

MRS. M. E. TRAUTMANN,
Secretary.