

healthy. The tenants have malaria, rheumatism, and tuberculosis, children have bronchitis and do not thrive, and even up to the top floor all complain of ill-health.

I go through the rooms, seeing to proper ventilation, cleanliness, need of repair, and over-crowding; follow the plumbing up to the roof; see to the condition of the roof, fire escape, hall, and toilets, and then inspect the yard, receptacles for garbage, pulley-line poles, cleanliness, and drainage.

I have witnessed scenes which cannot be described, and every day reveals new misery; the poor little children locked up in basements while both parents work in the mill; the household of the habitual drinking-woman, the neglected, vermin-covered children, six in one bed, poorly covered, looking like little skeletons; the consumptives' room, where bedding, floor, and furniture is covered with expectoration, where the children play on the floor, and wife and baby share the same bed; where out of fear a contagious patient is hidden in a closet, and out of kindness a paralytic or any other bedridden patient is left alone for a month or two, never bathed on body, or bed-linen changed so as to cause no pain, and where bed-sores from shoulders to heels have become gangrenous.

It was a small rear house where I knocked, perceiving the odour far off. "No admittance" was on the face of the woman who was supposed to care for the patient, but I managed to gain entrance, and only by the exercise of the greatest tact was I allowed to see the poor, sick woman and care for her—until death. The horrors of that sick-room I shall never forget, and I hope and pray there may never be another case like it.

The poor, the hungry, and the needy,—but it would take too long to speak of all the different phases.

The teachings of Christ are forgotten. We do not know how our neighbours live, and we would rather not know. Not charity, but justice, is needed.

The greedy landlord who looks for twelve per cent. has to be dealt with. Model tenement-houses can be erected on a paying financial basis. They have proved a success wherever they have been built, and aside from the fact that they returned between three and six per cent., they have provided healthy homes for people of small means.

While they are a great blessing, the greater need is to put existing houses in sanitary condition and prevent badly constructed houses from being erected, and here it is where a woman inspector does the most good.

Everything dangerous to public health is reported,—dark rooms and halls, closed skylights and air-shafts, defective and boxed-in plumbing,

filth, and disease, damp cellars, over-crowding—all these things are nuisances and reported, and in a given time remedied, which may be from a day to a month. If the owner is not willing or able to do it, the Board of Health has the work done. The law is that one toilet shall be provided for every two families, but I think that each family should have its own water-closet, and to have it not in a dark corner, but open to the external air, is just as important.

Fire-escapes should receive better attention; the straight, narrow ladders without the platform will hardly answer for most people—not to speak of the absence of fire-escapes in so many houses.

The house-to-house instruction, aside from reporting nuisances, is an important part of the work.

"Thank God! some one is going around that knows something," an old Irishwoman said. They have had missionaries to look after their spiritual welfare, but no one to help them bear their burden and improve their lot in life.

After explaining to them how to care for and feed babies, the women will say, "Why did we not know this before?" A birth and a death every year and sickness and undertakers' bills in many cases cause the poor man's poverty. Ignorance of the common laws of health and unhealthy homes and food are undoubtedly causes of the prevalence of the drink habit.

Much can be done towards the prevention of the spread of contagious diseases, and especially tuberculosis, not only by reporting and fumigation of rooms and enforcing strict cleanliness and isolation, but by providing sputum-cups for the poor which may be burnt after use, and after death from this disease fumigation and thorough cleaning before another family moves in.

With the teachings given to the people how to protect themselves and how to improve their ways of living, there should go the enforcement of laws governing landlords and agents, and an awakening of the social conscience at large, and I confess that is the hardest part of my work. Being a woman and having no vote, politics do not influence my reports. Cellars have to be cleaned and whitewashed, carpets removed from stairs, halls ventilated and cleaned, rooms whitewashed or painted, papers removed where possible, air-shafts and skylights have to be made to open to admit air, roofs repaired, and plumbing looked after. The characteristics of the different nationalities have to be dealt with, and each watched accordingly.

When commencing to inspect a street the children carry the news that the Health Board is around, which is the signal for general house-cleaning.

When I try to have people move out of un-

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