

Municipalities Act, 1897, and to make further and better provision for Municipal government," which Bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales by the Premier on August 7th, 1902, "the prevention of persons expectorating on any footway under the control of the Council" is expressly included in the matters of which the Council of a Municipality may make Bye-laws.

So far as can be ascertained the Bill has not yet become law, but the Legislative Assembly in Committee has agreed to the Clause above indicated.

Another Borough, Glebe, has a Bye-law under the Act of 1897, providing a penalty "not exceeding Ten pounds" in respect of this offence.

In GERMANY, the law of 1898 strictly prohibits the practice of spitting on the platforms and in the carriages of the railway companies.

In AUSTRIA.—A Circular issued by the Railway Minister orders Notices to be placed in all railway carriages forbidding spitting.

In BELGIUM, spitting on the ground is prohibited.

In DENMARK, spitting is forbidden in all public conveyances, railway carriages, tramcars, &c.

In FRANCE, spitting is forbidden in public places, and special regulations are issued for dealing with the habit in public buildings.

HUNGARY.—A special circular of the Minister of the Interior, dated 1898, deals with the prohibition of spitting in public places.

In this country at present but little has been done.

The Post Office authorities have posted the following Notice in all Post Offices :—

"PREVENTION OF CONSUMPTION.

"To aid in the prevention of Consumption, and in the interests of the health of the staff, it is forbidden to spit on the floors, passages, staircases, or in any part of this building.

"Disciplinary measures will be enforced against any member of the staff found to act in disregard to this Notice.

"By Order of the Postmaster-General."

In LIVERPOOL, the Corporation, owning its own tramcars, has inserted in the Bye-laws a Clause, as follows :—

"OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE OR CONDUCT.

"No person shall swear or use obscene or offensive language, or conduct himself offensively whilst in or upon any car, or spit or commit any nuisance in or upon or against any car or tramway station, or premises used in connection with the tramway system, or in any way wilfully interfere with the comfort of any passenger."

The Notices on the cars with reference to spitting are as follows :—

Inside. "Please do not spit in the car."

On the trolley standard on the top of the car :—

"Spitting is forbidden. By Order."

MANCHESTER and GLASGOW have Bye-laws imposing a penalty on persons found spitting in the Corporation tramcars.

In many towns Notices are posted asking people to refrain from spitting, but these do not go far enough. If the habit is to be checked, it must be by legislation.

The Glamorgan County Council have obtained the following Bye-laws, made under the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, incorporated in the Local Government Act, 1888 :—

"GLAMORGAN COUNTY COUNCIL.—Bye-law for the good rule and government of the County, made by the Glamorgan County Council, on the 19th day of June, 1902, and duly published and submitted to the Secretary of State, and not disallowed within the time fixed by law.

"A person shall not spit on the floor, side, or wall of any public carriage, or of any public hall, public waiting room, or place of public entertainment, whether admission thereto be obtained upon payment or not.

"Any person offending against this Bye-law shall be liable to a fine not exceeding £5.

"This Bye-law is in force throughout the County of Glamorgan, except within the limits of any Municipal Borough."

The following paragraph is taken from the *Times* of June 21st, 1902 :—

"A Bye-law to prevent spitting.—The Glamorgan County Council in March, this year, considered means to prevent the spread of tubercular disease, and approved of a Bye-law to prohibit spitting in public rooms and vehicles. This was submitted to the Secretary of State for the Home Department, and at a meeting of the Council on Thursday a reply was read from Sir Kenelm E. Digby, as follows: 'I am directed by the Secretary of State to say, for the information of the County Council, that, as the proposal is a new one, he has considered it very fully, and has taken expert advice, and that he has arrived at the conclusion that (subject to the consideration of any objections that may be received within the statutory period of forty days after a sealed copy has been submitted to him) he will allow the Bye-law to come into force if its operation is confined to public carriages, public waiting rooms, public halls, and places of public entertainment. He thinks that the Bye-law cannot properly be made to apply to churches, chapels, schools, and shops.' In accordance with the terms of the letter, amendments were made in the draft Bye-law, which was then adopted, and a copy ordered to be forwarded to the Home Secretary."

Although only those affected with Tuberculosis can spread the disease in this way, the early stages of the disease are so insidious that they are not recognised by either the patient or his relatives, and it would be useless to attempt to deal with "infected" sputa only, and the habit must be totally prohibited in the case of both healthy and sick.

I have therefore to suggest that this matter be referred to Mr. Remembrancer and Mr. Solicitor to advise as to how best the necessary power can be obtained, suggesting only that the co-operation of the whole of the Metropolitan Borough Councils be sought in dealing with so important a subject.

Not only would the case become far stronger than individual action, but it would be somewhat unreasonable to attempt to confine the restriction to the City area. However obtained, the prohibition should be made to apply to all pavements and footways, platforms, halls, booking offices, staircases, and waiting rooms of railway and omnibus companies, all public conveyances, and all public halls, buildings and places of public entertainment, whether admission be obtained thereto by payment or not.

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