

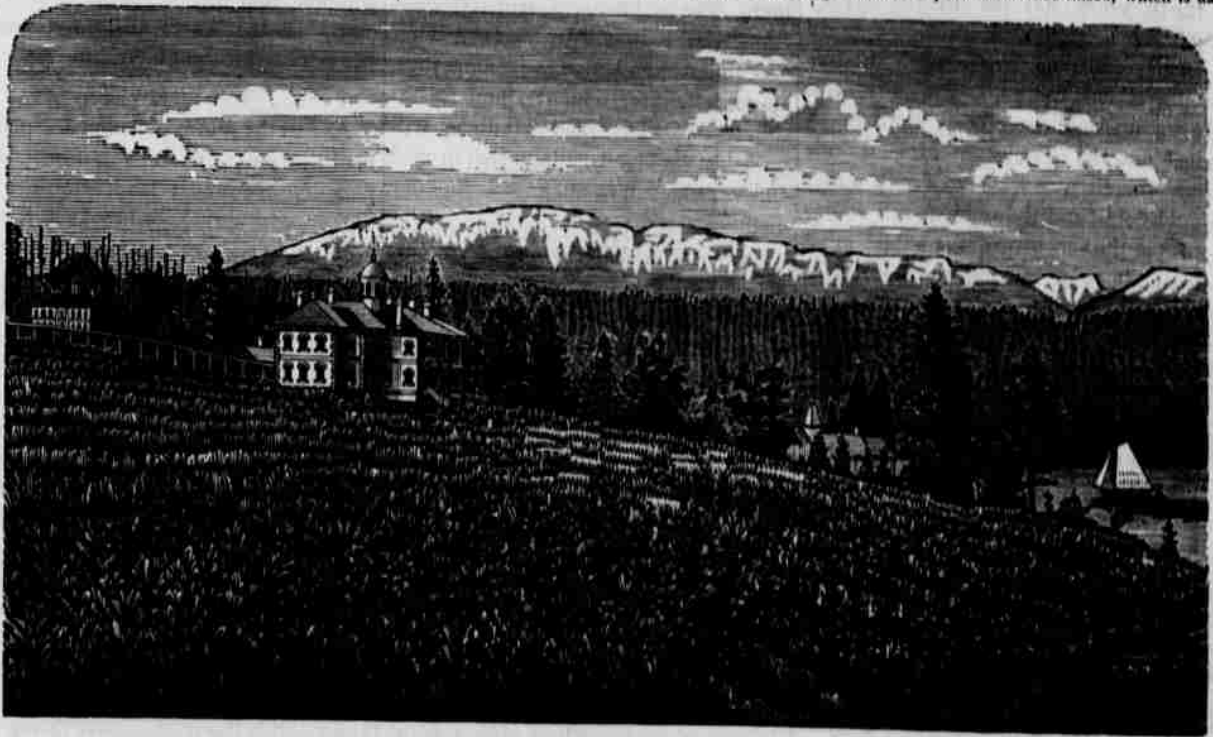
the traps whatever. When parties building were advised to have them in, the suspicion that the plumber wanted to make a few extra dollars, was quite sufficient to deter them. A vent-pipe should accompany every trap, and every citizen who has a trap to his sink or water-closet should see to it that these vent-pipes were in and in good order. Should there be some in our city who do not know what a trap in plumbing means, it might be well, perhaps, to describe one of those in ordinary use. It consists of a tube in the form of the letter S, and forms part of the waste-pipe of sinks and discharge pipe of closets. The liquid, passing from the sink, goes through it, but in doing so, part of the liquid is retained in the crooked tube, which prevents the fetid air from getting through the discharge into the house. In order to carry away the noxious gases which accumulate beneath the trap, it is most necessary that a current of air should be established, which will carry

lanes, backyards and cesspools be rigidly enforced. Let the sewers, drains and waste-pipes be thoroughly flushed out, and so amended as to those that can not be flushed out at present, so that they can. Make it compulsory that those who have sinks and waste-pipes should have proper traps and vent-pipes. Suppress all badly constructed and dangerous back-houses; wipe out any unnecessary cause of disease in whatever part of the city found.

Ordinances are required to prevent a recurrence of the nuisances and avoid future danger. An ordinance may be very well requiring an immediate report of physicians of certain very dangerous diseases, but one acting as a preventive would be much better. The construction of buildings should also have attention, and when connection is made with sewers, sinks, and water-closets built in, all the means which sanitary science has devised should be enforced, to insure safety.

sician, who, armed with authority, without fear, favor or affection, would inaugurate and enforce a system of sanitary rules and regulations that would at once clean up and sweeten the city and fully protect from the diseases that prevail from time to time and that exist here at present.

Let us have at once a regularly constituted board of health, with full power and authority to deal with the whole subject in principal and detail, animated by the mind of a thoroughly trained and experienced physician. Certain resolutions for that purpose were introduced and submitted to the Health Committee of the City Council some few weeks ago, which would have well met all that is required. They seem to have been killed, or lost sight of, as nothing has been heard from them lately. Why they were not passed is, perhaps, as easy answered as the question why the bouncing ordinances were not passed. Many gentlemen are sent to the City Council not to do, instead of to do. Perhaps the inconvenience that might result to some of them or to their friends, has something to do with their conduct. The question of expense is at once raised, which is an



THE PROVINCIAL INSANE ASYLUM NEAR NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C. From a Photo by R. Maynard.

with it all the foul gases. This is done by a vent-pipe, which should be extended up above the roof of the house, and discharge itself there, but near no window. As most of our citizens have sinks and water-closets in their dwellings, they, or the public authorities, should see to it that all necessary precautions are taken, by the expenditure of a few dollars, to insure safety. Let all tenants investigate the condition of their houses, and if they find that the necessary safeguards for their health are wanting, let them insist upon an immediate change, or make it themselves, or move.

What should be done by the public to put the city in a proper sanitary condition? The first thing should be to cause to be made, by competent and skilled persons, a thorough investigation as to the exact condition of streets, alleys, lanes, backyards, sewers, drains, waste-pipes, water-closets, cesspools, etc. This being done, the next thing to do is to insist upon the abatement of every nuisance that pollutes the air and injures the health of the city. Let clean streets, alleys,

These, with such other precautions as those skilled in the science should devise, would insure the perfect health and safety of your city; and when accomplished, Portland, I dare hope, will hold the first place on this coast for health, and perhaps will have the lowest death-rate of any city in the United States. But all these sanitary precautions and appliances are incomplete without the adoption of a regular plan of obtaining accurate tables of vital statistics. There is no sufficient machinery to accomplish the foregoing investigation and reforms. The principal responsibility rests with the Chief of Police and Mayor and the force at their command. We have no intention of casting much blame upon these officials, because the Chief of Police has his hands fully occupied with other matters that are the principal business of a police force; besides, sanitary duty requires previous special training. The last remark applies also to the Mayor. Had the officers the training and time and the reward for the duty, it might be better performed; but that is even doubtful with the ordinances now in force in the city which are of little value—suitable for a village, but not for a city. The fact is that the business should be placed under the control of some thoroughly competent and experienced phy-

argument of unanswerable cogency to those that disregard health. The expense of such a board should not, however, deter us for one moment, as the amount required is so trifling as hardly to be felt by any person. If we compare the amount it was thought the proposed new board would require, with the annual expenditure of other cities of the United States, the amount is trifling, a mere bagatelle. Baltimore expends about 50 cts. per head in her sanitary work. All that is required from Portland is 10 cts. per head, or about \$2,000 a year. Who would object to the expending of so small an amount to accomplish so much good? I do not think one citizen who is unbiased and free would grumble if called upon to pay his 10 cts. which he could hardly ever spend in a better way.

Then let us, with a view to the health of our city, and that she may take her proper position with the sisterhood of other cities in vital statistics, have a properly constituted and energetic board of health, animated by the zeal of a trained, experienced and honest physician as health officer. Until this is done, the health of our city is in great peril. If the City Council will not move in the matter, let the people do so by a public meeting.