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POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The Board of Police met on the 31st day of July, 1873. Present—Messrs. Smith, Gardner, and Russell, Commissioners.

Bills Referred to Finance Committee.

Broadway & East Side Stage Company..... \$40 00
Avenue C Railroad Company..... 100 00
Contingent expenses

Leaves of Absence Granted.

Sergeant Osborn, Twelfth precinct, one-half day.
Patrolman H. W. Ball, Eleventh precinct, one-half day without pay.
Patrolman Halleck, Eleventh precinct, one-half day without pay.
Patrolman D. F. Collins, First precinct, fifteen days half pay.

Communication from N. J. Waterbury in relation to Patrolman John Murphy. On file.

Transfers Ordered.

Sergeant James P. Lynch, from Tenth to Twentieth precinct.
Sergeant Edward Knight, from Twentieth to Tenth precinct.
Sergeant Jerome H. Ferris, from Second to Twenty-fifth precinct.
Patrolman Frank Baker, from Twenty-first to Eighteenth precinct.
Patrolman Henry Spence, from Twenty-first to Fifteenth precinct.
Patrolman John W. Phillips, from Fifteenth to Twenty-first precinct.
Roundsman Patrick McNally, from Eighth to Twenty-ninth precinct.
Roundsman Michael Sheehan, from Twenty-ninth to Twenty-first precinct.
Roundsman William Keeley, from Twenty-first to Eighth precinct.
Roundsman William Fitzpatrick, from Fourteenth to Fifteenth precinct.

Communication from G. W. Blunt, Secretary Board of Commissioners of Pilots, complaining of dead animals thrown into the "Swash channel" by a steamer, name unknown. Referred to the Health Department.

Appointments.

Patrick Green, as patrolman Twenty-first precinct.
Bernard McEverty, as patrolman Twenty-first precinct.
Samuel G. Sheldon, as patrolman Fifteenth precinct.
Jacob C. J. O. as patrolman Seventeenth precinct.
Edward Smith, as patrolman Twentieth precinct.
Owen Maloney, as patrolman Fourteenth precinct.
Patrick Cummings, as patrolman Twenty-first precinct.
Michael Crowley, as patrolman Twentieth precinct.
George E. Gardner, as patrolman Twenty-eighth precinct.
John T. Carroll, as patrolman Twenty-first precinct.
Robert J. Vail, as patrolman Nineteenth precinct.

Parades Allowed.

Journeymen Tailors, divisions 1, 2, 3 and 4—pic-nic.
Adjourned.

D. B. HASBROUCK,
Acting Chief Clerk.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

SANITARY BUREAU,
NEW YORK, July 29, 1873.

Dr. Stephen Smith, Chairman Sanitary Committee.

SIR—While I desire to reiterate a belief already expressed that our streets are cleaner now than ever before, it is not denied that there is room for great improvement.

In the problem of the proper cleaning of the streets, and keeping them clean, there are several factors.

One is—the condition of the streets and gutters themselves as regards perfection. Another is—the manner in which the actual cleaning is performed. Another pertains to the manner of collecting and removing the garbage and ashes. And still another—to the mode in which these are handled by those who produce them.

Those parts of the city which are properly paved, whose occupants observe the laws of public decency, leave little usually to be desired, but a very considerable portion of this city is paved with cobble, in which are depressions—sometimes holes—inviting offensive accumulations which defy the broom of the ordinary sweeper. The gutters are almost invariably out of grade, and the very water used for flushing them, since it cannot run up hill, becomes eventually itself a nuisance, because it hastens the decomposition of the garbage flung into it.

All radical improvement here must be made by the Department of Public Works. This Board can only indicate where work is needed, such impediments to cleaning as are presented

by the presence of stalls and booths encroaching on the streets have been in some slight degree removed already; but a much greater evil exists in the thousands of trucks and wagons which line many of the cross-streets, and even the outer avenues. This very serious annoyance is perhaps inevitable in an insular city, which has no proper suburbs.

As to the manner in which the actual cleaning is performed, any recommendation to increase the efficiency and number of the sweeper may be considered impracticable in the present state of our finances, but surely the streets should be cleaned every day, not only because they need it, but in order to educate the lower classes to habits of decency. The foremen of the gangs, being thus, often in the street could trace the origin of filth to individuals and thus co-operate with others in enforcing the laws.

The two topics of making and collecting garbage and ashes, are by far, the most important ones. They have received the serious attention of former Boards, and the following are the sections of the Sanitary Code which especially apply to the subject, viz:

Sec. 87. That no ashes, garbage, rubbish or dirt shall be by any person flung or allowed to run or drop into or remain in any street or public place, &c.

Sec. 91. That no person shall throw into or deposit in any vault, sink, &c., * * * * * garbage, or other substance except that of which such place is the appropriate receptacle.

Sec. 95. That it shall be the duty of every owner, tenant, lessee and occupant of any and every building or place of business in the generally built-up portions of the City of New York, forthwith to provide or cause to be provided, and at all times thereafter to keep and cause to be kept and provided within such building or place of business, suitable and sufficient boxes, barrels or tubes for receiving and holding without leakage * * * * * all the ashes, rubbish, garbage * * * * * that a separate vessel shall be provided for ashes and rubbish and another for garbage and liquid substances * * * * * and no such box, barrel or tub shall remain in any sidewalk, or in any public place longer than may be needful for the removal of the contents thereof.

Sec. 103. That the drivers of all carts for the removal of any garbage, offal, rubbish or dirt from any building * * * * * shall give adequate notice to those dwelling in any street whose buildings or premises such cart is about to or should approach for the removal of any substances aforesaid.

There have been many earnest attempts to carry out these laws. Attempts have been made by the police to enforce sections 87, 80, 91 and 95 with the usual result, that the officer performing the unpleasant duty of arresting a woman for throwing garbage in the gutter has been reproved by the court, while the culprit was dismissed triumphant. When an attempt was made to enforce that portion of section 95 which provides that ashes and garbage shall be received in separate vessels, there was a creditable effort made in many quarters to comply with the law, until it was observed that both receptacles were dumped into the same cart.

It seems to me that the garbage question is as difficult to solve now as it ever could have been. In spite of the laws, the police, the Board of Health, and such considerations as wholesome air and pleasant streets presents, thousands of women at this moment are throwing their filth into the gutter with entire composure and satisfaction.

In endeavoring to arrive at the causes of the present apathy upon this subject, in the minds of those it most concerns, I have availed myself of the opinions of a number of our most experienced inspectors.

They agree in attributing it largely to the want of regularity and promptness in the collection and removal of ashes and garbage. The carts are required by law to give adequate notice of their approach, but this is seldom done. If the tub reaches the sidewalk after the passage of the cart, it must receive a double load before it is emptied, and its decomposing contents will be spilled into the gutter. It is charged that the drivers are often unaccommodating, that they often neglect to sweep up what they have spilled, and often refuse to take above a certain quantity without being paid. The inspectors believe that if the occupants of tenements could feel certain that the cart would be at the door at a specified time, their tubs or buckets would be ready, and having been emptied could be returned to the house, thus avoiding their destruction by mischievous boys.

The proper kind of receptacle is another important subject. The law recognizes the fact that permanent garbage boxes soon become a nuisance in themselves, and orders portable boxes to be provided. Owners, tenants, lessees and occupants are required by law, "to provide and cause to be provided, and at all times thereafter to keep and to cause to be kept" suitable and sufficient receptacles. These should be selected with some regard to their size. They should not be too large for the driver to handle, and they should be of sufficient capacity and number to receive without overflow.

The law orders that they shall not remain on any sidewalk longer than may be needful for the removal of their contents. They must then be kept either in the house or yard. Proprietors should be required to provide a room for them

when necessary, in the lower floor, or the law, which is now a dead letter should be changed.

I think the Code should be amended to require the owners of tenement houses to appoint a house-keeper, living on the first floor front, if possible, who should be responsible to the Police and Inspectors for any irregularity on the part of the occupants.

The proper filling of these receptacles and their daily and regular emptying comprise the whole question, so far as the condition of the streets is concerned. If it is designed to separate the ashes from the garbage, which it is desirable to do on account of the value of ashes for filling in our up-town sunken lots. Two carts should go together, if not, the law directing such separation should be changed.

I would respectfully ask the attention of the Committee to this most important subject: I would recommend that when permanent boxes have been provided and are working to the satisfaction of the Inspectors, they be allowed to remain at present, but that a persistent effort be made to gradually introduce portable receptacles of such a pattern as the Board may approve. A practicable course being thus laid down, and the ash-man, the police, the courts, and the inspectors working together, the tenement-house population would very soon, I think, become educated to habits of carefulness.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WALTER DE F. DAY, M.D.
Sanitary Superintendent.

SANITARY BUREAU.

NEW YORK, July 28th, 1873.

Dr. Stephen Smith, Chairman Sanitary Committee:

SIR—I have the honor to submit the following report upon the condition of the streets and avenues of this city, as regards cleanliness, for the week ending July 26th inst., compiled from the reports of the inspectors and assistant inspectors of this Department.

Inspector Judson (1st, 3d and 5th Wards) reports that, with the exception of West and Greenwich streets, which contain about their usual filth, the streets of his district are more filthy than for the last six weeks. The following blocks have pavements in fair condition, and, with ordinary care and industry, might be kept perfectly clean. At present they are filthy with street dirt, which, in dry times, fills the air with offensive and irritating dust, and in wet weather, or after the passage of a sprinkling cart, plasters the whole street with slime:

Park place, from College place to Church; Whitehall street, from Bridge street to Pearl street; Pearl street, from Whitehall street to Broad; Beaver street, from William to Hanover street; Wall street, from Nassau street to Broadway; Broadway, from Wall street to Pine street.

In two places he noticed that fresh refuse had been deposited, for which the occupants of the respective numbers, and not the street cleaners, are responsible. At No. 42 Park place was a quantity of packing straw on the sidewalk and in the gutter; and in front of a tenement house on the southwest corner of Whitehall and Pearl streets, there was a deposit of very offensive garbage.

Assistant Inspector Lockwood (2d and 4th Wards) reports his streets as generally cleanly, with the exception of Front street, between Burling slip and Beekman street, very filthy with street dirt in places. The tenants of the 4th Ward generally throw their garbage into the street. The tenants of No. 90 New Chambers street, still throw their garbage into the gutters.

Assistant Inspector Emerson (7th Ward) found nothing in his streets worth remarking, excepting that on Saturday rubbish and garbage was freshly thrown into the streets in the western section of East Broadway, in Birmingham, and in Henry streets, between Birmingham and Market streets.

Assistant Inspector Hughes (8th Ward) reports his streets clean, excepting Watt street, Charlton street, between Varick and West streets, Greenwich street, and South 5th avenue, between Grand and Broome streets.

Inspector Morris (9th and 15th Wards) reports his district as being in very good condition.

Inspector Munde (11th Ward) finds some improvement in the condition of both streets and gutters during the past week, but complains that the inhabitants of tenement-houses are content to clean their gutters once a day. He recommends that the police should make them keep them clean.

Assistant-Inspector Atwater (17th Ward) reports his streets comparatively clean and well swept.

Assistant-Inspector Hamilton (16th Ward) finds his district clean, excepting Twenty-first street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues, where the pavement is bad.

Inspector Russel (18th Ward) finds his streets, without exception, remarkably clean, considering the generally bad condition of the street pavements in the tenement-house portions of the ward.

Assistant-Inspector Walker (20th Ward) reports his streets in a very fair state of cleanliness, though the streets already complained of as out of repair, have not yet been attended to.

Inspector Roberts (21st Ward) reports his streets as in good sanitary condition, excepting

such, as from lack of proper paving, cannot be properly cleaned.

Assistant-Inspector Strong (upper part of 22d Ward) reports his paved streets as without a particle of anything offensive. Tenth avenue, at its junction with Sixtieth street, is partially obstructed by earth and stones thrown from an unfinished sewer, and water from a leaking hydrant accumulates at the northwest corner of Tenth avenue and Sixtieth street, and along the gutter on the west side, as far as the hydrant midway in the block. The unfinished sewer, on which no work has been done recently, is open and is dangerous at night.

The condition of the unpaved streets has not been improved since last week. The gutter on the north side of Sixty-second street, between Ninth and Tenth avenues, is filthy with ashes, garbage and waste water. Northwest corner of Sixty-seventh street and Ninth avenue, and Sixty-fifth street, for two hundred feet west of Tenth avenue, are still filthy with garbage, ashes and manure. Complaints are generally made that garbage carts never traverse the following streets—viz., 9th avenue, between 60th and 63d streets; West 59th street, from 10th avenue to river; 10th avenue, between 64th and 70th streets; Boulevard, between 67th and 69th streets; 67th and 68th street, between Boulevard and Tenth avenues.

Inspector Post (lower part of 19th Ward) reports his streets in a very fair condition of cleanliness excepting all the unpaved streets, and the following paved streets—viz., 48th street, between 1st and 2d avenues; 53d street, between 1st and 2d avenue; 55th street, between 1st and 3d avenues; 57th street, between 1st and 2d avenues; 1st avenue, between 41st and 47th streets; 2d avenue, between 46th and 49th streets, between 51st and 55th streets, and between 56th and 58th streets; 3d avenue, between 55th and 56th streets.

All of which is respectfully submitted,
WALTER DE F. DAY, M. D.,
Sanitary Superintendent.

BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS,
July 29, 1873.

To the Secretary of the Board of Health.

SIR: The number of deaths reported to the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the week ending July 26th, was 860. In the preceding week the actual number amounted to 917. The greatest number of deaths occurred on the 15th inst., when 157 were certified, 122 being children under five years of age and 77 being charged to common diarrhoeal diseases.

Last week 492 of the 860 deaths were of children under two years of age, and 567 were under five years. The total, as well as the infantile mortality was slightly above the average of the past five years, for the corresponding week. The death rate last week, was equal to 44.72 per 1000 inhabitants annually, and in the previous week it was 47.68.

Common diarrhoeal diseases caused nearly one third of this mortality, and of the 389 who died from these maladies last week only 27 were adults, the latter were mostly aged invalids and their average age at death exceeded 60 years each.

A map of the city is herewith submitted with the location of each fatal case of diarrhoeal disease indicated in the street and block where it occurred. Though it is infant mortality that thus dots the map, these dots plainly indicate certain unhealthy districts and blocks that may properly be termed diarrhoeal fields. These are frequently the most sickly districts in the city and are chiefly occupied by classes quite above the poorest and debased kinds. They are populous with families of the artisan and laboring classes.

Beginning on Greenwich and Washington streets where obvious conditions account for such mortality, we find a marked district on Twenty-seventh and Twenty-ninth streets, above the Ninth and Tenth avenues: again from Thirty-seventh to Forty-second streets, from Ninth to Eleventh avenues; and again between the same avenues from Forty-sixth to Fifty-seventh streets, there are districts still more fatally marked, where obvious local causes conspire with the careless habits of families to produce the kind of fatality which has occurred.

On the east side of the city the 7th and 14th wards are strikingly marked. But it is in the districts bounded by Delancey and Houston, Forsyth and Lewis sts, Second to Eighteenth sts, First avenue to avenue D; and again a district extending along First and Second avenues, and having several fatally marked centres from Thirty-third to Eighty-seventh streets, that we complete the chart of these places where infants perished last week.

The numerous factors that make up the great cause of excessive infant mortality in the insalubrious quarters of the city in the hot season are not wholly beyond the reach of preventive measures which the Board of Health is endeavoring to apply. But without waiting for such benefits, all families, however poor, could cleanse and keep clean the premises where they live and especially might they avail themselves of the shade and invigorating air of the central park for their young children, that now perish needlessly by thousands.

Respectfully,
ELISHA HARRIS, M.D.,
Registrar.

