

Sept 12th 1896

To the Hon. W. L. Strong Mayor.
Sir

We the undersigned residents and Property owners of this neighborhood 33 St Bet 9th & 10th Ave. Respectfully call your immediate attention to a most dilapidated pest shanty located at No 461 West 33 St it is at present occupied by Italian ragpickers who accumulate and keep on the premises the filthiest of rags &c. The stench from this place compels us to keep our windows and doors continually closed and sickness has raged especially Scarlet Fever, and Diphtheria. all the summer.

We desire also to inform you that the Board of Health has been notified, and they seem to pay no attention to this matter. Trusting that you will give this your immediate attention. We have the Honor to remain, Respectfully &c

Signed -

L. A. Depew 468 W. 33rd

D. Malone 468 W. 33

H. Feldhaus 468 W. 33

W. C. Cuddy 468 W. 33

J. Coffey 468 W. 33

J. Loebel 468 W. 33

John Meyer 466 W. 33

John P. Berlin

466 W. 33rd St

William F. O'Neill -

464 W. 33rd St

Mr. Thomas Brady.
464 W. 33rd St.
George Chapman
457 West 35th

E. G. Clifford.
410 - 10 Ave
N. Y.

L. Foley.
410 - 10 Ave.
N. Y.

James McCabe
468 W 33rd St

50-1096

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, September 18, 1896

Messrs. L. A. Depew and P. Malone,
468 West Thirty-third Street,
New York City

Gentlemen:-

Your complaint of September 12th to His Honor, the Mayor, in respect to premises No. 461 West Thirty-third Street, was referred to this Department for examination and report. It appears from the records of this Department that there have been two complaints during the present year in respect to the occupation of these premises for a junk shop, and that in both instances the Inspector reported that there was nothing found detrimental to health. The premises were again inspected September 17th by S. McCallum, M. D., Sanitary Inspector, who reports as follows:

"The house is a two story frame, used only for junk business, by J. Lorezo and Louis Mazarello, holding Mayor's License No. 22, 1896. The second floor is vacant, held for storage of old bottles. I found in the yard old bottles and old iron, which were not offensive. Rags received from itinerant junkmen and those found on premises did not present the appearance of street rags and are kept indoors, and a slight musty odor was noticed in their immediate vicinity. Nothing in the yard, nor in the street nor from windows adjoining was anything offensive noticed. In my opinion there is not anything offensive about the junk business as carried on in the premises."

2- L. A. Depew and P. Malone, September 18, 1896.

Upon the recommendation of the Inspector an order has been issued "that the boards be removed from the alley, the pavement of the yard repaired and the yard and alley so graded as to discharge all surface water into a properly trapped, sewer connected drain; that the water-closet be provided with an enamelled drip tray, properly adjusted and the floor under the seat be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected."

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Emmons Clark,

Secretary.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building)

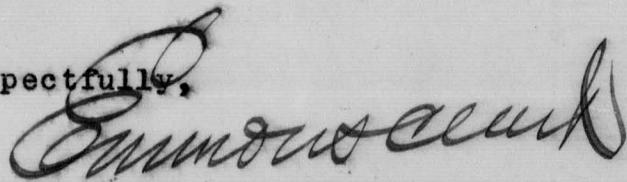
New York, September 18, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

A complaint to His Honor, the Mayor, in respect to premises No. 461 West Thirty-third Street which you forwarded to this Department on the 16th instant is returned herewith. As requested, I enclose a copy of communication addressed to Messrs. L. A. Depew and P. Malone, giving the result of an inspection of the premises referred to and the action of the Board thereon.

Very respectfully,



Secretary.

Two enclosures.

New York Sep. 14. 1896

Hon. William L. Strong
Mayor of the City of New York

Dear Sir:

The undersigned Rabbies of different Hebrew orthodox congregations at the City of New York, and the undersigned professional poultry slaughterers all residents of the City of New York, hereby respectfully apply to your Honor to permit to slaughter poultry at the premises of each of the undersigned poultry slaughterers for the limited term of only twenty four hours, beginning at 10 o'clock ^{Sep. 15} to wit one day prior to the fore-night of the Jewish Holyday called "Day of Atonement" and make the following statement.

It is known that according to a religious Hebrew Law, each and every Hebrew in accordance with the Custom of his ancestors performs one or two days prior to the day of Atonement a kind of ceremony by letting to slaughter some poultry and only by a professional poultry slayer recognized by distinguished Rabbi

It is also known that since the City of New York is occupied by different nations, none of any nation was ever prevented from performing any religious ceremony, and as the Hebrew ceremony aforesaid, permission was always granted by the greatest authority, and poultry could be slaughtered, within a limited term on the nearest days prior to the Day of Atonement and on different places in the City.

It was ever since understood that the only place, at Governour Street, directed for killing poultry there, all days in the year and even ¹⁰ ~~then~~ such places is not sufficient for killing there, all the poultry which have to be killed and consumed by the Hebrews of the East side of this City.

The aforesaid Poultry slaughterers also oblige themselves to do every thing to prevent any affection of disease:-

THEREFORE WE respectfully request your Honor to permit the undersigned poultry slaughterers to exercise their professional of slaughtering poultry within the limited term of twenty four hours commencing 10 o'clock September 15 th and ending ten o'clock September 16 th 1896, within any ^{suitable} place, at their

premises or residences, within the City of New York.

Respectfully
Rev. Dr. M. Klein Leopold Schaufeld
265 Rivington St

Rev. Nathan Reich Leopold Borkensfeld
121 Columbia St
107 Sheriff St.

New York, September 14th, 1896

I hereby certify that the statements made concerning the existence of a Jewish religious custom requiring the slaughtering of poultry in celebration of the Atonement day are correct. It is analogous to the atonement sacrifices of the Bible. It is certainly a great hardship in such an occasion to restrict the slaughtering of poultry to one single spot and I trust Your Honor will grant the permission required.

Bernard Drachman
Rabbi Cong. Zichron Ephraim

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklon Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

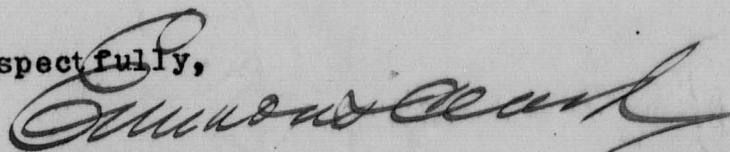
New York, September 19, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

Sir:-

I return herewith a communication addressed to His Honor, the Mayor, September 14th, which was referred to this Department on the afternoon of that day, without endorsement. Although no permits were given to various parties applying for the same to sell or slaughter chickens September 15th, it was understood that the police would not interfere on that day with the business which seems to be necessary to the religious customs of the Hebrew population of this city.

Very respectfully,



Secretary.

Enclosure.

Bedford Park N.Y.
Sept 22-1896

Hon Mayor Strong of
N.Y. City
N.Y.

Dear Sir

I try to say that there is a cess pool up here in this place that is giving the occupants much trouble it was reported to the Board of Health two weeks ago and has not been cleaned out yet although the Board of Health have been here and noticed the property owner Mr Campbell of 23 Chambers st and he came here and said he would have it done immediately but he has not so so - the cess

comes up in to the Bath
room and makes it unfit for
use we would like to have
it done - as it breeds Malaria
hoping that you will look
in to the matter and have
it tended to at once I remain
Yours Respectfully

Wm H M^{rs} Donald
a Boarder of Mrs Tuttlepatricks
214 Barlow st
Bedford Park N.Y
Cor Valentine ave

5c-1896.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, September 24, 1896

Mr. W. H. McDonald,

Suburban St., cor. Valentine Avenue,

Bedford Park, New York.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of September 22d to His Honor, the Mayor, in respect to premises South Side Suburban Street, second house west of Valentine Avenue, Bedford Park, New York, has been referred to this Department. I respectfully state that upon an anonymous complaint received on the 9th instant, an inspection was made of the premises referred to September 11th, and an order was issued September 14th, requiring "that the cesspool be "disinfected, emptied and cleaned; that the obstruction be re-
"moved from the housedrain and that the water-closet, wash-
"tubs and bath tub be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected; and
"that the waste pipe of kitchen sink be repaired so as not to
"leak." It appears from reports of inspections made September 16th, September 18th and September 19th, that this order has not been complied with, and the owner, said to be Patrick E. Campbell, No. 23 Chambers Street, has been notified that unless the order is complied with, the Board will order the premises vacated as a human habitation.

2- W. H. McDonald, September 24, 1896.

You will observe from the above statement that the Board of Health has used due diligence in this case, and it will secure the abatement of the nuisance as soon as possible.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Emmons Clark,

Secretary.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, September 24, 1896



Job E. Hedges, Esq.,
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of September 23d, with complaint
of W. H. McDonald, Suburban Street, corner of Valen-
tine Avenue, Bedford Park, New York, was duly re-
ceived, and the same is returned with a copy of a
communication addressed to Mr. McDonald this day.

Very respectfully,

Emmonnet
Secretary.

Two enclosures.

Mission
OF THE
IMMACULATE VIRGIN,
Lafayette Place and Great Jones St.
(P. O. Box, 3512.)

New York, Sep 17 1896

Careful
inspector
report to
City

Dear Mr L Strong

10 SEP 21 1896

Not knowing to whom
to apply for redress, I send
to you hoping you will see
that the proper parties
get this

My House # 322 E. 35th St
is damaged considerably
(in regard to renting qualities)
by the presence of a Junk
Shop next door # 320.

They pile up all kinds of
trash inside stoop line
I understand, that this is
not lawful & will feel
thankful if it is remedied

Your Respectful
Jm Darshbury
2 Lafayette Place

Health Department,
Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, — *September 24,* *1896*

William Dougherty, Esq.,
No. 2 Lafayette Place,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of the 17th instant to His Honor, the Mayor, has been referred to this Department, and the premises referred to, No. 330 East Thirty-fifth Street, were inspected on the 21st instant, and an order has been issued requiring "that the cellar of dwelling be cleaned, disinfected and all rags removed therefrom; that the stable be cleaned, disinfected, and all manure removed therefrom; that the walls and ceilings of the stable be cleaned and whitewashed; that the defective, saturated wooden flooring be removed and new flooring substituted;" which order will be duly enforced as soon as possible.

Very respectfully,

Secretary.

50-1896

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, September 24, 1896

Job. E. Hedges, Esq., Secretary.

Office of the Mayor,

City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of September 18th with complaint of William Dougherty, of No. 2 Lafayette Place, was duly received. This complaint is returned, with a copy of a communication to Mr. Dougherty of this date.

Very respectfully,

Ermond Pratt
Secretary.

Two enclosures.

OSBORNE & SAUNDERS,
GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS,
1171 BROADWAY,
METROPOLITAN HOTEL.

6 SHIRTS TO ORDER, \$10.50.

NEW YORK, Sept 24 1896

v-6
Mayor Strong
Dear Sir

I am
living in house 111 W 78
which is filled with Sewer
Gas - Made Complaint
to Health Department
Sept 9th and again about
on the 21st just
nothing been done

It looks as though some
one has been bribed

It is so bad that I
am compelled to move
Although rent is paid to Oct
1st

Yours Truly
J. E. Osborne

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, September 28, 1896

J. E. Osborne, Esq.,
1171 Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of September 24th to His Honor, the Mayor, in respect to house No. 111 West Twenty-eighth Street has been referred to this Department to answer. It appears from the records of this Department that a complaint was received from you September 8th, and that the premises No. 111 West Twenty-eighth Street were visited by the Sanitary Inspector of the District September 10th, and that an order was issued September 11th and served upon William S. Dunn, of No. 111 West Twenty-eighth Street, who is said to be the owner, which order covers all the sanitary defects found in the premises. It also appears that the premises have been reinspected twice since the service of the order; the last inspection on September 26th, and the Inspector reports under that date that the work is progressing and will be completed without unnecessary delay.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Emmons Clark.

Secretary.

*Health Department,
Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)*

New York, _____ September 28, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of September 25th with complaint of J. E. Osborne, No. 111 West Twenty-eighth Street, was duly received. Enclosed please find copy of communication mailed to Mr. Osborne this day, together with the complaint above referred to.

Very respectfully,

Erasmus Clark
Secretary.

Two enclosures.

Office of
Augustus W. Tennis,
Representing



Warwick Cycle Mfg Co.

MAKERS OF
HIGH GRADE BICYCLES.



Called Address: "Lagotheris", New York City. 34 Union Square, East. New York, Oct 27/896

Hon. Mayer Strong,
City Hall
N. Y. City.

Hon. Sir:
I would like to call your attention to the open lot, situated on the N. E. Corner of Western Boulevard + 76th St.

Have written to Col. Emmons Clark in regard to same but received no answer to my letter. What I have to say in regard to said lot is, that it is very unsightly and a public nuisance - It is also a menace to my private business as all sorts of nuisances are committed ^{there} at all times of day + night -

Will you please give it your immediate attention + oblige

Yours truly,
E. L. Bennett
Manager Warwick Cycle Co.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, October 30, 1896

Mr. E. C. Bennett,

Manager Warwick Cycle Co.,

34 Union Square, East, New York.

Dear Sir:-

Your communication of October 27th to His Honor, the Mayor, in respect to vacant lot northeast corner of Western Boulevard and Seventy-sixth Street, has been referred to this Department to answer. It appears from the records of this Department that upon a complaint received on or about October 1st an inspection was made of the premises above referred to, and that on October 3d an order was issued requiring that the surface of the vacant lots be cleaned of all garbage, old rags, manure and filthy refuse, and disinfected, and that said lots be properly fenced, which order was served upon James O'Donohue, of No. 20 East Fifty-fifth Street, supposed to be the owner, on the 4th day of October. Upon information received that the order should be served upon L. E. La Tour, No. 1720 Broadway, such service was made October 15th, since which time the lots have been partially cleaned, and Mr. La Tour has promised to comply with the order on or before November 1st. I beg to assure you that the Board will enforce this order without unnecessary delay.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Emmons Clark,

Secretary.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

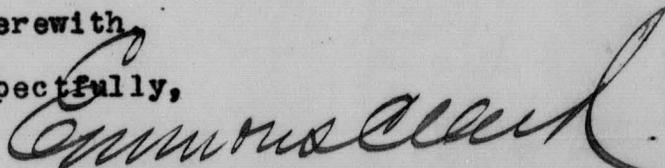
New York, October 30, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of October 29th, enclosing complaint of E. C. Bennett in respect to vacant lot northeast corner Western Boulevard and Seventy-sixth Street, has been received. Enclosed please find copy of a communication to Mr. Bennett, of this date. The complaint is returned herewith.

Very respectfully,



Secretary.

Two enclosures.

New York

Received-Secretary

Nov. 8th 1896

NOV 9 1896

Hon. Mr. L. Strong Mayor of N.Y.

Hon. sir.

I beg leave to call your attention, to the fact that there are three dogs unlicensed kept by Mrs. Fenler at #162 Lewis St. which are a nuisance to the neighborhood and should be removed at once. Trusting ^{you can} find a way to remedy this nuisance. I am

Very Respect. yours.

John Farley

#160 Lewis St

N.Y.
City

✓

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklon Streets,
(Criminal Court Building)

New York, November 12, 1896

Mr. John Farley,
160 Lewis Street,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of November 8th to His Honor, the Mayor, has been referred to this Department, and an inspection of the premises No. 162 Lewis Street was made on the 10th instant. Two dogs were found on the premises and you were notified by the Inspector that this Board would take the necessary action for the removal of the dogs upon the receipt of an affidavit from you or others to the effect that your rest and sleep are disturbed by these dogs to the detriment of health. The Board of Health takes no action in respect to dogs unless it is furnished with evidence that they are in some way detrimental to health.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Emmons Clark,

Secretary.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York, November 11, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of November 9th to the President
of this Board was duly received, and I return herewith
the complaint of John Farley, with a copy of a commu-
nication addressed to him this day.

Very respectfully,

Ammonceant
Secretary.

Two enclosures.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

Room 1 Dearborn Building,

No. 49 Fourth Avenue.

Referred to

NOV 27 1896

for examination and report.

W. L. SHAW

617

Mount Vernon, N. Y., Nov 16 1896

To the Hon. Mayor and Common Council
City of New York

Dear Sirs:

About a year ago the attention
of the N. Y. Board of Health was
called to the fact that a certain stream
which drains a portion of this city, had
been excluded beyond our line in
the town of or village of Wakefield, by
the filling in of vacant lots,

This has greatly damaged a
section of our city, and causes much

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

Room 1 Reborn Building,
No. 49 Fourth Avenue.

Mount Vernon, N. Y., 189

sickness by the backing up of surface
water in the cellars,

We were informed at the time
by the N. Y. Board of Health
that a recommendation had been
made to the mayor and common
council to have an eighteen inch
pipe laid through these premises.
This work has never been done; the
winter is fast approaching and if it
is not done very soon it will be a

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

Room 1 Dearborn Building,
No. 49 Fourth Avenue,

Mount Vernon, N. Y., 189

source of great damage to the health
and property of our citizens.

Will you kindly inform us what
has been or will be done in this matter,
and oblige

Yours very truly

J. W. Shipman M.D.

Health Officer

Mount Vernon

Received-Secretary

NOV 19 1896

CITY OF NEW YORK.
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR.

November 18th, 1896.

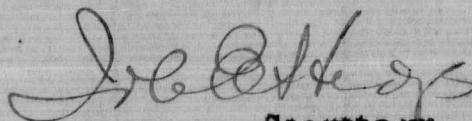
Hon. Charles G. Wilson,

President of Health Board, New York.

Dear Sir:-

The Mayor directs me to enclose to you for attention and report direct to complainant, copy of which report kindly forward to this office, the within communication from Hon. F.W.Shipman, M.D., Health Officer of Mt. Vernon, N.Y., concerning stream of water which drains a section of that City and the filling in of vacant lots in the Village of Wakefield.

Very respectfully yours,


Secretary.

H E A L T H D E P A R T M E N T,
CENTRE, ELM, WHITE AND FRANKLIN STREETS,
(CRIMINAL COURT BUILDING)

New York, November 23, 1896.

Office of the
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Alfred Lucas,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

Sir:-

We have the honor to report having made an inspection of the premises and stream mentioned in the attached communication from the Health Officer of the city of Mt. Vernon.

The stream is located at the lowest point of a large area of land, which land is partly in the city of Mt. Vernon and partly in the former village of Wakefield, now New York City. The land in this vicinity slopes toward the stream in three directions and said stream is the natural outlet to the sound for the surface drainage of this locality. Some of the low land adjoining the stream and also a portion of the stream was filled in with earth and rock, without constructing a drain or making any proper provision for draining the water coming from above the point where the stream was filled in. This filling was done before the village of Wakefield was annexed to New York City, and is on land now partly within the city of Mt. Vernon and partly within this city.

The Mt. Vernon authorities have excavated and opened up the portion of the stream located within the limits of that city. There is about 200 feet of the stream filled in within New York city territory, which is lo-

cated south of Third Street, between Thirteenth and Fourteenth Avenues, Mt. Vernon. This now causes an obstruction to the free flow of water through the stream and, as a result, water has to percolate through the filling sluggishly, causing water to stagnate in places and become offensive in a built-up portion of the city of Mt. Vernon. There are a number of houses in this vicinity, several of which are in New York city about two blocks distant. The obstructions in the stream cause a nuisance detrimental to health.

In view of the foregoing conditions mentioned, we would recommend that all obstructions in the stream be removed, so as to freely allow surface water to flow therefrom, or that a drain at least two(2)feet in diameter be laid in the portion of the stream now filled in.

RECOMMEND, that a copy of this report be forwarded to Commissioner Haffen, Department of Street Improvements, Annexed District.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) Frederick Sprenger,
Sanitary Inspector.

T. D. W. Pinckney,
Medical Sanitary Inspector.

A TRUE COPY,

Emmoucent
Secretary.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

New York,

November 27, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of November 18th enclosing a communication from Dr. F. W. Shipman, Health Officer of Mt. Vernon, New York, concerning a stream of water which drains a section of that city, and the filling in of vacant lots in the village of Wakefield, was duly received. Enclosed please find copy of report of Sanitary Inspectors Sprenger and Pinckney, a copy of which has been sent to the complainant and to Hon. Louis F. Haffen, Commissioner of Street Improvements, Twenty-third and Twenty-fourth Wards, for the necessary action. The communication of Dr. Shipman is returned herewith.

Very respectfully,

James C. Clark
Secretary.

Two enclosures.

Referred to
Health department

(21)

NOV 24 1896 Nov 22nd. 1896
for examination and report.

W. L. Strong
MAYOR.
Shundan Ave cor 168th st-

Col William L Strong
Mayor of the City of New York
Your Honor

Having addressed
numerous letters to the Board of
Health without avail, and not-
being able to find out that the
said Board is amenable to any
person, or persons, I now ask if
you will kindly use your in-
fluence to have abated a
nuisance now existing in the

23rd Ward, in the shape of a cess-
pool on premises situated at the
corner of 142nd St- and Sheridan
Ave.

This cesspool, which is
a very old one, is allowed to over-
flow into the street, producing
a noisome odor, which is a
menace to the health of my
family. Hoping that you
may be able and willing to
assist me in this matter.

I am

Yours respectfully

Mrs Helen. R. Wright-

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklen Streets,
(Criminal Court Building)

New York, November 30, 1896

Mrs. Helen R. Wright,
Sheridan Avenue and 163d Street,
New York City.

Madame:-

Your complaint addressed to His Honor, the Mayor, dated November 22d, has been referred to this Department to answer. It appears from the records of this Department that several orders have been issued against the premises referred to, re empty cess-pool, not to allow water to flow across the sidewalk, etc., which have been from time to time complied with. In a few days or weeks, however, the same nuisance occurs and is likely to occur on any premises which cannot be connected with a street sewer. On the 2d day of November an order was issued upon Mr. William E. Diller, owner of premises One Hundred and Sixty-second Street, northwest corner of Sheridan Avenue, requiring "that the nuisance caused by the waste water running into the gutter on Sheridan Avenue be abated." Upon reinspections November 12th and November 16th, it was found that the order had not been complied with, and a warrant was procured from the police court for the arrest of the owner, who was found to be sick and unable to appear in court, but his brother

2- Mrs. Helen R. Wright, November 30, 1896.

appeared and answered, and promised to have the nuisance abated without delay. It thus appears that there has been no unnecessary delay or want of attention to this case on the part of the Board of Health, and the Sanitary Inspector of the District, Dr. E. F. Hurd, has been instructed to keep the premises complained of under constant observation, with the view of abating the nuisance and preventing its recurrence.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Emmons Clark,
Secretary.

Health Department,

Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building)

New York, November 30, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of November 24th, with complaint of Helen R. Wright, Sheridan Avenue and One Hundred and Sixty-third Street, has been received, and in compliance with your request a copy of letter addressed to Mrs. Helen R. Wright this day is enclosed, together with the original complaint above referred to.

Very respectfully,

Emmoussant
Secretary

Two enclosures.

Health Department,
Centre, Elm, White & Franklin Streets,
(Criminal Court Building.)

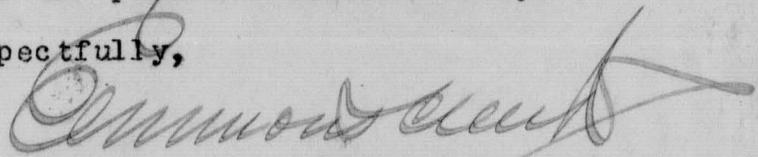
New York, December 5, 1896

Job E. Hedges, Esq.,
Secretary, Office of the Mayor,
City Hall, New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Yours of December 4th with complaint of
"A Tenant" in respect to the basement No. 241 West
Forty-sixth Street has been received. It appears
from the records of this Department that a similar
complaint was made and signed "A Tenant" July 7th,
and upon inspection of the premises it was found
that there was no cause of complaint. Another in-
spection will be made of the premises without delay.

Very respectfully,



Secretary.

*Health Department,
of the City of New York,
President's Office.*

*Charles G. Wilson,
President & Commissioner.*

New York,

December 31,

1896

Hon. William L. Strong,
Mayor of the City of New York.

Sir:-

Enclosed please find memoranda of special work performed by the Board of Health during the year 1896. The regular routine work of the Department, such as sanitary inspections, care of contagious diseases, registration of births, marriages and deaths, are not included in this brief synopsis, but will be fully described in the annual report of the Board for the year.

Very respectfully,

Chas. G. Wilson
President.

Enclosure.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

The work of the Health Department during the year 1896 has been of great and unusual importance and deserves special notice. The active and vigorous enforcement of the sanitary laws and ordinances governing this city is indispensable to the health and welfare of its people, and a careful and discreet administration of the Health Department is necessary to secure compliance with regulations which are more or less burdensome and sometimes appear to be arbitrary and oppressive. Resistance to health laws, rules and regulations is now of unfrequent occurrence, and the orders for the abatement of nuisances great and small and for sanitary improvements issued by the Health Department during the year 1896, numbering over **52,000**, have mostly been promptly complied with. The confidence expressed by citizens generally in the efficiency, impartiality and discretion of the Board of Health and their approval of its methods and its efforts to improve the sanitary condition of the city and to promote the public health, are the result and the reward of faithful and intelligent public service. Especially gratifying is the appreciation by the poor and unfortunate of the efforts of the Board of Health to make their habitations more healthy, cheerful and comfortable, to secure their food supply from adulteration or contamination and to protect them from contagious diseases.

The Death-rate.— The death-rate of a large city is a reliable indication of its sanitary condition and of the activity and efficiency of the public authorities charged with the duty of enforcing proper health laws and regulations. As appears from the following table, the death-rate has largely and gradually

decreased since the organization of the Board of Health in 1866, and the death-rate for the year 1896 is the lowest in the history of the city, being 21.54 per 1,000.

}	1866,-	Death-rate per 1,000	34.92
	1876,-	" " "	27.11
	1886,-	" " "	25.99
	1896,-	" " "	21.54

Not less indicative of the vigilance and activity of the Health Department is the decrease in the number of deaths from contagious diseases, the death-rate per 1,000 being less than in any previous year, as appears in the following table:-

	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896
Smallpox	.05	.0006	.001	.001	.05	.06	.085	.005	.0005
Measles	.39	.30	.45	.40	.51	.22	.32	.42	.37
Scarlet	.89	.79	.25	.74	.57	.31	.30	.25	.21
Diphtheria	1.68	1.46	1.11	1.19	1.23	1.45	1.59	1.05	.91
Typhoid	.24	.25	.22	.23	.23	.22	.18	.17	.15
Typhus	.003	-	-	.0006	.03	.11	-	-	--
	3.25	2.81	2.03	2.55	2.62	2.38	2.47	1.90	1.64

Only three cases of smallpox were reported in this city during the year 1896, and none of them were of local origin, the sick persons having contracted the disease in other localities. Only three cases of typhus fever were reported during the year, and their isolation was so complete and the disinfection of premises and clothing so perfect that no secondary cases occurred. The freedom of the city from these most dreaded and fatal diseases is a subject for congratulation, and there is reason to believe that the decrease in the number of other contagious diseases will continue from year to year.

Tenement-houses.- The regular semi-annual inspection of tenement-houses was made by the sanitary officers of the Health Department in 1896, and the magnitude and importance of this work is indicated by the number of such houses, which is reported to be 42,542. A gradual improvement in their sanitary condition is apparent. The cleanliness of the streets during the past year is an object lesson to the residents of the densely populated parts of the city, and more attention to the cleanliness of their apartments is the result. The regular and frequent inspections of tenement-houses insures them from defects in plumbing and drainage, and in this particular they are generally superior to private dwellings, which are not visited by sanitary officers except upon notice or upon complaint.

Many tenement-houses have been ordered temporarily vacated until necessary repairs were made and they were fit for reoccupation. Under the provisions of the Tenement-house Act of 1895, the Board of Health is authorized and required, whenever, in its opinion, any building is for sanitary reasons so unfit for human habitation that the evils in or caused by said building cannot be remedied by repairs, or in any other way except by the destruction of the building, to order such building to be vacated, and may condemn the same and order it removed. In compliance with this provision of law, a careful inspection of rear tenement-houses has been made by the Commissioners of Health and the chief sanitary officers of the Department, and eighty of them were ordered to be vacated, and proceedings were ordered by the Board in the form prescribed by law for their condemnation and removal. The necessity of the destruction of some of the most extensive and unsanitary of these buildings having been disputed and the powers of the Board to condemn and remove having been questioned, the proceedings are now pending in the courts, and these buildings and the other rear tenements condemned remain vacant. Meantime, however, eight of them have been demolished by the owners,

four have been altered for business purposes and seven have been altered or are being altered so that they will be fit for human habitation. The action of the Board in vacating and condemning rear tenement-houses as above stated has stimulated owners of other tenement property to make many structural changes and improvements in order to avoid similar proceedings under the Tenement-house Act.

That part of the Tenement-house Act which requires that the owner or lessee of every tenement-house shall keep a light burning in the hallway upon each floor from sunset until ten P. M. has been enforced in the past year. To ascertain how far this provision of law was complied with, night inspections of over 40,000 tenement-houses were made in March last and over 14,000 orders were issued and served upon owners of premises delinquent in this particular. After reinspection, notices of suit for penalty were served upon 5,630 owners for non-compliance with these orders. Upon subsequent reinspections, it was ascertained that the law requiring the lighting of hallways in tenement-houses at night had been complied with in all cases.

The Milk Supply.- Although the quality of the milk used in this city has been improved in recent years by frequent inspections and by prosecutions in the police courts, measures adopted by the Board of Health during the past year to prevent the sale of watered, impure or adulterated milk have accomplished remarkable results. By an amendment to the Sanitary Code adopted in January, 1896, the term "adulteration" of milk was so clearly and fully defined and the standard of pure milk was so specifically stated that persons selling an impure article would hardly escape conviction and punishment. An ordinance was also adopted in June forbidding the sale of delivery of milk in the city of New York without a permit in writing from the Board of Health and

subject to the conditions thereof, and additional ordinances were adopted in June extending this prohibition to the sale of cream and condensed milk without a permit. The permit system since inaugurated and now in force gives the Board of Health the necessary control of the milk supply of the city and greatly assists its inspecting officers in the performance of their duties in detecting and convicting offenders, and the marked improvement in the milk supply is the undoubted result of the new permit system.

Measures have also been inaugurated during the past year for the systematic examination of all milch cattle within the city limits, with special reference to the detection of animals suffering from tuberculosis. It is an established fact that tuberculosis in cattle is the same disease that is so prevalent and fatal in mankind, and that the milk from such diseased animals is frequently the cause of this disease in those who consume it. The importance of an early diagnosis of this disease in milch cattle and of the prompt destruction of diseased animals is obvious. Of the 2,700 milch cows within the city limits 1,139 have been carefully examined during the past few months and the "tuberculin test" applied. Of this number, 186 were found to be diseased and were slaughtered, and the autopsy in each case confirmed the diagnosis. This work will be continued as rapidly as possible until all danger to the public health from tuberculous milch cows in this city is removed.

Amendments to the Sanitary Code.- An important amendment to the Sanitary Code was adopted in May, forbidding spitting upon the floors of public buildings and of railroad cars and ferry boats, and requiring officers in charge or control of all such buildings, cars and boats to keep posted permanently in each public building, railroad car and ferry boat a sufficient number of notices prohibiting this practice and requiring janitors of buildings, con-

ductors of cars and employees upon ferry boats to call the attention of violators of this ordinance to such notices. Public attention to this disgusting practice and to the danger to the public health from the expectoration of persons suffering from infectious diseases of the throat and lungs has resulted in a material change and improvement. The ordinance is a difficult one to enforce, as the offense is not often committed in the presence of an officer, and citizens are rarely willing to make a complaint and furnish evidence to a police court, even if they knew the name and address of the offender. But the educational effect of public notices and public sentiment upon the subject will greatly aid in securing the desired result.

The amendment to the Sanitary Code adopted in March, requiring that no meat, poultry or game shall be hung or exposed for sale outside of any shop or store in this city or in the open windows or doorways thereof, has been strictly enforced, thereby protecting important articles of food from the dust of the streets and greatly improving the appearance of the public thoroughfares of the city.

Antitoxins.- The position of the Health Department as a pioneer among sanitary authorities in the production and administration of diphtheria antitoxin and the great decrease in the death-rate from that disease by its use, are subjects for congratulation, and amply compensate for the time, labor and money expended in the inauguration, development and maintenance of the work. Antitoxic serum of a strength much greater than any hitherto thought possible has been produced in the bacteriological laboratory of the Health Department during the past year and the use of a more concentrated preparation facilitates its administration and lessens any possible disagreeable result. The Department has furnished this antitoxin to public institutions and to the poor of

the city free of charge, and any surplus has been readily disposed of for account of the Antitoxin Fund established by law. The statistics of this and other cities as to the beneficial results of diphtheria antitoxin amply justify the Board of Health in its introduction and use and the necessary expenditure incurred.

A detailed experimental investigation has been made during the past year in the bacteriological laboratory of the Board of Health into all the methods employed in various parts of the world for the production and preservation of vaccine virus, with most satisfactory results. The vaccine virus now produced and used by the Health Department is believed to be unexcelled by any in the world in potency, in lasting qualities and in freedom from bacteria. With such a reliable virus for the prevention of smallpox and with the thorough system of vaccination already established, it is believed that the present immunity of the city from that disease will continue.

Among the valuable productions of the Health Department laboratory are tuberculin for the diagnosis of tuberculosis in cows and mallein for the diagnosis of glanders in horses, which are extensively and successfully used for their respective purposes.

The sanitary supervision of tuberculosis by the Health Department has resulted in a decrease in the death-rate from that disease, which for the year 1896 is considerably lower than the average during the past few years. The positive diagnosis of this disease by microscopic examination of sputa, the education of the public regarding the infectious character of pulmonary tuberculosis and the precautions necessary to prevent its spread, and the thorough renovation of infected premises are the measures adopted by the Health Department for the prevention of this disease.

Summer Work.- The services of the Summer Corps of fifty physicians during July and August were especially valuable on account of the extreme heat of the season. The medical advice, the free prescriptions of medicine and the distribution of food and clothing contributed by the charitable, were welcome and valuable to the poor and suffering. The infant death-rate during the summer months indicates faithful service by the medical officers of the Health Department, as well as the cleanliness and improved sanitary conditions in the city generally. During the extremely hot days of August 549 tons of ice were distributed to the poor of the city. The Life Saving Corps of the Health Department at stations on the North and East Rivers rescued fifty-three persons from drowning during the summer months.

Mercantile and Manufacturing Establishments.- The act to regulate the employment of women and children in mercantile establishments, passed in 1896, has imposed new and important duties upon the Health Department. Regular and frequent inspections of such places of business are required by this law and all children between fourteen and sixteen years of age are required, before they can be employed, to have certificates from the Board of Health to the effect that they have attended school for the prescribed period and are physically qualified for the service. The necessary corps of inspectors and clerks were appointed in September and the duties imposed by this law have been fully complied with. Similar certificates for children employed in factories are required by Chapter 991, of the Laws of 1896, and have been issued by the Health Department since October first.

Medical Inspection of Schools.- Upon the recommendation of the Board of Health and upon information and statistics furnished by the Health Department, an appropriation has been made for the year 1897 of an amount sufficient to employ the necessary number of medical inspectors to visit daily the public and private schools of the city for the purpose of detecting cases of contagious disease in their earliest stage and placing them under observation, and to visit absentees from school to ascertain whether they are sick with contagious disease. It is confidently believed that this measure will reduce the number of deaths from contagious disease, protect the children of the schools from contact with those already sick, and in many ways promote the public health and welfare.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEMORANDA FOR

1896.

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