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REPORT

— OF THE —

LADIES' HEALTH PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK,

WITH

MEMORIAL

— TO THE —

HON. ABRAM S. HEWITT,

MAYOR OF NEW YORK,

ON THE SUBJECT OF STREET-CLEANING.

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# REPORT FOR 1887.



With this new year 1888, The Ladies' Health Protective Association begins its fourth year of aggressive work. Reviewing this work in its various departments, the matter of street cleaning seems to be of first importance, involving as it does, many other departments and holding a vital relation to every resident and every visitor in our city. Conferences were held early in 1887 with Commissioner Coleman and several leading physicians and other sanitary experts.

The Chairman of the Street Cleaning Committee, proposed a plan for keeping the streets clean based upon her observations and investigations in foreign and American cities, which was thoroughly discussed by the gentlemen and approved as practical, economical and efficient, if its adoption could be secured in our city. This well matured plan was addressed as a Memorial to Mayor Hewitt for his consideration, and was circulated among public officials interested in the matter.

As recently there have been many applications for this paper, it is thought advisable to print the report entire herewith, with the hope that its admirable suggestions may be considered by the public and not end in being laid aside simply as "another contribution to street cleaning literature."

The Association has received and investigated complaints of nuisances in the streets in various parts of the city, but in the present order of affairs their power ends with a protest. They are forced to admit that the streets of New York were never in a worse condition than at the beginning of this new year, 1888. This association does not mean to slacken its efforts, but trembles for the health of the city if no improvement appears when the hot season comes with the danger of imported cholera upon us. Especial attention is desired to the memorial with its suggestions in regard to the removal of ashes and refuse, and the disposal of them.

The method of disposing of manure and offal in the various stables, public and private, has been a subject of constant attention and discussion. The following item, copied from a daily paper, shows the danger from manure; "Since the army surgeons brought to notice the frequency of diphtheria in the French army, particularly among cavalry regiments, Dr. Longuet has studied the subject, and in a paper read before the Academy of Medicine, he has arrived at the following conclusion as to the etiology of the disease. It is incontestible that not only in the French army, but in the German army, the cavalry, though less numerous than the infantry, furnishes three times more cases of diphtheria. It is equally certain that at Paris, for example, the most active forces of this cruel malady are, on the one hand, the largest of the cavalry barracks, and on the other, a hospital, situated near one of the most important stables belonging to the omnibus company; and as the cause of the malady could not be traced to the water nor to the straw, nor yet to the horses, it appears conclusive that it must exist in the manure."

Committees have kept constant watch of localities complained of and carried complaints to the Board of Health. At the present writing the same conditions prevail at the various dumps as were reported last year. The stable refuse is dumped on the ground and the straw separated, requiring much moving and forking over. It must then be reloaded and dumped into the scows. The straw is taken up and carted still farther through the street. At each change clouds of foul air rise perceptibly and the poison spreads

The limit of time for removing from stables is not observed, and all through the day these carts may be seen filing down the avenues filled above their capacity, in violation of Section 107 of the Sanitary Code, which says "that all carts or vehicles for carrying any offensive substances, shall have the sides so high above the load or contents that no part of such contents or load shall fall or spill therefrom."

Section 109 of the same code provides that "No person shall allow . . . . any cart or vehicle to be so fully loaded, or being so improperly driven or managed that any offensive material thereon shall fall upon or in any place, street or premises, and it shall be the duty of every

such person to at once replace on such vehicle and remove what has fallen." Complaints have been made of daily and constant inattention to this provision. Not unfrequently the path of the cart for blocks is indicated by the litter strewn along both sides.

This Association wishes again, as last year, to direct attention to the business as conducted by the New York Horse Manure Company, having their docks at East 38th and West 44th Streets, and would suggest that if a corporation having the care and removal of the large amount of refuse from the stables of the Sixth and Eighth Avenue Horse Car Companies and some others, can so well exemplify the possibility of carrying out the laws of the Board of Health, other corporations and individuals should be compelled to do the same for the comfort and health of a long-suffering community.

The best way of solving this problem seems to be to bale the stable refuse, for the reason that it can then be transported without offence, while not materially depreciating its fertilizing value. The difficulty of so large and constant inspection as is needed by the present method to prevent evasions and violations of the health code by selfish and unscrupulous corporations, is too great to be undertaken.

In February the bill entitled "Cullen's Manure Bill" was again introduced into the Legislature. Prompt and decisive measures were at once taken to prevent the passage of the bill. So vigorous was the opposition of this Association, and so well ventilated had been the same scheme last year, that the bill was withdrawn.

#### BONE BOILING.

The bone boiling establishment which for years has mingled its unsavory odors with the stench from gas houses, manure dumps and slaughter houses, has ceased its functions, weary with the constant war of this Association against this palpable nuisance; finding, too, an added foe in the Taxpayers' Association, it yielded to the inevitable.

#### SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

From the organization of the Association a gigantic nuisance scarcely second to the manure cartage and dump-ground, confronted it, viz: the slaughter house system—

if it can be called such—where each corporation is a rule unto itself. The committee found every rule of the Board of Health for the protection of the community openly and constantly violated. The unsanitary, brutal and filthy methods of these slaughter houses have been fully described in former reports. Of the large numbers of these establishments for furnishing meat for this great city, not more than one or two could be found that were carried on with any regard to sanitary or even decent methods. On the west side of 10th Avenue and 58th Street it is true Mr. Eastman has an abattoir which is a model, but his was an export business, and at that time had nothing to do with the home supply. It had been a matter of discussion whether the Association should direct its efforts to a reform of the existing methods or should aim to drive the whole business from the city limits. While this matter was under vigorous discussion at the conference with the leading butchers, mentioned in last year's report, Messrs. Schwarzschild and Sulzberger came forward and acknowledged that their establishment was far from being what it ought to be, and promised if time was given them, they would demolish their present structure and rebuild on a plan as perfect as it could be made. The work was commenced at once and was carried forward with astonishing rapidity, considering its magnitude and the perfection of every detail. At the close of last year's report, the Association awaited with hope the completion of this abattoir, which hope was fulfilled the following summer, when an invitation was extended to the Association by Messrs. Schwarzschild and Sulzberger to visit and inspect the new abattoir. The invitation was accepted and a committee made the first visit Aug. 3d. They were shown through every department by these gentlemen, and every process and improvement of the business was minutely explained to them. As the ladies had become so familiar with the mode of slaughtering through the number of investigations made by them formerly, they were invited to criticize or offer any suggestions, in any of the departments. Several committees have visited this model abattoir and with one voice all express themselves highly pleased with the admirable and perfect manner in which the slaughtering is conducted in this establishment, and to-day the Association points with

pride and satisfaction to this monument as a result of their persistent labor and energy, as acknowledged by Messrs. Schwarzschild and Sulzberger. An invitation to visit this establishment is extended to any who desire to see what a perfect abattoir should and can be.

While this Association is encouraged by the progress made, it finds that much remains to be done, which becomes more urgent from the facts given. All around this magnificent abattoir are slaughter houses in as bad a condition as ever, and during the hot season the avenue is well nigh impassable, owing to the filth and stench of these nuisances. Complaints of the worst cases have been taken to the Board of Health, who assure the Association that every possible effort will be made to secure the observance of the sanitary code in the slaughter house district.

#### COW STABLES.

In the spring of 1886 there were some two hundred cows kept in the vicinities of Madison, Fifth and Park Avenues; 89th, 93d and 94th streets. They were fed on poor food and surrounded by their own dirt and liquids, no sewerage and no place for exercise, their milk was used by the citizens as pure country milk, in many cases it caused fatal diseases. Through our energetic efforts this nuisance has been removed by degrees and now there are only about ten cows remaining. The lot extending from 89th to 90th streets, between Madison and Fifth Avenues, was found to contain between two and three feet of stagnant water with no sewerage, and the occupants of the small dwellings were all suffering with malaria. We laid this matter before the Board of Health, and are pleased to report that the place has been drained and sewered and is now in good condition.

#### GAS HOUSES.

Insufferable odors have frequently during the year invaded our streets and houses, sending their occupants from cellar to attic to discover a leak in the gas pipes, only to learn, that it could be traced to some gas houses in the vicinity. The principal establishments for the manufacture of gas, have been visited by our committee during the year, and the process of purifying and deodorizing submitted and explained.

Complaints have been sent to the Board of Health and they have assisted all in their power towards abating this nuisance, inspectors have been sent from time to time and have reported the result of their inspection to this Association.

The Association does not claim expert knowledge of the intricacies of gas making and deodorizing, it only acts upon the results. The Association holds certificates from many physicians, showing the unfavorable effects produced on their patients, who are compelled to breathe this deadly air, or confine themselves in the unventilated atmosphere of closed houses

Sanitary code, section 77th says: "No company shall permit to escape from their works any gas dangerous or prejudicial to life or health." Our committee is satisfied that these gas house nuisances can be overcome, in fact the proprietors promise speedy improvement in their methods; if the nuisance is not abated, they should be compelled to remove their establishments from the city limits.

#### TENEMENT AND LODGING HOUSES.

It was announced in the last report of this Association that it was our purpose to give much attention to the tenement house reform. In this matter we have only been able to listen to the report of Mr. Wingate, and inspect and report upon a few tenement houses which have been complained of. But the number of other vital matters to which this Association had given its time and energies in the past, whose demands continued imperative, rendered it impossible for us to engage to any extent in any other department of sanitary or benevolent work.

This, as well as improved lodgings houses, and every other work of this kind, will receive notice so far as sending committees, who shall report fully to the Society the designs, conditions, methods and needs of all.

A committee has inspected the women's quarters in the station house at East 51st Street, which is probably a sample of all, and afterwards applied to the police commissioners to have the vacant station in 59th street, appropriated to women only and a matron appointed. The answer was that "they had no authority to appropriate the said building for the purpose requested, neither had they been allowed by the Board of Estimates and Appropriations

any funds which would authorize them to employ a matron to receive and take charge of women lodgers."

The above inspection prepared the committee to fully appreciate the advantages of the model lodging house for men at No. 9 Doyer Street, which they have repeatedly inspected and they hope ere long to have a similar one for women adapted to their needs.

### SCHOOL HYGIENE.

The attention of the Association has been called to the subject of School Hygiene by complaints of parents and friends regarding the condition of certain school buildings and surroundings, improper ventilation, crowded rooms, deformity from habitually unnatural postures, and want of physical training calculated to strengthen and develop the tender, flexible bodies of the children. While the Association has not time to investigate thoroughly all the points enumerated, enough has been seen to convince us that the complaints are well-grounded, and that speedy reforms are essential and necessary for the health and progress of our schools. The Association further recognizes that these needed reforms lie directly in woman's sphere, as she is, by her natural endowments of motherhood and other womanly characteristics, the true and natural guardian of the hygiene of the schools, as she is of the home. We therefore recommend that women inspectors be appointed in each ward, whose duty it shall be to visit the schools and carefully investigate all matters pertaining to school hygiene.

As to the so-called physical training in the schools, we do not hesitate to pronounce it—as far as any beneficial results are obtained—a failure. The exercises given are, in many cases, not only useless but injurious, the teachers themselves having little or no knowledge of what training is essential for proper healthful development.

A room sufficiently large should be set apart in each school-building for such training, and an intelligent, healthy, conscientious, thoroughly trained teacher engaged for the work. We quote the following from one of our daily papers of last spring.

NOT ONE PHYSICALLY SOUND.—Nineteen or twenty boys, ranging in age from fourteen to eighteen years, appeared at the College of the City of New York yesterday morning radiant in the hope of appointment to a cadetship at

the Naval Academy in Annapolis. But they all departed with sad hearts—not one came up to the requisite physical standard under an examination by Dr. Stuyvesant F. Morris and a naval surgeon from the Brooklyn Navy Yard. That standard is health, soundness and proper physical development.

We ask, who is responsible for this failure? this life long disappointment of these young ambitious boys? these future citizens of the state? Several of the papers commented upon the fact; one gave quotations from some statistical report, showing the advantage of country over city for physical development, but has the city done all that can be done to overcome the tendencies to disease and physical weakness of the city. The school officials are responsible for the education, physical, mental and moral of the children. They are the guardians to whom the state entrusts the task of making her citizens, and first of all, should they see to it that these future citizens have a perfectly developed physical basis, one that shall support and contribute to a career of success and usefulness; for without this, life is hardly worth living. It is a general complaint among parents, and we think well grounded, that the present system of marking and estimating a pupil's standing by percentage, is not only a false and unnatural method and defeats the true aim of education, but it also lowers the moral standard of the school and is injurious to the health of both teacher and pupil.

Teachers are not responsible for the errors enumerated, they do the best they can under existing methods. It is the power behind them which we must reach, and this through a healthier public sentiment.

We find a general complaint among teachers and pupils, that the holidays are most unequally distributed through the school-year. November brings a week at Thanksgiving, then another week at Christmas, while Easter soon follows, with the 22d of February between. Then comes the long time without break, through the hardest work of the year and the most exhaustive weather. Would it not be better for teacher and pupil, would not the "examination" results be better, could a day or week be given for a break into the country, to rest the tired, over strained brains and nerves of teacher and pupils, at this time? We must have a kindlier care for the teachers of our children and a sweeter sympathy for them in their faithful endeavor to fulfill the

highest mission entrusted to man. Let us see to it, that this noble profession of teacher be worthily sustained, that we have the truest men and women in it, and that they be upheld in a manner worthy the office.

By request of President Bayles we have had the privilege of aiding him by soliciting and contributing books to help furnish a library for isolated and self sacrificing nurses at the small pox hospital on North Brother Island.

We would also thank the Board of Health for their courtesy in listening to suggestions and complaints, and their promptness in sending inspectors to investigate the complaints and enlighten us on the various subjects.

By courtesy of the New York Academy of Medicine—particularly the section on Hygiene—this Association has been frequently invited to attend the lectures and discussions of that body on matters of hygiene and has been favored with their advice and co-operation, all of which has proved very helpful and for which the Association returns sincere and cordial thanks.

Mrs. M. J. HERBERT,

*Secretary.*



# MEMORIAL

OF THE

NEW YORK LADIES' HEALTH PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION,

*TO THE HON. ABRAM S. HEWITT,*

MAYOR OF NEW YORK,

ON THE SUBJECT OF STREET-CLEANING.

YOUR HONOR:—

Modern science has fully exposed the imminent dangers that beset health and life in a malodorous and dust-covered town. Foul smells, such as in mysterious variety assail the sense even on Broadway in the summer, indicate the presence of decaying matter, and the dust with which our streets, our houses, and too often our faces are filled, is crowded with living organic germs, which need only a weakened human frame to make their victorious attack upon its tissues and eat it into death. Foreign physicians, in fact, attribute the catarrh which they look upon as almost the American national disease, largely to the microscopic parasites which in our dry and windy climate, are with the dust blown about our ill-kept and non-watered towns, and more or less continuously inhaled by our town populations.

On the other hand, sewing excepted, two-thirds of the manual labor demanded from women by their home duties, is spent in removing from floors and walls, furniture, utensils and clothing, the dirt and soil that from countless directions invade the household at every hour.

Your Honor will admit that it is discouraging to be obliged heavily to increase the immense aggregate of toil and money so spent by women, because of the flying dust

from neglected streets which pours into all open doors and windows, and sifts under all closed ones. Certainly it is the climax of aggravation to the painstaking housekeeper to look out of her windows and see ash barrels standing forgotten on the sidewalk from hour to hour and often from day to day; to have those barrels toppled over by sportive boys or raked over by grimy ragpickers, and the contents left in hillocks in the street from one month's end to another; and supposing even that she personally, or her servant for her, carefully sweeps and washes her own area flags and space of sidewalk, to have these covered within two hours by the sticks, loose papers and powdered manure that blow upon them from all quarters alike. Such a disgraceful sidewalk was actually witnessed in front of the twin Vanderbilt mansions on Fifth Avenue, no longer ago than the afternoon of March 14, and two weeks before that, at half past three P. M. no less than seven ash boxes and barrels were counted on Fourth Avenue on the west side of the block between Thirteenth and Fourteenth streets, the very heart of the city, the street in the same block being lined on both sides by piles of ashes and other rubbish left there from previous ash gatherings.

*Ab uno disce omnes!* Must we your Honor, continue as housekeepers to submit to this increased trouble and expense, to these intense annoyances and disgusts, that result from the perpetual presence of dirt outside of our houses that we cannot control? Even if dirt were not the unsanitary and dangerous thing we know that it *is*, its unsightliness and repulsiveness are so great, that no other reason than the superior *beauty* of cleanliness should be required to make the citizens of New York, through their vested authorities, quite willing to appropriate whatever sum may be necessary, in order to give to themselves and to their wives and daughters, that outside neatness, cleanliness and freshness, which are the natural complement and completion of inside order and daintiness, and which are to the feminine taste and perception, simply indispensable, not only to comfort but to self-respect. Considering the average housekeeping of their wives, American men have always been strangely derelict in this matter of street-cleaning, and now that New York, through the street-cleaning reform inaugurated six years ago by the then

Mayor Grace, and carried out by Commissioner Coleman, is so vastly cleaner than she ever was before that era, the members of the Health Protective Association feel that she should again take a new departure, and at once organize her street-cleaning so that in six months at most, she may have attained the high contemporary standards of numerous foreign capitals and towns, and at the same time may have set a bright example to her sister American cities, the majority of which are as bad, and many of them far worse, than herself.

### THE COST OF STREET-CLEANING.

Turning now to the practical discussion of the problem, your Honor, we find the great stumbling-block in the mind of the American Tax-payer, invariably to be the expense. But cannot free America, your Honor, spend as much in proportion for clean streets as so called "down-trodden" Europe?

New York is a city of 1,600,000 inhabitants, and the amount appropriated for the care of her streets last year was \$1,100,000 or  $68\frac{3}{4}$  cents per capita. In a report on street-cleaning in Berlin prepared several years ago by Prof. Richard T. Ely of Johns Hopkins University, he stated that Berlin in 1876 contained 1,150,000 people and was cleaned for something more than half a million of dollars, or about 45 cents per capita. New York, then, allows only a third more per head than Berlin for street-cleaning, whereas, owing to our far greater extravagance in fuel, and the universal use of fruit, canned vegetables, paper bags and pasteboard boxes, our refuse must be twice or thrice as much as the refuse of the careful and economical Germans, while our snow fall also, is very much greater.

Moreover, our rate of wages is from two to two and a half times as much as theirs. Prof. Ely stated that Berlin street laborers are paid 70 cents a day for the permanent laborers and 50 cents a day for the assistant laborers. A German lady lately from Berlin informs us that some of the Park sweepers are women, who are paid but 20 cents a day, and that all, both men and women, work twelve hours a day. In New York, street sweepers get \$1.50 for a ten-hour day below Fourteenth Street, where the work is done by

contractors, and above Fourteenth Street, where it is done by the city, they get \$2.00 for an eight-hour day.

It seems obvious to your Honor's memorialists, that New York cannot be made as clean as we wish, viz., as clean at least as Berlin, for only one-third per capita expense more than is allowed in that eminently frugal metropolis, even supposing the appropriation to be as carefully spent. Commissioner Coleman has repeatedly declared the appropriation to be insufficient, particularly since, owing to the inequalities of our street pavements, the street-sweeping machines cannot do their work in New York as effectually as they can in Berlin. The first conclusion, therefore, your Honor, upon which we are agreed, is, that an accurate estimate of comparative wages and salaries as between New York and European cities should be made, in order to be sure that the appropriations annually devoted to New York street cleaning are adequate to the work. Broadway between Twenty-third and Fourteenth Streets is our standard of a clean street; that is to say, the stones are perfectly bare of earth, and when walking there, even in a high wind, dust and powdered refuse are not blown into the face. Could not an estimate for the whole city be made from the expense of thus caring for these few blocks?

#### STREETS SHOULD BE SWEEPED AT NIGHT.

The second point we would urge is, that if street-sweeping machines are used, all the street-sweeping should be done, as in London, Paris and Berlin, in the latter part of the night, so that it shall be finished by 6 A.M. in summer and 7 A.M. in winter; and that, as also in those foreign capitals, the city be sufficiently lighted, either by gas or electricity, to permit of this being done. Streets should be swept once, twice, thrice or six times a week, according to the traffic upon them. All streets should be swept on Saturday night, to prepare the city for its Day of Rest, and none should be swept on Sunday night, that the street-sweeper, as well as every other laborer, may have that one-seventh of rest or "Sabbath" from toil, which is, or ought to be, the legal right of every employe in the United States.

#### ASHES AND GARBAGE.

Our third point is, that neither ashes nor garbage

should ever be placed on the pavement, but that, like the mail carriers, the collectors of house refuse should have a whistle to warn of their coming, and that when they ring, the cans should at once be taken out of the house, emptied into the cart, and returned at once into the house. We think that refuse carts should have high sides and a sloping cover with a hopper in the centre, and that every householder should be required to own a galvanized iron receptacle fitted with a cover and with a sliding bottom, so that when placed over the hopper, and the slide pulled out, the contents will be received into the closed cart, and the now intolerable blowing of ashes and dust about the streets from the carts be thus avoided. We are agreed that to get rid of the house ashes and garbage, and of the street sweepings, crematories should be built, similar to the so-called "Destructors" and "Carbonizers" in use in England, and that the house ashes and garbage should be burned in the Destructors and the street sweepings in the Carbonizers, and the residuum used for making mortar in one case and fertilizers in the other, as is now so successfully done in Leeds and other English cities. The system at least pays for itself, and if adopted here, the wasteful, pernicious and disgusting practice of dumping city refuse either inside or outside of the magnificent bay of New York, might be wholly discontinued.

#### SIDEWALKS.

Your Honor's memorialists are agreed that the care of sidewalks should be included in the street-cleaning of every properly regulated town. Along with the middle of the streets, they should be swept by the city, (but by hand labor,) every night except Sunday night, and should by law be washed by the occupant of the ground floor of every dwelling house, or by its janitor, at least every Wednesday or Saturday, when it is not freezing, under penalty of fines which should increase with every repeated failure in this duty to the public. Sidewalks in front of all buildings used for public or business purposes should be washed *every day* under like penalties against occupiers or janitors. Snow in winter should be removed immediately after the cessation of a snow fall, by the occupiers of the ground floor or by the janitors of all premises, and by the owners of

vacant lots or houses, under penalty of fine, and the throwing of slops, garbage or refuse of any kind upon the sidewalk should bear a heavy fine.

#### HORSE-RAILROADS.

Your memorialists present their respectful thanks for your Honor's recent demand that horse-railroads should provide themselves with grooved rails. These roads should also certainly bear one-half the expense of daily sweeping the streets from curb to curb through which their lines extend, and the law should oblige them to put up notices against expectoration in all their cars.

#### MANURE.

Your Honor's memorialists are further most emphatically agreed that all manure should be baled at the stables, so as to avoid offensive odors in the streets, as well as droppings from the manure carts, and we trust that any cart carrying other than baled manure will in the future be arrested, and the stable it comes from fined.

#### STREET-WATERING.

For the sanitary reasons already indicated, your Honor's memorialists of course, believe that the health, no less than the comfort, of the inhabitants of this city, requires that all streets be watered in the summer at the public expense.

#### BEST METHOD OF STREET-CLEANING.

It may be that the street and sidewalk-cleaning, the street-watering, and the cleanly and expeditious disposition of the ashes and garbage and refuse of New York, can be successfully carried out by the methods now pursued. As, however, your memorialists very much doubt it, they venture to commend to your Honor's consideration the following suggestions on this all-important head—that is, supposing that street-sweeping machines are to continue to be employed.

A leading New York physician has in mind what seems to be a very simple, practical and inexpensive plan for street-sweeping, which we trust will be laid before your Honor, and which proposes a return to quite primitive methods, and to hand labor.

But as New York has adopted street-sweeping machines, we have based our plan upon that which works so well in Berlin, and which seemed to us better adapted to New York conditions than the systems of other European capitals where street-sweeping machines are used.

This much being premised, your Honor, it seemed to your memorialists that a Street Cleaning Board or Bureau should be organized for this city, all of whose members or employes should, like those of the Board of Education, hold their positions during honesty and efficiency.

#### A.

Under this Board the city should be divided into convenient sections running east and west from Broadway to the rivers as far as Fourteenth Street, the same from Fifth Avenue as far as the Park, and the same from either side of the Park as far as the paved streets and sidewalks of New York extend. Each of these sections should be in charge of a foreman and his laborers, the laborers to be chosen by the foreman, and he himself to be chosen by an Assistant Street Commissioner. Judging from the number employed in Berlin, it would require at least 125 such foremen, each over one section, properly to execute the work. Laborers should be paid by the piece and not by the day, and the foremen should be co-laborers, not bosses merely, and should be persons of at least the activity, intelligence and responsibility of the letter carriers.

#### B.

Of these sections, every three or every five should be in charge of a woman inspector who should begin her rounds at eight o'clock every morning, to make sure that the street and sidewalk sweepers have properly done their work over night, and that the janitors and occupiers of houses and the people generally, obey the street and sidewalk laws during the day. The proposed women inspectors should be young or middle-aged, vigorous persons, fully as intelligent and responsible as are the teachers in the public schools, and equal to these ladies in compensation and in public and private esteem. They should be appointed by the Chief Commissioner, and hold their

authority directly from him, and any one of them should be removable upon complaint of——responsible citizens from her district, whether men or women, unless she can show that the complaint is brought by malicious or interested parties.

## C

The practical care of the streets and sidewalks of New York, and the expenditure of the street-cleaning moneys, should be in charge of a Street Commissioner-in-Chief, who should be assisted in executive duty by one or more Vice-Commissioners. The Chief Commissioner should be appointed by the Mayor, to hold his position during honesty and efficiency, and he should nominate his assistants, to be confirmed by the Mayor on the same terms for at least as long as he himself remains in office.

In respectfully thanking your Honor for kindly allowing us this long encroachment on your valuable time, your memorialists would say in conclusion that they have ventured to recommend the perhaps startling innovation of women inspectors for the better care of our streets, because keeping things clean, like the training of children and the care of the sick, has ever been one of the instinctive and recognized functions of women. The quiet usefulness and power of women in education and in medicine are acknowledged all over our land, and we believe that if intrusted, as we suggest, with this public office of street inspection, they would in like manner discharge it to the perfect satisfaction of the citizens of whatever community employed them. Women would feel a pride in this public function and an enthusiasm for this important public work, that would, we are persuaded, result in no long time in giving us, on this side of the water, towns and cities as brightly clean and attractive, and at as small proportional cost as any in the world.

But whether or no we have proposed on this vital subject that so comes home to us all, anything of any value to your Honor or to the great community for which your Honor labors, we are sure that no practical person can look into it as we have done, and not become convinced—either

that the street-cleaning system of New York should be wholly reorganized, or that a far different spirit of energy and efficiency should be infused into it,—or both!

(Signed.)

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 MATHILDE F. WENDT, Vice-Pres., Lexington Ave. & 81st St.  
 MARGARET J. HERBERT, Sec'y, . . . . . 215 E. 48th St.  
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 Chairman Street Cleaning Committee, } 7 E. 31st St.

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 EMILY L. WAKEMAN, . . . . . 6 E. 85th St.  
 THERESA BARCALOW, . . . . . 245 Lexington Ave.  
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*New York,*

*March 25th, 1887.*

