

by the local authority in accordance with regulations to be made.

(b) To take in a greater number of lodgers as aforesaid than is specified in any such license.

(c) To let any house or tenement in which more than one family is to reside, or any room for the occupation of more than two persons, without the previous approval of the local authority in accordance with the regulations to be made.

Medical Services.

On the application by special resolution of any local authority the Minister may provide a resident medical practitioner for the district. The Minister shall fix the salary and emoluments of the medical officer, who may hold Government appointments connected with public health in the district for which he is appointed.

Such medical officer shall charge the patient for his services through the local body, provided that in necessitous cases, his services shall be free to the patient.

All fees paid for services rendered by the medical officer shall be payable into the district fund of the local authority, which shall pay the salary of the medical officer either out of the general rate of the district or by means of a separate rate for the purpose. Any two or more local authorities whose districts are adjacent may combine for the purposes of this section in such manner as they think fit, and thereupon the provisions of this section shall apply to the districts of all such local authorities. The services of the medical officer shall be available to all friendly societies and other organisations approved by the Minister on such terms as he may determine.

Health Officers.

The Minister may require the council of any borough having a population of more than five thousand to appoint a registered medical practitioner as medical officer and also such sanitary inspectors as may be deemed necessary. No such officer shall be appointed without the approval of the Minister.

No house shall be erected or occupied as a dwelling-place unless approved by the local authority on the recommendation of the inspector under this Act, who shall certify to the water supply, baths, and sanitary conditions of the property.

Picture Theatres.

No picture theatre shall be opened before the hour of two o'clock in the afternoon or between the hours of five and seven in the evening of any day.

The Minister may, on the recommendation of the Board of Public Health, establish and maintain lecturers, instructors, training classes, gymnasia, and any other methods in the interests of public health, the cost to be paid out of moneys appropriated by Parliament.

Any local authority may, subject to the approval of the Minister in charge of Hospitals and Charitable Aid, pay out of its ordinary fund such moneys as it thinks fit to such persons as it thinks fit for the

assistance and development of any society, organisation, or institution not established for purposes of profit, and whose object is to promote public health, or for the establishment and maintenance of bursaries to medical or dental students.

Compulsory Powers.

If any person is found by an inspector to be living in insanitary conditions and without proper and adequate regard to health, food, and clothing, such person may be ordered by the district health officer to remove to an institution under the control of a hospital and charitable aid board; and in the event of such person neglecting or refusing to become an inmate of the institution aforesaid, he shall be summoned before a Justice of the Peace, who shall make such order as he shall deem fit.

Prohibited Dwellings.

Any local authority may, and shall when ordered by the district health officer, make by-laws prohibiting the use of houses or any class of rooms therein for human habitation that in the opinion of the district health officer are unfit for such habitation.

The powers of a district health officer may be conferred on a local authority which is satisfactorily enforcing the law and safeguarding the public health.

The Bill contains many other clauses intended to strengthen the hands of health officers and extend the power to secure improved housing conditions.

Song of the Slum Woman.

The baby and the rubbish-tin are huddled side by side,
I'm gettin' through the washin', and the yard is not too wide;
'N' when you come to think of it, it doesn't seem quite square
For the baby 'n' the rubbish-tin to sit together there.

Of course there's room enough for 'im to play upon the street
(Next-door-but-one a kid got crushed beneath an 'orse's feet).
'E sits quite good 'n' quiet, 'n' never starts to whine,
Till 'is eyes get sort of achy with the flappin' on the line.

There is 'Ospitals for Women, 'n' there's Infants' 'Omes as well,
'N' the Walker Convalescent you can rest in for a spell.
It'd be a deal sight cheaper than the nurse, 'n' bed, 'n' ward,
If the Council 'd provide us with a decent-sized back yard.

For there's Billy down with fever, 'n' there's Janie got sore eyes;

'N' Hector, though 'e's turned fifteen, 'e isn't any size.
Yet they fill us up with charity in 'ospitals 'n' all!
Won't anybody tell 'em they're against a bloomin' wall?

If they'd start from the beginnin'-like, with rentals on the square,

'N' pull these rotten houses down, 'n' 'elp us get fresh air;
If they'd see we got conveniences—not much; just what we need.
Why, they'd 'ave both feet on sickness 'fore it'd the chance to breed.

But the baby 'n' the rubbish-tin are huddled side by side,
I'm gettin' through the washin', and the yard is not too wide;
It kind o' sets you wonderin' what they all intend to do!
There's the Parliament 'n' Premier, 'n' the grand Lord Mayor too—

VANCE PALMER—"THE FORERUNNERS."