

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS.

THE SANITARY PROTECTION ASSOCIATION OF NEWPORT, R. I.

THE objects of this association, based upon that recently found so successful at Edinburgh, and the first of the kind, so far as known, yet established in this country, are, briefly stated, threefold: First, to provide its members, at moderate cost, with such advice and supervision as shall insure the proper sanitary condition of their own dwellings. Second, to enable members to procure practical advice, on moderate terms, as to the best means of remedying defects in houses of the poorer class, in which they may be interested. Third, to aid in improving the sanitary condition of the city.

The first inspection does not cause any disturbance to household arrangements. It is followed by a report making specific recommendations, if any improvements are thought necessary. The members are not bound to carry out these recommendations. The subsequent annual inspection will, so long as the sanitary arrangements remain in working order, entail no expense beyond the annual subscription.

Each member is entitled to the following privileges in respect of property within the municipality of Newport: (1.) An immediate report by the inspecting engineer of the association on the sanitary condition of one dwelling or property, with specific recommendations, if necessary, as to the improvement of drainage, water supply, and ventilation, and a report upon the water by the analyst. (2.) An annual inspection of his premises, with a report as to their sanitary condition. (3.) Occasional supplementary inspection and advice concerning the dwelling or property in respect of which he is a subscriber. (4.) Each member by his annual payment secures the above privileges in respect of one dwelling or property occupied or designated by him. Should he be interested in two or more dwellings or properties, as owner or occupant, he may secure equal privileges in respect to them all by paying the annual subscription for each. (5.) A report, to be obtainable on payment of a special fee, on any dwelling or property, or plans thereof, which he may wish to hire or purchase. (6.) Reports by the officers of the association as to the sanitary condition of any dwellings or properties of the very poor, on payment of a moderate fee. (7.) A report, without fee, upon the sanitary condition of any public building, as church, school-house, or place of public resort, within the city of Newport.

The officers of the association are prominent men. Dr. Horatio R. Storer is the corresponding secretary, and Col. George E. Waring, Jr., is the consulting engineer.

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

MR. EDITOR, — On page 72 (January 9th), in note on Metric System, permit me to criticize.

It begins: “*m*i. or gr. i. equals,” etc., implying that a minim equals a grain, a fluid drachm equals a drachm, etc. In fact, of course, there is a difference of about five per cent. in favor of the former.

I would suggest that the last two lines of the note be amended so as to read as follows: — “*F*3 used for 3 (of water) makes a difference of five per cent. (excess). CC. used for Gms. (of water) makes no difference in the result. A teaspoonful is 5 CC.; it is 5 Gms. in the case of liquids of the specific gravity of water only.”

Without disrespect to the writer of the note, I think that we may justly say that in his efforts to abbreviate he has written incorrectly.

W. H. LATHROP, M. D.

STATE ALMS HOUSE, TEWKSBURY.

THE METRIC SYSTEM IN MEDICINE.

OLD STYLE.

METRIC.

Gms.

<i>m</i> i. or gr. i. equals . . . . .	06
<i>f</i> 3i. or 3i. equals . . . . .	4
<i>f</i> 3i. or 3i. equals . . . . .	32