

TE PUIA.

This place lies close to Waipiro, and possesses hot springs of great medicinal value, which are beginning to be known and talked about. When they are better known, given good access, and better accommodation provided, I feel sure that the place will become a favourite health resort. The site of the springs is at a good elevation, some 800 ft. above sea-level, commanding magnificent scenery, and lying well to the sun.

As some of the hotels in Cook County are in a very delapidated condition, not at all creditable to those concerned, I have represented the matter to the Licensing Committee, and have no doubt that the representations will bear fruit after the next meeting of that body.

At the beginning of the year the Cook County Council appointed Mr. Thelwall as Sanitary Inspector. He has proved himself capable, earnest in the discharge of his duties, and manifests a desire to work amicably with the Department.

CLYDE, WAIROA.

The town is well situated, and ought to be healthier than it is; but sanitary reform moves slowly here. Many of the buildings are old, and most of the building-sites small. Several nuisances that existed have been reported on and abated. There have been nine cases of enteric fever notified in and around Wairoa. It has three times as many cases as Napier, with about one-eighth the population. It has only one less than Gisborne, with about one-fifth the population—and in sanitary matters Gisborne can hardly be considered a pattern for imitation. There have been twenty-nine notifications of tuberculosis, fourteen of them being amongst the Maoris. These are less than in former years. I hope that it indicates that the sanitary education of the Native is beginning to bear fruit.

The Committee of the racecourse placed conveniences near the grandstand, and proposed discharging untreated sewage into a creek that runs past, and close to a Maori pa, and ultimately finds its way into the river. I prohibited this, and proposed a better plan of dealing with the sewage. My advice was taken and the plan adopted.

A water-supply and a drainage system for the front of the town is a great desideratum. The scheme would not be a very expensive one, but I fear that a considerable time will elapse before the Town Board will consider the matter seriously. The desire to keep down the rates is with them, and many other local bodies, of the first importance.

NUHAKA.

There have been five cases of enteric fever notified during the year in this small and scattered township. The place has lately developed a dairying industry, most of the milkers being Maoris. Dr. Somerville, of Wairoa, informs me that there had not been a case of enteric in Nuhaka prior to the development of the dairying, and he attributed the cases to the insanitary conditions of the milking-sheds. I can testify from my own observation that the milking-sheds are the reverse of inviting. I was further informed by another authority that, owing to the carelessness of the milkers and want of attention to the cows, 90 per cent. of them are suffering from mammitis.

MOHAKA.

There have been two cases of enteric fever notified from this township, which seem to have arisen in the Maori pa. One Maori who developed the complaint was taken to the Wairoa Hospital. His friends, considering that he did not get the attention or food that he needed, took him out of the institution and back to Mohaka, a distance of twenty-two miles, nursed and dieted him as their kindness and ignorance suggested, with the inevitable result as far as the patient was concerned. Happily, no other cases arose from this action.

A new schoolhouse is now in course of construction in Mohaka. This has been much needed for a considerable time.

REMARKS AND SUGGESTIONS.

I am convinced that *nga tangi Maori* are frequently fruitful sources of the spread of infectious disease. Frequently the bodies of persons who have died from some virulent complaint are kept above ground for a month or more while the tangi is proceeding. The segregation of Maoris from all parts, some of whom are suffering from tuberculosis, and others suffering from one of the various infectious diseases, is fraught with danger to themselves and the members of the surrounding community. I am aware that it is a serious matter to interfere with the conventions of a people; but if the clerical missionary interferes for their moral well-being, may not the medical missionary interfere for their physical? Surely the keeping of a body above ground, though it be encased in a coffin, might be prohibited.

I regret that some of the local bodies are not so ready to act upon my suggestions as I would like, or the public health of the community demands. In this connection I would like to quote some of the remarks that appeared in a leading article in one of the local papers: "Local bodies are not so willing to co-operate with the Health Department as they ought to be. We have no necessity to go outside Hawke's Bay to find local bodies who seem anything but disposed to help the Health Officer. It is a matter of common remark that it only requires the Health Officer to report that a property is insanitary to insure a strong conviction on the part of the local body that the Health Officer is a meddler and does not know what he is talking about, and that the property reported on is a credit rather than otherwise to those concerned in its condition. In other parts of the colony this tendency is noticeable. Is an old building reported on as requiring destruction? Then the sequence of events can be decided on beforehand with almost absolute certainty. The local body concludes that the building is on the whole a very good building: it has a roof on it, and does