

BEHIND THE TIMES.

In Sanitary Matters, Kansas City Must Be Up and Moving.

In view of the remarkable interest that citizens of all classes are taking in the question of cleaning up the city this spring and keeping it clean, Assistant Sanitary Superintendent Waring has written to a number of cities of about the same population as Kansas City to ascertain how much money they spend on their sanitary departments, what their system of removing garbage is and how they enforce their regulations.

Replies have been received from the health officers at Denver, Omaha, Minneapolis, St. Paul and Milwaukee, which show that their sanitary systems are far in advance of the remarkably countrified and impoverished department which Kansas City maintains. In looking over the health ordinances and reports of these cities one fact is very noticeable, and that is that in most of these places the county takes entire charge of the sick. The city in no case maintains a hospital, except an infectious disease ward, and some of these cities with a population no larger than this city, spend \$90,000 per year on their sanitary systems where this city spends \$5,500.

In Milwaukee with an estimated population of 220,000 the cost of removing garbage is \$23,316, or 10 3-5 cents per capita per year. Milwaukee cremates her garbage at an expense of \$15,500. The county maintains the hospital and takes care of the outside poor.

The cost of running the health department of Minneapolis last year was \$19,316. The city does not treat the poor, and this does not include the removal of garbage, which is provided for by a separate appropriation. This year the cost of running the health department and removing the garbage combined is estimated at \$40,000. The refuse is taken to the country and there disposed of as a fertilizer. The city has thirteen sanitary policemen. It has no hospital. It maintains an infectious disease hospital, but with the exception of this all of the \$40,000 is spent for sanitary purposes. The estimated population is 180,000.

St. Paul with an estimated population of 140,000 pays \$23,400 for removal of garbage, and has thirteen sanitary officers. The board of health pays out \$12,000 per year in salaries.

Denver, with an estimated population of 140,000, employs sixteen men in its sanitary department and spends for the collection and disposal of garbage, quarantine regulations, cleaning alleys and sanitary department salaries \$90,000 per year. Arapahoe county maintains the hospital. The city supports a contagious disease hospital and separate cottages where children who have the diphtheria or measles are treated. Garbage is collected in the center of the city every day and the outgoing districts every second or third day.

Omaha, claiming a population of 150,000—which is ridiculous—has thirteen sanitary policemen, spends \$14,000 a year on its health department, and has its garbage removed by contract, the contractor collecting fees from the householder.

Kansas City with an estimated population of 150,000 employs four sanitary policemen, has no garbage system, and spends on its health department \$5,500, or including the services of an infectious disease physician and clerk, \$8,000 per year. The remainder of an annual appropriation of \$38,000 is taken by a hospital which Kansas City maintains and in treating outside poor.