DISEASE, FIRE AND WATER IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY CITY:
A BIBLIOGRAPHY

John H. Taylor

Disease, fire and water have received little historical
treatment in the development of the Canadian city. For fire, perhaps
the only good material, confined to eastern Canada and the nineteenth
century, is John Weaver and Peter De Lottinville, "The Conflagration and
the City: Disaster and Progress in British North America during the
Nineteenth Century," unpublished paper delivered at the Canadian
served somewhat better, though one of the best single items is also
unpublished: Elwood Jones and Douglas McCalla, "Toronto Waterworks,
1840-77: Continuity and Change in Nineteenth Century Toronto Politics,"
unpublished paper delivered at the Canadian Urban History Conference,
Guelph, May, 1977. Fortunately material on Winnipeg is published. See
Alan F. J. Artibise, Winnipeg: A Social History of Urban Growth, 1874-
Chapter 12. Among the published material, see also, Louis P. Cain,
"Water and Sanitation Services in Vancouver: An Historical Perspective,
BC Studies, No. 30 (Summer 1976), pp. 27-43; and F. L. Small, The
Influent and the Effluent: The History of Urban Water Supply and
Sanitation (Saskatoon: Modern Press, 1974). The latter contains some
Canadian material, though the perspective is global. For Ottawa, a
solid, though largely technical manuscript is available: Roxroy West,
"The Ottawa Water Works: Queen Street Pumphouse, 1859-1876 and 1876-
1949," Report presented to the Canadian Engineering Heritage Record,
30 March 1975.

Non-Canadian material is more extensive and probably the best
item is Nelson Manfred Blake, Water for the Cities, Maxwell School
Series-III (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1956). The reader
might also consult some older British material: Henry Jephson, The
Sanitary Evolution of London (New York: Benjamin Bloom, Inc., 1972,

Health is better served still, though the Canadian material is thin. Invaluable sources are the annual reports of the various city medical health officers, and the annual reports of the provincial boards of health found in the various sessional papers. These latter often contain synoptic articles on the development of public health. Recent scholarly articles include Margaret W. Andrews, "Epidemic and Public Health: Influenza in Vancouver, 1918-19," *BC Studies*, No. 34 (Summer 1977), pp. 21-44; and Geoffrey Bilson, "Canadian Doctors and the Cholera," *Canadian Historical Association, Historical Papers*, 1977, pp. 104-119; and Artibise, *Winnipeg: A Social History of Urban Growth*, Chapter 10.
