

Inspectors, giving descriptions and photographs of slum property and dilapidated tenement dwellings, manufacturers' chimneys whose smoke was a nuisance to the neighbourhood, and defective lavatory accommodation in schools and factories, all of which had been, or were about to be condemned. Very drastic steps were taken to secure pure air for the citizens of Milwaukee, for whilst in 1908 and 1909 there were only respectively 9 and 21 prosecutions for excessive discharge of black smoke, in 1910, the Socialists having come into power in the autumn, there were 29 prosecutions and in 1911 there were 55 prosecutions before November 1<sup>st</sup>. In response to complaints of inhabitants in regard to the terrible smells arising during the rendering of animal matter, which was extensively practised in Milwaukee, the Socialist Council, after a number of abortive attempts to secure that it should be done under proper conditions, prohibited all the rendering of animal matter, except that intended for human food, within the corporate boundaries of the city.

Lists were published in the *Healthologist* of the Milwaukee Dairies and Bakeries, with an analysis showing how the Inspector had reported upon them, in order that the citizens might know where they could buy pure and clean milk and bread. An analysis was also given of various so-called 'soothing syrups' for babies, which showed that every one contained morphine, chloroform, opium, or some other drug highly dangerous to infant life.

By its fearless exposures of the corrupt practices which everywhere form so serious a menace to the public health, the *Healthologist* made for itself many enemies, and those who were interested in maintaining the evils against which it fought, described it as 'mental garbage'.

The Socialist Health Department did not content itself with giving advice and administering punishment. Amongst other things it issued freely on the written order of any Milwaukee physician, silver nitrate, for prevention of blindness in babies, to those who could not afford to pay for it. It also administered the Pasteur treatment without charge to the poor.

*The Isolation Hospital.* Shortly after the Socialists took office, an agitation arose for a new isolation hospital. The city had never hitherto undertaken such an effort, the two existing hospitals having been built originally by private enterprise and handed over to the city, because their promoters lacked the money for their support. These institutions had

never been entirely satisfactory and with the growth of the town had become too small. The Council had therefore responded to the popular demand and had proceeded to build an isolation hospital, which was now nearing completion and would be one of the most well equipped in the United States.

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#### THE PRISON FARM

Before my first visit to the City Hall, I had been taken to see the House of Correction - a prison, dingy and monotonous for men, a shade more dreary and monotonous for women. A reporter from the Socialist daily newspaper, *The Milwaukee Leader*, had met me at the door of the place as I came out and had asked my opinion of it. Some of what I said appeared in the *Milwaukee Leader* next morning,\* and whilst I was at the City Hall that afternoon I was accosted by the Inspector of Prisons and a big strongly built man of the people with a German accent, - Mr Martin Mies, a member of the Milwaukee Prisons Board. Mr Mies told me, and his words were corroborated by the Inspector, that all my criticisms of the House of Correction would react against the Socialist administration and that the Socialists would be blamed for every fault that I had mentioned, though these faults had continued for more than a generation, and though many of them could never be eradicated until the building itself was pulled down. But though he opened the conversation as though he were angry with me, it soon appeared that Mr Mies - an enthusiast beneath his rather gruff exterior - was anxious to unfold to me - as anyone who would care for them - the plans that he and his friends were cherishing for the thing that was to supersede the dismal House of Correction before many months were gone. At once we agreed that Mr Mies, the Inspector and I should go together to visit the site of the future institution, and within half an hour we were starting off in a little open red motor car which belonged to the Municipality.

\* Sylvia's comments appeared under the title 'Sylvia Pankhurst Thinks Prison Here is Not as Bad as England's'. However, the text explained that she 'says that the Milwaukee prison is very bad indeed, compared with many other institutions which she has visited in this country' and that 'she shuddered perceptibly when shown the punishment cells'. *Milwaukee Leader*, 31 January 1912, p. 5.