

AUCKLAND SUBURBS.

Sanitary measures of any moment in the suburbs have been deferred to await the result of the Greater Auckland scheme, which His Worship the Mayor of Auckland has placed before the surrounding local authorities. Little enthusiasm is evinced, however, by the outside bodies, and this in a great measure is due to the fact that the things of greatest importance in their opinion are improvements in drainage and sanitary services; and that while Auckland City displays such an unsatisfactory spectacle in these matters within her own restricted limits the prospect of gaining their own requirements by such a union does not seem hopeful. A scheme to place a septic tank in the Arch Hill Gully and empty therein the nightsoil collected in the Arch Hill, Eden Terrace, and Mount Albert districts was not approved by me, and in this I had subsequently the support of Dr. Valantine, Acting Chief Health Officer.

GREY LYNN BOROUGH.

The Council is still forced to make provision for the disposal of nightsoil within the borough precincts. The introduction of water-closets has been proposed, which would necessitate the placing of a septic-tank at the outlet of the sewer. Plans of the tank have been submitted to me, but the conclusion has been deferred pending information as to the possibility of connecting with the drainage system to be decided upon by the City Council.

PARNELL BOROUGH.

Water-closets have been made compulsory by by-law throughout the borough. Frequently the plumbing-work in connection therewith has been effected in a manner quite in keeping with such work generally in the borough—that is, of none too high a standard.

NEWMARKET BOROUGH.

The sewerage scheme referred to in last report has been completed. Some little difficulty arose between the Council and myself as to the carrying-out of the scheme exactly in accordance with the plans and specifications submitted to the Hon. the Minister when the loan was sought. Ultimately I gained my point with satisfaction to every one concerned.

ONEHUNGA BOROUGH.

The excessive amount of enteric fever in this borough has already been referred to. The Council believing that there was no hope of getting the ratepayers to support a complete drainage scheme endeavoured to offer some solution of the difficulty of disposing of nightsoil by proposing to empty sealed pans into a septic-tank installation to be placed on the foreshore of the Manukau Harbour. Very great opposition was offered to this proposal, not because of any defectiveness in the scheme from a sanitary standpoint, but mainly that an old condemned rifle range runs near the proposed tank-site, and the few persons who use it could not be asked to walk about another mile and a quarter to the authorised Penrose Range in order that the majority of the Onehunga people might enjoy some more decent and less offensive sanitary conveniences.

MOUNT EDEN ROAD DISTRICT.

During the year a movement has taken place to convert this road district into a borough. The necessary petition has been presented to the Governor, and will probably be favourably acceded to. The borough will probably have the largest population of any around Auckland, and it is to be hoped will take a more active part in sanitary measures than has been the custom with the decadent Road Board.

MOUNT ROSKILL ROAD DISTRICT.

I have approved a set of by-laws for this district relating to the preventing of overcrowding, by defining the area upon which a house may be built and the size of dwelling-rooms.

MOUNT ALBERT AND EPSOM ROAD DISTRICTS.

By-laws almost identical with those for Mount Roskill were approved. For these districts the minimum size of section agreed upon by the Mount Albert Board was 4,000 superficial feet, while the Epsom section thereon reads as follows:—

“B 1. Except as provided by By-law No. B 2 no person shall erect a new house in the district upon a site of a less area than one-quarter of an acre and unless such site shall have a frontage of at least 66 ft. to a road.

“B 2. By-law No. B 1 shall not apply to prevent the erection of one new house on an allotment, lot, or section which does not comply with the requirements of By-law No. B 1, but which is shown on any public plan or on any plan lodged or deposited in the Deeds Registration Office or the District Land Registry Office at Auckland prior to the coming into operation of these by-laws or on a site at the date of these by-laws by a person not owning any adjoining land, or to prevent the erection of a shop with dwelling-rooms attached upon any site having frontage to the main Auckland-Onehunga Road and situated within the ‘special area,’ provided that in the erection of such shop provision shall be made for the disposal of sewage and offensive matter from such shop and dwelling-room thereto attached in accordance with any general conditions for such disposal which may be made by the Board in respect of the special area, or such portion thereof, in which such shop is intended to be erected, as the case may be.”