To Sewer Inspectors:

Your attention is called to the fact that several accidents have lately occurred in this and other cities in this vicinity during examinations or work in old sewers, or in tightly closed new sewers, caused by gas explosions, asphyxiation by marsh gas or other foul air. Inspectors will be required to see that the following regulations are observed in making examinations, and in working in and about old sewers upon work in their charge:

REGULATIONS FOR SEWER INSPECTORS AND OTHER PERSONS ENGAGED IN SEWERAGE WORK.

1. Great care must be taken before entering any manhole or sewer to ascertain that the air therein is sufficiently diluted with fresh air to enable the work or examination to be prosecuted with safety.

2. Entrance into manholes or sewers must not be made until the cover of the manhole where work is to be done, and the covers of at least two adjacent manholes have been opened and left open for not less than a half hour before making an entrance. In all cases at least two manholes in advance and one manhole in the rear of the examination party shall be kept open.

3. A man must be kept on watch at every open manhole to prevent accidents and to render assistance, if found necessary, to the workmen or examination party.

4. No manhole or sewer is safe to enter in which a lighted candle will not burn brightly, and in such cases fresh air must be admitted into the sewer until a steady light is obtained. All manholes or sewers must be tested in this way before any person can be permitted to enter, except that a light must not be used where there is any indication of illuminating gas in the sewer.

5. In sewers with a heavy flow, a line's line must be passed by floats from manhole to manhole and secured at each.

6. Any person engaged in the work or in the examination, feeling the least symptoms of drowsiness or dizziness must return immediately to the surface.

7. After the completion of the work or examination, the persons taking the examination and the workman shall be accounted for and all manhole covers must be replaced and made secure.

Yours truly,

C. H. Ott,
Assistant Engineer.

C. S. Webster,
Chief Engineer.

March 5, 1908,