

File No. 13737

Baltimore, February 14, 1912.

Hon. James H. Preston,  
Mayor of Baltimore.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 13th inst., in reference to the plumbing situation in view of the connections with the sewerage system, received.

I have been looking into this matter to some extent. By the Act of 1906, which is found in the City Code as Sections 509 to 515, the State Board of Commissioners of Practical Plumbing, consisting of five persons, - three practical plumbers of Baltimore City, the Commissioner of Health of Baltimore City, and a member of the State Board of Health - pass on all applications for plumber's licenses and grant a "certificate of competency" to those they find qualified (Section 511); no person can work at the business without this certificate of competency, (Section 509); the Act does not draw any distinction between master plumbers and journeymen plumbers, but, by Section 515, the Board "are empowered to make such rules and regulations, from time to time, as in their judgment they may deem necessary and requisite". I have not seen their regulations, but I presume they make the distinction between a master plumber's license and a journeyman plumber's license.

The Commissioners of Plumbing hold their office for two years, - which might suggest some remedy, in the way of getting Governor Goldsborough to put different men on the Board. Inasmuch, however, as the majority of the members of the Board must be plumbers of Baltimore City, perhaps little relief can be looked for from this quarter.

The Ordinances on the subject are found in the City Code, pages 836 to 838, Sections 129 to 135, providing for an Inspector of Plumbing from whom a permit must be obtained for every sewer connection.

These Ordinances do not make any distinction between a master plumber and a journeyman plumber, but, in pursuance of Section 133, which provides that such plumbing work should be done under such "directions as may be prescribed by said Inspector of Plumbing, with the approval of the Commissioner of Health", the Commissioner of Health has issued a little pamphlet containing elaborate regulations adopted by him, and in these regulations only the master plumber is recognized. See Sections 2, 10 C, 10 D, 10 G, 10 H, 10 L, 10 M, of the Regulations of the Health Department. Under these Regulations, the Inspector of