

Public Health

The public health service of Ontario has been reorganized and enlarged by the Government. The Province has been divided into health districts, each supervised by an officer who devotes his whole time to the work. Anti-toxins for the treatment of certain diseases are manufactured and distributed free of charge in any quantity desired, and, in consequence, many lives are saved. Free laboratory diagnosis enables prompt control to be kept where epidemic threatens. The Department was called upon to supply all the typhoid vaccine used by the Canadian troops. Over 2,000,000 doses were provided, and this dreaded disease was practically non-existent amongst the Canadian soldiers.

A department of sanitary engineering provides expert advice on sewage disposal and water purification for municipalities and individuals.

The Child Welfare Bureau gives free advice to mothers on the care of their babies.

A campaign on public health education, including a moving picture show, is carried on throughout the Province.

The Province has the lowest death rate of any community of its size in the world.

Hospital Reform.

Ten hospitals for the treatment of mental diseases have supplanted the former odiously-termed "insane asylums" in Ontario. This has been brought about by a careful, thorough and timely reorganization of these institutions, and is in line with the work inaugurated by the late Hon. W. J. Hanna in prison reform, which sounded the fame of Ontario all over the civilized world. In order to carry out modern ideas of treatment, each hospital was enlarged and, to a considerable extent, rebuilt, and special equipment designed. The new institution at Whitby (Toronto hospital) is declared to be the latest word on hospital design and equipment. Now that the war is over this hospital, which the Government placed at the disposal of the military authorities so long as it was needed for the soldiers, is available for its original purpose. This improvement, which began fifteen years ago, has kept steady pace with the march of events. A training system for nurses was established, giving a three years' course equal to the best provided at any general hospital. The facilities thus created have been of immense value to the military authorities during the war, when heavy drafts were made upon the medical and nursing resources of the Province. Each hospital has developed a department of vocational training, whereby the patient's interest is aroused and much accomplished if not a permanent cure effected.