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## A SURVEY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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The pages of history are writ large with lessons of how empire after empire has fallen through physical degeneration and all its attendant evils, consequent upon the ignoring of laws which are to-day called the simple laws of health. The only difference between the people of earlier times and ourselves is that they knew not these laws and, therefore, heeded them not; while we of to-day know but do not observe them. Upon every hand there is the evidence that we are in many respects following in their footsteps, and, as a proof of this, it is not necessary for us to go to the older portions of this Empire. It is to be found in the most recently settled portions of Canada, while physical defects and their attendant social evils are in evidence in the rising generation even of this proud city in which we meet to-day. In simple words we are not observing the laws of hygiene and posterity will have to suffer the consequences.

Fortunate it is that, during the past three quarters of a century, there has gradually evolved from the science of medicine the science of hygiene; the former has been mainly curative of disease, while the latter has for its highest object the prevention of disease, the prolongation of life, the putting off of death until the last possible moment, thus perfecting man's environment,

so that his powers of vital resistance may not be weakened by the inroads of disease-producing organisms.

In the evolution of the science of hygiene the thoughts and minds of the members of the medical profession have been directed more and more to the prevention of sickness; indeed, the trend of modern medical practice has ever been in the direction of minimizing man's danger against his great unseen foe—disease.

But, while studying the cause and effect and endeavoring to find the remedy, there has always been the urgent necessity for the physician to render succor and aid to alleviate man's suffering. Therefore, in the popular mind every physician is considered a sanitarian. The sooner the public become educated to the fact that curative medicine and preventive medicine or hygiene are not the same, the better for the progress of public health.

It may as well be clearly understood that, so far as the licensing body in the Province of Ontario is concerned, the College of Physicians and Surgeons (that august body) does not deem it essential that a student at his final examination be required to show any evidence of a knowledge of hygiene, which to-day is the most important branch of medicine. It is diffi-