

successful inauguration means progress and the enjoyment of all the blessings which are showered upon us, and its neglect will be attended by waste, in the death through preventable disease, of many whom we can ill afford to lose ; the lives of the people wasted, lost, neglected, exterminated by pestilence that we have the power to avert.

We are without any comprehensive scheme for the collecting of sanitary statistics. It is a matter of great difficulty, although very desirable. We ought to be able to point out the localities of the occurrence of disease, endemic or epidemic. The Government at Ottawa is desirous of receiving suggestions, and to show its earnest appreciation of the necessity for some action in the matter, a sum of \$10,000 is placed at the disposal of the Minister of Agriculture for the purpose of securing reliable returns and giving to the country a report thereon. At best the report, with such an extent of country and so small an amount to work with, will be limited in extent. My own impression is that the collecting of the returns can only be secured by municipal regulations.

Two separate and distinct kinds of work are involved in this labour. First. The collection of facts ; in this lies the chief difficulty. We cannot expect that voluntary reports will be forthcoming, and unless a general consent is obtained from medical practitioners throughout the country failure will follow, and the reports be utterly useless and unreliable. It has been proposed by one who has given this matter some thought, to appoint a certain number of enumerators, one, I believe, in each electoral division, who is to receive an insignificant stipend, for which he will be expected to give the reports of the extent and results of the practice of his *confrères* under their own signature ; said reports to be kept by the practitioners on schedules furnished by the Government. This scheme appears somewhat Utopian, and, I cannot but think, would fail.

The second point is, the arrangement of these facts, when gathered, into a condensed form for publication and use. This, of course, would be a matter for the Department to deal with, and I doubt not would be efficiently done. Any schedule that