

half century she has passed a great number of Health Acts. Amongst those, I may mention the Public Health Act in 1842, the Public Health Act of 1848, the Sanitary Act of 1866, the Public Health Act of 1872, and the most important Act of all was one amending the Public Health Act in 1875. By such legislation there has been a marked and marvellous decrease in the death rate of England since the first Act was passed. Previous to the passing of the first Health Act of 1842, she had a system of collecting mortuary statistics from the year 1837, and it was by the collection of these statistics that her physicians and sanitarians were able to impress upon the legislators the necessity of some legislation towards the health of the people. According to the Registrar General's Report of 1841 the death rate of England and Wales was 26 per 1,000. Now, in order to show what has been accomplished in England during the past fifty years by such legislation, I shall divide it off into decades of ten years, which will make a fair and just comparison. If I took one year and compared it with another I might be accused of selecting a year in which there was a great amount of sickness and comparing it with another in which there was not much sickness; but in dividing the period into decades of ten years, there can be no unjust comparison. These figures I have copied from the Registrar General's Report from England.

During the years from 1841 to 1851, the average death rate for these ten years was 25.4 per thousand inhabitants and owing to the legislation of 1848 the death rate from 1851 to 1861 dropped to 22.4 per 1,000, a difference of 3 per 1,000, and for the next decade of 10 years there was but little change, 22.2 per thousand from 1871 to 1881, the average death rate was 21.4 per 1,000, still showing a great diminution in the death rate, which must be attributed to the passing of those acts of 1872 and 1875. At the time of the passing of the amendment to the Health Act of 1875, the death rate for the year previous was 22.0 per 1,000, the average from 1876 to 1880 was 19.3, from 1880 to 1886, it was 19.2, and for the year 1887, 18.7; 1888, 17.8; 1889, 17.2, showing that since the passing of the Act of 1875 there has been a steady decrease in the death rate every year, and I have no doubt but that this death rate will continue to decrease until not more than 13 or 14 per 1,000 will die yearly. Estimating the population of England and Wales at twenty-eight and a half millions, this diminution in death rate implies, that is the same death rate had continued for the past eight years as what it had for the year

from 1871 to 1881 there would have been recorded upwards of 500,000 deaths at the end of last year who are living to day. Having shown what has been accomplished by health legislation in England, let me draw your attention to what may be accomplished in the Dominion of Canada by similar legislation. For the past number of years we have had a system of collecting various statistics through the Department of Agriculture. When the system was established in 1882 it only applied to cities having a population of 25,000, and over; since that, it has been extended, until now the statistics are collected from twenty-eight centres. In order to make my calculation, I am going to take the mortuary statistics for the Province of Ontario, from the Registrar General's Report of that Province, which I believe are more correct than those of the Dominion; besides there are two cities in Ontario from which the Dominion Government does not collect or give a report of the statistics, viz.: St. Catharines and Stratford which I have included in the 28 centres. I believe the system adopted by the Province of Ontario is preferable to the system adopted by the Dominion Government, as the Provincial system leaves it in the hands of medical men to report as to the cause of death. I will read from the Provincial Act in regard to that point:

"Every duly qualified medical practitioner, who was last in a attendance during the last illness of any person, shall within ten days after having notice or knowledge of the death of such person, transmit to the Division Registrar of the Division in which the death took place, a certificate under his signature of the cause of death, according to form of schedule I."

When that is carried out they have a pretty correct system of collecting statistics. I am sorry to say our Medical men do not carry it out as strictly as they should, as upon the correctness of our mortuary statistics, depends their usefulness for making comparisons. The system adopted by the Dominion Government collects statistics from the cemeteries, or those in attendance on those cemeteries. Now if we take any city in the Dominion that is growing rapidly it is to be remembered that people are constantly coming in from the surrounding districts to seek employment, and those who die there have friends or relatives in the country who carry the body back to be buried in the rural districts, so that the cemeteries in the cities do not give a correct number of all those who die there. We find the population of those twenty-eight centres from which statistics are collected by the Dominion Government and Local to be 840,000. The death rate in those centres for the past year has been an average of 22.2 per 1,000. As there is