

tion of the body corporate; and, in our dependencies, malaria, cholera and plague must be added.

It is hoped that these figures will set men thinking. The art of citizen-making is far from advanced if this is the result of our training and equipment. Fitness in health, brain and moral force, which mean sound health, intelligence and will power are not obtained under such conditions, and the time is come for its realization and the attention of us all. The practical application of the stores of medical and scientific knowledge is the remedy which must be entrusted to a Medical Minister, with the full consent and approbation of the nation, and perhaps by his personal intercourse and communication a new era of health will be entered upon. He would have to contend, not merely with the forces of disease, but with those of apathy and ignorance.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Those skilled in vital statistics claim that one-third of the deaths annually registered are dependent on causes which proper administration of sanitary measures could remove.

FICTITIOUS ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE APPOINTMENT OF A MINISTER.

There are objections that arise, more especially in that constitution of mind known as conservative, that dislikes any alteration of existing affairs, to the appointment. The world to them must stop still in its course. It is said that the appointment of another Minister would lessen the individual weight of those that exist. The Public Health Department is, in many countries a subordinate portion of another one, and no loss of prestige to its overworked head could ensue from the withdrawal of such specialized duties as those of the care of the public health. The onerous duties of local government, of agriculture, etc., afford ample scope and to spare to one man, however wise and capable. No loss of status would ensue, nor is it possible for one man, however brilliantly endowed, to undertake the superintendence and charge of the health of millions, and yet have time or strength for the performance of other exhaustive duties. I do not think the argument holds good, that prestige would be lost.

Again, it is said that the effective discharge of public health regulations must eventually devolve on local authorities. The truth of this I allow at once, but it does not weaken the plea for a Minister. In the future local government will grow, in sani-