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PUBLIC HEALTH.

"To be forewarned, is to be forearmed" is a proverb in common use, and yet how seldom is it acted upon in matters regarding our public health. Sanitary measures—which should occupy the highest attention of our city authorities—are invariably allotted not a second but a fifth rate position; and our Health Committee, which should be one of the most useful as well as most important, has invariably been the most indolent and neglectful. Seldom indeed (we speak of previous committees, for we know not how the present one will act) has the chairman been able to get a quorum, and adjournment after adjournment has taken place, but with a repetition of the previous non-success. Why this apathy on a subject which is as personal and important to every member of such a committee, as it is to every member of the community? They cannot plead want of work—a short promenade into almost every quarter of our city would assuredly convince them, what ample scope there is for their benevolent labours, and how great is their responsibility if they neglect it. Year after year our large summer infantile mortality has attracted marked attention, not only among ourselves, but throughout various portions of Canada; and yet when a notice of motion was made in our City Council to appoint a committee of medical men to inquire into the cause of this large infantile mortality, we find it was thrown aside—(for a somewhat singular reason) till the effect of the completion of the system of drainage, now in progress, is seen. Why this delaying, why this trifling with the vital interests of this city? Our drainage was certainly abominable—and we admit it is being much remedied, which will be of great use, we trust, in a sanitary point: but so long as the abominable filth is allowed to collect in the yards and lanes of our crowded suburbs, as we witness it in our daily professional visits, just so long will disease and death play sad havoc with the little ones during our intense heat of July and August. It is true, we believe, that two policemen have been specially appointed to look after this matter: but what can two men do in a city of a hundred and twenty thousand