

all matters pertaining to the public health. But municipal authorities appear often to be of the opinion that they know as much about these matters as, if not more than, the physicians do. They act in accordance with this opinion often to the great loss of the people.

IN NEW YORK the Academy of Medicine has been of great service to the city. Two or three years ago, upon the request of a member of the Health Department, Dr. J. D. Bryant, a "conference committee" of the Academy was appointed for "conferring with the Health Department on all matters of health relating to the general public when requested." Not long ago (Dec. 5, 1889) Dr. Bryant said (N. Y. Med. Jr.): "The support which this committee gave to the Health Department during the time of the threatened importations of cholera and small-pox can not be fully appreciated except by those immediately cognizant of its aid and the imminence of the danger. To crown its usefulness in the interest of the public at this time. His Honor, Mayor Hewitt, referred to this committee the question of the necessary steps to be taken to afford protection to the city from imported disease. The committee's report and recommendations formed not only the stimulus, but the basis that caused sufficient appropriations to be made to meet the exigencies of future similar demands.

IF IN MONTREAL, TORONTO, Hamilton, London, Ottawa, Kingston and other cities, similar action were taken it could not fail to be followed by great public benefit. As "in the multitude of councillors there is wisdom," so in association with a "Conference Committee" of this kind not only would the Health Board of any one of these cities receive valuable advice, but the Medical officer, aid in the performance of his often onerous duties, while he would feel that the responsibilities of his high office would be in a measure shared by his fellow physicians. It is somewhat strange that more cities do not take advantage of medical knowledge by requesting individual medical men to act upon the health board. Physicians are ever as ready as any other class of persons to give their services in this way. Ottawa has during the last year or two taken a retrograde step. While formerly it gave a place on the board of health to medical skill, it now appears that the city council think they know enough about preventive medicine,

and except the medical officer, there is physician connected with the board.

THE PUBLIC do not yet place so high a value on medical skill exercised in the line of preventing disease as they will in due time. In the meantime this want of appreciation will cost this same public many, many lives and an incalculable amount of sickness with its attendant evils. It is the same with individuals as with communities. After sickness has come, and not before it, the physician is called in; too late for the ounce of prevention, while the pound of cure may fail.

AT ALBANY last month, at the annual meeting of the New York Medical Society, the president, Dr. Lewis, said: "Our present relations to our patients are not ideal. The public requirements are not only unlimited, but in some instances are positively unreasonable. We are constantly called upon by patients who have transgressed every known law of health, and then expect us to give them a dose of medicine that will repair the damage. They will attend a supper at which all imaginable preparations of indigestible food and drink are mingled, and expect us to cure an aching head or acute dyspepsia the next morning. Others will transgress every known law of hereditary disease, and expect the doctor to conduct a tuberculous child, for example, into a healthy manhood."

ON THE INTEGRITY of the profession Dr. Lewis said: "Doctors are frequently asked to do a wrong, or aid in doing it, but few physicians yield to such solicitations." He ventured to say that "no other 80,000 men of any one class could be found in America among whom so few scandals affecting their integrity occur. It is commonly remarked that we are not business men. I am glad of it. Whenever we see a physician who has the business faculty unduly cultivated and exercised, we find one whose professional opinions are not always safe or reliable."

ON EDUCATING the public in health subjects the Sanitary Record (of Lond. Eng.) says: "From time to time it has been forcibly pointed out by writers on hygiene that the future of sanitary progress depends to a great extent upon the goodwill and co-operation of the people at large. Striking at the root of the matter, not a few reformers base their hopes