

THE PROPOSED SANITARY LEGISLATION.

After the address of the Lieut. Governor of Ontario at the opening in January last of the local legislature, in which reference was made to the desirability of the House giving attention to the important matter of Public Health, a large number of the thoughtful and intelligent of the community were pleased at the prospect of something being done at once to improve the public health. Indeed, of the whole address, this part, referring to public health, was by many thought to be the most important. Not a few were disappointed that more was not done during the session in the interests of the question, and for the better protection of the public from the ravages of disease. And truly, in view of the remarks made in the House by members, especially by the Attorney-General, regarding the importance of the subject, and bearing upon the cost of disease and death and the economy of health, it would be inconsistent and worse to delay practical action in the matter a day longer than absolute necessity for preparation demanded. But to do more than was done during the few weeks of the Session toward bringing before the House a comprehensive public health measure, some preparation should have been made some time before the opening of the House. This had not been done, and about all that was possible was therefore accomplished during the Session. It is gratifying to know that a beginning has been made, and that, as appears evident, the Government are in earnest, and have at length become fully alive to the great importance of the subject. More too was accomplished than many are aware of. A lengthy report was presented, but not read, to the House, though we believe it is soon to be printed and circulated.

It is a matter for congratulation that the medical profession was so far recognized as it was in forming the Sanitary Committee. Every medical man in the House was upon it, and with the exception of the Attorney-General and Minister of Education, every member of the Committee was a medical practitioner. London *Medical Journals* complain that in Great Britain the profession is not recognized as it should be in matters of this kind. A better state of things prevails here. Physicians are the proper guardians of the public health, and if given fair recognition and encouragement they will do all that can be expected of them, and more than should be expected.

As most of our readers probably know, the Sanitary Committee had a list of questions sent to every medical practitioner in Ontario. Several hundreds of replies were received, and to the most important points in these we refer elsewhere. Between two and three hundred were from gentlemen of the highest standing in the profession, and supply valuable information and suggestions. A list of questions was also sent to clerks of municipalities, and many replies were received, which show that absolutely nothing, almost, is