

establishment—all that is left of it. Dr. Bell (of the Sanitarian) in his lucid description of the methods of procedure there, which it seemed were practical and effectual, contended that the best possible in the circumstances had been done, and that the State executive was responsible for the bad condition of the two islands which, he said, belonged to the State ; Dr. Falligant contending that Governor Hill's veto was in harmony with economy and good Government. It would seem that the State is legally bound to keep the Quarantine in repair, however enormous the fees collected may be.

MORE system in the Quarantines of the entire country, as Dr. Rohé contended, is certainly most urgently demanded. How this ever is to be brought about without entire Federal control, as in Canada, is something of a mystery. Some of the States, notably probably Massachusetts, will never consent to this. The question is a most important one, involving as it does all the Maritime Quarantines. Dr. Holt and others advocated national aid without control. If national control seems "theoretically" plausible, as Dr. Holt admitted, surely human ingenuity could make it practicable. For as Dr. Lachapelle of Montreal said, without it laxity in various quarters may be expected. The Canadian system, clearly explained by its chief officer, Dr. Montizambert, is entirely under Federal control and not one of the provinces would desire it otherwise. It has been commended on the continent of Europe for its efficiency. The question at the Memphis meeting was referred to the representatives of State Boards, who, we trust, will consider it in a liberal spirit.

THE gravest question in this country from a sanitary point of view, if not from every other point, is that of water pollution and public water supplies. There is hardly a stream in any of the more populous parts the water of which can fairly be regarded as a safe, potable water. The lakes into which many of the smaller streams flow are hardly any better. As stated in a paper relating to this subject read at the meeting of the American Public Health Association in Toronto in October 1886, by the Editor of this Journal, every square mile of Lake Ontario receives the water—the sewage and the refuse of manufactures—of not less than sixty-five persons on an average ; not any more perhaps than most of the other lakes receive. This to some may not seem to be much, but when we consider that the sewage is often of a specific or infectious character, it becomes a very serious matter.

REMORSELESS nature's lesson of the day, as being marked by clammy fingers in figures of great dimensions on the blackboard of death, for those communities who persist in drinking sewage of even the billionth dilution, is not hard to learn, by those who survive. It is simply this : "If ye drink of the waters ye may die." In Cincinnati, O., in Pittsburg, Pa. and in Ottawa, Ont., as well as in many other places, the penalty of not having sooner learned and practiced the lesson has been a severe one, especially in the last named city ; one person in thirty it has been estimated having been prostrated with fever, mostly enteric (typhoid), with many deaths.