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## EDITORIAL

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### A FEDERAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

This important subject was up in the House of Commons recently. During the debate Dr. Sheard, of South Toronto, is reported as having spoken as follows:

"The establishment of a Federal Department of Health should meet with strong support. I cannot conceive of any department which could be of greater value than one which cared for the physical well-being of the community. It would, of course, have to be rightly administered. Immigrants were coming into the country and bringing with them disease. Mental defectives found their way from crowded cities of Europe into Canada and increased and multiplied as time went on because no Federal department existed to subject them to a rigid inspection.

"The epidemic of influenza, which had taken such a toll of Canadian lives, illustrated quite forcibly the need for a Federal Health Department. If, at the beginning of the epidemic, cases had been brought to the attention of such an organization, preventive measures might have been taken immediately, and many lives saved. Another field such a department could enter upon with great advantage to the community was that of quack medicine. There were now on the market medicines advertised to cure all the ills that man was heir to, and their makers preyed upon the public. It was time that these nostrums were subjected to the tests of Dominion laboratories before they were sold to the public.

"I have been informed by the provincial health authorities that they had expressed their willingness to manufacture salvarsan, the remedy for certain venereal diseases, in their laboratories, but when they applied for a distribution license it was refused by the Dominion Government. Their applications, said Dr. Sheard, had evidently been opposed by those who were interested in manufacturing quack remedies for the cure of