

sickness, and the bereavements by death. There are probably not less than 80,000 deaths every year in the Dominion, and 8,000 lives would therefore be saved annually. The best authorities in Great Britain have estimated that there the deaths, and consequently the cases of sickness, are fully a third more numerous than they would be if the existing knowledge of the causes of disease were properly applied; and that 250,000 persons were saved from death through the application of sanitary knowledge during the decade 1871 to 1880. Surely then a reduction of one-tenth might be reached in Canada.

Elsewhere we have endeavored to point out the advantages—the direct profits, which would result from the appointment of a medical health officer in every municipality; for it is in these localities that the practical work must be done, by the local officers. But in order that the work may be most efficiently done there must be Governmental centres—Departments or Boards—to which the local officers should report at regular intervals, and through which all could work unitedly, though separately, forming a complete sanitary organization. Our Federal system of Government seems to require provincial health departments as well as a Federal one at Ottawa, in order that the system may be complete. Surely such are as desirable and as necessary, as departments of immigration, or of agriculture, or those in connection with the liquor licence system, all of which there are in connection with the Provincial Governments, and also with the Federal Government. There need be no clashing between the Federal and Provincial authorities in health matters any more than there is in the departments just named.

It is to be desired that Quebec Province, which has been for some years moving toward it, will soon adopt the necessary legislation for forming a provincial board, or much better, a sub-department of health directly connected with one of the existing provincial departments; and also that all the other provinces will do likewise. The general apathy in regard to public health matters in this otherwise "go-ahead" Canada is unaccountable.

What is needed most of all is a Central Health Bureau in connection with the Federal Government—a Dominion Department or sub-department of health. The coming meeting of the Canada Medical Association in Kingston in September promises to be one of much interest and value in relation to sanitary matters, and we hope to see this question of a Federal head in connection with public health