

Prominent Topics.

The Typhoid. While there is unquestionably a large amount of typhoid in Montreal which requires immediate attention, nevertheless we believe that a certain proportion of alleged typhoid is intestinal grippe. While the water may be a factor in the case, it would be well if the Health Department and the Provincial Board of Health would investigate, as far as can be, all the possible actual preventable causes. It is a curious fact, of which no satisfactory explanation has ever been forthcoming, that the typhoid always increases rapidly in the autumn when the houses have been hermetically sealed and there are no air currents to take away germs that may be due to bad drainage. If the water is the sole cause, how is it that there is little or no typhoid in the summer months, when people drink much more water than in the rest of the year? It has also been noticed that typhoid is much less prevalent in a winter which has plenty of frost and snow. Then again, naturally and unavoidably, typhoid is much more prevalent in the homes of the poorer classes.

One thing, however, is clear—the city should at once go in for an effective filtration system, without taking any chances about bringing water from impossible distances with uncertain results. We have a plentiful supply passing our doors, for all time, of water which by filtration can be relieved of any defects which may exist.

Those citizens who with energy and sacrifice of time and money have opened and equipped the Emergency Hospital are entitled to the highest praise. They have set a splendid example to the City Council. What on earth does the Health Committee or the Provincial Board of Health accomplish? If the latter especially has no power to take practical action in times of epidemic, it should go to the Legislature and ask for the power. It has only to ask to get. We are glad that an influential delegation of citizens waited on the City Council and pointed out what practically could be done. Perhaps had this been done earlier (of course, it should not have been necessary) the Council would have voted all the necessary funds, which it certainly is at liberty to do under the charter. There is, we believe, a diminution in the disease now.

The following official statistical record of deaths from typhoid is reported from the city and suburbs. Covering the months of October, November and December, a period of 6 years. During the period covered allowance should be made for increase in population.

	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
Oct	8	8	19	12	5	24
Nov	5	4	15	12	9	23
Dec	8	6	18	9	18	52
	21	18	52	33	32	99

Sir Wilfrid on the Navy Question. Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speech at Toronto, dealing with the navy question will, no doubt, be used extensively by the English Liberals in the campaign. The Premier says:—"Where is the danger coming from? I might ask. My opponents say from Germany. At the present time the relative positions of the German and British navies show that the British Navy has a tonnage displacement of 2,000,000 tons, while the German shows but 600,000 tons. By 1912 Britain will have a displacement of more than 2,000,000 tons, and Germany a displacement of more than 1,000,000 tons. This disparity is too great to say that the danger is imminent. The Germans, it is said, are preparing for a war. So, too, I might add, are France, Austria, Italy and England."

Bearing in mind the circumstance that Austria is building Dreadnoughts at such a rate that she will have thirteen completed in 1813, and no apparent use for them except to help Germany, the disparity is not so great. It must also be remembered that the whole German navy is always available for immediate use in the North Sea, while the British Royal Navy has constant duties to perform, requiring it to be scattered all over the world. Practically everybody will be pleased with the Premier's conclusion that, "if England were in danger there would be a movement all over Canada to go to the assistance of the Motherland."

King Edward's Canadian Status. Sir Wilfrid Laurier says: "We are under the suzerainty of the King of England, and as dutiful subjects we bow our knee to him; but with the pride of the Britisher, we assert that he has no rights over us except such as our Parliament allows." With all deference to Sir Wilfrid, who is no mean constitutional authority, we do not agree with him that King Edward's relation to Canada is that of what is commonly regarded as a suzerain. The term itself is, we admit rather difficult to define, but its accepted meaning to-day suggests a relationship like that of the Sultan of Turkey to Egypt, rather than that of the Sultan of Turkey to Turkey. King Edward is as much a part of the Parliament of Canada, as he is of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, and is as much the King of Canada, as he is the King of England.

The Duke of Connaught. The impression is gaining ground that H. R. H. the Duke of Connaught may be the next Governor-General of Canada. It is understood that the Duke is favourable to the idea, and no appointment could give more satisfaction to the people of Canada. Nor can we imagine a selection more in the interests of the Empire and the Dominion. Naturally in this case the decision will rest with the King. His Majesty's brother, who has shown great military capacity, is in demand in