

sickness, but they perform them for the love they bear their fellow-man. Here again they may be proud of their work when they reflect that preventive medicine has decreased the general mortality in England since 1755 from 35.5 per 1,000 to 17.85; enteric fever since 1840 from 0.39 per 1,000 to 0.17; smallpox since 1840 from 52.2 per 1,000,000 to 6.5; scarlet fever since 1850 from 97 per 1,000,000 to 17; that of consumption  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. The death rate of the British navy in India has been reduced from 69 per 1,000 to 14.84. The span of individual life has increased, in 1852 it was for women 41.9 years, for men 39.9; now it is for women 44.66, and for men 41.35. It has been estimated that sanitary measures save the lives of 70,860 persons yearly in Great Britain. Much yet remains to be done. Sir Joseph Fayrer informs us that about 125,000 persons die yearly in Great Britain from preventable disease—the consequent sickness causing that number of deaths would mean  $78\frac{1}{2}$  millions of days' worth lost, with a money value of £7,750,000. To prevent disease its cause should be known, and it is impossible to exaggerate the value of the scientific researches which have led to the antiseptic methods of preventing the morbidification of micro-organic life. The search-light of science is penetrating the inmost secrets of nature and opening out sources from which may float results of incalculable importance in their bearing upon life and health. Therefore it may be safely asserted that no city, town or municipality can be properly governed without a board of health and that no board of health can be efficient without the support and co-operation of the medical profession. We have ample sanitary laws, but they cannot be enforced without money, and while authorities make appropriations with a free hand for improving the breed of cattle, for competing railroads, and for extravagant school-houses, they dole out grudgingly the minutest pittance for preventive medicine. I think I am safe in asserting that the Provinces in this Dominion do not spend the half of one cent a year per capita for that purpose. This incongruous state of affairs will continue to exist until a wave of popular protest is set in motion proclaiming to our legislators in unmistakable tones the ancient maxim, *Salus populi suprema est lex*. It is quite certain that the knowledge we possess of sanitation is in advance of its practical application. Let us take that dread disease diphtheria as an example. Until recently we were unable accurately to differentiate the true disease from other pseudo-membranous anginas. Now, by the aid of bacterial cultures, with subsequent microscopical observation, we can form a positive diagnosis. When we find the Klebbs-Loeffler bacillus we know that we have the true disease to deal with. This bacillus is found in about