

like pleasing result. Cranial pains, which we have above noted as valuable diagnostic symptoms, were present, with other syphilitic indications.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITARY REFORM.

An influential deputation of medical men and others including the Mayor of this city, waited upon the Attorney-General of Ontario a short time ago to urge upon the Government the necessity of establishing a Provincial Board of Health to promote the interests of sanitary science, and especially to aid in preventing the spread of contagious and infectious diseases. The draft of a Bill prepared by a committee was presented in which the duties of the Board were stated. The principal provisions were as follows:—

A Board, to be composed of seven members appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, and a health officer, who with two members of the Government should be *ex-officio* members of the same, was to be invested with the power of obtaining information from Local Boards, throughout the Province, in reference to the existence of infectious diseases, and to adopt prompt measures for the stamping out of such diseases, so as to prevent an increase in sickness or mortality. A secretary was to be appointed by the Board to compile and arrange the vital statistics and health reports, for discussion and publication, and to issue such regulations regarding the prevention of disease as might be approved of. One important feature was the advisory character of the Board with reference to the necessary legislation for enforcing sanitary measures for the protection of the public health, as well as the education of the public regarding sanitary reform generally. An annual appropriation of \$5,000 was asked for to enable the desired objects to be carried out. The Bill differed very little from those which have been sanctioned in so many of the states of the adjoining Republic. The deputation advanced statistics to show how beneficial the action of such Boards had been. Wherever they had been in operation for a reasonable length of time, the death-rate had been considerably reduced, especially from preventible causes. The beneficial effects of isolation hospitals was alluded to, and instances were given in which large

numbers of lives had been saved by this means. The saving to the country from the enforcing of sanitary regulations was also brought forward as an additional inducement to urge the Government to grant an appropriation to aid in promoting the public welfare. It appears, however, that the Government was not willing to grant the request of the deputation, however evident the benefits to be derived from such legislation might be. The Attorney-General in reply stated that "the chief obstacle to legislation in the matter was the question of the money appropriation which was asked for." He acknowledged that the public required to be educated regarding the matter, but thought that this end could be best attained by means of the press. It is difficult, however, to see how we are to obtain an accurate knowledge of the prevalence of contagious or infectious diseases, or the existence of insanitary conditions, unless some such measure receives the support of the Government. No intelligent person will deny the necessity for legislation regarding this matter, and we feel assured that the Government would not only have been able to pass such a measure without opposition, but it would have received the approval of the public generally.

We are glad to say, however, that there is a great probability of the Dominion Government taking some action in the matter. Last session a measure was introduced for the better collection of vital statistics, and we understand that it is proposed to pass an act, having this end in view, during the ensuing session.

The scheme for the registration of the prevalence of disease, to which we drew attention in the November number of the *Lancet* appears also to meet with public approval. The Canada Medical Association has presented a petition to the Dominion Government, asking for an appropriation for the purpose of collecting statistics on this point. We have received an outline of the scheme in which is shown, 1st. The information it is proposed to obtain; 2nd. The method by which it is to be obtained; 3rd. How it is to be utilized, and 4th. The benefits which will be derived from it. The method of obtaining the information required is very simple, and will entail very little labour. This is a point which will be appreciated by medical men, who, as a rule, prefer to avoid all unnecessary trouble.