

land of promise, we are reproducing the evils of the old world, and that the slums of London are being rivaled and even surpassed in our midst.

Similar testimony of the alarming conditions existing in our Canadian cities has been lately published by the Conservation Commission of the Dominion Government in the pamphlet on "Unsanitary Housing," by Dr. Hodgetts, medical advisor to the commission. We can no longer doubt that already bad environment is being created in our city life, and it needs no prophet to foretell that out of the Ignorance of the rulers and of the people we shall rear up our quota of ænemic, stunted, inefficient, unproductive children, whose end will be Want unless the writing of Doom be erased.

*The remedy is efficient house-and-town planning.*

For the centres of consumption and infantile mortality, which are the fertile cause of our death roll, always occur in the poor and congested city districts or badly planned suburbs of the artisan classes. At least, it is so in Montreal, and there in consequence we have the highest infantile mortality on this continent.

Do you know, that out of every hundred children born in Montreal in the year 1909 (the last official blue book I have seen) 29 perished in the first year; that out of the total mortality of the people 54.92 per cent. was caused by the deaths of children under five? Do you know that in Montreal during the month of July of this year (1911) out of 1,419 deaths 1,033 were those of children under five (i.e., 72.92 per cent. of last month's mortality); that out of 6,297 deaths occurring in Montreal between Jan. 1 and July 31, of this year, 3,482 were those of children under five? Ignorance of the laws of feeding, no doubt, is greatly to blame for this, but the chief cause is the unhealthy conditions inseparable from overcrowded districts, which again is the result of a badly planned city.

Is it a matter of congratulation that we are welcoming to our cities hordes of inefficient people from southern Europe, brought here by Government subsidy, while a white-robed army of potential citizens of our own flesh and blood are dying at an alarming rate from preventible evils which a subsidized campaign of hygienic education or city planning could remedy?

What consolation to us should it be that, while we are becoming rich and while we desire our cities to rival in greatness the capitals of the old world, the children, the real wealth of the people, are falling thick as leaves that fall in Vallombrosa!

And of the rest of the slum children that survive the pruning of the first five years are we to say that these are always sound in body and mind, undeteriorated?—that they are being brought up in surroundings that will turn out efficient men and women for the struggle of life, capable of rearing in their own time a strong, intelligent and upright Canadian race? We would like to say so, but King Consumption and the Governors of our jails, reformatories and insane asylums bid us pause before we make reply.

Gentlemen, it is your blessed privilege to erase the doom that is written on the foreheads of so many of our city youth by the wise and faithful exercise of those powers put into your hands, as administrators for the common weal.

Not only can you insist that every city department under you, such as that of health, sanitation, water, milk, food and factory inspection; the lighting, the ventilation, the cleaning, and the scavenging of your cities, shall be thoroughly up-to-date and efficiently administered—but you will boldly remove the predisposing causes that have in the past caused bad city environment and slums and produced a debilitated population, whose children will also suffer from lowered physical vitality and lessened mental combativeness in the battle of life.

This you can do by instituting, with bold and intelligent foresight, house and town planning movements in your cities, based not so much on the æsthetic embellishment of your neighbourhood, not so much on the provision of civic centres or expensive boulevard schemes, as on the welfare of the children of the working population.

You will do this the more surely if you will remember that life is to be lived more and more in cities, and that in consequence you must import the country into your midst by providing that there shall be ample light, space, air and green spots even in the industrial centres, where the poor must necessarily congregate to be near their bread-winning occupations.