

The recognition of this fact relating more directly to adjoining countries, has caused our Association, originally founded in the United States, to gradually extend and naturally embrace the three contiguous countries which form North America and whose sanitary interests are identical. It is for this reason again, that it holds its annual meetings in divers sections of the continent, appealing to and bringing together in one harmonious family all the sanitarians of North America, to submit to their careful study health problems which interest them all.

Herein lies the explanation of the immense progress accomplished on this continent during the last twenty years.

Judicious and scientific quarantine has been established in all quarters ; state, provincial and local boards of health have become generalized, and have adopted wise and important sanitary measures and regulations.

Public opinion has been converted ; popular prejudice giving way to unwavering confidence. Governments have thus been enabled, without risking their often precarious existence, to cause important decrees of hygiene to be sanctioned by parliaments, and to have the necessary funds voted to permit of their being put into practice. Hygiene having thus drawn their attention, they begin to understand the necessity of strenuous means being employed to assure its advancement, and they realize the fact, that instead of being detrimental to public commercial interests, sanitary measures favour their growth by protecting the country from disease. They recognize, to-day, that the money and labour spent in upholding sanitary principles are repaid manifold by the security afforded to public health, a more continuous and active trade being thus assured.

May we not hope, that governments, fully realizing the importance of these questions and wishing to afford greater facilities for protection, will soon see the necessity of creating a new department in their cabinets :—that of Public Health ; and that, in the near future, all governments will be advised and supported by a competent specialist—a minister of Public Health ? We can easily foresee all the good that will arise from the creation of such a position.