

long way in making the capital what it ought to be. He appears to be alive to the health interests of the city. "To have a prosperous city we must have a healthy city, and health cannot be relied upon if we have not cleanliness." He thought, added to the sewerage system there should be a scavenging system. The benefit to health would be incalculable. He trusted the Board of Health would give this matter early and serious consideration, for certainly in no way were the vital interests of Ottawa more directly concerned.

DR. ELLIOT, Medical Health Officer of Orillia, in his annual report of last year, states that up to the end of the first half of the year the town was in a remarkably healthy condition. In the latter half things were not so favorable. In August there was an outbreak of diphtheria, propagated in Uxbridge, where the first patient, a boy of seven, had been visiting. The precautions taken prevented the disease spreading. There had been many cases of typhoid fever which the doctor thinks Orillia had ought to feel ashamed of, "when we reflect that of all preventable diseases, perhaps none are more so than typhoid fever." Nearly all the cases appeared in the south and southeastern part of the town. In his report, both last year and the year before, he had pointed out the unhealthy condition of that part, and ventured to predict that fevers would be an annual occurrence so long as the sanitary condition remained unimproved. An additional number of the inhabitants had been supplied with pure water, but much less sanitary work had been carried out during the year than in either of the two previous years. Orillia appears to have been unfortunate last year in the selection of its chief officer.

THE TRUE "Gospel of health" was recently preached in St. John's Church, Ottawa, by the curate, Rev. A. W. Mackay, from the text, psalm 41. 1, "Blessed is he that considereth the poor and needy," it being "Hospital Sunday." The Rev. gentleman preached a very practical sermon, to which we listened with a great deal of pleasure. He dwelt upon the need of light and ventilation in the homes of the poor, and of the evils of over-crowding. The numerous cases of typhoid fever in Ottawa hospital

he attributed to foul and poisonous gas generated by bad drainage. Contagious diseases he said would not spread so rapidly if men would live amid clean and pure surroundings and obey the simplest laws of nature. It would indeed be well for communities if ministers would often from the pulpit preach thus practically upon the care of the "temple of the soul," and we hope Mr. Mackay's example will be frequently followed, and that such sermons will become common.

THROUGH the courtesy of Mr. Ald. Gray, we have received, just as we are about "going to press," a copy of a resume of the mortality of the city of Montreal for the year 1886, with the comparative tables of the mortality from various diseases in the two preceding years, now first published. It appears that the mortality from measles, scarlet fever and diphtheria, as well as from small-pox, were very materially less prevalent or fatal in 1886 than in 1885, indicating better sanitary administration. The small-pox epidemic has thus developed a brighter as well as a dark side.

THE CHOLERA is constantly establishing more and more centres. A Bulgarian gardener, according to the *British Medical Journal*, has imported cholera from Hungary to Firnova, in Roumania, and fifteen villages have since been attacked. The Turkish authorities show considerable alarm, and are taking energetic measures. Military cordons are established along the southern frontier, with instructions to fire on whoever attempts to break through. Whoever neglects his duty, whether officer or soldier, is threatened with death. A medical commission is instructed to carry out the measures prescribed by the International Health Council at Constantinople. A quarantine station is organized at Moustapha-Pacha and all travellers are kept under medical inspection for eleven days. As recently reported in the daily press, the disease has extended over the Andes to the Pacific Coast, into Chili, and is there spreading and creating great alarm.

THE NEXT and early numbers of the JOURNAL will contain articles on poisonous foods, the effects of which are becoming common; cheap foods—a great national economy; many dangers from the use of