

## IN WHAT WAY MAY THE PUBLIC HEALTH BE BEST PROMOTED?

What Sanitarians in Canada deem desirable for the Dominion is, that there be established a Provincial Board of Health in each of the Provinces, and a central Board, Bureau, or Department at Ottawa; and an amended Act, requiring the organization of a Local Board in each municipality.

Almost every civilized country except Canada has some central organized body to look after the public health. England has long had its Government Board, Prussia, Austria, and Russia have their Imperial Boards, France has a similar body; so has Denmark and the Netherlands. Japan is not behind in this regard; nor are the South American States. About twelve years ago Massachusetts provided for a State Board, which has ever since been active in Sanitary work. Michigan followed Massachusetts seven or eight years ago, and other States have done likewise from year to year; and now some 25 or more States have each a State Board of Health, with Government money appropriations for their use of \$3,000 or \$4,000 to \$15,000. In Vermont and Georgia the appropriations are less. Two years or more ago a National Board was formed, with its head-quarters at Washington, and the Federal Government appropriated for its use \$500,000. It is giving, as it appears are the State Boards, universal satisfaction, and all are accomplishing most valuable work.

At the meeting of the Ontario Medical Council in July, 1880, in Toronto, Dr. Grant, of Ottawa, offered the following resolutions, which were carried unanimously:

1. That the members of this Council are of opinion that there is no subject of greater importance to the well-being and prosperity of the Dominion than that of public hygiene.
2. That in order to keep pace with the scientific progress of the age, and give greater evidence of an earnest desire to promote sanitary measures, this Council is of opinion that a Central Bureau of Health should be established at the Capital, under the control of the Federal Government.
3. That as a Central Bureau of Health meets with the unanimous voice of our profession in Canada, it deserves the well-timed consideration of the Federal Government.

Hon. Senator Dr. W. H. Brouse, of Prescott, said he thought the Ontario Government also should take steps to legislate on this question. It was the great question of the age, and its importance would be urged with greater force upon the attention of legislative bodies in the future.

Later in the Session Dr. Daniel Clark, Supt. Provincial Lunatic Asylum, Toronto, proposed the following resolution:

"That in the opinion of this Council, while it is very desirable that a Central Bureau of Health for this Dominion should be established in Ottawa, the Provincial Government of Ontario should make some provision at an early day for promoting the public health in this Province by providing some central organized body, such as the Government may deem best, with functions similar to the Imperial Boards of Health of most European countries, and the State Boards of Health of most of the United States, chiefly for the purpose of educating the people in health matters, obtaining information in reference to the public health, and for perfecting, as far as possible, the return of vital statistics." Carried unanimously.

At the last meeting of the Canada Medical Association, in September, 1880, in Ottawa, the able President, Dr. Howard, of Montreal,