

position of our profession as to standing and usefulness at the present day. These observations are made with a view of goading us on in the course we are pursuing, and I trust that instead of relaxing our efforts, we will endeavour by all means at our disposal to strengthen, consolidate and unite, by which policy we can depend on increased usefulness and importance to the Canada Medical Association.

HEALTH STATISTICS.

It becomes my duty to bring under your notice the subject of Health Statistics, although I hope we shall receive an exhaustive report from the Chairman of the Committee appointed by this Association at our last meeting in Halifax. That committee was requested to continue communication with the Dominion Government with the view of securing important legislation in respect to sanitation and vital statistics.

It is reported of the late Lord Beaconsfield that when as Mr. Disraeli he addressed a public meeting at Manchester, he said: "I think that public attention should be concentrated on sanitary legislation. I cannot impress upon you too strongly my conviction of the importance of the legislature and society uniting together in favour of those important results. After all, the first consideration of a Minister should be the health of the people." In England the watchword of the Legislature for some years past has been "*Sanitas sanitatis, omnia sanitas.*" Thoughtful legislation bearing on the enforcement of sanitary regulations, each session forms a part of the business of the English House of Commons. But in England statistical inquiry has long been in existence, so that a sanitary topography of the country is available. It would almost appear that we in Canada do not really and truly appreciate the great and overwhelming importance of this subject. We hear the head of the British Government openly declaring with all the force and power of which he was capable, "that public attention should be concentrated on sanitary legislation." May we hope that similar words will be used by some leading member of the Executive at Ottawa? Nothing less than this should satisfy the Canadian people. It is a subject which affects our lives, our homes and little ones. Its