

000 deaths might be saved annually in Canada by means of preventive measures [only about 80,000 deaths probably occur in Canada every year. This shows the reckless manner in which some people use figures, and do harm by throwing discredit on a good cause. Ed. S. J.]

Dr. C. Roger read a final paper on "Prevention Better than Cure," and dealt with the subject of contagious disease, and strongly advocated isolation to prevent their spreading.

On motion of Mr. Woods, it was unanimously resolved that in the interest of the public health local boards should be invested by law with power to make such regulations as might be deemed judicious by them.

On motion of Dr. H. P. Wright, it was resolved that a law should be passed forbidding any person laboring under or recovering from a contagious disease, entering any public conveyance without first informing the party in charge of it of his disease.

After resolutions of thanks to the Ottawa Corporation, railway companies, and the medical men who had assisted at the proceedings, the Convention adjourned.

#### OTTAWA SEWER SYSTEM.

By BEAUMONT SMALL, M. D., Ottawa.

The sewer system of a city is of vital importance, not only to the residents, but to every visitor, and when an eminent sanitarian declares that Ottawa possesses absolutely no proper system, our attention is naturally directed to the subject, and we are lead to enquire what our condition really is.

The efficacy of the many methods adopted for drainage depends to a very great extent on the natural conditions present. When a city is low and flat, rising but a few feet above the water into which the

drainage is effected, the probabilities of securing a perfect system are greatly lessened and every devi of the engineer and sanitarian has to be carefully followed that the desired end may be accomplished. If the place is so situated that a decided fall is given to the sewer, the conditions are greatly altered and the little deviations from theoretical exactness that in one case would produce dire consequences, in the other are without effect.

How is it with Ottawa? With an elevation of about one hundred feet, we have the most favorable conditions for securing all that is to be desired. Following a natural depression, the city has built in a most thorough manner, a main sewer, over two and a quarter miles in length, commencing at the head of Slater Street and emptying into the Ottawa River near the Rideau.

In this length there is a fall of sixty-two feet, and at the outlet a descent of thirty feet, allowing of a rapid stream and preventing any flowing back of sewerage. When, in addition to this, we remember that some three millions of gallons of water are pumped into the city each day, the greater part of which finds its way into the sewers, it is at once clearly seen that every facility is present to secure a thorough and rapid discharge of sewer matter. Mr. Surtees informs me that anything entering the main sewer is discharged within half an hour into the Ottawa River.

The result of this is to free us of the dangers arising from defective sewers. Decomposition does not take place—deleterious gases are not produced and the danger of living over a hot-bed for disease germs is not present. All this depends on the favorable conditions being maintained. Should any impediment to the flow occur, impurities at once accumulate and all the evil effects at once follow.