

in, the soil we cultivate, the habits and industries of life, the origin and nature of endemics and epidemics, the methods of their transmission, and the means of their prevention, and of their suppression wherever found *** it endeavours to discover the causes, and to prevent the originating of disease; to prevent its egress, to circumvent it, to extinguish it, whether it be zymotic, contagious or specific. In short, it is the function of State Medicine to protect the public health, which is the life of the nation."

Gentlemen,—Is there, can there be, a more important work than "to protect the public health, which is the life of the nation?" And to whom does this work of right belong but to those who, already familiar with Physiological and Pathological Sciences can best teach and instruct their application "to the maintenance of the health and life of communities, by the means of agencies which are in common and constant use."

Speaking, as I do to-day, to, and in behalf of the Medical Profession, in this our beautiful and beloved Canada, I should say there is no work more important; no work more philanthropic; no work more benevolent than that of awakening in our population, and through it in Governments and Municipal bodies, a knowledge of, and an interest in, all matters relating to public health. A knowledge of the laws of health should not be confined to the profession. They were openly taught to the people by a Moses, and were not strained through time, but came down to our own day monuments of wisdom.

What is the duty and office of the physician? To deal with abnormal functions, and to change, if possible, or to remove unhealthy structures in the human body; to restore to that thinking faculty in man its pristine powers, that it may receive impressions, understand them, and be affected by, or be mindful of them; to restore health to the sick and wounded in spirit? Such, in a word, is the office of one who professes, or practises, the healing art; or who adopts manual operations for the cure of diseases that are external. But something more is required.

Is it not true that the profession as a body, deals chiefly, if not solely, with that entity when its being or existence is threatened; or when the harmony of its complex movements is disturbed? What a huge share of attention is directed to, and how closely we watch the progress in, that science which seems to deal chiefly with the symptoms of diseases, that we may recognize them truly; and with the effects of diseases, that we may limit or modify, if not