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PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

Read by T. C. Lockwood, M. D., before the Nova Scotia Medical Society.

Mr. President and Gentlemen:

Medicine is now, we are glad to say, a progressive science. We are privileged to live in the days of wonderful discoveries in things medical. The pure light of scientific truth is fast illuminating the dark shades hitherto held sacred to empiricism. Amid all this general enlightenment we are just beginning to fully realize that in our endeavors to combat disease, we have, in our great zeal for ordinary treatment, to a large extent neglected the very important department of *prevention*.

The time has surely come when the question of hygiene, both public and private, in its various branches, should occupy much more of the students' and practitioners' attention than it does at present.

The time has also arrived when the laity should be educated to a better

understanding of the great importance and real usefulness of preventive measures in medicine; to the fact that most if not all diseases which afflict humanity can be kept within control, if not absolutely prevented, by the use of knowledge now in our possession, a knowledge which is almost daily increasing, and which is leading us at the present time well into "the promised land" where we shall live in knowledge as complete as is permitted to man here below.

It is in the domain of *preventive medicine*, we believe, that our noble profession will achieve her most brilliant future triumphs, as in the past in this department she was made illustrious by the discovery of the immortal Jenner.

Our realization of the importance of prevention is in direct ratio to our knowledge of the origin of disease and its mode of propagation. This understanding we must have in order to practise prevention with any considerable degree of success. The demon-