

in numbers, and its object, the welfare of preventive medicine in Canada, deserves success.

Each of the provinces has now a well-organized public health department, fully capable of dealing with sanitary problems of every description.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

Adequate medical and dental inspection of schools is of the greatest importance from a public health point of view. In the absence of such inspection the future life of thousands of school children is handicapped by the fact that these children may be ill-nourished, suffering from decayed teeth, bad eyesight or defective hearing, etc. The school is the breeding ground for communicable diseases of all kinds. Many school premises particularly in country districts are insanitary, the closets are out of doors and filthy, the water supplies lacking or unfit for use. Often no facilities are provided for the washing of hands, and in consequence lunches have to be eaten from dirty hands, a ready means of conveying infection. Medical inspection of schools in Ontario, except in cities of 200,000 and over, is under the control of the Department of Education and of local Boards of Education. Medical opinion is strongly of the view that all public health activities are more efficiently and economically managed under the Health Department. In some countries—England for example—the public view is the same, and in that country medical inspection, after a long period under the Education Department, has within the last two years been transferred to the Ministry of Health.

Ten years ago the annual amount spent on public health and vital statistics was under \$50,000. In the present year the appropriations for these purposes are approximately \$550,000.

The foregoing pages briefly tell the story of public health progress since the earliest days of Ontario. Fair advancement has been made, particularly in recent years. Good laws have been enacted, and considerable appropriations voted. Much, however, remains to be done before our public health conditions can be considered satisfactory. The greatest necessity is the education of the public in the value of preventive measures.