

department they should be utilized for the information and instruction of the public through a regular bulletin published monthly or oftener.

PROVISION FOR INVESTIGATING by the health department the cause and source of all special outbreaks of infectious disease in man or animals reported thereto would be necessary. It would be the duty of the provincial authorities to see that municipalities employed prompt means to remove any cause of epidemics or of a high rate of mortality. If the provinces did not do their duty in this regard, there should be provision whereby the Federal authorities could act in this behalf; just as the Provincial Authority may now step in and act when a municipality neglects to act. The quarantines, and the department of the Dominion analyst, should be under the control of the health department. In this way, without interfering with the autonomy of the provinces, the Federal authorities while educating the people in health subjects and creating a general interest therein would have, as they most certainly should have, a certain controlling influence over the health interests and requirements of the people. A plan with details, very similar to the above outline, including provision for health reports, has been before the public for years. It has been endorsed by both the Medical Council and the Medical Association of the Province of Ontario, and was considered and adopted four or five years ago at a meeting of medical Members of the Senate and Commons along with many medical practitioners not members of parliament—probably the largest and most representative meeting of the kind ever convened in Canada, and a committee was appointed which urged it upon the Government and received a promise that it would receive consideration.

AT THE BANFF MEETING of the Canadian Medical Association in August the President of the Association, Dr. H. P. Wright, of Ottawa, referred at much length to this subject. He said: In Ontario we have a board of health in good working order... If each province were equally well equipped, and all united to assist a central board the number of lives annually saved to the country would be very great, though difficult to estimate. We, as a profession, ought to consider ourselves one great department of health, ready, as individuals, to devote some of our time and energies to the de-

velopment of its aims. Now is the time to act. Let us have petitions signed in every district throughout the country. Legislators are willing to listen, and, among the medical members of parliament, never was there "such a strong feeling aroused as to the necessity of some central responsible body to look after the health interests of the Dominion." The great merit of this subject is my excuse for dwelling on it at such length. I hope it may not prove to be a "vain repetition," and that my successor may be able to announce from this chair next year that something has been accomplished.

THE GREAT INFLUENCE of the medical profession, if properly exerted, was referred to by Dr. Wright. He also alluded to the suggestions relative to a Dominion health department made before the Association a few years ago by the late lamented Dr. R. P. Howard, of Montreal, and also to Dr. Roome's notice or resolution before parliament, which was highly approved of. Dr. Wright said: "The importance of such a movement can hardly be over estimated." "I hope that resolutions passed here to-day may effect legislation in the near future. It is high time our Parliament recognized our Medical Associations, and if they do not, we ourselves only are to blame. And we are blameworthy, to our reproach be it said; for, are we not, as the belligerents of disease, the natural guardians of the public health? And should we not be a unit, not of apathy, but of earnest activity, in all matters of sanitary legislation? Can anyone for a moment imagine that if each medical practitioner would exert himself in favor of some one movement, which has for its sole object the prevention of disease, the protection of the people and the prolongation of life, that that object would soon be attained! Gentlemen, it is our duty to exert ourselves. It is our duty not only to support measures affecting the public health, but, as medical associations, to bring them before the notice of the different governments, and, as individuals, to gain the personal attention of our representative parliament. For surely we should be familiar with the necessities of sanitary reforms long before a body of legislators composed chiefly of lawyers, men of commerce and agriculturists. Let us then be up and doing, and while others go before the electors preaching national wealth, let our watchword always and ever be—NATIONAL HEALTH.