

should rarely be the subject of disease." Do we not find this to be the case in the domestic animals—"under proper conditions?" These thousands of little ones who die yearly in Canada (probably not less than ten thousand annually—a city destroyed every year) clearly do not live their little span under proper conditions. Is it not their right that they be placed when born under proper conditions? Have they not a right to be protected from the numerous enemies of their life to which for the most part their progenitors have given rise? And does not the Dominion much need these lives, which in a few years, if preserved, would add many thousands of productive adults to her now sparse population?

There must surely be some remedy for this sad destruction of young human life. How but through the highest parliament

in the land is any remedy to be sought out and applied? Simple remedies often do a great deal. As an example we may mention that in France it is thought that much good is done by the practice carried out there of giving to the parents on the registration of every birth a series of instructions as to how to feed and care for the infant.

There are three facts which will hardly be questioned as such by any one, and which certainly demand the attention of our legislators. 1. The infantile mortality in many Canadian cities and towns is abnormally and unusually high. 2. This high mortality may be largely prevented. 3. For the sake of humanity and the prosperity and success of the Dominion some preventive measures should be adopted and put into practice at the earliest possible time.

THE WORK OF RURAL HEALTH BOARDS.

THE inactivity of a very large proportion of the local boards of health in the rural districts—the villages and townships—even of Ontario, is shown by the meagre reports sent in by many of them to the Provincial Board. Scores of the reports consist of only a dozen lines or less, in which the secretary or chairman, or occasionally the medical officer—when one is connected with the board, states that the "general sanitary condition" or "health" of the municipality—"has been good," or that there has been "no severe epidemic" or no epidemic "generally prevalent," and such like. Now we are convinced that there is hardly a municipality in Canada in which there are not many causes of disease continually prevailing and in which there are not many deaths every year from easily preventable causes. Many years ago, before the organization of the Ontario Provincial Board, this JOURNAL was urging from time to time the necessity for an ACTIVE board of health in every municipality, with an active medical officer attached. Hundreds of the municipalities in Ontario have now, in accord-

ance with the p. h. act, each an organized board. For what? Not to rest quietly until an epidemic breaks out within the limits of its jurisdiction, or to only look after a slaughter house or two, or some other special nuisance and make a brief report to "head quarters;" but it had been hoped, to awaken a general interest among the people in the subject of health and in everything that pertains to health. People in rural districts are apt to suppose that causes of disease do not extend to them, in the country. But we believe that in a large proportion of the villages and townships there are more causes of disease to combat than in the towns. A "live" medical officer will be able to count them up, and often to interest the people in them, and in the desirability and economy of having them removed. How many of the five or six thousand rural public school houses in Ontario, in which the pupils are absolutely FORCED to sit for so large a proportion of the most susceptible period of their life, undergoing the severe penalties imposed by our much landed school system, are