

not be communicated to others ; and a great many other preventive things.

It must be remembered, for it is well known, that while, from one case of say diphtheria or scarlet-fever, dozens and scores of other cases may arise in a community, through neglect of ordinary precautions, and many deaths follow, by the exercise of proper precautions— isolation, quarantine, disinfection, probably not a second case of the disease would arise, and all the trouble, cost and distress associated with the many cases would be avoided. An instance is recorded in which in one locality some seventy cases of small-pox were traced directly to one first case.

It may be said that individuals should attend to this, and not the municipality. Individuals will not do it. What is everybody's business is nobody's business. Physicians are not paid, would not be even thanked, for spending their time and energy—for a good deal of time and energy would be required, in this sort of work, and heads of families, for the most part, will only look after their own affairs, and leave their neighbors to do likewise—to their neighbors' care. There should be some one specially appointed and paid to attend to such work—just as there is for most other work.

This will reach many municipal "fathers,"—mayors, aldermen, &c., and we hope be read by them. *The prevention of disease is no more advantage to the writer than to any other member of any community, no more advantage—hardly so much—to any medical practitioner, as is obvious enough. But the prevention of disease is doubtless desired by all. Let those connected with municipal government especially ponder these things well and they will hardly fail to see the practical value of the indications and suggestions ; and we shall hope for a general movement toward carrying them out, and that there will be ere long a medical health officer in every municipality in Canada.*

---

#### GOVERNMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS.

Many times in this JOURNAL (and more especially a year ago last February), we have estimated the costs of preventable sickness and death in Canada. It has been shown that if the death rate and sickness rate could be reduced one tenth part, there would be actually saved to the people of this Dominion, over thirty eight millions of dollars yearly ; to say nothing of the anxieties and trouble of