

THE RABIES OUTBREAK

THE subject of Rabies has been uppermost in the minds of the Medical Profession of Canada for some little time past. The recent enactment as to the compulsory muzzling of dogs has been the cause of a good deal of caustic correspondence and criticism in the lay press, many people considering that the law was entirely uncalled for, as the majority of the cases of so-called Rabies on human beings were more hysterical than otherwise. Others claimed that the muzzling of canine pets was nothing short of inhuman. That the former argument is however incorrect is proven by the correspondence to be found in this issue from Veterinary Director General J. G. Rutherford, of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, and Dr. Chas. Hodgetts, Chief Medical Officer of Ontario. These gentlemen are in a position to speak on this subject, having data that cannot be questioned, as far as Rabies in Canada is concerned.

We had the privilege of reading recently an abstract of an article by Dr. Langdon Frothingham of the Department of Bacteriology in Harvard Medical School. In the article, the author discusses the history, prevalence and prevention of rabies and its relation to animal experimentation. The article is a strong argument in favor of the muzzling of dogs, and valuable statistics are given to show the effect of muzzling orders in eradicating the disease. Since the introduction of proper dog laws and compulsory