

soon learn of any epidemic that might be prevailing almost anywhere in his section of country. Reports of such usually soon get circulated, or at least reach the nearest town, whence enquiries could be made by the nearest official.

Now while such information regarding the condition of the public health in and around so many centres, distributed freely in a bulletin, say once every month, would promote the confidence of the public generally, and be of interest to all who were interested in the country's welfare, it would be most valuable information for the Government to possess and would be all that would be essential, I contend, as a foundation for practical public health work.

More good than all, would follow the free distribution of the bulletins, showing all over the Dominion where the mortality was high, or in what city or town it was highest, and also in which there were epidemics prevailing. It would shame and stimulate into strong efforts to reduce their mortality, those municipalities giving so bad a sanitary record; better, perhaps, than any stringent coercive legislation; for obvious reasons. The reports would, in short, be the best possible educators of the people.

Then, should any municipal authorities require an investigation into the cause or causes of their high death-rate, the Federal Department should be prepared to cause such investigation to be made; and which could then be done in an independent and satisfactory manner. In this case, a Hygienic Laboratory would be most desirable; indeed, an essential.

It has already been shown that the mortality in our Canadian cities and towns is far in excess of that in the overcrowded cities in England—that even in the "Queen City," Toronto, it is in excess of that of great and densely populated London, while it should be much lower than in the latter; that,—and what most indicates a want of proper sanitary administration, the zymotic death-rate in the Canadian cities and towns is about double that of the largest cities in England; and in short that many thousands of lives, many of them of the best lives in the country, are sacrificed in Canada every year, by reason of want of proper attention to ordinary sanitary requirements. Of the 17,100 deaths recorded in twenty of the largest cities and towns of the Dominion last year, probably the entire medical profession will concede, one-fourth might have been prevented had proper sanitary regulations been enforced a few years previous; and of the 120,000 deaths which probably take place in the Dominion every year, 25,000 to 30,000 might be eventually saved to help to fill up the vacant west.

Who will say that this is not a subject for the Federal Government to take hold of—a most worthy subject? The present

state of things must now tell against the country's welfare, as we have shown, and will it not do so much more in the future?

The necessary machinery for such an organization as would be required for work of the kind above indicated need only be inexpensive. The present Federal regulations for obtaining mortuary returns could be extended to the necessary number of towns, and the health or statistical officers of all these towns be supplied with blanks and information for their proper use, relating to reports of prevailing disease.

A fixed number of inspectors of local offices would be required—from five to eight—in all the different provinces, to visit all the officers two or three times a year, at indefinite periods and times, in order to see that the latter were doing their work properly. These inspectors might be specially appointed by the Government from among the officers of the different centres or others having nothing to do with the collection of statistics might be appointed as inspectors, as deemed best.

In connection with the Government, in Ottawa, there would be required a chief officer. He might be a Deputy Minister or a Commissioner of Public Health, and connected with one of the departments, such as that of Agriculture or of the Secretary of State. In case of the latter, any statistics for filing or preserving could be passed on to the Department of Agriculture. The chief officer would necessarily have to be a physician, and one of experience. We would not recommend a central board, but instead, an Advisory Council. This might consist of only five or six persons—three or four physicians, of high standing and experience in sanitary proceedings, and a veterinary surgeon and an engineer; or better, of a much larger number, as from one to three or four from each of the provinces, specially appointed (either by the Federal Government or the provincial authorities, as thought best), and of a Committee of the House, similar to the present standing committees. This Council need meet in full but once a year, during the session of the House, consider all health questions and appoint a special Advisory Council of four or five members as a kind of Executive, which could meet as occasion required, or at specified times, as thought best.

A permanent secretary would be required for preparing and arranging the work of and for the Council. He, too, should be an experienced physician, and also an ex-officio member of the Executive of the Advisory Council. Upon him would devolve the greater part of the work of the department.

In case a Hygienic Laboratory were established, it should soon be, and might be best perhaps in connection with the department of the Chief Dominion Analyst, other