

THE American Public Health Association will hold its fourteenth annual meeting in Toronto, next month, from the 5th to the 8th. The Association includes among its members a large number of the leading physicians of the United States. We cordially welcome them to this country, and trust there will be a large gathering of them; while we have no doubt that the meeting will be highly promotive of the public health interests of the Dominion. A large number of applications for membership have already been made by Canadians; and it is to be hoped the committee in Toronto will not fail to make every necessary preparation for properly receiving and entertaining the members. All interested in the health of the people are invited to attend the meeting and listen to the valuable papers which will be read and discussed.

THE Toronto trunk sewer scheme is maturing very slowly. With a mortality in July at the rate of over 31 per 1,000 of population per annum, as shown in the table on another page, three or more of the city aldermen—who ought to know better and care more for the reputation of the city and the health and life of those whom they are supposed to make an effort to protect, actually, as recently as the 31st day of August, so displayed their dense indifference to the commonest essentials, not only of public health, but of public decency, as to oppose the scheme because it was not required. One argued that as yet there had been no expert evidence to show that a trunk sewer system was really needed. Another had lived many years in the vicinity of the water front and had not found disease any more prevalent there than in any other part of the city, and a third would carry out the stupid scheme of the late mayor and extend the present sewers out into the bay, where they might belch forth their foulness, with the "full seven and twenty stenches, all well defined, and several stinks," a little nearer to the water supply.

Two mills on the dollar, two dollars on a thousand, these men think to be too large a sum to pay annually for ten years for having the filth of the city carried out of sight and smell. It might be easily demonstrated that, in accordance with the good results of less essential sewerage works in England, the saving to the city of Toronto through a decrease in the sickness rate alone, by the construction of the trunk sewers, to say nothing of the value of life saved, would far exceed yearly the paltry sum opposed by this trio, who seem to have little regard for the health and life of either their constituents or their families, and who may be regarded as working rather in the interests of typhoid fever, diphtheria and cholera. It is to be hoped that wiser counsels will prevail.

MONTREAL has had a wholesome lesson, by which Toronto should profit and not horde her

stenches and thus provide food for an epidemic of another kind; as there are others as bad as, and even worse than, small pox, and which are prone to associate with filth. Montreal, though, we fear, is not profiting by the lesson as it should do. Money-want is the great obstacle to sanitary progress. Most people now know the value of preventive measures—in the case of *others*. When it comes home to themselves, however, they think *they* may escape without the outlay. A mill or two "on the dollar," or two or three dollars "on the thousand"—of their many thousands, terrifies them; and usually the more thousands they possess the more they are terrified by the tax—tax, to prevent disease and death? They will risk it for a time and put off the sanitary improvement. But disease and death when at the door will not wait for the house to be put in order. Doubtless these people love health and life, but they love their gold more.

IN Ottawa the authorities are no less dormant, and callous to the requirements of public health interests. Nature in the beginning did "every thing" for the city, but unnatural proceedings are undoing or counter-acting kind nature's provision. Much is being done to improve the streets, but lanes, back yards and vacant lots, are in many cases coated with filth, and are sadly in want of the scavenger's cart. There are those on the health board who would act fairly in the health interests of the city, but others, who from their position ought to take more interest, appear to think they do enough by simply accepting a position on the board without doing more. There are too many such in other cities.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER, who has always manifested much and deep interest in the health proceedings of the Dominion, we are pleased to find is once more visiting Canada; in the interest it appears of the exhibition in London; which, by the way, has given this country such a prominence among the nations as she never had nearly reached in any other period before. We are indebted to Sir Charles for a number of health reports of the Local Government Board, of England, and hope it may be in his power to assist the committee appointed at Quebec in formulating a plan for a health bureau for the Dominion.

DR. KEATING, health officer of Guelph, rather complains that we "singled out" St. Thomas and Guelph to complain of on account of the small number of deaths returned from these places for some of the months. It is only these two cities which return such a low mortality, and we have on more than one occasion stated that sometimes, among a few thousands of people for a short period, or even for several months, the mortality will be very low, though on an average, of years, it may equal that of other communities.