

## Editorials.

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### THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ANNUITIES SCHEME

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Our city dailies recently contained a report of a most interesting address which was delivered by the Superintendent of the Department of Annuities at a banquet held under the auspices of the Employers' Association of Toronto. The subject should be of vital interest to the medical profession, and it seems fitting, therefore, that reference to the scheme might properly be made in these columns, for the physician, of all men, is the one with whom the fact of mortality is ever present. Called and commissioned to wage war on the powers that lie in wait to overthrow human life, he is constantly being reminded of the risks men run from exposure to hostile elements or still more hostile germs, of what "pricks and cracks

Befall the flesh through too much stress and strain,  
Whereby the wily vapor fain would slip  
Back and rejoin its source before its term."

He sees the shadow on the dial ever advancing, and the clouds that come to blot out the dial's usefulness before the sun is set. It is on that account that we write, for the information of members of our profession, of the other side of things, to give them some account of this scheme that is based on the fact of the relative permanence of human life; a scheme that provides not so much for the calamity that may fall in the days of one's youth as for the disability that comes when the "almond tree shall flourish and the grasshopper shall become a burden."

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Life insurance is concerned with the probability of dying, but the function that figures in the annuity business, especially in that section devoted to deferred annuities, is the probability of old age. The relative importance of these functions may be obtained by a study of any mortality table. If we selected one hundred healthy doctors at age 30, we should find that seventy-five of them would be alive a quarter of a century later; that