

England and Wales, the Registrar-General of England computing from vital statistics there says: "There are now half a million cases of serious disease and ninety two thousand deaths per annum prevented in that territory already, as a result of improved sanitation."

Here in Toronto this Academy by the aid of its more progressive public health members has been of some assistance to our municipality in its effort to deal with the water problem, and of not a little value to the families of this community is the work and results obtained by the Academy's milk commission.

The problem of Medical Inspection of schools in Toronto has been attacked and though not yet solved we have every hope that before long it will be. In this connection I would like to say that we should not dispise altogether such simple measures as can be put in force by the principals and teachers in the schools. For example in the district of lower Sackville street, some years ago, when very few of the houses in the neighborhood had baths, and where the school children were in an exceptionally dirty and diseased state, great improvement was effected when the school adopted and enforced certain rules. At an examination one hundred and sixty-one cases of skin disease and vermin were found among the scholars. When Dr. Sheard discovered this wretched condition of health and absence of cleanliness, he ordered that every child take a bath once a week, the principal or assistants to examine the children to see that this was done. Individually the pupils were examined every Monday morning, and if any child were dirty he was sent home to be cleaned. The teacher gave a casual look, and if suspicious two teachers took the child into a room by himself and examined him more carefully. In a short time this school became one of the healthiest in Toronto. The children keep themselves clean at some disadvantage, however, washing and bathing in houses where there are no conveniences for the purpose.

Our recently opened municipal bath-house is a boon to some of the children, but of much more value would be the establishment of baths in every school. One boy at the Sackville school wrote an essay on "What he would do if he were a trustee."

He said: "If I were a trustee I would put a bath in the school so that the pupils could wash all their bodies at once and not have to do it in sections."

Means to prevent the common everyday cold which is so troublesome in our north temperate climates and especially among the children, is a subject worthy of our attention.

Some time ago the Hygiene Association O. E. A., made an investigation into the causes of absence in Toronto schools and found 38,305 days absence from school in one month among some 12,000 of the children. In this month 24,725 of the days of absence were caused by illness, and it was found that of the many different forms of illness accounting for the total number of days, "colds" took first place; 10,049 days absence being due to this special affection. Upwards, therefore, of one half the entire time of absence from school caused by illness is due to "colds."

Here then is a subject worthy our attention. A simple illness which in most cases could be prevented and yet one that is causing very serious loss of time and an interference with the vitality of our children.

There are many many more important matters and problems in preventive medicine in need of speedy solution, such as our high infantile mortality, the high incidence and death rate from venereal disease, and in the words of our President, Dr. A. A. Macdonald: "Let it be remembered as we try to solve this problem that the baneful influences of promiscuous intercourse and foul disease does not stop with the healing of the local sore."

Gentlemen, we have as earnestly in need of solution the cancer problem, the prevention of the vast increase in neurasthenia and mental derangements—the latter especially—a disease in the community bringing so much of sadness and expense to our people and nation, and yet in a vast number of instances, preventable.

Let me conclude by saying there is probably no department of medicine where solution in recent years has been more rapid than in that of preventive; and in the light of our knowledge of the very often limited value of drugs and other treatments in the cure of established disease it is surely the