

it must be borne in mind that the rises in mortality, for example, under certain climatic conditions, is not due so much to these conditions themselves, or to their effects upon the constitution, as to their effects upon the filth by which we allow ourselves to be surrounded, and to the development and spread thereby of disease germs; or, again, to their effects upon constitutions debilitated and rendered prone to disease through neglect of ordinary hygienic laws. No one would believe that if Toronto and other cities were in a perfect sanitary condition—free from all cess-pools and privy vaults, foul yards and lanes—in such a condition as we hope for but cannot expect very soon to realize, that there would be anything nearly approaching the high death-rate among young children, especially, which, in the cities, has invariably accompanied the warm dry weather of July and August. Warm dry weather, *per se*, will not destroy life; but on the contrary will develope it; and does rapidly develope germ and bacterial life in the congenial soil found in most cities, which causes the high mortality. And furthermore, few would believe that the usual rise in mortality from nervous diseases, so-called, during the cold wet weather in March and April, would thus prevail amongst a people living in the best of hygienic environments—amongst a people with healthy vigorous skin (not only covering the body but lining its cavities), properly clothed and fed, and dwelling in properly warmed, well ventilated apartments.

Inasmuch, then, as it is not in man's power to change in any appreciable degree the usual order of Nature as regards the weather, if the public are taught simply that the weather may at any time have a seriously injurious effect upon their health, so far as practical hygienic work is concerned, they might about as well believe, as was the belief in past ages, that diseases are caused by evil spirits, or are sent by Divine Providence as punishment for moral sins committed. It might have the very undesirable effect of checking practical efforts to remove the more immediate and direct causes of disease—of producing greater apathy in sanitary work. Let the people be taught, as far as possible, the precise share which the weather has in the production of disease.

SWEET OIL—A REMEDY FOR POISONS.—It is stated by an exchange that sweet-oil introduced into the stomach is a neutralizer of all poisons of an acrid or corrosive character. The remedy is harmless, nearly always at hand and is worthy of a trial.