

the decrease of the death rate owing to the spread of sanitary science.

Dr. Robillard, of Ottawa, expressed his pleasure at seeing the convention held in Ottawa, and of seeing such a diversified programme. The object of the meeting he considered a noble one, and hoped that it would result beneficially.

At the afternoon session Dr. Canniff, of Toronto, read a paper on "The Sanitary Education of the Masses"; and Dr. Baptie, of the Ottawa Normal School, then delivered an interesting address on the ventilation of private dwellings, illustrating his remarks by means of a number of diagrams. Dr. Cassidy followed by an instructive paper on the "Ventilation of Public Buildings."

In the evening Dr. Covernton, of Toronto, read an interesting paper on "The Abuse of Alcohol and Increase of Nervous Diseases in Modern Times." He was not opposed to the moderate use of good wine, which he believed might be beneficial. As an instance that this would not be injurious, he pointed to the peasantry of France, whose principal beverage was pure light clarets. After referring to the numerous diseases arising from the excessive use of alcohol, he said the drunkard was in many cases entitled to pity, sympathy, and assistance; for although beyond a doubt drink leads to poverty, yet poverty often leads to drink.

Dr. Cassidy, of Toronto, believed the use of wine and beer should not be prohibited, but ardent spirits ought to be.

Mr. S. Woods, M.A., Principal of the Ottawa Ladies' College, read an instructive paper on "School Hygiene." He gave the results of his twenty years' experience in educational establishments, and he had come to the conclusion that close application never injured any one, but that most of the injuries to scholars resulted from

bad lighting or ventilation of school rooms.

Dr. Playter thought Mr. Woods' experience ought to be enough to convince any one that there should be a system of medical inspection of schools.

Dr. Canniff also thought there should be medical inspection of schools.

Dr. Bryce, Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health, next read an exhaustive paper on "Zymotic Diseases," giving illustrations of micro-organisms—various forms of bacteria, micrococci, etc., highly magnified.

On Wednesday, at the morning session, Dr. Playter, editor of this JOURNAL, read a paper on "Diet in Relation to Disease," a synopsis of which is given on another page.

Mr. Guerin, C.E., of the Public Works Department, next read an instructive paper on "Sewerage," which he illustrated by diagrams. He entered into a description of the various methods employed to drain cities and to prevent sewer gas entering houses, and pointed out wherein they were defective. He contended that brick drains should be egg shaped with the big end up, so that the greatest force could be got to put out the smallest amount of matter. If box drains were used they should be put in with an angle down. The ordinary "traps" used in closets, sinks and other places were not good. He displayed a newly invented trap, which he claimed would remedy the defects complained of, and which had been working successfully for a year past in the Department of Public Works, Ottawa. In regard to Ottawa sewerage he pointed out that there was really no system about it.

Mr. Boxer of Montreal, next read a paper on "Hidden Causes of Disease Exposed," and referred to foul wells and defective plumbing. He said 31 per cent. of the deaths in Montreal were caused by zymotic diseases, and that 50,-