

Canada Health Journal.

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

THIRTEENTH YEAR of Publication.

NINTH VOLUME.

Specially designed for medical and other health officers, heads of families and all interested in promoting the public health. The only Health Journal in the English language published in Canada.

Its Aim.—To prevent sickness and promote public and individual health.

Communications solicited on all sanitary subjects.

Local health officers would confer a favor by sending to the Editor copies of their reports, brief notices of their sanitary condition, improvements, or events in any way connected with health.

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EDITORS' SPECIAL CORNER.

THE HIGH MORTALITY AND THE REMEDY.

Elsewhere in this number of the JOURNAL reference is made to the high mortality in the Canadian cities, as shown by the recent Report on mortuary statistics of the Department of Agriculture; eighteen per cent. higher than the mortality in the large and over-crowded cities in England. This fact is being discussed in different quarters, and it will not add to the popularity of Canada abroad. Is this high death-rate to be permitted to go on without special effort being made to prevent it? What, it may be asked, should be done? We contend that the Federal Government should take some early action. A Committee of the House might first be appointed to consider the question. Surely it is a question of sufficient importance for such a course. And although matters relating to health are largely under the control of the Local Legislatures, as the high mortality is very general we do not see how it is to be satisfactorily dealt with by the Provinces. We hope to see some early action taken when the Federal Parliament next meet by some one or more of the medical members of the House.

DUTY OF THE STATE IN PUBLIC HEALTH.

This is the subject of an editorial in the last issue (October 22) of the British Medical Journal. Unfortunately it is a duty sadly neglected in almost every country. The education of the public in matters pertaining to health is the great want.

What the British Medical Journal states regarding the Sanitary requirements in England are largely applicable to Canada.

"In sanitary affairs wide and sweeping reforms are needed before public opinion can be efficiently educated, and, at the same time an enlightened public opinion is necessary to carry out these much-needed reforms; a vicious circle of neutralising necessities, which only outside educated interference can bring to good result. And what factor, in the calculations of statesmen, can be so powerful for good as the influence of the great British Medical Association? It represents public opinion, for each of its constituent units is in constant touch with every class of individuals."

"The following seems to be the most needed and the most feasible reforms we can ask for: 1. The creation of an educated body of specialists . . . who shall devote themselves entirely to sanitary work. 2. The gradual fusion of all small sanitary districts . . . 3. The appointment, promotion, pay, and dismissal of all medical officers of health by the central authority." This would not do in Canada. "4. The compulsory education and examination of sanitary inspectors. 5. The reform of 'Crown's Quest Law.' . .

6. The formation of a Central Board of Sanitary Government and Statistics. And finally, the inculcation of a spirit of propaganda into the "doctors" of the sanitary service, so that the ideal of Professor Ruata may be attained. He says that the thorough informing of the peo-