

much, the saving would be 6,000 lives per year. The average age of death is under 30. This would give a saving of \$36,000,000 a year.

In great Britain the death rate has been reduced 3 per 1,000, and on 45,000,000, it means the saving of 135,000 lives; and at the average age of death and the average rate of wages, actuaries figure the saving to be equal to about \$500,000,000 annually.

The Federal Government has met the committee of the Canadian Medical Association with the argument that this is a provincial question. Well this may be so in the strictly legal sense; but this country cannot and must not be run on too technical an interpretation of the constitution. When the various provinces were carved out of the forest no one foresaw what the future would be. Nor, again, when these provinces were joined together into a common country, it was quite impossible for the fathers of Confederation to arrange every right that should be provincial or federal. The result is that there must be some latitude in the management of our public affairs.

There are many subjects of vital interest to the people, which cannot be successfully dealt with except by some central authority at Ottawa. We, therefore, make a strong appeal to the government to take steps to create a Department of Public Health. There should be no delay. The money so spent, will be well spent, and yield a splendid return to the people.

CANADIAN MEDICAL PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION.

The season for medical activity is now upon us. The various colleges and medical societies are in full swing. Now is the time to take hold of the Canadian Medical Protective Association and put it in a position of strength and influence. It needs only members. Let every practitioner join this most worthy of all our societies. It has been the means of much good already, by resisting successfully a number of malpractice suits, and by restraining others that were threatened, as the plaintiffs were deterred when it became known that there was a strong organization at the back of the doctor.

Now, how are members to be secured. The officers cannot go round and interview the members of the profession; but the doctors should not require this. THE CANADA LANCET will be glad to receive the names of practitioners who may desire to become members, and will forward them to the Secretary, Dr. J. A. Grant, Ottawa. The fee is \$2.50. The sum is small and the cause worthy. We hope to hear from many of our readers.