

responsible for much of the high mortality in abdominal surgery. I rejoice I have never used it in abdominal work except where cancer existed. I have watched the work of others and compared the mortality of the operators who use it with that of those who reject it—all that condemn it head the list with a low mortality. The use and abuse of it before painful troubles are removed, obscures symptoms, impairs nutrition, and greatly complicates the management of the patient. Without opiates the patient co-operates, the pain lasts only a few hours in all abdominal and pelvic operations. The numerous uncomfortable conditions favored by opium are wholly absent without it."

BUREAU OF MEDICAL HEALTH FOR THE DOMINION.

Early last year a bill was presented to the United States Congress for adoption, entitled "A Bill to establish a Bureau of Public Health within the Department of the Interior, to consist of a Commissioner and an Advisory Council, the duties of this Bureau to be to collect information on matters affecting public health, and publish all information in a weekly bulletin, and prepare rules and regulations for securing the best sanitary condition of vessels from foreign ports, and to establish a national quarantine system."

This bill emanated from the New York Academy of Medicine, and was well worthy of consideration, not only for its innate value to the public, but also for the source from which it sprang. The ablest lights on scientific medicine in the United States are represented in this body, and all and several expressed their opinion in favor of the passage of the bill.

Not from any desire to copy our neighbors across the line, as we are sure that in medical education and in medical standards we, as a rule, surpass them, but from a desire to see our own system placed on a solid, substantial and profitable basis—profitable from the standpoint of the health of the community—ruled over by one body which will have control over the whole of our Dominion, do we undertake to express our opinion on the subject.

It is not new and original on our part, as it has been discussed by many bodies, consisting of lay-

men as well as members of the medical profession, and now is a source of considerable discussion in many medical associations.

It has been brought up in the Dominion House by Dr. Roome, who ably set forth these following statements and arguments in its favor:

1. That the subject was of greater importance to the prosperity of the people than many of the questions that divided the great political parties.

2. Therefore, in the interests of the people, the Federal Government should make provision for a central organization as a Department of Health, presided over by a permanent head, or as a sub-department in association with or under the jurisdiction of the Department of State.

3. The duty of the Health Department would be to collect statistics of the births, marriages and deaths of the Dominion, and also reports or statements monthly or oftener of all epidemics or outbreaks of infectious or contagious diseases throughout the country, and to utilize these statistics and reports in educating as to sanitation and prophylaxis.

4. The establishment of a first-class hygienic laboratory with every facility for bacteriological examination for investigation as to the cause and origin of disease, and for experimenting with diseases communicable from animal to man.

5. To provide for the efficient international sanitation as far as possible by obtaining information relating to any epidemic in foreign countries.

6. To see after the sanitary condition of vessels leaving foreign ports and all quarantine regulations.

7. To analyze all foods and inquire into their adulterations.

At present these duties—so-called from their importance to the general public—are performed by many different bodies, some not badly, some wretchedly, and some not at all. Different heads have charge of small minor details, Provincial and local boards of health and the Dominion Department of Agriculture (which handles the quarantine) being the main factors. This condition necessarily mixes up sadly all the reports and statistics, leaving any seeker after truth on these lines sadly in want of definite information. Large outbreaks of different epidemics could easily be kept away from our shores by a strong satisfactory quarantine