

has been found impossible to prepare complete statistics for that portion of the community. If this statement be correct (and I have every reason to believe it), means should be at once taken to correct so grave an irregularity.

The growth of state medicine should ever be a cause for congratulation among us. That it is gathering strength every day is evidenced by the voluminous annual reports of our city and provincial Boards of Health, and by the marked increase in the variety and value of their contents. See, too, the large and influential gathering in London the other day, where all the nations were represented for the purpose of discussing the great problems of hygiene. At its present rate of progress, hygienic law will soon interpenetrate every phase and period of our civilized existence. The sanitarian now strikes at the very beginnings of life. In some European cities the puerperal woman is supplied with printed forms on which to record the physical condition and progress of her offspring. As the child develops his progress is attended with a constantly increased watchfulness. In the school-room he is allotted a certain number of cubic feet of space. His physical condition is zealously watched and in some places accurate anthropometrical observations are taken to show how his growth is keeping pace with his intellectual development. Then measures are taken to protect him from the contagious diseases to which he is liable, new methods of prophylaxis being constantly devised. And so he is guarded until he reaches the age of citizenship, when he may be reasonably expected to become himself a guardian of the public health. While on this subject, it has often occurred to me, and doubtless to others also, that the practice of opening our city schools on the first day of September is open to serious objection. It happens usually that the first few days of this month are hot and sultry. Children are brought directly from the health resorts to crowded school-rooms, and the consequence is, before the winter's work has well begun, the bloom of health has disappeared in many cases, and often they enter on a season of ill-health. If the children were brought home at the usual time, and given two weeks to become again acclimatized, as it were, to city life, the sick lists would, in my opinion, be much shorter.