

eradicate them. I do not propose to rest my case upon quotations and figures. . . . I will content myself with adding that we should not remain behind other legislative bodies throughout the entire world; that all the medical authorities demand the adoption of sanitary laws, and that, in September last, to mention but one fact, the great Medical Convention held here, in Ottawa itself, insisted at great length, and entered upon the minutes of its proceedings, a petition that the Federal Parliament would take such steps as were within its power to establish for the Dominion a central bureau of public health and vital statistics. I unite with them in expressing my most ardent desire that this should be done.

Hon. Dr. Almon said, My professional brother from Prescott has, in his able way, addressed you on this important subject, and covered all the ground. He has left very little for me to say. Much might be done in the way of sanitary legislation. In my native city of Halifax, I remember well when typhus fever was prevalent; and why was it so? The city lots had a frontage of thirty feet and a depth of sixty feet. The houses occupied the full frontage of the lots and extended back about forty feet from the street, leaving a yard twenty by thirty feet, in which could be found a well of drinking water, other buildings necessary for the house and a pig-stye. What was the result? The water that the people drank was contaminated with the sewerage and other ejecta of the house and the soakage from the pig-stye, and typhus fever prevailed. I think almost everyone in Halifax of my acquaintance,

when I was a young man, had had typhus fever, and very many were carried away by that disease. But eventually the styes were done away with, and pure water was brought into the city from the lakes, and now the disease has almost disappeared. Malignant diphtheria is a disease which appals every medical man. He feels when it enters a house (I regret to say) that what he can do is often of no avail. What is the cause of it? Invariably I find where it appears that there is something wrong with the drain—there is a leak most commonly in the kitchen sink drain, and a dark mud can be found composed of decomposed vegetation and animal matters from which the disease originates. Under proper supervision that would be prevented. Take a thing which you all know something about, and which certainly, if there was a sanitary commission, or board of health, would be prevented—the condition of Pullman cars. I came up in one from Halifax to Quebec the other day, and paid \$5 for the accommodation. What did I find when I entered the car? A thermometer in the car would have stood at 80° or 90°. I appealed to the conductor of the car to lower the temperature, but he said, "It is not too hot; I think it cool." I appealed to him to open one of the ventilators. He said that he could not do that; there would be a draught on the bald head of an old gentleman who sat under it. I asked how the thermometer stood. He replied there was no thermometer. Then I asked him for a drink of cold water. He took a tumbler that the passengers cleaned their teeth in, and brought me a drink out of the cistern that was within