

Difference from
1842 to 1872 270,000 lives saved.
Or 26 per cent.

Prussia, ever jealous of her growth and greatness, both in military prowess and internal development, is shadowing France in her health legislation. She fully recognizes what can be accomplished by wise sanitary laws. Not only has she established health officers throughout her provinces, who are responsible for the health of the people in their localities, but she has instituted an imperial board of health at her capital, which controls all matters of a sanitary character throughout the empire. What has been said of the results in France may also be said of the great work accomplished in Prussia. Austria, Russia and Italy are vigorously moving in the same direction. This question was considered of such magnitude and importance that Italy, during the last summer, held a sanitary convention at Turin, to which sanitarians from all nations were invited, to discuss the great questions of public hygiene. I will now proceed to consider the question of what has been accomplished by health legislation. Here is a wide field for our consideration. Almost every progressive nation has turned its attention to this work of reform. Our own country constitutes the exception. It is true some individual effort has been made to cause public attention to consider this important subject. Some of our medical journals and particularly a sanitary journal published at Toronto, and ably edited by Dr. Playter, have done something towards directing the mind of our Canadian people to the question of public hygiene, but these efforts have received no assistance

or encouragement from our Legislature, nor could they expect to be successful in their individual or unaided work—a work that requires a nation's resources to ensure success. In looking over the range of sanitary reform, I am still hopeful that, in the near future, Canada will awaken to the importance of legislating for the health of her people. Our American cousins have accomplished much through health legislation. The State of Massachusetts every year, at its first meeting of the Legislature, selects her best representatives to act as a health committee. All the necessary powers are given to them to secure sanitary reforms. In a few years, as the result of their legislation, we find the death rate in that State reduced 16 per cent. Michigan, twelve years ago, imitated the example of Massachusetts. The Legislature took the philanthropist, the sanitarian, to her confidence. Ample means were supplied, a State health board was established, and the work of reform vigorously carried on. The death rate of Michigan has been reduced $15\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. I might refer to many more individual States across our borders to show what has been accomplished. Most of them are alive to this important work. Reference should be made to Colorado. Almost from the first settlement in that State a persistent effort has been made to impress on the mind of the public the healthy and sanitary influence of the climate and soil. The State has been largely peopled through this influence, and to-day Colorado may be considered the grave-yard of the Eastern States and Canada. I do not hesitate to assert that we have lost