

perhaps another grown-up member, or friend. Look for the boys of the family, and you will find them in the midst of an admiring group of other boys, detailing for their edification what the doctor said, or how Johnnie looked, or what a bully time he was having, now mother was most of the time with Johnnie, and so on, while the younger girls, with that affection so distinctive of their sex, are exchanging confidences in whispers, with arms entwined round each other's necks. The mother! Oh, she has been up all night, and has not had time to take her clothes off, but will, as soon as your back is turned, promptly hurry off to the butcher's or grocer's, while the father, thanks to the carelessness of his employer (if he be not a Grand Trunk employee), will serenely keep on at work, infection or no infection. At length—say after three or four weeks (and if you are busy you are quite liable to forget which, yielding to a hurried inspection and the entreaties of the friends and mother)—disinfection is ordered; the officer asks the family how many rooms require to be disinfected, close off the rest with newspapers pasted over the cracks, and start a couple of pounds of sulphur on their malodorous and mischievous career. At the end of six hours, windows and doors are thrown open, house aired, and family returns with a childlike faith that all is well and scarlatina stamped out—in *that* house, at any rate: If the price we pay for this sort of thing were not measured out in the life blood of our children, and sometimes the children's mothers, would it not be funny enough to embody in a comic opera? Yes, I grant you, I have perhaps combined one or two, or even three families into the one which has been cited as an example, and perhaps taken the worst three of the list, but have you not yourself seen some such precautions to transmit the disease as I have mentioned taken? During a little over three and a half years' practice in Montreal, with an average number of cases of scarlatina and diphtheria in my note-book, I have only been able to have isolation carried out perfectly *once*. What if, in some cases, children are sent to the infectious diseases hospital, and all precautions taken to prevent the spread of the disease, still, a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, and where, as is the case, so many are neglected, what inducement is there to do one's duty, beyond the desire that at least at your door there shall not lie any criminal negligence marked with a small mound of earth. Although the statement may