

With the Secretary's advice present to my mind, and knowing that there is much to be gone over, perhaps the best thing I could do at this point would be to stop and call for the next item on the programme. But feeling as I do the vast importance of the subjects pertaining to public health, and believing that they require to be again and again brought to the notice of the public before much progress is made in securing any degree of co-operation in regard to sanitary measures, I would like to occupy a few minutes to say why the people of Woodstock should show their appreciation of the efforts being put forth and endeavor to secure a large attendance at the meeting about to be held. The healthfulness of a place concerns either directly or indirectly every individual in it. It is of paramount interest to each householder in Woodstock that his neighbours should become well acquainted with the best ideas on how to regulate their sanitary surroundings, and moreover, that they be fully convinced of the necessity of having them put into effect. We are promised some excellent information touching upon health in the schools, when such questions as the difference between educating and examining the principles that should control and direct the lighting and ventilating the school rooms, etc., will be explained. This cannot but be of special interest to teachers and parents, for we are assured that untold mischief to children often results from ignorance or indifference in respect to these matters.

Moreover, we have on the programme such important subjects as water supplies, impurities of the atmosphere, whether generated in ill-ventilated rooms, from decaying animal or vegetable matter or from damp and foul soil, also alimentation, adulteration of food, and quality, quantity and proper cooking.

In this enlightened nineteenth century, in an especial manner noted for scientific advancement, it would seem at first glance as if all the subjects on the programme were common-place matters that science had long ago, and finally, disposed of. That surely there should be no necessity for discussing them before an intelligent audience at this late age. But alas! facts are against the thought. Although knowledge has undoubtedly increased, it is in many respects more apparent than real and we sometimes mistake shunting for progress. This is particularly true in reference to matters pertaining to health.

The present is pre-eminently a mechanical age, boasts of being practical, yet in many respects is most impractical. We go in pursuit of phantoms,