

death rate of towns has been reduced directly and in a marked degree by the practical application of Public Health measures. But I need not dwell upon this point. Canada is not in a better sanitary condition than is Great Britain. We all know full well that most diseases are self-created, that, while we cannot prevent the natural and gradual decay of age, and death in the end, health and life are to the uttermost in our own individual keeping. We, as members of the medical profession, know this better than any others; we, more familiar than any others with the marvellous structure and actions of God's noblest work, and with the actions upon it of the numerous and insidious external agents of disease, know better than any others how to deal with these agents, with these causes of preventable death. What a field then is before us for the exercise of our knowledge. Does not the field for *cure* fall into comparative insignificance. For after all, nature maintains her supremacy in the healing art. She will yield but little to us there. Her power to heal is vastly greater than ours. Our most legitimate field appears to be that of *prevention*. What then is our duty? Dr. Benjamin Lee, of Philadelphia, in a report to the twenty-sixth annual meeting of the Medical Society of Pennsylvania, in July last, declared that the physician who simply devoted his energies to the treatment of a patient, with typhoid fever for example, was morally guilty of manslaughter should the disease become fatally epidemic. His first duty was to set on foot investigations as to its origin. Which investigations, says Dr. Lee, "he should pursue untiringly, calling in the aid of experts if himself unsuccessful, compelling the members of the family to aid in the search, on the pain of losing his services, giving himself or them no rest until he has satisfied himself of either the absence or presence of a local source of pestilence, and, if the latter, has devised and instituted measures for its removal. Nothing short of this will relieve him of his responsibility, in the eyes of the hygienist."

It is the duty of all men, as it appears to be the aim of all right thinking men, to place themselves in that position in the world, to employ themselves in that capacity, in which they can benefit in the highest degree their fellow creatures. The aim may be regarded as almost instinctive in its character, and to have its origin in some ingenerate principle akin to that of self-preservation; for the most natural result of benefits conferred is a proportionate amount of benefits received. Usually, what is true of individuals is true of numbers or classes of individuals. It ap-