

such cases, that this city during the past six months was not overrun by an outbreak of diphtheria twentyfold more terrible in its fatality than the outbreak last fall."

Regarding the water supply, the doctor further says: "The purity of our water, which up to last fall had never been questioned, then became doubtful for the reasons above given in connection with the causation of the disease then prevailing. Another reason throwing some doubt on the purity of our water and tending also to connect it with the cause of last fall's epidemic, was the characteristics of the fever as related to its fatality; the death-rate having scarcely reached three per cent. of the total number of cases. This, it is contended, points to contamination of our water with vegetable, rather than with animal organic matter, a fact which seems also pretty clearly demonstrated by the different analyses to which it was subjected. It is evident at all events, that so far as it relates to the causation of specific diseases, the quality of the pollution is the essential knowledge sought and not the quantity; that the chemical analysis of water will not determine the presence or absence therein of specific germs, whilst the different conclusions reached by analytical experts in the analysis of the same water are calculated to throw much doubt on the reliability of such processes or methods to determine the wholesomeness or unwholesomeness of water. Then another circumstance, which, even to the casual observer, is not calculated to impress one with the belief that our water is above suspicion, is the surroundings of the inlet of our water supply. However, this important question is still being investigated, and no doubt that when convinced of their necessity and satisfied as to the best means to be adopted, nothing will be left undone to effect the needed ameliorations to secure purity in this necessary of life."

Wm. F. Cole, M.D., Medical Health Officer for Grey Township makes the following practical suggestions in his annual report:—

"Regarding the school-houses, they are roomy, convenient, well ventilated, and plentifully supplied with drinking water. Teachers have definite instructions posted up (printed ones) furnished by

the Board to each school, stating when any cases of skin diseases, measles, diphtheria, small-pox, etc., appear, to at once notify the trustees, who will at once call in the medical health officer to attend to them."

There are several points worth noting in our retrospect.

1. The laity need educating. They need to learn that measles and mumps often leave constitutional trouble, and not seldom cause death directly; that they affect children more seriously than adults, and that their having the disease once is *not* a more certain prevention to a second attack than is a primary vaccination to a subsequent attack of small-pox.

2. Copies of "Schedule A" should be distributed to every ratepayer in the Province; the distribution being repeated at stated intervals.

3. Central office send to Local Boards a full supply of blanks of all kinds from "Schedule A," especially those for physicians, with positive and direct instructions as to their proper distribution, etc. Charge the municipality for them.

4. Then see that the blanks are used.

5. Constitute the central office an advisory board in more than name. When they formulate a law they ought to be its best interpreters.

6. Have the Monthly Health Bulletin made a *monthly* health bulletin and an *intelligible* means of communication between the people and their health officers.

7. We learn that if the reports of medical health officers are to be of any statistical consequence some means must be devised of having these cases reported to him.

8. That it is obviously unfair to expect a physician to furnish stationery and postage, as well as his time in this matter gratis to a community, to the funds of which he is already a contributor because of his being a member of that community.

To remedy to a certain extent the foregoing it might be suggested at headquarters, that tracts detailing the history of epidemics, written in common language, should be scattered among the people all through this Province."

[We shall from time to time continue selections from such reports as are most valuable.—ED.]