

death rate from all causes during the ten years, from 1870 to 1880, fell from 22.5 to 21.5 per thousand of the population; and from zymotic diseases, from 4.14 to 3.36, while the mortality from fever alone fell from 0.80 to 0.32 per thousand. It is claimed that during the ten years above mentioned no less than 250,000 human lives were saved in England and Wales alone, and if such a large number was saved in England and Wales, what a multitude must have been saved in all parts of the world. Now, gentlemen, I think we can fairly claim for our profession the credit of saving this vast number of lives. No doubt this saving of life was more by prevention than by cure, although cures also may justly be claimed by us; even prevention has been the work of medical men. They have made the discoveries as to morbid agencies, and have pressed upon the various Governments the necessity of carrying out the legislative Acts tending to accomplish this end.

The saving of human life does not represent all, for it is customary to reckon twelve serious illnesses for every death. We thus see the vast number of illnesses that have been warded off and the amount saved in a pecuniary way, as well as the relief afforded from suffering and distress consequent upon disease. I think enough has been said to convince the most sceptical of what our profession is doing for humanity.

In conclusion, allow me briefly to take a look to the future in the hope that we may obtain some slight forecast of what is in store for ourselves and our successors. I am firmly convinced that the future of medicine will be largely preventive, judging from the past, there is a vast field of enquiry in the direction of inoculation or vaccination with the attenuated virus of many diseases, for example, smallpox, as is well known, and many others as has been demonstrated by Pasteur and a host of observers in the same line. It is a well-known fact that one attack of certain diseases renders the system immune from a second, and if the second does occur it is usually in a milder form. Now, I hope to see the day when scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough, and numbers of other diseases will be dealt with successfully by the inoculation of the attenuated virus of these diseases. I am not prepared to say how far success may attend the treatment of disease by the injection of animal extracts. It is under consideration and deserves a further trial before it is condemned.

Now, gentlemen, if the future of medicine is in the direction of prevention, it becomes a question in how far the State should contribute to help on the good work. Our Provincial Government has in the past and is at the present time giving liberally towards the advancement of education. The public are supplied with a common school system that will compare favourably with that of any other country in the world, and not satisfied with the Public schools, they have contributed largely to building up and maintaining a system of collegiate institutes and High schools that brings to the door of nearly every family in the province the facilities for gaining a knowledge of higher education. They have also established an agricultural college for the education of farmer's sons in scientific farming. This is not all, for in the Queen's Park can be seen a large building—the School of Practical Science for the training of civil and mining engineers, architects, etc.

These institutions have cost the province a large amount of money for their establishment and maintenance, but it is money well spent, and the Government and Legislature are to be commended for their liberality and keen appreciation of the wants of the people. The æsthetic tastes of the community have not been neglected, for art schools have been established in different parts of the province which are costing the country annually a considerable amount of money.