

present danger of impure water, and possibly to the horrors of the Montreal scourge of 1885. I would recommend that the Chicago procedure be adopted in Toronto."

The Chicago plan is to send a card to the parents of unvaccinated children and advise them to have the children vaccinated. Where they cannot bear the expense, the city furnishes the vaccine, and some one in the health office performs the operation.

Dr. Hastings recently said that the city was running a great risk of an outbreak of small-pox. He said:—

"Whatever smallpox Toronto has had of recent years has been mild. What I fear is that some day a virulent type of smallpox may break out here, and I would not like to be responsible for the results. There has been little vaccinating done in the city of late. The department stores insist upon their employees getting vaccinated, but no one else seems to bother."

In New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, vaccination is compulsory. The child must show a good mark before it can enter any school. A short time ago, Montreal had a smallpox scare, and, recalling its experience in 1885, decided to rigidly enforce the vaccination rule.

We are criminally stupid in this matter. We must wake up. The majority of the young people of the cities and country are unprotected.

A LARGE AMOUNT OF OPIUM CREMATED.

From the associated press despatches of 3rd April, we learn that "fifty-five thousand dollars' worth of opium was burned in the west block of the Parliament buildings at Ottawa. The opium had been seized at different parts, principally in British Columbia."

We cannot approve of this action. It was, no doubt, quite proper to seize the drug, as it was being brought into the country for improper purposes, and to be sold to smokers and users of opium. The government is justified in making every effort to curtail the use of this drug by habitues.

The burning of the opium is the part that we object to when it was legally taken by the officers of the government, we think it need not have been destroyed. It might have been given out to public institutions where the drug is required, and can be made use of by the medical staffs in a proper manner. Destruction of property is not wise, and we think that the burning of opium to the value of \$55,000 was not such an act as would commend itself to the judgment of the people, when the drug could be used to a good purpose.