

Dr. Hastings, Medical Officer of Health for Toronto, among other remarks, at the meeting of the Canadian Medical Association in Montreal, said:

"What about our infants and children? It is only within the past ten or twelve years that any organized effort has been made in the way of medical inspection of schools on this continent, and it is only within the past year or two that any organized effort has been made to safeguard the health and lives of children in pre-school age. We have been willing to stand by and see one out of every four or five infants die before it is a year old. It is only within the present decade that any organized effort has been made on this continent to control this appalling mortality. Just seven years ago a National Association for the Prevention and Control of Infant Mortality was organized, and six years ago a Division of Child Hygiene was organized in the Department of Public Health in New York City, since which time the infant mortality in that city has been reduced one-third. Since our infant welfare organization in Toronto in 1914 our infant mortality has been reduced over 30 per cent."

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### THE SECRET PLAGUE.

We have much pleasure in giving publicity to the following, which appeared recently in the editorial columns of *The Globe*. When lay papers will speak in such plain words there is hope of making real progress:

"Canada is paying the penalty of guilty silence and cowardly neglect in regard to infectious diseases more destructive in their results than tuberculosis. If we would make any advance on the past we must cast off the prurience that has left the race enervated, debilitated, and polluted, and attack the greatest menace by the combination of an enlightened public opinion and a freely supported and sufficiently empowered medical profession.

"Dr. C. K. Clarke, Superintendent of the Toronto General Hospital, is entitled to the deepest gratitude of the Canadian people for his courage in disregarding the prevalent fear that would shut out the truth, and for his resourcefulness in furthering free diagnosis and treatment in all the centres of population throughout the Province, provided by the Government of Ontario. The need of this is shown by the fact that about 13 per cent. of the patients admitted to the public wards of the Toronto General Hospital to be treated for other ailments are found, on examination, to have their blood poisoned by this communicable virus,