

partment of health at Ottawa, with someone in charge of the country's health affairs. He was mainly instrumental in having the Act passed that created such a department. Among other duties of this department the following may be mentioned: The inspection and medical care of immigrants and seamen, and administration of marine hospitals; the supervision as regards public health of railways, boats, ships and all means of transportation; the supervision of federal public buildings and offices with regard to the health of civil servants and other Government employes therein. The department also takes over the administration of certain Dominion Acts relating to health, such as Quarantine, Adulteration, Public Works Health, Leprosy and Proprietary or Patent Medicine Acts. With a thoroughly capable Deputy Minister, the department can have an enormous influence in moulding the future political, social and commercial life of Canada.

Dr. Steele said that much attention would have to be paid to the question of immigration. Up to 1917, the total number of persons admitted to the asylums were 40,681, and of these 16,229 were foreign born. In 1917 1,414 were committed, and 494 of them were foreigners. This was a very heavy percentage when compared with the total foreign population in the country. It was urged by Dr. Cruikshank that the inspection should be done on the other side of the sea, as it was easier to stop poor immigrants there than to send them home after landing in this country. We agree with this. An empty house is better than a bad tenant; and this country is not in such need for people as to allow into it what will prove to be bad tenants of its land and liberties.

Dr. J. A. Hutchinson, Montreal, the president of the association, put in a plea that before persons are granted permission to marry they should furnish certificates of health. He thought that this would make for a better race, and would be practical eugenics. But both sides of such a question must be weighed. In the first place, such a law would increase the number of illegitimate births, and force many couples to live together outside of legal marriage. In the case of syphilis, the person might deny any taint, and refuse the scientific test. Nothing could be done, and, yet, the person infected. The public feeling would be very decidedly against any such law. This is a case where the law-makers must go slowly. It will always be impossible to breed people the way we breed animals. Education is the true remedy.

There was a lengthy discussion on the recent epidemic of influenza but no new facts were brought out. Dr. J. W. S. McCullough was opposed to the closing of schools, theatres, churches, etc., in cities as a means of controlling the disease. With this view we agree. We are quite of the opinion that such measures did not lessen the spread of the disease.