

tion to his back yard, is merely protecting himself, while breeding pestilence for his neighbors.

Many people are negligent and careless and permit pestilence breeding filth to accumulate. As a chain is only as strong as its weakest link, so a community is only as sanitary as its most unsanitary spot.

Health is largely a matter of habit whether of the individual or the community. Daily obedience to a few simple laws is the one great guarantee against epidemics as well as against ordinary diseases.

The most effective work that can be done towards reducing the death rate is to school the public in habits of everyday and universal sanitation. This, of course, requires not only the enactment but the strict enforcement of sanitary measures.

Dr. J. W. S. McCullough, chief health officer of Ontario; Dr. Charles A. Hodgetts, of the Conservation Commission; Allan Hasen, civil engineer, of New York; T. C. Keefer, civil engineer, of Ottawa, and Professor Shutt, of the Ottawa Experimental Farm, have been appointed a committee to examine the water supply and sewerage system of Ottawa and are instructed to "investigate the best sources of water supply and sewerage disposal for the city."

It is generally felt that reflections upon and investigations into water supply will hurt a community commercially. Is a municipality's reputation worth more than the health of its citizens? There is absolutely no reason why any town should not have a pure water supply. The supreme court of the State of Minnesota has recently ruled that a city is responsible for any injury or death resulting from water. If we had such a rule in parts of Canada, perhaps some of the sanitary officials in charge of water supplies would issue a warning when accidental contamination occurs.

Compulsory vaccination throughout the Province of Quebec has been decided upon by the Provincial Board of Health, as a result of sporadic outbreaks of smallpox reported of late. A decree has been promulgated instructing each of the 1,500 municipalities of Quebec to enforce general

vaccination. Many municipalities already have such laws, but now it will be incumbent upon all the rest to pass such laws within five days after the order is received from the Provincial Board of Health. In most of the rural districts such orders are to be promulgated by announcements from the church doors after mass and within 48 hours from such announcement the law goes into effect, and any person who cannot show proof of proper vaccination within seven years, will have to submit to vaccination under the penalty of \$5, with further penalties if they refuse to comply.

In relation to such matters, it has been decided to divide the Province of Quebec into ten districts, each under the supervision of an inspector, specially trained and examined for the post.

Compulsory vaccination will not apparently be enforced in the Toronto, Ontario, schools, although Dr. Struthers, Chief Medical Inspector, seems to favor it. The school management committee have recommended that the parents be asked to let their children be vaccinated and that medical inspectors be permitted to vaccinate those children whose parents or guardians have requested it.

In the report of this committee, the recommendation is also made that in order to protect school children from the danger of contagious disease, new scholars or those promoted to another class, be given a new set of books that shall become the property of the pupil; and that books ordered to be destroyed by the Medical Health Inspector on account of contagious disease shall be replaced by a new set supplied by the Board of Education.

It is also proposed to establish in Toronto a laboratory for the dental treatment of the poor children of the city. The urgent need of such work is shown by the fact that the recent investigation made by the medical inspector in public schools revealed that fully 99 per cent. of the children are in need of dental treatment.

Toronto's health officer, Dr. Charles J. C. O. Hastings, is advocating a number of admirable reforms in sanitary matters. Considering the common drinking cup, he writes: "Inasmuch as human saliva and