

To enforce the laws properly, the Department requires more staff. The staff must also be properly qualified. To secure such a staff means the payment of reasonable salaries.

The Division of Laboratories suffers because the position of bacteriologist and superintendent, now vacant for several years, has not been filled, although a nomination has been repeatedly made by the Director of the Department. This lack of laboratory facilities interferes with the work of the whole Department and is a direct menace to the whole population.

The Division of Sanitation requires more staff to deal with the housing situation. This division is making a most thorough and satisfactory survey of housing conditions. It is also charged with the supervision of the sanitation of factories and work places.

The provincial by-laws covering Housing are not entirely satisfactory. They are a great advance on the previous by-laws, but still do not ensure healthy homes. The Housing Committee of the Health League has studied this situation, and its members have advocated a change in the provincial housing by-laws (which are enforced by the Sanitation Division of the local Department).

The Division of Child Hygiene has not a sufficient staff to carry on that piece of essential health work called school medical inspection.

To sum this up, we might say that we have a Health Department, capable of ensuring to Montreal citizens safe food (particularly milk) and water, proper housing, protection from the communicable diseases, an adequate laboratory service, an efficient school medical inspection, under certain conditions, which are:-

1. Adequate staff of trained workers reasonably remunerated;
2. Proper Housing By-Law.

It would appear that this can be accomplished if the provincial authorities amend their present housing by-laws, and if the municipal authorities make the staff appointments and pay the salaries recommended by the Director of the Department. This will, of course, mean an increase over the 41 cents per capita that is now being spent on health work by the city, which is a sum totally inadequate to carry on properly the responsibilities which are those of the Department of Health.

The term "expenditure" is hardly correct, for money devoted to health work is an investment, and the actual money spent is saved many times in what otherwise would have to be spent later on curative work.

PERSONAL HYGIENE

"The fundamental fact which lies at the foundation of Preventive Medicine is the healthy individual". We have what is generally conceded to be a practical, sane control of the sale of alcohol and, therefore, alcoholism as an evil should be on the downward trend. We have a well-directive and fairly effective campaign against the venereal diseases. So these two racial poisons are being fairly dealt with. That is as far as we have gone in eugenics. If children are to be well-born, if motherhood is not to result in deaths and invalidism, proper ante-natal, natal and post-natal care must be available for all mothers.

VOLUNTARY HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS

We have organizations in this city which have for their object the provision of such care but, owing to lack of funds and the ignorance and apathy of the mothers, only a percentage benefit from the service.

The same statement may be made as regards infants and pre-school children. The need is there, the health organizations to meet the need are in existence.