

# Dominion Medical Monthly

And Ontario Medical Journal

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## COMMENT FROM MONTH TO MONTH

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The Growth of the Public Health Movement is most astonishing. In two decades more has been done in investigating the cause of disease and in preventing and fighting disease than, it is not too much to say, has been done in the world's history. Royalty, governments, municipalities, special societies, universities, religious institutions, are everywhere vying with one another with tremendous force and tireless energy to lay the all-conquering enemy of mankind. It is a conflict waged by mankind on the one hand against its most formidable adversary, disease.

It has taken long years and patient but persistent effort to bring home to the intelligence of the people that much human suffering and much sacrifice of human life was preventable. In this illumination, the medical profession has done the pioneer work, as they have considered that the prevention of disease is as much part of their practice as the treatment of patients suffering from disease.

More and more each year practitioners wholly forsake the latter half of their duty to become altogether employed in the former, and so become servants of the people. This points steadily in the direction of state medicine.

One hears much about the awakening of the oriental peoples; but western civilization, in health matters, appears to be consistently progressing, or is it retrogressing, to the position of the Chinese where the doctor is paid to keep his patients well.

What will two more decades do?