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PREVENTIVE MEDICINE.

The object of the science of preventive medicine is not the treatment of disease when it occurs, but the prevention of the occurrence of disease when threatened. In this country, Canada, much has to be done to give us the means of ascertaining facts with regard to the prevalence of diseases. Before these facts are attainable we must introduce or inaugurate a system of observation. This system of observation is comprised in a definite system of registration. The Government calls upon the people of this country to contribute large sums to keep up its various establishments. This money is cheerfully accorded, because the machinery of the Governmental system is felt to be a necessity.

In the various cities throughout this country sanitation is attracting attention, the people themselves feel that something ought to be done to insure at least public confidence, but what that something should be is indefinitely understood. Improved Governmental organization, or the inauguration of a definite system of observation would render valuable the efforts of the authorities of cities and towns so that they might be of advantage to local improvements in various necessary directions. It is not by a few spasmodic efforts on the part of certain communities that general benefit is to be expected.

If we take as a warning the experience of Great Britain we will find that sanitary legislation became cumbrous and entangled. Sanitary legislation appears to have taken its