

the promotion of the national health. When, as told at the meeting of the Medical Health-Officers, as a type of general provincial conditions, systematic sanitation has in the short space of fourteen years reduced the death rate in the city of Toronto nearly seven-fold—from forty per 100,000 to seven, credit cannot be withheld from medical science applied to solving the problem of disease prevention, promotion of public health and human happiness.

We make the doctors the butt of dull wits, but as a class the doctors of Canada, as well as other countries, are the cream of professional philanthropy and human benefaction. Their intimate association with humanity in its direct needs, begets a wide catholicity of sympathy, and we find among the physicians of any town or city, doctors leading in all good works, for the welfare of its citizens. The part doctors have taken in the sublime work of caring for the suffering caused by war makes them heroes in their class. We may poke weak fun at the doctors, but they stand between us and the grim monster many a time, and only the fact that humanity is not immortal, prevents a larger demonstration of the value of their services. We have about 500 doctors in convention here now, and it is probable that in no gathering of similar numbers could be found greater collective intellectual force, applied with more trained skill, in the interests of humanity and the well-being of the community, than is to be found among the half thousand physicians now in consultation over the case of the patient, Ontario.—*Peterborough Examiner*.

SANITARY WORK IN SERBIA

THE account of British relief work in Serbia issued by the Press Bureau last week, forms one of the most stirring chapters in the history of sanitary science and effort. If the state of things prevailing in Serbia in February had continued not many months could have elapsed before the whole nation would have been wiped out. When Colonel Hunter and Lieutenant-Colonel Stammer arrived at Nisch in March, apart from wounded men, there were 37,000 sick in the army, including 15,000 cases of fever, of whom more than 8,000 were suffering from typhus. There were also nearly 8,000 cases of relapsing fever, and about 1,500 of enteric. Nor was the state of the civilian population much better. Hundreds of men, women and children were to be seen by the wayside suffering untold agonies, and typhus fever making rapid inroads into the hamlets and villages as well as the larger towns. Nisch