

"Whatever course the Canadian Committee adopts it is earnestly hoped that a considerable proportion of the collected funds will be reserved for the important purpose of reinstating the Belgian doctors and pharmacists at the termination of the war, or when Belgium can be re-occupied by its own population. When that time comes it will be well for the Canadian Committee, that of the United States, and other committees to consult and co-operate with one another in order to avoid the waste that may result from overlapping, if each body were to work independently of the others."

A STRIKING COMPARISON

In his annual report to the President of the Local Government Board, Dr. Arthur Newsholme gives some remarkable figures showing how the health of the nation has improved within the past twenty-five years. In the period preceding 1890 the Public Health Act of 1875 was gradually making itself felt on the administrative work of the country; but the changes it brought about were so numerous that its real effect could not be demonstrated with any degree of certainty. Since 1890, however, we have had more trustworthy data, and taking the returns of 1913 and making a comparison with those of the decennial period 1891-1900, the result is indeed remarkable. Thus, in 1913 the rate of infantile mortality had declined 29 per cent., the death-rate from measles 32 per cent., from scarlet fever 64 per cent., from whooping cough 62 per cent., from diphtheria and croup 55 per cent., from enteric fever 77 per cent., from all forms of tuberculosis 33 per cent., and from pulmonary tuberculosis 28 per cent., from puerperal diseases 27 per cent., from pneumonia 17 per cent., and from bronchitis 41 per cent. It is worth while to pause and read over again these figures and then endeavor to understand their real meaning. First, we have many thousands of lives preserved to the nation—a most important fact at the present grave crisis in our history. Immense suffering has been prevented, and the nation is healthier to-day because of the great reduction in deaths from the diseases enumerated. With a lessened record of zymotic disease the new race of children and young people must be stronger. That is the result of the improvement. But the record means something more. The policy of insisting on preventive measures as being the most vital and important could not be more strikingly vindicated. A clean town with well-swept streets and thoroughly good drainage; with watchful care exercised by the Medical Officer of