

tion. The etiology of typhoid fever may be said to be pretty thoroughly understood: but, even in the face of violent outbreaks of that disease in some of our Canadian cities, what want of intelligence, and what unwillingness to be governed by competent medical opinion! What incapacity to realize the extent of injury done to the community, the cruel, unnecessary loss of life, with all the suffering attendant thereon! A town near Montreal was recently thus affected to a most alarming extent, diarrhoea was almost universal, typhoid fever was very prevalent and deaths were numerous. The visitation became notorious, and was much commented upon in the press. The facts were amply sufficient to show two things: 1st, That the water supply was contaminated with sewage. 2nd, The manner in which the contamination was effected. Local health board there was none, and the disease for months continued its ravages to such an extent that the locality was shunned by every intelligent traveller, while the poor inhabitants suffered and died. It is a reflection upon the intelligence of the age that such a thing could be, and it is a reflection upon some of our sanitary organizations that no sufficient pressure was exerted to remedy the evil as soon as its cause was fairly determined. It is the duty of every member of this noble profession to render all the assistance in his power towards the furtherance of good and effective legislation bearing upon local and general sanitation, and to aid in the dissemination of sound literature upon hygienic subjects. Many examples similar to the above might be quoted to show that we are yet very far from the position in which we should be, in accordance with the advanced teachings of the present day.

One subject which, it will be observed, from the very foundation of the Association, commanded its attention, and upon which much time and labor has been bestowed by individual members at different times, is that of a Dominion Registration Act. It would be futile at the present day to offer arguments to show the importance of accurate and reliable vital statistics. A good deal has been accomplished in this direction, here and there by local efforts, and in some instances by provincial action, but we are very far indeed from the attainment of that comprehensive