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EDITORIAL

PUBLIC HEALTH.

In years gone by the efforts made for the public welfare was almost invariably an individual affair. This was slow, and often disappointing, though too much praise cannot be awarded to those early pioneers in sanitary science and preventive medicine; but they were frequently sort of John the Baptists, like unto persons crying in the wilderness. Now, however, we are passing through the age of conventions, conferences, congresses, etc. When some reform is sought, or some needed improvement desired, usually it is taken up by some influential body, and pushed forward. This method has accomplished much.

One of the influential organizations in this country is the Canadian Public Health Association. This association is not old when measured by years, but is most honorable when estimated by deeds. The meeting which was held in the latter part of May did very fine work, and laid down much solid ground for future building.

Lieut.-Col. J. W. S. McCullough, Chief Officer of Health for Ontario, mentioned that the epidemic of influenza had caused about 10,000 deaths in Ontario. He also said that sanitary science had wrought wonders by preventing disease in the army. In the recent war the deaths caused by disease and bullets had been reversed as compared with former wars. In this work the Canadian Army Medical Corps was entitled to much credit. He directed attention to the need for a stern fight against venereal diseases, and also spoke of what had already been done by legislation in this regard. Much good was bound to come from the establishment of public health laboratories in a number of places.

Dr. Steele, M.P., of Tavistock, went fully into the question of what the Federal Department of Health could accomplish. It is well known that Dr. Steele has always taken much interest in the creating of a de-