

1000 of our population, or $\frac{1}{10}$ of deaths from all causes in a mortality of 20 per 1000.

To show the relative prevalence of the disease in Ontario cities, the following table may be found of interest :—

DIPHTHERIA IN 1896.

CITIES.	Height above sea level in ft.	Popu- lation.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 of population
Ottawa	210	32,857	42	1.25
Kingston.....	307	15,109	7	.46
Belleville....	270	10,171	2	.19
Toronto	300	111,800	181	1.61
Hamilton....	740	39,985	71	1.80
St.Catharin's	583	9,882	1	.10
Brantford ..	512	12,167	4	.33
London.....	816	26,254	26	.98
St.Thomas...	592	11,157	3	.26
Stratford ..	1,185	9,000	No returns	
Guelph	1,100	10,134	5	.49

SOCIAL PROBLEMS.

BY DANIEL CLARK, M.D., MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE, TORONTO; READ AT LINDSAY, ONT., BEFORE THE ASSOCIATION OF EXECUTIVE HEALTH OFFICERS OF ONTARIO, ON AUGUST 16TH, 1898.

THE several subjects touched upon in this brief paper do not properly come under the heading of physical health; yet they are very intimately connected with it, and may be looked upon as corollaries to the problems which engage the attention of this Association. Any subject which takes cognizance of the mental and moral well being of the masses in relation to law and order, is worthy of your consideration. Health is a generic term and includes the whole man in all his relations, personal, social, and municipal.

Imprudence. Chronic pauperism is almost incurable. The great tramp and vagabond army are irreclaimable by moral suasion. They live on the rural population in summer, and seek our gaols and poor-houses to obtain food and shelter without work during the cold winter months. They raid farm-houses and small villages singly, and intimidate females, who are usually alone in the daytime. They know quite well that food, and even clothing, can be extorted almost at will under these circumstances. Although two are seldom seen to-

gether, this army has a common band of union and is not only a menace but a drain upon the resources of industry. Such social banditti think that because they exist they have a claim for sustenance on a community without contributing one iota to its comfort, skill, and wealth. They seem to forget the economic law, that every particle of food we eat and every thread of clothing we wear, must be earned by somebody for their benefit. These unproductive classes are dangerous and are becoming chronic. The habit becomes so fixed of roaming about and leading a life of incident and adventure, that honest toil has no charms to the itinerant idler. This class is largely on the increase, and some measure must be taken by society to protect itself against these drones in the hive. The recruiting into this army must be stopped. The remedy may be, 1st, by anticipation in educating the rising generation, not only in morals, but in habits of industry, until work becomes not only a duty, but a pleasure, as it is to the most of us; 2nd, by compulsory imposition of labor upon the chronic and healthy vagabond. It would be a righteous and practicable check to laziness and imprudence.

He who is able to work and will not should starve. This is Scripture, and, as might be expected, it is common sense. An arrest of all vagrants who beg, to be followed by deprivation of food and clothing, would appeal even to the lowest and grossest natures. The "sponging" upon the industrious portions of humanity would virtually cease and *per force* habits of industry might be acquired. The English work-house is needed with plenty of land for summer work and easily-learned industries for winter employment. Such should have "no discharge in this way" against voluntary idleness, vice, poverty, and ignorance. This reformatory should not be for criminals, indigent invalids, or mental incompetents, but solely for the tramp who claims to beg only because he cannot find work. The law should say, "The country will find you work and will pay you for it in food and clothing, but your earning of them must be compulsory."

Some scheme of this kind must be adopted to protect society against the shiftless pauper or "neer-do-weell." These are eventually the petty thieves, and incendiaries as juveniles, and afterwards they graduate into the dangerous and criminal