

more they preferred the risk of the drawbacks of quarantine to the certainty of having to pay for improved water supply, drainage and removal of town refuse. In this country we learnt by bitter experience that just as these improvements were needed, so did cholera prevail in our midst; and at last it was decided that quarantine, sanitary cordons, and the like should no longer be imposed; and that, if the people wished to cope with cholera, they must do so by means of a proper sanitary administration." Of the results achieved in this direction... see the testimony borne in a recent work by M. Monod, Director of the Department of Public Hygiene of France. M. Monod shows how vast has been the saving of life in England, not alone from cholera, but also from a large number of other preventable diseases, in consequence of the action there taken and maintained. He urges "before everything else that his compatriots should follow England's example." In one sense some progress in the direction here advocated has been made throughout the greater portion of Western Europe. None of the nations now like the imposition of quarantine in their own countries.

We have elected to work in the "direction of removing from our midst the conditions under which alone cholera can diffuse itself," the journal continues. It is admitted that "with the exception of Naples, the Mediterranean ports of quarantining countries from east to west remain as neglected and as prepared to receive cholera as ever."... "It is a question whether the cart is to be put before the horse or the reverse. We have elected to put the horse in the shafts, and have given priority to the only trustworthy measure of prevention against cholera." The experience of Australia in relation to small-pox was referred to at the recent Congress, and it was urged that rules which might well apply to England did not, in the same way, apply to the Australasian colony. "But in the sense just indicated there is no material difference between the two countries. Australian reports often deplore the lax views entertained by the population of that continent as regards vaccination. But so long as the inhabitants are taught that, on the

suspicion of small-pox whole shiploads of people, healthy or not, will, irrespective of the consequences to them, be detained in quarantine with a view of protecting the colonists," why should these latter subject themselves to the inconvenience of adopting other measures? "Sanitary administration in relation to cholera stands in precisely the same position as vaccination does towards small-pox, and quarantine measures applied to one or the other disease constitute a distinct hindrance to the adoption of the only true measures of prevention.

In Canada, the Federal Government prides itself, and naturally and properly, on the completeness and efficiency of the Canadian quarantine system. But the Government does nothing more in the way of protecting human life, and we fear the people rely too much on the quarantines, through which, notwithstanding their well-known efficiency, infections have occasionally passed and ever will pass. We would here ask: Is this a satisfactory, wise or profitable position for the Government to continue?—To simply, use and control measures—measures, in principle in themselves questionable, often terribly inconvenient and liable to failure in the most critical time—for preventing the entrance of infectious germs into the Dominion, and when the quarantine vigilance fails of complete success, and the infectious gain access into one or more of the provinces, to leave the provinces to look after themselves, whether they will do so properly or not?

This is an important national question, and must soon be taken into serious consideration by the Federal Government. We contend that its consideration should not be delayed and that much broader preventive measures should soon be provided for, if Canada is to take a respectable position among the nations. Besides provision for obtaining, internationally, information relative to the sanitary condition of vessels leaving foreign ports, and for better ship sanitation generally, something should be done to promote more active and uniform provincial or inter-provincial sanitation, and for the exercise of more federal or central influence, if not powers, for the better protection and preservation of human life in Canada.