

from the parents, relatives or friends, who should fill up the part of certificate relating to sex, age, nativity, habits, &c., and then duly signing it hand it to the physician to add his information, and ultimately pass it on to the registrar for a permit to bury. By accurately filling out this form in all its details, and combining the results with those obtained by a system of registration of the state of health which I wish to advocate, it would be a comparatively easy task to obtain what is now quite impossible, viz., the proportion which may be found to exist at any given time between the sickness and the death rate.

Time would not permit my going over this vast field of research fully, therefore I shall merely glance at a few points, and draw your attention to the advisability of carefully collecting health records, and comparing them with meteorological notes for a corresponding period, so as to endeavor to prove what is daily observed, viz., the great effect the weather in its changes has upon health.

The attention of the profession in Toronto has lately been called to this subject by Mr. Monk, of the Meteorological service, by a paper entitled "The Influence of Weather on Health," which he read at one of the late meetings of the Medical Society there. He urged the desirability of obtaining data regarding the prevalence of disease, and strongly advocated the necessity of physicians keeping a weekly record of all cases coming under their notice, so that it might be compared with the weather returns.

In the paper referred to, and also by diagrams Mr. Monk had prepared, attention was drawn to the remarkable relation existing between the changes of the weather and the changes of the death rate, and although all present will acknowledge the influence of the weather on health, they will equally concede their want of information concerning their exact connection.

On the conclusion of the paper, a scheme for the registration of health returns was proposed and cordially endorsed by the Society, and the willingness shown by members of the profession to carry it out is a proof that the subject is thought by them to be well worthy of investigation.

It has been borne in mind that, in order to make the system as successful as possible, its requirements must demand but little time and

thought from active practitioners, for if the law enforces a strict regulation necessitating such returns (especially without remuneration), unless a true interest be displayed, we fear a good result might never be obtained.

In the case of complete and satisfactory returns there would be no difficulty in publishing a topographical disease chart, which would be of great utility and interest.

Observations for a few years would prove of great service in enabling us to class diseases according as they are influenced by the weather. For example, if the courses of certain diseases during the year are represented by diagrams, we shall find that different kinds of diseases prevail much more extensively under certain atmospheric conditions, or during particular portions of the year. At a casual glance it may seem impossible ever to be able to counteract the influence of the weather, but with a knowledge of coming events, such as the published probabilities afford us, we shall possess many great advantages.

As the changes of weather progress from westward to eastward, so also it may be found that epidemics which are at all influenced by the weather may travel in the same way, and if the proposed system of health registration becomes as universally adopted as is the recording of the weather, we may be able to construct charts which will shew us at a glance the prevailing diseases at all points. Shall we not then be better prepared to guard against such diseases (especially those which become epidemic), and will not additional light thus be thrown on many questions? Upon this very subject Professor Kedzie, President of the Michigan State Board of Health, remarked as follows: "What relation do these reports of the medical and meteorological observers bear to each other? Is there any causal element in the meteorological conditions which produces effects in the sanitary conditions? We shall undoubtedly find that the curves of temperature have a marked control over certain diseases, that a sharp rise of temperature increases diseases of the digestive system, while a rapid fall of the temperature increases diseases of the respiratory system. Statistics from many lands would lead us to expect this in ours, but let us not be content with this meagre result, let us push on to see if other causal relations may not be discovered. What