

of the fact that this enemy to life, if, though often defeated, only awaits a favorable opportunity to spread its devastations with the same violence as of old. In Ontario the fact that cases occurred first in its metropolitan city, at once gave prominence to the fact of its existence amongst us. Health authorities have thus been forewarned and have in many instances taken measures to be forearmed. The cases which occurred in Toronto, as also those in various other municipalities, have in most instances occurred from sources which as yet are unknown, and we are afraid will so continue. It is probable that some one or more persons who had been recent subjects of the disease and who wore clothing which had become infected were abroad amongst the crowds who visited Toronto during the time of the Industrial Exhibition. That none such have been located seems all the more remarkable, as the infection borne on their persons has been intense. Some seven distinct outbreaks in portions of the city of Toronto occurred, not more than one or two of which seem to have been traced to infection in any one place. Similarly the Lambton Mills case, the Stouffville case, the Gwillimbury cases, and last of all the Sarnia cases, have arisen in a manner which cannot be accounted for. The Sarnia first case is peculiar. The patient, a man, had been in Toronto and stayed in a house on Argyle Street, in which, he stated, the family had had chicken-pox. Enquiry by the Toronto authorities did not prove the correctness of this statement. Assuming this case to be varicella, it does not appear that precautions of a thorough character were taken to prevent exposure to it. The result has been two more cases traced to this first case which proved to be small-pox. Promptness had characterized the action of all the Local Boards which have had to deal with the various outbreaks, the moment that their nature had been made plain. Similar activity has been shown in Buffalo, but in several other localities in New York State the same thoroughness has not existed, and danger from such localities may with some reason be apprehended. The outbreak in Granby Township, Province of Quebec, illustrates this point. A girl died in Springfield, Massachusetts, and her trunk with clothing was sent home to Granby without disinfection. It seems almost incredible in this present day that such carelessness can exist. We do not wish to appear unnecessarily severe upon neighboring health authorities, but

we can fairly say that these Canadian Provinces can ill afford to speak calmly with regard to such cases, when we recollect the threats of quarantine and the actual measures taken during the unfortunate epidemic of 1885. Small-pox exists to-day in Massachusetts, in New York State, in Philadelphia, and in Illinois, and with our constant travel and commercial intercourse, we have no alternative but to protect ourselves by internal measures against the possible introduction of cases from these places. Our Local Boards are in most cases well organized, their being nearly 400 Medical Health Officers in our 600 municipalities. But this is not enough. We must continue the work of general vaccination. While many municipalities are at work, especially amongst school children and infants, a very large proportion are not taking advantage of the full powers which are placed in their hands for this internal protection. Most are inclined to wait till cases have occurred. This is not well, for it is just this which gives infection a possible foothold. Our people and physicians are almost to a unit in favor of vaccination, and readily accede to the requirements of the law in spite of the attempts by one or two so-called medical men who wish to gain notoriety and possible attention, whose insignificance as professional men would otherwise maintain them in their native obscurity. It were a waste of energy to discuss the settled facts with regard to the complete protective efforts of thorough vaccination, but we may conclude these remarks with the statement of Mr. Harold C. Browne, writing from Morocco, on August 7th. He says: "A well-informed Moorish official has told us that the deaths have been so numerous as 200 a day. I can well believe it; for in riding about I hear echoing from house to house the plaintive wail that is set by the women when there is one dead within. . . . Could a deputation of anti-vaccinationists be sent out here and see the hideously bloated, scarred, and speckled faces which are to be met with every few paces in the streets and markets, they would, I think, believe and tremble. Strong in our re-vaccination, Thomson and I move about saddened by the misery around us, but without any apprehension for our own safety."