

diseases: "No one who lives among the sick can doubt that a large proportion of the sickness and loss of work might have been prevented or can doubt that in every succeeding generation a larger proportion still may be avoided if only all will strive that it may be so. Smallpox might be rendered nearly harmless by vaccination; typhus, typhoid, scarlet fevers, and measles might be confined within very narrow limits; so probably might whooping cough and diphtheria. The greater part of accidents are due to carelessness. Diseases due to bad food, mere filth, or intemperance, so far as self-induced, might by virtue and self-control be excluded, and with these, scrofula, rickets, scurvy, and all the widespread defects attributed to them could be greatly diminished." When I give you some of the diseases you will see how peculiarly apposite his words are. I only took the diseases showing the most marked contrasts or differences, and you will see how, without any intention on my part, they fall under the head of what Sir James Paget and everyone call "preventible." They make the case very strong against Quebec. I read Sir James Paget's lecture after I made out the annexed table. Bear in mind this only takes notice of deaths. Think of all the sickness they represent, the loss of work caused and the enormous waste, the results of these diseases:—

Disease.	Ontario.	Quebec.	Total.
Smallpox.....	46	714	760
Diphtheria.....	1,271	1,599	2,870
Teething	108	2,359	2,467
Diarrhoea.....	294	585	879
Cholera infantum.....	181	344	525
Dis. of throat.....	56	406	462
Dis. of brain	696	1,049	1,749
Scarlet fever.....	561	961	1,537
Fevers—Typhoid	594	1,081	1,612
Croup	556	574	1,130
Measles	375	341	716
Consumption	2,398	2,282	4,680
	7,136	12,295	

Apart from any humane or Christian principles, look at the enormous loss to the state, to a country such as this. Sir James Paget values each child at \$40, and is ashamed to use so low an argument as expediency in favor of the saving of life and health; he only does so because sufficient motives are not found in charity, sympathy, and the happiness of using useful knowledge. It comes with

peculiar good grace from this body to sound the trumpet note of alarm. Ontario may, no doubt is, only less guilty. Some extraordinary causes of mortality among children must be in force; think of the great loss of 714 deaths from small-pox. It is a positive disgrace. If the people will not be educated to use proper means, the law should command and enforce its command. This is an age of commissions when every contravention of political honesty is sifted. Let a commission investigate this, it demands it more than anything else, wipe out the disgrace, confer health on many, and thus bring wealth to the country. We must remember, too, how much we injure ourselves, by keeping foci of highly contagious diseases constantly on hand, ever ready to enlarge their baneful effects on the approach of exciting causes and repel the tourist and settler from our shores.

THE NECESSITY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

It reminds me also how necessary it is to have vital statistics constantly collected, how important they are for the comfort, welfare, and advance of a people, will readily appear from what I have said. It is time that Canada had a bureau, and I hope you may be called to pronounce on it. The number of physicians is put down at 3,507 for the Dominion, Quebec has 1,065, Ontario 1,718; proportions for Quebec, 1 physician to 1,276 persons, Ontario 1 to 1,119. We have over 900 students, distributed among 8 medical schools, 4 in Montreal, 2 in Toronto, 1 each in London and Kingston, ample to meet all our requirements. Compared with our neighbors we are far behind in production. They have by last returns, 1882-83, 119 medical colleges, graduating 4,000 doctors yearly, and having 12,000 students, so that, marvelous as is their growth, great as are its prospects, resources and wealth, the medical production keeps pace with it. No part of the habitable globe is better supplied; the average is 1 to 524 all round. Indiana, with the same population as Ontario, has 4,993, or 3,275 more doctors, 42 schools in the North Western fifteen states sent out in three years 5,364 graduates, and have 3,549 students preparing. The large cities show from 1 to 260 in Denver to 1 to 548 in Chicago. They have 90,000 doctors in regular practice, and only 8,300 are above 60 years of age.

CONDITION OF THE PROFESSION.

An important duty of mine, gentlemen, is a glance at the condition of the profession in Canada and it naturally comes under two heads: 1st. Is it