

books that would permit almost any sort of uneducated persons to humbug the people with their brutally untrue statements about nerves being out of place and their ability to put these back into place again. It is the sacred duty of our legislators to avert this. Every one who wishes to treat disease ought to be compelled to take a full medical course. He may thereafter call himself an osteopath or a chiropractor, sobeit that he does not issue untrue statements to the public. When any one states that all our trouble is due to some trouble with the spine then he either wilfully or ignorantly utters a gross falsehood. This privilege should not be granted him. The Greeks said "A liar is hateful alike to gods and men."

#### A NATIONAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

We have often called the attention of the medical profession and the public to the advantages of a national health bureau. We do so again, and hope that the time is not far distant when this shall come into existence. We ever stood firmly in support of a National Medical Council and now we have one. This shows that the public are looking forward in the line of true progress.

We hope the time is almost at hand when Canada can boast of a Health Department. It is to be hoped that the Roddick of this great reform shall soon appear on the scene. To us it appears that the arguments are all one way, and that way is the affirmative.

In the first place there would be a definite plan running through the work of the health of the country. It is not feasible that the best results can come from a system where the Department of Agriculture and that of Indian Affairs and the Interior and Inland Revenue are all dabbling in health matters and spending money on it. This plan lacks definite purpose and unity of method. No great business would be conducted on such a basis.

Then, in the matter of economy, it would be much better to have one department. Duplication of effort would be avoided, and the direction of attention to those aspects of national health work most in need of consideration would be much more likely. For the same outlay of money more and better results would be secured. There should be one directing head, as in any great industrial or financial concern.

But lastly, and by far the most weighty argument, is that the health of the people is by far the greatest asset of a country. Taking the estimate of the Committee of One Hundred that each life on an average is worth \$1,735, the total value of the lives fo the Canadian people would be \$13,012,500,000. This is the larger asset by a good deal than comes