

Returns and records of these statistics and reports or statements of prevailing disease would form a most valuable record, year after year, for the Federal—the Canadian—Government to possess; but to be of practical value the information obtained from month to month, or oftener, especially of prevailing diseases, must be scattered freely amongst the people, at least monthly, as by means of a bulletin. These reports not only show where unsanitary conditions need attention, but they give rise to the desired spirit of emulation among the different municipalities. Every community then would have a strong tendency to endeavor to prevent, as far as possible, any outbreak of disease each in its own respective locality, and to preserve a "clean bill of health," as ships at sea usually desire to do, for their own credit.

Now it must be obvious to anybody, even if he be not versed in political economy, that it would be much more economical, on the whole, for but one centre in Canada, the Federal Government, to carry on this work of collecting statistics and reports, recording them, and issuing a bulletin of their condensed facts, etc., than for each province to do so on its own account, while the results in the former case would be incalculably better. If done by the one central government, all the information obtained would be in one central Canadian record, and, more important still, the information conveyed by the returns would then be distributed throughout all the provinces; done by each province, each would only collect and distribute within its own boundaries, except perhaps to a few outside officials, and the people of each would therefore only receive and obtain the information gathered within and relating to their own province; whereas it is almost as essential for the eastern or western provinces, for example, to learn in what special localities any epidemic or prevalency of disease exists in Ontario or Quebec as in their own provinces, while the same principle holds good with regard to Ontario and Quebec, in relation to the east and west. In short, if done by the one centre, all the provinces would get the good of all the information obtained; if done by each separate province, each would only get that relating to itself—a vast and most vital difference.

There appears to be a good deal of misappre-

hension amongst members of the profession relative to this question of federal and provincial public health legislation and action, arising apparently from want of time amongst the busy practitioners to consider thoroughly the whole question in all its bearings. Coercive legislation, enactments, by-laws, etc., and the carrying out of the same, must remain, as now, under provincial and municipal control. But any one who will give the subject due thought and consideration will surely see that the collection of the proposed statistics and reports and utilization of these for the public instruction and benefit, as above indicated, can be much more thoroughly, economically, and profitably done by one centre than by many, with vastly better results in every way. In agriculture, the one Central Experiment Farm can be utilized for the education of the farmers of the whole Dominion much better than for each province to sustain such a farm and attempt the instruction separately. Somewhat similar it is in relation to the analysis of food, etc., in the Dominion, and to the quarantines and diseases of animals. Moreover, it may be well to note here that, if we desire to make Canada as soon as we can the great country she is surely destined to become, while defending in a large measure provincial rights and privileges, we must, as far as possible, encourage a spirit of Canadianism, a unity and oneness, in all possible questions and subjects, and not manifest too much "provincialism."

As already in several of the provinces there is in a large measure provision for obtaining a record of births, marriages, and deaths, it has been well suggested that, at least for some time to come, each province may as well, in its own way, collect such statistics and then allow them on some terms to be utilized by the central department and dealt with for the public benefit in all the provinces; those provinces which have not now a system for this purpose being induced in some way to provide such.

It appears that it is now proposed to endeavor to obtain for the statistical department in Ottawa the information above indicated, from physicians in all parts of the Dominion, relating to the prevailing condition of the public health—*i.e.*, reports of any epidemic or cases of the most important diseases, by providing