

THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

ON

PUBLIC HEALTH AND INSPECTION OF FOOD

The Honourable Mr. DeVeber, Chairman; the Honourable Messieurs Belcourt, P.C., David, Douglas, Fiset, McKay (*Cape Breton*), McMillan, Murphy, Wilson. at all?

ANTI-TOXIN TREATMENT OF TYPHOID FEVER.

SENATE COMMITTEE ROOM NO. 43,
OTTAWA, WEDNESDAY, April 29, 1914.

The Committee on Public Health and Inspection of Foods met at 10.30 A.M., with Senator DeVeber as Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN.—Gentlemen, for the last two years the Canadian Pacific Railway have been supplying the surgeons of which I am one, with vaccine to vaccinate the men, and our results were so marvellous, added to which the reports of the United States Army and Navy and also some English reports were so marvellous, that I came to the conclusion that the general public of Canada should be made acquainted with the facts, so that if, as in Ottawa, the City Fathers will not protect the citizens, the latter could learn that they had the means of protecting themselves. To that end I looked about for the best man to open a discussion of this kind for us, and on going to Montreal I found that Professor Starkey had fifteen years ago been in British India for the British Government inquiring into this matter and experimenting, and that he was only too willing to come up and give us a little address on the matter. After he has finished I have a few statistics to give that will show you the benefit to be derived from this treatment. Without any further preface I will call on Prof. Starkey.

Prof. Starkey, M.D., D.P.H. (Lond) &c., Prof. Hygiene McGill University, Fellow Royal Sanitary Institute, &c., &c., said:—

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen.—This question of prophylaxis for typhoid is a very important one, as Senator DeVeber has remarked, and I propose to run over a few of the chief points connected with it. The results obtained up to the present day are extremely encouraging and satisfactory. Senator DeVeber has collected all the statistical literature on the subject, and therefore it would be out of place for me to go over those facts, which are available for all of you; but I may remark that within the last five years the treatment has been taken in hand in better shape, and the results obtained have been more and more satisfactory as time goes on. I do not think there is the least question about the success of the treatment. In the face of those results it is curious to note why it has not become more popular; and I propose to go into one or two arguments that have been employed for and against its use.

The chief arguments against its use are as follows:—It is claimed that such treatment, prophylaxis is against typhoid, ought not to be necessary; that is, typhoid being a disease which is easily preventible by good sanitation, &c., that it ought not to be necessary to subject the people in general to its use. Well, that is all right as far as it goes, but it takes for granted that the sanitation, particularly good water supplies and proper sewage disposals, are in vogue, whereas we all know that there