

that they have had no time to consider the *prevention* of death. Fire insurance companies have given attention to the prevention of fire: with excellent results. Why shouldn't life companies along educational lines do all they can to prevent the ravages of preventable diseases?

In this number we give space to matters relating to the prolongation of human life. We hope by this means to create an interest among our readers that may have a beneficial effect.

The Sun Life of Canada hopes to further interest its policyholders in this matter, and seeks their earnest co-operation in its endeavour to prevent as far as possible the spread of disease.

The Gospel of Prevention.

(From a leaflet issued by the Committee of One Hundred on National Health.)

For a nation to permit great wastes to go unchecked is more than a suicidal policy; for an evil more destructive than race suicide is *race homicide*. There are four great wastes to-day, the more lamentable, because they are unnecessary. They are *preventible death*, *preventable sickness*, *preventable conditions of low physical and mental efficiency* and *preventable ignorance*. The magnitude of these wastes is testified to by experts competent to judge. They fall like the shades of night over the whole human race, blotting out its fairest years of happiness.

The facts are cold and bare—1,500,000 persons must die in the United States during the next twelve months; equivalent to 4,200,000 persons who will be constantly sick; over 5,000,000 homes, consisting of 25,000,000 persons, will be made more or less wretched by mortality and morbidity.

We look with horror on the black plague of the middle ages. The black waste was but a passing cloud compared

with the white waste visitation. Of the people living to-day over eight millions will die of tuberculosis, and the federal government does not raise a hand to help them.

The Department of Agriculture Protects Animals.

The Department of Agriculture spends seven million dollars on plant health and animal health ever year, but with the exception of the splendid work done by Doctors Wiley, Atwater and Benedict, Congress does not directly appropriate one cent for promoting the physical well-being of babies. Thousands have been expended in stamping out cholera among swine, but not one dollar was ever voted for eradicating pneumonia among human beings. Hundreds of thousands are consumed in saving the lives of elm trees from the attacks of beetles; in warning farmers against blights affecting potato plants; in importing Sicilian bugs to fertilize fig blossoms in California; in ostracizing various species of weeds from the ranks of useful plants, and in exterminating parasitic growths that prey on fruit trees. In fact, the Department of Agriculture has expended during the last ten years over forty-six millions of dollars. But not a wheel of the official machinery at Washington was ever set in motion for the alleviation or cure of diseases of the heart or kidneys, which will carry off over six millions of our entire population. Eight millions will perish of pneumonia, and the entire event is accepted by the American people with resignation.

Infant Mortality Preventable.

During the next census period more than six million infants under two years of age will end their little spans of life while mothers sit by and watch in utter helplessness. And yet this number could be probably decreased by as much as one-half. But nothing is done.