

the cleaning away of privies that poison wells; of festering kitchen refuse thrown into lanes; of dung upon the streets, and various animal excreta. But still these diseases flourish, and it is sometimes impossible to tell how they arise.

In the June issue of a Canadian medical monthly, a Toronto physician, Dr. John L. Davison, calls attention editorially to cases of diphtheria discovered among careful and well-to-do people in this city, the cause of which could not be traced. "No source of infection could be found, no exposure to any known source could be traced, . . . no reason for their existence could be given." Still, these things do not occur without cause. It happened that on a previous like occasion, within the knowledge of this physician, the health officer discovered cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria in tenement-houses, sweat-shops, where ready-made clothing is produced. From these infection had been carried. We quote his further words, derived from a gentleman connected with the Health Department of an Eastern city:

This gentleman told the writer that he had on more than one occasion, while making inspections of these sweatshops, where all manner of clothing is made and sent to our tailors and retail stores, discovered cases of diphtheria and scarlet fever that had not been reported to the Health Department, and in some instances the sick children were found reclining on the clothes that were waiting to be finished. It is needless to say, that in these cases prompt quarantine was established and proper disinfection carried out, but it is to those cases of infectious diseases that are not reported that we wish more particularly to call attention. When we remember the tenaciousness with which the diphtheria bacilli and the small-pox and scarlet fever contagia hold on to these fabrics, it is no wonder that we often hear of the so-called sporadic cases of this disease occurring in places where no previous diseases had been for many years. The explanation is easy, infected clothing from the sweatshops was packed up and shipped to distant parts of the country and found its way into families of children, and disease was the result. Just so we have to look for an explanation in those seemingly hidden sources of infection occurring here in the city. The poorer class of people who carry on this tailoring work care nothing for cleanliness, much less for disinfection. They will not employ physicians, consequently the cases go unreported and no disinfection is carried out.

In an article on the Public Health, a few weeks ago, *The Monetary Times* called attention to the ailments caused by the inhalation of poison germs swept up by the trailing skirts of ladies' dresses, by the street-sweeping machines in gusty, dry, spring weather, by clouds of dust which the wind raises. Influenza, catarrh, sore throat, eye and nose troubles proceed from this; and worst of all, tubercle bacilli are spread about through the dried sputum of spitting consumptives. Now this medical editorial deals with such matters also, where, citing a previous paper, attention is again directed to "the backyard carpet shaking, to the dusty street sweeping, the moving of infected household things through our streets and more particularly to families moving into infected houses." All these are menaces to health, and the need of far more close and careful inspection and action by city officials is urged. It is properly stated that "the prevention of disease is better than the cure of it." And we may add that it is cheaper. The medical journal urges, with respect to Toronto, that "our health officer should be given a corps of men who would regularly and systematically inspect these sweatshops, and the failure of any one of these manufacturers to report a case of sickness should

be tantamount to a heavy fine. If the health officer were clothed with more authority, given better means by which these requirements could be carried out, we are confident that there would be far fewer cases of infectious diseases, we would live in more security from danger from these sources." What is true of Toronto is true of other places. We are, as a rule, far too careless about these costly, dangerous, often fatal, infectious diseases.

A MINT FOR CANADA.

An editorial in the issue of the *Banker's Magazine* for June is devoted to the subject: "A Canadian Mint." That New York journal, after describing the statement made in Parliament by the Minister of Finance, on the subject, goes on to comment, noting that the bankers of Canada have not generally favored the establishment of a mint, as they believe it will be a useless expense. "American gold coins are practically the basis of the currency now, though sovereigns are also a lawful tender. To the extent that gold circulates, it will tend to drive out bank notes; or if the gold accumulates in the banks, it will be a hardship to those institutions, since of whatever reserve they may keep, forty per cent. must be in Dominion notes. It is doubtful if the establishment of a mint will greatly increase the circulation of gold. For some years the country having the greatest per capita gold circulation was Hawaii, yet it had no mint. From an economic standpoint, it would seem to be unwise to seek to displace the bank notes with coin. The notes are a much less expensive form of currency and are more convenient. Their safety is also unquestioned, and they have so admirably met the trade requirements of the country that it would be a public misfortune if their usefulness should be curtailed."

HARMFUL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIONS.

Hardly anything gives Canadians greater satisfaction than the increasing trade of the Dominion with the Motherland. It is but right, however, that they should understand that Great Britain will buy from us and sell to us only so long as our transactions are carried out honestly and satisfactorily.

Every business man in the country knows that it is at first hard to open up connections with English houses, but that it is easy to continue business relations with them, when once a connection has been formed and confidence established. Some of our Canadian shippers of apples, dairy and hog products, have had to change their methods of doing business in order to hold their export trade to the United Kingdom. And now it looks as if some commercial journals, published in Canada, will require to make very radical changes in their present policy or serious harm will result to business interests in the Dominion. These papers have found it easier, apparently, to secure advertising 3,000 miles away than in their own country, if we may judge of the preponderance in their pages for some reason or other, of foreign over domestic advertising.

It appears that in order to secure all this outside patronage, certain of these journals, under the pretext of showing kindly interest in their advertisers, have