

PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE.—Everybody is ready to say that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. People do not however always act in all things as if they believed it. In Toronto, for example, the citizens willingly enough, on the whole, pay and support a large number of physicians, considerably over one hundred, we have been told, for endeavouring to *cure* them of the diseases which too constantly prevail, and from which many of them are constantly suffering, while not one physician is employed to do anything in the way of *prevention*. When, too, every one will admit the fact that a large proportion of diseases from which the people suffer may be prevented. In Ontario the people pay and support between fifteen hundred and eighteen hundred physicians for trying to cure them and effecting cures, when they can, and not half a dozen, all told, to give their attention in any profitable degree to preventive measures. Thus the public manifest their faith in the old proverb.

ON THE IMPORTANT SUBJECT OF INFANT MORTALITY, Burkart thinks that the two favourite modern remedies, water supply and drainage and sewerage of the city, would lower the mortality down to the lowest point. On the other hand, before all things, must the unfortunate position of pregnant women in poor families be ameliorated, as well as that of their newly-born babes and sucklings. The position of the mothers in poor families must be amended, and the vigilance over baby-farmers and wet-nurses must be increased. For this purpose ladies are recommended to have meetings. Nurses must be better instructed as to how to bring up infants. The town must see that good cows' milk be supplied by taking the wholesale supply into its own hand, so as to remove it from the tricks of milk sellers.

Above all, the most important of all things is the establishment of a council for the care of the public health.

THE CALEDONIA SPRINGS, a favorite resort for invalids and pleasure seekers is again about to be opened for the season. These springs are near L'Orignal, on the Lower Ottawa. The *Canada Lancet* says: 'they have been long and favourably known for their efficacy in the treatment of cutaneous, rheumatic and other chronic affections.' The large hotel in connection with the springs will be open from June to October. The accommodation is all that can be desired, and at moderate cost. For information concerning the springs address Mr. K. Arnoldi, Ottawa.

Prof. Church (*Health Reformer*) finds that the leather of bound volumes on the upper shelves of libraries is destroyed by the combustion products of coal-gas. Chemical analysis has shown that the injury is due to the sulphur contained in the gas, sulphuric acid in very large proportion having been found in leather which had been destroyed in this way. A chemical agent that will destroy leather cannot be very wholesome for human lungs.