

measures to keep it out. The time of panic and confusion is not the time for well-directed and effective action. Besides, the duration of the epidemic is so short, measures adopted to diminish its virulence, on its first appearance, are scarcely brought to completion, ere the disease has expended itself. We are left to mourn our dead with the anything but consoling reflection that, had the same amount been expended and the same steps been taken at an earlier period, *before* the disease manifested its presence, many valuable lives would have been saved.

"A Central Board of Health, with power to appoint local boards throughout the Province, should at once be established. A rigorous investigation of all the cities and towns, more particularly their suburbs, should be instituted under the direction of this board. At this season of the year, masses of animal and vegetable matter in a congealed state, admitting of easy removal, are to be seen in the yards and enclosures of the various suburbs of our cities. If left to the summer, the putrefactive process sets in, giving rise to gaseous emanations which are exceedingly deleterious to the health of all within their influence. An effective system of drainage, for the purpose of removing stagnant pools of water, should be put into operation early in the spring. People should be obliged to thoroughly cleanse and whitewash their habitations. All public drains and sewers should be cleansed, and care taken that they have free vent. A plentiful supply of fresh, pure water should be afforded to the poorer portion of the population. And lastly, preparations ought to be made for a medical house-to-house visitation. Of all the means adopted in Great Britain to check the progress of the epidemic, "visitation" has been the most efficient.

"We hope to see this matter taken up immediately by those in authority; for should cholera visit us in our present unprepared condition, a great mortality would inevitably be the consequence—a mortality, moreover, which we firmly believe may, by the timely adoption of the measures adverted to, be materially lessened."

It is quite true that a central Board of Health was established; but it was not established until the epidemic was raging fearfully in Montreal and Quebec, and had made its appearance at various other points. Indeed, for all the good it effected, it might have been allowed to remain unformed. The only intimation we ever received of its vitality, was the receipt of a paper containing a notoriously incorrect return of the number of deaths that had occurred in the principal cities.

In Montreal there was no systematic and vigorous investigation of the suburbs—there was no effective system of drainage adopted—the people, as a general rule, were not obliged to cleanse their yards and privies, or to whitewash their habitations—there were no steps taken to supply the poorer population with an abundant supply of water; and there was no medical house-to-house visitation. The Mayor, however, wrote and published a pamphlet on the prevention and treatment of cholera, the first edition of which was distributed gratuitously, while the second and