

of Toronto, if we accept the figures of last year. To what is this owing but chiefly to the sanitary state of the cities? It can hardly be explained except upon this ground. Yet Toronto will probably compare favourably in this respect with any other city or town in the Dominion. While it is of the first importance to educate the masses in sanitary matters, and as far as possible to constitute "every man and every woman in his or her own household, an officer of health," health laws, which may be practically and efficiently carried out, are indispensable to good sanitary conditions. Do the people then, as a whole, not wish for efficient sanitary legislation? If they do, it is high time they should make their wishes strongly manifest. Let them hold meetings, or even circulate petitions if necessary expressive of their wishes, and we have no doubt the result will be all that can be desired.

What we want is not "dead-letter," permissive measures, such as we have at present, but imperative, compulsory ones. While a Central Board or Bureau might be established at Ottawa for the entire Dominion, Provincial Boards and Local Boards will be required also, and we see no reason why the latter might not be established at once, pending the deliberations and action of the Dominion Government. In the United States, sanitarians are striving for a Central Bureau at Washington, though the separate States are forming State Boards. Georgia and Alabama each have quite recently formed a State Board. Massachusetts and Michigan have for years had active Boards, which meet from time to time, discuss matters effecting the public health, have hundreds of thousands of papers or tracts for instructing the masses distributed, adopt and distribute rules and regulations for Local Boards, &c., &c. Why should Ontario be years behind these States in matters so vital?

THE REPORTS OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT of the Social Science Congress held at Brighton last month have been late in reaching us. It appears that there was but a meagre attendance of members. Bad construction of our houses, and bad water-supply, seem to have been the most important subjects of discussion. We shall probably notice some of the more important points under discussion in our next issue.