

Rabies in Canada, or, more correctly speaking, in Ontario, has recently become of such pronounced dissemination throughout the western part of the Province as to call for conjoint action on the part of the federal and provincial authorities.

Writing with a good degree of authority, and, from his position, with an unusual knowledge of the subject, Mr. Charles H. Higgins, B.S., D.V.S., pathologist to the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, gives a concise history of Rabies in Canada in the January issue of the *Montreal Medical Journal*.

Although occasionally observed in the Dominion, there has never been up to the present time any pronounced outbreak. Prior to 1899, Niagara Falls and its vicinity recorded outbreaks; and between that date and 1905, Dr. Higgins states no material sent to his laboratory gave unmistakable evidence of the presence of the disease.

A case of a man being bitten by a wolf in 1904, reported from Victoria, B.C., contracting hydrophobia, is not considered an authentic one by Dr. Higgins.

Outbreaks have been reported from time to time in the Niagara Peninsula since 1905, traced generally to dogs across the river.

In Manitoba an unusually long incubation period of ninety-three days has been reported in a horse, but the usual incubation period is from fourteen to twenty-five days.

The statement in Dr. Higgins' paper, that "the Pasteur treatment is furnished to physicians in the United States by the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service," is an interesting one to Ontario physicians in view of the fact that the "scare" in this Province has been so acute as to drive practically everyone bitten by a dog to New York for treatment.

It will be eminently satisfactory to the medical profession in Ontario that the Government of the Province has taken the matter up, and that hereafter there will be no necessity for anyone to scurry off to New York as soon as bitten by a dog, even although it is "feared" that particular dog has rabies.

When compulsory vaccination is sought to be set aside by a bill at the instance of a private member in the Ontario Legislature, the subject of smallpox looms up interestingly large.

From the *Public Health Reports* of the United States we extract a few items in connection with the extent of smallpox in that country, and especially Germany, where vaccination and re-vaccination are compulsory.

In the United States, in 1907, there were 17,220 cases of small-