

AMERICAN HEALTH PRIMERS.

The well known publishing house of Lindsay & Blakiston, Philadelphia, have undertaken the publication of a series of works written in a popular style, for the purpose of diffusing a knowledge of sanitary science. The subjects discussed in each volume are of the very highest practical importance to communities, as well as to individuals, and we have no doubt that this worthy attempt will meet with very general approval. As a rule in this country, the subject of sanitation is not as fully recognized as its importance demands. Public health associations are doing good work, and the results are beginning to tell in a marked improvement in the comforts of life and the lessening of disease. Sanitary legislation is as yet unknown in this Dominion, nor has it attained that prominence amongst our neighbors which it deserves. In the announcement of these volumes, by the publishers, the hope is expressed that "the American Health Primers may assist in developing a public sentiment favorable to proper sanitary laws, especially in our large cities." This sentiment we fully endorse; but in our own country we trust that if any sanitary laws are introduced their application will be general and not restricted to our large cities. We regard all sanitary matters to belong to the central government of any country, constituted as is our Dominion. Local enactments and provincial regulations are all well enough in their way, when they affect alone the comfort of local communities; but matters which affect the sanitary condition of an entire nation should be alone dealt with by the parent government.

The Canadian statesmen who in the future will introduce and carry through the House of Commons at Ottawa a comprehensive Public Health Act will be a great benefactor to the community at large. It is true that several Acts are on our statute books bearing on sanitary science, so that we are gradually getting in the thin edge of the wedge, and probably before the termination of another century, when we may have men at the