

no subject is so widely and so generally discussed as *public health*. The public are seeking information on the sanitary duties by which diseases are prevented and health protected in the widest acceptance of the term. The recent pestilence of yellow fever in the South, and the present plague in Russia, have combined to arouse more than ordinary degree of interest in such matters. Should the health of a city, town or village, not occupy a place even superior to the protection of real estate? Fortunately there is at present a more than ordinary degree of right-thinking in this direction. The loss of human life by preventable disease implies exceedingly important considerations, and it is time that such action should be taken as would place all sanitary matters on a sound and substantial working basis. In this country, a knowledge of private hygiene and domestic sanitation is required from every student of medicine, such being imperative as the basis of a sound medical education. In the Province of Ontario alone over 80 died daily from various causes. Of these 27 are children under five years of age; 10 are between the ages of five and twenty; and 30 between 20 and 60. Of these, it is estimated that fully one-third of the deaths are of diseases which might be prevented by proper sanitary precautions. What authority should be called into requisition in order to guard the people's interests? Was there ever a better opportunity for public men to give evidence of their determination to be progressive in the highest sense? The problem of health is simple, and necessarily so, when the requisite means to preserve it are so easy of access. Dr. Richardson, at a recent meeting of the Sanitary Institute, London, England, remarked "that there was nothing opposed to the establishment of a Minister of health, for whose creation there was overwhelming argument. Such an officer, placed in a central position, must be an authority, not a disciplinarian; a judge and a director, not a commanding officer; a collector and a teacher of all learning relating to health, not a dogmatic professor. The work of estimating life and death which now goes on, is the true basis of all our efforts." In a young country like Canada, it is true there is difficulty in introducing a "State Department of Health"; however, some action on the part of the proper authorities is necessary; for as science and social culture advance, the public

service of hygiene becomes more imperative. Provision by statute should be the order of the day, to secure the amplest possible means of sanitary improvement and public health care. Such are purely the material and ordinary requirements of personal safety, public safety, and political economy.

ON DISEASES OF THE EYE IN CONNECTION WITH AND DEPENDENT ON GENERAL DISEASES OF OTHER ORGANS AND THEIR DIAGNOSTIC VALUE

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It is a prevalent idea among general practitioners, and it seems to me, especially so in Canada, that modern ophthalmology has become so far separated from general medicine, as to constitute a precedent from which will result in the future a general breaking up of medical science into its branches; and, moreover, that even some knowledge of ophthalmology is either unnecessary or more or less useless to the general practitioner. That this is not so, every one at all familiar with the subject will readily acknowledge. Ophthalmology, it is true, has become such a large branch of medical science that no one can master it without devoting all his time and energy to it. However, no one can practice, and no one should dare to practice ophthalmology who is not perfectly acquainted with the principles of medicine. This is the stand-point of every true specialist, and to show you how our specialty, ophthalmology, brings us in our daily practice into contact with general medicine, and how impossible it would be for an oculist to sever the ties by which this specialty is united to general medicine, I thought it worth while to bring the following paper before this learned audience. It is, however, not my purpose to go into details, but will confine myself to those diseases which I suppose to be less known, and of more special interest. I further propose to show in the following paper, of what great value the diagnosis of the eye diseases may be to the diagnosis of general diseases; and how desirable it is, therefore, that every general practitioner—as is the