

There is little doubt but that a few generations of careful and systematic supervision of the teeth of children and adults to-

gether with the adoption of a more rational form of diet, would show greatly reduced figures in the above statistics.

THE STATE MEDICINE FACTOR OF THE TORONTO ACADEMY OF MEDICINE

By J. F. FLEMING GOODCHILD, L.R.C.P., Lond.; M.R.C.S., Eng.;
C.M., M.D., B.Sc. (Pub. Health), Edin.

During the last year and also in the previous two years, when Dr. Amyot was chairman of the Public Health section, may I mention that the Academy's public health section was feebly supported, not only by the Fellows generally, but by those more interested in this kind of work as the leading preventive medicine specialists of Toronto.

Though re-election to the chair of this branch of the Academy for the present year gave me very great pleasure, I rather felt that as I am not engaged directly in Public Health work it would be better for the section to have as chairman some one more fortunate in this respect. With the view, therefore of benefiting the Academy I sent in my resignation to the Council.

The President, Dr. Albert Macdonald and members of the Council, however, so kindly asked me to reconsider the matter and so generously offered their co-operation and support for the good of the section that I have the pleasure to be with you for one more year.

Let us at this opening meeting make a plea for the continuance of this section—let us try to point out that it is important and necessary to the usefulness of the Academy that this State Medicine Department should be kept alive.

I shall endeavor to do this by reminding the Fellows of past achievements in sanitary reform, by reminding them that medical men have been, and are still, interested in the work and problems of hygiene and by directing our attention to the vast field of

work in this line waiting for the workers.

Physicians have always shared in, and more often than any other class of workers have been responsible entirely for the state and preventive medicine achievements of the past and now as it is chiefly to the medical profession that the people look for the hygienists of the future it is surely important that our Academy—representing as it does the entire field of medicine—should have a section as this in which the special preventive measures shall be studied and discussed.

It is well known to most of us that there are doubts in the minds of some of our Fellows as to whether it is worth while continuing to support and keep in existence this special factor of the Academy. The consensus of opinion has seemed almost to be that we may as well dispense with it.

Why so? Is it not a fact that the very foundations in which have been built the great hygiene successes of to-day have been laid in the struggles, the work and triumphs of medical men! Such for example as the physician's discoveries in bacteriology and immunity, in the knowledge he has disseminated in regard to water bourne, milk bourne, animal and insect bourne disease, or in the facts he has brought to the notice of municipalities, as the exhaustive proof worked out by Dr. Farr, showing the direct relation of density of population and mortality, the direct relation of density of population to the incidence of infectious and other diseases. Such and many other lines of research have