

## A FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

To Dr. Michael Steele, M.P., we extend our greetings. He is doing a useful work in urging the establishment of a Department of Public Health for Canada. The number of lives that could be saved and the amount of sickness that could be averted would far more than pay for the cost, and then the people would have the benefit of the good results of the expenditure. Dr. Steele claims that 50,000 deaths occur each year that might be prevented. He also contends that 500,000 people suffer from sicknesses that are preventable. Somewhere in the neighborhood of 15,000 children die each year in Canada that should be saved. The best method of building up our population is by saving the lives of our own people.

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## WOOD ALCOHOL.

One of the most dangerous of drugs on the market is wood alcohol. It can be bought over the counter in drug stores without an order. This state of affairs must not be permitted to continue, and we urge upon the proper authorities to deal with the question in some effective manner. If necessary, a statute should be passed that would control its sale. Now that it has become difficult to obtain whiskey and brandy, there is bound to be an increasing demand for wood alcohol, even at the risk of blindness, or the expense of a funeral for the family. The situation is quite intolerable.

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## RESEARCH WORK.

It must have been very gratifying to all the friends of the University of Toronto to learn through the columns of the press recently that a large sum of money is to be donated to the university for the purpose of providing for research work. One of the greatest functions of a university is to lead, but to do so effectively demands money. Research work comes high. There must be suitable laboratories, and these must be equipped with the best of appliances. Then there must be highly trained persons in charge of the work, and these should be adequately paid.