

believe such work can be best, or nearly as well, and without a great deal more expense, done by the separate provinces. The legislation and work of the provinces would not be in any way interfered with.

IN THE UNITED STATES a similar organization has been long urged upon the Government, and Senator Sherman, it appears, has now introduced a bill into the Senate to establish a "Department of Public Health," under the charge of a medical officer appointed from civil life by the President. This department is to obtain from consular officers at foreign ports all information available in regard to the sanitary condition of such ports and places, and also all information accessible for state and municipal authorities of the sanitary condition of places within the United States, all information gathered to be embodied in the form of a bulletin and transmitted *weekly* to the Marine Hospital Service, Collectors of Customs and to state and municipal health officers, and, as far as it is available, procure tabulated statistics relating to marriages, births, deaths, the existence of epidemic diseases, and all information relating to climatic and other conditions in the United States affecting public health. The department would co-operate with state boards of health, the Signal Service, the Medical Department of the Army, and other branches of the Government. All rules governing the service are to be framed by the medical officer in charge, and are to serve for the instruction of consular officers abroad and for masters of sailing vessels bound for the United States from foreign ports.

A FEW CROAKERS with less wisdom and discretion than desire to grumble at the innovations of progress may ask, or in effect in the past have asked, if a man is to watch the state of his health or his various bodily functions, by day and night, by month and year, and to watch external circumstances as they affect his body, his heart, stomach, liver, brain, and mind, shall we not produce an introspective, hypochondriacal race, whose attention will be thus withdrawn from higher duties and energies, and who will haunt the physician rather than engage in useful work? Surely not! What can be more searching than the laws of our social organization, or at the present time what more comprehensive than the system of it? Yet, by the force of habit and the education of social pressure, a man manages to keep the laws of country and conscience and the regulations of work and amusement without the continual presence of a solicitor or a priest, or of a policeman or inspector, and that without the increase of morbid conscientiousness or intellectual timidity. Again no. It is "a new point of view and new habits rather than a selfish anxiety" which it is desirable to encourage.

"AS THE THIEF is ashamed when he is found," usually, so may, and probably will, intelligent people learn to be ashamed to be sick or diseased. We often think it to be a sort of "reflection or reproach on a physician when he or any of his family are not at least fairly healthy, and have a feeling akin to shame when any one of our own household chances to be sick, with a strong propensity to conceal the fact, as far as reasonably possible. It has been a question as to how it was that the late lamented Prince Consort, "Albert the Good," was said to have died of "Gastric fever," when it was simply common typhoid fever. Was it that to have a "filth disease" was

... "Ill becoming any common man,
Much more a Knight, a Captain and a leader"?

We do not remember who first said, only two or three years ago, that, for every death from typhoid fever somebody ought to be hung." Doubtless in connection with most deaths from this cause in recent years, with our present knowledge, there has been criminal carelessness somewhere. A quarter of a century ago it was different; for comparatively little was then known of the aetiology of typhoid, and nothing of the habits of its characteristic bacillus. In later years the two princes of the royal family have had to bear the responsibility of correct nomenclature. Yet in the last case an effort has been made to throw the blame on the irresponsible, innocent oyster.