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Original Articles.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT OF ONTARIO—MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS AND MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS.

BY L. J. A. HYTHENRAUCH, M.D.,
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Mr. Vice-President:—The history of medicine, consisting of the story of the lives and works of medical practitioners from the time of the early Egyptians down to the present-day writers on medical topics, shows that the efforts of the earliest medical men were devoted to the cure or relief of diseases already established in the human or animal system. The facts which were developed from the study of those conditions, and of all matters which had any direct or indirect bearing on those conditions, gradually evolved the idea of preventing disease instead of curing it after it had become established. To-day we find that preventive medicine occupies the forefront of the fields for investigation which are open to the medical practitioners, while the restoration and alleviation of diseased states occupies a secondary, although very prominent place. What the future may bring forth no man may tell, but it may not be a Utopian dream to hope that with advancing knowledge and its dissemination among and assimilation by the people the prevention of all diseased conditions will be accomplished, and the work of the medical practitioner, as it exists to-day, will be entirely changed. Still, before this fantastic dream may become an accomplished fact, the fundamentals of life itself must be evolved from means which, while perhaps in our possession, are as yet unrevealed to us. For the present we must acknowledge that,