

country take a deep interest in this matter ; which, if sufficiently comprehensive, as regards cases of sickness, their history, &c., will be of great service, and will form a basis for further sanitary legislation. However ineffectual may be our humble efforts to fix the attention of the public and our legislators upon this matter and to show that a compulsory Public Health Law is absolutely essential to the well-being of the people, we shall not, if possible, cease our efforts in this behalf until an efficient one, comprising provisions for registering causes of sickness, &c., is enacted. As we have before said, it does not seem that a Government should necessarily wait until the people demand legislation upon certain matters before acting ; but Governments, it appears, very commonly do so wait, and it is perhaps better that they should, for such legislation, and the carrying of the Acts into operation, cost money, and this the public must pay. Are our Legislators or the Governments waiting for the people to press this matter under consideration ? We have no reason to doubt that either the Government of the Dominion or that of Ontario would take decided action in it if they believed that the people wished it and required it of them. Do the people desire legislation having for its object the prevention of disease ? If they believe that by means of such legislation any large proportion of disease may be prevented, it may be taken for granted that they do desire it. And we can hardly believe that there are any number of people of ordinary intelligence who can doubt that a large proportion of prevailing disease may be thus prevented—that, as a matter of dollars, no other legislation will yield so large a return, will pay so well. We have endeavoured on previous occasions to show this. The leading daily papers, one in particular, speak plainly and convincingly on this point ; though we are grieved that we do not find any one of them urging legislation of this nature, and we have looked in vain for it. Seemingly in almost every civilized country except Canada, laws for the prevention of disease are being enacted, and carried into operation. In Great Britain especially, much is being done in this way. And now the rate of mortality in that vast city of London is very considerably less than in the city