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CITY VENTILATION—SQUARES AND PARKS.

PHYSICIANS are in the constant habit of recommending to their patients an "outing," in the fresh, pure air, to rich and poor alike; and every body almost now knows that to get out in the fresh pure air is very beneficial, indeed essential, to health. But in a city, even the smaller cities, where are the thousands of working men with their wives and children to find pure, fresh air? Not often in the streets, near overcrowded blocks and squares of houses. If there is to be any reasonable degree of comfort or health in a city, open spaces, such as squares and parks, must be provided in abundance. And as busy mothers or sisters or others cannot often go far away from their home to get their little ones or themselves an outing, an open space should be provided near at hand, for the use of every family. London the great has been long making successful efforts to provide open spaces in central parts of the city chiefly for the use of the great masses of the poorer classes of people who cannot get to the larger, usually more distant parks, or away from home for a holiday.

One comes upon a shady square in a city during the warm season as upon an oasis in a desert, and besides the shade it provides, and besides the moral and æsthetic influence of such open, cooling places with their verdant trees and grass and flowers, they act as powerful ventilators of a city, promoting mild currents of air and so diluting and dissipating impurities; the growing vegetation aids in this purifying process; while the trees help to regulate and equalize the humidity of the atmosphere. It is urged by eminent authorities, and with good reason, that to the large number of open spaces now in London is very largely if not chiefly due

the great reduction in the death-rate there in quite recent years, and the saving of hundreds of thousands of lives. The undoubted effect of such breathing spaces is to promote the health and invigorate all who visit them and to render their bodies less prone to specific disease, epidemic or other. Children or grown up people who frequent such open spaces are less susceptible to any infectious disease—typhoid, diphtheria, &c., and should they contract such, are less likely to succumb to its influence and die from its effects,—they are the more vigorous for the combat with disease.

For Canadian cities and towns, now is the time to secure parks and squares. The value of land is doubtless steadily on the increase and broad acres should be secured with liberal hands; for which, by means of a sinking fund, the coming generation, which will probably reap the greater benefit, will help to pay. Dwellers in cities and towns, as you value health, life and happiness, provide, amidst your walls and streets, for bits of open "country."

Paris is probably better provided with park acreage than any other of the world's large cities. It has 58,000 acres; or one acre for every 37 of its inhabitants. London has 22,000 acres, scattered pretty well throughout the city; one acre for every 174 inhabitants. Dublin and Vienna have a somewhat larger park area per capita. Of cities in the United States, Minneapolis and St. Louis are best provided with open spaces, but not so well as Dublin. Washington, Boston and Detroit come next, and have one acre of park for about every 200 of the inhabitants. Montreal has about one acre for every 220 of its people. Toronto is not well provided with parks, and the capital of the Dominion has hardly any park accommodation at all.