

occupant. The effect of one or two such exhibitions cannot fail to produce a beneficial effect. If carried out by the "doctor," it will make a lasting impression upon the mind of those who witness them.

Many people, and amongst them some physicians, have a *penchant* for advertising their valor and their fearlessness by reciting their experience with disease, and boasting that they never "took" any disease. This is always unfortunate, it is always blameworthy. Fear, absolute fear, is as yet our strongest defence against the spread of contagion. Why is small-pox so rare? Is it not because people keep out of its way? How do you receive this proposition, Mr. Editor? *When people become as much afraid of scarlatina and diphtheria as they are of small-pox, both of these diseases will become as rare as small-pox.*

I am confident, Mr. Editor, that while the knowledge of sanitary precaution is so limited as it now unfortunately is, medical men have a greater and grander opportunity for saving human life by "sounding alarm" that by their kindly offices at the bedside of the afflicted.

J. M. P.

OTTAWA, 18th March, 1884.

#### ON THE PROPOSED DOMINION HEALTH BUREAU.

A well attended meeting of medical men who are members of the Senate and Commons, and many of the medical practitioners in and around Ottawa, was held in the House of Commons on Tuesday, March 4th, inst., to consider the question of a Dominion Health Bureau. Amongst those present were the Hon. Senators Almon and Paquet; Drs. Bergin, Orton, Hickey, Fortin, Sproule, Landerkin, Grandbois, and Renfret, members of the Commons; and Drs. Grant, Church, Powell, Robillard, Logan, Horsey,

Small, Wilson, Cranston, Hunter, Kelly and Playter: Dr. Bergin, Chairman; Dr. Playter acting as Secretary. A plan providing for a Dominion Health Bureau and general sanitary system was submitted by Dr. Playter. It provided for a Deputy Minister or Chief Sanitary Officer, connected with the Department of Agriculture in Ottawa; a Sanitary Committee, representing the different Provinces, with Chairman and Secretary; and 145 or more Sanitary officers, in the various electoral districts, for making returns of disease, &c., monthly to the bureau. Dr. Playter had, he stated, received valuable suggestions from Drs. Hickey and Orton, and the plan, in many respects, was similar to one proposed and placed in the hands of the Government by Dr. Orton two or three years ago. The plan for obtaining a knowledge of the general condition of the public health throughout the Dominion, in connection with the bureau, was that proposed by Dr. Playter in 1882, which met with the unanimous approval of the profession in Ontario. After a good deal of discussion the plan was adopted, and a committee, consisting of Hon. Senator Dr. Fortin, and Drs. Bergin, Orton, Hickey, Grant, Church, Larocque, and Playter, was appointed to wait upon the Government and urge that measures be taken to have it or a similar one carried into operation at an early day.

The plan as adopted, with minutes of the action of the meeting, were at once sent to members of the Ontario Medical Council, the Public Health Committee of the Canada Medical Association, and others throughout the Dominion who had given attention to matters relating to the proposed bureau, asking their views, ("concurrency or otherwise, or suggestions") in order that any suggestions from any of these might be acted upon before Government could take any final action. A large