

paign of enlightenment on questions of food supplies is a case in point. Well advertised, free illustrated lectures are being delivered by members of the health staff of the city, reliable facts and advice are being disseminated among food and drug dealers and Winnipeg merchants are finding that co-operation is more profitable in this campaign than a spirit of opposition.

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We can have freedom from preventable diseases in proportion as we are willing to pay for it, and economy in this direction means sickness, loss, waste and death. Shall we continue to practice this false economy and incur the penalty? Shall we, while planning cities beautiful, neglect the elementary requirements and conditions of cities healthy and clean and progressive?

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While science has largely extended the list of preventable diseases and is able to look with increasing hopefulness, because with increasing knowledge, upon many that yield more slowly to preventive measures, yet the chief causes of death still present their baffling problems. These are especially tuberculosis, pneumonia, diseases of the kidneys and of the circulatory system, and cancer.

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The intestinal diseases of children must also be included among those in which the mortality lists fail to show improvement. Climatic conditions affect the record from year to year, as they must also that of all pulmonary complaints. With all our efforts for the babies, the infant mortality is still higher than it ought to be. It is not professional knowledge that is lacking here so much as the acceptance of popular instruction in personal and domestic hygiene.

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There seems little doubt that the term "measles" conveys to most people the impression of a common disorder of childhood that is more a nuisance than a disease. Now considering that all authorities on children's ailments are agreed that measles is one of the most fatal diseases of early life, that attitude of mind is a very extraordinary—not to say an unfortunate—circumstance. In this connection one well-

known physician has written: "The mortality bills of large cities show what a serious disease measles is in a community. Among the eruptive fevers it ranks third in the death rate." Yet this important fact seems never to have reached the public, and the mother who is told at a hospital that her child is suffering from measles usually goes away quite pleased to think it is nothing more serious, and with very little idea of treating the condition seriously.

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It is now generally recognized that the members of the medical profession have a special duty to the community in the matter of reporting diseases and facts for vital statistics. If they neglect this professional duty, misery and death will result. If they make their reports as perfect as possible science will be advanced, legislation will be wiser and more effective, and public health and happiness will be increased.

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Hundreds of lumber camps up the Gatineau and Ottawa rivers are so filthy, the increase of cases of smallpox and scarlet fever in them is so great that the health authorities of the Province of Ontario have almost thrown up their hands in despair. One of the principal employment agents in Ottawa says:

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"According to the Provincial law, the companies are obliged to keep a washwoman in camp, but as a matter of fact they don't. They have them in the camps in Western Ontario, but not in this part of the Province of Quebec.

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"Then, again, the law is that a physician should visit the camps regularly, the company being allowed to collect from 50 cents to \$1 a week for that purpose. When men refuse to pay, the company doesn't insist, and there is no way of knowing when the disease breaks out."

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Care for the public health has a wider influence than its direct relation to the country's producing power and prosperity. It must be a matter of concern if any ap-