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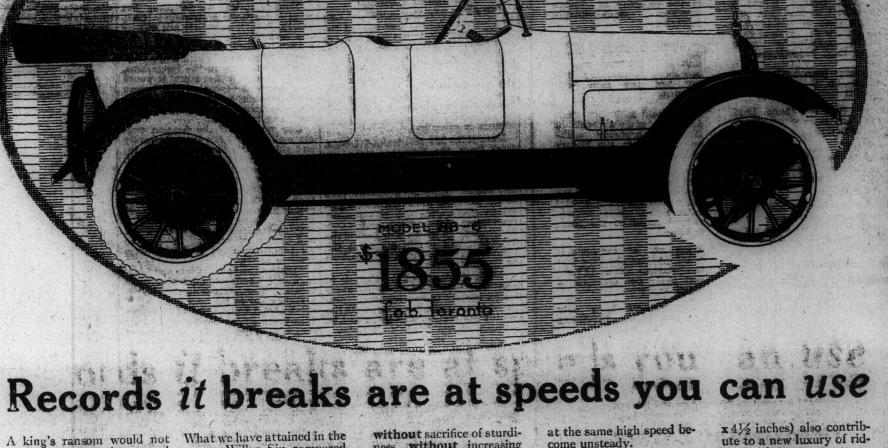
OF THE PROVINCIAL BOARD OF HEALTH. PREVENTION OF DISEASE.

XPERIENCE in the control of infectious diseases brings very forcibly to one's mind that the present methods of preventing the spread of these diseases are of doubtful value. What is the ordinary procedure say in a town of 2,000 or 5,000 population? Scarlet fever

for example is discovered, the physician in attendance notifies the health officer, and a placard is placed on the house for six weeks, notifying the public that none are allowed to enter the home but members of the family during that time. These directions, if followed, limit this focus of in-

public that none are allowed to enter the home but members of the lamity during that time. These directions, if followed, limit this focus of in-faction. Down the street a few doors Mrs. Brown's little girl, eight years old, is a little under the weather, youits once or twice and has a slight scarlet rash on her body with a little fever, but is not very sick. It may be that the young doctor, who is called in, regards the case as one of indigestion, prescribes a larative and sees the case no more; or perhaps suspecting scarlet fever, he coverily or at the instance of the child's mother, who doesn't want her house placated. Tails to notify the case to the Medical Officer of Health. Consequently after a few days Mary goes back to school and no more is thought of it. Mary, however, fails to plok up as she should. She is pale, flabby looking, and complains of headache. Her mother finds she does not eat her meals, and on Saturday night while superintending her bath she notices that Mary's feet are a little swollen and her eyes look puffy. The mother is alarmed, and finding the family doctor out of town another one is called. He finds on examination of the wirne that the child has nephritis or inflammation of the kidneys, and Mary is sent to bed. She is seriously ill for several weeks. She gets well for the time but her kidneys are maimed for life. By this time there is a general outbreak of scarlet fever all over the fown. Everyone is alarmed. The public schools are closed. The local board of health and the medical officer of health take stringent measures, but despite their efforts the number of cases grow. The outbreak lasts most of the winter, spreading to the salecent townships and villages. It weeks to war itself out fowards spring, returning again after the lapse of a year or two to carry on in the same way. Several fine children have died of the disease during the winter, and several mothers of families are left with aching hearts and the outer semblance of mourning for thefr little ones. Others have had some

call in the morning, but during the night Mary has some sort of a fit and becomes unconscious. The doctor comes hurriedly. He finds the patient has eclampsia. There is a consultation. A necessary operation is decided upon, but in spite of the efforts of two or three of the best doctors of the neighborhood and of a specialist from a nearby city, the poor young woman dies. What a tragedy! It is not an uncommon occurrence. It dates back to the neglected case of scarlet fever in the little sahool girl. The neglect has had far-reaching consequences. Every neighborhood has had such cases. Every physician is familiar with them. Mild cases of scarlet fever are often more dangerous than severe ones. The mild cases fail to receive the careful attention which would pre-vent the disastrous consequences just outlined. These mild cases, because they are not controlled, spread the contagion far and wide. The same is true to some extent of all other contagious diseases. It is playing with public health and with human life, health, and happiness to deal with the most important asset of the people, good health, in such a fachion. How can it be remedied? By education; people must learn that the best and most satisfactory way to deal with these contagious diseases is to be trank about them. The slightest suspicion of scarlet fever in a family should suffice to have the Medical Officer of Health notified and the case prevented from doing any harm to others. If Mary's case had been regarded with due weight and received proper treatment she would now have been a happy wife and mother, but alas! her foolish mother and reckless doctor pealed her fate.



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