

venereal diseases. The man who used such nostrums very often found himself in a worse plight than he was before their use.

"One thing which the speaker laid particular emphasis on was that if a public health department was established it should be under the control of a medical man, and one who was fully qualified to deal with matters which would come before him."

Dr. Michael Steel, of South Perth, spoke on the subject also. He has on former occasions strongly urged the creation of a Health Department and the appointment of a Minister of Health. He said, in brief:

"He had brought this matter to the attention of the House for two years, and he was much gratified that action was at last to be taken. The Government, he declared, would have to give more attention to social problems in future. We could not create a great nation without healthy people, as the physical condition of the people determined to a great extent their mental and moral standing. If it was desirous to enlighten the load of taxation he could suggest a most effective method. It had been estimated in the United States that the cost of sickness per year to a family was one hundred and ten dollars. This cost came heaviest on the working man. In Canada the loss in wages through sickness to workingmen in a single year was thirty-five millions. Added to this was the cost of sickness, deaths, etc. Every year in Canada there were fifty thousand unnecessary deaths, and thousands of babies died annually of preventible diseases. If Canada thought it worth while to apply the principles of conservation to her natural resources was it not more important to apply them to her human life?"

*The Canada Lancet* has advocated this movement for many years. If it comes into effect, it will be one of the most valuable pieces of legislation in Canada.

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#### THE CARE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

"An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure" is an old adage that has stood the test of time. In no department of medical science can it be said with greater emphasis that this holds good than in the case of the feeble-minded.

Mr. Justice Hodgins held several sessions at which he heard a vast amount of evidence upon the causation, prevention and treatment of this class of defectives.

Dr. Helen MacMurchy contended that there are 10 feeble-minded persons in every 1,000. She was not altogether in favor of the plan