

most prevalent, so that something might be done to stamp out any disease as soon as it makes its appearance..... In conjunction with the Provincial boards, I think we should have a National Health Institution, which would direct hygienic investigations. This Government assumes part of that sanitary work, to-day, in the collection of mortuary statistics, but we believe that this work should be extended . . . .and embody not only mortuary statistics, but reports in connection with zymotic diseases which are so destructive, not only in towns and cities, but in rural localities as well. The Federal Government now have too a Department for the purpose of analysing adulterated food, for the purpose of preventing disease. Therefore, at present, this Government is attending to two branches of this important work, although not to such an extent as we believe they ought to."

General Laurie, in seconding Dr. Room's motion, dwelt largely on the diseases of animals and their probable communicability to man, and of the desirability of having the proposed health department in connection with the department of Agriculture. He said: "Without statistics it is impossible for us to obtain information as to what our people die from, and as to what steps should be taken to keep them alive; and concluded his address as follows: "We have spent a great deal of money on the Experimental Farm, and we have spent it wisely and judiciously, but the necessity now is to spend some money on experimental stations in order to endeavor to ascertain the causes and to avert the diseases which afflict us.

We have it all here then "in a nut shell." What is required is a system for the collection of vital or health statistics from all parts of the Dominion—regular returns of births, marriages, deaths and prevailing diseases; efficient means for thoroughly and accurately investigating the causes and source of any special outbreak of disease or of excessive death-rate; and the publication and free distribution in all parts of the Dominion—to health officers

and boards, physicians, local papers, etc., of a monthly (or weekly or fortnightly) bulletin, containing, besides a summing up or synopsis of the condition of the public health, certain "literature teaching the people the various methods by which the prevailing diseases might be prevented." It only remains for a convention, as proposed by the first minister, to consider the best means for the collection of these statistics and reports of disease. As this JOURNAL has repeatedly pointed out, they may be called differently in the different provinces; that is in accordance with differences in municipal regulations in different provinces, such, for example as prevail in Ontario and Quebec. We have long believed the Ontario system to be a good one, and if the inspector, Mr. Crewe, were at full liberty to have a few delinquents fined for neglect to register, the returns would soon become as perfect as we can expect to get them. In Quebec for the most part the registration through the clergy of births, marriages and deaths, is very accurate. New Brunswick has had a Registration Act in force now about two years, much like the Ontario Act. We believe these three are now the only provinces which have provisions for the registration of any health statistics or which have a Provincial Board of Health. It is probable that an interprovincial and federal convention would result in the organization of a board in every province, as there should be, as well as a Federal or Central Department. We are in accord with General Laurie in believing that a health department, with say a deputy or commissioner as head, would be best connected with the Department of Agriculture, which now looks after the health of the domestic animals. Man, physically, after all is but a production of the earth—an agricultural product.

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A YOUNG man is suing the city of Philadelphia for \$50,000, because he was sent to a small-pox hospital, when he had only the measles. He had subsequently caught the small-pox in the hospital and barely escaped with life.