

medicine is an art of continuous vigilance, not of casual repairs, then a new relation will spring up between physician and patient which will be more responsible and more honorable. The run after "cures" will be recognized as a belated effort or a naked absurdity; and the restoration or preservation of health will be seen to depend, not upon particular prescriptions or fashionable doctors, but upon a system of treatment carried out patiently and loyally during, sometimes, long periods and in minutest detail.

THE EDUCATION of the people in the simple requirements of health, or in the ways of preventing disease, and to cause them to look up to the educated physician for *preventive practice* rather than *drugs*, would not be a very difficult or costly thing to do. We need a better, simpler system of education for the coming generations, but until "wisdom prevails" in this behalf, a great deal could be done in the direction and course indicated for our present suffering population, that would yield vastly better results than now commonly follow the efforts of health boards in the way of attempts at coercion, as has been proved in England. True, if all men knew the value of absolute cleanliness, all would not practice this divine virtue; but the majority would, when learning the value, the actual money profit, of it. In England incalculable good has been done by the several sanitary organizations. Millions of popular pamphlets and leaflets on health subjects have there been distributed amongst the people. In great London there is a department for loaning cleansing materials to the poor—baths, pails, tubs, brooms, brushes, and the like, and an interesting fact is noted in a report by the committee that a pail or bath tub has never been lost although many hundreds have been loaned at a farthing a set, and it is stated that the stumps of brooms carefully returned deserved a photograph, they told such an eloquent tale.

IN CANADA there is not a large wealthy class with leisure which can devote time and money to this philanthropic life-saving work of educating the masses in the rules of hygiene. But as we pointed out last month, not less than THIRTY THOUSAND preventible deaths take place in the Dominion every year, which it should surely be made somebody's duty to prevent, or to make effort to prevent. We have the advantage of England's experience in demonstrating the value of such educational work. If we have not the moneyed class with leisure to thus aid in the life-saving process, we have an intelligent people who would not oppose but would rather commend any government measure or movement in such behalf. It is not a provincial question; it is a Canadian question. And as we have said, surely it would manifest a greater wisdom to first: make efforts to save the lives to our own Canadian people than to bring in people from foreign countries. And although we have nothing to say against a discriminating and judicious "Vigorous Immigration Policy," the country needs, at the same time, or first, a Vigorous Life Saving Policy.

WHAT COURSE, it may be asked, could the Government best take in order to promote the public health, as indicated? We may again, as we often have done before in this JOURNAL, point out, but only very briefly, now, what those most competent to judge think to be most desirable in this way. First, as a basis for all public health proceedings, Canada needs a system of health statistics,—of births, marriages, deaths, with provision for obtaining at least monthly, and at any time during the month, from all parts of the Dominion, from say not less than 200 points, and from foreign parts and other places as far as possible, the state of the public health, especially as relating to infectious, contagious or epidemic disease, not *waiting* for the mortuary returns—for death to totally destroy; and second, an official Report or Bulletin, issued at least monthly, and distributed freely to all interested, containing a synopsis of the information gathered, and besides this, many think, containing also a certain amount of practical information, valuable to the public, relating to sanitary progress in all countries. Such work as this carried on properly would constitute the best possible method of awakening general interest in sanitation, and a competitive desire in every locality in the Dominion to show a "clean Bill of Health." No man of intelligence, having given this subject sufficient consideration, can