

**ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE PROVINCIAL BOARD
OF HEALTH OF ONTARIO
BEING FOR THE YEAR 1892**

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Eleventh Annual Report of the Provincial Board of Health of Ontario Being for the Year 1892
by Various

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VARIOUS

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OF THE
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BEING FOR THE YEAR
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Board of Health

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TENTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PROVINCIAL BOARD OF HEALTH

To the Honorable GEORGE AIREY KIRKPATRICK, Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Ontario.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOR:

It has been a source of great pleasure to everyone that Asiatic cholera, which was introduced by European immigrants into New York City in the month of August, 1892, was so efficiently controlled by the local sanitary authorities that no fresh centres of infection occurred, and that the disease was prevented from spreading on this continent. Since last summer, however, the people generally of this Province, and boards of health particularly, have been much occupied with the consideration of its possible advent among us during the hot weather of 1893.

In order to ascertain the best methods of preventing the entrance of this terrible plague into our country, and among other things, to establish the relations between Dominion and Provincial sanitation, a Conference consisting of representatives from the provincial governments, was officially called by the Minister of Agriculture, and met on January 31st, 1893, at Ottawa. A full report of the proceedings of the Conference will be found in Part II of this Report.

The Provincial Board of Health of Ontario has also, as Your Honor is aware, adopted special Regulations designed to prevent the entrance of cholera into Ontario, and more especially to stamp it out should it appear in any of our municipalities. The full text of these Regulations, dated the 11th day of April, 1893, has already been published and distributed to Local Boards of Health.

A circular has also been issued by this Board, giving advice to the public, for the restriction and prevention of cholera.

A still more important work has been the preparation of Pamphlet No. 1, 1893, or "Rules for checking the spread of contagious or infectious diseases, and hints on methods for dealing with municipal and house wastes." This pamphlet is probably the most important which has so far been issued by this Board. It deals with the salient features of private and municipal hygiene, and is intended to be a *vade mecum* to sanitary inspectors, and a work of ready reference for municipal boards of health. While some of the rules and regulations, which it contains, refer specially to the prevention of cholera, many also apply to such diseases as diphtheria, typhoid fever, scarlet-fever and measles, some of which unfortunately prevail in different parts of the Province every year.

A perusal of the reports of medical health officers of cities in Ontario shows, that in all the cities the sanitary condition of the inhabitants is good, and that in some distinct

advances have been made in preventing sickness and lowering the death rate. This fact is very distinctly brought out in the report of Dr. Griffin, Medical Health Officer, of Brantford. In this gentleman's opinion it is established beyond any doubt, that the most potent factor in the causation of typhoid fever, is impure water, and that attacks of typhoid fever in Brantford were brought on by the use of impure well water. Dr. Griffin also reports, that of the fifty-five cases of typhoid fever, which occurred in Brantford during 1892, since the introduction of a pure public water supply, only seven could be ascribed to emanations from foul unventilated drains or soak-pits, the other forty-eight being traceable to the use of impure, unboiled well water.

In St. Thomas, also, where, as Dr. VanBuskirk, the Medical Health Officer observes, typhoid fever used to be of common occurrence, it has now almost disappeared. This happy condition of affairs has been brought about by the disuse of private wells and the introduction into St. Thomas of filtered water, which in addition to supplying domestic wants, is also employed in flushing the eight miles of brick and tile sewers which that city possesses.

In the reports from the cities of Ontario we also read of demands for the abolition of privy pits, the removal or renovation of old sewers and the introduction of new ones. Improved systems of scavenging and disposal of garbage and excreta, the systematic application of steam as a disinfecting agent, and the more general use of isolation hospitals are also receiving attention from municipal health authorities.

The ready reception accorded to improved methods of heating and ventilating houses by the people of this Province, their efforts to obtain the best sanitary conveniences in their houses, and the co-operative energy displayed by them in assisting the health authorities to put down infectious diseases, are all evidence of the fact that the efforts of this Board and of the Local Boards of Health to restrict disease and decrease some of the worse discomforts of life, are receiving a hearty appreciation from an intelligent and reflective people. There can be no doubt, also, that owing to the general diffusion of education among the people and the teaching of hygiene in the public schools, the abolition of the cruder sanitary methods and the introduction of modern sanitary conveniences will be more generally demanded.

In addition to ordinary work, this Board has sent a sanitary exhibit to the World's Fair at Chicago. To visiting sanitarians from all portions of the world, it will serve as an indication of productive vigor in health work in this country, while to the general public it will show that the premier province of the Dominion wisely watches over the health as well as the wealth and commercial prosperity of her children.

There are at present 592 Local Boards of Health, and of these 365 have appointed Medical Health Officers.

Trusting that the already favorable health conditions of the Province may continue to improve, and that the now thoroughly aroused vigilance of Local Boards of Health may not be too easily lulled into a condition of false security,

I have the honor to remain,

Your obedient servant,

JNO. J. CASSIDY,
Chairman.

PART I.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

CHAPTER I.

To the Chairman and Members of the Provincial Board of Health :

GENTLEMEN,—In referring to the chief features which have marked the Board's work during the year, I find that they are especially characterized by the details of executive work which seem to be increasing from year to year, and in some ways taking precedence of the work of disseminating sanitary information which formed so large a part of the work in the earlier years of the Board's organization. It cannot be said, however, that the latter work was neglected during the year, as the Board published, in addition to the dissemination of many copies of the Public Health Act and of the pamphlet on "How to Check Contagious Diseases," a large edition of the "Advice to the Public on Cholera" and "The Annual Report of the Association of Executive Health Officers of Ontario."

The addition of the Laboratory to the equipment of the Board has been a great aid to its executive work, as by it the examination of public water and ice supplies, of the investigation of specimens of diseased tissues of animals, and the bacteriological investigations of suspected contagious diseases of men and animals have enabled the Board to draw accurate conclusions and give authoritative opinions with regard to the many matters brought before it for consideration by Local Boards of Health, which have been of the greatest value in advancing the work laid upon the Board by the Public Health Act and the various amendments thereto.

The appointment by the Government of your Secretary to the position of Deputy-Registrar-General has by bringing the Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths into close relation with the work of the Board likewise further consolidated, extended and broadened the work of Public Health in Ontario.

The study of the Vital Statistics of the Province as they yearly become more accurate and scientific becomes of much importance to the work of the Board, as thereby attention is drawn to the prevalence of certain classes of disease, and as a result enquiry into the causes which lie behind such prevalence most naturally follows.

While it cannot be said that either the work of the Provincial Board or of the Local Boards of the Province has attained that degree of efficiency which is the dream of every enthusiastic sanitarian, yet when a comparison is instituted between the sanitary status of Ontario and that of any other Province or State on the continent, the Board may well be gratified in feeling that the work of ten years has not been in vain. This cannot be better illustrated than by a reference to the diagrams setting forth the relative prevalence of contagious disease in the Province during the past ten years, and to various tables in the Report of the Registrar General, which indicate the decreasing death-rate per 1,000 in different cities of the Province. The extension of the work of the Board and the widening interest and influence of public health is further noticeable in the close relationships being yearly established between not only the Provincial Board and Local Boards, but between them and sanitary engineers, public school inspectors, veterinary surgeons and those engaged in the various branches of scientific agriculture. Waterworks and sewerage schemes, the investigation of outbreaks of disease in animals, diseases among insects as