

The movement for the extension of life to its possible limits, is a natural reaction against the waste of life in war. It is construction versus destruction. With this movement for life extension is inextricably involved the health movement. Morbidity statistics are still in their infancy, but medical experts and vital statisticians, such as Sir Arthur Newsholme, agree that the improvement in the health of a population proceeds approximately *pari passu* with an increase in its longevity.

As regards the state of health among the nations of to-day, the revelations made by the enforcement of the draft in such countries as the United Kingdom and the United States, showed that there was an appalling amount of ill-health and of physical defect even among the young male population of military age. As for Canada, out of the 361,695 young men between 20 and 34 years of age medically examined under the Military Service Act of 1917, no fewer than 181,255, or slightly more than half, were found to be more or less physically unfit. These men were not, it is true, a fair sample of the general population, since hundreds of thousands of the fit men of these ages had already gone overseas. None the less, the statement indicates that there is abundant room for improvement in the physical condition of the Canadian people and abundant justification for the establishment of a national health authority.

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DOMINION DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH.

The Dominion Department of Health was established by the Department of Health Act, 1919, (9-10 Geo. V., chap. 24).

The duties of the Minister administering the Department extend to all matters within Dominion jurisdiction relating to the promotion of the health of the Canadian people, particularly co-operation with provincial, territorial and other health authorities for improving the public health and conserving child life. The Department is also given power to establish and maintain a national public health laboratory, to inspect and give medical care to immigrants and seamen, to supervise, as regards the public health, all means of public transportation, as well as Dominion public buildings. Further, the Department is authorized to publish information relating to the public health, improved sanitation and the social and industrial conditions affecting the health and lives of the people. A Dominion Council of Health was also established by the Act, consisting of the Deputy Minister of Health as Chairman, the chief executive officer of the Provincial Department or Board of Health for each Province, and other persons not exceeding five, appointed by the Governor in Council.

The organization of the Department of Health was rapidly completed, and the administration of the following Acts undertaken: The Quarantine Act, the Leprosy Act, the Public Works Health Act, the medical side of the Immigration Act, the Canada Shipping