

ignorant so far as anything relating to disease is concerned. They know nothing beyond the worse than useless things they read in the newspapers, and quack advertisements. Many men are woefully ignorant in medical matters, in the knowledge of disease and its treatment, who are in other matters fairly intelligent. Clergymen, lawyers and successful business men are often the dupes of the veriest quackery. If the mission of the medical man was fully accomplished these things ought not to be so.

I referred to the semi-religious "pray-for-hire-healers" known as Christian Scientists and allied to them are the Doweites. Thus far the medical profession has treated these people with ridicule or ignored them entirely. If they confined their efforts to the unfortunates who imagine they have ailments they have not, we could well afford to continue thus to treat them; but when we find them impudently undertaking to treat infectious diseases such as diphtheria, scarlet fever and smallpox, diseases which they are unable to recognize, we think we have come to a point where toleration and forbearance become criminal. We have a right to insist, in order to protect the people from the spread of these diseases, that no man or woman shall be allowed to treat disease by any means whatever who has not had the training necessary to enable him to know the character of the disease he undertakes to treat. These people deny that disease exists and, of course, do not report to the proper officers any case of infection. They go in and out amongst the infected, and allow others to do the same; thus criminally and at variance with all health regulations, they are doing all they can to spread these infections.

Surely it is time the 2,500 medical men in Ontario raised their voices and used all their influence to obtain from the Legislature such an amendment to the Medical Act as will put an end to this trifling with human life. Medical men are now compelled under a penalty to report every case of infectious disease to the proper authorities, in order that its spread may be prevented; but these people trading under a religious name do not report any case and undertake to treat everything. Why should it be so?

On many questions which affect the relation of our profession to the public, the education of the people is of much greater service than legislation; but on the action of these religious healers, who profess to cure the sick by praying for hire, nothing less than very stringent legislation will meet the case. These people must be taught that infectious diseases are not to be spread by them under any cloak, religious or otherwise. Toleration towards religious belief is very commendable, but toleration of a vile fraud, of which the name is the only Christian thing in it, ceases to be a virtue.