

under a definite policy with a permanent and efficient organization and sufficient funds.

"The results already achieved in sickness prevention through local effort with limited funds established beyond a doubt the urgent need for a thorough-going investigation of its further possibilities under a definite national policy. Such an investigation should be undertaken at once. The withdrawal from production of hundreds of thousands of the most robust workers for military service has already increased the relative importance of the sickness burden as related to national efficiency, and it will be accentuated by further withdrawals as the war goes on."

### THE MEDICAL PROFESSION AND THE WAR.

In his presidential address, Dr. A. D. Bevan, Chicago, (*Journal A. M. A.*, June 15, 1918), after briefly noticing the organization and activities of the Association, takes up the problems raised by the war, and the relation of the profession to the people and the government in the present crisis. The necessary number of officers for the army and navy will require at least 20 per cent. of the medical men of the country, and the Association, through its county and state societies and general organization must supply the need. The census of the medical men has been completed, and the honor roll of those who have come to the aid of their country has been published in *The Journal*. The Government has very wisely taken steps to prevent the disruption of our medical schools and to keep up the supply of physicians by following out the suggestions of Surgeon-General Gorgas. The medical professions of England, France, Belgium and Italy have been well nigh exhausted in this war, and the United States is looked to for a supply. A small medical department that existed before the war has formed the leaven to change the great body of physicians coming from civil life into efficient military surgeons and efficient hospital and ambulance units. Dr. Bevan here pays a deserved compliment to the work of Surgeon-Generals Gorgas and Braisted of the Army and Navy, and to the splendid work of Surgeon-General Blue in the Public Health Service. If we compare the mobilization of the United States for war with that of other countries under similar conditions we find ample reasons for congratulations. In spite of epidemics, unavoidable in the congregation of so vast a body of men, analysis of the facts shows an average mortality from disease less than that in ordinary civil life. Strikingly successful has been the handling of the venereal problem, and no such moral and clean army has ever been mobilized as is the American Army. None has been as free from intemperance. It is fortunate that our mobilization occurred at the time when it could obtain so much popular support from