

Municipalities are called upon to spend large sums from year to year in curbing outbreaks of smallpox, the need for which would immediately disappear if people would take the precaution to be vaccinated and to have their children vaccinated in infancy and at the end of seven years. The mortality from diphtheria has been greatly reduced by the use of diphtheria antitoxin. Not only this mortality, but the incidence of the disease would rapidly disappear if antitoxin were used at the onset of each case and in those exposed to the disease.

Ninety per cent. of our medical officers of health are part time officers, and poorly paid at that. The public must learn that prevention of disease is purchasable and that, like everything else, cheap service is generally the dearest in the long run. It cannot be expected that a busy medical man who is paid little or nothing for his services as medical officer of health, will risk treading on the toes of his patrons by enforcing laws and regulations, which are often regarded by the latter as an interference with their freedom. It is a case of serving two masters, his own interests or that of the municipality, which the Divine word declares impossible.

Prevention of disease is by far the greatest field of modern medicine. It is not only the most economical, but the most reasonable, successful and satisfactory plan of procedure in respect to disease. To be effective it is essential to have an educated public and a highly refined and educated profession of medicine. All the insidious attempts to foist upon the public untrained practitioners of medicine of every description are a fraud upon our people and a menace to the State. It is the paramount duty of every government to protect the health of its citizens. In order to carry this duty into effect medical education should be fostered in every way, money voted with a free hand for public health measures and education, and medical quackery suppressed in the most vigorous manner.

In concluding this review the writer desires to express his appreciation of the hearty co-operation of every member of his staff, of the chairman and members of the Board, of the medical societies and individual members of the medical profession, to many of whom he is indebted for friendly counsel, and to the various Ministers of the Government under whom he has had the honour to serve.