

only as a sort of stepping-stone to private practice, and have not the slightest intention of making it their ultimate aim and object. It is highly desirable that scientific research, upon which we have to depend chiefly for further progress in medicine, should be adequately endowed and supported by the State, which should provide suitable equipment and sufficient remuneration for the teachers, so as to render it worth their while to devote their lives to the work. In return for the money thus contributed by the State, the people, through medical practitioners, could be supplied with laboratory reports, analyses, etc. The laboratory would thus become a Government department, similar to the existing public health department.

Although, as I have indicated above, I think there is much to be said in favor of a nationalized system of laboratory work, I wish most strongly to emphasize the fact that I would not for one moment suggest that the *practice of medicine* should be placed upon a similar basis, and thus made nothing more nor less than a Government department. The establishment of such a department has even been suggested, with a system of rewards and promotions, similar to that which obtains in Germany, or in the British Army and Navy. It is obvious that, human nature being what it is, such a state of things would offer the strongest inducements to commercialism, which, in any form whatever, is diametrically opposed to the ethics and best traditions of our profession.

Behold us! the members of what has always been considered to be one of the most dignified and honorable professions, parading the highways and byways of this country, our chests expanding with pride, as they groan beneath the weight of the numerous medals with which our gaudy tunics are adorned, the insignia of tinpot decorations, doubtless secured partially through merit, partially through what can only be described as the most carefully planned advertising, and partially through the wire-pulling and intrigue of wily politicians, who, chameleon-like, have acquired the invaluable faculty of adapting themselves, and of changing their color with that of the Government in power for the time being. Are we willing that the social standing of our profession should be thus degraded?

In this connection there is also something to be said from the point of view of the Canadian ratepayer, who prides himself upon paying for what he gets, and for no more. Is it likely that he would be willing to consent to legislation which would involve the raising of a large amount of money by the Government for the maintenance of insurances and benefits, and which would, there-