

"Within fifty years, at least from one-fourth to one-third of our present number of physicians to the thousand of population will be in the employ of the State and devoted to what may be broadly termed the social treatment of disease, as health officers, school physicians, mine and factory inspectors, directors of food production and superintendents of prisons and asylums."

It may be a day or two yet before the civil service takes on the duty of doctoring the community, but in the meantime we are doing a number of other things of great importance. It is a satisfaction to know we are a growing concern like every thing else in these days and on that score alone can hold up our heads with the best of them.

THE PARABLE OF GASTONIO.

And How he Saved his Bacon.

By Von Ludwig.

And Gastonio was sore afraid; he quaked with fear so that his knees wobbled, and his face paled even to the brown wart on his nose.

And the reason thereof was that his brother Alphonso was discovered.

And he lifted up his voice, and it was a heavy voice, and he roared like unto the roar of a bull, and he cried out, "If my brother Alphonso is discovered I am found."

Now Alphonso, the brother of Gastonio, was a lobster, strong in the claw but weak in the head-piece, and he was expensive and needed much money.

And Alphonso had a large open face with nothing behind it; but Gastonio had a small narrow face and behind it was much.

And these two were in the service of the King,—Gastonio, the elder, because he knew things, and Alphonso because his brother Gastonio was in it.

And it came to pass that Alphonso used much public money, but gave little service therefor. And the multitude became wise and discovered Alphonso in his ill-doing. And Gastonio was sore afraid lest he, too, should be separated from his breath. And so he wept and lamented that he had closed his eye to the doings of Alphonso.

And there was a great meeting of the rulers of the people, in the House which is called Common, because it is so. And they made inquiries into things. And one of the things was Alphonso.

And so the Rulers called Gastonio before them and demanded of him, saying: "Where is thy brother? What doeth he? and wherefore doth he live on the fat of the land, yet toil not, neither spin, except such yarns as are called 'smutty'?"

And Gastonio communed within himself with fear and trembling.

"Speak," said the rulers, "or be condemned."

And, behold, a cunning scheme came into the mind of Gastonio, and he spoke thusly: "Know ye my masters, that the doings of my brother Alphonso are not to my cognizance. Some one thinking to curry favour in my sight hath appointed him and put this money in his hand without my knowledge or consent."

"Then," said the Rulers, "we must have an investigation."

And immediately Gastonio was aware that he was saved, and he smiled a long smile in his sleeve, for he knew that He who is Investigated is Safe.

"Men and women range themselves into three classes or orders of intelligence. You can tell the lowest by their habit of always talking about persons; the next by the fact that their habit is always to converse about things; the highest by their preference for the discussion of ideas."—*Buckle's "History of Civilization."*