

by prevention than by cure. And why all this patient labor and research? To open up new avenues of wealth for the practising physician? To devise new schemes for getting into the pockets of the people? No! It is a labor of love. It is work undertaken without hope of reward except the reward that comes to us in common with the other citizens of the commonwealth through the increased security to life and health as the result of sanitary reform.

It will readily be admitted that the more disease there is among the people the greater the source of revenue for the doctors. If then as some people say, the doctors are concerned only about matters affecting their own pecuniary interests, why do they toil and plead for measures to prevent and suppress disease? The present state of sanitary law and quarantine in all civilized countries is a standing testimony to the unselfish character of the medical profession.

I have seen it somewhere stated that altruism is the foundation of all sanitary science and law. To the medical profession is due the credit of initiating and putting into operation all practical measures for the prevention and suppression of preventable disease in every country where sanitary laws are in practical operation. What would be the condition of our country to-day if these safeguards and restrictions were withdrawn? We enjoy comparative immunity in our homes to-day because there are faithful watchmen ever on the alert to raise the danger signal whenever and wherever we are threatened with an outbreak of the ordinary contagious and infectious diseases that are always lurking in sporadic form in various parts of the province, as well as the more virulent epidemic that threatens us from abroad.

IV. MUTUAL COOPERATION FOR THE COMMON GOOD.—In order that there may be mutual cooperation there must be mutual trust. Do we as a profession merit the confidence of the lay public? Do we discharge in full the responsible duties of our high calling?

The relation of the physician to his patient is a sacred one. Do the people fully realize this relation? The family physician is not only the custodian of your physical health and well-being but also of your family history. He is the father confessor to whom are committed the dearest secrets of your life. To him are known your secret vices and your worthy and unworthy motives. And yet many people dismiss their physician as they do their grocer or their butcher. They treat their physician on the principle "for value received." I pay my doctor