

The medical profession affords most inviting opportunities because of its rapid progress upon really scientific lines, its wonderful further opportunities for research, its rare opportunities for the rendering of service to one's fellow-men and above all its growing authority and its changed position as respects public administration. Now that populations tend to become urbanized and millions of people must live in close proximity to one another, our men of research in the medical profession have been making a series of most providential discoveries which have totally changed all the conditions of life, and have quite reversed our whole outlook upon the future.

It is to the men of this noble profession that we owe that greatest of all modern discoveries, namely, the discovery that those very conditions of life which fifty or seventy five years ago seemed destined to destroy the human race in the civilized countries of high industrial activity, could be turned into conditions for the positive improvement and progress of the race. It was this profession that developed the modern science of sanitary administration; worked out and applied the germ theory of disease; abolished epidemics of the large and uncontrolled sort such as used to ravage all great towns at frequent intervals; showed us the relation of pure water, sufficient air supply and sunlight, to the health of the community; taught us to inspect food; lowered the rate of infant mortality by guarding the milk supply—and, in short, set the real standards for the administration of municipal government.

More and more, I am inclined to think, the medical profession will pass over from the sphere of a private to that of a public calling. It will become one of the most essential of the protective services, somewhat as the private watchman developed into the public police organization; and the voluntary fire companies grew into the great paid and highly organized fire departments that we see to-day. The more or less voluntary and haphazard hospital facilities have tended to become systematized and public in their support and character. The administration of relief and charity in modern countries has passed over in the main from the private and voluntary agencies to the sphere of a necessary and thoroughly organized public function. And that greatest of all protective services—the education and training of the children of the people for their places as citizens of the state, members of general society, and producers in the economic sense—has in the course of time everywhere come to be recognized as the very foremost of all the functions of the community or the state. In a somewhat similar sense, then, I am inclined to think, a larger and larger proportion of the men trained for the practice of medicine will become public servants—administering sanitary systems; looking after the physical development of the children in schools; caring for the health of the workmen in factories; ministering to the sick in hospitals and institutions; serving special classes like railroad men, sailors, or students, and specializing for the general care of the community in a way analogous to that of the official doctors who now enforce vaccina-