

not be said that the widespread prevalence and appalling mortality from tuberculosis cast a ghastly shadow far along the pathway of the medical citizen? He knows not only the cause of the disease, but also the measures needed to prevent its spread; yet where is the evidence of any great zeal that he has displayed in securing its prevention? The only sanatoria in our province were practically initiated by a layman. Can it not be truly said, to the disgrace of the medical profession, that, in the campaign against tuberculosis, it tacitly refused to accept the position of leadership? It must not be inferred from this statement that physicians stood idly by, for individually, and through medical associations, and in medical literature, splendid work has been done. But, nevertheless, it is ethically wrong for the medical citizen to leave the leadership in preventive medicine to the lay citizen. The physician, from his experience and investigations, knows better than the layman the amount of suffering and wretchedness associated with these diseases, and how much of this is preventable. Therefore, in the work of prevention, no matter who helps to carry on the campaign, the medical citizen is ethically bound to assume the full responsibility of leadership.

It is not only in regard to the prevention of contagious diseases that the medical citizen is ethically bound to occupy the regal throne of leadership, but on all questions pertaining to sanitary matters his technical knowledge enables him to speak with authority. This opens up a vast field, but space will only permit a reference to a feature or two, e. g., the site, construction, heating, lighting and ventilation of homes, institutions, factories, etc., transportation, immigration, hours of labor, child labor, character of amusements, in brief, every question pertaining to the physical well-being of the citizen, of society, and of the nation. In the prosecution of great public works, such as the Suez and Panama canals, the technical knowledge of the medical citizen makes him the peer of the great engineer who designs and carries out the work.

It may be said that, with conditions as they are in our complex environments, and with humanity as it is, it is not only a hereculean task to attempt to remove all noxious influences from our physical life, but one utterly impossible of accomplishment. However, it is a thousand times better to fail in attempting to do our duty than to be apathetic about it.

“If it is right, there is no other way;  
Brave words to speak, and braver still to live.”