

but not all lives threatened by acute disease are saved by the time, money, effort and skill expended in the hospital wards.

Chronic malnutrition, with its myriad resulting evils, such as phthisis, many gastro-intestinal diseases of children and of adults, the chronic neuralgias and the chronic ulcers, is for the community and for the hospital, as great a problem, I think, as the acute illnesses treated in the hospital wards, especially as many of these acute illnesses are themselves the result of chronic malnutrition.

It is true that we do not usually attack this great problem of chronic disease very vigorously or very successfully in dispensary practice. If we are to go on with the methods now in use for dealing with the huge problems which present themselves in the persons of our out-patients, and if we can accomplish in the future, no more than we have in the past in our dispensary treatment of chronic disease, then surely the \$2.25 spent on each patient in our dispensary is amply sufficient. In fact, I would incline to think it is too much. An immense deal of good may be accomplished through the dispensary treatment of chronic sufferers from disease of the heart, the lungs, the gastro-intestinal tract, the bones and the nervous system, but not by the methods now in vogue.

If we are to spend only a few minutes and a few cents on the treatment of these cases the results are so insignificant that they seem hardly worth even the amount of valuable time and money. Unless we can do more it seems scarcely worth while to do so much. Of what use is the elaborate and expensive X-Ray diagnosis of bone and joint diseases when we cannot or do not apply the only treatment that can do most of them any good, viz., rest, pure air, and hypernutrition? Merely to advise these things is as useless in joint trouble as it is in phthisis. The advice is rarely taken unless it is supplemented by friendly oversight, education and financial help, direct or indirect. Again and again it turns out that the chronic sufferer is sick because he is poor or ignorant, or both. But poverty and ignorance are not to be cured by drugs, nor ever by printed directions.