

MEDICINE AND ALLIED BRANCHES

The people realize in increasing degree that the provision of better physicians and nurses for their children is the best possible public investment, a form of life insurance that is safer than any other. They understand that it is the people's business to provide adequate training and to insist that those who are to be entrusted with the lives and welfare of our citizens avail themselves of that training and present satisfactory evidence of proper qualification for their work. Medicine is being increasingly socialized. We are drifting perceptibly nearer to the time when the doctor will be a public servant and not a member of a privileged class. It is therefore only just and right that he be trained at public expense. This means provision not only of biological, chemical and physical laboratories, but laboratories of medical science, clinical laboratories, hospitals, dental infirmaries, dispensaries, nurses' homes, and other such facilities, all as a part of the equipment of a provincial university.

The expense of such an undertaking should properly be assessed not alone against the university, however. It is a good public investment when the by-product more than pays the total cost of operation. The teaching hospital, the backbone of such a university school of medicine, by returning to the community from which the patient comes a self-supporting and independent citizen in lieu of a helpless being—a burden to himself and others—is far more than paying the cost of maintenance. In fact, the cost of operating the hospital and its associated laboratories should really be charged not to education, but to public works, not to life insurance for our children, which medical teaching means, but to current provincial business, which increases the earnings of to-day. We are learning to know that in fairness both to the sick who can not work, and to

the well who must work, the place for the sick is in the hospital. The sick can not receive such kind and efficient care at home whilst the amateur nursing and household disturbance both interfere with the work and reduce the vitality of the well.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION

To provide for medicine is not to meet the needs of public health. Its conservation involves phases of medicine, engineering, law-making and enforcement, sociology, economics, education and many other lines of endeavor. The construction of the Panama Canal, that marvel of engineering, has been possible only because at length man has been able to stay the hand of the grim destroyer. The annual death toll under the De Lesseps regime was one out of each ten. It is now less than one out of each hundred amongst the white employees in the canal zone.

The same forces of nature which science has tamed for man's use and pleasure, the biological and physical sciences, have been applied in the war with disease. Death can be postponed and man's working period lengthened. Man was in sad need of improved weapons for his own defense in view of the rapid multiplication of complexities developed by modern life which masses thousands together in a few minutes and as quickly disperses them. Velocitomania—speed craze—is the microbe's friend, whilst our high tension life gives him the needed hold by increasing vital waste. In turn, hygienic success and extension of man's active period means increased population and adds new problems to the many perplexities of the engineer, the architect, the sociologist, the economist and the statesman. And so we are mutually helpful and mutually harmful.

We have come to recognize that the individual's fitness is not only his prime business but the public's affair as well. In