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WHEN WRITING TO ADVERTISERS PLEASE MENTION THE GUIDE

Better Doctoring thru Hospitals

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noted that the patient is responsible for practically only the fees payable to his doctor for his attendance; all other expenses, with the exception of his drug bill, being taken care of by the municipality. As to the fees charged by doctors attending a patient, I understand that these are the fees that would be payable if the patient attended at the doctor's own office. This is an item worthy of consideration as I believe that the mileage charged by doctors attending patients out in the country sometimes runs into very large figures."

Conservation vs. Immigration

This whole hospital movement, whether exemplified in such a co-operative hospital as that at Starbuck, or in a scheme of municipal hospitals, is a sign of the times, a sign that we are awakening to the unsound manner in which the whole system of medical service has been and is being handled in this country. We are constantly striving to secure immigrants from foreign countries, many of whom must be a burden for some time, and yet we have neglected to give even reasonable assistance in the conservation of the lives of men, women and children of settlers already here and established. What would we call the man who would go back again and again to a bank to borrow money to bring in livestock from other places, while he failed to take reasonable precautions to look after what he already had? But that's practically what has been happening on the prairies of this country for a long time. There is hardly a day that somewhere on the great, boundless and lonesome plains between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains a man or woman does not succumb to conditions and end up in one of the asylums. You can see this most any day at Ponoka or North Battleford. I have seen it more than once and the mounted police were the conductors, too. It's partly the result of isolation from humanity, or a combination of causes, but proper medical attention at the right time would avert a tremendous amount of it and conserve to the country thousands of homes that are now being broken up.

Perhaps we should not censure ourselves too hard when we remember that little more has been done anywhere on the continent, even under conditions that lend themselves much more toward co-operative effort than Western Canada. There are a few cases, however, where a beginning has been made. Ten years ago the University of California began a system of co-operative medical protection. There 7,000 students pay \$5 a year toward a common fund and in return each gets free advice and treatment. The medical service is said by unbiased experts to be unsurpassed, being thorough, accurate and up-to-date in every way. The university infirmary has wards and an outpatient department. To the latter patients can come every day at certain hours. This service is used most extensively. Being able to consult a doctor for nothing they use the service to make sure trifling ailments do not develop into more serious ones, in other words, for the prevention of disease. There are three doctors and all well paid, while the whole system is self-supporting. The great feature of it is this. Such a clinic offers the services of a group of expert physicians who are able to make a diagnosis complete, or practically so, and satisfy a patient whether there is anything wrong with him or not, and if so, just what it is. They haven't got to study the case indefinitely as they treat it and in the meantime pile up a big fee. Several other large universities in United States have commenced this work also, among them, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Harvard. The physicians in the consulting clinics of these universities have not only done unusual service in the treatment of disease but they have given invaluable advice to hundreds, who imagined they were sick or were anxious in some way about their health, by discovering that there was absolutely nothing wrong with them.

The Trend of Medical Practice

We can scarcely expect to reform our present consultation and one family doctor system in a hurry, but that is the direction in which we must work, because medical science has become too



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