

study somewhere. But no director could say that any of these things must be done.

With eegard to "the inability or unwillingness to receive or try new ideas or new methods" on the part of the medical profession, we most respectfully submit that there is no case. The mind of the medical profession all the world over is at white heat all the time in search for new methods of treatment. The research is an incessant one for the disease producing organisms, and for means of curing the morbid conditions they cause. The pathologist is ceaseless in his efforts to unearth the causes for the tissue changes found in diseased parts of the body. The medical profession would not occupy the proud position it does to-day, if it had not been ceaselessly discarding old ideas and adopting new ones. In the midst of this great activity, there must ever be a masterly conservatism to restrain the profession from running after untried remedies. It may be assumed that if anything really good comes to the knowledge of medical men it will soon come into use. There will be no need for a medical director to goad on the medical profession to make use of such new discoveries as contain any merit. There is, therefore, no need for a medical director to tell the doctors what they should read and how they should think and what they should use in practice.

(11) *Operations*.—One more duty that this officer would have to perform deals with "the elimination or reduction of unnecessary and costly operations." When one looks into what this leads to it certainly has a far-reaching meaning. It would be utterly impossible for the medical director to eliminate or reduce the number of operations after they have been performed. It would be equally impossible to decide whether they had been necessary or not. A surgeon removes an appendix and the little bit of human anatomy is thrown away. Some months later the patient objects to pay his bill and sets up the plea that the operation was not required; and appeals to the medical director for advice. The wound is perfectly healed and there is no specimen to be seen. The medical director is helpless. So all along the line of surgical practice.

To be of any use in the way suggested in the report, the medical director must needs see the cases before they are operated upon. This is manifestly impossible. There are too many requiring surgical treatment for this. Then they are scattered all over the province. Thus there would be an urgent case in Kingston, another in Goderich, a third in North Bay and fourth in St. Thomas, on the same day. There must be no delay in the interest of the patients. The medical director under these circumstances could do nothing towards the "elimination or reduction of unnecessary or costly operations." But grant that he could see some of the cases, the question would come to be a matter of opinion. An eminent and experienced surgeon is of the opinion that an operation should be per-