

The Montreal Group for the Security of the People's Health is a non-political organization of Physicians, surgeons, dentists, nurses, social service workers and statisticians formed in the winter of 1935-1936 to study the relationship of present day medicine to the people and to the state, in all the civilized countries of the world, with particular attention to the Dominion of Canada and the Province of Quebec.

The reasons for the urgent necessity of such a study were drawn up by the group in its fundamental platform.

1. There is an underlying feeling that medicine, as now practiced in this country, does not serve adequately either the patient or the physician.
2. Our civilization in recent years has undergone and is undergoing profound socio-economic changes which have altered both individual and group relationships. Although medical science has made tremendous progress, yet the application of these advances have not been fully utilized either to the benefit of the people or the profession.
3. The cause of this incomplete utilization lies in the uneven distribution of the products of scientific knowledge and research, with a lack of purchasing power of the people.

The doctor is a producer. The doctor is a commodity producer; the commodity he produces is the application of his knowledge of health and the means and measures he takes to combat disease. He, like the rest of society into which he is closely interwoven, is suffering today because he can find but few consumers able to pay for his product. In short, "production relationships", in terms of political economics, between producer and consumer are maladjusted and distorted. Medicine as a part of modern society presents the same contradictions in miniature as effects the whole. These contradictions may be characterized as poverty of purchasing power in the midst of plenty.

4. There is a growing realization that the adequate prevention and cure of disease has gone beyond the capacity of individual practitioners or charitable institutions, and that it demands the recognition by the state of the following principle - the maintenance of the health of the population is one of the fundamental functions and duties of the state and should be undertaken by the state under the same necessities as it has taken over public education, the police, the army and fire protection.

5. What's wrong with our practice of Medicine at present?

A. Patient's View.

1. The vast majority of the population (based on sociological division of three groups) cannot pay for adequate medical aid.
2. Even such medical aid as supplied by charity is inadequate, unless in cases of extreme illness requiring hospitalization.
3. There is an appalling lack of provision for preventive and hygienic measures in the community.

B. Doctor's View.

1. Individualistic general practice of medicine cannot supply the full benefits of modern science owing to the high degree of specialization demanded by advancing knowledge.
2. Preventive medicine in the real sense of the term is not practiced being non-remunerative.
3. Since the vast majority of people cannot even pay for inefficient service which the doctor is willing to render, the demands made on the physician's