

Let an actual case illustrate how the present method works out: A young man was known to the police to have been where he might have contracted a venereal disease and was notified to furnish a medical certificate. He called upon a doctor of many years' experience on the tenth day after the exposure. After a careful examination the physician seeing the young man gave him a certificate. There was not the slightest inflammation, swelling, redness, tenderness, discharge or any fissure, abrasion or ulcer. In other words, there was no ground whatever for thinking that the young man was infected. The evidence was positive that there was neither gonorrhoea nor chancroids. It was too soon to rule out syphilis. Two or three days later the doctor was summoned to the police court to give evidence in the matter and was abused because he had not made a microscopical examination and a blood test. It should be noted that there was neither discharge nor sore to yield the material for a microscopical examination, and it was too soon for a Wassermann test. The young man was ordered to go to a hospital for investigation.

This is too autocratic and will defeat the usefulness of the Act. All over the province there are capable and careful practitioners, but unless they make a microscopical examination or do a blood test, their certificate that certain persons have or have not some of the venereal diseases would not be accepted.

It would seem as if the Act unduly favored the interests of a few so-called venereal disease specialists and bacteriologists. The vast majority of the medical profession should not allow themselves to perform the humble clerical duty of stating that they had seen a case, but could go no further and state what particular form of disease, or that the suspected person was free from disease.

It is the duty of the Ontario Medical Association to use its great influence to see that the certificate of any legally qualified practitioner shall be accepted for these diseases as it is in other medical matters. If a legally qualified practitioner pledges his word that a certain person has or has not any form of venereal disease, whether he did or did not use a microscope or try the blood, his word must be accepted. This is the rule in all other contagious diseases. A doctor is not compelled to make a microscopical examination of the sputum in order to be in a position to legally report a case of tuberculosis. So with typhoid fever; the clinical evidence suffices.

THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT.

The only feature in regard to this Act to which your Committee feels it should give attention is that of the fees paid to the medical profession for the services it is called upon to render under said Act.