

more to his country when well than when sick.

Illness, defective teeth, poor eye-sight are important causes of inefficiency and non-production.

It has been estimated, that about seven days on an average are lost each year from sickness, or about 2 per cent. of working time. This in itself would amount to a stupendous amount of money.

A very large proportion of all this money could be saved by the state if its energies were bent intensively to prevent disease by giving the people a proper system of education along health lines and treating the various diseases by the most enlightened and scientific methods.

We have arrived at an age when every man and woman should be in a position in an emergency to care for themselves. The doctor at present is so often called in to attend to trivial ailments that could easily be attended to by the people themselves and then on the other hand, often he is not called in on serious cases until too late. Ignorance and the costs of medical attention are to blame.

There are two agencies which alone can save humanity and bring about a higher and better civilization. These agencies are religion and the science of medicine. All things of an educational nature in its broadest sense are in a sense religious. All things pertaining to the development and preservation of the human race belong to the category of medicine.

The science of medicine and surgery has made most marvelous progress the past fifty years. Prior to that time there was but very little attention given to the prevention of disease along public

health lines and the family physician with his large supply of pills and nauseating drugs rarely referred his patients to specialists as is the custom to-day. The neighbors then were crude nurses, but there was a spirit of co-operation, and a great desire by friends to give a helping hand in time of sickness. Now they say: get a nurse. The status of the private medical practitioner or family physician assumes responsibility of the family and safeguards it. He is the true friend in various problems that confront the parents and children. He knows the trials and troubles of many families far better than the parson, but his lips are sealed, and no one has the key but the patient. No one in the whole country has such a profound knowledge of the mental and moral weakness of the race as the medical men, but they are silent and under the present system are helpless to disseminate the greatest moral teachings which would prevent such a terrible amount of suffering. We are spending a great deal of money on education. 'Tis well, but what an awful number of backward children are in the schools! Why? Because they are either diseased physically or not properly born. From backward children come the criminal, the prostitute, the insane, and the unfortunate ignorant class of society which lower the physical and moral status of the nation.

The Decline of the Race

Education has been started far too late in life. The greatest and most important education of a child is before a child is born. Prenatal laws are almost unknown, and the ignorance of many parents is simply appalling. The time