

Association, the Childhood Society, many eminent physicians of various countries, members of Parliament, Medical Officers of Health, and Medical Societies.

At once I may say that, though I am not *Laudator temporis acti*, yet my paper is not intended to deprecate the past work of one or any State Department of Public Health. It is not read with an intention of damaging any existing institution by criticism, but rather with the sincere desire of adding to the powers and scope and utility of those that exist; of bringing to your minds the need for national safeguards based on scientific medicine proportionate to the growing needs of our densely populated lands.

#### THE VALUE OF A LEADER.

The first query that comes to the lips is, "Are there reasons for supposing that a Minister at the head of an independent Health Department would lead to an increase of the powers for and the improvement of the health of the community?" One may reply by reasoning from analogy. If one turns to the past annals of science, statecraft, religion, war, commerce or exploration, and indeed any department of human activity, we have brought before us irresistibly the power of the *individual*, each in his sphere. It is the *individual* who leads the way; others follow in his footsteps. It is the advocate and leader of men who has the power to group the many about a central idea.

To-day the Kaiser Wilhelm, Monsieur Pasteur, Lord Lister, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Mr. Pierpont Morgan or "General" Booth—emperor, scientists, minister, company promoter or religionist—possess the "divine right" of leadership. And so it has been since the days of the Messiah and Mahomet. One man can achieve in a year what may take most people a lifetime.

#### THE ABOLITION OF DISEASE.

To illustrate the enormous value of organized measures, you have only to be reminded—

That the Ministry of Public Health in Germany has practically abolished smallpox;

That the President of the English Local Government Board has practically extinguished rabies in England by the simple precaution of preventing the transference of infection from one dog to another;

That the practical application of bacteriological knowledge