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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 1920

DR. VINCENT IN NOVA SCOTIA

Says Halifax Has Opportunity
To Attract Universal
Attention

BIG HEALTH CENTRE

Hopes Rockefeller Foundation
May Be of Some Service
— The Need Shown
by High Death Rate.

The following are some interesting extracts from the Chronicle's report of Dr. Vincent's addresses in Halifax this week:

"He appealed to every citizen in Halifax to co-operate in advancing the cause of public health in the maritime provinces, saying nowhere else had he encountered a city which had similar opportunities to point the way in this respect to the rest of the continent. He was enthusiastic about what had already been accomplished, particularly the reconstructed North End and the great advantage which would be derived from the proximity to each other of the Victoria General Hospital, the Salvation Army Maternity Hospital, and the Dalhousie Medical School; but he stressed the height of infant mortality and the death rate in Halifax.

"The infant mortality rate was twice that of New York city and three times that of New Zealand. It was concrete evidence that the chance of a child surviving its first year in Halifax was twice as bad as in New York. These were things which intelligent people must face. He had inquired of the general death rate in Halifax upon arriving here, and had been appalled to learn that it was 20.1, whereas the rate in London was 14.6 and in New York 13.6. There was no escape from these figures and they demanded an answer; the resources of modern public health organization made it possible to deal with the matter. He was pleased with what had been accomplished in Halifax especially the 400 new houses in the North end which he described as 'beautifully designed and grouped.' He predicted that the 450 families would be admirably housed and hoped that they would organize for a better standard of living giving the children a better chance through pure milk and water and visiting nurses also keeping statistics of what they were doing. He knew of no better opportunity for a demonstration that would attract the attention of all of North America.

"Dr. Vincent considered that the great medical centre planned for Halifax could be effected with little difficulty; the existing institutions were conveniently grouped only additions were necessary, which would bring the medical school into closer relationship for laboratory and clinical work for the students. The chief value of this centre would be the training of doctors health officials, nurses and others who were essential to the betterment of the community.

Co-operation in Halifax.

"Dr. Vincent said that splendid co-operation was being established in Halifax. He mentioned his visit to Admiralty House, and said that he had been convinced that Halifax was likely to have the first genuine, all-around, complete, and functioning public health centre on the continent, which would attract the attention of innumerable authorities interested in health matters. He hoped that a centre would also be established in front of the medical college, where out-patients of the hospitals might be treated. He knew of nothing like this idea anywhere else but in Halifax.

"He also advised the citizens of Halifax to create an impeccable water supply, and have all milk from inspected dairies and under thorough supervision in delivery; it would be better to pasteurize one hundred instead of thirty per cent of the milk consumed in the city, thereby making its purity doubly sure. As to housing, he referred again to the excellence of new houses, but mentioned with disapproval 'barrelled' houses which he had passed, and which held, as he had been told, some 1,500 families. He insisted that every family in the city should live in a perfectly sanitary and satisfactory dwelling.

In conclusion, Dr. Vincent said that it was a bad thing to trust to luck and to let things drift. There should be a community purpose and a definite programme, with all the citizens backing it to their utmost."

Addressed Legislature.

Dr. Vincent also addressed the Nova Scotia legislature, and the Chronicle reports:

"In his address, Dr. Vincent disclosed the new and broader meaning of public health and said that the war had brought to the foreground the fact that so many men in each nation were exempt from military service because of physical defects. In Great Britain 1,000,000 men were rejected because of defectiveness, and in the United States thirty per cent of those called by the draft board were found unfit for service.

"Public health is an absolutely fundamental thing," Dr. Vincent said. In up-to-date application of public health, prevention and proper treatment take the place of the old-fashioned school of medicine. Public health is the burden of everyone in the community, for one sick individual is the worry of every one else. The question of public health goes into the housing condition, the food and the mental state of every individual in the community.

Need of Institution.

"The need of an institution where proper equipment will be available and where students will be taught and tenets of up-to-date medicine and the requirements of public health will be taught, was referred to, and Dr. Vincent said that he and Dr. Pearce were in Halifax to co-operate with any movement of this sort which would be under the direct supervision of the government.

"A public health centre meant having a place where students could be trained to go out and aid conduct public health service, with the assistance of the most modern facilities and development. There must be there a competent teaching staff keeping themselves in touch with developments by original investigation. Dr. Pearce and himself were pleased to find the facilities which Halifax already offered for such a centre.

There was in the group the V. G. Hospital with its pathological department, the Children's Hospital, a city hospital, a city institution near by, where many of the people were interesting problems in themselves, a maternity hospital

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THE NEGLECTED AND DELINQUENT

(Halifax Recorder.)

Our population is roughly divided into

those who are an asset and those who are a liability to the province. Children who have respectable parents and are brought up in respectable homes generally develop into assets. Those who grow up under dissipated parents and without respectable home surroundings are of course exceptions in both cases. Until quite recently there was very little interest taken in the latter class. Juvenile delinquency was provided for them, but none considered it their duty to provide good surroundings to save them from the doom of the penal institutions. Nova Scotia has the honor of being among the first countries to take up this matter, and Ernest H. Bliss with his assistants have been the pioneers of this movement. Splendid work has been done, but much yet remains, and money is the needed thing just now. The cause of neglect and delinquency are many. Halifax in particular is suffering terribly from lack of housing accommodations, which forces whole families often to live in two rooms more or less, where no decent privacy is possible. The family circle rearing in its influence is not what it used to be, in fact the old-fashioned blessed family circle has almost ceased to exist. There is also much moving from place to place with the result that the school term is so broken up for the children that they grow up minus any regular education; another root of delinquency. The war has been responsible for much trouble of this description also. Women left at home with their families have too often forgotten their honor, and a neglected and dependent family is the result. In fact the war has cursed the world morally even more than it has cursed it materially, the conquerors suffering with the conquered in

this regard. Last but not least there has been a large number of people of other races who have come to the province and whose ideas of family life are very different from our own. All these things mean the demoralization of child life and call for much care and attention. Children are being placed in foster homes, and these homes have to be watched also. Detention homes or temporary boarding places are in existence and various agencies are at work on the problem. There are two juvenile courts, one in Halifax and one in New Glasgow, and during the past year 238 children have been before them. Children's Aid Societies are found in many towns which investigate cases and help the needy child, the reports from these being very touching reading. Judge Hunt of the Halifax juvenile court has this to say regarding one cause of delinquency:

"Another cause may, I think, be found, in poor and neglected homes, the consequence of which are neglected children. There are scores of homes in our city where the father of a family is compelled to be away from home earning a livelihood, and where the mother, neglecting her family duties, is found too often spending her time in some of our many places of amusement. Such homes are the breeding places of crime. Given good mothers we have little to fear from neglected homes and from influences that go so often to ruin the brightest lives. Incapable and incompetent mothers make home life so distasteful and repugnant to their children that the attraction of the street soon becomes stronger than the attractions of home, and as a consequence children find their amusement and their companions outside of the home amid temptations and surroundings that lead to make disorder and crime. It is hoped that some means can be devised to give advice and help under such circumstances. If we are to make progress in the right direction we must begin at the home. It is well known from homes where are found good mothers there our most successful men have had their start in life."

THE MEDICAL QUARTERLY.

The Medical Quarterly, the official publication of the medical services of the department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, has completed its first year.

The original purpose of the quarterly was to place on record the work of the medical service of the department of soldiers' civil re-establishment in the broadest interpretation of the term, including various allied phases of reconstruction work.

Contributions have been invited not only from the staff of the department, but also from medical men and others throughout Canada and abroad, who are in a position to contribute to the general subject of reconstruction medicine.

One of the special objects which it is hoped to realize, and which is new and peculiar to this publication, is the presentation of special sectional medical problems and work. Each province has medical problems and interests more or less peculiar to itself, which it is hoped

to be able to present for the mutual benefit of all.

While the scope of the Quarterly covers every branch of medicine, there are several departments in which it has a major interest, owing to the special

types of disability with which it has been presented dealing with these most to do. Such are, for example, the subjects,

departments of occupational therapy, tuberculosis, neuropsychiatry, leprosy, and conditions and orthopaedics.

During the year numerous articles

place in the medical literature of the

The record of the first year of the publication is an encouraging one and it is believed that it will fill a definite

country. It can only succeed, however, through the co-operation of the profession, including all members interested in the special problems concerned, and all such are invited to forward contributions.

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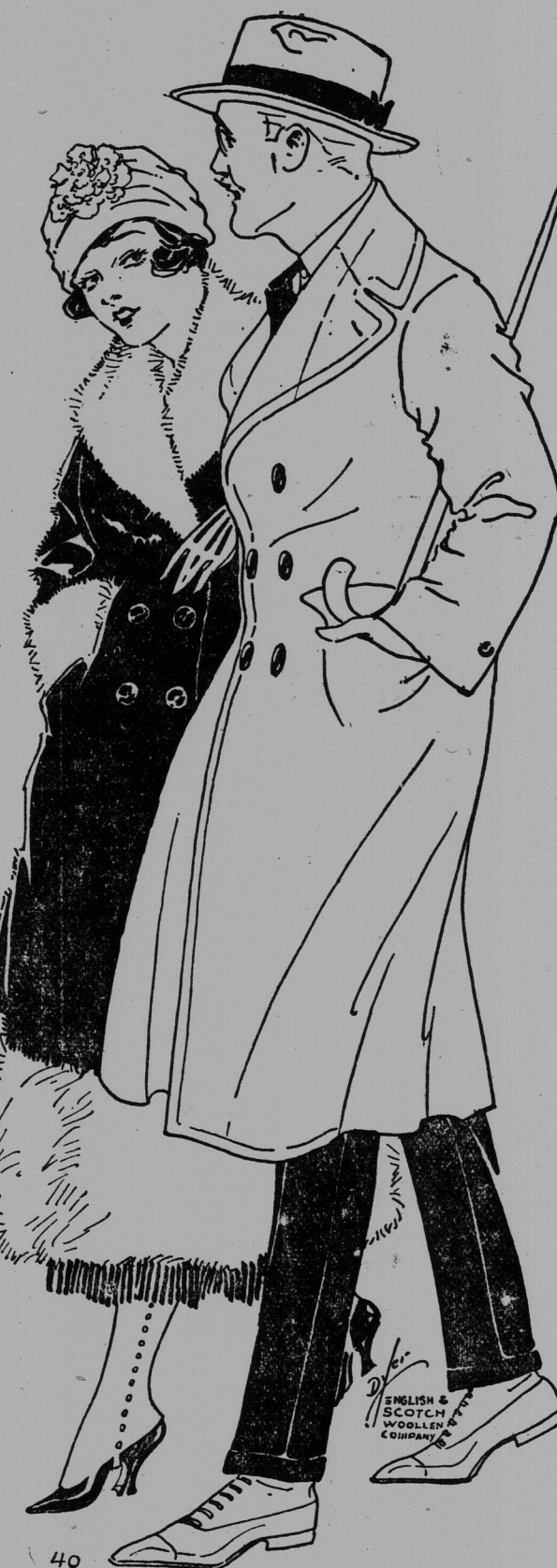
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