

Atlantic doing to ascertain the cause of the diseases which affect humanity? The United States has spent more money in investigating the causation of hog cholera than it has in similar investigations concerning any or all diseases of man. The lives of hogs, we will admit, are of great value, but are human lives worth nothing? We say that the chief duty of the State is to protect the property and life of the citizen. It is for this purpose that Governments come into existence. With this in view loyal people enact and obey the laws. Then is it not strange that disease, the most relentless enemy which man has, has not been combatted by the combined energy and strength of all—by the State? "But," says one, "we leave all to the medical profession. We expect the physicians to find out everything about disease." The medical profession has done much in this direction. It has numbered among its followers many noble men, who have devoted their time and energy and given their lives to the prevention of diseases. More than two thousand years ago the Athenians cried to Hippocrates to save them from the pestilence, and, if history be true, that cry was not in vain. We are all ready to do honor to the name of Jenner, who, unaided, robbed that loathsome disease, small-pox, of its horrors. Many other less known names might be mentioned. Indeed, the history of the profession is crowded with the record of the names and deeds of these lovers of science and of humanity.

But it should be clearly understood that all work of this kind lies outside of strict professional duty. The prevention of disease is no more the duty of the medical man than is the prevention of litigation the duty of the lawyer. Notwithstanding these facts, the majority of those now engaged in sanitary work are physicians.

But inquiries concerning the causation of sickness and death are of too much importance to be relegated wholly to any one profession, and to be forgotten by all others. It is a work in which all are interested and in which all should labor in one way or another. It is a matter in which all have direct financial interests. If properly carried out it saves time and money for all, and all should see that it is well done. If diligently pursued it will save many lives to the State, and the State should see that it is diligently pursued.

The prosecution of these inquiries should not be

forced to await the convenience of any individual nor of any profession. It should be advanced systematically and scientifically, and this can best be done by the Government. Year in and year out this warfare against disease should be urged and individuals cannot be expected to do work of that kind.

Individuals cannot afford the time and money to prosecute these investigations. While the expense to the whole, that is, to the State, would be comparatively small, to the individual, it would be much more than he could bear. Laboratories and apparatus are needed in this work. Trained assistants must aid in carrying out the work planned by the investigator. Physics, chemistry and biology must yield service. The microscope, retort and culture flask must all be used. Time, patience and skill must be exercised for a long time, before the ignorance and superstition concerning the causation of disease can be removed.

Then, again, many questions concerning the causation of disease can be studied only under the direction of the State. The investigator must at times be allowed to enter private premises or to investigate the property of corporations in the prosecution of his studies, and in doing so he must be authorized by the Government.

"But," says one, "what benefit should the people expect to receive from such studies? They might help physicians in the treatment of disease, but is not that all?" My friend, were that all, it would be enough. If years of such research carried on by the Province of Ontario should furnish the information by which the physicians within its borders could cut down the death-rate one-half, then the work would still be worth the doing. In every life which he saves, the physician makes only a few dollars for himself, but he saves, as we have seen, \$1,000 for the State. Then if money spent in investigating the causes of disease did nothing more than aid physicians in the treatment of disease, it would be well spent. But it would do more than this. It would abate disease, save life and increase the average duration of life. And this means much. It means increased prosperity and happiness. It will lead to contentment and improvement of the working classes. Poverty with health can be borne; indeed, it may be a blessing. Poverty with disease is an unmitigated