

gether quite probable that those in charge of sanitary matters in that province and city are quite competent to deal with the matter, and deal with it effectively and promptly if given a free and untrammelled hand. To one at a distance and not on the spot, after reading the reports, interviews etc., in the public press, it would appear that there are three prime things to be done in Winnipeg, namely, wipe out all box closets, establish a visible water supply and have the administration of all health matters in the hands of a competent board and health officer, altogether independent from aldermanic influence, which may be up to-day and down to-morrow.

Patients in the wards of most hospitals are divisible into four classes: Charity patients, who do not contribute anything themselves; public ward patients, who pay so much per diem; semi-private and private patients, who may pay all the way from \$7.00 per week to \$18.00 per week. Any one can present himself to most hospitals without enquiry and ask to be admitted to a public ward, a semi-private or a private ward, according to his own knowledge of his ability to pay. Most of the occupants of these, having paid for their week's board and lodging in advance, will then look around for medical or surgical attendance, which, as they are in a hospital, of course must be supplied by the institution gratis. Now, upon what financial basis is a hospital going to determine the ability of a patient to pay for these respective wards, because they are apparently for different grades or classes of society, that is from a financial standpoint. Where we have a hospital establishing the rule that all entering a public ward at say \$3.50 per week, which the patient pays himself or has paid for him, shall be attended by that physician or surgeon of the staff to whom he is allotted, without any fee whatsoever, and thus placing that patient in that respect on a par with pauper patients, who pay nothing whatsoever for themselves, but are paid for in part by the municipality, then a very grave injustice, an exceedingly serious injustice is being placed upon a class of men who, all the world over, are ever ready to stretch out a helping hand to the poor and needy who may require either medical or surgical advice or attendance. It is because of this noble principle inherent in the profession of medicine, which is dissociated altogether from any mere commercial gain, that the profession of medicine is imposed upon not alone by notorious sinners, but by men who are enlightened, intelligent, educated. Take for instance the case of a girl earning \$5.00 per week in a factory, and a girl earning \$12.00 per week in a counting-house. Are these two to be classed in the same category when admitted to a hospital? Manifestly the first cannot pay for either hospital maintenance or professional attendance. There is