

SOCIAL SERVICE AND HOSPITAL EFFICIENCY

MARK TWAIN once said of the New England weather, that "everybody was talking about it, but nobody did anything." In regard to Social Service work some of us are trying to do something and we hope that many will talk about it.

It has been said that cities have no conscience, and this often seems true when we read of typhoid epidemics, the summer slaughter of young babies, the unrestricted prevalence of tuberculosis and the highest death-rate among civilized nations. Doctors and institutions already overtaxed are often left to grapple with hydra-headed evils which the unintelligent and sometimes unscrupulous guardians of civic health and virtue have allowed to grow up in our midst. In Montreal, as elsewhere, we are slowly feeling our way towards a higher standard of efficiency in matters affecting public health and morals. If the civic sense of the value of preventive work lags behind that of the intelligent public, it means more expense to the taxpaying community, a heavier burden on charitable organizations, a greater loss of life and manhood to the country, as well as untold suffering to the family unit and individual.

Such exhibits as the Tuberculosis Exhibit and that of Child Welfare held here not long ago, emphasize the note of **prevention** which is surely becoming as dominant in Canada as it has become across the border in all medical and charitable work. During the past ten years much has been accomplished in laying bare the needs of our communities along these lines. We are beginning now to realize that it is as great a charity to keep a man well and out of the hospital bed as to care for him after he is in it. Who is there who would not regard it as even a greater service? Is it not better, more decent, and in the end less expensive to keep our jails empty and our schools full, to regulate