

may operate in the first position of affairs, but cannot in the second.

A minor in the eyes of the law does not give consent. The parents or guardians do this for the child or minor. They are within their rights when they refuse a given line of surgical treatment. They act in the room and stead of the child.

This is in all cases where the welfare of the public is not at stake. When the disease is of a contagious nature, or such as may properly be held to be dangerous to others, then the officers of the law may interpose, and separate such a person from others, regardless of whether the person be an adult, a minor, or of sound or unsound mind. This is where the liberty of the individual may be entrenched upon for the safety of others .

In the case of a nasal polypus, the presence of adenoids, an enlarged condition of the tonsils, or a strabismus, there is no danger to the public. These conditions affect only the individual afflicted. The right of accepting or rejecting operation remains with the individuals if of mature years and sound mind; and with the parents or guardians if they are minors or of unsound mind.

Should it be ever deemed wise to so amend the statutes that parents and guardians must consent to operative treatment of such conditions as those just mentioned, then some very competent body must be appointed to say the last word. It will not do to have the last word in the power of the medical inspector of the schools, who may be honest, but quite inexperienced in some of these branches of practice.

The last has not been said on this subject. Forced surgical treatment has been raised in an acute form, and, like Banquo's ghost, will not down. If the school authorities decide to insist on compulsory surgical treatment, then the whole question must take the wider position and be dealt with on the broadest basis.

THE GREATEST OF ALL INDUSTRIES.

There is nothing that can engage a people's thought and energy that will yield such handsome profits as that of promoting public health. The lengthening of the years for useful work and the reduction of the amount of sickness are the two highest aims that can be placed before the public attention.

The Duke of Connaught spoke words of weight and value when he said in Toronto a few days ago regarding tuberculosis, that the raising of the million dollar fund and the building of sanatoria were not the solution of the whole problem. The people themselves must