

lucky. It killed 500,000 people annually in Europe.

Typhoid fever until recent years claimed many victims annually, as all older residents of Toronto know only too well. To-day the water is chlorinated and we have a typhoid vaccine which has played a very prominent part in the great war. In all previous wars the mortality from typhoid fever was frightful, but there was hardly any in the late world war. The prevention of typhoid fever amongst the allied troops was perhaps the biggest factor in winning the war, and many of our returned men are alive and well to-day because they were inoculated.

The advances made in the prevention of tetanus and infection in wounds has been a great triumph achieved in the military hospitals.

#### **Too Much Commercialism in the Medical Profession.**

Let us look for a moment at tuberculosis. Many of us remember when it was considered an hereditary disease pure and simple. Now it is known to be an infectious disease, and patients, instead of remaining at home and infecting the other members of the family, are removed to tuberculosis sanitariums and given the very best treatments.

Whenever we see that the state has taken charge of the sick great advances have been made.

During the war all our soldiers came under the medical and surgical treatment of the state, and it was the interest of the state to keep our men fit, and our physicians and surgeons who enlisted in the war made many sacrifices and were, like our soldiers, poorly paid. Our country owes them a great debt for the noble work they accomplished.

When we look at the medical profession to-day, that is the system of private practice, we find that it is not the highly honored profession it was a quarter of a century ago, when the ideals of the average practitioner were higher than they are to-day. The old family practitioner had the welfare of the family at heart, and his advice was as a rule very reliable. Many physicians and surgeons of these ideals are found to-day, but one cannot help notice that a change has taken place which has been produced by the spirit

of the age in mixing too much commercialism into the profession.

#### **Too Many Unnecessary Operations Are Performed.**

Many people are afraid, and very often justly so, to consult a surgeon when they have some pain below the belt for fear of an operation. We have many splendid surgeons who are reliable, but we have some who are after the almighty dollar and subject the innocents to an operation which at times causes their death, and yet the surgeon gets away with it all. It seems that some have no conscience, and at times it is so elastic that it can be stretched to any length to suit their purpose.

There are altogether too many unnecessary operations performed at present in some localities, and there is no control over them. The public does not know and many patients do not know how it is put over them. I certainly believe in the good work of surgery, but I consider it criminal when operations are performed where it is not necessary, but only for the money there is in it.

If the public really knew what is actually going on some unscrupulous operators, not surgeons, would have rather a hot time.

If we had the medical profession placed under state control, as will be pointed out later, such acts could not take place.

No men in the community can do more evil or more good than the men of the medical profession. Their powers for good or for evil are so great that the public can entertain no conception of it.

There are some medical men who stoop so low as to perform abortions and thus become criminal murderers. I am absolutely positive that many reliable and conscientious medical practitioners know this to be the case and they frequently have seen the reasons why they have not been employed by certain families as the family physician simply because they were honest and conscientious.

#### **The Mortality of Medical Men Is High —Few Arrive at Old Age.**

If the general public would know the real truth they would be horrified in certain localities, whilst in others it would not cause much of a sensa-